



1982

The Abingdonian

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BOARDING AT ABINGDON — PAST AND FUTURE

Arthur Preston, loyal Old Abingdonian and dedicated antiquarian, wrote in 1929 that "Save for an interval in the sixteenth century, Abingdon, from at least the time of Edward III, has always been a boarding-school as well as a day-school." Piety may have coloured erudition here to some extent, but it is an undoubted fact that one of the earliest clear documentary references to the School, to be found in an Award, or Judgement, issued by the then Bishop of Salisbury on 17 June 1372, and preserved among the Verney papers, provides us with unmistakable evidence of a boarding establishment, comprising not only the Headmaster's own house, but also a hostel near by. "Magistro etiam scholarum grammaticalium Abendonie at seruietibus suis Scholaribusque cum eo commorantibus quibuscumque etiam in domo cuiusdam Dionisie Mundy Abendonie predicte." ("..... the Master of the Grammar School at Abingdon and the servants and scholars lodging with him and in the house of a certain Dionysia Mundy.")

A document of October 1508, reinforced by accounts of rents paid before and after the dissolution of the Abbey, further clarifies the existence of these lodgings and hostels for boarders. The later sixteenth century, however, was a difficult time for the School, and Preston points out that the rearrangement of 1563 made no provision for a boarding side, with adverse consequences on the School's fortunes — "All through Elizabethan times the youth and inexperience of the Headmasters, and the extraordinary devastation of their ranks by the plague, the absence of facilities for boarders, and the poverty of the curriculum, all combined to reduce the educational efficiency of the School, and to render it of less importance and repute than in the time of Edward III."

The scholarly Headmasters of the seventeenth century, most notably Thomas Godwyn, would in all probability have attracted at least a few resident pupils, but it seems likely that significant numbers of boarders did not return to Abingdon until the eighteenth century. This is the period when, if a school is to be judged by the worldly success of its old boys, we reached a peak which has never been matched since. The registers of the period record the passage of a glittering procession of peers and parliamentarians, bishops and archdeacons, masters of Oxford colleges, lawyers and soldiers — or at least of the boys who later became such. Most of them were sons of local gentry and professional men, and came to Abingdon as boarders.

The spread of the railways in the nineteenth century increased the range of educational choice available to the wealthy classes of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire — a development which the School's management at this period, unimaginative and at times incompetent, did little to meet. Even so, the arrangement of the new premises to which the School moved in 1870 demonstrates the importance still attached to boarding at that date. A recently discovered plan, giving the original uses for all the rooms in the 1870 buildings, shows a highly efficient and economical layout, within which the Headmaster and his staff looked after 44 boarders, more than a third of the number envisaged as a maximum for the entire School at that time, although in fact there were only 45 boys on the books in January of 1870. Nor, probably, is it irrelevant to notice that William Grundy, who as Headmaster did so much to establish the character of the School between the wars, was the son of one of the great Victorian boarding-school headmasters, a man who had been largely responsible for the success of Malvern College, where WMG himself was educated.

The Direct Grant era gave the School a new place in the local scheme of things, and one which placed especial stress on dayboy education. Numbers on the boarding side expanded, it is true, during the 1950's and the 1960's, but financial constraints were always present to limit the scope of development, and the ending of the Direct Grant system itself dealt a further blow, by removing the financial differential which had enabled our somewhat spartan facilities to appear competitive, in terms of value for money, with those of more pretentious establishments. The later 1970's saw a marked decline in the number of boarders, and now, in 1982, only one-fifth of our total strength of 700 boys are actually housed in the School.

Mediaeval, Georgian and Victorian arguments for a boarding education may have disappeared with the circumstances

which gave rise to them, and there is, in any case, no point in dwelling either on past glories or on missed opportunities. However, I believe that there are good reasons for taking pride in the boarding side as it is at Abingdon today, and for thinking that it has an important future before it. It is true, of course, that the habit of sending boys and girls away to boarding school has become steadily less fashionable since the last war, to the extent that a good many people who are strongly in favour of independent schools are equally strongly opposed to boarding, at any rate where this means permanent exile from the family home for the child concerned. On the other hand, part at least of the general decline in "native" (as opposed to foreign) boarding is undoubtedly due to motor transport, which enables parents to ferry their children to and from school over much greater distances than was formerly feasible — a process which has both taken further and, in a sense, reversed the earlier school transport revolution brought about by the railways. Boys now come to Abingdon as day pupils who would necessarily, in former times, have been boarders; and yet it is also the case that diminishing numbers of boarders, here as elsewhere, nowadays actually live more than 50 miles from the school, and they are altogether much more likely than in the past to keep closely in touch with their families at weekends and at other times. In sum, "national" boarding schools are in process of converting into, or being replaced by, "regional" boarding and day schools — a development which might be made to yield significant advantages to Abingdon.

Boarding at Abingdon can never have been the same as boarding at a school entirely, or even largely, without dayboys. In the past, this may have been seen as a disadvantage, but now it can be taken as the basis for a flexible and imaginative formula. Weekends, in particular, need not either be regimented parades or barren time-tundra; without entire abandonment of the corporate ideal, they can become opportunities for boys to get out of the School, possibly to the homes of friends for relaxation after a week worked at day school pace. Since 1980, we have been able to institutionalise this, by means of weekly boarding arrangements, which are clearly having the effect of bringing the dayboy and boarding groups closer together, and which meet at any rate some of the problems faced by boys, and their parents, in the way of travel to and from School. Perhaps the most important benefit, though, to be derived from the mixture of boarders with dayboys is the possibility of commuting between the two states — something which is proving increasingly popular at the present time. Many boys — far more, perhaps, than their parents, or even they themselves, clearly recognise — benefit from and enjoy the companionship of their contemporaries, and removal from the domestic scene, for a spell at some stage during their education; conversely, family circumstances often change in such a way that boarders can switch to dayboy status. It would be arrogant to claim that we are doing anything startlingly original in this field; but the mere capacity to be flexible is an asset in its own right, and one that we are trying to exploit to the full.

The boarders have always (or, at any rate, "since a time beyond which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary") contributed conspicuously to the wellbeing of the School in terms of leadership, sporting prowess, and general loyalty — while latterly they seem also to have developed a positive speciality in drama! Still more important, though, and harder to define, is their role as the core of the community-in-being, as the guardians of identity and continuity. In such ways the boarding side brings great benefits to the dayboys, and for this reason if for no other it would seem desirable to maintain what we already have and to develop it further if at all possible.

It has, therefore, been the School's policy for some years now to take advantage of the fall in boarding numbers to reconstruct and re-equip the various houses, and at the same time to try and give proper consideration to the requirements of the boarding side in any plans for larger development. The former process is now well advanced, and the evident value to the boarding side of the Amey Hall and Arts Centre emboldens us still further in our pursuit of the projected Sports and Technology Centres.

To embark on a development programme of such magnitude is undoubtedly something of a gamble, in the circumstances that prevail today. On the other hand, the very concept of a boarding education incites us to commitment, and there is surely enough evidence from Abingdon's own past, not to mention the examples of other schools, to suggest that the prizes are worth while. It is more than encouraging, therefore, for the future of the School as a whole, to be able to record signs of a rise in actual boarding numbers, and in registrations for admission to the boarding side in future years.

M.St.J.P.
18 June 1982.

ENTRIES TO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
AUTUMN 1982

OXFORD

Awards

S. D. J. Clarke (Organ Scholarship)	Hertford	Music
I. D. Flitcroft (Scholarship)	Pembroke	Medicine
T. D. L. Screech (Scholarship)	Wadham	Modern Languages
A. M. Suckling (Scholarship)	Corpus	Physics

Places

J. J. Austin	Christ Church	Mathematics
M. E. H. Emerton	Oriel	Medicine
M. F. Hunt	Hertford	Engineering
S. M. Russell	Hertford	P.P.E.
R. L. Wilden	Keble	Physics
A. D. Wilmore	Trinity	Physics

CAMBRIDGE

Awards

A. T. Black (Exhibition)	St. John's	Theology
P. W. R. Blackburn (Choral Exhibition)	Clare	Music
T. G. Fellows (Scholarship)	Queen's	Natural Sciences
G. D. Harper (Exhibition)	St. John's	Medicine
B. R. P. Macintyre (Scholarship)	St. John's	History
N. A. L. Ward (Exhibition)	Jesus	Medicine

Places

P. C. Boobbyer	Trinity	Modern Languages
D. R. Butler	Trinity	History
N. J. Holmes	St. John's	History
S. C. Jones	Trinity	Natural Sciences

COMMON ROOM NEWS

The end of the Summer Term 1981 saw the departure of a number of younger staff, either on their way to promotion or to new careers altogether. Gervald Frykman left us to continue his teaching career at Warwick, and his striking brand of eccentricity and style is much missed — in Common Room cricket matches as much as in the classroom. Paul Cann left teaching to start a career in the Civil Service and is now working in the Cabinet Office; the impression he made at the school remains for all to see in the enthusiasm amongst the younger boys, in particular, for all things dramatic and musical. Together with Richard Brett, who decided to return to Haberdashers', Paul may be best remembered for the marvellous production of 'The Leaving of Liverpool' which is written about elsewhere in this magazine. We would like to congratulate all three of these colleagues on their recent marriages.

We were also sad to say goodbye to Ron Elverson, whose gallant work in Lost Property cannot hope to be equalled! Ron writes that he is enjoying his new job at Worksop very much indeed. We were also sorry to lose Susan Foote to the Oxford Department of Education and Mervyn Evans to Stowe. Both, in their very different ways, have added style and character to Common Room Life.

Ron's place in the Physics Department has been taken by Dr Edward Mallia, who has already proved his worth on the cricket field and the mountains of Hammarbank. Dr John Haigh and David Smith have added experience, intellect and tremendous enthusiasm to the English Department, and David's 'Brain' has also made an awe-inspiring impression on Divinity students and Symposium debaters. Finally we welcomed Stephen Page to teach Chemistry, and his prowess in all things sporting is obviously making a considerable mark on team games of all variety.

At the end of the Winter Term we were all sorry to bid farewell to Barry Jahnke who joined in so enthusiastically with all kinds of Abingdon activities. We hope that he and his family enjoyed their year here as much as we enjoyed meeting them. Our loss, was, of course, tempered by the delight of Richard Webber's return, and he has thoroughly entertained us with his accounts of the exciting year 'down under'.

Finally, David Higham, who filled in in the Chemistry Department so manfully for a term, left us in January to continue teaching in Africa. He was replaced by Keith Bingham. Keith's good sense and practical experience in industry is proving most valuable and illuminating for all of us, as well as for the boys!

OBITUARY

(S. C. Parker — Staff 1946-73)

Stuart Crawford Parker died suddenly on June 28th 1981. He had come to Abingdon in April 1946 as House Tutor in School House and to succeed Mr. W. Bevir on his retirement as Head of Modern Languages. He left School House in July 1947 on his marriage, but remained as head of Modern Languages until a year or two before his retirement in 1973. Stuart was a keen games player, being a particularly stylish batsman and a sound hockey player and he ran the cricket from 1946 until 1952, but he will be especially remembered as Commanding Officer of the C.C.F. To this position, from which he retired with the honorary rank of Lt. Col. in 1964, he brought a wealth of military experience gained, along with a permanently handicapping wound, in the Italian campaign. He was very brave, extremely determined and did not suffer fools gladly; as boys and colleagues — even some very senior ones —, who were the recipients of his shafts of wit, could testify. Yet beneath it all Stuart was a shy and modest man, who enjoyed good fellowship and congenial company. We extend our sympathy and good wishes to his widow, Betty, and to his son, Nigel. Stuart was confirmed at a mature age in the School Chapel and his memorial is to be the restoration of the ancient eagle to its former place. Old Abingdonians who would wish to mark their appreciation of his service should send donations to R. G. Mortimer at the school.

A.A.H.

When a new chaplain sets out to write the Chapel Notes for the first time, the first thing he does is to read what was written last year! And so I have read of gradual growth and consolidation, of increasing emphasis upon the Eucharist in Sunday worship; and I am happy enough to report a further year's progress on the same lines. The emphasis on the Eucharist has taken a slightly different turn this year, intended to remedy the neglect of the Sacrament on those Sundays when it is not the only service. This has been done by introducing on those Sundays an arrangement whereby boarders are expected to attend either the Eucharist or Mattins; and the first results of this are distinctly encouraging. But every gain has its cost; and this has left us with very few opportunities for inviting visiting preachers, at any rate for the time being. It is not easy to find the right pattern of worship in a place where the Sunday "presence" is as flexible and unpredictable as it is here; but at least it is now established that the Eucharist is celebrated at 9.45 on every Sunday when the boarders are in residence.

Fifteen boys were Confirmed shortly before Easter by Bishop Cyril Bulley, on his first but we hope not his last visit to the School. His exposition of the promise "I turn to Christ" gave the candidates plenty to think about — and the rest of us, too.

Day by day, Chapel has to compete for time and attention with a host of other pursuits in a busy school life. It cannot be claimed that the daily services introduced this year (Holy Communion on festivals, Evensong on other days) have attracted much attention — with one honourable exception. Here again we acknowledge the valuable contribution of the musicians to our worship, with special mention this time of the small group led by Mr. Robertson who sing at least one of these services each week. The "Daily Office" — a habit of daily prayer and scripture reading — doesn't create a stir; it just quietly, insistently, acknowledges and asserts the sovereignty of God, seven days a week. That, in my book, is what chapels and chaplains are about.

(H. J.) J. B.

We regret to announce the death of a former Chairman of the Governing Body, Mr. C. G. Stow, which occurred at his home in Kent in October, 1981. We are indebted to Sir James Cobban (Headmaster 1947-1970) for the following appreciation.

Cyril Stow — he was commonly known as Bill — came to Abingdon, his wife's home town, as a young lawyer in 1945, after an outstanding war career, to take up an appointment as company secretary to Morland & Co. Promotion was rapid, and when Morlands came under the Whitbread umbrella he was appointed a director of the parent company, subsequently becoming one of its managing directors.

He had a strong sense of civic responsibility, and when his increased commitments made it necessary for him to move home nearer London, Whitbread's gain was very much Abingdon's loss. While he lived in or within reach of Abingdon he made his mark both on town and on school. Elected to the Borough Council in 1947, he was Mayor of Abingdon in 1956, the year of the Queen's visit, in which his quiet dignity and his sense of occasion found full scope; it was largely due to his efforts that the Guildhall and the mayoral robes were 'refurbished' for the event.

As Mayor, he became by virtue of his office a governor of the School, and after his year of office he was very sensibly coopted to continued membership of the governing body. Elected Vice-Chairman in 1957, a year later he took over as Chairman from Admiral Clifton-Brown, and for nine years, a crucial period of expansion and development, he presided over its deliberations with consummate skill and dedication. The then Town Clerk has rightly described him as 'a man of great ability and presence, a plain speaker who did not suffer fools gladly'; but I was humbled when I saw how much time and trouble he was prepared to give to the affairs of the school. Its growth, in size and reputation, in the early sixties was due in large part to his powers of judgement and decision.

It fell to his lot as Chairman to play a leading role, with Joe Stanley, the then Mayor, (not such an ill-assorted pair as you might think — they had great regard for each other) in our own royal visit in 1963 — in the event a radiantly memorable day of high celebration for school and town alike. I shall never forget how much he helped in the planning of it; or the military precision which he brought to the dress rehearsal (in pouring rain) on the previous day.

No headmaster could have been more fortunate in his chairmen, the Admiral, Bill Stow, George Bredin (happily still alive and well), than I was. Bill I shall always remember, with respect, gratitude and affection, as a man of integrity and wisdom, and of far greater sensitivity than the world ever credited to him, who made his own unique contribution to that many-coloured fabric which makes up the history of the School. To Pam, and to his children, Derek in Australia, Carol in South Africa, I send my deepest sympathy on the loss of a husband and father of whom they may well be proud.

J.M.C.

C.C.F. — ARMY SECTION

This past year has been a period of consolidation in the army section — the Government cuts seem to hit everywhere! With numbers down below one hundred for the first time for a number of years, and with Mr. Webber AWOL in Australia, the control of the section was left to 2 senior NCO's (WO's Rice and Harries). This they managed with reasonable competence, although they were notable for their outstanding ability to delegate responsibility to those below them.

Even so, the Summer Term 1981 was noted for the annual camp at St. Martin's Plain, Folkestone, where a group of some sixty cadets — mainly from the army section — enjoyed what was probably one of the best camps ever. The week was slightly disrupted by the "washed out" overnight exercise, cancelled half-way through with the majority of cadets sodden to the skin — yet amazingly quite prepared and willing to carry on. The week also saw Mr. Drummond-Hay learning to drive HGV's and thanks must be extended to him for coming.

The Michaelmas term saw the commencement of an NCO's cadre in which about twenty cadets participated. Amongst persistent rumours of mutiny, the end of the term saw the emergence of twenty corporals — a little bored, but agreed upon the worthy usefulness of the course. The term was also notable for the first major emergency on an overnight exercise — when one of the cadets had a severe attack of stomach cramp — which was serious enough for him to be taken to the nearest hospital — in that most up-to-date of ambulances Tim Haworth's red Morris Minor! After examination he was well enough to travel home the following morning — but it did underline the importance of consuming at least one meal on overnight exercises.

The Lent Term brought a new training regime which was aimed at allowing the cadets to enjoy the slightly more subtle aspects of army work, such as jumping fully clothed from a two metre diving-board into 7 metres of ice-cold water. For some reason this seemed to liven up the cadets to such an extent that at the Annual Inspection during that term the Inspecting Officer was highly impressed by the section's turnout which was of a very high standard. Air Commodore Moore was similarly impressed following initiative exercises which, as he commented, mainly involved getting as dirty and then as wet as possible.

At the Inspection the Best Army Cadet of the Year Award went to W/O Tim Howard for his 'expert' guidance of the signals section which seemed secretly to flourish throughout the year. Tim was so obviously amazed at winning the award that he instantly proceeded to drop the cannon — to the obvious enjoyment of all on parade including Air Commodore Moore.

However the activities of the Army Section were not limited to Term time. During the Easter holidays 30 cadets went on the arduous training week to Cairnsphairn in Scotland. 3 NCO's went on a parachuting course organised by Captain Fox — without whose help many of the term's activities would never have taken place. And a further 3 cadets went on a signals course. Gareth Harper

(left December 1981) obtained a short service limited commission with the Royal Artillery — however at the time of writing his proposed battalion is off on its way to the Falklands.

With a new set of highly competent although highly competitive senior NCO's — and with Mr. Webber back, (yet to face Court Martial) — the Army Section looks set for another efficient and active year.

W/O Phil Harries

R.A.F. SECTION

The past year has been a characteristically busy one for the Section. Senior boys have departed to be replaced by the youthful enthusiasm of this year's recruits and the regular business of proficiency instruction and examination has progressed in an official manner. There have been 37 examinees at various levels during the year and with the exception of two failures in one examination they all passed with flying colours, many at credit and distinction level.

Success has been evident in a wider context where Abingdon Cadets have come up against their peers from schools throughout the country. Last year's total of Flying Scholarships success reached four and our first successful cadet this year has already completed his month of flying training during the Easter holidays. He awaits the better weather to fly his cross-country test and qualify for a Private Pilot's Licence. We await news of places for the summer for our other hopefuls. Places on Gliding Courses have been as eagerly sought after as ever. Since the last report a total of eight cadets have completed such courses and gone 'solo'.

The range of activities has been as great as ever and it would be impossible to do justice to such a list without a full report on each. Suffice to say that we have U.K. camps, RAF Germany camps, Gibraltar camps, films, lectures, Demonstrations, Field days, Radio-controlled Gliders, a Hovercraft project, and many more minor activities to keep us busy.

Special mention must be made of our flying activities where we are in a specially advantageous position being so close to Number six air experience flight at RAF Abingdon. We foster a close relationship with the flight which enables us to guarantee a flight in a two seater Chipmunk for each of our cadets every year. In practice some cadets do far better than this. We are also fortunate in having strong support from parents who are well placed in the RAF to make visits and occasional special flights — a welcome enrichment to our programme. This is perhaps the moment to say how much we appreciate such help from parents in the forces.

At the time of writing it seems likely that our immediate future will include one of those occasional realignments so well known to serving members of the forces. Such changes must be embraced in a positive and forward moving organisation, and I have no doubt that the Section and the Combined Cadet Force in general will continue to serve the needs of a wide variety of boys at Abingdon.

C. J. Biggs Sdn Ldr RAF VR(T)
O.C. RAF Section

CRICKET

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Despite the frustrations of a very wet summer and of the inevitably slow, damp wickets, most of the arranged matches were played and, as the reports below reflect, there was plenty of good cricket with the middle and junior school elevens being the most successful. Marcus Marsden, Mark Boobbyer and Matthew Cox in particular achieved some remarkable personal triumphs. Robert McCreery played a few times for Notts 2nds. Congratulations to Andy Newman, winner of the Morris Cup for his wicket-keeping and batting, to Gareth Harper, top of the batting averages, who was awarded the Smithson Cup, and to Tim Winter who was awarded the Henderson Cricket Prize as the outstanding young player in the 1st XI.

My thanks as always to my colleagues who gave up so many hours of their time in assisting the running of the sport at all levels. A particular word of appreciation to Hugh Randolph who has reluctantly retired from running the 2nd XI after 13 years. Very many past and present Abingdonians will be grateful to Hugh for his shrewd advice, for his quiet, unfailing efficiency, for his insistence on playing the game in the right spirit and for his high standard of umpiring.

A word of gratitude, too, to Mrs. Dennis and to Mrs. Lanham and to all those who assisted in the catering side of events, to Mr. Bagshaw and his groundstaff, to Chris Newmark, an excellent Secretary, and to Paul Spencer, not the neatest but certainly the noisiest of scorers.

NHP

1st XI

I suppose the 1st XI were due for a poor season, but this was no consolation at the time nor in retrospect. Both in terms of team and individual performance, 1981 was, it must be said, thoroughly disappointing. The plain fact was that the side lost the art of winning; they frequently played well for much of the game but failed in the crucial moments. Games which might, and sometimes ought unquestionably to have been won, were lost, and the confidence which comes from victory gradually ebbed away. Losing, too, can become a habit. Any experienced games player will appreciate the psychological problems inherent in this situation. As most of the eleven are back in 1982 it will be fascinating to see if they have successfully overcome the problem by the time this report is read. Will they still be a 'not quite' side? Will they have the character, determination, individual form (and luck) to swing their own and the team's fortunes their way? Unlike national elevens and adult club sides, schoolboy first teams do not often have a 'second chance'. Abingdon's was not a weak team, as the record suggests; one class player would have

made a big difference. But we had no individual Botham to swing a match, to produce the occasional miracle. Have you forgotten the trials and tribulations of England before the Botham heroics? 'Have England lost the art of winning?' asked Tony Lewis in the Sunday Telegraph shortly before the reappointment of Brearley.

Small margins, small factors, but large consequences — the difference between winning and losing! A dropped catch, a four footer which lipped the hole on the 18th, a marginal off-side decision, a dropped scoring pass, a missed black — small margins, yes, but crucial — such is the charm of sport! Not much charm in the Abingdon dressing room, though, when having bowled out the O.A.s for 113 we lost from 91 for 2 (I still can hardly believe it; well bowled, David Driver!) Not much charm, either, when a score of 158 for 2 against Radley deteriorated to 192 for 9; when St. Edward's beat us in the final over of a memorable match when all four results were possible; nor when we threw away a strong position against M.C.S. with two consecutive run outs involving senior batsmen. These were self-inflicted wounds, but partly reflected a soft-centre in our batting line up, one which it was perhaps unfair to expect the inexperienced fifth formers to try and fill. Theirs was indeed a harsh baptism.

The frequent absence through injury of Simon Minter was another factor which contributed to our lack of success. Without him the bowling, although steady, was not penetrative enough to secure victories, particularly when fielding second. David Phillips, Tim Winter and Noel Williams all bowled respectably but were not quite able to produce match-winning analyses. Robert McCreery's unexpected loss of rhythm and confidence made Simon's absence even more of a blow; at their best they would have been a formidable partnership. One admired Robert's determination in trying to overcome his problems, but he took three wickets in an innings only three times. I suspect he suffered from too much advice, much of it contradictory, but his experience with Notts 2nds will hopefully help him to mature as a senior cricketer. Our attack, then, was frankly not often enough 'asking the questions'. Neither were the batsmen. 20s and 30s, unless made by tailenders, are hardly match winning performances. Cricket provides unique scope for the individual hero, but how many big scores were achieved? No centuries and only six 50's, two each from Gareth Harper (who deservedly headed the averages) and Chris Newmark, one from Andy Patchett (impressive for a few overs but unable to resist hitting the ball inadvisably into the air — what a waste of natural talent and four years' experience), and one from Andy Newman. Nick Rice will wish to forget a frustrating term while McCreery, a splendid prospect, has yet to achieve the sort of scores in 1st XI cricket of which he is capable. Chris Newmark, of course, had wretched luck with his injuries; he could have almost filled the local casualty department by himself. His lack of fitness was hardly conducive to building his confidence. How many other batsmen in the history of the game have suffered from a dislocated shoulder whilst making their way to the wicket?

It is to Andy Newman's and the team's credit that, despite their misfortunes, no one could have accused them of not trying. As I wrote at the beginning, they played really well in patches, but somehow could not complete the job! Perhaps more than was their due, their mistakes were severely punished. I admired their self-control in face of disappointments, but was sad to watch so much potential unfulfilled.

Permanent members of the XI were:

A. C. Newman (capt.), G. D. Harper, A. S. J. Patchett, C. C. Newmark, N. G. Rice, D. H. Phillips, R. I. McCreery, N. Williams and T. Winter. N. Thomas, S. J. Rushton, S. J. Minter and C. Freeman-Core played a number of games each. J. Elsey, S. Littlewood, G. I. MacLauchlan and T. Haworth also played.

N. H. P.

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES

BATTING	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
G. D. Harper	16	0	439	87	27.4
A. S. J. Patchett	15	0	383	52	25.5
C. C. Newmark	15	2	269	70	20.7
A. C. Newman	16	1	307	71	20.5
N. G. Rice	17	3	192	48	13.7
T. Winter	11	6	54	32	10.8
S. J. Minter	6	1	53	22	10.6
R. I. McCreery	14	0	137	25	9.8
D. H. Phillips	14	4	89	16	8.9
S. J. Rushton	8	1	60	29*	8.6
C. Freeman-Core	8	1	42	19	6.0
N. Thomas	9	0	52	20	5.8
N. Williams	12	3	19	5	2.1

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
G. D. Harper	21	1	85	5	17.0
D. H. Phillips	170	43	514	28	18.4
S. J. Minter	86	27	218	10	21.8
N. D. Williams	116	19	362	15	24.1
T. Winter	175	51	489	20	24.4
R. I. McCreery	179	21	693	23	30.1

also bowled: R. Elsey 7-1-17-3; N. G. Rice 4-0-23-1; C. Freeman-Core 4-2-2-3; G. I. MacLauchlan 3-2-3-0; T. Haworth 1.4-0-12-1.

RESULTS

Pangbourne (h) Drawn.
 Abingdon 121 for 8 dec.; Pangbourne 100 for 9.
 Newbury (h) Lost by 11 runs.
 Newbury 97; Abingdon 86 (Patchett 38).
 Berkshire Gentlemen (h) Lost by 5 wks.
 Abingdon 149 (Harper 50); B. G.s 153 for 5.
 Old Abingdonians (h) Lost by 8 runs.
 O.A.s 113; Abingdon 105 (Harper 41, D. Driver 8 for 21).
 Berkhamsted (a) Lost by 8 wks.
 Abingdon 34; Berkhamsted 35 for 2.
 South Oxfordshire Amateurs (h) Lost by 55 runs.
 S.O.A.s 194 for 8 dec.; Abingdon 139 (Patchett 36).
 N. H. Payne's XI (h) Won by 7 wks.
 N.H.P's XI 110 for 9 dec. (N. H. Payne 54 n.o.);
 Abingdon 111 for 3 (Harper 48).
 Douai (h) Lost by 3 wks.
 Abingdon 145 for 6 dec. (Newmark 70); Douai 147 for 7.
 (Williams 4 for 35).
 Radley (h) Lost by 9 wks.
 Abingdon 205 (Harper 87, Patchett 35); Radley 209 for 1.
 M.C.C. (h) Drawn.
 M.C.C. 241 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 163 for 8 (Newman 71).
 Reading (h) Lost by 33 runs.
 Reading 148 (Winter 5 for 40); Abingdon 115.

St. Edward's (a) Lost by 2 wks.

Abingdon 200 for 9 dec. (Rice 48 n.o., Patchett 42); St. Edward's 201 for 8 (McCreery 6 for 89).

R.G.S. High Wycombe (h) Drawn.

High Wycombe 152 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 112 for 3.

Magdalen College School (h) Lost by 5 runs.

M.C.S. 152 for 7 dec.; Abingdon 147 (Harper 42).

Colchester R.G.S. (h) Lost by 5 wks.

Abingdon 233 for 8 dec. (Newmark 54 n.o. Newman 49, Patchett 41); Colchester 234 for 5.

Bloxham (h) Lost by 63 runs.

Bloxham 188 for 4 dec.; Abingdon 125 (Patchett 52).

University College School (a) Lost by 54 runs.

U.C.S. 178 for 8 dec. (Minter 4 for 62); Abingdon 124 (Harper 42).

Matches against the Oratory and Brentwood were cancelled.

2nd XI

It is three seasons since nearly all the team played in every match. This year, only three did; in fact, there was a different side in each of the ten games. Haworth, commendably unworried either by this or by the side's conspicuous lack of early success, had the satisfaction of seeing 200 runs scored in each of the last two matches. (Not for at least twenty years, if ever, had the 2nd XI scored 200 against a school side, though it did so against the Old Abingdonians on several occasions.)

Three days after term began, we lost to Pangbourne for the first time. Newbury had rain that Abingdon missed; Magdalen's pitch was unfit. (We have played at Magdalen only twice in twenty years.) After recovering spectacularly from a bad start, Oratory were just kept from what seemed an easy victory when Haworth, MacLauchlan and Surridge held magnificent catches. Torrents of rain arrived early enough to save Brentwood a wasted journey, so we reached Half Term with only two games out of five played. Afterwards, however, all eight fixtures were free from rain.

An easy target proved beyond us when Berkhamsted produced the best bowler in the match. We could not offer much of a challenge at Radley. After Wantage had batted splendidly and had dismissed four of us for 38, we were saved by two of the three Junior Colts playing: Marsden defended stubbornly while Woolley took advantage of the attacking field to hit thirteen fours. This was a game full of interest from start to finish. So was that at Reading, when a greatly weakened side had an exciting and amusing tussle, in which seventeen batsmen were caught, seventeen wickets were bowled, Reading made a spirited recovery from 68 for 7, Haworth held a wonderful catch to intercept what would otherwise have been the winning four, and chaos reigned in the scoreboard until Reading generously decided that we had won by two runs. Shiplake's wish for an early finish almost certainly saved us from defeat, but, for the third year running, we lost to High Wycombe, who have now become one of our most formidable opponents.

With two matches still to play, we had had the most unsuccessful of my thirteen seasons with the side. However, on a very hot day at Bloxham, Graham at last found his form. This encouraged Fergusson (49 not out) and Surridge (25 not out) to reach 200 by tea, after which we won with several overs to spare. Despite another good innings from Graham (42) next day, we were 69

for 5 before Haworth and Suggate (42) put on a most entertaining 113. (Haworth's way of playing the last over before lunch was to hit a six and four fours.) Plymouth made a good start, but Haworth's bowling was as successful as his batting and the season ended on an unexpectedly high note.

Except against Wantage, the fielding was good. Haworth, who held a quarter of the forty catches, set a fine example with his spectacular dives, McLauchlan was outstandingly good, and Fergusson, joining the side as wicket-keeper after two games, showed a lot of promise.

The curious batting failure at Pangbourne proved prophetic, for no one had a good season: only Graham and Haworth had aggregates of 100 or more.

The opening bowlers, Surridge and McLauchlan, always tried very hard, Haworth found his slow off-breaks surprisingly economical, and the leg-breaks of Spittles were always interesting. Elsey had little success after the first match.

The team was: J. H. G. Driver, J. R. A. Elsey, A. Fergusson, I. C. Graham, T. J. C. Haworth (Captain), G. I. McLauchlan, J. N. Prest, T. M. Spittles, M. A. Surridge, J. Warchus and M. A. Wiles. C. W. Freeman-Core played three times, M. C. F. Appleton, S. J. Rushton, R. M. R. Suggate, B. M. A. Stanton and N. R. Thomas twice, and D. McK. Allen, J. A. Cowan, M. L. Durand, M. A. Marsden and B. E. Woolley once. The scorers were G. R. Wood and R. H. Platts.

H. T. R.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College (a). Lost by two wickets.
 Abingdon 74; Pangbourne 75 for 8.
 Oratory School (h). Drawn.
 Abingdon 136 for 4 dec.; Oratory 132 for 8.
 Berkhamsted School (h). Lost by 26 runs.
 Berkhamsted 115 for 7 dec.; Abingdon 89.
 Radley College (a). Lost by seven wickets.
 Abingdon 60; Radley 64 for 3.
 King Alfred's School, Wantage, 1st XI (h). Drawn.
 Wantage 186 for 5 dec.; Abingdon 141 for 7 (Woolley 56).
 Reading School (a). Won by 2 runs.
 Abingdon 152; Reading 150 (Surridge 5 for 25).
 Shiplake College 1st XI (h). Drawn.
 Shiplake 145 for 4 dec.; Abingdon 93 for 8.
 Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (a). Lost by four wickets.
 Abingdon 99; High Wycombe 100 for 6.
 Bloxham School (a). Won by 107 runs.
 Abingdon 202 for 6 dec. (Graham 71); Bloxham 95.
 Plymouth College (h). Won by 70 runs.
 Abingdon 214 (Haworth 80); Plymouth 144 (Haworth 5 for 49).

