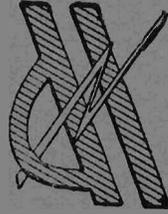


# THE SPUR

Vol. IX

No. 5



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. IX., No. 5.

Summer, 1951.

## NOTES

The Headmaster has been away ill for a part of this term and has not yet fully recovered. All the School is greatly distressed and he is sorely missed. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery and look forward eagerly to his return.

\* \* \*

Open Night took place on Wednesday 4th July. There was a very large attendance of parents who were, it was clear, interested, amused, and entertained by the prolific variety of activities offered to them. It may be invidious to select particular displays from so many, but we should like to record that the Physics Lab. was thronged with masses throughout the evening and that the Craft Room was filled by astonished and admiring visitors. The Kon-Tiki project of the Junior School was remarkable for its imagination and its finish. The appreciation of the parents was shown at the bookstall, where more than one hundred new books were bought for the Library.

\* \* \*

As the examinations began and finished quite early in the term, it was decided to bring the curriculum for next year into operation immediately after the conclusion of the examinations. The fifth forms were divided into a fifth Arts, fifth Science, and a fifth Modern to work in preparation for their sixth form studies. It was hoped in this way to avoid the post-examination doldrums.

\* \* \*

We are happy to welcome Mr. David Money, late scholar of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who becomes Sixth Form English master next term. We look forward to working with Mr. Money and hope that he will be happy here.

\* \* \*

The present position of the Cock House Competition is:—

Cobb's	...	33 pts.
Halliwell's	...	21 pts.
Newsom's	...	20 pts.
Milton's	...	8 pts.
Gibb's	...	5 pts.

As Cobb's have since won both the Cricket Cup and the Junior Shield their position would appear to be now impregnable. The Swimming and Tennis Competitions have yet to be decided.

## HOUSE NOTES

### Cobb's

*Captain* : A. G. Simpson.

*Vice-Captain* : A. Melmoth.

*School Prefects* : G. C. Cook, D. S. Jonas, A. Melmoth, J. D. Shepherd, A. G. Simpson.

The publishing of this issue of *The Spur* marks the end of one of the most successful years the House has ever had. As these notes go

## SCHOOL OFFICERS, SUMMER TERM, 1951

*Head of the School* : A. G. Simpson.

*Prefects* : A. G. Simpson, F. J. Atkins, P. J. Casselton, G. C. Cook, J. W. Crichton, J. P. Hood Phillips, A. J. Hopkins, D. S. Jonas, D. Mackelworth, I. B. Bullock, A. Melmoth, J. D. Shepherd, D. M. Spiers, B. R. Walters.

*Captain of Cricket* : W. H. Shepherd.

*Secretary of Cricket* : D. S. Jonas.

*Secretary of Games Committee* : A. G. Simpson.

*Prefect of Library* : J. P. Hood Phillips.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following magazines, and apologise for any inadvertent omissions:—Aldenhamian, Ashtedian, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Bryanston Saga, Caterham School Magazine, Fettesian, Kingstonian, Old Spur, Radleian, Record.

*Editors* : William Walsh, Esq., J. D. Shepherd.

*Committee* : D. Mackelworth, A. J. Hopkins, A. F. Menzies, L. W. J. Bunch.

to press we are in a very strong position indeed with regard to the Cock House Competition, a position we mean to keep for the rest of this term. At the end of the year we are liable to lose ten of our sixth formers, all of whom have worked hard for the prosperity of the House during the last few years. Although their place cannot be filled immediately there are most excellent signs of talent in the Junior House. Under the able captaincy of Francis the Juniors have worked steadily through the winter to come first equal in the Rugby Competition, and now in the summer they are in a leading position in the Cricket. This means that they stand to win the Junior School Shield which has not rested in our hands for many years.

Last term we achieved our ambition by winning all the cups up for competition. This term has only seen the completion of one competition—athletics. The House worked well during the qualifying season and we were nine points behind Halliwell's at the beginning of the finals. Those nine points proved fatal however, and we never caught them. W. H. Shepherd and Eales deserve our congratulations on setting up new records in the Senior long jump and Colt 220 yds. The Colt relay team of Braine, Baker, Shepherd, D. C. and Eales also ran extremely well in record time.

W. H. Shepherd has already steered two of our House teams to victory and at the close of the Cricket season it seems that he has pulled off a hat trick. The Seniors have beaten Newsom's, Milton's and Gibb's and the Colts have also done extremely well. In spite of the fact that we cannot be displaced from first position we might have done even better had it not been for the unpunctuality of some participants in the matches.

Alan Melmoth is now urging us up and down the swimming bath in an effort to accumulate qualifying points. We have a fairly good team of finalists and we hope to beat Gibb's who now lie seven points ahead of us.

Rehearsals are now in progress for the House play under the direction of S. D. Shepherd. This term we are producing "This Way to the Tomb" by Ronald Duncan. It has a fairly small cast, and we hope to exploit our limited talent to the best effect.

A. G. S.

The comfortable position in which the House is placed is due very largely to the efforts of Simpson and his fellow seniors. We shall miss them very much next term, and wish them the best of luck in their various careers.

G. J. A.

## Gibb's

*House Captain* : L. W. J. Bunch.

*Prefects* : F. J. Atkins, I. B. Bullock, D. M. Spiers.

### *Athletics.*

The House was not so fortunate in the Athletic Sports this year and after occupying second position last year we dropped to fifth this year. It was, however, very pleasing to note that out of six Minor events we won three and came second in two; this promises well for the future. We should especially congratulate Roe on gaining two first places and Thompson on gaining one.

### *Cricket.*

In the most disappointing, and unlucky season for several years, the Seniors won one, and drew one of their four matches; the Colts have so far lost the three they have played, and the Juniors have played and lost two. If a skied catch had been held, the Seniors could have beaten Cobb's and against Newsom's, Jeapes' absence was felt on a wicket helping quick bowlers. After these defeats, the match against Halliwell's produced the tamest draw of the competition when we were left a mere forty minutes in which to score a hundred

and twenty runs. In the final match we defeated Milton's by two wickets and thus handed them the wooden spoon. In the Juniors we have two competent all-rounders in Loveday and Thompson who should strengthen the House in future; and the Seniors will welcome a regular wicket-keeper from the Colts next season.

### *Tennis.*

Although on paper we appeared to have a weak team, the tennis eight has won convincingly its two opening matches against Milton's and Newsom's. We must, however, expect to meet with much stiffer opposition from Cobb's and Halliwell's; nevertheless, if the team shows the same steadiness and determination as in previous matches we shall not prove easy to beat.

### *Dramatics.*

This year we have chosen a play somewhat different in style from those of the two previous years. The play "Hewers of Coal," is quite short and contains only a few characters; this will, we hope, allow us more time to concentrate on greater detail in the production, whereas in previous years we have found great difficulty in trying to rehearse a huge cast in the short time allowed.

### *Swimming.*

We have not seen the usual rush to qualify which we have come to expect from Gibb's and consequently we have found ourselves trailing Cobb's for most of the season. We have, however, just overhauled them and hold a slender lead of a few points which we hope will have been increased by the day of the Gala. Cobb's will undoubtedly give us a hard fight, but providing all our swimmers are on form we expect to retain the Cup.

