

THE ABINGDONIAN



THE ABINGDONIAN

volume eighteen, number two

July 1984

O.A. Editor:
Treasurer:
Photography:

Editor:
Sub-Editors:

R. C. B. Coleman
W. H. Zawadzki
C. Biggs
C. Parker
R. S. K. Mearns
Adam Spring
Robert Dwek
Alex Hunt



EDITORIAL

In the archives of Pembroke College, Oxford, is a letter written at the end of 1934 by Arthur Preston, the Abingdon antiquarian, to the Senior Tutor at that time, who was greatly interested in the links between College and School. Preston remarks: "At the time I was putting together my notes on the early history of the School, I remember that I was rather astonished to find there were no records in the hands of the Headmaster containing information of the past." Such surprise was understandable, for the School's history is long, and not lacking in occasional episodes both of distinction and of scandal — the latter, perhaps, even more likely than the former to leave behind a litter of documentation. But much has probably been allowed to disappear from sight in the periods of dullness and decline which have repeatedly followed the episodes of interest. Furthermore, at all times until the present century, the School has been so small that it would most likely have seemed a luxury to attempt the internal keeping of archives. And, lastly, Abingdon has been too "typical" through most of its history for people generally to think it worth while recording what must have appeared to them routine, obvious and insignificant.

The period since the last war, however, has seen considerable development in this, as in other aspects of the School's business. Changes in the size and status of the establishment have generated quantities of archival material which will, if allowed to survive, afford fascinating resources for future historians. At the same time, the growth of a fresh attitude towards our past has brought in a trickle, slight in volume but very worth while, of "heirloom benefactions" from Old Boys and others. (To do full justice, in fact, we must trace the origins of this latter process a good deal further back, beyond the activities and gifts of Arthur Preston, mentioned above, to another Old Abingdonian, W. H. Richardson, who gave us a quantity of material at the end of the last century.)

Nor were the prospects for historians of the School so limited as Preston's remark, taken in isolation, might appear to suggest. As he himself went on to point out, there is much documentation relating to the School in the archives of other institutions — notably the Borough of Abingdon, Christ's Hospital, and Pembroke College, the bodies chiefly responsible

for management of the School over several centuries. In at least one of these cases, there is more of interest than Preston himself was aware; and there are other collections of material in Oxford, principally in the Bodleian, which have not been used so far.

Even in the central matter of the School's own historic possessions, Preston under-estimated the case. Since his time, the deed boxes of the School's solicitors have yielded up a not inconsiderable treasure trove of documents of varying ages and significance, which allow us the chance of adding substantially to our understanding. The most valuable and important of these documents, the original 1563 ordinances, and an indenture sealed by John Roysse which transferred part of his London property to the use of the re-founded School, are about to be properly conserved, mounted and displayed, through the generosity of the O.A. Trust Fund. Others are being catalogued and stored — an undertaking in which I am employing at least part of the sabbatical term which the Governors have generously granted to me this summer.

In sum, we are increasingly conscious and careful of our past, and are finding that there is more of it than we had realised. (Nor does this apply only to documentary relics: heirlooms of all sorts, and most particularly, pictures, are coming to light in surprising quantities and are being given such attention as we can afford.)

All this activity will perhaps be of direct interest only to a few; but it will have a more general value if it enhances popular awareness of the past to which we owe so many of our present opportunities. There is no logical reason why we should see more clearly where we are going if we know where we have come from; but it does appear to be a truth about the behaviour of institutions and communities that they show more collective confidence, and thus bestow more confidence on their individual members, when they have a strong and unworried sense of their history. Such confidence can breed arrogance, of course, but lack of it is even more likely to breed anxious aggressiveness. By increasing our collective self-knowledge, we may hope to avoid both extremes.

We live in times full of possibilities for schools such as Abingdon, and not lacking in perils. So, as we reach one hand out to grasp the future, it seems only prudent, as well as pious, to tighten our grip with the other on the past.

M. St. J. P.

ENTRIES TO OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
AUTUMN 1984

CAMBRIDGE	College	To read	OXFORD	College	To read
Awards			Award		
J. Lee (Scholarship)	Pembroke	English	J. E. Robson (Scholarship)	Pembroke	Classics
P. J. Owen (Scholarship)	Trinity Hall	Medicine	Places		
S. J. B. Reynolds (Exhibition)	St. John's	Natural Sciences	S. J. Dewhurst	St. Anne's	Engineering
Places			J. R. Flynn	Oriel	Medicine
B. R. Keeping	Trinity	Mathematics	A. W. Jones	Magdalen	History
P. J. Ladmore	Robinson	Law	P. W. May	Christ Church	P.P.E.
P. J. Rodgers	Queens'	Mathematics	D. A. Sperry	Pembroke	Medicine
			R. N. Ward	St. Edmund Hall	Biochemistry

(6)

(7)

COMMON ROOM NEWS

The end of the summer term saw a number of departures. **Alan Futter** and **Nikos Georgiakakis** left us for fresh numerical pastures. The latter's vitality was formidable and although we never actually saw him play the bazuki, we more than suspect that he will be regaling his colleagues in Charterhouse with its finer subtleties. They have been replaced by **Mrs.**, since **Dr. Fitt** — and on the addition of this latter appellation we heartily congratulate her — and **Peter Jones** who comes to us fresh from St. Stithian's College, South Africa. Both have been heavily involved in the Boat Club and Peter's influence has been particularly marked, as he is a leading authority in this activity. This year too saw the departure of **Paul Simpson** to be a resident Housemaster at the Mary Hare National School for the Deaf at Newbury. Paul's verve, talent for playing the organ and master-minding *Lost Property* are very much missed. The latter chore has fallen the way of **Ian Smith** who joins us from York to teach Physics. A man of many parts, Ian has already taken boys to Dartmoor on the Ten Tors trip. He replaces **Dr. Edward Mallia** who has taken on the difficult task of furthering the cause of private education in his native Malta. We wish him and his family every success. Paul Simpson's place has been taken over by **Teddy Birnberg**, resident tutor in School

House. Teddy assists in the Boat Club, and as well as teaching Hebrew, has galvanised the Film Society into showing a dazzling array of continental features. It was with regret that we saw the departure of two people from the English Department. **Mark Jones** left us to seek further possibilities in publishing. His place has been taken by **William Marston**, now a resident tutor at Waste Court. William is also the editor of the *Record*, the concise chronicle of the term's activities which he has inherited from **David Smith**. We have abiding memories of David's vigour, intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for drama. We wish him and his wife well at Mary Hare. David's place has been taken this term by **Patricia Esler** whose knowledge of all things dramatic is remarkable. For the whole of the Lent Term we were without **Hubert Zawadski** as he was engaged in the complexities of research at Oxford. His place was taken by **Richard Sharp**, and Richard's reflections on a term at Abingdon are printed on the opposite page. Common Room has also been fortunate to share the skills and linguistic interests of **Clive Johnson** and **Bridget Wade** for two terms, the former has been teaching Latin, the latter French. One final point: last year's number may have given the impression that *Lacies' Court* was designed by Lutyens; this is not so, it is simply in his idiom.

CHAPEL NOTES

These notes are written at the end of a term which has seen two encouraging developments within the life and worship of the Chapel. The first has been the emergence of a group, consisting largely of fifth and sixth formers, which meets each Monday lunch-time for Bible study, prayer and discussion. One of the attractions of this group is that it gives others, apart from the Chaplain, an opportunity to lead this sort of activity and my hope is that it will go from strength to strength.

The second development has been the reintroduction of voluntary chapel on a Friday morning. This occasion also provides welcome opportunities for several members of staff to talk about their faith in an atmosphere which inevitably seems more relaxed and informal than that of our services on other days of the week. I do hope that members of the School will think about attending this service from time to time. It is not meant to be a 'holy huddle' but rather an occasion which would be of general appeal as a way of beginning the day prayerfully and thoughtfully.

Perhaps the 'high-light' of this term was the visit of the Bishop of Lewes on Ash Wednesday. His addresses to the upper and middle schools were widely appreciated, as was his sermon the service of Holy Communion later that same morning. Incidentally, more than a hundred members of the School received Communion on that occasion. A rare event in the life of the chapel; and, I suspect, a revealing one.

P.W.B.

Richard Sharp

To be invited to record my fleeting impressions of a Term at Abingdon gives great pleasure. It is satisfying to have a chance to pay tribute to the generous spirit of the School — of which, indeed, the invitation is, itself, characteristic — and to be able to express my sense of gratitude for the privilege of having been a member of the Abingdon community. It was deeply rewarding to be associated with a place which produces such a wide range of achievement, the fruit of a remarkable combination of talent and enthusiasm in masters and boys alike. It was also particularly good to see that the pursuit of excellence at Abingdon seems to remain free of the spirit of selfish competition that can mar it elsewhere. This well-judged style I found sympathetic, and helpful.

Other pleasant impressions were almost too numerous to mention: the specious and cultivated, yet efficient, tone of Common Room; the stimulating company and generous hospitality of colleagues, the co-operative spirit of the boys, and the splendidly wide-ranging extra-curricular life. Two evenings at the Theatre in London were outstanding.

How well I coped with being Dr. Zawadski for a Term is, of course, another matter.

J. R. S.

C.C.F.

Since the early 1960s the C.C.F. has been housed in a breeze-block-built, poorly heated and unsightly hut behind the Bursary. With the development of this area as car-parking for the Amey Hall, new Technology Centre and Maintenance Building, a move for the C.C.F. has been on the cards for some time. Within the next two years, we shall be moving the base of our operations to a renovated Old Royal Navy H.Q. building beside Waste Court. There is no doubt that the new building will be much more sightly and will provide us with space for stores, offices and one lecture room at least. We also hope to develop an old garage next door into a base for the newly formed R.E.M.E. Section. Some of this work will be done by our own cadets who have in the past year constructed an Assault Course behind Crescent House — much more testing than its predecessor with water jump, climbing net, 6ft and 12 ft walls. These facilities together with our minibus, landrover, canoes and climbing equipment will help us to provide some useful and stimulating training on normal parade days.

In the past year, we have welcomed a new R.A.F. Officer — Flying Officer Gavin Hannah (presently teaching at Summerfields) so that our current Officer strength is, for the first time in years, up to establishment level.

Past C.C.F. cadets continue to fill the Officer ranks of the Army with 3 S.S.L.C.s plus two regular commissions in the past year with two more in the pipeline. Plans for the immediate future include Parachute Courses, overnight exercises, summer camp at Penhale, Cornwall plus various Orienteering events and championships.

CONCLUSION — C.C.F. FOR ALL

As with most school activities, cadets in the C.C.F. benefit in direct proportion to the time and effort they put into it. Tuesday afternoons can all too easily become dull, but our off-campus activities are for the vast majority enjoyable and worthwhile because the basics have been learnt on Tuesday afternoons.

We believe that too much of modern education is aimed at personal qualification and gratification. In the C.C.F. our number one aim is to encourage service and responsibility for others. Far more boys remain in the C.C.F. to the Sixth Form and benefit from this aim than can possibly be given prefectorial responsibility.

If boys leave us to make better managers, leaders and administrators, then our existence is more than justified.

R. J. W.



B.A.O.R. — HAMELN WEST GERMANY

On Saturday 7th April, 2 Officers and 20 cadets left Abingdon for Hameln where they were guests of 28 Amphibious Engineers Regiment. After 15 hours travelling by rail, ferry and minibus the group arrived at Binden Barracks in time for lunch on Sunday. They were left to settle in for the remainder of the afternoon, and were free to explore Hameln — the town of Pied Piper fame in the evening. Monday morning was taken up by shooting at the range in Gordon Barracks, where we were shown a bi-athalon competition rifle and a demonstration of shooting by a soldier who hopes to be in Los Angeles representing Britain this summer. We were left to shoot at targets and snap shooting at pictures exposed for 3 seconds. The highlight of the trip for most came on Tuesday, when, after an introductory film, we were taken to the River Weser to spend a day with 28 Amphibious Engineers, building bridges and fernes with the M2 vehicles. This was a training day for the crews, but unfortunately they did not have river clearance to build a bridge right across the Weser, so they could only link 2 or 3 M2's. Incidentally this regiment was on "Blue Peter" in March and they really were spectacular.

Wednesday was spent in the company of the Combat Engineers at Gordon barracks. We had demonstrations of English mines and Argentinian mines as well as treading on smoke devices which they use in training. After the strenuous work of the first 3 days — Thursday was very relaxed. We went on a trip to the Hay mountains to sledge but we also visited the East German border which was enshrouded by fog. Thursday evening saw the start of a 5-a-side football competition which kept us occupied before doing other things.

On the Friday, we were left "at the mercy" of the P.E. department. The major part of the morning was taken up by a competition of strength and stamina. Activities included shovelling medicine balls over bars, climbing underneath tables without touching the ground and an egg and spoon race wearing one flipper and a diving boot over a short course. To the delight of one instructor the A team won, and we rounded off the morning with a game of murder ball — the rugby players having a slight advantage. The afternoon became free when the local youth club failed to turn up for a pre-arranged match, so the majority of cadets went into Hameln for the last time.

Saturday was initiative day and the winners were to receive stunning prizes and the losers would have to carry the luggage from Dover harbour to the railway station. All the pairs set off at 9.30 a.m. and were not allowed back until after 4 p.m., one pair left at 5.15 a.m. and were back at 9.30 a.m.!! Most of the pairs made good use of their time by hill-walking, cycling, hitching to Gutesloh and riding around in the back of military police cars — a good connection with someone in Germany. One pair was said to be going to Gibraltar for a day trip, but in the end they hobbled to Hameln railway station and ended up in Gutesloh. All the groups were back for the debriefing at 7.15 p.m. and the winners won the chance to carry everyone else's luggage — much to the delight of the losing 10. After 10 pin bowling on Saturday evening the party left Hameln bound for England via Zeebrugge early Sunday morning. The trip was a great success thanks to Major Webber and Tim Haworth plus the enormous effort put in by Colonel R. Page in Germany, another trip will probably be going next year — by air definitely, mainly because a certain ferry company were not with us all the way.!!

R. H. Forrest (6)

THE C.C.F. BAND 1984

The band really took off this year, mainly due to the consistent hard work and dedication of Mr. Jones, and also to the 4 2nd year drummers who came along on a Tuesday afternoon, of their own will, and I think got a lot of satisfaction and experience from playing together and with the band.

The band is made up solely of the 1st Wind Band players, and some extra players from the 2nd Wind Band and Brass Band. They practice on a Thursday lunchtime but really during the last two terms did very well, in overcoming the initial difficulties of marching, practising only a few times, after school on a Tuesday.

Last term saw the real 'formation' of the Corps Band, and really it wasn't until this term that the Band began to look like a real marching band. It was a relief then, that by the time the Inspection day arrived in May, the band were able to lead the parade around the wall, knowing that they looked more of a 'military' band than before.

Other activities included the C.C.F. entertainment evening in which the band played very professionally on stage.

Special thanks must go to the drummers; Ben Kempton, Daniel James, Nick Tonks and James Neal, all of whom are learning the drums and are really promising.

The band will expand undoubtedly in the future, but there are boys like D. Newport, N. Sommerville, Craig Henry and Ron Hyder who will be greatly missed, when the band meet together again next term.

Thanks must go to the principal players such as James Kowszun and Matthew Elliott, who when order had to be kept, and I couldn't keep it, took their sections very well. Those two have joined the Corps as cadets, and this and many other helpful sides to the band have been made possible by Major Webber's expertise on the musical and administrative side, and obviously Captain Fox's dedication in kitting the boys in uniform, and keeping the band running smoothly.

A very successful platform to build on in the future.

Many thanks.

Huw M. James

R.A.F. SECTION 1983-84

This past year has seen the largest number of new recruits for some time complete their 4th year training programme, including, of course, their R.A.F. part II proficiency exam. Besides this varied ground training, all the cadets have had the opportunity of gaining real flying experience, both in the two seat Chipmunk trainers and the multi-role transport Andover aircraft.

Thanks to the efforts of our latest officer to join the section, Flg. Off. Hanner, the 5th form cadets have this year been able to enjoy a new N.C.O cadre course which, due to its success, will now become a regular feature of our 5th form training programme. The senior N.C.O.'s have been busy continuing with the various projects the section is involved in, including the building of the hovercraft, the completion of our radio controlled glider, helping with the construction of the assault course, and in making a new general purpose section headquarters/lecture room.

Over Easter a party of 13 cadets went with Sqn. Ldr. Biggs for a week's visit to R.A.F. Binbrook, home of No. 2 Group's air defence Lightning interceptors. As well as having the opportunity of observing a front line squadron at work, the cadets also benefited from the chance to fly and shoot.

On the national scale our cadets have been extremely successful this year. Two cadets won R.A.F. Sixth Form Scholarships, three cadets were awarded Flying Scholarships and one of the few places for the International Air Cadets Exchange was awarded to one of our cadets, so completing a most successful year for the section.

Simon Arthy (6)



REME 1983-84

Easter 1983, the birth of R.E.M.E. section, Abingdon CCF. Under the capable hands of 2nd Lts. Howarth and Johnson, volunteers from the fifth year took an introductory course into basic mechanics. By the summer, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers section was in full flow and there was the promise of a Land Rover and Sherpa Van newly acquired from (.....?.....) Great!, we thought it would make a change from a pre 1960 registered 1100 Morris Minor which greatest attribute was the fact that it could actually move! Thanks anyway, Tim; it made a good guinea pig!



A DAY OUT AT BICESTER

It was a cold morning when we arrived at Bicester, there was still some snow on the ground. There were two sections, one travelled to Piddington for the morning where Major Webber had arranged some activities, while the others stayed at Bicester. Then after lunch everyone snapped around. There were various activities at Piddington, most of which had been practised many times at school but before now they could not be carried out properly because there wasn't enough space.

The major event of the day was the assault course at Bicester. Both sections attempted this, one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Before each section started, there was a small run to warm them up. Then they were led around the various obstacles before attempting them themselves. The first obstacle proved the most difficult — the twelve-foot wall. Most people got over it once, but left it out the second and third times. There were two more obstacles before an easy one, a 2 metre drop. After the scramble net came the worst two obstacles — a barbed wire net which had to be crawled under and a water jump. Usually over the water there were two logs to walk across, but today it happened to be too dangerous to use them. There was half a foot of mud in the bottom which clung to your feet when you scrambled out. After doing the course 3 times everyone thought it was over, but there was just one small surprise left in store for us, a log lift. This really made us cold and fed up, but most people seemed to enjoy the day out.

Simon McCannell (4 L.C.J.G.)

When the Land Rover eventually arrived there was much excitement and along with the Sherpa was put to immediate use. The Open Day gave R.E.M.E. a chance to show off their equipment and under a floodlit display impressed all who were lucky enough to see it.

Most of the work in R.E.M.E. has been tuition of the 4th year and 5th year with emphasis on advanced mechanics for official 5th year members of the section. With promotions coming quickly and the new acquisitions being spaced up for Inspection Day, much faithful work going into the repainting of the Sherpa by our correspondent, the future looks bright for R.E.M.E. at Abingdon.

James Bouch (Sgt.) 6F

C.C.F. Entertainment Evening Three Poems

Having all been approached by Mr. Griffin, ten of us began rehearsals about three weeks before the performance. The material was to be a selection of War poems by Kipling and Henry Reed, and, as always, Mr. Griffin had already decided how he wanted them presented.

Rehearsals went all right, with a few disagreements on the rhythm of one poem in particular, and soon the night of the CCF entertainment evening arrived.

The first and last poems were pointing out the attachment of the soldiers to the things they had known before the war, and these we found easy to perform. The middle one, however, centred round the way a soldier was used by the public in times of trouble and was then disregarded in peace-time. This one gave me the greatest satisfaction because it was presented in a different style. No-one said more than about two lines at a time and cues had to be well-learned.

I certainly enjoyed performing it, and I think most of the others did.

Nick Westwood

What he hasn't said is that one of the group was ill and had to drop out at the very last minute, that another was also ill, but came and did his stuff very well, while two others only just made it to the second performance, having been rowing in the afternoon, and having had to make a mad dash back to Abingdon, — the producer's hair is now visibly grayer.

L.C.J.G.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Capsize drill in a blizzard? Surely not, we thought, but true to his word our army instructor had us all under water in no time. However, the ecstatic sense of achievement on later completing the rapids totally overshadowed any earlier discomfiture. In the same way, the horror of finding yourself clinging to a rockface forty feet up with apparently no way up or down was always matched by the personal satisfaction gained on completing the climb. But this was what Adventurous Training was all about, facing new challenges and learning more about yourself by the way you tackled them.

For the second year running our camp took us to the Deverall Barracks in Yorkshire, where we were able to benefit once again from the luxurious accommodation provided (in comparison with Cairnsphaim, anyway!), the great food and the beautiful surrounding countryside. Besides the above mentioned activities of canoeing and rock climbing, cadets were also able to take part in orienteering exercises and overnight hill walking expeditions. The great team spirit that existed throughout the camp was shown in many ways, none more telling than by the high standard of drill and turnout that was achieved each morning, much to the credit of all the cadets present.

ROYAL SIGNALS TROOP

After a long period in which the Signals Troop was regarded by many other members of the CCF as the 'soft option', it has now acquired a more respectable image. This is attributable in part at least to a very successful year. Last July three of our signallers spent a week on attachment to our support unit — 244 Signal Squadron at Brize Norton, who were more than willing to demonstrate how to cam-up anything from a Land Rover to a stereo cassette player. This was eclipsed only by the demonstrations of how not to wire up light bulbs, switches and batteries — at this point our intrepid signaller — Kuno Vander Post stepped in to save the day. Joking apart, this attachment was valuable experience and great fun.

In the Michaelmas term, we were once again asked to provide communications at the Boars Hill country relay. This was very successful and was made possible by the use of the New CCF Land Rover which is specially fitted for Radio. All this training put us on top form for the field day at Piddington. The organisation of this was left in the capable hands of Steve Lee Jones. For this he once again called on 244 Sig. Sqn. For assistance we got rather more than we had expected. Instead of the Land Rover and two signallers we had asked for, we got the whole of Alpha troop and seventeen vehicles including four ton trucks. All in all, we have had a very successful year, and with new kit on order, the future looks very good.

U/O R. Ward VI



The thanks of all cadets concerned must be conveyed to the officers who gave up their own holiday time to make the camp possible; it was greatly appreciated. In particular a special "thank you" must surely be due to Capt. Jock Fox, who in his usual magical style conjured up the most luxurious form of transport to get us all home. How does he do it?

Simon Arthy (6)

R. H. B. GOES TO CHINA

Organised tours to China are now fairly common, but we wanted to spend a long time in one particular city and be able to sight-see at our own pace, so we arranged things for ourselves as we went along. "Foreign Guests" seldom behave in this way and on occasions it was an uncertain and time consuming business but, though our visas were scrutinised every time we bought a rail ticket or booked into an hotel, never once did we feel we were being watched or prevented from going when we wanted.

The main purpose of our visit was to renew ties of friendship with families in Chengdu, as Ruth's father, William Sewell, had been professor of chemistry at the University and his family had been born and brought up there. Now, after the traumatic experience of the "so called Cultural Revolution", when education was a dirty word, China's universities are desperately keen to make up for the lost years. Contact with the West, particularly with scientists, is much sought after and Ruth's lectures to the staff of the medical college were highly valued, as were the up-to-date text books we had brought as gifts. English has replaced Russian as the main second language and we thoroughly enjoyed holding conversation lessons with the lively medical students for whom proficiency in English is an additional requirement.

We were feasted on numerous occasions (Yes, ancient eggs, eels, fungus — the lot!) and almost embarrassed by the amount of time our hosts gave to ensuring that we saw and did whatever we wanted. We received V.I.P. treatment at many historic sites, and visits to schools, a teacher training college and a hospital were arranged especially for us.

Chinese schools are very much exam orientated and pupils are under considerable family pressure. There is a Unified Text Book system throughout the country which means that in each subject there is a specified text book which is also the syllabus and upon which any exam must be set. The teacher's job is to interpret and explain this text book (and nothing but the text book). The Maths and Physics ones I saw seemed fairly advanced for the years for which they were set, but the presentation seemed dull and unexciting. Though the labs were quite well equipped, they were underused because a practical is only done if it is one of the 8 or so specified for that year. Most classes have about 50 pupils. Teachers only teach for 15-20 periods a week but marking is taken very seriously and "free periods" don't really exist. There is a 6-day week and two terms a year of 23 weeks each. Homework of up to 2 hours may be set and pupils have to arrive by 8.00 a.m. for an hour's quiet reading before lessons begin.

To Western eyes, living conditions seem exceedingly cramped and spartan, but privacy, space and possessions are Western ideals; Chinese priorities have always been far more concerned with the extended family, mutual support and group welfare. Everyone is keen to point out the great strides that have been made since Liberation in 1949. The people are adequately fed and clothed. A massive housing programme is under way with 6-storey blocks of flats replacing single storey shacks. There is (almost) full employment. Westerners may look at those hard working gangs, 100 strong, toiling with pick, shovel and yoke, and reckon that one J.C.B. could do the job as quickly. Maybe — but what about the unemployment problem which would be created?

Everywhere there are people. The countryside with its terraced fields separated by irrigation ditches, is like a continuous market garden. Any land which is cultivatable is cultivated — most of it by hand or water buffalo, but we did see the occasional tractor. Particular villages or work units can be seen having a blitz on "their" section of a major construction work — such as stone lining 50 metres of a 200 kilometre flood prevention dyke. The tree-lined main roads are crowded with pedestrians, hand carts, bullock carts and commune trucks all laden with produce for the street markets which is where most Chinese do their daily shopping. The bigger markets are well organised with different sections for meat; eggs; fowl (taken home live); fish and eels (killed on the spot); vegetables; fruit; flowers; caged birds; and a large section devoted to pot plants, bonzai trees and ornate rocks. With so much food on open display it was amazing to find an almost complete absence of flies. Too early in the year, perhaps, or maybe the flykilling programme of earlier years has had a lasting effect.

On Easter Sunday we arrived at the Protestant Church more than half an hour early but already it was packed and overflow chairs were being put out in the courtyard. All the former protestant denominations have joined together, sharing buildings and pastors. During the Cultural Revolution all outward forms of Religious Observance were banned and church property was confiscated. Now, the official party line is one of Religious Toleration, property is being returned to the Church and the Government is even paying back-dated rent which, in Chengdu, has already helped to pay for an extension to the church and a new hall and meeting room.

In Chengdu progress on foot was slow and the buses so packed that we often hired bicycles and joined the bell-ringing torrent, weaving our way around the more heavily laden and attempting to map read as we went. The weekly day off is staggered so each day there are hordes free to converge on parks and classical gardens many almost queuing to photograph each other against the more picturesque backgrounds with their hired cameras. Nowhere did we come across a lawn or see any grass that would need to be mown. With all those feet it doesn't stand a chance!

Increased life expectancy and the decline in infant mortality has highlighted the need for population control and the success of the drive towards one-child families is seen as absolutely vital to China's prosperity and progress.

We very soon learnt to accept that the Chinese do not think it at all rude to stare (even at close quarters); to eavesdrop; or to peer over one's shoulder; but we never really came to terms with all the hawking and spitting. We saw very few beggars, no gambling, no sexist advertising and very little vandalism. We had no qualms at all about walking after dark save for the hazard of crossing the roads as bicycles do not have lights and only the majority travel on the right!

Often, if we paused on our evening strolls, someone who could speak a little English would strike up a conversation and in no time at all we would be at the centre of a large crowd, all listening intently, with some smilingly repeating the odd word they recognised from following the popular English Language lessons on radio or T.V. One of the first questions put to us would be "Where are you from?" and they were obviously delighted to have discovered the genuine article as opposed to English-speaking continentals or Americans.

Of course five weeks in China doesn't make us experts and the country is so vast that our experience may be entirely different from that of those visiting other regions, but we can see increasing opportunities for Sino-British contacts — particularly in Education and Business. How sad to have to report that the business reps we came across all seemed to be Japanese, American or German.

What of our sight-seeing? When staying in Beijing we went to the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven. We saw the serried ranks of the Terracotta Army at Xian; the pandas in Chengdu Zoo and the headworks of the Dujiangyan irrigation system, still basically the same after 2000 years. We took a boat through the Yangtze gorges, visited the rock gardens of Suzhou and stayed at the airport workers guesthouse at Shanghai — this last (possibly a first for Westerners) courtesy of President Reagan whose entourage and press following had booked up every hotel room in the city. Then it was Hong Kong — but that's another story.

R. H. Baker

SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM 1983

The Sixth Form Common Room progressed considerably during 1983 despite one or two hiccups along the way.

The furniture was our initial problem, following the Bursar's spring-time bonfire of our previous collection of tatty armchairs. The solution was twofold, with Captain Fox and a local dealer providing some sturdy replacements. The darts area was relocated from its previously impractical position, and the board was renewed, following an upsurge in the popularity of this sport with the sixth form. The financing of these improvements is largely thanks to the generous donations made by T.A.S.S.

The hired video game proved to be a very popular feature in the Common Room, and had the dual advantage of providing an additional source of income. This enabled us to sell hot and cold drinks, from our vending machine, and a variety of chocolate bars and crisps at subsidised prices. Another welcome move made by the committee was the introduction of two daily papers, which helped to keep us informed about Oxford United's phenomenal promotion season.

R. Flaxman

THE SIXTH FORM SURREAL TEA PARTY

The train rushed out of the fireplace into a crowded room of party guests in large circles sucking raw fish. As the mist drew away, under the upturned bucket the sound of pouring tea grew louder and the gum boots grew larger. A double breasted man in bowler hat announced the next event. Just then, there was an incoherent babbling from the cupboard and the frogs fell flat against the wall. We rubbed our eyes to look again at the incredible works of art positioned randomly, smashed into pieces in the middle of a table full of cow cakes. The telephone rang ... I think, or was it just a dream?

A. Starr



RUGBY 1983

As a whole, the school rugby club has a reasonable season in 1983. the 2nd XV and the Junior Colts XV were the most successful, the 1st, 3rd and 4th XV's had fairly even records; the Junior XV lost more than they won having useful forwards but less talent in the backs, and the Colts XV, although the statistics look unimpressive, nevertheless made great progress and should provide some useful players for the 1st and 2nd XV's over the next two years.

1983 also witnessed a change in regime with David Crawford stepping down from running the game after 9 years, during which time Abingdon rugby made great progress and some very successful 1st XV's were produced.

1st XV

Pre-season training started at the beginning of September for Game 1 hopefuls and there was a good turnout and plenty of enthusiasm. It did not look like being a world-beating side but certainly one capable of giving a good account of itself.

The first game saw us entertaining Bloxham at home. To our disappointment the weather turned wet and windy and really put paid to any chance of running rugby. Nevertheless, we started in good spirit and dominated the first half both territorially and in terms of possession. A steady scrum deep in the opposition 22 allowed a planned move to be executed and although performed at half pace it was sufficiently deceptive to lead to a score in the corner. The touchline conversion gave us a 6-0 lead at half time. After the interval, the scrummaging deteriorated and we allowed the opposition to dictate play, we paid the penalty by conceding a soft try. Although we bounced back, further Abingdon pressure was not rewarded by more points and we had to settle for a 2 point win. The most encouraging aspects had been the good quantity of ruck and maul ball won and the determination shown.

Conditions could not have been more different the following week away at Pangbourne. Early pressure and a quick tapped penalty gave us a dream start as Mark Boobbyer cruised over for his second try of the season. This turned out to be a mixed blessing as we relaxed and faded out of the game for the next 30 minutes. Possession was negligible, in both tight and loose, and we were fortunate to be only one point down at half time. In the second half we improved and points steadily accrued from the boot of Brian Woolley. We won by 5 points but were 1-2 down on the try count and had been fortunate.

Rain and wind greeted us at Berkhamsted 3 days later and we lost this game in the space of eight minutes when they ran through us for three tries which were well-conceived and executed but not unstoppable. We were well outplayed. We gained considerably less than half of the possession but, more worryingly, looked pedestrian and unimaginative even when we did win it.

The same faults were much in evidence against Solihull who had little trouble in beating us. The line-outs in particular were a disaster with the opposition winning the ball at will even on our throw-ins.

Bad weather returned for the M.C.S. game. This was particularly unfortunate because we were clearly the better side and won a good amount of ball. The backs needed to be able to use it to gain confidence especially as changes had taken place to get the line moving, Brian Woolley moving up from full-back to replace Jon Ralfe at fly-half. On the day it just was not possible. Such was the force of the wind and the rain that in the last 20 minutes that the players complained of difficulty seeing the white ball.

The first half of term ended with the Radley fixture. A scoreline of 3-17 implies a tremendous effort. Although under intense pressure in the scrums their commitment was such that there was plenty of ruck ball available. However, Radley defended capably and produced a couple of breaks in the centre which both led to tries and set up their victory.

After the break we restarted at Reading. The game started with the total number of spectators numbering just about the proverbial 2 men and a dog; there was no atmosphere at all. The game never got going. We scored two good tries to put ourselves comfortably ahead, relaxed, conceded a soft try and lost the game.

Against Marlborough we must have won enough ball to win the game several times over. We did not, and in fact we did not even lose the game closely. Outside the scrum we simply lacked penetration and our own defence was far too readily breached, with little secondary defence from the pack. Marlborough ventured into our 22 three times and scored on two occasions.

The Newbury match was best forgotten. We did win 9-0, though, having had to rearrange considerably after Brian Woolley left the field.

The following Saturday we entertained the Old Abingdonians and shared the honours in a 8-8 draw. The O.A. side had fairly modest forwards but one or two classy backs. Again we seemed uninspired when on the attack.

Warwick. At last the backs began to play with some conviction and flair. Warwick had been going well and we did well to stay in contention all the way through. Had we not lost concentration a little at one or two vital scrums we might have snatched the game.

We went into the final game of the season, against St. Edward's feeling that we had to win, not only to confer a little more respectability on the playing record but also because of a feeling that our play deserved at least one more victory. We were not to be disappointed. As the backs continued their improvement the pack actually were less impressive. We were down at half-time but recaptured the lead going into the last quarter and then exerted more and more pressure. It was a pleasing way to end the term.

The team was skippered in mature fashion by Philip Ladmore. He and the other four members of the front five were ever-present during the season and although neither tall or heavy they held up pretty well as a unit in the scrums. Philip's devastating pace was unfortunately scarcely seen in matches. Kevin Higgs at hooker was secure on his own ball and Andrew Ward at loose-head still found time and energy enough to play almost as a loose forward in getting around the field and putting in tackles. Stuart Sutcliffe was another mobile tight forward and improved markedly as the season progressed. His partner in the second row, James 'Reg' Perrins, was a tireless worker as well as a quietly efficient club secretary. Jonathan Phillips, who also played in every game, was a competitive tearaway open-side flanker and was often first to the loose ball. He was also the only forward to get on the score sheet with a couple of tries. The rest of the back row eventually comprised Richard Elsey at number 8, good at close quarters and a solid scrummager, and Andrew McGhie, our best ball-winner in maul situations and a difficult man to stop with the ball in his hands. Simon Walker, the original choice at number 8, sustained a broken leg fairly early on in the season. David Sperry deputised very ably on three occasions.

