



THE SPUR

Raynes Park High School Magazine

October 1999

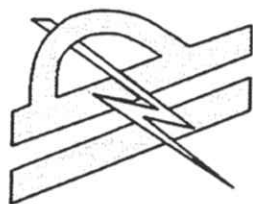
RAYNES PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Our aim is to create a caring, challenging and secure environment where all pupils develop academically and socially so that they may be well prepared to take their place as responsible citizens within society

October



1999

Twenty years and more have passed since the Spur last was published. Little did I then think that at the end of the century I would be editing the next edition. In the space of three weeks I have endeavoured to gather together items from the Spur, describing the early days of the School expressing so much hope for its new pupils in the years to come and giving account of the achievements of that very young school in the years leading up to 1939. Mention is made of the dark shadows of World War and the sad loss of young lives of those who had but a few years before come so eagerly to their new school. We have included some reminders of the middle years and then there are reports of the school's present day activities. The Boy's Grammar School developed into the Boy's Comprehensive and ten years ago girls joined us, making the school more truly comprehensive, but sadly we said farewell to the Sixth Form. The pages of the Spur in its sixty years of chronicling, albeit interrupted, will be seen to have put on record that whatever misgivings some may have had at each new stage in organisation the school has responded positively to change, developing new activities and going from strength to strength as fresh opportunities have arisen.

We hope that the Spur will now be published each year at the beginning of October and we look forward to receiving your contributions. Articles, reports, photographs, letters, drawings and memories of your school days would all be most welcome.

As soon as you have any offerings please send them to us, which could well be on disk or by e-mail to the School Office (admin@rphs.freemove.co.uk) but whatever the format we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Sincere thanks go to our good friends Tony Potter and John Kingsley at Merton Print and Graphic Design, for printing our publications with such skill, good humour and tolerance.

Mike Glead

1935 *the beginning!*

The school was 'officially' opened by Alderman J Chuter Ede, DL, MP, Chairman of the County Council, on November 28th, 1935. It was the 34th Secondary school in Surrey. The event was presided over by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Councillor B T King who was sadly to die the following year and in whose memory the 'Cock House' Cup was to be presented. Ironically John Garrett had gone down with chicken pox on November 14th, but he sent a telegram from his sick bed: "May the ship be well and truly launched. Greetings to the School and the assembled company". Introducing Alderman Chuter Ede, Councillor King commented, "What (he) does not know about education is not worth knowing". Speaking to the boys Alderman Ede said, "What you are starting today is going to live for hundreds of years. The pace you set will largely determine the way in which the school will stand in the race of honour in which all healthy schools are engaged, and I hope, therefore you are going to realise your opportunity". A statement from Mr Garrett was read, which began:

Although, like Macbeth, we are as yet 'young in deed', I have been asked on several occasions what traditions this school can boast, for all the world as if traditions were good purchaseable by the pound over the counter... My answer to such enquiries has been brief and invariable... Our opportunity lies in our freedom from tradition, for thus we are able to create our own... the motto of the school is no latin tag, but rather the words of the contemporary poet, W H Auden: 'To each his need: from each his power'".

1939



John Garrett *Raynes Park's first Headmaster*

(Entry in the New Dictionary of National Biography,



Portrait by Claude Rogers 1950

Garrett, John Walter Percy (1902-1966), educationist, was born on 30 May 1902 at 28 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, the son of Percy Edgar Thorne Garrett, hairdresser, and his wife Florence Emily. He was educated at Trowbridge High School and Exeter College, Oxford, where he took a degree in Modern History in 1924 and the diploma in Education in 1925. His first post was at Victoria College, Jersey, C.I. Though he re-organised all the History teaching in the

school, English was becoming his main interest. He undertook a drastic revision of the library and was responsible for a great bonfire of what he judged to be 'smug nineteenth century trash'. (1)

After six months as Master of History and English at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (1929-30) and a year at the Crypt School, Gloucester, Garrett became senior English master at Whitgift School in September 1931. Here he attracted attention through extra-curricular activities, founding the Fanatics, a discussion group which met fortnightly to respond to distinguished speakers who included John Gielgud and A.L. Rowse, organising theatre parties to London and inviting the Balliol Players to perform in Greek in the open air.

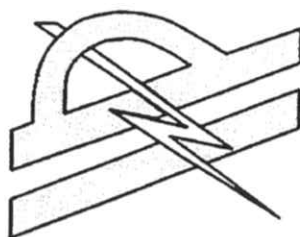
Garrett's headmaster at Whitgift was Ronald Gurner who, in his novel *The Day Boy*, (1924) expounded the theory that a public school atmosphere could be reproduced in non-boarding secondary institutions. In September 1935 Garrett took up the post of headmaster of the Surrey County Council's new secondary school at Raynes Park, which he set about making both welcoming and challenging to the sons of (in his view) the unduly conventional inhabitants of a new but uninspiring south-west London suburb. Most of his assistant masters were from Oxford and Cambridge; his school

was probably the only one in England with a Balliol man teaching woodwork. He again set about opening up the school to an array of well-known figures in the arts, including Benjamin Britten, Nevill Coghill, T.S. Eliot, C.Day Lewis, Louis MacNeice, Stephen Spender, L.A.G Strong and Sybil Thorndike. W.H.Auden wrote the school song; Garrett secured reviews of the annual Shakespeare production in national newspapers. For the Arts Sixth he had a special eye: these were to be the pupils who forged the link between his school and the ancient universities. By 1942 this aim had been achieved: some twenty boys had won places at Oxford and Cambridge. Raynes Park had now been compared with Eton as one of the two best schools in the country. 'The traditions of the English County Secondary School are being made', Katherine Chapman (a parent) wrote in 1942, 'and Mr. Garrett has set his mark upon them' (2)

Much to the regret of Surrey County Council's former chairman, Chuter Ede, Garrett resigned in December 1942, abandoning the state sector to become Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School, which he had attended as a student teacher eighteen years before. An early devotee of the performance culture which was soon to grip the fee-paying schools of the country, he galvanised his pupils to attain new levels of academic and sporting distinction. Economics was introduced, the Science Sixth tripled in size, playing fields were expanded. His cultural activities continued. Distinguished public figures delivered Monday morning lectures; Shakespeare was vigorously promoted. In January 1943 the school had 770 boys; in 1960, the year in which he retired through ill-health, there were over 1,100. The Sixth Form increased from 80 to 298. Over seventeen years, 244 boys won open awards to Oxford and Cambridge. Garrett compiled Scenes from School Life (1933), The Poet's Tongue with W.H.Auden (1935) and edited Talking of Shakespeare (1954). He was awarded a D.Litt by the University of Bristol in 1960. Tall, with a drooping eyelid and a peremptory voice, Garrett was throughout his career a vigorous, outspoken and inspiring figure. As Robert Robinson (the author and broadcaster) recalled, 'he tirelessly rallied boys, parents, governors with his radical assessment of the empowering nature of education'.⁽³⁾ Unmarried, he died on 23rd December 1966 at Wimbledon.

Robin Betts (University of Liverpool)

The School Badge – an explanation by its creator



The badge is a symbolism of the immediate neighbourhood of the school and consists of a representation of the bridge carrying the Kingston By Pass over the railway, the two roads at the front and rear of the school and the railway with its rather spectacular express train. I am not sure whether the railway was electrified in 1935 or whether electrification was being talked about but the traditional streak of lightning in the badge symbolised the very fast trains that could be seen from the upstairs window in the front of the building.

*Frank Halliwell
(24th May 1991)*

The early days of the School Garden

Considering the brevity of our tenure, the grounds have done the School credit. The brave impertinence of the crocus, the grace of the daffodils and narcissi, and the blaze of golden yellow and white tulips, which constituted our Spring show, was entirely due to the generosity of our neighbours, James Carter & Co. Later the lupins and delphiniums which they gave us, stirred to envy the heart of the most seasoned Chelsea addict.



T.Cobb

THE OPEN NIGHT

On the evening of Friday, July 3rd, the School was thrown open to parents and friends. The idea was to give some demonstration of the work and progress of the School in its first year. Demonstrations were afoot in the two laboratories and the Geography Room, and Art and Physical Culture, refusing to be confined within their usual narrow limits, burst upon the Hall and the playing field respectively.

Visitors wandered happily, watching, probably for the first time, the phenomenon of a beating heart, discovering, in the space of a few minutes, the whole history of coal from its primeval beginnings, and hearing, with eager interest, of the miraculous properties of electricity. On to the Geography Room where isobars and weather forecasts were explained and the wondrous workings of the Air Ministry expounded before us.

Downstairs the activity was intense. The walls of the Hall were covered with the products of the year's art periods. Still life, pictures full of boundless vitality, sea-scapes, landscapes, designs for wallpaper, and portraits, jostled one another in a splendidly arranged riot of colour and design.

By the stage was a bookstall with books of all prices up to thirty shillings for Lawrence's "Seven Pillars," arranged with subtle cunning to attract the attention of generous benefactors. Nobly they played their part and the shelf provided for new presentations was quickly filled to overflowing. Throughout the evening the Librarians beamed happily on all comers.

On the field the gymnasts held court. A large audience watched them leap and run, perform prodigious feats on the apparatus, and contort their bodies into shapes that were fantastic to the eye but beneficial to the constitution. It was a convincing reminder of the precept set out in the School Song, "Man has mind, but body also".

Everything went with a swing. From the moment the visitor entered the gate and had a programme pressed upon him by a member of the Scout Troop, he had his time fully occupied. Behind it all, however, was a great amount of solid hard work and attention to detail. None of the experiments or demonstrations were staged specially for the Open Night—they showed activities which are part of the daily round in the School. But perhaps we may congratulate ourselves on the mere fact that such a high standard of achievement and progress can be truthfully said to be the normal thing, and that we have, as a school, the enthusiasm to put on such an exhibition, and to make it a success.

