

ABINGDONIAN

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Headmaster's Letter

First impressions of a newcomer—purposeful bustle and open, smiling faces. Abingdon is a school that fairly hums with activity, and an institution with the confident generosity borne of a clear sense of its own identity. In these respects, as in many others, it bears the hall-marks of its last two headmasters, both exceptional characters, as well as exceptional successes; there could be no better guarantee for the future than the fact that the place has been moulded by James Cobban and Eric Anderson. No-one could wish for finer predecessors, and needless to say, they continue to be active in their support for the school—certainly my wife and I have much reason to be grateful to them both for their practical help in the first weeks of our time here.

The course which these two pilots have consistently plotted for the school over the last thirty years now leads, by a sad but not intolerable necessity, to full independence in September 1976. This will, in one sense, be a return to an older status, and certainly all of us connected with the running of the school will be doing our utmost to maintain the ancient traditions of the place. We shall not be severing our more recent connections, however, in as much as we shall still be providing places for scholars chosen by the County, and thus continuing what we believe to be a service to the community in which we live. At the same time, we shall be maintaining and, so far as possible, developing our contacts with other schools in the locality, in the belief that education, like religion, should be a matter for freedom of conscience and thus for variety—but also a matter for friendly collaboration rather than opposition and discord.

Independence is going to bring its problems and its opportunities; it offers a vista of excitement, and perhaps the biggest excitement of all is the possibility of a new growth in solidarity and fellowship which could be evoked by the needs of our new situation. The self-discovery which individuals experience under stress can be experienced by societies, too, and when pupils, teachers, parents,

find each other and themselves the results can be formidable and thrilling; all of our greatest schools have encountered such moments in their past, and many of their greatest achievements have resulted from such episodes. I feel privileged to be enabled to assist at this critical time in the long history of Abingdon.

M. St. John Parker

School Notes

The end of the academic year saw the departure of Mr. Anderson to take up his appointment at Shrewsbury as well as the normal Common Room changes. Our best wishes go with Mr. Anderson and we extend a very warm welcome to Mr. St. John Parker as he takes over the headmastership of the School. By the time this magazine is in print, Mr. Parker will have had a chance to get the feel of the School and will have settled into Lacies Court where, we hope, he and his family will have many happy years.

Visitors and Visits

The School was host to a number of speakers during the Summer Term, Among them was Dr. J. H. Holt, working on leukaemia research, who proved to be not only interesting and informative but most encouraging about results in this field of study. Dr. Walter Marshall, Director of Harwell, gave an excellent speech, superbly illustrated by story and anecdote, at this year's Prize Giving while equally entertaining was the Rev. P. J. Gomes, of Harvard University, who gave the Founder's Day address.

The Third Forms were fortunate to hear Mr. Roger Trafford's one-man show, *Something Old, Something New*, in which he performed two pieces, a recital from *Oliver Twist* and Roald Dahl's *Champion of the World*.

A party of mixed ages visited with interest the Great Western Railway exhibition at Didcot in July whilst Lower Sixth-formers were the guests of Barclays Bank in Abingdon for a three-hour tour. This gave them a comprehensive insight into the working of typical town branch bank and more than food for thought in the excellent buffet provided. Later some of the same boys helped the Friends of Abingdon in their Summer Fête held as usual in the Unicorn Gardens.

The English Department saw several plays and the Geography Department again visited Dolgoed during the term. A first-year Sixth set stayed at our 'country cottage' and, as last year, the traditional Third Form visits spanned the term.

The Boat Club's 1st Eight were filmed for Tom Stoppard's production of *Three Men in a Boat*, to be shown on BBC 2 at Christmas. They were asked apparently to row badly—as Stoppard said 'like an octopus'—and we are told by one of the crew that this was only done by great concentration.

Congratulations

We are delighted to be able to congratulate the Chaplain, the Rev. Andrew Lane, and his wife on the birth of a second daughter, Helen Amanda Joyce, on 24th September. Also our warm congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dunn on the birth of a daughter, Jane Penelope, at the end of July, and to Mr. and Mrs. David Taylor on the birth of a son, Benjamin Clement, on 29th August.

The publication of Mary Gostelow (née Cobban)'s book on *Embroidery of the World*, illustrated with photographs taken by her husband, is a matter for congratulation, too, even though our ex-headmaster's daughter may not be

known to many of our readers. An expensive production, it was well reviewed and we wish it every success.

Also we congratulate Geoffrey Oxley (O.A.) on the publication some little time ago of his book, *Poor Relief in England and Wales, 1601-1834*, and we thank him for the copy which he sent for the Library.

It was with very great joy and amid tremendous interest and excitement that Abingdon welcomed back those intrepid travellers, Ron and Brenda Coleman, who arrived home in early September after a journey round the world which took them through Europe—partly behind the 'iron curtain'—Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand; and all this in a converted ambulance and at the cost of only two punctures. Their arduous road trip was helped along by their many encounters with O.A.s world-wide—Malcolm Kendall in Turkey, Keith Haarhoff in Singapore, John Evans, Paul Older and Derek Taylor in Australia and Pat Sale, Richard Paxman, Frank Bartlett in New Zealand. The journey home by boat through Panama to the Mediterranean must have seemed tame by comparison.

Mr. Nigel Hammond, house tutor at Glyndwr, has been adopted as the prospective Conservative candidate for Swindon. This follows after his contesting the stiff seat of Aberavon in South Wales at the last election. We wish him success.

Our congratulations also go to Mr. Ron Amey, a Governor of the School, on his great victory in winning the Admirals Cup for Great Britain in his yacht, *Yema*.

Congratulations to Hugh Rance, who left School some four years ago, for an exploit of a different kind. He has made a name for himself at painting and the Press is already heralding his first exhibition. He now has paintings hanging in Canada and South Africa as well as in England.

The School again fared well in the Ten Tors Competition on Dartmoor, with thirty boys entering and all but two succeeding.

A number of boys at School have had successes of different kinds and we congratulate all of them. Richard Thompson, Christopher Egelstaff, Graham Halsey and Gareth Hoskin had poems or plays read on BBC's 'Listening and Writing' programme, while Philip Paddon also read his work and other pieces on the radio. Tim Robson won the Oxfordshire Schools' Under 14 Tennis Championship. Stuart Cameron became the new Scottish Under 15 High Jump Champion with a record jump of 1.8 metres and John Madgewick (200m) and Gary Rogers (Junior Shot) did very well when competing for Oxfordshire at Durham. Michael Howat, a member of the School Eleven, Moreton Cricket Club and an Oxfordshire Colts player, made the great double this season by scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets. James Parsons won a Silver award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme and Bruce Edmonds (40th Oxford Scout Troop) his Chief Scout Award.

Miscellany

The English Department have sponsored three plays during the Summer Term. The Junior Dramatic Club received tremendous applause for their production of *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations*, directed by Angus Alton, while James Brett and John Dewar produced and acted in *The Dumb Waiter*, for which they jointly received the Drama Cup. On Founder's Day, there were the usual dramatic entertainments, Mr. Blocksidge producing four Pinter sketches which were much appreciated. In Abingdon's first Eisteddfod, S. C. Jones was placed 1st in the Junior Writing Class and S. E. Fenn and D. Butler tied for 3rd place.

The School Council has continued its rather passive participation in School affairs. We look forward to a more active council in the new year. School Societies, too, were not very prominent in the Summer Term and, unusually, no special report on them is appearing in this issue. It must be noted, however, that the Franz Clement Society, in the second term of its existence, continued to combine its regular meetings, listening to classical music while enjoying cheese and wine, with a visit to the Royal Festival Hall and its second termly dinner.

The number of boys in the School in the Summer Term was 650, no change from that of the Lent Term.

We record with great regret the death of Peter John Biggs at the age of ten. Peter who was in his first term, was killed on 22nd September in a tragic road accident while on his way to school. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Staff Changes

Mr. W. E. K. Anderson

The departure of Eric Anderson at the end of Summer Term and after a short reign of only five years was something new in the history of Abingdon School. Over the years, we have grown accustomed to long-reigning headmasters and it seemed a cruel twist of fate that we should be looking for a new man so soon. The Andersons, too, felt deeply that they had not really seen enough of Abingdon and it was with a genuine reluctance and under persistent pressure that Eric decided to move to Shrewsbury.

The School is bound to miss both Eric and Poppy Anderson very much. We will long remember Eric's firm handling of the many crises, great and small, that crop up in a school's life, his continued drive for academic excellence and his great interest in games, particularly rugby—how many headmasters show such eagerness to referee? And none of us is likely to forget the charm and vivacity of Poppy or her very real interest in everything that happened in the School.

Perhaps, the spontaneity of the warmth and goodwill shown at the farewell party given at the end of term by the teaching and administrative staffs is the best guide to the way the Andersons were rightly appreciated. We wish them both every happiness and success in their new life.

The Common Room

The end of the Summer Term also saw the departure of six masters, the biggest exodus for some time. One of these was Andrew Hobson, who had only been with us for two terms but had nonetheless endeared himself to all of us: he has joined the Eton staff with whom, no doubt, his black Labrador, *Rommel*, will soon be as much a favourite as he was at Abingdon. Peter Dunn, the longest serving of the leavers, has gone to be Head of Dept. in a Yorks comprehensive. He and his wife, Judith, will be greatly missed, Peter, not only by the modern linguists but in many other ways as well, not least on trips abroad or on the games field. Their first child, born during the summer holidays, will be a pleasant reminder of their sojourn at Abingdon.

Two others who have left, Godfrey McGowan and Martin Blocksidge, both came to the School in 1971 and they have departed together. Godfrey joins the

staff of Charterhouse where he will continue to teach languages and Martin takes his considerable skill at English [teaching to Dulwich. We shall surely feel the loss of these two dedicated teachers, Godfrey in so many ways and Martin especially for the help he gave in building up our very strong English Department.

Roger Fletcher, mathematician and rugger player, has gone to try his hand at comprehensive teaching at Frome School. Our loss is their gain and we hope he gets plenty of outlet for his rugger enthusiasms. Howard Green, who left us once before to spend a year in Australia, has decided to leave teaching altogether and is currently training in the Law. To both Roger and Howard and their wives, we wish the best in their new occupations.

Finally, we say good-bye to Malcolm Proctor, who leaves to go to lecture on music at a Further Education College in Liverpool. We remain grateful for the way in which he ran the Music School during the interregnum before the appointment of our present Director of Music.

These seven have been replaced by six new appointments, all of whom we welcome most warmly in the hope that they will find Abingdon to their liking and enjoy their time with us. First mention must be made of Miss Krysia Sobierajska, who is to teach mainly Russian and who has already made the Common Room a much more attractive place: she is only the second full-time girl appointed to the staff. Mr. Richard Webber, the only married teacher among our new members, comes to us from the University of East Anglia to teach biology. Prior to joining us, he taught at Gordon's Boys School, Paffewick and is a games player and drama enthusiast. Mr. Peter Willerton, a modern linguist, was at Trinity, Cambridge, and before joining us had two years experience at Lancing Comprehensive School: he will be house tutor at Waste Court in succession to David Dodwell who moves out of the boarding side.

The vacant mathematics post has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Jeffery Aspinall who comes from Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he rowed, and who holds a diploma in Space Science from University College, London. And, on the English side, we have Mr. Barry Taylor, from Sussex University, who holds an Oxford Teaching Diploma, and is interested in drama and badminton.

The new arrivals are completed by Mr. Michael Deacon. He joins the Music Staff to teach piano, viola and organ and received his training at the Royal School of Church Music, the Royal College of Music and the London University Institute of Education. He takes over the house tutor's job at Lacies Court, vacated by the departure of Mr. McGowan.

During the Summer Term, we were assisted by Dr. Clive Field, a student teacher from Oxford. More mature than the average student, he helped a lot with the history teaching and enjoyed his experience. We congratulate him on subsequently gaining a research Fellowship in Philosophy at Oxford.

At the beginning of this Michaelmas Term, the School said good-bye to Mr. Reg Lee, who has now, at the age of 79, finally retired after working at the School as engineering Technician in the Science Department for 14 years. Mr. Lee came to us after his first retirement from the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford but the time that he spent in the Royal Flying Corps as a young man was certainly his proudest memory. Reg is the finest type of craftsman in metal, quite incapable of turning out the second rate, and most ingenious and skilful in making and repairing apparatus in the Physics department. Mr. Lee received presentations from the Science Department and from the Governors and boys. He and Mrs. Lee are moving to a new home in Headington and they carry with them the best wishes of the whole School. It is interesting to recall that Mr. Lee's association with us goes back a long way as his son, Monty, was a boy at the School.

William Arthur Rudd

It is with the very greatest regret that we record the death on Sunday, 27th July, 1975 of 'WA'—William Arthur Rudd—who was a master at the School from 1904 to 1947 and a well known figure at School to present boys as well as to many generations of O.A.s. We are grateful to Mr. J. B. E. Alston, himself a master from 1921 to 1963, for the following appreciation of 'WA'.

'Old Boys of many generations will be sorry to hear of the death of W. A. R. after a fall near his home, very soon after reaching the ripe age of ninety-seven. Though still mentally alert and able to move about, if slowly, he had become rather frail latterly and his death, if sudden, was not entirely unexpected. None the less his departure from the School scene will be greatly missed, not only by those of us who had known him during the forty-three years of his teaching at Abingdon, but also by many of the staff and boys, who during the twenty-eight years of his retirement had seen him watching cricket and rigger matches, appearing at numerous school functions, or just walking to and fro between his home and the school buildings. In fact his last public appearance was on Founder's Day, when he attended the service in St. Helen's Church and in the afternoon moved around and talked with parents and Old Boys.

W.A. was born on July 3rd 1878 and educated at Hymer's College, whence he won an Open Scholarship in Mathematics at St. John's College, Cambridge. After graduating as a Wrangler he taught for four years at Neuenheim College, Heidelberg. In September 1904 he came to Abingdon and taught Mathematics and Geography until his retirement in 1947, except for a period of military service during the 1914-18 War as a lieutenant in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Royal Engineers. He was mentioned in despatches.

Apart from his outstanding ability as a teacher W.A. took an active part in the life of the School, especially cricket, football and athletics. He had represented his college at cricket and rigger, and during his early years at Abingdon he coached and, in matches against clubs and colleges played for the School with considerable skill, as O.A.s of that era will well remember. He was Chairman of the Sports Committee from 1906 to 1938.

