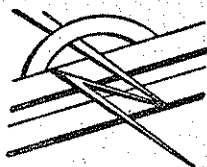


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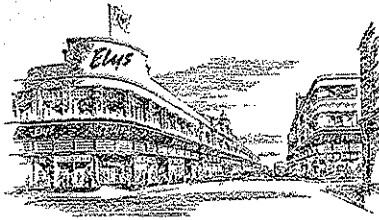
SPUR

SPRING TERM 1963



VOLUME XVIII

NUMBER 2



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THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XVIII

Spring Term, 1963

No. 2

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IN MEMORIAM

The Late Mr. W. B. Courtney

Most present and many Old Boys will recall with affection Mr. W. B. Courtney, who retired only last July after serving on the Mathematics staff here for fourteen years. They and his colleagues heard with sorrow of his peaceful death on February 13th, in hospital. For several years he had struggled against ill health. He had a genuine affection for his pupils and for this place; he was particularly good with those who found Mathematics difficult; he had a dry sense of fun and a quick wit, with the Times Crossword puzzle and otherwise; he was a Christian and a gentleman. We feel some share in the sense of loss which falls upon Mrs. Courtney and his family, and our sympathy is with them in their bereavement.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

SPRING TERM, 1963

Head Boy : R. J. Crittenden.

Deputy Head Boy : J. M. Crocker.

Prefects :

E. J. Banks, N. C. Boreham, A. J. C. Brazier, R. A. Burgess, M. Chandler, D. E. Esau, J. Evans, D. L. Gent, R. F. Gill, A. S. Gorman, R. E. Gravestock, I. P. Jackman, N. Johns, R. W. Jones, S. G. Lewis, S. J. Mawer, J. R. McGaw, J. Nisbet, R. G. Osborne, A. D. Robinson, J. Sinfield, R. J. Smalley, B. J. Spanos, I. Taylor, R. C. Uden, D. Williams, G. H. Windsor, M. J. Woodhall.

Captain of Hockey : R. J. Crittenden.

Secretary of Hockey : J. Sinfield.

Captain and Secretary of Cross-Country : K. E. Jackson.

Prefect of Library : J. M. Crocker.

Prefect of Hall : S. J. Mawer.

Secretary of the Games Committee : I. Taylor.

EDITORIAL

BODY AND SOUL

The Spur caters for the inner man, as well as for the School as an institution. How well we played or how disappointed we were are the superficial topics of regular notes and reports in our magazine, whereas contributors of original work make some attempt to describe a scene, a sensation, a more elusive and, really, indefinable personal thought. Critics of original offerings in these pages should remember that the individual's voice, a voluntary piece of writing, not reluctant homework, is just as valuable as the well-meaning observation of the routine reporter.

FILTERING THROUGH

Old Boy, old boy? Then please follow the magnificent example of our correspondent from the foot of Hadrian's Wall, and tell us all that is printable about your University.

Following recent revivals or innovations, such as letters and advertisements, we are now about to play our trump card. In the Summer Term, we shall be inviting contributions of printable photographs taken on School trips abroad during the Easter holidays.

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

House Captain : J. M. Crocker.

Prefects :

E. J. Banks, A. J. C. Brazier, D. L. Gent, R. F. Gill, A. S. Gorman,
R. W. Jones.

My first duty this term as P. F. White's successor is to add my own best wishes for him to those of Mr. Atkin, which appeared as a postscript to last term's Notes. We remain indebted to White for his leadership in chess, dramatics, and debating, and as House Captain he set a fine example. I am sure the whole House would like to join me in wishing him every success in the future.

This term has, despite the weather, seen some gratifying successes in all spheres. Earlier on in the term we won the Debating Cup, speaking in a knock-out competition against Gibbs, Newsoms, and Halliwells. Our team had a close run, making the competitions interesting and the Cup all the better deserved. Congratulations go to Blackwell, our first-class debating captain, Gill, Gent, Gorman, and Capper who spoke for us. It is, however, with disappointment that I note that on two occasions, although we won the debate, we lost the vote. More support needed here in future, please!

For this year's House Play we presented "The Bespoke Overcoat" by Wolf Mankowitz, a play on a Jewish theme which presented peculiar difficulties, not least the creation of the atmosphere of the East End of London in the 1920's, so admirably put across by Capper and Gill who played the principal parts. Congratulations are due to the Production Supervisors, Watts, Capper, and Gill; to the Technical Staff, in particular Gent, Watts, Capper, and our expert lighting operators, Brazier, Castle, and Bradshaw, who, among others, put in a vast amount of time painting the set. The idea of printing a programme was widely appreciated. Thanks go to all who helped to create a production which could not fail to win the Cup.

This term has had its successes and disappointments in the field of sport. We now have the Rugby Cup for the first time in too many years. This was brought about by the Seniors under Banks beating Newsoms 6-3 in a hard-fought match. Congratulations to the Juniors who substantially won all their matches, and to the Seniors whose enthusiasm won them two matches, Quilliam, Heaton and Alsbury being noteworthy. Basketball has proved to be another success for the House: we beat Miltons 16-10, and Newsoms, thus completing four wins. Thanks go again to Banks on this score. On paper we should have won Hockey, the Seniors having a fair share of School players; however, results did not confirm this theoretical superiority. The Seniors played Miltons 3-0, Newsoms 1-0, Gibbs 1-0, but lost to Halliwells 1-2. Unfortunately our Colts lost two which placed us

second in the competition. Ventham has proved to be an efficient captain, and a sound all-rounder on the field. Fisk's goal-keeping was excellent; others deserving praise are Tickner and Wilcox for their constant support.

As a further success in sport, we now have the Cross-Country Cup in our possession. In the run itself our Colt team came first, and our Senior team second—commendable performances coming especially from Chapman, Cottrell, and Anderson. However, we won the Cup mainly on qualifying points in which we were 90 points in the lead. The lesson to be drawn from this cannot be over-emphasized. Next term we have to face some formidable competition in Athletics and Swimming. We must therefore work as hard as possible on the qualifying.

Next term the Inter-House Music Competition will be looming dangerously near. There seems to be some reluctance to participate this year. But we have nevertheless to face it, and so please let us all put our backs into it. We have a wealth of musical talent lying dormant within the House—if only we can bring this to the fore, we shall stand a good chance.

After such a successful term let us go all out for the Cock House Cup.

J. M. Crocker.

GIBBS

House Captain : I. P. Jackman.

Vice-Captain : P. L. Cox.

Prefects :

R. A. Burgess, J. Evans, R. E. Gravestock, R. C. Uden, D. Williams.

The cold weather at the beginning of the term had the same effect on Gibbs as it had on all the other Houses. However, it was disappointing that we were unable to overcome the effects of the cold spell, unlike Cobbs in particular, and consequently there was a noticeable lack of enthusiasm throughout the term.

It was an easy task for the Seniors, during the opening fortnight of the term, to consolidate their already strong position in the gymnastics competition, and thus to win the cup. The whole of the House should be congratulated on gaining so many qualifying points: particular mention must be made of Bennée, who performed brilliantly.

Less fortunate was our fate in the Debating competition. The team, led by Rose, was defeated in the first round by a very strong Cobbs team. No more successful were we in the play-off for third place. Mallett debated well, as did White and Woodall, who both stepped in at very short notice. Again, however, the stronger side won the day.

Thanks to the superb play of Cox, the Seniors won their remaining rugby match. This meant that we were able to take second place in the competition, following one point behind Cobbs.

In recent years, Gibbs have not been outstanding at dramatics, but our failure to win the cup this year was certainly not due to the lack of

effort. The play was difficult, and consequently the necessary depth of acting was missing. However, Mallett acted well and was an even better producer; Williams was a capable stage manager, and Cox was our best actor. Saxby constructed an extremely good set, whilst valuable assistance was received from Faulker, Evans, Benneé, Borland, and Richards.

The winning of the Hockey Cup has been our most noteworthy achievement of the term. The senior team captained by Williams, was unfortunate to lose its first match to Cobbs, but had more fortune in defeating the other houses. Cox, Lane, and Castling were outstanding for their play. The Colts, however, made the larger contribution to the winning of the cup. They defeated Cobbs in their first game, and went on confidently to win all their other matches. Lindsay and the team must be congratulated on their efforts.

It was disgraceful that we failed to win the Cross-Country Cup. In the actual race, the runners performed extremely well, for the senior team won their race fairly easily. Holland, Onslow, Miller, and Borland were our most outstanding runners. The juniors also won their race easily, beating Cobbs by more than 100 points. Brookes took first place, and Seeley was fourth: in this way the juniors made a successful start to the Junior Shield competition. In the overall result, we found ourselves trailing a long way behind Cobbs. This was entirely due to the ridiculous lack of qualifying, both amongst Seniors and Colts. Everone had an opportunity to qualify: only half of the House took advantage of it. The situation will be exactly the same in the Summer Term. We have many good athletes and swimmers capable of carrying off both the athletics and swimming cups. They cannot do so, however, unless the House has a strong lead in qualifying points. The opportunities to qualify will not be many, particularly in the Swimming, and therefore every possible chance to qualify must be seized. It is ludicrous that the best athletes and swimmers in the School should be prevented from winning those cups because of sheer laziness on the part of a large section of the House.

Look back and see how many times Cobbs have been mentioned in this report: all honour to them. The Cock House is almost, though not quite, out of our grasp: unless every member of Gibbs makes every effort the cup will be lost; not for lack of talent but for lack of will.

I. P. Jackman.

HALLIWELLS

House Captain: M. D. Chandler.

Prefects:

R. J. Crittenden, D. E. Esau, N. Johns, A. D. Robinson, M. J. Woodhall.

At the beginning of this term, R. J. Crittenden relinquished the House captaincy for the sterner duties of Head Boy, and we can feel justly proud that he has been accorded this high honour. Belated congratulations are also due to D. E. Esau and M. J. Woodhall on their being appointed Prefects.

This term has been one of success mixed with disappointment.

In the Gymnastics competition, which was still undecided at the end of last term, there were good individual performances by Standish and De Buc; but qualifying, especially amongst the Seniors, never proceeded very briskly, and we deserved our final position of fourth.

The major cup to be contested this term was Hockey. The Seniors, captained by Crittenden, started badly. They succumbed to Gibbs 3-0, and were somewhat unlucky only to draw with Miltons 1-1. But in their last two matches they found their true form. In spite of an unhappy performance by the goalkeeper, they won a good victory over Newsoms 2-1 and then proceeded to defeat a strong Cobbs team 2-1 with an excellent display of teamwork, quick tackling, and accurate passing. The Colts, unfortunately, were less successful: though playing with spirit and determination, they were only able to record a draw with Miltons, all the other matches being lost.

