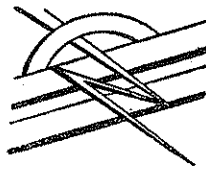


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE  
SPUR

SUMMER TERM 1960



VOLUME XV

NUMBER 3

# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XV

Summer Term, 1960

No. 3

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS

SUMMER TERM, 1960

*Head Boy* : R. Impey.

*Second Boy* : V. E. Bowern.

*Prefects* :

M. D. Bond, R. L. W. Brookes, J. A. Bull, A. J. Burke, R. F. D. Crowe, R. J. Cumes, R. M. Foulsham, G. V. Frank-Keyes, P. T. Greene, B. T. Holyman, C. M. Hopper, J. M. King, S. D. Pattinson, P. C. Redshaw, M. D. Ross, B. M. Ryder, C. R. Shute, B. W. Spencer, P. Standish, P. R. Thornton.

*Captain of Cricket* : R. F. D. Crowe.

*Captain of 2nd XI* : R. M. Foulsham.

*Secretary of Cricket* : M. D. Bond.

*Captain of Tennis* : P. Standish.

*Captain of Athletics* : R. Impey.

*Secretary of Athletics* : J. J. Brown.

*Captain of Swimming* : P. G. Trapp.

*Prefect of Library* : M. D. Ross.

*Prefect of Hall* : C. M. Hopper.

*Secretary of Games Committee* : V. E. Bowern.

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Few of us, even among the Staff, now remember the School's early days and its main author and first Headmaster, Mr. John Garrett, though his name and his portrait are very much with us. His resignation from Bristol Grammar School, which he has led with great distinction for the past eighteen years, is nevertheless an item of news which Raynes Park cannot have heard with detachment. It is difficult to think of him as retired, impossible to think of him as quiescent, and since he now lives again in Wimbledon the School and its Old Boys will hope to see more of him. The University of Bristol has most appropriately honoured him with the degree of Doctor of Letters. On this we happily congratulate him, and hope to see Dr. Garrett soon and frequently among us. Whether he will approve of what time and the builders have done to his creation is a question about which his successor has some doubts.

We said goodbye this summer to Mr. Raphael and Mr. Stephenson. Though the former's stay with us has been short, his help and the pleasure of his company have been genuine, and we are sorry that he prefers to move on. Mr. Stephenson in three years has made his mark, not only in the School's work in English and its literary interests inside and outside

the building—and not least in *The Spur*—but also in the sympathetic lead he has given as an individual to individuals. We hope that he enjoys America, but returns to a rewarding career here.

In addition to J. A. Bull's Scholarship announced last term, M. D. Ross recently distinguished himself, the English Department and the School by his election to a Merchant Venturers' Scholarship at Bristol University. We all congratulate him cordially.

We shall have welcomed, before these notes appear, in the place of Mr. Stephenson, Mr. I. R. Bell, M.A.Cantab., and in that of Mr. Raphael, Mr. J. S. Wyatt, B.A.Oxon. We are happy also in having two additional members of the staff: Mr. D. B. Marks comes from the University of South Wales to help with Mathematics, Mr. R. H. Venning from the College of SS. Mark and John and Bath Academy of Art to help mainly with Art and Craft. We hope that their sojourn here will be not only happy and successful, but also long.

The builders having departed, on July 5th the School met together in Hall for the first time since January 22nd. For this, and for freedom from electric drills, clouds of brick dust and pools of sloppy cement, we are unfeignedly thankful. Even so, the departure was but temporary, sundry work mainly by carpenters remaining to be done, and not all rooms being yet restored to us. Since there is supposed to be only a week's work to do, we are not without hopes that by September we may have the place all to ourselves, after two years under tribulation. There will remain work outside, on clearing and grassing devastated areas. Thereafter we have to bestir ourselves, to plant and decorate, to restore what we can of the agreeable surroundings which Dr. Garrett and our predecessors left us.

The *General School Fund* will be—has already been—called on to finance this, and has been building up a modest balance for the purpose. As usual, a summary of its annual accounts is offered here. It showed £27 in hand on the working of 1959-60—which was less than one hoped, especially as Tuck Shop Balances were raided to the extent of £100 to finance the orchestra and prizegiving.

Income was £325 from the 1959 Garden Party (the Scouts, needing new camping gear, etc., had the other £150), and £344 from termly subscriptions—£669 altogether.

On *The Spur* and diaries the expenditure was £160; on games and teams £233; on the Library and subscriptions £56. We bought £89 worth of instruments for the orchestra, which on loan to boys will eventually (we hope) pay for themselves, a tow-bar for the Oberon roller for £10, a mitre saw for £15, and glass for the greenhouse for £10. Other expenses included £14 on film, £15 for the A.T.C., £10 on visits and conferences (besides the £20 allowed by the County), and a number of small items for clubs and materials to the total of £30. This made the outgoing total £642—it is, as usual, astonishing where it goes—and left the balance named.

HENRY PORTER

## SUMMER CONCERT

This year's Summer Concert, presented on July 14th, marked the first public appearance of our hall in its new clothes—may that fresh, clean look of hall and foyer be long maintained!

It was fitting on such an occasion that the orchestra, choir and soloists reached their highest standard of performance yet, and Messrs. Aldersea, Ayton, Piper, Tucker, and Hall (Mr. Tucker was unfortunately absent through illness) reaped a well-deserved reward for their long labours over the years.

The opening *Allegro* was a foretaste of the good things to come. The performance was vigorous and swinging. Outstanding was the trumpet-playing of J. Wilbraham—fine technique was combined with delightful quality of tone.

Of the soloists, A. V. Knapp must take pride of place for his composition and performance. This was an ambitious work, displaying considerable technical skill in orchestration. Thematically the piece was interesting and inventive, and Knapp deserves our congratulations, not least for his own skilful performance of the piano part. R. Stone also is to be applauded for his performance of his own composition. His study was quiet and thoughtful—his day was a quiet Sunday rather than a busy weekday. S. J. Mawer's violin sonata was accomplished—his closing bars were masterly. M. Monro combined technical excellence with considerable depth of feeling, while M. J. H. Gambling's clarinet was sonorous and ably played. The *Sailor Dance* of A. P. Holloway and R. Terry was both nautical and entertaining and the Recorder Club's *Terzetto* was pleasantly tuneful. The *Trio* of Messrs. Ross, Timpson and True was a performance that displayed the high order of musicianship that we have come to expect from these players, both collectively and individually. Handel's *The Trumpet Shall Sound* is a difficult but superb duet for voice and trumpet, and C. R. Shute and J. Wilbraham gave a very praiseworthy rendering in which there was much feeling and, again, fine quality of instrumental tone.

What the orchestra missed in briskness in the first movement of the Haydn *Divertimento*, they made up for by their delightful second movement, while the familiar Mozart *Minuet and Trio* was lively and dignified. Your critic's seat among the percussion forbids his appraising the closing three dances, but he for one enjoyed them.

The choir's rendering of the music for "Henry V" was well rehearsed and the gentle harmonies of the shorter *Byrd* contrasted well with the patriotic vigour of the longer *Agincourt Song*. The first and third of the Passiontide songs were sung with a quiet and reverent beauty, but more might have been made of the Bach. The low voices were not at their best in *My Bonnie*, but the juniors' *Bobbie Shafto* was a gem. The romantic lyricism of the Elgar needs more harmonious blending of voices than the

choir were able to achieve, but they made up for this by their vigorous *Hallelujah Chorus*. Altogether a delightful evening.

KENNETH KILBURN.

## HOUSE NOTES

### COBBS

*Captain* : V. E. Bowern.