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To the parents of the 1935 intake

Parents are urged to keep their sons at school as long as possible. It must not be thought that the mere possession of a General School Certificate is the hall-mark of a completed education. It is rather a passport by means of which a boy enters upon education's more profitable stage; for then it is that he begins working for the Higher Certificate of London University.

To encourage parents to keep their sons at school the County Authorities offer Intermediate Awards to boys in possession of the General School Certificate, which entitles them if the financial condition of their parents justifies it, to remission of the school fees. Assistance towards Higher Education is offered to residents in Merton and Morden by the Urban District Council of that area. The Rutlish Charity helps boys whose parents reside in the parish of Merton.

As a member of the Sixth Form he has the opportunity for leadership and responsibility in school life. Boys who are able to proceed to a University, there to continue what has been started at school, can enter for the many Scholarships which are offered by the State. The Headmaster would welcome at any time discussion with parents as to ways and means of achieving such an end.

Why School Dinners?

It is an integral feature of the School's policy that as many boys as possible should stay at the School for dinner. This is the only way of attaining in a day-school something of that continuous community life which is a valuable feature of the English tradition of education. Experience has proved that the comparative leisure of the dinner hour at school assures a greater alertness for the afternoon's work. Those who go home to dinner are submitted to the strain and danger of negotiating traffic during the rush-hour. Those who have to catch trains and buses have the added anxiety of fighting time if they are to live up to the high standard of punctuality which is expected of every member of the School. Masters and boys have dinner together, and thus have an opportunity to get to know each other which the class-room cannot give. The school day is organised on the assumption that boys can live it and share in its full life. The fact that some homes are near by is irrelevant. Dinner is more than a convenience to parents; it is a necessity if boys are to profit from the continuity of environment afforded.



Cally Walker

Joanne Abrehart



The School Library in 1936

When the School first opened, we had a library and no books. The sight of empty shelves and blood red walls, unrelieved even by pictures, was frightening. Now we still have the library, some pictures on the walls, and 1,015 volumes on the shelves. How this has happened is a mystery even to the Librarian himself. Books have been bought, books have been presented, and books have been conjured up from apparently nowhere by our arch-juggler, the Head Master.

At the outset we purchased some 280 books. We then set our hearts upon 500 in the first term and appealed to the boys of the School. They responded magnificently; we attained our object on the very last day of term. During the second term the repercussions of our earlier efforts still brought in an encouraging number of presentations. By degrees we topped 700. The Head Master's generosity covered the walls with Low's cartoons. Lately we decided we had exhausted all internal sources and determined to launch an attack upon the parents of the School. They readily surrendered to the enthusiastic propaganda of their sons and

by the end of Open Night no less than 68 books had been presented. At this stage, the Librarian will quite candidly confess that we had little real hope of reaching 1,000 in our first year. But the success of the Open Night did not end when the last parent had left the School. Books came in steadily: the most unscrupulous methods of advertisement were employed. Private houses were honourably pillaged, second-hand booksellers were patently beaten down, and we had more than our first thousand. Of these not more than 530 have been purchased.

The past has undoubtedly been glorious as far as statistics are concerned. We cannot hope to amass a thousand books every year in the future. There is room on the library shelves for some 5,670 books. Allowing only for a normal annual increase of a hundred books purchased out of our normal annual grant, it will take us not less than 45 years to fill the library. The present Librarian has little hope of ever living to see so satisfying a spectacle. He will be content if he can survive to see a half-filled library the hub and centre of all cultural interests connected with the School. At present he is glad that so many books are read, that the readers do not behave in an ostentatiously improper manner, and that everyone is enthusiastic in the library's cause. But he is not entirely satisfied that the library meets with all the respect a library should merit. Books are not always promptly returned: too many idle loungers make it a meeting place for hatching crime and rebellion: books are not always put back exactly where they were found: ink has found its way out of the ink pot on far too many occasions. Perhaps we are not yet old enough to have that love of books which compels careful and almost fond handling of them: but very soon we shall be old enough.

*From the
Sunday Times
c.1955*



Many thanks to Paul Vaughan (RP 1936 - 42),
writer and broadcaster, for allowing us to look
at his school report.

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL FOR BOYS
MERTON, S.W.20

Report for Term ending April 8th 1936

Name P.W. Vaughan Age 10-5
Form IB Number of Boys in Form 30 Average Age 11-4
Place in Form 2nd average Record of Absences 30

	Order of Merit	REMARKS.												
RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE ...														
ENGLISH ...	1.	Consistently good. F.H.												
HISTORY ...	1	Excellent. K.												
GEOGRAPHY ...	9 th .	Some quite good work.												
LATIN ...														
FRENCH ...	2.	Good. E.												
GERMAN ...														
MATHEMATICS ...	27	Very slow and rather bewildered. H.C.												
SCIENCE ...	11 th	His work seems to have fallen off a bit. F.H.												
ART ...		A good term's work C.T.												
HANDWORK ...		Quite satisfactory. H.C.												
PHYSICAL TRAINING ...	<table border="1"> <tr> <th></th><th>BEGINNING OF TERM</th><th>END OF TERM</th></tr> <tr> <td>WEIGHT</td><td>5³ 2 5¹ 2</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HEIGHT</td><td>4⁵ 5⁴ 5⁴ 5²</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>CHEST</td><td>25³ 26¹</td><td></td></tr> </table>		BEGINNING OF TERM	END OF TERM	WEIGHT	5 ³ 2 5 ¹ 2		HEIGHT	4 ⁵ 5 ⁴ 5 ⁴ 5 ²		CHEST	25 ³ 26 ¹		Making very slow progress, but certainly does his best. W.S.
	BEGINNING OF TERM	END OF TERM												
WEIGHT	5 ³ 2 5 ¹ 2													
HEIGHT	4 ⁵ 5 ⁴ 5 ⁴ 5 ²													
CHEST	25 ³ 26 ¹													

Conduct - Very good. A capable boy, must pay great attention to his mathematics. E. Form Master

I think perhaps a term's private tuition in Mathematics might help. It is better now to conquer difficulties than to build on inadequate foundations. A good boy who has started very well. Mr. Carruth Head Master

The next Term begins on April 29th at 9.0 a.m., when all boys are required to be present unless prevented by sickness, and to bring with them their Health Certificate duly filled in.

The War Years

In the July 1939 issue of The Spur Garrett wrote:

"Threat of war has meant invasion of our grounds. In the near future we shall be equipped with trenches at the expense of much green grass... It is presumably the price we pay for relative security... It is devoutly to be hoped that our precautions will never be necessary, but how ever many heads of governments plan dementedly, it is our job to carry on our work with quiet efficiency, assuming that each term will be lived through, undisturbed by the horror of war. Any other course means chaos and capitulation".

The school was unable to function normally until shelters were provided. Luckily Raynes Park was just outside the officially evacuable area, but until the shelters were completed the school buildings could not be used. In the meantime Garrett organised a tutorial system in the homes of masters and at one point he records that they were giving 333 tutorials a week to groups of not more than six, in the homes of eighteen different masters. On October 7th they began digging up the grounds for the growing of potatoes, and the biology garden found itself disrupted by the digging of ARP trenches.



Natalie Bradley

Julia Balcombe



By October 1943 the first war casualties amongst the Old Boys were reported. The names of Billingham and Ashdown were to head the list of the school's losses. Three further Old Boys were also reported missing. The first DFC among the Old Boys was announced - Flt. Lt. Roy Barnes, news all too soon followed by his being reported killed in action.

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.



MACBETH

by
SHAKESPEARE.



WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY,

May 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 1940.

at 7.30 p.m.

Should an air – raid warning occur during the course of the play, an announcement will be made from the stage. There is ample accommodation in shelters for the audience

Programme—Threepence.

Raynes Park School Song

The original version

Time will make its utter changes,
Circumstance will scatter us;
But the memories of our school days
Are a living part of us.

Chorus –

So remember then, when you are men
With important things to do,
That once you were young, and this
song have sung
For you were at school here, too.

Daily we sit down in form – rooms,
Inky hand to puzzled head:
Reason's light, and Knowledge power;
Man must study till he's dead.

Man has mind but body also;
So we learn to tackle low,
Bowl the off – breaks, hit the sixes,
Bend the diver's brilliant bow.

Man must live among his neighbours,
For he cannot live alone;
Friendships, failures and successes
Here we learn to make our own.

Tractors grunt where oceans wandered,
Factories stand where green grass grew:
Voices break and features alter,
We shall soon be different, too.

Boys and cities, schools and natures,
Though they change, like you and me,
Do not simply grow and happen,
They are what they choose to be.

W.H.Auden

Today's version

Time will make its utter changes,
Circumstance will scatter us;
But the memories of our school days
Are a living part of us.

Chorus –

So remember then, when you are grown
With important things to do,
That once you were young, and this
song have sung
For you were at school here, too.

We must live among our neighbours,
For we cannot live alone;
Friendships, failures and successes
Here we learn to make our own.

Children, cities, schools and natures,
Though they change, like you and me,
Do not simply grow and happen,
They are what they choose to be.

I have it on the very best authority that W.H. Auden, one of the finest lyric poets of the twentieth century, claimed, when sitting in a coffee bar in the Cornmarket in Oxford, that he had only the faintest recollection of what he actually wrote when composing the lyrics of our school song. The date of this claim was the Autumn of 1956, some twenty years or so after Auden had put together the verses which most of the readers of this article have sung on several occasions, and the informal interview which, the poet found himself giv-

ing in Oxford went on to suggest that the six verses and their accompanying chorus were assembled in the company of founder headmaster, John Garrett over a tippie in The Duke of Cambridge. 'I certainly remember writing it, murmured Auden in the transatlantic accent which his wartime in America had encouraged, 'but I can't remember *what* I wrote.