Qualifying once more proved our stumbling block in Cross-country. In an event where we had few outstanding athletes, this was all important, and the failure to build up any sort of lead meant that the teams had to run with faint hope of winning the cup. Credit must be given to Woodley, who finished first in the Colt race, and, in the Senior event, to the team captain, Twite; besides running very well indeed to finish fifth, he performed a difficult task with energy and determination.

The Debating team, led by Dudley, finished a creditable second. After easily disposing of Miltons, it met Cobbs in the final, and, although an attempt at espionage was detected, morale remained high, and it was only defeated by a narrow margin. The whole team performed well, but mention must be made of Waters, who displayed considerable fluency.

Our withdrawal from the House Play competition marked the climax of a series of unprofitable rehearsals. Admittedly, illness had deprived us of leading actors at crucial times, but the attitude amongst certain members of the cast that "everything would be all right on the night" must be stamped out if we are ever to have any hope of winning the cup.

The Basketball team improves with every match, and recorded a convincing victory over the Gentlemen of the Staff. Although being unable to play any matches, the Juniors have shown a keenness and enthusiasm that augurs well for the future.

Finally, let me urge every member of the House to make that extra bit of effort that means the difference between winning a cup and coming second or third.

M. D. Chandler.

MILTONS

House Captain: J. Sinfield.

Prefects: S. Mawer, J. Nisbet, R. Osborne, R. Smalley, G. Windsor.

Many of this term's activities have been drastically affected by the weather; however, in the last few weeks of the term all the hockey matches

were played and the Inter-House Cross Country race was run. As has become regretfully frequent of late, Milton's, especially the seniors, have not had a very successful time.

The rugby fixture not played last term was against Gibbs, and it did not come as a great surprise to be beaten. As a result of this match we took fourth place in the Rugby Competition.

Debating is usually a strong point in Miltons, but this year in spite of valiant efforts by Butcher and Shoebridge we only managed to come fourth with Gibbs.

The House Play competition this year was of an unusually high standard, and although everyone connected with the play did well, we were only able to gain third place. Special mention should be made of Rhodes who took part with an arm in a sling.

The Colts played consistently in the hockey competition, and, although the result of their fourth match is not yet known, it seems likely that they will win three of their matches. As a contrast the senior hockey team suffered from the inability to score goals, and only managed to win one and draw one match—the other two matches were narrowly lost. In all of the matches the forward line looked dangerous and combined well, but, as I have said before, could not get the ball in the net. As the matches had to be crammed into a few short weeks the team suffered from lack of practice and from unfitness. It is probable that we shall scrape into second place with Gibbs, though we may only come fourth.

The Gymnastics competition was carried over from last term, but although we led early on, the seniors, as usual, let the House down badly, only a very small number of them condescending to qualify. Even so we were able to take a good second place.

The term ended with the Cross Country race. Miltons had been lying second on qualifying points, but on the day we were unable to run our best team, and as a result we finished in third place. Mention should be made of Goulding who ran very well. In the juniors this year cross-country counts towards the Junior Shield, and we succeeded in coming second thanks to a good team effort.

Taking it as a whole, Miltons have done reasonably well, but, as always, the members of the House, especially the seniors, lack the House spirit present in the other Houses. Now, let us forget that Miltons have never won the Cock House Cup, and let us finish next term with at least a creditable position in that competition.

J. Nisbet.

NEWSOMS

House Captain: I. Taylor.

Prefects: N. C. Boreham, S. G. Lewis, J. R. McGaw, B. J. Spanes.

The beginning of term saw the election of more prefects, and here we must congratulate Lewis and Boreham; already they have proved a great asset to the House.

Outside activities were severely restricted in the first half of the term by the terrible weather conditions, but other activities flourished: the basketball team met with mixed success, losing to Cobbs and Gibbs (11-29 and 12-35 respectively), and defeating Halliwells (24-10), thus finishing third in the competition. This was a commendable effort, and the team finished on an enjoyable note defeating the Staff team 42-28.

The Debating team also finished third in their competition. Boreham must be commended for his fine speeches, and he was generally backed up well by Thomas and Rose.

With the reasonable weather later in the term came the inevitable rush of outdoor sporting events: the Rugby competition was quickly finished, and our remaining match against Cobbs ended in a 6-3 defeat, which meant we remained at the bottom of the table.

As expected, the Hockey competition was completed with considerable gusto, and, couple this with the blatant lack of experience, then it is easy to see why few teams were able to settle down and play as a team. Looking at our points alone gives a bad impression, but in fact most of the results were very close. The Colts must be congratulated on their defeat of Halliwells, 3-2. In the senior team full marks to goalkeeper Ribola, who brought off some magnificent saves, and to King for his dogged and unrewarding efforts as centre-half.

Few seniors heeded my warning concerning the Gymnastics, and consequently we did very badly indeed.

Since half-term, regular, if somewhat frustrating rehearsals have been held for the House Play. This year we decided 'to go modern' and chose 'The Hole' by N. F. Simpson. On the night, the play was undoubtedly well received, and those concerned well earned the 'close' second place afforded them. It would be unfair to the rest of the Dramatics team to single out any one person for praise, though of course this report would be incomplete if no mention was made of our producer, Lewis. He has worked extremely hard in all fields of the production and owing mainly to the carefree and slothful climate at rehearsals, has surely lost weight through worry!

Senior cross-country qualifying was very poor indeed, and as a result we fielded a seriously depleted team in the race; Jackson did well to come second, and Putland must be commended for his unexpected tenth position. The Colt team did very well indeed being for second place in the race, and coming second overall, owing to their excellent qualifying. The Juniors now stand a fair chance in the Junior Shield, having come in their race.

The Spring Term, then, has seen a few outstanding efforts, but these have been marred by a general lack of enthusiasm. Last year, the Summer Term proved to be our most successful, and with a more combined effort, it could be again.

I. Taylor.

WELBY HOUSE DEBATING COMPETITION, 1963

<i>Motion</i>	<i>Prop. by</i>	<i>Opp. by</i>	<i>Voting</i>	<i>Judges' Decision</i>
1 Adolescents often demand freedom before they are ready for it	Gibbs	Cobbs	carried 8-4	Cobbs
2 Conversation is a dying Art	Halliwells	Miltons	lost 7-10	Halliwells
3 In Britain today, public funds would be better spent on social welfare in general, than on bombs ...	Cobbs	Newsoms	lost 5-10	Cobbs
4 This House does not dine, it feeds (final)	Halliwells	Cobbs	lost 4-8	Cobbs
5 Modern advertising is detrimental to our society	Miltons	Newsoms	lost 2-6	Newsoms
6 This House does not believe in progress	Newsoms	Gibbs	lost 3-4	Newsoms

Final placings: 1st, Cobbs; 2nd, Halliwells; 3rd, Newsoms; 4th, Miltons and Gibbs.

The competition for the Welby House Debating Cup was contested this year on a somewhat experimental basis, in an endeavour to make the final placings more fair. The need for an improved system has long been felt, but the only reasonably fair system would necessitate ten debates. In a term of thirteen weeks, with counter-attractions such as House Play rehearsals and various sports activities, ten debates would be virtually impossible.

Therefore in the 1963 competition a new scheme has been tried. There is one preliminary debate to reduce the Houses to four in number for the Semi-finals. After the Final, which determines 1st and 2nd placings, the two losers in the Semi-finals debate for provisional 3rd and 4th placings. The loser in the very first debate then challenges the provisional 3rd for its position; but failing to win becomes joint 4th.

The debates this term have been somewhat lacking in punch, but nevertheless have produced some impressive speeches and several speakers of great promise. The usual hitches and faults inevitably occurred. For example, one speaker discovered minutes before the debate that he had prepared a speech for the wrong side (and, it was whispered, used the same notes—a moral here perhaps!) It is difficult to single out individuals for praise, but with apologies to those not mentioned by name, N. C. Boreham, B. M. Emmings, C. J. Rose, and P. H. Waters merit special commendation.

One of the most glaring faults was the dependence on notes, which the Judges severely criticised more than once. This year there was no official restriction placed upon the use of notes; but having seen, and heard, the results of this, there are those who would wish to see some restrictions, if not an absolute ban, on notes next year. It is interesting

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and significant to note that the Judges felt the Final debate offered scope for a humorous approach of which advantage was not taken ; while the last debate deserved commendation for its general liveliness. Sincere gratitude must be expressed to the masters who have judged the debates, devoting valuable time to an occupation not always amply rewarded by the standard of debating.

Will all debaters please realise that a greater use of humour, and less use of notes, would be appreciated in future ?

Finally it must be said that although there has been a general apathy towards debating, not only from the School (this term's average attendance was twelve, but this represents a decline from seventeen to three non-speakers during the series) but also from among the debaters themselves, and although recent reports have been somewhat pessimistic, the outlook is by no means black. Those with experience of debating know just how much it contributes towards a better understanding of formal argument ; and how debating demands extensive research, wise planning, and intellectual presentation, thus making a valuable contribution to general education. Although in saying that debating increases self-confidence and promotes ability in public speaking, one runs the risk of reducing it to the level of a denture adhesive, it is true to say that for those who are this way inclined, debating is, and will continue to be, of great value.

C. R. Blackwell.

I should like to add my word of thanks to Blackwell, who has proved himself one of the most efficient and enthusiastic Debating Secretaries of recent years, and who might well, but for modesty, have included his own name in the list of those deserving special commendation.

H. A. Pratt, Esq.

HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION

It is some years since I saw any plays at Raynes Park, and I was glad, when I came to judge the House Drama Competition on April 3rd and 4th, to find that the standards of acting and production were as impressively high as ever.

The technical side — the staging, costumes, the make-up, the lighting, particularly the lighting — was uniformly good. I could find little wrong with the sets for either "The Bespoke Overcoat" or "The Hole," both of which made excellent use of two levels. The boys operating the lights in the former play deserve special mention. In "The Prisoner" the home-made cell was better than the office which relied on a school desk just too big for the space available which sometimes resulted in the Interrogator being put out of position relative to his victim. The realistic interior of "The Last Post" was very well done, but the packing case might have been better sited so as not to mask players sitting on the floor. The make-up was as unobtrusively effective as good make-up should be. A few extra

touches might have come nearer to perfection : an odd tooth blacked out for the two old Jews, a more ascetic complexion for the Cardinal to accord with his exhausted ending as well as with his robust beginning—little more.