On occasions, the pack was devastating in the loose, especially against Radley and Marlborough. In the scrums we had to work hard to win good ball and the line-outs, even with shortened variations, never yielded much useful ball.

Outside, we suffered from not being able or allowed to find the best combination. Three scrum halves appeared during the season; Simon Littlewood was probably the first choice but was beset by injury problems and also it was decided that we needed his pace on the wing. Paul Golding played reliably on three occasions and for the other matches Matthew Hunt filled the slot. He played efficiently and did some good covering. To be really effective he needs to play a more dominant game, looking for the occasional break and communicating more with the pack in front of him. Jon Ralfe began at fly-half but did not look ideally suited to the position. He reappeared successfully for the last three games at full-back, having missed some matches through injury. Brian Woolley, the best threequarter, was persuaded to move from his favoured full-back position to fly-half and this brought about a very marked improvement to the team. Brian played some excellent games and early on in the season his place-kicking was vitally important factor. Mark Boobyer and Simon Rushton were the final centre pairing. They did not operate tremendously well together either in defence or attack but Simon was a great trier and Mark was always capable of beating a man. In the last two or three games we did begin to see some straight hard running from the midfield. Andrew Fisher and Julian Flynn on the wing and in the centre both had some handling problems. Neither had real finishing pace but both were determined runners.

Mark Durand played on the wing in the early games and showed real pace without really looking happy at this level. Marcus Blake filled the full-back slot in mid-season and was willing to tackle anybody. However, his line-kicking was modest and he found it difficult to get himself into the right position at times. As with one or two of the other backs he probably found himself in the first team before he was quite ready for it. Nevertheless, these younger players should show the benefit of their experience next year.

I should like to conclude by saying how much I have enjoyed the first year at the reins and by recording my thanks to my fellow coaches, of both team and non-team games, to those who refereed and to those who helped behind the scenes, catering preparing pitches and also to those who lent their support on match days. I look forward to next season.

R.S.P./J.R.G.

Full colours:

P. J. Ladmore (capt.), J. M. Perrins, J. Phillips, A. J. N. Ward, B. E. Woolley.

Half colours:

M. D. Blake, M. T. Boobyer, R. J. Elsey, A. D. Fisher, J. R. Flynn, K. W. Higgs, A. L. Hunt, S. M. Littlewood, A. W. McGhie, J. Ralfe, S. J. Rushton, S. G. Sutcliffe.

Also played:

M. L. Durand, P. G. Golding, R. F. Money-Kyrle, N. J. Silk, D. A. Sperry, S. J. Walker.

RESULTS

v Bloxham (H)	Won 6- 4
v Pangbourne (A)	Won 18-13
v Berkhamsted (A)	Lost 9-24
v Solihull (A)	Lost 4-19
v Magdalen College School	Won 12- 0
v Radley (H)	Lost 3-17
v Reading (A)	Lost 13-15
v Marlborough (H)	Lost 4-16
v Newbury (H)	Won 9- 0
v Old Abingdonians (H)	Draw 8- 8
v Warwick (A)	Lost 9-13
v St. Edward's (H)	Won 14- 6





2nd XV 1983

The 2nd XV enjoyed a successful season and played some thoroughly entertaining rugby. The level of rugby skill might not be regarded as our main asset, but this was more than compensated for by the level of determination and the splendid team effort. The 1983 2nd XV certainly fulfilled their potential in every department and they deservedly gained the best results record in the school.

The Pengelley-Flaxman assault strategy went to plan in the first half of the season as victory followed victory. Despite a spirited comeback from an unbeaten Solihull side our first five matches supplied five victories. The M.C.S. game required a battle against the elements as the heavens opened. Comments from the touch line likening the ball to a 'family bar of Camay' meant that complex moves, such as passing the ball, were ill-advised. Mark Durand employed the most effective tactic with a solo run from within his own half to score our second try under the posts.

Two poor performances against Radley and Reading were followed by four superb games to conclude the season. A series of injuries, combined with a number of 1st XV changes, threatened to disrupt the side, but only appeared to add to the enthusiasm and team spirit. The three narrow defeats against Marlborough, Warwick and St. Edwards were tremendously exciting, the lack of a goal kicker proving to be our downfall.

The Promotional Campaign spearheaded by veteran lock Nick Anderson, who took over the captaincy for the last two games, attracted support to the touchlines in the latter stages of the season. This campaign, combined with Mr. Pengelley's encouragement, guidance and inspiration throughout the season, produced the slogan which perhaps best sums up the 2nd XV in 1983 — "Who Dares Wins — The Seconds Dare".

Richard Flaxman (Captain)

RESULTS

v Bloxham	(H)	Won	10- 7
v Pangbourne	(A)	Won	30- 8
v Berkhamsted	(H)	Won	22- 0
v Solihull	(A)	Won	22-19
v M.C.S.	(A)	Won	12- 0
v Radley	(H)	Lost	3-20
v Reading	(H)	Won	23- 3
v Marlborough	(H)	Lost	0- 8
v Newbury	(A)	Won	28- 3
v Warwick	(H)	Lost	10-13
v St. Edwards	(A)	Lost	0- 6

Points for: 170

Points against: 87

The following played for the 2nd XV during the 1983 season:

Flaxman, Anderson, C. Walker, Fisher, Martin, May, Burgayne, Hunt, McLellan, Parry-Jones, Sperry, Herd, McGhie, Stanton, Wagon, Blake, Golding, Cockburn, Elsey, James, Sayer, Rolfe, Durand, Silk, Lane, Hirst, S. Walker. (27)

My thanks to all of them for the hard work and team spirit that made this such a memorable season.

G. S. H. P.

COLTS XV

4th XV

RESULTS

v Bloxham	(H)	Won	12- 3
Tries: Stephens 2, Alderson			
v Solihull	(H)	Lost	0- 3
v Pangbourne	(H)	Lost	8-12
Tries: Fisher, Iredale			
v Magdalen	(H)	Won	26- 0
Tries: Bouch 3, Fisher, Wodd			
v Radley	(H)	Lost	0-72
v Reading	(H)	Won	13- 4
Tries: Perrins, Alderson			
v Marlborough	(A)	Lost	0-32
Warwick	(H)	Won	9- 0
Tries: Wadd			
St. Edwards	(A)	Lost	0-24

Team:

Alderson, Bouch, Barrett, Colson (capt.), Di Pinto, Fisher, Gayton, Iredale, Mawhinney, Owen, Salway, Slater, Smith, Stanford, Stephens, Ward, Wodd.

This was the season of ups and very big downs, but everyone enjoyed the casual, although often keen, attitude of the team.

Spurred on by 'Razor-head Rick', our deadly wing-forward, and 'Bonehead' a most able scrum-half, we trampled through the mud and rain to obtain a handsome victory against Bloxham.

The Solihull and Pangbourne games were ridiculous 'ad absurdum'. They were two thoroughly undeserved losses, which if it was not for the teams inability to score, when encamped on the other team's line, would have been won.

However the team still claims a try which was disallowed against Solihull by our referee!

The team bounced back to trounce Magdalen with a 'hat-trick' by James Bouch. Our scrum won the day as usual, and the backs had their best game of the season.

What was to follow, can only be described as very sad. We were beaten heavily by Radley, and got off a bit lighter against Marlborough and St. Edwards.

However, the 'spirit' in the team was kept well topped up, and victories against Reading and Warwick were intermixed with these other results.

Special thanks must be given to Dr. Wilmore, without whom we could not have had such a great season. He is, however still learning to be a referee!

The whole team enjoyed the games, and the practices preceded by both English and American Football.

Thanks again to P. J. W. and now we're all ready for next year!

D. Colson

As early as the pre-season training sessions it was very apparent that whatever the outcome of the season, this years Colts would give everything to their Rugby. As the season progressed this was illustrated time and time again both in the arduous practice sessions and competitive matches. The Colts were most certainly not a team of individuals, as everyone played a part in the successes and were prepared to accept equal responsibility in defeat.

From the outset the major task was to get the forwards and backs linking together. The first three matches against Bloxham, Pangbourne and Berkhamsted highlighted the team's strength in forward play. They were fit and strong, and worked hard as a unit. Whether in the set pieces or in the loose, it was always eight players at the breakdown each striving for possession. The front row of James Kowszun, Wally Walsingham and Julian Davis provided the solid platform that was needed up front, and their scrummaging and hooking technique improved in every game. James through his experience, was the corner stone of the pack, and Wally and Julian both new to their positions, soon adapted to the niceties of front row play. Fortunately for the front row, Neil Hewlett and John Cracknell the power house of the scrum in the second row, had an exceptional season. Having played together for three seasons, they have mastered the techniques of set scrummaging and are equally impressive in the loose. Neil's line-out play improved in every game and his selection to the Oxon Colts squad was thoroughly deserved. The back row of Bruce Blackman, James Allison and Nick Griffin were also solid in attack and defence. James, the forward leader and captain of the XV led through example. Although somewhat lacking in pace, he read the game well and was quick to the breakdowns and fighting for possession. Bruce also liked to be in the thick of things either linking up with the backs in attack, or covering the whole field in defence. He too was awarded his county cap mainly for his tigerish tackling. Nick Griffin at no. 8 was beyond doubt the most improved forward player in the XV. He soon adapted well to his new position, always anticipating moves from the base of the scrum or back of the line-out, and quick to snap up missed tackles in the line.

The Backs showed their potential in the third match of the season against M.C.S. In a game interrupted by high gales and sleet, and almost impossible conditions for handling, two tries by the wingers resulted in a memorable Abingdon Victory. Robert Cheek and Neil Aldridge, the vice-captain, linked well at half-back. Robert improved in every game and by the end of the season had developed into a most promising scrum half. Once he gained confidence he soon began to penetrate defences, and the highlight of his season was the memorable try in the first five minutes of the Warwick game.

JUNIOR COLTS XV

Neil, playing out of position at fly-half, spearheaded most attacking moves. His speed off the mark created the openings for the centres who at times had difficulty keeping up with him.

Neil and Robert also worked hard at their kicking skills which they used to advantage in attacking and defensive plays. The centres never really settled because there were two full backs and three wingers in the team. By the end of the season Joe Silk and Marcus Winsley took on the responsibility. Joe's tackling was a great asset in the line, but he liked space to manoeuvre and was at his best at full back. Marcus Winsley adapted very well to centre three-quarter play. He proved by the end of the season that he could tackle, and provided he runs at defences, he has a good future in prospect. Eric Porter and Larry Lodge certainly had the pace on the wings, and were very reliable in defence. Had the team two natural centres they would have scored more tries between them. Chris Day at full back did everything that was asked of him and no-one tried harder in the practice sessions. His tackling was very sound indeed and he worked hard on his line kicking. John Knibbs, Robert Mann, Bill Money-Kyrle and Nick Suckling all looked first team players when they substituted for injured players, and all members of the B XV played their part in what was a memorable season. Both teams have not had the greatest success over the years, but nevertheless all players are committed to their Rugby. For this reason it has been a most worthwhile and enjoyable season for the coaches.

My thanks to James and Neil for their leadership on and off the field, and to Andrew Thomas not only for his touch judging skills, but also for the interest he showed in the team's development. Colts Rugby will regrettably lose the services of Peter Halstead next season. A footballer by choice, Peter played a major part in the coaching, and we will all miss his enthusiasm for the game of Rugby.

The following played for the XV

C. Day, E. Porter, M. Winsley, J. Silk, L. Lodge, N. Aldridge (v. capt.), R. Cheek, J. Kowszun, W. Walsingham, J. Davis, J. Cracknell, N. Hewlett, J. Allison (capt.), B. Blackman, N. Griffin and J. Knibbs, B. Money-Kyrle, R. Mann, N. Suckling.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

RESULTS

Bloxham	Lost	18-0
Pangbourne	Lost	12-4
M.C.S.	Won	10-0
Berkhamsted	Drawn	0-0
Radley	Lost	22-3
Reading	Lost	25-7
Marlborough	Lost	26-0
Newbury	Won	26-0
Warwick	Lost	12-6
St. Edwards	Lost	30-0

This was a term of consolidation for quite a good team. The most important lesson which remains to be learnt is how to defend well against strong opposition in away matches!

Bloxham succumbed, on a very wet day, to attacking play by the first rate backrow of Owen, Green and Stacey. Opportunities were wasted in the first half by trying to pass a very wet ball along the line. The scrum was the strongest we have had for several years and they scored a push-over try against an aggressive, hard and fit Pangbourne side. All our tries against Berkhamsted were scored by the forwards; gratifyingly, I had learnt the back-row move off the set scrum which led to a try at Berkhamsted a few years ago. In the second half we began to match Berkhamsted's ability to pick up the loose ball. No doubt the long journey to Solihull dulled the edge but we were outplayed by a much fitter team which managed to support the wings in large numbers. Magdalen were denied possession in the rain, which was just as well as they had some large, fast threequarters. Their scrum was increasingly pushed and wheeled and our final score, in a downpour, was another push-over try starting from five yards out. Another try was from a Radley style penalty with everyone running. And so to Radley: this year we were in with a chance and the opposition made some simple mistakes early on. We were under a lot of pressure in our 22 in the first third of the game. Had we managed to kick our way out of trouble at that stage, as we managed to under similar circumstances later in the season, the forwards would have been able to hold on to their win for the second half.

And so to the second half of term. We were 8-0 up away at Reading at half time and going well. Reayer, whose enthusiasm always inspired, then went off with a recurrent knee injury and the team was sufficiently shaken to pass the ball continuously along the line to a very small substitute, who did not thank them. The opposition were much heartened by this folly and promptly scored three goals. Self-respect was regained in some measure by a reply of two goals in the last five minutes. The Marlborough match was memorable for the way in which the scrum pushed the opposition. The game could have gone either way but in the end their very fast wing and wide pitch proved invincible. Newbury were a weak side and were a poor preparation for the away match at Warwick where the timing is such that the team steps straight from a long twisty bus journey into the match. The opposition were hard and fit and our heads were down right from the first missed tackle. That was a sorry affair especially as the B XV won easily on the neighbouring pitch.

The best performance of the season was undoubtedly in the last match at home against St. Edwards. The by then captain, Wintle, and the scrum leader, Corbett, were particularly effective and Owen and company put considerable pressure on the opposition's captain and fly-half. It was a dry day and the ball was worked along the line speedily, thanks to HE's coaching. Thanks to the P.W.B. for his encouraging presence and skillful manipulation of the successful B XV.

R. C. B. C.

Regular team members:

G. D. Scott, D. E. Sutcliffe, G. R. Reayer, S. J. Wintle, P. J. Mitchell, A. D. Tapper, R. W. Walker, D. M. Smith, D. D. Passmore, W. J. L. Reynolds, A. J. Corbett, A. M. Stacey, S. J. Green, T. W. Owen, J. F. B. Lister-Cheese.

Also played:

A. Snow, D. J. Blackman, M. J. Browning, J. C. van der Post, D. J. M. Ingram, T. J. Butcher, G. D. Howells, P. J. Williams, A. T. Ransome.

RESULTS

Bloxham	(A)	Won	13- 0
Pangbourne	(H)	Won	16- 0
Berkhamsted	(H)	Won	14-12
Solihull	(A)	Lost	6-30
Magdalen	(H)	Won	22- 0
Radley	(A)	Lost	3-16
Reading	(A)	Lost	18-21
Marlborough	(A)	Lost	3-18
Newbury	(H)	Won	34- 0
Warwick	(A)	Lost	0-54
St. Edwards	(H)	Won	18-12

JUNIORS 1983

The season started in the best possible way with a win against Bloxham 34-0 in appalling conditions. We scored seven tries wide out on the wings and things looked rosy. There was however a lack of firm tackling and this became even more apparent when we lost 0-53 to a fine Pangbourne side. This lack of a solid defence was to haunt us throughout the season, and although things did improve we were always too hesitant in the use of this skill. We then lost 4-42 against Berkhamsted where Alistair Simpson won a lot of line balls, as he did all season. Despite this possession though, we failed to make any impact on the opposition. Solihull came next, and with fifteen minutes to go we were leading 8-0. We then relaxed and allowed them to score three times, the tackling being lamentable.

In foul conditions we played Magdalen College School and their referee abandoned the game with over half of the second half remaining. Against Radley we had perfect weather and their threequarters were able to make mincemeat of us when their forwards provided them with 40% possession. Up front we played well, but we were outclassed in the backs.

Reading followed next and we won 8-3 in a rather apologetic way. But at least it was a victory. There was no disgrace in losing against Marlborough 4-24 after an excellent first half. They were fortunate to be awarded a penalty try in the second half, and I think this rather disheartened us.

We played the ball out to the wings against Newbury and deserved to win 30-0 on a fine day. Warwick were about half our size, but they completely outplayed us, giving an object lesson in support play and tactical thinking. They deserved their 0-26 victory.

The final match of the season was against St. Edward's, where we had to play without one of our regular props. Their pace man scored 18 points against us in the first half, but after half time the tables were reversed, and we all played magnificently to win the second half 6-0. Their vociferous spectators were silenced, and it was one of the most stirring displays I have seen from an Abingdon side.

A season in which we lost more than we won, but I think some good lessons were learnt. Tackling is paramount, without it you cannot play the game. Concentration and determination are important too, and we were not consistent enough in either respect.

Alistair Simpson was outstanding in the line outs 'J. P.' Roberts was a tower of strength at prop., and Martin Drewe a very consistent flanker and a brave tackler. The other forwards all had good days, but some off ones too.

The threequarters were unsettled, but Simon Goldsworthy was almost unstoppable on his day, and Roger Appleyard, John Blake, Chris Watson and Miles Banwell all showed flashes of skill, and three of them had not played rugby before the start of the season!

Neil Franklin came on as a fly half, but it was Tim Bishop who showed the most flair and versatility outside, often rescuing the team from tricky positions.

I certainly enjoyed the season, my thanks to Mr. Gasson for his unflagging support and Richard Winsley for Captaining the side and keeping spirits up when they were occasionally at a low ebb. Thanks too to Thushara Goonatilleke for being such a loyal touch judge.

D. G. C.

Those who played regularly:

M. Banwell, S. Goldsworthy, R. Appleyard, J. Blake, C. Watson, N. Franklin, T. Bishop, J. P. Roberts, P. Roberts, T. Taylor, P. Monaghan, R. Winsley, R. Moncrief, A Simpson, M. Drewe.

RESULTS

Bloxham	Won	32- 4
Pangbourne	Lost	0-53
Berkhamsted	Lost	4-42
Solihull	Lost	8-16
Magdalen College School	Abandoned	
Radley	Lost	0-62
Reading	Won	8- 3
Marlborough	Lost	4-24
Newbury	Won	30- 0
Warwick	Lost	0-26
St. Edwards	Lost	6-18

MINORS RUGBY

This team should have had a better record, for the backs were very promising, and there was no lack of effort and commitment in any position. Unfortunately, the forwards took a long time to settle down, largely because of a series of injuries during the Christmas Term, and they were always smaller and less physical than those of our opponents. As a result our Backs had few opportunities to run the ball, and never really developed the confidence needed to out-run and out-think the close marking that is the norm these days. Against Reading and Oratory Preparatory Schools the team defended very bravely, but never looked like scoring. The only convincing victory, curiously, was in the last match against Berkhamsted, when six first-choice players were involved in other sports: the reserves played fine games, and for once our Backs were given some space, and time to use it.

It was because of the high standard of so many reserves, shown by that match, that the 'A' XV had a better record than usual. Here the selection of the team is crucial, as the results against Prior's Court prove, and the main aim is to offer representative Rugby to a wide range of players; indeed, no less than 80 boys played in a School match for a Minors XV during the season. The Second XV should have won all its matches, except at Berkhamsted where it was practically a Third XV and was unlucky to lose by so wide a margin; but too often an early lead was lost through poor finishing, and slowness in the loose.

In such a moderate season, colours were given sparingly. Andrew Wintle and Max Henderson had played for the XV in the previous year, and won their colours early on for their natural talents — the former calm and mature, the latter mercurial and ubiquitous! James Crawford's elusive running and Matthew Tomlyn's hooking earned these two their colours; others, notably Jonathan Crick, the foundation of the tight scrum, were unlucky this season, but this is a team that should develop considerably over the next few years.

The Under 12s, by contrast, made a very promising start in the last weeks of the season. Their one defeat, in the re-play at Summerfields, was due largely to the absence of key players before it was possible to groom substitutes, and first-ever wins at Prior Park and Reading that this should be a successful group. There are few outstanding players (although Edward Tilley looks a very talented fly-half), but the team is a well-

balanced one, with a mobile though rather small pack, and quick and intelligent runners in the backs; there is a welcome sense of urgency about their play.

M. W.

1st XV:

J. P. Hodges, R. C. Stanley, J. A. Crawford, M. J. Henderson, T. D. Wedgewood, A. J. Wintle (c), R. C. Stickland, J. S. Crick, M. T. H. Tomlyn, P. W. Jones, J. T. Patterson, M. D. H. Clark, R. W. Harding, J. R. Howard, G. P. Mowat.

2nd XV:

A. J. S. R. Perry, J. Karmali, G. T. Martin, E. J. Tilley, D. M. J. Calderbank, J. K. Talbot, J. F. Day, A. Brown, A. R. H. Davies, J. C. Carr, J. W. Neill, D. D. Blumenfeld, R. A. Brown, J. C. Hewes, A. H. Trotter, E. P. Thomas, D. T. James.

RESULTS

1st XV

Solihull School	(A)	Lost	0-40
Millbrook House School	(H)	Won	16- 4
Pinewood School	(A)	Lost	4-30
Dragon School 2nd XV	(A)	Won	6- 4
Larkmead School	(A)	Lost	18-22
Magdalen College School	(A)	Lost	4-16
Oratory Prep. School	(H)	Lost	0-12
Reading School	(H)	Drew	0- 0
Berkhamsted School	(A)	Won	18- 4

'A' XV

Oratory School	(H)	Won	18- 4
St. Hugh's School	(H)	Won	22- 8
Prior's Court School	(A)	Lost	0-28
Chistchurch Cathedral School	(H)	Won	16-14
Oratory School	(A)	Won	20-10
Prior's Court School	(H)	Won	18-10

2nd XV

Pinewood School	(H)	Won	18-14
Dragon School 4th XV	(A)	Lost	6-18
Magdalen College School	(A)	Won	14- 6
Oratory Preparatory School	(H)	Lost	6-11
Reading School	(H)	Lost	12-16
Berkhamsted School	(A)	Lost	6-14

Under 12 XV

Summerfields School	(H)	Won	28- 4
Larkmead School	(A)	Won	26- 0
Summerfields School	(A)	Lost	12-19
Prior Park School	(A)	Won	18-12
Reading School	(A)	Won	12-10
Fitzharry's School	(H)	Won	30- 0



HOCKEY

LENT TERM 1984

1st XI

A busy hockey season, with the mild weather allowing a full school's fixture list to be completed, and only the O.As. match at the end of the season cancelled.

The season started off encouragingly, despite a relatively young and inexperienced 1st XI, with convincing wins against Newbury and Leighton Park. Perhaps too early in the season came the important match against Radley. An unfortunate change of venue, due to wet weather, led to Abingdon losing their home advantage. Abingdon made a ragged start, and allowed Radley to snatch a two goal lead, but thus chastened, the team produced some of the finest hockey of the season, with good all round and determined play producing an exciting match, not entirely reflected in the final score.

Two drawn games against St. Edwards and Southampton were followed by a convincing defeat of MCS. This match played on Westminster College ground was notable for some fine play, on the left hand side, with Simon Littlewood and Mark Durand combining well to produce good crosses from which Hunt and Boobbyer scored.

Any hopes of a record season were dashed in the four following games, our main fault being an inability to capitalise on opportunities and maintain concentration throughout the match. Our opponents were strong teams, and in two cases the matches were played on hard all-weather surfaces, which do call for a different style of play, a difficulty for those of us who play solely on grass. Probably the best match of the season was the 1-0 defeat at the hands of Churcher's College. Both sides played some excellent hockey in a match that really did flow from end to end.

This run of four losses ended with a highly enjoyable, last game against the H.A., a 3 all draw being a fair result. In the three subsequent closely contested matches, the team played well, and only one goal separated the teams.

The overall impressions of the season were that the team played well, but lacked determination to consolidate advantage or fight back when in arrears. Nevertheless the results 6W 7L 3D reflects an enjoyable season.

T. J. Bennett

RESULTS

v Newbury (a)	won	7-0	Littlewood 5, Boobbyer, Hunt
v Leighton Park (a)	won	2-0	Boobbyer, Littlewood
v Radley (a)	lost	2-4	Hunt, Boobbyer
v St. Edwards (h)	drawn	1-1	Boobbyer
v Southampton (a)	drawn	2-2	Durand, Boobbyer
v MCS (a)	won	4-2	Hunt, Boobbyer 2, Hirst
v Churchers College (h)	lost	0-1	
v Pangbourne (a)	lost	2-4	Woolley, Boobbyer
v Bradfield (a)	lost	2-3	Boobbyer 2
v High Wycombe (a)	lost	3-4	Burgoyne, Boobbyer 2
v Hockey Association (h)	drawn	3-3	Haywood, Hirst, Boobbyer
v Shiplake (h)	won	4-1	Woolley, Boobbyer 2, Burgoyne
v Reading (a)	won	2-0	Boobbyer 2
v Bloxham (a)	lost	1-2	Boobbyer
v Berkhamstead (h)	won	2-1	Hirst 2
v Cheney (a)	lost	0-1	

THE PLAYERS

IAN COCKBURN: A good, fearless goalkeeper, made many important saves. Must hold onto his stick when the opposition score though. Awarded full colours at end of season.

DAVID NEWMAN: A steady fullback with a cricketers eye. Only real problem an inability to keep the ball down. Awarded half colours at end of season.

TIM BENNETT: Much improved player whose striking of the ball is now so much better, will be an important player next season.

DAN PARRY-JONES: Another much improved player. Took time to add the short pass to his game, but blossomed once he had. Awarded half colours at end of season.

BRIAN WOOLLEY: an inspiration through his play. Held the mid-field together, but needs to add leadership off the field to his repertoire. Awarded full colours after the H.A. match.

MARK DURAND: Much potential, but still hasn't learned to strike the ball properly. Best position full back, but prefers to wander. Can be fooled by two pitches close together! Awarded half colours at the end of the season.

EUAN HURST: A good player on the ball, but often fails to get into the best position to receive the ball. Capable of scoring important goals.

NICHOLAS BURGOYNE: A quick active inside forward. Needs to develop a steadier tackle and more precise short pass.

ALEX HUNT: Very skilful, but not at pace. Holds both hands too high on the stick and tackles with one hand, which is generally ineffective.

MARK BOOBBYER: Exciting going forward and scores some excellent goals. Lazy though and has not yet mastered the art of taking up A1 position off the ball. Awarded half colours after the H.A. game.

TONY HAYWOOD: Hard working player with a strong effective tackle. Tends to try and move forward too quickly with resulting loss of control. Awarded half colours at end of season.

SIMON LITTLEWOOD: A good quick skilful left wing. Suffered from a knee injury which caused regular collapses, but still made a major contribution. Awarded half colours at end of season.

MARCUS BLAKE: Came into the side late on and impressed with his endeavour. Should gain a permanent place next season.

ANDREW FISHER: Did not quite make the team on a regular basis and needs to improve his striking of the ball. Can develop into a useful wing half.

2nd XI

RESULTS

			Scorers:
v St. Edward's	lost	1-3	Burgoyne
v Southampton	lost	1-3	Martin
v MCS	won	2-0	Di Pinto 2
v Churcher's College	drawn	1-1	Martin
v Pangbourne	lost	1-2	Walker
v Bradfield	drawn	0-0	
v High Wycombe	lost	1-2	Elsey
v Shiplake	won	3-0	McGhie, Hunt, Martin
v Reading	won	5-0	Hunt 3, Martin, Elsey
v Bloxham	lost	2-3	Van Hegan, Di Pinto
v Berkhamstead	won	2-1	Di Pinto
v Oxford	lost	0-1	

Cancelled: Newbury, Radley.

The season started badly for the team: there was the usual problem of being unable to get enough practice on grass before playing the first matches and there were a few players who lacked confidence or competence or both! We were, therefore, deservedly beaten by both St. Edward's and Southampton — the Southampton side especially playing very strong hockey. Their attacks, rooted in midfield buildup, preyed constantly on a defence which could do little more than clear the ball and hope for the best (even at this stage, however, it became apparent that John May was a first-rate goalkeeper, a fact he continued to show us throughout the season). In contrast to Southampton, our half backs were the major problem of the early season; in Bill Martin and Nick Burgoyne we had forwards who could play well but who initially never received enough support or thoughtful ball from their less experienced half backs. Therefore, having beaten a weak MCS side, we failed to win against an equally weak Churcher's team, albeit on a diminutive pitch, and subsequently lost to Pangbourne — a fixture which no Abingdon side likes to lose and a game we should have won. This all led to obvious frustration in the side and the freezing fog of Pangbourne must have marked the lowest point of the season, despite an early goal from Chris Walker in his début match.

If Pangbourne was the season's nadir the Bradfield game marked an upturn in the team's performance. Minor position changes seemed to produce much stronger hockey: Chris Walker, now a permanent member of the side, released Tony Di Pinto from the right wing, allowing him to play to much greater effect as an inside forward. Bill's move to centre half brought strength and confidence to the half backs, while the most significant tactical ploy was certainly moving Andy McGhie to the left wing — here it was soon proved that his distinctive, erratic and often highly acrobatic style could be most profitably (least dangerously?) deployed! From this point it would have been interesting to keep the team intact, however the rest of the season saw fluctuations in the players. Nick Burgoyne was promoted to the firsts as Marcus Blake had already been, and although we had Alex Hunt down to play for us for three matches most gaps created by injury were filled from below. The games after Bradfield were much better, and although we might have beaten High Wycombe, and lost in the last minute to

Bloxham, the team retained a remarkably cheerful and determined mood. Often central to this enjoyment were displays of contorted play given by Andy McGhie, and the committed style of Rich Elsey, whose zeal was often mistaken for aggression by umpires.

There can be no doubt that all players improved markedly as the season progressed, and the balance between the determination to play well and that to enjoy was well struck. We shall all remember the stick smashed in the Berkhamstead match, the marvellous goal Tony scored at Bloxham, proving that we were capable of finishing our attacks in style occasionally if infrequently, and of course the odd tackle by Richard Elsey! Actually transforming attacks into goals was always our failing but it never marred the season — I can only hope Mr. Payne enjoyed it as we did, but he deserves our thanks regardless.

COLTS

In what was, for the first half of term anyway, a wet season, it was remarkable that not a single match was cancelled, Wednesdays and Saturdays in general proving rainfree. Whilst this was eminently desirable it was rather frustrating to have to use practice days so often on the hard surface or for running.

There were about 14 or 15 players in serious contention for the 'A' XI and none of those who played let the side down. The final playing record of 6 wins, 3 draws and 4 losses was probably a fair reflection of the merits of the side. With a more disciplined approach it could have been better.

Whilst we often conceded control of midfield, our defence, strengthened by the use of a centre back, could usually break down opposition attacks before they reached the circle and we had some players who had a knack of scoring goals regularly. Towards the end of the season some constructive midfield play did begin to develop. A certain laxness in marking men closely was never overcome but was usually compensated for by sheer numbers.

Nicholson, in goal, did his job capably when called upon and Allison at centre-back was sound. Bard, at full back, was often a tower of strength, timing his tackles well and proving a most reliable stopper of the ball. In the half-back line, Kain showed touches of skill and Suckling improved markedly, employing an energetic, bustling style of play. Knibbs had a good deal of skill but wasted it to a great degree early in the season by taking too much on himself. Later on he played more selflessly and was much more effective. Newsome who could score goals best faded out of the game when confronted with a better class of

opposition. Hay and Silk on the wings had contrasting styles but both notched up one or two useful goals. The others who played, Harper, O'Brien, Elms, Dark, Mann and Porter, all made useful contributions.

Regrettably, the 'B' side only had a couple of fixtures. One of these was rained off and another, which was provisionally arranged, fell through. Nevertheless, they seemed to enjoy the practices.

R. S. P.

RESULTS

v Newbury	won	9-0
v Radley	lost	1-4
v St. Edward's	lost	1-2
v Southampton	drawn	1-1
v MCS	drawn	1-1
v Churcher's	won	3-0
v Pangbourne	won	1-0
v Bradfield	lost	1-2
v High Wycombe	won	2-0
v Shiplake	won	4-2
v Reading	won	3-1
v Bloxham	drawn	1-1
v Berkhamstead	lost	0-1

JUNIOR COLTS

This hockey term was notable for the record number of matches ever played at this level in the school; early in the term the weather cleared up for all the matches and seemed to wash out almost all the practices. The other outstanding feature was the requirement for rebuilding the side: the main goal-scorer left last year and the centre-forward left early in the term.

Leighton Park had some good but also some mediocre players; our team played well. Radley, as usual, were first rate and fielded three players from an England under 15 side but once again we took our chances well. The side held out against St. Edwards in an evenly contested match but were beaten for size and speed by Southampton and Magdalen. In the middle of the season we often had a good deal of territorial advantage but succumbed to the breakaway goal. This was particularly true of the Churcher's match. The fault was largely remedied by the time the Berkhamstead game came round using the simple tactic of the 'inactive' wing half looking to play a more defensive role. Berkhamstead had enjoyed quite a successful season so that was a feather in our cap. The last game was against weak opposition.

The captain, Ingram, inspired by his keen eye for the ball. Wintle looked increasingly dangerous as the season progressed and scored a hat-trick as centre-forward against Berkhamstead. Full marks to Blackman for persisting on the left-wing and to Sutcliffe for gradually turning himself from goalkeeper to a ball hungry forward. Harris and Mitchell were very sound and Green was a good-natured tower of strength when availability of

players allowed him to play at full-back. Persson, like Ingram, has an excellent eye for the ball but both should prepare themselves to cover much more ground next season, especially in retreat. Elliott keenly persevered in goal and built on his quick reactions. Many thanks to Mr. Finch for his all-round support this term.

R. C. B. C.

Regular team members: M. T. Elliott, S. J. Green, P. J. Mitchell, P. C. H. Harris, D. J. M. Ingram, G. M. D. Persson, A. D. Tapper, A. T. Ransome, D. E. Sutcliffe, S. J. Wintle, D. J. Blackman.

Also played: D. G. Stickland, M. H. Stringer, N. J. Westwood, A. M. W. Gipps, D. J. McCarthy.

