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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

Vol. XV No. 10

DECEMBER 1976

EDITORIAL

Despite various hostile, sarcastic, apathetic, anti-establishment sentiments, which have been expressed in past weeks about the magazine, here is another edition of the *Wycombiensian*—our own magazine, which has managed to survive such dubious comments as these since the beginning of this century.

Perhaps the best description of the magazine is expressed in the History of the School, where we are told how: 'the well-written and well-edited magazine shows a picture of lively activity and an ordered regularity.' We are of the opinion that this could and, in fact, should be a definition of what the *Wycombiensian* is today, but, regrettably, this is not so, for although we can attempt to ensure that it is well-edited, it is up to the rest of you to produce the material which will ensure that it is well-written. We must emphasise the fact that we rely on *you*, and nobody else, for contributions, and it is up to you to decide what you want the magazine to contain—if you wish it to be an interesting, pertinent piece of literature *you* must supply us with the material to make it so.

How about writing an article for the next edition?

Keith Butcher
Philip Green
Philip Hunt
Robert Pillidge
Christopher Swinhoe-Standen
Christopher Tite

OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATIONS

ORDINARY LEVEL RESULTS, 1976

The following boys obtained Grade C or above in five or more subjects in the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examinations:—

R. J. Ball (10); D. C. Ballance (10); A. D. Bradmore (8); D. R. Carless (6); R. D. Cole (6); A. R. D. Curtis (9); A. Diack (9); S. D. Everson (9); N. Featonby (9); C. J. M. Finlayson (8); N. A. Forrester (9); M. Foster (9); P. F. Gosling (7); T. J. K. Griffiths (9); M. Hobbs (7); C. J. McDermott (8); D. R. Mackay (7); D. F. G. Martin (8); P. J. Maynard (9); A. J. Paull (8); D. A. Poskett (10); C. J. Pouncey (7); G. A. Roberts (9); M. C. Thornton (8); K. M. Titcombe (7); G. A. Ward (9); M. V. Ward (8); R. B. Westbrook (8); M. N. White (7); G. R. Wise (9); J. M. E. Adams (9); C. M. Chandler (8); P. M. Ernest (9); M. S. Fallows (9); J. D. Fowler (9); I. D. Fuller (9); I. R. Gibbons (10); R. D. Gurney (9); D. S. Heal (9); I. M. Holliday (9); M. R. Jolly (9); C. J. C. Jones (9); N. C. Journet (8); P. R. Lee (6); D. G. Lewis (6); H. K. Mann (9)0 J. L. Moorcroft (10); G. A. Newell (8)0 P. W. Newman (8); S. G. Offord (7); S. M. Poulson (9); R. M. Redwood (9); S. J. Richards (7); M. P. Standing (8); R. C. Standing (9); G. A. L. Tizzard (9); W. S. Vestentoft (8); H. J. F. Why (9); C. Williams (7); C. J. Wood (7); J. P. Young (9); R. G. Ball (8); J. S. Bird (6); S. J. Bourne (9); C. P. Brown (8); S. J. Brown (9);

K. M. Butcher (7); M. A. Coburn (9); W. P. Colborne (6); I. E. Davidson (8); N. L. Dowson (9); I. A. Elder (5); P. J. Green (10); T. C. Hales (9); G. D. Heels (9); M. F. Hill (7); M. L. Hoyle (9); S. H. Hyams (5); R. M. Kelly (9); M. J. Lidgley (9); D. A. J. Mould (9); M. G. Noblett (9); J. D. Poston (7); D. M. Radvan (9); C. D. S. Swinhoe-Standen (10); N. C. Timberlake (9); D. J. Timpson (6); C. C. Tite (9); P. B. Trendell (9); A. W. Trzeciak (10); C. J. Wood (6); A. J. Woodger (9); A. D. Woolgar (9); S. Yarrow (6); D. N. Anderson (7); N. W. A. Austin (6); W. J. Baker (9); T. L. Brown (9); R. D. Burnett (9); T. A. Chalmers (5); J. C. M. Church (8); R. J. G. Cleaver (6); R. G. Dalton (7); T. M. Dibb (9); D. R. A. Feirn (9); A. J. Gulliver (8); S. Harvey (7); D. M. Havard (5); S. J. Hayward (8); P. J. Woodbridge (5); P. G. Hunt (9); I. D. Hutton (9); S. L. Jones (7); R. W. Kendell (7); P. J. Lee (6); N. B. Maclaren (8); N. P. G. Minch (5); A. K. Paterson (8); R. A. Pillidge (6); D. J. K. Purdie (5); P. J. Radford (7); N. Raistrick (8); M. G. Sharp (6); R. F. J. Shaw (10); A. P. Smith (6); D. C. Smith (7); N. C. Spoel (7); B. M. S. Warden (7); A. P. Wilde (5); M. A. Woodbridge (7).

ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS, 1976

Italics denote Grade A

*denotes distinction on the 'S' level paper)

- P. S. Copas—English Literature, Greek, Music; R. W. M. Greaves—Greek, Latin, Ancient History; P. G. Munford—Greek, French, Economics; I. C. Rollins—*Latin*, German, History; G. M. Bishop—Economics, Art; C. P. Brown—German, Economics, Mathematics; M. Cover—Economics, Geography; C. R. Dixon—History, Economics, Geography; C. J. L. Hellier—Economics, Geography, Mathematics; I. D. Lipscombe—German, Economics, Mathematics; D. W. Merriman—*French, History*, Economics; J. Poole—French, German, Economics; J. D. W. Preston—Economics, Geography, Mathematics; M. A. Stinchcombe—German, *Economics*, Mathematics; S. D. Taylor—History, Economics, Geography; L. Underwood — *English Literature, History*, Economics*; C. D. Woodbridge—German, History, Economics; D. G. Lindsay—German; D. J. Brown—English Literature, German, History; T. C. Clark—English Literature, History; M. W. P. C. Ferguson—Art; L. D. Fulker—History; R. D. Gray—English Literature; History, Art; K. Haugh—History, Geography; P. M. Hone—Art; A. A. Jenkins — *English Literature, Economics, Geography**; A. D. Jones — English Literature, History, *Geography*; P. R. B. Jones—English Literature, History, Art; P. S. Lowe—*English Literature*; S. M. McLelland—English Literature, Art; D. R. Peach—English Literature, French, History; K. D. Richmond — *English Literature**, *History*, Economics; F. R. A. Sharps—English Literature, French, Geography; P. N. Bedford—French, History, Economics; D. N. Currie—English Literature, History, Economics; R. J. Edwards—History, Economics, Geography; S. P. Gray—History, Economics, Geography; A. C. A. Horner—History, Economics, Geography; M. A. Grieve—Mathematics, *Physics*, Chemistry; M. I. Hagger—*Mathematics, Physics**, *Chemistry*; R. D. J. Harvey—French, Mathematics; M. R. Hopkins—*Mathematics*, Physics, Chemistry; M. Morpew—*Mathematics*, Physics, *Chemistry*; N. A. Morris—Geography, Chemistry; M. J. C. D. Paton—*Mathematics*, Physics, Chemistry; T. A. Pawley—Art; W. J. Shadbolt—Mathematics, *Physics, Chemistry*; N. A. Shutt—Mathematics, Physics, Art; A. T. Thornton—Mathematics, *Physics*, Chemistry; J. B. Vaughan—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; C. R. Webb — *Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; T. Ahmed—*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, Physics; C. N. Boggon—*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, Physics; J. A. Bower—*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, Physics; A. K. Brook —*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, Physics, *Chemistry**; P. H. Browne—Mathematics, Physics; R. P. Chambers—*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, Physics; S. Coltman—*Mathematics, Physics**, *Chemistry*; D. G. Gallows—Geography; A. M. Fenton—Mathematics, Physics; P. J. Green—Geography, Mathematics, Physics; I. N. Hazlewood — Economics, *Mathematics*, Physics; D. P. Keen—*History**, *Mathematics*, Further Mathematics; N. V. Lawrence — Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science; P. P. Lidgley—*Geography*, Mathematics, Physics; W. F. Longworth—Physics; A. B. McElroy—*Mathematics, Physics**, *Chemistry**; P. J. Murden—*Mathematics, Physics*, Chemistry; G. J. Murnane—*Mathematics**, *Further Mathematics, Physics**, *Chemistry*; R. W. Peckham—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; A. C. Rackham—*Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; P. T. Russell—*Mathematics*, Further Mathematics, *Physics**; P. Q. Scott —Mathematics, Physics; T. W. Tagg—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; T. P. Airey — *Physics, Chemistry, Biology*; G. Jamieson—History, Economics, Geography; C. P. Mould—*German, History*, Mathematics; S. J. Newman—English Literature, History, Economics; S. J. Parker—*English Literature, French*, History; S. M. Reed—*German*, History, Economics; D. H. Rees—History, *Economics*, Geography; C. M. Shepherd — Art; R. P. Steare — History, *Geography*, Music; C. B. Stottor—English Literature, *History*, Economics; T. G. Strick-

land—History, *Economics*, Geography; I. P. R. Wallis—French, *Economics*; M. A. C. Wilson—History, *Economics*, Geography; R. Allison—French, *Economics*, Geography; N. Bowen—English Literature, French; S. C. Cooper—French; M. C. Coulter—*French*, German; J. P. F. Diffley—English Literature, French, History; G. M. Edwards—French, German, *Economics*; P. L. Edwards—*French*, German, *Music*; S. Hoare—French, German, History; G. D. W. Lewis—English Literature, *French*, German; R. C. Osola—French, *Economics*; I. H. Price—English Literature, French, History; J. H. Sands—French, German; R. A. Searle—English Literature, *French*, German; I. H. Smith—German, *Economics*, *Mathematics*; H. M. Thomas—French, History, *Economics*; A. R. I. Walker—French, *Economics*, Geography; G. F. Watts—French, *Mathematics*; P. B. Yagmourian—English Literature, *French*, German; C. D. P. Austin—*Mathematics*, *Physics*, *Chemistry*; A. S. Burnand—*Mathematics*, *Physics*, *Chemistry*; N. Cleverley—*Mathematics*, *Physics**, *Chemistry*; M. D. Copcutt—*Mathematics*, *Physics*, *Chemistry*; M. Dixon—*Mathematics*, *Physics*, *Chemistry*; P. Dolphin—*Mathematics*, *Physics*,

Chemistry; A. J. Edwards—*Mathematics*, *Physics*; M. Fisher—*Mathematics*, *Physics*, *Chemistry*; J. Gavin—*Physics*, *Chemistry*; D. C. Allen—Geography, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; P. H. Allott—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; P. J. Attfield—*Physics*, *Chemistry**, *Biology*; A. R. Berendt—*Mathematics*, *Physics**, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; A. J. Buchanan—*Physics*, *Biology*; S. R. Calvert—*Physics*, *Biology*; S. J. Eckersall—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; D. J. Gardiner—*Mathematics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; K. J. Jouhar—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; J. H. Kent—*Physics*; C. C. Lloyd—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; M. C. A. Long—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; A. M. McNally—*Physics*, *Biology*; I. S. Mason—*Mathematics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; S. Masters—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; R. A. Parks—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; A. C. Pillidge—*Physics*, *Chemistry**, *Biology*; J. M. Preece—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; I. D. Quiney—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; S. D. Roe—*Physics*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; J. J. Scorey—*Biology*; M. E. J. Sinden—*Political Studies*, *Chemistry*, *Biology*; G. K. Turner—*Economics*, *Mathematics*.