However, when all is said and done, it is the acting that matters, and here the boys that shone with the steadiest light were undoubtedly G. R. Capper and R. F. Gill as Morry and Fender in "The Bespoke Overcoat." Accents and mannerisms were convincingly authentic. They rang the changes between pathos, humour, drunkenness and whimsicality with a sureness of touch remarkable in actors so young. They were well supported by the rest of the cast, though Ranting (C. R. Blackwell) might have appeared harder and nastier altogether, and the Clerk (J. G. McCubbin) a little cockier than he was. The whole of this production, including a gem of a programme, showed a loving care and attention to detail that was most satisfying.

Not so very far behind were the cast of "The Hole"—a difficult play to do well : a light piece of inconsequential nonsense in which satirical darts are aimed, as far as I could judge, mainly at sports and games of various kinds, the Athanasian creed, the penal code, and the adulation paid to modern science. This called for a cast each of which could assume just the right air of barmy craziness. The most effective zanies were N. Boreham as Endo and the two gossips (B. Manger and A. Crowe). The latter managed to look their parts as well as to act them. Soma's sermon (by I. Taylor) was effectively delivered. It would have been even better as a more pronounced and obvious parsonical caricature.

In some ways "The Prisoner" was the most difficult play of all to tackle. A tense play with none of the more obvious kinds of stage relief, humour, unexpected action and so on. The three-act play had been skilfully telescoped into a one act with two scenes and a break in time. It proved, I think, a little beyond the histrionic powers of the three speakers, though the Cardinal (I. P. Jackman) made a very gallant attempt at a gruelling part. The Warder (P. L. Cox) had a good accent but was too amiable, and the Interrogator (P. V. Mallet), while managing to hold the attention, was neither quite incisive nor watchful enough for the part.

"The Last Post," the only "straight" play of the four, called for realistic treatment. The setting was admirable. The characters that stood out most were the two toughs (N. Rhodes and J. Sinfield). I think I remarked that the best thing in the play was The Pincher's goofy snigger!

In conclusion, I found the whole competition very rewarding, the care and hard work put into it quite staggering, and the choice of plays really remarkable — and a choice, I may add, that was well justified by the event.

[We are most grateful to Mr. A. Trubshaw, not only for coming to adjudicate but also for this very prompt report on the competition, which was won by Cobbs with "The Bespoke Overcoat." Newsoms with "The Hole" were second, Miltons "Last Post" was third, and Gibbs with "The Prisoner" were placed fourth. Halliwells were at the last minute obliged to withdraw.—Ed.]

MUSIC NOTES

There is no music room at Raynes Park; there is instead the school hall, a place where from Christmas onwards winter sits 'blue-lip't, an ice-drop at his sharp blue nose.' Here at this time musicians with advanced internal heating systems or sheepskin overcoats may practise their phrases and develop their humour. They may not, it is true, go all the way with that English wit — Sidney Smith — who eulogised the making of music as 'the only cheap and unpunished rapture on earth.' They may think it punishing enough as their tormented fingers freeze onto the notes and their husky voices crackle to an anguished fade-out. Year by year they may feel that this annual joke (unlike the ice) wears thinner, that the flesh grows weaker and the spirit more despairing. They may suspect with some uneasiness that here are efforts wasted and talents squandered. Musically the term got off to a bad start; it never fully recovered. By the time that temperatures were soaring from the lowest Fahrenheit forties G.C.E. trials took over the hall. It was nearly March.

Throughout the term and week by week choir and orchestra rehearsed dutifully, more or less. There were moments of value and an occasional vital spark as in the singing of an African wedding song or the performance of a Russian dance. Nevertheless, as a result of slackening spiritual vigour, the choir, which at this time twelve months ago secured from the Wimbledon Music Festival both the trophy and its own secondary school class as well as that in the open choral society section, did not this year enter the festival at all. A proposed public performance of parts two and three of Handel's 'Messiah' was abandoned as likewise the acceptance of an invitation to sing at a B.B.C. audition.

Small groups and individuals rehearsed with fortitude and some success. Particularly pleasing has been the vitality of Paul Standish in rejuvenating the recorder club: his team gave a promising and at times delightful reading of a Terzetto by James Hook in the Wimbledon Music Festival, gaining third place and an honours certificate. John Crocker's choir of a dozen or so hand-picked singers gave musicianly performances in the Festival madrigal class of 'April is in my mistresses' face' (Dowland) and 'Come again, sweet days of wild delight' (Morley), though with a tendency to force changing voices and disturb the intonation: they gained third place and an honours certificate. Adrian Crowe, who virtually by his own unaided efforts has raised himself to a commendably high standard of guitar playing, secured second place in his Festival guitar class; it is a delight to know that this most promising performer has now the advantage of professional tuition.

House choirs have all had a weekly opportunity to rehearse in the school hall throughout the term.

School parties have attended recitals at the Wimbledon Music Club and have done so at the expense of Sir Cyril Black to whom we offer our gratitude. There was a recital by pianist Ruth Huggenberg in January, a programme of Intimate Opera in February, and a concert by the Boyd

Neel Orchestra in March. In March also a number of boys attended a somewhat unusual lecture-recital on percussion instruments at Merton Hall given by the owner of one of the largest private collections of such things, James Blades.

The recently resurrected Gramophone Society flourished with increased vigour this term under the leprechaun liveness of D. E. Lemon and the approving eye of Mr. Hollom. It is an exciting and valuable venture and there have been some splendid Mahlerian and Strawinskian strains emanating from the school hall during Friday lunch times. Give this a trial visit if you have not already done so, whether you are musician or no.

By and large there is much musical talent in the school. Ahead there is a challenging term with stimulating opportunities for musicians to re-illuminate their recently eclipsed tradition, whether through the House music competitions, individual efforts, or the School concert itself on July 22nd. Let the cry be one of *clarior e tenebris*. Let even "D.A." permit himself in the months ahead these grudging hopes: that he may reasonably expect his water tank to refrain from further pouring of its contents through his ceiling; that there may be someone able to find and even repair his fractured rib; that all those leading musicians in the School who chose this inconvenient term for falling in love may divert a portion of their passion into the creation of lyrics and madrigals such as may rival those of another Elizabethan age — and in ample time before the final rehearsal on July 22nd. And final joy of joys! 'They' promise us a summer so hot that we shall still have that satisfying right to grouse.

D. Aldersea, Esq.

ETE — POEME EN PROSE

Une lueur légèrement rose s'étend lentement sur l'horizon. Les pointes étincelantes des étoiles deviennent moins claires, et le croissant pâle de la lune s'évanouit au fur et à mesure que la lumière matinale s'avive.

Par-dessus le marécage une brume est suspendue, immobile, silencieuse; des volutes humides adhèrent aux longs brins ténus de l'herbe comme pour les caresser.

Enfin le disque rouge du soleil levant perce la brume et verse une lumière laiteuse sur le monde.

Le soleil monte sur son chemin prédestiné dans le ciel. La brume se disperse, et la chaleur de l'été remplace la fraîcheur du bon matin.

Midi. Dans us ciel d'azur, le soleil éblouissant irradie ses rayons sur la terre. Pas de brise ne soulage la chaleur brûlante qui fait flétrir les herbes et les arbres; les feuilles semblent se retirer devant son implacabilité impitoyable. Dans la distance,

les détails du paysage se fondent dans une brume légère. Plus près, la verdure, et le bleu du ciel reflété dans l'eau tranquille du marécage, se détachent d'une clarté de cristal.

Comme le soir approche, des nuages, signe inévitable d'un jour trop chaud, apparaissent à l'horizon. Leurs formes houleuses s'étendent dans une marche menaçante à travers le ciel. Les rides noires témoignent qu'ils sont chargés de pluie. Entre les nuages, les taches du ciel bleu qui semblent être une sorte d'échappement vers les régions sublimes s'amenuisent jusqu'à ce que le dôme entier du ciel soit une masse solide de plomb.

Le soir vient ; le crépuscule approche à mesure que le soleil descend vers la ligne du ciel clair qui est l'horizon. Les nuages à l'ouest qui voilent le soleil couchant sont plus éclairés, et une couleur de jaune insipide se reflète sur le marécage, et fait contraste avec le gris chargé d'électricité de l'est qui est déjà enveloppé dans les premières ténèbres de la nuit. Les brins de l'herbe se détachent en petites pointes noires sur l'eau qui luit pâlement. Puis le soleil sort lentement de cet amas de nuages, et un faisceau éblouissant de lumière perce l'obscurité. Le reflet sur l'eau brille d'un éclat aveuglant. Comme le soleil plonge au-dessous de l'horizon, ses derniers rayons, presque solides dans l'atmosphère poussiéreuse du soir, jaillissent en haut. Enfin la lueur sinistre s'affaiblit, et le marécage, l'horizon, et les nuages se fondent dans l'unité obscure de la nuit.

J. M. Crocker, 6 Arts 3.

THE PEDESTAL

There is a pedestal : a pedestal of Man ;
A pedestal invisible,
Non-existent but for the wills of those who lead the blind.
" For now we see through a glass, darkly ;
But then face to face : "
When !
For God's sake when ?
What is there on that pedestal of faith ?
Can you see, you, though blind, the solid, transparent, enticing
image —
Of ice ?
Ice cool, cool blue :
Refracting light and shimmering in illuminated beauty

And melting.
 At the foot of the pedestal of Man, the pedestal invisible, the
 pedestal of faith,
 There is dust. Mere dust.
 It is gold dust.
 " Now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror,
 But then we shall see face to face."
 The blind leaders admire the melting image :
 ' Even the waters,
 Dripping,
 Falling,
 Down the pedestal that is not there,
 Enhance its beauty,'
 THEY say.
 Why is the gold dust beneath your boots, O Leaders ? ...
 Forgive me, I know not what I do.
 But why do you trample
 On gold ;
 On IT ?
 I can no longer see through the glass, even darkly.
 My God ! what is happening to the pedestal,
 The pedestal of Man, the pedestal invisible, the pedestal of
 faith, the pedestal that is not there :
 The staff of life ?
 The blind leaders run in panic towards the pedestal :
 The invisible, faith, that is not there
 Begins to crumble,
 Collapse,
 Ignominiously.
 The blind leaders grope, sweating, to hold their own creation
 up —
 It slips through their fingers,
 Their claws.
 It melts in the waters,
 Dripping,
 Falling,
 Down the pedestal that is not there :
 Into the pools of sweat from the blind leaders.
 And the gold is washed away.