3rd XI

Although we lost half our matches, the team this year had several good moments, mostly provided by the bowlers. Adair, Allen and Mawhinney were all useful medium pace bowlers, with consistent accuracy and skill enough to move the ball vigorously in the air and off the wicket. No side was ever comfortable against this attack — Mawhinney's 7 for 5 against Shiplake showing this. The fielding was also good, with North and Suggate being constantly outstanding in whatever position they were at, and with everyone contributing to a tremendous team atmosphere.

The continual rivalry for places in the side can be seen by the fact that over twenty boys represented the side. The batting had its faults, but was never completely horrendous — Rodgers scored over 100 runs at a useful average, and Mawhinney often played beautifully constructed rustic strokes, hitting the ball to the boundary in a style that reminded one of a young Botham.

Thanks must go once again to Mr. Parker, for his organization behind the scenes and his help on the field, and also to Dr. Wilmore, whose wide advice in the nets must surely pay handsome dividends in the future.

R. J. Adair

For the record: Won 2 Lost 5 Drawn (rain) 1

The following were regular members of the team: Adair (capt.), Dalton-Morris, P. Mawhinney, North, J. Parker, Rodgers, Scott, Suggate. The following also played: Brown-Grant, Cowell, Derry, Driver, Durand, Fergusson, Haynes, Johnson, Marsh, Monk, Spence, Spittles.

JUNIOR COLTS

After losing the first match of the season to Pangbourne College by three runs, the Junior Colts XI went through the rest of the season unbeaten.

This was a season of some memorable individual bowling performances. Whatever the Abingdon totals, the pressure was always on the opposition to cope with the speed, swing and spin of a very formidable bowling attack. At times, even the fielders felt the pressure trying to cope with all the catches offered to them!

David Newport, relying on accuracy and movement off the wicket, started it all off by taking 8-11 in M.C.S.'s total of 20. This feat was soon to be matched by Marcus Marsden's 9-9 against Berkhamsted School in a match which only lasted for ninety minutes. In 13 matches, Marcus's 42 wickets at an average of 6.5, was an outstanding achievement. Much has been written about Marcus's bowling feats this summer, and no doubt he will receive a lot more publicity in the future. My only hope is that he gives as much attention to his batting which is equally promising. For the all-rounder, upper body strength is vital, and this is an area which Marcus must work particularly hard on in the future. Simon Littlewood, Simon Smith and David Newman occasionally came into the pace attack. All three bowled with determination and carried out their role of containing the batsmen very successfully. Of the spinners, Martin Day was the most successful, taking 28 wickets for the team's best average of 6.3. Martin relies mainly on line and length, and seldom bowled a loose delivery. Perhaps he was rather too unselfish not to bowl himself more often, because he was certainly the match winner on many occasions. Tim Burley was the most successful bowler when the wicket was taking spin, but rather disgraced himself by the two fluke dismissals of his coach and Miss Peterson in the staff match. Barry Stanton and Paul Rainsden completed the bowling attack and although it was a bonus to have four good

spinners to choose from it was always a difficult decision who should be left out. Behind the stumps, Brian Woolley improved with every game, and, although he did not take many stumpings, he held on to some very good catches.

Of the batsmen, David Newman topped the averages with 42.6 which included 3 fifties. Batting at No. 4, David is particularly strong off the back foot, and always eager to force the run-rate. Lack of concentration is his biggest enemy. Most of the times he was out, it was due to an unforced error, and invariably the hook shot. John Cowan and Brian Woolley enjoyed a few good opening stands. John, a very correct player, had a run of bad luck at the beginning of the season and never really fulfilled his potential, but let's hope his form of previous years returns at senior level. Brian, on the other hand, seldom looked like getting out. His correctness and powers of concentration make him a very good prospect for the future provided he doesn't run-out all his partners! Simon Littlewood played some very attractive strokes and looked set to build long innings. Unfortunately he was always out in the 20's or 30's, but like John, will I think be more successful in another season.

All too often Marcus Marsden and Jonathan Phillips were given the role of trying to break the Library windows. Neither achieved this ambition much to the dismay of the spectators — Marcus is too correct a batsman relying mainly on the straight drive, and Jonathan was seldom given the chance to get his eye in. Of the remaining batsmen, Matthew Appleton, Richard Elsey, Nick Burgoyne, Martin Day, Paul Rainsden and Nick Tomlinson, never really had the chance to show their true potential. They certainly played their part however when the side was forced to play for a draw.

The success of this years Juniors Colts was mainly due to the leadership skills of Martin Day. A good captain is so vital in the field, and Martin certainly got the best out of his players. His modest determined approach ensured commitment from his fielders. Everyone tried, even though without much success, to field as well as he did throughout the season.

My thanks to Rev. Butcher for putting everyone right on so many occasions, and to David Colson for his detailed scoring book. Thanks and congratulations also to the remainder of the game who put so much into the practice sessions. The strength of this years XI denied a few very competent players the match experience they so much deserved.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

The following played for the team:-

M. Day (capt), S. Littlewood (v. capt), J. Phillips, J. Cowan, R. Elsey, M. Marsden, M. Appleton, T. Burley, P. Rainsden, D. Newport, B. Stanton, S. Smith, N. Burgoyne, N. Tomlinson, D. Colson, B. Woolley and D. Newman.

RESULTS

Won 6	Drawn 6	Lost 1
v. Pangbourne	Lost by 3 runs	
P 87		
A 84		

v. M.C.S.	Won by 69 runs
A 89-8	Newman 40
MCS 20	Newport 8-11
v. Oratory	Won by 18 runs
A 54	Day 5-5, Marsden 4-14
O 36	
v. St. Edwards	Draw
S 77	
O 58-7	
v. Berkhamsted	Won by 7 wkts
B 34	Marsden 9-9
A 35-3	
v. Shiplake	Won by 67 runs
A 99-3	Newman 48 n.o.
S 32	Marsden 4-5
v. Douai	Won by 100 runs
A 150-8	Newman 56 Littlewood 33
	Marsden 4-6
D 50	
v. Radley	Draw
A 152-8	Elsey 32, Marsden 37,
	Phillips 26
R 68-9	Marsden 4-45
v. Reading	Draw
A 106-6	Littlewood 31, Marsden 27 n.o.
R 68-9	Day 4-22
v. L. W. Thame	Draw
L.W. 170-8	Day 4-16, Burley 4-40
A 87-2	Woolley 36 n.o.
v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Draw
RGS 163-8	Woolley, 29, Newman 51 n.o.
A 137-7	
v. Bloxham	Draw
A 155-7	Newman 65
B 120-3	
v. J. Drummond-Hay's XI	Won by 6 wkts
JD-s 64	Burley 4-24
A 68-4	

JUNIORS

1981's Summer was a marvellous cricket season. The Juniors team was very successful, most entertaining and full of skill and variety. It was obvious from the first practice that there was great potential within the squad. In the very first match MARK BOOBYER, on his Abingdonian debut, announced his presence by scoring an undefeated century — a very rare feat — and that was just the beginning. He managed four more fifties and plenty of other good scores to amass 571 runs at an average of 44.1. Not to be outdone, in the second match MATTHEW COX managed career best bowling figures of 9 wickets for 16 runs as he mesmerised the Cokethorpe batsmen — and that also was just the start. He developed into an all-rounder of real class with a tally of 61 wickets at 7.9 runs per wicket, as well as 410 runs with the bat. Both Boobyer's runs and Cox's wickets stand as a record at this under 14 level.

Always the sign of a strong and confident side is the willingness to bat first. Usually after Mark Boobyer and KEVIN HIGGS had given us a sound start, MATTHEW COX, CHRISTOPHER HERD, RUPERT ROBSON, and WILLIAM HUDSON, ensured that runs were accumulated fast. There was only one occasion during the season, while batting first, that we did not make a match winning total. Just as runs seemed fairly easy to achieve, so too were the wickets. CHRISTOPHER HERD, RUPERT ROBSON and latterly JOHN MAY all showed pace, fire and aggression with the new ball. CHRIS HERD took 24 wickets in all, from a mixture of pace and swing although he would

certainly have had more success if he had maintained better length. JOHN MAY was the player who improved most during the season. Once his rather wild and uncontrolled approach was harnessed, he was capable of bowling a really hostile spell. I do remember a marvellously aggressive spell in the first Radley match when he dismissed three front line batsmen in twelve balls.

DAVID HOLDER was used to good effect as a medium pacer, but more often spin was employed with staggering results. MATTHEW COX as a traditional slow left-armer is a master craftsman. The consistency of his length and line is a lesson to all slow bowlers, and the regularity with which the batsmen were left groping in thin air marked him as something quite special. He spins the ball a prodigious amount and his final tally of wickets were well deserved. He will have to learn to disguise his wrong'un if he is to trouble top class batsmen in the future. TOBY JONES provided the variety with some gentle off-spin but he needed more practice than time would allow to develop his full potential. Behind the stumps EUAN HIRST was an efficient wicket-keeper and the standard of fielding was generally good without being particularly special.

The team did lack the decisive leadership of a Brearley. Four captains were tried with some success, but there is room for the development of a sound cricketing brain.

For the record we reached the finals of the 40 over competition by a wonderful thrashing of Lord William's Thame in the semi-final. We were humbled by Radley in the final, in a most disappointing game. MARK BOOBBYER and MATTHEW COX played for the county with success and Matthew Cox has recently been selected in the squad for the South of England Under 15 XI.

In all respects it was a most enjoyable and successful season. Many thanks to BEN BURMAN for his excellent scoring.

C. M. P. B.

RESULTS

Played 17	Won 12	Drew 2	Lost 3
v. Pangbourne	Won	by 167 runs	
A 195-6 dec		Boobyer 100 n.o.	
P 28			
v. Cokethorpe	Won	by 25 runs	
A 93		Cox 9-16	
C 68			
v. The Oratory	Won	by 33 runs	
A 88		Cox 38	
O 55		Cox 7-17, Herd 3-11	
v. St. Edwards	Drawn		
St.E 124-8 dec		Cox 4-44, Herd 3-28	
A 112-8		Boobyer 60	
v. Oxon U.13's	Won	by 119 runs	
A 167-4 dec		Marsden 53 n.o., Cox 50 n.o.	
O 48		Cox 6-16	
v. Berkhamsted	Lost	by 5 wkts	
A 162-8 dec		Cox 66	
B 166-5		Cox 5-78	
v. Douai	Won	by 124 runs	
A 188		Cox 41, Herd 68	
D 64		Herd 3-4, Cox 3-17	
v. Burford	Won	by 72 runs	
A 142-8		Boobyer 63, Higgs 31	
B 70		Cox 3-14, Holder 3-21	

v. Radley	Lost	by 5 wkts
A 62		
R 63-5		May 3-13
v. Reading	Drawn	
A 200-7 dec		Boobyer 49, Cox, 43, Hudson 38
R 112-9		Herd 3-24
v. Oxford School	Won	by 8 wkts
O 100		Robson 3-5, Jones 3-24, Cox 3-43
A 104-2		Boobyer 52 n.o., Hudson 39 n.o.
v. Wheatley Park School	Won	by 10 wkts
WP 84		Jones 6-9
A 85-0		Boobyer 45 n.o., Higgs 29 n.o.
v. High Wycombe	Won	by 18 runs
A 134-9 dec		Cox 33
HW 116		May 4-28
v. Lord William's, Thame	Won	by 58 runs
A 137-5		Marsden 52 n.o.
LWT 89		Cox 5-16
v. Bloxham	Won	by 71 runs
A 186		Boobyer 62, Higgs 31
B 115		Cox 6-39
v. Radley (U.14 County Knock-Out final)	Lost	by 85 runs
R 175-5 dec		
A 90		Newman 45
v. Rev. H. Pickles XI	Won	by 1 wkt
HP XI 202-5 dec		
A 205-9		Herd 68 n.o.

MINORS XI

There were only a few good Cricketers in the second year, and it was fortunate that we were able to make up the team with promising first-formers and a couple of young third-formers. This combination lost none of its five matches, and it is a great pity that it seems impossible to expand our programme. There was as usual a fair number of 'A' matches, both 'friendlies' and in the Oxford Schools League, but these, while giving the lesser players welcome opportunities of match-play, do not really benefit the best.

James Kowszun beat Berkhamsted almost on his own, but failed to achieve his full potential in the later matches, underestimating the importance of line and length to an opening bowler. Jason Haynes proved a keen captain, and one that was willing to learn a very difficult job; once he survived the first few balls, he batted with maturity and unusual strength, and his bowling transformed the situation dramatically when Reading looked like reaching their target easily. The victory at New College was as convincing as it was surprising, and avenged the previous year's unnecessary defeat at their hands. This proved to be Graham Nicholson's day: Graham was very inexperienced, like so many of this year-group, but established himself as the Oxfordshire off-spinner and a very useful all-rounder. A lack of penetration of the bowling on both sides was responsible for the two draws — although our batting was far too negative against Millbrook House. Colours were awarded to those named already, and to Mark Weatherall, another useful all-rounder, and very keen fielder.

Towards the end of term, because of the impossibility of finding worthwhile Under-13 fixtures, the Under-12s were given some very useful match-play. They proved their promise by winning the Lower School Cricket Tournament, and defeating Hampshire Primary Schools in fine

style. This latter fixture was suggested and organised by A. J. Walters, O.A., and could well become a regular event. These Under-12s are lucky in that they have not only talent but experience, notably Richard Howard and Jeremy Greenland, who easily held their own as opening bat and wicket-keeper respectively in Under-13 Cricket. Cricket in particular is a game that must be started before 11.

M.W.

1st XI:

J. C. P. Haynes (Capt.), G. T. Nicholson, J. S. P. Kowszun, M. W. Weatherall; R. S. Howard, S. D. Evans, J. G. Greenland, G. D. Scott, M. J. Winsley, P. J. Williams or J. N. Silk, R. S. Garnett.

2nd XI (from):

C. R. Williams, N. J. Suckling, A. D. Thomas, N. S. Pond, J. R. McCracken, H. M. James, N. J. Westwood, V. C. Paige, G. W. S. Potter, R. G. Mann, G. M. D. Persson, L. C. R. Cullen.

RESULTS

1st XI matches:

Berkhamsted School (h). Won by 14 runs.
Abingdon 60 (Kowszun 28)
Berkhamsted 46 (Kowszun 4-8)
New College School (a). Won by 71 runs.
Abingdon 128 (Haynes 48, Kowszun 21)
New College 57 (Nicholson 5-10, Silk 3-15)
Reading School (a). Won by 51 runs.
Abingdon 139 for 9 dec. (Kowszun 40, Nicholson 33, Haynes 20)
Reading 88 (Haynes 8-22)
Millbrook House School (h). Drawn.
Millbrook House 126 for 8 dec. (Evans 3-15)
Abingdon 81 for 5 (Nicholson 36)
Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (h). Drawn.
Abingdon 141 (Haynes 48)
High Wycombe 121 for 7 (Weatherall 3-20)

'A' XI Matches:

Carmel College Under-14s (h). Drawn.
Carmel 104 for 9 dec. (Weatherall 4-34, Evans 3-23)
Abingdon 54 for 6.
Douai School (a). Drawn.
Abingdon 117 for 1 dec. (Weatherall 50+, Kowszun 31+)
Douai 55 for 9.
Magdalen College School (a). Lost by 7 wickets.
Abingdon 103 (Silk 39+, Thomas 22)
MCS 106 for 3.

2nd XI Matches:

Josca's School 1st XI (a). Drawn.
Abingdon 107 for 6 dec. (Scott 43, Winsley 28)
Josca's 52 for 9 (C. Williams 4-6)
Christchurch Cathedral School 1st XI (a). Won by 55 runs.
Abingdon 88 (Thomas 25)
Christchurch 33 (Pond 5-5)

Under-12 Matches:

Prior Park School (a). Won by 54 runs.
Abingdon 96 for 6 (Howard 32, Persson 24)
Prior Park 42 (P. Williams 3-10, McCracken 3-3, Freeston 3-0)
Bearwood College Under-13s (a). Lost by 37 runs.
Bearwood 108 for 5 dec. (Howard 3-26)
Abingdon 71 (Howard 29)
Hampshire Primary Schools XI (h). Won by 45 runs.
Abingdon 133 for 6 dec. (Howard 32, Greenland 32, Scott 28)
Hampshire 88 (Williams 4-23, McCracken 3-16)

RUGBY

RUGBY CLUB 1981

The results this season have ranged from mediocre to bad, with the exception of the 1st XV who eventually had a very good season. There are several lessons that must be learnt and acted on before the start of next season.

Players have a duty to arrive back on the first day of the Michaelmas Term fit for rugby, and not just willing to be driven to fitness. The Summer Term and summer holidays should involve middle to long distance running to build up stamina, as well as resistance exercises to build up strength. No specialized apparatus is needed, and you do not need anyone else to help you, although having company makes exercise less tedious. All you need is willpower and determination to get on with the job.

Too many people at a number of age levels did not commit themselves to the game until too late into the term. Playing a variety of games is important in order not to become stale in one activity, and to make the most of the opportunities offered whilst at school. An eager anticipation of the next season sets the right tone.

Skills practice is vital and this does not mean aimless kicking of the ball. How many people think about the following points when passing the ball: proper alignment, steeply to allow each player as much room as possible; rapid transfer of the ball; passing in front of the player, chest high; accelerating onto the pass; hard straight flat out running? All these points need constant practice if they are to become second nature and able to be performed under pressure.

Above all, perhaps because rugby is a contact sport, spirit, tenacity, enthusiasm, courage and character are of vital importance. It was because of these qualities that the 1st XV did not concede a try in their last seven games.

D. G. C.

1st XV

For the first time for a great many years we had to play our first match exactly seven days after the start of term. A good many players missed the pre-season training because of arrangements for family holidays, and to complicate matters further there were problems concerning who was going to play rugby and who was going to row. In fact the first two practices of the season saw Game One without enough forwards to make up two packs. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that the season got off to a slow, disjointed start, with players ill-prepared mentally or physically for the rigours that lay ahead.

In the first game against Bloxham we did enough to win 10-0, but always looked as if we were shaking off cobwebs and trying to remember what the game was about.

We soon learned what constitutes good rugby when we encountered St. Edwards seven days later, and lost 3-32. We were destroyed up front, and torn apart by running and passing at speed in the backs.



Against Berkhamsted we drew 9-9 and felt that we had played a better game. Some shrewd tactical kicking put us in good attacking positions, but their defence was sound and we failed to find a way through to the line.

The next match against Solihull proved to be the turning point of the season even 'though we lost 3-20. We started off very slowly and allowed them to score twenty points in as many minutes. We were being soundly beaten up front, but then at half time things were said which transformed the pack. Dave Phillips in particular became hard and fiery, and for the rest of the game we rocked Solihull right back on their heels. To their credit they defended well and kept us out, but an important psychological 'win' had taken place in the second half.

In the coach on the way back home the tactics for the next game were hatched, and the training in the week prior to the Radley game was thoughtful and full of purpose. We went onto the field confident of our strategy, and delighted a large home crowd by pulling off a great 9-3 victory. Gareth Harper gave a virtuoso performance at scrum half, and Alex Cullen produced the break in the centre which put 'J-M' Freeman away for the only try of the game. The handling of the whole team in very poor conditions was excellent, and the tackling was superb. Mark Emerton's contribution as motivator and chief tactician was immense.

The remainder of the season progressed rather like a fairy tale. Magdalen College School caught us on full song, and we had some beautiful handling movements over 60-70 yards to win 42-3.

Against Reading Gareth Harper kicked beautifully to help in a 33-3 victory, which put us in good heart for the game against Marlborough, where once again Gareth Harper kicked some vital goals, and the forwards gave an interesting display of how valuable the correct techniques of scrummaging are. Nick Thomas showed electrifying pace when snapping up an opportunist's try to ensure a fine 13-3 win.

The last home game of the season against Newbury provided a feast of fine running in the second half, as well as the individual try of the season from Alex Cullen. 'Ricochet' as the try became known, involved bouncing off the entire opposing team, handing off the referee, and finally finding the line to score!

A high wind rather spoiled the Pangbourne game, but strong running by the backs in the second half gave us victory by 42 points to 3. Mark Emerton scored a captain's try towards the end, showing real pace and agility.

An away game against Warwick is never easy, so we were pleased to finish a fine run by winning 10-3 after some tense moments with missed penalties and missed try-scoring opportunities.

The Old Abingdonians provided what was probably their strongest team ever, but we kept cool under pressure and ran away with the game in the second half.

The pack improved greatly as the season progressed. As strength and technique improved, we changed from a defensive to an offensive unit; no mean feat in such a short season. John Warchus and Nick North became granite men towards the end, and provided with Phil Boobyer, an outstanding hooker, a very firm

platform. Simon Jozwiak converted surprisingly well from the Boat Club to the Rugby Club, and was exactly the dedicated, grafting lock we needed. Dave Phillips alongside was an uncompromising ball of fire, able to motivate others by dint of personal example. Nick Rice as number eight overcame a rather lazy start to the season to end up as a very influential member of the team. Solid covering, and five tries against Newbury stand out in the memory. Nick Ward as flanker buzzed effectively about on the fringe, quick in his thinking and influential out of all proportion to his size in the mauls. Mark Emerton balanced the back row, and became a real forager for the ball on the open side, and rock solid in defence. He was tough, aggressive and determined, leading both by example and by skilful, intelligent reading of the game and his own players.

On the wing Richard Hawes looked a mature, seasoned player, very sound in defence and a steadying influence on the less experienced players inside him. A good many of our attacking moves depended on his pace and timing. Nick Thomas matured steadily as the season progressed, and once at full fitness became perhaps the speediest person in the side. He also used the old fashioned 'cross kick' to good effect on occasions.

At half back, of course, we had skill — probably the best *pair* of half backs the school has seen for a very long time. Gareth Harper at scrum half, gifted with natural ball sense, generalised the team's progress with inch-perfect chips and lobs. He was always *in* the game, wanting the ball and creating attacks. Outside him, Andy Hall began quietly, but as the season wore on began to look persistently dangerous, and to make some pacey outside breaks. Andy's handling was always sound, and his kicking was one of the major elements in the team's success.

Alex Cullen in the centre became a ferocious tackler and a very hard runner, and had that supercharged enthusiasm that made everyone else play that little bit harder when it mattered most. 'J-M' Freeman his co-centre came on steadily throughout the season, gradually growing in confidence in attack and defence.

Finally it was always reassuring to know that at the back, Krystian Volak was our last line of defence. Powerful, silent and reliable, he attacked well from the bad kicks he collected, and his tackles often saved critical situations.

It has been said that we snatched a victorious season out of the jaws of defeat, and there are a number of reasons why we played such convincing rugby in the end. First of all we were very lucky with injuries, the same team played for virtually the whole season. It was perhaps no coincidence that strength training was emphasised much more this season, and that played a major part in helping to keep injuries down. We also had some wise, experienced heads, with no fewer than six 'Oxbridge' candidates, and only two lower sixth formers in the team. In Mark Emerton we had an outstanding leader, someone who could read the game and counter opposition strengths with the appropriate tactics, whilst at scrum half we had Gareth Harper the best scrum half of the last decade, who was

able to dictate the run of play. As well as this the whole team were enthusiastic, and had spirit, tenacity and courage in abundance. Above all perhaps they were disciplined, both in training and on the field of play. Seven consecutive games without a try being scored against, speaks volumes for a controlled approach. This season certainly rejuvenated tired coaches, and we feel proud to have had the pleasure of being involved with so many fine people. And it's been fun!

J. R. G.

D. G. C.

Those who played:

K. Volak, N. Thomas, A. Cullen, J.-M. Freeman, R. Hawes, A. Hall, G. Harper, J. Warchus, P. Boobbyer, N. North, S. Jozwiak, D. Phillips, N. Ward, N. Rice, M. Emerton (capt.) R. Wagon, P. Ladmore.

RESULTS

Bloxham W 10-0
St. Edwards L 0-32
Berkhamsted D 9-9
Solihull L 3-20
Radley W 9-3
Magdalen College School W 42-3
Reading W 33-3
Marlborough W 13-3
Newbury W 44-6
Pangbourne W 42-3
Warwick W 10-3
Old Abingdonians W 22-8

2nd XV

1981 was an unsuccessful season for the 2nd XV and, in all, 29 boys played for the team. However, in the second half of the term the side looked rather more settled, beginning to work together to more effect but, unfortunately, always lacking strength and ability in one or two key positions.

Throughout the term the XV had difficulty in scoring points with both the pack and the backs finding themselves outgunned by stronger opposition. St. Edwards, Radley, Marlborough and Warwick presented the school side with skills that they could not match and showed up with glaring clarity the weakness of our support play. This deficiency was most apparent in the game against Reading where we won considerably more ball from the scrumage than the opposition but still lost 3-22.

As the season wore on the side did absorb some of the lessons of its defeats and in the fight the pack started to look increasingly sure of itself. This progress combined with the determination and positive aggression shown by Andy Newman, in his one game at scrum-half, produced the team's only victory, against Pangbourne. This was a hard fought match and both sides gave their best. As it was, tries by Tyack and Stores and a penalty from Rushton gave us the all important margin.

Considering the difficulties of the season the team maintained a good spirit and played with gusto. Sadly, on a number of occasions, lack of commitment on the part of one or two individuals seriously damaged the overall performance of the side. Rugby, it should be remembered, is a team game.

G. S. H. P.



Those who played:

J. Prest, P. McLeod, T. Howard, A. Newman, M. Hunt, R. McCreery, P. Harries, N. North, C. Shuttleworth, K. Girdwood, N. Anderson, M. Booker, N. Marsh, F. Bailey, N. Williams, S. Rushton, J. Richardson, S. Tyack, N. Roberts, R. Suggate, J. Perrins, D. Allen, R. Thomas (capt.), D. Lee, P. Ladmore, R. Wagon, M. Haywood, A. Stores, T. Spittles.

RESULTS

v Bloxham	Lost 3 - 1
v St. Edwards	Lost 3 - 52
v Berkhamsted	Lost 3 - 25
v Solihull	Lost 0 - 24
v Radley	Lost 3 - 57
v M.C.S.	Lost 0 - 10
v Reading	Lost 3 - 22
v Marlborough	Lost 0 - 68
v Newbury	Lost 3 - 10
v Pangbourne	Won 11 - 10
v Warwick	Lost 0 - 44

3rd XV

After an intensive training programme at the start of the season, led by Dr. Wilmore, we felt ready to combat all and sundry. However, as the results indicate, our season went slightly wrong. This was partly due to our rather poor defensive qualities and partly to our inability to capitalise on the errors of our opponents. While not wishing to shirk any portion of the blame, I feel it is necessary to point out that team selection was hampered by the poaching of our players by senior teams, which resulted in last-minute team changes, and, consequently, alteration of tactics. All this apart, I think the season was enjoyed by all. We notched up two wins, were unlucky to be held to a draw by Reading, and lost in the dying seconds against Bloxham. Team spirit was high (sometimes too high!) and we were proud of our reputation for inventive Rugby, which nearly always resulted in high scoring games. Results were not outstanding, but then again enjoyment is the primary indication of a successful season.

N. Roberts (VI)

Team from.

N. Roberts, J. Volak, P. McLeod, M. Ingram, A. Wilmore, M. Sanders, P. Harries, L. Kempton, N. Marsh, N. Williams, R. Murray, P. Fulford, K. Hare, B. Lintott, T. Spittles, J. Richardson, D. Long, R. Suggate, D. Allen.

Coaches: Mr. Bodey and Dr. Wilmore.

4th XV

Last season was a pleasing one, with two good wins against Bloxham and Pangbourne, our first and last matches, respectively. The middle of the season was filled out with the usual defeats against the big rugby schools, but at least we managed to avoid the debacle of last year's match against St. Edward's.

Despite an unmemorable season in terms of results, some good rugby was played, as is proved

by the five tries scored. The side was chopped and changed throughout the season but notable for their constant participation were: M. Piper, C. Schofield, S. Crutchlow, T. Winter, J. Volak and T. Saunders. My thanks to them and to the many others who played in matches, and, of course, to Dr. Wilmore for persevering throughout the season as our coach.

Luke Kempton (VI)

Those who played: D. Long, D. Lee, M. Piper, D. Jones, C. Coe, J. Steeds, C. Young, E. Iredale, C. Schofield, P. Owen, B. Lintott, T. Saunders, L. Kempton, T. Winter, P. Moreau, P. May, R. Latham.

COLTS XV

In terms of results, the 1981 Colts season was an average one. Of the eleven matches played, 4 were won, 5 lost, and 2 drawn. The side was only well beaten by Radley and St. Edwards in the first half of the season, and apart from the games against M.C.S. and Newbury, all other matches were very close encounters.

The problem at the beginning of the season was to slot about twenty players into the right fifteen positions. Depth of talent is so important in any Rugby squad, and the 20 players who represented the Colts A XV during the season were all a credit to the team.

The first objective was to establish the front row, and in particular, the tighthead prop. It was always very difficult to choose between John Lee and Ian Cockburn. Both are very determined players who were particularly effective in the loose, but neither really had that extra strength in the back to cope with the demands of front row play. Andrew McGhie at loose-head however, had such qualities, and he proved invaluable in the set-pieces. In the loose he was hardly ever off the ball, and his tackling was perhaps his best attribute. Barry Stanton soon established himself at hooker, and like Ian, John, and Andrew, put in a great deal of hard work. Although he was rather slow around the field, his quick hooking was so vital against the heavier packs. Richard Eley, Robert Dalton-Morris and Nigel Ryan contested for the second row. Nigel playing with Richard during the first half of the season, gave some very good service. After half term he gave way to the regular pairing of Richard and Robert. Both had good scrummaging technique, and developed in strength as the season progressed. They also played the most important roles in the lines-out. Richard was the specialist jumper, and Robert's accurate throw-in was a major factor in so much quality possession.

The Colts success this season was mainly due to the attacking qualities and covering defence of the back row. Richard Flaxman and Jonathan Phillips, two ex. three-quarters, always put constant pressure on the opposition and never missed the opportunity of running with the ball in attack. Richard's speed off the mark was a constant threat to opposing fly-halves who always seemed hurried into making forced errors.

Simon Bishop at the base of the scrum excelled in all phases of tight and loose play. He and Richard combined so well in the two-man line out to such an extent that this soon became the team's best attacking ploy. When in full stride, Simon is very difficult to stop, and with regard to his defence, I really don't know how some of his prey ever recovered. I am sure Simon has a very good future in Rugby. He is a natural No. 8 but his speed, strength and Rugby sense could be utilised in almost any position.

Behind the scrum, Paul Golding and Brian Woolley linked well at half-back. Nick Burgoyne was Brian's original partner and although his attacking skills were equal to Paul's, Paul had the edge in defence. Brian Woolley, perhaps playing out of position at outside-half, improved in every game. His safe handling and timed passes initiated many an attack and if a break was on, he rarely missed the opportunity. If tackling was Brian's weakness at the beginning of the season it was certainly his strength by the end.

Simon Littlewood, at inside centre, was the team's leading try scorer, and if he wasn't scoring tries himself, he was involved in the build-up to most. His speed and acceleration spearhead most attacks, and he timed his breaks and passes to perfection on so many occasions. Matthew Appleton, his partner, took time to settle in his new position. Once he gained his confidence, he soon realised he could run through tackles, and at the same time was never selfish in getting his wingers away.

Mark Durand, on the right wing, needed space, and relied mainly on his pace. Once in full stride, he proved very difficult to stop. William Martin on the left favoured swerving and jerking his way to the tryline. The mark of a good winger is his awareness of support. A number of good moves were created with Simon, or Brian on the outside loop, or the inside pass to the back row in support. David Newport played at full-back in all games except the last, when John Dix enjoyed a memorable match. David, although a little slow, covered well and practised hard on his line kicking. John never really had the opportunity to show his true potential, but he certainly didn't lack confidence in the drawn match against Warwick at the end of the season.

By the end of the season I was impressed with the overall improvement of the side. If they were lacking in anything, it was the weight and strength of the front Five. If they work hard on this, they have the potential and certainly the commitment to do well in game 1 next season. My thanks to Simon and Robert for all their efforts on and off the field in keeping up such a good team spirit. The B XV, although up against it in their matches, also kept up their spirit, and made the A XV players earn their selection. It was partly due to their competitiveness that the practice sessions were so productive.

My final thanks to Rev. Butcher for all his help with the coaching and refereeing. Colts rugby would never be quite the same without his pacifying influence.

J. D. E. D-H

The following played for the team:

S. Littlewood (capt.), R. Dalton-Morris (v capt.), D. Newport, J. Dix, M. Durand, R. Flaxman, M. Appleton, W. Martin, M. Sayer, B. Woolley, N. Burgoyne, P. Golding, A. McGhie, B. Stanton, I. Cockburn, J. Lee, R. Elsey, N. Ryan, J. Phillips & S. Bishop.