*Prefects* : J. A. Bull, R. M. Foulsham, C. R. Shute.

This year we have seen in Cobbs a remarkable recovery in our fortunes. We began the year in last place in the previous Cock House competition and finished in second position, eight points clear of Miltons in third place. At one stage it seemed that we might win Cock House this year, but Gibbs' superior strength in this term's competitions enabled them to pass us and to go on to win with a clear lead of fifteen points. Nevertheless our efforts have not been without reward in this term's competitions.

In the Athletics cup a 30 points deficit behind Gibbs in first place on qualifying points was reduced to 15 points at the end of sports day, to keep Cobbs in second place. A fine effort by all who took part kept the result in doubt until the last relay. Details of winners may be found elsewhere in this magazine.

A phenomenal effort by "us boys in green" nearly caught our great rivals, Gibbs, napping in the effort to amass swimming qualifying points. A great race ended in Cobbs having a three-point lead over Gibbs, both houses being over 140 points ahead of their nearest rivals. Although the House came fourth in the Gala (fifth place had earlier seemed more likely), Cobbs were placed second in the overall competition with the considerable margin of 100 points. Congratulations to all who responded so well in the qualifying effort which ensured us a good placing. Flack and Gent deserve our thanks for taking on the difficult task of swimming organisation. Details of those who gained places in the Gala may be found in another part of this magazine.

The House cricket teams, while gaining six valuable points, could only take fourth place in the Cup competition. The Seniors had mixed fortunes, losing convincingly to Halliwells and Miltons, but almost beating Gibbs and in fact defeating Newsoms in a low scoring match. The Colts beat both Newsoms and Gibbs but lost to Halliwells and Miltons. The Junior Shield for Cricket, which does not contribute to Cock House, will be, in all probability, awarded to Cobbs who lead Gibbs in an unfinished competition.

The Tennis competition suffered at the hands of examinations, of preference given to other sports, and of the weather. Cobbs' team was subject to several changes and never really settled down; consequently all their matches were lost.

This year's competitions have shown that the keenest rivalry may be compatible with considerable friendliness and a minimum of all else which

can spoil our inter-house competitions. I feel this has been more obvious this year than in previous years. It has been particularly noticeable in our year-long tussle with Gibbs which culminated in their narrow win in the Athletic sports.

This year, with an inter-house Cock House competition enlarged to include ten cups, Cobbs have won the Cross-country and Chess cups, and have come second in the Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming and Debating competitions. In addition the Juniors have won the Junior Shield for both Cricket and Rugby. The improvement, it would seem, has been general, and on the part of all members of the House. It has been noticeable that a small amount of success early on has had a "snow-balling" effect on the keenness of spirit throughout the year. It is to be hoped that this rate of improvement may be continued long into the future, when the writer of these notes will have long since disappeared from the school scene.

May I, therefore, take this opportunity of wishing the House the very best of good fortune in the years to come.

VIVIAN E. BOWERN.

The increased success of the House is due in no small measure to the efforts of Bown and other Seniors whose whole-hearted co-operation will be sadly missed by us. We wish them all well in their future careers.

G.J.A.

#### GIBBS

*Captain:* G. V. Frank-Keyes.

*Prefects:*

M. D. Bond, B. T. Holyman, S. D. Pattinson, B. M. Ryder, B. W. Spencer.

*Hon. Treasurer:* R. M. Deed.

We have won the Cock House Cup again, for the third year running.

At the beginning of term we were lying a close second to Cobbs, only two and a half points behind them. Feelings in the House at this time could best be described as a tempered optimism. Known quantities included the superiority of the swimming team and the probable superiority of the Senior Cricket team. Much depended on the not so certain—the Athletics, Tennis and Colt Cricket.

It was probably Cobbs' magnificent achievement in leading the other Houses a very merry dance in the Swimming qualifying that shook us up a little. What we were beginning to regard as our own silver looked like being pawned for a few wasted games afternoons and Saturday mornings. To cap all this the Tennis team lost 0-3 to Halliwells, the Colts lost the first of their Cricket games and the Seniors squeezed only a palpitating win over—yes, thank goodness!—Cobbs, by one wicket. Wilbraham commenced a surprising term by scoring the winning run off a misfield!

We were really down in the dumps around the end of May. From then on, though, we could do little wrong. The Colts pulled themselves

together and beat Newsoms, a bright star of a win that looks a little tarnished now for the other three Houses beat Newsoms as well. In the Athletics grind a good effort was made by most people and we were slowly forging ahead.

The Senior Cricket deserves a paragraph to itself. For the third term this year the Seniors were unbeaten—the first time I can remember such a 100 per cent. record throughout three campaigns of Rugby, Hockey and Cricket. Halliwells succumbed by 10 wickets, Newsoms by 16 runs and Miltons by 6 wickets. Nicholls and Bond have bowled very well and Early too in the last game when we had only one front-line bowler available. Batting has been always adequate and against Halliwells good. Bond is to be congratulated on reserving his only batting performance for the last game when he scored 26 not out out of 37-4. Dalton has shown great promise and achieved not a little for the School which gained him his Colours. Such are the stars but their satellites supported keenly: Davies and Deed, Ryder and Wilbraham, without such as these the best efforts of the few could count for nothing.

The Colts started losing again, but somehow it did not seem to matter so much—now we had some breathing space.

The day of the Athletics Sports loomed up a day of decision. A hard all-round effort gave us a lead of 45 points, an invaluable lead scratched up in ones and twos. The field events were something of a minor triumph and our lead leapt up to 85. By the end of Sports Day this had been whittled down to 15. The moral was obvious. We had few individual winners—Clark in three events, Eastwood in two, Nicholls, Burgess Rance and the Junior Relay team—but many other placings. Our Captain, Deed, deserves every congratulation for leading his team to an exciting victory.

The Tennis team was, meanwhile, preparing the ground for a surprising harvest. Comfortable wins over Cobbs and Newsoms meant that to beat Miltons would mean sharing the Cup with them. This was duly accomplished, during the course of which Clark and Wilbraham beat Standish and Phillips, a School pair! Early, Nicholls and Wood were the stalwarts, and the Captain, Early himself, deserves extra praise for reaching the final in the School Tournament.

The Swimming Cup after all remains with us. Cobbs led by three points on the qualifying, but in the Gala our team quickly outswam all others, winning 15 events, coming second in 7, and third in the remaining event. All five new records were by boys in this House—Evans and Castling individually, the Junior team in both relays, and the Colt team in the medley relay. Other winners are too numerous to list here, but congratulations to all of them on a tremendous achievement and one of which Trapp can be justly proud in his first year of captaining the team.

So the term ended and, looking back at our summer record of two Cups, a shared Cup and third place in Cricket (but only one win away



from a first place) one could be excused, I feel, if one gave to eulogies. I do not propose to do that but only to say I have been lucky in enjoying the support of my colleagues and particularly of Brian Ryder who has always been willing to help in any capacity. I assure you that his help and the help of others both on and off the field was very necessary in order to withstand the keen and rewarding onslaught of Cobbs.

Next year will bring different problems—I hope you find the same answer.

GRAHAM FRANK-KEYES.

## HALLIWELLS

*Captain* : J. M. King.

*Prefects* : R. F. D. Crowe, R. Impey, P. R. Thornton.

At the end of last term the Chess Cup was still undecided. The last match against Cobbs proved to be the climax of the competition. Both Houses having won their three previous matches, they met to decide the Cup. Luck was against us though and the judges awarded the final board to Cobbs, thus placing us second in the competition.