C. R. Blackwell, 6 Arts 1.

TIME

Time is a leveller of things.
To the rhythm of the pendulum the scythe swings
And cuts the threads that bind me
To this precious life.
My choice is clear — whichever way I turn, I lose :
To stay ensnared in sticky threads,
Or to yield to the cutting blade
And line some fatter stomach.
I cannot fight, being unprotected :
Time has stripped me of my armour and ground it into dust —
Naked, quivering flesh cannot match the sweeping scythe.
It swings, cuts, I fall,
And sinking into dust I see
The bloody scythe —
Triumphant.

G. M. Bradshaw, 6 Arts 1.

POEM

One February
When the stars were hidden by the dark blue sky
And the trees were caught in silhouetted
Fresco on the world which we passed by,
A London train thrashed southward through the night,
Past half-lost villages of feeble light
Which dimly flickered far on either side.
The heavy thrashing engine ate its way
Through clays and rock and farmland to the south.
And then it paused,
And hissing steam upon a monster table
Turned, refuelled,
And, spilling power, gnashed its teeth and thrashed
Its monstrous body north along the rails
In fury till,
Stopped by a small red light,
It paused to point toward the south again.

N. C. Boreham, 6 Arts 2.

CURIOUS HISTORIOGRAPHY

Ulysses and Polyphemus

After many years of labour and toil,
Ulysses landed on a strange, foreign soil.
The island was searched by Ulysses' men,
Who soon came across Polyphemus's den.
As soon as he saw them, out shot his hand,
And two of the men crashed back to land.
Their brains ran out, the blood did pour :
The cave was covered with thick, slimy gore.
Ulysses and his men in the cavern were trapped,
The mouth of the cave with a boulder was capped.
Ulysses gave him wine, while the others did weep,
In the hope that the Cyclops would soon fall asleep.
And when at last the giant slept,
They took up the staff which he had kept ;
Into a fire they pushed the pole,
And in his eye, burrowed a hole.
He gave a roar, which shook the cave.
Further and further they pushed the stave.
And then for the night they left him there,
Moaning and groaning on the floor of his lair.
Next day the Cyclops, still racked with pain,
Rose up from the floor, where he had lain.
And when he had eaten, enough for a bull,
He milked his goats, whose udders were full.
And Ulysses, while his company did sleep,
Tied two of his men beneath some sheep.
The Cyclops moved the rock, which was his door,
And through that large hole, the sheep did pour.
And all of the men escaped in this way,
Into the clean, clear light of day.
They were saved, at last, by the gallant ship's crew,
Who did not believe their story was true.
At last, convinced, they took to the ship,
And away from the island begun to slip.
So their long voyage, after many stops,
Had passed the lard of the dread CYCLOPS !

S. Gebbett, 3 Geog.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Euripidaristophanisms and Beans

At its only meeting of the term, the Society was introduced to one aspect of the wit and burlesque of the Greek comic playwright, Aristophanes. Our speaker was Mrs. Hoskins of the Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith, whose theme was, as every schoolboy can know from the Cratinus-type title, Aristophanes' treatment of the tragedian, Euripides. Mrs. Hoskins observed that Aristophanes seemed to have Euripides on his mind. She suggested a serious reason for this, namely, that he was fundamentally distressed at Euripides' tendency in the field of tragedy (and Socrates' in the field of learning), to depart from the old codes and customs, the *mores* of a glorious Athens. His instrument of attack, parody, though used ostensibly to entertain, succeeds in exhibiting the poet's penetration and skill in genuine literary criticism. Our speaker illustrated this point with apt quotation from the works of both poets. She concluded with Robert Browning's views on this subject, expressed through Balaustion, a character who loved Euripides and who went to great lengths to defend him against an opposition of Aristophanic stature.

The Society continues epulatively to flourish. This time, beans occurred.

A. S. Gorman.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE ?

Despite the intrusion of examinations this term, the Christian Union has continued to meet regularly. The programme has been more varied than usual, with an emphasis on Bible Study. We realised last term that although discussions were useful, we yet lacked the necessary growth in our faith: with the result that we were not sufficiently strong to pass on the Gospel message to others effectively.

As it says in 1 Peter 2:2, 'you must crave for pure milk (spiritual milk, I mean), so that you may thrive upon it to your souls' health' (N.E.B.).

Bible Study in small groups was not very successful, so we tried the method of dividing the passage into sections of several verses each, and having each section expounded by a prepared member, followed by open comment. This method proved very successful indeed, and, using it, we studied Philippians. It has two advantages: most people can take an active part; and light is thrown on the passage from various quarters.

Special meetings included the new Missionary Aviation Fellowship filmstrip, 'The Land the Rivers have Spoiled,' and slides of the Inter-School Christian Fellowship's holiday camp at Salcombe, North Devon: both in colour and with a tape-recorded commentary.

This term has seen the conclusion of our series 'Prophecy Fulfilled' with very profitable talks given by Rev. H. Hitchcock, Rev. C. Jee, and

Canon L. Wright. Throughout this two-term series, we have seen the way in which Jesus Christ laid aside His Divinity to become Son of Man, with particular reference to the Messianic prophecies and their New Testament consummation.

The Junior Christian Union also offered an excellent programme to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd formers. The term was commenced with a Jungle Doctor Fable filmstrip, 'Out on a Limb'; and was concluded with a well-attended play-reading of the Easter play 'New Wine.' In addition to two Bible Studies and a valuable discussion on Church unity, there were two series: 'The Young Christian' with talks by Rev. F. W. Clifford, Rev. Ames, and Mr. E. Christie; and 'Denominational Differences' led by our senior C.U. members, which covered Methodists, Baptists, and Anglicans.

Attendances at meetings has been poor, however, and to a certain extent we blame ourselves for this. Next term will offer greater opportunities for participation by members: quizzes, competitions, and Bible Studies. Although in our fellowship we have really known the promise of Jesus Christ that 'where two or three have met together in My Name, I am there among them' (Matt. 18:20 N.E.B.) to be true, we would welcome all who are prepared to share fellowship with other young Christians during the week at school, not only on Sunday at Church; and do not at present attend our meetings.

The climax of the term was the Fact and Faith film 'Hidden Treasures.' Of some ninety boys who saw this film, most of them probably came out of scientific interest: however, they had the opportunity of hearing also the Gospel telling them that Christ died and rose again to free them from their sins, and to give them real Life—not the life of self-satisfaction, but the life of self-dedication to Jesus Christ and His service, culminating in the fulfilment of the promise of eternal life with Him after death.

Next term our Bible Study will be based on the Epistle of James. Speaker meetings will be held on selected topics of the Christian Faith (with a theme of missionary activity). If you profess to be a follower of Jesus Christ yet do not come to take your place in the Christian Union, you are denying part of your calling: 'So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing.' (James 2:17 N.E.B.).

R. J. Crittenden and C. R. Blackwell.

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

As a result of the acquisition of new equipment, including a barograph and rain gauge, daily meteorological readings have been taken since last October. It is hoped that the data obtained will be analysed at the end of the Summer Term, and the findings made known on Open Night.

On March 19th a record number of seventy-two people attended the Geography Society Film Evening. The first film, 'Master Farmer Kum Yeng,' was not in colour and was occasionally too technical; but nevertheless adequately illustrated the method of rice-growing in Malaya. The

remaining three films were in colour and were of high photographic quality with excellent sound-tracks; and displayed considerable dexterity in production. Ford's film, 'From First to Last,' showed in a dynamic manner, the techniques involved in the manufacture of their vehicles and the thorough testing to which every component is subjected. The third film, 'Hook, Line, and Sinker,' portraying the maiden voyage of the Aberdeen Line fishing ship, "Glenstruam," was of very considerable interest and included some remarkably good shots of the coast of Greenland. The evening was concluded with 'Distant Neighbours,' a film showing the important part played by small aircraft in the lives of the inhabitants of the Hebrides, Northern Canada, and Central Australia.

Despite initial difficulties with the projector the varied programme, supplemented by refreshments, was both informative and entertaining: and we are indebted to Mr. O'Driscoll for an enjoyable evening.

D. L. Gent.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Owing to snow and thunder storms blanketing the sky with clouds, and gales which overturned the telescope, we have not had the opportunity to do very much observation this term. The Society has certainly not, however, been in hibernation.

Mr. Gordon-Cumming completed an equatorial mounting for his 2½ in. refracting telescope whilst (ébénistes) Miskin and Russell, constructed a tripod for the 4 in. telescope, which, despite help from Mr. Greenwell, turned out to be rather prone to attacks of Parkinson's disease. Meanwhile, Putland was working on a mounting to go with this 'objet d'art,' which, unfortunately, proved too small for the telescope.

When Mr. Irving, a telescope dealer, came along to look at the reflector, he promptly announced that our new flat was of no use. He made a new elliptical one, and re-aluminised the mirror, at the same time giving us a ⅝ in. focal length eyepiece on approval.

Mr. Irving's work made an immense difference to the reflector, which now gives clear images even at magnifications of about 400 times. We had superb views of the moon with one crater almost filling the field of view, and although we could not distinguish any markings, Mars looked as big as a sixpenny piece. During the lunch hours, Davies organised a very successful study of the passage of sun spots.

Indeed, in many ways, this has been a good term for the Society. For the first time in its history it has three telescopes at its disposal: for only the second time in its history at Raynes Park the reflector has had its mirror re-aluminised, and throughout the term the Society has been well supported by an enthusiastic following.

J. D. Miskin.

THE STAGE GUILD

Because demand has been lacking this term, activity in the Stage Guild has been somewhat limited. The main project, however, was the building of a door flat, a badly needed piece of equipment which is of heavy construction and should, therefore, remain a permanent addition to the scenery.

It might, however, be a sound idea if the Guild in future gives thought to equipping the stage with scenery of much lighter construction, where this is practical, thereby making for much easier handling, rather than with equipment of much heavier construction such as at present creates difficulties where quick changes are necessary, for instance in the House Play Competition. This Competition, incidentally, has kept occupied several of the Guild members and given them opportunity to work for their Houses on their own initiative instead of collectively.

The back-cloth has now been fitted up correctly again with facilities for rolling it up out of the way when not required. The re-introduction of this system should prove most useful.

The Stage Guild also has to its credit this term the fixing of the screen which enabled the film 'Henry V' to be shown in the Hall.