RESULTS

P	W	L	D	PTS+	PTS-
11	4	5	2	164	122
Bloxham			Won		12- 6
St. Edwards			Lost		4-24
Berkhamsted			Lost		3-11
Radley			Lost		0-28
Cokethorpe			Won		17-15
M.C.S.			Won		49- 0
Reading			Draw		12-12
Marlborough			Lost		3- 6
Newbury			Won		56- 0
Pangbourne			Lost		4-16
Warwick			Draw		4- 4

JUNIOR COLTS

This was a difficult season for all concerned. Having beaten only one of this year's opposition last year, the players knew they had an uphill task. To make matters worse Boobbyer pulled something in the first match. He was the outside most likely to create openings, as he showed when he eventually reappeared in the penultimate match. Cox too was injured just as he was getting into his stride as a fast, strong second row forward. Blake went halfway through, a victim of his own excellent tackling technique.

Wagon, Silk and Luteijn were all very fit and strong enough both to relish the game and to take the knocks. Ralfe, Hunt and Walker improved their attacking skills substantially. Andrews held things together in the altogether unfamiliar mud at Warwick.

Fielding an illness depleted team and playing a long way from home we allowed Solihull to run at and over us. Reading and Marlborough were the best opposition. If the hard work and spirited endeavour continues next year, as I am sure it will under JDED-H, many more wins should become possible. The best effort was against Pangbourne and that was achieved with fourteen men for much of the match: the minds are there to be concentrated at least adequately.

AJG came of age. Many thanks to him for refereeing the home matches and for engineering such an enthusiastic season with the 'B' XV.

R. C. B. C.

Regular members of the team were:

M. Blake, S. James, A. Fisher, T. Bennett, T. Luteijn, J. Ralfe (c), A. Hunt, N. Whitmell, K. Higgs, B. Wagon, M. Cox, M. Wilkins, N. Silk, I. Andrews, S. Walker.

The following also played:

E. Hirst, W. Hudson, M. Boobbyer, T. Jones, M. Elliott, K. Wise, J. Bouch, M. Wedd, J. May, M. Edmonds.



RESULTS

Bloxham	(A)	Lost 4 - 14
St. Edward's	(H)	Lost 3 - 9
Berkhamsted	(H)	Lost 0 - 22
Solihull	(A)	Lost 0 - 38
Radley	(A)	Lost 6 - 20
Magdalen	(A)	Won 13 - 0
Reading	(A)	Lost 0 - 29
Marlborough	(A)	Lost 0 - 45
Newbury	(H)	Won 26 - 10
Pangbourne	(H)	Won 16 - 8
Warwick	(A)	Lost 4 - 22

JUNIORS XV

The Juniors XV had a disappointing season this year. In many matches they found themselves facing an opposition who were larger, faster and more naturally talented. To their credit they played with spirit almost until the end of the season. Inevitably, however, the players never gained any real confidence and consequently some eminently beatable sides were not defeated.

The side was captained in a mature and hard-working fashion by Allison, who tackled relentlessly. Although the whole team followed his example in this respect on occasion, the defence was never consistently secure. The forwards looked like a presentable unit in the scrum and line-out when they concentrated, but were often beaten to the ball in loose situations. Cracknell and Hewlett formed a hard-working second row.

The backs had handling problems in many games and kicking proved a more reliable way of gaining ground. Several players tackled manfully, notably Silk, but an effective defensive unit never came into being.

If this team is to improve on its record next year, a greater degree of commitment will be necessary.

The 'B' XV had some closer games but there were few players offering a challenge to the established 'A' XV players.

Teams:

A XV

Silk, Butterworth, McCracken, Alldridge, Winsley, Evans, Cheek, Weatherall, Mayes, Edwards, Hewlett, Cracknell, Allison (Capt.), Blackman, Suckling.

B XV

Knibbs, Honley, Bird, Marsden, Cullen, Day, Potter, Kowszun, Dark, Platts, Griffin, Mann, Porter, O'Brien, Elms.

MINORS

The Under-13s certainly justified the optimism that I expressed in last year's Abingdonian, losing only to a sophisticated Solihull side in the first match of the season. There was plenty of pace and flair, and in the latter half of the season even the tackling was impressive. In the light of this, the matches were surprisingly low-scoring, for two reasons: there was too much selfishness, and the general standard of junior Rugby has risen markedly in recent years, so that it is not easy to break down a determined defence.

There was a good case for awarding colours to the whole team, but I felt that the record was not quite an outstanding one, and so colours were restricted to the following. Among the Backs, Simon Wintle needs only confidence to be a brilliant scrum-half, and Graham Scott has tremendous potential as an attacking full-back; Garrath Reayer and David Ingram are natural ball-players in their different ways, the former notable for his commitment, the latter for his reading of the game. It is always especially difficult to discriminate between the forwards, but the hardest work seemed to be done by Adrian Heard, Alastair Corbett, David Smith, and Jonathan Wormell, all committed tacklers and/or scavengers.

RSP

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The 'A' XV matches were always close, and gave match experience to some 40 boys. The best was, quite clearly, that against Christchurch; they had their best team (ever?), and were held until the last minute in a most exciting and open game. The experience of playing in these matches helped the Second XV, when it played at full strength in the Easter Term, to record three good wins.

The Under-12s had a disappointing record in their March matches. They held their own in most aspects of play, but lacked pace in the Backs, and tackled abysmally — this vital skill is always the one Abingdonians master last!

M. W.

1st XV:

G. D. Scott, A. T. Ransome, G. R. Reayer (c), A. D. Tapper, P. J. Williams, D. J. M. Ingram, S. J. Wintle, D. M. Smith, M. J. Browning, M. D. W. Schofield, A. P. Heard, T. J. Butcher, A. J. Corbett, J. Wormell, O. J. Money-Kyrle..

2nd XV (from):

C. S. Shaw, H. J. P. Howlett, M. T. Elliott, M. P. Spencer, T. E. Yorke, D. Jennaway, D. J. Boorman, D. J. Blackman (c), R. J. Winsley, P. J. Mitchell, T. J. W. Taylor, S. J. McConnell, P. Broadbent, J. D. Butcher, N. J. Westwood, R. D. S. Gawthorne.

RESULTS

1st XV

Solihull School	(A)	Lost 4 — 16
Millbrook House School	(H)	Drew 8 — 8
Larkmead School	(H)	Won 30 — 0
Magdalen College School	(H)	Won 22 — 8
Oratory Preparatory School	(H)	Won 10 — 8
Dragon School 2nd XV	(A)	Won 4 — 0
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(A)	Won 28 — 6
Reading School	(H)	Won 16 — 0
Berkhamsted School	(H)	Won 16 — 6

'A' XV

Oratory School	(H)	Won 4 — 0
St. Hugh's School	(H)	Won 18 — 7
Prior's Court School	(A)	Lost 4 — 10
Christchurch Cathedral School	(H)	Lost 4 — 10
Prior's Court School	(A)	Lost 3 — 19
Oratory School	(A)	Lost 3 — 8

2nd XV

Oratory Preparatory School	(H)	Lost 6 — 8
Dragon School 4th XV	(A)	Lost 0 — 8
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(A)	Won 32 — 0
Reading School	(H)	Won 16 — 0
Berkhamsted School	(H)	Won 4 — 0

Other XVs

Magdalen College School	(H)	Lost 0 — 10
Moulsford Preparatory School	(A)	Lost 0 — 34

Under-12 XV

Larkmead School	(H)	Won 8 — 0
Summerfields School	(H)	Lost 0 — 14
Prior Park School	(A)	Lost 8 — 22
Reading School	(A)	Lost 8 — 20

Barry Jahnke has sent us this account of his impressions of his year here, which reflects much of his personality and should remind us how fully he involved himself in all things British...

"You'll find it a culture shock!"

"You'll arrive at the worst possible time of the year — anyway you can be sure of one thing — it can only get better!"

Such were some of the comments thrown at us by experienced travellers prior to our departure in January 1981 for Britain.

So we landed at Heathrow in full sunshine which was at least bright, even though the air was colder than our subtropical skins were used to feeling. The drive to Drayton was the first shock — all those leafless trees and the rows of similar houses, but the land had a tidy look of having been well-used by humans for a long time. There was a sense of order. Although the air had a chill, there was a sense of vigour and the central heating of the homes had a feeling of luxury.

I thought Australian farmers were the world experts at involving the weather in their average conversations, but I was soon to find that the average Englishman is an expert meteorological observer. This may be because he can see so many changes in one day, whereas the Australian may have to wait several days for the next change to appear. We soon became fascinated with the atmosphere painted onto the British scene by the weather. Those greys and fogs which give a feeling of timelessness and the blue skies for contrast. We grew to appreciate the changing seasons, each with its own series of stages, usually dominated by some flower or activity of the wild life — the blue-bell season, the time for the rooks to rebuild their nests or now is the time for fungal forays.

To Australian eyes which have seen floods and droughts, those steady reassuring greens of the English countryside gave a sense of stability.

St Peter's College, at 37 years of age, seems middle-aged to me, but I was soon to assimilate and love the culture shock of Abingdon School with its long history and traditions. So much of human history around us goes unnoticed as you live amongst it and accept it as just another feature of everyday life. I was soon to find that most people believe that Australian history started with James Cook in 1770 and forget that the first Australians were probably establishing themselves on that continent about 30,000 years ago. So it differs from Britain by not having a recorded history showing the changes of culture through invasions and wars.

After coming from a co-educational school like St Peter's College, the crowds of "boys only" and the teaching staff dominated by men were a surprise to the eyes. The boys, without the girls present, seem to have more uniformity as a group of students. Is that due to lack of female distraction or is it due to the entrance examination singling out a particular academic ability level?

Whatever the reason, most boys soon lost their hesitation about this unknown Australian and I enjoyed knowing them and I hope I was able to assist them in their development through their secondary education.

Teaching for public examinations reminded me of back home in the early 1970s when we were preparing for such examinations in Queensland. School assessment has its advantages in curriculum diversification, but it does rob us of some time which can be spent on teaching. But ah, the pleasure of the double period again — so necessary for subjects like Biology: useful for indoor practicals and an opportunity to use the outdoor Biology around the school and in Albert Park. Don't neglect your outdoor wildlife and what it can lend to Biology.

The warmth of the people at the school and in the community was fantastic and we are most thankful to all our dear British friends. There was a feeling of stability within the school, a sense of strength and beauty in the buildings and the relatively litter-free grounds.

So what, in a few words, was 1981 for me at Abingdon? A year spent in a fascinatingly beautiful country, working with delightful, friendly people and meeting very capable students who can make their contributions to the world. Overall, an educational experience of a lifetime and a year to cherish.

B. R. Jahnke

... and Richard Webber replies with his version of ...

A VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER

It is a warm spring evening in September. The sun sinks to the desert horizon behind the strands of cloud. They have had more rain here in the last seven years than in the preceding seventy, and there is still more red sand than bush as you look across the half mile to the world's largest monolith. The earth's shadow begins to stretch out towards the lazy purple of the Rock and, for only a moment, the purple becomes a burning orange. They say that to witness one of the few good sunsets at Ayers Rock is an experience you do not forget. We have seen an indifferent sunset and can believe it.

Behind us that evening, was a line of air-conditioned coaches and more than a hundred fellow tourists standing silent, gaping across at the Rock in expectation. Visited by thousands each year, it remains a devastatingly lonely place.

In a modern bungalow in one of the city suburbs with no pavements, or even working in the shaded high-rise city centre, we could feel the vastness of Australia. Australians worship the hostility of their environment and would have it no other way. The few who live in the outback are Australia's aristocracy. The Aborigines may not have the political and economic clout of the mineral developers and outback station owners, but only those who have moved to the town are not held in high esteem. All young Australians would like to experience life in the Bush. To understand why Australia is God's own country, you must be sitting on your haunches, chewing straw, with hat

tipped back on head, gazing wordlessly into the great red yonder.

Some schools have tried to formalise the experience of bush-living by sending their students into the sticks to learn about "life, themselves and their place in the world." Timbertops was better patronised, but at St Peter's Lutheran College, Brisbane, all year ten students (5th formers) spent eight weeks at Ironbark — a purpose built 'outward-bound' school in the middle of nowhere. Here they pursued a course whose objectives might seem too vague, and where the learning would seem too undirected for English tastes. Yet, for the most part, St Peter's produced pleasant, broadly well-informed, responsible citizens.

The Queensland climate can be every bit as unpleasant as Britain's. High humidity, floods, droughts and cyclones more than match the drizzle, ice and snow. But the Australians, for all their air-conditioning have come to terms with their environment; they don't complain. I suppose when you live in a country so vast and underpopulated you may as well not worry about defence, and so wealthy you need not worry about the economy or opportunities. You are bound to be honest, friendly and at peace with the world. But when you stand in front of Ayers Rock, you realise that the wild west politics, and the bosoms of Bondi beach have little to do with the heart of modern Australia.

It truly is the lucky country, but England, Dammit, is home, and it is good to be back.

Richard Webber

Congratulations to Nick Murphy (6) who won first prize last summer in a 'Hobby Electronics' magazine competition. Nick designed an electronic 'Datafeed' system which enables chemical reactions to be monitored and plotted by a computer. His ingenuity has won £100 for himself to spend on components, and two oscilloscopes for the school. Nick's next project also helped the school in a big way — he has designed a sound mixer for the Amey Hall.

Congratulations, too, to Simon Peacock (6) who has recently won an R.A.F. Sixth Form Scholarship. This is a competitive, academic award, and means that Simon will be entering the R.A.F. after his 'A' levels.

Several O.A.s have been distinguishing themselves academically, and we'd like to congratulate Philip Corina and Gideon Franklin on their Firsts in Part I at Cambridge. Philip has been made a scholar at Jesus, and Gideon awarded an exhibition at Selwyn to commend these results. At Oxford, Jonathan Saunders, who left in December 1979, has been awarded one of two Schmidt Scholarships by the University. These are new awards set up by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and entail a period of travel and study in Germany.



MEET OUR FIRST LADY

Remember that boy with the long earrings and red trousers and extra-regulation haircut? That was Lucy Eden, intrepid and pioneering Girl-in-a-male-stronghold — our first girl pupil:

- A: Lucy, has the fact that you're a celebrity gone to your head?
- L: No, I don't think so — at least I hope not. In fact, I've found that the boys have accepted me much more easily than I expected. I suppose it's made me feel more confident in myself.
- A: When have you most felt **different** from the rest?
- L: Mm ... in the bath? And singing in chapel of course. Only Hugh Jones sings in my soprano range. Actually it's funny to feel that everyone knows me but I don't know them. It's been lonely at times. Especially during a mammoth snowball fight when I got outnumbered because it was pretty obvious that I was the only girl there.
- A: Would you want to do it again?
- L: One year's enough, I think. If I did do it again I'd make sure I wasn't the only one!
- A: How have your teachers treated you? Have they been softer or harder on you, because you're a girl?
- L: Neither, I think ... they've really treated me like anyone else, very much the same as the boys. Oh, I have managed to get away with wearing cords. And skirts!
- A: And the boys — how have they treated you?

- L: Very well, really ... although I was surprised how often I had to take the initiative and speak to them first.
- A: Are you suggesting that the average Abingdon schoolboy is not a paragon of chivalry? Doesn't he ask if he can carry your pencil-box or do your copies or things?
- L: Well, some of them are really very well-behaved ... and the tennis team say there's been much less swearing when I've been there. Seriously, can I thank them all for being so kind? They've been exceptionally nice to me, all through.
- A: Has the behaviour of the adolescent male surprised you at all?
- L: ... In some ways, I suppose. I never thought boys were such gossips, but they are — much worse than girls, really. And some of them are very clothes-conscious. And they don't seem to mind discussing their girl-friends in front of me either, so you could say I've gained a good deal of insight.
- A: Would you recommend a year at St. Helen's for an Abingdon boy?
- L: I think he would find it harder ... the girls would be more reserved, and the rules in a girls' school are much more for girls ... the girls would be in awe of him, probably, but here the second year just whistle and shout.
- A: Do you envy the boys at all?
- L: In some ways, yes. They seem more self-confident than girls, more relaxed. They don't worry so much or take things so seriously. That's a big difference — girls treat life much more seriously and they always think further ahead.
- I think boys have a better attitude to work — it's more balanced — you know, outside things like drama and General Studies ...
- A: What has been the most embarrassing moment for you?
- L: When my apple crumble flew several yards through the air in the Dining Hall before landing on someone.
- A: And the funniest thing?
- L: That's probably the Road Relay. The Headmaster congratulated me on my fast time! Actually I had a bike-ride around the Crescent and only ran a short bit at the finish. I was still shattered! And it was rather embarrassing too, because everyone was overtaking me even when I was on the bike.
- The other funny thing has been seeing how silly the most senior prefects can be in the Prefects' Common Room.
- A: Ah yes ... details?
- L:
- A: If you could make **one** change to Abingdon School, now that you've seen it working for a year, what would it be?
- L: Co-education.
- A: And has the year been worth it?
- L: Yes!

SOCIETIES

SYMPOSIUM

This year has been one of increasing diversification for Symposium, with a semi-autonomous branch opening at St. Helen's, and an association with Modern Languages Society. The St. Helen's branch (rather dubiously named 'Forum') has offered us an evening with the local Bobby, a surprisingly coherent and moving set of reminiscences from three World War One veterans, and a lecture on how to catch the Loch Ness Monster from world Nessie authority, Tim Dinsdale. With Modern Languages Society we have presented a series of well-attended evening foreign language films, including 'The Man who Loved Women' and 'The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser'.

Theatre trips this year have included 'Present Laughter' with Donald Sinden, and 'Educating Rita' (both in London), as well as a pilgrimage to a concert at the awesome new Barbican Arts Centre.

Home-brewed entertainments are still thriving, and have included an evening of Mr. Hunter's 'Desert Island Discs' and a Brains Trust in which we were suitably baffled by Mr. Smith's Brain. Dr. Zawadzki gave a perceptive and witty insight into the crisis in Poland, and there was a reading of Peter Schaffer's 'Equus' which made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in audience. Finally, there was the debate on 'Self is the limit of man's desires' with a good attendance, and a devastating win for the opposition (Mr. Smith and James Cox).

To end the Lent term, the third Symposium Revue played to a packed house and included appearances by Mr. Gabitass and Mr. Drummond-Hay in drag, and the HM himself as a humble janitor. The Revue has become a firmly established school institution and long may it thrive! The profits were donated to the Drama Equipment Fund and the TASS multi-gym appeal.

In the summer we hope to see the NT's superlative production of 'Guys and Dolls' and to be visited by an eminent psychologist(!)

One hesitates to name or number the committee — such an elastic and multifarious body has it become — but the following are definitely regular offenders: I. A. Macdonald, C. J. M. Peterson, Scott McCracken, Julius Green, Toby Jones, Jeremy Lovering, Bruce Brown-Grant, Jonathan Berman, Janet Dominey, Mel Bagshaw, and Sarah Cook.

Adapted by I. A. McD from an original idea by Julius Green and Janet Dominey.

RAILWAY SOCIETY

This small group within the school, regarded with a great deal of scorn by most, has re-emerged on the right lines. In the past year, all lines seem to have led to York, for one reason or another. In June 1981 a 'Field Day' group went there, not specifically with the railway fraternity in mind. However, December 17, 1981 saw a group of 15 gathered in the rain and dark at Oxford station. Our aim was to see and travel behind 'Deltic' locomotives. A 'Deltic' (for those of you uninitiated in their wonder) is a 3,300 h.p. loco, the most powerful engine in the world when introduced in 1961. They were withdrawn at the end of 1981, and so this was final sightings for most. The weather was atrocious, snow covered everything, and mist too! On arrival at York we visited the motive power depot, and saw 5 Deltics, with many photos being taken for posterity. After a brief visit to the National Railway Museum we had to return to London. Standing at the end of the platform, the mist hid the station, and the temperature was -8°C , but just before our HST left, our hearts were warmed by an immaculate Deltic, arriving on a test-train — which on 2nd January, 1982 hauled the last ever Deltic train. Back at Paddington, where it was a little warmer, the local chip shop was well patronised, before returning to Oxford. We are grateful to Mr. Parker for his help in organising the trip, and Rev. Bird for being brave enough to accompany us. 1982 looks brighter, with plans for trips to Bressingham (Norfolk) and Carnforth Steam Centre being discussed.

Keith Girdwood (6)

BRIDGE CLUB

With much bridge played in the Sixth Form Common Room we decided to enter last year's **Daily Mail** inter-school competition. Winning the first round surprised us but more so the opposition, and being runners-up to **Eton** in the semi-final included one hand where a slam bid was made on a double squeeze. Success whetted the appetite and other matches were arranged.

Against **Radley** we won one and lost one match, and **Wellington** were conclusively beaten home and away. One recalls when Chris Wright kept bidding his 9-card club suit up to a small slam, producing a big swing when it was made despite three top losers! Bridge Club meetings were now held regularly on Tuesdays. The main instigator for the development of interest was Andrew Robson and he with brother James gained an outstanding second place in the **Bucks & Berks event**, earning selection for a county match along with Wright and Morgan, who were fourth out of 55 pairs. The **Guardian** competition was entered and after two successful rounds the three Robsons (including Rupert now!) plus Nial Mardon reached the final. Also the **Daily Mail** event this year saw us lose to **St. Paul's** in the semi-finals. Thus there has been much progress in just over a year.

N. A. F. P.

WARGAMING SOCIETY

Those who wander innocently into Room 30 on Wednesday afternoons and thus stumble upon a meeting of the recently-formed Wargaming Society, are likely to find it an anachronistic experience. Amid model tanks, plastic centurions, jet fighters and leering ghouls, the entire panorama of history, human or vampire, is spread out beneath one's gaze. Battles of the Crimea, the Punic Wars and the trenches are fought out alongside one another, while other members, engrossed in the "Dungeons and Dragons" rule-books, try to work out how much charisma a zombie has. Confused? That makes two of us.

PC

DRAMA



FILM SOCIETY — REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Well ... we're absolutely overwhelmed ... this is truly a wonderful wonderful day for us, and we mean that most sincerely... we'd just like to thank all you beautiful people and those who supported us through thick and thin, and on behalf of Film Society can we just say a big thank you to the following, without whom none of this would have been possible: Nic Roeg (thanks Nic) and David Bowie for *'The Man who fell to Earth'*, Uncle Sam Peckinpah and Kris Kristofferson for *'Convoy'*, c'mon, our very good and dear friend Mr. Bob Fosse for smoking 120 a day and having time to make *'All that Jazz'* (with Roy 'Jaws' Scheider, incidentally) in his spare time, and Clint Eastwood for *'The Enforcer'*.

Before we go back to our large gin and tonics (with lemon), (mine's with ice actually John), we'd like to ask you all to give a big hand to our distributor for supplying us with films of such a high quality, with these important exceptions: *'Jabberwocky'*, well at least we think that's what it's called, the credits were so blurred, *'Nosferatu'*, which failed to appear when first summoned from the vaults of EMI, and *'The Rose'*, which suffered a similar fate. But it's nice

to know they have a sense of humour — they sent us an early *'April Fools'* joke, in the form of Jack Lemmon.

Anyway, where were we? Oh yeh, we'd also like to thank Nic Roeg (thanks Nic) and Michael Jagger for *'Performance'*, Uncle Sam Peckinpah and Jim Coburn for *'Cross of Iron'* and *'Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid'*, John Carpenter for his informative space documentary, *'Dark Star'*, and Brian de Palma for *'Carrie'*.

Have another drink Nic. In fact, let's all drink a toast to those lovable spiky-tops, the Sex Pistols for their amusing re-working of Swan Lake, and glamour girl Marilyn Monroe for showing it off in *'Some Like it Hot'*. Phew! If they'll let him out, we'd love to send our most heart-felt thanks to Roman Polanski for *'Repulsion'* and to Shirley for *'Airplane'*. And er... (where's my script John?) oh yes, thank you a million times to Messrs. Herzog and Kinski for *'Nosferatu'*. We mustn't forget (the man with no name. Get it?) for *'Outlaw Josey Wales'*, and William Wilder for *'The Front Page'*. Have another drink, Nic. (And now here is a synopsis of the other thank you's given out tonight) *'Death Race 2000'* for David Carradine, Terry Jones for *'The Who'*, John Landis for *'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'*, Mel.... Mel....(Brooks, you cretin)... Mel Brooks for, er.... (shhhhhh) *'Silent Movie'*, hic! *'Blues Brothers'* and *'Quadrophenia'* for being very tough.... (large gin and tonic please waiter).

Finally may we say thank you to Cassie Peterson for buying the drinks, and to Ron Amey for building our cinema. Thank you. Thank you all. (sob) ... goodnight ... we love you (hic!)

J. Parker and N. North (VI)

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

This year's team consisting of Paul Spencer (captain), Andrew Fisher, Daniel Oppenheimer and Roger Smith, saw some of the most exciting matches in our Schools Challenge history. The first, on 15 February against **Peers School**, was easily the most dramatic. Peers got off to an early and an inspiring lead of 110 points. But undeterred, and under the cool leadership of our captain, we drew level at 370-370 when time was up. Suddenly there was consternation; what was the right procedure? Following consultation between Dr. Z and Bamber Gascoyne it was decided to continue the match for another five minutes. Eventually, having got our faculties under control, we defeated Peers 470-440 as a result of Roger Smith's quick reply to a scientific question. In the second match, against **Wallingford School** on 4 March, we were impressed by Andrew Fisher's musical and Daniel Oppenheimer's unbelievable biblical knowledge; this contributed to our decisive victory of 490-230. As our admirable chauffeur and master-in-charge said, "You've tasted blood, gentlemen." And so our battle-hardened team went to **St. Edwards** on 17 March to play in the regional finals. We arrived and looked into a hall full of schoolboys baying for blood. Then there was a mini disaster; the external quiz master was not there, and we had to settle for a St. Edward's

master. Into the arena we went, to the glare of lights and thunderous applause. The first ten minutes were disastrous; we were 180-10 points down. Quick and evasive action was called for; we quickly tackled a cricket question (the skipper's speciality) and then questions on music and paintings and fought back to within 10 points of Teddys. We were on the point of moving into the lead when the quizmaster gave Teddys some easy questions and the difficult ones to us! We lost by 510-460. After cursory congratulations, we left in a mood of despondency. But ours is a young team, and next year who knows!

Paul Spencer (VI N)

COMPUTER CLUB

The Computer Club is a relatively new society. It was set up in the summer of 1980, by Mr. David Haynes, who is in charge of the Physics Department. Initial facilities were one Apple II computer.

Since then, there have been many additions to the club's equipment. Later in 1980, the Computer Club Library was set up. There were about twenty volumes at first, but this has now increased to nearly forty-five. There are now also five librarians who keep the library in order and sign in books.

Most members of the club make use of this regularly, as it contains both books for beginners and ones for those who understand more fully the workings of computers. Books may be taken out for a week at a time and a fine of five pence for each day overdue, ensures their early return!

There are now three computers available for use. The Apple II, which has been modified to use different computer languages and give a massive range of colours, the BBC micro-computer which has recently arrived and is soon to go to the new projects laboratory, and an ageing Sinclair ZX80. The last however is sometimes not able to be used as the spare television monitor quite often disappears at around 4 o'clock. The reason is still a mystery! (Play School starts at about 4 o'clock?)

You are allowed to use each of the computers once a week for twenty minutes. To do this there is a booking table which is kept in the laboratory.

So that everybody who wants to use the computer may do so, the club is run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The activities that the computers perform are varied. Most people use them for writing games as a way of learning to programme. Most of these are written in BASIC, and are games to test the player to the end of his wits. However, a few are written in machine-code (a more complicated way of programming, but with faster results), and involve shooting space monsters out of the sky or saving the earth from destruction by yellow rabbits etc. Here is a particularly bad example of computer generated poetry!

AN AUTUMN SHADE...

A FLOWER IS FLOATING UNDER THE
SILENCE

DRY STILL SKY

However, they have more serious uses as well. Processing figures with great speed is a good example. Another example is its use in chasing up those who owe fines to the Computer Club Library!

As well as being used in Computer Club, the Apple II is a very useful physics teaching aid. It can be interfaced (linked up) with experiments, and used as a measuring instrument. It can plot graphs or tabulate data. Alternatively it can be used to simulate experiments which would otherwise not be seen in school.

The sixth form electronics option set have built several devices to use in conjunction with the Apple II, again usually linked with physics experiments. The two most recently built devices are a clock card for timing experiments and a single board micro-computer which can be used with the Apple or as a self contained unit.

There is now a separate branch of Computer Club exclusively for those who own either a Sinclair ZX80 or ZX81, run by Mr. C. Parker. It had, at last count, a membership of around forty. It meets to exchange information and ideas and demonstrate programmes.

The principal aim of the Computer Club is to familiarise pupils with computers and their uses, and to provide an environment in which pupils can develop their skills in an informal atmosphere.

P. McDougall (4)

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

This year's activities have been marked by a strong build-up of the films shown in the Amey Hall. These have attracted large audiences, a measure of financial security enabling us to show better-quality productions. Crime was represented by Melville's *Le Deuxième Souffle*, while Eric Rohmer's *La Collectionneuse* was a careful study of temptation and Truffaut's *L'Homme qui aimait les Femmes* needs no explanation at all. The Lent Term saw the first showing of a German film, the choice being Werner Herzog's *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser*.

Attendances at other meetings have been slightly lower than last year, but a reading of Anouilh's historical drama *L'Alouette* drew quite a large number, and a select gathering heard Mr. Willerton speak on the subject of *How Languages Change*. All in all, a successful year.

PC

THE PSEUD FOOD SOCIETY

The Pseud Food Society has, in the last year, continued (with that dedication to duty peculiar to Abingdon School) its unswerving progress towards hepatitis, coronary and good-breeding. I am happy to be able to report that under the benevolent, if occasionally blood-shot eye of Mr. Gabitass we have scaled new gastronomic heights in the 'pursuit of excellence.'

Few, for example, could forget the "Banquet of the Three Emperors" which took place in the summer of 1981: the delicious tinkle of Muscadet domaine de la fevrie '79; the delightful taste of Coquilles de Turbot au gratin; the H.M.'s. look of grim determination as he plunged into the sixteenth course (the appropriately named 'Bombe Alhambra'); the happy, shining face of Mr. Gabitass and the Bursar's merry giggle as he skipped his way home through the moon-light. These, surely, are memories which nothing can erase — although the Claret Chateau Pressac '76 did its utmost.

Special thanks are due to Mr. White and the catering staff for their continued support and expertise; to Mr. Ayling for his exposé of 25 different French cheeses; to Mr. Barrett for revealing the charms of the worthy squid and his brothers, and, of course to Mr. Gabitass and his "little friend at the Wine Merchants."

I should like to offer a small apology to Mrs. Gabitass for what happened after one meeting in the Michaelmas term — we are all quite convinced that it was the sea-food which was at fault.

Ben Macintyre

LIBRARY

Librarians: Richard Mortimer (senior librarian)

Timothy Adams	Stephen Lee-Jones
Clive Alderton	Stephen Marsh
John Brockbank	Nicholas Storer
Mark Flood	Simon Weaver
Julian Freeston	Clive Williams
William Hawes	

In the year ending 31 March 1982, over 1300 books were added to stock, and space in the Upper Library is now beginning to look distinctly scarce, the transfer of the Sixth Form Science Library to our control being only partly responsible for this agreeable state of affairs. In the Lower Library the empty shelves are being gradually filled up, though not as rapidly as one might like,* This is perhaps an appropriate moment to mention that, in true mercenary spirit, we are always willing to accept donations (preferably large) of money, good-quality books or indeed anything that can be melted down to provide cash! We are similarly delighted to receive back any of our own learned tomes which have taken up more or less permanent residence in boys' bookcases.

Finances aside, the administration of the library has been greatly helped this year by the team of altogether splendid librarians who have willingly given up their Wednesday afternoons and whose names are listed above.

* money being the problem here.

PC

HOCKEY

HOCKEY CLUB 1982

Although the first XI has had a poor season, the Hockey Club has done well and increased hockey coaching lower down the school is beginning to pay dividends. My thanks to all members of staff involved. Increased help has meant that we have been able to provide more boys with competition through B fixtures. The non-team hockey has also benefitted from competent, keen supervision during a term when the weather has been especially kind. Mr. Randolph has once more proved to be an enormous asset and Mr. Drummond-Hay, too, has added to his team commitment, by helping with non-team boys. He has had to do so, because we still lack sufficient staff to fill all the requirements. I hope to avoid this next year, but am not confident. Finally, thanks to Mr. White and his kitchen staff and Mr. Bagshaw and his ground staff for looking after us in their usual accommodating and uncomplaining way.

P.J.W.

1st XI

This season has been the most disappointing for a number of years. With seven of the previous year's side returning, the nucleus of a strong side was promised, but as the results show, the season was one of our least successful. Once again, too little effort was put into improving basic skills and developing an understanding with one another. The usual keen approach at the beginning of term quickly faded when results went against us, a typical Abingdon reaction unfortunately.

The snow cleared quickly and we only lost one fixture, that with Newbury. Against Leighton Park we showed much promise against poor opposition, but failed to score goals and only drew. St. Edward's came next, as always too soon, but this time our weaknesses were exposed in a way that has never happened before. The game also contained an unsavoury spectacle, which I hope will never be repeated. We pulled ourselves together and played well against Radley, who deserved no more than victory by a single goal.