### *The Garden Party.*

On behalf of the members of Gibb's House I should like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the magnificent way in which they represented us at the School Fete. We do thank them most sincerely for their magnanimous response to the appeals and organisation of our House Masters, Mr. Loveday and Mr. O'Driscoll. I hope that next year my successor will feel equally secure in the support of such generous parents.

This had not been a very successful year for Gibb's and up to the time of writing these notes, the most creditable achievement we can claim is second place in the Boxing Competition. However, we still have a strong interest in the three remaining competitions to be decided and perhaps these may result more favourably for us. The House seems to be constantly afflicted by a "sag in the middle." It is quite noticeable that after a successful period as Juniors, our members appear to sink into a stupor when they reach the Colts from which they begin to revive only when they enter the fifth. It has happened not only this year but appears to be a continual malady peculiar to this House. I would make a strong appeal to next year's Colts to shake off the hoodoo and thus lighten the burden against which the Seniors are constantly forced to fight. Let us make a successful start to next year by carrying off the Rugby Cup which is long overdue to Gibb's and by regaining the Boxing Cup which we so narrowly lost last year.

L. W. J. B.

## Halliwell's

*Captain* : P. J. Casselton.

*Vice-Captain* : A. J. Hopkins.

This term has seen a revival of Halliwell's fortunes, especially in Athletics where, despite that the scaling of athletic qualifying points gained against numbers was abolished we managed to reach the Athletic Sports with a lead over the other houses. The team itself performed to the best of its ability and we retained the Athletics Cup.

In the Tennis competition we have defeated Newsom's and Milton's by four matches to one, and five matches to nil respectively, and are ready to serve the other houses likewise. At Cricket, as is usual, we have fared badly and only the Seniors have managed to win a match.

In connection with the Athletic Sports, I would like to congratulate all those members of the House who gained places, especially Taylor on his excellent shot-putt and the major relay team on their record breaking run.

The House will produce the play "An Old Man at a Wheel" by Falkland Cary, in the House Play competition.

We offer our congratulations to Cobb's on leading in the **Cock House Cup by a substantial margin**. We can, however, console ourselves with the thought that this year we have battled against considerable adversity and I congratulate the house on the magnificent fight they have put up. It is for those who remain at School next year to resolve to win the Cock House Cup again.

P. J. C.

As both his position and his innate modesty, forbid our captain, Peter Casselton to mention his own feats, I should like to add that our success in Athletics is largely due to his leadership and personal example. We congratulate him not only on heading the School 100 yds. and 440 yds. record, but on a considerable line of successes outside the School walls, including the honour of running, and gaining a second place in the London v. Paris contest.

P. S.

### Milton's

This term has been a full one, Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, House Plays, the Garden Party, and of course examinations. We started off well in the Senior Cricket by gaining an honourable draw with Newsom's. Since then we have received a series of dishonourable defeats, yet one cannot help feeling that with more spirit in fielding, and an ability to hold simple catches, at least two of these defeats could be turned into victory. The Colts, however, redeemed the failures of the Seniors by winning three matches, and coming first, equally in the Colt competition, Lee, the captain, is to be congratulated; his team gives hope for the future. The Juniors with a strong team on paper have lost two of their matches. Nevertheless they have displayed an enthusiasm which has been refreshing.

In the Athletics we finished fourth. This was where we had been when the qualifying points were totalled. This shows that we might well have won the Sports had we been first at the end of qualifying. The whole House, even the dull and backward, the maimed and lamed, who inhabit the Middle School, must pull themselves together and having done that, pull their weight. Alan Law, who led the team, displayed his excellence when he won and broke the records of the Senior Shot, Discus and 220 yds. Hall won the Senior mile. Gent won the Minor 220 yds. and the Minor Relay team (Brugger, Gent, Hooper, Crocker), easily won their event.

The most entertaining part of the Sports was our Tug with Gibb's. If there was more gamesmanship than sportsmanship in our dropping of the rope, it provided a bored audience and tired tuggers with a much needed relaxation.

In the Tennis we have lost all our matches, though our opponents have drawn some brilliant play out of us. Ferebee has played gallantly as 1st Singles, while Law and Langton managed to win the first set from Halliwell's first pair.

Finally we must thank those few parents who gave such willing and noble help at the Garden Party.

J.P.H.P.

### Newsom's

*Captain* : D. Mackelworth.

*Prefects* : J. W. Crichton, D. Mackelworth, B. R. Walters.

Unfortunately our high hopes for the Hockey Cup were not realised and we were finally second in the competition. Cricket this term again gave rise to much optimism but this time it was the Senior XI which failed to produce its expected form. After defeating Halliwell's by nine wickets, we were fortunate to draw with a Milton's side whose strength we underestimated. Against Gibb's the result was more promising, another win by nine wickets, but Cobb's defeated us decisively, and the result of the competition now lies with the Colts who play Cobb's in their final match.

This term is the most crowded of the year, for in it Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Athletics and House Plays take place. It is to be regretted that the last of these competitions, the House Plays, has been removed from Cock House competition as it seems inevitable that interest within the Houses will fall as a result.

So far only one competition has been settled, that for Athletics Cup in which we came third. This was satisfactory as our talent was confined mainly to the Colt section of the House; all those who gained places in their events are to be congratulated, especially Smith, M. L. for two fine victories in the Colt 440 and 880 yds. Qualifying was for a change more disappointing in the Colt and Junior sections of the House than among the Seniors. In the other sport in which qualifying counts towards the final award, Swimming, qualifying has been disappointing throughout the House. Saturday morning attendance at Winbledon is very low from the House, and although the Swimming Sports will be over when these notes are read, a greater effort must be made in future years. Once again we were optimistic about the Tennis after our victory over Cobb's but the inevitable defeat by Halliwells and the more unexpected one by Gibb's have dashed these high hopes. We should, however, gain a place in the competition.

This year we will not retain the Junior Shield despite good efforts by younger members of the House. This is unfortunate after the years it has been held by us, but once again the future holds out hope. Next term we again face the Rugby competition but with changes in the House. As usual we are losing members of the Senior XV but with talent from the Colts we can do no less than hope to repeat the success of last year.

D.M.

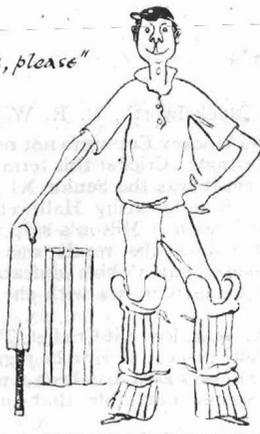
### ARTICLES

#### Senior House Matches

House cricket, bringing together as it does the 1st XI veterans and those whose appearances are restricted to these perfunctory few each season, produces some contrasts and curiosities. The expert, if not exposed to Mr. Wodehouse's crowning indignity of being caught at point by a man in braces, may lose face by being taken in the gully by a man in a blue pullover or having his best ball hit carelessly if unscientifically for four by a man wearing shorts and plimsolls.