Whilst, as can be seen, our activities over the last few months have not been very ambitious, we anticipate a somewhat fuller programme next term with the Junior School Play in the offing.

P. G. Williams.

PRINTER'S GUILD

During the first half of this term work was hindered by illness, but after half-term we were again in full production. Work included tickets and programmes for a Scout 'Gang Show,' Raffle Tickets, and the Garden Party tickets. The new design for the latter was produced by Mr. R. H. Venning, and it is hoped that you will welcome the change from the old-style tickets.

A number of members have completed Fourth Class tests, and one or two are well on their way to completing Third Class. By this system of tests we hope to improve the standard of work, and also to increase production. During the progress towards increased production, the takings amounted to over £30 in the Autumn Term. This progress is partly due to the amount of work done by boys during Craft periods; and this has also caused the membership of the Guild to increase.

As you read this report, the production of 'Oberon,' an old school magazine now considered worth revival, should be well under way. It will contain a number of articles and stories on the theme of 'Exploration,' as well as illustrations from the Spring Term Da Vinci Society Competition. There will also be a large crossword based on exploration which we believe will keep you busy for some time.

It is hoped that you will support this venture and thus make it possible to continue occasional publication on different topics.

B. G. Butcher.

THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Unfortunately, attendances this term have been low: at some meetings only five people were present. The reason for this is that only one track has been in good working order. This is due to controller trouble and track modification. A new power pack should be ready for the Summer Term.

At the moment we are reaching the end of a complete modification of Gibbs Farm. Everything was taken off the area, except the actual track, and even the road was re-routed. There is now a new village green which is more scenic than the previous one. Other alterations, such as new platforms at Newsoms Vale and the finishing of the Viaduct, have been under construction.

During the Summer Term we hope to have larger attendances and to have the whole railway working.

D. H. Nutton.

JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

The Group has continued this term with some measure of support. Although open only to sixth forms, we would welcome more support than we have had at times. For those that did come, however, there has been some interesting music, catering for all taste: Sydney Bechet stills lingers on, mixed with the more, I think, rewarding sounds of Miles Davis and Julien Adderly. Records have been lent by various people and we particularly thank P. H. Waters for letting us hear some of his large collection. Although interrupted by examinations, we have managed to continue our meetings, even in competition with recordings of "T.W.T.W.T.W." from the next room. An interesting occasion in the term was John Wilbraham and our ex-chairman Peter Andrews's version of "The Saints" played on a private gramophone record. Another record provided an anthology of ten well-known jazz soloists, which gave entertainment and food for thought for many.

Next term we hope for some new records, and we invite anybody with a record they think will interest us, no matter from what year they come, to bring it along. Lastly, we must thank Mr. Horler for enduring us and mention R. A. Charlton, I. Taylor, D. Chamberlain, and others for bringing their records.

M. P. Dudley.

No. 565 SQUADRON, AIR TRAINING CORPS

One of the first activities in which the Squadron participated this term was the annual Wing Aircraft Recognition Competition, held at the headquarters of No. 18F Squadron in Wimbledon. As in previous years, the competition was set by Mr. Gerald J. Pollinger, the aviation writer, who also presented the prizes. The Squadron entered a team of nine cadets and won the team prizes which are awarded for the best combined score of the top three cadets from one Squadron. Later in the year these three cadets will be going on to represent Surrey Wing in the Regional competition.

The Wing Cross-Country Championships — after having been postponed because of bad weather — were finally held on Sunday, March 3rd. Five cadets from this Squadron entered, Senior Cadet Goulding coming first in the senior section. The following week he represented the Wing in the Regional championships and was placed seventh.

On Friday, March 1st, the Squadron was inspected by Squadron Leader J. D. Cooke, a liaison officer from R.A.F. Chessington. As well as inspecting the Squadron on parade, and its premises and activities, S/Ldr. Cooke was able to see the exhibition of model aircraft entered for the competition held on the same evening. Our thanks are due to Mr. John W. R. Taylor, another well-known aeronautical journalist and author, who visited the Squadron to judge the competition.

As far as awards are concerned, A.T.C. marksmanship badges have been won on the .22" rifle range by Cadets Whittamore and P. I. King, and Cadets D. G. King, Coppen, Richardson and Maskell have passed their first class cadet examinations.

At the moment, we look forward to the annual training camp during the Easter holidays, being held this year at R.A.F. Ternhill in Shropshire; four officers and twenty cadets will be attending. Ternhill is a helicopter pilot training station of R.A.F. Flying Training Command, and flying this year will be in Sycamore helicopters, with perhaps one of two Chipmunks also available for cadet flying.

Recent additions to the A.T.C.'s gliding schools have now made available more advanced gliding courses for cadets with sufficiently high assessments from their proficiency courses; and next term, Cpl. Winhall goes on an advanced course at R.A.F. Swanton Morley. During the same week, Cpl. Manger will be taking his proficiency course, also at Swanton Morley. The Squadron has its annual inspection next term, and will also be taking part in the annual Wing parade at R.A.F. Kenley. J. Faulkner.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The Boy Scout Troop now meets on two nights a week — informally on Wednesday evenings for the purpose of test passing, and in uniform at 7 p.m. on Fridays. New recruits will be welcome and should contact Mr. Shaw in the School. At half-term the Patrol Leaders took the Troop on a hike in Essex which, it is hoped will prove to be the forerunner of many similar ventures throughout the Summer Term. At time of writing plans are well under way for Easter camp, which will be held at West Hoathly. Summer camp will be held near Lowestoft from July 27th to August 3rd. The site is well situated and the camp promises to be one which will be remembered.

Th Senior Troop continues to flourish. Seniors have attended District training courses and a long Easter camp is being planned. Examinations will necessarily dampen the vigour of many Seniors' Scouting activities during the Summer Term, but for the others the term will be a crowded one. N. C. Boreham.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF COLIN WELCH

As I staggered, half-blinded and blinking, from Westminster Underground Station, like a human mole emerging inadvertently into that forbidden fruit of Londoners, the sunshine, the reverberating chimes of Big Ben shook the grime from the buildings of Whitehall and welcomed me to Parliament Square. There before me stood the object of my endurance test on the world-renowned Tube: the 'Mother of Parliaments' and home of the British Parliament. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Atkins (M.P. for Merton and Morden) the organisation of Mr. Wyatt, and the advice of the pioneer expedition from VI Arts I, I was eventually able to reach the Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons. The next two hours formed a permanent impression upon my memory, some of which I shall endeavour to relate.

The Members themselves, either through acute deafness or over-enthusiasm, carry the following instruction (presumably part of the 'elaborate code of procedure') to rather ridiculous lengths.

"Amplifiers are incorporated in the woodwork in the back of each bench. If visitors lean back slightly rather than lean forward they will be able to hear more clearly."

Some even approach the stage of lying flat on their backs; while others ensure a constant supply to the M.P.'s most vital but seldom used piece of equipment, the brain, by putting their feet up, for instance, on the Table of the House. (This leads one to wonder if a hastily arising M.P. has ever kicked the Mace to the floor.) The air of concentration is tremendous, and many Members even close their eyes, the better to concentrate. Small wonder that M.P.s sometimes, in combining these three aids to attention—lying back, feet up, eyes closed—drop off to sleep: hence, I suppose, the expression applied to the House of 'rising.'

I was fortunate in that not only did I hear Mr. Enoch Powell assuring us that he had not forgotten the nurses; Mrs. Barbara Castle protesting that South African products were being sold in the Commons's refreshment rooms; Mr. Duncan Sandys on Brunel which produced the inevitable speeches of praise for the Gurkhas (those who thought the word was Gherkins, please note) — not only did I hear all this, but also eloquent oratory by an Opposition gentleman, whose name escapes me, on sewerage. Now this thrilled me. I mean, it gives you a warm glow inside to know that an important subject such as this is being sensibly debated in the House: that here in the nerve-centre (or wits-end, depending on your politics) of the British Government, 'our' representatives can protect 'our' liberties in this way.

Mr. Speaker, the well-known comedian, convinced me in his wonderful way that the real Mr. Speaker is more like a Gilbert and Sullivan character than ever they could have made him. Mr. Speaker compared the Sewerage Board and the Police Force; and pointed out that whereas we could choose between using gas and electricity we had to have sewers!

Therefore he concluded that this Bill could not be declared hybrid — pass the dictionary please!

Thus reassured I left the House, secure in the knowledge that at least I had discovered for myself why it is called the House of *Commons*...

C. R. Blackwell, 6 Arts 1.

PORTS OF CALL ON THE M.S. DEVONIA

A party of Third-Formers recently travelled on a sea cruise from Genoa, around the Greek Islands, the Greek mainland, and then back to our starting point. The ship on which we sailed was called the Motor Ship (M.S.) *Devonia*, owned by the British India Company, and formerly a troop-carrier. The cruise was educational and organised by the Surrey County Council.

It was a very good idea, I think, since the voyage enabled one to see those places about which one had been learning. Our enjoyment was increased, as most scholars agreed, by the fact that an important event, such as a battle, which occurred long ago in a foreign land, was made far more vivid for us, since we were standing at the place of the incident.

On the cruise, we were taught the main historical events of ancient Greece and its Geography. These subjects instructed us that the Greeks were a seafaring nation. They made use of natural harbours, and used their naval skill as a means of defence and attack. We were also taught about the temples at Athens, Crete, and Delphi, their design, architecture, and method of construction; the everyday life of noblemen, such as King Minos; and the Athenian Senate and the courts.

Our visits proved most absorbing. We could see for ourselves the present-day situation, and could cast back our minds to the time when the buildings, theatres, and roads were in use. The Palace of King Minos at Crete had beautiful wall frescoes and mosaics which have been reconstructed to look like the originals. The museums contained the main portions of the frescoes and also the articles of the ancient, everyday life. The Acropolis is very interesting and important, standing on the highest hill in Athens and overlooking the Piraeus and other surrounding districts. Every temple has a totally individual style of architecture, but all were built during the same period: this is very unusual indeed. Delphi is a pleasant place, whose temples were built in similar style, but which are unfortunately only in ruins.

We were instructed all about ships, the way they are steered, how their routes are planned, and other general information, such as their capacity and engine power, how the automatic fire-alarm system and ship's compass works.

In all, the cruise was an adventure and a chance not to be missed. My knowledge was increased, and I hope I shall always remember every single thing I learnt on the trip. It would be a very good idea if these voyages were regularly included in our school syllabus.