An achievement of which he was justifiably proud was the levelling of Lower Field which with the aid of voluntary boy labour he undertook in 1911 and completed several years later, thus adding considerably to the area available for games, which until that time consisted solely of Upper Field.

His great interest in the progress of the boys was continued after they left the School. He became a member of the Old Abingdonian Club in 1910 and was on its committee for many years. He was President in 1924, and regularly attended the Club's Annual Dinners both at Abingdon and in London almost to the last years of his life.

Until his marriage in 1921, W.A. lived at the School, and when it acquired the Waste Court property in 1928 he was appointed housemaster and with the help of Mrs. Rudd nursed it through its first year as a junior boarding-house with a combination of firmness and sympathy which showed what a splendid housemaster he would have made had circumstances allowed. He was Second Master for many years up to his retirement.

Soon after retiring he spent a year travelling abroad with his wife, and visiting a brother in the United States. On the way home they were shipwrecked in the Caribbean, an experience from which they emerged unharmed. One can well believe that W.A. behaved with characteristic calmness and sang-froid on that occasion.

On returning to England they lived for a time at Alvescot; but when in 1951

the School purchased the Lacies Court property he eagerly seized the opportunity of both lightening the financial burden incurred by the school and renewing his close association with it by buying Heylyn's, together with half-an-acre of ground; and here he lived until in 1965, when it was becoming necessary for his wife and advisable for himself to live on one level. He had the bungalow built on a piece of the School's land between Heylyn's and Lacies Court, where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was fortunate in that, living as he did in the School grounds, when deprived of the help and companionship of his wife, who died in 1970, he was greatly helped through his last years, when he lived alone, by the friendly atmosphere and practical support provided by the School, and was often cheered up by visits from O.A.s of many generations. He left both Heylyn's and the bungalow to the School; a fitting way of showing his great love for it and his interest in its progress and prosperity.

A quiet undemonstrative Yorkshireman, W.A. was notable for his patience and thoroughness, and his shrewd assessment of any problem he encountered. His considered opinion always carried great weight, and any undertaking was 'begun, continued and ended' in a calm, unhurried manner. He had a dry humour, not often in evidence, but all the more effective when it was forthcoming.

In the classroom these attributes enabled him to transmit his outstanding knowledge with the best possible results, so that pupils of his won open scholarships in mathematics at Oxford and Cambridge, and also the first ever Pembroke Scholarship to be awarded in that subject.

If mathematics was his forte, geography was a good second string. He was an F.R.G.S. and an excellent draughtsman; his cartography, like his handwriting, was a work of art and he taught the subject with great enthusiasm. For many years he maintained a small meteorological station and published its records meticulously. It may be appropriate here to mention his love of gardening, a hobby which he pursued with characteristic thoroughness. He truly had 'green fingers'; flowers, fruit, and vegetables flourished exceedingly and in his gardens weeds were given short shrift.

W.A.'s death has broken the School's longest, strongest and closest link with the past. He was in close touch with it throughout the period of its greatest growth and activity up to the present. That he derived immense pleasure and benefit from this contact is undoubted. It is equally certain that these gains were mutual. The School has lost a very devoted friend. It will not see his like again.'

* * * *

At the Memorial Service which was held in the School Chapel on Sunday, 14th September, a large number of Old Boys attended as well as the Mayor of Abingdon, Councillor Liversidge, the Headmaster, members of the Staff and representatives of the boys. The address, most excellently given by Mr. J. M. Cobban, is printed below.

"Arthur Rudd—for that is how he was known in those days—was born in 1878. He was educated at Hymers College, Hull, and at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was a wrangler. After four years' teaching at Heidelberg, he came to Abingdon as Mathematics Master in 1904. He served with distinction in the First World War, with a mention in despatches. He returned to Abingdon and stayed on until he was nearly seventy, retiring with Mr. Grundy in 1947.

Nowadays such constancy is rare. But Abingdon, more perhaps than most schools, has good cause to be grateful to a succession of masters who have served it with single-minded and life-long devotion. Among them W.A. holds an honoured place. A brilliant teacher of mathematics, he played his full part too in the fac-totum activities of a school which was small and still run largely

on family lines. No mean cricketer himself, it was he who was responsible for levelling the Lower Field; it was he too who was first housemaster of the new boarding house at Waste Court in 1921.

But inevitably it is of W.A. in retirement that most of us are thinking today. He started teaching at Abingdon—and it was not his first post—six years before I was born. He reached the dubious status of what would now be called a senior citizen (a status I acquired only a few hours ago) some years before I came to Abingdon. That will give some measure of his span of years.

Such length of days is not always a blessing. What was so wonderful about W.A.—and it is for this that we thank God so whole-heartedly today—is not that he lived so long but that he remained to the end the W.A. whom we knew and loved. He was spared the cruder indignities of old age, he was spared the anti-climax of a long-drawn-out twilight. If we could all grow old as W.A. grew old then old age would lose its terrors. And then he died as he would have wished, suddenly, in a garden, without fuss. The time had come. He just went home, to join his beloved Margaret, who had been such a wonderful partner for him.

If we want to remember him, then, we don't have to cast our minds back to his prime. We can think of him with loving affection as he appeared at the Old Boys Dinner in the late summer; we can think of that trim purposeful figure until so recently walking day by day across the gravel to that Masters' Common Room where he was deservedly so welcome. A little bent, yes. Walking rather more slowly, yes. But essentially still the same slightly bird-like W.A. who looked at us with such a quizzical expression from that faded sepia staff photograph of—was it 1909—that hung in the old dining hall.

We all of us, I suppose, have our own private memories of W.A. I myself remember the wonderful dinner he gave on his ninetieth birthday, when he was the life and soul of the party I think too of the photograph of bride and bridegroom taken at the wedding of one of my daughters, and how he happened to appear as a kind of third man at the edge of it—and the trouble I had to make sure the photographer did not cut him out of it before it was processed for the Abingdonian. . . .

To call W.A. an institution is correct as far as it goes. But it would be difficult to think of anyone less institutional. It is true that he had a natural dignity, which remained with him until the end. But this dignity was balanced by what I can only call a wonderful sweetness of character. There was something essentially wholesome about W.A. That is why he inspired such love and affection; that is why there was such *rappor*t between him and the young. Certainly my own children adored him. They recognised in him, instinctively, a simplicity, a generosity—in the real sense of the word—that could bridge the years between them.

What a wonderful father he would have made! It was not to be. Like so many schoolmasters, he found compensation in a surrogate role. For generations of Abingdon boys revisiting the school, a call on W.A. was a part of the routine. They called on him not in the way of duty, but because they enjoyed talking to him—and they felt the better for it when they left him. So many of them, all over the world, who cannot be with us this afternoon, will feel when they hear of his death as we feel when the sun goes behind the cloud for a few minutes on a summer's day. On Friday I happened to sit at dinner next to a senior Old Boy who was at school in Layng's day, and vividly remembers how much he still owes to W.A.'s teaching. At the other end of the scale I have been touched to receive a special message from a strapping young man who had the privilege of calling on W.A., as the youngest boy in the School, to greet him on his ninetieth birthday.

For W.A. then retirement was not just an empty waiting-room. To the end he continued to enjoy life in all its richness—and to give joy to others. He enjoyed keeping his garden so trim, he enjoyed his books, he enjoyed school functions—and they were the happier for his presence, he enjoyed meeting the young new masters—born after his retirement—who came to swell the staff.

If I have said nothing of his spiritual life it is because that is what he would wish. He belonged to a generation which was decently reticent in such matters. But no-one who saw him in this Chapel—and what a joy it always was to me to see him toddling over on a Sunday morning!—could doubt its reality. He showed forth his simple Christian faith in his life and in his work. He, if anyone, could face his Master unafraid. The world is the poorer for his passing; no one will feel this more keenly than those who looked after him with such loving affection in his later years—and to that loving care we all pay tribute this afternoon; but how much *richer* the world has been for his life! As we thank God for what W.A. gave to the world, for his gifts of heart and mind, for his service, his devotion, his friendship—yes, for his uncomplicated *goodness*, we can feel with confidence that a good and faithful servant has entered into the joy of his Lord.

Grant rest, O Christ, to thy servant Arthur Rudd with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Amen."

Chapel Notes

Mr. W. E. K. Anderson, as Headmaster, preached to the whole School for the last time at the Term Service in St. Helen's Church. He preached also at the Leavers' Service in St. Nicolas Church on the last Sunday of term. Preachers at Mattins or Evensong on Sundays were: the Rev. A. C. J. Phillips, Ph.D., Chaplain of St. John's College, Oxford; the Rev. G. I. F. Thomson, of the Bible Reading Fellowship; Mr. J. M. Cobban; the Chaplain; the Rev. D. Forrester, Chaplain of Sussex University. For the first time for nearly two years, Ante-Communion with an address by the Chaplain and hymns replaced Mattins on one Sunday. The preacher on Founder's Day was the Rev. Professor P. J. Gomes, Preacher to Harvard University, whose fine and inspiring sermon was greatly appreciated by the large congregation in St. Helen's.

Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Mortimer, Mrs. Hasnip, Mrs. Eden, Mrs. Potter, Miss Myatt, Miss J. Hasnip and Mrs. Wijetunge (who continues to look after the fair linen) kindly arranged the flowers in Chapel. Those for Founder's Day were presented by Mrs. E. A. Willey in memory of her son Stanley (O.A.). A particular word of thanks is due to Mrs. Anderson for organising the flower-arranging during her time here.

Chapel Collections were for the following causes: Save the Children Fund, £8.13; U.S.P.G., £7.28; Christian Aid, £5.48; National Library for the Blind, £5.34; the victims of drought in Ethiopia, £9 49; Chapel Funds, £7 85; Holidays for the Disabled, £8.96. The collection at the Leavers' Service (£9.23) went to St. Nicolas Church and that on Founder's Day (£110.44) to St. Helen's Church.

Several leavers call for special mention and thanks. I am sure that I am not the only person in Chapel on Sundays who has greatly appreciated Mr. Anderson's taking of the prayers, many of which he himself wrote. Mr McGowan's sensitive accompanying of hymns and canticles has done much to help Sunday worship. Among boy leavers, chief mention must be of A. F. Jackson, who

shouldered a great deal of work during his two years as Sacristan. To him and to several others who have given unobtrusive help (notably J. C. Barnes, G. A. Light, M. S. J. Phillips and J. S. Poxon) go our very warm thanks and best wishes.

H.T.R.

End of Term Events

Prize Giving: 4th July 1975

As last year, the Prize Giving was held in the Trinity Methodist Church although, on this occasion in the evening, since it was felt that this would be more convenient for parents. The actual giving away of prizes was most gracefully done by Mrs. Walter Marshall and the address was by her husband, Dr. Walter Marshall, the Director of A.E.R.E., Harwell. It was a nice change to hear his somewhat unorthodox speech, full of anecdotes and amusingly delivered, and the evening was as a result not only one of congratulation to the prizewinners but one of entertainment for the audience.

A list of the prizewinners appears at the end of this magazine.

Projects Week

Projects Week was again given its head this summer and the vast majority of the members of the School took part, the exceptions being those unfortunates still taking O and A level papers.

The junior forms went on several outings, one day walking on the Ridgeway and other boys visiting the Test Match at Edgbaston, Longleat and Avebury, and Winchester and the Bovington Tank Museum. *Vox* was revived by a group of Fourth-formers during the week and an advance issue of the Michaelmas Term edition was printed in time for Founders Day. The Scientists were hard at it as usual, preparing to baffle one and all with a variety of exhibits and working projects on the day. Others, too, had the same idea and cricketers and musicians likewise had their own preoccupations.

Founders Day

By now, the saying 'it never rains on Founder's Day' has been consigned to the rubbish bin as this year the weather again let us down. It really did rain this time and the traditional 'garden party' atmosphere of the At Home was noticeably absent. However, the indoor displays did good business.

The Service was as usual held in St. Helen's Church where the address was given by the Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Preacher to Harvard University. Mr. Gomes had a nice sense of humour and his talk was voted one of the best of Founder's Day sermons. Prior to the Service, two members of the Change Ringing Society were joined by two O.A.s and two other ringers, unconnected with the School, and rang a quarter peal on the bells of St. Helen's. This lasted 42 minutes and was by way of being a farewell gesture to Mr. Anderson.

In the afternoon, all the hard work of the previous week was on show—the R.A.F. Section's hovercraft, the Hammarbank exhibition, the Art School, dramatic sketches in the Court Room and the Handasyde Bequest in the new Science Reading Room. The 'TASS Time' results were also announced and for those who braved the rain there was a chance to watch the cricket Elevens battling it out with the Old Abingdonians. The Yucca tree in Lacies Court garden was an added attraction which proved very popular as it was in bloom—an event which occurs apparently only once in every eight years.

Music Review

There were four major music events in the Summer Term to complete a very successful year for the School's music. The first of these was given by the Abingdon Singers in St. Michael's Church on May 17. The Director of Music chose a programme of early Italian music, featuring the work of two great composers from that country—Palestrina and Monteverdi. Among several good performances we heard Palestrina's beautiful *Stabat Mater* and Monteverdi's dramatic and exciting *Battle of Tancred and Clorinda*.

June's main musical extravaganza was Britten's one act opera *Noye's Fludde*, the Chester Miracle Play, so ideal for school presentation. For our production the School was assisted by Rush Common, Fitzharry's and North Hinksey Schools. Nearly 200 people were involved in the performances which took place on three successive nights, June 5-7, in Trinity Church. Among many notable performances were those by Martin Newton, Geoffrey Lanham and William Mellor as Sem, Ham and Jaffett and Toby Screech, Timothy Screech and David Lewis as their respective wives. The 3D Handbell Ensemble were in their element after some initial difficulty in mastering their instruments! The Percussion Ensemble also had a field day with Britten's colourful scoring for their instruments which includes bottles and a wind machine, which was well played (when it worked, that is!). The last two nights were particularly successful and Mr. Blocksidge is to be congratulated for a colourful and exciting production.

The Choral Society's last performance of the school year was on June 20, with a programme of lesser known English music in St. Helen's Church. The choir was assisted by the Percussion Group and Brass Ensemble in John Rutter's 'Hymns of Praise' and John Gardner's 'Hymns in Popular Style'. The Choir contributed two items—the setting of Milton's ode 'Blest Pair of Sirens' to music by Hubert Parry and Vaughan Williams' 'Lord, thou hast been our refuge' ably accompanied by Mr. McGowan at the organ. An interesting item was the Boys' Choir's singing of Kenneth Leighton's dissonant *An Easter Sequence*, written a few years ago, with Duncan Angwin playing the trumpet solo and Mr. Proctor the difficult organ part.