Yet despite his, vagueness when looking back at the pleasant evening out with Garrett, **Auden** did succeed in jotting down. in scan-sion that makes the words easy to remember and with rhymes which come trippingly off the tongue, a brief and palatable catalogue of some of the important issues which we all have to take seriously if we are to have reasonably happy lives. We must keep our minds awake, the poet tells its (because Reasons light and knowledge power); we should not forget the importance of physical fitness (for 'Man has mind and body also'); we have to live accommodatingly with those around us (For he cannot live alone) and we ought to make the most at all times of the dignity and importance of our own freedom of choice since ('They are what they choose to be') . Above all, Auden reminds us, we have to be mature enough to take with equanimity the frequently unforeseen changes that the passing of time will make in our lives, for these changes can scupper the best laid plans. Perhaps the poet is right when in the chorus he suggests that what happens to us in our schooldays may help us to enjoy or endure any tricks that Fate plays later.

But this is beginning to sound too reverential and Auden would have no truck with reverence, avoiding as he does any danger of preaching, or of sounding like the older person -he was about thirty years old when he wrote the song - telling the younger how to run his or her life. He avoids a personal didactic tone by arranging the words of the song as a sung monologue with 'we', the school stu-

dents, singing the shrewd or contemplative verses, and addressing 'you', the unconvinced, perhaps, in the choruses. As a consequence, it is the students themselves who hand out any moralising advice which is included. The song, far from being solemn is also a jolly creation, thanks to a large extent to Thomas Wood's jaunty music, and it is also an interesting social document portraying the preoccupations and the physical changes of south-western London suburbia in the nineteen-thirties. From the language point of view, it has its attractions, too: there are a memorable personification ('Tractors grunt'), neat alliterations (' green grass grew ') and one metaphor ('the diver's brilliant bow') which Auden liked enough to use again in his poem, 'One Evening':

Time breaks the threaded dances
And the diver's brilliant bow.

Nevertheless, this acknowledgement of the various skills involved comes as no surprise for we know that no headteacher or board of governors would have accepted the song if it hadn't included the requisite amount of unobtrusive good advice, if it had been poorly written or had sounded like a cacophony, and the *quality* of our school song is less important and less interesting than the effect it has had or does have on us as students or former students of Raynes Park School.

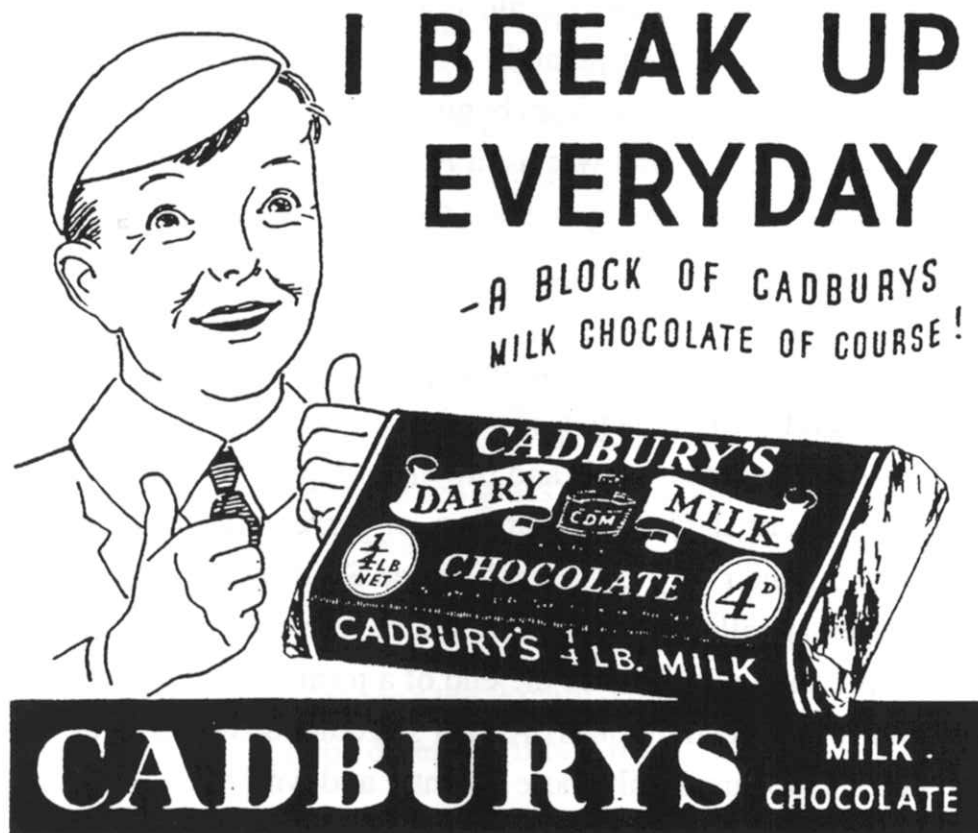
When I was at Raynes Park (1945-1953), the school song was sung at every end of term assembly. This means that I sang it at least twenty -four times, but since it is possible that it figured at the beginnings of terms as well, I may have contributed to forty-eight renditions. And then, of course, there were practices with various music teachers, which would have taken the total to above the half century.

In my youth I could possibly have sung a hymn or two as frequently, but it is likely, since I have an execrable singing voice and have never been a member of a choir, that the school song is the only piece which I have sung, *almost* from beginning to end (- the poor second verse with its inky hand was usually tactfully omitted -) with any genuine frequency. For many readers the experience will probably be similar.

The end of term versions were the more important because they signified freedom, and the imminence of the holidays led to the assembled students *bellowing* the words and drowning a piano accompaniment. For members of staff on the platform, or perhaps for innocent by-passers making their way to Carters' Tested Seeds nearby, the din was no doubt appalling, but nevertheless the memory of the song as an expression of release at the end of a term is the most affectionate of my recollections. W.H.Auden's predictions for the future have become apparent only more recently and with retrospection, and I am a little disappointed to recall that my awareness of camaraderie within the school was never enhanced, as tradition no doubt intended it to have been, by my bellowing of Auden's lyrics.

The Raynes Park school song is a card of identity to be proud of, and it is far too important a work not to make the fullest use of in 1997 in spite of its obvious inadequacies for today. Among these inadequacies was the feeling in the nineteen-thirties that it would be inappropriate to list among the future issues of concern the successful organisation of one's emotional life, and since it was written for a boys' school the gender balance is all awry as well, and one's imagination is taxed by the prospect of modernising it in order to include quite proper reference to both sexes. So, perhaps for some of us who sing it today it will remain an historical document, but it may also be important for individuals in many different ways. Letters to the editor of this magazine outlining any such importance, or responding to the school song in any other way would make interesting reading.

Alan Wright (RP 1945 - 53)



I BREAK UP EVERYDAY

- A BLOCK OF CADBURYS
MILK CHOCOLATE OF COURSE!

CADBURY'S MILK CHOCOLATE

Look at the Price!
4d not 4p!

Do you remember this in 1969?

The floods that took place in South East England on the week end of 15th/16th September were not avoided by the School: the Headmaster's Study was in four feet of water, and the Boilerhouse had to be extensively repaired. Apart from this and flooded corridors, the School was comparatively unscathed. It appears that the new fly-over is causing a blockage of the Brook and that floods from the Brook may be more frequent. Flood warnings were out again on the night of December 17th, and it looked as though the Headmaster's study was yet again liable to be flooded, but this was just averted.

Computer Society Report 1970

The biggest joke in the School at present is to be found in the Advanced Physics Laboratory. That, I gather is what most of my Sixth Form colleagues consider the School Computer to be. It adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides perfectly when it has warmed up - after about five minutes - as long as it is not too warm - after about five and a quarter minutes.

Joking apart, what has our Society been doing? During second and third lunches on Fridays, the Seniors meet in the aforementioned laboratory to be overawed by that genius of Mathematics, Logic and the French horn, Mr R. Whitehouse. Under his able hand they have been shown some of the wonders of soldering, designing layouts for circuits, and many other mysterious practices that are done in the name of electronics.

After school, again on Fridays, the Seniors meet to work on their own projects, or "The Computer." These projects include demonstration logic circuits as used in our, and a commercial, computer, and an electronic gadget that plays dominoes. Many faults in "The Computer" have been found and already rectified, but a new fault has appeared on this very day of writing!

In conclusion let me say that if anyone wishes to join us, he would be very welcome - and there is no membership fee! Just come along and see what we are doing on Fridays.