This term, having a first class Cricket team, on paper, the Seniors took the field led by Pete Williams. The first match we lost to Miltons by seven runs and the second to Gibbs by ten wickets, but the voodoo which seemed to overshadow the team was finally shaken off during the match against Cobbs in which we went on to a confident win by ten wickets. The fielding has been of a very high standard—the catching has been excellent, only one catch has been dropped, and the wicket-keeping of Crowe deserves special mention, few extras having escaped him. The Colt XI has been a credit to the House by winning all four of their matches. The spearhead of the XI has been in the batting of Woodhall and Lancaster and the bowling of Featherstone, Flynn and Woodhall, though congratulations are due to the whole team on a splendid performance. Providing the Seniors win their remaining match against Newsoms, the Cricket Cup will most certainly be ours for the next year.

Junior Cricket has been successful in as far as the team, led by Page, has won two out of the three matches so far played. A win against Miltons, King scoring 31, and Newsoms, Page 6-21, has made up for the loss against Cobbs. Gibbs still have to be beaten.

Athletics ring a sad note this year. Over the years we have been supreme in all track and field events, but this year, due to an insufficient number of qualifying points, we failed miserably. Starting the Sports in fourth position we dropped to last position during the afternoon's events. Whilst commenting on the black day of the House mention must be made of a gallant run by Dollery, who won a splendid one mile.

Another great disappointment has been the Tennis. As in the Cricket we had the best Tennis team, on paper, four out of the five House players being School players, but nothing seemed to go our way on the day and we lost to Miltons and Newsoms, and beat Gibbs and Cobbs, thereby finishing third in the competition.

Beginning the Swimming Gala in third position we finished the same. Nothing outstanding occurred except for the impudence of several members of the House in not turning up for their events despite the warnings they had been given. The result was we scratched from races where a few extra points either way might have altered the outcome of the Gala. These people take note!

Finally the result of the year's playing has been a year of disappointment hampered by an amount of ill-luck. Anyway, if our eating is better than our playing I am sure we will enjoy the House Supper at the end of the term!

JIM KING

## MILTONS

*Captain : R. J. Cumes.*

*Prefects : P. Standish, A. J. Burke.*

It is at this time of the year that one usually laments the imminent departure of Senior boys from the House, but this year, with younger boys playing an important role in House affairs, the loss will not be so great, although it is inevitable that many stalwarts will be missed. I will not mention them all by name but merely thank them for all they have done for the House.

In the major tournament of the term, the competition for the Cricket Cup, we have done amazingly well, winning six out of our eight games and thus gaining first place, together with Halliwells. In the Senior competition we appeared to have a very weak team, but by sheer enthusiasm and determination we overcame all but one of the other House teams, an achievement that surprised many, including myself. Batting first in the game against Halliwells, we failed to score a great amount of runs, despite some fine "slogging" by Smith, A. L. However, our opponents collapsed against very tidy bowling and were skittled for a very meagre total. Greatly encouraged by this victory, yet fortunately not over-confident, we comfortably defeated Newsoms, off whose bowling Courtenay collected a very handsome score. Our one defeat was at the hands of Gibbs who, although minus several of their regular players, amassed the paltry total of runs necessary for victory fairly easily. In the interests of the game of Cricket I will omit any account of our game against Cobbs, except to say that we won and thus shared the Cup.

I must congratulate Heaven on his very fine bowling performances. Although lacking in practice and experience, he has bowled most tidily and accurately, and has in this way gained many victims.

Our Colt XI has met with similar success, although their achievement is not so surprising, since several of them have regularly represented the School. Nevertheless many congratulations to them all, especially the Captain, Jennings, for a very praiseworthy performance indeed. The first three matches were won most convincingly, largely due to the fine bowling of Jennings and Castagnola, but in the most important match of the whole competition, Halliwells just managed to scrape home in a very low-scoring match.

In Athletics Miltons came third, thanks to a general pulling together in the qualifying and an all-out effort on the part of the team on the day of the Sports. Our most notable success was Courtenay, who not only won the 880 yards but also set up a new School record for the Colt 220 yards. First places were also gained by Nisbet, Sinfield, Pickard, Goddard and Brown. The Colt relay team also won its event. To these and all other competitors I extend my heartiest congratulations and thanks, especially to Brown for his very capable pushing, pulling and general bullying in his role of captain.

For the second year in succession we have won the Tennis Cup, although this year we are forced to share it with Gibbs. This tie was caused by the surprising defeat of our team against a very mediocre Gibbs side in the final match of the competition. Apart from this disastrous match the whole team, consisting of P. Standish, Phillips E., Courtenay, Rusling and Sinfield, has played excellently to win the three other matches convincingly, P. Standish inevitably being our leading player.

The Swimming Gala, as was feared, was not a very successful occasion for us, and, in fact, we were lying last when the final result was announced. Nevertheless our captain, Goddard M. F., who was virtually our entire Senior team, performed magnificently in winning the springboard diving, coming second in two races, and third in the plunge.

As a result of all these competitions we are placed third in the Cock House competition, a long way ahead of Halliwells, yet not too far behind Cobbs. Next year an even more intensive effort can bring us greater fruits and also the title of Cock House.

Many conclusions can be drawn from our successes and failures over the past year, but to my mind the most encouraging factor is the resurgence of House spirit after several years of comparative apathy. I am primarily referring to the qualifying in the Gymnastics, Swimming and Athletic competitions. In all of these we have more than held our own, particularly in the Gymnastics competition, which we won so convincingly. Well done all of you!

ROGER JOHN CUMES.

## NEWSOMS

*Captain : P. C. Redshaw.*

*Prefects : M. D. Ross, C. M. Hopper, R. L. W. Brookes, P. T. Greene.*

In my notes last term I was optimistic that Newsoms could become Cock House. Unfortunately my hopes have not been realised, we have finished fifth. The moral lies, I think, in the words of a previous House Captain, C. R. Weightman, who wrote not so long ago, "All are members of the House, not only those who play Rugby." If a few more people had realised and acted upon the truth of these words it would have been a purple ribbon on the cup instead of a red one.

As it was, we managed two cups, Rugby, described in a previous issue, and our "flash in the pan" as my eristic colleague put it, the Debating Cup, which we had not won since "Taddy" Weightman's day.

In Athletics we finished fourth after an average effort in qualifying. On Sports Day itself, we put up an encouraging display, winning more points than anticipated. Among performances worthy of note are those of George, who won both the Minor 220 yds. and 440 yds., the former in a time of 30 secs. beating our own D. C. Stevens' record of seven years' standing. Lovegrove, also a minor, won the high jump. Jackson won an interesting Junior half-mile by the skin of his teeth, and Taylor the Junior discus. The Seniors contributed enormously to the points tally. C. M. Hopper won both the quarter mile and the discus and P. C. Redshaw the long jump. The Senior relay team won a tense battle with Cobbs, to give, ironically enough, Gibbs the cup by a very small margin. Cottee R. C., Wheeler and C. M. Hopper, the other members of the team deserve congratulation on their efforts in this race.

Our cricketers did not distinguish themselves, and failed to score a win. The Colts were led by Lewis, and there were spirited performances by Jackson and Sime. The Seniors disappointed. Clarke G. F., as captain, never quite found his touch with the bat but proved a surprisingly effective bowler. Thompson D. R. and Wheeler played well in all the matches, but their efforts were without just reward. The Juniors have only won one match, but have shown definite keenness in the nets, and if the promise shown by Corke and Leonard, for example, fulfils itself, better results lie ahead.