The unexpected regularly happens. The despised tail-enders make most runs; the balls that bounce twice, or not at all, take the wickets. Newsom's, one understands, had agreed to a nicety the total Milton's were to be allowed in a 10 wicket defeat and arranged their get-away from the ground for about 2.46 p.m. Instead, they were saved only by the clock at 5.30 from decisive defeat, on what I shall remember as B's day. B, in the closing exciting minutes, crowned success with bat and ball by snatching a one-handed catch from a pose of studied nonchalance at close point, revising in this split second—

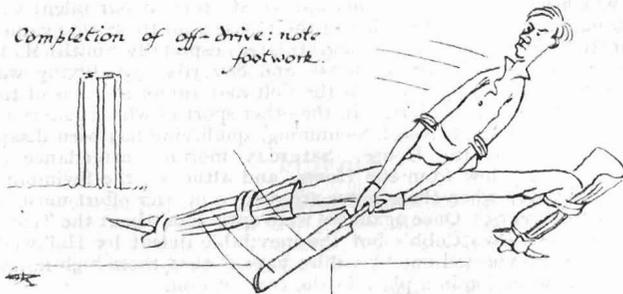
"Centre, please"



Leg glance



Completion of off-drive: note footwork.

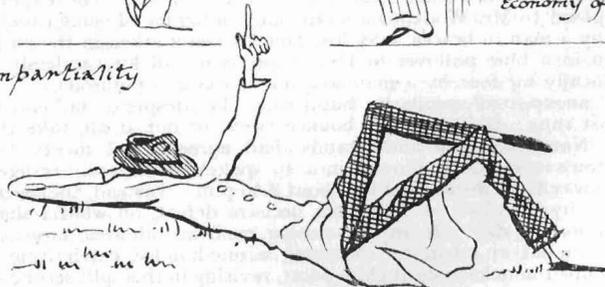


Position of alert in slips.



Wicket-keeping: Economy of effort.

Umpartiality



HOUSE CRICKET: Some Finer Points of the Game.

it seems—his initial assessment of the situation, that it was a bump-ball undeserving his attention.

There were, I fancy, fewer of those dour and tense—and often protracted duels—between bowlers incapable of hitting the wicket, and batsmen vainly endeavouring to touch the ball, that sometimes form the chief content of House matches.

Captaincy was of mixed quality. Some captains took commendably firm action to correct slovenly behaviour in the field, altered the field to anticipate the known habits of incoming batsmen, changed bowlers intelligently and did not regard a bowler once taken off as a finally expended asset. Halliwell's, however, after the gift of an unduly large proportion of runs from extras and overthrows—quite impossible short runs being rewarded Gibb's far too little time either to get the runs or get out.

I have more than once said, and will say again here, that this season's matches show the need of an agreed rule on the duration of matches. I have made a practice of allowing three hours with a half-hour extension at need; this has been received by some as too much, by others as too little. Acrimony would be avoided and good captaincy encouraged by a firm ruling on this point.

One complaint: I disliked the attempt by one House to defeat the clock by exploiting the two-minute rule. One suggestion: each House should have its score-book carefully and fully kept. Some bouquets: I liked the general zest and spirit with which matches were played, the nice blend of good-natured badinage with ruthlessness, and, as a wholly impartial if partially fallible umpire, the acceptance of decisions even if they were not always approved.

H. E. R.

### Pour une éducation cinématographique

Au cours d'un brains trust cinématographique, l'hiver dernier, un groupe de critiques et techniciens du cinéma anglais déplorait à juste titre l'apathie de cette partie du public qui a dépassé la cinquantaine et visite les salles obscures par pure routine. Il est difficile de changer des habitudes de paresse aussi profondément ancrées. Le cinéma distille ainsi un doux opium, qui fait oublier, oublier . . . et surtout réfléchir le moins possible. Certes on va au cinéma d'abord pour se distraire. Mais ce souci légitime de distraction doit-il avoir pour corollaire inévitable l'abandon quasi-complet de toute faculté critique? Faut-il admettre définitivement que le public n'est bon à rien, sinon à payer le prix d'une entrée? Dans la mesure où les jeunes générations n'ont pas été précocement déformées par cet héritage de passivité et ont encore gardé le meilleur de leur dynamisme intellectuel, l'on peut espérer voir progressivement ce manque d'exigences critiques évoluer vers une compréhension plus large des problèmes de la création cinématographique. Et, s'il est une période de la formation de l'adolescent où cette orientation nouvelle devrait être tentée, n'est-ce pas celle passée sur les bancs de la Public School ou de la Grammar School, alors que les sensibilités vierges s'éveillent au monde des idées et des formes? Deux moyens me semblent particulièrement adaptés à cette prise de conscience cinématographique: une critique rationnellement dirigée des films intéressants projetés dans les environs, s'adressant au plus grand nombre, et dont je préciserai plus loin les modalités; la projection, dans le cadre du ciné-club de l'école, de quelques films caractéristiques de l'évolution du cinéma en tant qu'art, destinée à une audience plus limitée et soucieuse de se créer une échelle de valeurs.

Oui, je crois qu'il est possible d'appliquer à la grande majorité des élèves certains tests critiques portant par exemple sur le meilleur film du mois. On choisit à l'avance le film qui fera l'objet de la discussion et on invite les élèves à l'aller voir dans leur cinéma local.

L'ignorance, du mercantilisme et de la bêtise. Et il n'est jamais trop tôt pour bien faire ! Voir et faire voir, y a-t-il programme plus merveilleux ?

LOUIS MARCORRELLS

### Craft Notes

We were so busy last term that there was no time left in which to recount our doings. One event, however, must not be allowed to go unrecorded. On the 8th, 9th, and 10th March the Puppet Club presented their version of "Jack and the Beanstalk." This play was specially written in five scenes and was continuously received by large audiences. The five sets delightfully designed by Mr. Riley added considerably to the general effect—in particular the cloud scene (where clouds dissolved mysteriously to reveal the giant's castle) was much applauded. The new puppet stage switchboard was in use for the first time, and permits much greater use of lighting effects. Later in the term the show was transported by road to London and given before an invited audience of members of the Educational Puppetry Association. Altogether it was a splendid achievement and sets a high standard for future puppeteers to excel.

This term two lectures arranged by the Printers Guild deserve recording. Early in the term we had the pleasure of meeting a scientist from our ink suppliers, Messrs. Parsons Fletcher. Mr. Kinsman spoke most lucidly upon ink chemistry and kept even the youngest members attentive, as he talked in terms of *microns* and special formulae. We have also had the honour of hearing Mr. Stewart from Odham's Press talking about colour photography. This talk, illustrated by copies specimens and charts was most enjoyable. In connection with these lectures we hope to arrange visits to the Harfield Laboratories of Messrs. Parsons Fletcher, and perhaps to some more local colour-printing works.

After many months (or should it be years?) of calculation and cogitation we are really beginning work on the building of our second pottery kiln. Plans have been passed by the County architects and the excavations dug. By the end of term we should see the foundations and a good amount of the brickwork in place, and by Christmas-time we hope to have the first fruits of our labour. The kiln is basically the same size as our existing one, but is housed in a suitable small building. Coke will be used for fuel and willing volunteers will be wanted for the stoking! Building our own kiln is surely the natural outcome of years of patient improvement. There can be no greater thrill than to make your pot and then fire it in your own kiln. Special thanks are due to Mr. K. J. Mitchell whose assistance has been most invaluable.

On Open Night the various craft activities were all on display. The woodwork, plastics and pottery formed a delightful exhibition, and practical demonstrations of printing and pottery were watched by crowds of visitors. The puppet stage was erected in the Hall so that people might see how we pull the strings, and members of the Puppet Club showed visitors around our ever-growing structure.