J. Leonard

1999

*How things have
changed!*



We won this outright



**E.S.F.A. Associated Biscuits
Under 16 National Final
1982-1983**



**RAYNES PARK
HIGH SCHOOL
(SURREY)**



**BISHOP CHALLONER
SCHOOL
(MERSEYSIDE)**

at
**WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL CLUB
PLOUGH LANE
LONDON SW19**

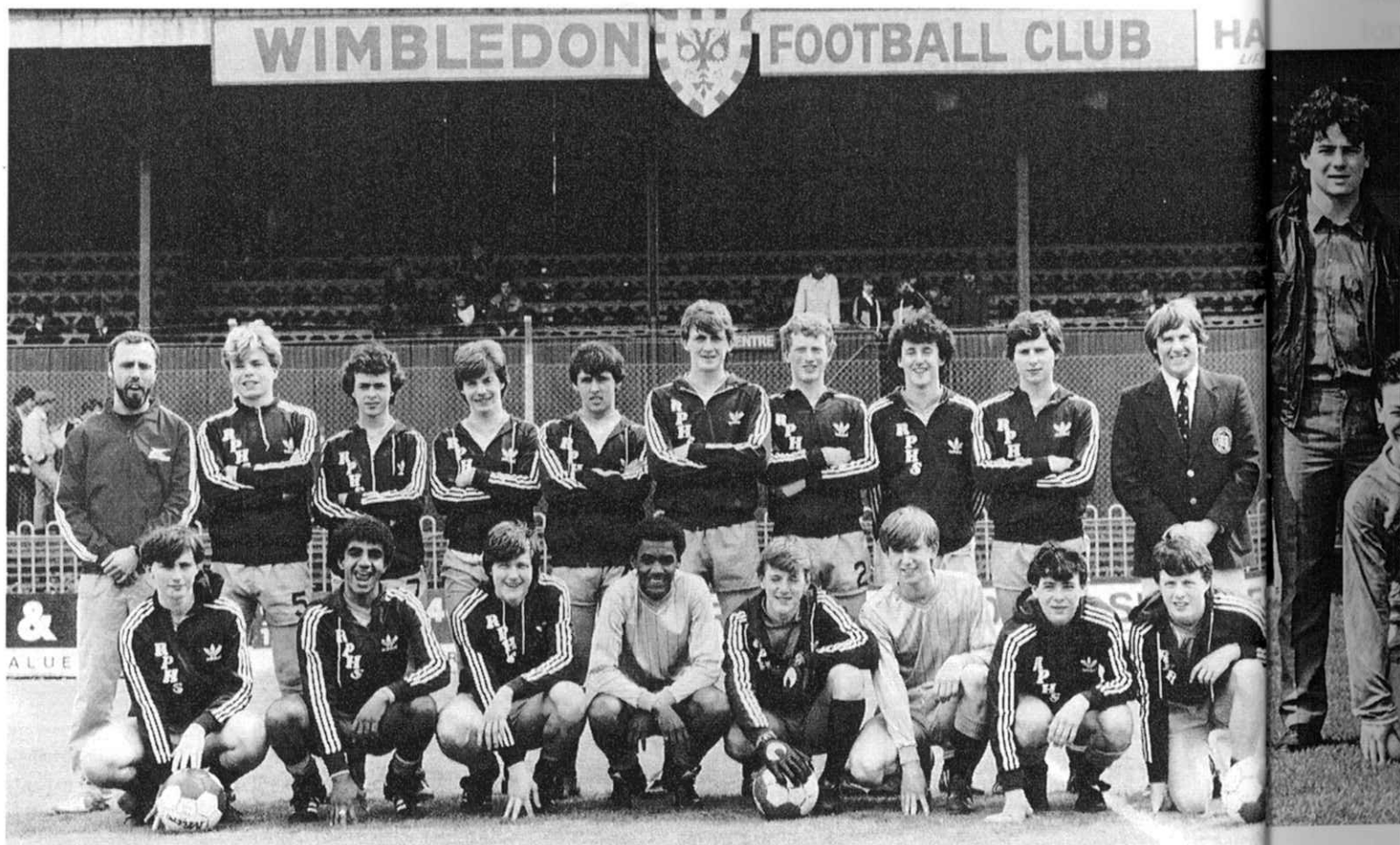
on
**MONDAY 16th MAY 1983,
Kick off 3pm**

By kind permission of The Directors

Adults £1/ Children 50p

Raynes Park South Stand
Rest North Stand

Official Souvenir Programme 30p



..... and shared the trophy this year.

THE
ENGLISH SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Patron:
H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G.



NABISCO BRANDS
U16 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS' TROPHY
KIRK BALK SCHOOL

(Barnsley)

V

**RAYNES PARK HIGH
SCHOOL**

(Merton)

at

BARNESLEY F.C. GROUND

on

Wednesday, 30th April, 1986

RECEPTION

at

THE ARDSLEY HOUSE HOTEL, BARNESLEY

Chairman: P. W. HILL, ESQ.



Remembrance

Since 1995 the School has resumed a Remembrance Assembly in November. In 1996 David Stone, a former pupil, led the Assembly. This is the text of his address.

Before I became a vicar I was a doctor. For me, one of the most fascinating areas of medicine was the study of the brain and the nervous system, known in the trade as 'neurology'. Part of the way medical students are trained is by putting them with senior doctors so that they can learn from watching what they do. One of my most vivid memories from that time is from the neurology clinic. A middle-aged woman came in with her husband. Outwardly she looked completely normal. In fact her husband looked much more anxious than she did. This woman looked fine, she sounded fine too, as she chatted away quite happily. We medical students wondered what she was doing there. And then the consultant asked her what year it was.

There was a silence in the room. She struggled for a moment or two, she was dimly and distressingly aware that she ought to know. But she didn't have the faintest idea. Tentatively she wondered, was it 1959 perhaps? It was 1981'. Who is the Prime Minister? She just didn't know. She could remember the little things that had happened to her as an individual in the very recent past like what she had had for breakfast that morning. But her ability to fit these memories into what was going on in the world as a whole had completely fallen apart. She was in fact extremely disabled. The diagnosis of advanced Alzheimer's Disease or pre-senile dementia, was not difficult to reach. It would be impossible to treat her. She would get steadily worse and then she would die.

Another case: the father of Richard, a friend of mine. His memory gradually faded away and he had to be taken into hospital to be looked after. It became so bad that, in the end, Richard's father could no longer remember who Richard was and greeted him as a complete stranger whenever he went to visit. Every time he went to see him, Richard had to start the relationship with his father all over again.

Losing the memory is a dreadful thing. It's our ability to remember that gives us the ability to store the good things that happen to us in

our brains and then bring them back when we want to experience them again. And having a memory also means that we can store away the details of circumstances which lead to bad things happening to us and so take action to stop them happening again.

Let me give an example. Suppose that a teacher gives you some homework to do and you fail to do it. Now there are two types of teacher, aren't there? On the one hand, there are those who can usually be relied upon to accept any old excuse and let you off. And then there are those who would insist on you handing your homework on time even if you could prove that you'd been kidnapped by aliens and taken to Mars for the weekend. And if you didn't hand it in, would devise and carry out all manner of fiendish punishments. It's important to be able to remember which is which. Otherwise you won't be able to avoid the dire consequences of failing to hand in homework to teacher B.

Now, what's true for us as individuals is also true for the world around us. We need to keep alive the memory of how awful war is so that we remain fully committed to not letting it happen again. The truth is that those who allow themselves to forget the lessons of history are condemned to having to learn them all over again.

That's why we take the time, year after year, to have Remembrance Day. That's why we have the poppies, reminding us of the fields of Flanders where so many thousands were slaughtered. That's why we have the ceremonies of remembrance at the Cenotaph and at other places all over the country. That's why we have the two minute period of silence. So that we take time to be grateful. So that we do not allow ourselves to forget those who gave up their lives so that we may live in freedom. So that we continue to look after this precious gift of freedom they have passed on to us. Especially the freedom to remember.

David Stone

(David Stone is Vicar of St Jude's Church, Courtfield Gardens, Earls Court and Area Dean of Chelsea. He was a pupil at the School from 1968 to 1975.)

Awards for Achievement 1998 –1999



Prize	Recipient(s)
Sportsperson	Paul Carroll
Eric Parker	Natasha Edmonds
Raynes Park HS Former Pupils	Natasha Edmonds, Doug Stevens*, Rebecca Elnaugh*, Matthew Storey
David Giles	Anne Davis
Drama	Folake Alayo, David Turner
Debating	Matthew Storey, Sarah Wakely
Music	Yasmeen Ahmed
John Massey	Patrick Milnes
Mike Nancarrow	Robert Newman, Joanne Abrehart
Headteacher's	Laura Coote, Rachel Conquest, Colin McLeod
Cross-Country	Paul Drake

* Awards of Lifetime Membership of the Raynes Park Former Pupils' Society

English	Rebecca Elnaugh Kristina Bedford Matthew Storey Dmitriy Emelianov	Information Technology	Dmitriy Emelianov
Art	David Richmond Sophie Alston Kwi-Yeon Park	Business Studies	Rebecca Elnaugh
Languages	Sophie Alston	Religious Education	Matthew Storey Matthew Kimber
Geography	Kelly Bubb Ryan Crawford Thomas Arnold	Learning Development	Bethan Kendrick
History	Matthew Storey	Technology	Mandana Tadayan
Science	Douglas Stevens Rebecca Elnaugh Susannah Nall	Mathematics	Dmitriy Emelianov Nader Farhat
Drama	Zoe Egan, James Tingey, Anne Davis, Karrisa Morris, Robert Jones, Patricia Wilkins, Donna Miller, Brooke Haynes, Claire Langley		
Music	Shewaye Blay-Morkeh		
Debates	Susannah Nall, Ben Lander, Zoe Kho, Natasha Edmonds, Doug Stevens, Anthony Pearson, Dean Cleevely,		