RESULTS

v Leighton Park (a)	won	5-0
v Radley (a)	lost	2-4
v St. Edwards (a)	drawn	1-1
v Southampton (h)	lost	1-2
v Magdalen (a)	lost	1-4
v Churcher's College (a)	lost	1-3
v Pangbourne (h)	lost	0-1
v Bradfield (h)	won	3-1
v Shiplake (a)	won	1-0
v Reading (h)	lost	2-3
v Bloxham (a)	lost	1-2
v Berkhamstead (a)	won	3-1
v Oxford (a)	won	5-0

JUNIORS

This has been one of the most successful seasons at Juniors level. All matches have been keenly contested and the spirit has been high. Defeats, apart from the first Radley game at the beginning of the season, have only been by the odd goal. Strength has been in depth this season, for on several occasions reserves have come into the team and created such an impression that regular players have had difficulty in regaining their places. No fewer than seventeen players are A XI standard which is very promising for the future. Another mark of the team's success has been the all-round ability of so many players who have been quick to adapt to any position.

Timothy Taylor and John Johnston are solid and versatile in goal. It is a pity that they will be in continual contention for the goal-keeping place as they move up the school. Jimmy White, Jonathan Gold, Steven Boland and Richard Winsley were also in continual contention for the two full-back positions. Richard's big hitting proved decisive, and there was never any doubt in his ability to clear his lines. The only problem was for the forwards to keep his hits in play! All his partners linked well and provided the cover and stability that was needed when Richard was tempted to intrude into the opponents half.

STAFF HOCKEY v MCS

Abingdon 4 MCS 1

At half back, Robin Gilmour, Tim Greenland, Martin Drewe, Duncan Buck, Nigel Radbourne and Andrew Trump competed for every fifty-fifty ball, and any combination was successful in dominating the mid-field play.

Miles Banwell, Ben Wood and Neil Franklin were always hungry for goals and put in a great deal of hard work up front. The combined skill of Miles's natural stick work, Neil's hard and accurate shooting, and Ben's competitiveness continually put defences under pressure. The team was also fortunate in having two accomplished and hard-working wingers in Colin Parker and Roger Appleyard. The mark of their success was the number of goals scored during the season from their accurate crosses.

It was just as difficult to choose a captain for the day as it was to choose the team. Duncan Buck, Robin Gilmour and Miles Banwell all had their good qualities, but often found the task difficult because of the many team changes.

There is no doubt that the team has good potential for the future. Skill and teamwork improved in every game to such an extent that it was a pity that the season had to come to an end. Nevertheless, fourteen matches were played with no cancellations — well done for all your efforts and best of luck in the future. My thanks to Rev. Butcher for his part in the team's success and for all the hard work he put in with the B XI.

The following played for the team: T. Taylor, J. Johnston, J. Gold, S. Boland, J. White, R. Winsley, M. Drewe, D. Buck, R. Gilmour, T. Greenland, A. Trump, N. Radbourne, M. Banwell, F. Franklin, B. Wood, R. Appleyard, C. Parker.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

RESULTS

P.14 W.7 L.4 D.3

v Oxford School	won	3-0
v Radley	lost	0-3
v St. Edwards	drawn	2-2
v Southampton	drawn	1-1
v Radley	won	2-0
v MCS	drawn	0-0
v Churcher's College	won	3-2
v Pangbourne	lost	2-3
v Bradfield	lost	0-1
v RGS High Wycombe	won	3-1
v Shiplake	won	4-0
v Bloxham	lost	2-4
v Berkhamstead	won	2-1
v Cheney	won	4-0

Following the late withdrawal of Brown and Sasson it was with some trepidation that we took the field (war memorial) against the staff of MCS (a very young sprightly lot!). We need not have worried. Fitt and Hunter proved to be more than able substitutes. The opening ten minutes were hectic, with the away side pressing hard, but Crawford and Drummond-Hay were steady as rocks at the back. A sudden break from defence saw Finch sending Hunter streaking down the right wing and his cross was 'dummied' by Gabitass and turned in by the nippy Coleman.

We turned round, therefore, with a one goal lead and were fortunate to do so. What followed was a delightful display of team hockey that knocked the MCS side for six (well actually four). First Coleman swept in a Page cross. Then Page scored following good work by Coleman on the left. Finally the 'evergreen' Payne finished off another attack in fine style. At the other end Butcher pulled off a string of fine saves as MCS tried to fight back. Indeed he can count himself unfortunate to have conceded the one goal that completed the score line.

A most enjoyable match then and a pity that so few boys turned up to watch. Many thanks to Simon Littlewood for umpiring and Bill Martin for trying to.

Footnote: One boy watching was heard to remark: "Thank goodness no match between our side and the staff was arranged this year".

P. J. W.

UNDER-13s HOCKEY REVIEW: 1979-84

Team hockey at Under 13 level has now been operating for six years, and in the season that saw some of its founder members playing in the 1st XI, official recognition of its existence is long overdue!

The activity began life as a once-a-week session of voluntary hockey, with just one external fixture, against Magdalen College School, at the end of term. How much the original team remembers of that first match I don't know, but the present 1st XI goalkeeper, Ian Cockburn, was certainly kept very busy as we experienced a 1-5 defeat!

The 1981 season represented a major turning point in the history of Under 13s hockey, for, in a new fixture against Priors Court, a team managed to avoid defeat for the first time! Admittedly, there was a siege around the Abingdon goal for most of the match, with only one or two sorties upfield to relieve the pressure, but the defence held firm, the goalkeeper, (Graham Nicholson), was unbeatable, and a 0-0 draw was achieved.

From this point, through popular request, the Under 13 squad became more 'professional' in its outlook. The annual defeat by MCS was beginning to irritate, and from the outset of the 1982 season, defeat of the 'old enemy' became the major aim. The skill and determination of the players made a victory a distinct possibility, but on the day, they did everything but score, allowed the opposition through once, and lost 0-1. Irritation turned to frustration.

The 1983 season was memorable because, after five years, major success was achieved for the first time. In February, the Under 13s recorded their first ever victory, as Priors Court went down 2-0, with goals from Colin Parker and Neil Franklin. This was followed two weeks later by a 7-1 win over Christchurch Cathedral School, (the goals being shared by Greenland and Parker), and the stage was suitably set for the team that really mattered. This time, there was no mistake, and despite an early goal by M.C.S., the Abingdon team played to its full potential, and two goals from the short corner combination of Gilmour and Franklin were sufficient to secure the much coveted victory. The frustration was over, and all the players deserved commendation for their performance, in what had turned out to be an unforgettable season.

This season, practices were up to three a week, and a keen and skilful squad showed considerable early promise. Unfortunately, the first match clashed with a rugby fixture, and a weakened

team lost 0-4 to Churchers College. However, at full strength, the situation was very different, and victories against Priors Court, (1-0, Henderson), Christchurch C.S., (2-1, Joliffe, Stickland), and MCS, (1-0, Karmali), were to follow. The clinical finishing that had been such an asset last year was missing, and this resulted in fewer goals being scored, this season, but the half back line of Henderson, Prince and Wintle, (especially), was outstanding, and Jonathan Crick, the goalkeeper, certainly saved the team from defeat on a number of occasions.

Finally, it is good to be able to report that although Under 13s hockey has become more serious in its organisation and outlook over the last six years, the enthusiasm of the boys has remained unchanged throughout, and this has always made the taking of the game a great pleasure.

A. J. G.

Team Lists

1983: Adams, Boland, Winsley, Trump, Buck* (Capt.), Gilmour*, Appleyard, Parker, Greenland, Franklin*, Hemsley, Harrison.

1984: Crick*, Howard, Wedgwood, Prince (Capt.), Wintle*, Henderson*, Day, Karmali, Stickland, Perry, Hedges, Joliffe.

(* = Colours awarded)

CRICKET

CRICKET ROUND-UP 1983

Played 60; Won 31; Drawn 16; Lost 13 — not a bad record for the five middle and upper school elevens! More importantly, the national game provided many hours of challenges and rewards, both team and individual, as well as giving entertainment and pleasure, shared by players and spectators alike; perhaps there were a few moments of despair as well! Some of the highlights are recorded in the team reports which follow. Congratulations and thank you to all who contributed to the enjoyment of the season in so many ways, particularly to my colleagues in C.R. (and their long-suffering wives!), to the catering staff, both school and parental and to the groundstaff. The happily much improved condition of the cricket squares and outfield, partly the result of increased expenditure on fertilisers and equipment (thank you, Bursar!), reflected the labours of Mr. Bagshaw and his team.

The youngsters in the Lower school also had an encouraging season, and did well to win the Morland Trophy; see M. W.'s report on the Minors for the details. We are grateful to the Rev. Hugh Pickles for continuing to help with the coaching of the 1st and 2nd years, most of whom have played little or no cricket before coming to Abingdon.

FIRST ELEVEN

The season could hardly have got off to a better start with decisive wins over Pangbourne, Newbury and Brentwood (see the 'Daily Telegraph' match report), and three fine performances against the Club sides. The Berkshire Gentlemen, thanks to a 6th wkt partnership of 97, turned likely defeat into an exciting 2 wkts victory, but the South Oxfordshire Amateurs were yet again on the receiving end (this year from a competent 74 from Mark Boobyer and from splendid bowling by Tim Winter), while the M.C.C., faced with a total of 207 for 9 dec., were in trouble from their first over. Matthew Cox went on to return his best figures of the term, 6 for 54. These were excellent performances by a schoolboy XI generally outplaying and outthinking two adult sides.

With an eventual victory over the M.C.R. — a few alarms along the way, though, against a variety of crafty bowling served up by P.W.B., N.W.H., R.H.B., J.D.E.D.-H. and R.P.F., with some help from Dave Bagshaw in typically mean fashion — the 1st XI were in with a good chance of exceeding the record eight victories in a season. It was not to be; with the harder wickets in the second half of the term drawn games became more predictable (Radley, Reading,

Bloxham, Magdalen — a fortunate escape, but well survived Martin Day, the best 1 not out of '83!). And our middle order sadly failed against High Wycombe and Colchester too. However, the comparatively disappointing 'cricket week' was salvaged by the victory over University College School at Hampstead in our last match, despite the unavailability of three players. Tim Winter ended his distinguished school career with 4 more wickets, and 'reserve' John May produced a match winning 5 for 39, a good omen for 1984.

We say goodbye to Simon Rushton who set a splendid example with the bat and in the field. Simon quickly gained confidence as a respected skipper, 'shrewd', noted the 'Telegraph' correspondent! I liked Simon's unselfish and positive approach and he often gave our innings the momentum it needed at the right time. He scored over 400 good runs. Farewell, too, to Tim Winter. Tim so consistently showed the virtues of 'line and length', and in his three years in the XI took 89 wickets in 542 overs, 150 of which were maidens. He will be missed for his other qualities, too, his quietly loyal support and good sportsmanship. Tim and Simon share the Smithson Cup for 'all round cricketing merit'; Gerald would have approved.

Four other regulars to join the ranks of O.A.s were Nick Thomas, who sadly never made the runs in 1st XI cricket that he once promised, but saved a great many in the field; Robin Suggate also was a tremendous asset as a fielder, and his belated aggressive approach as a middle order batsman perhaps surprised even himself! Marc Wiles and Mark Surridge made useful contributions and we wish all of the above well in their future careers in club cricket.

Of those remaining their fortunes will largely be known by the time this is read. Mark Boobyer found runs a little more elusive but still did enough to top the averages. Mark achieved an unusual feat of 'carrying his bat' in the Colchester match. The reliable Brian Woolley won the Morris Cup for 'best all-rounder' with 436 runs and 25 wicket-keeping victims; Brian's bat always seemed an inch wider than anyone else's (perhaps it was, relatively speaking, I can hear the cynics whisper!) Martin Day's improved off spinners (he twice took 4 for 6) produced 26 wickets at an impressive average of 9.6. Matthew Cox showed his great potential as an allrounder, but I wonder if he has by now applied himself to play long innings? If so, we are in for a treat. He and Marcus Marsden, who was sadly absent for most of the season, have the natural talent, if matched by wise heads, to go far (like Boobyer's socks). I expect Dave Newman to make a larger impact in 1984 — as a batsman, David, but possibly as a bowler, now he is at last looking where he is going. The thunder and lightning of Founders' Day was matched by David's hitting. During lunch the square disappeared from view, suitable only for ducks . . . talking of which reminds one of John Cowan's memorable appearances in the XI which caused such hilarity, much to the bewilderment of the opposition. At a price, John, who played the shot of the match at U.C.S., might reveal details to interested enquirers. Congratulations to Mark and Matthew on jointly winning the Henderson Cricket Prize for the outstanding young player of the 1st XI, and also to them and to Marcus for playing for the County U. 16s in the holidays.

On balance, then, 1983 was full of good cricket and good fun; I wonder what the gems of 1984 will be? The one certainty is the unpredictability of a game which is tantalisingly so difficult to master — unlike the always superb War Memorial teas, arranged by Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Lanham and Mrs. Marsden, to whom many thanks!

N. H. P.

The following report is by courtesy of the Daily Telegraph, 19 May, 1983

ABINGDON TRIUMPH

Abingdon won their third schools match of the term, beating old rivals Brentwood by 68 runs, Rushton, with shrewd captaincy Winter, medium pace, and cox, slow left arm, playing notable parts.

The match was played in continuous sunshine at the War Memorial Ground, but the start was delayed for an hour by traffic problems in the Essex school's journey to Oxfordshire and Abingdon, sent in to bat, were always in a hurry for runs.

Aggressive Rushton

Rushton scored an aggressive 64 in a partnership of 92 with a more decorous innings from Mark Boobyer, 15, son of Brian, the Oxford Double Blue and England centre and Abingdon declared at 149 for eight, leaving Brentwood some two and half hours batting.

Winter was soon among the wickets and when Cox had Lindley splendidly caught at mid-off Brentwood were 48 for six. In the final hour Longden and Thomson looked set to save the game, but it was not to be. Winter took five wickets for 38 and Cox four for 16.

John Fogg

ABINGDON

M. T. Boobyer, c Thomson, b Newman	43
†B. E. Woolley, c Longley, b Braund	12
N. R. Thomas, c Jarvis, b Smaje	4
* S. J. Rushton, b Loughland	64
R. Newman, c Loughland, b Newman	0
M. C. Cox, c Lindley, b Newman	2
D. M. Allen, c Dixon, b Loughland	0
M. A. Wiles, run out	10
R. M. Suggate, not out	2
M. C. Day, not out	0
Extras (b 7, lb 2, nb 1, w 2)	
Total (8 wkts dec.)	149

Did not bat: T. D. Winter.

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-36, 3-6, 3-128, 4-132, 5-132, 7-146, 8-149.

Bowling: Newman 16-1-43-3; Braund 13-3-18-1; Smaje 5-1-9-1; Koka 7-1-25-0; Loughland 14.1-4-42-2.

BRENTWOOD

R. Loughland, c Newman, b Winter	9
C. Jarvis lbw, b Winter	0
* P. Lindley, c Rushton, b Cox	27
R. Newman, b Winter	0
P. Smaje, c Wiles, b Cox	5
S. Moore, b Winter	11
C. Longden, c Allen, b Cox	8
†R. Thomson, not out	17
P. Braund, c Boobyer, b Cox	0
S. Koka, lbw, b Winter	1
Extras (w 2)	2
Total	81

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-24, 3-26, 4-41, 5-42, 6-48, 7-59, 8-80, 9-80.

Bowling: Winter 13-5-38-5; Allen 6-0-17-0; Cox 13-6-16-4; Day 7-3-8-1.

Umpires: D. Bagshaw & R. Marshall.

* Captain. $\frac{1}{3}$ Wicketkeeper.

Regular members of the XI were:

S. J. Rushton (capt.), T. Winter, B. E. Woolley, R. M. R. Suggate, N. R. Thomas, M. A. Wiles, M. A. Surridge, D. R. Newman, M. C. Day, M. T. Boobbyer and M. C. Cox, M. A. Marsden, J. B. May, J. A. Cowan and D. McK. Allen played on occasions.

FIRST ELEVEN AVERAGES 1983

BATTING	Innings	Not Out	Highest Score	Runs	Average
M. T. Boobbyer	13	1	75*	358	29.8
B. E. Woolley	16	1	54	437	29.1
S. J. Rushton	15	1	64	406	27.1
R. M. R.					
Suggate	14	3	52	229	20.8
D. R. Newman	16	3	51*	208	16.0
M. C. Cox	11	1	26	152	15.2
M. A. Wiles	11	1	27*	126	12.6
N. R. Thomas	12	3	20	90	10.0
M. A. Surridge	7	3	15*	37	9.2
T. Winter	7	3	15*	24	6.0
M. C. Day	6	3	13	16	5.3
M. A. Marsden	5	0	14	24	4.8

BOWLING	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
M. A. Marsden	54	15	113	14	8.1
M. C. Day	95	17	249	26	9.6
T. Winter	216	42	624	41	15.2
M. C. Cox	96	19	356	18	19.8
M. A. Surridge	121	18	371	14	26.5

Also bowled: J. B. May 16-5-48-5-9.6

1st XI RESULTS 1983

P 16; W 7; L 3; D 5; Ab. 1

Pangbourne (h) Won by 103 runs.
Abingdon 134 for 7 dec. (Rushton 45*, Woolley 36); Pangbourne 31 (Marsden 6 for 8).
Newbury (h) Won by 36 runs.
Abingdon 90; Newbury 54 (Marsden 4 for 17, Day 4 for 6).
Berkshire Gentlemen (h) Lot by 2 wkts.
Abingdon 156 (Woolley 49); B.G.s 157 for 8 (Winter 5 for 57).
Brentwood (h) Won by 68 runs.
Abingdon 149 for 9 dec. (Rushton 64, Boobbyer 43); Brentwood 81 (Winter 5 for 38, Cox 4 for 1).
Old Abingdonians (h) Abandoned.
Abingdon 98 for 3 (Newman 51*).
South Oxfordshire Amateurs (h) Won by 56 runs.
Abingdon 195 for 7 dec. (Boobbyer 74, Rushton 39); S.O.A. 139 (Winter 5 for 43).
Masters' Common Room (h) Won by 4 wkts.
M.C.R. 104 (Surridge 4 for 28, Day 4 for 6); Abingdon 105 for 6 (Boobbyer 33).
Douai (h) Drawn.
Abingdon 148 for 6 (Rushton 32); Douai 118 for 4.
Radley (h) Drawn.
Radley 216 for 3 dec.; Abingdon 147 for 5 (Boobbyer 54).
M.C.C. (h) Won by 85 runs.
Abingdon 207 for 9 dec. (Suggate 44, Woolley 32, Rushton 30); M.C.C. 122 (Cox 6 for 54).
Reading (h) Drawn.
Reading 219 for 8 dec. (Winter 4 for 69); Abingdon 172 for 6 (Woolley 54, Newman 39).
High Wycombe (h) Lost by 6 wkts.
Abingdon 123 for 8 dec. (Woolley 47); High Wycombe 125 for 4.
Magdalen (h) Drawn.
Magdalen 200 for 7 dec. (Day 4 for 59); Abingdon 87 for 9 (Rushton 58).
Colchester (h) Lost by 15 runs.
Colchester 175 (Day 4 for 33); Abingdon 160 (Boobbyer 75*).
Bloxham (h) Drawn.
Abingdon 172 for 4 dec. (Rushton 54, Suggate 52); Bloxham 120 for 7 (Winter 4 for 43).
University College School (a) Won by 49 runs.
Abingdon 154 (Woolley 45, Suggate 42); U.C.S. 105 (May 5 for 39, Winter 4 for 40).

2nd XI CRICKET 1983

A modestly talented bunch of players produced a modest record of 4 wins, 4 losses and 3 draws. Results could have been better had not the fielding been so poor. Innumerable catches were dropped and the ground fielding generally left a lot to be desired. There were one or two exceptions, notably Bill Hudson, who ran out 3 Radley batsmen with direct hits from midwicket.

Few batsmen managed a long innings. John Cowan was the most successful and Stuart Sutcliffe also looked promising on several occasions. On the bowling side, Martin Ingram, who captained the side, Douglas Allen and John May performed steadily as quicker bowlers, the latter being potentially the most dangerous but being the least accurate. Trevor Rogers persuaded a number of batsmen that he was spinning the ball and Steve Tyack actually did spin the ball, albeit slowly.

There were some notable games. Against Wantage we succeeded in surrendering all ten wickets for a paltry 43 runs. Even allowing for a less-than-perfect pitch this had to rank as an all-time low batting performance. Our victory against Reading was achieved in the last over when their final batsman, with only 3 balls to negotiate, obligingly swung carelessly at a ball that was outside the stumps to present Alex Fergusson with his 6th catch of the innings, a notable feat although I feel I ought to add he did also drop one or two in the same innings. 3½ hours of boredom in the Radley match were relieved by an exciting last 20 overs as wickets fell and runs accumulated. A draw was probably a fair result.

Regular players:

M. Ingram (capt.), J. Cowan, S. Sutcliffe, D. Allen, J. May, T. Rogers, S. Tyack, W. Hudson, R. Elsey, A. Fergusson, R. Dalton-Morris.

R. S. P.

RESULTS

v Pangbourne	Won	by 67 runs
A 119		
P 52		
v Newbury	Won	by 36 runs
A 125-8		
N 89		
v M.C.S.	Drawn	
A 105-8		
M.C.S. 70-5		
v Oratory	Drawn	
A 118		
O 85-7		
v Berkhamsted	Cancelled	
v Brentwood	Won	by 3 wickets
A 112-7		
B 110		
v Shiplake	Lost	by 10 wickets
S 106-0		
A 105		
v Radley	Drawn	
A 116-7		
R 103-7		
v King Alfred's Wantage	Lost	by 6 wickets
K.A. 44-4		
A 43		
v Reading	Won	by 63 runs
A 161-8		
R 98		
v High Wycombe	Lost	by 8 wickets
H.W. 83-2		
A 81		
v Bloxham	Match abandoned	
B 104		
v Plymouth College	Lost	by 9 wickets
P.C. 110-1		
A 108		

SUMMER 1983

J. Colts cricket report

3rd XI

This must have been one of the most successful seasons ever for an Abingdon 3rd XI with five wins from six matches. The only defeat, against Cokethorpe, came in the first match before the side had settled down.

The batting relied mainly on Mark Ody, James Bouch and Stuart Sutcliffe all of whom scored half-centuries. Useful contributions also came from Dave Lee and Chris Herd. We batted first in five matches, thus giving our bowlers a target to aim at.

The bowling was spearheaded by Chris Herd and Dave Holder, who took 16 and 15 wickets respectively. They were ably supported by Robert Dalton-Morris, Ben Lintott and Paul Rainsden. The fielding was nearly always of a high standard, thus backing up the attack. Euan Hirst proved an able and efficient wicket keeper and generally most catches were held, some of them very hard chances.

Victories over St. Edwards and Radley provided the highlights of the season; no-one will forget seeing Radley at 15 for 6. Easier victories came against Brentwood, Douai and Reading.

Team morale was good and it is fair to say that the light hearted approach off the field belied a serious and enthusiastic approach on it.

Our thanks go to Dr. Wilmore and Mr Parker for their keenness, patience and 'inspiration' without which the team could never have been so successful.

The following played regularly: James Bouch, James Brown, Robert Dalton-Morris, Chris Herd, Euan Hirst, Dave Holder, Dave Lee, Ben Lintott, Peter May, Mark Ody, Paul Rainsden, Stuart Sutcliffe. Also played: Marcus Blake, Nick Burgoyne, Ed Butler, Dave Colson, Paul Golding, Barry Stanton.

Peter May (Captain) VI

1983 3rd XI RESULTS

vs Cokethorpe. Lost by 134 runs.
Cokethorpe 176-6 Dec (Holder 3-51)
Abingdon 42

vs Brentwood. Won by 143 runs
Abingdon 205-5 Dec (Bouch 67, Sutcliffe 68, Ody 35)
Brentwood 62 (Herd 5-11)

vs St. Edwards. Won by 48 runs
Abingdon 114 (Bouch 42)
St. Edwards 66 (Holder 5-17, Lintott 3-18)

vs Douai. Won by 66 runs
Abingdon 178-5 Dec (Ody 73)
Douai 112 (Holder 4-23)

vs Radley. Won by 32 runs
Abingdon 77
Radley 45 (Herd 5-10, Dalton-Morris 4-19)

vs Reading. Won by 69 runs
Abingdon 135 (Ody 51)
Reading 66

1983 was a contrasting season — beautiful summer days for most matches, arctic conditions on the Yorkshire tour; the team playing very well on occasions, yet without luck on others.

The season started well with the XI winning three of the first four games. As usual we visited Pangbourne College for our first fixture, where we came away with a draw. In this game Mark Weatherall hit an invaluable 41 and he was often the saviour during batting collapses which, as the season went on, occurred a lot more than one would have liked.

One of the most convincing wins came at Shiplake College who were defeated by 5 wickets. Good bowling, especially from Simon Evans who took the first of his three 4-wicket hauls, and tight fielding kept them down to 69. Jason Haynes then guided the team home batting with confidence and authority.

The game of the season was the Lord Taverners final at home to Radley. We did excellently in the field to restrict Radley to just 115 runs with Peter Williams bowling exceptionally well, as he did when on tour with the team in Rotherham. Unfortunately the team's batting in this game did not live up to the fielding and I thought we threw away a winning opportunity. To their credit however, the Radley spinners matched our attack.

After beating Magdalen College School in a 20 over game in which everyone bowled well, in particular Joe Silk, the team then went on to beat the Oratory school in a nail biting finish. We managed only 49 all out, but with great spirit and determination and perhaps remembering the course this game took at the same level last year, we found ourselves in a match winning position having taken the first five Oratory wickets for 7 runs. Oratory then recovered but thankfully Nicholas Pond and John Knibbs, taking five wickets apiece, saw us home by eight runs.

It was during this game that the team realised how much it owed to the leadership and skill of the captain, Jason Haynes. He reads the game very well, and is a fully committed player determined to get the best out of his team. On the occasions when he failed with the bat one felt it was due to his dedication to the team. One couldn't hope for a less-selfish captain for very often while at the crease he would let his concentration slip because his thoughts were on the captaincy.

The tour to Oakwood was a great disappointment. I cannot recall a cricketer suffering from hypothermia in June! The weather caused the first game to be abandoned and the second cancelled altogether. Nevertheless cricket or no cricket, the tour is now the highlight of the J. Colts season. Our thanks once again to the very kind hospitality of the Oakwood parents who play such a big part in making this tour so enjoyable.

Back from Half-term an aggressive fifty by James Dark gave us a creditable save to beat Douai where the spinners again had success with Robin Garnett bowling some different leg cutters!

Radley's return resulted in the biggest defeat of the season. They amassed 254 but all credit to Abingdon as we persisted with great spirit until the end. Left with little time we played for a draw, and with just 6 overs to go we had 5 wickets intact and looked as though we would hold out, but again the Radley spinners tempted our patience and the game was lost by 209 runs.

James Kowszun then made a determined 59 at Reading ably supported by Robin Garnett, but a too generous declaration, and some dropped catches, lost us the match. Richard Carr beat us when we played Thame making 138, but we batted well with Graham Nicholson making one of his regular contributions and Edward O'Brien and James Dark both chancing their arm to good effect. In the end we fell just short of avoiding defeat by 16 runs.

For the second year running High Wycombe were defeated with Mark Weatherall and Jason Haynes scoring freely. Simon Evans destroyed their batting and High Wycombe were dismissed for 66.

The last school game of the season against Bloxham School was abandoned after an unthinking batting performance by Abingdon, and this left only the C.R. XI game on upper field. Superb captaincy, brilliant fielding and outstanding batting throughout by the C.R. proved too much for the J. Colts, but the game was enjoyed by all!

So ended a most enjoyable season with everyone playing a part through their skill, determination or character. Marcus Winsley, although batting well at Shiplake, never really reached his full potential, but like Jason, I think will come good in the future. A special mention must be made also to the wicket keeping of James Kain. His keeping improved in every game, and he was really too good a batsman to be the tail-ender!

The spirit of the side was always kept alive by Jason's field positioning and bellows of command, Eddies brilliant impersonations, Mark's vertical take-off running between the wickets, and the umpires footwear! Our thanks to Vincent Paige, the keenest of scorers, and to Rev. Butcher for his much appreciated help with coaching and umpiring throughout the season.

J. D. E. Drummond-Hay

The following played for the XI:

J. Haynes (capt.) M. Weatherall (v. capt.), J. Dark, R. Garnett, M. Winsley, G. Nicholson, S. Evans, E. O'Brien, H. James, J. Kain, J. Kowszun, N. Pond, J. Knibbs, P. Williams.

RESULTS

Pangbourne College	Drawn	
A 140		M. Weatherall 47 G. Nicholson 31
P 101-5		
101-5		
Shiplake College	Won	
S 69		S. Evans 4-15
A 71-5		
Radley-Lord Taverner's	Lost	
Final		
R 115		J. Knibbs 3-28
A 86		M. Marsden 30
M.C.S.	Won	
M 50		J. Silk 3-9
A 52-8		

Oratory School	Won	
A 49		
O 41		J. Knibbs 5-21. N. Pond 5-12
St. Edward's School	Lost	
A 108		
S 109-5		
Oakwood	Away	
O 130-6		
A 3-1		
Oakwood	Draw	
O 133-7		J. Haynes 3-17
A 68-8		
Douai	Won	
A 141-7		J. Dark 50. M. Weatherall 30 S. Evans 4-25
D 93		
Radley	Lost	
R 254-5		
A 45		
Reading	Lost	
A 144-7		J. Kowszun 57 M. Weatherall 3-17
R 147-5		
Lord William' Thame	Lost	
T 172-6		R. Garnett 3-23 G. Nicholson 35. J. Dark 31
A 145		
R.G.S. High Wycombe	Won	
A 136-5		M. Weatherall 63. J. Haynes 35 S. Evans 4-4
R. 66		
Bloxham	Away	
A 83		
B 8-0		
Final Record. P14	W5	L5 D2 A2

JUNIORS

Although lacking quality in depth, this year's squad more than made up for this with their tremendous determination and spirit. Out of the 18 games played, 11 were won, 3 drawn, and 4 lost - 2 of these against Radley! To coach a team that makes the most of its ability, and that is prepared to listen to and act on advice, is very satisfying, and made my season with them both enjoyable and memorable.

A nail-biting defeat by one wicket against Pangbourne in the first match seemed to strengthen the resolve of the team, and this disappointment was soon put behind them as they recorded a series of impressive victories, although the memory of some vital dropped catches was revived on several occasions. Amongst the many good team performances, the ones that stood out most for me were the fine run chase wins against Oakwood and Bloxham, the tense semi-final victory over M.C.S. in the Lord's Taverners Trophy, and of course the overwhelming defeat of Oxford School.

The climax of the season was the final of the Lord's Taverners Trophy at Radley but from the moment we had to return for the kit, it seemed we were destined to lose to 'the old enemy' for the second time in a season. The loss of the toss confirmed this suspicion and although the team fought all the way, the exceptionally talented Radley side had too much all round strength for us to really threaten them. The one consolation was the defiant batting of our tail, led by Stefan Green, that kept the opposition from their celebrations until the 37th over of our innings.

The team owed much to the sensible leadership of David Ingram. His imaginative declarations and bowling changes invariably yielded the desired result, and his flamboyant batting was inspiring. If he can tighten up his basic technique then, with all his natural ability, he could develop into a prolific run scorer.

The opening partnership of Damion Sutcliffe and Nick Westwood was kept together throughout the season. Nick started well and showed he has real potential, although a run of rather unlucky dismissals undermined his confidence later on. Improved footwork and tremendous concentration led to Damion producing many important anchor role innings, particularly in the last few games.

The class batting was provided by Simon Wintle. After a disastrous start he at last showed his worth, and his innings of 76 against Wheatley Park was one of the highest quality. Geoff Smith chipped in with several good knocks but one disappointment was the inability of Graham Scott to play many innings of length after making promising starts.

The bowling relied heavily on the small frame but big heart of Peter Williams, who captured 49 wickets. His ability to swing the ball with speed and accuracy is exceptional and given his excellent attitude he must develop into a quality bowler. He was given excellent support by the steady and deceptive Chris Kent with 32 wickets and the occasionally devastating Stefan Green with 28 wickets, although the latter never quite fulfilled his full potential with the ball. In the last few games, however, his batting blossomed and he clearly could become a very useful all rounder. Graham Scott's off-spin became a more serious proposition with a change of action and his captain's faith in him became more justified. A fifth bowler was a problem, particularly in the cup matches, where Richard Howard and Damion Sutcliffe filled this role with varying degrees of success.

When in the mood Jeremy Greenland kept wicket extremely well but he needs to be more consistently alert if he is to make the most of his ability.

The fielding and in particular the catching was the least impressive feature of the side, although Graham Scott and Simon Wintle could rarely be faulted, and Julian Freeston surprised even himself with some fine catches at the end of the season.

Finally my thanks must go to Martin Landray for his extremely efficient, technicolour scoring, to A. J. G. for his good humoured assistance with coaching and umpiring and to the team for making my first summer at Abingdon School such a happy and rewarding one.

Final team:

D. J. M. Ingram (capt.), D. E. Sutcliffe, N. J. Westwood, G. Smith, S. J. Wintle, G. D. Scott, J. G. Greenland, R. S. Howard, S. J. Green, P. J. Williams, C. R. Kent.

Also played:

J. G. Freeston, R. G. Slater, D. G. Stickland, G. M. D. Persson, R. A. F. Whittaker, A. T. Ransome.
R. P. F.

RESULTS

Played 18	Won 11	Drew 3	Lost 4
v Pangbourne A 78 P 79-9	Lost	by 1 wicket	
v P C 107	Cokethorpe Drawn	Williams 4-11	
A 71-6		Kent 4-37, Williams 3-31	
v M.C.S. A 106-7 dec. M.C.S. 51	Won	by 55 runs	
v Oratory O 84	Won	Green 6-11 by 4 wickets Williams 5-16, Green 3-30 Smith 36	
A 85-6	Lost	by 9 wickets	
v St. Edwards A 62 St.E. 63-1			
v Oxon U.13's A 155-6	Won	by 93 runs Scott 48, Sutcliffe 36, Ingram 31 Howard 3-6, Stickland 3-9	
O 62			
v Oakwood O 94-5 dec. A 96-3	Won	by 7 wickets Williams 3-46 Ingram 32	
v Wheatley Park A 160-8 (35 overs) W 133-8 (35 overs)	Won	by 27 runs Wintle 76, Smith 34	
v Douai A 140-5 dec. D 83-8	Drawn	Westwood 38 Williams 3-16	
v Radley A 98 R 101-5	Lost	by 5 wickets	
v Gillott's School A 175-6 (40 overs) G 32	Won	by 143 runs Wintle 35, Ingram 35 Williams 4-6, Kent 3-11	
v Reading R 54	Won	by 4 wickets Williams 4-21, Green 3-11	
v Oxford School A 126-6 dec. O 67	Won	by 59 runs Smith 53 Williams 3-17, Kent 3-16	
v M.C.S. A 137 M.C.S.128	Won	by 9 runs Ingram 56 Williams 5-12, Scott 3-27	
v Thame T 69	Won	by 8 wickets Kent 5-17, Williams 3-24	
A 73-2			
v R.G.S. High Wycombe R.G.S.144	Drawn	Green 4-20, Williams 3-45 Sutcliffe 43	
A 125-9			
v Bloxham B 142	Won	by 3 wickets Williams 3-19, Kent 3-31 Ingram 33 n.o.	
A 146-7			
v Radley R 198-9 (40 overs) A 103	Lost	by 95 runs Green 30	

MINORS

This was not such a poor team as the results suggest. There was plenty of potential and enthusiasm, and much had been done by the end of the season to eradicate the weaknesses shown in the earlier matches. There was no outstanding individual on whom the others could depend, and there was little opportunity to learn in such a wet May. As a result, there were few individual successes: the batsmen got themselves out just when they seemed to be settled, and the bowling lacked penetration. Ironically, it was this relatively unsuccessful team that became the first from Abingdon to win an Oxfordshire Schools Tournament. After last-over wins against Matthew Arnold School and Lord Williams' in the earlier rounds, they showed how much they had improved over the term by winning the semi-final and final conclusively in the knock-out Cup; the batting was positive, the fielding tight, and the bowling as accurate as any coach could expect!