A. P. Howard 3A.

SECOND YEAR SIXTH FIELD JOURNEY

"Walk to Brighton? * * * *!" was a suggestion explosively proposed by many after the Second Year Sixth field journey on Thursday, March 21st. The steady pace set by the Initiator (who prefers to remain anonymous) had taken its toll, and by the end of the day, the party was straggled over some distance.

The party assembled at the Crescent, Leatherhead, where the lurid stills of "The Chapman Report" kept them occupied until the late-comers arrived. Then they set out along the right bank of the Mole, which was in an ugly mood after the previous day's rains. Moving along, we came to the Bridge over the River Mole, temporarily built in 1942 by the Canadian Army. Then the wonders of the first terrace were revealed to them by Mr. Shaw, who was in his best 1930's outfit. After elevenses at Mickleham, they proceeded towards Ham Bank.

Ham Bank is a precipitous, muddy, leaf-covered hundred-foot drop. Doubts as to the sanity of their leader were confirmed when he suddenly plunged down, with exhortations to follow. About ten minutes later, the party assembled at the bottom, and set off through the wild-garlic fields.

The lunch-stop was enlivened by a horse, who after a little encouragement, took a great interest in the leader.

The party then joined the A24, and marched in single file singing "*Land of Hope and Glory*." As the Burford Bridge Hotel neared, a break from the ranks was quickly halted, but a convivial half-hour was spent in the immediate vicinity. Our flagging health having been restored, we were led over Fredley Spur to Mickleham, where we were instructed to find out about the place, by talking to the yokels and other denizens.

About half-an-hour later, the party was straggling back to Leatherhead. To most of them, Brighton was a very long way off.

D. Williams.

KING LEAR AT ALLEYN'S SCHOOL

At the end of last term a small party of sixth formers visited the first night of a production of "King Lear" by Allyn's School, Dulwich. The attempt at staging "Lear" was an ambitious project, and one which could all too easily have failed. A school play is not easy to produce, the resources upon which one has to rely often being limited, so the producer, Mr. Aston, must be congratulated for his production.

Considered by some as Shakespeare's greatest play, "King Lear" is a most difficult one to stage — its construction is such that it requires a delicate mastery of the whole play and its meaning to extract from it all that has gone into it. Many times productions have failed; others, though, have succeeded, and when this has happened, they have done so in a most creditable manner. Allyn's School are to be congratulated for the sincerity and credibility of their production, their success depending upon the producer fully communicating the pathos of the play; I think they did

their best to convey this to the audience, however unreceptive it might have been. Some of the scenes are very difficult but a degree of tragedy was at least instilled in us by forceful, energetic acting. The whole play moved with a swiftness, which, although impressive, left one with a rather hazy impression as to the actual sequence of events: the pace might have been more controlled to suit the requirements of each scene.

The King himself was ably portrayed, but the impression was not really given of an old man gradually losing control over his actions — there seemed to be no real progression or development of his character. S. McCarthy acted, however, with skill and deliberation in a particularly taxing part, and for this he must be commended. Gloucester was intelligently played, although he seemed to develop full force only after the storm scene; Edgar, on the other hand, seemed mis-cast and an untenable interpretation was given of him — he is portrayed by Shakespeare as one of the few people who actually come through the tragedy, and although initially a susceptible person, he soon develops into one of the most important characters in the play. The interpretation did not give this force and individuality of character.

Edmund, his brother, was played clearly and with power, and was a truly villainous character in the style of Ferdinand in Webster's *Duchess of Malfi*; he had all the maliciousness and scheming hate that one associates with this, and deserved the ovations he received. Of all the other characters that deserve mention, as all of them do, one felt that Kent was too insignificant throughout the play; Cordelia was well played and very feminine; the two sisters, Goneril and Regan, would have been better portrayed if the roles had been reversed, for Regan, incorrectly I think, was the more dominating of the two. The Fool deserves mention — I enjoyed his act — but he lacked the full perception and subtlety which Shakespeare intended; I should like to see him playing Bottom in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Albany, Oswald, and the other lesser characters contributed to a pleasing entirety. Our party not only enjoyed the play but felt that something of real value has been contributed to our work.

M. P. Dudley, 6 Arts 1.

OUT OF BUSINESS

The house stands empty,
Tiles loose and joints rotten:
The door no longer swings upon its frequent hinges,
And the staircase no longer counts the pounds and shillings:
Maria, you will pay dearly for your wickedness,
Dark woman of a darkened age.

G. Windsor, 6 Arts 3.

DURHAM

"Durham is a Northern Backwater" is a cry which heralds the University's new boys and echoes throughout the elaborately over-organized "Freshers' Conference." The Conference is an eloquent testimony of the paternal spirit abroad in the place; there are conducted tours to The Roman Wall, Vickers Shipyards, King's College, Newcastle, or Sunderland Football Ground, whichever one prefers, and introductions to the Vice-Chancellor, the Warden, Heads of Colleges and Kings of Sport, who reiterate time and again the above statement, and then attempt to refute it, so that one is left with a feeling of ambivalence. On the one hand there is the history of the place, long and respectable by provincial standards, stretching back over a hundred years, and on the other the knowledge that it was a century-long winter in which the University produced little but a handful of priests and deacons.

People wish the history were longer and more respectable; they point out that Cromwell wanted to found a university at Durham during the Commonwealth, but died before his plans could be implemented, and much of the pomp and circumstance is designed to create a past which did not, in fact, exist.

The greater part of the University is distributed around Palace Green, high on the hill, which is the peninsula created by the celebrated, incised meander of the River Wear, and the physical detachment from the city proper is reflected in one's mental attitude towards the place. Palace Green is dominated by the magnificent Norman Cathedral which presides over town and gown. The ecclesiastical keynote of the University, which dates from the time of its founding, still predominates, and the Christian Union and more emphatically Choral Society (which usually performs in the Cathedral) are power-groups.

I must necessarily confine many of my observations to University College. Founded in 1833, it has attempted to remain at the centre of Durham University life by virtue of the snob appeal afforded by its being housed in a Norman Castle. The castle is an impressive building which was given to the University by the Palatinate Bishops of Durham, but its best rooms remain inaccessible to undergraduates. They do not even reside in it until their third year, and visits consist of those to the Dining Hall, the Junior Common Room and the College Bar. The Great Hall is possibly the best student dining hall in the country; it is Norman, with stained glass windows added later, and walls in oak panelling decorated with armour and muskets from the Civil War, and faded portraits of previous masters. I may personally recommend the College bar, or 'Undercroft,' as without par. The most attractive rooms are reserved for the Master's personal guests and County Judges, who reside in Castle when the Assizes are in session.

First and Second Year Students live either in one of the outhouses—most of which are constructed like cowsheds and condemned by the housing authorities—or in Lumley Castle, seven miles outside Durham. There is in each outhouse a strong community spirit, which means in concrete terms

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that you are lucky to get to bed by 1.30 a.m. after setting the world aright over numerous cups of "Nescafé." Unfortunates in Lumley must rise by 8 a.m. to reach Durham in time for morning lectures.

Top people belong to the Boat Club, and membership has two distinct advantages. Firstly, you may attend the Boat Club Dinner which is a splendidly uninhibited orgy, and secondly, since the extremely northern situation of Durham causes the river to be frozen from November to February, making rowing impossible, exercise during the winter is not over-strenuous.

In the University as a whole, there is an attempt to promote an Oxbridge-type façade. This consists largely of the Collegiate system, and the Union Society. Colleges are separate entities, though tuition is carried out by the University as a whole, and there is a nebulous hierarchy; Castlemen are superior (for some unfathomable reason); Hatfield is for 'hearties,' and two others are for potential vicars. With six men's, and four women's colleges the ratio is not unfavourable. The Union Society was, until last week, a "club and debating society for male students of the Durham Colleges." Now the Suffragette movement has penetrated even this far, and women are allowed to join. Nevertheless it is run more on Oxford lines, with its own bar, coffee-lounge, and billiards room, than on those of other provincial universities.

The overall picture is confused. There is at Durham a strong sense of the past, but it is easy not to be convinced by it.

M. A. G. Evans.

We thank Michael Evans for this interesting report, and trust it will create a precedent — Old Boys at other Universities, please note. Ed.

" SING A SONG OF EUROPE "

Sing a song of Europe,
Highly civilised.
Four and twenty nations
Thoroughly hypnotised.
When the battles opened
The bullets began to sing.
Wasn't that a silly thing
To do for any king?
The kings were in the background
Issuing commands,
The queens were in the parlours
By etiquette's demands;
The bankers in the counting house
Busy multiplying,
And all the rest were at the front
Doing all the dying.

B. Cullinan, 3 Geog.

CHESS CLUB

Captain : R. A. Burgess.

Hon. Secretary : T. J. Turner.

Hon. Junior Secretary : M. J. Auger.

Although the chess team maintained the standard set last term, there was a heavy defeat in the first match, against Rutlish School, of 1-5, which was suitably compensated for, however, by winning the return match the following Friday, against a weakened team, by 4-2. The result at Wimbledon County Boys' School proved less conclusive than that of last term, although we won 4-2, but our next match, against King's College School, was most decisive. We won 6-2 in an eight-board match, with a largely inexperienced team. The match against Mitcham C.G.S. proved somewhat flattering, the final close result, a win of $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$, depending upon a rather lucky win. We now met a newly-formed team from St. James' Youth Group. It proved an enjoyable evening, the School won 6-0 at chess, but lost rather heavily at table tennis and snooker afterwards! Our last match was against Tiffin's 2nd team, when we drew three all: an improvement on last term's matches with this school.

Below is an analysis of the Senior team during the last two terms.

	Last term			This term			Total				
	W.	L.	D.	W.	L.	D.	Played	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
R. A. Burgess	4	1	0	4	1	2	12	8	2	2	9
M. J. Auger	2	3	0	5	1	2	12	7	5	0	7
T. J. Turner	1	1	3	2	2	3	12	3	3	6	6
D. F. Blunden	0	3	1	4	1	2	11	4	4	3	$5\frac{1}{2}$
G. R. Myers	—	—	—	3	1	3	7	3	1	3	$4\frac{1}{2}$
G. C. Raison	1	0	1	0	2	3	7	1	2	4	3
A. V. Knapp	2	1	1	—	—	—	4	2	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$
P. F. White	1	2	2	—	—	—	5	1	2	2	2
I. D. Page	—	—	—	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1
G. P. Taylor	—	—	—	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
R. T. C. Whitaker	—	—	—	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

In the absence of P. F. White, and last term's captain, A. V. Knapp, the team played surprisingly well. D. F. Blunden improved his record this term, despite playing mostly on board one. G. R. Myers made a very successful entry into the team, and was unlucky to lose his unbeaten record in the last match. I should like to thank T. J. Turner for his efficient work as Secretary, and M. J. Auger for his handling of the flourishing Junior Chess Club.