TRIAL BY JURY

TRIAL BY JURY

Since the Summer Term is notoriously difficult for organising any kind of concerted effort owing to the disruption caused by school exams, not to mention GCE, it was all the more remarkable that this production again had the finish and professionalism that we have come to expect. The first two performances were preceded by selections from other Gilbert and Sullivan operas performed by the Choral Society with a varied assortment of soloists and accompanied on the piano by Geoffrey Heath.

The production itself, by Geoffrey Holmes, who also conducted, was noteworthy for its inventiveness and the amount of comic business which ensured that there was always something to watch. The splendidly authentic sets designed and executed by Michael Eaton in the minimum of time and the carefully individualised costumes, put together by Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Long and parents, combined to make a striking visual impact. The predominantly dark clothes of the Public made an excellent backdrop for the pretty blue dresses worn by the bridesmaids.

Among the principals David Hellier made an appealing Plaintiff with a voice of striking quality and intelligent acting. As would be expected from such a seasoned performer, Ralph Searle's Learned Judge was a delight

and Phillip Edwards twirled his moustachios and sang with great gusto as the caddish Defendant. Graham Murnane, another veteran of the RGS stage (indeed himself the Plaintiff in a previous production not all that long ago) was a competent Usher though at times inclined to be stiff in his acting. Tony Berendt lacked the experience of some of the other principals but nevertheless carried off his important song creditably. The Bridesmaids delighted the audience with their display of feminine charm. Only they and the producer know how many hours of rehearsal it took to transform eight rather hefty boys into lightfooted, well brought-up Victorian maidens. It was worth the effort.

Another innovation on this occasion was the inclusion of a number of boys in the orchestra. Although there was a certain amount of ill-tuned and uncertain playing in the Overture (written by the caddish Defendant presumably in the intervals between caddishness and studying for his A-levels) this improved as the performance continued and there was later some very competent playing, especially from the wind.

This production showed that the G and S tradition at RGS, although it may appear dormant at times, is very much alive. The aficionados are no doubt already looking forward to the next.

G.W.H.

More photographs on pages 32 and 33.

DRAMA WEEKEND

5th—7th November

Twenty boys and girls took part in another successful immersion in drama at the RGS, this time aiming to illustrate the Seven Ages of Man, based on the famous speech from *As You Like It*.

A programme of lectures, practical sessions as a group of 20, and in seven smaller groups, as well as a visit to Drury Lane Theatre made up the weekend. It culminated

in a performance given to parents and friends: seven illustrations of the ages of man in mime and readings.

Thanks to all who made the weekend a success, particularly the students, and Mr. Smith for his contributions and those of his friends from outside the School.

J.M.

MUSIC SOCIETY

The society has the largest active membership (about 220 at the time of writing) of any in the school, attracting large numbers of new boys and retaining the loyalty of existing members. Six visiting instrumental teachers cover nearly all the orchestra instruments, indeed it is largely thanks to them that the two orchestras attain so high a standard. There are four regular weekday activities: the Choral Society, Wind Band, First Orchestra and Second Orchestra, which takes in new instrumentalists and gives them basic orchestral training.

All the activities are getting back into their stride after the summer break, and the Second Orchestra sounds most promising. The society welcomes Mr. Wardell—an FRCO—who although here ostensibly to teach Physics will be assisting in the musical activities. There are two main events before Christmas: the Christmas concert and the Carol Service in the Parish Church.

Finally, thanks are due to the staff who desert the Staff Room to make music: Mr. Cooper, Mr. Ferris, Mr. Flinders, Mr. Heath, and now Mr. Keysell.

S. D. Everson

THE CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has seen something of a revival this year with near-record membership among juniors. Our senior team has not lost any of its six friendly matches this season and the juniors have done nearly as well. We won the first two rounds of the *Sunday Times* national schools competition by convincing margins. I reported last time that our first team had been relegated from Division I, however since Bourne End lost heavily in their last match we stayed up on away board count.

This year we have entered two teams in a Bucks Junior U16 League so we hope they will be successful. Our captain is Raouf Allim with Russell Wood and Mark White as our joint treasurers and Dave Carless in charge of the Chess Club at lunch-times. We are yet again indebted to Mr. Clark for the help he has given to the Chess Club and also Mr. Cook and Mr. Wilson for helping with transport.

John Hoy

BEGINNINGS

The ground that we're treading
From here on in
My love
Is rougher
And stonier
Than any I have known
So if I start to stumble
On this journey
Through our lives
Please hold my hand
And pick me up
So we can carry on.
Andon.

C. E. J. Sinden (6B2)

SPEAK TO ME

Speak to me
Softly
Of flowers
And Friday,
Of spring
With the new things
Like you
And your nice ways.

I'll tell you
Softly
Of poems
And rhymes
And all of the pictures
I see in your mind.

C. E. J. Sinden

LIBRARY

The Library, despite the rising costs of books, continues to invest in a wide variety of new stock. We have bought less new fiction this year, relying more on the County Library van for fresh titles than in the recent past. An endeavour has been made to add to our limited stock of scientific books, and remove out-of-date titles, particularly in geology, mathematics and biology. Where our stocks are inadequate, we are always glad to hear of suggestions from both boys and staff, and will often buy books that are so recommended.

A perennial worry is the way in which the library is misused by a selfish minority. Books are kept out long after the date for return or renewal, which makes needless and tedious work for the librarians who otherwise could be engaged on more worthwhile jobs. Some sixthformers, in particular, manage to have more than the 6 tickets

allowed—so depriving others of books. Books are taken out without being issued, and kept for months without librarians being able to trace the book, result—longer deprivation. Worst of all, approximately 300 books were lost, or stolen, last year; we hope this does not mean permanent deprivation. With the average cost of books at over £4 each, the loss can be seen in its true seriousness. Perhaps we can hope that there will be a searching of memories and consciences and that this terrific loss can be halted. Return of books could not be simpler: place the volume on the trolley immediately inside the door.

Help us to help the school community as a whole, and not just the anti-social few. Then the next report may be much less pessimistic in tone!

J.M.

RESOURCES CENTRE REPORT

The Resources Centre has survived the demise of Mr. Hillier in an admirably stoic fashion, indeed, it appears to be thriving under the direction of its new Godfather, Dr. Dorrance, and its two 'faithfuls', Mrs. Worley and Mrs. Twitchen. It has also been pleased to greet Mr. Keysell as Mr. Hillier's successor and hopes that it will not be too long before he acquires the knack of using the equipment.

The Centre continues to become an increasingly important part of the school and the standard of its products has increased unbelievably, so that it is now almost very good. There have been two major projects this term: the publication of the RGS Grey Book and the classification of the tapes and slides in the centre. The Resources Centre booklet has been revised extensively and explains what facilities are available and how the centre is developing.

S. D. Everson

BOOKBINDING REPORT

A new group of eager, willing young minds has come to join our merry band. What they are eager and willing about has yet to be seen, but they have been working their fingers to the bone with their Stanley knives and steel rulers. If in difficulties they politely call us to help them, i.e. 'Oy, come here and show me how to do this!'

We show them how to mend books so that you can't open them, and how to put a hardback together once you've torn it apart. They learn quickly; it takes them only a month to learn what took my group 30 days. They have already learnt how to level the pages using the plough. One lad levelled them so well that there was hardly any book left. And so they continue to work hard while we assistant instructors sleep safe in the knowledge that if you ignore them, they are quite likely to part your hair with a Stanley knife.

J. Broadribb

AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

Interested in making plastic or balsa models? There is room for you in our club. It meets every day of the week, except Thursdays, in Room 36. For 25 pence per annum you not only gain membership of the club but a discount at a model shop in town.

Everything needed to build a flying model will be on sale in Room 36. If you should want to build a flying model everything can be arranged through the club—including insurance. Anything not in stock can be ordered.

R. Miller, M. Merryweather

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

This year the Photographic Society made an excellent start with a record number of members. Unfortunately the present economic crisis is reflected in that there are many outstanding membership fees, including mine I'm sad to say.

Despite this, the treasurer has received £10 from members and has opened an account with the Midland Bank. To date our balance is £4.30 (£5.95 carried forward from last year). Owing to this influx of funds we have been able to purchase photographic paper and bulkfilm which are available to members at very reasonable prices (film is approximately 1p per exposure).

Over the coming weeks a rota has been worked out for members new to the society wishing to learn the art of developing and printing. The programme covers all five days of the school week to enable the course to be covered as quickly and comprehensively as possible. In the not too distant future, the school darkroom will be available after school.

If the response shown at the enrolment meeting in September is continued and the outstanding subs paid, the school photographic society can look forward to a very healthy year.

N. C. Journet

THE WARGAMES CLUB

The past year was easily the most successful so far in the club's long and distinguished history. Despite Mr. Talbot's unfortunate illness (during which period Dr. Puritz took over the club—many thanks), the minor traumas experienced when we had to change the day of the meetings, and rivalry from that 'upstart' Military Society, the club has continued to flourish. Much of the blame for this must go to Mr. Talbot, who has an unbounding enthusiasm for the club (so it seems!). The club is now ruled by a 5-man committee, 3 members each representing different facets of wargaming, the other two being the general secretary and Mr. Talbot.

The Beard Wargames Competition was brought to a conclusion. This was organised by Von Rundstedt, so it will come as no surprise that he won. This proved financially beneficial not only to him, and the people who came 2nd and 3rd, but a number of other people (I still owe you 9p, Woodward!). This year the competition is better organised, and there is a special prize for the most proficient 2nd or 3rd Year gamer.

The Abdomen (Naval Section) also held a competition. For this Frank was democratically elected the winner, and he received the dubious prize of one year's free membership of the club. But this year they intend to have a real competition based on skill. There is again a prize, with a special one for 2nd and 3rd Years. They also hope to re-fight Jutland.

The Figure Wargames Section is having a competition at the time of the mock GCE Exams, so there will be no interfering 5th Formers around. There is again a prize.

The club meets on Tuesdays in the lunch-hour and after school in Room 18, so if you are fired with enthusiasm by this modest piece of prose, can stand 4th Formers, and don't mind the odd, paraplegic German Panzer Officer throwing an epileptic fit at your feet, perhaps this is the place for you!?!