As usual, the term ended with the School Concert, given during the final week of term in Trinity Church. The programme consisted of nine very varied items contrasting vocal with instrumental. Several items deserve particular mention, including enjoyable performances by the Brass Ensemble and Male Voice Choir. The String Orchestra accompanied Simon Williams (harpsichord) in Walter Leigh's interesting *Concertino* and the Wind Band entertained us with Grudemann's *Hebride Suite*, as a tribute to the Andersons, and Harold Walters' comical *Instant Concert*, claps and grunts included! The 1st Orchestra accompanied Neil Halliday in Beethoven's *Romance in F* and ended a very enjoyable evening with John Dankworth's clever *Tom Sawyer's Saturday* with Martin Blocksidge as Narrator.

In a very busy term there were other activities as well, some more musical than others! On June 8 the Chapel Choir had an enjoyable afternoon at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, entertaining the very many tourists. The same were later in the term seen on a barge on the Oxford Canal and a party of other musicians also went on an excursion to the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, to one of their outdoor concerts on June 25.

At the end of term several boys achieved some very good exam results including distinctions by Simon Clift and John Rolley (oboe), Martin Newton (piano), David Ellis (trombone) and Graham Bint (organ).

Also at the end of term we said goodbye to one of our resident members of staff, Malcolm Proctor, who is leaving us to go back to teach at Further Education College. We shall miss him a great deal—always a hard worker, he distinguished himself on the organ and piano as well as in the classroom.

M. D. J.

The Abingdon School Music Society

Last term we embarked on our most ambitious project yet—the Arts and Crafts Fair. On Saturday, May 10th, 26 exhibitors of painting, drawing, pottery, woodwork, crochet, collage, soft toys, jewellery and corn dollies, converged on the Court Room. By midday the resulting chaos had miraculously cleared and we opened our exhibition, which stayed open (lubricated by a wine bar) until 8 p.m. The universal opinion is that it was a resounding success, artistically, socially and financially, and we intend to have another one in the summer term of 1976. Sales totalled over £500 and the net gain to the Society from our 20% commission, after subtraction of expenses, was £77.

By June the Society had taken in 118 subscriptions, the great majority being family ones. At that time our cash balance was £190. Much of this has now been spent on items for the music school, including a new 'cello.

We look forward to an exciting new season with many events, both money-raising and social, and including several recitals by eminent musicians. We are very pleased to announce that the new Headmaster has kindly agreed to become our President in succession to Mr. Anderson, whose benevolent tolerance of our more outlandish requests we gratefully acknowledge.

J.G.C.

Tass

The Summer was one of great activity, in which, perhaps, the most important happening was the major effort made by the Society, in collaboration with the School and other interested schools of the area, in the fight against the Government's declared intention to phase out Direct Grant Schools.

The special Tass committee concerned with this question advised all parents, members and friends to write to their MPs asking for an appointment at the House of Commons on 24th June. A coachload of campaigners went to lobby MPs on that day and at 6 p.m. attended a mass meeting in the Grand Committee Room of the House where they heard speeches from, among others, Dr. Rhodes Boyson and Mr. James Cobban. At the same time, over 5,000 signatures of protest—collected by Tass and the School in only a few weeks—were presented and received at the House by our own Chairman of Governors, Sir George Sinclair, MP. All in all, a great effort which has done much to encourage the fight in this area.

On the evening of Friday, 27th June, a Garden Party was held in Lacies Court. Unfortunately, the weather was a little cold but nonetheless a large gathering enjoyed the food and wine and the musical entertainment provided by the Abingdon Music Society. During the evening, the President, Mr. J. B. Alston, formally said good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson on behalf of the Society and Sir George Sinclair spoke warmly of their work.

Initiative Awards have been made to Simon Clift, Stephen Holdaway and John Sowden. The award to Simon Clift was to assist his trip to Russia to take part in a Russian speaking competition in Moscow; that to Stephen Holdaway to help towards the cost of his accommodation when taking part in a mixed

Schools' Under 15 event in the National Rowing Championships: and that to John Sowden as a grant towards the cost of making a fishing rod. In addition, a new radio has been given to the Sanatorium for use by the sick, and a grant was made to Jonathan Heard and Michael Holding who are engaged on building a hovercraft under the eye of Mr. Biggs—the grant was towards the cost of the engine. It is understood that the craft will be in operation next term.

The School Uniform Scheme continues to flourish to the benefit of parents and School alike. A sale is held on the first Saturday in each month.

Future events include a Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, 22nd November, in the Court Room from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and a Summer Fete, similar to the one held in 1974, on Saturday, 15th May.

M.E.W.

SPORT

Cricket

First Eleven

Once again the final week of term brought the best out of a successful XI who went on to equal the record for the most number of victories in a season since the war. With the demands of examinations behind them, High Wycombe and Douai were morally beaten, Magdalen and Bloxham both lost their unbeaten records against schools to us, while U.C.S. was overwhelmed, as St. Edward's had been the week before.

The damage was being done primarily by the most testing pair of opening bowlers of the quicker variety the school has produced for some time. Michael Howat (whose 62 wickets exceeded Andrew Clift's 1973 record by ten) and Marcus Hurry (31 wickets) were supported by what became the best Abingdon fielding side I can remember. How nice to be able to write enthusiastically about the fielding. Anthony Davies, a specialist gully, caught some memorable catches, one at St. Edward's being quite remarkable, the first of 6 taken from 6 chances that day; John Slingsby took a brilliant one-handed catch at short-leg against Magdalen, and Mike Stimpson, when he moved into the slips, made hard chances look easy. With Paul Betts, whose wicket-keeping exceeded expectations, bringing off some smart stumpings, too, and Marcus Hurry's and Rex Harmer's throwing in being unusually strong, the XI looked a good cricketing side in the field by the second half of the season, a tribute to Michael Stimpson's example and leadership.

The batting, however, despite Charles Hobson's 500 runs—a fine achievement in a schoolboy season—lacked something in class and never really had the authority one had hoped for. Stimpson made 450 runs but once these two had gone there was uncertainty. Betts, against Douai, and Simon Johnson, against Radley and St. Edward's, made excellent 50s but were too often giving the bowlers hope; Gerald Lowes made some useful contributions in his rather self-effacing way; but apart from Michael Howat, who more than once redeemed a shaky start to the innings, the middle-order batting was a problem. Charles Lowe was out of form and the promising young John Slingsby was given an early opportunity to gain experience in 1st XI cricket. With more confidence both should make plenty of runs next year.

Bowling and fielding more often win matches than batting and usually enough runs were scored. Brentwood were the only side to dismiss us very cheaply, but we batted poorly against Reading and the Oratory. Hobson's concentration and application were rewarded by seven scores over 40. His highest, 84, brought a win over the Old Boys in a match of declarations. Stimpson's 65 against St. Edward's was another notable innings. The bowling was well handled by Stimpson, an excellent captain both on and off the field. Howat's pace and lift (although he tended to bowl too short in the first part of term), Hurry's ever increasing accuracy and Davies's steadiness, accounted for most of the wickets taken. George Gilbert's left-arm spinners and Rex Harmer's promising off-spin added variety to the attack, as did Guneratnam on occasions.

Cricket is a particularly demanding game in terms of time and help required and I would like to express my grateful thanks to David Bagshaw and his staff for keeping the cricket grounds in such fine condition, to Mrs. Ashby for again organising the splendid teas on War Mem., and to my colleagues who helped with cricket throughout the school; also to Dennis Lanham, a first-class Secretary, and to Phil Dunthorne, David Bagshaw and Hugh Randolph for their assistance with umpiring. All contributed to another most enjoyable and rewarding season at all levels. Michael Howat won the Morris Cup as best all-rounder and Charles Hobson won the Fletcher Cup for heading the batting averages. Stimpson and Hobson were awarded the Henderson cricket prizes.

The final XI was: M. W. Stimpson (capt.), M. G. Howat, P. A. Betts, S. P. Johnson, A. N. Davies, C. W. P. Hobson, M. J. Hurry (full colours), R. G. Lowes, R. G. Gilbert, R. Harmer and J. Slingsby. D. J. Lanham, R. Guneratnam, C. R. Lowe and J. P. Barton all played on occasions.

N.H.P.

First XI Results

Played 17; won 8; lost 5; drawn 4.

Pangbourne 3 May (H) won by 87 runs.

Abingdon 172 for 9 declared (Johnson 44, Hobson 44, Stimpson 40); Pangbourne 85 (Howat 6 for 16).

Newbury 7 May (H) won by 5 wickets.

Newbury 132 for 9 declared (Davies 4 for 37); Abingdon 133 for 5 (Hobson 55).

Brentwood 10 May (H) lost by 71 runs.

Brentwood 136 for 7 declared; Abingdon 65.

Berkshire Gentlemen 14 May (H) drawn.

Abingdon 186 for 8 declared (Stimpson 75, Lowes 41, Howat 37); B.G.s 119 for 6.

N. H. Payne's XI 21 May (H) lost by 8 wickets.

Abingdon 156 for 8 declared (Howat 51); N.H.P.'s XI 157 for 2 wickets. (B. Greenaway 75, A. A. Hillary 68 n.o.).

Oratory 28 May (A) drawn.

Oratory 121 (Hurry 4 for 18, Howat 4 for 39); Abingdon 87 for 7.

South Oxfordshire Amateurs 4 June (H) won by 5 wickets.

S.O.A. 137 (Davies 4 for 36); Abingdon 138 for 5 (Stimpson 40, Betts 38 n.o.).

Radley College 14 June (H) lost by 45 runs.

Radley 239 for 8 declared; Abingdon 194 (Johnson 58, Betts 42, Hobson 37).

M.C.C. 18 June (H) lost by 3 wickets.

Abingdon 151 (Hobson 63); M.C.C. 152 for 7 (Gilbert 4 for 38).

Reading 21 June (A) lost by 3 wickets.

Abingdon 123 (Hobson 48); Reading 126 for 7.

St. Edward's 28 June (A) won by 124 runs.

Abingdon 191 for 8 declared (Stimpson 65, Johnson 52); St. Edward's 67 (Howat 6 for 23).

High Wycombe 5 July (H) drawn.

Abingdon 154 for 5 declared (Lowes 33 n.o.); Wycombe 78 (Howat 4 for 24).

Magdalen College School 7 July (H) won by 57 runs.

Abingdon 146 (Hobson 48, Lowes 38); M.C.S. 89 (Howat 8 for 35).

Douai 8 July (H) drawn.

Douai 131 for 9 declared (Hurry 6 for 45); Abingdon 115 for 5 (Howat 40, Stimpson 39 n.o.).

Bloxham 9 July (H) won by 99 runs.

Abingdon 175 for 6 declared (Betts 51, Stimpson 44, Lowes 38); Bloxham 76 (Howat 5 for 31).

University College School 10 July (A) won by 8 wickets.

U.C.S. 54 (Hurry 5 for 21, Howat 5 for 27); Abingdon 55 for 2 (Hobson 30 n.o.).

Old Abingdonians 11 and 12 July (H) won by 7 wickets.

O.A.s 177 for 7 declared (P Shellard 53, Davies 5 for 56) and 111 for 2 declared (J. Shellard 51 n.o.); Abingdon 141 for 9 declared (Stimpson 37) and 150 for 3 (Hobson 84, Betts 38 n.o.).

First XI Averages

Batting Averages (Qualification 7 innings)

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Av.
C. W. P. Hobson	18	1	534	84	31.4
M. W. Stimpson	18	1	450	75	26.5
R. G. Lowes	13	3	217	41	21.7
P. A. Betts	16	2	295	51	21.1
M. G. Howat	17	3	288	51	20.5
R. G. Gilbert	13	9	77	16*	19.2
S. P. Johnson	18	0	295	58	16.4
J. Slingsby	7	0	39	11	5.6
A. N. Davies	8	4	22	7	5.5
M. J. Hurry	9	4	25	10*	5.0
C. R. Lowe	7	1	27	19	4.5

Bowling Averages (Qualification 6 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Av.
M. G. Howat	259	76	610	62	9.8
M. J. Hurry	179	62	409	31	13.2
A. N. Davies	159	56	396	23	17.2
R. Guneratnam	60	20	131	6	21.8
R. G. Gilbert	74	10	250	11	22.7

The Alligators

Good weather, four convincing wins, one draw, and an enjoyable social round made this tenth anniversary of the Alligators week a great success. It was good to see old faces throughout the week and some very good cricket was played by all who turned out. Robin Ogg made a fine century against the Radley Rangers—a new fixture—and Peter Shellard also made a hundred against the Berkshire Gents. Roger Matthews, Mike Varley, Steve Boyers and David Penney all produced good bowling performances. As usual our thanks are due to Mrs. Goddard for her culinary assistance, to David Bagshaw for preparing the wickets and to Abingdon C.C. for the use of their bar. The scores were:

P.N.S.

S.O.A. 146; Alligators 150 for 4.

Alligators 213 (Boyers 51); Abingdon C.C. 185 (Varley 6 for 43).

Alligators 275 for 5 (Shellard 138, Heading 66); B.G.'s 218 (Matthews 5 for 81).

Alligators 260 for 8 (Ogg 127, Hill 67); Radley Rangers 220 for 8 (Penney 6 for 50).

Alligators 199; Burntwood C.C. 160.

Second Eleven

To win only two matches, after batting first ten times, is the poorest second-eleven result since 1968: that there is no disguising. The principal reason was the weakness of the bowling, aggravated by the 6.30 finishes upon which some schools insisted. To achieve results in these circumstances, we needed to declare shortly after 4 o'clock, but, not surprisingly, lacked batsmen able to start at a gallop. However, measured by enjoyment, the season was a great success. For this, much of the credit goes to the confident leadership of Noble, who, with Barton and Baumann (like him, in the side for the third year) formed the backbone of the team and showed newcomers the way. Their fine contribution to second-eleven cricket was marked by the award of half-colours at an unusually early stage. Guneratnam and Lanham, joining us from the 1st XI, won theirs too.