House Competitions 1998 - 1999

Event	1	2	3	4	G	H	M	N	Presented to:
Athletics	M/N		G	H	2	1	3.5	3.5	Rob Toulson,
Basketball	N	M	G	H	2	1	3	4	Stephen Johnson
Cross Country	G	N/M		H	4	1	2.5	2.5	Eugene Francis
Drama	M	N/G/H			3	3	4	3	Faizal Abdulla
Football - Boys	G	M	N	H	4	1	3	2	David Turner
Football - Girls	N	G	M/H		3	1.5	1.5	4	Ryan Douglas
Hockey	M	G	H	N	3	2	4	1	Kelly Creates
Netball	H	G	N/M		3	4	1.5	1.5	Emma Arnott
Rounders	N	G	M	H	3	1	2	4	Melanie Bennett
Tennis	G	H/M/N			4	2	2	2	Rachel Willoughby
Volleyball	N	M	G	H	2	1	3	4	Holly Smart
Cricket	N	G	M	H	3	1	2	4	Luke Oldland
Debating	M	N	G/H		1.5	1.5	4	3	Lorna Kenney
Music Singing	G/H/M/N				2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	Becky Elnaugh
									Juliette Challoner,
									Fay Cottrell,
									Natalie Staden,
									Charlotte Hall
Music Instrumental	H	N	G	M	2	4	1	3	Shewaye Blay Morkeh
Totals:									
					42.0	27.5	39.5	44.0	
Challenge Trophy -					1st	Newsoms	44		
Presented to:									
Rachael Georgiou									
					2nd	Gibbs	42		
					3rd	Miltons	39.5		
					4th	Halliells	27.5		

Junior Shield 1998 - 1999

Event	1	2	3	4	G	H	M	N	
Tennis	G	M	N	H	4	1	3	2	N
Basketball	N	M	G	H	2	1	3	4	2
Cross Country	G	M/N		H	4	1	2.5	4	4
Football - Boys	G	M	N	H	4	1.5	3	2	2
Football - Girls	N	G	M/H		3	1.5	1.5	4	4
Hockey	M	G	H	N	3	2	4	1	1
Debating	G/H/M/N	G			2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Netball	H	G	N/M		3	4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Rounders	N	G	M	H	3	1	2	4	4
Athletics	N	G/M		H	2.5	1	2.5	4	4
Volleyball	N	H	G	M	2	3	1	4	4
Rugby	N	G	M	H	3	1	2	4	4
			To-		36.0	20.0	28.5	35.5	
			tals:						

Junior Shield -
Presented to: Faizal Abdullah
& Joanne Abrehart

Autumn

*The soft breeze whistled through the trees
The crisp, chestnut leaves drifted along
the never-ending trail
Bare branches swayed in the wind
The breeze became colder, almost icy
The pacific street was motionless and peaceful
Not a person in sight
As the sun set and the day became night
A dull mist formed
And a strong aroma of autumn filled the hazy air*

Lisa Pilgrim

The Waiting Game

*Wait till you are old enough
Wait till you are bigger
Wait till you've grown up a bit
Wait till you've got a figure

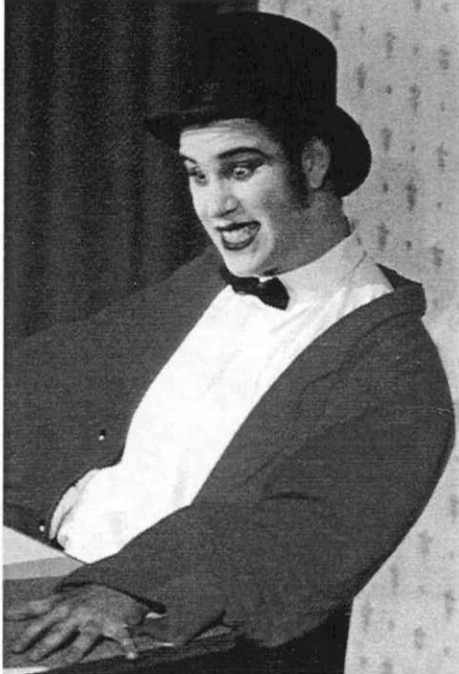
Wait until you've passed exams
Wait till you are working
Wait till you've got a home of your own
Then there'll be no shirking

Wait till you've got children
Then you'll understand
Wait till you retire
Then you'll have time on hand

My Gran says she's too old now
To do very much more
So just when is this golden age
That I've been waiting for*

Nicholas Warren

The Funfair of Doom (March 1999)



The Ringmaster – Jordan Tchilingirian

The school show this year - 'The Funfair of Doom' by former pupil Wyn Jones, Raynes Park's Head of English, was a resounding success with three sell-out evening performances and a matinee for local middle schools.

Many of you will have seen the show and we hope you will have laughed and trembled at the humour and horror of The Ringmaster and his fearsome followers; sighed at the romantically happy ending; marvelled at the runaway rollercoaster; been entranced by the fascinatingly evil Fortunetellers; laughed at Climber's gang and the Outer Girls; gasped at the impossibly muscular Strongmen, the mysterious Magicians and the lethal Knifethrowers. With the heroic

Controller, his HQ followers, the Secret Agents, the malicious Socket, Pliers and the Processors . . . and, of course, Terry and Julie and their families . . . we think there will have been something for everyone.

Above all, we know audiences will have been really impressed with the excellent acting from such a large number of pupils and students. It is impossible to mention all the excellent performances in a short review but Colin Mcleod as Terry, Esther McAuley as Julie, David Turner as Climber and Jordan Tchilingirian as The Ringmaster deserve special mention for so successfully undertaking long and demanding parts.

The Drama Department

*The poems in these pages were the winning entries in this year's
John Garrett Poetry competition.*

*The paintings are the work of present students and of former
students of the past few years.*

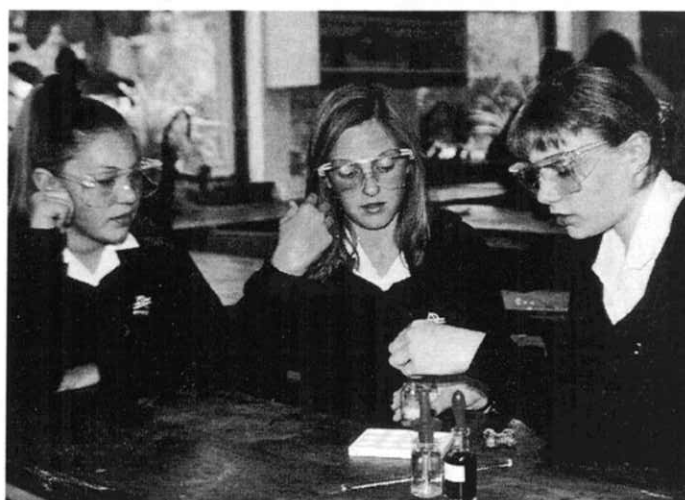


Raynes Park in action.....





..... every day!



*Congratulations to the
Learning Development Department!*

London Borough of Merton
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

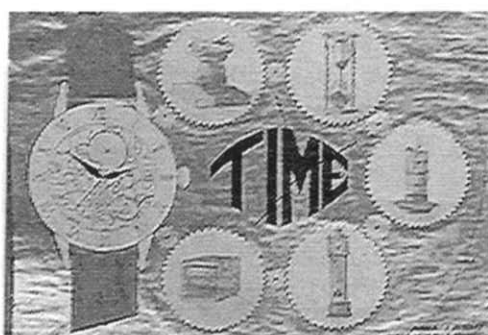
Wednesday 19th May 1999

Council Chamber
Merton Civic Centre, Morden

The Council meeting will commence at 7.30pm.
All present are asked to rise on the arrival of the
Mayor, Councillor Linda Kirby.

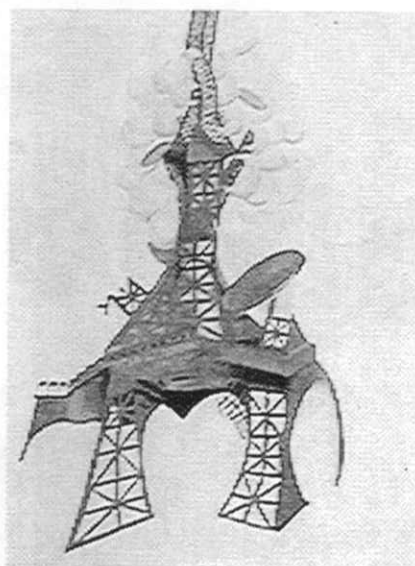
6. CURRICULUM PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor to make a presentation to Raynes Park High School, winner of the 1998
Curriculum Project of the Year Award.



Jeremy Tombs

Kate Treers



Physical Education

Tennis

Tennis has enjoyed much popularity this term, with the clubs being very well attended. The ability and interest that Y8 have shown in tennis this year bodes well for the future at RPHS.

Activities have ranged from pre school breakfast clubs, for those that can get up early enough.

Daily lunchtime clubs, these have been so busy you have to get there straight after the bell to be first on a court.

After school clubs, team practices and coaching sessions. These have been a particular favourite with the students being given the opportunity of one hours free coaching from an outside professional.

A whole school tennis ladder has been running throughout the year. The players have arranged and officiated all their own matches, which is always good to see.

There have been enjoyable competitions against other schools for the Y8 and Y9 this term. The most notable being the Surrey Schools County Tournament. Special reference should be made to Robert Newman and James Daly who confidently played their way into the semi finals of the tournament

We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to take ten students to Wimbledon this year, to see how the pros do it! We were blessed with sunshine and great tennis right into the evening. A fantastic experience for everyone.

All in all a very good term for tennis.

K.Aked

Wimbledon Ball Boys And Girls

The training required is both mentally and physically tiring. Eleven of our Y10 students showed themselves to be strong enough and committed enough to get through all the training and selections.

Six Y11 students did so well last year that they were invited back.

I cannot congratulate all the students enough for their attitude and conduct. To work at the Championships is an honour, and for these students a well deserved honour. Well done.

Rounders

Rounders has been enthusiastically supported by Y8 again. We have managed to form a squad of two teams both of which gained successes and enjoyment.