'UGANDA' CRUISE

I'm glad I went on the cruise, I'm glad I went to Leningrad—not because it was the most beautiful and exciting city I've been to, but because it was the least so: the docks with their rusty cranes, the old cars, the dirty grey walls of the buildings, streets devoid of colour. It's always interesting to find out what somewhere mysterious and faraway is really like even if it doesn't live up to your expectations.

Fifteen from this school and the same number from Wellesbourne boarded the s.s. *Uganda* at Tilbury on 13th July at the start of an exciting and eventful cruise to the Baltic. Our dormitory was called Mungo Park, after the explorer, and before we could unpack we were called to dinner, served on metal trays with compartments for soup, dinner, pudding and bread roll. The meals were of an acceptable standard on the whole. Lights out was at 10.30, though I got no sleep that first night.

Our daily routine was six periods taken up with lectures, some very soporific, deck games and private study—table tennis or jukebox listening. In the evenings entertainments included discos, films, fancy dress, and with five hundred girls on board there were plenty to spare.

The first part was Copenhagen of which we saw only a little: we went round on our own in the morning and in the afternoon visited beautiful Fredericksburg Castle though the guide was uninspiring and the Americans too numerous.

Next came Leningrad, where the contrast between the town and the colourful house and gardens of Petrodvorets is unforgettable. Here several RGS boys failed to outwit the trick fountains and ended up rather wet.

Next day, Saturday, we reached Helsinki, the most beautiful city I have ever visited: everywhere clean and even the tower blocks were a pleasure to behold. The view from the tower by the Olympic Stadium could never be forgotten.

Lastly we visited Germany, saw the Border and some of us went on the beach. This was one of the few opportunities to buy alcohol. And so back to England and a long hot bath.

In Russia a party of Russian students came to the ship to look over it and give us some dazzling exhibitions of ballet dancing and singing, while one of our group was required to say a few words in Russian. Modesty forbids me to mention his name. Finally, do visit this captivating part of the world if you get the chance.

K. Whale

TIME'S TOO FAST

Look into their eyes.
Look long, look deep; see
soon, that deepness, that hardness:
You are the same.

We have reached the stern of this children's ship,
and are being pushed (with infinite patience, infinite
force) over the edge to the flat, empty ocean of men
below.

Forever beyond us is that unique contentment that
flowers, and so beautifully, only when ignorance's
pure brown soil is not sown with knowledge's
shallow, weedy but pretty green. 'So near and yet so
far'; gone from us, now, for eternity.

A. Stott (5SE)

SUMMER SNOW

During 1975 it was decided that the R.A.F. Section would mount an overseas expedition to Nauders Austria over the 1976 summer holiday. The expedition was to take the form of an exploration in a wild area which would qualify cadets taking part for awards in the Silver and Gold sections of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Thus a series of training exercises were carried out until at last, at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 15th July the party of 20 cadets and five staff, with kit loaded onto the buses, left school on the first leg of the trip to Dover. After a smooth Channel crossing and a 'mystery trip' across Belgium the party arrived at RAF Wildenrath in Germany. Here two days were spent, during which time a visit to Munchen-Gladbach gave a chance to see the German shops. During this stay time was taken to reorganise the packing of equipment in the vehicles and carry out essential servicing.

Next leg was to the Canadian Forces base at Soellingen near Baden-Baden where a squadron operating Starfighters, and an Armoured Battalion who gave the party a ride in an Armoured Personnel Carrier were visited. Hospitality included masses of food and an introduction to baseball.

Next stop was the American Special Forces base at Bad Tolz, south of Munich where the 'delights' included jumping in a simulated parachute trainer, abseiling down a 40 ft. tower and firing Armolite rifles. It was here that the only injury on the trip occurred, Ian Thomson grazed his elbow whilst playing football against some American Rangers on the camp site—he soon recovered. Bad Tolz Kaserne was the training centre for S.S. Officers during the Nazi regime, and looked it.

Finally we travelled to Nauders in Austria to be met by rain and our hosts, Sylvia and

Hubert Ortler who took us to the base camp site in the shadow of the local Schloss. The rain was to be our constant companion during our stay.

To acclimatise ourselves to the altitude and terrain some practice journeys were carried out. The first was to the point where Austria, Italy and Switzerland meet, known as the Drielandereckerstei, a sixteen mile trek which involved climbing higher than Snowdon. Another training exercise was taking part in the local Volksmarsche, completing the course qualified one for a medal which we all won.

The 'high' point of the visit was five days up in the mountains when we stayed in the Hohenzollern hutte and carried out exploration and surveys in the local area. On the final day a 10,000 ft. peak was scaled by the whole party.

Leaving a very wet Austria the American Air Force base at Ramstein was reached after ten hours' travel. Phantoms, helicopters and the Starfighter were among the aircraft types we visited and the dry weather enabled tents to be dried, buses to be cleaned out and repacked.

The final night was spent at RAF Wildenrath then, after a visit to RAF Laarbruch, a quick ride across Holland and Belgium to the Ferry. Arriving at Dover early in the morning, a fast ride across London and back at school by 9 a.m. on August 5th. An adventurous three weeks with no two days the same. Will we go again—did someone mention Turkey?

Many thanks to Flt. Lt. Smaje for organising the trip and to Dr. Fair, Mr. Webster, Ian and Cathy Jones and everyone else who came along and made the expedition a success.

C.P.S.



ABBEY CONFERENCE

On the first Saturday of half-term, October 23rd, a party of young gentlemen from the R.G.S. sixth form joined groups from Radley, Harrow, Leighton Park and Bloxham's schools at a conference at Wycombe Abbey on 'The Role of the Media'. The three eminent and informative lecturers were Charles Wintour, editor of the *Evening Standard*, Ian Trethowan, Director of BBC Television and Richard Hornby, Director of the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency.

At the end of each lecture there was a time for questions which were all fairly and fully answered, though on one occasion Mr. Wintour answered a question with the word 'No' and sat down amidst laughter. When the chairman asked if there were more questions, the young lady rose to her feet and asked for an expanded answer, which was then provided.

There was a session for group discussion, then a full session where the group leaders reported—some with well polished speeches which had possibly been prepared beforehand, some, like John Dicker, who with hesitant honesty tried to report the various arguments and discussions of their groups.

The day was punctuated with coffee and meal breaks, culminating in a buffet supper, and we were all made to feel very welcome, even members of staff suffering from guilt feelings at having nothing to do except listen to expert speakers and intelligent questioners, and live in unaccustomed luxury for a day.

J. Fowler was left, at 7.30, in the company of half a dozen girls, looking very much at home. Has he been seen since?

J.M.

SENSATION

Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends—or maybe it just seems that way with this new band. Yes, music lovers, this is the greatest phenomenon to hit the rock world since Nana Mouskouri — 'Different' (N.M.E.). Yeah, you've guessed it, we are talking about ELECTRIC LEGEND—featuring Dave 'ace on the bass' Poskett, Geoff 'it's just one of my off-days' Heels, Mike 'Mercury' Ward, Adrian 'there goes another string' Paull, in the capable hands of Graeme 'Mr 90%' Roberts. See 'LEGEND LIVE'—Hammersmith Odeon Car Park, Dec. 24th.

THE FOOL

You say
I play the fool too much
I don't really think that's true.
You say
Everybody kicks a fool;
Well then, why don't you?

C. E. J. Sinden

SCHOOL HOUSE REPORT

When you have finished thumbing through the pages of your last 'Wycombeano' editions seeking the ever-popular School House report, an apology is in order. I am sorry to say that I succumbed to the numbness of brain caused by A levels.

Well, we are back again now and, lest you become bored and cease reading, the most important facts must be mentioned first. Mr. Skipp, Mr. White-Taylor and Mrs. Symonds have continued the good work, and the boarding house is running well. Mrs. Ross, our new matron, who takes over Mrs. Verling's post, started her job with a two week holiday. Though it was part of her contract we hope she has not started as she means to continue! We are indebted to Mrs. Stubbs for taking over during those two weeks. The weekend domestics have been renewed, and are nearly highly efficient. Chris George and Alastair Diack are the two in question.

The House, as usual, contributes well to school sport, hockey apparently being the best represented. Rugby comes second, and

here we must mention Chas 'Huggy' Holmes, the full-time 2nd XV linesman. Keep it up, Chas, but remain at all times unbiased, even if you do get an extra cake if we win. Chris Carpenter claims to be captain of badminton, and vice-captain of hockey and basketball. J. D. still has the unrefuted claim to being the captain of vice for the second year running.

The building itself needs a mention. It still stands, surprisingly. There was an occasion when water cascaded down the outside walls, plaster fell from the ceilings and windows broke at the slightest impact with tennis balls. Mr. Skipp continues tirelessly to put up with and rectify all these problems, though it drains boarding house funds. Despite the recent spate of public inconveniences our motto is not, 'let us all splash out.'

One last thing: Austin McNally is back, but without his electronic wizardry. Perhaps we can work in peace.

Andrew Pillidge and Neil Diack

UPLYME HOUSE REPORT

Last term we were glad to hear of numerous exam. successes with A. D. Jones, I. H. Price and J. D. Preston attaining good passes at 'A' level and N. Featonby at 'O' level. It was with a sad heart that we bade farewell to five second year sixth-formers, A. J. Hotchkiss of 55, and John Ward, who left to become a day-boy. We would all like to wish them well in their respective colleges and hope that Hotchkiss and Haugh are enjoying their Army careers.

We are pleased to welcome back A. D. Jones who will be staying until half-term to apply for a place at Birmingham University, to read Geography. For the rest of this year Alun will be doing social work in Botswana.

We have seven new boys at Uplyme, and they are quickly adapting to boarding house life.

As usual, we were fully represented in

School teams last term, with Ian Price playing cricket for the 1st XI, Martyn Cover, Neil Featonby and Alun Jones, for the 2nd XI, and lower in the School, Nicholas Morris also reached a high standard in the U.14 cricket team. Alun Jones was swimming captain and Daryl Phillips also swam for the School. A. J. Hotchkiss was part of the successful District Athletics team.

In addition the 'George Bests of Uplyme' beat School House convincingly towards the end of term to round off what must be considered a very good and fruitful year for the house.

It remains for me to thank Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs for their hard work throughout this and last term, especially in preparing an excellent Barbecue evening, and to thank Mr. Edwards for his constant efforts.

N. Featonby

CCF NOTES

ARMY SECTION REPORT

This summer started off with a weekend camp for third-formers at Longmoor training area, which, despite the very hot weather, was enjoyed by all.

Then, only a matter of a few weeks later, came the annual training camp at Cwm Gwddi, in the Brecon Beacons, which was the last camp under command of RSM K. Haugh (who, incidentally, has done a marvellous job for the Army Section). It was under his and Mr. R. D. Harry's supervision that the camp was pitched (also, thanks must be given to the Advance party). However, as always, there was a crowded schedule to be carried out, which included rock-climbing, canoeing, two map-reading and military night exercises, a series of initiative tests, lectures on camouflage, first aid and survival, and a two-day expedition in rather adverse conditions. Then came the range day, and when two 'volunteers' had run up the sides of the valley to put up the red 'danger' flags, shooting began. The Army Section 'prize' recruit (Bell) then proceeded to devote his time (and ammunition) to exterminating the Welsh flora and fauna! All in all the third-formers handled the activities remarkably well.