An icy wind blowing up rain ruined the opening match at Newbury. A splendid partnership between Lowes and Baumann retrieved a dismal start against Brentwood, whose batsmen were surprisingly vulnerable to Evans's steady bowling. Oratory must have been as surprised as I was that a second eleven could bowl quite so badly or run so suicidally as we did. Rain prevented the game with Abingdon Cricket Club, there was the usual draw with Douai (again insisting on an early finish), but the Leighton Park game was notable for good innings by Baumann (35) and Hitchcock (20) against excellent spin bowling and for the tight bowling and fielding that gave us an unexpected draw. The Magdalen game was pretty even, Radley were far too good for us, and only vigorous hitting in the closing minutes, as entertaining as it was forlorn, raised to respectability our reply to Wantage. We set Reading what proved slightly too difficult a target, the Shiplake game swung to and fro before giving us our second victory, and High Wycombe had one unadventurous batsman to blame for not winning after a fine declaration by Baumann, deputising for Noble. Bloxham got away to a good start and gained their first victory over us since 1965. Finally, a feast of runs and an exciting finish justified our decision to play on in almost incessant rain on Founder's Day.

The batting was strong, the season's total (1,822) being only six runs less than last year's record, when one more match was played. A third of the runs came

from the three veterans, Barton (217), Baumann (217) and Noble (189). Hitchcock (177), Lanham (174) and Lowe (148) all played several good innings, and Guneratnam finished the season in much better form with bat than with ball. Driver would surely have doubled his aggregate had he been fit, and Evans, Franklin and Young will have greater opportunity to make runs next year.

When Hurry at once went to the 1st XI, to be joined soon afterwards by Harmer, the bowling was revealed in all its poverty, made worse by Driver's inability to bowl. Evans, with a quarter of the wickets, was the steadiest. Young bowled too short, Lanham too wide. Hitchcock's best days were promising. All bowlers tried very hard, but did not constitute an attack likely to win many matches.

The fielding aroused much favourable comment at Leighton Park and was always good or reasonably good, Young and Lowe emerging to fill some of the gap left by Harmer's promotion. Barton made great progress as wicket-keeper.

I am grateful to Barton for again looking after the kit, and to J. A. Fraser, his assistants and deputies for admirably efficient recording of the score.

The team was: P. A. Noble (Captain), J. P. Barton, C. J. Baumann, D. J. G. Driver, P. A. Evans, N. F. K. Franklin, R. Guneratnam, M. Hitchcock, D. J. Lanham, C. R. Lowe, A. M. J. Young. R. W. Holder played seven times, R. J. Harmer five times, S. W. Morden twice, and P. J. Eccles, S. J. Hobbs, N. J. Holder, W. J. Homewood, M. J. Hurry, R. G. Lowes, G. A. McCreery, G. A. N. Pott, D. C. Rimmer, A. M. Robinson and J. W. Slingsby once.

H.T.R.

Results

Played 13: won 2; lost 2; drawn 8; abandoned 1.

St. Bartholomew's, Newbury. 7th May (a). Abandoned.

Abingdon 114 for 5 dec.; Newbury 61 for 7 (Hurry 5 for 9).

Brentwood School. 10th May (h). Won by 54 runs.

Abingdon 161 (Lowe 67); Brentwood 107 (Evans 6 for 23).

Oratory School. 14th May (h). Drawn.

Oratory 128; Abingdon 107 for 8.

Douai School. 31st May (h). Drawn.

Abingdon 144 for 6 dec. (Hitchcock 51); Douai 89 for 6.

Leighton Park School 1st XI. 4th June (a). Drawn.

Abingdon 119; Leighton Park 96 for 7.

Magdalen College School. 11th June (h). Drawn.

Abingdon 115 for 9 dec.; Magdalen 87 for 7.

Radley College. 14th June (a). Lost by eight wickets.

Abingdon 95; Radley 96 for 2.

King Alfred's School, Wantage, 1st XI. 18th June (h). Drawn.

Wantage 176 for 6 dec.; Abingdon 132 for 7 (Lanham 59 not out).

Reading School. 21st June (h). Drawn.

Abingdon 164 for 5 dec. (Lanham 65 not out); Reading 112 for 5.

Shiplake College 1st XI. 28th June (h). Won by 10 runs.

Abingdon 142 for 9 dec. (Barton 52); Shiplake 132 (Young 6 for 9).

Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. 5th July (a). Drawn.

Abingdon 168 for 6 dec. (Guneratnam 60); High Wycombe 129 for 5.

Bloxham School. 9th July (a). Lost by four wickets.

Abingdon 125; Bloxham 127 for 6.

Old Abingdonians. 12th July (h). Drawn.

O.A.s 236 for 7 dec. (J.L. Cox 52); Abingdon 236 for 9 (Lowe 51, C. D. G. Driver 5 for 45).

Third Eleven

Not the most successful season—but nonetheless some worthwhile cricket was played and although most of our defeats were decisive ones, this did not detract from the enjoyment the team derived from their matches. There were, too, some good individual performances—Sheldon's 62 and Potts' 50 against Carmel, Rimmer's 50 not out and Holder's 35 against Brentwood, with the bat; and the bowling of Rimmer against Carmel and Douai, and of Dennis against Brentwood. Giles Pott was a very keen captain.

A feature of the season was the large number of people who played for the side, and the keen support given both at the nets and in umpiring and watching matches by Mr. Hobson.

The following played for the team on one or more occasions: G. A. N. Pott (Capt.); C. R. Sheldon; G. A. McCreery; N. J. Holder; R. W. Holder; A. G. Hillary; W. J. Homewood; P. J. Eccles; D. C. Rimmer; A. M. Robinson; A. P. S. Luto; M. Herring; M. J. Dennis; M. A. Kelly; B. Kochan; R. M. Whittingham; A. P. Crooks; S. W. Morden; R. Howell; C. J. Wyatt; R. A. Navsaria; N. J. Tresidder; G. C. Walters and M. R. Osborne.

L.C.J.G.

Results:

Pangbourne (a): 3 May: Lost by 7 wickets. School 62; Pangbourne 63—3.
Carmel 2nd XI (h): 7 May: Won by 30 runs. School 129—3 declared; Carmel 99.
Brentwood (h): 10 May: Drawn. School 127—7 declared; Brentwood 88—8.
Oratory Colts (a): 14 May: Lost by 9 wickets. School 33; Oratory 36—1.
Douai (a): 31 May: Lost by 5 wickets. School 63; Douai 66—5.
Cokethorpe 1st XI (a): 14 June: Lost by 116 runs. School 85; Cokethorpe 201—3.
Reading (a): 21 June: Lost by 4 wickets. School 66; Reading 67—6.

Junior Colts Eleven

With Adrian Johnson winning the toss so often on good batting wickets, which gave little help to the bowlers, there was every opportunity for our batsmen to do well this season. However, cricket being the game it is, often produces the unpredictable for it was the bowlers who gained the most success.

There was certainly depth in the batting this season. John Slingsby, Nigel Marsh, Brian Jones, Adrian Johnson, Duncan Robinson and Martin Dennis all enjoyed a number of good innings. Unfortunately they never hit form at the same time, so there were very few good partnerships and too many drastic collapses.

The bowlers were far more consistent. The captain relied on the speed and accuracy of Martin Dennis, Simon Hobbs and Mark Taylor who between them gained 105 of the 122 wickets during the season. Martin's figures of 58 wickets for 370 runs for an average of 6.4 was an outstanding achievement. Unfortunately the wickets never really helped the spinners. However Ray Regan, Nigel Marsh, Dudley Phillips and Brian Jones all made useful contributions.

Adrian Johnson used his bowlers well, and whenever possible always set a good attacking field. Our congratulations to John Slingsby for representing the 1st XI this season, and on his selection, together with Martin Dennis and Adrian Johnson, for the Oxon under 15 XI.

J.D.E.D./A.A.

The following played for the team: A. Johnson, M. Dennis, J. Slingsby, B. Jones, S. Hobbs, N. Marsh, M. Taylor, D. Greig, D. Phillips, B. Burles, R. Regan, J. Benjamin, D. Robinson, R. Allen, P. Cowlett.

Results

Played 17; Won 7; Lost 7; Drawn 3.

Pangbourne College 3 May (a) lost by 35 runs.

Pangbourne 82 (Dennis 5—25). Abingdon 47.

St. Edward's 8 May (h) drawn.

Abingdon 127—5 (Slingsby 33 n.o., Robinson 34). St. Edward's 82—5 (Dennis 4—31).

Oratory School 13 May (a) won by 86 runs.

Abingdon 135—7 (Slingsby 76 n.o.). Oratory 49 (Hobbs 4—19, Dennis 6—26).

M.C.R. 28 May (h) won by 4 runs.

Abingdon 173 (Johnson 30, Burles 29, Robinson 33, Hobbs 30). M.C.R. 169.

Douai School 31 May (a) won by 127 runs.

Abingdon 144—9 (Johnson 40). Douai 17 (Hobbs 5—10, Dennis 4—3).

Bearwood College 4 June (a) lost by 8 wickets.

Abingdon 62. Bearwood 63—2.

Magdalen College School 11 June (a) drawn.

Abingdon 166—6 (Jones 44 n.o., Slingsby 49). Magdalen 87—7.

B.H. Polley's XI 13 June (h) lost by 6 wickets.

Abingdon 50. B. H. Polley 51—4.

Radley College 14 June (h) lost by 74 runs.

Radley 148—9 (Dennis 5—53, Hobbs 4—38). Abingdon 74.

Reading School 21 June (h) drawn.

Abingdon 128—9. Reading 102—8 (Dennis 4—26).

Edmund Campion School 25 June (h) won by 66 runs.

Abingdon 119. Edmund Campion 53 (Dennis 6—28).

B. H. Polley's XI 27 June (h) won by 7 wickets.

B. H. Polley 80—7. Abingdon 81—3.

Shiplake College 28 June (h) lost by 1 wicket.

Abingdon 134 (Dennis 33, Marsh 22). Shiplake 135—9 (Dennis 6—59).

M.C.R. 2 July (h) won by 29 runs.

Abingdon 248—8 (Slingsby 51, Marsh 36). M.C.R. 219 (A. Alton 99, D. C. Taylor 49).

R.G.S. High Wycombe 5 July (h) lost by 8 wickets.

Abingdon 55 (Marsh 23). R.G.S. 60—2.

M.C.R. 7 July (h) lost by 4 wickets.

Abingdon 124. M.C.R. 128—6 (Jones 3—9)

Bloxham School 9 July (a) won by 8 wickets.

Bloxham 41 (Dennis 5—12, Hobbs 5—27). Abingdon 42—2.

Junior Eleven

This was a very satisfying season, from almost all points of view. The results were excellent, there were many very good individual performances, and the team as a whole started well and improved as the season progressed. The one serious disappointment was that we lost to Lord William, Thame in the semi-final of the Esso competition, but this was almost balanced by our getting the better of a draw with Radley earlier in the season. One lamentable result which should not be glossed over in the general euphoria—our loss against Bearwood, when we were skittled out for 23 (but got 7 of their wickets before they passed our

total). Those were our only two losses, and we won 12, which must be very near the record at this level. The team showed a very pleasing ability to fight back from a difficult position. Conversely, if they were doing well they did not often relax their grip—an equally important virtue. This resulted in some very impressive victories, as the results table will show.

Naturally there are still many lessons to be learnt. The fielding in some quarters was not all that it should be, the bowling was too often inaccurate or innocuous, and there are still a lot of basic batting faults to be ironed out. At this level, a good eye and a strong pair of shoulders will take you a long way but as time goes on these qualities become less useful, and a good technique becomes vital.

Unfortunately, space does not allow me to talk about many individuals—simply to say that the most successful batsmen over the whole season were Mark Nelson (a gritty and consistent opener, though his technique is rather limited), Peter Littlewood and Graham Halsey, who both improved dramatically as they gained confidence, Tim Clift, who had a mediocre season by his own high standards, but is a fluent and stylish batsman when he is at his best, and Michael Hurry, a powerful batsman, who can be quite devastating on his day—for instance, his 78 in 40 minutes against Bloxham. Mike Hurry and Graham Halsey also made an effective pair of opening bowlers, ably supported by Michael Dacre and Martyn Clarke. Our spinners were not often called upon so never really showed what they were capable of—an old lament that has its parallel in much more elevated circles!

Alan Thomas kept wicket very competently and without fuss, and will certainly have much better seasons than this as a batsman.

Finally, I don't think it will be invidious if I mention one other outstanding feat of the season, also by Mike Hurry. Against High Wycombe he took all 10 wickets for 26—a difficult and memorable achievement, especially as the wicket was not helpful and he clean bowled them all except one. My congratulations to him, and also to the team as a whole for some really fine cricket.

My thanks go to Tim Clift for his efficient and thoughtful captaincy, to Paul Edington for scoring so willingly and well, to Howard Green for his valuable assistance in coaching, and as always to the Rev. Hugh Pickles for his unflinching generosity, and for devoting so much time and energy to helping in the nets.

D.C.T.

Results

Pangbourne College 3 May (h) Won by 2 wickets.

Pangbourne College 67 (Hurry 3—7, Halsey 3—12). Abingdon 70—8.

St. Edward's 8 May (h) Won by 10 wickets.

St. Edward's 48. Abingdon 49—0.

Oratory 14 May (a) Won by 87 runs.

Abingdon 139—4 dec. (Nelson 41, Thomas 36, Hurry 35). Oratory 52 (Clift 4—10).

Douai 31 May (h) Won by 108 runs.