In the Swimming competition, despite a very poor effort in qualifying, our swimmers who took part in the Gala, many of them at incredibly short notice, performed extremely well, in fact gaining second place in the night's events. Individual winners were George in the Minor one length freestyle, and P. T. Greene in the plunge. However, all who took part deserve our congratulation and it is a pity that we could not have given them a better start,

We surprised ourselves in the tennis competition. After winning a convincing victory over Halliwells, we lost to Gibbs, after a tactical alteration of their team, and to Miltons, but finished up by beating Cobbs to give us the third equals position. McGaw and Elsdon have won all their matches in the competition, and the latter is to be congratulated on his award of tennis half colours.

On the whole, then, the year has produced few outstanding successes. This need not be the case in years to come if only the spirit in which we play our Rugby can be sustained throughout the year.

Conclusion is always difficult, but I feel that the efforts of M. D. Ross and C. M. Hopper should not go unsung.

The contribution to House affairs that Malcolm Ross has made will probably never fully be realised. Although not a natural games player he has always been ready to turn out for a House team at the shortest possible notice, and has captained both the Debating and Swimming teams with admirable efficiency. He has also organised the orchestra for our House assemblies, I venture to say the best of the five, to round off what must be an important example to us all. Colin Hopper too has matched the keenness of another House especially noted for its verve (without the nausea—may I add!) and I greatly valued his assistance with the difficult job of organising the Athletics team.

Our thanks must all go, of course, to our House Masters, whose efforts are continuous and will soon lead to further success if they are backed with the full support of the House. Finally then, we wish our successors on to greater triumphs in all their ventures, in the knowledge that they too will be proud to wear the purple tie.

PETER REDSHAW.

#### COCK HOUSE COMPETITION, 1959-60

	Cobbs	Gibbs	Halliwells	Miltons	Newsoms
Rugby .....	4	12	6	4	14
Hockey .....	10	12	4	8	6
Cricket .....	6	10	12	12	—
Athletics .....	6	10	—	3	1
Swimming .....	6	10	3	—	1
Cross-country .....	7	4	—	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gymnastics .....	4	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	7	—
Chess .....	7	2	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	—
Tennis .....	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Debating .....	3	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	7
Totals .....	53	68	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	45	30 $\frac{3}{4}$

1st GIBBS.  
2nd COBBS.  
3rd MILTONS.

4th HALLIWELLS.  
5th NEWSOMS.

## HENRY V

*Our choir went forth to Wimbledon,  
With grace and might cantabile ;  
There God well wrought for it anon,  
Wherefore may the School call and cry, Deo Gratias . . .*

It was with usual first night feelings that we assembled outside Wimbledon Town Hall on Monday, May 30th. Conversation became livelier and wit sharper as more and more members arrived including one, let him be nameless, who came dressed fashionably though rather ineptly. He was dispatched whither he came, to return more suitably garbed.

In due time we were installed in our proper places, to rise, some few minutes later, and sedately proceed to our position on the stage steps, where, with a rich and pagan flute note, not unlike a distant trumpet, the play began. Our introduction complete, we returned to our seats, the hall ringing with the prologue, "O for a muse of fire ! . . ." and the squeak and clatter of the trebles searching for their places in the darkness.

Patrick Partridge as Chorus made his lines a delight to hear, though occasionally he was guilty of gabbling ; as producer, he moved and grouped his characters as though they were cardboard figures in a cereal packet tableau. The comics, Pistol, Bardolph and Nym, made a great impression and were funny throughout, but the cast as a whole seemed awkward in the formal court scenes and as inadequate as the nimble gunner's "bass-drum cannon," since the nimble gunners never seemed to realise that the effectiveness of the bass drum is inversely proportionate to the frequency of its appearance, a formula well worth remembering. Once the battle was over, however, many characters shone with brilliance, notably Peter Sainty as King Henry and Keith Roberts as Captain Fluellen. Others that distinguished themselves were our own Laurence Humphrey as the Boy to the comics, and the Constable of France who succeeded on the first night in entering wearing National Health spectacles and on the third night displaying his shining wrist-watch to all.

The choir, needless to say, gave a not unmusical account of themselves whether from the hall itself or a corridor and dressing-room backstage.

*And then, forsooth, that choir comely  
Sang full well at Southwark town ;  
Through grace of God most mightily,  
It had both thanks and great renown, Deo Gratias . . .*

In the courtyard of the George Inn, there we sat down, yea, and were despondent, when we remembered Wimbledon. Upon the chairs in the midst thereof "we hanged up our harps." But they that led us there required of us songs, saying, "Sing us the Agincourt song." How shall we sing a song of victory and a "Non nobis" in a railway goods-yard? If I forget thee, O Wimbledon, let my right hand forget how to write. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I remember thee not: if I prefer not Wimbledon above my chief joy at Southwark.

At one end of the "courtyard," fixed to one of the walls, was the "stage." Two other walls were covered by familiar initials, S.R., N.R., G.W.R., L.M.R., D.A., C.R.S. and M.D.R. The third wall constituted the George Inn. Rows of wooden seats and the trailers of three articulated British Railways lorries, not forgetting the George Inn itself, provided accommodation for the spectators, and a large number of the performers.

Once they had overcome their amazement, the cast started changing and the choir inspected the Inn itself and a film unit which had set itself up on two of the trailers. By the time the performance began all was forgiven—indeed most members of the production became rather pleased with their surroundings including the bare walls, with their "No Smoking" signs in 18-inch letters. For its performances the choir lined up along one of the trailers, and there was no mishap on the stage. The members of the film unit were not so lucky. The cameras refused to function and one by one the cameramen developed tempers and either went home or else sought refuge indoors. At opening time the inn became as officially open as it had been unofficially hitherto. The sandwiches provided for the performers were excellent and the afternoon ended amid the pleasant smell of leeks and a four-part National Anthem from the stage.

Mr. Aldersea is to be thanked for his direction of the choir and congratulated on delivering all of its members safe, fit and sober to Wimbledon station.

*Now gracious God save it, our choir,  
Its members keep in well willing.  
Good life, give it, and its "live wire,"  
That all with mirth may safely sing, Deo Gratias.*

M. J. LAWRENSON.

## THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

The proximity of Summer G. C. E. sent Five Three hotfoot to Richmond to see "The Merchant of Venice," one of the books set for the exam.

We arrived, some by train, some in a miniature coach owned by the father of one of us, and were shown to our seats, in the classy atmosphere

of the third and fourth row stalls. This was the result of a happy combination of a subsidy from G.S.F. plus reductions for large parties.

In spite of knowing the play by heart, it held several surprises for us, including the producer's attempts to improve on Shakespeare's original, which were, I think, successful. The effect of Shylock waiting for Jessica to open the door, not knowing that she had eloped with Lorenzo, added to the dramatic effect to no small extent.

The court scene was well played, although I felt that when Shylock advanced upon Antonio to cut off his pound of flesh, it was drawn out too long and Portia's order to stop came as an anticlimax. Gratiano's taunts at Shylock were written partly by Shakespeare and partly by the producer, but were all in character.

Of the cast, Shylock was convincing, Portia noble and attractive, Jessica pretty and girlish. Bassanio was somewhat arrogant but nevertheless likeable and Gratiano witty and irresponsible. Antonio was sufficiently sad, although his hat drew forth comments which sounded suspiciously like "Davy Crocket!" Launcelot Gobbo was very humorous, and would not have been out of place in the Goon Show.

The incident of the two rings was played up very well, and provided a pleasant interlude after the rather sad downfall of Shylock.

On the whole the play was very good, the producer making excellent use of one simple set. I think that Shakespeare himself would have liked this presentation. Whether this is so or not, we enjoyed it to the full.