Two items of special interest to parents must be mentioned here. In order to raise the money for our new kiln, we shall be selling specially made pottery at the close of this term. Next term it is proposed to run one or two "short courses" for parents who would just *love* to try their hand at pottery. Many requests for such a class have been received and this would provide enjoyment and extra finance at one and the same time. The course will last for five weeks (probably on Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30 p.m.) but further details will be available at the beginning of the Christmas term. A charge of half-a-guinea, as a donation to the Craft Fund, will be made. Unfortunately lack of space will restrict our numbers but I look forward to some very interested sessions.

Le moment de la discussion collective enfin venu, on essaie de provoquer les remarques individuelles de l'auditoire, en les canalisant à travers quelques rubriques générales, par exemple : le sujet du film, sa signification morale, psychologique, dramatique ; la forme du film, c'est à dire la partie proprement originale de l'oeuvre, la plus délicate à analyser, mais qui, bien détaillée, ouvre des horizons entièrement neufs pour de jeunes intelligences formées à la seule analyse littéraire. Il n'est nullement besoin de chercher à atteindre les hauteurs d'une exégèse quasi-scientifique. Bien au contraire, il importe de se mettre d'emblée au niveau de nos critiques nonophytes, de partir d'impressions immédiates-ment perçues à la vision du film, pour ensuite s'élever insensiblement à une vue d'ensemble plus exhaustive. **Quel sérieux avantage, pour des garçons de 14 ou 15 ans, d'être déjà à même d'exprimer des préférences et de les légitimer ?** De bonne heure ils apprendront ainsi à exercer cette faculté inséparable de la condition d'homme libre, l'esprit critique, sans se remettre aveuglément aux critiques patentés et parfois douteux de leur journal quotidien.

Ces groupes de discussion, faciles à organiser à l'intérieur même de chaque classe avec la collaboration éclairée d'un professeur, s'adressent, je le répète, au plus grand nombre, c'est à dire à tous ceux qui, littéraires ou non, sont désireux de mieux comprendre pour mieux juger et finalement mieux voir. Mais, toujours à l'intérieur de l'école, pourvues d'appareils de projection 16 mm., il est en outre loisible de constituer un club actif, où seront projetées les oeuvres-clefs d'un artiste ou d'une école données. Toute critique sérieuse est pure spéculation et vient à posteriori se surimposer à une oeuvre donnée. L'artiste crée selon son tempérament et son imagination, non selon des normes rigides. L'art n'a rien à voir avec la production en série (même si 75% de la production américaine le vérifie par l'absurde). Il y a pourtant un élément créateur dans la critique intelligemment conçue. Elle nous aide à remonter aux sources de la création et à adhéser plus étroitement aux objets et aux caractères ainsi créés. Dans le cas précis du cinéma, l'esprit le plus favorablement disposé se heurte souvent à un obstacle considérable, la découverte essentielle du cinéma muet, avec son silence ininterrompu, sa technique essentiellement basée sur le montage, et la mimique appuyée des interprètes. Question d'adaptation de la part du spectateur de 1951, à qui une introduction judicieuse peut grandement simplifier cette prise de contact. Et l'on découvre alors qu'avant 1929 il a existé au cinéma de puissantes individualités, de véritables artistes capables de créer un univers entièrement personnel, à l'opposé de nombre de leurs confrères actuels, trop enclins à la facilité, et contents de parler pour ne rien dire du tout. Un club vivant ne limite pas son activité au cinéma muet. Dans l'idéal, il devrait également permettre au spectateur de se familiariser avec les meilleurs films de chaque pays que lui déroberent souvent des contingences commerciales ou politiques absolument étrangères à l'art.

Le cinéma est né pour dire l'unité humaine, selon la jolie formule d'un critique français. Il occupe aujourd'hui dans la faveur populaire la place tenue jadis par la tragédie antique, la comédie romaine, les Mystères du Moyen-Age, le drame shakespearean ou romantique. Libéré des contraintes techniques et commerciales, il peut devenir le mode d'expression par excellence de notre époque, l'art du XX<sup>e</sup>me siècle par excellence. L'individu trouvera aussi bien à y exprimer ses enthousiasmes et ses déceptions que la foule à y communier dans une même émotion. Quelques metteurs en scène nous ont donné à entrevoir qu'on pourrait désormais écrire un roman non plus avec des mots, mais directement en images, le verbe devenant une des composantes de la réalité. Mais, avant de réaliser ces belles ambitions, il convient d'abattre le Veau d'Or à cent têtes qui a nom "box-office," fils de

## VERSE

### A Prelude

Clouds wandering from the billowy wind,  
The wild white wind that grunts and gnaws  
Within the grated grasp of several severed ruts,  
And through the dark receding passages  
Of lignite and of shale. Past purpled stones  
On to the purpled moor. And the fountain of  
Smoke rebukes and cries within the drab  
Distracted domain of the fire's pomp, and  
Moody cracklings within shriek high  
From a monumental tower, and iron shapes  
Prevail upon the pinnacles of whitened soil.  
A ruin on a rock sighs with the evening's chill.  
And the lamenting sun silhouetted within the  
Grey cool chasms of the dusk, throws  
Sombre penetrative rays, shaken only by the blasting siren  
Of a homing ship, drifting, drowsing dunes in the dawdling waters  
Lapped by shining eddies low in the hazy light.  
And the soft pathetic falling of the summer rain.

D. C. B.

### A Sequel

The lighter shades melt in darkness  
Quickened by forged clouds  
That devastate the sky's remaining light ;  
Evening is quenched.  
Shadows that have flayed the walls  
Disappear in ugly obscurity.  
The clock speaks comfortably on the shelf  
Keeping the night in contact with the day.  
In the space of darkness memories flood the mind,  
The face of the countryside, and the striving town,  
Life's deaths, laughter's groans ;  
To-morrow's life cannot be remembered  
In the gap of the night's pause,  
Soft sleep stills the conscious question.

I. B. L.

## SHORT STORY

### The Fatigue Party

The rain drizzled apologetically but determinedly over the camp. The fatigue party, clad in denim trousers and jackets, stood shivering and muttering in the wet, awaiting the appearance of a certain Lance-bombardier Black, who had recently been appointed to the squad. At 0830 hours, Black marched determinedly up to his new charge, and surveyed, with a half-hearted air of belligerence, the faces lined up before him. The squad gazed at him steadfastly. He introduced himself briefly and followed up hard with his customary speech.

"Now, remember, just because you've finished your training, there's no need to think you can slacken off. I'm here to see to that . . . ." and so on. The squad watched him without expression.

"Squad, squad 'shun!" They came to attention in intermittent bursts, with a resultant machine-gun effect. Lance-bombardier Black winced—scowled at them apprehensively, and decided to ignore it.

"Laift, Tarn!" Four of the squad turned smartly to the right. "You—nig-nogs" screamed the bombardier. But beneath the hatred they detected a certain hopelessness, and began to feel more cheerful.

"Fully trained soldiers!" he muttered under his breath.

"By the right, double march."

They streamed off energetically into the rain.

By the time they reached the parade ground, a youth in the last file had developed an excruciating limp, and his convulsions were slowly bringing him to a standstill. Despair showed in the bombardier's eye.