Apart from Pangbourne, who again insisted on using their awful hard pitch even though the weather was fine, we then entered a phase of losing matches by the odd goal, often when looking like possible winners, and drawing matches in which the opposition only got on level terms very late on, in the case of Solihull in the last minute.

Our first victory came against Bradfield, a far better side than many we lost to, and a splendid performance it was too. Everyone gave 100% commitment to the game and we reaped the reward. We were fortunate to have the opportunity of playing on Astro-turf against RGS High Wycombe, which was most enjoyable, and to bring us back to earth, faced Reading on a pitch suitable only for grazing. Another very good performance saw us almost beat the Hockey Association, who were honestly surprised at our previous lack of form.

The penultimate week of term was taken up with the Public Schools Hockey Festival, played in glorious sunshine. It is no exaggeration to say that we could well have won four of the five games, but had to settle for draws on three occasions instead of victories.

Few players made a big impression this season, but Jonathan Prest, in particular, played consistently well and broke down many a dangerous attack. He, along with Robert McCreery, Noel Williams and Chris Newmark, gained full colours. While Andrew Hall, David Phillips, Martin Haywood, Nicholas Rice and Robin Suggate gained half colours. The last named scored most of our goals, a tally which included some good solo efforts. The forward line failed to knit together, though, for most of the season. Alex Fergusson was plagued by injury and Andrew Hall also had problems with an ankle. Simon Rushton came into the side halfway through the season and proved to be a useful addition. Again the future prospects look good depending on which Colts survive the 'O' level examinations. Nicholas Thomas proved in a number of matches that he is a fine goalkeeper when awake, and I look forward to next season.

P. J. W.

RESULTS

v Leighton Park	Drew 1 - 1
v St. Edwards	Lost 1 - 6
v Radley	Lost 0 - 2
v MCS	Lost 1 - 2
v KES Southampton	Lost 2 - 3
v Pangbourne	Lost 0 - 3
v Warwick	Drew 1 - 1
v Bradfield	Won 1 - 0
v RGS High Wycombe	Lost 2 - 3
v H.A.	Drew 2 - 2
v Reading	Lost 0 - 1
v Shiplake	Drew 2 - 2
v Solihull	Drew 1 - 1
v Bloxham	Lost 1 - 2
v O.As	Drew 1 - 1

Public Schools Hockey Festival

v Oundle	Drew 2 - 2
v Bishop's Stortford	Lost 0 - 4
v King's Wimbledon	Won 2 - 1
v Whitgift	Drew 3 - 3
v Bromsgrove	Drew 0 - 0

P 20 W 2 D 9 L 9

2nd XI

This season was one marked by the amount of enthusiasm and dedication shown by all. Each match was treated with the same high level of effort and subsequently we ended with a relatively good record, scoring 28 goals while only conceding 15. We quickly settled down to our new 3-3-3-1 formation with a high scoring victory over Leighton Park. Our forwards continued to find the back of the net with notable performances from David Lee (top scorer with 7 goals), Chris Coe and Sean Crutchlow. The midfield consistently gave good ball to both wingers, and the side benefitted enormously from the skilful play of John Durand, Simon Rushton, Mark Ody and Tim Robinson.

Much of our success was due to the solid defence put up by Douglas Allen, Tim Spittles and Martin Ingram, and we were also extremely lucky in having three good goalkeepers at our disposal; many of the closer matches were 'saved' by the efforts of Nick Thomas and Philip Ladmore. The players on the periphery of the side kept the more regular members on their toes and always gave good performances when selected. Thanks to the efforts of Tim Winter, Patrick McLeod, William Passmore and Richard Fellows the team never suffered from a 'weak link'. The team spirit created within the side meant that this season was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and thanks are warmly extended to Mr. Payne for his good humoured coaching throughout the term.

Nigel Marsh

RESULTS

v Leighton Park	Won 9 - 0
v St. Edward's	Drew 1 - 1
v Radley	Lost 0 - 5
v Magdalen	Drew 1 - 1
v King Edward's, S'ton	Won 4 - 2
v Pangbourne	Lost 0 - 1
v Warwick	Won 2 - 1
v Bradfield	Drew 1 - 1
v Reading	Lost 0 - 1
v Shiplake	Won 5 - 0
v Solihull	Won 3 - 0
v Bloxham	Drew 2 - 2

P 12 W 5 D 4 L 3

I am grateful to Nigel Marsh for writing the above report on a particularly rewarding season. He has, of course, omitted to mention his own contribution which was considerable, not only for his enthusiastic leadership, but in setting an example of wholehearted effort and enjoyment of the game from the first whistle to the last. The quality of hockey played was certainly the best I have seen from a 2nd XI at Abingdon, and I congratulate the side on their good record.

N. H. P.

COLTS XI

I look back on a season past with my mind filled with two strong emotions. Firstly there is a dominant memory of enjoyment, enthusiasm and team spirit that emanates from such a successful side. But added to that there is a feeling of regret that the team never fully realised its potential. Although there was a high degree of fitness throughout, individual skill was only moderate and the side lacked the confidence to take matches to the opposition, and the vision to make the most of their opportunities. Too often attacks broke down or defensive mistakes occurred because the ability of individual players did not match their potential. There is only one remedy for poor stickwork and a low level of skill and that is practice. This team were not 100% committed to improvement of this part of their game, and I fear it may well prove more of a deficiency next year.

As a team they played better than any Abingdonian side I have seen at this level. They possessed real spirit and determination. Simon Littlewood was the spearhead of most attacks,

and his speed and quick thinking, troubled every defence we met. On the wings Nick Burgoyne and William Martin were efficient and fast, although never really dominated opposing wing halves as I should have liked. Ian Murray-Clarke was a great asset at centre half; he is a hard hitting player who has the confidence to wait for players to come to him before making his move. The link men were Mark Durand and Tony Haywood who filled difficult roles, well. Brian Woolley was an inspiration as captain and led by solid and reliable example. Robert Dalton-Morris at right half, was a powerful performer, and often showed his ability coming forward to attack. At the back David Newman was extremely reliable and uncompromising. Jonathan Phillips and latterly Richard Elsey filled the other back position with efficiency. Ian Cockburn played well in goal although found it difficult to maintain a clean sheet. Tim Burley and Daniel Parry-Jones also played on occasions.

We were fortunate to have so large and able a squad, and there was much competition for places in the team. Various combinations were tried before we settled on the team described above. The memorable moments for me were the trouncing of Bloxham, when everything came right, the stolen victory over Radley, the wonderful first half against Pangbourne and some superb defensive play against Bradfield. We did not deserve to lose the two matches that we did in fact lose, but it was symptomatic that on too many occasions throughout the season we let the initiative slip after scoring goals, or when we were on top. Simon Littlewood ended the season with a tally of 13 goals and if someone else in the side could also have developed the habit, we would almost certainly have had an undefeated season. For the record Tony Haywood and Mark Durand both played for the County team.

The B team had two enjoyable encounters (both resulted in losses), but thanks are due to all the squad and Dr. Haigh for his help, in making it such a successful and enjoyable season.

C. M. P. B.

RESULTS

v St. Edwards	Won 3 - 0
v Radley	Won 2 - 1
v M.C.S.	Won 1 - 2
v Pangbourne	Drew 2 - 2
v K. Edward's, Southampton	Won 3 - 0
v Warwick	Lost 1 - 2
v Bradfield	Drew 1 - 1
v Reading	Won 2 - 1
v Churcher's College	Drew 1 - 1
v Christ's Hospital	Drew 1 - 1
v Solihull	Won 4 - 2
v Bloxham	Won 7 - 0
v M.C.R.	Won 2 - 1

P 13 W 7 D 4 L 2

JUNIOR COLTS XI

After the arctic start the weather was much kinder this year; this is the first time there have been ten matches played at this level. The record for the number of goal scored by a Junior Colts side was pushed up from 26 to 40 and that will take some beating!

We did not have the services of our sound, if reticent, goalkeeper John May for the opening matches. Tim Luteijn filled the gap but came on so well as a mid-field player in the second half of the season that, had May been available from the start, the side might well have come through unbeaten. Illness took its toll in the Southampton match; Radley was the best side we played.

Almost everyone improved considerably during the term and it was particularly heartening to see Blake and Hirst emerge strongly from last year's second team. The fullbacks are steady, strong players who distributed the ball increasingly well and launched their tackles with growing finesse. Several players spent much of their free time with a ball on the end of their stick; Hunt and Boobyer in particular benefited from that. The latter, at centre-forward scored almost all the goals; he has acquired much control and knows exactly how to defeat the onrushing goalkeeper. When given space he is quite as devastating as some of those scores suggest.

Comparing the results with last year from this side, the Bloxham result was probably the most satisfying. We played a traditional style game (sweepers had been used early on) and turned a 2 — 0 defeat into a 3 — 2 win, taking their unbeaten record in the process.

Many thanks to Mr. Page for helping with the coaching and showing, by example no less, how mobile centre-forwards should aim to be.

R. C. B. C.

Regular members of the team were:

J. May, M. Marsden, M. Edmonds, D. Gow, T. Bennett, M. Blake, N. Silk, E. Hirst, A. Hunt, M. Boobyer (c), T. Luteijn, M. Cox.

The following also played: D. Lowe, W. Hudson, S. Rudge, B. Burman, S. Sutcliffe

RESULTS

Leighton Park	(A)	Won 8 — 3
St. Edward's	(A)	Won 5 — 2
Radley	(A)	Lost 2 — 4
Magdalen	(A)	Lost 2 — 4
King Edward VI, Southampton	(H)	Lost 2 — 0
Pangbourne	(H)	Won 4 — 0
Oxford	(A)	Won 5 — 1
Reading	(H)	Won 8 — 1
Solihull	(H)	Won 3 — 1
Bloxham	(A)	Won 3 — 2

P 10 W 7 D 0 L 3

JUNIORS XI

We started the season on a high note with the first match resulting in a victory. Then fortunes took a distinct turn for the worse with 4 consecutive defeats. This was mainly due to the fact that we had not yet sorted out the team.

Then just as the team's morale was beginning to drop, we had a very convincing victory by 5 goals to 2 over Pangbourne College. This was mainly due to three new players being introduced into the team. From that time on we did not lose a match

conceding only 4 goals in 8 matches. Throughout the season James Newsome and Joc Silk worked outstandingly well together on the left flank and most of our scoring attacks resulted from their play.

James Kain and John Knibbs provided a solid defence and attack in the half position. The defenders and goal keeper combined well together to form an impregnable defence. The right wing and inside right created a number of openings for Giles Potter to score some very skillful goals.

On the whole the season was a good one. At the beginning we lacked commitment, but realising our potential, we soon became very eager to win matches.

The overall record was W 4 L 4 D 4
James Allison

A major factor in the team's improvement was the captaincy of James Allison. His determination and drive inspired all players to give their best in the matches, and practice sessions. The team's success at the end of the season was mainly due to their good spirit and ability to keep constant pressure on the opposition.

J. D. E. D-H

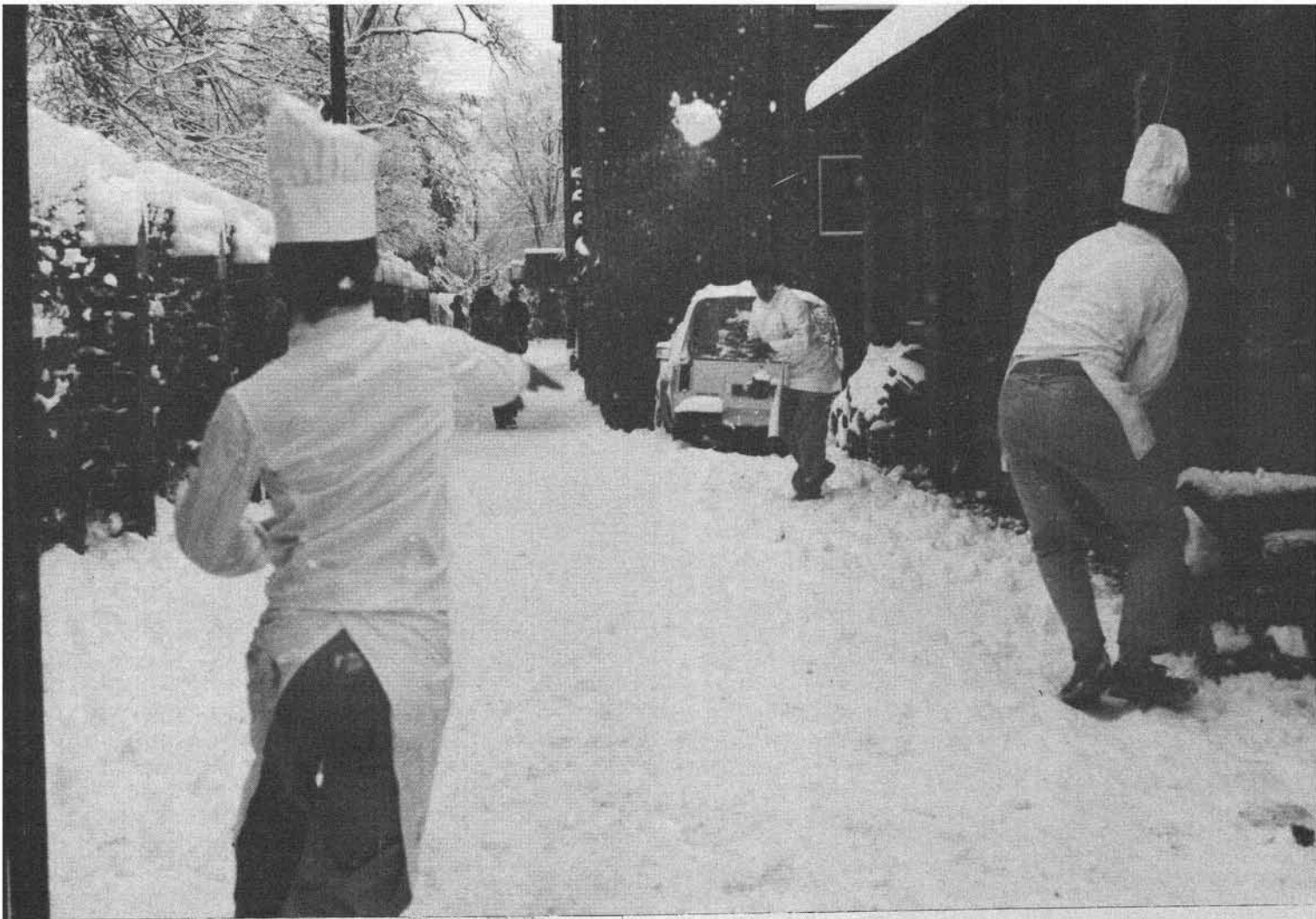
The following played for the team:

J. Allison (capt), G. Potter, G. Nicholson, E. O'Brien, H. Hay, J. Kain, J. Dark, J. Knibbs, J. Newsome, S. Lawrence, J. Silk, I. Elms, A. Harper, K. Bond.

RESULTS

Leighton Park	Won 2 — 1
Magdalen	Lost 0 — 4
St. Edwards	Lost 1 — 5
Radley	Lost 1 — 4
Southampton	Lost 0 — 3
Pangbourne	Won 5 — 2
Oxford	Won 1 — 0
Reading	Drew 0 — 0
Shiplake	Won 1 — 0
Solihull	Drew 1 — 1
R.G.S. High Wycombe	Drew 0 — 0
Bloxham	Drew 1 — 1

In case any of us have forgotten that extraordinary start to the hockey term, JRG's photographs opposite will bring it all back ... (the budding Abingdonian is a junior Crawford!)



One of the most exciting developments this year for the boys must surely be the acquisition of our new computers. For the uninitiated, Jonathan Lewis explains how these are now being used:

COMPUTERS IN ABINGDON SCHOOL

Many people, if asked what they thought was the most significant scientific development of the decade, would probably give a reply connected with computers and microelectronics.

Microcomputers are gaining more and more footholds in 'real life'; libraries, shops, pubs, factories, offices, schools, motor-cars and kitchens are just a few of the areas that they can now affect. Because of this, it is clearly important for some sort of computer education to take place in school.

There are, in fact, many levels at which the operation of computers takes place. At the lowest level, there is the 'Black Box' principle: i.e. you press a few buttons, and the right responses occur without you actually realising that some complex computation has taken place. Examples of this would be electronic weighing machines, 'programmable' washing-machines, space invader games etc. This level of computer operation is largely ignored at the school (with the exception, perhaps, of the last example, and then only well outside teaching hours).

The next level of use is the intelligent application of pre-written programs. Many businesses, after all, use computers as tools, knowing what their programs are meant to do, but not needing to know how the machines themselves work. (As a typical example, this article was written with the aid of a word-processor — a program I can use, but which I could not possibly write for myself). Apart from the Computer-assisted-teaching programs, this level of use is not catered for deliberately, but anyone using any of the available machines in a language other than BASIC (Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) will, in fact, be using several complex 'system' programs (possibly without realising it) to help them design and write their own programs.

Moving on up the scale, the next level is the pastime most readily ascribed to computer-addicts ... 'PROGRAMMING'. There are many routes that members of the school (pupils and staff alike) can take to this activity. The commonest path is through the services of Computer Clubs (q.v.), where the budding enthusiast can book time on a school machine, and then either run a 'Teach-yourself' program, or allow himself to be inundated with information from other slightly more knowledgeable fanatics. On a more formal basis, there are timetabled lessons at the second and lower sixth years. The second year course, a four week introduction to computers and BASIC, is intended merely to give the boys a little confidence in handling the machines, and a little information about how to write simple programs. The sixth form lessons come in the General Studies timetable, and the boys have a term in which to learn something about operating systems, problem analysis,

production and encoding of algorithms, and good programming style. They also have a chance to meet other (superior) programming languages such as FORTRAN and Pascal.

The hardware the boys have access to consists of one BBC micro, two Apple II micros, and a Prime 400 mini-computer (based in the Atlas lab at Rutherford, and connected to the school by land-line). The latter is exceedingly useful for introducing the sixth form to 'Serious' computing, as it is a multi-lingual, multi-user machine (at times as many as fifteen people have been using it simultaneously, from six different locations, in five different languages). Consequently it has a very sophisticated and powerful 'Operating System' to ensure that its many users do not interfere with each other.

The final level of computer use, and one that the Rutherford machine emphasises, is the use of 'packages' or 'libraries'. Many people are still quite content to spend hours (or days) of effort writing long, complicated programs when, by browsing through a program library, they could get the job done very easily by collating a few pieces of other people's work. On this machine, there are several libraries of well-written programs just waiting to be used by anyone keen enough to sit down and weave the bits together. The boys who achieve this have really discovered that a computer is nothing more than a tool designed to make hard tasks easier.

There is a lot that can be done with, and about computers. We have some excellent resources, and we have the enthusiasm of a very large, and ever growing, number of people; the start we have made in computer education looks promising.

J.P.L.

MUSIC

SUMMER TERM 1981

The term began with several imported events: the Oxford Pro Musica completing their series of 'educational discourses' on the instruments of the orchestra to sometimes less-than-sympathetic audiences, and the Abingdon and District Music Society celebrating their one-hundredth concert. The programme for this was a welcomingly ambitious one comprising the first performance of 'Time and Tide' by Jeremy Pike O.A. (better known to television viewers as the 'husband pining for his trapped Polish bride') with words by O.A. Chris Cunningham. This piece yielded much value with its heroic if askew interpretation. The other work required auxiliary forces which swamped the stage and gave new meaning to the opening words of RVW's 'Sea Symphony' — "Behold the sea itself!"

Home-grown efforts were on display at the two identical Founders' Day concerts — one on the afternoon of the Day itself, the other, the evening before, for those protesting at the May-time siting of the following Day. The programme mainly consisted of small-scale works designed to let the best of the leaving instrumentalists 'sign off' with a concerto (twice). Mark Murray, Sandy Black and Jon Kowszun all did so with great aplomb (twice). The 'Welsh dances' by Mansel Thomas, father-in-law of another Welshperson, brought us to the even more ravishingly exotic timbres of the Ravioli Bolognese (Ravel's 'Bolero'). The impetus of these performances was enhanced by the massed whisperings of the brass section: "236-2-3, 237-2-3, 238...".

The first away fixture was to the 'Brideshead' surroundings of Stowe School where some old war-horses were unfettered (the Mike Bradbury snorkel babbings, sorry, virtuoso flute variations, Chamber Choir part-songs, part-something else, and, Yes!, the Brass Ensembles 'Music Hall Suite' whose 'Soft shoe shuffle' got its own back for once) along with some new ones including Stravinsky's 'The Owl and the Pussycat' much to the merriment of non-dodecaphonists.

June saw a School Band Concert in which wind ensembles dished up a selection of 'Light pieces', not forgetting the much-admired (by Mr. Jones) Hoagy Carmichael. Soon after that the ever-present 'Informal Concert' made Opportunity knock ever so lightly for the average 'boy on the gravel' who turns up to his instrumental lesson once a week.

The Chamber Choir's efforts were directed towards Evensongs in St. George's Chapel, Windsor and the one where the sun always shines and the trebles can grab sticky buns, Marsh Gibbon. For the latter we were accompanied by brass reinforcements for the 'Old Hundredth' and the choir and organ churned out 'Blessed be the God and Father' by S(icky) S(weet) Wesley from 'Tune a Day, Book three'.

'Jim Haines Big Band' came to play some 'Light pieces' before the stage was taken over for the school's most professional junior production yet, 'The Leaving of Liverpool' for more about which see elsewhere.

Philip Blackburn



MICHAELMAS TERM 1981

These music review articles always seem to start with a form of words to the effect of "The musicians had a very busy term"; this is usually considered to be a mechanism by which the Author can get started; fortunately this is not the only reason, and, as ever, Music School activity has been frantic.

The School Calendar for this term contained an entry for the "Soiree Outree" which was apparently to be held on the 5th October. This was treated largely as a joke until two days before the event, when it was realised that action was needed. It was to be "a musical extravaganza devised and presented by boys of the school"; this it certainly was, and included "Geographical Fugue" for four speaking voices by Ernst Toch, performed by Michael Bradbury, Stephen Clarke, Richard Bacon and Jonathan Holt. Daniel Ruiz and Andrew Lowe played their arrangement for hosepipe, horn and piano of Mozart's Horn concerto No. 4. Other items included Philip Blackburn's arrangement of the National Anthem for 5 pianos, and hardly bearable renderings of two Barber Shop arrangements of 'Linger Awhile' and 'L'il Lisa Jane', performed by Stephen Clarke, Howard Mulvey, Richard Bacon, and Julian Hamilton-Peach. A member of the Common Room was heard to say "This is what the Symposium Revue ought to be like": What a tribute!

A Schools' Recital, when various local schools attend, was held on the 6th October: Rita Morey (viola da gamba) and Arne Richards (harpsichord) provided the music and chat.

The regular musical "free for all" sessions, the Informal Concerts, started on the 23rd: Items included "Le Petit Negre" by Debussy, played by Robin Kanagasabay, the second movement of the Flute Sonata No. 2 in Eb by Bach, performed by Stephen Smailes, and the "Maple Leaf Rag" by Scott Joplin played by Chris Crosskey.

Another first for the Amey Hall occurred on the 25th when a live broadcast was made by Radio Oxford of the Oxford Pro Musica's concert of orchestral music including Britten's Simple Symphony, and Mozart's A Major Violin Concerto. Following this event, the BBC were so pleased

with the broadcast that the BBC Singers will be here next March to perform a concert for Radio 3.

The Choral and Orchestral recital on the 28th in Trinity Church included performances of Mr James' "Be ye followers of God" and "O pray for the peace of Jerusalem" by Blow by the Chamber Choir, the Andante and Allegro from the Sonata in G by Sammartini, performed by Ludy Eden, Organ solos from Stephen Clarke, and Faure's Requiem Mass with soloists Nicholas Pond and Stephen Robertson. A splendid occasion!

The now annual concert by the Music Scholars and Senior Musicians took place on November 7th. Items included Niann — Tsyr Cheng playing the 1st Movement of Brahms' A major violin sonata, Timothy Hepple playing Elgar's 'Skizze' for piano, and Michael Bradbury (flute) playing the fantasie Op 79 by Fauré.

As always a very high standard was maintained throughout this concert. This year, though, its length exceeded expectation!

For the first time, the Music School had its own Parents' Evening on November 9th and on the 12th the Chamber Choir was away at Coventry Cathedral to sing Evensong — a modern setting for a modern service (Kelly in C).

The Chamber Choir was away again on the 18th at Chichester Cathedral: the journey always seems rather long, but the Cathedral is very pleasant and one of the very few we regularly visit which is well heated!

The Choral Society gave its account of the "Seasons" by Haydn on the 21st: as usual, very large forces were involved, including a special chamber orchestra. This performance saw the use for the first time of a translation of the text specially done by a parent (Mrs. U. Johnson).

On the 27th, a recital was given in the School Chapel, this being an opportunity for the organists in particular to show off their talents (despite the deplorable state of the organ!) Other works included a Mozart Quartet performed by Jonathan Holt (violin), Andrew Harrison (viola), Ian Flitcroft (violin) and Paul McLoughlin ('cello).

The undoubted climax to the term for drama and music combined was "Guys and Dolls" — this is reviewed elsewhere. As most of you are aware, the end of this term was severely affected by our wintry weather: the final event of the term, the School Christmas Concert, had to be postponed until the Lent term: I have therefore left this concert to be reviewed by my colleague!

R. F. Bacon (VI)

LENT TERM 1982

The Lent Term started in a truly festive spirit with the previously weather-stricken Christmas Concert. This proved to be a good start, bringing all the School's musicians on to the concert platform at the beginning of the term.

The Chamber Orchestra started the concert with three pieces — Handel's "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba", Purcell's "Trumpet Sonata" in a well-polished performance by soloist Daniel Ruiz and finally a harpsichord concerto by modern composer Walter Leigh played with great skill by Richard Bacon.

This was followed by two short pieces, enthusiastically performed by the school choir — a spiritual and a choral fantasy, both by Holst. The First Wind Band then gave a very exciting and vital account of works by Prokofiev and Leroy

Anderson.

After the interval came the masses of First Orchestra to play Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony (No. 6). It is a great achievement that a School Orchestra can produce such a fine performance on a full-scale symphony and great credit goes to the performers and to Mr. James for taking up a challenge that obviously paid such dividends.

The first Informal Concert, in early February, boasted 19 performances, but was limited in variety, having one piece from both a clarinettist and flautist, the rest being works for piano or violin. But it did serve to show the evident breadth of musical talent over a wide age range in the School. A few days after this the Chamber Choir travelled to Southwark Cathedral to sing most successfully a Choral Evensong.

Another trip to London followed as the Music Society organized a trip to the Coliseum to see Verdi's "Aida". Two packed coaches (there could easily have been another judging by the waiting-list) enjoyed a spectacular production and proved that these trips are popular.

The next Informal Concert was more varied than the first, giving Second Orchestra a chance to appear, followed by a much wider range of instrumental solos.

Early in March the Music Society once again gave us an event to remember — "A Glimpse of China", an illustrated talk with Chinese food, presented by Merle and John Bromley. It raised over £200 for Society funds (£500 has just been given to the Headmaster to start the Amey Hall Grand Piano Fund).

The second large concert of the term was the "Elgar Evening", the second of Mr. James's "Composer" concerts. The Amey Hall was full to the brim with a special full symphony orchestra, the School Choir, Chamber Choir, soloists and, of course, audience! Stephen Robertson opened the programme by singing the 5 'Sea Pictures', his strong baritone voice never being overpowered by the large orchestra. The Chamber Choir showed another side to this versatile Edwardian English Composer in two part-songs and the entire choral forces, under the baton of sixth former Stephen Clarke, sang two movements from the "Coronation Ode". After the interval came the famous "Enigma Variations" in a spirited and moving performance enjoyed so evidently by players and audience alike.

The Chamber Choir again took to the road, visiting Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, to sing Evensong (almost an annual occasion now). Chorally speaking though, the term culminated in the School Choral Society's performance of Bach's "St. John Passion", an event that engendered a notably sombre atmosphere distinguished by crisp orchestral and choral singing and stylish solo work throughout, especially by Evangelist Philip Salmon. The audience too had a part to play in several of the more familiar Passion chorales.

The term ended with the Band Concert in which Mr. Jones displayed the various abilities of First and Second Wind Band, Brass Band and other ensembles — including the newly-formed Dance Band of Glenn Miller basis! What a busy term it had been — but very productive and varied.

Stephen Clarke (VI)

FILM SOCIETY

The dramatic highlight of the Summer term was undoubtedly the joint Abingdon School and Children's Music Theatre presentation of 'The Leaving of Liverpool'. This production involved a great many Abingdon and local pupils, and was subsequently performed both in Edinburgh at the Fringe Festival, and in London during the Christmas holidays at the Jeanetta Cochrane Theatre. We are very grateful to Gordon McDougall, Artistic Director of the Oxford Playhouse, for his review of the Amey Hall performance printed below. Toby Jones, who played the part of Fitzgammon Bowlinggreen, then gives his account of the Edinburgh experience:

THE LEAVING OF LIVERPOOL

On a grey California winter morning I try to think back to a sunny evening in July last year: A new and splendid brick-built theatre, an expectant atmosphere of dutiful parents, the shadows lengthening on the cricket field, 50p for wine at the interval.

And inside: a violin solo, a Kyrie, a little boy coughs, close to death. We are in a tiny smoky Irish hut. Officials crowd in, a family is evicted: they will sail to the New World. The stage widens to the Liverpool dockside where the fantastical Fitzgammon Bowlinggreen is regaling a captive audience with his Nelson fantasies. Through a slow-developing and uneventful first half, the various groups of characters who are to sail on the ill-fated packet-ship *Garrick* are assembled and allowed to tell their story and — rather baldly — to state their attitudes. The act is enlivened by the smashing of some plaster busts of Shakespeare — precious commodities for export to the U.S. — and the brandy ballad which ends the first part.

But with the dance that opens the second act, neatly and spiritedly performed, we are into a different scene (the claustrophobic below-decks of the steamer in mid-Atlantic) and an entirely different quality of narration. Now Bowlinggreen comes into his own, with some action to take part in, not just acting. A murder is committed by the inhumane Professor. The ailing and beleaguered passengers, realising they are bound for the slave trade, enact a Mousetrap-like play to entrap the

murderers. There is a spiritual and a calypso, a Sweeney Todd-like ballad sung with superb tone by young Donny Doyle; the choral singing becomes much more precise and energetic. At last, in an ecstasy of creaking timbers, shattering glass and intermittent swinging lamps, a storm breaks and brings a tragic end to our brave but desperate would-be emigrants. I feel ashamed to have arrived in San Francisco after only ten smooth and well-fed hours in a 747.

There's no doubt that the second part of *The Leaving of Liverpool*, directed and devised by Jeremy James Taylor, is a fine achievement. The native energy of the talented company was allowed to flow, where the first act kept it tapped. The form of ballad-opera is difficult and unfamiliar for a contemporary audience, accustomed to the gentle easing into a lyric of the American musical, or the integration of text and music in more recent music-theatre. The musical creates expectations that a song will heighten emotional tension, express thoughts and feelings that cannot be communicated in words, strike direct chords on the spectator's orchestra of feelings. The ballad-opera does not integrate song and speech and the ballad is not so much a direct expression of feeling as a narrative and commentative form, not developing of character but choric. Dramatic progress in the ballad-opera therefore often seems to go from side to side rather than surging forward. And so I felt at the start: "on the evidence of the first act of *The Leaving of Liverpool*," (I wrote on my programme), "Mr. Taylor and I disagree on the definition of music-theatre." I felt like a snide critic, gleefully licking his stubby pencil as another broadside strikes home — one of the army who so often hold me up to the public ridicule against which there is no redress. And, feeling this, I was pleased to be able to cross the words out as the second act began. For this, at last, was music theatre. Some of the slow-pacing and melodramatic emphasis of the play-within-the-play seemed to have infected the naturalistic passages; and it was a great shame that the musicians were consigned to a pit which did not create a Wagnerian "mystic gulf" but merely isolated them from the action (apart from occasional casual references): surely a plot strand could have integrated a travelling orchestra into the voyage of discovery. But in spite of this carping, the sweep of the story-line, the energy of the acting and the much neater integration of music and text power-drove the final part of the story to an exciting conclusion. I emerged into the balmy night pleased that I'd come, grateful to have been invited. And I mention no names because the impression I retain is one of teamwork, a skilful harnessing of not merely a dedicated cast but a technical and backstage staff who had all worked to create a new event, a work in progress but an evening of some dramatic power and many haunting moments.

RELIVING THE HARDSHIP OF THE C19

'In a few weeks time you will only have sweet memories of this fringe festival and your participation in it.' These were the immortal words of Jeremy James Taylor, Childrens Music Theatre Mentor, Producer, Director, Writer and Critic. I thought I had better record this epic tale of dramatic endeavour, hardship and achievement before his words rang true and 'The Leaving of Liverpool' settled on a cloud in the section of the brain assigned to sentimentality.

To begin, having finished the five performances at Abingdon at the end of term, we prepared ourselves for the assault on Edinburgh. Let me first explain how Childrens Music Theatre works: A school is chosen and basically Jeremy spends a term doing a workshop, the holidays co-writing it (in the case of Liverpool — with David Scott) and the next term rehearsing and performing it at the school — This is the Proto-type. The cast is then altered where necessary in Jeremy's opinion, using people from previous productions, cuts are made and money is paid. So there we were at seven o'clock at the school with bags and three weeks' provisions in tow ready for the fringe.