The return home took a long time because of a twenty-five minute wait on Strawberry Hill Station, where we secured a modest souvenir of the evening's entertainment. Although we were all tired next day we agreed that it was well worth it. Our thanks are due, yet again, to Mr. Stephenson.

RICHARD J. YORK.

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

To those who have either recently read the text, or know thoroughly the story, this theatre-version of the Dickens novel was a great help to their understanding and appreciation of what they had read. But to those who knew nothing of the book, the play must have been something of a disappointment.

The members of the fourth year who went to see this play on June 9th could hardly have been expecting what they were to see. And the very unusual interior of the Mermaid Theatre was just a suggestion of how unusual the production was going to be. The action of the play took place not upon a stage of the normal variety, but upon small islands; wooden



platforms built at various levels between floor and ceiling. This arrangement was fine as far as the avoidance of scene-changing was concerned, especially as the theatre is without the usual curtain and rectangular "window," but the presentation of small brilliantly-spotlighted groups surrounded by inky blackness tended to give the play a staccato flavour; and the audience's natural curiosity about other props they could just, and only just, make out in the darkness of outer space must have caused their attention to wander from the small individual scene being presented at any one time.

The absence of the Iron Curtain certainly did much to bring the audience and performers closer together; but if a few extra watts could have been spared for some general floodlighting, the unswerving concentration which was expected from the audience to be devoted to a very small part of the set would not have been necessary.

Acting was of an extremely high standard, and one could at all times hear the actors' words clearly. Intense but incredulous tension was evident among the audience as Aged P., slowly, and shaking with excitement lowered the poker, previously heated to red heat by having been rested upon one of the wooden supports of an island, to his cannon which was fired every evening. As the poker approached the powder, some foresaw a symbolical snap from a child's cap-pistol, others a tape-recorded pop; but when the report finally came it was all the more violent because it was not anticipated. A delicious odour of sulphur crept round the auditorium.

At times one had worries about the strength of the thin wooden supports of the islands, especially when half a dozen soldiers tramped across the back platform just feet from the ceiling. But in spite of this and other occasional worries about the production, it was evident from the chatter over drinks and lumps of flesh in the foyer after the play that the audience had enjoyed what they had seen and heard.

Our enjoyment of the somewhat unorthodox spectacle was, in part, a result of what at first seemed just another English Text Book, but turned out to be something which made English homework rather a pleasure on certain days. . . . .

GEOFFREY WINDSOR.

## LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

The small party of Sixth Formers which visited Marlborough Hall on June 29th to see the Wimbledon Arts School production of Molière's "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" had already received a foretaste of the mood of the production in the shape of an invitation printed on parchment and sealed. It contained much relevant information, including the fact that "costumes, fabrics and scenery" had been executed by students of the

Theatre Design Department. For their achievements they deserve high praise. The set was orthodox and efficient, and all the costumes were excellent. It was unfortunate that certain actors, and the direction, could not always reach the same standards.

The play centres on Mr. Jordan, who, though middle-class, urgently desires to elevate his status in life. In order to become conversant in the Arts, he employs Masters of Music, Dancing, Fencing and Philosophy, and throughout the play his scant, yet pedantic knowledge leads him into ludicrous situations. Though this is not Molière's greatest play, it contains much wit, which the actors were often able to exploit.

The individual performances varied considerably. Peter Bucknell, as Mr. Jordan gave an illuminating portrayal, and it was obvious that he was perfectly at ease on the stage; his facial expressions were delightful, and at all times was he able to "put over" his enthusiasm to the audience. One received the impression that he was thoroughly enjoying himself. Other good performances were by the Master of Philosophy, and that of Fencing; the first achieved a high degree of sagacity in his well-restrained performance, and the second, his antithesis, by his verbose and bustling manner showed military desire for efficiency. There was a nice contrast here. With the exception of Mrs. Jordan, who, theoretically represented the voice of logic and sanity (peculiar this—she had an Irish accent) none of the other members of the cast was very brilliant. The Dancing Master overstated his case, and became alarmingly effeminate rather than merely flamboyant, and Nicola, Mrs. Jordan's maid, also wildly over-acted. She was far too volatile. On the other hand, Cleontes, a middle-class young man who wishes to marry Mr. Jordan's daughter, was correspondingly too unsure of himself. He remembered his lines, but never spoke them with any enthusiasm or conviction, and as the play progressed, so the problem of what-to-do-with-the-hands became a greater embarrassment. It was unfortunate, for this should be a strong character. Other parts were played adequately.

Peter Bucknell, in addition to playing the leading rôle, also directed the play, and here he slightly overstepped himself. This second of his two burdens suffered accordingly. Apparently he was an enthusiast of the slow-moving play technique for after a preposterously long "mood-setting" introduction on the harpsichord, he held up the proceedings by three long, full-length songs from the musicians, and then later changed all his clothes (behind a screen) on the stage, with undue ceremony. Then, the final "Mamamouchi" scene, where Cleontes, disguised as an illustrious Turk, marries Mr. Jordan's daughter, was allowed to fade out in a tame manner, although it should form the climax of the whole situation. The production was, however, redeemed by Mr. Jordan's acting and the sumptuous clothing, although even this was not sufficient to induce a French atmosphere into the play which naturally suffered in translation. We must thank Mr. Atkin for procuring invitations.

MICHAEL EVANS

## GALILEO

I suppose there can be few people who have not at least heard of Galileo, but apart from vaguely murmuring something about leaning towers and gravity and all that, I wager few can claim much real knowledge. Being myself in that dangerous state of half-knowledge I approached this term's theatre outing, to the Mermaid again, with more than usual interest—the evening promised to be both instructive and entertaining.

Bertolt Brecht was Germany's most influential playwright, although undergoing a long period of self-imposed exile before and during the war, for thirty years from 1922 when he published his first play until his death in 1956. *Mother Courage* is his best known play, but *The Life of Galileo* is not unknown in this country in the translation by Charles Laughton. It was this version that we saw, a version over-expanded, I would say, by Bernard Miles' translations of material added by Brecht since 1947 when the first English version was finished. (The original German version was completed in 1939.)

The story concerns Galileo's quarrel with authority (in 17th Century Italy that means the Pope) over his work as an astronomer. The old theory that the earth was the centre of the universe and that everything revolved round the earth was on the way out, with Copernicus and Galileo leading the revolution, or heresy as the Pope called it. Now Galileo was no hero—after an initial period when he stood up to the Pope and the Cardinals he recanted his views and finished his days under house-arrest.

Brecht's method of transmitting the story is to do away with the question of building up any suspense by showing on a projected caption chart the gist of the next scene. With all idea of suspense removed, the mind is led to concentrate on the matter itself and is forced away from expectations and their implied disappointments. In concrete terms one no longer asks "What will happen next?"—one says "what happens next is important for its meaning as opposed to its mere action." As my colleague has remarked in another article, the audience did not seem to be bored by being told twice what happens.

To Galileo "doubt" was the only positive: To keep silent when one is doubtful of the validity of the existing state of affairs is to compromise with authority—and what true original man of genius with something to say will compromise? But as Galileo is no hero, neither is he a martyr, for he publicly apologises for his "heresies" and so once again has a well-filled belly as his reward. It would appear, then, a great challenge to attempt the stage portrayal of Galileo. The actor must at once play a scientist of expert knowledge and practical skill, a man who evades under extreme stress, and an Italian who loves good food and good wine. Bernard Miles, after a shaky start as a youngish Galileo, improved as his character got older. My personal opinion is that he rather overdid the good food-good wine aspect, underplaying the obvious scientific genius. The second half of the play

however, was undoubtedly a triumph for Miles as he depicted an ageing man gradually being broken down by the machinery of the State, or in other words, vested interest. The deeper implications of the play were not lost on us.