One important factor here was the form of Neil Franklin; certainly he was the best all-round Cricketer, but had had little luck before July, when the award of his Colours had a dramatic effect on his form. Only two others earned their colours: Richard Winsley captained the Knock-out team shrewdly, took some fine catches, and scored far the most runs over the season; he is no stylist, but his powerful hitting played a crucial part in the defeats of the Oratory and Reading; this latter was quite the most extraordinary of a series of marvellous matches we have had with Reading School, with 370 runs being scored in about three hours, and a most exciting finish. Richard Tilley improved most of all in the season; he delivers off-breaks with a high correct action, and was far too accurate for St. Hugh's, although he does need greater variety; he also plays very straight, and was very difficult to bowl out.

Of the remainder, Tim Greenland kept wicket for the Oxfordshire Schools' and Club sides while Stephen Prince had more shots than one could expect from a first-former. In fact, with some new blood in the Middle School, this is going to develop in to a very useful team.

The Under-12s made a promising start, helped by the experience of Richard Tilley and Tim Greenland. Many of them had been coached at their previous schools, notably Jonathan Karmali, who batted for over an hour in each match. Bearwood were well beaten, and the Hampshire result was perfectly respectable, as their declaration was too late to make a result feasible.

M. W.

1st XI:

N. D. Franklin (capt.), R. J. Winsley, R. J. Tilley, T. J. Gosling, P. J. Mansfield, T. S. Greenland, R. A. A. Gilmour, A. W. F. Simpson, S. C. Prince, A. J. Wintle, J. I. Gold.

2nd XI:

D. J. Buck (capt.), R. J. Appleyard, A. J. P. Trump, R. D. Jolliffe, G. T. Martin, R. C. Stickland, T. J. W. Taylor, M. D. L. Hedges, E. P. Thomas, M. W. J. Burgass, J. T. W. Smethurst, P. F. Rosenfeld.

RESULTS

1st XI:

Oratory School (away). Won by 68 runs.

Abingdon 117 for 8 dec. (Winsley 45+, Simpson 21)

Oratory 49 (Gold 3-7)

Prior Park School (away). Lost by 8 wickets.

Abingdon 63 (Winsley 24)

Prior Park 66 for 2

Millbrook House School (home). Lost by 5 wickets.

Abingdon 60

Millbrook House 64 for 5 (Gold 3-24)

Magdalen College School (home). Lost by 6 wickets.

Abingdon 97

M.C.S. 98 for 4

Berkhamsted School (away). Lost by 7 wickets.

Abingdon 91

Berkhamsted 95 for 3

Reading School (away). Won by 1 wicket.

Reading 182 (Gosling 4-33)

Abingdon 188 for 9 (Winsley 46, Franklin 34, Wintle 27, Prince 27, Gold 23+)

St. Hugh's School (home). Won by 8 wickets.

St. Hugh's 50 (Tilley 8-16)

Abingdon 51 for 2

High Wycombe R.G.S. (home). Match Drawn.

High Wycombe 147 for 8 dec. (Franklin 3-31)

Abingdon 114 for 9 (Gilmour 28, Franklin 23)

2nd XI:

Douai School (home). Won by 77 runs.

Abingdon 99 (Jolliffe 29)

Douai 1st XI 22 (Appleyard 3-5)

Josca's School (away). Lost by 9 wickets.

Abingdon 53

Josca's 1st XI 54 for 1

Christchurch Cathedral School (home). Match Drawn.

Abingdon 121 for 5 dec. (Trump 27+, Martin 20+)

Christchurch 1st XI 85 for 4

Under-12 XI: Bearwood College (away). Won by 48 runs.

Abingdon 125 for 8 dec. (Tilley 36, Karmali 33, Prince 21+)

Bearwood Under 13s 77 (Greenland 3-2)

Hampshire Primary Schools (away). Match Drawn.

Hampshire 172 for 7 dec.

Abingdon 121 for 5 (Karmali 37, Tilley 35+)

Oxfordshire Cup Final (20-overs). Won by 48 runs.

Abingdon 98 for 3 (Franklin 40, Simpson 23+, Prince 23)

Gosford Hill 50 for 9 (Franklin 4-12)

BOARDING AT ABINGDON

Life in the boarding houses in the school is undergoing a number of rapid changes at present. In order to get something of the feel of these we thought we would invite a number of articles from those who are in a position to know what it is like.

LIFE IN WASTE COURT

Tripping over Patrick Biggs's customised tricycle into the front hall you realise that Waste Court has a somewhat 'lived in' atmosphere. The hall opens into any one of six varied paths through the home. Either you choose snooker in the library, Carmina Burana in Mr. Biggs's Lounge, a peep at the coats in the cloakroom, a glimpse of Dallas (unadvisable) in the television room or one of two staircases — where do they go? To whom do they belong?

These questions are frequently asked when surprised guests (particularly older boys) visit Waste Court. The answers are best answered after an insight into the nature of the house.

Having dreaded boarding and ignored the practical sense in it for several years I finally conceded to my parents. I stayed for a week during the severe winter of 1982. Two years later I am still here, tucked inside the crisp sheets of my bed.

Under Mr. Biggs's temperant authority there are no unreasonable rules, no prowling on privacy and, as a result, no 'if' — like revolution. The Biggs's calmness under pressure has helped them to generate a House which is as relaxed as is practically possible.

The limited space in Waste Court leads to an atmosphere of 'mutual toleration' which is only shattered by a guffawing Somerville or (in years gone by) one of Girdwood's stereo deltics. As everyone is aware, toleration is tantamount to survival in a house which has always seemed to collect diverse, diligent, decadent and downright wacky boarders. Yet the battle to keep the peace on our side of the house is surpassed by a harder struggle on the other.

At one o'clock in the morning, returning from frequent school trips, the house door remains open. Upstairs Mr. and Mrs. Biggs relax at one of the few tranquil moments of their day. Their battle is to maintain a sprouting family as well as to keep the whole house running smoothly. Mrs. Biggs nametapes, sorts, collects, arranges our washing, tends the ill, offers advice as well as countless other anonymous tasks, having already dealt with her own ebullient children. Even before Nial Mardon arrived there were four "Manic Miners" in the house.





Personally, my time as a boarder (not quite finished yet, sir!) has taught me much, that at home, I might sadly have lacked. Every boarder learns a practical responsibility divorced from any petty disciplinarian system. This responsibility cannot be taught, in the same way that you cannot punish someone for not getting along with someone else. In the old days (circa Tom Brown), this reliance on each other contrasted sharply with a detestable loneliness. Boarding in Waste Court today, has given me a precocious independence and as a consequence greater freedom. Perhaps, in this respect, boarding is bewildering. The freedom in and out of Waste Court is possible because of the independence and responsibility boarding has not forced on me.

After such amateur psychology the best illustrations of what boarding in Waste Court means to me are the little details and domesticities: being able to watch "Brookside" regularly, scrounging coffee, warm shirts, prolonged shavers, unlimited toast, the walk to tea across Waste Court field in the summer. Mr. Biggs discussing the relevance of Thomas Hardy at 10.45 p.m., Mr. Marston "swinging in" to ask whether the lights are off, William Blythe remarking on my waist measurements ...

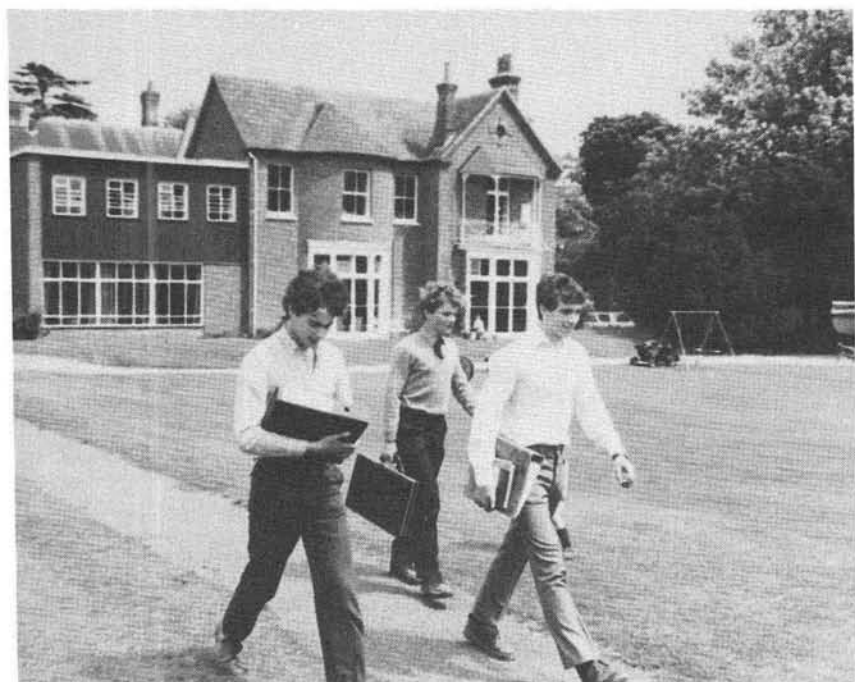
So the answers of the original questions are: one staircase leads to Mr. Biggs's house and the other to the boys' house. However, as Mr. Biggs will testify the ownership of the stairs is constantly in doubt due to the increasing number of boys trying to get in here!

Toby Jones

LIFE IN CRESCENT HOUSE

With the relatively small proportion of boarders at the school the day-to-day working of the boarding houses remain a mystery to many day boys. Needless to say many have their own ideas of boarding life: misconceptions culled from the usual sources which combine to give an often quite unreal image. To juniors boarding life might be the clichéd world of Billy Bunter or Tom Brown — all pillow-fights and pranks; ask a more senior boy and he will doubtless comment on the supposedly oppressive restraints imposed by a communal, and, more importantly, a strictly hierarchical environment. However, though boarding life has never been what I first imagined it could be, it has certainly relaxed for the better over my six years at the school; let the misconceptions stand for the other houses, Crescent has evolved into a relaxed (but never lax!), friendly, and perhaps even a civilised, community!

Two factors obviously mark Crescent as different from the other houses, even to outsiders: first the House comprises three separate buildings, and second Crescent is the only house to take lower-school boarders. It is these two peculiarities that combine to give Crescent a distinctive (and most would agree, a pleasant) atmosphere, and it is on these characteristics that I wish to concentrate.



Having three separate buildings — Crescent, Cobban and Glyndwr — gives the House as a whole more space and more character than a specially designed building. The very fact that the three buildings were once private houses means that the institutional element is minimised: dormitories were once bedrooms of a sensible size and we are therefore spared the horrors of School Houses "Top Dorm" or even Waste Court's "Big Dorm"; even washrooms can be found in normal accessible places rather than blocked together miles from anywhere. Crescent has no long corridors, lofty ceilings or stone staircases which seem to abound at other schools and even in the purpose built School House. Likewise, while Crescent is numerically the largest boarding house, no constituent building houses more than twenty boys which obviously leads to a quieter and more private existence. The advantage of this more human, and not merely functional layout cannot be overstressed: the actual geography of Crescent lends itself to a more comfortable and less impersonal atmosphere.

More importantly perhaps than the physical comfort it provides, it is the "three-in-one" separateness of Crescent which allows the seven year age-range of the school to be successfully accommodated. Cobban can be set aside as "the junior house" and Glyndwr provide sanctuary for more senior boys. Thus seniors in study bedrooms are spared the ravages of hoards of lower school boys, and these juniors in turn can enjoy themselves uninhibited by seniors, and, some might add, uninfluenced. Without the space, even distancing, automatically provided by the House's geography, having such a large age-range — working and sleeping at different times and with markedly different interests — would be difficult.

While stressing the advantages of three houses it would be wrong to give the impression that Crescent is merely three independent communities loosely bound together for administrative convenience. Crescent House does have a single identity — no boy can see himself as living (for instance) in Cobban without knowing himself to be, and one hopes feeling, part of Crescent as a whole. While a particular house might be regarded as a boy's own niche, where he works and sleeps, it is impossible to be isolated from the rest of the house. The house as a whole finds this coherence in many ways: all boys will have lived at least some time in each of the buildings and even within the guideline of "Cobban equals juniors, Glyndwr equals seniors" there is no perennial rigidity in room allocations. Middle-schoolboys meet most mornings in their two tutor groups, and, since these are small (about 10 boys) such meetings are fairly informal and create closer contact between boys in different years than one suspects occurs in the larger dayboy groups. It is the whole of Crescent which meets once a week for a house meeting, which eats together once a term at the house "dining-in", and which takes part in the traditional end-of-term celebrations in the Summer and at Christmas. Likewise the House organises outings for itself during the term, and it is Crescent as a single entity which has regularly raised money for charity.

Such mixing between year groups, however is not confined to these "formal" or organised

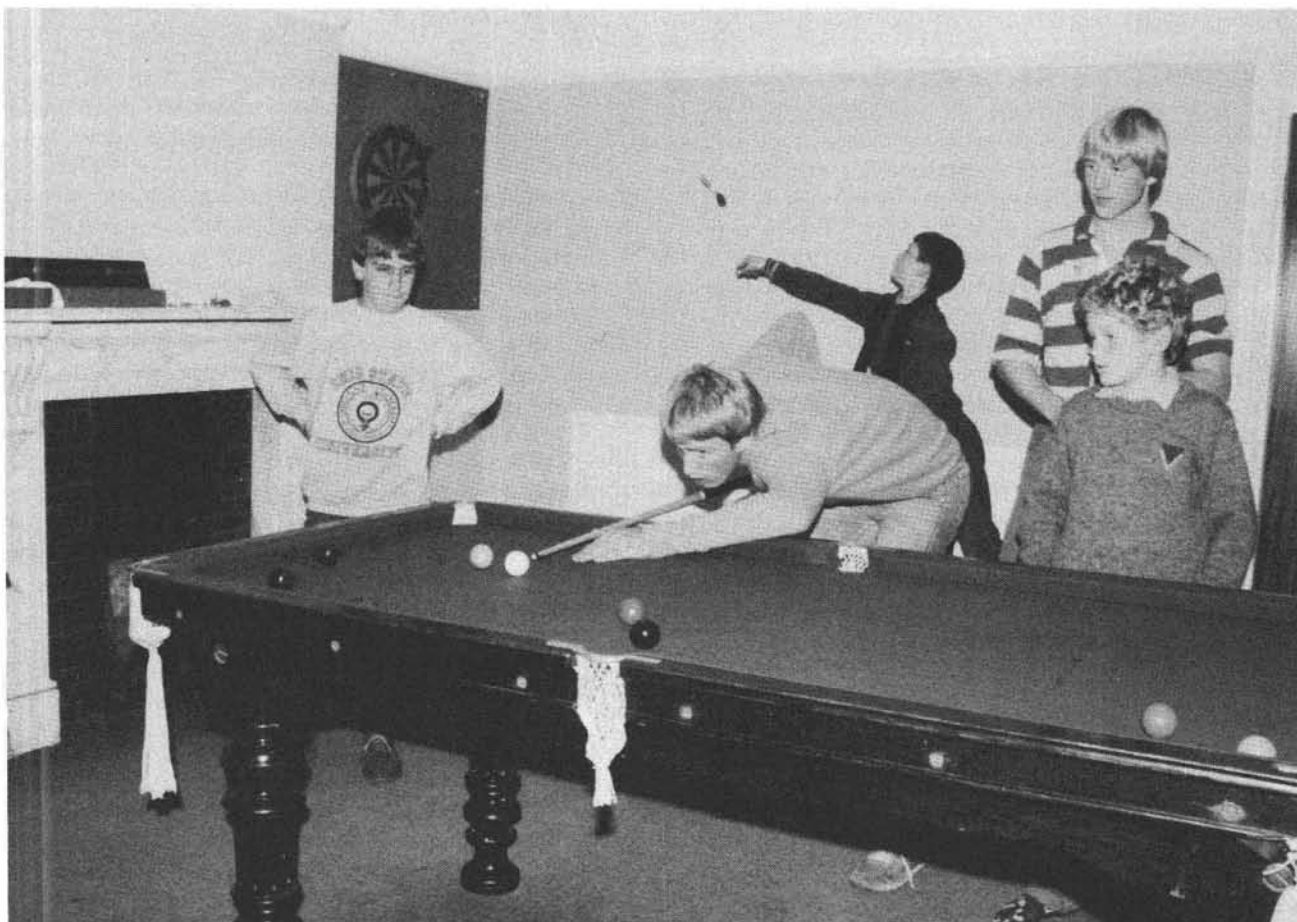
occasions and in binding the house together on a day to day basis Cobban plays a major role. As the central house it is here that the lounge and television, as well as the games room, boys' kitchen and telephone are all to be found. Cobban is the centre of Crescent, boys share all these facilities equally and all year groups will come together in this building and mix quite happily. Relations between the years are good, but it is a harmony which can exist so effortlessly because the fifth and sixth former knows that he can escape to his study and know that it, in turn, is private and violate. This "safety-valve" is extremely important: it is not too hard to imagine the tensions which might arise in a more claustrophobic environment.

Those, therefore, are the advantages of the three-house system, but, many and important as I believe they are, one should not overlook the corresponding disadvantages. At present, for instance, the second year are split between Cobban and Crescent, and those of them sleeping in Cobban still have their study in Crescent. Such a physical division has obviously affected the relationships formed within the group as a whole; while nobody would expect the study — bedrooms of fifth or sixth formers all to be in the same building, a split such as this, at such an early age, is unnatural — although largely unavoidable. Other disadvantages are little more than slight inconveniences to an individual — answering a telephone call for somebody living in another building, or having to do "lights-out" duty when it is pouring with rain. The repercussions are hardly serious: the telephone might ring for slightly longer than usual and the duty-prefect gets wet! To complain at these would leave one open to a well-deserved charge of selfishness — something which is surprisingly less common in Crescent than might be expected.

This is no place for an exhaustive list of mundane arrangements; nobody can want to know of the laundry procedure in minute detail, and arrangements for prep and punishments are similarly uninteresting. It is enough to say that the system (ugh!) works well and can even surmount the occasional, but inevitable, hiccup. One point that should be stressed, however, is Crescent's position in relation to the other houses. Meals are eaten by all boarders in the dining-hall and this is just part of a wider association between boys from different houses. There is little insularity or, worse still, no inter-house rivalry: any boy in Crescent, although recognising the identity of his own house knows himself to be part of a relatively intimate general boarding community.

Lastly, while I do believe Crescent to be a surprisingly friendly and good humoured community and one of value, I do not wish the above to sound as the complacent praise of a happy senior. Crescent is good — but nobody could claim it to be Utopia. I am aware also that to a junior boy who is unhappy (for whatever reason — and many can be imagined) that Crescent can still seem impersonal and uncomfortable, and claims that such boys appear to be very few will be of small consolation to him. But Crescent has evolved noticeably to this point and nobody would deny that such evolution, such progression, continues.

B. Burman (6)



LIFE IN SCHOOL HOUSE

"The boarding side is an integral and highly valued part of the Abingdon School community. Although the number of boarders has not expanded so rapidly in the post-war era as the number of dayboys, it still constitutes a major element in the school population. Boarders are particularly prominent in a number of School activities such as sport, drama and the various societies. It is common for the boarding life to develop a boy's sense of responsibility and capacity for exercising it, and thus boarders figure prominently in lists of prefects. Finally, and not least, the boarders' central position in the daily life of the school ensures them a major role in shaping and continuing that intangible but important phenomenon, — the spirit of the place."

So begins my official 'plug' on boarding at Roysse's. Perhaps the most important of the points made is the last — that of the contribution of the boarders to the 'spirit' of Abingdon: all other comments on boarders are merely to reinforce the undeniable proposition that, in general, they are 'characters'. The School puts this down to 'the presence of a core of boys and masters who are living and working together twenty-four hours in the day, and seven days in the week'.

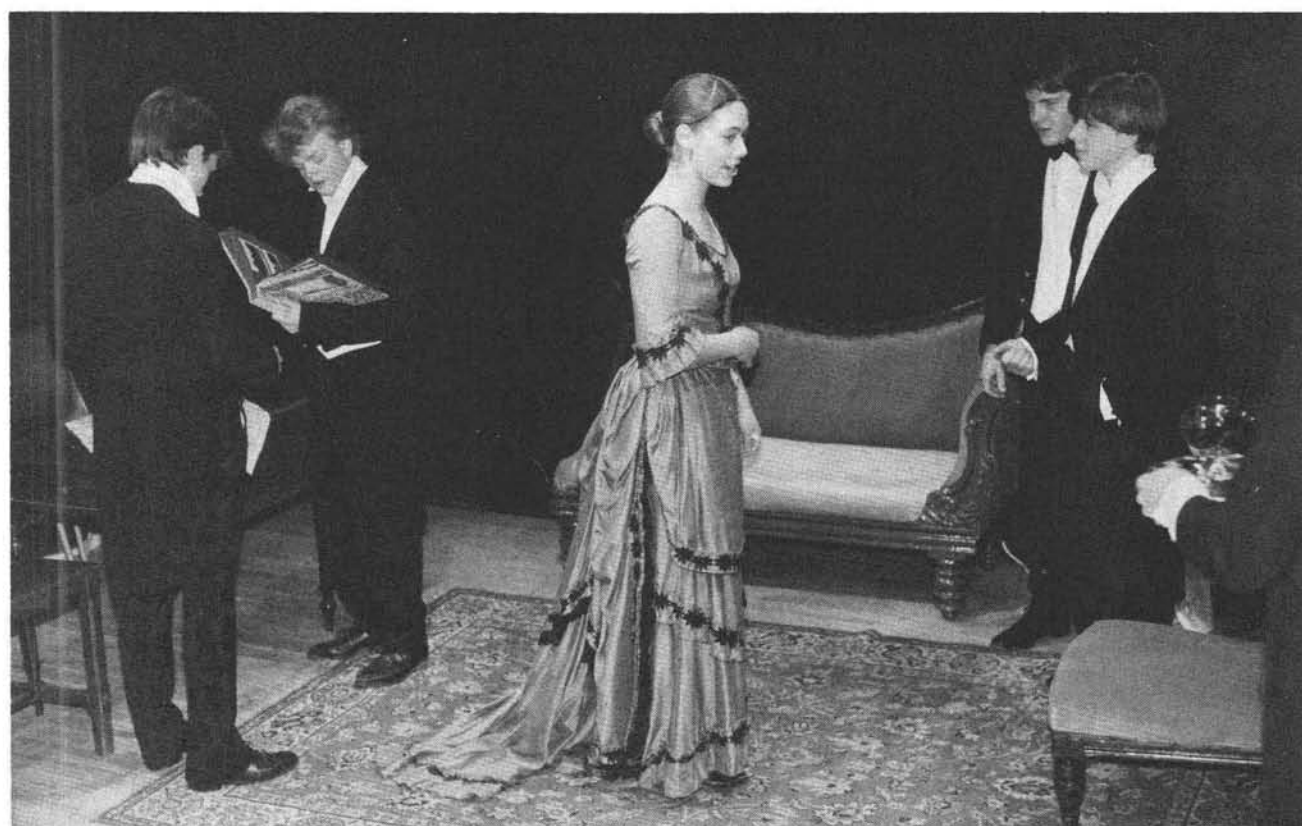
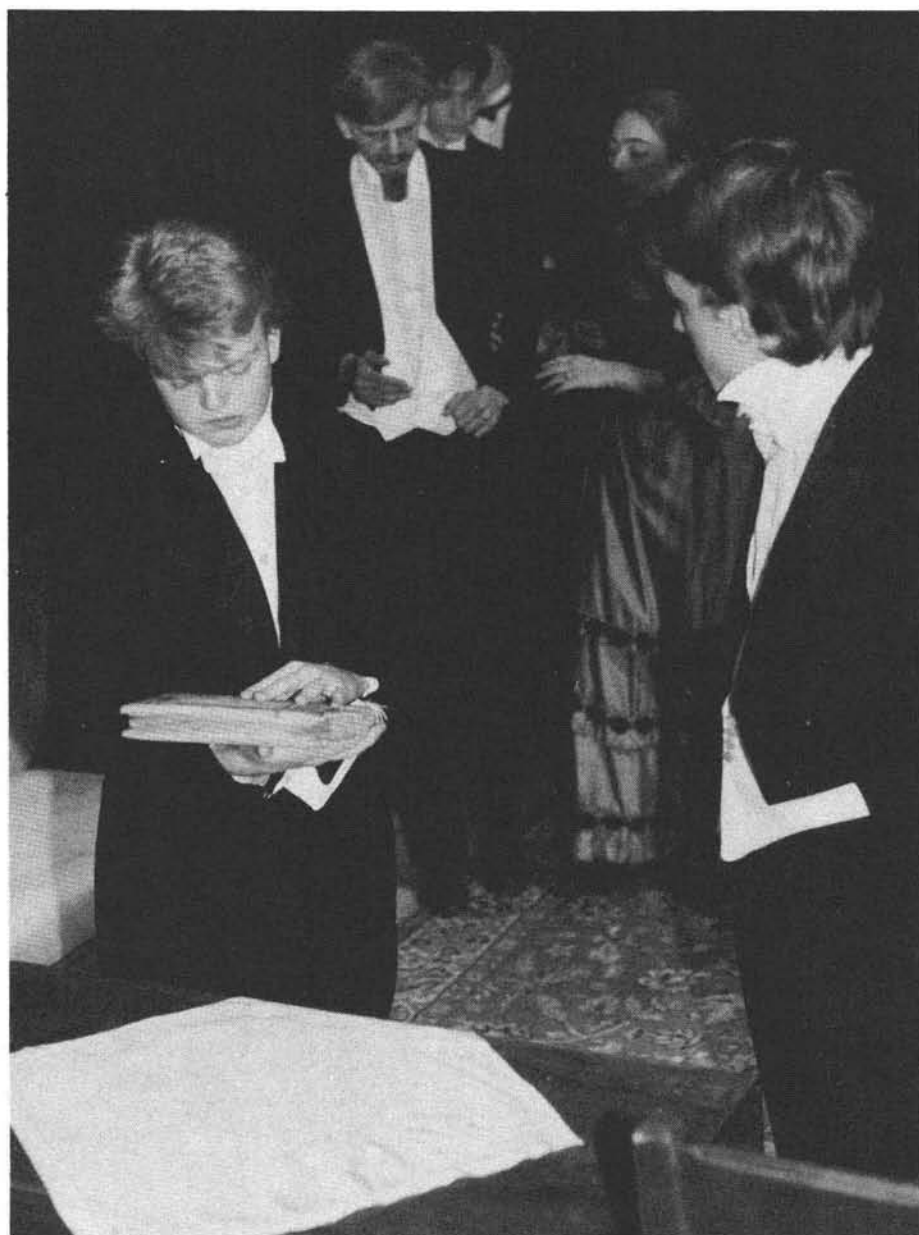
However, with the introduction, and development of 'weekly boarding' over the past couple of years, this corporate identity has begun to come under some pressure. The emphasis on the boarding side is changing. The percentage of boarders in the XV's, XI's, and other team games is perhaps less marked as one goes down the school: this has been seen as being a direct consequence of the weekly boarder's desire to

'get home as soon as he can, and not come back until Monday morning'.

Take, for example, the Full Boarding Weekends. Originally conceived as a 'gung-ho' affair organised to a large degree by the senior boys, the weekend was packed full of as many activities as possible: one might expect to return from a rugby match, and after supper there would be a wide-game devised by the Upper VI, followed by a fry-up back at school; there would be formal chapel on Sunday and a film in the evening, or a disco. Much of this has lost its grip. Now the chapel is usually only a quarter full and roll-call has been dispensed with as the Boarding Head of School is a weekly boarder!

However, with our peer-group at least, it has always been a feature of boarding life that 'we are all in it together'. Hence the depth of friendship formed at boarding school, and, indeed, the strength of character exhibited by virtually every boarder — the team spirit that is carried through into games, drama (both on stage and behind it) and all the other various activities open to us. Despite all the criticisms, boarding **does** give one a whole host of new opportunities that might not have been available due to travelling commitments or whatever. This, together with the development of "social skills" and 'character', is perhaps boarding's greatest attraction, and its products are its greatest advertisement. It is vital, then, that the decline of full boarding does not lead to the decline of the traditional excellence of the boarders, and it will fall to future Abingdonians to maintain this aspect of the School's character.

Roger Smith (VI School House)



DAVID COPPERFIELD

There are many and varied difficulties involved in a summer production: exams, shortage of time, and the attractions of the sun being the most obvious. Yet Mr. Brown managed to mount a large — the title of major being stubbornly denied — school production which ran over three nights, drawing the cast from Abingdon and St. Helen's.

In fact the greatest problem turned out to be the adaptation itself; this required a ridiculously high number of scene changes, the patience to endure some simply boring songs, and an inordinately high degree of acting and singing to make the play take life. The first problem was overcome by a very good and simple stage set designed by Mr. French, which — apart from the odd collapsable curtain — left nothing to be desired, and the last by some very good individual performances: Sally Austen and Sarah Llewelyn-Jones actually made some songs enjoyable, while some "established" men of the stage kept the interest from flagging, such as Tom Hyder's delightful portrayal of "poor" Micawbar, Jeremy Allanson's scatterbrained Mr. Dick and Guy Mawhinney's salt-of-the-earth (plus accent) Daniel. It also boded well to see some very good younger 'talent', David Pratt seeming to dominate at times with his Uriah, though such a character could naturally survive the bastardization of the play, and Fiona Galloway playing Peggety very effectively.

In the end, then, it was disappointing to see such a strong cast struggling with such bad material. But the high level of production, allied to the quality of the cast and set, did — at least — bring about the prime object, an enjoyable evening, which was thankfully reflected in the large numbers of people coming to every production: the full house on the last night was deserved.

J. Lee (VI)

LOWER SCHOOL PLAY

This year's Lower School Play consisted of a selection from John Bowen's *Fall and Redemption of Man*, itself a collection of some of the best-known episodes from the cycles of Medieval Mystery Plays, which, I suppose, could be considered the earliest form of educational audio-visual aid! It was fitting, then, that this cycle was performed in St. Nicholas Church, with which the school has a centuries-old link, as part of its 800th year celebrations.

The director, David Smith, had started in the autumn with a drama workshop group which had concentrated on flexibility in movement and rôle-playing and it was these qualities which the production exploited to the full, with the cast playing a variety of animal, human and super-human parts; at one moment a sheep in a fold and at another, God in His Heaven ... it would be nice to be able to add, "and all was well", but unfortunately the acoustics and the poor light-lines of the Church conspired against the full success of the production.

The standard of performance was uniformly high and the extracts, punctuated by some highly effective music contributions, directed by Terry James, steadily gained impetus and impact, concluding most movingly with a beautifully-presented Crucifixion. However, it was a hard

task for the cast to hold the attention of the audience when audibility was such a problem and the trouble was that the more the piping treble voices pitched up, the more difficult it was to hear them! This was one of those productions where it really would be unfair to name any two or three outstanding performances; the way the group played together was striking and their lively engagement in the piece was infectious. Above all, I felt, the direct, humorous and sometimes strongly-moving appeal of these traditional plays came through clearly, despite the difficulties created by performing in the Church.

N. J. B.

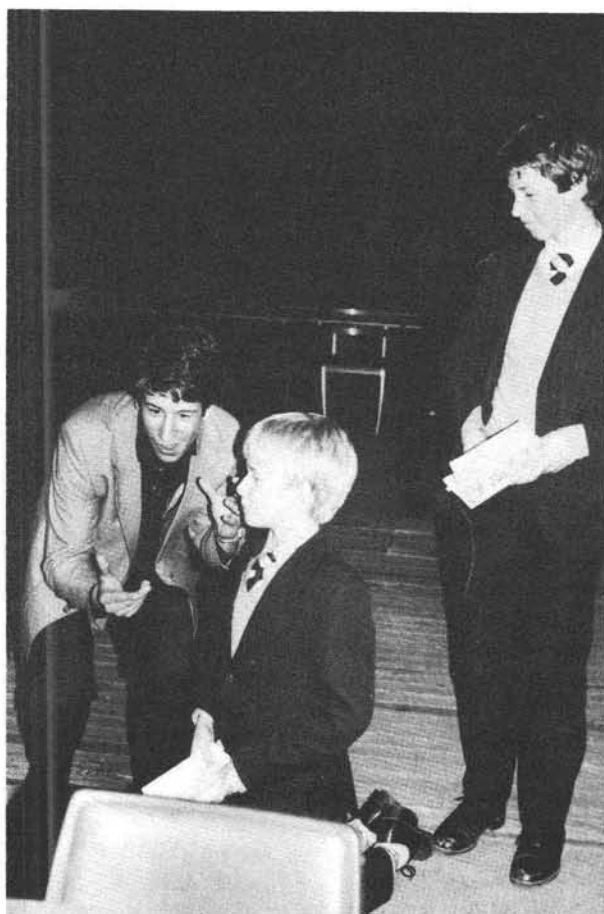
THE THWARTING OF BARON BOLLIGREW

This is a play eminently suitable for school production, demanding as it does a large cast (and therefore audience!) and catering for all levels of humour from bathos to slapstick.

The actors (drawn from most age-groups in the school) played their parts with the intent seriousness and commitment vital to the successful performance of comedy. This applied both to the throng of small parts appearing variously as knights and peasants, and to the colourful crew of main characters.

Daniel Oppenheimer, in the title rôle, was impressive in his intelligent approach to the portrayal of stupidity, while Richard Wyatt found ample scope for all his inclination to melodrama in the part of the anti-hero Sir Oblong fitz Oblong, the sickeningly moral knight who sets out to thwart the Baron. The part called for a sort of conviction in presenting perhaps the most unlikely character of the play; comic lines are not to be tripped out like the jokes of a stand-up comedian, but instead must be spoken in character, which Richard, among others, achieved to a considerable degree. At the same time he showed impressive stagecraft in coping adroitly with the occasional lapses of the lesser parts, which in consequence were hardly noticeable to those seeing the play for the first time. Of the other characters, Chris Shaw as the devilish Moloch, whom Bolligrew calls to his aid, and Jonathon Barnes as the storyteller were distinctly among the natural talents of the show — like the two main parts, Chris 'looked the part' throughout in gesture and expression, while Jonathon Barnes achieved the 'B.B.C. manner' necessary to bring off his ironic involvement in the action. There were no 'weak links' among the other major characters: in particular, the mindless thuggery of Squire Blackheart seemed to come almost naturally to James Crosskey, and Philip Mansfield as Mike Magpie, Oblong's unscrupulous feathered friend, carried off a sustained character part, helped by effective costume. His talents were best displayed in the musical numbers, to the accompaniment of Mr. Robinson's excellent band, so vital to the success of the production, as were the colourful costumes and props, courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Chambers of Pocklington and Mr. Nigel Hunter respectively. A success it undoubtedly was: the curtain calls were as well orchestrated as the rest of the show by the capable hands of Mr. MacDonald, who wisely allowed several minutes for applause.