"Squad, halt!" he shrieked. The front portion galloped on blithely into the distance, while the latter files halted by degrees, panting and moaning at the exertion.

"What's wrong with you?" Black hissed venomously into the lame one's ear.

"It's me hip, bomb, must have strained it coming up the slope," said the invalid in between agonised twistings.

"Take him to the M.I. room," grated the bombardier to two of the sympathetic squad.

They supported him, and moved slowly off. After thirty yards, all three broke into a smart trot and vanished round the corner.

The bombardier spent a furious forty minutes overtaking the front half of the squad, who were still moving at a brisk double, marshalling them, and returning them to their comrades.

The intact party reached the fuel yards at 09.30 hours, and stood contemplating a mountain of coke which was to be transferred to the nearby cookhouse bunkers.

One of the squad then helpfully pointed out that there were no shovels, and volunteered to go in search of some. After the ensuing discussion, the bombardier decided to go himself, grimly taking the volunteer with him.

Having searched five other coke dumps, the cookhouse, the incinerator, the Battery Stores, the Regimental Stores, and Brigade H.Q., without success, two shovels were eventually found at the guard room. A suspicious Sergeant made him sign in triplicate for them, and took due note of the number of each shovel.

On regaining his squad, the bombardier found five of them sitting on the coke, smoking in the rain. The rest, he was informed were either at the Battery Office, on charges, or had been commandeered by a mythical officer for fatigues at the Educational Centre. He was also informed that it was now break time, and could they please go? He said yes they could go, and outlined in a fine peroration lasting several minutes, more exactly where they could go, and what would happen to them when they came back.

They disappeared hastily in the direction of the NAAFI long before he had finished.

Lance Bombardier Black stood in the rain planning a lingering revenge for their return. When they hadn't appeared by 11.30 hours, he swore long and bitterly and set off hopelessly into the rain to look for them.

J. M. H.

## THE MICHAEL WELBY CUP

The lapse of time since the Debating Competition took place, while making the compilation of a report more difficult, does confer the advantage of being able to see it all in perspective. The advantage is a doubtful one; for considered reflection can bring only the conclusion that the whole series of debates must bear the stigma of monotony and mediocrity. No debate stands out as an occasion of well established argument or of a challenge well met. No individual speech stands out as a model of fire or wit, or even of clarity. It follows therefore that an accurate record of these debates would likewise be tedious if it should be attempted in detail. It will be better to offer a summary of the progress of the competition.

In this series of debates we had not heard before. A maiden speech is unlikely to share the steady quality of a maiden over. The opportunity for practice is offered by the meetings of the School Debating Society. The experienced team is likely to win. But unless debaters are ready to give time to preparation and practice, the laudable object for which the cup was given—to encourage, and raise the standard of public speaking—is hardly likely to be achieved.

A. C.

## POETRY SOCIETY

The term began with a number of readings of original verse which was almost all from David Belts. This period was followed by a series of poetry readings on gramophone records which included some Shakespeare, Coleridge, and a number of twentieth century poets. In the last meeting some of the works of Gerard Manley Hopkins were read and criticized.

Mr. Walsh is leaving us after a term of development that had raised high hopes of progress as the years went by. In fact, his term brings to an end a period of considerable composition influenced by his art of criticism rather than the art of poetry and on these occasions his guidance has been welcomed, although at no time received without opposition on the part of many of us. Nevertheless, a high standard of criticism has been accepted by the majority of the members, and those who have fallen short of them have been violently attacked from all sides.

L. B. L.

## THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

Apart from two consecutive "Black Fridays" when we spoiled our record of regularity of meetings, the Club has held recitals every week this term. The first of the series of classical music to which these have been devoted was very well supported and, though the multitude of other activities which occur this term has reduced attendances, there has remained a core of regular enthusiasts who make the continuance of the club not only worth while but reasonably assured. Among them we have been glad to count several of the Science and Economics Sixth whose support should dispel any belief that this is a purely Arts activity. We should like to see more of the Fifths, from the Middle School, and—why not?—from the Juniors. We cater for all who enjoy music. Our field of selection this term has run from the Middle Ages to the 18th Century, excluding—except for personal-choice programmes, one of which consisted of Vaughan Williams' Sixth Symphony—the Moderns, who, in the past, have perhaps received too much of our attention. Opinion on this is—fruitfully, we hope—divided. Because of our supply of classical records has proved to be wider than we had thought, the intended Beethoven series has not yet been begun. Now that one of our most active members have become a member of a Gramophone Record Library, this range of choice has become wider still, an advantage which should not only improve our programmes but thereby increase their popularity.

J. D. S., H. E. K.

## THE CHRISTIAN UNION

At the end of another Summer Term, we re-assess the yearly plaint that other activities have reduced our numbers, by capturing the attendance of many of our regular members. However, next term, with cooler evenings, and ruggers as the only trophy sport, we are confident that we shall regain our high attendance and set up new

In the first rounds Gibb's defeated Halliwell's and Milton's Newsoms. The former pair debated the motion that "The tendency towards commercialization does only harm to sport." The haste and apparent earnestness of A. J. Hopkins and A. C. Mainford who led the attack on the motion were more likely to sway an audience than the somewhat phlegmatic utterance of the proposer, L. W. Bunch, and the difficulty of his seconded, R. J. Threlfall. But Gibb's countered with a stronger team from the floor, amongst whom J. Hobbs and D. M. Spiers made the most effective speeches. The other debate, marked by excessive dullness was won for Milton's by the fluency of J. Hood-Phillips, the proposer of the motion that "This House deplores the influence of convention in society," but R. J. Wells, leading the Newsom's team at rather short notice, seemed to have given more thought to the content of his speech than the proposer; his seconded, however, J. R. Weighthman, was almost inaudible to judges, chairman, and audience.

Cobb's, who had received a bye in the first round, entered the lists by opposing a motion "That this House believes that the best way to secure peace is to prepare for war," proposed by Gibb's. Here the only life in the debate came from two speeches from the floor, by J. Hobbs, who made a convincing speech while leaving it clear that he was not himself convinced by it, and by P. A. Tanner. The judges gave their verdict in favour of Cobb's and they met Milton's in the final debate.

The motion proposed by Milton's in this debate was "That this House deplores the tendency towards world government." J. Hood-Phillips who led for the proposition showed by the fluency of his summing up that he is at home with extempore speaking, but seemed in his opening speech to have given too little thought to the need for coherent argument. But for the opposition too R. A. Nuttall offered glibness and fluency without much logical argument to back it. In support both J. B. Farrant and J. D. Shepherd by their quietude and more restrained delivery suggested a reasoned argument but failed to carry conviction by their own lack of earnestness. From the floor, P. M. Brooker delivered a speech with all the majesty of a sage, but with none of the wisdom; for his sentences bore no reference either to the argument or to each other. A. C. Simpson offered us what appeared to be common sense in his curiously dry tones, but his dryness is obviously not caused by heat. It was to Cobb's that the verdict was given and to their captain R. A. Nuttall that the Headmaster presented the cup.

Reasons for the dullness of the debates are not difficult to find. The subjects chosen were serious ones, or at least, treated seriously—perhaps wisely, for it is more difficult to be hippantry witty than convincingly earnest. But few speakers seemed to feel strongly about the issues, or if they did, their emotion left them speechless. While a dispassionate discourse may be admired as a masterpiece of control it is not likely to convince unless it is also a masterpiece of logic based on uncontrovertible data. If the speakers were not convinced themselves, they were unlikely to convince others without more rhetorical skill than they could be expected to possess.