The production was workmanlike, if not inspired. Costumes, scenery and lighting were all up to the high professional standard we have come to expect. One very good touch was the scene of the robing of the Pope by his servants at the same time as he discussed Galileo's case of heresy with the Cardinal Inquisitor. At first the Pope was inclined to leniency, but as his robes are put on, more and more weighty and magnificent, so his feelings turn from mildness to offhand dismissal and condemnation.

In conclusion, while admitting that many thought parts of the play too long drawn-out, yet surprisingly it did maintain a great degree of interest, instruction and enjoyment.

GRAHAM FRANK-KEYES.

## LONDON THEATRE TODAY

Things, as far as the London Theatre is concerned, are certainly not what they used to be. During the past year or so there have been several trends and changes in the traditional face of the London Theatre leading one to speculate about the shape it will take in the near future.

One surprising thing has been the number of failures in recent months. Some ten or more plays—all of a reasonably "conventional" nature, and ranging from Agatha Christie to *Johnny and the Priest* a musical adaptation of R. C. Sherriff's play *The Telescope*—have been withdrawn without any real "run." This fact poses an interesting series of questions. Have the theatre critics become more exacting in their reviews? If so, has the general theatre public decided to take more notice of these reviews, or have these plays been second rate and pastiche and recognised as such? Has the public merely abandoned the more usual type of play in search of novelty, or has the number of playgoers simply declined?

No real answer can be given to these questions beyond a few random observances. Perhaps there has been a decline in the standard of light entertainment in the theatre—though Julian Slade's success must be borne in mind—for while *Flower Drum Song* was assured of a considerable "run" by virtue of the reputation of its creators which drew numerous prior bookings, it received a poor reception generally from the critics. This is only one example but shows that perhaps this sort of play is not proving as good as was expected. There has also seemed to be a tendency in certain theatrical circles to patronise "naughty" plays like *The Hostage* or *Fings ain't wot they used t'be* because it seems rather "daring"—this is not to be decried if it succeeds in introducing good new plays to a wider

audience. There may even have been a genuine growth of interest in the serious theatre.

Whatever the reasons, the result has been a crop of new plays and of revivals in the serious theatre, in a somewhat bewildering variety of styles, so that drama seems to be sprouting limbs in various directions. There has, of course, been a steady flow of "realistic" plays; the new ones possibly following the traditions of *Look Back in Anger* and usually launched either from the Royal Court or from Stratford E.'s Theatre Royal. Such plays as *A Taste of Honey* or the trilogy of Arnold Wesker including *Roots* have received fairly wide acclaim and with justification. There have also been revivals, notably Ibsen, *Ghosts*, *Rosmersholm* and *Brand*—which received a superb production and performance—and having seen the last two plays I, for one, am convinced that here is a genius who should not be neglected by the present generation because his plays "date," due to their social background; they don't. It is, however, in the field of "non-realistic" drama, drama which does not seek emotional identification between audience and character, that some new developments have reached the London Stage. One of the ways this "unreal" atmosphere is created by the use of music, and here there have been several new British—or Anglo-Irish—musicals. *The Hostage*, *Fings ain't wot they used t'be*, *Make me an offer*, are the ones which spring to mind. Possibly influenced by *West Side Story*, one of the few "serious" musicals to be written, most of these use music and songs to reinforce and comment upon the action. Similar to these but more a "play-with-music" was *The Lily White Boys* which tried to make a general comment on our society by means of a number of "pictures" of different facets of society and using songs to sum up the point of each theme of the play. The general consensus of opinion among the largish party of us who saw it was that it was remarkably successful, despite what the critics said.

Christopher Logue, who had a considerable hand in *The Lily White Boys* has stated on the Third Programme that it was partly influenced by the work of Brecht. Brecht, a German who spent part of his life in exile, has done more than anyone to foster the conception of the theatre as epic and dictatic, seeking to make the audience judge what is shown them on the stage, rather than becoming subjectively involved with the characters of the drama. The methods used involve songs and captions telling the audience what is to happen in the scene to come, thus attempting to kill any suspense. Luckily, with the production of *Galileo Galilei* currently running, we have been able to see how this idea works in practice, and our verdict was that it does seem to work quite well, and the audience is not bored by being told things twice.

There has been a development at the opposite end of the scale to Brecht in the production of plays of Ionesco and N. F. Simpson. To judge from *One Way Pendulum* this type of play seems to depend on a logic extended almost to the ridiculous, with characters reacting to abnormal and farcical situations in the same way as they react to perfectly normal life.

*Rhinoceros* seems to have met with a very mixed reception, and if it is like other Ionesco plays, it is interpreted differently by each individual and seems to have no definite meaning—if any play ever does. Nevertheless these plays do carry an almost sinister undertone, a suggestion that life is not as pleasantly cut-and-dried as we might like to suppose it to be.

Over such a large and various field as the London Theatre it is difficult to generalise with any hope of success, but it does seem that perhaps drama is beginning to enjoy revived popularity and is being developed in several new and different ways. Perhaps the theatre is to become important again in the process of conveying ideas. There might even be a second Elizabethan Theatre.

C. MOTTERSHEAD.

## THE PICASSO AND THE BATTERSEA PARK EXHIBITIONS

It was ten o'clock on a most unkind Monday morning when we left our coats, sandwiches, bombs and oil of vitriol in a subterranean cloakroom, and entered the Picasso Exhibition at the Tate. Some people preferred a conducted tour with Mr. Riley who had the catalogue. I, like some others, went round alone, returning for a second look afterwards.

The first conclusion I drew was that Picasso had virtuoso technique even at fourteen, when *Girl in a Red Dress* was painted. Secondly, I was impressed with his great range of feeling, from compassion in *The Blind Man's Meal* to horror in the bird-devouring cat pictures. I expected to see *The Child with a Dove* and *Self Portrait* and I was not disappointed: even though I knew them well from reproductions they were even more striking in the original, whereas *Les Femmes d'Alger* seemed to be still mediocre. Features such as Cubism and Neo-classicism, so neatly categorised, in fact are not confined to "Periods" as one might suppose. The picture which impressed me most was the portrait *J.R. with Roses*, a mixture of both, and yet it was painted in 1954! The remarkable *Las Meninas* series is of fifty-eight expansions on aspects of Velasquez's famous painting, and would probably take a long time to completely identify. That Picasso is not without humour is proved especially by a picture of a child sprawled in a cot. Yet there is dignity about it, and Picasso never descends to vulgar sentimentality.

Perhaps Battersea Park in the afternoon was something of an anti-climax. I had been before but quite a few of us, I think, were almost burnt out mentally after such a morning! This exhibition ranged from the brilliantly clumsy *Black Beast*, by Lynn Chadwick, on its spindly legs to the fatuous *Goddess of Health* (Dora Gordine) which, unlike the former, was meant to be life-like, but provoked howls of derision from Mr. Riley.

The best representational work I thought to be Karel Vogel's *Boy*, followed by the angular *Olympia* by Uli Nimpf, although "that man" said she would not be capable of standing upright! On the whole it was the more abstract work such as *Queen Mathilda* (R. B. Craighton) and *Black Beast* that I liked. Picasso, too, had his *Bathers* there, amusing yet disturbing.

Few people were unimpressed by Picasso, though more, perhaps, by the Battersea Park exhibition, and if my article seems just a lot of titles you had better see them for yourselves. Then you will find how little words convey of visual art.