Goodbyes over we mounted the dubious looking bus which for a week or so was housed outside the Amey Hall. The story of the journey to Edinburgh is not a memory close to my heart: fourteen hours trapped in a bus — thirty or so pale-yellow faced individuals descended from it and headed in the direction of the bathrooms.

When we arrived at the school, St. Denis (situated within walking distance of the centre of Edinburgh) we unpacked and began the process of getting to know the hundred and fifty strong company. There were two productions — 'The Leaving of Liverpool' and 'Witches' (a jazz musical directed simultaneously with 'Liverpool' at Tiffin School). Both productions had separate houses, rehearsal times, stage crews and memorable characters.

When we arrived, we were told that a full company meeting would take place in the dining hall that evening. Dormitories sorted out, bedtimes haggled, clothes unpacked, we slouched into the dining hall. There I was greeted by two familiar faces amongst the melee of 'Witches' persona and shy Abingdonians: the faces of Nick (North) and Bruce (Brown-Grant) did nothing to encourage any enthusiasm I had after fourteen hours of road. They explained they had been made to work on 'Witches' set and were not pleased. I tried to comfort them and failed miserably — stage crew are not happy people.

The meeting was purely: to congratulate 'Witches' on the completion of their rehearsals, to remind us of the high esteem in which C.M.T. is held and to tell us to wake up at eight the following morning to prepare for arduous rehearsal number one.

So began a week of rehearsing, backbiting, tension, chip-eating, befriending, sleeping, fighting, aggravation, of six hours' minimum rehearsal a day, publicising, planning, teasing, learning, cursing, hating, wishing, thanking and then nerves.

It is impossible to describe the first week. In its simplest form it can be described as extremely hard labour although I'm sure every person in the production has their own method of description which sums it up far better than that. It was extremely hard work.

So began the two week run (14 performances, 6 matinees, 8 evenings including two days of one of each). The first night was as good a first night as I could have imagined and there was a marked improvement from the Abingdon performances — more life, more depth and more thought from everyone — essential for a play based on fact such as 'Liverpool' is.

Indeed I think the play improved through the whole run and was its best yet on the last night. That is with the exception of a memorable matinee on the first Wednesday performance. Various critics, T.V. people and festival staff had come to see it — and it was drab. Everything went wrong — lines lost or forgotten, cues slow or — well, enough said, disastrous, due mainly to exhaustion.

Various single memories of the run that linger with me are — the failure of the two villains to enter from back stage causing a distinct sag in speed but marked rise in realism, the day Richard Meadows fell on me during one speech (the same day the plaster bust was thrown on my toe and my finger jammed in the gun as it went off,) the last night when, during the storm sequence, a complete crate fell on David Pratt, the matinee which a hundred or so problem children attended, the day the soup fell off stage, the day the cross beam fell and hit Bruce, the performance in which a member of the Irish family failed to appear on stage, and the two cases of illness which forced us to have to cover the whole of the second act without them, the time when the storm tape at the end never came and the two most dramatic lines in the play got showstopping laughs and various slips and slides about stage result in cuts and grazes.

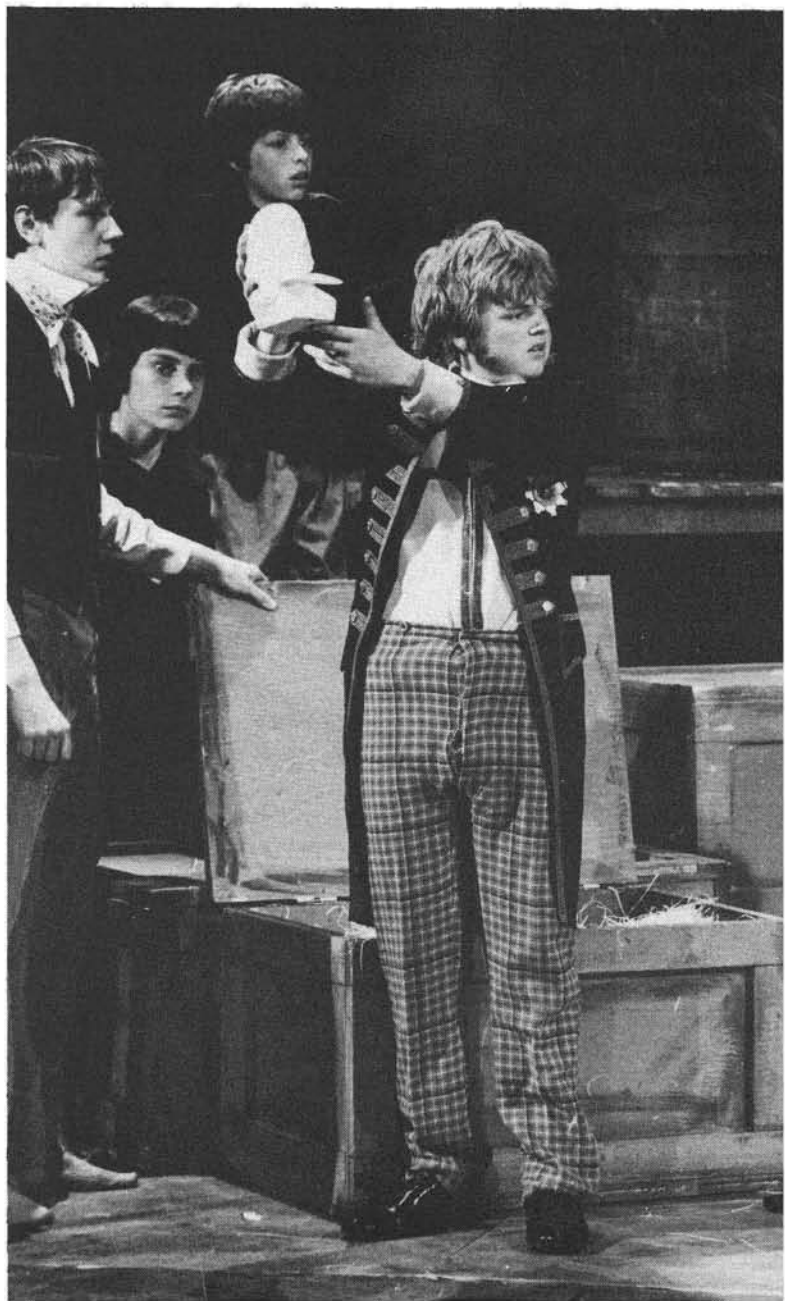
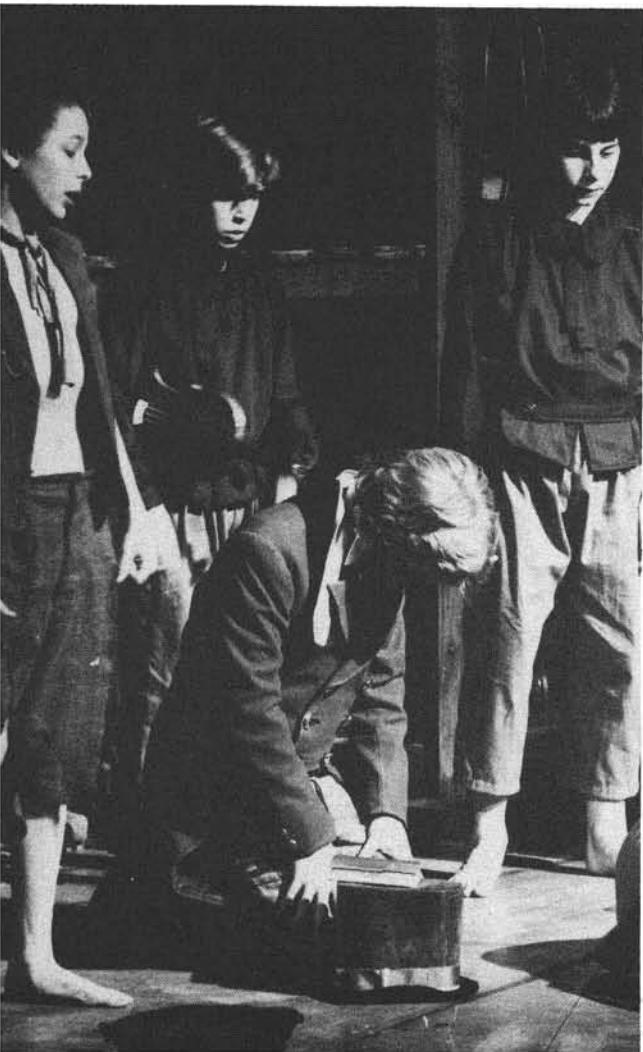
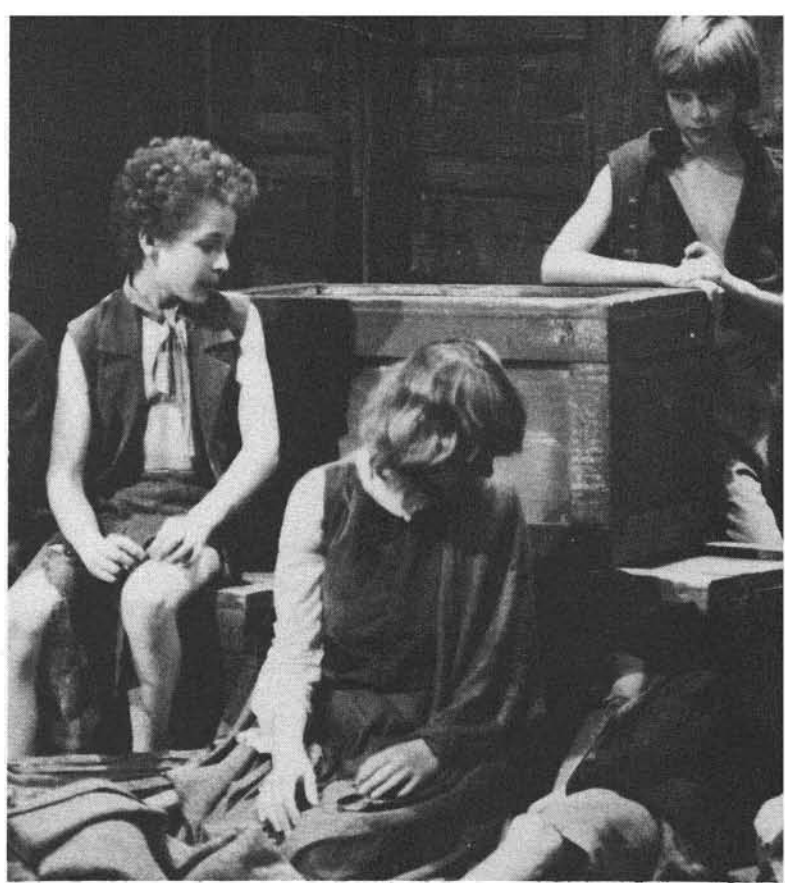
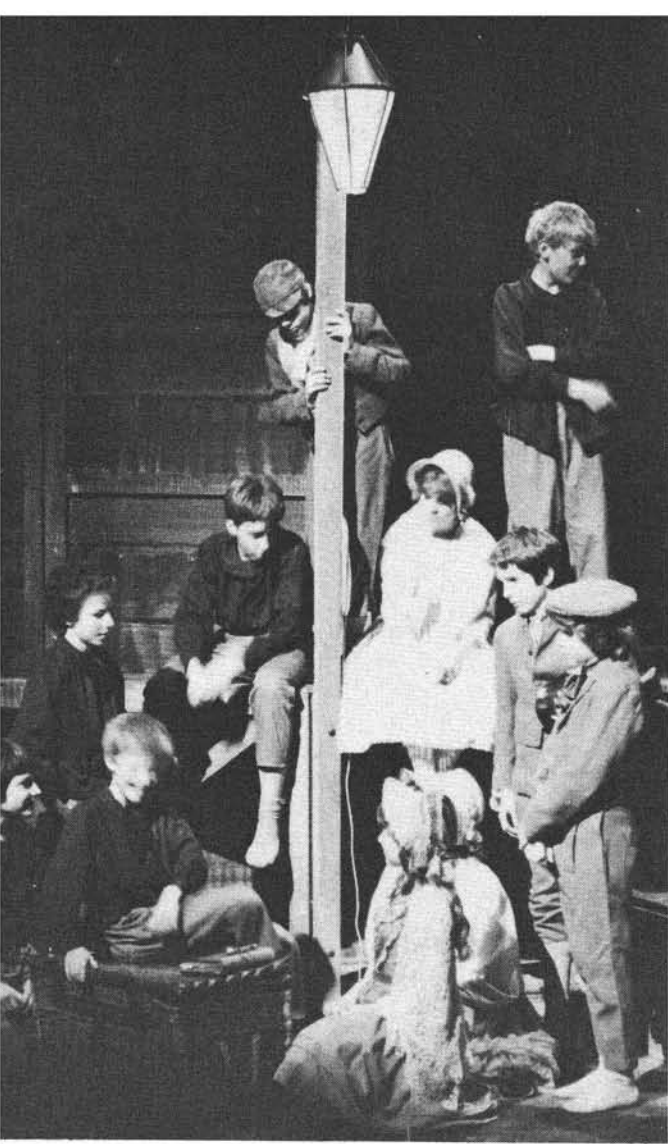
The last night, as in most productions, remains a blurred mystery to most of the cast and the party was a success!

The day of departure came and tears, which for the first week and a half had seemed impossible, seemed to flow from virtually every female in the cast (and the odd male), addresses exchanged, money repaid, hangovers in tow and sleep imminent we departed for Abingdon.

On reading this collection of memories I realise, to members of the cast, crew and indeed myself, this seems a shallow outline of events but in all honesty there is *too* much recollection for one article and some memories will sound better by word of mouth. For example I have not mentioned the gala meal times, publicity stunts, or Jason Kemp.....

And so to London!

Toby Jones (4)



UNCLE VANYA

Chekhov's plays have enjoyed a remarkable popularity in England over many years; contemporary writers have learnt much from his writing — his realism, his subtle blend of humour and sadness, his avoidance of extremes of attitude or behaviour — all this has contributed to a popularity that shows no signs of waning. On the other hand, these qualities themselves help to make him a difficult writer for a producer to stage. His plays demand considerable maturity and technical ability on the part of the actors, and mental agility from the audience.

Because of these demands, the producer must keep a very firm control of all aspects of the performance. Like the conductor of an orchestra, he needs to be able to vary the pace and emotional pitch to suit the needs of the play. He must also be able to rely on his actors to give him what he wants.

It was our great good fortune that for this production of Uncle Vanya we had a producer capable of playing Chekhov's music with real sensitivity and understanding, and the result was a most rewarding evening. As with a musical performance, one may question the interpretation — for my taste, the touch was not quite light enough; and we needed a rather greater sense of light and shade — but in the end this is a matter of personal taste. We were left with an impression of great seriousness of approach, an admirable devotion to the spirit of the play, and an attention to detail that is an essential requirement for a Chekhov production. Of course, the 'orchestra' must respond to the conductor's signals, and it was quite clear that, with some reservations, the cast was responding with the sort of sensitivity that that implies. What weaknesses there were derived mainly from inexperience.

On the whole, it was the girls in the cast who succeeded most fully. Sarah Cook, as the old nurse Marina, admirably caught the tone of the part, and was sentimental, nostalgic, and gently chiding in turns, all expressed with just the right degree of peasant simplicity. The more querulous Maria Vassilievna was excellently done by Janet Dominey. A lot of time and thought had clearly been spent on the aging process. Both girls used gesture and movement very well to express age. Equally good in a different way were Yeliena and Sonya (Sarah Jones and Karin Bradley). Their task presented more subtle difficulties since they were closer in age to their parts. But they showed a fine sense of period and style, and offered us a totally convincing rendering of the characters.

If the male parts were, on the whole, rather less successful, this is only relative to the high standards set by the girls. The same care, indeed devotion, had clearly gone into the study of the parts, and gesture, movement and vocal and facial expressions had been worked at in great detail; but whereas with the girls the result was quite natural, the boys sometimes retained a rather difficult awkwardness.

Paul Hambelton, as Astrov, expressed a kind of elegant world-weariness that is entirely appropriate to the part, but he was rather too morose and self-contained to convince us that he could fascinate two very different women, or that he would have the energy to devote himself to all his many pursuits. In him, and in Vanya (Gareth Butler), I missed the sense of nervous, neurotic frustration that lies at the heart of the play, so that in the final analysis Vanya's outburst and the famous pistol shot, though admirably done, left me unconvinced. The tension between Vanya, Astrov, the Professor and the girls did not grow organically, inexorably, through the Act, and the explosion when it came was not felt to be inevitable.

Rather more successful, partly because he had a more straightforward job, was Julius Green as the Professor. Julius is by now an experienced actor, and he gave in many ways the most accomplished performance of the evening. Like the girls, he had obviously given a lot of thought to the expression of age in voice and gesture. He shook and quavered very convincingly, though I did feel that sometimes his mannerisms got in the way of his performance.

Of the smaller parts, Paul Spencer gave us a nicely fatuous Telegin — funny, touching and rather pathetic in turns, and there was a pleasing cameo performance by Chris Newmark as the workman.

A Chekhov production depends a lot on good staging, costuming and lighting. The venue (the Unicorn) must have posed great problems; its character is so obtrusively 'Elizabethan', especially now that it has been repainted. But the set, which concentrated attention on furnishings and props rather than the backcloth, overcame this drawback and managed to convey an authentically Russian air to the scene. On the other hand, the costumes sometimes seemed obtrusively out of place. The women's dresses were uniformly excellent, and may partly explain the girls' relative success in performance. But the men were less adequately served. Their costumes tended to hang on them as if they were walking coat-hangers, and although a certain seediness was called for, perhaps it was taken a little too far.

Nevertheless, this was an admirably realised performance of a very demanding play. It was approached with an obvious dedication and seriousness, but this did not stop the humour, that is an essential part of Chekhov, from bursting through. A most worthwhile enterprise, in spite of the distressingly small audiences it attracted.

D. C. T.

OPEN HOUSE

"Open House" allowed all those with enough initiative to put on plays which specifically appealed to the actors involved, and the free-hand in producing was also extended to the audience so that informal dress created the relaxed and electric atmosphere necessary to receive the varied productions.

"Bovver" by Roy Minton was delivered with an energetic ferocity by James Thompson, Toby Jones and Tom Hyder. Whatever you thought of the play itself, Toby Jones' taciturn aggression, James Thompson's fevered social expositions and Tom Hyder's well-acted neurosis made an entertaining start to the evening.

Contrast, of course, was the distinguishing feature of the evening, and nothing could have been more different from "Bovver" than Pirandello's "The Man with the Flower in his mouth". Julius Green kept an unusually low profile in this play, which takes place in an all-night cafe in Rome, and let Nick Rawlinson put his all into the almost poetic intensity of his part. The overall effect of acting, scenery and lighting as the audience are gradually made aware of the reason for the main character's strange behaviour (that he's dying of cancer) made it a very moving performance.

"Out of the Flying Pan" took the evening into yet another gear when Andy Wright and Steve Russell as Diplomats performed an absurd satire on the rules of international diplomacy. The sound effects from S. A. Sedwards punctuated the General Haig type jargon situation with large explosions and multicoloured flashes, so that the audience felt at one moment that it was perhaps in a mad-house, and the next was quite assured that it was. Certainly the lunacy of war and international politics was admirably conveyed.

"Muck from Three Angles" exploited situation comedy by repeating the same situation three times once from each of the three characters' viewpoints. The "Muck" was mainly covering Nick North as a suitably dirty old man. This was definitely one of the funniest of the four plays and it would be hard to say who was better — Nick North's convincingly geriatric old man, Lisa Lipman's alternately maternal then amorous charms, or Bruce Brown-Grant's triumphantly virile then hysterically whimpering husband, but Bruce gets the prize for the most gratuitous swearing. The most amazing thing is that they did not noticeably mix up the scenes, and in fact all the actors-cum-producers should be given credit for putting on the plays in so little time. It was certainly an evening not easily forgotten.

Scott McCracken (VI)

THE MISER

"The Miser" has been referred to as a grim comedy, with its stress on the destructive power of greed on human relationships — children driven to deceit and theft in response to a pauper's avarice, but this was not the side that was stressed in the Middle School production. Harpagon, as played by Daniel Oppenheimer, was never a sinister figure — always convincing and sure of himself, but with a cheerful enthusiasm for his greed that prevented him being threatening. This set the tone for the whole production — the threat to happiness, particularly to the young people, could be seen, but it was never likely that the play would end in tragedy.

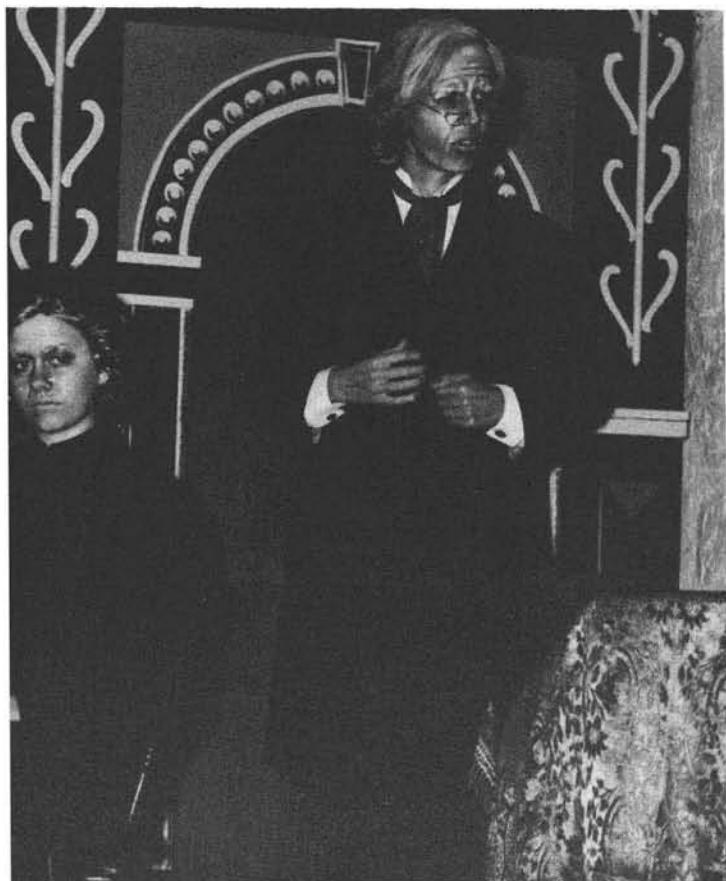
Undoubtedly the most difficult parts for middle school boys and girls to play are the young lovers, and here Sarah Bolton and Simon Walker, Louise Elliott and David Fisher gave Daniel Oppenheimer solid support and ensured the success of the production — they moved about the stage with poise and conviction and spoke their lines clearly and coherently. Simon Walker, in particular, had the flashing eye needed for the humour of the part.

In the smaller parts, Alison Jolly as Frosine and Richard Butterworth as Master Jacques gave the audience some highly enjoyable scenes. Alison has confidence and considerable stage presence; when her voice has become more flexible she will be ready for leading parts. Richard is a genuine comic who acts all the time he is on the stage.

Ross McCracken enjoyed himself as Le Fleche and gave us real pleasure, whilst Mark Weatherall gave a P.C. Plod quality to the Officer which was highly enjoyable. Emma Cox, Mark Boorman and Nigel Somerville all added to the pleasure of the evening too.

Lastly I must pay tribute to the costumes, which gave the play panache and a true look of the seventeenth century, combined with Mr. Hunter's set. I thoroughly enjoyed the production, which reminded me that Molière was himself an actor and producer, who could construct and pace a play to perfection.

K. G. H.



"DOCTOR FAUSTUS"

Marlowe's 'Doctor Faustus' is not an easy play to stage. It is believed to have been written by two authors, and the script's pace fluctuates wildly as a result. At least some of the 'worse' part of the play must be included, however, if only to pad out the otherwise all too brief and tense high drama. The nature of the storyline requires a great degree of self-control from all the actors, whilst only providing two satisfying roles, and, in addition, it is a tragedy, a type of play notoriously difficult to stage at any level.

I was therefore very impressed by Ian Macdonald's production. Cuts gave the play pace and vigour, and yet gave the audience a chance to breathe between the 'action' scenes. Notable too was the use of a modern dress chorus — Nick Rawlinson, a trick that added a touch of the unreal to the rest of the play which was performed in 'traditional' dress. Faustus played the Good and Bad Angels, as well as the Seven Deadly Sins, all of which built up the idea of his own, internal, struggle. Most impressive of all, however, was the exchange of the roles of Faustus and Mephistophiles by Scott McCracken and Julius Green alternating nights, the result being two entirely different plays: Scott's Faustus was a very human man brought low by evil forces, whilst Julius played a man brought down by his own pride and folly.

The supporting cast, although hampered by the nature of their parts, acted well, notably Huw Peach as the Old Man. Ben Burman, Edmund Butler and David Oppenheimer all acted with great enthusiasm; John Madelin was a suitably corrupt and ridiculous Pope; whilst Alex Cullen's appearance as Alexander the Great seemed all too brief. David Fisher and Rachel Stringfellow acted keenly and skillfully, aided by Kingsmill Bond who played the Horse Courser with evident gusto.

My only criticism of the production is that because of its 'rotating' nature most of the audience only saw half of it. I feel that perhaps it should have been cut further still, and both of the plays put on together, emphasising the degree of interpretations possible. Notwithstanding this, however, I enjoyed the play immensely and congratulate the entire cast on a very successful production of a very difficult play.

Dan Butler

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The 'Birthday Party' by Harold Pinter was performed in the Amey Hall in November by a group of upper-sixth formers; it was, I believe, the first play in the Amey Hall to have been inspired, acted and directed almost entirely independently of the teaching staff. No more striking indication of the growth of dramatic ability and enthusiasm within the school during the last few years could have been hoped for.

The order itself was a tall one: the play is long and complicated, requiring meticulous rehearsal so that the tempo does not flag. This was obviously done, since the result was a polished, thought-provoking and highly entertaining performance.



With such a small and obviously talented cast it would be invidious to select anyone for individual praise; but Bruce Brown-Grant's portrayal of Stanley — a man whose territory and tranquillity are suddenly and brutally shattered — deserves particular mention. Generally, the tense atmosphere, as the play wavers between comedy and tragedy, reality and fabrication, was admirably maintained throughout. Finally, the way in which the cast directed and organised themselves, using both the full potential of the Amey Hall facilities, and exploiting fully the dramatic potential of the play itself, can only be congratulated and admired by all those fortunate enough to see the play.

Ben Macintyre

"GUYS AND DOLLS"

"Guys and Dolls" was yet another splendid and enjoyable occasion. It was a daring choice because it is a difficult work, and much credit must be given both to the cast for their enthusiasm and to Nigel Brown the director for his thoughtful influence — striving for the highest standards — and for the way in which he integrated and co-ordinated the many different parts of the show. Perhaps, however, "Guys and Dolls" proved to be a little too demanding. This may have been due in part to the fact that it took place at a time when the School's most experienced (and most confident and relaxed) actors were committed to Oxbridge exams. Particularly, I believe, the outstanding quality of the productions in the Amey Hall has raised the expectations of the audiences. It is no longer sufficient to offer a "jolly good" performance which often disguises much stumbling effort on the part of the actors and even greater hilarity amongst their friends in the front row at muffed lines and failing props. "Guys and Dolls" was much in advance of this, but it did not quite reach the level of absolute professionalism which ought now to be sought after. Nevertheless I hope it is a tribute to everyone involved in the work of the last two years, and particularly to Nigel Brown, that it would now be inappropriate to review a School production in the generous spirit that one would review a local pantomime. Instead everything must be judged against the exacting standards of the professional theatre.

Like many musicals "Guys and Dolls" has a very strong melodramatic core. It provides the opportunity for indulging in scenarios and cameos and all the painful jokes that audiences love to groan at. There certainly were some memorable sketches: that at the Havanna nite-spot was outstanding, with Temperance — and Mission-leader extraordinaire Sarah Brown wrecked on baccardi before her downfall was completed by a sensuous Caribbean lilt. The atmosphere was wild and voluptuous, and all the funnier for being so unreal.

Unfortunately the standard wasn't consistently this high. The opening scene hinted at a confusion of clashing neon lights, fleeting faces and snippets of overheard conversation but proved rather drab and sequential. At other moments the performance lacked the swaggering hubris that epitomizes the stereotyped image of American gangsterland. This shortcoming was most apparent in the mis-casting of Nick Rawlinson as Sky Masterson: He was — and is — too gentlemanly to be the leader of the underworld, and it was difficult to believe that he could put out a contract on a defaulting crap-player, let alone fell Big Jule.

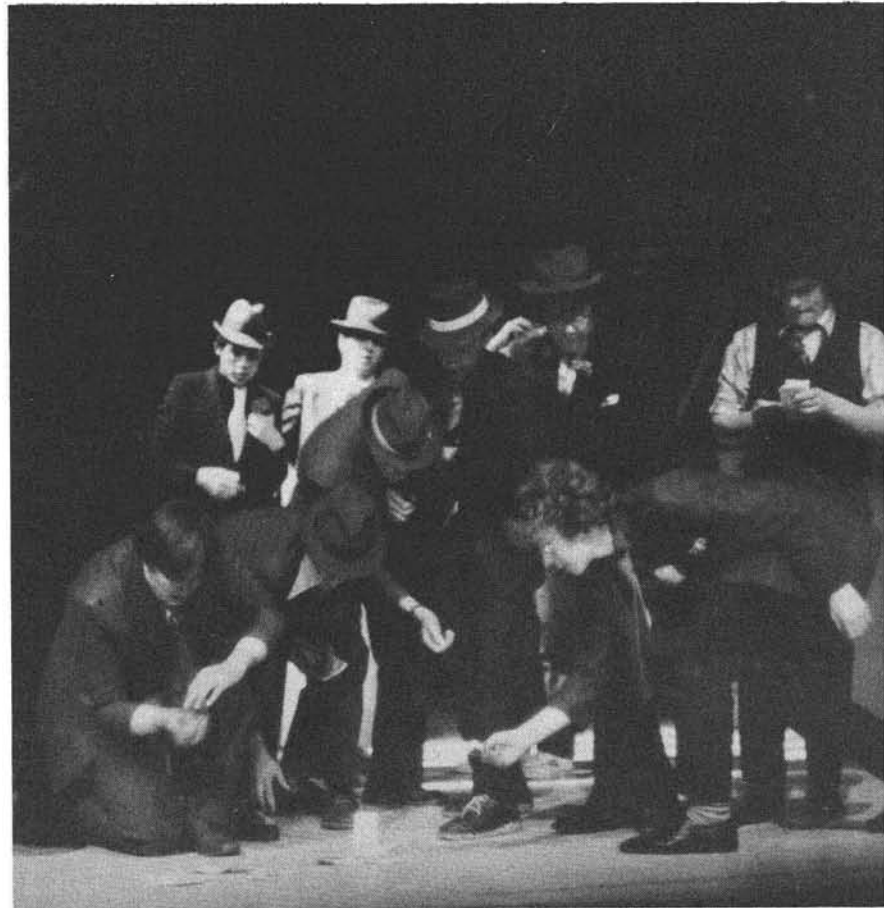
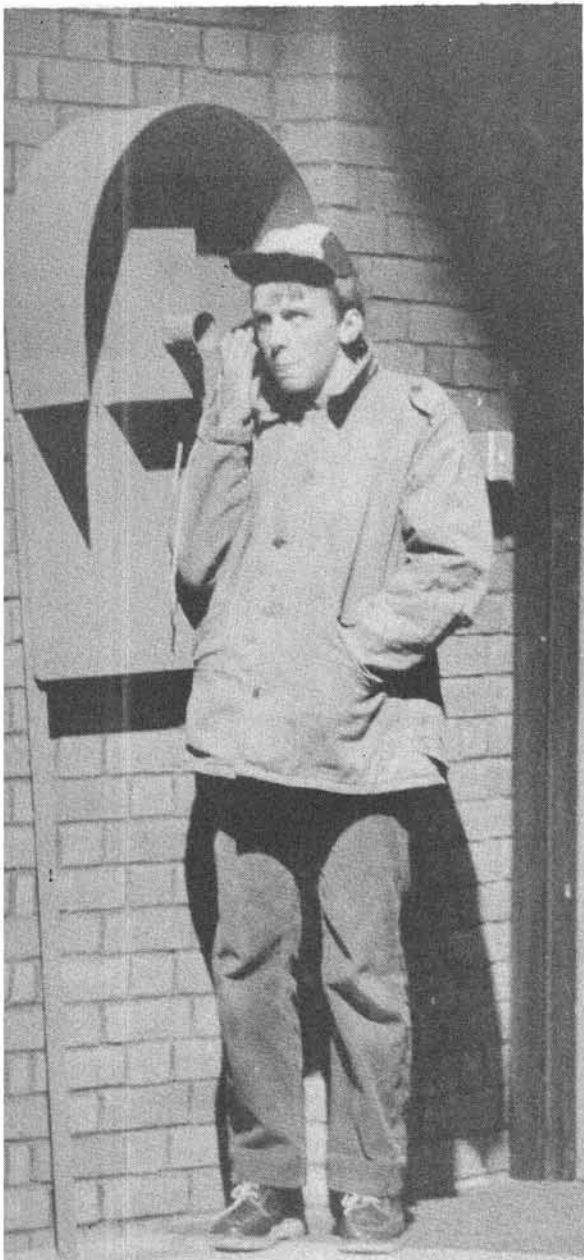
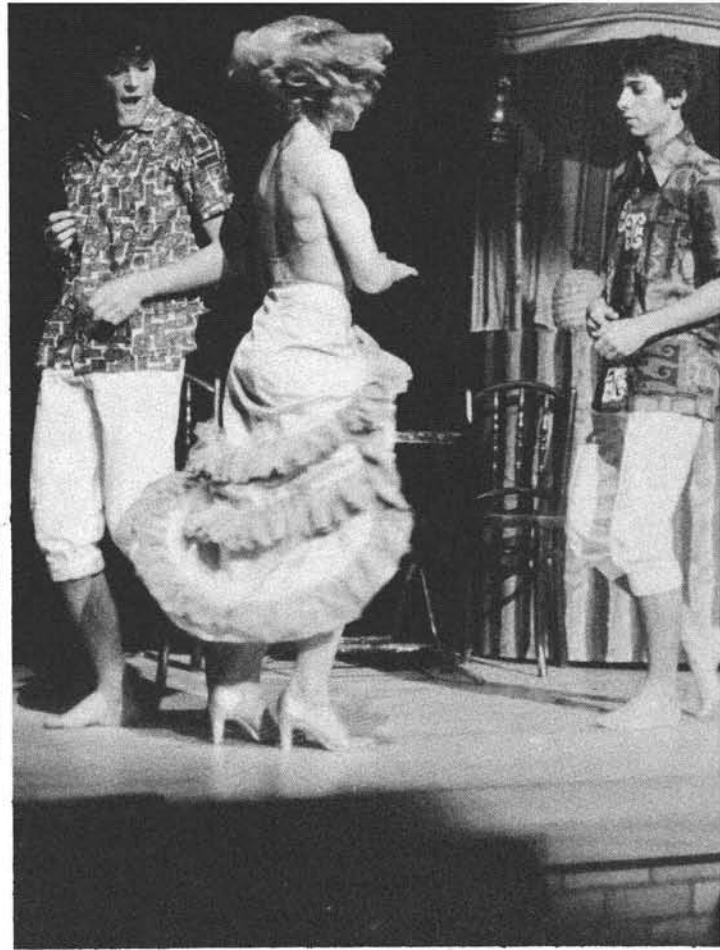
Similarly the boast that "I'm a big sinner: if you get me it's eight to five the rest'll follow" raised a rather hollow laugh. In fact it was only the impish Harry the Horse who was entirely convincing in these throwaway lines, although Karin Bradley as a very frustrated yet faithful Adelaide successfully summarized her broody longing for marriage in the phrase "a home, wallpaper and bookends". Hugh Jones was splendid as Nathan Detroit: he was a

bundle of contrasts — fundamentally evasive and deceitful, outwardly brash but undoubtedly cowardly, apparently shallow but possibly sincere in his attraction to Adelaide. This last ambiguity was left unresolved by his song "Sue me, Sue me, shoot bullets through me": was it really tragic and penitent?