On behalf of the Chess Club, I should also like to extend my thanks to Mr. J. Wyatt for continuing to sponsor us this term. R. A. Burgess.

Our captain, R. A. Burgess, has set up what is probably a School record by scoring 9 points and averaging 75%. I congratulate him on behalf of the Chess Club, both for this and for the efficient way in which he has captained the team. T. J. Turner.

Junior Chess Club

During this term there has been an increase in membership but there are still not as many members as for last year.

Congratulations must be extended to Ward for winning the first form knock-out competition, and to Fischer for winning the second and third form competition.

The Junior chess team has had a bad term in matches with other schools. It should, however, be mentioned that these matches are more for practice than for winning.

The results were :

v. Rutlish	... ..	(a)	Lost	1-3
v. Rutlish	... ..	(h)	Lost	1½-2½
v. Wimbledon	... ..	(a)	Lost	1-3
v. Kings College	... ..	(a)	Lost	1-3
v. Mitcham	... ..	(h)	Won	3-1
v. Tiffins	... ..	(h)	Lost	0-4

Fischer played in all matches and the rest of the team were from : Feline, Gorton, Brookes, King, Needle, Page, Peet, Podgorney, Ward and Whitaker.

M. J. Auger.

HOCKEY

Master-in-Charge : W. H. Herdman Esq.

Captain : R. J. Crittenden. *Secretary* : J. Sinfield.

1st XI

RESULTS

v. Badingham College	... ..	(a)	Won	4-1
v. De Burgh School	... ..	(h)	Won	6-0

Matches cancelled : Metropolitan Police Cadets (h), Beckenham (h), Russell School (h), Reigate (h) and (a), Trinity (a), Westminster (h), St. Mary's Training College II (h), Thames Valley (h), St. George's College II (h), Wimbledon County Girls (h).

Goal scorers : Cox (6), Featherstone (2), Crittenden, Quilliam.

Inevitably, the weather has won most of the hockey matches this season, but it has almost as an act of condescension, allowed just two fixtures to be played.

At first, in January, enthusiasm for the so-called 'girls' sport' was surprisingly high, but it gradually dwindled away with the persistence of the 'Ice Age.' Indoor practices in the gym were useful for basic training, if completely unrealistic for outdoor purposes. However, as always, fitness training was deemed to be unnecessary by too many members of the teams. Stamina is just as important in hockey : a player fulfilling his rôle effectively is on the move *all* the time.

When the thaw did make its retarded appearance, the hopes of inter-school hockey were raised by the opportunity to practise seriously (?) outdoors. Even the standard set in House Matches revealed that there were many potentially good players — few particularly outstanding — who

could have been moulded into useful School teams. This fact was borne out by the results of the three matches played by the 1st and 2nd XI's, for we were undefeated.

My thanks go to J. Sinfield for the efficiency with which he has carried out his heavy secretarial responsibilities, most of which have concerned bi-weekly cancellations !

MATCHES

The team for the game against Badingham, played without Captain or Secretary (who had International commitments !) was captained by Featherstone. On a sloping pitch, we shaped well, considering the lack of practice. The defence improved as the game progressed, feeding the forwards well. Despite many shots, Cox (2) and Featherstone (2) were the only ones to score.

Our superiority against De Burgh was established by a half-time lead of 3-0. The defence, erratic and uncertain at first, settled down to provide many attacking openings in the second half. The shooting of the forwards was hesitant, although three more goals were added.

Cox played for the Surrey 'B' XI in the Charles Gebbie Festival.

PEN PORTRAITS

Fisk, goalkeeper : Assures us he did touch the ball on occasions... in House Matches.

Woodhall, right-back (Half-colours 1962) : A slow worker, but reliable, keen, Surrey Trialist

Williams, left-back : Exhibited brute force in hard hitting and "body checking."

Ventham, right-half (Half-colours 1962) : Dribbles too much ; sound, would be good right-winger !

Sinfield, centre-half (Colours 1962) : Has good accurate hit, and excellent sense of positioning ; adept at playing with one hand.

Banks, left-half : Undertook to organise School Dance... worked hard on and off the field !

Lane, right-wing : Undistinguished, yet efficient in his position.

Featherstone, inside-right (Half-colours, 1962) : Managed to break three sticks in as many games. Shaky after acquiring new weapon, but later produced old sparkle.

Cox, centre-forward (Colours 1962) : Prolific goal-scorer (especially when given the ball!) Speed and first-time shot invaluable. Claims 60% of goals scored.

Quilliam, left-wing : Proved his inclusion in difficult position by good cross-hit. "Persuaded" to play despite devotion to Old Boys' Rugby.
R.J.C.

Crittenden, inside left (Colours 1962) : An invaluable player ; but seriously though, he's doing a grand job !

J.S.

The following also played : Fulbrook, Lancaster, J. Nisbet.

2nd XI

RESULT

v. De Burgh School II (a) Won 12-0

The result of this game speaks for itself. Our opponents were completely out-classed by the superior attacking play of the School. Lancaster, the captain, netted the ball seven times.

The team was: Hammond, Peters, Fulbrook, J. Nisbet, J. Evans, Bennée, Dodds, Rosser, Lancaster, Castling, I. Taylor.

Goal-scorers: Lancaster (7), Castling (2), Taylor (1), Rosser (1), Nisbet (1).

R. J. Crittenden.

Colts Hockey XI

Master-in-Charge: H. A. Pratt, Esq.

Captain: D. Lindsey.

Owing to the weather, the Colts' hockey activities amounted to three practices and one match.

Our only match was against De Burgh School at Oberon, which we won by three goals to one. We netted twice in the first half, both goals scored by Veness, and De Burgh scored their only goal just before half-time. In the second half we kept the ball in the De Burgh half, but could add only one goal, scored by Batten.

Our forwards, George, Veness, Whitaker, Stone J. P. and Batten, tackled and passed well, but lacked finishing power.

The wing-halves, Garrett and Leyland, tackled and fed the forwards well. The backs, Fleming and Hutchins, and Smith D. L. as goal-minder, did not have much to do, but made a very sound defence when called upon to clear the ball.

The team is indebted to Mr. Pratt for giving up his time to coach them.

D. R. Lindsey.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Master-in-Charge: M. C. Gleed, Esq.

Captain & Secretary: K. E. Jackson.

Despite having the first part of this term disrupted by weather conditions we had several competitive runs. Certain members of the junior team, tougher than the rest, ran in the Epsom and Ewell Harriers' Invitation Race for clubs and schools, in spite of the foot deep snow. All credit must be given to them for finishing, let alone racing in such conditions. Owing to the bad weather and the rush of important fixtures usual at this time of year, we were restricted to two home dates. The seniors ran against Surbiton G.S. on March 23rd, while the juniors were engaged against Mitcham G.S. Both these matches were won, as were the senior and junior teams' matches versus our near neighbours, Wimbledon College, on the following Saturday. Against Wimbledon the course proved to be extremely heavy, and times proved to be slower than those of the previous Saturday.

Among the open and invitation events in which we competed were the "Densham Cup," organised by South London Harriers, and the Surrey County Boys' Championships.

In the "Densham Cup," we did extremely well to finish second, quite close to the winners. This performance was a great boost to all the senior team and particularly pleasing for Keen, who improved from 100th position last year, to 25th this year. In regard to the team's improvement from twelfth to second, it is interesting to note that whereas Chapman ran last year, he was unable to compete this year (mere co-incidence perhaps!).

The reverse of this improvement befell our junior team in the Surrey County Boys' Championships. After gaining second place last year, we fell this year to twelfth place. This was in spite of good runs by all the team, who did in two cases, much more than was expected of them, and in the case of Seager, more in the last half-mile than even the Captain of Cross-country expected.

In under-fifteen events, prominent was the Kingston Grammar School relay in Richmond Park. Our team, which was composed entirely of runners under fourteen finished sixth having been third until the last leg.

Of our more light-hearted exploits, there was of course the Baldwin Trophy steeplechase organised by Purley G.S. In this we came seventh, our runners negotiating the water jumps, nets and other obstacles without mishap—that is, apart from the undignified sight of the captain running through the streets of Old Coulsdon supporting his mud-caked and sodden shorts by frequent pulls to retrieve them from around his knees.

Then we had our skating contest for the District Championships. This was on an ice-covered course on Wimbledon common and organised by Mr. Gleed and Mr. Pannell. As a result of this Jackson, Shrubbs, Onslow, Goulding and Keen in the under 17's, together with Borland from the under 15's, gained selection for the district team for the County Championships. This was also run on an ice-covered course, and as a result Wimbledon's under 17 team came second equal—a very creditable achievement.

Away from the competitive field, training has continued to be well-attended. Results on the whole have been good and some of our under 14's promise well for the future. Once again we are indebted to those members of the School, those parents, and on occasions others, who have made appearances at Oberon to mark the course or to give vocal support.

The following ran :

Senior : Regulars : Jackson, Holland, Shrubbs, Onslow, Goulding, Keen, Chapman, Cottrell. Also : Blunden, King.

Junior. Regulars : Borland, Stimpson, Parr, Brookes, Ainger, Marshall, Fischer, Hall R. Also : Springate, Seager, Taylor, Parker, Barnett, Howard, Lawrence.

Colours awarded to : Shrubbs, Onslow, Goulding, Keen. Half-colours to Cottrell.

K. E. Jackson.

RESULTS

Date	Match	Result	Individual result
Feb. 20	District Championships	O15 1st/6 U15 3rd/7	Shrubb, Jackson 2nd =/45 Borland 7/54
23	Surrey County Boys' Championships	12th/20	Onslow 21st/150
Mar. 9	(a) John Fisher G.S.	O16 w 10-34 U16 1 22-14	Jackson ; Holland 1st = Borland 3rd,
12	Kingston G.S. U15 relay	6th/6	Stimpson fastest lap
16	'Densham Cup' S.L.H.	2nd/20	Jackson 4th/133
20	Baldwyn Trophy (Steeplechase)	7th/15	Holland 13th/44
23	Surbiton G.S. (h) ... Mitcham G.S. (h) ...	O16 w 15-44 U16 w 31-47	Jackson 1st Cottrell 1st
30	Wimbledon Coll. (h)	O15 w 31-49 U15 w 35-43	Jackson ; Holland 1st = Borland ; Parr 2nd =

O=over. U=under. 1st/6=1st out of 6 competitors.