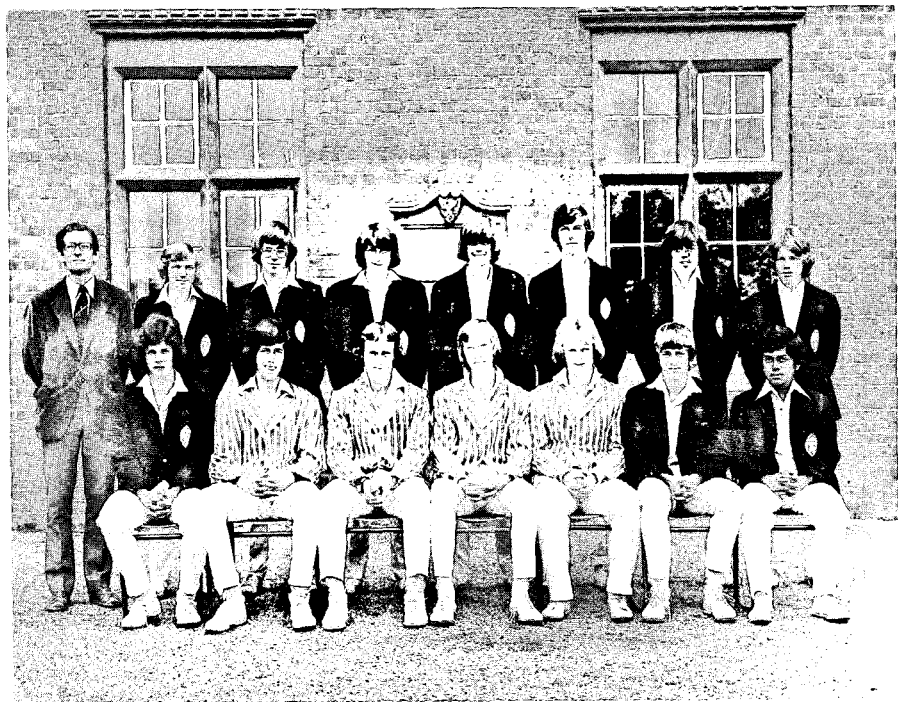
Abingdon 179 (Hurry 49, Clift 32, Robertson 37). Douai 71 (Clarke 4—19, Dacre 3—12).

Bearwood College. 4 June (a) Lost by 3 wickets.

Abingdon 23. B.C. 24—7 (Hurry 4—9, Halsey 3—5).

Magdalen C.S. 11 June (a) Won by 26 runs.

Abingdon 89 (Clift 30). M.C.S. 63 (Clarke 5—6).



First Eleven

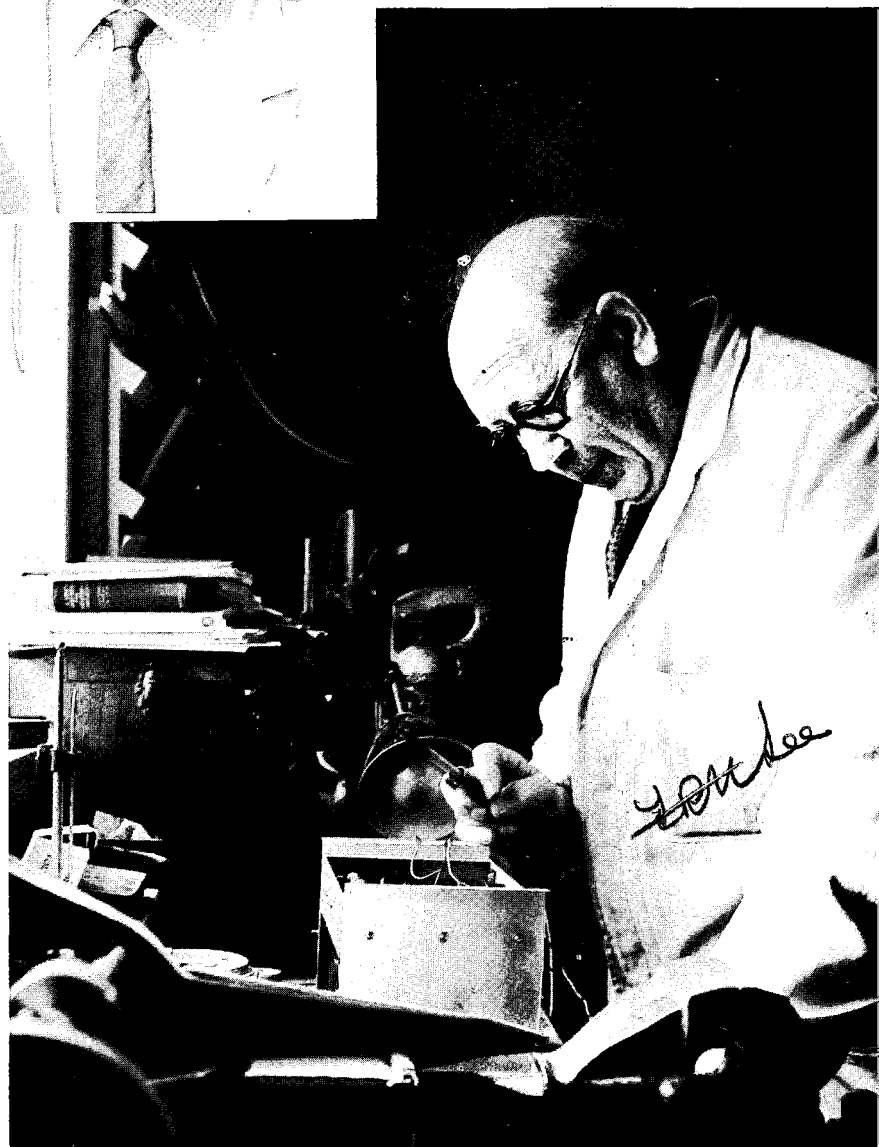


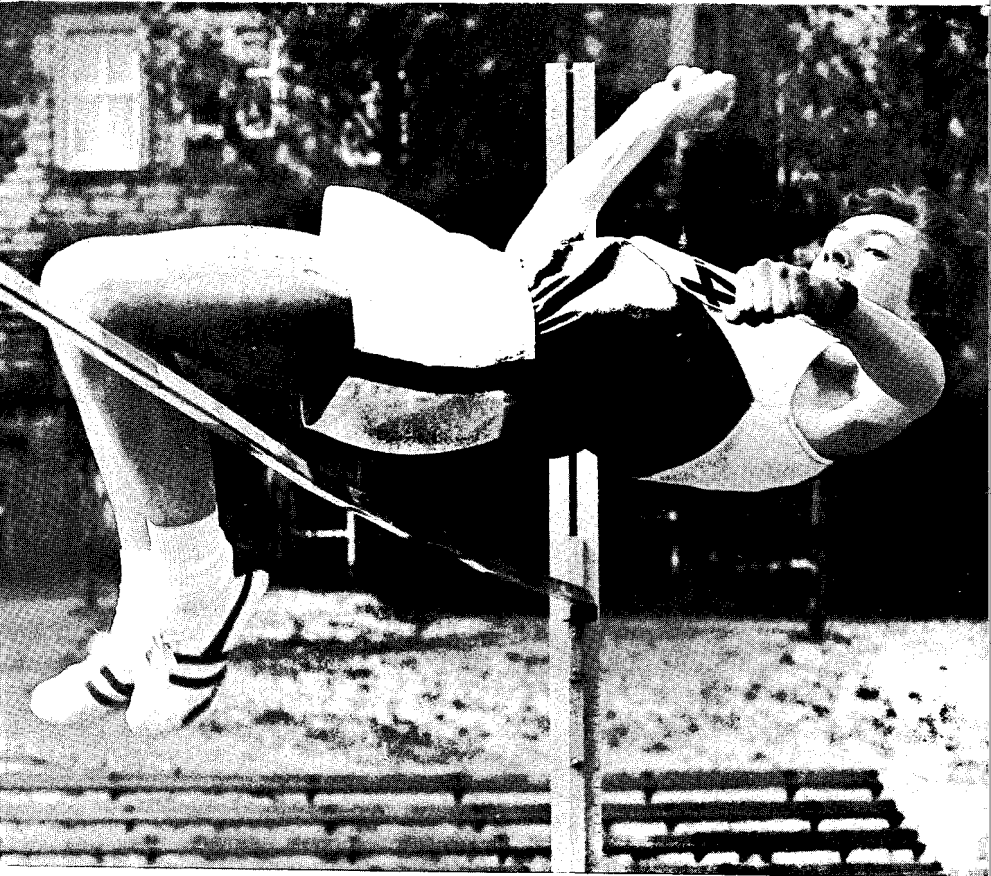
Sailing Club



W·A·R

Reg Lee

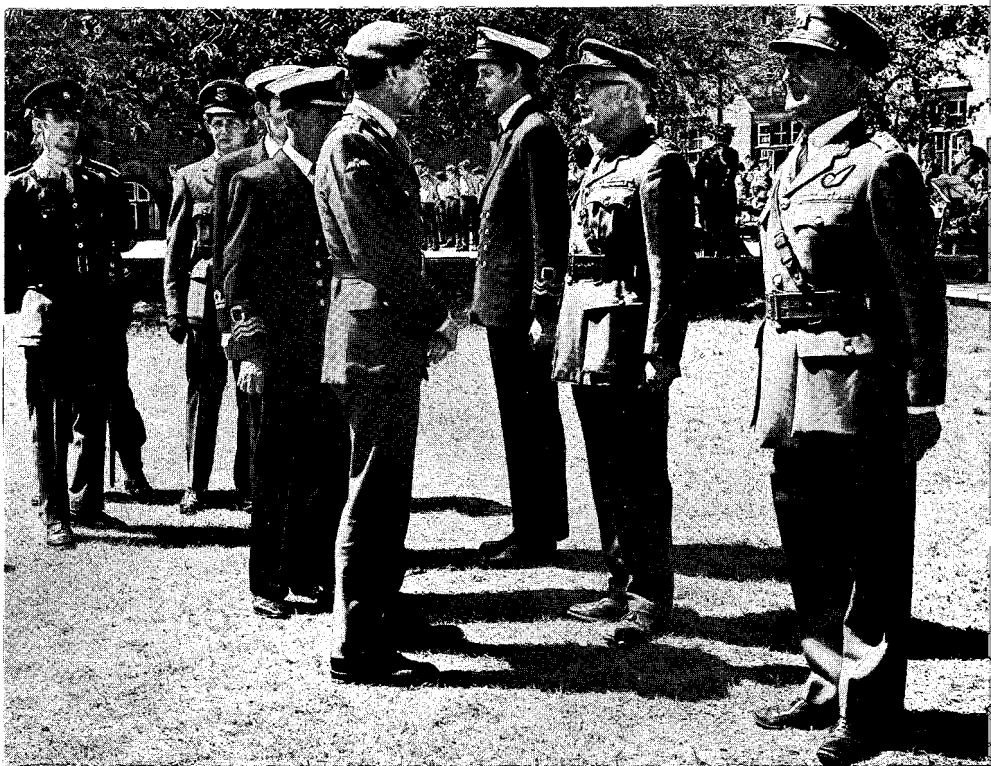




Stuart Cameron
Under 15 High Jump Champion of Scotland

Young Athletes Final at Crystal Palace





Col. Starling at CCF Inspection



Radley College 14 June (a) Drawn.

Abingdon 130—7 dec. (Halsey 43 not out). R.C. 116—8 (Hurry 4—30, Halsey 3—26).

Cokethorpe 18 June (a) Won by 9 wickets.

Cokethorpe 89 (Halsey 3—22, Clift 3—12). Abingdon 90—1 (Nelson 43).

King Alfred's Wantage 20 June (h) Won by 4 wickets.

K.A.W. 81 (Halsey 3—7, Gow 3—20). Abingdon 87—6.

Reading School 21 June (a) Won by 99 runs.

Abingdon 140 (Halsey 40 not out). R.S. 41 (Hurry 5—8).

Gilliot's, Henley 24 June (a) Won by 9 wickets.

G.H. 35 (Dacre 3—8). Abingdon 36—1.

Oxford School 25 June (h) Won by 71 runs.

Abingdon 121—2 (Clift 30 not out). O.S. 50 (Clarke 4—10).

Lord Williams Thame 4 July (h) Lost by 4 wickets.

Abingdon 139 (Littlewood 48 not out). L.W.T. 142—6 (Clift 3—22).

R.G.S. High Wycombe 5 July (h) Won by 7 wickets.

R.G.S.H.W. 45 (Hurry 10—26). Abingdon 46—3.

Rev. H. Pickles' XI 8 July (h) Drawn.

Abingdon 160—6 dec. (Clift 41 not out). R.H.P. 128—6 (Clarke 4—32).

Bloxham School 9 July (h) Won by 39 runs

Abingdon 168—6 dec. (Hurry 78, Nelson 35). B.S. 129 (Gow 4—22).

'B' XI

Radley College 14 June (h) Lost by 2 wickets.

Abingdon 110 (Merriman 31). R.C. 111—8 (Dacre 4—35, Blair 3—19).

Played: Clift (Capt.), Halsey, Hurry, Robertson, Littlewood, Nelson, Thomas, Hoskin, Dacre, Gow, Clarke.

Also: Marsh, Napier-Munn, Donald, Sargeant, Westmore, Dibble, Edgington.

Minors Eleven

After three unbeaten seasons, the Minors First Team lost twice this year, and this was no bad thing; the record had become embarrassing, and this was not an outstanding team, although the results over the term were very pleasing. The defeat by Radley Yearlings (off the last ball of the day) was amply avenged later; Reading were certainly the better team on the day, if only because their best batsman was dropped twice.

In the theory the batting was strong (contrary to original expectations), but all too often most of the team flattered only to deceive, and the run-getting was left mainly to Rod Benjamin and Andrew Patchett, both strong and forceful players, who also made good progress as Captain and Wicket-keeper respectively. The bowling was disappointing, lacking penetration, and only two bowlers really shone: William Mellor tended to waste his good action by trying to bowl too fast, and only 'came off' against New College and Radley (when his six wickets included a hat-trick, all bowled); David Game's chinamen always looked dangerous as he flighted the ball well and always bowled intelligently. These four were awarded their 'caps'.

The remainder played well on occasion, none being a makeweight, and there were some useful Cricketers in the Second Team as well, including a fair sprinkling of first-formers, whose experience should be useful next year. The depth

can best be gauged if it is remembered that every match (except the Third Team Match with Bearwood) was against the opposition's 'first team'; and whatever the team we put out, the fielding (and spirit) was excellent.

M.W.

1st XI: R. F. Benjamin (Capt.), D. A. Game, A. S. S. Patchett, W. K. Mellor, G. P. Lanham, J. Littlewood, M. B. Willett, G. I. McLauchlan, A. C. Newman, S. J. Minter, J. A. Batchelor.

2nd XI: J. V. Partridge (Capt.), A. M. Blair, C. F. Hubbard, T. J. C. Haworth, D. G. Palmer, M. P. O'Shea, A. H. Linley, G. D. Harper, J. H. Beaumont, I. C. Graham, C. G. Egelstaff, D. P. C. Griffith.

1st Team matches

New College School. 21st May (a). Drawn.

New College 111 for 7 dec. (Mellor 5—32); Abingdon 75 for 5 (Benjamin 46).

Radley Yearlings. 31st May (h). Lost by 4 wickets.

Abingdon 124 for 3 dec. (Patchett 50+, Benjamin 44); Radley 125 for 6.