The story-line, which is something of an adult fairy-tale, is really only incidental to the success of the performance. Two aspects are crucial: the individual scenes, each of which must be as taut and self-contained as sketches in a revue, and which I felt were of rather varied standard; and secondly, of course, the music. The band especially was outstanding: whether jaunty and swinging or reflective and melancholic, Terry James always judged its tempo well. His skill was largely responsible for setting the mood of each scene, and often it was its lead that seemed to help the actors relax. Amongst the performers themselves, Anne Lewis was in a class of her own: her voice has a beautiful clarity and precision which ensured that every time she sang there was a respectful hush among the audience. Stephen Clarke as Nicely-Nicely gave an extremely popular rendering of "Sit down, you're rocking the boat" although I thought he could have been a little more dominating. Sadly, the chorus was generally disappointing, squandering its opportunity for a lusty sing-song, but, much to its credit, the most famous chorus, "Luck Be a Lady Tonight", was an exception, being very powerful, and helping to create a very tense atmosphere for the 'sewer' scene.

The braveness of the performance made the technical aspects of production seem relatively incidental. The scenery and costume, and to a lesser extent the lighting, were all rather ordinary, but these did not matter when the underlying spirit of the whole show was so light-hearted. It was an evening of easy entertainment highlighted by several near riotous moments (at least half the audience enjoyed the Hot-Box strip-show!). Above all, the obvious pleasure that the actors felt in what they were doing was quickly conveyed to the audience, and once their attention was won there was no danger of its being lost again.

Charles Prest



EXPEDITIONS

SPONSORED WALK 1981

It had been decided by the powers that be, that once again the school should undertake another charity raising function, and that this time, in line with the educational cuts, the boys should organize it themselves.

The charity chosen to reap the fruits of this little venture was the ACROSS fund, as then unheard of within school circles.

Thus, with hasty, though meticulous, organization, about 400 pupils tramped the Downs on a cleverly organized route. The success of the walk lay, in fact, in this route which, through its planning, encompassed a variety of environments to upset the normal tedium of a sponsored walk.

The money was slow coming in, but eventually the staggering sum of £3000 and a bit (whatever happened to the bit!) was raised.

To show their gratitude for this tremendous effort the ACROSS JUMBULANCE included our school in their itinerary to show us what the money had been spent on.

This made it all seem worthwhile. Everybody was overwhelmed by this 18 metre 18 litre mechanical giant that provides the handicapped and disabled with opportunities previously not thought possible. The money had been well spent.

Thanks for the venture must go to A & C Coaches who for once arrived on time, and got us there and back free of charge; to Tim Haworth for his phenomenal work load and for arranging a pub en route; to Messrs. Drummond-Hay and Wilmore for buying the drinks, and finally to all the walkers who, through their own sheer hard work and effort helped others not so fortunate as ourselves; special mention must be made of Toby Screech in regard to this latter point, who raised over £200 by himself.

Finally, we both hope that this charity will be 'adopted' by the school in the future.

Gareth Harper
Mark Emerton

SKI TRIP TO THE AUSTRIAN ALPS

Scarcely before the effects of New Year had worn off, fifteen upper-sixth formers under the admirable leadership of Dr. Wilmore, Mr. Robertson and Miss Reynolds set off via Yugoslavia (where all that balalaika music comes from — if you can get it through customs) for a week's skiing in Austria. We were based near Villach, a charming urban sprawl of which we saw little, closeted as we were in the Hotel Egger, an establishment best suited to the twelve-year-old appetite and juvenile sense of monetary abandonment.

Every morning after a meagre breakfast heavy on the black coffee we were bussed up to the picturesque Villacher Alpe to do our skiing. The weather was remarkably mild, although by the end of the week a little more snow would have been in order — most of it had disappeared off the slopes inside the gloves/ski-boots/assorted orifices of those who had fallen over earlier in the week, leaving only ice behind them. As a group we ranged markedly in ability: from those who could scarcely stand and knew not their snowploughs from their "stem christies", to an intrepid band led by Noel Williams and Ian Robertson who were outskiing the native Austrians. Therefore, for teaching purposes, we were split into several classes. I had the good fortune to be in the Remedial class so had a fair share of the laughs, but everybody agreed the instructors were excellent, despite an infuriating ability to remain upright — even when skiing backwards.

After a pitiful lunch served by a very friendly Egyptian waiter, it was possible to forget about the pains in your toes and the correct methods of tackling ice patches or moguls, and get on to do what you'd come for — to take as many risks as possible and scare yourself silly. It was tremendously exhilarating, and, at the end of the week, having mastered your own skiing gremlin, immensely satisfying. The afternoon also provided some of the funniest moments: a demonstration of the correct use of the yodel — hurtling towards a group of frightened Austrians, unable to turn or stop, yelling "Gerrourofmyway!" it produced remarkable and fortuitous results. "Niogel" Marsh after a violent collision with a tree on Day One, assiduously applied himself to learning to turn, having done which he was able thereafter to avoid further depletion of the Austrian pine "stock". Alternatively, on the visual side, the expression on a party member's face, airborne, split-seconds before crashing resoundingly into Miss Reynolds. Memories-for-a-lifetime, and there were many of them.

Despite the hit-and-run nature of our skiing we only had one injury: the unfortunate Simon Jozwiak who was nastily perforated by a ski-pole on the first day. However, he laughed it off manfully and spent the rest of his time in the company of nubile maidens. I feel he had a pretty good deal.

Unfortunately we suffered the same complaint as seems to strike all these tours; namely there was little to do in the evenings except chat about the day's adventures on the slopes. One evening we were ferried by the dinner wagon into Villach to see an ice hockey match, which was great entertainment, though not as violent as advertised. Our remaining time however was frittered away drinking and chatting up the fifteen-year-old ladies from Brentwood Convent — that's near Landun, innit, eh?

It didn't take long for the week to go past. It had been exacting, challenging, but well worthwhile. You learnt a little about yourself, and those you were with, and we all felt a great sense of achievement.

So finally we left, well laden with trophies of our ability, for a murderous coach journey to a three hour delay in the snow at Ljubljana, worrying whether they'd let your blood through customs without charging you for it. Incidentally, the Yugoslavians have a great skill for staring, so if stuck in their departure lounge, don't play aeroplanes around Tito's statue, like we did.

Many thanks to Dr. Wilmore, Mr. Robertson and Miss Reynolds for a super trip and what was, in the words of our Mr. Halstead look-alike rep Mike; "a grand week on the piste."

N. Rawlinson (VI)

ARGENTAN EXCHANGE — APRIL 1982

After a delightful crossing, during which nearly everybody was sick, a record number of over 100 pupils from Abingdon, John Mason, and St. Helen's schools arrived in Argentan to be "distributed" among the "prearranged" families, whom most only knew by name. This emotional ceremony took the best part of an hour, but was quite amusing when the French families started crowding round the coaches, waving and pointing at us as if we were in a cage at a zoo!

The first few days were spent at various schools in town, which start at 0800hrs and finish at 1700hrs. Abingdonians went to a wide variety of classes and helped to run the English lessons, which gave the teachers "10 minutes off" here and there.

Another trip to a local "ciderie" was organised, though it was not the same one as visited last year. For those less interested in cider, and more into horses, there was a trip to a nearby stud. The big day out, though, was the excursion to Rouen where we explored the historic town and found out a lot about Jeanne D'Arc.

For the rest of the time the pupils were with the families, but they often met-up in town or at the swimming pool. The majority of us came home on the Saturday, although Mr. Simpson stayed behind with a group of footballers due to play in Argentan over the weekend. They returned on Monday evening, arriving back, tired, on Tuesday morning but fit enough to go to Alton Towers with a coach load of other French and English on Wednesday. On Thursday we all went to London, and were free to show the French around ourselves and therefore do what we wanted.

The following Monday there was a trip to Windsor where French and English explored the Castle and town. In the afternoon we went to the safari park, where some of us were lucky enough to get "drenched" by the killer-whale.

The French left on Wednesday after finding out that John Mason School had already started! Many thanks to Mr. Simpson and his wife, who made sure nobody fell off the boat etc., and helped to organise the whole trip. What a shame Mr. Willerton couldn't come. He had 'flu instead!

Simon Weaver, 4

HAMMARBANK '82

On arrival in the Lake District we went on our first walk (this was a comparatively easy one compared to the rest of the walks), but to us it was very exhausting.

We had all put thick sweaters on and were soon boiling over and we took off our jumpers. Towards the top of one of the pikes we were all walking like old men with our backs bent forward. We were absolutely exhausted and kept making 'subtle' hints like: "Can we have a rest Sir!" and Mr. Drummond-Hay kept repeating "only a few more yards lads." He repeated this answer about ten times and then suddenly we caught a glimpse of the pike, at least 700 yards away, and so there were noises like people about to faint with exhaustion. Eventually (after some persuading from Mr. Gasson) we had a rest but this lasted for only a minute. Things like this carried on all through the week. Another such example was when we were going up Great Gable, which was a climb that involved extremely loose stones, and of course we took the hardest route up and on the way again we were pleading for a rest.

Mr. Drummond-Hay's favourite phrase that day was: "It's all in the mind lads!" and he was using this as an answer. Then I realized I needed the toilet. I yelled repeatedly: "Sir I need a Jimmy" to which he replied "It's all in the mind lads!" "Oh no it's not!" I said once.

Eventually though, we got to the top and I was able to relieve myself.

I think my two most frightening moments were when I was on Striding Edge, and Great Gable.

As I have said, Great Gable was full of loose stones and one error and you would be slipping all the way down mounds of stones which were likely to break every bone in your body.

The other frightening moment of course, was Striding Edge and Helvellyn. Although once you have done it you feel you can do anything.

When we went across we had no ropes or anything to support us, so there was no safety at all. I had one scary moment when I had managed to stand on a rock and my foot slipped and my heart had a quick "emergency-action stations" pause. Luckily my foot stopped travelling about 2 feet down the rock, but it was enough to almost lose balance.

Our group met one man who had taken his bicycle all the way up Striding Edge. I don't know why, maybe it was a bet.

Out of several hundred things I must have learnt, one I think is that Mr. Drummond-Hay is a bit of a sadist. Also how painful blisters can get, I had a real 'whoppa'!

I enjoyed the whole holiday — much better than sitting in front of the television eating biscuits. The bits I like especially are spending all my pocket money on sweets and drink, and playing table tennis (even though I'm useless).

Over all I thought it was a good and rewarding *hard slog*.

Thomas Yorke 2D

*Mountaineering
at Hammarbank
for the 6th form*



6th FORM MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

Over Lent half-term a small party of sixth-formers mainly lower sixth, accompanied by Mr. Haynes, visited the Lake District for a week. As usual we were staying at the Hammarbank coach-house in Windermere, run by Pete Natrass of the Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team. We were instructed by three other experienced mountaineers, Ian, Greg and Ernie, two of whom were also members of Mountain Rescue. They gave us invaluable advice and instruction in navigation, fell-walking and scrambling techniques, which were used with great enthusiasm all round.

Although there was little snow, the weather was cold and foggy and gave us quite a challenge when climbing up Lord's Rake, Sharp Edge and Jack's Rake, the three harder scrambles of the week, where we had to make use of ropes at some points.

There was a wide range of talents in the party: on top of Helvellyn the bridge players had time for a quick hand, whilst photographers had a field day photographing the fascinating ice formations and extremely good views, 3000 feet down, when the fog occasionally cleared.

Lower down in the valleys the weather was warmer, and we often ran into marshland and fog patches unexpectedly. There were various consequences, one member managed to get stuck in a deep bog, and more than once we convinced the instructors that we were lost.

During the week we climbed many peaks including Helvellyn, Weatherlam, Pavey Ark, Crinkle Crags and Scafell. We also visited the Ambleside Mountain rescue post for an evening, where we had a most interesting time carrying out a mock search on the maps, and viewing the equipment. We were also given a fascinating set of slide shows by the instructors, and by chance a computer found its way into the annexe for an evening.

Thanks must go to Pete Natrass, organiser of the annexe at Hammarbank, and of course to Mr. Haynes for organising the whole expedition so well.

T. G. Lake (6)

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO SWANSEA

As in previous years the Lower Sixth Geography Expedition was based in the excellent facilities of Swansea University, while the surrounding area within the Gower Peninsula provided the basis for our fieldwork. Swansea itself is a very good example of the growth and decline of an industrial settlement and the peninsula offered striking contrasts in aspects of both physical and human geography.

Although the group of eighteen boys, accompanied by Mr. Eden and Mr. Gasson, was possibly too large for optimum results, most of us found at least one part of the work interesting — whether it was a study of industrial dereliction in the Lower Swansea Valley or the contrasting

features of depositional and erosional coastlines. The few scarce moments that were left to us were spent profitably using the University's recreational facilities available to us, as well as getting trapped in the lift.

Our thanks must go to HE and AJG for maintaining good humour throughout, despite having walked seven or eight miles for the second time in the pouring rain or having just snapped the ignition key for one of the minibuses, and for organising a successful trip.

A. Collins (6)

CADET CAMP AT R.A.F. GUTERSLOH, WEST GERMANY — EASTER 1982

Visit to the Inner Border

For almost two miles the bus had been travelling through the wooded country on muddy tracks. Mist clung to the trees, there was a slight suggestion in the mind of claustrophobia. We stopped abruptly and the doors swung open. Our guide, Jack Jones, of the British Frontier Force, climbed in. "Remember, keep moving, no attempt at communication with the East German guards, and respect your uniform." With this final reminder we shambled off the bus with an air of uncertainty.

From where we stood we could see the actual fence some thirty metres away through the light undergrowth. It was about eleven feet high, very stark, and forbidding. The contrast between our side and theirs was very marked. The fence bends back at the top towards the East German side. It is fitted with tripwire and anti-personnel shrapnel bombs, also on the East German side. There is a wide raked area of earth, some of it mined, checked for footprints every morning, and then a small road. Propaganda from the East Germans is dedicated to showing that all this is to keep us out!

In the distance a control tower looked starkly black against the sky. Someone moved forward to take a photograph. "Don't step into that ditch son, or you'll find yourself in East Germany."

It came as something of a shock to realise that the insignificant line of marker posts just a few feet in front of us was the actual border. Signs told that the border posts had been erected by the West Germans, based on the old Prussian border and decided arbitrarily at Yalta in 1945 by the big three. It took no account of present regional divisions in Germany and consequently divided families, friends, and in some cases whole communities.

The party moved on towards checkpoint Alpha. A little further north we stopped by a piece of road which runs up the border from the west and simply ceases to exist where that line of little wooden posts cuts across. We were confronted by our first sight of East German border guards, the closest about twenty paces away and on the

western side of the wire. The Border Guard Force is 20,000 strong, all conscripts and dedicated communists, who for the duration of an eighteen month duty are forbidden to wear civilian clothes, and only receive two weeks leave and about twenty dm per month.

Crossing from East to West is officially described as 'extremely perilous.' Some thirty persons a year manage it along the British patrolled section which is 500 miles long. The total length of frontier is 1,500 miles and costs the eastern forces approximately £5 million per mile in annual upkeep.

Finally our party reached checkpoint Alpha where we were photographed and counted, probably not for the first time that day. We kept moving to make it difficult for the guards as they compiled their notes on our rank insignia and any identifying information.

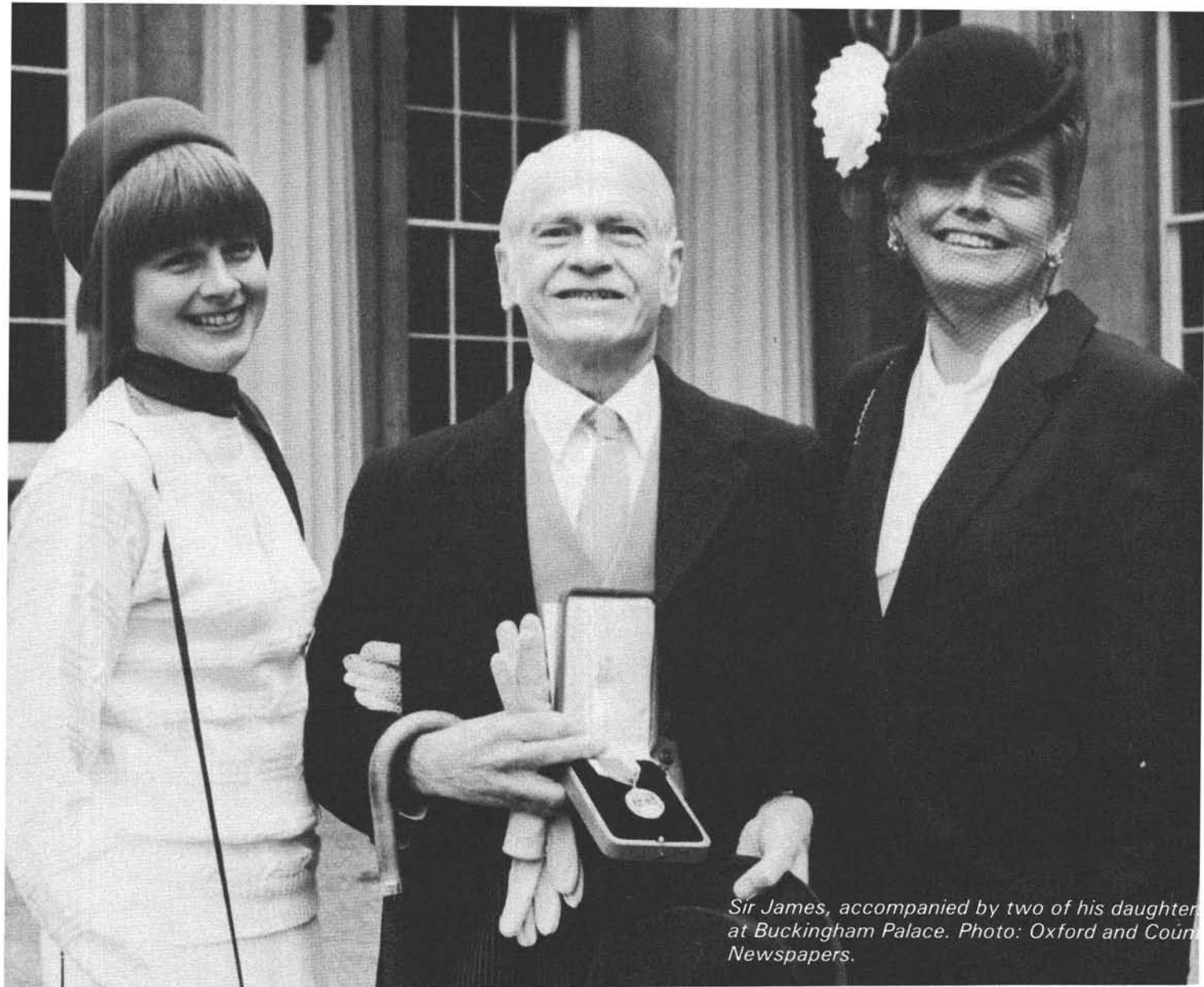
The majority of the East German civilian population have never seen the border except in propaganda photographs and newspaper articles.

One exception to this is a divided village community sliced apart by the border defences. From our vantage point beside an inn we looked over concrete walls and across some hundred metres or so of raked and floodlit field on the far side of the fence. The woman who owned the inn had a brother living in the eastern part of the village who she had not seen for twenty years. She was interviewed for a British T.V. programme last year and because of this she has recently been told that she will not be allowed a permit to see him for at least another nine years. This was a bitter reminder to us all that the cruel reality of this border is about people torn apart and not about land divided.

The visit had held us all with a strange fascination and left us with vivid and permanent images. Previously our concepts had been second-hand, but now we were privileged to know.

Geoffrey Sutton (VI)
C.J.B.





Sir James, accompanied by two of his daughters at Buckingham Palace. Photo: Oxford and County Newspapers.

LOOKING BACK AGAIN

By Sir James Cobban

We offer warmest congratulations to Sir James Cobban on his knighthood in the New Year's Honours List. To celebrate this accolade we reprint the following account of how he has spent the first ten years of his retirement. The article was first printed in 'Conference' earlier this year and we are most grateful to the Editor for his permission to include it here:

When I retired in 1970 I didn't have anything laid on, and I vaguely envisaged spending the twilight years of my life (that is how another ex-HM, who ought to have known better, described them in a card of good wishes) in growing roses and pottering about the house. To relieve the expected tedium, I even bought a square of canvas and an assortment of coloured wool so that I could settle down by the fire and make a rug.

Somehow it didn't turn out like that. It started in a way with the then Bishop of St. Albans, that great man Robert Runcie, who invited me to chair a special commission to look into the set-up of the Church in Bedford. One thing led to another, and before I knew what was happening I found myself a full-time busybody. Which is all very well, until Busybody realises that he has no secretary and has to do all his own typing and filing.

Broadly speaking, my activities have fallen under three heads. The first is the Law. There is

good reason why so many HMs can put JP after their names. By and large they have — or should have — the qualities that are needed; and they can usually arrange their calendars to fit in with the demands of the court. It works both ways. It is good for the headmaster to have an outside interest and to find a form of public service which is completely free from party politics. Certainly I can look back on my ten years' stint as chairman as one of my more worth-while activities. As such, too, I went on to membership of the Authority controlling one of the major police forces in the country, a job of enthralling interest which strengthened my admiration for a body of dedicated men and women. I also lectured for some years — just over seventy times in all — to each new intake at the Police Initial Training School at Eynsham which catered for eight large midland forces. My theme happened to be 'Driving Behaviour and Attitudes'. My daughters, who have never had a proper respect for my driving, found unseemly mirth in this.

As for the Church, I was lucky in that Synodical Government got off the ground in the very month that I retired. Since 1970 then I have been the senior lay representative from Oxford on the General Synod, a body with wide responsibilities and a complicated procedure. Our lengthy debates — we sit for the better part of a week, three times a year — have not been entirely in vain. We have done much to improve the 'housekeeping' of the Church. With titanic labour we have produced a

new Alternative Service Book. We have taken hesitant steps towards the ordination of women and the reform of our marriage laws. And we still have the opportunity, in the Covenanting Proposals, to redeem our failure to go through with the Anglican-Methodist Reunion Scheme. For the past three years too I have had the privilege of being one of the panel of chairmen. It is not an easy job, especially during a big debate when the television cameras are on you.

Outstanding bishops

There's a lot of work too at diocesan level, where I have served as Chairman of the House of Laity under two outstanding bishops in succession. My home parish is surprisingly well-equipped with clergy, so I preach around, sometimes to a handful of the faithful in a little country church, on one never-to-be-forgotten occasion in Washington Cathedral. As a journalist *manqué*, I enjoy working on the Board of the *ODM*, our diocesan magazine, which is rather more glossy than most. Through USCL I can dabble in publishing in a small way. And as a member of ACCM Selection Conferences I can help to assess the young entry. This is undoubtedly the most awe-ful responsibility that a layman can undertake. I come back after three days exhilarated — and utterly exhausted.

But of course it is Education that has taken up most of my time. It would be tedious even to list all those London-based committees with their cryptic acronyms. But it is there that I have had the privilege of working with men like John Belstead and George Sinclair on GBA, with stalwarts like Kitty Anderson, Hubert Ashton, Betty Johnston and Peter Mason (whose efforts for the Cause have never been fully recognised) on the old Direct Grant Joint Committee. Through no merit of my own, I just happened to be around in the thick of the unsuccessful fight to save Direct Grant, in the successful launching of the Assisted Places Scheme.

Age-limit

You get a little nearer the coal-face governing schools. There is much to be said for putting an ex-HM on the board — of any school but his own! He can interpret governors to HM, HM to governors. My own fiefs extended from Wellington (*governing* Frank Fisher?) and Stowe, *via* a college of FE, a girls' (DG) school, and several preparatory schools, to a little single-teacher primary school in a village some miles from my own home. Some schools have an age-limit of seventy for governors. There was one school I was particularly sad to leave after a connection going back for thirty-three years, but I couldn't complain as I had myself unthinkingly written the age-limit into the constitution when rewriting it years ago. I still have a toe-hold at Stowe, and every six months I fly out to Athens with Roger Ellis of Marlborough to see the magnificent job that Tom Howarth is doing at Campion. And only last month I found myself put on the board of a theological college in Oxford.

Prize-givings are another point of contact. I have officiated at upwards of forty in my time. I hasten to add that this does not mean forty speeches — just one, suitably adapted, which has grown a lot with the years. You learn quite a lot about the school from them, not least from the actual

distribution. Do the recipients look you squarely in the eye? How do they respond to the unpredictable and sometimes grossly unfair remarks you make to them? Wild horses on bended knee will not drag from me the name of the school where chairman and HM in rapid succession announced their totally unexpected resignations before I was called on to address an audience stunned by this double bomb-shell.

Decent interval

Of course you keep well away from your own old school except by special invitation and — after a decent interval — for the occasional Old Boys' function. There was a year when I found myself President of one Old Boys' Club, President-elect of another. Dennis Silk of Radley has been awfully kind. He has invited me over occasionally to talk to his sixth formers. Aged war-horse responds with forced vitality to sound of trumpet.

There have been odd jobs too, such as interviewing for the British Council, or advising a firm of management consultants, or giving the one-off lecture at conferences and the like. I am still not quite sure how I once found myself talking to the Post-Graduate School of Law and Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. Then I was in on the ground floor of the new system of local government, with a couple of years on one of the new district councils.

After-dinner speaking is an occupational hazard for a busybody. The annual jamboree of the Coroners' Society gave me a unique opportunity of reminding them that all over England people were dying to meet them. One way of cutting down engagements is to make a firm rule always to turn down an invitation that begins 'We hear you are a very funny speaker'.

Priorities

I couldn't have led such a busy life if I had not had a devoted elder sister to look after me. And my four daughters and seven grandchildren help me to remember what are the things that really matter. In some ways my daughters are nearer to me now than when they were younger and around the house, and when, with a wrong sense of priorities, I consistently neglected them in the supposed interests of the School. And nobody could have better friends than I. I am particularly grateful to those youngish Old Boys who come and walk with me. I shall long remember the elation of climbing the sharp end of Pen-y-ghent with one of them on one of the hottest days of the late summer, just before my seventy-first birthday.

I have said nothing about economic or social adjustment, or of the personal problems of growing old. If this is anything at all, it is a kind of *NUNC DIMITTIS* sung by someone who is beginning to read the last chapter of Ecclesiastes with a little more understanding, someone too who has experienced the extremes of joy and sorrow but who retains an unshakeable belief in the ultimate power of good — and in the potential goodness of young people: and who thanks God for five things — faith, family, friends, fitness, and the fulfilment that comes from always having had the good fortune to be doing a worthwhile job. What more can man want?

And that piece of canvas and the wool? Well, they are still there in the drawer waiting for me.

BOAT CLUB

SUMMER TERM 1981

FIRST VIII

After a heartening first term of training, this summer term's rowing started a week into the Easter holidays with a new Donoratico eight, called 'Dick Eason' and kindly named for us by Mrs. Eason at the beginning of term. The summer began with a nine man squad and high spirits. Training progressed smoothly to Mortlake Spring Regatta, where the eight double-entered Junior and Senior C Vllls and were beaten in both first rounds by Winchester 1st VIII who were also double-entered. We were pleased, though, to lose by only $1\frac{1}{4}$ lengths in our first encounter and to push even harder in our second race to lose by $\frac{3}{4}$ length. We rowed well and Winchester was one of the only three crews to beat us in the season.

The training continued with increased hope and vigour. The middle four trained briefly in a four to row at Walton Junior, where they rowed extremely smoothly to win Junior Coxed IVs. This encouraged the eight and our next event was Senior C Vllls on the Saturday of half term. The opposition was strong, but we rowed through Pembroke College, Lady Margaret and Oundle to win comfortably, surprising ourselves by our technique and fitness! This success continued at Hereford where we rowed down an early lead of Cheltenham College 1st VIII and won by $\frac{3}{4}$ length, breaking the course record by ten seconds.

Concentration then turned to the two big events: the National Schools' Regatta and Henley. At Nottingham conditions were bad, with times being up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes slow over the full 1500 metres. Our first round aim was simply to qualify for the final and this we did, coming third to Pangbourne and Tiffin. Conditions for the final were a little better and at 500 metres we were second, half a length behind Pangbourne. At 1000 metres we were one length behind Pangbourne and clear of the rest of the crews. We managed to hold off late challenges to finish second — the best Abingdon result in this event ever.

Henley was the climax to the year's rowing. We started training there a week before and we approached the first round against Monmouth with confidence — justified, as it turned out, since we beat them by eight seconds. Our second round was against the eventual winners and American Junior Champions, Holy Spirit High School. This was more dramatic since we performed a Kamikaze collision with a four just before the start and smashed a shoulder in our boat. The race was postponed until the evening, the Americans being both very understanding and helpful, when we rowed in a Christchurch College eight with Oriel riggers. We rowed hard, but it was difficult to cope with a completely new sort of boat and rig and we lost by four lengths — and Holy Spirit was the last crew to beat us.

The year wound up with Senior C Vllls at Bedford where we won again and equalled the course record, completing a very happy season for which the eight would like to thank Mr. Potter for his three years of patient and enthusiastic coaching.

Matthew Hunt (VI)

COLTS' EIGHTS

A and B crews were swiftly selected in outings before term and the A crew had the pleasure of rowing in a new Eton College Boathouse Eight, called 'The Abbot of Abingdon' and christened jointly by Richard Emerton and Mark Andrews, our two new Oxford Blues, at the beginning of term.

Progress was quick up to Mortlake Spring Regatta where we won J16 Vllls with some confident and effective rowing, giving our new boat a suitable start in life. A few days later the squad went to Carmel Regatta and rowed in a variety of boats. A pair from the A crew won J16 Pairs and John Schofield reached the final of J16 Sculls. The A crew four lost its final and the B crew fours both rowed well but both lost to the same crew from Windsor. The following weekend the B crew rowed at Walton Junior and lost to KCS, Wimbledon, who the A crew had beaten at Mortlake.