Volleyball

With much commitment and practice the Y8 and Y10 volleyball squads are now developing into strong teams. They have had noticeable wins over Ursuline and Watermeads. I am sure they will continue to go from strength to strength. This has been a very enjoyable club to run thanks to the attitude of the students.

Hockey

Both the U16 and U14 teams have had a successful season. The teams showed good commitment, training hard through the winter and putting their all into matches. The U16 finished second in both the Merton Borough league and tournament. Whilst the U14 team gained the successes they deserved for their efforts and finished the season as league champions. Well done to all the girls that took part in the team effort.

K.Aked



Rachael Harrison

Boys' Football

It has been some time since a boys team from Raynes Park has reached a county cup final. The last time was the present year 11 team who got to the final when they were in year 8.

The present year 8 team made it to this year's final against all odds. They had three managers and succeeded in a number of very close games, the most notable of which was against Rutlish which they won 6-4 after extra time. On their way to the final they also beat Epsom and Ewell High, Wilsons, Sheene and Carshalton Boys.

In the final they played Collingwood School at Hillingdon Football Club. Although they competed well they were always under pressure from a much more physically able side. At year 8 level physical presence is a major factor which diminishes over the years as skill takes on more significance.

Unfortunately we lost 3-1 but to be honest we were lucky to keep it to 3. The year 8 team has skill in abundance though at the moment they are a small side. Hopefully they will grow, get that yard quicker and win in any of the competitions they have been entered in next year. Those are the County cup, the London cup and the National cup.

The year 9 boys had less of a good time this year. They were unfortunately defeated in the 3rd round of the County cup and the second round of the National cup. In both games they held the lead and but for some basic errors would have won. They are, in my opinion, one of the best school teams I have taken in many years of teaching. They are more than capable of winning a county cup.

G. Harvey

Girls' Football

After the successes of last year the girls have not had too good a season. The year 10/11 team got to the semi-finals of the cup defeating Waldegrave School and Sunbury Manor on the way. The year 8/9 team beat Sheene School having got a bye in the first round. Unfortunately both teams came up against St Philomenas from Sutton, a force to be reckoned with in terms of girls football. Although we had our chances we were narrowly beaten in both games.

For the first time we entered teams in the County 5 a-side competition at year 10/11 age. We won our group matches but were unfortunately beaten by Guilford County School in the semi-finals.

We have recently been building links with Fulham Football Club and at the moment are expecting some junior Fulham players to do some coaching with Raynes Park girls next season.

Girls' Cricket

This continues to be a "fun club" With a lot of laughs and definite skill development for the girls. This element of enjoyment was evident across the year groups from Y8 through to Y10. The term ended with a very well played house cricket competition in which the girls did more than just hold their own.

A success in my eyes.

J.Derrington

Life – Saving

During swimming I do a life saving course. It involves doing quite a few things such as swimming underwater and collecting things. We also learn how to deal with different casualties e.g. if someone is in the water and he or she can't swim we would find something that would float such as empty cola bottles that could be clung to. We would then give instructions and try to make him or her swim towards us by making them kick their legs. The course also involves self-survival e.g. if a boat overturns, we need to know how to search for people and find air pockets. Also, we have to swim a number of lengths (e.g. 12 or 24) to pass our test. After we have finished swimming in the pool we get changed and learn how to resuscitate someone who has been drowning and to put him or her in the recovery position.

Christopher Glover 9HZ

Fun Run '99

On 11th July a total of 33 girls and 12 adults gamely made their way to Hyde Park to participate in the London Flora/Adidas fun run. All the girls not only showed up, but also were on time and excited about taking part in a physical activity on a Sunday morning!

The weather was good and the event was well organised. It was a bit of a panic initially as most people scattered at the beginning with small hope of ever finding each other again in the vast 10,000 competitors present – not forgetting the keen and willing boyfriends, husbands and partners clutching picnic hampers and cool boxes. These onlookers helped to cheer us on as they lined the paths and looked sympathetically at the red faces that struggled past them.

What impressed me most about the day was the attitude of everyone present. The team spirit among the pupils was fantastic with a genuine interest in everybody's times, encouraged both staff and other pupils along to a sense of achievement and the feeling of major accomplishment. No sooner had they finished but they demanded to know whether they could participate next year and could we do it all over again!

Reports of pupils not participating in sport in today's society are wide spread – especially with the girls. However, to find 33 girls wanting to take part in a three mile run on a Sunday (with no time off lessons) was not only surprising but also encouraging.

It's an event that we can organise to take part in next year as well as looking at even greater participation figures. I am presuming that the standard of the girls' cross-country team will not rise to inspirational level, but I could be wrong.

Well done to all those who took part and a big thanks to everyone who sponsored, supported, ran and escorted.

A. Routledge



School Sports Day Records



	Y8 Girls	Y8 Boys	Y9 Girls	Y9 Boys	Y10 Girls	Y10 Boys
100m	M. Williams 13.48s 98	N. Cleghorn 12.56s 96	S. Wellstead 13.03s 94	N. Cleghorn 12.01s 97	S. Richardson 13.70s 97	B. Fitzgerald 11.27s 95
200m	M. Williams 29.41s 98	J. Osbourne 25.82s 97	F. Alayo 30.11s 97	N. Cleghorn 24.48s 97	G. Mooney 30.01s 96	A. Yarde 25.00s 97
400m	A. Allison 70.00s 92	R. Thornhill R. White 66.85s 91	K. Bailey 70.76s 96	D. Blackwood 62.05s 95	F. Alayo 68.00s 98	J. Bone 60.96s 94
800m	K. Crossley 2m49s 93	J. Bone 2m31s 92	N. Andrews 2m56s 93	M. Paget 2m17s 98	C. Webb 3m1.00s 92	S. Hickland 2m16.00s 91
1500m	N. Andrews 5m48s 92	P. Drake 5m8.17s 98	R. O'Carroll 5m56s 91	M. Paget 4m47.66s 98	R. O'Carroll 5m42s 92	M. Paget 4m41s 99
4 x 100m	Gibbs 60.34s 95	Halliwell 55.17s 96	Gibbs 60.00s 95	Halliwell 53.68s 91	Halliwell 61.31s 97	Miltons 51.24s 98
4 x 300m	Newsoms 3m48.91s 97	Miltons 3m16.28s 98	Newsoms 3m47.18s 97	Miltons 3m01s 99	Miltons 3m35.48s 97	Miltons 2m59.45s 98
Shot	A. Griffin 7m83 97	A. Oram 9m54 96	M. Williams 8m16 99	I. McLeod 10m73 91	S. Stock 8m95 94	S. Ismail 11m35 99
Discus	J. Abrehart 23m70 98	N. Blythe 24m18 94	J. Abrehart 23m30 99	S. Corney 25m39 93	K. Wyatt 18m10 97	N. Blythe 26m50 96
Javelin	V. Rondeau 17m10 96	J. Galisteo 28m61 97	I. Ahmed 22m10 99	F. Abdulla 35m40 99	S. Markillie 23m60 94	D. Vernon 35m10 95
Long Jump	A. Munson 3m87 97	O. Cheema 4m85 94	K. Locke 3m91 91	A. White 5m26 96	K. Locke 3m94 92	S. Downey 5m34 97
Triple Jump	S. Wellstead 9m42 93	A. White 11m91 95	S. Wellstead 9m70 94	A. White 11m40 96	K. Locke N. Thorburn 8m95 92	S. Hickland 10m69 91
High Jump	P. Balsom I. Hawkins 1m27 92	J. Weeks 1m42 92	I. Hawkins 1m30 93	P. Baker 1m72 92	I. Hawkins 1m32 94	P. Baker 1m68 93

World Records

UK Records

	Women	Men	Women	Men
100m	F.G – Joyner USA 10.49s 88	M.Greene USA 9.79s 99	K.Cook 11.10s 81	L.Christie 9.87s 93
200m	F.G – Joyner USA 21.34s 88	M.Johnson USA 19.32s 96	K.Cook 22.10s 84	J.Regis 19.94s 93
400m	M.Koch Germany 47.60s 85	M.Johnson USA 43.18s 99	K.Cook 49.43s 84	I.Thomas 44.36s 97
800m	J.Kratochvilova Czech 1m 53.28 83	W.Kipketer Denmark 1m 41.11s 97	K.Holmes 1m 56.21s 95	S.Coe 1m 41.73s 81
1500m	Q.Yunxia China 3m 50.46 93	H. El Guerrouj Morocco 3m 26.00s 98	K.Holmes 3m 58.07s 97	S.Cram 3m 29.67s 85
4 x 100m	Germany 41.37s 85	USA 37.40s 92	42.43s 80	37.77s 93
Shot	N.Lisovskaya USSR 22m63 87	R.Barnes USA 23m12 90	J.Oakes 19m36 88	G.Capes 21m68 80
Discus	G.Reinsch Germany 76m80 88	J.Schult Germany 74m08 86	M.Ritchie 67m48 81	R.Weir 64m60 97
Javelin	P.Felke Germany 80m00 88	J.Zelezny Czech 98m48 96	F.Whitbread 77m44 86	S.Backley 91m46 92
Long Jump	G.Chistiayakova USSR 7m52 88	M.Powell USA 8m95 91	B.Kinch 6m90 83	L.Davies 8m23 68
Triple Jump	I.Kravets Ukraine 15m50 95	J.Edwards UK 18m29 95	A.Hansen 15m15 97	J.Edwards 18m29 95
High Jump	S.Kostandinova Bulgaria 2m09 87	J.Sotomayor Cuba 2m45 93	D.Davies 1m95 82	S.Smith 2m37 92

Misery of an Old Man

He is old and lonely
Nobody cares
Endlessly staring out of his window
Feeling himself drained
Like a curse he opens his eyes
And rises like yeast
It's been weeks since he has slept
He keeps a beast in his nature
And under any attack it shines through
Like a dawning
Although he is weak to the world
Close to his window, he stays
Just staring away
Wasting away
He wishes to go

Sarah Moore

I Know I'm Old

I know I'm old and I forget
What I did yesterday
But if you'll sit and talk to me
There's such a lot I'll say
I'll tell you of my childhood dreams
Though they all came to nought
Some hopes and small achievements
Were all I ever sought
But no-one wants to spend an hour
With someone old like me
So I'll sit alone again today
With another cup of tea

Carina Rashleigh

Growing up can be . . .