During the Autumn term, there were two weekend expeditions, the first to the Black Mountains, when there was a 50-50 chance of *not* going, due to lack of transport, but, despite this difficulty, everybody still wanted to go. A few days later, the problem was

solved, and so everything ran smoothly.

Then, two weeks later, there was an expedition for bad weather conditions (30 to 40 m.p.h. winds and heavy rain). Moreover, the three-day Expedition turned out to be a very enjoyable experience for all concerned.

Of course, all these activities don't organise themselves, for people such as Lt. Colonel R. Pattinson, Major F. N. Cooper and Captain R. Hollingsworth plan them, and we would like to thank them for all their hard work in doing so. Also, these activities were hungry and thirsty work, so Bill and Walter obliged by preparing for us large and wonderful meals, not to mention 'Bill's Bar'.

We would like to thank Messrs. R. D. Harry, R. J. Wallen and T. Boron for their valuable guidance, Mr. S. Woodman and Captain R. Hollingsworth for the camping instruction, and last, but not in any way least, the cadets themselves, without whom the camp would not have been much fun!

We are pleased to announce that recently everyone in 'A' Platoon passed their proficiency drill test. Well done!

Another very important piece of information is that there have been two Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. The Bronze party expedition was in the New Forest, whilst the Gold party was in the Brecon Beacons; both of these were successful.

CSM P. G. S. Hornsby

R.A.F. SECTION

Last term's work was dominated by preparations for the expedition to Austria but there was still plenty of time for the usual summer activities. The weather was perfect for the Chipmunk Flying at RAF Abingdon and the Grasshopper was seen flashing around the sports field on Thursday afternoons. Some conveyor track with rollers is now used to reduce friction when the glider is launched, with spectacular results. The Grasshopper's moment of glory came on Speech Day when it flew for 137 metres in the 'How far will it fly?' competition.

During the summer holidays Cpls. Curtis and Hill earned their gliding wings. Cpl. Curtis managed to get onto the Advanced course which is usually reserved for ATC cadets. Well done.

Fl.Sgt. Preece carried out his Flying Scholarship Award at Chichester Flying Club and has been awarded his wings and Private Pilot's licence.

So far this term we have managed some .303 shooting at RAF Halton, an adventure weekend in the Black Mountains and Chipmunk flying at Abingdon. During Half Term

U/O Peter Browne, Warrant Officer Phil Brown, Cadets Smaje, Wilks and Wilson spent a week at RAF Lossiemouth as the guests of No. 8 Squadron. They managed to get flights in Nimrod and Shackleton aircraft during their stay as well as some pistol shooting.

Ice skating changed its venue to Queensway where we found the bus occupied two parking meter spaces.

Mr. Earl of the Physics Department was a welcome guest on our trip to the Black Mountains and we look forward to his company on more of our outings.

Finally I must thank Fl/Lt's Smaje and Sollars, Fl/Off. Dr. Fair, Fl/Sgt Heath and Mr. Earl for making all the above activities possible.

Under Officer P. Browne

Note: Under Officer Peter Browne has been accepted by the Royal Air Force for commissioning in the Fighter Control Branch. He expects to enter the Service next August.

C.P.S.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The latest news from the improbable mariners of the RGS is, firstly, that we exist, and, secondly, that under the leadership of Sub-Lt. Hornsby our range of activities is ever widening.

Last summer the section went on its second course aboard H.M.S. *Aveley* inside a year. The course lasted for a week while the *Aveley*, an inshore minesweeper, was acting as guardship for Fowey Regatta. As those of you who know anything about Regattas will realise, our duties consisted mainly of sitting out at anchor in the middle of the harbour and making tea for the Regatta officials. We did, however, get a good chance to practise some boatwork.

Several parties were taken to sea for the day by private boat owners who volunteered to give us an insight into the pleasures of yacht cruising. As most of us hadn't been sailing in anything larger than a dinghy up to then, it was quite an experience to lie back and let the yacht sail leisurely on for hour after hour. A fair amount of fishing was also enjoyed on these trips and we were never short of mackerel. A raft was constructed for the raft race, although only Staff Sgt. Hornsby managed to try it out in battle against the assembled flotillas of craft from Fowey. Other boating activities were largely limited to tearing around the harbour in the ship's dory, but a good time was had by all and we've a little certificate to prove it.

Down at Longridge we have attained a new dignity with the renovation of our **sixteen foot** motor boat. This is quite a good little craft when we can get it going; however we were plagued by battery trouble all summer and so did not get anything like full service from it. Also at Longridge we gave the new recruits what was, for some, their first taste of boatwork. Most seemed to enjoy it and we look forward to the resumption of boating after Easter.

At present the A.B. and L/S training programmes are under way and we hope that we will get a greater L/S success rate than last year when only a few cadets became qualified.

At the time of writing course lists have not yet arrived, but we hope to have them by the time this goes to press: there will be a chart on the notice board showing the courses available at R.N. and R.M. establishments. It is hoped that all cadets will take advantage of these excellent courses and apply for at least one, they are by far the

best activity that the R.N. C.C.F. offers and give you a chance to leave ordinary cadet work behind and learn a little of how the real Navy operates. A little note for those who yearn after promotion, you must have gone on one of these courses if you are to be considered for L/S.

That just about sums it all up, except for the usual moan about our poor shooting performance. I know we always come third, but out of three sections it isn't exactly wonderful. Therefore if any R.N. cadet thinks he is any good with a rifle could he bring it to my notice. We are also hoping that the standard of marching will improve this year, the comments about 'thalidomide' coming in too often last year. On the brighter side we have at last got a qualified Power Cox in P.O. Chalmers,, a new leader in the form of Cox'n Fenner and we are looking forward to a new season of training with the senior rates taking a greater part in the teaching.

P.O. Maynard

A POEM SO . . .

A host of balloons danced into the sky—
Laughing carefree at the dull earth
Reaching out to touch the sun
With once immortal hands.

A girl watches them, flies with them
Rising and falling as her long blond hair
Stretches over the sad receding lands.

And as a fisherman draws his catch to shore
So I dragged the girl and her heavens into this
 searching heart
And left untouched the world for which I truly sought.

Steven Parker

YOU ARE

You are my inspiration—
You're the reason why I write,
You're the reason why I paint
Why I cannot sleep at night

You're the reason why my eyes
Are always looking to inside
You're the reason I'm not searching
For somewhere else to hide.

LONDON 1976

'Dona nobis Pacem'

Fireworks crack against the sky
Spluttering red, blue, silver
Above the shifting waters—
The Thames drags itself along like a beggar without
 legs.

This Earth has become a Purgatory
With wild men and shadows
Walking out of dreams
To beat you up on the streets
Leaving you convulsed and bleeding.

The rain falls grey and smelling of sulphur;
But the old man with his mouth-organ
Plays on—
Even through the rain
Soaks his clothes and drowns the captive notes.

This Earth has become a Purgatory.
'And it was as if we were being punished not for
 sinning
But for simply BEING.'
A telegraph pole stands against the sky
Like a cross—
'There is no peace.'

J. P. Sanders

GUNFIGHT IN DEAD MAN'S CORRIDOR

Hear my tale of ancient duels
And of two fighters famed ;
Simon Offord and Mick Hobbs
These two men were named.

Now Michael, who as Mick was known,
Made a vengeful plan
He wanted to meet evil Offord
And fight him man-to-man.

On Thursday noon Mick set off,
No gun was in his hand,
Followed by a small posse,
A spectating band.

Offord sat in Five Why's saloon
Having a midday rest,
'Til Mick arrived and showed himself
To stir up a hornet's nest.

Offord stood up, dropped his gun,
Then strode across the floor
Right across the expectant room
To Mick, standing by the door.

Mick threw in his saddle bag
But Offord stood his ground,

Then he turned his back on Mick
But Mick, he turned him round.

Offord then put up his fists,
Mick he punched him hard.
Then Offord struck out at Mick
And caught him off his guard.

Then Mick struck back
And he gave his all,
With his foot he kicked him hard
And Offord hit the wall.

Offord fell back, held his head,
He really looked quite ill
But Mick did not seem to care
As he went in for the kill.

Sherriff Wilson then arrived
And stopped the bitter fray,
Both of them he grabbed at once
And hauled them both away.

Offord soon was seen again,
But poor old Mick was hung
For he was never seen again :
And so my song is sung.

P. Laureate

WHAT WE HAD TO DO

In the English lesson on Thursday afternoon, our English master, asked us to write a composition of our own choice. We had to complete it for Friday's homework.

I got out my rough book and, biro poised, thought, 'What on earth could I write about?'

First I thought about asking Mr. Kempson if I could write a poem instead, or, or socks! I also even thought of different makes of schoolmasters, but I didn't think that would be much good.

Then I thought of writing a story about a modification of a poem, like 'When Old Mother Hubbard got stuck in the Cupboard! . . .' No, no! That would never do!

Then I thought of doing a sort of short documentary about, er, um, well, er, the quality of different makes of saucepans, or, or socks! I also even thought of different makes of schoolmasters, but I didn't think that would be much good.

On Friday evening I settled down to think some more about the subject I could write on. I thought for a long time about subjects and here are some of my thoughts:—

'How about football? No, don't like football. I know, fireworks! I wonder what we're having for supper. Er, fruit, food, or better still cooking! Now there's a good one, no, too long. Teapots! Teapots

to you an' all, mate! Oh, I don't know, think I'll go and watch telly!'

This got me nowhere at all, except a half full waste paper basket! So, on Saturday afternoon, I thought yet more on this troublesome subject.

Ah! Yes! Jokes! How about that one, 'Why aren't the Irish sending any rockets to the moon this year? Because they can't find a bottle big enough to put the stick in!' No, no good.

'Making a wooden spoon,' I thought, 'Constructing a paragraph!' I just could not think of a subject to write about.

Here's a good one, 'Aeroplanes.' No, 'Cars.' No. 'Bicycles.' And you!

Oh! This is no good. I've got it! How about thinking back to a few years ago, back to some of the subjects we had to write on then.

This seemed a good idea, so I thought on:—'How to make relations mad!' No. 'What pleases my mummy.' Definitely not.

All this only led to one thing:—

SOLUTION—I've done it!

So I sat down and wrote my composition in rough. Then Dad said, 'Right, now write it.'

So I did.

R.S.-S. (3F)

SPORTS REPORTS

1st XI CRICKET

Played 17 Won 4 Lost 5 Drawn 9
(abandoned 2)

As the record shows, it was a disappointing summer for the 1st XI. A mature eleven failed to live up to its promise. It was June 26th and the 11th match before the first victory was gained and, although three further victories were gained, there were, frustratingly, three further defeats.