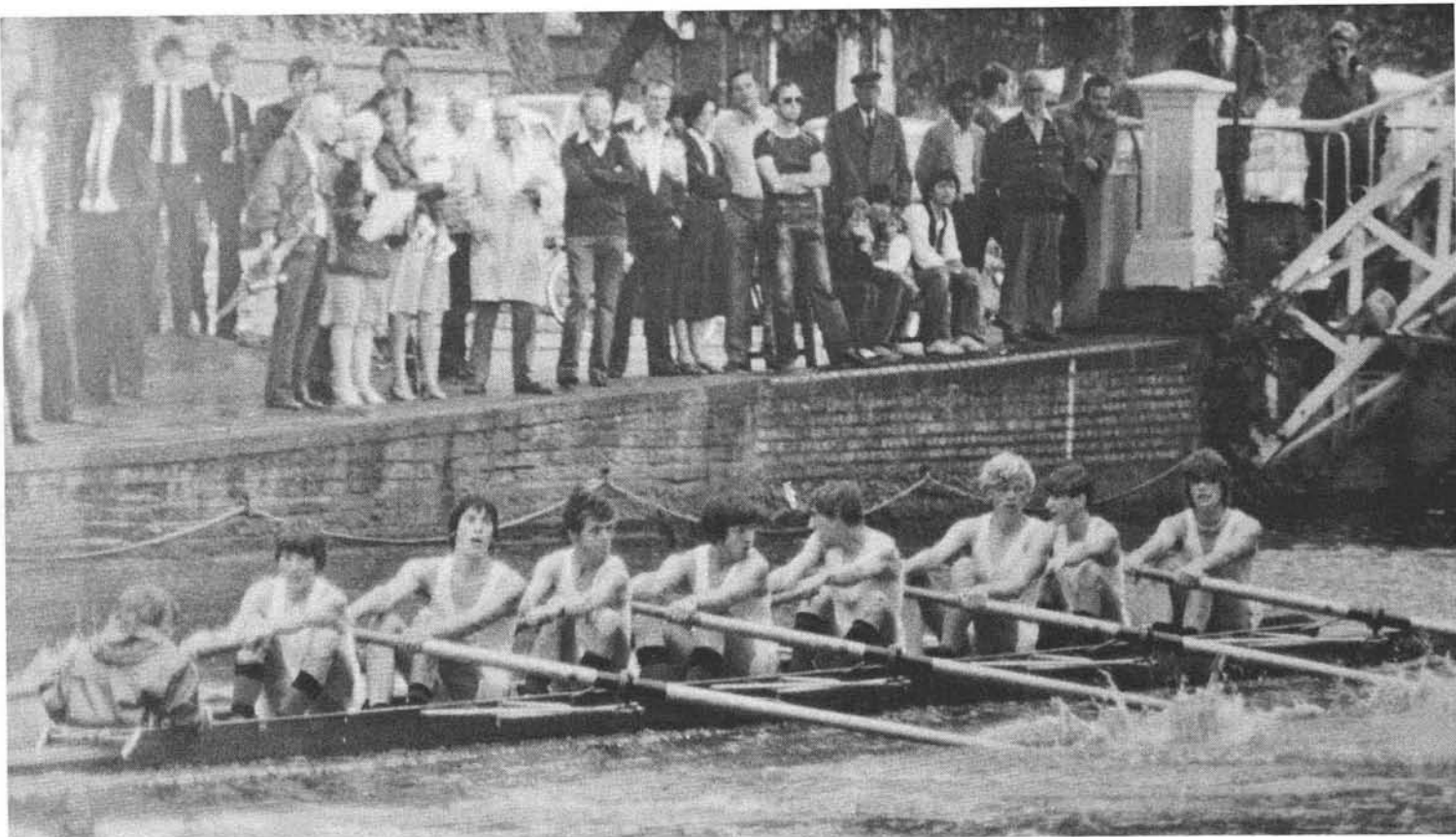
Half Term brought the next major event in Cambridge, where we enjoyed the hospitality of Corpus Christi College for a couple of nights. In J16 Vllls, however, the A crew had a disastrous row against Radley against all our expectations, but in J16 Fours the B crew rowed in fours and the stern four won the event, beating the same crew from Windsor that had beaten them at Carmel. In the Sunday's Sprint Regatta, the A crew rowed on top form in Senior C Vllls, just losing to the finalists, and the stern four won Junior Fours convincingly.

The following weekend was Hereford where the A crew had rather a walkover, beating Monkton Combe A and B crews easily to win J16 Vllls, and this was encouraging for the build up to the National Schools' Regatta. In the first round the A crew showed good pre-race planning and slipped into top gear at half way to qualify comfortably for the final. Remarkably rough weather and waves made the final a freezing slog, though. In an exposed lane the start was acceptable, but we got our tactics wrong, letting the others slip too far away early in the race, and we finished disappointingly far down behind Eton. The B crew also qualified intelligently for their final, but were beaten into fourth place by two A crews and missed their medals.

O levels stifled training after that, though an eight and a four went to Reading Town Regatta and rather regretted it. The next proper effort was for Bedford, where the A crew was perhaps over-confident and was surprised to lose to a clumsy but strong Bedford Modern crew. The B crew four got to the final of J16 Fours but had no chance at all against the remarkable Great Marlow four.

On the last day of term, after two weeks of hard training, the A crew journeyed north to the National Championships, where we cruised through to third in the first round to earn our place in the final. Well rested, we returned the following day for the final and some of the best rowing we had experienced. We held Eton at the start and battled with the Shiplake/Kingston Grammar combination until 1000 metres. At this point, however, Shiplake lifted their rating and overtook Eton and we took the bronze, all other opposition literally in the distance. We broke our previous best time by ten seconds and felt the medals were a satisfying fillip to an enjoyable season.

Edwin Datschefski (6)



J 15s

After a rather slow start to the year at the various Heads, the squad's performance improved during the summer.

The first regatta was at Carmel, where members of the eight rowed in fours. Confidence in our ability grew after beating a strong Forest crew in the first round and in the semi-final we beat a tired Beverly crew. In a dramatic final we just managed to hold off Desborough, beating them by less than two feet to gain our first regatta victory.

At the end of the same week we took an eight and a four to Walton Junior. The eight's performance was, however, uninspired and we lost to Kingston Grammar. The four had more success, reaching the semi-finals after a strong race in the repechage. At Hereford Regatta the eight went better but still lost to Radley in the second round.

Our first trip to the National Schools' Regatta was a good experience for the crew and we managed to reach the final despite adverse conditions. In the final, though, the weather did disturb us and we were never in contention, with King's Canterbury taking the honours.

The last regatta of the year was Bedford and although the eight was knocked out, a new four, made up of the under-age members of the squad, reached the final of the J 14 Fours, losing narrowly to Monkton Combe.

We had an enjoyable season, and our thanks to the masters of the Boat Club and in particular, of course, to Mr. Lewis.

David Sperry (5)

CREWS FOR SUMMER TERM 1981:

1st VIII: Bow, M. F. Hunt† (and P. Harries); 2, H. C. Jones†; 3, K. J. Volakt†; 4, S. C. Jozwiakt†; 5, J. S. Tannert†; 6, I. M. Burnett†; 7, F. J. Bailey†; Stroke, H. D. Mulvey†, Cox, L. I. Girdwood*.

Colts 'A' VIII: Bow, J. F. Lane*; 2, C. J. Schofield*; 3, E. A. Datschefski*; 4, N. G. Anderson*; 5, K. R. Girdwood*; 6, A. S. Persson*; 7, J. M. Herd*; Stroke, M. N. Sanders*; Cox, M. T. Green*.

Colts 'B' VIII: Bow, A. J. Plumptre; 2, J. J. Richardson; 3, T. G. Lake; 4, M. Piper; 5, M. E. Booker; 6, J. I. Charlesworth; 7, A. G. K. Edwards; Stroke, D. Cowell; Cox, N. D. Bolitho.

J15 'A' VIII: The following rowed for the crew: Iles, Kanagasabay, Race, Dix, Brock, MacFadyen, Sperry, Dominey, Mayor, Welby, Spivey (Cox).

J14 'A' VIII: The following rowed for the crew: Walker, Fisher, Wagon, Bennett, Ross, Ralfe, Jones, Camplin, Charlton, Peach, Gentles (Cox), Clarke (Cox).

† = Full colours

* = Half colours

LENT TERM 1982

The Lent term began more interestingly than usual, since the Boathouse was submerged in snow drifts and the landing stages were up on the bank totally hidden under the snow — fearful, no doubt, of the ice floes. 'Group slithers' took the place of rowing and the whole club spent the first two weeks sliding round the park and using the gym.

Rowing finally got under way with the usual large number of beginners teetering round in sculls and tubs. The 1st VIII, with five of last year's eight on board, soon settled into its training, though the 2nd VIII and IV took longer to select. Their first event was Hampton Head, at which the 1st VIII suffered breakages (and had some funny photos taken of it) and went slower than expected. The next day saw a large number of fours entered for the Abingdon Head: although we didn't win anything, many encouraging results were recorded, particularly from a 2nd VIII four and the Colts.

At half term the 1st VIII split into fours and enjoyed a hundred percent success in three classes at Evesham and Exeter Heads. Training was then directed at the Schools' Head, placed as usual in the middle of Mocks. The 1st VIII again suffered equipment problems and ruined an otherwise excellent row and the 2nd VIII excelled themselves, not only beating the 1st VIII but coming 24th and second of all the second eights — an encouraging result for the summer. The Colts came a comfortable 43rd and the J15s 68th.

The remaining three weeks of the term were spent training and trying to build up strength and stamina for the summer. It was not the most spectacular of terms, but determination for the summer is high — so high that the Colts rowed throughout the holidays and the 1st and 2nd Vllls rowed for half the holiday and kept themselves very fit running. At least it didn't snow again!

G.G.B.

Warm congratulations to Richard Emerton and Mark Andrews for their part in yet another Oxford win in the 1981 Boat Race. This is the first time Abingdon has had two O.A.s in the crew, and it was Mark Andrews' second year in this crew. But even warmer congratulations go to Mark Andrews for rowing in the Oxford University/Thames Tradesmen VIII that won the Grand at Henley, and for then being selected to row in the GB National VIII which came second to Russia in the World Championships at Munich.

LENT TERM 1982 — CREWS AT SCHOOLS' HEAD

1st VIII: Bow, M. F. Hunt*; 2, H. C. M. Jones*; 3, J. M. Herdt†; 4, S. C. Jozwiak*; 5, E. A. Datschefskit; 6, I. M. Burnett*; 7, F. J. Bailey*; Stroke, M. N. Sanderst; Cox, M. T. Greent.

2nd VIII: Bow, T. G. Lake; 2, A. J. Plumptre; 3, A. G. K. Edwards; 4, N. G. Anderson†; 5, K. R. Girdwood†; 6, J. I. Charlesworth; 7, J. F. Lanet; Stroke, C. J. V. Schofield†; Cox, R. Cheek.

1st IV: Bow, M. Piper; 2, J. J. Richardson; 3, K. Zalewski; Stroke, D. R. Head; Cox, N. Gingell.

Colts VIII: Bow, T. G. Race; 2, R. Kanagasabay; 3, T. Brock; 4, J. Dix; 5, D. A. Sperry; 6, P. Dominey; 7, K. Welby; Stroke, H. R. W. Peach; Cox, R. W. Spivey.

J15 'A' VIII: Bow, N. V. Challenger; 2, K. Allen; 3, R. Tyack; 4, J. Ralfe; 5, B. Wagon; 6, S. J. Walker; 7, T. Ross; Stroke, S. Jones; Cox, N. Clarke.

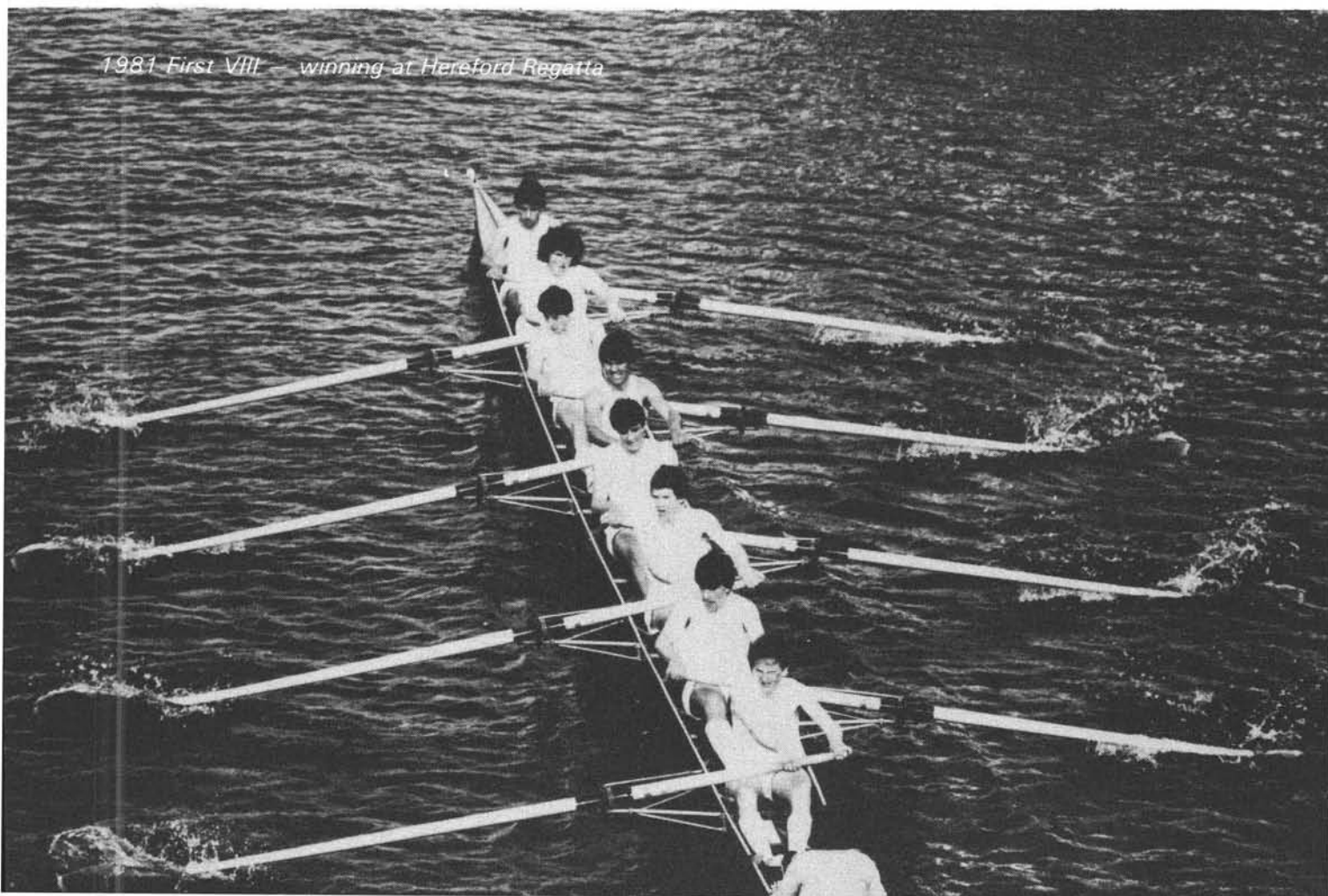
J15 'B' VIII: Bow, J. P. Finnis; 2, C. D. Parry; 3, D. S. Connolly; 4, M. D. Camplin; 5, M. C. Yeats; 6, S. J. Walker; 7, A. D. Fisher; Stroke, A. D. Horne; Cox, R. H. Tollis.

J14 VIII: Bow, T. G. Gentles; 2, G. M. Peach; 3, N. W. Hewlett; 4, J. T. Cracknell; 5, T. M. Sutton; 6, J. Scott; 7, N. D. Bolitho; Stroke, D. A. Hodgson; Cox, P. A. Gingell.

* = Full colours

† = Half colours

1981 First VIII — winning at Hereford Regatta



BADMINTON

The chief problem in the Michaelmas term was that the Old Gaol was closed for repairs. Thus, instead of our usual after-school sessions on Monday and Wednesday, reduced numbers waited for 5.15 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays to play in St. Helen's School Sports Hall.

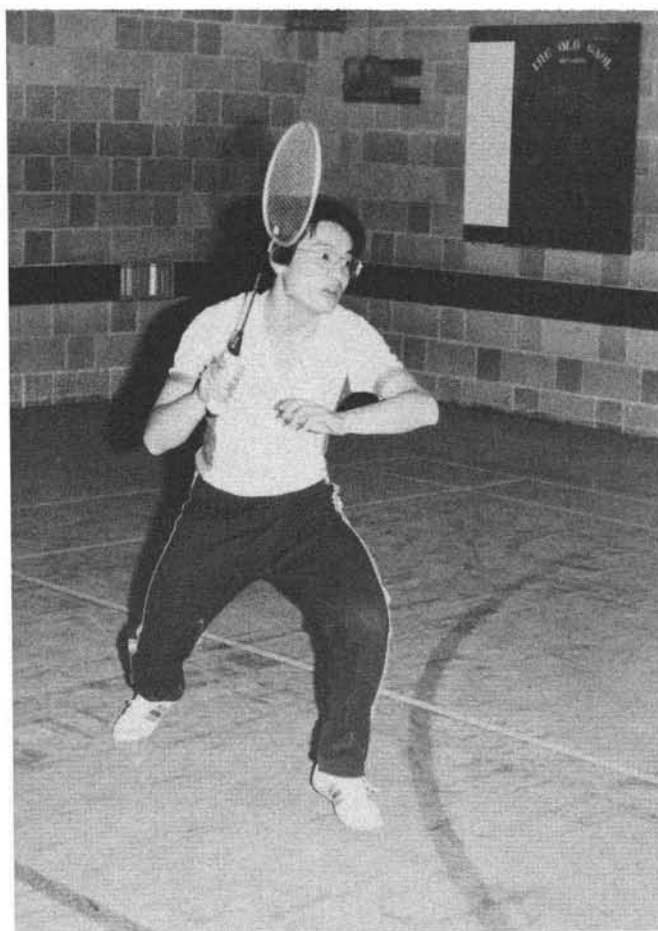
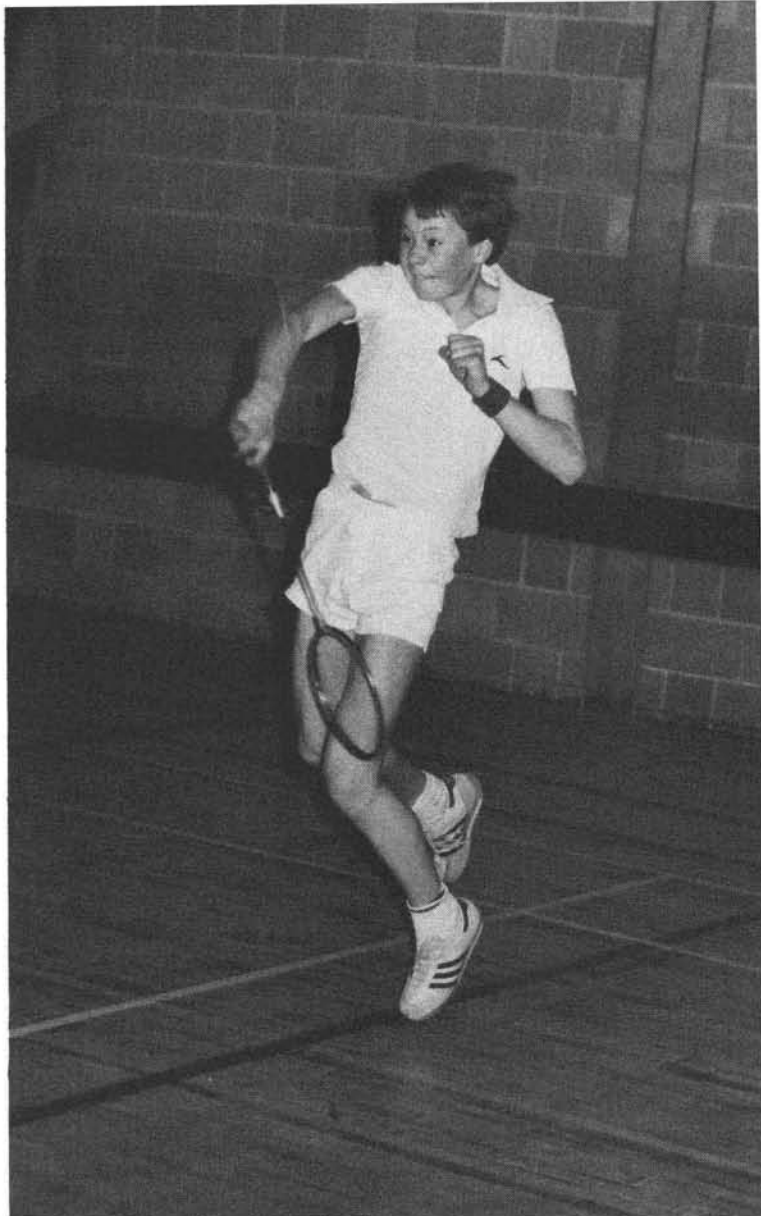
The lack of practice showed up in the early results: a friendly U.15 fixture on Larkmead's slippery floor was lost 3.6.

We beat the MCS U.16 team 6.3 in one of our few home games but lost to Fitzharry's 4.5 while the U.16s were under strength.

Rather over a year ago, Mick Dacre (OA) initiated a fixture with Turner's Court near Wallingford. We played this again with a scratch team selected largely on the basis of where players lived, and won 4.3.

A somewhat fraught November 24, 25 and 26 saw four fixtures. U.19s and U.16s played against Stowe School — both lost, though not without a fight. The U.19s lost to R.G.S. High Wycombe rather narrowly (4.5) as much through carelessness as anything else. The R.G.S first pair, however, gave Yip and Rogers the game of the season, and eventually the Abingdon pair won after some of the best play I have ever seen them produce together.

Thursday, November 16 saw the first Schools League match of the season — the U.16 team versus Marlborough School at Woodstock. This was a comprehensive Abingdon win. Rober Dwek substituted at short notice and largely overcame his lack of practice this season, and Jonathan Pugh and Antony Haywood loped round like the pair of pros. which they are becoming. Antony Di Pinto forgot his shirt this time (it was his plimsolls at Stowe!)



The first page of our new score book shows a $7\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{2}$ victory over Eton at Eton, on December 5, and since then we have only recorded one defeat.

December 7: Larkmead U.19 beaten 6.3

January 22: Marlborough College U.16 beaten 5.4 in an exciting game.

February 2: Banbury School actually played (and lost) an Oxfordshire Schools League game 6.1.

Other League fixtures have been against Cheyney (won 7.0) Gosford Hill U.19 (won 7.0) and U.16 (won 6.1) and John Mason U.16 which we lost 1.6 while fielding two substitutes at short notice. (Antony Lowe's brother plays for John Mason — any chance of a transfer?!)

R.G.S. High Wycombe made a typically unescorted visit in February, only to lose 6.2, and our rehabilitation continued by beating Stowe U.19s, 10.8, and drawing with the Stowe U.16s.

Antony Haywood and Jonathan Pugh are really stalwart team members now, and have more than earned half colours. Andrew Jones is a valuable find for the U.19s and he, too, has one of those rather dazzling polychrome ties.

On March 19, the U.19s again won the Oxfordshire Schools Badminton League, by defeating King James's College, Henley, familiar adversaries a few years ago, but unknown quantities — until then!

I. A. McD

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball has continued to flourish with the Upper VI providing some very good players this year. A strong element of continuity has been maintained by Michael Bradbury, Andrew Hooton and Nick Sketch, the three most loyal members of the team who have played now for four years. Unfortunately the School was unable to take part in the Oxfordshire U19 tournament at Woodstock as a result of a direct clash with the mock A Levels in March. A match against the masters provided some consolation, although the latter proved to be a formidable enemy. It is very much hoped that the team will be able to play the OAs on Founder's Day. The OAs would present an awesome challenge since they include several excellent players who have kept up with the sport; congratulations are due to Nicholas Bugg who has received a half-blue at Cambridge, and to Paul Rushton, captain of the second Volleyball team, also at Cambridge.

W. H. Z.

ORIENTEERING

Richard Baker and David Thompson are currently ranked 1st and 3rd in the British U/19 rankings. Here Richard describes his thoughts during the 2nd day of the 1981 JK International — for which there was a chasing start.

'Five minutes to go — not long now — take some deep breaths — try to relax. I'm only 19 seconds down on Atle and I fancy my finish if I catch him. Important to get a good start — there's a big pack about a minute behind me, but let them worry about catching me — I don't want to get pressurised into making mistakes. Atle's getting his map now — let's see where he goes — no surprise, straight up into the trees — he's gone.

"Go" Simple first control — run hard and take the straight line over the hill, it's safer. There's the path — no sign of Atle, he must have gone round. The others will have started by now — forget them. There's the stream, and the marker. Punch and away. Bearing up the hill, Curses, I'm tired already — the last two days have really taken it out of me. There's the vegetation boundary — no that's not right, where's the small spur? Damn, where am I? It must be an extra boundary not marked. Work it out carefully. Now concentrate into the control. There's the gully, and, yes, the marker.

Number 3 is easy — straight up the hill. Opportunity to look at some other legs — great, I can take a long road run near the end — I should be able to get away there. Sugar! There's Stan. He's caught up a minute. Blimey he's moving fast — just stick with him until you get your second wind, then make a break. There's Atle ahead — where's he going? That route must be slower — he can't have seen the bridge over the reservoir. Let's speed up and get away.

..... All together again! Keep in the group and look at the last few legs. Seem straight forward enough — I'll try to burn them off on the

road to 9. There's the depression and number 8. Stan's away — he's practically sprinting — come on, work at it — he can't keep it up. We've dropped Atle — Norwegians don't train on roads! Small hill ahead, I'll take Stan there. I don't believe it, he's still with me — surely he's feeling the pace now?

There's the crag. Punch quickly, every second counts. Only two controls left. Down the hill through the rhododendrons. Blast, he's found a better way through. Come on, hurdle that fence and catch him. Along the side of the re-entrant. Don't just follow — look at your map man. More to the left. There's the platform, and Stan!. Put the pressure on — I've got to stick with him and then it's my faster finish for the win.

Fly down the hill. There's the last control. Five metres down. Sprint, it's only 200 metres to the Finish — there's an international win at stake. We're level. Open out the stride. We've both got crowd support. I'm ahead! He won't catch me now but don't ease up until you're past the line. There it is. Oh fantastic, I've done it!

TENNIS

In retrospect the 1981 season seems to belong to the juniors. They certainly produced a fine unbeaten record. But it would be unfair to the 1st VI not to recognise their achievements too. The rather dismal Founder's Day encounter apart, they did not lose one match in the first seven and chalked up exciting victories against Magdalen College School and St. Bartholomew's Newbury, sides that had roundly beaten Abingdon the year before.

Choosing the best team was a constant problem. Richard Schofield and Peter Druett fully justified their position as first pair. Temperamentally and stylistically poles apart, they were seldom in full spate together; yet their record was a very sound one and so often they managed to retrieve what looked like lost sets. However it was Martin Haywood — a welcome refugee from cricket — who developed as the soundest player. His concentration and determination coupled with perhaps the most reliable technique of the senior players made him a force to be reckoned with. Chris Coe also played some first rate games. He always knew what he wanted to do with the ball even if sometimes the execution went awry: could the occasional lack of communication between head and limbs have had anything to do with those mismatching socks? The remaining two places in the 1st VI went in roughly equal measure either to Sandy Black and John Persson or to Alastair Ross and Antony Lowe. They all had their off days but fortunately many more good ones.

At the junior levels some first rate talent was evident. In terms of results the outstanding

achievement came from Garrath Reayer and Adam Spring. Their patient, steady, thoughtful, tidy play earned them a record of 44 sets played with just one conceded, and that only after a tie-break score of 9-11 in a most exciting match against Radley. Antony di Pinto and Anthony Haywood were only marginally less successful: some impatience at not being able to win a rally quickly occasionally ensnared them, especially when they were ranged against less aggressive but steadier players. They both have great potential and should develop well. As the regular third pair John Lee and James Day more than did their bit in contributing to the spirit and success of this junior team.

The 2nd VI was selected from A. T. Black, J. Persson, N. A. L. Ward, T. G. Fellows, J. M. Steeds, A. T. Rowe, P. Dubenski, S. M. Russell, A. M. Robson, A. S. H. Lowe, A. R. Ross, B. D. R. Lintott and R. N. Minter.

The singles competition for the Buckley Cup produced some marathon matches in its later stages after the usual but excessive number of walk-overs in the earlier rounds. Martin Haywood beat Garrath Reayer in one semi-final; Peter Druett beat Antony Lowe in the other. Martin Haywood then came through as the winner by 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

A great debt is owed to Nigel Hunter and Peter Halstead for the hours of their time so willingly given, for their enthusiasm, and for their apparently inexhaustible supply of Mars bars.

T. R. A.

RESULTS

1st VI

v Reading	(a) won 5-4
v MCS	(h) won 5½-3½
v St. Bartholomew's Newbury	(h) won 5-4
v Old Abingdonians/parents	(h) lost 4-5
v Shiplake	(a) won 8-1
v Douai	(a) won 8½-½
v Berkhamstead	(a) unfinished 3-3
v Pangbourne	(h) won 6-3
v Bloxham	(h) drawn 4½-4½
v Radley	(a) lost 1½-7½
v RGS High Wycombe	(h) lost 2½-6½

2nd VI

v Reading	(h) lost 2½-6½
v MCS	(a) lost 3-6
v Radley	(a) won 5-4

Colts/Junior Colts VI

v Reading	(h) won 8-1
v MCS	(a) won 6-3
v Shiplake	(h) won 9-0
v Douai	(h) won 7-2
v Berkhamstead	(h) unfinished 3-0
v Pangbourne	(a) won 6-3
v Bloxham	(h) won 8½-½
v Radley	(a) won 5-4
v RGS High Wycombe	(h) won 8-1

Full colours were awarded to Peter Druett and Richard Schofield.

Half colours were awarded to Christopher Coe, Martin Haywood, John Persson, Sandy Black and Antony Lowe.

SOCCER

Soccer has flourished in its 'unofficial capacity' for three seasons now. Undeterred by basic problems (such as having no soccer-pitch on which to play!) boys have turned out, come rain or shine, full of enthusiasm and with, it must said, varying degrees of skill. Nevertheless, dedication to the cause of the round ball — the all-important ingredient of the game after all — has always been the major forte of all connected with this games option.

No senior school matches have been played this year — perhaps everyone was frightened off by the drubbings that we have dished out to them in previous seasons! However, all members of the game, with one or two exceptions (a case of usually absent friends!) should be congratulated upon their commitment in the face of what can only be described as insurmountable constraints.

The Junior U13 team has seen more competition and had a most successful season, with easy wins over John Mason and Larkmead. Special mention should be made of Ingram, Reayer and the first-former, Drewe, who shows great potential.

P. J. H.

GOLF

During the past two terms the golf team has been in action. In October a team of three competed in the Aer Lingus Schools Golf Championship and finished half way down the field due to a few disastrous holes by two members of the team. Later in the term, the team defeated a strong Bradfield side and drew with the masters. In February, a team was entered for the Public Schools Foursomes, but it lost in a close match against Radley. It is pleasing to see interest in golf growing lower down the school, mainly due to school membership and group lessons. Finally my thanks to Mr. Payne for the time he spent organising fixtures and transporting us to matches.

Alistair Thomson (VI)

Those who played: M. Ody, A. A. Thomson, A. M. Robson, A. R. Ross, J. E. Robson, C. Herd, C. C. Wright.



CROSS COUNTRY

Winter Term

The highlight was our own relay on Boars Hill which attracted forty teams from twenty-one schools. Again it required a mammoth effort to organise. The visitors liked the regular updates via the 'Clansmen', the challenging course and the generous prize list. A top quality race ended with St. Albans narrowly ahead of Beechen Cliff (from Bath) with Millfield third. We were fifth and won the Peter Wilson trophy for the best Oxon team.

Over 100 boys were in the crosscountry club again. The seniors won eight matches: Alleyne's, Haydon, Harrow Weald, Charterhouse, Winchester, Bradfield, RGS High Wycombe and St. Edward's, whereas four were lost: St. Albans, William Ellis, King Henry VIII Coventry and Marlborough. The colts won two out of seven and the juniors lost all three. For me this term was disappointing, indeed disheartening when a visiting team went off course due to a marker's slackness and when certain ties were collected as souvenirs and when I discovered that three of the colts smoked. It was not much fun chasing up skivers either.

Tim Fellows was awarded full colours and the following represented the school most often: D. A. Thompson, R. B. Smith (10 times), T. G. Fellows, R. G. H. Naish, J. E. Griggs, T. H. England (9), M. J. E. Hudswell, A. S. Kent (8), R. W. Baker (7), C. C. T. Ashplant, D. L. Sloan, M. A. Hamilton, R. D. W. Berry, S. Weaver, T. W. Gentles, D. A. Hodgson (6), S. D. Lawrence (5). Also I thank Mr. Baker, Miss Peterson, Mr. Jahnke and Mr. Bird for their help.

Finally we say goodbye to a loyal and dedicated servant, Richard Baker. He represented the school 133 times at crosscountry, including an astonishing 97 times for the first team, and he was in another 52 athletics matches as well. For most people it is a rare privilege and a great thrill to pass the finishing post first, but I count up his doing so 31 times (crosscountry), twice Oxon champion, and 43 times (athletics), including 6 Oxon titles. No wonder the Cheltenham master each year asked if he had left yet! I shall always remember the time he won the three mile colts race at Wycombe immediately after running for the seniors and when he stepped down a distance to help Bell, Hawes and Hall win the Achilles 4 x 400 metres relay. But above all his reliability and initiative stood out. There is so much Abingdon School would not have achieved without him.