B. R. Keeping (VI)



Bolligrew

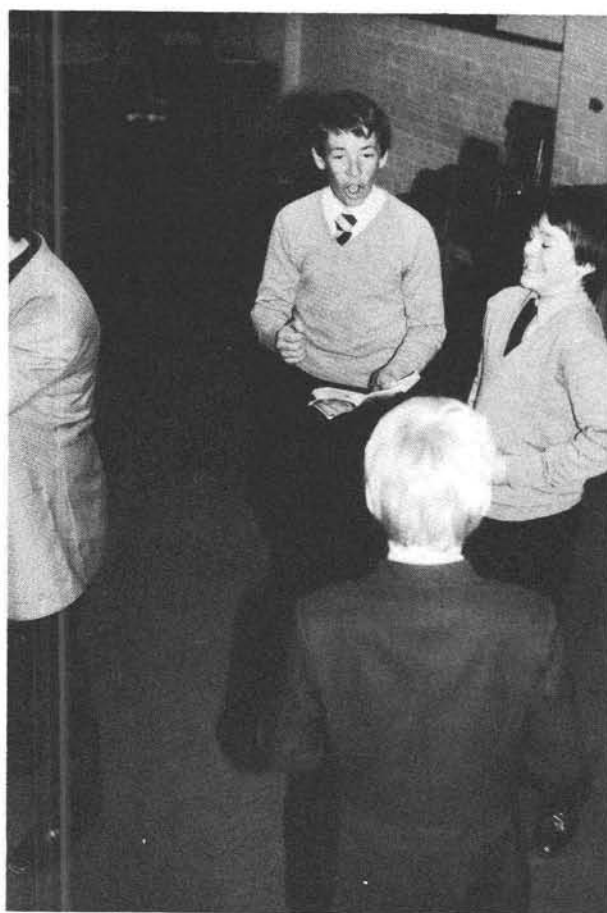
"... At three o'clock tomorrow you are going to the Dragon's Den."

Oblong

"The Dragon's Den?"

Mollock

"Just a social call you know."



Mollock

"Hello ..."



"Is it Oblong FITZ Oblong?"

SOCIETIES

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

This year the Society has debated such varied topics as television (whether or not it's a good thing), and the future of the Social Democrats (whether or not they have one). From great and crowd-pulling frivolity to almost academic abstraction: the Society has had a very rich agenda, passing judgements on, for instance, the ups and downs of society's moral standards and whether or not sainthood can be fun. Masters have not been as shy about speaking as some of their pupils seem, at times, to have been. Mr. Hammond successfully persuaded a very large house to ignore the arguments of Mr. Smith (please come back, all is forgiven) for unilateral disarmament. The Rev. Butcher and Mr. Evans battled before a disappointing house over morality and whether we still have it or, indeed, need it. A debate with Wycombe Abbey on Ireland, and St. Patrick's right to have that Emerald Isle returned to him, produced some very good speeches from them and us. Even the prospect of this female intuition, and quite a nice dinner, could not raise the numbers to a very impressive height: almost Gaelic intelligence on the part of those who did not come, since the debate was well worth attending.

Small houses are a problem that the Society must tackle in the near future. There is, however, a small but loyal core of supporters who always have something constructive to contribute. Frequent advocates: Ken Welby, Ben Keeping, Bill Blythe, Daniel Nolan, have always been ready to laugh at themselves even after the most heated argument. The Debating Society has, I think, had a successful year, largely due to the efforts of Messrs. Sharpe (for one term only, unfortunately) and Evans, both of whom I thank very much. Finally: any ideas, oratory, speakers, imagination, rabble-rousers or 'mere voters' please come and debate.

Hugh Riches (6)

WARGAMING SOCIETY

"Life depends on change", and it has been a year of change for the Wargaming Society. With the inception of Mr. Willerton as the new Lord President, we now have a committee making decisions for the Society, attendance has risen noticeably, and we are now able to purchase some equipment of our own.

The most popular games have been the perennial Dungeons and Dragons, Runequest, Car Wars, and Illuminati (a game in which players attempt to gain control of the world — it has even been suggested from some quarters that this is the ultimate aim of the Wargaming Society!)

Overall it has been a successful year for the Society, so don't be surprised if, having accidentally wandered into Rooms 4, 5 or 31 on a Wednesday afternoon, you need an aspirin or even a stiff drink to recover. That's just the way the games are played!

M. Weatherall (6)

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Society has played a lot of films since this time last year, so only the best and the worst, and the most recent, can be mentioned. Most of the best have been 'funnies'. "10", with Dudley Moore and Bo Derek, was very popular, Derek pulling more of the crowd than Moore. He also played **Arthur** under the very dry, laconic and (said one member of the audience) "lovable" valet John Gielgud. **Young Frankenstein** was not nearly as good as these two, but you laughed almost out of pity for any one with Marti Feldman's face. **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** showed what can happen if you stay with strange men in suspender belts. The funniest, though, was **Airplane**. This film, starring the inflatable auto-pilot, mocked every one of the many Hollywood clichés that the Society spends the rest of its time watching.

Competing with the 'funnies' were the 'deepies'. The "hero" of **Equus** had an attitude to stables that would have been funny in the Rocky Horror Picture Show. His Psychiatrist, Richard Burton, had slightly more sophisticated problems than the patient, but managed to resist the temptation to blind horses. **Far from The Madding Crowd** had every one hating the very evil Sergeant, but relieved when the hero finally got his girl. **An Officer and a Gentleman** made the U.S. Navy look like a slightly more romantic version of the C.C.F., although the Americans have rather more brutal haircuts for both gentlemen and officers.

The bad films were very, very bad. The worst was definitely **Escape from New York**, the hero of which — who was, of course, named after his tattoos — tried very hard to be Clint Eastwood and failed miserably. Donald Pleasance was bald brilliantly. **Excalibur** showed Lancelot and Guinevere like they've never been shown before, but the other two and a quarter hours were very dull. Which is what Jack would be if he did all work and no play: the most important lesson of the **Shinning**. All work and no — catching, isn't it? **Fame** had every one's beleg-warmered feet tapping, although when it attempted to jerk a tear "it just jerked", as the credibly cool Leroy would have said.

The Society this year has shown many films to some very full houses. So it has lots of money. This will be spent; probably on another projector, pending future arguments. Kuno Van der Post has worked very efficiently and enthusiastically as the projectionist, and Mr. Birnberg must be thanked for equal administration as well as flexibility over the choosing of films suggested to him. The Society has had a prosperous and popular year.

Hugh Riches (6)

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE 1984

LIBRARY

The Library has been staffed by an excellent corps of willing workers this year. The boys range from Upper Sixth Formers, seeking a break from Proust or Higher Mathematics, to First Years, eager to know the mysteries of Mr. Dewey's system. The main work session is from 1.30 to 3.30 on Wednesday afternoons — a long productive period in which the boys tidy shelves, catalogue and cover new books, and write tickets and index cards. The stalwarts have been William, Hawes, Mark Flood, David Mortimer and Edward Smith.

Thanks are especially due to Mrs. Wade, who has helped us for the last two terms.

W. T. M.

Last year's impressive campaign which took us to the National Semi-finals in Blackpool was always going to be difficult to follow. However our new team of Roger Smith and myself, veterans of last year, and new faces Nigel Williams and Stefan Green made a promising start by beating the girls of Wycombe Abbey by 740 to 280. The next round brought us up against Carmel College. Despite the efforts of a very enthusiastic home audience Carmel failed to topple us; we won a low-scoring game 650-250. The Regional Final took place on a sunny Tuesday afternoon at Radley. A very good team performance gave us a particularly satisfying result of 1000-420 against the old rival; it was the highest score anyone can remember by an Abingdon team. The first inter-regional round gave us our first home fixture and the visit of R.G.S. Guildford to Amey Hall. Guildford proved to be a well-drilled team and they led from start to finish, beating us 520-310. We were left with the Oxford Region championship trophy and thoughts of what might have been.

These reports usually end by thanking our manager and chauffeur Dr. Zawadski. In his absence, however, that role was taken by Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Birnberg whose help in arranging fixtures and providing transport was greatly appreciated.

Clive Williams (6 TRA)

THE ABINGDON SCHOOL RAILWAY SOCIETY 1983-4

Following the departure of Keith Girdwood who had organised trips in the past, Nick Suckling, Richard Platts and I were asked to try and organise a trip. We decided to apply for a tour of the Swindon Engineering Works. As ever it was booked up for nearly a year in advance. Having scrutinised the free dates I managed to find a free Wednesday afternoon. After countless phone calls to British Rail a trip was organised for Wednesday 9th November. We travelled to Swindon by Minibus (much to some people's disgust) for our tour of the works.

First we went into a refurbishment area which was threatened with closure. It rebuilds southern region commuter trains and gives them a longer life. The area was packed with rolling stock. Some of which was being stripped down for scrap, the useful parts removed and then the 'skeletons' sent to the scrapyard. The scrapyard is known as the North Yard. Looking at this was in itself an incredible experience. The scene was horrific, rows of rusting hulks slowly dropping to bits and some being cut up. B.R. thought it better that we should not publish a photo of the yard. Having walked around the yard we then went into the paint shop where various processes take place before the engines return to service.

So our tour finished; it had been most interesting, but we all wondered just how long the works would remain open. It is proposed to take a party to Doncaster in the next year. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. C. Parker for his loyal support of the Railway Society, without him we would be non-existent!

Graham Sowerby (6)



"Two Engines in their happier days, far from their present state at Swindon."

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

Those of you expecting a high-brow report written in Sanskrit, Arabic or Hungarian, will have to think again: Mod. Lang. Soc. is now shedding its "intellectual" image and broadening its appeal. The Society is now blending its activities — with evident success, judging from the numbers attending.

After Mr. Chorley's efficiency, it was inevitable that Mod. Lang. Soc. would return to the doldrums it had been so prone to occupying. It was not until the end of the Michaelmas term that an event appeared: "**The German Christmas Party**".

The Party was held at St. Helen's and managed to attract over 100 revellers, including many "crashers" from the Rugby Club Dinner. Mr. Ian Smith read a Christmas story, and he and his wife were dressed authentically in Austrian costume. Carols were sung, and no-one minded being unable to understand the words. German Christmas food was tasted in the form of Stollen and Kuchen, and an impressive cake, produced by Mark Boobbyer, made a brief appearance. Much Glühwein was drunk and a refreshed audience sat down to watch the feature of the evening — two short plays. The L.6 performed a touching nativity play, with Simon Weaver predominating as Herod (or Herr Odd as he preferred). The U.6 performed the world première of a Huw Peach play **Sankt Nikolaus und der Teufel**. The audience was so impressed that the U.6 troupe was asked to transfer to the Amey Hall (which it did, for a one lunch-break run!) The night was rounded off by raffle with Mrs. Smith drawing the numbers — Mr. Taylor (appropriately) won a German phrase-book and among the prizewinners, Adam Spring was surely the unluckiest with his, of a jar of Sauerkraut.

The Lent term stirred into life with a trip to La Maison Francaise to see Molière's **Les Femmes Savantes**. Other trips included one to Goldsmiths' College to see Dürrenmatt's **Der Besuch der alten Dame**. There was a showing of Truffaut's **Le dernier Métro**, but this was poorly attended, a pity, as it was easily the best (and most expensive!) film shown by Mod. Lang. Soc. for ages.

The blockbuster event of the term was however the **Polish Evening**. Doctor Zawadzki accepted our invitation to come, and spoke on the theme "Poland — Saints, Sinners and Rebels": the Doctor would not be drawn on which of the three he was, but he did tell us a lot about the peculiar and diverse character of Poland and the Poles. A film "Welcome to Poland" was shown, but this was very low key and uninspiring, interesting nevertheless. To round off the evening there was a sampling of Polish fare, mainly in the shape of sausages with such difficult names as Zywiecka and Wiejska. There was sadly no Vodka on hand, but the Tatra Zywiec beer was extremely popular, and gave us first hand evidence why alcoholism is such a big problem in the People's Republic.

The Politburo of Ken Welby, Huw Peach and Cari Kimber decided to retire, but not before a new system of Society Officers had been introduced. Marcus Winsley was made Chairman, Laura Davies and Philip Vokins Joint Treasurers, and Imelda Bye and Maria Fulton Joint Secretaries. Thanks are due to Mrs. Clarke, Miss Nicholls, Mr. Birnberg, the projectionists and all those "unseen" helpers who made Mod. Lang. Soc. possible.

Ken Welby (VI)

RIFLE CLUB

Although small in numbers the Rifle Club has had a very good year. The 1st team won its league in the B.S.S.R.A. Autumn leagues, and the 2nd and U.15 teams shot well and were not far behind the winners of their leagues.

Pride of place, however, must be accorded to Simon Hudson who won the Three-Positional and Prone Championships of the B.S.S.R.A. against the strongest competition from all the other schools in the U.K. He also represented England for the second year running in the Home Countries match which England won with a record score. Following all this he was selected for the G.B. Junior (Under 21) Three Positional team of three, and has competed in Germany and against French and Swiss teams. We wish him success and hope that he will continue to catch the selectors' eyes and in due course gain full international honours.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Lay and Dr. Hudson for their practical help and encouragement since the Club started four years ago.

R. G. Mortimer
Master i/c Shooting

THE MOCK ELECTION

In the General Election, the candidates devoted themselves to their campaigns heart and soul for three weeks or more; but in schools there is the little matter of academic work to attend to. We did our best, and engendered a certain amount of heat, less light and a very great deal of sound. The social historian could gather more from our activities than the political historian, because while the latter is concerned with the influence of the Falklands factor, for example, the former has to contend with the frivolity factor, the House-loyalty factor and, quite simply I fear, the yah-boo factor.

This last was in spite of the fact that we eschewed frivolous parties (one neighbouring school had a candidate from the British Tupperware Party); in the end, fourteen candidates put forward their names, and we eliminated seven of them by allowing only one candidate per party, the one who collected most genuine signatures in his support. The Alliance candidate, for example, who had 'Roy Jenkins' among his supporting signatures was excluded as there is no boy called Jenkins in the school.

Various developments occurred as the campaigns gathered impetus. The first casualty was the poster board; the section of the school notice-boards allotted to election advertisements was abused and defaced, and posters were removed by unauthorised hands. So that method of communication came to an end. The second casualty was good manners. For the sake of realism, heckling was not banned at the meetings, and this gave the rowdy and conceited element of the audience a chance to obstruct and hinder the procedure. There were some candidates (and not least the youngest of them) who rode that particular storm, but one meeting had to be abandoned because the speaker could not make himself heard above the noise of those who were more interested in self-advertisement than in politics. Pity. But from now on we can be more encouraging.

Five of the candidates produced written addresses to the electorate, distributed through

tutors, and these showed a serious approach and a knowledge of some of the questions involved and different parties' answers to them. Among these five too were those who had the greatest success in dealing with the meetings held after lunch on successive days. Five of these were in the Lecture Room, and two in the open air with the candidate addressing his hearers from the Pavilion steps. After the candidates had expounded their parties' policies, questions were invited from the audience. Many of the serious questions came from rival candidates trying to expose their opponents' weaknesses, but there was a high proportion of the audience which was interested and politically aware. The dangers of the mass meeting became apparent when a missile was thrown at one of the open air meetings and unit WHZ had to move in, and carried out summary arrest, trial, conviction and sentence by virtue of the powers invested in the Special Branch.

Perhaps the most disappointing part of the election was the meeting in the Amey Hall at which all the candidates gave their views in succession on four points — unemployment, inflation, defence, and a fourth of their own choice. The meeting was poorly attended, perhaps because its function was to put the parties' views before the nation as they are in Party Political Broadcasts — that is, without the possibility of asking questions.

The results are given below, but it would be wrong to conclude this account without thanking the candidates, their supporters and those who read the addresses and attended the meetings, for participating in an enjoyable experience, with serious undertones and stimulating ideas. I should like to congratulate the second year candidates who took on heavy odds courageously and successfully. And it is good to be able to report that the battles were fought honourably, without there being any personal abuse directed against individuals or against groups. Our betters might take note.

M. E.

	T. M. Hepple (British Nat)	B. R. Keeping (Labour)	J. A. Lowde (Communist)	D. P. Nolan (Lib/SDP)	G. J. Randall (Ecology)	H. G. J. Riches (Conservative)	K. B. Welby (Independent)
Common Room	1	2	0	14	4	9	1
Upper School	12	17	17	28	14	27	41
Middle School	61	5	8	53	15	102	37
Lower School	3	3	6	28	6	94	6
TOTAL	77	27	31	123	39	232	85

The said H. G. J. RICHES is ELECTED

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

TEN TORS 1984

55 mile: Simon Brod	45 mile: Ric Casale
Robin Groth	Simon Weaver
John Lee	Rupert Robson
Ben Keeping	Steve Lawrence
Reg Perrins	Simon Arthy
Clive Parry	Chris Day

After the low success rate of Ten Tors 1983 we decided to start training earlier. Practice walks were held in October, December, January, February and March locally and on Dartmoor in April. Gradually the numbers wishing to enter came down from over thirty. The teams on the Dartmoor practice were almost the actual Ten Tors teams, but unfortunately the practice walk suffered some problems — two from the 55 mile team dropped out (one returned for the real event) leading to their having to come off the moor and camp in Okehampton and one dropped out of the 45 mile team. It was encouraging that the remainder of the 45 mile team had no problems and finished easily. We also discovered that the moor was extremely dry — some parts had burnt — and that conditions underfoot were as good as we could hope for.

On Friday 11th May at 11.00 we all assembled on the gravel to wait for the minibus to arrive. We had searched for the cheapest available and got a rusty ten-year old Transit, but despite our worries there were no problems with it. As we set off with the roof rack full of rucksacks and the inside packed with other camping equipment, driven by our team manager Mr. Smith and accompanied by his wife it started to rain. Was it going to be another Wet Ten Tors? Fortunately it did not last long.

Four hours later we arrived in Okehampton and drove up to the army camp on the edge of the moor. We managed to find a clear area to camp on, and unpacked the minibus. We then went up to the reception office to collect our maps, route cards, helicopter recognition cards, and identity tags. Before we could pitch camp we had to go through scrutineering (all our equipment was turned out to ensure that the Army's minimum equipment rules were followed) and a team briefing (a film with advice and warnings about Ten Tors and Dartmoor). We then went down to our site to pitch camp, cook a meal and study our routes. Both teams considered their routes to be good, planned their route on the map and wrote out timing and distance schedules. We then all tried to get an early night.

We were woken the next morning at 4.30 a.m. by a combination of bagpipes, Abba and an R.S.M. over the public address system. It was a frosty morning but beautifully clear and the weather prospects were good. After bacon, eggs and coffee we repacked our rucksacks and tried to get the weight down as far as possible. The two teams then went for the final registration before going over to the start.

At seven o'clock after a talk and a prayer, a gun fired and 2500 walkers started onto the moors.

SIMON WEAVER from the 45 mile team writes:

Ricardo Casale's 45 mile team set off at high speed, arriving at the first checkpoint ahead of the 'Rapide' schedule. The second Tor only 5km. away was soon reached. Everyone was in great spirits as we found a path which led us to our 3rd Tor, over 13km. away. Here we stopped for lunch, not knowing that the 55 mile team were creeping up on us. Without seeing them we moved on to our 4th Tor, over the worst part of the south moor. Tired and a bit depressed we were still ahead of Rapide, despite having covered the worst stretch of our total route. The next Tor was the Southernmost on the route and we reached it in good time. Now our journey comprised a long haul northwards back to the base at Okehampton. This, and the fact that it was only 14.30 p.m. revived us a bit and we went straight through the next Tor without stopping. Shortly afterwards we found ourselves in Princetown. A brief glimpse of the prison, which has a frightening effect on the remote town, was available en route to our next Tor, number seven, to which we went much faster, eager not to encounter a madman with a chopper. Beardown Tor was reached at 19.30 and by 20.15 we had found ourselves a convenient camp site between Beardown and Lynch, our next Tor. After a quick meal everyone fell asleep very quickly, not realising fully, until that time, how tired they were.

Sometime around 04.45 on the next morning we heard the team leader shouting at us to get up. After another half hour snooze we were well on the way to preparing breakfast. At 05.45 we were all ready, except for the team leader, whose tent was still up! We arrived at Lynch at 06.30 and were in good mind to rapidly consume the distances between our last two Tors, and the finish. The silence was broken only by the occasional grumble, and a few madmen with choppers, the army helicopter's hurtling back to base with a casualty. None of this for Simon Weaver this year though, as a wise investment in GoreTex® waterproofing stopped the chances of hypothermia developing.

10.38 saw the team running into the finish area, to meet a jubilant Mr. and Mrs. Smith, who were very impressed with our timings. Checking later on the big 'progress report' we saw that we had come third on our route — a great achievement, only made possible by the many training weekends where much help was given by Mr. Smith and Mr. Birnberg. We all appreciate their kind help, for they know as well as we do, that our medals would not be in our possession had it not been for them.

The Fifty-five mile team:

Unlike some of the other teams, we intended to do our 55 mile walk between Ten Tors gently and steadily and to arrive at Okehampton on the Sunday afternoon. The first two Tors Shilstone and Sittaford were not too difficult but there then followed a long slog to Combestone Tor. We had

had trouble there on the practice walk, and this time we approached it up a long steep road at midday, arriving at one o'clock. We were all tired but Reg was feeling particularly bad and after considering the long distance over isolated moor to Sharp Tor — our next checkpoint — it was agreed that he should crash out. We continued, now on the average rather than the rapide schedule, to Sharp Tor. This was another long walk but we arrived at about five o'clock. On the way to Trowlesworthy we suffered a slight navigation problem but got there just before seven. By this point we had been walking for twelve hours and the next Tor — Hartor Tor was nearly four miles further. One of the rules of Ten Tors is that checkpoints are closed between 8.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. so we knew that to make it we had to go fast. With this incentive and plenty of encouragement we made it by ten minutes. The team were pleased but now very tired, and the sun was starting to set. After a good rest we set off gently, knowing that we could not pass the next checkpoint — Black Tor — until the next morning. We camped about half way between Tors, near a river about an hour later.

We woke at 4.00 the next morning and set off after a quick breakfast. To make best use of our time we wanted to reach Black Tor by six o'clock, which we did — despite 5.30 a.m. not being the most pleasant time to climb Tors.

The route between Black Tor and Sourton Tor via Lynch Tor was not a very pleasant one — it involved several very steep ascents and descents and some bleak moorland. The wind was strong and we cooled very quickly while resting, but encouraged by Simon's singing we pushed on and were glad to reach Sourton Tor by 10.40. For the many who were on the forty five mile course (Ric's team had passed through one hour earlier) this was the last Tor and there was much celebration among them. We still had to go to Steeperton Tor via the highest point on Dartmoor — High Willhays. We now knew we did not have far to go and made good time to Steeperton. The approach to Steeperton was by gravel road, downhill, over a river and them almost literally straight up. But the feeling of achievement once up was fantastic — it was our last Tor and we were absolutely confident of finishing. We knew we only had to go back down the Tor along a road and then we would be on the hill overlooking Okehampton camp.

All of us, tired but happy, crossed the finish line at 3.42 and were soon presented with our medals and were sitting eating a very welcome army meal, and feeling the training had been very worthwhile.

This year we collected 5 gold medals, 6 silver medals and the 45 mile team collected also a certificate as they all finished.

We would all like to thank Mr. Birnberg without whom much of the training would not have been possible, Mrs. Beecham for the huge amount of photocopying, telephoning and encouragement, Mrs. Smith for accompanying us on Ten Tors, giving encouragement in the form of rum laced with black coffee and above all Mr. Smith for putting in so much time and effort and being a superb Team Manager.

Clive Parry (6)



SIXTH FORM MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

A nice, quiet potter over the hills and valleys of the Lake District, with clear skies and the sun shining down on some very pleasant scenery: for this I set off at eight thirty on the Wednesday before my Lent half term. Even when, eight hours later, we arrived at the Hammabank coach house in Windermere and fifteen upper and lower sixth formers had expectantly piled out of the minibus, still no one had bothered to break the truth to me. An hour later, sliding at a seemingly suicidal rate down a snow covered mountain side of Woundale — the appropriateness of the name becoming more and more apparent — in order to find out if I was able to stop myself with an ice axe, I began to grasp the reality of the situation.

We had been split up into two groups, each with a master, Mr. Haynes or Mr. Pengelley, and an instructor, Greg or Colin, each of whom was also a mountain rescue team member and (so?) carried constantly with them an unlimited store of wisdom and reassuring comment: having slid fifty yards or so down a snow slope "for real" before being able to stop, one learnt that it was merely "all part of life's rich tapestry", as were — we supposed — the rocks at the bottom. Colin and Greg led us up mountains — having shown us how to cut steps and belay in the snow — up scree and snow/ice slopes such as Little Hell's gale (another name that became increasingly meaningful the higher we climbed), through 'white outs' in gale force winds (these, we were interested to know, provided near-arctic conditions), to build snow holes, and finally back to Hammarbank, where we could relish Mrs. Natrass' cooking and listen to the rumours of Real Ale.

VITH FORM SKI TRIP TO TONALE

The departure was set for 2.45 on Boxing Day morning, and sure enough, we were all there in good time, in spite of the early (late?) hour, and the festive season.

After an uneventful coach tour of North London motorways, with a stop to load some space invaders in Wormley (where?), we arrived at Luton airport. The place was full of people who, just like us, had booked "Schools Abroad" holidays. And we got just what we deserved: a Britannia Airways breakfast. Amy Johnson must be turning in her grave. Soon we were off the plane and into a very fine Italian coach, where we met our rep, who immediately took a liking to luscious Tim "polyglot" Gray.

We arrived at our hotel in the afternoon and spent the rest of the day getting our skiing equipment and settling in. It was a small, friendly, but overcrowded, hotel. The only other group staying there were the "brats" (and Sharon, of course), along with some rather unsavoury members of staff they had brought with them.

Skiing, we soon discovered, is amazing fun. With the help of our amusing (and amused) instructor, Guiseppe, we soon learnt the necessary skills, not least of which is the art of Italian queue-barging (wearing skis) in the queues for the skilifts. Under Guiseppe's watchful eye, we did everything possible. The impossible we left to him. (He was rather good at it, too).

One day Guiseppe took us to the steepest piste in the area. This caused embarrassment for many, but Richard "Never Again" Mason loved every minute.

New Year's Eve was, of course, an excuse for due celebration, so the drink flowed, and the music went — it must have gone by the time the singing started (sorry!). Our Italian friends were very tolerant and somehow another luscious polyglot joined our group (Well done Eric).

After the festivities, a certain member of our group was seen wandering around the hotel wearing only moon boots and a ski hat.

The last day was January 1st, so most of us were not at our best for the test (!) that afternoon. There was a presentation in the evening. The next day was the long, tedious journey back, relieved only by some rather impressive scenery over Switzerland courtesy of Britannia Airways.

All in all an enjoyable and exciting holiday; we all hope to go back for more. It only remains for me to thank the Drs. Halstead, on behalf of the whole group, for putting up with us so well during the trip.

S. Brod (VI)

But this was merely the physical side of the course: every evening there was some form of entertainment laid on, if we wanted it. There were several slide shows, including one — Ian Wall's — that staggered us all by the sheer beauty/magnificence of its pictures of K2, Mont Blanc and other such mountains: another night saw us visiting the Mountain Rescue Centre, where we came face to face with Brian Morgan, who was remarkable for his resemblance both in appearance and manner (though he was funnier) to Les Dawson, and who gave us a highly entertaining explanation of the inner workings of his unit — he also managed to "happen" to meet us on the mountains during Saturday and Sunday; there was even a trip to a mime festival at the old brewery, to see one man "tell" the story of Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

All good things must end, however, and so it only remains to thank Mr. and Mrs. Natrass for the accommodation and cheer, Colin and Greg for the advice, and — of course — Mr. Haynes and Mr. Pengelly for arranging the entire "expedition" so well!

J. Lee (VI)



BIELEFELD EXCHANGE

Sunday 12th February. 6.49. Tappins 905 sets off with a crew of 35 boys and girls, a St. Helen's teacher and a doctor. Had their progress been followed, someone would have noticed an unscheduled stop in Henley where to everyone's amazement a 38th member joined the party. At 08.00 Mark Page said goodbye and we were left with the delights of Tony Blackburn.

Our luxury coach sped us through London and onto the M2, where time in hand necessitated a pause before continuing to Dover.

A quick check-up by the doctor showed that everyone was fit and ready to sail, and at 12.01 our ship started its long haul across the channel to Ostend. Hours later, not exactly suffering from jetlag we disembarked and waited on the station.

No luggage. 15 minutes, still no luggage, and one angry guard being forced to keep his train waiting until the good doctor managed to get us all aboard.

Another 5 minutes lost in travelling drastically reduced our time in Cologne from 25 to 5 minutes, and we were lucky to find the Bielefeld train still on platform 11.

An 00.51 arrival, as suggested, seemed and was impossible, but 10 minutes after the station at Bielefeld experienced another rush hour as 38 families chose an English person to look after for the next 9 days.

Many mornings were spent in school, which starts at 07.50 and drags on until 14.00, leaving the afternoons free to explore the town, visit the cinema, theatre, ice rink, swimming pool, or get your breath back in a café. Everyone's attitude towards us was very friendly, and nothing could have shown this more than our encounter with the Lord Mayor at a special 'drinks party'. That morning an executive coach had been hired to give us a tour of the city, which houses 320,000 people, and on another occasion we visited the large university. A lot of fuss was made over us at the weekend by the individual families, and visits were paid to some of the famous places near Bielefeld.

Some had the chance to watch Armenia Bielefeld get thrashed at football by the Czech national team, and others were lucky enough to take part in a 'friendly' England — Germany match. The Germans were keen to boast about the 2-2 draw until asked to cast their minds back to 1966, and further if need be, and then they were prepared to acknowledge our superiority 'on the field', so to speak.

Cross country skiing or sledging in snow-covered Sauerland were two possibilities for Monday, and everyone came back tired but happy. The stay passed so quickly that we were sorry to leave early on the Wednesday morning.

'Auf wiedersehen' really did mean something though, as I'm sure most of the party will be back for more next year.

Our journey back not without incident, brought us in a coach equipped with a television, toilet and coffee machine (albeit non-functional) to the temporarily forgotten town of Abingdon-on-Thames.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped with the trip, Mrs. Clarke, and the doctor. Also to P. J. Halstead ... Thank you doctor.

Simon Weaver (6)

1933 THOUGHTS ON OUR BIELEFELD EXCHANGE

The facts in this article have been kindly made available by Dr. Ohly of the Ratsgymnasium.

1983 was the fiftieth anniversary of the Nazi seizure of power in Germany and was marked by a wide variety of exhibitions in West Germany. I went to two of these in Bielefeld — one organised by the city council traced, largely through photographs and documents the impact on Bielefeld itself, whilst a smaller one at our partner school, the Ratsgymnasium showed how the school had been affected. The latter was accompanied by an article by Dr. Ohly, head of history at the school, which I found fascinating. He based it almost entirely on school records for 1933 — minutes of meetings, punishment books, examination syllabuses, letters from the Prussian Ministry of Education — and from these he built up a picture of what life at the school was like in the months following Hitler's becoming master of Germany.

Bielefeld itself had long had a socialist majority on its council, but the school staff and parents in 1933 hardly reflected this — Dr. Ohly describes them as nationalist, conservative and protestant — so how did they react to the Nazis, and what impact did the Nazis have on the school? Dr. Ohly makes it clear that he is not trying to apportion blame: he asks the question at the beginning of his article "How would I have acted in the same situation?" and this was my reaction too, putting Abingdon School in the place of the Ratsgymnasium.

First it must be said there was very little drama — no invasion of storm troopers or direct confrontations. What troubles there were involved the Hitler Youth — boys of the school who were members preferred marches and rallies to lessons or attacked Jewish boys in the school. So many boys of the school who were Hitler Youth were punished in 1933 that the Nazi education minister passed a decree wiping their records clean of punishment.

The first direct interference in the school involved assemblies and the Headmaster, who received a letter from the Prussian Ministry of Education requiring verses from the national anthem and the Horst Vessel song to be sung and, in particular, that the Hitler salute — or German salute as it was now to be called — to be given during this. Failure to do so, the letter makes clear, would be regarded as showing deliberate disapproval. One possible consolation for the headmaster was that in future all decisions affecting school and staff were to be his alone — no school council, no voting at staff meetings.

SCHOOL TRIP TO RUSSIA, 1983

The real interference in school affairs however came a little later: it affected the teaching of two subjects, but only two — History and Biology, which were sent detailed syllabuses for their future courses. History was to concern itself with the meaning of race, heroic thought in its Germanic expression, how the great migrations brought fresh nordic blood to the racial mishmash of the degenerate Roman imperium and much more besides.

The Biology syllabuses went to three foolscap sides and was a compulsory subject for examination. All the Nazi spurious scientific ideas were there — race theory, racial purity, genetic inheritance, the politics of population. When the biologists protested there was no time to include all this, they were instructed to take two or three periods a week from maths and languages.

Dr. Ohly says that the immediate impact of these measures is hard to assess. Some teachers ignored the new syllabuses, others certainly included them in their teaching as can be seen from the questions they set in school leaving examinations.

The real effects of the Nazi takeover were to come later. In the exhibition was the school roll for 1937: on each page three or four names are crossed out in red — all Jews were excluded from secondary education by decree. Now it was no longer possible to make any kind of protest: Führer command, we follow you! The horror gathered momentum — the war, the extermination camps, the Eastern Front, the massed bombing which destroyed or damaged 90% of Bielefeld but spared the school buildings. Dr. Ohly concludes by saying that this record contains nothing special and could be matched by many other German schools — it is simply a picture of everyday school life in the total state!

K. G. H.

The last trip to the Soviet Union in 1980 took in Leningrad and Moscow, as well as Warsaw and East Berlin. The 1983 trip however was a much more adventurous journey embracing Moscow and Leningrad as well as the Crimean resort of Yalta, the spa of Pyatigorsk at the foot of the Caucasus, and Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, that lies below Mount Ararat. For the 26 members of Group 'A' it also included a spectacular 18 hour coach trip through the Caucasus along the Georgian Military Highway amidst the highest mountains in Europe, a journey that proved an unforgettable experience.