K. D. G. JONES.

## THE CHEAM TO BRIGHTON WALK

(All names in this account have been suppressed for the protection of those taking part, who have suffered enough already.)

At 7.30, on the evening of April 11th, a determined band of sixth-formers (four from each Sixth) assembled outside the Queen Victoria public-house, North Cheam.

The party formed up in twos and strode off down the Sutton Common Road at a cracking pace set by the two senior members of the group, C-m-s and W-l-ams, who were so exhausted by this initial effort they lagged behind for the rest of the journey; encouragement came from the one stout (repeat, stout) member of the fifth form who accompanied us a little way on his bicycle.

We were still in high spirits after a tramp across Banstead Downs, reaching Lower Kingswood, a distance of about eight miles, in two hours. Here a stop was made at the "Fox" to allow one member to rest his blisters and the others to get some light (and/or bitter) refreshment. Assured that Brighton was now only thirty-five miles away, the party set off again to the strains of music from a portable radio; it was now quite dark and the disappearance of the corpulent member of the party was unnoticed for some time. When discovered he refused to go on, and the remaining eleven tramped through Reigate slightly disheartened. It was after this, moreover, that fatigue began to set in; our next halt was to be midnight at Gatwick and that lay several miles away along a lonely country road, with scarcely a sign of human habitation. All original formation was now lost and the walkers straggled along in groups of three or four spread out over about a furlong; the last London Transport bus from Reigate passed us about eleven o'clock and the only human being we saw after that was a cyclist riding down the footpath who looked at us as if we were all mad.

It was obviously necessary to call a halt soon because the party had become so strung out they were losing contact with each other. A stop of

about half-an-hour a mile from Gatwick gave us time to eat, examine feet, and (in one case) change shoes. Even the more enthusiastic were now beginning to tire and going on became a bitter necessity ; the pace slackened from nearly five to a steady three miles an hour, providing our own music since the radio stations had closed down. We crawled down to the palatial Gatwick Airport Station where D--d, who had been suffering badly from blisters, decided to try to thumb a lift home ; however, the party was again increased to twelve by the appearance of two "outsiders" from another school. They had arrived at the "Queen Vic" as we were just starting but been detained by the need for a drink ; they soon caught us up, however, owing to their vast experience (they had failed to reach Brighton five times before).

At Crawley (nineteen miles and six-and-a-half hours from Cheam) we found a milk-machine that did not work, a policeman, and a kerb where we rested our weary feet by sticking them into the air. After one of us, who had been having trouble with his shoes, decided to walk sockfooted, we ploughed on, through the centre of Crawley and on to a road which did not pass through a single main town until it reached Brighton. The intervals between stops were now becoming shorter and the stops longer so that we were lucky to find, at three o'clock, a "hut" made of canvas covering a floor of wooden boards ; various suggestions were made as to its purpose—covering a large hole, a gas main, or a pool of tar—but nonetheless it was very comfortable ; so comfortable in fact that three of the party preferred to stay there.

Dropping out was now becoming fashionable because another pair (plus one of the "outsiders") gave up the ghost at a stone bridge three miles further on, leaving six to trudge forward towards dawn. At about 4.30 cocks were crowing and the sky began to lighten but we were in no position to enjoy this ; an hour later a fellow human being appeared and a rest was taken at the bus shelter at Hickstead. By eight the sun was shining merrily but the last nine miles were sheer misery and it is difficult to remember anything except how we prayed each successive hill would be the last. In a state of semi-coma, with raw, blistered feet, we staggered into Pyecombe where we were able to buy food ; in the café here C-tt-e and "Flash Harry" (the other "outsider") collapsed in their chairs and refused to move. The remainder struggled on manfully until they reached Brighton Gates, the two chunks of stone marking the official entrance to the borough ; one pair, deciding that the journey was really over, boarded a bus, the other two trudged the remaining five miles to the seafront which they reached at about 10.45.

The road to Brighton Pier was expensive, pointless, and after a few miles, not very enjoyable. It had no physical, mental, moral or aesthetic value. It took up two days of valuable time. Most of us achieved nothing and those who did were too tired to care. I sincerely believe none of us will ever be mad enough to repeat such a journey.

JOHN BULL.



## THE SETTING FORTH

Beloved, I am standing outside the jade gate  
Of Tsai-Ping.  
The wind, unchecked by high walls,  
Throws the light dust around my feet  
And flings it into my face.  
Inside the wall the men of Tsai-Ping  
Are going about my business,  
Mandarins, curtained in their litters  
And poorer men, shuffling in their sandals  
Of woven grass, swinging their yoked bundles.  
My friends have bidden me farewell,  
Waving their handkerchiefs ;  
My creditors have gnashed their teeth  
And sped me on my way with shaken fists.  
This morning I walked around the city  
From the Temple of the Sun  
Where the priests burn joss-sticks  
Before the amber Buddha,  
To the blue pagoda by the market  
Where the women sell silks and rice,  
Fish and gossip ; now I have left behind me  
The Street of the Children, the Library,  
The house of Wang the poet,  
And the other places in which I grew to manhood ;  
Now I am standing alone, outside the jade gate  
Thinking of these things, and, within myself,  
Shedding a tear.

CHRISTOPHER SHUTE (sixth form).

## LA DULCE AVVENTURA

Pull the curtains around the bed  
He is nearly gone.  
Shall I send for the minister ?  
No, he is not a believer.  
Weary, weary, my eyes closing  
Under this enveloping canopy move peacewards  
Into darkness, a feeling of infinite receding  
Universe of space.

I am feeling free from desire  
I am memory, a warm wind  
Climbing the twisted cobbled streets  
Blowing past the leaning houses  
With their steep tiled red roofs,  
Tatty shutters, coloured lattices upon  
Flaked white walls.  
Life twinkles bright here  
With chatter or a singing voice,  
A guitar throbbing in the arteries.  
Drifting, drifting, I am in but not of.  
You are here, too, I sense your warmth  
The softness of your cheek against mine  
But with no indecisions, no frustrations, no desire.  
Together our wind wanders  
On up the hill towards morning.  
Below the land lies misty, still,  
The white road stretching invitingly  
Flanked by tall columns of dark poplars.  
We drift, passive, accepting  
With no urge to know the unknowable  
Or formulate an ordered pattern,  
Towards the cool woods dappled  
Yellow, green, blue, black  
In infinite gradations,  
Where our wind ruffles the leaves,  
Towards the fields sparkling warm  
Where we ripple the green-sea grain.  
Drifting warm like an animal  
But with no delicate patches of personality  
To protect, clam-like,  
No moated mound of pride to defend.  
My closing eyes open the door to you  
Individual Nirvana  
Release from conflict into peace.  
My paradise lasting  
Or mirage: vanishing into  
Naught but gentle dark.

C. MOTTERSHEAD (sixth form).

## JALOPY

The sun was shining brightly  
Upon a summer's day ;  
I thought I'd drive my Austin Seven  
To while the time away.

I climbed inside my little car  
And gently turned the switch ;  
I pulled the starter seven times  
Or ten—I don't know which.

I set the throttle and the plugs,  
I gave the juice the gun,  
I pressed the mixture button down—  
The Austin would not RUN.

I flicked the codger-pin a bit  
And plugged the noodle-flow ;  
I poked the air-gate lever cock—  
The Austin would not GO.

I opened up the bozen pipe  
And cleaned the pfeffer groove ;  
I oiled the main front running board —  
The Austin would not MOVE.

I took the set-nuts from the snaff  
And greased the wiener vents ;  
I bit three pieces from the gears—  
The car would not COMMENCE.

I gave its rear a good stiff kick  
And then walked into town.  
She crept up quietly behind  
And cruelly mowed me down.