The first five games were all drawn; four of them could and, in truth, ought to have been won. One later draw was a huge moral victory and one later match ought never to have been lost. The team was capable of far more than it achieved.

It should be remembered, however, that the difficulties for any school cricket team these days do not make for successful cricket. In the end these difficulties come from one source: money.

The economics of modern education are against the game. (a) Groundsmen are underpaid and hard to find. (b) Equipment cost is prohibitive. (c) Boys are understandably compelled to make exam. qualifications their first priority. Cricket match play and practice is time-consuming and time spent on cricket is time lost on O- and A-level work.

1976 was a struggle. For much of the season we were without a groundsman. Although the post is now filled, from the cricketing point of view many difficulties remain. The reason: lack of adequate finance. As far as equipment goes, in the past we have been fortunate, but we began to struggle this summer. It is almost impossible for boys to learn the game without enough of the right equipment and it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide this.

In direct and indirect ways these problems undoubtedly had an effect on our 1st XI cricket this summer, and the situation is

likely to worsen, yet it would be churlish to suggest that the season did not have pleasing and positive features despite all this.

Pride of place must go to Paul Dolphin, who in an amazing second half of term scored 591 runs at an average of 84.4! His 141 against Emanuel was the finest school-boy innings that I have seen in a school match. Tim Russell, also in the second half of term, scored 383 runs at an average of 42.6. Against St. Benedict's their opening partnership was worth 164; against Sir Wm. Borlase they made 224 without loss in less than 33 overs—an astonishing performance.

Vice-captain Howard Thomas scored a hard-hitting century against High Wycombe 'A' and averaged nearly 30 for the season. However, no one else in the team made an individual score of over 35, although Ian Price deserves credit for some sound knocks and averaged almost 20 for the season.

Captain Charles Lloyd had a wretched season with the bat and several others, although occasionally playing valuable innings, disappointed on the whole.

The bowling lacked penetration; this, however, we had fully expected. Richard Allison took 31 wickets and at times bowled well but did not fulfil expectations. Paul Dickinson, next season's captain, was the most consistent bowler—34 wkts at 15.06 and leg-spinner David Poskett showed genuine promise.

The fielding was variable, though on the whole reasonable. At times Tim Russell, the wicket-keeper, was outstanding, and Ian Price held some fine catches (13 in all) at slip. Charles Lloyd, Mark Jordan, Paul Dickinson and Howard Thomas also took the eye from time to time, although to suggest that others did not would be false.



The spirit of the side was, in view of all the travails, reasonable and it was extremely pleasant, at the end of the season, to hear some of them say how much they had enjoyed their cricket. May they continue to do so!

Colours awarded in '76:—Full colours: P. N. Dickinson and I. H. Price; Half-colours: D. A. Poskett, M. A. Jordan, D. S. Heal, R. J. F. Shaw, S. J. Stinchcombe, M. Woodbridge, C. Carpenter, S. J. Highton and M. Redwood.

S.R.G.

2nd XI CRICKET

Won 4 Drawn 4 Lost 3

The season started badly with two consecutive defeats against Tiffin by 57 runs, and against Oxford by 5 wickets. The team came back though to defeat Hampton by 7 wickets with C. Hoggett scoring 49 not out. The match against St. Bartholomews proved to be very exciting as they were dismissed for 122, with M. Jordan taking 4 for 30, and in reply we scored 93 for 9 with C. Hoggett scoring 41 and S. Highton 21 not out, and so gaining a draw. Then came an easy 5 wicket victory over Bennkison in which M. Jordan took 5 for 23 and S. Stinchcombe scoring 33 and D. Heal taking 5 for 50. Then came a crushing 10 wicket victory over local rivals Sir William Borlase, thanks to a good spell of bowling by M. Jordan who took 8 for 15. The next game was a good draw against Abingdon with S. Highton scoring 41, M. Redwood 29 and J. Shaw 20 not out, and M. Redwood taking 3 for 15. Against Emanuel, however, we suffered our third defeat despite good batting by M. Woodbridge 22, M. Cover 27 and M. Redwood 21 not out. The home side got the 113 needed for victory for the loss of only 6 wickets with D. Neal taking 4 for 49. Then followed an easy 6 wicket victory over Queen Elizabeth Barnet with D. Heal taking 4 for 46, J. Shaw 2 for 7 and M. Redwood 2 for 5, and M. Woodbridge scoring 36. The

final match was against St. Nicholas 1st XI, but we managed to force a draw.

The main reason for the 2nd XI having such a good season was the willingness of everybody to take part and as a result the fielding proved to be extremely good by 2nd XI standards as catches were held (very unusual). Many stars were also found during the season such as Stewart 'Slogger' Highton, who managed to prop up the team on numerous occasions with his own slow way, Martin Cover, who was reputed to be a stroke-playing batsman, and Alan Jones, fast bowler extraordinaire. The bowling relied to a large extent on Dave Heal and Mark Jordan, and even 'Stan', whose off-spin proved too much for some batsmen. Thanks are due to Messrs. File and Gibson for their running of the team.

S. Highton headed the batting with an average of 28.75; M. Jordan bowled 30.4 overs and took 17 wickets at an average of 5.58; D. Heal bowled 101.1 overs, taking 24 wickets at an average of 12.25.

UNDER 14 CRICKET

Won 3 Drawn 4 Lost 7

The team didn't have the best of seasons with three matches won, but two of the four drawn games were very nearly turned into victories.

The outstanding member of the team was the opening batsman and bowler, David King. He scored over 200 runs and took 20 wickets with his best figures 8 for 23. Of the other batsman, Morris and Jordan put in many consistent performances.

Gardner, an off-break bowler, topped the bowling averages and Nagle took the most wickets with some impressive swing bowling.

Other regular members of the team were Baxter, Parks, Evans (wicket-keeper), Baldwin and Carpenter. Smith, Barry, Bull and Wadsworth also played on occasions.

Many thanks to Messrs. Edwards and Earl for making it an enjoyable season's cricket.

A. M. Baxter

FENCING

Fencing has received a boost this year from the extra training sessions made available during the week. Consequently, it has been possible to accommodate nearly 60 boys, using the 15 full sets of equipment we possess, in a shift system.

The extra numbers have undoubtedly improved standards by putting pressure upon the veterans to work for their team places. Apart from that, it is a good feeling, being able to pick teams rather than scrape around for fencers to 'make up the numbers'.

The county under 16 foil championships final went very much to form with Speed just out of the medals in 4th place. Laidler did well to get to the semi-finals and Vladar returned from Eton determined to do a bit more training.

The under 18 and under 14 county championships came up a few days after this report was written. Mike Owen's sudden disappearance to Australia left the under 18 entries to just Malcolm Noblett and Martin Radvan. Seven third formers made up an under 14 squad whose obvious tactics were to swamp the competition making up with quantity what was lacked in quality.

As far as the matches were concerned, the 100% record of the last few years has been maintained. Against Reading School an under 15 team held their opponents well, while the first team led by Mike Owen overwhelmed Reading, thus giving us the match. Against Radley, roles were reversed. It was the second team—under 16 this time—who took their opponents apart leaving the first team to hang on for a 3—5 defeat. In fact the firsts never finished their match as

Owen retired with a broken thumb after a clash of guards. But the match result still went our way.

Doubtless our record of victories will disappear when we fence Oxford University later this term.

Finally, Mike Owen's departure leaves a gap that will not be easily filled. He was a good captain—taking the social side in his stride and fighting hard in matches. We wish him luck 'down under' and hope that fencing has strengthened his right arm ready for the strains of Australia's national sport.

The following represented the school:

U18. Owen, Noblett, Radvan.

U16. Speed, Laidler, Vladar.

U15. Mole, Orchard, Bezer.

U14. Wilkes, Scott, Ireland, Duncan, Welch, Sendall, Clark.

J.R.

FENCING—ADDENDUM—

At the under 18 and under 14 county championships (13th Nov.), Noblett and Radvan reached the semi-finals at under 18 level while Wilkes, Sendall and Ireland, in the under 14 competition, also reached the semi-finals. Then in the final, Ireland was placed second and Sendall fourth. This was the best performance by any school at under 14 level.

Noblett and Radvan have been awarded full colours and the new officials, following Owen's 'disappearance' at half term, are: Noblett (capt.), Radvan (vice-capt.), Speed (sec.), Laidler (U16 capt.), Mole (U15 capt.), Ireland (U14 capt.).

J.R.

BOAT CLUB

After a cold and, alas, fruitless winter's training, nobody in the Boat Club was sorry when warmer weather arrived, heralding the beginning of the Regatta season. After the traumas of the Heads, the 1st IV (Mark Sinden, Tim Airey, Andy Tyler, Alan Cardy and Trevor Dibb), with rowing improved and hopes high, went to Wallingford Regatta and lost in the first round.

After a few choice comments and many instructive words, competition was resumed at Gloucester amongst the sewage of its aesthetic canal. There was a strong wind blowing down the course, whipping up some quite large waves, but this caused surprisingly little trouble. After dismissing early opposition, the 1st IV found themselves facing the 2nd IV who had qualified through the repêchage. This created an awkward situation: two crews and one boat. The 2nd IV were donated an unfamiliar committee boat: no prizes for guessing the result. The final provided some stiff opposition from St. Edward's, Oxford, but in a close race, we ran out winners by three-quarters of a length.

With renewed confidence, we continued our programme, but met with immediate lack of success, despite an excursion into light-weight rowing at Cambridge. And so to our second trip to the West Country, this time to Hereford, which provided more pleasant surroundings than Gloucester, but also gave us a problem. Our coxes were all on holiday or dying of the plague. As a result, Mark Sinden coxed the 2nd IV, when he wasn't rowing, and Simon Calvert the 1st IV, also when he wasn't rowing. In blazing sun, and against mediocre opposition, both crews reached their finals, which wasn't very popular with the Regatta organisation. After some 'full and frank discussion', however, the 2nd IV raced and lost, the 1st IV were late to start, so were their opposition, Queens' Park High School, Chester, and the race began. An easy win (we were a length and more up at half-way), then turned into a desperately close race which we won by two feet, providing the first, and as yet only, win in our new shell IV (recently known as 'Sir Harry . . .'). It also gave Simon

Calvert an unexpected tankard. That'll teach you to go on holiday, T. Dibb.

After this life returned to its ugly normal: our showing at the National Schools' Regatta was decidedly inauspicious; even if conditions were rough, we were a light crew (and all the other excuses), not to reach the final was a disaster, particularly when our friends from Sir W. Borlase did. (Thinks: I *must* put on two stone immediately), Reading Town regatta was not a lot better: with two suffering from sunstroke (or so he said), we lost in the first round.