George sipped at his Japanese whisky, the first he had ever had. Replete with the cake his wife had bought from the best cake shop in Moscow, the conversation had entered a lull. To reopen it required mentioning a delicate matter. "Have you read 1984?", I ventured. "Yes, of course", said George, and then added casually, "Why not?" The conversation continued on the relative levels of freedom in the East and West. When Mr. Taylor had said we could well be invited to a Russian household, we had not believed it and dismissed the idea. Yet here we were three days into the trip sitting in a small living room in a Moscow suburb engaged in free speech in a totalitarian state.

The family posed grinning for the camera in front of the monastery, the sheep tugging at the leash held by the small boy. The hapless animal was then blessed by the priest, led outside behind the monastery where its ears were cut off and the animal sacrificed. The oldest Christian church in the world was still practising in an atheist state.

Such was the Soviet Union; a land of contradictions. The propaganda announced great yields and plentiful supplies of food, but no one seemed to have told this to the 500 people queuing for a small piece of fatty meat in the bare-shelved supermarket in Pyatigorsk. The ever-present posters of Lenin exhorted the workers to greater things ("We have been born to turn reality into a fairytale" read one) but the people looked tired and service was slow, especially in Moscow.



Terck Gorge, Caucasus



Geghard Monastery, Armenia

Yet amidst all this was a people who were civil, often very friendly, who *did* smile and who *were* very human.

The group of 44 boys, St. Helen's girls and staff left Birmingham Airport 1½ hours late on August 26th and arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport at 3 in the morning. Having successfully negotiated customs we were driven to our separate hotels through a deserted night-time Moscow patrolled by the *druzhinniki* civilian policing groups armed with 7 foot staffs. Group 'A' woke next morning in the shadow of the vast cathedral-like structure of Moscow University with its 320ft. high star-topped spire. The morning was spent making our first tentative explorations in our new environment, while in the afternoon we jostled with the other tourist coaches around Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral.

The following morning we were sightseeing again, being whisked around the Kremlin, curtly whistled at by policemen to stay on the pavements. Every few minutes a black Zil limousine would rush out from a small gate in the Inner Kremlin and the soldiers amidst the crowd would stiffen to attention. We then queued for two hours to see Lenin's "embalmed" body and the sight of a ceremonial guard having a very unceremonial cigarette behind the mausoleum. In the afternoon we walked around Gorki Park eating Ukrainian bread and drinking *kvas* — a drink brewed from fermented rye bread. In the evening we travelled by the Metro to a circus where the perseverance of the performers made up for the lack of razzamatazz.

The next morning was spent in the Museum of Economic Achievements, while in the afternoon Naomi Jarvis, Tim Brock, Bill Harcourt and myself journeyed to George's house and talked of Stalin, Hitler, Enoch Powell, Steven Spielberg and C.N.D. amongst other subjects until late in the evening.

We then bade temporary farewell to Moscow and flew to Pyatigorsk, one of four spas at the foot of the Caucasus, frequented for its sulphur springs (which smelt of rotten eggs!). It was sprawling and uneventful but the nearby spa of Kislovodsk proved much more attractive. With an average of 300 days of sunshine each year it was green and fertile and in the distance loomed the white dome of 18500ft. Mount Elbrus, highest mountain in Europe. On our final evening in Pyatigorsk we were delighted to hear that we would be driving through the Caucasus instead of flying to Yerevan, not so by the starting time of 5 a.m.!

This journey was for many the highlight of the trip. From Ordzhonikidze to Tolisi range upon range of mountains combining Alpine and Dolomite scenery but on a far grander scale rose above the river valley to heights in excess of 16000ft. With this beauty came totally unspoilt scenery. Delayed for 1½ hours due to road rebuilding (bridge being built — had to cross it!) we were able to see golden eagles and vultures soaring amidst the peaks. So the journey passed through Georgia into Azerbaijan and finally into Armenia. Arriving at around midnight at the hotel we found that slamming doors could result in bits of the ceiling falling down! However, the hotel had a commanding view of the city and Mount Ararat 30 miles away in Turkey. The afternoon tour of the city took on an unexpected dimension when we were witness to a block of flats on fire, and that evening another fire could be seen from the hotel. The drama continued the next day with the visit to the 1st century temple of Garni and the rock monastery at Gegard, the site of animal sacrifices and the haunt of beggars and wild revellers. Here the culture shock was most strongly felt: the separation of Christianity from paganism was hard to distinguish.



Swallow's Nest, Yalta

We were up at 4 a.m. for the flight from Yerevan to Yalta, a trip that prompted the thought that flying with Aeroflot was like living on borrowed time — some would also say the same of eating Russian food — there are painful memories of the gristly meat we were served on more than one occasion!

Yalta was a pleasant resort, similar to the Côte d'Azur, and site of the famous conference in 1945. Not being able to visit the palace where it took place we visited Vorontsov Palace, nestled among the numerous sanatoria. Advertised as "a little piece of England" and with a mixture of oriental and occidental, it was generally considered an aesthetic disaster area. On the Yalta seafront we became caught in a heated argument with an army captain, one where he could not be proved wrong, but his rhetoric was subsequently sobered by the news of the Korean air disaster picked up on the B.B.C. World Service.

As we flew to Leningrad an air of tension could be felt both because the trip could well be put in jeopardy by the pilots' ban, and by the news that an Aeroflot flight had crashed the previous week in Soviet Central Asia. With only a day in Leningrad, we had a lightning tour of the city and Hermitage, and it was a pity we could not spend more time in what was an impressive and historically rich city. We travelled by overnight train from Leningrad to Moscow, where the majority of people spent the morning using up their remaining roubles in GUM, the government department store. Our Air India flight left Moscow 15 minutes before the ban went into force and we finally arrived back in Abingdon to be met by relieved parents.

Thanks are due to Dr. Rolfe, Dr. Zawadski, Mr. and Mrs. Parker and Miss Gardner, but especially to Mr. Taylor for all the organising and wrestling with the Russian authorities to get us the best trip possible. Our gratitude can be best expressed by saying that for everyone it was the chance of a lifetime.

M. Yeats (VI)



Peter & Paul Fortress Leningrad

LOWER SIXTH TRIP TO THE HANSARD SOCIETY MEETING (14.11.83)

At 3 o'clock on a November Monday afternoon eleven sixth form economists were outside the Central Lobby at Westminster waiting to be shown into the gallery of the House of Lords. This field trip to Parliament was led by Mr. Nigel Hammond to go to one of the Hansard Society meetings. The House of Lords as we expected was sparsely attended; only the familiar faces of Lord Gormley, Lord Whitelaw and a few other very relaxed peers listened to the very much alive Lord Molloy demanding travel concessions for the unemployed. We sat in the gallery, high up over the Lords surrounded by loudspeakers, television monitors and scaffolding, when suddenly the echoes of Lord Molloy were interrupted by an announcement from a government spokesman that the first cruise missiles were in Britain. The gallery gasped but the Lords showed no reaction, the silence ended and a small debate followed until the words "unemployment concessions" were mentioned and the House was deserted once more. We decided that we had heard enough and we left the House of Lords in favour of something more stimulating and two of the group found it in the Public Accounts Select Committee. The rest of us looked around Parliament as far as we could without being stopped by policemen. By 5.15 we were ready to go to the wine-party preceding the meeting and after being guided to dining-room A by another of the Parliamentary Policemen we had to make the decision whether to drink House of Commons red or white. This gave people a chance to circulate and talk to other guests.

LOWER SIXTH TRIP TO SUN PRINTERS, WATFORD

A group of ten economists visited Sun-Odhams Printers in Watford, a subsidiary of B.P.C.C. (British Printing and Communications Corporation) in order to get a first-hand view of manufacturing industry at work. Personnel Director David Staton gave us a short talk before the tour on the processes used, i.e. Gravure and Litho printing. Gravure, the etching of an image on to a copper cylinder which then prints onto paper is the process used for magazines including Woman, TV Times, Sunday Times Magazine and the Mail on Sunday. First, the magazine is set in the typesetting room which has recently been computerised; any faults are ironed out in the retouching room before the cylinders of copper are ready for printing. This is where Sun Printers Ltd. stands out; they have among the most advanced printing machines including Webb-Offset Litho printers. The major machine rises three storeys and costs £2 million. Also expensive are the other tools used. A gravure cylinder can cost £5000 and a roll of paper nearly £800; and it only lasts about 20 minutes! Also at Sun Printers is the new laser cutting machinery which etches the image on to the cylinders by laser. This machine is the only one of its type in the world and is at the moment in its testing stage, not being used full scale.

Circulation of magazines varies: TV Times has a circulation of 8½ million and the Mail on Sunday is nearly 2 million. Finally it only remains for me to thank David Staton and Peter Bouch for arranging the trip and Mr. Hammond for coming with us.

R. H. Forrest (6)

The main business of the evening began shortly after 6.15 when we were shown into Committee Room 10 and the chairman, Mr. David Holmes, Secretary to the B.B.C. Director General, introduced Mr. John Cartwright, Social Democrat M.P. for Greenwich, who was to address us on the role of the backbench Member of Parliament. Mr. Cartwright divided the roles into two parts — the parliamentary role and the constituency role, and he described the various ways in which a backbencher could voice his opinions. He explained that Prime Minister's Question Time was a very entertaining event in the Commons because the M.P.s get excited and very noisy. Mr. Cartwright pointed out the way the party whips worked and as he was the S.D.P. whip and a late changer from the Labour Party he tried his best to put the former Labour whip down. He made it clear that his constituents were more interested in local issues like animal welfare than items of national importance like capital punishment and he hoped that he would not have to stand for that constituency again. He finished his talk by asking for questions, and two were fired at him by our own William Blythe and the very enjoyable meeting came to a premature close.

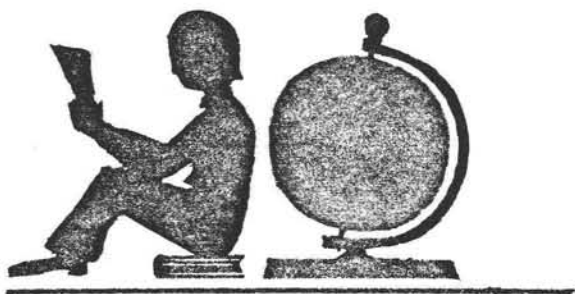
We decided to go into the gallery of the House of Commons, because the meeting had ended earlier than expected and we arrived to find most of the benches empty and a very left-wing Mr. Flannery M.P. arguing about the second reading of the Education Bill proposed by Sir Keith Joseph. Even though the Commons was more deserted than the Lords the debate was much livelier and the seats more comfortable, but unfortunately time had run out and we had to leave Parliament. The party returned to Abingdon on a route seemingly much more direct than the tortuous corridors of power.

Richard Forrest (6)

LOWER SIXTH ECONOMICS TRIP TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE HANSARD SOCIETY

This was the second trip to the Hansard Society for the Economics 'A' level set. Instead of going to Westminster straight away we dropped in at the Stock Exchange next-door to the Bank of England. From the gallery one could see the whole of the trading floor where business was slow. Following an educational film called "My Word is my Bond" we travelled to the Houses of Parliament in time for the pre-meeting wine reception. As this was the annual general meeting for the Hansard Society the non-members were left in dining-room A for a talk by M. T. Ryle, Principal Clerk, Table Office, House of Commons where he answered a range of questions. At 6.30 p.m. we were called to committee room 14 to hear Peter Hennessy, Lobby correspondent for "The Times", talking about the role of the political press in Britain. Those present enjoyed it very much, shown by the amount of questions asked at the end, but unfortunately the meeting had overrun and for most came to a premature close.

Richard Forrest (6)



SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY FIELD EXPEDITION April 1984

After a sabbatical expedition to the West of Scotland in 1983 the Geography Department returned this year to Swansea for their annual Field Trip.

It is sometimes difficult to realise how little awareness many people have of the traditional industrial regions of the British Isles and the sheer scale of human intervention on the landscape. One of the best ways of emphasising this is to come into South Wales from the Heads of the Valleys road, and to see the contrast between the bleak moorlands of the Brecons and the industrial development which scars the valleys which dissect them. The decline and stagnation of these northern valleys only serve to emphasise the transformation.

To bring the contrasts with the Thames Valley home twenty-three Lower Sixth form geographers spent an hour or two at Ebbw Vale and in the Rhondda looking at the depressed state of the coal and steel communities, where a four bedroomed house can cost less than £1500, before rejoining the M4 just east of Swansea.

University College is an ideal base for a field trip. We are well boarded and lodged and the relatively palatial amenities of the University Geography Department are a source of encouragement in themselves, even without the help of Professor Stevens and his staff, who very kindly provided two excellent evening lectures.

The particular advantage of Swansea as a geographical study centre is the quite amazing variety of environments contained within a very small area. This means that in a short period of time we can cover or at least introduce, cliff and

depositional coastal systems, tin plate manufacturing, rural settlement contrasts, urban dereliction, the Lower Swansea Valley reclamation scheme and one of the first Enterprise Zones in the county. Methods of study vary from the classic 'look and see' to small group and individual projects. Inevitably the variety can be rather tantalising, particularly for those whose imagination is caught by a particular study, and it would be nice to be able to arrange an extra five days free of charge for those who wanted to pursue their studies further.

There is always some time for relaxation, and this year it seemed to be divided between the early evening series of football matches against a school from Bracknell, which we avoided losing only by fielding an unlimited number of substitutes, and the later evening refreshments which once again demonstrated the British genius for compromise between pragmatism and respect for the law.

It was very encouraging to see what has been done recently in one of the depressed areas of the British Isles, although morale boosting projects cannot mask the fact that the level of unemployment is distressingly high, and we are more fortunate than we often realise, living as we do in the most economically favoured part of the country.

One thing that always impresses one blasé Oxfordshire sophisticate, however, is the delicious drinking water and the friendliness of the people there — perhaps a region's most basic assets are still important too.

H. E.



OPEN EVENING
6.30 - 9.30 p.m.
Friday, 11 November, 1983

All parents and their friends are warmly invited to our first ever Open Evening on Friday, 11 November, between 6.30 and 9.30 p.m. Nearly all aspects of the School's life and activities will be presented for you to look at, and members of staff will be at hand for you to meet and to answer any queries you may have. Coffee will be served all evening in the Dining Hall.

The aim of this Open Evening is largely to give parents the fullest opportunity to see and to look into almost everything we do, in a much more thorough way than has ever been possible or intended at Founders' Day. There will be full details about each subject's courses and aims at all levels in the School, academic records for the last few years, each sport will give an idea of what it does and of its resources and most of the Societies will also be showing what they do. There will be displays about the organisation of Lower School and of the opportunities that exist for the younger boys, boarding life, dayboy houses, and there will also be a major exhibition of photographs by the boys about 'A Day in the Life of the School' — all intended to give an idea of what it is like to be at and living in Abingdon School. Open rehearsals of music and drama will take place in the Amey Hall, boys will be working in the art room and woodwork shop and most of the School will be open and in use.

Thus begins the Head Master's letter to Parents and all interested parties about the Open Evening. In order to find out something of what the preparations, arrangements and philosophy of the Open Evening were, we sent our reporter, Robert Dwek, to interview Mr. Barrett. This is what he brought back:

The Abingdon School open evening was, for many reasons, an event of great importance. The task of chief organiser was assigned to Mr. Barrett who, with his usual diligence and effervescence, managed to galvanise the rest of his colleagues into taking part in the venture. However, the frenetic run-up to the open evening, combined with its obviously experimental nature, was cause for a great deal of anxiety as to its overall success. There are many different aspects to such an event, and we asked Mr. Barrett how he viewed the occasion.

R.D. What do you see as the main aims of this open evening?

G.G.B. I think they were basically three-fold:

- 1) The open evening is really an extension of what used to form the basis of Founder's Day, but this exhibition is a much more comprehensive one, showing every aspect of school life.
- 2) It also had the purpose of acquainting present parents with the details of school life, giving them a clear idea of the available facilities and encouraging them to integrate and involve themselves with the school.

Similarly, this is an excellent way of introducing prospective parents and pupils to the school, the idea being to give them as true a reflection as possible of school work and activities in progress, rather than the limited 'glory brochure' approach. One has to imagine the following example: the open evening is visited by a couple who have sent their first two children to state schools, but who are interested in the possibility of a private school education for their third child. To this extent, it is up to the school to provide an occasion which is as impartial and illuminating as possible, showing the workings and range of the school in all their fullness.

- 3) Finally, we hope in this way to give the general public an impression of the school — this includes teachers from local schools and people from Abingdon in particular, so that the open evening can act, to a certain extent, as a form of public relations. What I must stress, though, is that we are **not** trying to sell them anything, but simply to open up our doors and allow the public to judge for itself.

R.D. What have you learnt from your previous experience of such events?

G.G.B. It does seem that the sense of artificiality at the open evenings of many state schools is perhaps necessarily high (although the events are generally very impressive), since they are under a certain amount of competitive pressure to present their best side almost exclusively. In strong contrast, however, schools like Abingdon can (and do!) easily tend towards complacency in this respect.

R.D. So with what attitude should we approach our open evening?

G.G.B. It is important to present a clear, intelligible picture of our preconceptions and viewpoints, and to convey how and where our basic assumptions begin.

R.D. What kind of atmosphere were you trying to create for the open evening?

G.G.B. I think that when one comes to a school as a visitor, it is almost instinctive to feel somewhat mystified and intimidated just by the strangeness of the place. So it is important to reduce as much as possible the sense of alienation and to create an informal and friendly atmosphere, which is what we hoped to achieve.

R.D. How did you attempt to reduce this element?

G.G.B. Firstly, maps of the school were distributed (the designing of which was, incidentally, an extremely arduous task), so that people were able to find the various exhibitions. Secondly, guides were provided — about a hundred in all — and they were available for as long or short a time as people needed to look around the school. The idea of using boys

from the school for this purpose was very effective, because it allowed members of the public to receive a direct impression of the school on an informal basis. Thirdly, rooms were well signposted so that people didn't have any difficulty in locating the stands and exhibitions etc.

R.D. What part do the boys play in the open evening itself?

G.G.B. It is essential to have the boys involved in the event: it is they who are really necessary to create the right informal, friendly atmosphere, and, more importantly, they act as a type of 'wavelength adjuster'. Therefore, they should be available to meet and talk with the public and to explain their work, so that people are able to assess not only the quality of work in the school, but also the **attitude** of the boys towards the work, and, indeed, their characters in general.

R.D. In retrospect, what would you say was the biggest problem in staging such an event?

G.G.B. In a case like this we are aware of two different aspects of presentation which have to be fulfilled simultaneously; the exhibitions must be such that they give an adequate enough impression to the cursory glance; but at the same time they must be substantial enough to merit a more detailed study. As a back-up to the latter there were teachers in the rooms with exhibitions of their respective subjects so that they could in theory answer the wider and more penetrating questions. But I think the greatest problem was in how we presented ourselves to the public. We wanted to seem approachable and friendly, while at the same time we were very aware that we could easily appear patronising, complacent, self-conscious or overbearing. I think next time we will be more confident and less apologetic about the whole thing.

R.D. Did you have any particular misapprehensions?

G.G.B. Only about the numbers really: too many people can be as much trouble as too few, since congestion can be a major problem. The numbers were in fact around 1500.

R.D. Does that break down into as proportional a representation of the public as expected?

G.G.B. Yes, (Approximately) 700-800 were present parents, 500-600 were prospective parents and 100-150 were simply interested.

R.D. What about the duration of the open evening, was it too long or too short?

G.G.B. It was about right. If anything it may be shortened to about two and a half hours in the future. However, there is a lot to see.

- R.D. *Will the open evening be arranged on a regular basis in future?*
- G.G.B. Yes, it will be a biennial occurrence. It is important to maintain enthusiasm when so much planning is required, and also to create the necessary atmosphere for the open evening to be really successful. Also, one does not actually miss anything in the 'school cycle' by staging it every other year.
- R.D. *Was there much feedback on the open evening?*
- G.G.B. Yes, there have been many enquiries for future applications to the school. The response does generally seem to have been very pleasing and I think people were on the whole pleasantly surprised by what they saw. Perhaps the most rewarding example of all is the case of about six boys from local schools whose interest was aroused by the open evening to the extent that they are now considering application for the sixth form.
- R.D. *Would you like to see any particular changes in format for the future?*
- G.G.B. Not really. The balance was about right. However, I do think that the stands should be left intact for the boys to look at the following day. The event offers an excellent opportunity for the boys to get some idea about the perhaps more esoteric pursuits going on in the school, such as the boat club and the rifle club. This type of thing is also important for the development of a sense of community within the school, in that it makes people aware of certain aspects of school life, which they might otherwise not have been fully aware of. Although most things in the school seem to be common knowledge, there is, in fact, usually a bit more to them than people might think, and this was clearly seen in the enthusiastic presentation of many of the stands and the equally enthusiastic participation by many of the boys concerned. An example of this is the C.C.F. stand which I found very interesting indeed.
- R.D. *In conclusion, what would you say is the main idea behind this event?*
- G.G.B. I think that our open evening is really a very important part of school life, in that it not only opens the school out to the public, but also to itself, since its effect is one which is healthy, cleansing, and I believe ultimately beneficial
- R.D. *Mr. Barrett, thank you.*

DAVID SHEPHERD EVENING

On Friday, 24th February, TASS organised 'An Evening with David Shepherd' in aid of The World Wildlife Fund. The event was highly successful and raised £560 in ticket sales alone. David Shepherd, the internationally known artist, famed in particular for his paintings of wildlife and steam railways, enthralled a packed to capacity Amey Hall commanding rapt attention for nearly three hours. His talk raised the audience to the heights of great amusement with many humorous anecdotes and plunged us to the depths of despair with devastating facts on mans' horrendous crimes against the world's wildlife. The autobiographical side of his talk was well illustrated with prints of many of his paintings, and also by two short films dealing with his adventures with the Services (whilst commissioned for paintings) and with his passion for preserving steam railways as well as wildlife.

During an extended interval the audience enjoyed refreshments provided by the ladies of TASS and many purchases were made at the sales stands of The World Wildlife Fund (takings about £112) and of the East Somerset Railway (takings about £1,700). David spent most of the interval signing copies of his books and prints!

The World Wildlife Fund have expressed their most grateful thanks to TASS and to the school for staging this event.

C. Parker



INTERVIEW BETWEEN J.D-H. AND ADAM SPRING: GAMES AND THE SPORTSHALL

A.S. *Are you happy at the general level and performance of games at the School — or is the sportshall essential in bringing us up to standard?*

J.D-H. We do very well against comparable schools, and given our facilities and staffing, we hold our own against the full boarding schools. I doubt whether the sportshall will bring us up to the standard of boarding schools, but it will have an influence. Minor games will benefit most.

A.S. *Are our present facilities adequate?*

J.D-H. We need more Tennis Courts because of the increase in popularity of the Sport. An improvement to our athletic facilities and the cricket square on Waste Court field would also be high on the list of priorities. Our indoor facilities, apart from the multi-gym, are totally inadequate.

A.S. *Very briefly, why do you feel the School needs a sportshall?*

J.D-H. To provide a large indoor area for P.E. and sport. It is becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate large class sizes in our present gymnasium, and none of the recognised indoor sports are possible. Team games will also benefit from indoor practice. More activities can be offered than at present and the sportshall will provide another much needed facility for boarders.

A.S. *What indoor sports would be provided?*

J.D-H. The hall can accommodate the full range of indoor sports.

A.S. *How much is the sportshall costing; how has the money been raised?*

J.D-H. The money is being raised by a general appeal. It is difficult to give the exact cost because it is a joint project with the Technology Centre.

A.S. *How long has the possibility of a sportshall been in the pipe-line?*

J.D-H. I don't know, but ever since David Crawford and I were appointed to the School we have asked for it.

A.S. *Is the construction going to plan, is it on schedule and when is the opening?*

J.D-H. Yes to your first two questions, in fact it is ahead of schedule. I would expect it to be ready for use during the Michaelmas term of this year.

A.S. *What kind of lighting and flooring will it have?*

J.D-H. Discharge lights and diffusers positioned on the ceiling between the Badminton Courts. The flooring is a very high quality Dunlop PVC material manufactured in green sheet form and bonded to a subbase of concrete. The 6MM material is suitable for all sports with a track record proven at the highest international level including the indoor cricket school at Lords.

A.S. *Are the present changing rooms connected with the main building?*

J.D-H. Yes, by a covered passage way.

A.S. *Will the sportshall be rented out to the public or be available for the O.A.'s to use?*

J.D-H. No decision has been taken yet on community use, but I hope the facility will be available when not required for school use.

A.S. *Are there any plans for an opening ceremony?*

J.D-H. Not yet, but I expect we will have one.

A.S. *What changes, if any, would you have made to the sportshall?*

J.D-H. None since I have been consulted on every aspect of the hall. I suppose it could have been larger, and I would have liked all the money from the Appeal to have gone into the Sports Centre to finish the project completely.

A.S. *What plans are there for future expansion?*

J.D-H. Although no firm decision has been taken, the plan is to link the hall to a covered swimming pool and extend the building to include offices, changing facilities and training rooms. Squash Courts are also high on the list of priorities.

A.S. *Do you plan to change the sports timetable, expanding it? Will more P.E. staff be appointed?*

J.D-H. I hope the emphasis on team games in the School will remain the same, and I feel we must be cautious in introducing too many new options too quickly. Basketball however is becoming very popular at National and school level. No more P.E. staff are to be appointed at the moment.

A.S. *Would you like games to play a bigger part in the life of the School. How can this be achieved?*

J.D-H. I believe very strongly that a School which has a strong games tradition is a happy School. As I have said before I certainly don't want to see a lesser emphasis on games, but we would ideally like more keen sportsmen appointed to the staff, for games to play a bigger part in School life than they do at the moment.

TENNIS

By every measure the 1983 tennis season was a successful one. The team results, particularly those of the 1st and U16 VIs, were among the best for many years; there were some excellent individual performances; the club accommodated more players than before by tighter timetabling, though the demand for courts still exceeds supply; but above all so many players derived real pleasure from their improvement, and their enjoyment of the game was obvious.

The 1st VI lost only one match, and that by the narrowest margin of 4-5, to Magdalen College School. Possibly with a full team even that defeat might have been avoided, for Garrath Reayer, the British National doubles champion at U14, was injured and out of the team until near half-term. The strength of the VI came from an evenness of performance of all three pairs. Partnered in all his matches by Bob Minter, Martin Haywood perhaps felt constrained to play a captain's steadying game to balance Bob's free-hitting, exuberant though too often wild approach. But if they failed against M.C.S. they made up for it in blistering style on the grass against Carmel's first pair who earlier had achieved the unthinkable by inflicting the first defeat ever on the pairing of Garrath Reayer and Adam Spring. The results of these two for the rest of the season were impeccable. Each played a tidy, consistent game which exploited opponents' weaknesses; they were keen to win; and as the season progressed they both became much more forceful and inventive. Antony di Pinto and Anthony Haywood were also much stronger than in the previous season and won more than four times as many sets as they lost. If some of the losses were disappointing — apparently commanding positions whittled away by their opponents — some of the successes were sweet, such as those at Radley where they chased every ball and strung together shots of controlled aggression with others of wrong-footing subtlety.

With only Martin Haywood leaving from the 1st VI the prospects at the top level for 1984 look bright since there are some very useful juniors coming up too. Indeed the Colts and Junior Colts matched their seniors by losing only once during the season. Good performances came from Alex Hunt and Simon Johnson, Chris Day and David Polgreen, and Martin Edwards and Rupert Robson. The last four of these remain eligible for Colts matches in 1984. Intensive coaching improved Martyn Stringer's strength, consistency and anticipation and made him the obvious candidate for reserve for the 1st VI. The others to play at Colts/Junior Colts level were Simon Arthy (again troubled by injury), Giles Potter, Oliver Money-Kyrle, David Boorman and Oliver Bond. Unfortunately four fixtures at this level had to be cancelled because of wet grass in the early part of the season. The weather made its greatest impact on Founder's Day with a downpour of hail and rain that left the courts awash. Let's hope that moving the O.A.'s match to July will prove luckier.

Not enough of the schools we play provide 2nd VI fixtures and this leaves senior boys apart from the top team short both of the sharpening edge of competitive play outside their immediate circle and of the chance to prove their match playing abilities. Each of John Lee, Mark Vanhegan, James Robson, Jeremy Lovering, Jonathan Berman, Mark Ody and Patrick Webster, who all played for the 2nd VI, might have hoped in other years to have had a greater chance of representing the School more frequently.

Wimbledon Week of the Public Schools L.T.A. was highly enjoyable. In the first round of the Youll Cup against Stowe both Abingdon pairs won, each match going to a deciding set with Adam Spring and Anthony Haywood providing the vital steadying influences in each pair. The next day saw better, less inhibited, tennis but Eton, the second seeds, proved too strong although Anthony Haywood and Antony di Pinto only went down 2-6, 8-6, 3-6. In the Thomas Bowl event, Martyn Stringer and Garrath Reayer had a fine run beating M.C.S., Wellingborough, Eltham and Marlborough all in easy straight sets. In the semi-final they faced St. George's Weybridge, the previous year's winners, whose stylish pair defeated Abingdon but only after a struggle: 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Yet again it was difficult to complete the singles competition for the Buckley Cup by the end of term. In one semi-final Martin Haywood was easily defeated; in the other, played on what seemed like the hottest morning of the year, Adam Spring took three sets to beat Anthony Haywood and then in the final that afternoon he was overtaken by cramp in the deciding set and had to retire at 5 — all, leaving Garrath Reayer the winner.

Nigel Hunter and Peter Halstead must be thanked again for all the hours they put in over the season; Nikos Georgiakakis's encouragement and enthusiasm will be missed in the coming years; but happily some middle-school boys will again have the benefit of Judy Hashman's first class coaching.

RESULTS

1st VI

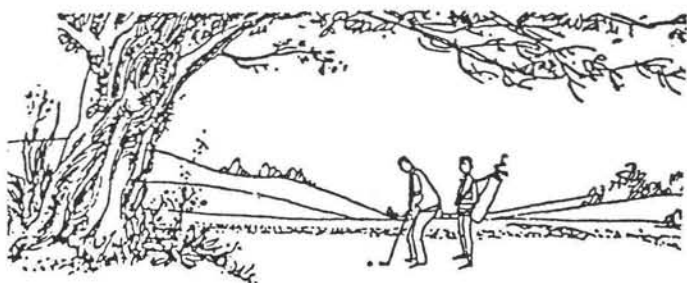
v Reading	(a) won 6½-2½
v MCS	(h) lost 4-5
v St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	(h) won 8½-½
v Douai	(a) won 8½-½
v Shiplake	(a) won 9-0
v RGS High Wycombe	(h) drew 4½-4½
v Bloxham	(h) won 7½-1½
v Pangbourne	(h) won 8½-½
v Carmel	(h) won 7½-1½
v Radley	(a) won 6-3
v RGS Colchester	(h) won 8-1

2nd VI

v Reading	(h) lost 4-5
v MCS	(a) won 5-3
v Radley	(a) lost 2-7

Colts/Juniors Colts VI

v MCS	(a) won 6-3
v Douai	(a) won 9-0
v Shiplake	(h) won 6-3
v Bloxham	(h) won 8½-½
v Pangbourne	(a) won 8-1
v Carmel	(h) won 9-0
v Radley	(h) 5-4
v Radley	(h) lost 2½-6½
	T. R. A.



GOLF

For the second year in succession the golf team has enjoyed a remarkable run of success. The 1983 national finals of the Hill Samuel Foursomes took place at Lufferrham Heath Golf Club, near Stamford, Abingdon having qualified as winners of the Central Southern Region. Mark Ody, David Helder, James Robson, Alastair Ross, Chris Herd and Simon Tonks distinguished themselves over 4 rounds of golf to win the runners-up cup to Leeds G.S. (holders) from the eight area winners.

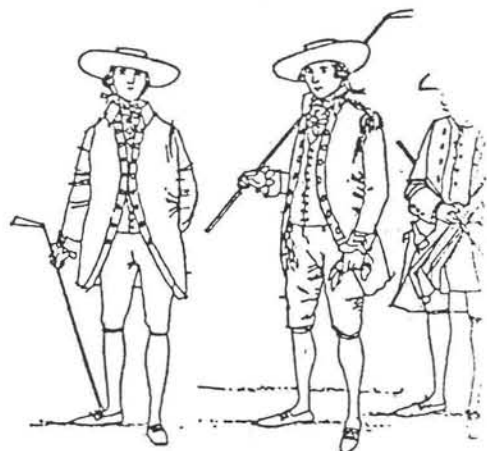
At the end of term we shall be off again to the finals, this year to be played on a famous links championship course, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, 'home' of the Public Schools Old Boys' competition, the Halford Hewitt. As the results here show, we again qualified as winners from a strong group. After a comfortable 3-0 defeat of Radley, a good Watford team were beaten with the last putt on the last green of the deciding match in almost total darkness! Wellington gave us a tough contest in the final, but we eventually came through to qualify for Deal by a 2-1 margin. Simon Tonks, Chris Herd, Rupert Robson, Jo Silk and Paul Rainsden played in all the games, Martin Day coming in for James Robson who left in December.

N. H. P.

HILL SAMUEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FOURSOMES 1983/4

Central Southern Region

Radley		
Abingdon	Abingdon (3-0)	
Watford		Abingdon (2-1)
G.S.	Watford	
Eton		
St. Alban's	Bradfield	Winners:
Bradfield		Abingdon (2-1)
Wellington	Wellington	
Marlborough		



BOAT CLUB REPORT

SUMMER TERM 1983

FIRST VIII

The eight started its summer training a few days before the summer term and our first event was the very early Putney Regatta on the first Saturday of term. We rowed in Senior B Vllls, went through to the final and beat National Westminster Bank by one length, despite nearly being rammed by a steamer during the race.

At our next event, Wallingford Regatta, we doubled in School Vllls and in our first Senior A event. In School Vllls we had an excellent row and beat Eton College to get into the final. In the Senior A race shortly after, however, stroke's rigger disintegrated at the start and we had to scratch. After a very rushed attempt at repair, we managed to 'persuade', a rigger from the 2nd Vlll's boat to 'fit' and we set off to race Radley 1st Vlll, who had been exceptionally helpful to us and whose coach had even offered us the loan of a boat. We raced them hard and had a good row, considering, but Radley did narrowly beat us.

The next day, for fun, two of the eight went to Carmel Regatta in a coxed pair and won, beating rather a good pair from K.C.S. Wimbledon.

The following weekend the stern four managed to win School Fours at Avon Regatta in fine style. They came from two lengths down to spurt past a King's Worcester IV and won the event excellently. In the next two regattas, though, at Worcester and Walton, we rowed well but were simply outclassed in the very high standard of Senior A and Elite. How are you supposed to beat a Kingston RC Vlll, many of whose members went on to row in the Senior World Championships?!

The first major event of the season was the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham, and it also turned out to be one of our biggest disappointments. We rowed for the first time in the Boat Club's history in Championship Eights and sank in the appalling conditions. Even before we started our boat was half full of water and we only lasted 500 metres before having to give up. Nevertheless we carried on training hard, despite our A level commitments, for Henley. We entered the Princess Elizabeth again and won the first round comfortably from St. James's College, Henley, even though they had a former member of the A.S.B.C. rowing for them. On the Friday we met Eton, the holders and eventual winners. We rowed well but never really looked like beating them — but nor did anyone else.