Growing up can be so hard
Faced with a whirlwind of problems
Mistakes, hard decisions and arguments
Never knowing if you've made the right choice
Facing the consequences if you haven't
Changes occurring all around
Sometimes you feel like screaming
Yelling for the world to slow down

Growing up can be so challenging
Always learning
Trying to earn respect and responsibility
Trying to battle mixed emotions
Happy when you should be sad or angry
Sad or angry when you should be happy
Amongst all the jumble and confusion
You are there, trying to think about the future, your life

Growing up can be so amazing
The chains that bind you to rules being broken
So many friends, fun, excitement, laughter and wild times
Love from so many people
Loving and enjoying who you are
Maturing, seeing things clearly
Freedom to do as you please
Social lives, friends, family and enjoyment

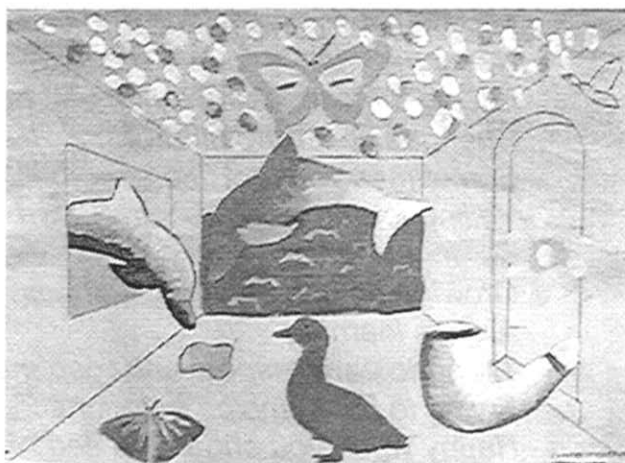
Growing up can be such a mixture
Love, hate, good times and bad times
But once it's over . .
You'll wish you were doing it again.

Kerrie Huggins



Emma Dormor

Emma Matthews



Happy Memories

Cross Country! Remember how you enjoyed those runs through the mud, snow and ice on Wimbledon Common? Some of you may even recall running through Bentalls Store en route to Hampton Court? Hammersmith Bridge, Putney High Street, Chiswick Bridge the Thames towpath and Richmond Park were features for the really energetic. At the end of the summer term a certain person who thought up all those Wednesday afternoon delights successfully persuaded some of his colleagues to join him on a Nostalgia Run around the Colt Course on Wimbledon Common. No doubt this makes you really envious and you long for those good old days. Well how about an annual reunion social run? We have in mind the second Sunday in March each year. Try to break your record if you wish but otherwise enjoy a social jog and a chat on the two and three quarter mile course (the same old short cuts are still there). Anybody from whatever era would be most welcome. Please spread the word around. If you are interested please contact Alan Painter at the School Office for further details.

Mike Glead

Raynes Park Former Pupils' Society

After an embryonic few years, the Society (originally called Raynes Park Old Boys' Society) was firmly established soon after the last world war and catered primarily for rugby, cricket and hockey enthusiasts.

In 1957, the Society, spearheaded by the rugby section, purchased a 14 acre green-belt site at Woodstock Lane, Claygate just off the old A3. Most of the money was borrowed from the Rugby Football Union with the balance being made up from a few interested groups including the war memorial fund, which had been formed to commemorate the ex-pupils who had lost their lives in World War Two. A plaque in the main hall was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Southwark in 1950 but the money left over was given to the Society and the site was named the War Memorial Ground.

In view of the financial commitment involved, a limited company was registered and became ultimately responsible for the investment.

The facilities comprised four rugby pitches, a club-house and changing rooms (erected by the members) and a car park. In order to raise money, one of the pitches gave way to a golf-driving range and some members used the club-house for a regular game of bridge.

By this time, the hockey section had disbanded but the cricket teams - Saturday and Sunday sides - had made Oberon their home and chose to stay in Raynes Park, so the Memorial Ground was run entirely by the Rugby Club. To raise money it ran a "200 club" with the main six-monthly prize being £500 or a new Mini. All winners took the £500 as it was worth more !!

Unfortunately, in 1972 the Esher By-pass (the current A3 just past the Hook underpass/ roundabout) was constructed and it required a major slice of our land, so rugby, bridge, golf and many other less definable activities that took place down Woodstock Lane, came to an end although the rugby club amalgamated with Southern Rugby

Club to form Raynes Park Rugby Club which plays at Taunton Avenue and still has a number of "Old Boys" and teachers as players.

Although the Society received adequate compensation at the time, it was virtually impossible to obtain similar accommodation in the locality. The trustees of the Limited Company, therefore, have been responsible for investing the capital and evaluating many schemes and ideas that have been proposed over the years but it is unlikely that we would now purchase another ground. This is due to our reduced purchasing power and the general demise of "Old Boys" sports clubs during the past 10-15 years, which has been further exacerbated by the School not having a sixth form and therefore pupils complete their education at other institutions, make new friends and play their sport elsewhere.

The Society maintains links with the School by sponsoring each year special achievement awards which are designated by the Headteacher. Additionally, we have provided the School with wooden benches for the quad and have purchased the library software system for the "Henry Porter Memorial Library" and hope it will encourage all those who have access to this new facility.

Over the last few years, members attending the annual Reunion Dinner have benefited from the fund as it has subsidised the evening from the interest earned which helps to keep the price affordable to all. The Dinner, preceded by the AGM, is usually on the first Friday in October and is now held at the Wayfairer Hotel in Wimbledon.

There have been many different proposals investigated over the years and we have embarked upon a couple of major projects which, regrettably, did not materialise due to various reasons. The only proposal to have been sanctioned and implemented is the formation of a Raynes Park Former Pupils' Golf Society based at Patchesham Park Golf Centre in Leatherhead. All Golf Society members can play seven days a week without charge on this 9-hole course which also has a driving range, well stocked shop and friendly club-house. Professional tuition is also available if required. There are currently forty six members and the Golf Society holds five "Society Days" when any pupil / former pupil / teacher is most welcome to attend.

For further information contact the Secretary:

Brian Carson,
12, Hatherwood,
Ermyn Way,
Leatherhead,
Surrey,
KT22 8TT

Telephone 01372 275641

The Former Pupils' Cricket Club continues to play at Oberon and plans to run two colts teams next season for pupils at the School. Those interested please contact:

Chris Kille,
17, Melrose Road,
Merton Park,
SW19 3HF

Telephone 0181 715 5434

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to start a Former Pupils' Club in any sport and help us spend some money! The size of club is immaterial but we would expect a properly constituted group looking to play sport seriously and our rules state that 75% of members must be former pupils of the School and all members must belong to Raynes Park Former Pupils' Society. If you have any ideas or proposals, please contact the Chairman - see below.

Membership of the Society is £20 for life and a membership booklet is produced every few years to help keep in touch with friends. To join, please ask at the School's administration office for an application form or telephone/write to the Chairman:

Graham Francis,
10 The Mount,
Fetcham,
Surrey
KT22 9EE.

Telephone
01372 378603

Autumn

Conkers fall from trees like rain falling from the sky
Leaves scatter across parks like lambs across a field
Children come from all over
To collect the smooth round conkers
And fill their pockets full
The weather's dull but children
Stamp their feet in puddles safe in wellington boots
Cold and wet, they rifle through
The fallen autumn leaves
To find the biggest and best conkers
Then home they go to sort out their finds
And string their best ones
Ready to go to battle at school the next day
With visions of sixers and cheesecutters
in their heads

Glen Armstrong



Keisha Baker – Benjamin

Headteacher's Report

to the Former Pupils' Society

The OFSTED inspection dominated everyone's thoughts as the academic year 1998/9 began. There was a mountain of documentation to prepare for the lead inspector who filled the boot of her car with ring binders full of policies, schemes of work and reports when she paid her preliminary visit in December. We were, however, very pleased to be able to inform her of our GCSE exam results for 1998 which saw significant improvements on all the main indicators used for the annual league tables.

The inspectors duly arrived on January 18th at 7am, observed 212 lessons during the week and investigated every aspect of the life and work of the school. They reviewed a very big sample of written class and homework and interviewed pupils formally and informally as individuals and in groups. Specialist inspectors 'lived with' departments for three, four or five days and all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, were appraised in some way. 100 parents sent in a completed questionnaire and 62 braved a horrendous downpour to attend a special meeting to talk directly to the principal inspector.

The report praised the work of the school and highlighted many positive features. These can be studied in detail on the school website and copies of the full report or its summary can be obtained from the school office for a nominal charge. All inspections generate key issues for action and the school is now fully committed to its OFSTED action plan which more or less translates into the school development plan for the next two to three years. The progress of the plan will be monitored by the governors, the LEA and OFSTED.