St. Hugh's School. 7th June (h). Won by 9 wickets.

St. Hugh's 42 (Game 7—21); Abingdon 46 for 1.

Cothill House School. 11th June (h). Drawn.

Abingdon 126 (Benjamin 39); Cothill 82 for 8 (Batchelor 4—11).

Reading School. 21st June (h). Lost by 5 wickets.

Abingdon 78 (McLauchlan 24); Reading 79 for 5 (Game 3—29).

High Wycombe R.G. School. 5th July (a). Won by 10 runs.

Abingdon 97 (Patchett 43); High Wycombe 87 (Game 4—24, Mellor 3—20).

Radley Yearlings. 6th July (a). Won by 7 wickets.

Radley 25 (Mellor 6—10); Abingdon 26 for 3.

'A' Team matches

Oratory School. 14th May (h). Won by 39 runs.

Abingdon 98 for 7 dec. (McLauchlan 27+, Lanham 23); Oratory 59 (Hubbard 6—8).

Millbrook House School. 28th May (H). Lost by 6 wickets.

Abingdon 95 (Game 27); Millbrook House 98 for 4 (Game 3—31).

Bearwood College. June 4th (H). Won by 28 runs.

Abingdon 106 for 7 dec. (Littlewood 44+, Newman 27); Bearwood 78 (Minter 4—22).

Magdalen College School. July 8th (A). Won by 5 wickets.

Magdalen 99 (Game 6—21, Haworth 3—22); Abingdon 101 for 5 (Patchett 29, Benjamin 28).

Other Matches

Bearwood College 2nd XI. June 4th (h). Won by 22 runs.

Abingdon 3rd XI 96 for 9 dec. (Graham 22); Bearwood 74 (Harper 5—6).

Oratory School. June 18th (a). Won by 35 runs.

Abingdon 2nd XI 102 for 7 dec.; Oratory 67 (Haworth 5—14).

Josca's School. 25th June (h). Won by 56 runs.

Abingdon 115 (O'Shea 28, Harper 28, Palmer 20); Josca's 59 (Blair 4—5, Haworth 4—27).

John Mason School. 1st July (a)—20 over match. Lost by 16 runs.

John Mason 88 (Hubbard 3—12, Blair 3—13); Abingdon 72 for 6 (Harper 36+).

Pangbourne College. 9th July (h). Won by 76 runs.

Abingdon 123 for 8 dec. (Game 50+); Pangbourne 47 (O'Shea 6—2).

First-form matches against John Mason (two teams) and Dunmore P.S. were won, but an under-12 match against St. Hugh's was lost by 5 wickets.

Athletics

The Summer Term was a busy one, hectic even, with many individual and team successes. Mr. Crawford and I, aided by Mr. Graham and Mr. Biggs, had over 100 boys to coach, about double last year's membership. Matches were arranged for all age-groups, but with particular attention to the seniors and the highly promising third-formers. There was a very strong nucleus in the Sixth form with the regulars being Murdock, Boon (sprints), Green, Parsons (400 m), Hingley, Jones, Lynn (800m/1500m), Tresidder, Despres, Robinson, Ashby (throws), Wartke, Thomas, Marsden (jumps). They beat St. Edward's, Cheltenham, Bloxham, Radley and Bradfield, and only Rugby proved too strong, with King Alfred's cancelling their fixture. Outstanding were Paul Ashby (javelin: 45·60m/149' 7") and Richard Hingley (1500m: 4:10·0 in term and 4:03·6 in holidays), whereas big improvements were made by Gwyn Jones (800m: 2:06·6), Colan Robinson (discus: 33·50m/109' 11"), David Thomas (long jump: 6·14m/20' 1") and Adrian Marsden (high jump: 1·65m/5' 5"). The captain Andy Murdock and secretary Martin Wartke often did four events each and earned dozens of team points.

The Colts matches, whether for under 17, under 16 or under 15 teams, were always dominated by third-formers. The best of the group were John Madgwick (200m), Gary Rogers (shot put) and Stuart Cameron (high jump), and they all competed for Oxfordshire in the All-England Schools Championships at Durham on 11th/12th July. John reached the semi-final and Gary came third with 14·49m/47' 6", a personal best. Stuart, who raised the school high jump record about 8 times, had three major targets this year: to win the Scottish Under 15 title again, which he did after an exciting duel with Ross Hepburn of Edinburgh; to jump 6 feet (that is 1·83m) which he did for Oxford City A.C. at West London Stadium; but he just missed the All-England title losing to a boy he had already beaten this season. Thus in a memorable summer he has won 26 separate high jump competitions and is ranked number two in Great Britain in his age-group.

Other highlights of the season include the silver medals gained by Murdock, Wartke, Parsons and Hingley at the Oxford City medley relay, a few yards behind Eton; the fact that 21 boys, at least double any other school, were selected to represent V.O.W.H.; and that in the holidays Cullen, Owen, Madgwick, Cameron, Rogers and Phillip Ashby competed at Crystal Palace in front of about 1,000 supporters in helping Oxford City A.C. finish fifth in the Young Athletes Final, behind Harringey, Leicester, Cardiff and Brighton.

Full colours were awarded to R. C. Hingley, and half colours to J. V. Parsons, G. K. Jones, S. D. Cameron, C. D. Robinson, A. P. Marsden, D. A. Thomas and N. J. Tresidder.

This term 67 boys represented the school, namely: Murdock, Jones, Hingley, Madgwick (8 times), Boon, Green, Owen, Cameron, Carrie, Chapman, Rogers, Phillip Ashby (7), Wartke, Parsons, Paul Ashby, David Light, Gareth Light, Drew (6), Thomas, Robinson, Marsden, Tourret (5), Lynn, Tresidder, Despres, Marshall (4), Watson, Helsby, Douglas, Hiles, James (3), Geere, Faulk, Martin,

O'Driscoll, Bell, Davies, Wort, Wilders, Trigle (2), Allen, Evans, Walker, Booth, Holdoway, Robson, Emerton, Gibbins, Hawes, Hoggarth, Moore, Boreham, Davidson, Weatherall, Howes, Jefferson, Schmaltz, Carey, Littlewood, McMahon, Smith, Wilson, Simpson, Fulwell, Round, Ellis and Burles (1).

Results

Thursday 8 May, Oxford City A.C. Schools Medley Relays (Iffley Road, Oxford)—U/20 A team 2nd 3:50.6 and B team 6th 4:00.0; U/17 5th 4:14.8; U/15 (heat) 1st 4:25.4 and (final) 3rd 4:23.3.

Wednesday 14 May v. St. Edward's (away)—U/20 1st Abingdon 80, 2nd St. Edward's 74; U/16 1st St. Edward's 93½, 2nd Abingdon 48½.

Tuesday 20 May, Vale of White Horse Schools Championships (at Radley)—winners U/20 Murdock (100m), Hingley (1,500m), Wartke (long jump) Paul Ashby (triple jump); U/15 Madgwick (100m/200m), Rogers (shot put), Cameron (high jump), Phillip Ashby (triple jump), Hiles (discus), Cameron/Carrie/Drew/ Madgwick (4 × 100m relay).

Thursday 22 May v. Cheltenham (away)—U/20 1st Abingdon 78, 2nd Cheltenham 75; U/17 1st Cheltenham 82, 2nd Abingdon 58.

Saturday 24 May, Achilles Relays (Iffley Road, Oxford)—U/20 4 × 200m (heat) 5th 1:40.8; U/20 4 × 800m (heat) 4th 8:48.5, (final) 7th 9:08.0.

Wednesday 28 May v. Bloxham (home)—U/20 1st Abingdon 76, 2nd Bloxham 56; U/17 1st Bloxham 69, 2nd Abingdon 62.

Saturday 7 June, Oxon Inter-Area (Horspath Road, Oxford)—winners U/20 Marsden (2,000m S/C); U/15 Madgwick (200m), Cameron (high jump), Rogers (shot/discus).

Saturday 14 June v. Rugby and Radley/Bradfield (at Radley)—U/20 1st Rugby 119, 2nd Abingdon 88, 3rd Radley/Bradfield 61; U/17 1st Rugby 139, 2nd Radley/Bradfield 46, 3rd Abingdon 32; U/15 1st Rugby 118, 2nd Abingdon 101, 3rd Radley/Bradfield 31.

Wednesday 25 June v. Wallingford (away)—U/16 1st Abingdon 77, 2nd Wallingford 60; U/14 1st Abingdon 60, 2nd Wallingford 54.

Representative matches

Saturday 21 June, Oxon v. 7 other counties (Warley, Birmingham): Hingley (1,500m: 5th), Marsden (2,000m S/C: 5th), Rogers (shot: 1st), Madgwick (100m: 3rd and 200m: 3rd).

Friday/Saturday 11/12 July, All-England Schools Championships (Durham): Madgwick (200m: semi-final), Cameron (high jump: 2nd), Rogers (shot: 3rd).

Club Championships (Monday 16th June—Saturday 5th July)

This tournament proved more popular than ever before. Boys competed in 12 events: 6 runs, 3 throws, 3 jumps, and points were awarded as on the 5-star-award tables. One of the benefits was that boys could do events other than their specialities under competitive conditions; also they could improve their decathlon scores. The winner, Gareth Light, who received a gold medal, only took the lead in the third week.

1st G. A. Light 241 points; 2nd C. D. Robinson 221; 3rd G. K. Jones 218; 4th D. G. Light 210; 5th J. V. Parsons 210; 6th A. L. S. Carrie 208; 7th M. Owen 195; 8th G. Rogers 190; 9th S. D. Marshall 175; 10th J. P. F. Davies 156.

Five-Star-Awards

Boys were able to improve their performances throughout the summer and ultimately the following awards were gained:

decathlon: 5 Cameron, Rogers, Carrie; 4 G. A. Light, D. G. Light, Owen, Hawes; 3 Jones, Marsden, Marshall.

3-event: 5 Cameron, Rogers, Carrie, Madgwick; 4 Owen, Davies, Phillip Ashby, Chapman, Drew, James, Robson, Jefferson, Hawes, Bell; 3 Jones, Hingley, Thomas, Parsons, Marsden, Marshall, O'Driscoll, Helsby, Fulwell; 2 Phillipson, Moore.

Sports Days—July 9th, 10th and 11th

The first day was a depressing affair involving the Fifth and Sixth Forms as GCE examinations had played havoc with the number of competitors and there just does not seem to be an ideal time for this age-group. However, the other days were a complete contrast and, in particular, much interest was created by this being an Inter-form rather than an Inter-house contest. Also, separate events for the different years were run. Sadly, the three All-England representatives were absent.

Many of the results were very good. Lack of space, however, makes it impossible to give all of them and we print below only the new records that were achieved, records incidentally made since metrication began in 1971.

New records were set up as under:

100m (Form 3): A. L. S. Carrie 12·6; 200m (Form 2): T. Jefferson 27·4; 400m (Form 1): R. M. Hawes 63·2; 800m (Form 6/VI): G. K. Jones 2:10·5; 800m (Form 1): R. W. Baker 2:38·2; 1,500m (Form 6/VI): R. C. Hingley 4:23·0; 1,500m (Form 2): M. B. Smith 5:15·1; 1,500m (Form 1): D. J. Bell 5:21·1; Shot (Form 3): N. G. Williams 9·55m; Discus (Form 6/VI): C. D. Robinson 29·50m; Discus (Form 4): R. A. Joy 28·88m; Discus (Form 3): T. D. Robson 27·08m; Discus (Form 2): I. M. Simpson 22·25m; Discus (Form 1): A. Tomlinson 18·28m; Javelin (Form 3): T. D. Robson 36·17m; Long Jump (Form 4): M. J. Howes 5·00m; Long Jump (Form 3): J. P. F. Davies 4·84m; Triple Jump (Form 4): G. Mitchell 10·91m; Triple Jump (Form 3): J. P. F. Davies 10·87m; Triple Jump (Form 1): R. M. Hawes 8·75m; High Jump (Form 4): S. D. Marshall 1·57m; High Jump (Form 3): A. L. S. Carrie 1·52m.

Victor Ludorum: Form 6/VI—Robinson; Form 5—G. A. Light; Form 4—Mitchell and Howes; Form 3—Carrie and Davies; Form 2—Jefferson; Form 1—Hawes.

N.A.F.P.

Rowing

The 1975 Season has shown an upswing in the fortunes of the Boat Club. Enthusiasm has been high, and this has been rewarded in the racing, as may be seen from the results. Both the Colts and Junior Colts rowed through to Finals at various regattas, and the First Eight managed to capture one or two worthwhile scalps despite the withdrawal of most of the old Colours from the crew for various reasons. It seems safe to say that the future looks promising for our young oarsmen, and that we shall very soon be back at Henley and capturing some 'pots' at our favourite regatta.

The Sponsored Row and Appeal has been quite successful, and the new restricted four is expected to arrive very soon now. Further contributors to the Appeal are:

D. J. Jessett	S. M. Cuddy
J. L. Platneauer	R. J. M. Conibear
B. D. Gibbs	Mrs. Pollard
J. B. Lister	D. J. K. Smith
R. C. Leathem	Dr. B. L. Smith
J. M. Iredale	

Total Sum received: £1,156.

To all of these we are extremely grateful, and, if I may be allowed to say at this stage, I have been most touched by the kind messages which have accompanied so many of the contributions. I should also like to thank all three Governors, Head Masters, Old Boys and boys who have helped over the years with the Boat Club, and particularly all the rowing coaches past and present who have worked so hard, on and off the river. Whatever else he is inheriting, Graham Barrett has a great tradition of enthusiasm and friendly help to rely on, and he has our best wishes as he takes on the task of running the Boat Club.

Finally, our congratulations to two O.As, Derwent King again rowed for Leander at Henley this year, and David Tanner achieved phenomenal success with his Coxless Four at Ealing, winning everything in sight, including the Visitors at Henley and then the Silver Medal in the Word Junior Championships in Montreal, missing the Gold by only three seconds. Which leaves us something to aim for!

R.G.M.

Results

1st VIII: J. A. Heard; N. R. Lemoine; M. R. Twine; R. J. Price; T. Walker; J. K. Dewar; B. A. L. Peck; M. Holding (stroke); Cox—M. T. L. Rivers.

Also rowed: A. H. Cook; P. R. Clark; A. J. Capel; M. R. R. Beers.

At Wallingford Regatta, lost semi-final of Junior A Div. to Emmanuel College.