The final regattas were Bedford and Bedford Sprint, and here we had some lovely rows. We had lots of races on the Saturday, since we had entered in eights and fours, but we did not manage to win an event overall. On the Sunday we had 10 races and won 7 of them, having treble entered again, but still couldn't win the elusive Senior A and Elite classes.

The season was enjoyable, though, and we were probably the fastest 1st Vlll the school has had, but we were a little overawed by the level at which we found ourselves after our very successful 1982 season. We would like to thank Mr. Potter for his hard work in coaching us.

Andrew Plumtre

Second VIII

We started rowing a few days before term, and began our season by going to Putney Regatta, where we lost to a good Pangbourne 1st Vlll in the first round of Junior Vllls. We had a scrappy row at Wallingford the next weekend and were well beaten by Eton 1st Vlll. On the next day we went to Carmel and the stern four lost the final of Junior Fours to K.C.S., who had come second in the Schools' Head.

We rowed well at Avon on the following Saturday, beating Radley and Shrewsbury 2nd Vllls, but were beaten by Bryanston 1st Vlll by a few feet in the final. Encouraged, we went to Worcester at half term and were alarmed to find ourselves racing St. Edward's 1st Vlll, who had won the Schools' Head and were full of potential youth internationals. We didn't quite know what they were doing in Senior C, but they beat us very easily . . . The stern four did manage to win Junior Fours well, though, beating Monkton Combe in the final.

Our next major event was the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham. We came second in the first round of the Second Eights' event to Radley and then, in the final, only came fourth behind Shrewsbury and Pangbourne and Radley. After this disappointment we went to Marlow and again managed to get beaten by the increasingly confident Radley 2nd Vlll in Senior C Vllls.

Our least enjoyable event of the season was Richmond Regatta where we managed to get disqualified after a false start, in which Quintin contrived to take the stake boat with them, and after we managed to steer into Quintin shortly after the start of the rerow, even though we were beating them.

Our last hope of redemption was at Bedford. We lost our first round of the Second Eights' event to a very strong crew from Brentwood School, Canada, but we had satisfaction on the Sunday when we won Senior C Vllls in the Sprint Regatta. We didn't win as much as we had hoped, then, but we would like to thank Mr. Potter, our coach and mentor, for his help in the last two seasons.

Tom Race (VI)

Junior 16s

We began the term with the intention of building on the Lent term's improvement and set off to Mortlake Spring Regatta after a couple of weeks of term. We entered J.16 Vllls and Junior B Vllls to find experience, but didn't get far in Junior B Vllls because we met the strong Winchester 1st Vlll. In the J.16 Vllls, however, we raced Bryanston and Pangbourne in the first round. We rowed behind Pangbourne for most of the race until the last 200 metres (making Mr. Barrett very anxious in the process!) when we rowed through to win by a canvas. The final was a much steadier performance against City of London and we won by a length. Feeling confident, we went to Carmel the next day in a four, a pair and two sculls. We reached all the finals, but didn't win, although it was a good day's racing.

A week later at Avon we were a little apprehensive about meeting Eton and St. Edward's. In the final we managed to beat St. Edward's but lost to Eton by a canvas — one second! this result encouraged us and we trained even harder for Worcester Regatta, at which we double entered the stern four. The IV lost to a strong Derwent crew, the eventual winners, and the VIII found itself racing the notoriously fast Westminster Colts, who had won 19 events the previous year as J.15s. We surprised them, and ourselves, by going up at the start and raced them hard the whole way, but they finally managed to win by a third of length. A good result for us, we thought, and most encouraging since we had shown what tenacity we had.

The next weekend saw us at Walton Regatta, racing 1500 metres for the first time. In the first round we met Radley, but had to stop the race after a few strokes because a gate disintegrated. In the restarted race we kept having trouble with wash and conditions, but despite this we pulled away and won narrowly. The final was against Westminster and this time they beat us by a length.

At the National Schools', our main objective, we rowed our first round on the six lane course to a very low-key plan and won comfortably in good time, beating Eton and St. Paul's. With four crews very close time-wise, we rowed confidently and well down to the start, but we managed to knock off our fin, without realising it, in a hawser. In the final we found that we couldn't go straight, lost ground and could do little about letting St. Paul's and Eton win.

This upset was a real blow, but nevertheless we prepared ourselves well for Marlow the following Saturday where we met Shiplake and . . . Westminster. We beat Shiplake easily but lost to Westminster over the long and tricky course, after which we had to face up to O levels. We were able to do very little during the exams and went to Bedford for fun, but very unprepared. We were beaten by a Canadian crew, Brentwood College, in the first round, but at least they beat Westminster too!

Our last attempt of the year was at the National Championships. We had trained as much as possible but were still a long way short of real form. In the final we broke a seat at the start . . . and that was that, except that St. Paul's thrashed Westminster. It was a frustration year, then, but Mr. Barrett still says that he was proud of the way we rowed!

Richard Tyack

Junior 15s

Having tried to keep ourselves fit during the Easter holidays, we came back to school later than most other schools to face the long regatta season. Inspired by our win at the School's Head, we returned to Putney for our first regatta, only three days into term. After a relatively easy heat we met St. Edward's in a tough final. They went up on us at the start as we expected, but then we found our stride and rowed comfortably through them to win J.15 Vllls. This was very pleasing and gave us confidence that we might be able to do well in regatta length racing.

Feeling confident we plunged into Wallingford Regatta the following week but without Mr. Barrett, who had gone to Mortlake with the Colts. We did not warm up properly and rowed scrappily against Eton, just losing to them by a narrow margin. We were rather despondent about this, but cheered up the next day at Carmel where we managed to row through to the final of J.15 IVs — 'A' IV versus 'B' IV, with the 'A' IV winning by three lengths.

The following weekend we went to Avon Regatta but were unable to warm up or practice on the limited water available so that we lost the final to St. Edward's and Eton. The third four rowed well in its event, though, and only got knocked out in the semi-final.

At half term we went to a very damp Worcester Regatta in fours and the 'A' IV won, beating Belmont Abbey. Encouraged by this, we went to Walton Regatta in the eight and the four, and although the eight suddenly succumbed to nerves and were beaten by St. Edward's, the stern four rowed excellently to win J.15 IVs. The commentator commended the four for its superb 'tactical burns', but the crew wasn't aware of doing any and managed to look suitably modest!

Final training for the National Schools' Regatta went well, and we worked hard on starts and higher ratings (for which we never really saw the reason) and this paid off on the day. We won our heat by an easy three lengths and, after tipping the water out of our boat, we settled down to watch the rain and to wait for the final. When it arrived we didn't actually hear the start and weren't ready, but we went off quite fast (for us) and were soon surprised to have a lead after 750 metres. From this we were able to draw away at a lower and lower rating to win from Hampton, Eton and St. Edward's by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. This was the highlight of the season and we were all very happy, especially as very few crews manage to win the Schools' Head and the Schools' Regatta.

We were off again the next Saturday, though, to Marlow Regatta to the new J.15 Vllls event. In very hot weather we survived an exhausting final against St. Edward's, with Radley a long way behind, to win by just half a length. With confidence still mounting we went to Richmond on the next weekend, double entering the eight and the four again. We won both and had some good races, despite the extraordinarily unfair course.

The last regatta of the year was Bedford, where once more we double entered. In very hot weather indeed the stern four rowed 7×1100 metre courses during the day, in the two events and we won both, beating Cokethorpe and Bedford School in the IV and VIII finals respectively.

So we ended the season on a great note, with 11 wins to our credit and an unbeaten stern four. This represents an all-time record for an Abingdon J.15 crew and we would like to thank Mr. Barrett for coaching us so well and Boli for organising us! The great challenge is to see whether we can do as well next year . . .

Jonathan Cracknell



George Duxbury christening the new 1st VIII boat.



The first launching of the new 1st VIII boat.

Junior 14s

We began the Summer term really looking forward to our first taste of regattas and 'real' boat-to-boat racing after the Heads we went to. The 'A' and 'B' Vllls rowed well at our first events, but we still lacked skill enough to win and remained behind the crews who had been rowing in the Christmas term.

Our first realistic objective was the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham and by then the 'A' Vlll was beginning to look like a crew. In the J.14 'A' Vllls event we won our first round, to our delight, beating Radley and Eton. In the final we couldn't get past St. Edward's but rowed second for most of the course, until K.C.S., Wimbledon, just pipped us in the last few yards to beat us by a canvas. This was a pity, but we discovered just how sneaky six lane racing can be!

Our next event, a fortnight later, was at Richmond — with its famously unfair course. The 'A' Vlll had to row Bryanston in the first round but just lost to K.C.S., Wimbledon, in the final. We hoped it wouldn't become a habit.

Bedford was the last regatta and chance of the term, and we hoped that we would actually win a final. We rowed comfortably through the heats and beat Emmanuel in the semi-finals. The final was against St. Paul's and we managed to beat them easily — a good end to the season. A four managed to reach the semi-final, but then lost.

This was a happy conclusion to the year and our thanks go to the ever-enthusiastic Mr. Mearns — so enthusiastic that he kept leaping into the eight to substitute! — and we now look forward to next year.

Tom Owen

NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATA 1983

1st VIII: A. J. Plumtre*, C. J. V. Schofield*, T. G. Lake*, J. I. Charlesworth*, E. A. Datschetski*, J. F. Lanet, J. M. Herdt, M. N. Sanderst, R. D. Cheek* (Cox).

2nd VIII: K. Welby, H. Peach, T. Brock, A. Macfadyen, D. Sperry, J. Dix, T. Race, P. Dominey, R. Tollis (Cox).

J.16 VIII: B. Wagon, R. Tyack, S. Jones, N. Challenger, T. Ross, M. Yeats, W. Harcourt, K. Allen, P. Jones (Cox).

J.15 VIII: T. Gentles, J. Cracknell, W. Money-Kyrle, D. Hodgson, N. Hewlett, J. Davis, M. Sutton, G. Peach, P. Gingell (Cox).

J.14 VIII: T. Owen, C. Rook, A. Heard, T. Walsingham, S. McConnell, M. Schofield, D. Passmore, A. Stacey, J. Hodges (Cox).

J.14 B VIII: P. Roberts, A. Auliffe, C. Shaw, T. Butcher, R. Petersen, R. Sparkes, I. Green, N. Clark, M. Tomlyn (Cox).

† = Full colours

* = Half colours

BOAT CLUB

LENT TERM 1984

Recent Januaries have been viewed by the A.S.B.C. coaches with increasing trepidation since the number of boys has grown and the number of coaches has been dwindling. This year, however, we had a one hundred per cent increase in our coaching strength. We were more than pleased to welcome Mrs. Fitt, Mr. Birnberg and Mr. Jones, who comes to us with a formidable reputation from his years at Emanuel and in South Africa.

Another unusual way to start the year was to find ourselves knee deep in new boats and equipment — largely a result of some strenuous fund-raising. Just before the New Year we took delivery of a beautiful new Carbocraft Coxed Four, half of which had been most kindly given to us by Tony Haworth, Managing Director of Carbocraft, in recognition of what the school had done for his son. The boat was accordingly named 'Tim Haworth' and is superb, despite its A.S.B.C. pink 'canvases' and delicate pink lettering! Shortly after this, though, Carbocraft were forced into liquidation and the future of our new and unfinished eight became uncertain. Again Mr. Haworth was more than generous in letting us buy the incomplete hulls of the eight and a pair and all the fittings and encouraging us to employ his two foremen to build the boats in our own boathouse. The first two weeks of term, then, saw a mini-factory in operation and the result was two excellently built new boats — the eight named 'George Duxbury' after a former master in charge of rowing and, revoltingly, 'Polar Pair' was chosen for the shiny white coxless pair. Since our boatman had just finished building us another scull and we had completed a new trailer the previous term, we were in every sense ready for the new season. Actual rowing began unprecedentedly early before term, with the seniors and J.16s determined to overcome the frustrating dark and cold conditions to be expected in January. These groups soon had a strong sense of achievement and went to the new and very early Marlow Fours Head on January 29th for experience. The stream was ferocious and turned the 4000 metre course into a slog of more than twenty minutes, but it helped to initiate a number of novice oarsmen and coxes and our results were good, though we didn't win anything. Nearly all the opposition had been rowing since September and the day was encouraging.

After this the main attention was directed towards the Hampton Head, on February 11th, an event at which the big names in school rowing traditionally try out their new crews for the first time. Sadly, the 1st VIII managed to lodge a log under its rudder and broke their rudder lines after a splendid start. They came 6th even so. The J.16 VIII had no such misfortune and rowed beautifully to come 10th overall and were winners of the J.16 class from Eton and St. Edward's. The J.15s

came rewarding second in their class and the remnants of the 2nd VIII, who had succumbed to illness, rowed the new Carbo four excellently to come 6th of the fours, beating some very professional crews. The next day was the Abingdon Head, in which we always enter everything that floats, and we had some really good performances but only one win — from the J.16s again, who managed to beat all the other A.S.B.C. crews in the process.

The main focus after this was on the Schools' Head a month later, though the J.16 stern IV did go to Evesham Head over half term just for fun. This proved to be a very rewarding day, since the four, rowing Senior C, rowed so fast that it won the whole event outright, beating an uncomfortable number of senior and elite crews. As the local paper put it, '... this must be something of a record.' Not content with that, however, the stern pair rowed the upstream 4000 metre course in a coxed pair and came second in Senior C pairs and were very, very tired by the end of it.

'Warm-up' event for the Schools' Head was the Kingston Head at the end of 'Mock' week, during which we had managed to do very little training. The 1st, 2nd and J.16 Vllls practised excellently in the morning on the 4½ mile course and set out to row the race with great confidence. Disaster struck the 1st VIII again, though, in the shape of an Eton crew with whom they clashed and had to stop. They got going again and overtook Eton, but nothing could replace the lost thirty seconds, so they finished 34th in a time of 20.39. The 2nd VIII also had problems, since genuinely innocent coxing infuriated the Kingston crew behind them until we were finally rammed and broke some blades. Their position of 55th was not bad, considering ... Once again, though, the J.16 VIII rowed with cold-blooded professionalism and had a lovely time. They overtook eight senior crews in a controlled and flexible row, rowed right away from the Radley Colts who were behind them, and finished an amazing 21st, in a time of 20.18. This placed them as the fastest school crew, and in addition to beating the A.S.B.C. senior crews they also beat many 1st Vllls, Radley 2nd VIII and, of course, all the J.16s. As sixteen of the crews ahead of them were elite, the result was genuinely one to be proud of.

All this augured well for the following Thursday of The Schools' Head at Putney. Unbelievably, the 1st VIII ran into more problems and dropped from 9th and 22nd, but the 2nd VIII rowed admirably to come 17th, third fastest second eight and the best performance ever for an Abingdon 2nd VIII. The J.16B VIII and J.15A VIII were both attacked by illness but did well to come 69th and 65th respectively, and the J.14A VIII had a good first competitive row to come 108th. Stars of the day again, though, were the J.16s who, despite some mistakes of steering, came 19th and won the J.16 pennant comfortably from the other 25 Colts crews — their fifth win of the term.

The following Wednesday saw the six most junior crews of the Boat Club going to Reading School's Head, and this was another very successful and enjoyable day. The J.15A VIII, still beset by illness, rowed a relaxed and good race to win the event outright, and both the J.14A and B Vllls beat the opposition in their classes, showing great maturity and good sense in their approach to the day generally.

The final outing of the term was limited to the 1st VIII when they went up to The Head of the River Race on March 24th. This event had 420 eights rowing and featured all the top natural and many international crews over the 4½ mile course from Chiswick to Putney. They rowed well, overtaking six crews, in the wake of the GB National VIII, but slightly misjudged their rating and came only 134th. It was a sensible, skilful row though and did much to restore confidence after a disastrous season.

General morale at the end of term, then, was very high and hopes for the summer's regattas are buoyant. The Boat Club is getting numerically bigger and also fitter and stronger by the year so we all hope for better than ever results right through to age groups.

G. G. Barrett

SCHOOLS HEAD, PUTNEY '84

1st VIII: K. B. Welby*, R. J. Wivell, D. A. Sperry*, H. R. W. Peach*, J. C. H. Dix*, T. J. Brock*, M. C. Yeats, T. C. Race*, R. W. Spivey (Cox).

2nd VIII: D. Plumtre, N. Challenger, T. Ross, M. Macfadyen*, W. Harcourt, P. Dominey*, S. Jone, R. Tyack, T. Richmond (Cox).

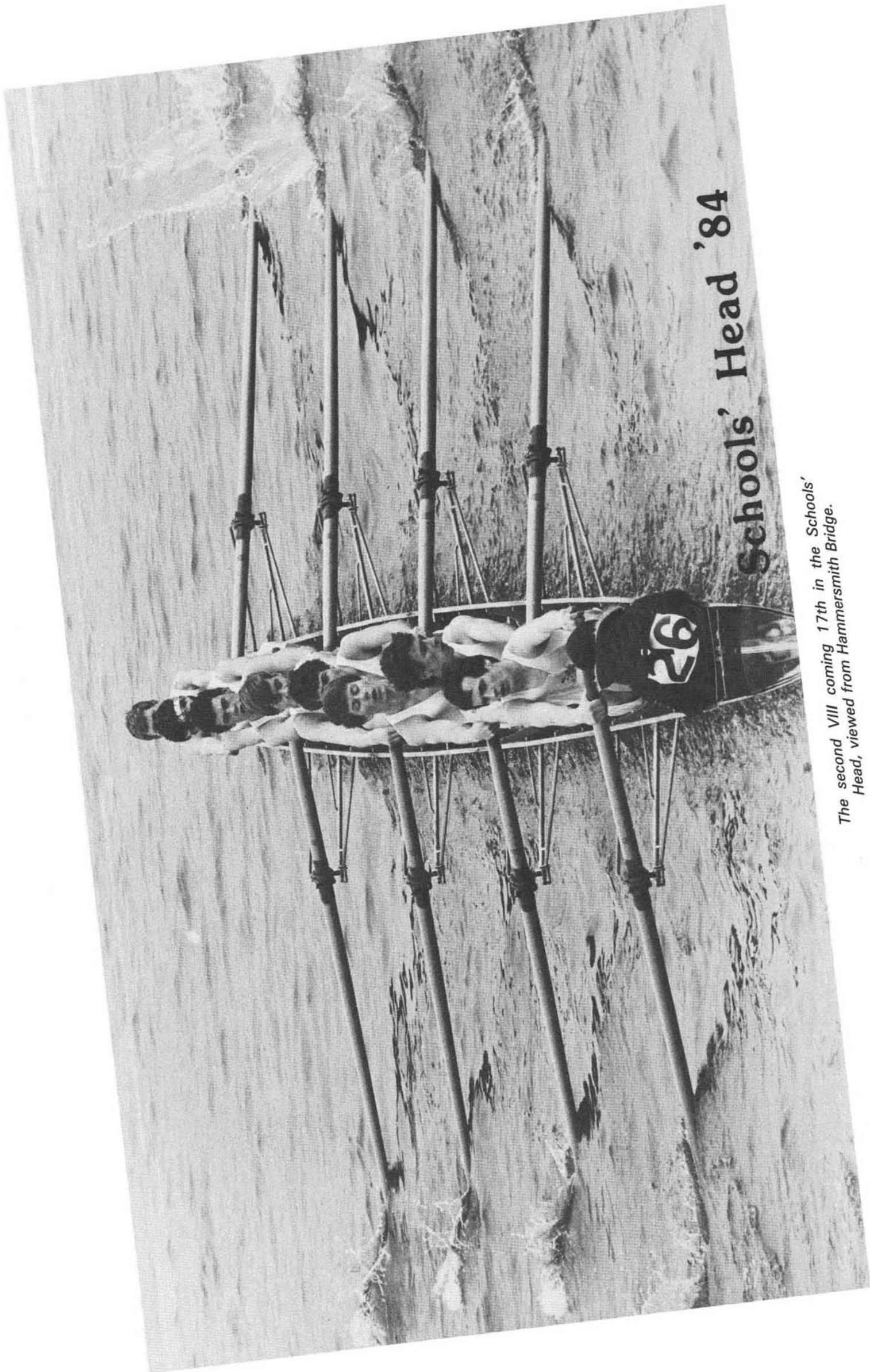
J.16 VIII: T. Gentles, J. Cracknell, J. Kowszun, W. Money-Kyrle, N. Hewlett, D. Hodgson, M. Sutton, G. Peach, J. Hodges (Cox).

J.16B VIII: M. Wonham, A. Lowe, T. Adams, A. Goodey, N. Wright, D. Passmore, J. Tiffany, R. Cheek*, P. Jones (Cox).

J.15 VIII: J. Wissett, R. Sparkes, I. Green, T. Butcher, M. Schofield, T. Owen, S. McConnell, T. Walsingham, D. Sparkes (Cox).

J.14 VIII: T. Bishop, M. Drinkwater, S. Goldsworthy, S. Angus, P. Monaghan, C. Megaw, R. Scott, N. Woodall, D. Morrison (Cox).

* = Half colours



The second VIII coming 17th in the Schools' Head, viewed from Hammersmith Bridge.

ATHLETICS

SUMMER TERM 1983

What a contrast between the cold, wet May which ruined training and cancelled the Bryanston match and the sultry, humid July which made taking part enjoyable again. Our athletes consisted of a keen but inexperienced group, so lack of strength in depth restricted each team to one win only, the seniors against Eton, colts against Bloxham and juniors against Berkhamsted. However, spirits never flagged because in athletics individual challenge and progress mean more to a participant than team success. We had an inspiring captain in Adrian Stores who won the 800 metres six times out of eight with a personal best of 2:00.07 at Marlborough. In particular he set a good example in training and lifted the morale of the youngsters by his exciting sprint finishes in matches. The secretary Roger Smith was an 800 metres and 1500 metres specialist and his best day was when he won both races in the Eton and St. Edward's match at R.A.F. Abingdon where incidentally we persuaded 12 masters to help officiate on a Thursday afternoon. David Lowe had a successful season, improving Ian Simpson's discus record by nearly three metres, and he was placed 9th in the All-England at Plymouth. Biggest revelation was Simon Littlewood who shocked us all with his speed in his debut at R.M.A. Sandhurst in the Wellington match. The most promising year-group was the Second Form and several talented athletes could develop with the right determination and application. The Abingdon Schools Championships were dominated again by Larkmead with us second and it was good to see St. Helen's entering for the first time. Also individual winners received certificates for the first time this year. The Mayor, Councillor Lewis kindly presented the trophies. We say goodbye to David Thompson after many years of loyal and enthusiastic service. He picked up another title (county schools steeplechase champion). We shall miss his vast experience and his cheerful, honest participation.

66 boys represented the school, the most regular being D. Lowe (10 times), Groth, Smith, N. Silk (9), Stores, Lodge, Porter, A. Lowe, Blackman, Harrison, Dore (8), Kent, Lawrence, J. Silk, Spring (7), Thompson, Durand, E. Iredale, Wise, Head, C. Parker (6), Phillips, Ransome, Parry-Jones, Luteyn, M. Iredale, Corbett, Woodward, Man, Payne (5), Walker, Cockburn, Alford, Littlewood, Weaver, Kilhams, van der Post (4).

Full colours were awarded to Adrian Stores, David Lowe and Roger Smith, and half colours to David Alford, Edward Iredale, Robin Groth, Jonathan Phillips and Nicholas Silk.

11 boys gained the 5-star award, namely in order of points: D. Lowe, Stores, N. Silk, A. Lowe, Lawrence, J. Silk, Porter, Dore, Harrison, Spring and Mowat.

The Club Championships were again held in the last four weeks of term. The top ten scorers were Stores (967 points), N. Silk (891), Lawrence (855), Ransome (797), Somerville (795), J. Silk (786), Dore (694), Parker (642), Groth (528) and D. Lowe (504).

On Sports Day new records were set in the Second Form by Anthony Harrison (200 metres and equalling 100 metres) and by Lawrence Dore (Discus) and in the Third Form by John van der Post (High Jump).

N. A. F. P.



Roger Smith takes the lead at the bell

CROSS COUNTRY

Michaelmas Term 1983

The club started off in September with a squad of about 35 boys, the days of a combination of serious runners/dossers long since gone (now we only cater for the dossers!) Shortly after the beginning of term we entertained Haberdashers Askes School, to a match where neither side had worked itself to full fitness. The score was therefore appropriately 40-40, Abingdon claiming victory though, thanks to a clever little clause in small print, expertly noticed (and devised?) by Mr. Pritchard. Unknown talent was being exploited here — no one was more satisfied than Ken Welby (on temporary loan, prior to starting his contract with the boat club after Christmas) Robin Groth put away his first victory of the season, and many P.B.'s were achieved. The St. Albans relays provided high class opposition and good performances came from other 'boat people' as Ken took a day off. Feeling confident we challenged Charterhouse at home, and with Robin smashing home another convincing win, in the Seniors, and Steve Lawrence in the Colts, backed up by some great running by our other runners, we hammered the opposition into defeat.

Millfield Road Relay is always one to look forward to. This year Mr. Birnberg drove us down, and he was able to help his old colleagues run the event while we participated. Next, after two weeks rigorous training came the famous Abingdon Relay, more of which anon. The juniors went to Doctor Challoners to have their first competitive run of the season, and three names showed themselves here, not to be forgotten — Riches, Head and Slater. Oratory School gave us two matches, both away from home. Robin showed them that they would need to improve if they wanted to get one of their runners home first. The seniors won convincingly although the juniors were pushed into second place despite good runs from Riches and Slater. Roger Stroud, the master i/c Cross Country at Larkmead challenged our 3rd and 5th formers to a race the following Thursday. Despite Mark Head and Steve Lawrence winning their races, Larkmead were the victors, and they had the Jolly Roger at the end, while our Mr. Bates walked his lads back to Abingdon School. Bradfield entertained us to an interesting run the week after. Another win for Robin and Steve made sure that both Bradfield and Winchester didn't claim 1st prizes. Then we went back to Oratory and the result was the same as last time — the seniors winning by a long way, and the juniors narrowly losing even though Guy Riches won the race. The Oratory team, having made no improvement since last time decided to play their master i/c, just to make sure that Robin didn't claim 1st place. Much to Robin's pleasure only an 11 second gap separated them, Robin finishing 1st, the teacher 3rd! The Oxfordshire Schools Cross Country Champs. at Lockinge gave our seniors and juniors an outstanding success winning both, even though some of our team were away at Coventry. Poor old Robin must have felt a bit let down by his team and although he won (of course) we lost.

R.G.S. High Wycombe were our next rivals and we lost at home! No doubts about the winner though! Two relays finished off the term, at Doctor Challoners and Orange Hill. Also the Oxfordshire 3 A's champs at Chipping Norton, where our two teams did very well.

The highlight of the term was though the Abingdon Relay. Nowadays with the choice of fixtures being so great, some schools do not come, but there is no doubt that to play hosts to some 40 teams is quite an achievement. We always invite the best schools, for they do not get the opportunity to compete together very often. St. Albans once again walked off with the trophy and our A team came 11th. All the familiar faces were there and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the person who kindly took down all the fluorescent tape in Sava Gardens, the night before. The club championships which reward the regular, just as much as the occasional outstanding runner, encouraged everybody to run as frequently as possible. Robin Groth, Simon Weaver and Michael Yeats collected the most points in the Seniors, Steve Lawrence, Ricardo Casale and John Stamper in the Colts, and Guy Riches, Tim Slater and Mark Head in the Juniors.

After Christmas Seniors and Colts were beaten away at Charterhouse, though our no. 1 kept his position. Once again a Coventry match clashed with a Lockinge. This time it was the relay, which for Abingdon was disappointing. The Vale of the White Horse Champs. though was very successful, we won the Milton Trophy with Head, Riches, Payne, Casale, Lawrence and Weaver being selected to represent the Vale in the races to decide who should run in the Oxfordshire teams in the All England. Never too hot at the relays we came and went at St. Albans and Haberdashers, and disappointed with our performances there. We were beaten by R.G.S. and St. Albans at High Wycombe. Berkhamsted at home, though, proved to be no tough battle and Robin, Steve and Guy won the races to lead their teams to victory. Another relay came and went, this time the Tortoises in Oxford — this might have seemed appropriate for our relay runners but no — we finished a lucky 13th. The Oxon Inter Area Champs., the follow up to the January event took place in half term, with Groth, Casale, Parry, Parker and Riches obtaining places in the Oxfordshire team for the All England. What a shame that Mark Head, Steve Lawrence and Simon Weaver were in Germany at this time. We then lost to Wellington away, beat Cheltenham and Wycliffe at home and did extremely well at the Leighton Park Relays. The event that brought the Cross Country Club that much nearer to home was undoubtedly the Inter Form Road relay. A vast number of teams entered, some threatening to wear fancy dress. This was thought to be an idle threat until we discovered that the people in Togas were actually runners. A record number of disqualifications were made for bicycle offences, and even a car was used. Many thanks go to Mr. Pritchard, who, happily for us, seems unsure of the meaning of the word retire and to Mr. Baker who after this year as master i/c must surely feel exhausted but nevertheless a Jolly Roger.

Simon Weaver (6)

ORIENTEERING

The beginning of the school year with its new intake saw an enthusiastic group of boys from lower down the school taking up the sport, finding out what it is all about and gaining some useful experience, with expert advice and guidance from Mr. Baker. As well as several local 'come and try it' events and other smaller less serious events, some serious competition has taken place with the school well represented. A C.C.F. Orienteering team consisting of James Perrins, Roger Smith, Neil Challenger, Kevin Allen and William Money-Kyrle, went to Bedford to the C.C.F. Orienteering Championships and won the team event despite the host school changing the rules as they went along.

Orienteers from the school also played an essential part in helping our local club, the Thames Valley Orienteering Club, through to the 3rd round of the Compass sport Cup; in the 2nd round against Wimborne the T.V.O.C. won by the narrowest of margins with scoring runs from Mr. Baker and N. Challenger.

As well as these achievements much fun and satisfaction has been gained by Orienteers at the school in a sport which can be just as competitive as the individual wants to make it.

N. Challenger (6)

BADMINTON 1983-4

Match fortunes have been mixed. The U.19s lost to R.G.S. High Wycombe, Stowe and King James's Henley but won the remaining Oxford Schools' League matches. Nonetheless they failed to get to the County finals for the first time in some years. An 'A' team beat Marlborough College 5-4.

The U.16s have been much more successful — beating Stowe 4-3, M.C.S. 7-0, Matthew Arnold 7-0 and Gosford Hill 7-0. Unfortunately King Alfred's School Wantage got their measure in the county final which they lost 3-4. This was particularly creditable since only 2 of the 6 members of the team were 'proper' U.16s — the rest came from years 2, 3 and 4.

The School entered a team in the Barclay's Bank U.15 competition but drew Dr. Challoner's Grammar School in the first round. Dr. Challoner's won the competition. Mrs. Vivian Boorman has continued to mastermind 2 U.15 mixed teams in coordination with St. Helen's School.

At County level David Boorman and Stephen Prince are very active in the U.14 squad and Jeremy Boorman in the U.12 squad.

The novelty this year has been a singles knockout competition in the Michaelmas Term. Anthony Haywood, the club captain, won the event beating David Boorman (form 3) in the final. Next year we hope to add a doubles knockout in the Lent Term.

After years of the nomadic life — routine games at the Old Gaol, John Mason or St. Helen's School, and practically all matches 'away' we are looking forward to having a home of our own from Michaelmas 1984 when the Sports Hall should be finished. The least we can hope for is that we will be able to use more energy on the court and less rushing from one borrowed sports hall to another. We may even be able to cancel some of our huge hospitality debt too by hosting matches.

We look forward to Mr. Ian Smith's return to fitness and to seeing him on the court next September. We thank yet again Messrs. Hunter and Ayling for their continued patience and support.

I. A. McD.

Last year, in the Second Form, Sean Allen entered the W.H. Smith national essay competition. His work won the sectional award for his age-group against all comers. It reads:

GRANDAD

She could have put it less bluntly, softened the blow. She shouldn't have come straight out with it. She could have lied, working up to it carefully and broken the news slowly. 'Grandad is dead'. That's what she said, not any 'You know grampy has been ill' or anything like that, just a straight, 'He's dead.'

When she said it, it hit me like a ton of bricks, I was struck dumb. Nobody had said gramp's illness had been bad, they hadn't really even told me what it was. Oh why didn't she hide it, lie, deceive, fib or even just soften it? It was bad enough him being dead, but. . .

She could have said he'd moved away, gone on holiday, but no, she'd said 'Grandad is dead'. 'Has died' would have been better. 'Dead' is not good, not soothing or sympathetic. 'Died' suggests age; 'dead' suggests a painful, unhappy, miserable end.

I wonder if he died in his sleep or surrounded by nurses, watery-eyed and in pain.

Oh why couldn't she. . ."

LOWER SCHOOL REPORT

The task of writing up some of the out of school activities of the Lower School fell to me largely because I became conspicuous by finishing a spell of duty as a Lower School form master. Similar impulsively shifty Woodgettian logic directed me to read a lesson at St. Michael's last year. . .

When groups of 25 are constantly together, taught together (and occasionally punished together) a firm group identity can hardly fail to arise. I've enjoyed watching 2M become the scourge of the school. They are great fun to teach as long as they are kept occupied. . . With one exception the topics on which I shall report are variations on this notion of channelling energy.

Dr. Halstead, perhaps predictably, gave a good deal of time to fostering soccer. As usual it was played with great enthusiasm and a considerable amount of skill.

Forms 1F and 2B emerged victorious from the six a side contest in the Michaelmas Term. 1S and 2B won the dour 11 a side struggles through the winter rain and mud on Lower Field.

Unfortunately, only two school team fixtures could be played: the under 12's were soundly beaten 6-0 by Fitzharry's whilst the under 13's put up a spirited show before going down 4-2 to Larkmead.

David Engwell from the first form and Andrew Wintle and Jonathan Karmali from the second year looked fine prospects.

At the risk of razing to the ground all that Mr. Amey has given us 2D and Mr. Marston staged 'Unman, Wittering and Zigo', by Giles Cooper, on May 17th. The play, based entirely on fantasy, concerned murder and suicide in a school which no Abingdonian could possibly recognise. Kenneth Slade was excellent as the green Mr. Ebony, David Calderbank slotted with facility into the headmaster's gown and James Smethurst's Art Master was a glorious slander. Perhaps the distinguishing feature, though, was the sense of a whole class working together.

From High Art it is a natural step to other forms of cerebral activity. The official Schools Challenge team may have been defeated this year but the Lower School has been working to ensure that this cannot happen again. Friday period 1 in the Amey Hall has seen a series of intellectual duels in the School/University Challenge format — starter questions, flashing lights and all. In a rousing final the second form team defeated the first year convincingly and Mr. Woodgett will be sending away for the instant Bamber Gascoigne kit once he has finished another packet of breakfast cereal. cereal.