Inter-House Cross-country

The Senior race started more slowly than has been usual, and by the end of the small hills Jackson, Holland, Twite, Onslow, and Cottrell were established in front with Keen close on their heels. By the time the white posts were reached Jackson, Onslow, and Holland had opened a slight gap. By the signpost Jackson was still in front with Holland tagging on. This state of affairs continued until the green stretch before the stile. Then Holland swept past in a defensive effort, Onslow followed half a minute behind Jackson with Keen in fourth place and the very early leader, Twite, fifth.

In the Colt race, Woodley's win broke a tradition. This was the first year since the inauguration of the race three years ago that it has not been won by a member of Newsoms. The first two, Woodley and Miller, were together until the bridge, then Woodley commenced to pull away and finished twenty-five seconds ahead.

There was this year, for the first time, a Junior race, run over one and three quarter miles. This counted, not to the Championship, but to the Junior Shield. The field started off quite fast for this race, and by half-way there was still only a matter of yards between the first three. Eventually Brookes pulled away to win by just five seconds from Hall with Ness a further five seconds behind.

In the overall Championship, Cobbs took the cup mainly by virtue of great effort on their part during qualifying.

JUNIOR RACE : no qualifying

1st	Gibbs	390
2nd	Miltons	329
3rd	Newsoms	299
4th	Cobbs	284
5th	Halliwells	278

Individual placings : 1st, Brookes (G), 10m. 37s.; 2nd, Hall (M); 3rd, Ness (C); 4th, Seeley (G); 5th, Ainger (H).

COLT RACE

	Qualifying	Race Points	Total
Cobbs	275	375	650
Miltons	270	257	527
Newsoms	225	351	576
Gibbs	215	351	566
Halliwells	215	230	445

Individual Placings : 1st, Woodley (H), 16m. 19s.; 2nd, Miller (G); 3rd, Borland (G); 4th Parr (N); 5th Anderson (C).

SENIOR RACE

	Qualifying	Race Points	Total
Cobbs	350	358	708
Gibbs	285	396	681
Halliwells	265	328	593
Miltons	265	281	546
Newsoms	130	130	260

Individual placings : 1st, Holland (G), 18m. 36s. (School record); 2nd, Jackson (N); 3rd, Onslow (G); 4th, Keen (G); 5th, Twite (H).

FINAL COMBINED POSITIONS

1st	Cobbs	1,358
2nd	Gibbs	1,247
3rd	Miltons	1,073
4th	Halliwells	1,038
5th	Newsoms	836

K. E. Jackson.

RUGBY

Colt XV

Master-in-Charge : R. H. Venning, Esq.

Because of the bad weather our fixture list was restricted to two games. In the first game we lost rather disastrously to a very strong Hampton side. In the second match, however, the side rallied wonderfully and we beat, more convincingly than the score of 5-0 suggests, a very strong Thames Valley side.

During the course of this term the Surrey Sevens were scheduled to be played, but the weather caused them to be cancelled. The Hampton Seven-a-Side Competition, however, did take place as planned. The 2nd Sevens were unluckily beaten in the first round by the eventual winners

of the competition. The 1st Seven did a little better, beating Fortescue House 11-3 in the first round. They then lost very unluckily to Hampton after being equal at half-time.

Although this season as a whole has not been very successful, the team has played with spirit and determination throughout the term.

P. Marsh.

Marsh should be thanked for his very good play in the scrum and his very efficient leadership of the side.

P. B. S. Rutter.

Under-13 XV

Master-in-Charge : A. R. Pannell, Esq.

Captain : S. R. Hall.

v. St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	12-9
v. Reigate	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	12-6
v. Mitcham	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	12-8
v. Wallington	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	8-9
v. Thames Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	3-5
v. Chiswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn	3-3
v. William Ellis	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	6-9
v. Beverley	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	5-3
v. Hampton	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	13-9
v. Thames Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	5-3

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. for	Pts. ag.
10	6	3	1	79	64

The under 13 XV has had a very promising season. We have an unbeaten home record, and finished the season with three good wins.

At the beginning of the season, we had trouble suiting the player to his best position, but eventually it was all sorted out.

There are several forwards who would not have been considered last season but have made outstanding progress this season. Wingate has played himself into the team, and Whitton into the reserves. The forwards, very ably led by Thomson, are now a very efficient pack.

In the threes we have good, strong runners and tacklers. We have matched favourably every three-quarter line we have played against. Hopper deserves special mention, for his touch kicking has often saved us and his penalty kicking and conversions have won many a match.

At the moment team spirit is strong and this must continue next season, when this under 13 XV should be quite a formidable force.

S. R. Hall.

We owe great thanks to our captain, for his efficient leading of the side, and also his personal tackling and scoring ability.

P. M. Thomson.

The team was usually chosen from: Thompson, Ventham, Barton, Wingate, Down, Adams, Cordey, Seeley, Parsons, Whitten, Page, Brookes, Rennie, Lusby, Hopper, Naylor, Jones, Vaughan, Brown, Butcher, Hall.

Under-12 XV

Master-in-Charge : A. R. Pannell, Esq.

Captain : C. R. Pearmine.

The Under Twelve team only played two matches this season. In our first match we were engaged at home against Beverley. We lost narrowly by 3-5. We opened the scoring after about two minutes with a try by Pearmine, but Cocks narrowly failed to convert. We hung on to the lead until about midway through the second half, then came Beverley's try. From a penalty about five yards from our line their forwards broke through our defence and touched down. Their full-back converted with a kick in off the post. The score at the final whistle—Beverly 5 pts., Raynes Park 3 pts.

Our second match was against Thames Valley. This match was due to be played away but as their ground was water-logged we played at home. It was a very cold day and the ground was very wet and muddy.

In the first half play switched from end to end but there was no score. After about ten minutes of the second half, Thames Valley scored their first try. A throw from the line-out was intercepted by their big second row forward who ran through and scored. About five minutes later he scored again. In the last few minutes we put on the pressure but the final score was 6 pts. to nil for Thames Valley.

C. R. Pearmine.

BASKETBALL

Master-in-Charge : A. R. Pannell, Esq.

Captain : M. J. Bennée. *Secretary* : D. Castling.

The School First Basketball Team has continued its record of successes all through this term, conceding only one match in which it was very unlucky and lost by two points. However, this was the only defeat out of a total of approximately sixteen matches since the baskets were erected.

With an ever-increasing number of enthusiastic players it was possible for a Second Basketball Team to be formed, and this team, under the captaincy of Lancaster, soon showed its ability by beating a previously victorious Chiswick and just losing to a stronger Garth team.

In the First Team, Castling and Bennée were the main attacking players, and scored the majority of the baskets between them. Lewis, as pivot, linked well in attack and also helped seal a very strong zone defence, which the majority of schools have difficulty in breaking through. This is due mainly to Banks, backed by Croft and Quilliam, who, if unable to stop a shot, were always there ready to receive the rebound. Onslow, Heaton, Francis, Warren, and Lancaster also played for the First Team.

Results were as follows :

	1st Team	
v. Hinchley Wood	Won	48-31
v. St. John's (Morden)	Won	101-10
v. Chiswick	Won	30-20
v. Hinchley Wood	Lost	16-18

v. Garth Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	50-42
v. Elliot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	30-20
v. Mitcham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	54-30

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts. for	Pts. ag.
7	6	0	1	245	120

2nd Team

v. Chiswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	23-37
v. Chiswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Won	34-20
v. Garth Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	42-48

M. J. Bennée, D. Castling.

Colt Basketball

Master-in-Charge : A. R. Pannell, Esq.

Captain : K. G. Jones.

v. Hinchley Wood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(a)	Lost	12-86
v. Garth Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(h)	Lost	13-33
v. Hinchley Wood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(h)	Lost	24-55
v. Hinchley Wood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(h)	Lost	24-48
v. Chiswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(h)	Lost	26-47
v. Garth Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(h)	Lost	33-40

Although results seem rather disappointing at first sight, it should be remembered that the team has only been playing for one term.

Hinchley Wood was our first game, in which we were beaten by an astronomical figure. We played them again and were beaten for a second time. We played them once more, and, after being in the lead at the beginning of the second half (18-16) we unfortunately lost yet again. We had, however, obviously improved vastly over a period of only six weeks.

Garth Road School were our opponents on two occasions. In the first meeting, we lost rather disappointingly. However, in the second match, though it must be said that we lost, it must be qualified by saying that we lost very narrowly. Indeed it was in this match that our players, especially the attacks, showed their ability to work together and played a good factual game. With only three minutes left, the score was level at 30-30. Alas, owing to some very sensible play from our opponents, the game finished with our defeat 33-40.

Chiswick have been our only other opponents and although we played much better basketball in the attack our guards rather let us down (although the two new guards, Marsh and Linsey, have proved to be promising).

The outstanding player is obviously Anderson, who has scored many excellent baskets in pressing conditions. Jennings has also played well, although lack of practice (through no fault of his own) took a sad toll of his play.

Thanks should go to Mr. Pannell who has given much time and energy to a now promising team.

K. G. Jones.

Mention must be made of our captain, Jones, whose outstanding shooting ability and tactical skill has been an inspiration to us all.

J. G. McCubbin.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Sirs,

While appreciating the fact that the Editors of your magazine must have the final word as regards actual material published, I would like to protest against the rather petty practice of "correcting" grammar and syntax of reports and other articles submitted.

Apart from the fact that, as a result, articles are not printed as originally submitted and the original author's name is, nevertheless, still printed beneath, surely, if the magazine is to be a true reflection of the School and the members of it, all items should be printed as originally written. If, in the opinion of the Editors, their contributors are a crowd of illiterate morons, why should they disguise this fact, and, as a result, produce a magazine that, in effect, is a projection of themselves and not of the School as a whole.

If this practice must continue, could not the contributors at least be consulted by the Editors, before publication, or alternatively, a note be added that the particular piece has been mutilated to suit the individual grammatical prejudices of the editorial body and is not the work of the person whose name it bears.

Yours faithfully,

J. Faulkner.

[Not all reflections are either complimentary or accurate. Any emendations are intended for cosmetic and not mutilative purposes. If contributors supply material before the last morning of term, it is far more convenient, and they can be consulted about alterations. Eds.]

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