At Gloucester Junior Regatta, beat Wycliffe College, lost semi-final to Radley College.

At Reading Junior Regatta, beat Cheltenham, lost to Radley College.

At National Schools Regatta, came 11th in Childe-Beal Cup.

1st IV: D. C. Homewood; I. M. Sealy; P. R. Clarke; M. R. R. Beers; Cox—S. W. N. Rogers.

At Reading Junior Regatta, lost to Oratory School in Novices.

Colts VIII: M. E. Lintott; D. M. Lewis; C. P. Sowden; S. G. Williams; J. W.

Breckon; R. J. Perkins; D. M. Byfield; R. D. Tauwhare (stroke); Cox—D. F.

Lindesay. Also rowed: A. H. Cook and D. A. Halliday.

At Wallingford Regatta, 'A' IV lost to Pangbourne 'B' in final of Colts Division, and 'B' IV lost to Reading School in Novice Division B.

At Worcester Regatta, the VIII lost to King's Worcester.

At Gloucester Regatta, lost in 1st Round to Monkton Combe; beat Pangbourne in Repechage but lost to Shrewsbury.

At Reading Junior Regatta, VIII Novice beat Clifton but lost in final to Eton and Canford.

At National Schools Regatta, in Shawcross Cup, came 5th in final, beating Cheltenham and Pangbourne.

Junior Colts VIII: A. J. Bryant; R. V. Scriven; P. G. Spittles; K. C. Peterson; J. M. Sowden; R. A. Joy; P. A. Younge; R. F. Emerton (stroke); Cox—D. N. Angwin. Also rowed: P. M. Johnson.

At Wallingford Regatta, 'A' IV beat Henley and Weybridge in Div. B but lost to Pangbourne in the final. 'B' IV lost to Pangbourne 'A' in Div. A.

At Gloucester Regatta, beat Monmouth and Radley 'B', lost to Pangbourne.

At Worcester Regatta, beat Cheltenham, lost to St. Edwards by $\frac{1}{8}$ length in final.

At Reading Regatta, beat St. Edwards and City of London, lost to Pangbourne.

At National Schools Regatta, in Petite Finale, lost to St. Pauls, beat Cheltenham and Shrewsbury.

At Reading Town Regatta, beat Pangbourne 'B' (record course time) but lost to Brentwood College, Canada by 2 feet.

Tennis

It is not unusual to judge the strength and success of a club on the performance of its senior team. On this basis it would be fair to conclude that the Tennis club had only moderate success this season, but this was not the case. A glance at the results table shows that no team from the 2nd VI down, lost a match this year—an achievement which has not been equalled in the last eight seasons.

The 1st VI had a mixed season, eventually winning half their fixtures. With a little more faith in their ability this might have been reduced to two or three losses instead of five, but generally they played with good spirit.

All involved in supervising the teams this year noted the enjoyment and involvement of the team members at all levels, and I am sure that the excellent execution of the jobs as captain and secretary by Greg Walters and Andy Plant respectively contributed towards a very happy and smoothly run club. To them both, we as a club offer thanks for a job well done.

The performance of the other VIs, already noted, promises well for the future. Particularly pleasing is the prospect of some good supporting tennis from this year's under 16s as next year's 2nd VI, with the present under 15 and under 14 teams moving up to support them in turn.

The 1st VI was from: G. C. Walters, A. N. Plant, J. C. Barnes, N. J. Tattersfield, A. P. S. Luto, N. J. Shephard, M. J. Abrines, A. L. Knibbs, P. M. Aston, P. V. Thomas, N. P. Kay.

The 2nd VI was from: R. A. Balkwill, J. C. Barnes, N. J. Tattersfield, N. P. Kay, A. L. Knibbs, M. J. Abrines, M. F. Savastano, P. M. Aston, P. V. Thomas, T. D. Robson, N. G. Williams.

The Junior VIs were from: P. M. Aston, P. V. Thomas, M. S. King, N. J. Talboys, G. Mitchell, T. D. Robson, N. G. Williams, R. P. Shelley, P. Druett, P. K. Milne, A. H. Stevens and P. J. Davidson.

Full colours were awarded to G. C. Walters, and A. N. Plant, and half-colours to A. P. S. Luto and N. J. Shephard.

The two open knock-out events, the Buckley Cup and the Junior Competition were again well supported, G. C. Walters beat N. J. Tattersfield to win the Buckley Cup and T. D. Robson won the Junior Competition for the second year running defeating N. G. Williams. In addition to being the School Junior Champion, Tim Robson also became the Oxfordshire Schools Under 14 Champion, beating Peter Druett in the all-Abingdon School final. Philip Davidson also reached the quarter-finals in the same competition and all three are to be congratulated on their achievements.

It was decided that we would not enter a team for the Youll Cup competition at Wimbledon this year, but the School was represented in the Thomas Bowl competition (under 16 knock-out), by T. D. Robson and N. G. Williams. In the first round we met St. George's School, Weybridge, and after a hard fought match beat them 6—1, 4—6, 7—5. Our second round match against Wellington College was an easier affair, and playing with authority, we disposed of them 6—3, 6—3. St. John's, Leatherhead were our third round opponents and after winning the first set 6—4, we looked to be in good form with only the formality of playing the second set to take the match. However, St. John's did not give up, and after leading by 4—1, we were soon trailing 6—5, with the opposition serving to take the set and square the score. After several set points we again took a grip on the game and eventually ran out winners 9—7.

Oundle were our last opponents in the fourth round and we soon found ourselves up against a very experienced team. The first set went to Oundle 6—2, and after a defiant start to the second set, where we were 2—1 up, they took the match with a score of 6—3.

Bearing in mind that both Tim and Nicholas were amongst the youngest in the competition, I was encouraged by their play and feel that they have a good chance of doing very well next year.

Again, on behalf of the club, I thank Messrs. T. R. Ayling and C. E. T. Moore for their help throughout the term, and in particular for giving so many hours of their own time to the supervision of school matches both at home and away, and also to Mr. Dangerfield and his staff for their contribution in the form of refreshments.

We said goodbye to G. C. Walters, A. N. Plant, N. J. Shephard and M. F. Savastano at the end of the term, and at the end of the Michaelmas term, A. P. S. Luto, J. C. Barnes, R. A. Balkwill and N. J. Tattersfield will also be leaving. To them all we extend best wishes for the future and hope to see them again as members of an O.A. team.

J.E.V.

Orienteering

Unfortunately there have been few local events this summer to cater for those starting the sport, but the really keen orienteers who have travelled to more distant events have enjoyed some fine forests and good competition. R. W. Baker (M12) and R. J. Thompson (M13) have been the most successful—each must be among the leading competitors in their age group in the country. R. Geere (M19) and W. G. Baker have also turned in some very good times.

Last year we finished 7th in the Under 19 section of the British Relay Championships, but as the only team that we could have entered this year would have been entirely composed of much younger runners we decided, instead, to enter teams in the popular 'Handicap Class' where time allowances are given according to age. Being either young or long in the tooth the Baker family (R. W., W. G., and R. H.) received nearly the maximum allowance and were amongst the second group of teams to start. The two boys each had excellent runs and gave their father a seven minute lead which he just failed to lose on the last leg, so the name of Thames Valley O.C., our club, goes onto the handsome Dolphin Trophy.

Combined Cadet Force

The main interest of the Summer Term was undoubtedly the Annual Inspection on 5th June. This was carried out by Colonel J. G. Starling, M.B.E., M.C., Regimental Colonel, Airborne Forces, and was by general agreement one of our more enjoyable inspections. Somewhat unorthodox in his approach, Col. Starling was very thorough and showed a great interest in all the activities, participating in many of them and speaking to the majority of the cadets during the afternoon.

For the rest, the Army contingent enjoyed several highlights during the term. The most useful and impressive of these was a visit by men of the 1st Parachute Battalion to display and demonstrate the fire power of their unit. This visit for which we have to thank Major Tim Marsh (O.A.) of the Parachute Regt., proved so popular that cadets were still asking questions long after the end of school. At other times, groups of Fourth Form cadets travelled to Aldershot to spend a day at the Parachute Depot. In between whiles, routine training managed to get done and qualifications were passed.

Both the Naval Section and the R.A.F. contingent spent useful if uneventful terms, the latter having a particularly interesting Field Day at the R.A.F. Lyneham where they saw a variety of aircraft and engines and inspected a Hercules in detail.

The summer vacation was an especially active one for both sailors and airmen. Some naval cadets visited Loch Ewe in the far north of Scotland, others preferred the peaceful waters of Portsmouth and Plymouth. Perhaps the most notable piece of training was done by the six intrepid cadets (S. de Lusigan, N. W. Boyce, A. Halliday, K. M. Forsyth, N. Mitchell, J. J. Stephen) who chartered an ocean-going yacht—the *Shah*—for a ten-day cruise. The cruise took them from Portsmouth to Poole, where they ran aground, and thence to the Channel Islands. From a base in Alderney, visits were made to Sark, Guernsey, Jersey and to France. The return trip from St. Malo to Portsmouth was accomplished at a cracking eight and a half knots and thoroughly enjoyed.

R.A.F. successes this summer included Ian Sealy's flying scholarship wings and pilot's licence at Southampton and gliding wings gained by R. Watson, R. Hobbs, M. Barnes and R. Humm at R.A.F. Halton. Simon Hills had a most interesting three and a half weeks in U.S.A. as a guest of U.S. Air Force, during which he visited Washington, New York and much of the East Coast.

Army Camp: Stirling

This was a camp with a difference and, in the event, most enjoyable. We took over the Training Camp at Drip Bridge, near Stirling, and fended for ourselves, or rather 'Jock' Fox looked after us most effectively with the help of a skeleton kitchen staff loaned to us by the camp authorities. The weather was good and the billets comfortable and so the cadets were able to enjoy the activities which included a visit to Rosythe Dockyards, demolition demonstrations by the R.E.s, a day's abseiling under the watchful eye of Lt. Brown, 15 Para. Regt., as well as a two day walking exercise over the hills and shooting on the range. For relaxation, there were the delights of Stirling including the splendid indoor swimming pool, visits to Bannockburn Memorial, Linlithgow and Doune Castles and a whole day visit on the Sunday to Edinburgh.

All in all, one of the better camps—and for this, we have to thank Mr. Fox whose hard work and liaison with the 15th Para. Regt. made it possible.

Sailing Club

One fine Wednesday afternoon in May, the Abingdon School Sailing Club launched itself onto the Thames, whilst the oars brigade down river watched with consternation this invasion of their preserve. Since then, apart from one 'clash of interest', the river has ably accommodated both and some 30 boys have enjoyed sail throughout the term.

The formation of the Club was made possible by our being able to affiliate ourselves to the Abbey Sailing Club. In addition, Mr. Simpson very generously loaned us his Enterprise dinghy and school members of the Abbey Club allowed their dinghies to be used for instruction. We were able to buy our first dinghy, a Firefly, through the generous donation of £100 from TASS and she has been named 'Tasstime' in recognition. As many as eight boats were thus in use and it was encouraging the way that boys availed themselves of every opportunity to get out on the river. There was nearly always an entry from the school in the weekend races held by the Club.

This is undoubtedly a worthwhile addition to school activities, as not every boy is necessarily a team game adherent and the enjoyment, enthusiasm and will to learn has been very apparent.

We will be sailing as often as we can and hope to acquire further sailing dinghies in due course—subject to availability of money!

T. J. C.

Chess

In the Easter Term, our Under 15 team had beaten Waingel's Copse School $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the first leg of the Berkshire County Finals. In the second leg, they looked rusty and lost to Strodes School 2—3 (as had happened in the previous season) but—amazingly—Strode's went on to lose to Waingel's Copse $1\frac{1}{2}$ — $3\frac{1}{2}$ so that Abingdon won the Trophy on a goal-average, in a rather undistinguished way.

The team was: M. D. Andrews, R. S. Harries, R. Allen, G. D. Brown and one of G. P. Alcock, P. A. Gregg, J. P. F. Davies.

M.W.

GCE

Statistical analysis of this year's GCE results shows them to be probably the best over-all results we have ever had. We publish below some of the more easily comprehensible figures on which this conclusion is based:

Advanced Level: of the 84 boys who took the examination, 63 (75%) passed in all their subjects. Altogether, 217 passes (87%) were obtained.

Ordinary Level: Grades A, B, C are deemed 'passes'; D, E and Unclassified are deemed 'fails'.

The 105 Fifth-formers, most of whom already had 1 or 2 passes from the Fourth Form, averaged a further 6.6 passes each. Altogether, 847 passes (81%) were obtained, 202 of them receiving Grade A.

R.H.B.

Moscow 1975

During the Summer vacation, Simon Clift was fortunate to be selected, along with four other students, to represent Britain in the International Russian Speaking Olympiad, a competition held apparently every three years. The group were accompanied by the Secretary of the Association of Teachers of Russian and stayed at the Hotel *Yunost* in Moscow. Accommodated in the same hotel were 170 others from 27 different countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa: it was an above average hotel and everyone was treated exceedingly well.

Apart from the actual competition which lasted three days, the Russians went to a great deal of trouble to make sure that their guests enjoyed themselves with the result that Moscow was perhaps seen through somewhat rosy-coloured spectacles; there were also a number of interesting excursions.

So far as the competition went, about half the students gained medals. The British party did well to get one gold and two bronze medals, our man from Abingdon gaining one of the bronze medals. All in all, to quote Simon, it was 'an enjoyable, exciting and valuable cosmopolitan experience'.