At preliminary meetings, the captains of House teams were so insistent upon particular phrases in the motion that we might have feared arguments based on mere verbal quibbles. But on the contrary, the tendency was for speakers to debate broader issues than those implicit in the motion. House teams would do well to study the motion more closely, and together in advance to ensure relevance to the subject and to each other's arguments.

But in particular there are two serious faults which can easily be rectified—lack of preparation and lack of experience. The remedy for the former is obvious, for the latter readily to hand. Many speakers

record figures. Nevertheless, this term has not been one of inaction, for there has been a very varied programme. To begin the term we had an interesting film strip lecture, given by a local minister, on the Oberammergau Passion Play. For those who were unable to be present at the meeting, we are hoping to show the strip again next term. Those who come to Open Night and saw the Christian Union's small debut, will realise how many outside activities occur in our programme. If any camping holiday is required, there are several from which to choose. Meetings in London sponsored by the I.S.C.F., the S.U., and other parent organisations are recommended. The Festival of Britain Evangelical Campaign is to be held all through September in the Central Hall, Westminster, and anybody who would like to is invited to join our party.

Our school C.U. is represented on the Wimbledon District division of the Surrey Schools Christian Rally committee, which organises joint-meetings every term in the various schools. For next term, arrangements for an inter-school squash are still under way. Here, next term, more enterprise is to be shown by the leaders in arranging for outside speakers to visit us, and films to be shown in the meetings. We hope to encourage boys to visit the Festival Campaign, and the numerous other meetings which are worthy of our attendance. The idea of holding a festive dinner close to Christmas is still being discussed.

Many people who are just scanning over this page may wonder why we have this peculiar obsession for running a Christian Union. The answer is simple. We know whom we believe in. Many people think of Christianity as a doctrine which some "cracked" people, who are very likely in a depressed condition, like to believe so that they can be consoled by the illusion of a future life. Not a bit of it. Do you think that boys and girls in their teens are tired of life? On the contrary, they have many years before them, and their whole desire is to be as happy and as comfortable as possible, and to have the most enjoyable and the most exciting life before they die. Many young people have found this wonderful life. Jesus said "I come to give you life, that you may have it more abundantly." When you have asked the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart, you will find that He gives you a new lease of life. You will find that you know Him personally—there's no question of doubt. His presence is absolutely unquestionable and there is nothing that will make you doubt His presence. To be a Christian is the most exciting, enjoyable, comforting and happy life that anyone could wish for.

F. M. L.

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

*President* : The Headmaster.

*Chairman* : J. P. Hood Phillips.

*Secretary* : A. J. Hopkins.

The last three debates have seen us at our best and not our worst. At the end of the Spring Term we ranged ourselves against a team of University Old Boys who chose to oppose the motion "This House regrets its American cousins." The main speeches were lively even if inclined to be overlong, but we were in no degree overshadowed by the wit of the Old Boys. Noel Godwin sang to us and R. A. Nuttall gave us an amusingly garrulous description of a day in an American's life. Donald Thompson displayed an assortment of neck wear and Mr. Rudgeley made pointed comments on two varieties of "Redmen."

It is felt better to say less about the next debate, the motion of which was "This House approved a scientific education." There were three faults, namely a lack of speakers, a lack of organization and a lack of agreement on the meaning of the motion. The motion was defeated.

Our report ends on a topical note; a debate held but a few days ago was on the motion "This House considers that the recent achievements of the British Empire do not warrant a Festival of Britain." Few people attended this debate but those who did all spoke with a lively gusto. It was proved that in a debate a vigorous few is preferable to a sullen mass. J. P. Hood Phillips moving the motion pointed out that the recent achievement of the British Empire was its suicide. He took and justified a jingoistic attitude. A. C. Manifold attacking, disagreed on somewhat dubious grounds with the proposer's argument and having proved that the motion itself was not valid asked the House not to vote for a bogus motion. It did not. Several good speeches came from the floor, notably those of A. G. Simpson and I. D. Barnett.

We are sorry to be losing two of our best speakers, J. D. Shepherd and J. P. Hood Phillips. Both have been "pillars of the society," especially the latter, who had, throughout the greater part of the year, been our indefatigable chairman.

A. J. H.

## THE SIXTH FORM SOCIETY

Towards the end of last term, and after the publication of *The Spur*, the society held two meetings—one was a play reading, and the other a lecture on Jazz. With the help of our usual visitors, we read "Ring round the Moon," a comedy by Christopher Fry; the standard of reading was variable, and though there were several admirable character studies, the reading was often unimaginative and dull. The play itself, however, made the evening a pleasant one. The popularity of a lecture on Jazz in the present society is assured, and though the audience was not large its enthusiasm was apparent, and there is a general desire for a return visit.

This term, examinations and the many other activities of the Summer Term have had the usual effect on most School Societies; the Sixth Form Society has not yet held a meeting at home, though it has attended a play reading outside the School. There will, however, be a meeting later this term.

J. D. S.

## CHESS CLUB

There has been only one meeting this term. At this, Mr. Butcher, of the Wimbledon Chess Club, discussed various aspects of the game, and provided the Junior members with an excellent introduction to the game. It is hoped that in the Winter Term, Mr. Butcher will be available for the coaching of members of the club, and especially the School teams.

This term, the President of the Chess Club, Mr. Syers is leaving the School. The club wishes to express its gratitude for the assistance he has given its members throughout the 1950-51 season. Next term begins the fifth year of the club's life, during which time the presidents have been Mr. E. A. C. Balshaw, Mr. B. W. Vincent, and Mr. K. Syers. We await the appointment of a new president.

I. B. L.

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

*President* : Mr. Cholmondeley.

*Vice-President* : The Headmaster.

*Secretary* : A. J. Hopkins.

At the meeting held at the end of last term, M. Marcourelles gave us an interesting talk, in excellent English on the "French approach to classics." He commenced by giving us a general description of the French educational system and then told us how antiquated were a Frenchman's methods of teaching Latin. The classics in French

schools are apparently only studied for examination purposes. No interest in the writer or the character of his work is stimulated so that one presumes a French boy may be able to translate books of Latin but hardly know when the author lived. The fact that French students study philosophy, must, however, introduce them to the living ancient world to a certain extent. Another point which M. Marcorelles made was on the influence of Latin on the French language itself and, indirectly through the Norman invasion, on the English language. From his conclusion one gathered that M. Marcorelles much preferred the English method of teaching classics to the French considering that Latin and Greek must be much more pleasant for an English than a French schoolboy! The President of the Society felt that many faults which M. Marcorelle pointed out as being present in French schools were not altogether absent from certain English ones!

A. J. H.

### THE 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

This has been a term of such activity that it seems that perhaps there has been too much interruption with our normal training. But at least the ambitious programme of events with which the local Association has tried to catch the public eye has made us conscious of some of the weaknesses of our troop to which we must now turn our attention.