While all this was going on, the Under 16 / Colts IV had been progressing steadily, and their rather depressing sequence of 'gallant defeats' belied their potential. Their moment of glory came, though, when in the deluge at Stratford-on-Avon, they convincingly defeated all-comers. This was only our second-ever J.16 win, and it heralded the rise to power of the Colts 'A' crew. By the end of the season, they proved, in training, to be as fast as the 1st IV. (Sorry, Mark Sinden, I tried to warn you. I.A.B.)

And so 'life's rich pattern' continues. Another winter's training in the gym and at Marlow surges into being. Two crews this year contend for the title of '1st IV', but on present form, and unless the run of injuries and absenteeism is broken soon, I fear 'Sir Harry' (Mark Coburn, Dan Havard, Pete Amos, Mike Jolly, Trevor Dibb, Old Uncle Tom Cobbleigh, oh, sorry, not him) may defeat their friends in 'No Sweat' (Andy Tyler, Peter Horsnby, Alan Cardy, Richard Dalton and Chris Sinden). However, the recent sponsored row looks like being a great success, raising over £120. We also have a large number of new combatants, currently suffering on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as they learn that 'rowing *is* good for you.'

As always, thanks must go to Mr. Blyth for his dedication, enthusiasm, and unconcealed sadism, which keeps us plugging away all the time, and also to Mr. Ferris, whose efforts often go unmentioned: this year, I'm sure, his crew will experience as much success as the 'other one.'

A. J. Tyler

ATHLETICS

Once again the school was seen to excel at athletics at all levels this year.

In the School Sports there were many fine performances with new records going to N. Smith—2nd form 800 metres, S. Harding—3rd form shot, R. Mole—3rd form pole vault. The individual championships went to W. Blaby (Junior Colts), G. Davies (Colts), B. Morgan (Senior Colts) and E. Will (Open).

In the District Sports the school took the overall trophy for the third year in succession and achieved a total of nine first places. Special mention should be made of N. Smith who not only broke the 2nd form 100 metres record but also set up a new district 1500 metres record with a time of 5 minutes, 6.3 seconds.

At county level our athletes again performed well in very poor conditions at Wolverton, gaining 7 first places, 5 seconds 3 thirds. B. Morgan did well with a time of 2 minutes, 8.7 seconds.

For the third year in succession J. Key was selected to compete for the county in the All England Schools Championships at Cannock in the 400 metres hurdles. After winning his heat he proceeded to the final where he was placed fourth in a time of 55.6.

In external competition J. Hoy and J. Key both ran well for Wycombe Phoenix Harriers' senior team with J. Hoy setting up records in 1500 metres and 5000 metres and J. Key in 400 metres hurdles and 110 metres hurdles. J. Key was also selected to represent the Southern Counties and was chosen to attend the Junior Olympic camps.

Full colours were awarded to J. Hoy, C. Morrish and J. Key.

Finally, my thanks to Mr. Stubbs for all his help this season, not only in an administrative capacity but also in competition for Wycombe Phoenix.

J. Key

RIFLE CLUB

This year the team did well, winning all of our postal matches, which were against Boston, Bristol and Maidstone Grammar schools. The 'A' team also attained the excellent position of fortieth, out of one hundred, in the Class 'A' Country Life C.C.F. shooting competition. The 'B' team did very well, by coming eleventh out of forty-five in the Class 'B' and against some very tough opposition.

We were very sorry to lose several of our high-scoring members, at the end of the summer, but we have some good shots to replace them. I would also like to congratulate Paul Trendall, who was recently selected for the National Squad.

It leaves me to thank Mr. Pattinson, Mr. Smaje, Mr. Sollars and Dr. Fair without whom it would not be possible to continue shooting.

M-F. Hill

LAWN TENNIS

Played 9 Won 2 Lost 7

The 1st XI had a disappointing season, winning only two of its nine matches. C. Morrish (capt.) and P. Morrish outclassed almost all their opponents, losing only five sets all season. However, the team did not win a match until late in the season when it was strengthened by the inclusion of two experienced members of the Colts VI, S. Lever and B. Morgan.

On a more optimistic note, next season should prove to be far more successful as we shall still have five players with regular 1st VI experience.

The following boys played for the 1st team:—C. Morrish, P. Morrish, R. Edwards, M. Fallows, S. Lever, B. Morgan, P. Chapman, N. Journet, K. Jouhar, S. McKendrick.

P. G. Raymond

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

The senior team, at the time of going to press, are still without a win, but it is certainly not for the want of trying. John Hoy sets a superb example and as the likes of Forrester, Ernest and Law continue to improve, the future looks promising indeed. It has been very pleasing to see the enthusiasm in the younger members of the school which has resulted in the arranging of fixtures against Borlase, Desborough, Slough Grammar and a visit to the Waddesdon Open. Thursday afternoon training sessions have been very well attended by boys in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years and it is hoped that they will continue in the Spring Term as soon as the dark nights recede.

J.J.W

FIVES

Fives has only recently been restored as a school-team game and that has come about through the efforts of Mr. Learmonth. And so, although great success has not (yet) come our way—we've lost some and gained some (and I'm sure we've lost more than we've gained)—the sport is beginning to flourish in the lower years, especially with the development of form-competitions, and it promises to have an interesting and profitable future. Despite a couple of cracked-up courts and the odd hole in fives gloves (OUCH); despite teams not turning up and some unmentionable PERSON collecting his own hoard of fives balls; despite innumerable squabbles about rules and butter-fights in the school minibus—despite all this (and much more!) it has been an enjoyable time. Visits to Eton and the lovely 18th century mansion at Stowe are, after all, not to be sneezed at. So I would like to thank Geoffrey Lewis, B. Bonham, H. Atkins (I wish you the best of luck as next fives captain), Jamie, Steeve(!!) Crook, Hannan, and many others for playing and, above all, say thank you to Mr. Learmonth for all the time and effort he has spent in re-establishing the game.

Steven Parker

SAILING CLUB

The club has been very active this season; we started by sending four boats to the weekends of trials for the Bucks Schools' Sailing Association to select a team to go to the National Schools' Championships—this year to have been held at Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire. All four boats, sailed by Stephen Gray, Philip Gray, Michael Davies and Peter and Paul Davies, were selected for the team of six boats. However we were to be disappointed as the Nationals were cancelled as Pitsford had dried up and it was too late to change the venue.

In the autumn term the Bucks Schools' Sailing Association held their open championships, and R.G.S. sent five boats. The team took the championship by storm, taking the first three places in very light winds. P. Gray became Bucks open champion with minimum points, Graeme Ellis runner-up and Peter and Paul Davies third.

We hope, during the winter, to show a series of sailing films in preparation for our attack on next year's national championships.

P. Gray

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS CLUB

DEATHS

Staff

C. K. HILLARD Esq., M.A. (1960–64) suddenly on November 4th 1976 at Old House Cottage, North Dean, High Wycombe, aged 76 years.

Mr. Charles Kenneth Hillard came to teach Chemistry at the School when he retired from Eton in 1960. He brought with him a special quality which inspired great respect and affection in all who knew him. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Margaret Hillard, a son Anthony and a daughter Jennifer.

Old Boys

J. D. BAVIN (1904–09), peacefully on April 8th 1976, aged 81 years.

John Dunstan Bavin always looked forward to receiving *The Wycombiansian* which he read with enjoyment and great pride in his old school. He leaves a widow Mrs. G. E. Bavin who lives at 28 Seafield Park Road, Fareham, Hants.

R. M. ELEY (1961–69) on November 5th 1976 as a result of a car accident, aged 26 years.

Roger Martin Eley was a keen member of the R.A.F. section and was awarded a Flying Scholarship. He went to Loughborough University of Technology and gained a B.Tech. in Industrial Engineering Management in 1975. We extend our deepest sympathy to his parents in their tragic loss.

P. E. M. SLATTER (1922–28) on June 8th 1976, in hospital, aged 64 years.

Philip Ernest Myrton Slatter was a fine athlete and gained colours for cricket, soccer and rugby. He was an electrical engineer employed by the Southern Electricity Board. When he died he was in a high position at the depot in Yarnton, Oxford.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Monica Slatter and one son Nigel—and a stepson Robin Carey.

NOTES

Staff

The Rev. A. M. BERRY (1914–33). Older Old Boys, especially boarders who were boarded out with the Rev. and Mrs. Berry, will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Berry died recently. Mr. Berry died in 1967, aged 94 years.

T. S. ELIOT, A.M. (Harvard) (1915). An extract from *T. S. Eliot, A Memoir* by Robert Sencourt:

'There happened to be a vacancy at £140 a year at a fine old grammar school in High Wycombe. Already in 1915 it was in a position of dignity under a remarkable headmaster George Arnison. His portrait in the school hall shows a man with keen blue eyes that could pierce the secret recesses of boys' characters. The thirteen weeks that Tom (T. S. Eliot) spent teaching at Wycombe Royal Grammar School were an essential element in his life. He thus entered into direct contact with boys brought up against the English background of class and religion. The stamp which this type of education gives was something he had escaped in his American schools.'

G. A. GRANT (1918–58). Mr. Grant is well over 80 years of age and pretty fit. He loves visits, especially from former colleagues and Old Boys.

S. MORGAN (1930–72). Mr. Morgan celebrated his 70th birthday in right royal fashion recently.

Old Boys

ARMSTRONG, S. R. (1968–75) completed a year of study at the Royal College of Music before going up to Queen's, Cambridge, in October 1976. His friend G. J. PHILBRICK (1972–75) had an interesting summer holiday job—he acted as verger in Winchester Cathedral. Another keen member of the Music Society, R. A. SEARLE (1969–76) occupied his time in the summer before going to University