N. A. F. P.

Lent Term

In many ways this term touched rock bottom in performances. There was far too little competitive spirit, or leadership from the seniors; apathy reigned. I felt such a faker desperately trying at the last minute to persuade non-athletes to compete just to avoid the ignominy of turning out an incomplete team. At one stage the team seemed destined to lose every single match, but what was worse, they did not look particularly bothered about it. They could not even beat Wellington's B team! I suppose 32nd position (out of 41) in the King Henry VIII relay will just about retain our invitation for another year. In the end, the seniors won three: Winchester, Bromsgrove and Magdalen College School, and lost seven: Charterhouse, RGS High Wycombe, St. Albans, Wellington, Cheltenham, Wycliffe and the OA's (who had the first six runners home).

This made the good moments shine brightly in comparison. Having been conditioned to expect several lean years in our fortunes, I was shocked to discover some genuine and outstanding talent in the first form. Thank goodness for Duncan Buck and Justin Hemsley. They were first and second in the Vale, forced their way into the colts team on merit, but most important of all, they cared. Surely their precocity will goad their elders into some positive response?

Another shining beacon was the Inter-Form Road Relay. In the past we have squeezed this in as just another race, but now it takes on a new significance since the compulsory Inter-House crosscountry event down at the Lock Course has thankfully died. In contrast the relay is voluntary, involves more teams, enjoys far better weather, has vast spectator appeal, tempts staff into active participation, provides lots of exciting sprint finishes, and is ideally suited to commentary on our public address system. This time 35 teams ran, and Noel Williams, James Griggs, Chris Newmark and Matthew Hunt won the Smart Trophy for VI Potter. David Thompson, Mark Durand and Justin Hemsley ran the fastest time in each age-group. Even though the team of helpers was still figuring out the results after midnight, the effort was well worth it.

An unexpected follow-up came in the Cheltenham match two days later. As usual several of our regular (?) team members were unavailable for selection, but now suddenly we had ready-made replacements, who had just proved their fitness. Conveniently the river was bursting its banks, and so no rowing allowed us to borrow from other sports. It was a real pleasure again to experience success after so much adversity and the new-look colts team beat Cheltenham and Wycliffe.

The captain was David Thompson, and the secretary James Griggs; both went to Sheffield and ran in the All-England for the first time, finishing 241st and 292nd respectively. These two and Richard Naish gained full colours, and Tom England half. 38 boys ran for the school, the most regular being: D. A. Thompson, J. E. Griggs (13 times), A. S. Kent (10), J. R. Hemsley (9), R. G. H. Naish, M. J. E. Hudswell, R. B. Smith (8), T. H. England, D. L. Sloan (7), M. A. Hamilton (6), P.

W. May, S. I. Brod, D. J. Buck (5), J-M Freeman & S. Weaver (4).

Finally these notes would not be complete without wishing every success to Richard Naish in avoiding parked cars, Justin Hemsley concrete lampposts and Simon Weaver handstands in the future.

N. A. F. P.

ATHLETICS

Well, this was the season we had been anticipating with relish. A really strong squad had been built up. A quite formidable fixture list had been arranged, and at long last we were taking on the giants with realistic hopes of success. We had experienced stars, good second strings, plenty of back-up to cover absentees, and even two cricketers making crucial guest appearances (just like Halsey in Madgwick's team of 1979). We have had good teams in the past, but never the strength in depth like this.

Some of this term's matches demanded magnificent all-round team performances where every point mattered in desperately close finishes, but all will agree that four athletes stood out. Duncan Bell was an inspiring captain, invincible over 400 metres, setting a school record (49.4 seconds) at the Adkin meeting. Richard Hawes specialised in hurdling, gaining two school records, and, like Duncan, competed at Yeovil in the All-England. Richard Baker shouldered the middle-distance burden with his usual reliability, and Andrew Hall was our top jumper, but usually did more events per match than Bell or Hawes, which was surprising.

On these four fell the responsibility of maintaining our success in the 4 × 400 metres at the Achilles Relays at Iffley Road. We were quietly confident, but an extraordinary thing happened on the third lap, when Richard Baker, possibly for the first time in his long career the weakest member of a team, was overtaken by the Sherborne runner, none other than Richard's next-door neighbour, the son of Major Egerton-King, our assistant bursar, who was cheering from the grandstand with his loyalties exquisitely divided; however, we had saved Duncan for last, and when he made his move it was devastating, so we had won for the third year in a row, this time ahead of Sherborne, Millfield, Eton, Bedford Modern and Highgate.

Bell, Hawes, Baker and Hall also picked up trophies and medals in the Oxford City AC (third year in a row) and Newbury AC (twice in three years) medley relays. In fact Bell, Hawes and Hall had a remarkable record throughout the season with an immaculate sequence of 12 relay wins out of 12, accompanied as fourth man by in turn Baker (four times), Emerton (four times), Harper (twice), Stores (once) and Riley from St. Birinus (once). This included the Adkin meeting, the Vale team at the Oxon Champs and two in a row at Bryanston!

Of the school matches our first was a new one at Stowe. They were disappointingly hit by

injuries (something we avoided thankfully), but St. Edward's had a useful team with good sprinters and jumpers, and we just prevailed after, however, an embarrassing miscount. The second was the long trip down to Bryanston, one day after seagulls apparently had swum (!) on their track after torrential rain. I was shocked, but of course delighted, to discover Gareth Harper on the coach: he was free from cricket as this was a Thursday match. He produced a 6-metre long jump, our first for four years, but Andy replied with three centimetres longer (he did not like being beaten!). Everybody contributed with superlative effort and we scraped home, predominantly due to track successes, for a very exciting win ahead of Bryanston, Taunton, Queen's Taunton, Charterhouse and Bryanston B.

Next came the Adkin meeting, as usual a very high standard. Stuart Cameron, whose brainchild this was, passed on the organisation to us this year; again Adkin & Company were the major sponsors. Many personal bests were set on the superb Chevron surface at Iffley Road. We were easily last in the overall scores, though I doubt if this will jeopardise our invitation to the meeting next year!! However, our senior team, which to be precise I have been discussing thus far, were third equal with Highgate, behind Haberdashers' Aske's and King Henry VIII Coventry, and ahead of Shrewsbury and Millfield. Again this was a quality match, rich in incident; it is interesting to note that several of our visitors arrived home after midnight, illustrating that people are prepared to make the effort if they believe it is worth it.

In the Radley match we were comfortable winners, also ahead of Cheltenham, and it was particularly pleasing to see others like Cockram, Cullen and Haworth winning their events. Also there was a spectacular cloudburst which sent everyone rushing for shelter, except for the poor 400 metres runners who were halfway through their race at the time!

At Eton we saw the secretary Laurence Casey at last winning the shot put (and indeed he became Oxon champion two days later); Mr. Anderson and his wife paid a visit to the sports field and it was interesting to see that they remembered one or two of our boys after six years. This was our first away win against Eton, another notable achievement. Again Gareth Harper contributed, and later he was genuinely delighted to have gained his 5 star award.

Lastly we went to Rugby, always an awkward match with A Levels under way for three weeks, but this time we persuaded most of the team to travel, and this to me summed up the marvellous spirit shown throughout; for instance, Roger Jacobs, Mark Emerton, Andrew Colgan and Richard Simpson all made this one last extra effort because frankly they enjoyed being part of a winning team. Mainly due to track wins we recorded another first-ever away win there, and also our combined score was enough to win back the Bloxham trophy.

Thus the senior team won 13, drew 1 and lost 2, which was quite outstanding, considering the quality of the opposition. We have exploited over the last four years the talents of two exceptional



Roger Smith (5th) running at the All-England

year-groups. We have been ambitious, and the boys involved have enjoyed some stirring experiences. But it is now the end of an era. Our colts and junior colts took on twelve of the schools already mentioned, and lost the lot. Sadly they would not cope with 'first division' matches, so realistically our fixture list will have to be revised. Relegation, especially self-imposed, is a bitter pill to swallow.

Certain people, e.g. recent OA's, may be shocked to read that last paragraph, so let me reassure them that we do have some promising youngsters. The junior team won three, Queen's Taunton, Eton and Bloxham, and lost four, Bryanston, Charterhouse, St. Edward's and Rugby. Four boys reached the Oxon Champs: Kenneth Wise was fifth in the 100 metres (having previously won at the Vale), Nicholas Silk was third in the 400 metres, Alex Kent won the high jump (despite having to run an 800 metres halfway through!), and Roger Smith, after a tricky back-door entry, won the 800 metres and qualified for the All-England (something which runners like Baker never achieved on the track). These and a few others like David Lowe, Mark Durand and Richard Flaxman did well, but there is much room for improvement; indeed we were only third behind Larkmead and John Mason in the Abingdon Schools Championships, a meeting which Stephen Marshall will be proud to hear has become highly prestigious locally, attracting hundreds of spectators to Lower Field. The Mayor Mrs Dyson kindly presented the trophy.

Full colours were awarded to Laurence Casey, who gave me a lot of help as secretary, and half colours to Andrew Colgan, Roger Jacobs, Richard Simpson and Dominic Cockram. 64 boys represented the school, the most regular being: Bell, Hawes (12 times), Hall, Kent (11), Baker, Smith, Silk (10), Durand, Wise (9), Jacobs, Casey, Stores, Lowe (8), Sayer, Cockram, Emerton, Colgan and Simpson (7).

N. A. F. P.

CHESS

Like the curate's egg, this season was excellent in parts, but some opportunities were missed, so that it ultimately fell short of expectation. The finest achievement was probably in the 'Times Tournament', as it is now called: our 'A' VI won the local zone, admittedly a rather weak one, for the third time in four years, and went on to defeat High Wycombe R.G.S., always formidable opponents, to reach the last 16 in the country; this earned Chess Ties for Craig Shuttleworth and Peter May. Our young 'B' team reached the semi-final for the third successive year, and might have qualified for the Final, had not our opponents illegally 'cooked' their board-order.

Our League teams had mixed fortunes. The seniors and the Under-15s lost their crucial Berkshire League matches against St. Bartholomew's, quite needlessly in the case of the

Under-15s, although they made up for this by winning all their matches in the Oxford League comfortably. Conversely, the Under-13s, probably the strongest group of youngsters since 1965/6, won the Berkshire League very convincingly, but found a much higher standard in the Oxford League. In the latter, as a matter of policy, we never fielded our full team, even when defeating Magdalen College School 9-1!

On March 13th., the Amey Hall proved a most successful venue for the National Under-14 Team Tournament. The Berkshire team of ten included six Abingdon players — Marcus Marsden, Riccardo Casale (who came equal first in the County Under-15 Congress) and the top four Boards of the School Under-13 team; in spite of this preponderance of Abingdon players, Berkshire came fifth, easily their highest position in this prestigious event!

Chess Club has continued to attract good attendances, and internal tournaments have been taken seriously. The Lower School Shield was won by Nigel Williams, the Venning cup by his close rival Mark Nightall, whose skill and great youth won him a place in the Times VI while still a first-former. Finally, a Chess Tie was awarded to Ian Sadler after seven seasons of loyal service to the Club.

M. W.

Teams:

Times 'A' VI: W. J. Passmore, C. C. Shuttleworth, P. W. May, M. A. Marsden, R. L. Casale, M. J. Nightall.

Times 'B' VI: N. A. Mardon, N. G. Williams, M. A. Casale, J. R. Price, C. Q. Rodgers, T. J. Gosling.

Under-18: W. J. Passmore, C. C. Shuttleworth, P. W. May, I. A. Sadler, P. J. Rodgers.

Under-15: M. A. Marsden, P. T. Vokins, R. L. Casale, N. A. Mardon, S. Weaver, A. D. Thomas.

Under-13: M. J. Nightall, N. G. Williams, M. A. Casale, J. R. Price, C. Q. Rodgers, J. F. B. Lister Cheese.

RESULTS

Berkshire League, Western Section

Under-18s	Won 5, Drew 1, Lost 1.
Under-15s	Won 5, Lost 1.
Under-13s 'a'	Won 5.
Under-13s 'b'	Won 2, Drew 2, Lost 1.

Berkshire League, Finals.

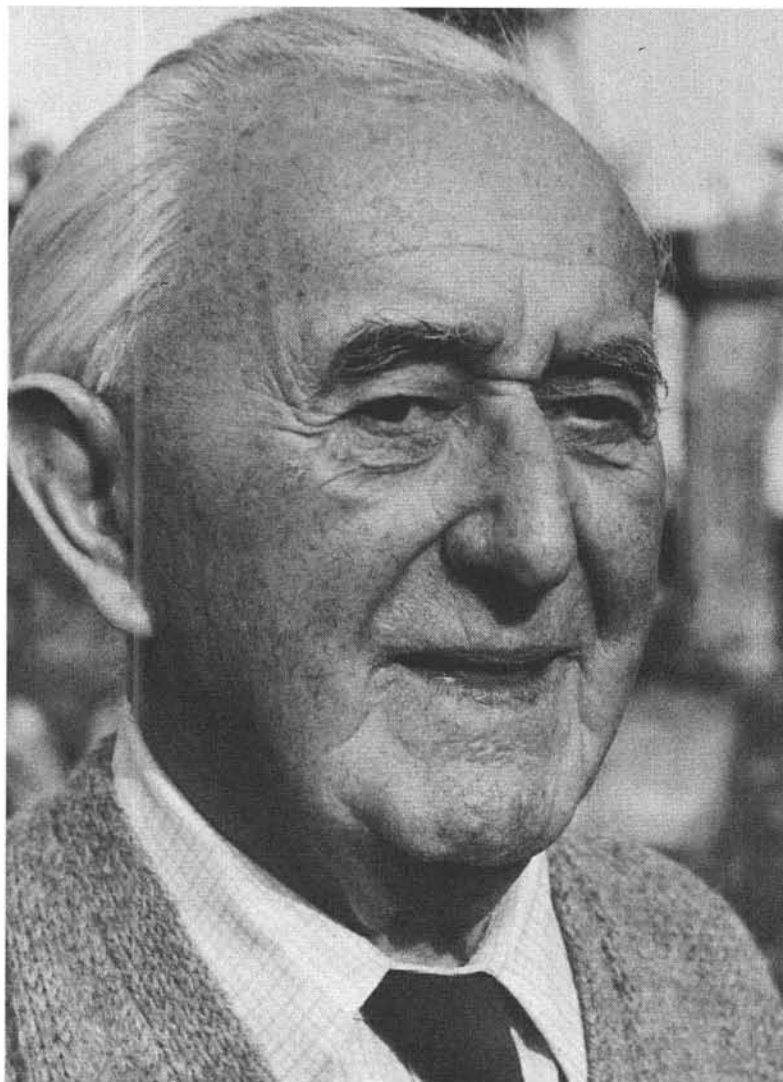
Under-13s	beat Icknield, Watlington	3½-1½
	beat Dolphin, Hurst	4½-½

Oxford League.

Under-15s	Won 6
Under-13s	Won 7, Drew 1, Lost 1.

Times Tournament.

'A' VI	beat Gillott's, Henley	5½-1
	beat Bluecoat, Reading, 'b'	5-1
	beat Reading School	5-1
	beat Bluecoat, Reading, 'a'	6-0
	drew with RGS, High Wycombe	3-3
	(won on board-count and age)	
	lost to Haberdashers, Elstree	
'B' VI	beat Segsbury, Wantage	4½-1½
	beat Forest, Winnersh	3½-2½
	lost to Bluecoat, Reading, 'A'	1½-4½



The oldest O.A. is now Tom Lewington, who still lives in Abingdon and keeps close links with the school. His account of school life in the 1890s is a remarkable one and it was a great pleasure to talk to him about his Abingdon School memories:

OUR OLDEST BOY

'In celebration of the relief of Mafeking we were excused afternoon work on Monday, May 21st and Monday, May 28th. On the latter date we were enabled by the kindness of the Headmaster to drive into Oxford to witness the summer Eights ...'

This brief entry in the 'Abingdonian' of July 1900 evokes a picture of the school and an era very different from that of the 1980s. Imagine a party of 750 of us casually driving into Oxford to swamp the banks of Eights week. But talking to Tom Lewington, who was here from 1897 until 1902, and reading the 'Abingdonians' of his time at the School is a fascinating way of appreciating the enormous changes in character that have taken place here. At 95, Tom Lewington can still recite with ease the names of his masters and the rhymes he was taught in Geography in order to memorise the rivers and towns of Italy. The picture he gives of the school is a delightful one — not many more than 100 boys, perhaps six masters, fees of two guineas a term (reduced by half in his case since he was a Bennett Scholar) and 'boarders marching down to St Nicholas Church every Sunday in their Eton suits and top hats...'

In fact, T. G. M. Lewington was one of the very few dayboys when he was here, living at The Nag's Head. With 'the wind in the right quarter' he could hear the school bell tolling its ritual chimes in the morning, and then run the short distance through the town in order to be here on time for morning assembly. The entire school attended this in the School Room (now the Grundy Library) and the Headmaster, Reverend Layng, would say prayers. Then off to one of the few classrooms with the rest of his form — Commercial One. As its name implies, this form was intended for boys 'studying for commercial life'. You were spared the rigours of Latin and Greek here, and concentrated on Arithmetic, Chemistry, History, Geography and Drawing, with a little French and German thrown in. Contrary to popular myth, Tom Lewington remembers lessons as enjoyable and masters as friendly, not the figures of terror that Victorian novelists are so fond of creating. Rev. Thomas Layng was 'awfully nice' and very popular in the town as well as in school. The only story I could extract of traditional schoolmastering techniques was told with affection and humour of a Mr. Romans who taught Chemistry and 'had a knack of coming round if you weren't attending and catching hold of your hair at the back and pulling it up'. Hardly an excruciating torture. Mr. Romans was also remembered for his kindness in offering extra teaching. If he wanted 'to push you on', he would give you private lessons in the evening in the Lodge, which was then a place where some of the masters lived.

Otherwise, the daily timetable in 1900 seems much the same as now: a break in the morning, lunch (at home for all dayboys because they never ate in school) and afternoon lessons. Homework was quite heavy, but there might also be some sport after school — mainly football (rugger was not played until 1928) or cricket. If you rowed, as Tom Lewington did, you might occasionally practice in the evenings, but there were none of the rigorous schedules that rowers enjoy today. In his time, rowing took place on the Culham Reach and fours were the largest boats. There are marvellous accounts in Summer 'Abingdonians' of the annual School regattas, with swimming races, the 'Water Tournament', sculling, canoe races and a traditional Fours competition between Past and Present crews. The Regatta of 1896 lasted two days and was obviously very popular with participants and the 'goodly number of spectators' who lined both banks.

Apart from rowing, Tom Lewington's other great interest was singing and he is mentioned frequently in accounts of school concerts where he sang soprano solos. He still has his prizes for solo singing — books of suitable literature beautifully bound and inscribed. His most memorable performance was not at a school occasion, though, but at Queen Victoria's memorial service held at St Helen's, where he sang the soprano solo — 'I know that my redeemer liveth' — one of his last treble performances. He remembers well that St Helen's was completely packed, so much so that many people had to stand outside during the service.

Another very memorable event in the town that Tom Lewington remembers vividly was the Flood of 1903. In those days, he says, Thames Street



flooded almost every year and Stert Street also suffered regularly. In 1903 though, he clearly remembers his friend Mr. Goodenough happily paddling down Broad Street in his canoe.

It's interesting that the most eventful developments taking place at school in his time were not mentioned when I talked to him. This was the building of the extension to 'Big School' which added the chapel, gym and several new classrooms. In 1900 the school only had a single room to the right of its main entrance, and the 'Abingdonians' of the next few years are full of excitement at the prospect of the new building: 'It will not, at least, be through want of commodious buildings, if in future years we fail to hold our own among the schools of England.' First estimates of cost put the price of the extension at £5,000 (this did increase to nearer £6,000 in the end) and the building was begun on July 1st, 1901. One of the sadder details mentioned is the decision to dedicate a window in chapel 'to commemorate the services rendered by O.As. in the War.' This was, of course, the Boer War and there was no way of knowing how many more O.As. would be involved in the two World Wars to come.

Tom's youngest brother Bill, for example, who was killed in 1917, is listed on the memorial plaque now in chapel, and his second brother, Harry, (both were at Abingdon) was brought back after the war and housed with the other wounded in the Examination Schools in Oxford's High Street. 'I didn't think he was going to live — he was in terrible shape, but he's still alive today.'

Tom himself is also still remarkably active today. Although he says he has 'given up golf, more or less', he still spends most mornings working in his beautifully cared-for garden, and plays a bit of bowls when he has the time. Talking to him is a most heartening experience, and his affection for the school and the old boys' reunions is as strong as ever.

C.J.M.P.

O.A. CRICKET

ALLIGATORS WEEK 1981

Not such a successful week as in the past — one win, one defeat, three draws. Yet, as always, a good time was had by all. The S.O.A. had apparently settled for a draw before suddenly going for the runs and, to our (and their) surprise, getting there off the last ball of the day. The Berkshire Bantams did cling on for a draw; their seniors, the Gentlemen, were a pushover. We couldn't quite get the runs against St. Edwards' Martyrs, and divine intervention — a thunderstorm — saved us from a punishing defeat by the Gloucester Gipsies. There were no outstanding individual performances but, for the first time ever, the Alligators notched up over 200 runs on each of the five days.

13 July: Alligators 201 (J. Shellard 73); S.O.A. 205-6

14 July: Alligators 250-8; Bantams 201-9

15 July: Alligators 255-9 (P. Evans 75); Berkshire Gentlemen 180 (R. Matthews 5-76)

16 July: St. Edwards Martyrs 235; Alligators 232-5 (R. Ogg 63)

17 July: Alligators 236 (P. Shellard 85, P. Abraham 61); Gipsies 228-4

P. Shellard

O.A. NOTES

DEATHS

We record with regret the deaths of the following OA's:-

W. B. Coxeter (1918) Wilfred Coxeter was one of the ever decreasing number of OA's who were at the School under the Reverend Thomas Layng, the last of the clerical headmasters. He was the managing director of Abingdon's largest departmental store, a lifelong friend of the School and a Founder member of the John Roysse Masonic Lodge.

W. M. Isbister (1923) died in February 1982. He lived in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

W. J. Lynn Robinson (1919) died on November 2nd 1981 in Perth, Australia. He spent much of his life with the Eastern Telegraph Company, now Cable and Wireless, and retired in 1959 as manager of the Gibraltar office. He was seconded to assist the army in the North African campaign and in Italy as a communications engineer.

M. T. Perks died on January 2nd 1982. He was a member of the staff for several years up to 1920 and married Maybell Hughes who taught music at the school. His daughter Celia writes that connections with the school did not end there as its then headmaster Mr. Grundy was her godfather; she can remember attending Founders' Days in the 1930's.

V. J. Relle (1924) was a school prefect back in the early twenties and a Founder member and Worshipful Master in 1967 of the John Roysse Lodge of Freemasons.

R. W. Snell (1923) Rowland Snell died on March 26th 1982. He was a partner in the Abingdon accountancy firm of Critchley and Co. and is noted for his voluntary work for the local hospitals. He was secretary of Abingdon Town football club for 25 years and was active in local organisations such as the Abbey Lodge of Freemasons and Abingdon Rotary Club.

NOTES

Michael Bateman (1951) has written, with Heather Maisner, 'The Sunday Times Book of Real Bread' published by Rodale Press, 1982 and reviewed in The Times on 24th April.

Canon David Wheaton is principal of Oak Hall Theological College and recently stood in for the Principal of Eskimo clergy training school on Baffin Island.

Colin Wiggins (1953) lives in New York (see address) and manages the technology stock portfolio for Exxon's pensions fund.

Garth Round (1953) who is managing director of J. P. Barrett and Sons, the West Hanney building firm, became in March 1982 president of the Southern Region of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. He is a member of the O.A. Committee and his three sons are present or recent Abingdonians.

B. D. Winkett (1957) is heading the Rayner Scrutiny of the job centres.

Cdr. Christopher Cobley R.N. (1957) is to command the guided missile destroyer H.M.S. Cardiff of some 3,500 tons, from July 1982.

Graham Crow (1959) after two years in the U.S.A. and a two year M.B.A. course at the Manchester Business School is designing and marketing a computerised personnel information system in Bristol.

R. S. Green (1959) has written 'The Train' in small Oxford Books published by OUP, 1982.

David Heather-Haynes (1960) is now living in Exmouth, Devon and is flying out of Exeter. He has three young sons and looks forward to seeing **R. B. Blackmore** (1956) fighting North Devon for the Liberals.

Ian Moss (1961) has purchased the Woodham Mortimer Golf Range Complex. That commitment has kept him from the Alligators week but he will be back this year. O.A.'s interested in the range are extended a cordial welcome by Ian. (Tel. 0245 41 3760, and see addresses.)

Stuart Long (1961) was with P. and O. and is now an hotel manager with the Tourist Hotel Corporation of New Zealand in Paihia.

Michael Vallance (staff 1962) moves from being headmaster at Durham School to be headmaster of Bloxham School, near Banbury. Tony Hillary wrote in the last Griffen that Mike had pleasantly spent time enhancing Durham School's cricket, buildings and herd of highland cattle.

Richard Welch (1962) is headmaster of St. Andrew's school, Chinnor. He has recently arranged a successful school fund raising art exhibition and brass rubbing weekend; 300 paintings from local artists were for sale.

John Bunce (1962) is Managing Director of Ericsson Information Systems Ltd., a U.K. subsidiary marketing computer equipment in the telecommunications market.

Peter Sheard (1962) is a pilot with British Airways and has recently married an air stewardess, Angela Parrack. They received an airborne greeting, from a flying friend in a biplane, as they left the church.

Michael Ford (1963) is married to Marié José (nee Avargues) and they have a year old son. He teaches Biology at Portobello High School, Edinburgh.

S. N. Clarke (1963) is now in the Department of Computer Science at the university of Toronto. His second son Roger was born in November 1981.

Dr. Tim King (1964) has been teaching biology since 1977 at Magdalen College School. He is active with tennis, chess and a third text book. His third child Oliver was born recently.

David Tanner has enjoyed considerable success in recent years coaching the British Coxless Four. The peak was probably the bronze in the Moscow Olympics. He sent a report on the 1981 season which mentioned high altitude training at 7,000 feet in South Africa in April. He has recently been promoted to Head of Sixth Form at Ealing.

Robert Westcott runs a small Maidenhead company specialising in electronic security systems mainly destined for the Middle East.

Lieut. Cdr. Anthony Wedgwood (1964) is a director in Danish television and a member of Sussex Division RNR. On joining H.M.S. Maxton in Scandinavia for his annual training, he found that the ship was commanded by an old school friend, **Lieut Cdr. Martyn Holloway** (1966).

William Lynn-Robinson (1965) in Australia met Richard Chaplin through the overseas column of Griffen. William, following a mechanical engineering degree, and patents work in Sydney, joined the state (NSW) electricity commission and has recently written a contract worth 400 million dollars connected with the world's largest power station.

Anthony Barnett (1967) is head of chemistry at a Newcastle comprehensive.

Anthony Gibbs (1967) is a first violin in the Hallé Orchestra.

Peter Blackburn (1967) and his wife are freelance journalists specialising in economic and financial reporting. They work and live in Tunis overlooking the bay of Carthage. They have a year old daughter. Moving to the Ivory Coast, they may soon have brother Robin Blackburn (1969), who is a chartered accountant working for coopers in Liberia, as a 'neighbour'.

Peter Healy (1967) has moved from Estate Agency to area sales administration manager. He married in 1976 and has two young children. He hopes to visit the school soon.

D. Allen (1967) is teaching at Ipswich School and wrote with news of his marriage to Shelagh Pearson this summer.

Nicholas Minns (1969) wrote from Montreal where he is dancing with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. He may come to the UK this summer, (see addresses).

Dr. A. J. Iddles (1969) wrote from the Oriana in Honolulu. He was about to do a six months sabbatical in Portsmouth before returning to sea.

Charles Maude (1969) has started a new company, Charles Maude Design, at 59, Shelton St, Covent Garden. He has published a pocket guide to the 158 London museums and his running keeps him much fitter than when at Abingdon. He considers that his brother Francis (1971), currently a Westminster City councillor, is doing very well at the Bar.

Malcolm Taylor (1968) after Business Studies at Plymouth Poly., went to Smith's Industries Ltd., and is now Purchasing Manager of Tudor Accessories in Glamorgan. He is still single but finds the natives very friendly. His brother (R. P. 1968) was married in May 1981 and is a manager in London for Trust House, Fortes. Malcolm saw **Mike Milanovitch** (1971) at Christmas; Mike had obtained a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics in 1981 and was off to Hong Kong to teach English. Malcolm also had news of Steven Lambert who is living in Goodrich near Ross-on-Wye; he has been running his own plastics company for the last two years.

Lieut. Simon Whipple (1971), Basic Training Officer at the Intelligence Corps Depot at Ashford joined seven RAF officers in an attempt to climb, without oxygen, the highest unclimbed peak over 25,000 feet in the Himalayas, the Masherbrun. Time, bad weather and bad luck prevented conquest.

Peter Cowley (1972) has returned from Japan. He married Christine Morgan on January 9th 1982 at Hale in the new Forest.

Roderic Godfrey (1972) sent a card of sunset over Base Camp, South Georgia Island. He was a member of the 1981/82 joint services expedition to the island and came off in March. He is now operations officer for the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in Germany. He notes that **Peter Webb** (1972) has moved from ICI in Huddersfield to Shell in Canada. **Graham Fowler** (1973) is in steel in Manchester.

Nicholas Talbot (1972) qualified as a Chartered Accountant and owns a radio production studio in Henley which produces radio commercials and programmes.

Jeremy Pike (1973) married Teresa in August 1981 in Poland. Delays with Teresa's passport led to an almost immediate and enforced separation. Jeremy contacted Tom Benyon and they both visited the Polish Embassy in London. Teresa flew into Heathrow in February to join Jeremy at Bedford School.

News of the **Bowkett twins** (1973): Steven, a captain in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, was married on 10th April 1982 and is at present stationed in Litchfield. Robert was married last July and is a lieutenant in the Royal Marines at present in university liaison.

Rory Nicholson (1974) was top cadet at the passing out of the 1st Australian Training Battalion at Wagga Wagga, NSW. He was in Crescent for two terms and his grandfather, E. W. J. Nicholson, lives in Abingdon.

Stephen Wakeford (1974) is being married in May 1982 (see addresses).

Robin Chapman (1975) after a first degree at Cambridge joined the DHSS in London as a graduate trainee and has recently been promoted to a 'fast-stream' grade. He finds the work interesting and very demanding and comments on the 'Yes Minister' programmes. Robin moved into a Putney flat vacated by **Christopher Hay** (1973) who was moving from DHSS to teaching in Norfolk (see addresses). Robin recently had dinner with **Bruce Sneddon** (1975) who has also just left the DHSS and is looking for jobs in the marketing and advertising field. Bruce had written to the Abingdonian in 1981 asking whether he might use the Dolgoed Farmhouse. Where will this lead? Bruce had met **Mark Phillips** (1975) who is working for a voluntary organisation called St. Mungo's Trust helping the 'down and outs' in London.

Robin Kermode (1976) played in an ITV situation comedy series with Donald Sinden.

Ian Thackeray (1976) is now an accountant who is at present abroad for six months.

David Thomas (1976) is a qualified doctor at the Birmingham Worcester Hospital, that is if he survived his eight weeks motor cycling on the Continent.

Mark Saunders (1977) took a first degree in Geography at Lancaster University, moved on to a MSc in Urban Studies at Salford University and is now on the Cambridge PGCE course.

Paul Younge (1978) after a degree in Civil Engineering appears to have landed a job with Howard Humphreys & Sons, Civil Engineering consultants of Leatherhead, Surrey. He still hankers after a medical career and it appears that door is not entirely closed.

Alastair Morfey (1978) won his second blue for cross-country running in December '81. Alastair came fourth; Cambridge had the first six home.

Martin Dennis (1978), with exceptional electron microscopy in a project, took a first in B.Med Sci at Nottingham. **Philip Corinna**, **Jonathan Julian**, and **Gideon Franklin** have all been awarded firsts in their part 1 Cambridge Tripos. Gideon has been awarded a college prize and exhibition at Selwyn and Philip a scholarship at Jesus. Congratulations also to **Andrew Hillary** (1978), at present in his first year of clinical studies at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, on winning a medical cadetship in the Royal Navy.

David Driver (1978) has enjoyed his Business Management course at Aston. He was much interested in his 'Sandwich Year' in personnel with the computer firm JCL and hopes to follow that line of management.

Neil Swan (1979) has moved from double-glazing, via the Berkshire job computer at the Reading Education office, to win a very valuable scholarship to the British School of Osteopathy. If successful in the course he will emerge with an external London University degree and will practise in private medicine.

David Merriman (1979) entered the Metropolitan Police Training School this year with a view to joining the force.

Graham Halsey (1980), playing on the wing, helped Durham University to a win in the UAU Rugby Union final.

Patrick Tidmarsh (1980) is reading French and Theatre Studies at Warwick. He has been awarded an Army Undergraduate Bursary and will serve in the Royal Corp of Transport.

Guy Neville (1981) is going to Cranwell for pilot training in April 1982.

Timothy Fellows (1981), following his scholarship to Cambridge to read Nat. Sci., is teaching at St. Augustine's Mission in Zimbabwe until the end of August.

Gareth Harper (1981), following his exhibition to Cambridge to read medicine, is with the 4th Field Regiment Royal Artillery on a short service limited commission; we hope the parachute training goes well.

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