Chess Club has, as usual, been dominated by Lower School players, especially in the lunch-hour: the enthusiastic babble makes high quality play difficult to achieve but promising players do emerge and many play for the School. The policy of not playing a full team in all matches prevented Abingdon from winning the Oxford Schools League, although the actual winners were beaten 5½-½. This was the last year of competition in the Berkshire League, but hopes of a glorious victory were disappointed by the excellent Dolphin team in the County Final.

We do look outwards too: for example this summer term we contributed to Christian Aid and the St. Helen's appeal. Lower School boys are usually most effective fund raisers and the most willing contributors to sponsored activities. Currently they owe for parachute jumps and a wheelbarrow on the Penines!

During the Lent term a number of Lower School members (mainly from 2M) played various men at arms, knights and — inevitably — poor-and-needy-peasants in 'The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew'. John Cooper took about half a dozen assorted "Yes m'lud" parts and Jason Mercer, complete with disintegrating bowler hat, played the smallest peasant ever. Philip Haycock was suitably Smoothe and Adrian Procter and Jonathan Horne carried spears. Former members filled much of the rest of the cast. Andrew Garvey and Philip Mansfield as Obidiah Bobblenob and Mike Magpie were particularly evident while Chris Shaw broke his ankle an hour before one performance but (literally) staggered through as the evil Dr. Molock. Adam Spring (1S — 1977) played the flute in the band Richard Wyatt played the hero, Oblong Fitz Oblong, with considerable panache.

Badminton has been a Lower School occupation at least since the Hasnip/Waste Court days and Friday 4.00 p.m. has usually seen numerous small bodies batting away at inoffensive shuttles. Stephen Prince and Jeremy Boorman have played in school teams well above their age range, and Martin Diment, Tim Molloy and Robert Jolliffe have played for their proper age group. With the Sports Hall in prospect for October or November I'm sure excitement will rise even further on Friday evenings next Michaelmas.

In 1972 Mr. Woodgett bought his first VW Camper and also acquired Nigella — who was born around the same time as ERD 376L. Both ERD and Nigella accompanied MW to matches into middle age and Nigella acted in class mimes and playlets even at the Unicorn in her own production. Sadly Nigella did not long survive the departure of ERD and died suddenly and naturally of a heart attack in early April 1984. To those who took the trouble to know her she was a good friend.

I. A. McD.

MUSIC REPORT

MICHAELMAS 1983

The season opened with a guitar recital given by a new member of the music staff, David Harvey, who played a varied programme with works ranging from J. S. Bach to William Walton. The first chance for the younger musicians of the school to shine came with the first of two informal concerts, both of a varied character, this time with a variety of performers. This was closely followed up by the first subscription concert of the season, which welcomed the Bochmann string quartet to the school; giving polished renderings of string quartets by Haydn, Britten and Beethoven. This was again closely followed by the music scholars and exhibitors concert, this year the first of two, making a welcome shortening of last year's three hour marathon. It included accomplished performances of a Bach prelude and fugue played by Geoffrey Styles, and a movement from the Franck violin sonata played by Niann-Tsyr Cheng.

The next musical event was an 'away fixture', a choral evensong at Southwark sung by the chamber choir. Two weeks later the chamber choir set off, with the addition of the chamber orchestra and a brass quintet, again for London, this time for St. Mary-le-Bow church, where a recital was given in conjunction with the churches tercentenary celebrations, and the Mercers company. The concert included the Bruckner Motet 'locas iste' and Britten's 'Hymn to St. Peter', sung by the chamber choir, and some incidental music by William Walton for the film Henry V, played skilfully by the chamber orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Robinson.

Back, then, to Abingdon for the second of the series of subscription concerts, this time given by the London harpsichord ensemble; who played works, in keeping with their tradition, all from the early part of the eighteenth century.

The rest of the term was all down to the chamber choir, with the exception of perhaps the biggest event, the main choral/orchestral concert in the Amey Hall. This was patronised by the first orchestra, playing, amongst other things, a T. James version of the national anthem (does it **really** go like that?); the school choir, singing the Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas carols; the brass band, who gave an interesting account of Malcolm Arnold's 'the Padstow Lifeboat'; and the first wind band, with Nigel Somerville proving finally that he's a 'happy hippo'.

The terms proceedings finished with the chamber choir singing choral evensong at Chichester Cathedral, and carol services at school and St. Helens Church; and finally making the terms third pilgrimage to London, to sing carols at Trafalgar Square.

All in all, it was a busy term, and many thanks must go to Mr. James, for his organisation, and to all those who took part.

Ben Wagon (6)

SUMMER TERM '83

This was a busier term even than usual, because one of the main events of the Spring Term, had had to be postponed owing to the indisposition of the Director of Music. The Concert in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Brahms, held on May 8th, was an outstanding success, in which the combined vocal tones of the School Choir, the Choral Society and two excellent soloists performed the German Requiem. The other principal concert on Founders Day (May 21st) was literally struck by lightning, but this did not mar the highlight, a performance of Konssevisky's Double Bass Concerto, in which the soloist was Patrick M'Leod, who contributed so much to school music. Other program items included movements from Bizet's 'Jeux d'enfants' and Ernest Tomlinson's lively 'English Folk-Dance Suite'. This was followed two weeks later by a rousing Band Concert with performances by both the First and Second Wind Bands, the Brass Band and various ensembles.

The Chamber Choir sang Choral evensong (Swanson in G) at Gloucester Cathedral early in the term, notable for the anthem 'Hear My Prayer' by Mendelssohn in which the soloist was Andrew Olleson, and the substitution of Tim Bennett for the injured Dean, who was rushed to hospital five minutes before the service. The Choirs year ended again with a visit to Marsh Gibbon, where we enjoyed the kind hospitality of John Cutforth and his fellow parishioners.

The Music Society arranged three events during the term. A jumble sale was followed by a car-treasure hunt through villages around Abingdon, and fortunately everyone achieved the final goal, a barbecue in Mr. and Mrs. Pound's garden at Radley College. The final event was a rustic dance in the barn at West Farm, Eaton, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gow, the perfect setting, on a warm summer evening for what has become another annual event.

Tim Bennett (6)

LENT TERM 1984

The first major musical event of the term was a highly successful Music Society trip to the Barbican, to hear a varied programme of Beethoven, Dvorak and Tchaikowsky. The next evening saw the first of the term's three Informal Concerts, which gave many people a chance to play in front of an audience.

The following Sunday, the Chamber Choir gave an evensong in St. Nicholas' Church, Abingdon, as part of that church's 800th Anniversary celebrations. This was an occasion that was enjoyed by performers and congregation alike. The next major event was the third of the subscription concerts in the Amey Hall, with a visit from the 'Residenz Solisten' from Salzburg, who included in their pieces, one written by J. C. Bach for the Earl of Abingdon over 200 years ago!

DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Two weeks later the Chamber Choir again had a "home" fixture, this time at St. Michael's Church. The programme was a Preparation for Lent, the theme of which was meditation upon the weeks ahead, and it was again very successful. On the 12th March, the second half of the annual concert by Music Scholars and Exhibitioners was held. This event produced many fine performances, and was somewhat unusual in having three performances of Bach solo suites — each on a different instrument!

The last two weeks of term contained no less than six events, the first of which was a piano masterclass by Ruth Ascher, an event which gave some of the school's best pianists the chance to be advised by a fine exponent of the instrument. This was followed by the fourth of the subscription concerts, with the R.P.O. wind ensemble and the soprano Julia Parker. This concert finished with the first performance of a piece by the pianist, Francis Shaw, which described the sound of a table tennis ball trapped in a heating system. The audience were, I think, most impressed by the originality of the piece!

Another Informal concert took place, beginning the last week of term during which the final rehearsals were continuing for the events that were the climax of the musical term — the choral work, Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius' and the Composer's Gallery of Music by boys of the school. The former took place on Sunday, 25th March in St. Helen's Sports Hall. It was a stupendous undertaking' it being a difficult work to master, but the whole thing came together very well, and there were particularly notable performances by the professional soloists (Richard Morton, Margaret Cable and Mark Wildman) as well as the orchestra, which was made up of O.A.'s, teachers and others. That the whole performance was such a success is a tribute to the dedication and organization of Mr. James.

Compared with the huge scale of the 'Dream of Gerontius', the Composer's Gallery was an altogether more low key affair, but, in its way, was no less significant. The music was all composed by boys of the school, ranging from an exceptionally difficult piano study by Donald Gawthorne, to masterful ensemble works by Steven Smailes and Tim Bennett. These last two both won prizes for their compositions, as did both the Lower School entrants, as well as Robert Jones. The highlight of the evening was provided by the judge, Michael Hurd, the composer/writer, who gave a helpful and humorous summing-up, which left us all with plenty to think about.

This event, involving mainly the musical 'community' of the school, was a fitting end to a term full of enjoyment in making and listening to music.

Mark Weatherall (6)

Abingdon School Choral Society, School Choir, Chamber Choir, Soloists and Orchestra, conducted by Terry James. (St. Helen's Sports Hall)

It is easy to see why this work remains a firm favourite with Choral Societies. It is an extremely rare and highly successful blend of many elements. Wagner's operatic "Gesamtkunstwerk", with its tissue of psychological leitmotifs, is combined with an unflinching melodic lyricism and harmonic warmth. The spiritual drama should "burn" not only Gerontius himself, but performers and audience alike.

Terry James is something of an Elgar expert, and under his guidance we were treated to a well-disciplined and taut performance. The chorus sang with sensitivity and conviction, avoiding the grotesque sentimental distortions which this work is sometimes plagued by. Entries were crisp and clean, vowels well blended, consonants well timed and projected. The "Demons Chorus", which is diabolical in more than one sense, was particularly well done, with a fiery drive and technical confidence that is rarely heard. The School Chamber Choir contrasted most effectively with the larger chorus, though perhaps a few more voices per part would have helped solve the intonation problems.

The part of Gerontius (Tenor) was taken by Richard Morton, a leading tenor with the Welsh National Opera. Upon this soloist the ultimate success of the work is based. Mr. Morton has a clear and strongly projected tenor voice which was at its best in the plentiful lyrical moments. Many passages were delivered with a degree of finesse that one does not often associate with operatic tenors. However, just occasionally, I would have preferred a more impassioned Gerontius, especially in the "Sanctus, Fortis," section. Singing from memory would probably have helped. There was no lack of passion when it came to the climactic held top "A", at the words "Take me away". (There is a footnote in the orchestral score at this point instructing all the players to "exert maximum force for one moment only". They always do.)

Margaret Cable (Mezzo soprano) was superb as the Angel. Here was a mature performance of complete confidence delivered from memory. The technical difficulties of the part vanished. Margaret Cable is renowned as a singer of great expression, but here also were the ringing, jubilant moments (with the alternative top "A's") which this rôle demands. Mark Wilding (Baritone) also produced some good, rich-toned singing. He has a big voice, which doesn't need to be pushed as much as he thinks. The splendid sound became slightly hard and sharp (in pitch) just occasionally.

The orchestral playing was of a very high standard, especially when one considers that this performance was produced on one rehearsal. This is due in large measure to the thorough

preparation, thoughtfulness and skill of Terry James. Congratulations on a performance which was not merely "held together", but which provided an artistic experience of great emotional impact.

Janet Barker has remarked that what each member of an audience receives is unique, and cannot be got vicariously from listening to the remarks and opinions of others. "One must drink at the life-giving fountain oneself. What is tasted there depends on the individual." Go and hear one of these big musical events if you haven't already done so.

Stephen Robertson

THE ABINGDON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY

Looking for inspiration in previous reports of the School's musical activities I came across several references to "away fixtures" — concerts outside the School premises. Every good team has its "supporters' club", and I suppose that is an apt description of the Music Society. Our members turn out in force at the more popular home fixtures, in smaller numbers at "friendlies" and at away fixtures. We frequently provide refreshments for the thirsty players at half time — as well as for the faithful supporters. Perhaps most important of all, we raise funds to help the players, often through social events. In these respects, the past year has been fairly typical.

For the Music Society, Summer Term 1983 opened with a jumble sale. Vast quantities of jumble were collected; unfortunately, the number of items for sale exceeded the number of customers on the day by a large factor, so the eventual proceeds amounted only to £85. Still, every little helps, and there are worse ways of raising money — or are there?! An evening car treasure hunt in the highways and byways around Abingdon was much more fun. We grinned at our friends as we passed them in another car going the wrong way — and smiled wanly the next time we passed, realizing that **we** not they had overshot the clue. Of course, everyone found their way to the concluding barbeque, ably organised by the Pound family. The culmination of the term was a barn dance — in a **real** barn, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gow (former parents). We were blessed with a fine evening; the lovely setting was enhanced by the effective decorations (thanks to the hard-working committee), and the excellent band assured a most enjoyable evening. Even our treasurer was pleased this time, we made a profit of £100.

The Michaelmas Term began with what has become an established and popular favourite — the Cutforth evening. This year John Cutforth's theme was "The Musical Songs of J. S. Bach". Intriguing musical, enhanced by aptly chosen slides illustrating the period and settings in which the music was composed and first performed, all accompanied by an erudite but entertaining commentary, is a formula for an evening of certain enjoyment. The refreshments that follow provide an opportunity to reminisce about past performances, speculate what John's theme will be next year, and promise to "see you then". With one event sure to be a success we felt we

could afford to try something new for the second event of the term. Face the Music has been a long-running and popular T.V. programme. Could it be adapted to a school function, or did its success depend on the personalities involved? We hoped the former, and set a small team of experts to work devising questions and recording snatches of music. Some live musicians were also persuaded to practice some well known music adapted to another instrument. Two teams, each consisting of a pupil, parent and music teacher, bravely "volunteered" to take the stage and subject their knowledge of music to public scrutiny. Would the questions turn out to be so easy that both teams got them all right; worse still, would every question produce a puzzled look and a shake of the head? Fortunately, the contest between the teams and the question setters ended in an honourable draw, one of the teams won, but not by too big a margin, and the audience certainly seemed to enjoy the occasion.

An annual outing to a London concert has become a tradition with the Music Society. So, on a Sunday afternoon early in the Lent term nearly 50 members and friends boarded a coach bound for the Barbican for a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra. The highlight of the afternoon was the performance of Tchaikowsky's 5th Symphony, which the Russian conductor Yergeny Svetlanov brought to an electrifying climax. Later in the term, we helped to organise a Master Class taken by Miss Ruth Ascher, a notable pianist who studied with Solomon. The four boys who bravely agreed to play to her were rewarded by perceptive, helpful and often humorous criticism, and generous appreciation of their talents. The audience was predictably small, though very appreciative. Although this appears to be a format that does not have much popular appeal, we are confident that the benefits to the young musicians make it something that we should repeat.

So much for the social and musical events of the year; but what have we been doing with the funds we have managed to raise? Grove's Dictionary of Music has a modest title which belies its status as the ultimate musical encyclopaedia. There can't be much worth knowing about music that is not contained in the 20 volumes of the new edition, with a list price of £1100! Last year we were delighted to discover that our accumulated funds were sufficient to enable us to purchase a complete "Grove" for the Music School, at a special discount price negotiated by Mr. James. We have also paid for a purpose-built cassette cupboard that has recently been installed in the Music School. There have also been a number of smaller items, such as prizes for the winners of the young composers competition. So now we have a real incentive to set about replenishing our coffers — perhaps for a further donation to the School's "grand piano" fund, and to meet whatever other needs may arise in the course of the School's musical activities. All parents should automatically receive details of the coming year's events — if their sons remember to deliver the envelopes, that is! But you don't have to be a parent to join the Music Society or attend our events. Any readers who are interested should contact the Music Department at the School.

David V. Thomas (Chairman)

O.A. NOTES

DEATHS

We record with regret the following deaths:

G. R. F. Bredin, C.B.E., who died suddenly in Oxford on September 30 at the age of 84, was Chairman of Governors, Abingdon School from 1966 to 1972. He had a distinguished career in the Sudan Political Service where he was Governor of the Blue Nile Province from 1941 to 1948 and was subsequently a Fellow and Bursar of Pembroke College, Oxford, from 1950 to 1966. In his Times obituary his unflagging industry, tact and unfailing courtesy were highlighted.

P. G. A. Kennington (1920-24) died on 18 July 1979. His widow wrote recently from 197, Hellesdon Road, Norwich.

L. S. Bailey (1924-30), who lived at Haywards Heath, W. Sussex, died suddenly last September.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following and their wives:

R. P. Welch (1962) on 22 August 1983, for a daughter, Katherine Jane.

M. S. Ford (1963) on 30 August 1983, for a daughter, Miriam Rebecca.

S. M. Nicholl (1965) on 3 Aug 1983, for a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth.

C. N. Cook (1966) in May 1983, for a son Louis, a brother for Holly.

N. A. G. Smith (1970) for daughters, Jesmond in July 1980 and Claire in February 1982.

NOTES

S. M. B. Lane (1939) joined the RAF in 1942 and British Airways in 1947, from which he retired in 1975. He is now the BALPA assistant technical secretary and their representative on the International Airline Pilots' Committee.

Many congratulations to **R. F. Jackson** (1939) on being awarded the C.B.E. in the 1984 New Year's Honours. He is a Vice President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and Deputy Managing Director and Director of Engineering Northern Division of the Atomic Energy Establishment. He wrote with news of **D. E. Roberts** (1939) who became a County Court Judge in 1982, and of **R. L. Triggs** (1932) who is a Vice President of the Institute of Civil Engineers. The latter attended a small 'Grundy' dinner arranged by **P. R. Wood** (1935) in London in the autumn of '82.

K. G. Walker (1942) is District Administrator to the Wycombe Health Authority. He was Chairman of the Association of Chief Administrators of Health Authorities from 1978 to 1980. He wrote with news of a '83 Gaudy Dinner at Pembroke College, Oxford: a number of O.A.'s were present and **M. Ogle** (1929) and **A. L. Fleet** (1934), both of whom are resident in Oxford, were High Table guests.

Congratulations to **R. Deval** (1945) on his marriage to Glenys Humphreys on 20th November, 1982. They are living in Wantage.

David Leach (1948) graduated at Reading University and spent nearly 30 years in the paint industry before returning to the Abingdon printing business started by his grandfather in 1905. A photograph of the School recently adorned the cover of Leach's printing brochure for independent schools.

Christopher Wray (1955), in addition to his Lighting Emporium in King's Road, SW6, has opened shops in Bristol, Leeds and Kilkenny. The decorative lighting is manufactured in his own workshops to his own exclusive designs.

Major Colin Scragg (1957) is C.O. 2nd Armoured Delivery Squadron BAOR.

Dr. R. K. Le Voi (1958) is a G.P. in Plymouth and his brother, **C. D. Le Voi** (1966) is an insurance broker in Southampton, (see addresses).

C. J. Redknap (1959) is Warden of a Teachers' Centre at Horsham.

Punch of January 25th, 1984 referred at length to the book by the pseudonymous author, "Tiresias", entitled 'Notes from Overground', a tellingly witty criticism of commuter travel. Tiresias has since been unmasked (in a laudatory review in **The Observer** by Simon Hoggart) as one **Roger Green** O.A. (1959) **Peter Whitton** (ca. 1960) is Managing Director of Hartwells at Banbury and a member of the Hartwells Group Board. He is married with two children, a daughter of 12 and a son of 10 and is a keen cricketer in the Cherwell league, (see addresses). **Lt-Col. C. J. Pickup** (1960) is now with NORTHAG in Rheindahlen.

George Ganf (1961) is now professor of Zoology at the University of Adelaide.

Eddy Joseph (1962) after a few years in Accountancy and Business Studies, entered the film industry as a trainee assistant film editor. Recently he worked on such feature films as 'Midnight Express', 'Fame', 'Shoot The Moon' and 'Pink Floyd-The Wall' for which he received a B.A.F.T.A. award for 'Best Soundtrack'. He works for Castlezone Ltd., Pinewood Studios.

P. S. McK. Ramsey (1963) is Corporate Planning Manager of B.R. at Derby.

Burns news: **Ian** (1963) lives near Moreton-in-the Marsh and his brother **Neil** (1967) lives near Ashbourn, Derbyshire. Both have two children and Neil works for Courtaulds (see addresses).

Congratulations to **Richard Hayward** (1963) on his June '83 election as the Conservative member of parliament for Kingswood.

R. H. M. Burridge (1963) is a barrister lecturing in Law at Warwick University.

Lt-Col. B. G. Mackay (1964) is now Lt-Col. Royal Army Medical Core and has been appointed C.O. of the New Territories M.R.S., Hong Kong.

T. Fumeaux (1964) retired from the Royal Navy in September 1983 to work in computers.

I. C. Lamberton (1964) is now with the educational and medical section of Gardner Merchant.

W/Cdr. S. M. Nicholl (1965) commands a Phantom Operational Conversion Unit at Tattershall.

Dr. A. J. Longstaff (1966) is ex-Surgeon Lt/Cdr. R.N. is now consultant radiologist at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

Ross Coomber (1966) graduated from Warwick with a B.A. in History and Politics and then joined the Bank of Nova Scotia in London. He is now assistant manager of the Boston, Massachusetts, branch of the Bank. He and his American wife Kathy have two young children.

Anthony Bretscher (1966) has been awarded a long-term grant for research at Cornell University.

A. J. Vernede (1967) teaches English in Japan.

P. N. Ablewhite (1968) on secondment from Baumberger, was studying for his M.Eng. at Heriot-Watt.

J. J. A. King (1968) has produced two background history handbooks for a school travel organisation.

M. F. K. Scott-Baumann (1968) has written a topic book on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

S/Ldr. P. J. A. Hopkins (1968) commands a flight in an R.A.F. squadron in Germany.

C. J. Nicholl (1969) runs a small communal firm (Delta T) making scientific agricultural instruments.

Robin Blackburn (1969) has been appointed project analyst with the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

Dr. A. J. Iddles (1969) spent Xmas 1983 as a doctor on a troopship in the Falklands.

P. M. Annett (1969) has three sons and is an arborculturalist with the Royal Borough of Kensington.

G. R. Evans (1969) has left schoolmastering at Berkhamsted School and is entering a career in commerce with the John Lewis Partnership.

Congratulations to **J. K. Ridge** (1970) on his marriage to Christine Marlow on 5th September 1983.

J. P. Nicholl (1970) runs a statistical unit and computing service for the medical department of Sheffield University.

Rev. Ian Browne (1970) has moved from Shrewsbury to be Head of Divinity at Bedford School.

Dr. N. A. G. Smith (1970) is a G.P. in Leeds.

Congratulations to **Francis Maude** (1971) on his June '83 election as the Conservative member of parliament for North Warwickshire.

James Dunkerly (1971) is Research Fellow in Latin American Studies at Liverpool University. His recent book 'The Long War' is an account of dictatorship and revolution in El Salvador. **Capt. Roderic Godfrey** (1972) is now a F.R.G.S. and was en route for weapons trails in Scotland.

Dr. G. W. Hamlin (1972) is now senior registrar in anaesthetics at the main Leeds hospital.

Rory Wardroper (1972) is in charge of Newby Hall, Yorkshire. He has arranged with the BBC for the 1984 Christmas Day Carols to be broadcast from there.

Peter Rogers (1973) secured his Ph.D. at Flinders University medical centre and is now at Monash University, Melbourne.

J. W. Gardner (1976) having secured his Cambridge doctorate, now works as a risks analyst with U.K.A.E.A.

Nicholas Lemoine (1976) married Louise in 1980 and wrote from Hackney Hospital, Bideford where both he and his wife were in preregistration House appointments. Congratulations to him on his First in Physiology and on a most impressive list of no less than eight prizes culminating in the University of London gold Medal. He hopes to become a surgeon.

Kirt Peterson (1977) and his wife wish to be known as **Laing-Peterson**. They live in the U.S.A. (see addresses) and their son, Lars, was born on 22nd December 1983.

Congratulations to **Andrew Hillary** (1977) on passing his medical qualifying exams in January 1984 and on his subsequent promotion to Surgeon Lieutenant, R.N.

David Driver (1977) won an award for his outstanding paper on the subject of Industrial Relations in his degree course. His Industrial placement year was with I.C.L. and is now working in domestic banking with Lloyds.

Ft/Lt. D. M. Lewis (1977) qualified as a doctor in Birmingham and visited the school a few days after four months duty in the Falklands. He spends the next three years based at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus and looks forward to O.A.s dropping in, especially if water sports enthusiasts.

S. R. L. Miller (1978) is now teaching at Bedford School.

David Crook (1978) is teaching physics and coaching rowing at Tiffin Boys School, Kingston, Surrey.

Adrian Johnson (1978) following a science degree at Leicester University, has been appointed to a Permanent Commission in the General Duties/Pilot Branch of the R.A.F.

Martin Dennis (1978) hopes to pursue a career in General Surgery. After qualifying in April '73, he spent two months in Jamaica doing surgery and is completing his pre-registration year at University Hospital, Nottingham, as is **Jonathan Sowden** (1978). Both are playing rugby.

Graham Halsey (1979) playing for the Harlequins, scored a try in both the quarter and semi-final matches of the John Player cup.

Alan Thomas (1979) worked for eight months at his local golf club and then went up to Nottingham to read Slavonic Studies. He won the oral prize in Russian at the end of his first year and a Faculty Exhibition for his Part I results. He plays for the university hockey 1st XI.

Jeremy Westmore (1979) has resigned his commission in the Royal Navy and is now working in London as a financial adviser. He has his eye, eventually, on the Stock Exchange or Lloyds Insurance as a career. Meanwhile, he appears to be in touch with a formidable array of O.A.'s who live in and around London.

Peter Littlewood (1979) has graduated from Exeter University with a degree in Biology and is working for a year in Africa.

Jonathan Saunders (1979) is teaching History, English and French at Kigezi High School, in S.W. Uganda, prior to starting on a law or theology course in England in September.

Congratulations to **Simon Jones** (1979) on his First in Modern History and on being awarded a college prize.

Nichols Burd (1980), who is in his final year of a degree course in estate management and valuation at Bristol, has won the competition run by the R.I.C.S. for the most promising young auctioneer in the British Isles.

Other 1980 vintage news: **Christopher Egelstaff**, with a degree in Leisure and Recreation, starts his first job on a year's training basis with the Rank organisation. **Bryn Rhys** graduated from Kent and is going to Reading University to train as a teacher of History. **Nicholas Yaxley**, who is coming to the end of his B.Ed. course in Fine Art at Warwick, has been appointed Head of Art at St. John's, Leatherhead. **Kurt Rosenfeld** is to be congratulated on his Distinction in part I of his degree in Computers and Cybernetics at the University of Kent.

Congratulations to **Mark Harrison** (1981) on his recent marriage to Sarah. Mark holds a National Engineering scholarship at Bristol University and his wife is reading Chemical Engineering at Bath. Mark's brother **Andrew** (1982) is also reading Engineering at Bristol.

Congratulations to **Anthony Lowe** (1982), who is at Imperial College, London, on winning a National Engineering Scholarship.

Ian Sadler (1982) wrote describing the challenging excellence of the Southampton University chemistry course. He is to be congratulated on obtaining a first at the end of year one.

University sporting news: Congratulations to **Clive Bromhall** (197) on his blue for cross-country at Oxford and to **Gareth Harper** (1981) on his Cambridge blues for soccer and hockey. **Iain Burnett** (1982) is rowing in the London University Trial Vllls. **David Phillips** (1982) played rugby league for British Universities against New Zealand this January. **Richard** (1981) is captain of chess at Edinburgh University. **Nicholas Bugg** (1980) won a Lightweight Rowing Blue in the successful Cambridge boat at Henley on 25th March.

Philip Ladmore, **Jonathan Lane** and **Julian Flynn** (all 1983) have been awarded Short Service Limited Commissions.

Other news of 1983 leavers; **Tim Robinson** has been working on a farm in preparation for his Land Management course at Reading University. **Douglas Collier** is working for the C.E.G.B. before reading History at Southampton University. **Paul Green**, having travelled in Europe in March and April, is working for Canvas Holidays before going to York University to read Economics. **Richard Mortimer** is working in Blackwell's dispatch department before going to Durham to read History. **Jonathan Forsyth** is enjoying the Business, Finance and Accounting course at the University of East Anglia. He is coping with the computing and has been able to keep his printing interests alive by helping to print the weekly student newspaper. **Simon Reynolds**, who won an exhibition to St. John's, Oxford, has set up a software company, Simonsoft, which was described in a recent Oxford Times article; amongst other things, French verbs are rapidly moved around the screen!

News of O.A. Actors: **Robin Kermode** (1976) has been appearing in the ITV serial, "Shroud for a Nightingale". Of the 1982 vintage, **Julius Green** produced a controversial "Romeo and Juliet" at the A.D.C., Cambridge. This was a college sponsored university production of eight performances, all to full Houses.

Howard Mulvey played Friar Lawrence in this production.

Nick Rawlinson, who is at Queen Mary's College, London, played Edgar in a college production of "Lear" and has been asked to play the lead in an adaptation of Kafka's "The Trial" at the Edinburgh Festival.

ADDRESSES

D. D. Allen N. ANDERSON	18 Rayleigh Road, Ipswich 6 Avenue Adré le Notre, 1410 Waterloo, Belguim	G. F. KEEYS	The Little House, Oakshade Road, Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0LE
B. S. AVERY	Mordon House, Mordon Village, Nr. Sedgefield, Country Durham TS21 2EY	Dr. N. LEMOINE C.D. LE VOI	102 Highbury Hill, London N5 Oaklea, New Road, Swanmore, Southampton
J. C. BINES	"Brelades", Tuttons Hill, Gurnard, Cowes I.O.W. PO31 8JA	Dr. R. K. LE VOI K. C. LAING- PETERSON	46 Ryder Rd, Stoke, Plymouth PL2 1JA 113 N. Main St., New Hope, Pa 18938, U.S.A.
C. J. BOVEY	8 Buckfast Close, Friarscroft, Bromsgrove, Wocs B11 7PE	B. LINTOTT	Little Stubbings, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berks
M. J. S/Lrd. BRACKLEY A. M. E. <i>Rev'd</i> BROWN	18 Lincoln Park, Amersham, Bucks 144 Marston Road, Bridlington YO16 5DJ	Lowe C. E.	Goulders Cottage, Cockpole Green, Nr. Wargrave, Berks
I. C. <i>Rev'd</i> BROWNE D. J. BROWN	Bedford School, Bedford Sadlers Cottage, Cadmore End Common, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3PT	T. MARDON	'Mystra', Downend Lane, Chieveley, Newbury RG16 8TN
R. F. W. BUDDEN	Block 46, 18th Floor, Baguio Villas, 550 Victoria Rd, Pokfulan, Hong Kong	D. H. MARSHALL	5 Warren Rise, Woodinglean, Brighton, Sussex
W. W. BUDDEN	ditto	P. MAY	Bishoplads Farm, Dunslen, Reading RG4 9NR
I. G. BURNS	2 Carson Close, Stretton on Fosse, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, GL56 9SJ	N. H. MOSS Dr. D. G. NASMYTH C. J. NICHOLL	35 Cowley's Bank, Malvern WR14 1QR 75 Tinshill Lane, <i>Worridge</i> , Leeds 16 The Old Priory, Low Road, Burwell, Cambridge
N. G. BURNS	27 Ashes Avenue, Hulland Ward, Ashbourne, Derbyshire	J. P. NICHOLL S. M. <i>Wg/Cdr</i> NICHOLL P. A. NOBLE	11 Springfield Road, Sheffield 10 RAF Staff College, Bracknell, Berks 210 Albyn Road, St. John's London SE8 4JQ
Lt-Col. A. H. CHERRILL	2 Males Close, Cottenham, Cambridge. CB4 4SB	M. P. O'SHEA	Sheringham House, 119 Kendrick Road, Reading
SIR JAMES COBBAN	14 St. Swithin's Close, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3DW	P. O'BRIEN	86 Kempton Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 26EB
C. J. DEAN	30 Baldwi St. (Apt 2) Dundas, Ont L9H 1A6 Canada	M. ODY	The Glen, Roundway, Devises, Wilts SN10 2HZ
R. DEVAL	28 Haywards Close, Wantage, OX12 7AT	D. M. PAINE	164 Tachbrook Street, London SW1V 2NE
Y. DOGANOGLU	6831, Locke Court SW, Calgary, Alberta T3E 6H8, Canada	C. H. PORTMAN	37 Iveralmond Drive, Cramond, Edinburgh EH4 6JX
D. C. DUNN	c/o Foppiano & Carbajal S.A. Av Rep de Panamá 3461 San Isidro, Lima 27 (Casilla 3214 — Corres Central) Lima Peru	M. PIPER	98 Sheridan Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5EH
G. R. EVANS	24 Ellesmere Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2EX	N. J. QUAIL	107 Park Lane, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG13 4BH
S. K. FABES	22 Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea, London SW11	T. J. RAWLINS J. RICHARDSON	27 Kingsley Avenue, Camberley, Surrey Longhays, Idstone Road, Ashbury, Nr. Swindon, Wilts SN6 8LN
M. E. FRASER	4 Longspur Circle, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada	J. K. RIDGE Maj. C. A. SCRAGG B. A. SHARP	118 South Ave., Abingdon 2 ADS BFPO 103 38 Kennedy Avenue, East Grinstead, W. Sussex RH19 2DG
J. P. GOTELEE	106 Paynesdown Road, Thatcham, Nr. Newbury, Berks	A. STEPHENS	Ambleton, Pengelly, Linkinhorn, Callington, Cornwall
K. GIRDWOOD	23 Hilltop Road, Cults, Aberdeen AB1 9RL	R. SUGGATE	6 The Mallows, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middx
P. K. GYSELYNCK	27 Harwood Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2AR	D. W. TANNER	22 Cumberland Close, St. Margaret's, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1RS
M. HAMILTON	Albany End, Oak Close, London Road, Hitchin, Herts	P. WEBB	109 Durie Street, Toronto, Ont. M6S 3E7 Canada
G. W. HAMLIN	1 Grange Park Close, Leeds L58 3BU (new member)	M. A. WOODS	Bara Office Services, Bucklersbury House, Cannon Street, London EC4
J. M. HAMLIN (not F.)	81 Strodes Crescent, Staines, Middx.	S. A. WOODS	37 Swanage Road, Wansworth, London SW18
C. P. HEY	14 Warren Avenue, Norwick Road, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8NP	T. J. WOOD	Dunchurch-Winton Hall, Dunchurch, Rugby, Warwicks CV22 6NG
A. J. IDDES	the Sandpipers, Nightingale Rd, Southsea, Hants PO5 3JN	P. G. D. WHITTON	The Willery, Clifton Rd., Deddington. OX5 4TP
J. E. R. D. IREDALE	Holybrook Farm, Burghfield Bridge, Reading, Berks RG3 3RA	A. C. WRIGHT K. ZALEWSKI	The Old Mill, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2 ES Rotdornallee 80, 2820 Bremen 77, West Germany
A. R. A. JOHNSON	The Manor House, Buckden, Huntingdon, Camps		
Dr. A. E. JOHNSON	The Moorlands, 133 Stocks Lane, Stalybridge SK15 2NU		