- playing the organ at the Chiltern crematorium for the very many services they have there daily.
- BEDFORD, P. N. (1969–76) is at Oxford Polytechnic doing a one year Accountancy Foundation Course. He will probably join Thornton Baker in London afterwards
- BLUNDELL, M. V. (1973–75) is back from West Province, Kenya, where he taught English Language and Literature to 'O' Level for a year. Last Easter he took part in the East African Safari Rally (at a check point—not driving). He came back to school recently to promote Project Trust which sent him to Kenya.
- BROCKLEHURST, C. R. (1962–68) qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1974 whilst working for a substantial City private practice. He remained in the West End office until October 1976 but then accepted an appointment in the Property Management Division of Shell U.K. Ltd. as a Senior Surveyor—Special Projects. His particular job is the interpretation and application of the Development Land Tax and Community Land Act. In London he sees F. C. DUCKWORTH (1964–67) who is a civil engineer working on (and under, since he is a trained diver) the Thames Barrier.
- N. B. ANDERSON (1962–68), another civil engineer, used to share a house with Duckworth but is now in Zanzibar setting up a concrete plant using coral as an aggregate.
- BURNS, J. (1970–75). D/Cdt. Burns works for Mobil Shipping. On the *Mobil Endurance* he visited Curacao, Texas City and Corpus Christi—now on the *Santucket* he has been on the Naples, Dakar, West Africa, Lagos run. He comes home soon to go to college for 6 months.
- CARRICK, J. C. (1943–51) is Master in Charge of Latin at Mayfield Comprehensive School in Portsmouth. There are 1700 pupils, 360 enter each year. To make life complicated the school is on a split site.
- CHADWICK, J. W. M. (1967–75) is proud of the fact that next to Eton, Westminster and Winchester, the R.G.S. has most Old Boys at Christ Church, Oxford. He wants more to go there—he particularly recommends the Law course.
- COLE, I. (1965–72) graduated from Churchill College with a First Class Degree in Physics and has remained there to do research work. He is busy in the Slow Neutron Physics group at the Cavendish Laboratory but spends some time at Harwell too. After his examinations in 1975 he spent four weeks in the Canadian Rockies on a walking and mountaineering holiday in the National Parks, covering 300 miles on foot. He did a similar thing in the U.S.A. this year. The highlight was a crossing of the Grand Canyon on foot—he met a rattlesnake.
- CRAVEN, W. Y. (1932–39). After 24 years at the Bell House Hotel, near Beaconsfield, Bill Craven, the general manager, has been forced to retire through ill-health. During his time there he helped to build the hotel into what it is now—a £1½ million complex. He is a popular and well known figure with many friends in the Masonic world and among the licensed victuallers.
- DAVIES, P. G. (1954–62) who graduated from Selwyn College, Cambridge in history in 1966, has been appointed deputy-headmaster at John Penrose School, Harefield. His brother D. P. DAVIES (1953–61), also a Selwyn History graduate, is the deputy-headmaster of the large (1,350 pupils) comprehensive Beacon School in Crowborough, Sussex.
- DIFFLEY, J. P. M. (1969–76) is taking a year off before going to University to study Law. He will spend part of it in Portugal, painting a friend's villa and enjoying a free holiday, the rest probably in France. He gave news of A. J. EDWARDS (1969–76) who worked on an oil-rig during the summer (Dad's in the business). He earned £120 a week and was concerned about tax.
- DODGSON, A. (1913–18) continues to receive a great deal of happiness from reading *The Wycombiensian*. He used to flatter himself that he was amongst the oldest (just on 76) Old Boy to be in touch with the School but was shaken to read of H. S. GROOM (1906–08) in the last edition of the Notes. He hadn't seen or heard of him for years and had assumed

- he must have departed to that Haven reserved for deserving schoolmasters.
- ENGEL, P. G. (1961–67) has been chosen from 1000 applicants to receive the Stephen Arlen Bursary. The presentation was made at the London Coliseum by Lord Harewood. Philip is continuing his music studies at Hamburg University, after considerable success at Manchester University and the College of Music.
- FARMER, A. S. (1958–66) has returned from Bahrain after a three year tour investigating the feasibility of shrimp farming in the Persian Gulf.
- FARMER, P. B. (1957–63) and M. J. JARMAN (1951–58) are continuing their cancer research at the Houston Medical Centre, Texas. D. M. DAVIES (1957–63) is in Houston at the moment working for Texas Instruments and they have met.
- GASH, R. (1960–68) writes from Exeter. He has left the office of the Town Clerk and is now a County Council man. As an attorney he is well on the way to becoming a man in authority. Recently he won a law prize—‘an unconsidered trifle from the endowment of Sir George Fowler.’ The County has German twinning arrangements and his ‘A’ Level in German is proving very useful.
- GOODMAN, M. (1970–75) scraped (his word) into Leeds University to do Civil Engineering but was very successful in his examinations at the end of the first year. He thinks he is the only Old Boy at Leeds. Years ago the School had as many as 20 Old Boys there.
- HALLASEY, F. (1913–19). Frank Hallasey read *The Wycombiansian* for July 1976 with great pleasure despite a slight uneasiness on reading of the deaths of some of his contemporaries. He is still working for the Borg-Warner Corporation in Chicago and hopes to make a trip to the old country in the near future. He will definitely visit the School.
- HANDS, S. E. (1915–21) with his philatelic collection of ‘Bolivia’ (the 1863–1971 issues) has gained his greatest success. At the U.S.A. bi-centenary International Exhibition in June he was awarded in the ‘Classe d’Honneur’ a ‘Prix d’Honneur’, a beautiful hand-painted Patriots’ Bowl. At the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto which followed, he was invited to exhibit in the ‘Court of Honour’ for which he received a large gold medal. At ‘Hafnia’ International Exhibition in Copenhagen in August he received a similar award, but on this occasion it took the form of a gold ring, incorporating a seal, reproducing the first stamp of Denmark in which was inset a diamond. As a change at ‘Italia 76’ in Milan in October, he exhibited in the Competitive Class his pre-stamp covers dating from 1660 to 1863, for which he was awarded a ‘Vermeuil’ Medal.
- HENTALL, I. D. (1960–67) gained a B.A. Honours in Zoology at Oxford in 1970. There followed a Fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he gained his doctor’s degree. In July 1976 he took up an appointment as a physiologist in San Francisco at the University of California, to do research in neuropsychology.
- HODDINOTT, P. J. (1968–75) enjoyed working in the Randfontein Estates Gold Mine, Transvaal. The company sent him to Rhodesia to look over an open-cast nickel mine and report on it. He prefers the excitement of underground work to the comparatively routine large-scale blasting techniques of surface work. His gold mine produces £1 million of gold a week—this is only 16 bars of gold but he saw it poured molten and then touched it—it definitely has ‘something.’ He has been offered and has accepted a very lucrative scholarship from a mining company—he’ll be well off at University.
- JOHNSTON, I. A. (1957–63) has become the youngest Labour attache representing Britain overseas. From his new office in the embassy in Brussels he will be covering labour and social affairs and keeping in touch with the international trade union organisations which have their headquarters there. He graduated with 1st class honours in Physical Metallurgy at Birmingham University in 1966 and in 1969 gained his Ph.D. At the age of 25 he joined the Department of Employment. By 1973 he had become private secretary to Sir Denis

Barnes, permanent secretary of the Department. He subsequently worked for the new Manpower Services Commission and then returned to the Department to work on the Employment Protection Bill.

JOSS, W. A. (1965–72) writes from Stockholm where he is teaching English in an Adult Education Centre. He graduated with a B.A. General Arts (London External) concentrating on English, Law and History. The Swedes are technologically advanced in their teaching methods—his students are dissatisfied unless they use the video equipment, tapes, overheads, language laboratories etc. etc. at every possible moment. He is more of a technician than a teacher—but the methods really work.

His first novel is almost finished—it is an historical effort tracing a Viking family from around 850 A.D. to 1066, when they become English and are lost. Even if it flops, he feels sure that a small collection of poems and stories will appear before summer. The operation to his legs has had an interesting result—he is now a walking meteorological station. The metal pins in his legs tell him (painfully) when the rains are coming.

His little brother N. J. JOSS (1968–73) is now 6ft 4ins and on the way to 15 stones. He is back in the academic fold at Technical College doing a mixed Business Studies and 'A' Level course in Manchester. He had worked happily for two years after leaving school as a trainee with a firm of insurance brokers—and then decided to become more qualified.

LEE, M. G. (1969–75) is very content training to be an accountant with a very large firm Tamsley Witt and Co. in Gloucester.

McDOWELL, P. R. (1957–64) graduated from Imperial College in 1970 with an M.Sc. in Control Systems Engineering and went to work for the Plessey company. He was a research engineer for three years working in digital electronics mainly on computer design. He moved in 1974 to Edinburgh where he is working for Feranti Ltd. as a systems engineer in Computer Aided Cartography. He married Miss Hilary Bishop in August 1974.

MALLOWS, S. R. (1970–75) has been accepted along with 39 other successful candidates in the Thames Valley Police Force. There were over a 1000 applicants.

MOISEY, C. U. (1958–60), M.B., F.R.C.S., is now Senior Registrar in Urology at the University Hospital of South Wales in Cardiff. His brother F. R. MOISEY (1958–64), B.Sc., Ph.D., is with the West of Scotland College of Agriculture as assistant to the Director of the Crichton Royal Farm, Dumfries. In October 1974 he went out to the New Zealand Department of Agriculture on an exchange visit.

MONKS, A. K. (1946–53). Mr. Alan Chuter and family visited Mrs. Chuter's parents in Sydney, Australia last summer. He had occasion to visit the parents' doctor on their behalf and found he was talking to Old Boy A. K. Monks, who has a very successful practice in Newport Beach, a suburb north of Sydney.

NEWTON, M. S. (1964–71). Mark Newton and wife have now graduated from Surrey University with Honours Degrees in Hotel and Catering Administration. He has taken up his first post as Recreation Officer in the Rushden (Northants) Sports Centre. The Centre was opened in September and his duties are to set up and run a complete Catering Service. It is a challenging job—he is responsible for all the purchasing, menu planning, staffing and training of the service. While at Surrey University he was Sports Chairman for 1975–76 and Captain of Cricket for the 1975 and 1976 seasons. Last season he broke the University bowling records, taking 61 wickets in all. He keeps in touch with S. A. JOHN (1964–70), now a 1st Officer with British Airways.

PARKINS, G. R. (1963–70) writes from Dartmouth College, Norwich, Vermont, U.S.A. where he is completing his Ph.D. in solid state physics. He plays Rugby—its popularity is increasing over there. He is going steady with an American girl and after reading such negative reports on England, he asks himself—'Shall I go back?'

PARTRIDGE, S. J. (1967–72) started teaching Physics at Dr. Challoner's, Amersham last September. He married Miss Irana Katherine Shott on 7th August 1976.

PATTINSON, M. R. (1953–60), Head of Biology and Master in charge of shooting at Rugby School, supervised the British Athelings Cadet Team which shot in Canada last August. Brother I. R. H. PATTINSON (1962–69) is a fully qualified solicitor working in Huntingdon.

PAUL, C. J. (1969–74) left to go to another school, St. Brendan's College, Bristol. He obtained good 'A' Level passes and is now reading Geography at Manchester University. He is a member of Clifton Cathedral Choir and visited Calcutta and Delhi with them last March. Brother M. C. PAUL (1972–74) is still at St. Brendan's.

PEPPER, J. (1966–72) wonders whether he has spent the last 3 months in the same Belfast as P. E. GRAFTON (1960–67) who drew such an exciting picture of life there in the last 'Notes'. He is a Company Intelligence Officer in the 1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).

PRIOR, J. K. (1934–40). On 11th October 1976, the *Telegraph* published its usual Monday Careers Information Service article. It was 'Working with trainees' and it was written by John Prior, Chairman of the Governors, who is a training manager with the Prudential Assurance Company.

RAJAH, R. M. (1970–73) came to the R.G.S. from Mill End County Secondary School with 2 'O' Levels and 1 C.S.E., Grade I. He went into the 6th to do 'A' Levels in Urdu, English and Geography but along the line he had to pass 'O' Level English Language. He failed it in 1970 and 1971 but fought on and passed it in 1972. His first 'A' Level effort was very ordinary but he took 'A' Levels again, ending up with grades A. B. B. He is now at the University of East Anglia doing an Honours Degree in Development Studies. His determination will no doubt stand him in good stead there too.