Hello Goodbye

Came September 1975

- 6P: S. R. Haynes; MML Ho.
4B: T. C. N. Hunt.
4M: M. E. Leggett; D. J. Rogalewski; A. J. H. Stott.
4R: J. Marsh.
3C: P. H. Bowker; F. W. Charlton; J. R. Dibble; M. G. Hyder; W. J. Rayson.
3G: A. D. B. Adams; J. W. J. Franklin; N. S. Hall; P. H. Jones; T. R. Peterson; A. Polack; G. L. Radford-Smith; M. A. S. Richardson; G. A. Ripley.
3T: D. S. Bradbury; J. B. Cowdell; E. J. Eveleigh; N. Paterson; J. P. Phizackerley; P. C. H. Tidmarsh.
3W: J. R. P. Derry; G. C. M. Black; D. J. Darnborough; S. D. Harrison; J. H. Kingston; R. I. Stanway; N. T. Wright.
2B: J. J. Austin; P. C. Boobbyer; J. H. G. Driver.
1G: S. G. Arnison; G. J. Francksen; G. L. Haggett; I. A. Haley; A. J. L. Harrison; J. E. Holt; C. S. Johnson; H. C. Jones; S. C. Jozwiak; L. R. C. Kempton; M. D. Lane; A. P. Lloyd; P. A. McLoughlin; P. D. Meadows; E. Morgan; N. J. M. Murphy; C. C. Newmark; M. R. S. Pinches; S. M. Russell; S. A. Sedwards; N. M. Sketch; J. M. Steeds; A. A. Thomson; M. W. H. West; S. M. Wilkinson; A. J. Wright.
1P: G. N. Baird; G. E. Butler; J. T. G. Cox; G. C. East; T. H. England; J. Green; I. R. T. Higgs; A. W. Hooton; D. N. Jones; J. P. Madelin; J. D. Monk; N. M. North; J. N. Prest; N. G. Rice; J. A. Roaf; D. J. Ruiz; I. A. Sadler; N. H. Smith; J. S. G. Tanner; P. A. Tauwhare; D. A. Thompson; C. D. Wheeler; S. D. Wilden; P. A. Willett.
1W: P. F. Batchelor; P. J. Biggs; J. E. Cox; A. J. R. Cullen; M. J. Dransfield; I. D. Flitcroft; P. D. Fulford; A. Greenall; J. E. Griggs; P. R. Hambleton; P. G. Harries; B. D. Johnson; D. A. Lay; A. S. N. Lowe; A. C. Mellor; H. D. Mulvey; J. R. Parker; W. J. Passmore; N. J. Quail; N. R. Rawlinson; I. C. D. Robertson; S. R. Vaslet; J. Warchus; R. W. Watson; T. P. C. Wilson; C. R. W. Wimblett.

Left Summer 1975

- VII: M. J. Andrews; R. C. Bosley; J. R. Boulton; P. R. Clarke; S. C. Comerford; J. P. Gotelee; I. B. Lennox; D. P. Lynn; N. A. Malein; P. C. Moore; G. A. N. Pott; N. J. A. Shephard; A. W. Smith; N. J. Tresidder; C. M. Wait; M. E. Weston; G. F. Woods.
- VIII: C. L. Applegate; A. P. Arm; J. P. Barton; P. D. Boon; C. B. Cambray; N. A. Clarke; M. P. Doble; D. C. Eccles; R. W. Holder; S. C. P. L. Hutchins; B. Kochan; W. A. Litchfield; J. E. M. Mason-Crhak; M. S. J. Phillips; A. N. Plant.
- VIE: P. S. Ashby; P. A. Betts; A. N. Davies; A. M. S. Gotch; A. F. Jackson; C. S. Orchard; M. R. Osborne; T. Robertson; J. Samsworth; M. F. Savastano; B. C. Sneddon; M. W. Stimpson; N. I. Tait; M. W. Taylor; R. M. Thomas; A. J. Thresher; G. C. Walters; M. G. Wartke.
- VIC: C. J. Baumann; A. J. Capel; N. Couchman; S. M. Hills; G. K. Jones; N. J. Lyons; D. McCutcheon; S. R. Martin; D. J. G. Mushens; R. P. Simmons; T. J. Wheeler; S. A. Young.
- 6K: A. P. Marsden.
- 5E: R. Killingback; G. A. Light.
- 5H: R. G. Gilbert; A. D. A. Walker.
- 5R: M. S. Brown; J. C. Butler; J. K. Dewar; J. H. Doble; D. F. Home; P. N. John; J. S. Poxon.
- 5Y: D. G. Light.
- 4M: J. M. Goldstein.
- 2C: E. Brois.
- 2J: N. E. S. Bugg; J. V. Partridge.
- 1W: P. J. Biggs.

LISTS

Staff

September 1975

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Assistant Masters:

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- C. E. T. Moore, T.D., M.A., Hertford College, Oxford (Geography; History).
- F. J. Sewry, B.Sc., Southampton University (Chemistry; **Careers**).
- L. C. J. Griffin, M.A., Jesus College, Oxford (Classics).
- R. G. Mortimer, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
- J. Talbot, B.Sc., Birmingham University (Biology).
- A. A. Hillary, M.A., late Exhibitioner of Jesus College, Cambridge (History).
- K. G. Hasnip, M.A., Caius College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
- W. G. Potter, M.A., Pembroke College, Oxford (Biology).
- C. D. B. Milton, B.Sc., (Econ.), A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., London University (Economics; **Director of Studies**).
- R. H. Baker, M.A., Queens' College, Oxford (Physics).

H. T. Randolph, M.A., Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (Classics).
 C. M. Reynolds, M.A., B.Sc., late Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (Maths.).
 H. Eden, M.A., late Exhibitioner of Caius College, Cambridge (Geography).
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 D. C. Taylor, M.A., Clare College, Cambridge (Modern Languages).
 J. E. Varley, B.Ed., Nottingham College of Education (Physics).
 M. Woodgett, M.A., late Exhibitioner of Exeter College, Oxford (Classics).
 N. K. Hammond, B.Sc., London School of Economics (Economics; Geography).
 S. C. Bodey, B.Sc., Reading University (Physics).
 N. A. F. Pritchard, M.A., late Scholar of Balliol College, Oxford (Maths.).
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 G. Graham, B.A., Trinity College, Dublin (Modern Languages).
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5R: S. M. Simpson; 5Y: K. M. R. Forsyth.

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TASS Prize for Service: P. A. Noble; Ingham Music Prize: N. Halliday;
Smith Chemistry Prizes: A. J. Capel, C. J. Skinner, D. J. Torrens; Ball Science
Prize: C. M. Wait; Ford Biology Prize: C. M. Wait; West Biology Prize:
I. B. Lennox; Bevan Divinity Prize: M. E. Spoor; Bevan Scripture Prizes:
A. G. Stimpson, S. W. Jones, J. M. Julyan; Ingham Physics Prize: J. M.
Sackett and S. E. C. Crouch; Initiative Cup: R. W. Kermodé; Fourth Science
Times Cup: S. E. Fenn; Larkhill Trophy: M. W. Taylor and C. J. Cuninghame;
Drama Cup: 'The Dumb Waiter'; Duffield Local History Prize: M. N. K.
Saunders, R. C. Hingley and M. J. Derry; Mayor's Prize for Service: S. de
Lusignan; The Headmaster's Prize: A. P. Arm and M. S. Phillips; The Old
Boys' Prize: M. W. Stimpson and C. Baumann; Henderson Cricket Prizes:
M. W. Stimpson and C. W. P. Hobson; Junior Rugby Shield: The Junior XV;
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Anyone interested apply to the Headmaster for details and application form.

Old Boys news and changes of address will appear in the next issue of the *Abingdonian* and in January 1976 a circular of forthcoming events will be sent to all members.

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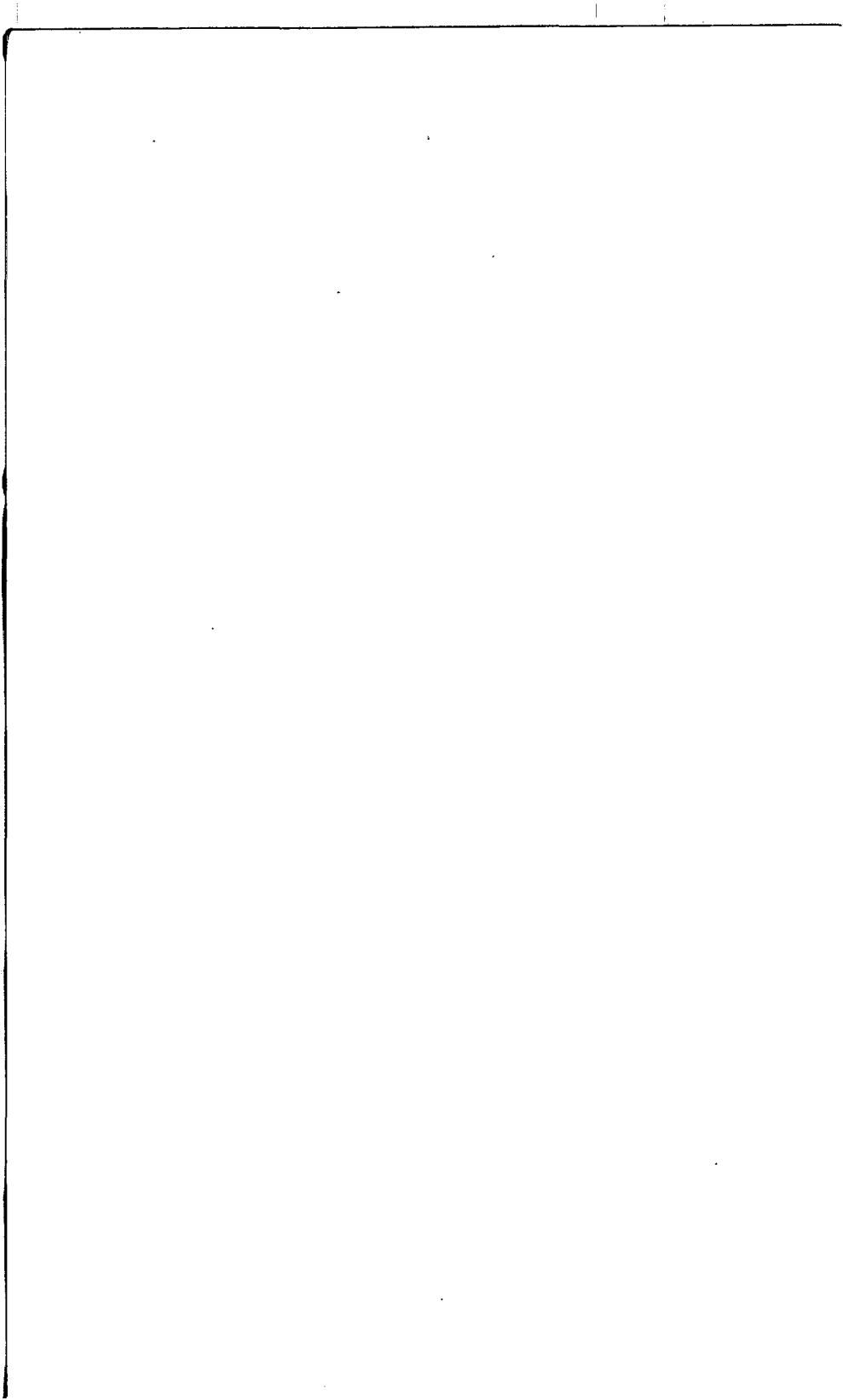
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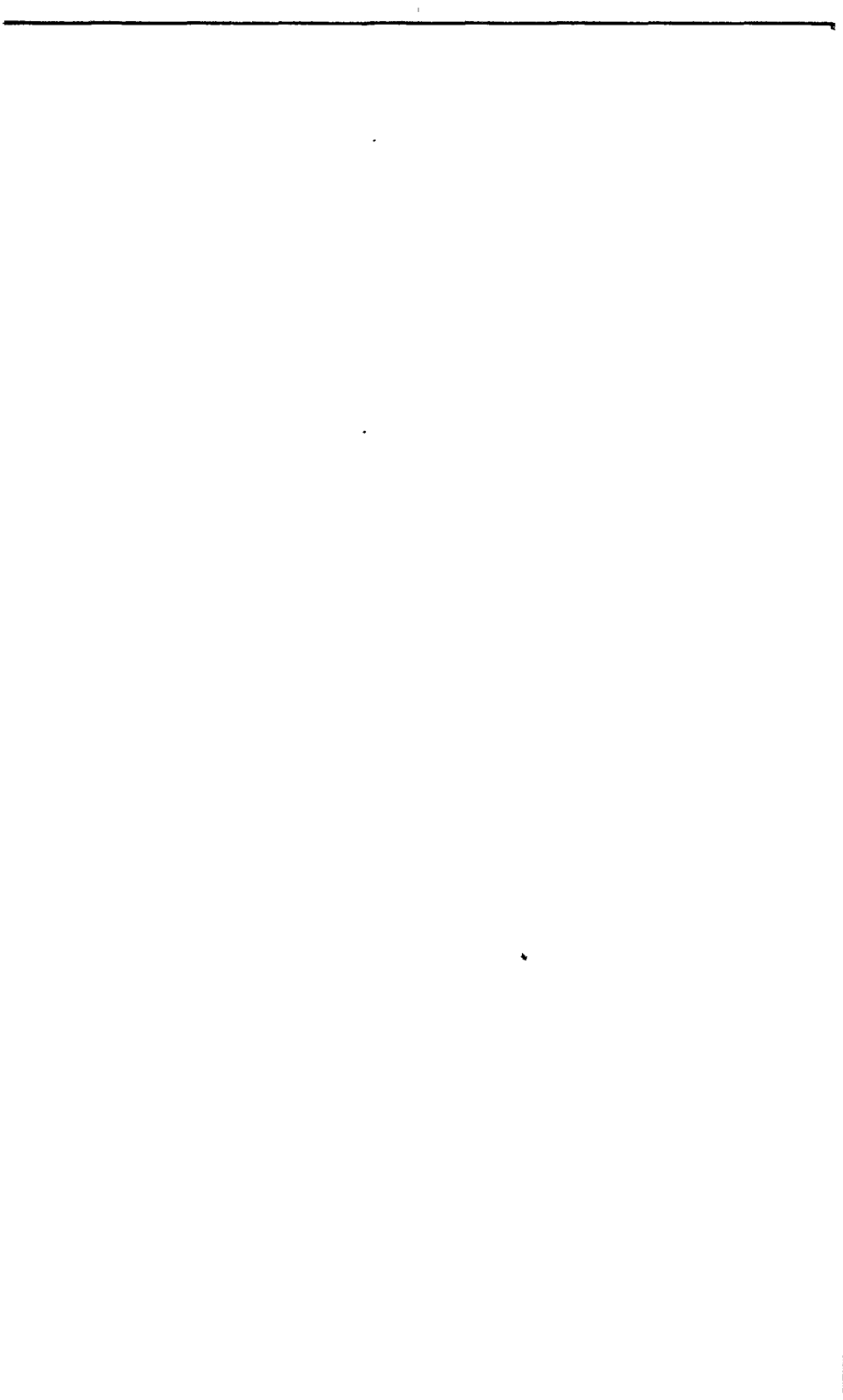
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