The troop has been represented in some degree in most of the Association events. At the end of the Spring term, some of our members entered exhibits at the Handicrafts and Hobbies exhibition held in Trinity Hall, and many of them entered them again later in the term at the exhibition in Marlborough Hall, in connection with the Wimbledon Youth Week. Younger members of the troop were heard to good effect in the choir at the Association concert, "With a Heart so Light," at Wimbledon Town Hall, on 23rd May, but it was from the Seniors that came the large majority of the team representing the Association at the Wimbledon Youth Council Sports—a team which retained the Trophy for the fourth successive time. This event took place on the same day as the Association Camping competition, but it was the proximity of examinations, rather than the crowded calendar which must be blamed for our absence from the lists. At the demonstration of equipment held by the Association on Wimbledon Common on 16th and 17th June, the troop put on a lively show of trek cart drill and, we hope, left spectators convinced that we not only possess good equipment but know how to use it. To the G.S.M. goes the credit for the smooth organization of the camp, but a mistake in timing prevented the S.M. from playing the role of a real live "casualty" in the first-aid tent.

An account of the annual fête will be found elsewhere, but it must be recorded that the troop was privileged to be present when helpers at the fête were entertained by a film record of Mr. Marshall's journey from South Africa to this country.

On Tuesday 26th June, a party from the troop with two or three "guests" from the School visited the International Telephone Exchange in the city where, in addition to a comprehensive tour of two buildings, we were privileged to eavesdrop on operators connecting calls for Karachi, Michigan and other places the world over. This was the third of a series of visits for the organization of which we have to thank the parents of boys in the troop.

As these notes go to press, we still have a few crowded weeks to go, in which the troop must take part in the Association Swimming Sports, Athletic Sports and the Association Fête, and also prepare for summer camp on the border of Devon and Cornwall. With all this activity, there has been little use made of the cabin at West Hoathly, and too little progress along the highway from Tenderfoot to King's Scout. But perhaps with the end of this period of exhibition, in which we hope

the public has been enabled to see more closely what Scouts are trying to do, and with the return of our three visitors to the Jamboree in Austria and the Seniors from France and Switzerland, we can return with renewed vigour to the most important task of all, the needs of the individual Scout.

A. T. C.

Parades have continued regularly on Friday evenings throughout the last two terms, and the general standard of keenness and efficiency has been maintained. This was particularly evident at the No. 61 Group Rally at R.A.F. Kenley in May, when the squadron took part in the march past before the A.O.C. Several comments were received concerning the high standard of the Cadet's drill and general conduct on the aerodrome. All the cadets were fortunate in being given flights before the parade took place. Later this term the squadron also took part in the Surrey Wing Sports at Waltham-on-Thames, where several second and third places were obtained. Cadet Phillips, M. A. was subsequently chosen to run in 61 Group Sports for the Surrey Wing. However, the highest honour won for the Squadron this year was by Sgt. Allen who was selected, after competitive interview, to go for an Overseas Flight with the R.A.F. to the Canal Zone in Egypt. In a report of the trip he says: "I left England on Monday 30th April, from R.A.F. Binbrook near Grimsby. The first stop was Malta after seven hours flying, where we visited Valetta and toured the Grand harbour. The next day we flew on to Shallufa our destination. R.A.F. Shallufa is eight miles North of Suez near the banks of the Canal in the middle of the desert, where the temperature went up to 105° F.

"While there we did a lot of flying in Lincoln bombers, Beau-fighters, and for three-quarters of an hour I was allowed to take over a dual control Harvard—the most enjoyable part of the whole trip. We also visited nearby towns of Suez, Fayid and Ismailia, where many bargains are to be purchased in the bazaars.

"In all we had five weeks out there, and on 14th June we returned via El Adem (Libya), Malta, Nice to England, after a most enjoyable and very instructive month with the R.A.F."

J. D. F.

### NATIONAL SAVINGS GROUP

This term, form savings have increased by more than 50 per cent, the weekly total averaging £6, as compared with £4 last term. The final total will be about £90, as opposed to £50 last term. It is to be hoped that this is not due only to the present inflationary tendency. Nevertheless there is still room for an even greater improvement. Although some forms have probably reached their taxable limit, averaging over a shilling a week per boy, others contribute practically negligible sums. This is especially noticable in the upper school, where boys presumably find other, less worth-while, investments for their pocket money.

The active form representatives all do their job efficiently. I would especially like to mention those of 1A, 2A, 3S, 3I, and 4A; it is these who obtain the best results from their labour. There is between them a strong, friendly, competitive spirit to take the top place for form totals. 1A manages to keep just ahead.

The amount brought by individual boys varies from 6d. to 10s. There is no need for those of us who can only afford 6d. to feel despondent, when we see apparently richer contributors save 10s. There is always the possibility, that what is saved on Monday is drawn out on Tuesday, in readiness to be saved again the following Monday. For those who don't save at all, it is as well to remember that savings form a very important part of the National, as well as our own personal, economy.

A. G. H.

## CRICKET 1st XI

With the loss of five of last season's team, the 1st XI this season was reinforced by members of last year's 1st XI. This first match against the Old Boys was a stiff obstacle, and there were some doubts as to the ability of the team to overcome the task. But the game ended with a decisive victory for the School by nine wickets. The match was a triumph for the young members of the team, particularly the bowlers, and a feature of the game was the fine support which the fielders gave to their bowlers.

In the following game against Tiffin's, the side faced a total of 147, and with Smith batting well, the prospects of a win were bright. The score, however, reached only 87, the result of bad light and hesitant batting.

Subsequent performances have not maintained the promise of the first match. The batting has been suspect and a problem has been to find a high scoring opening pair.

Once again Wallington proved to be our boggy pitch, and again the batting collapsed, only Smith obtaining double figures. The tendency so far has been for the middle batting to score runs after early collapses. The bowlers have fulfilled their task well, with Smith again successful, and Child and Rose occasionally stealing the praise. Wright has bowled with his customary steadiness, although his accuracy sometimes lapses. The standard of fielding has fallen from the early high level, but it is still good. Fielders should practice throwing in particular.

Very few catches have been put down as yet, while some of those which have been accepted were brilliantly taken.

Shepherd has captained the team with imagination and he has not hesitated to exploit a particular line of attack following a doubtful stroke by a batsman or a viciously lifting ball from the bowler, although the latter is the rule rather than the exception on the Oberon wicket.

In fairness to the batsmen, it must be said that this wicket is not conducive to good batting, while at times, fast bowling on it is virtually unplayable.

## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI looked as if it would be the strongest for many years, and with a virtually unchanged side throughout the term, it should have developed into a good team. But it has undergone a chequered career, with some resounding victories and some equally resounding defeats. Pooley has worked hard to get some consistency from the team, but the acknowledged batsmen have taken a long time to settle down, while the bowling has too often been straight up and down with "other assignments." Betts has been the main contributor to the bowling successes, but he is very inconsistent at the moment. The side has not come up to expectations.

## RESULTS

1st XI		2nd XI	
v. Old Boys	Won	v. Tiffin's	Won
v. Tiffin's	Lost	v. Wandsworth	Lost
v. Wandsworth	Won	v. Wallington	Lost
v. Wallington	Lost	v. Badingham	Won
v. Bec	Drawn	v. Bec	Lost
v. K.C.S.	...	v. K.C.S.	Lost

Of the three completed games played so far this season, two have been won and the third was a moral victory. All members of the team are enthusiastic and have sound cricketing sense. They have been ably led by Cook.