In September 1998 the school was named Roland 'Music Technology School of the Month'. Director of Music, Alexis Affonso, was invited to take a group of students and staff to a special keyboard workshop. Two musicians, Yaz Ahmed (trumpet) and Iman Ahmed (trombone) were invited to join the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, a fantastic honour. Later that month a year 10 GCSE design group

was successful in its bid to win professional design support for a 'millenium' project to develop the courtyard area next to the dining hall. Mr Bohan and his students displayed their work at a major local exhibition organised by the Merton Education Business Partnership. Now the task is to find the sponsorship to make the design a reality sometime in the year 2000.

October saw the launch of the English Department's John Garrett Poetry Competition to encourage creative writing. The initiative will be extended this term with a prose writing competition for the Paul Vaughan prize, sponsored by the **RPHS Charitable Trust**. The work of the trust, established in 1998, promises much for the future of the school but a great effort will be required to raise funds to secure its long term future. A number of ambitious plans await support and the trust is already helping out with a number of small but significant projects. More contributions and fundraising ideas needed !

Members of the society may be aware that the borough is seeking permission from the secretary of state to establish a two tier system of education in the borough, ending the first, middle and high school system established in 1969. The Local Education Authority has conducted an extensive consultation exercise in the last 18 months designed to identify ways of raising the academic achievement of Merton pupils. From 2002 Raynes Park would become an 11-16 high school with its roll building up to 1200. The proposed closure of the adjacent Bushey First School would provide the necessary extra accommodation. Final approval is expected in January 2000. School sixth forms do not form part of the plans. Rutlish will be closing its post-16 provision next year to fall into line with other borough high schools. The sixth form college (currently called Phoenix) and Merton College will be merging in August 2000. Slowly a coherent and more orthodox framework for education in Merton seems to be emerging.

In November five pupils were invited to attend a special 'Pupil Parliament' held in the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre to discuss age of transfer issues directly with councillors and the director of education. Vicky Wilson-Addo wrote a critical account of this event

in the December newsletter and received a personal note in reply from the director herself.

Every year we enter pupils for a national Maths competition and this year record numbers won gold, silver and bronze awards. Nick Warren in year 9 did so well that he was invited to take part in the European finals where he won another gold medal.

Members will be pleased to hear of the extensive **house activities** which begin in September with a Superteams competition for new pupils and continue throughout the year with drama, debating and sport ensuring that some traditions remain unbroken. Miltons won the House Drama with their version of Aladdin and also triumphed overall in the debating competition. Alan clearly inspired his house on his most recent visit. Overall house challenge cup winners, however, were Newsoms, with Gibbs winning the junior house shield for the second year running.

Drama looms large in the life of the school and over a hundred pupils choose to follow a GCSE drama course. This is an unusually high number. The school play was again a resounding success with three sell-out evening performances and for the first time a matinee for some of our feeder schools. The 'FUNFAIR OF DOOM', written by Wyn Jones, head of English and former pupil, provided wonderful roles for our young actors to show their talents as secret agents, fortune tellers, worried parents, innocent children, gang members, witches and knifethrowers, to name but a few of the many amazing characters.

The PE department was awarded a 'SPORTSMARK' in recognition of its achievement in establishing a progressive and well balanced PE programme with a commitment to providing as many extra curricular opportunities for individuals and teams as possible. This 'national chartermark' is a real accolade for the department and will be valid until 2002. Some of the highlights of another very busy year were:

- **Cross Country:** Paul Drake comfortably winning the u/14 Bor-

ough competition, going on to represent Merton in the County Championship and leading the RPHS contingent who took up five of the eight places in the Merton London mini-marathon team which achieved its best ever finish - fifth out of the thirty three London Boroughs taking part, Mark Paget being selected for the England u/15 squad.

- **Athletics:** seven individual winners in the borough sports competition and one team victory (junior boys 4x 100m), all represented the borough in the county championships where James Watford (pole vault) and Mark Oguntoye (100m) were winners again and invited to the prestigious All England Schools event.
- **Netball:** Year 9 girls won all the borough competitions (again) and were particularly pleased to beat a very strong Wimbledon High School team in what was effectively the borough cup final. Team captain, Nicola Holmes, was selected for the county squad.
- **Tennis:** U/14 doubles team reached the semi-final of the county schools competition, James Daly won the Surrey u/14 singles title and is a member of the Surrey u/18 squad, Robert Newman is a member of the borough u/14 team which won the South London borough competition for the year.
- **Football:** the u/13 boys' team maintained our very strong tradition in the county competitions by reaching the final but losing 3-1 to Collingwood School of Aldershot in a keenly fought game.
- **Cricket:** with the particular help of Chris Kille of Raynes Park Former Pupils' Cricket Club, regular practices were held throughout the summer term and an application has been made to establish two colts teams in the Surrey league for 99/00. A special annual challenge match has been agreed with the new head of Rutlish and the inaugural match should take place in the second week of September. Neil Saker has been selected for the England u/14 cricket squad.
- **Hockey:** the department won special 'challenge funding' to engage professional coaches to support the development of hockey.
- **Golf:** this sport is beginning to gain in popularity with the sup-

port of the society and a range of coaching and matchplay opportunities on offer. Thank you !

At the time of writing we await the Lottery Board's decision regarding our bid for funding for an artificial turf pitch.

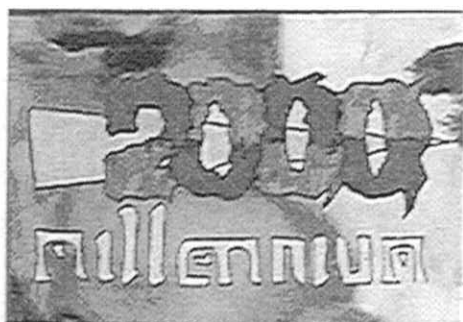
I am delighted to report that the Learning Development Department won the Borough's Curriculum Project of the Year award for 98/99. This is well deserved recognition for the department's work with pupils of all abilities. The new Mayor presented the trophy to Mrs Kavanagh and cited an outstanding extension programme for study support students in keystage 4.

The school held another mock election this year to coincide with the European elections. Brave and eloquent aspiring politicians formed their parties, organised their campaigns and spoke at assemblies and other meetings on behalf of some very original policies. Our results contributed to the national schools mock election run by the Hansard Society.

There were a number of staff departures this year, most notably that of Mike Gleed, after forty years of service to RPHS. Pupils gave him a rousing send off and the school newsletter (and local newspaper) attempted to summarise some of his achievements in science, sport, information technology and many other aspects of school. I hope he will attend the dinner so that members may pay their own tributes to his outstanding contribution to the life of the school.

I very much look forward to meeting you again at the dinner and answering any questions on the school's activities.

I. Newman

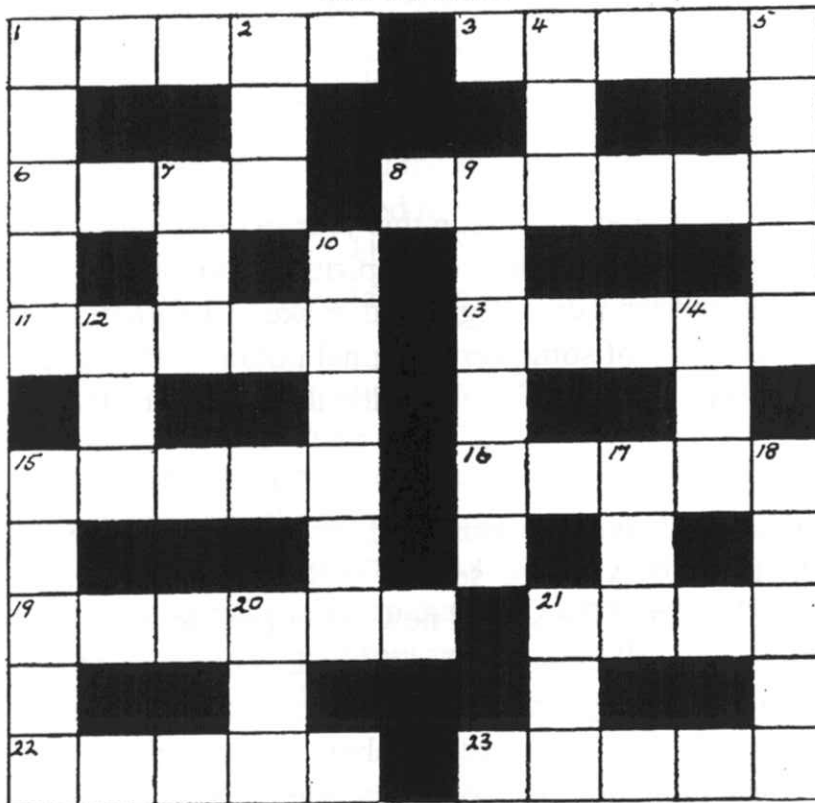


Rhys Jones

*Try this from the third edition of the Spur
published in 1937*

SPUR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

A prize of 2s. is offered for the first correct solution handed to
Mr. Newsom.



ACROSS

- 1 See 19.
- 3 Newspapers go to it.
- 6 Part.
- 8 Here we learn to tackle low.
- 11 Chemical compound.
- 13 Defunct School club.
- 15 Garment.
- 16 As in hindrance.
- 19 If he has 1 across he looks after the interests of a number of boys.
- 21 Porch.
- 22 Severe.
- 23 It sounds an important American State.

DOWN

- 1 Is this boy interested in birds?
- 2 Prosecute the girl.
- 4 Half of 8.
- 5 Rest in peace after a little science.
- 7 His wife indulged in a fatal retrospect.
- 9 Girl's name.
- 10 An awkward mess, if fish are in it.
- 12 The same in Scotland.
- 14 Writings.
- 15 Aegean island.
- 17 Proverbial example of industry to the sluggard.
- 18 Commerce.
- 20 Devonian hill.
- 22 Bath or Harrogate for example.