RAY, G. W. (1917–23) who is a Director and Company Secretary of the Ercol Group of Companies, was recently entertained by

his fellow directors and wives to a celebration dinner at the Compleat Angler Hotel, Marlow. He was presented with a gift of some suitably inscribed and signed silverware to mark over 50 years service with the Company which he joined in 1923 on leaving the Royal Grammar School and Mrs. Ray received a beautiful bouquet of orchids. The 'Old Man' himself Lucian R. Ercolani, O.B.E., F.R.S.A. made a point of signing the salver a fortnight before he died beneath the words, 'George, a friend, colleague and councillor for over 50 years.' George Ray has many other interests but he is particularly proud to be Vice-Chairman of the board of Governors of the School and a member of the Old Boys' Committee. He hopes to carry on his work and his interests for many more years.

ROGERS, P. N. (1948–55). The Hon. Sec. has to thank G. E. WATSON (1951–58) once again for news of Dr. Rogers in Canada. Peter Rogers is now President of Planters-Curtiss, a large candy company. In a cutting from a trade magazine, he is seen presenting three bicycles to the children of employees who were winners in the 'Beautiful Butterfinger Coloring Contest.' He looks a happy and very prosperous man—a far cry from the little boy who was trampled underfoot by a ruthless squad of the Army Section one Thursday afternoon in 1949 as it entered the gym block. Graham Watson is himself involved in the sweet industry—his company Norman Bartleet Ltd. makes sweet machines.

ROLLASON, C. R. (1965–71) writes from the University of York where he has just begun a postgraduate course (M.Phil.) in nineteenth century literature. After returning from his year teaching English in Galicia in Spain, he taught for the Regent School of English in Exeter—a very rewarding if tiring job.

RUNDELL, P. F. (1963–69) married in July and is now living in Slough. He gained a good honours degree in French at Exeter but decided to study accountancy. He is now half way through articles with Coopers and Lybrand, a large international firm of Chartered Accountants in the City.

His brother D. J. RUNDELL (1960–67) is still working for the BBC as a television engineer.

SABINE, C. R. (1957–66) is working as a Resources Organiser in a Junior School in Bishopstoke, Hants. The Shoestring Theatre, which he runs in the summer holidays, now has three touring companies on the road and he has been interviewed about it on 'Woman's Hour.' He has become Chairman of the Hampshire Association for Drama through Education and in that role he has run two County Courses for teachers. On one of these courses he had 70 teachers fully participating in a Punch and Judy Show.

SAUNDERS, A. S. (1918–22) has retired from the 'Crown', Monmouth Street, London and is now living in Saltdean, Sussex.

SAUNDERS, R. G. (1955–62) joined Wimpey on their Head Office training scheme for Quantity Surveyors when he left school. This entailed three years in the Head Office in Hammersmith and two years on site work. He passed the finals of his Institutes Examination and joined an Anglo-Dutch consortium working on the Kainji Dam in Nigeria. He returned to England in 1970 and commenced work on the M62 over the Pennines. He keeps in touch with contemporaries Mike Mason (godfather of one of his children), John Barlow of Bernard Ford and the three Fountain brothers. D. W. BARNETT (1936–43) lives about 250 yards from him in Wilmslow, Cheshire.

SECKER, F. G. (1932–37) is very proud to be a Governor of his old School. In the last 'Notes' mention was made of his 'magic' powers. With the help of his friend David Cooper (brother of master of magic Cooper), Freddie Secker gave a 20-minute conjuring session in High Wycombe Town Hall as part of an Old Tyme music hall show. He performed the famous trick with three swords—his daughter-in-law lay supported by three blades. Two were removed and she remained suspended with one blade below the neck. He has dabbled in magic since he was a child and now that he has retired as a Captain with

British Airways, he has more time to give to his hobby.

SLADE, D. J. (1949–1955), Chairman of Wycombe Round Table, was good enough to give the Hon. Sec. information on other Old Boys active in Round Table. At the National Conference in Blackpool in May 1976 he met R. J. E. PEARCE (1947–53) who is chairman of Princes Risborough Table, T. RANDELL (1952–57), Chairman of Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts, P. J. TURPIN (1951–56) now residing in Tiverton and R. J. FERGUSON (1949–55). Old Boy stalwarts of Wycombe Round Table are J. R. AUSTIN (1951–55), J. F. BROOKS (1947–52), R. J. M. HART (1948–54) and G. J. PALMER (1955–60). Derek Slade sees R. A. PARSONS (1951–55) who was chairman of Beaconsfield Table last year and who is a Chartered Architect in partnership with R. K. B. Roe and Associates in High Wycombe, E. J. PAYNE (1951–56) also a Chartered Architect and junior partner in a practice in Harrow, who lives in Gerrards Cross and was captain of Chalfont St. Giles cricket club last year.

SMITH, G. P. (1961–68) has gone to the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto for one year to read for a LL.M. degree. He graduated in Law from Durham University and was working for a big firm of London solicitors. He has been invited to rejoin them but his real hope is that he may be able to return to academic life as a lecturer in Law—preferably at Durham.

STEVENSON, P. M. (1966–73). The Senior Tutor of Churchill College, Cambridge wrote to inform the School that Paul Stevenson had completed an undergraduate career of unbroken success, by gaining another First. The College has elected him to an Honorary Scholarship for 1976–77. K. M. KNOWLES (1966–73) obtained a II.1. in Part II Natural Sciences at Churchill too—another fine achievement.

UDEN, R. G. (1930–35) has retired from Shell U.K. Oil and gone to live in Rottingdean, Brighton, Sussex.

UPPARD, P. G. (1957–62) visited Giggleswick School last summer to conduct their 'A' level music examinations. Of course he met P. REED (1950–58) who is Director of Music there.

WALKER, G. P. M. (1953–60) has just been awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield where he qualified as a librarian after completing his Modern Language degree at Selwyn College, Cambridge. The subject for his doctorate dealt with publishing in the Soviet Union. Brother D. R. WALKER (1955–62) now works as a free-lance artist. The *Guardian's* French correspondent has written a book *The Face of France*. Each section is introduced by line drawings—Denzil Walker is the artist.

WINTER, D. A. (1914–22). It is 62 years since he joined the School in the old buildings adjacent to the Norman ruins in Easton Street. T. S. Eliot was his form-master for a short while. He recalls him as reserved and shy with a faint American accent. He is now taking things steadily in West Worthing but is retained as a consultant on patents by Lec Refrigeration Ltd. of Bognor Regis, which keeps his mind active.

WOMBWELL, R. S. (1960–67) has gone to work in Johannesburg for International Computers. He will be away for at least two years and has had to resign his position on the Old Boys' committee. Any offers from men of his vintage?

High Wycombe Rugby Football Club

Old Boys D. J. Stubbs, R. R. Rapping, J. Read, D. J. Scott, R. J. M. Hart and M. J. Baud continue to play an important part in the administration of the Club. S. B. Gamester is Captain of the 1st XV and J. M. Davies is Captain of the Extra 1st. J. C. Cook, I. R. Whitelock, S. B. Gamester and K. J. Bennell are playing for Bucks at the moment.

GLOSSARY

Educational methodology : Rote learning
 Achievement profile : Exam results
 Module : Lesson
 Open-ended module : Unprepared lesson
 Guided discovery : Do as you are told
 Pupil activity : Work
 Individualised pupil activity : Homework
 Curriculum strategy : Timetable
 Classroom situation : Classroom
 Teaching situation : Teaching
 Global view : Waffle
 Verbally interactive situation : Stand up argument
 Team teaching : Safety in numbers
 Reinforced cognitive development : Cramming
 Extra curricular activity : Detention
 Negative sanctions policy : School rules
 Extra mural activity : Smoking in the pavilion
 Under achieving : Failing
 Educational hardware : Overhead projector
 Educational software : Overhead projector slides
 High achievement norm : Bright
 Low achievement norm : Thick
 Conceptual development : Think
 Piaget : Make of French car
 Educational resources : Knowledgeable colleagues
 School/society interface : School gate
 Improvised drama : Chaos
 Bernstein : Make of piano
 Interdisciplinary enquiry : Asking the History Dept.
 Multiple choice : Guess test
 Private studies : Doing your own thing
 Pupil centred education : Doing their own thing
 Verbal register : Asking if they're all there

R. A. Pillidge

TRIAL BY JURY

see Report on page 5.





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OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Saturday, 19th March, 1977

All Old Boys, whether members of the Club or not, are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Dinner which will be held in the new Dining Hall at the Royal Grammar School on Saturday, 19th March, 1977.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.15 p.m. in the Masters' Common Room and should not last more than half an hour.

The Annual Dinner will be held in the new Dining Hall at 7.00 (for 7.30).

The Guest of Honour is S.E. Hands (1915-20). Sydney Hands has been a life-time member of the family furniture firm, Wm. Hands & Sons, from which he retired recently as chairman after 56 years service. One of the first to be awarded his colours for Rugby in 1919, he went on to become a founder member of the Old Wycombiensians' R.U.F.C. in 1929 and later Captain, Treasurer, Chairman and finally President. He has served on the committee of the Old Boys' Club for over 50 years. He is a Past Master of the Old Wycombiensians' Lodge 6754. He has been a member of the High Wycombe Rotary Club since 1953 and was President in 1968-69. In the last War Sydney Hands rose to the rank of Lieut. Col. and Staff Paymaster. He is a keen philatelist, served as Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London for 19 years and was President from 1963-75. He donates a cup annually to the most promising philatelist in the School.

Tickets cost £3.00 each

Dress - lounge suits

In order to help us, please let us know as soon as possible how many tickets you require; the last day for your answer is the Monday before the Dinner, 14th March.

You would probably like to sit with your friends, and if you will send off this form as soon as you can, we will arrange this for you on the seating plan. Please detach the portion below and send it with payment and a stamped addressed envelope (8½p please) for the return of the tickets, to

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R.G.S. SHOW DAY. A Grand Show, Fete, Open Day event is being held at the School on Saturday, 28th May 1977 from 2 p.m. onwards. Exhibitions of work being done at the School as well as sideshows, an arena programme of events are being staged and all Old Boys are very welcome to come and see what the School is doing in 1977 and to bring their families to enjoy an entertaining and relaxing afternoon.

Programmes are obtainable from the School beforehand or at the gate on 28th May.

We look forward to seeing you on 19th March; in the meantime, all good wishes from the Old Boys' Club for 1977.

M. M. Davies

M. M. Davies, Hon. Sec.

Please send _____ dinner tickets for me and these other Old Boys -

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

(It is assumed you wish to sit with those for whom you are buying tickets unless you specify otherwise)

If you are buying one ticket, by whom do you wish to sit? _____