## TENNIS CLUB

Raynes Park v. Wandsworth. Won	School, 99 for 3 (declared); Shepherd, D. C., 36.
Raynes Park v. Tiffin's. Match Abandoned.	Wandsworth, 30.
Raynes Park v. Wallington. Draw.	School, 20 for 1.
Raynes Park v. Bec School. Won.	School, 101 for 2 (declared); Smith, M. L., 41 (not out); Shepherd, D. C., 33 (not out).
Raynes Park v. Wallington, 42 for 9; Tulett, 5 for 8.	Wandsworth, 42 for 9; Tulett, 5 for 8.
School, 66.	School, 66.
Bec School, 41; Lee 4 for 15.	Bec School, 41; Lee 4 for 15.

## RESULTS

In Smith, M. L. and Shepherd, D. C. we have two very promising batsmen. Each of them watches the ball carefully, uses his feet well, and can be aggressive against bad bowling. Jackson, Beaumont and Lavours have also played useful innings. The remainder, though lacking match practice, have sound knowledge of batsmanship and will improve.

The bowling is steady, if not dangerous, and Tulett has been most consistent. Nearly everybody in the team can bowl reasonably well. Catching and ground-fielding have been satisfactory, though excitement and failure to "back up" have occasionally been responsible for loss of runs through over-throws. This and faulty running between the wickets are the main weaknesses in a team which is full of promising material and well up to the standard of recent years.

The School courts have at last been resurfaced, but the netting surrounding them has rusted and disappeared completely in several places. They are going to be renetted completely, we believe, and so extensive (and expensive) patching has been confined to one stretch only. The budget of the club has been thrown into confusion by the price of the second grade balls we use for School and House matches. In one term we use nearly 20 dozen of these at up to 2s. 6d. each instead of last year's 1s. A grant from General School Fund has helped us considerably, however, and income from subscriptions has increased with the growing number of players—there are 120 members now.

Among this number there are many (particularly in the fourth form) who think they can wear any clothes on the School courts. Whites must be worn at all times—which means no grey flannels and certainly not ties!

The School team has had three matches but has not yet reported a victory. We lost to Badingham 3-6, where we must blame chiefly the inconsistency of our services and our inability to adopt our play to the grass surface. Against an "A" VI of St. Mary's College, the double-faults were less frequent but our failure to maintain concentration cost us the match which we lost 4-5. Purley thoroughly deserved their 7-2 victory over our weakened team. They played aggressive tennis that never allowed us to settle down. Menzies and Shepherd as first pair have shown an improvement from their erratic play at the beginning of the term. Bennetick has played steadily and shows great promise. Inglis has played a good game and is capable of fighting back hard. Nuttall can produce some brilliant shots, but is rather careless. 1st and 2nd teams look forward to two more matches each.

The tournaments have been organised again this year—singles and doubles for both Seniors and Colts. There have already been some surprising results, but we will always find lapses and inconsistencies

in school tennis. Determination to win, concentration on the game, and regular, hard practice are the only things that will improve the standard.

A. F. M.

## SWIMMING

This term, life-saving has given way to the feverish activity of qualifying at Wimbleton Baths on a Saturday morning. Nevertheless several boys have found time to gain their bronze medals and Merit, deserves special praise on his award of the Instructor's Certificate. In the swimming qualifying Gibb's and Cobb's are separated by only a few points and the competition should prove as fierce as two years ago when the Cup was won in the last event.

It seems a pity that greater interest is not taken in swimming when we have the free use of Wimbleton Baths on a Saturday morning—a opportunity which few of the schools enjoy. We cannot challenge other schools to matches because of the obvious difficulty of obtaining the use of the baths (8 o'clock on a Saturday morning is hardly suitable for this purpose), but we do enter for the Wimbledon District and Surrey Grammar Schools' Galas. We have in the past won the Wimbledon District Cup, but it is painfully evident that our standard is far below that of other Grammar Schools. We have now in the school several promising juniors who it is hoped will be encouraged to develop their swimming ability. R. J. Shephard shows exceptional promise at both breast-stroke and free-style, and will one day win many events for the School if he takes his swimming more seriously. Charles, Croft, Fash, Saunders and Bray are other swimmers of great promise who could form the nucleus of a team to win the Surrey Grammar Schools' Cup. I would urge all young swimmers to seize the opportunity which is provided to them on a Saturday morning and so bring to the School honours equal to those which we have gained in other sports.

L. W. J. B.

## ATHLETICS

During the last term, School Athletics has gone from strength to strength. In our own Sports, twelve new records were established and we have won a Cup at Imber Court for the first time. Our first big event was the L.A.C. Schools Challenge Cup meeting at the White City. We had not entered this meeting before and we sent in a small team to feel our way. We met with more success than we had anticipated, P. J. Cassleton being placed second in the 440 yds. and Law and Law in the shot. W. H. Shephard, Rodgers and Bales also put up very good performances, but were unplaced in the finals. As a result of this meeting, P. J. Cassleton was selected to run for London Schools in the match against Paris Schools and here again he was placed second in the final of the 440 yds.

We have had two inter-school matches so far this term and we are looking forward to two more. Early in the season we had an away match with Wallington and Mitcham which we won by 143 pts. to Wallington's 129 pts. Later in the term in the match against Wandsworth we again won by 109 pts. to 78 pts. In this match four new records were established, by P. J. Cassleton in the 100 yds (10.5 secs.) and 440 yds (56.2 secs), Wolkenberg in the 220 yds (24.5 secs), and Taylor in the Colt shot (42' 5").

We expected to do fairly well at Imber Court this year and we accordingly took more care in the selection and training of the team. We were amply rewarded by the Juniors winning the Cup and by the Seniors coming second to Wallington. The individual placings were:— 1st places P. J. Cassleton Senior 440 yds. in the record time of 51.7 secs.

## Results of the Athletic Sports

The Sports were held on the Oberon ground on 30th June, and of the performances was very high indeed and twelve new records were established. At the end of the sports the John Garrett Cup was presented by Mr. Billingham, Vice-Chairman of the Governors.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS

The Sports were held on the Oberon ground on 30th June, and of the performances was very high indeed and twelve new records were established. At the end of the sports the John Garrett Cup was presented by Mr. Billingham, Vice-Chairman of the Governors.

Place	Event	Winner
1st	Senior long jump	W. H. Shephard
2nd	Senior javelin	Shephard
3rd	Senior shot	Law
4th	Senior hurdles	A. G. Simpson
5th	Senior high jump	Brooke
6th	Senior 220 yds	Wolkenberg
7th	Senior 880 yds	Rodgers
8th	Senior 1600 yds	Smith
9th	Senior 16 High jump	Michcz
10th	Senior 14 220 yds	Creasey
11th	Senior 16 Relay	Fales, Taylor, Michcz
12th	Senior 14 Relay	Higham
13th	Senior 16 220 yds	Creasey, Francis, Cooper
14th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
15th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
16th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
17th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
18th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
19th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
20th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
21st	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
22nd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
23rd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
24th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
25th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
26th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
27th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
28th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
29th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
30th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
31st	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
32nd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
33rd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
34th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
35th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
36th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
37th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
38th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
39th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
40th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
41st	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
42nd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
43rd	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
44th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
45th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
46th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
47th	Senior 16 220 yds	Eales
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