MERVYN C. FLACK (sixth form).

## FIGURE IN SPACE

Around and around the figure spins,  
Uncontrollable in eternal darkness.  
A man, human but lifeless,  
Suspended by unknown, evil forces,

Once a useful being,  
 Now serving no purpose at all.  
 Only a body, twisted beyond recognition,  
 Floating for ever  
 In the dead hell of the heavens  
 No longer wanted, no longer cared for,  
 Merely a figure in space.

M. RICHARDSON (fifth year).

## PARMI LES FANTÔMES DES ROMAINS — ST. ALBAN'S 1960 : A PROSE-POEM

Voilà la vibration de l'âme, du génie créateur de l'ouvrier romain qui construisit la muraille dont je caresse les pierres et les carreaux de brun foncé. Elle surgit, vivant de nouveau une vie empruntée, celle de mon esprit. Il me paraît que j'en constitue un écran sur lequel je vois papillonner vaguement les ombres d'une multitude énorme. En même temps je vois se réédifier les grandes tours d'une porte; le scène devient substantielle mais les figures humaines restent comme les fantômes pâles et transitoires d'un rêve de jeunesse. L'ombre d'un soldat s'avance pour scruter le fardeau pesant d'un bûcheron; l'entourage d'un sénateur s'approche de la porte, précédé par des licteurs graves qui crient un *hoc age* silencieux; la porte les engouffre implacablement. Voilà deux fonctionnaires qui disputent les combats des gladiateurs, les jeux de mort et de sang, le prix d'une maîtresse; voilà un gentilhomme avec sa famille, son épouse et ses enfants; voilà un ouvrier qui mange un petit pain, qui crache sur la rue. Je les regarde passer, dans les tourbillonnements inanes de la poussière aride. Les voyageurs ombreux ne durent qu'un moment; leur passage n'agite pas la structure de l'Eternité; seulement la porte reste immobile, recevant la procession de gens au visage vide, au corps sans substance, sans réalité.

Mais la vision s'intègre avec son cousin, l'air, car le pouvoir caché dans la muraille s'est dissipé, sa tâche conclue. Je reste ému de tristesse, d'étonnement que la mort pût tant ruiner.

CHRISTOPHER SHUTE (sixth form).

## CHRISTIAN UNION

The Christian Union has little to report for this term. Examinations removed a whole month as far as meetings were concerned and, as is now usual for the Summer Term, we reduced our meeting to once a week. For the full five weeks up to the exams we took our Bible Studies from the book *The Spirit's Sword*. This was helpful, not only from the point of continuity, but also because it meant that each member, having a copy himself, could follow up particular themes or ideas afterwards. These meetings, which were led in turn by different members, were in the main very successful.

Our only meeting after the exams was particularly interesting. The Rev. Kenneth Dobson, an Old Boy, spoke to us about how he became a priest, about how his opinions were changed until his church work interfered so much with his journalism that he had to give up journalism.

Next term the Christian Union will be led by Ted Cole. Although numbers in the Christian Union have always fluctuated, and enthusiasm waxed and waned, we must not set too great a store on the seeming success or failure of the Christian Union to attract large numbers. The really important thing is that the Christian Union exists: that a group of people are meeting together just because they are Christians.

RICHARD IMPEY.

## CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The first of the Society's two meetings this term was preceded by the performance by a band of itinerant players who happened to be on hand at the time, of a snatch from the "Wasps," under the direction of Mr. Kilburn; the trial of a faithful family dog by a quixotic lover of law-cases effectively set the litigious atmosphere of the meeting. Mr. A. Smith was then called upon to deliver a talk on "Roman Law." The Roman legal code, it appeared, provided for many harsh and intolerable sanctions upon the gay young man—he was under the control of his family head to such an extent that, nominally at least, the fond parent could exterminate the black sheep of the family without comment from the forces of justice. The young beau had to petition his family head for the right to marry, divorce, or be adopted into another family, and this state of affairs only ceased when he took up official office or when the father had had enough of him and given him his freedom. The slave was under very much the same control only to a greater degree, since the master had few qualms about dispensing with an unwanted or useless slave by killing him out of hand. However, their fate was perhaps more certain than that of the wife, whom the husband could divorce at a moment's notice, retaining the dowry and the children.

Mr. Smith's explanation of these and other points of Roman law was followed by refreshments which included vast quantities of red wine and the conversation extended far into the night.

The second meeting of the term was spent in the company of classics students from elsewhere than the Sixth Form at the Abbey church and nearby Roman city of St. Albans, otherwise Verulamium. The Church of St. Alban, fascinating as much for its walls and pillars defaced by centuries of initial-carving, both pious and impious, as for its architecture and historic chapels and shrines, provided a happy hunting-ground for those who enjoyed absorbing the atmosphere of the past, both through the massive and ornate architecture and the aforesaid inscriptions of the stonework which ranged from the monastic "Obiit Someone-or-other" to the penknife carvings of the "Kilroy was here" genre more appropriate to a public lavatory. After a light lunch at the Fighting Cocks Inn, reputed to be the oldest in the country, the party made its way to the site of the ancient Roman town of Verulamium where its members offended a gentleman who was cutting the grass in the auditorium of the theatre, heard all about the dirty doings of Boadicea along Watling Street and saw the results of her labours in the form of the foundations of a block of shops which her Majesty had uncharitably razed to the ground, admired the central heating system in part of a villa which had been resurrected by archaeologists and wondered at the massive wall the remains of which were still visible and substantial. Finally the party made its way to the Verulamium Museum where an unkempt-looking young man delivered a lecture on the history of the city to a group of schoolgirls clustered around a central model of the excavated sections of it. The Raynes Park contingent manfully did its best to look uninterested. However, the Museum provided many items of absorbing interest, and it was only the presence of a group of young ladies from a Convent school which weaned the more gallant members of the party away from them. The coach finally returned us to Raynes Park via M1 and the outlying districts of London, after a circular tour lasting 2½ hours.

C. R. SHUTE.

## DA VINCI SOCIETY

The activities of the Society have been curtailed by the move into the new Art Room and the delay in fixing the "black-out." We therefore held none of our usual illustrated lectures last term, but I am able to give a report of the Art Competitions, of last term and of this.

The subject of the Spring Term competition was a digression from our usual subjects. Entrants were asked to produce a three dimensional object, in any medium, either representational or non-representational. The competition was very popular, and a large number of entries was received. A wide variety of media was used which matched the diversity of subjects tackled. The competition gave a new section of the school the opportunity of coming to the fore, but the Senior and Middle Section awards went again to Loveday and Riley respectively. The Junior award was won by Pottinger.

Loveday entered two semi-representational objects, one based on a human figure, and the other entitled "The Bat-Hunt" in which a number of symbolic figures surround a fallen bat or bird-like structure. Both these works were carried out in the medium of wire, metal, burnt and charred plasticine, and were most imaginative and evocative. P. Riley entered a small imaginative portrait head in clay. It showed a good sense of structure and contained a strong element of caricature. A construction with a geometric influence was submitted by A. Pottinger, who had most ingeniously made use of cocktail sticks to assemble his object. In his entry he showed a strong sense of design and a firm realisation of three dimensional structure.

We would like to thank the judges of this exhibition, Mr. Rudgley, Mr. Kilburn and Mr. Stephenson, for all the care and thought that they put into the very difficult job of judging this particular competition.

The subject of this term's competition was "Black and White" and although confined to pictorial representation entrants were encouraged to make use of a diversity of materials in addition to the usual pen and ink drawing. In this competition we departed from our usual practice of having Staff as judges and instead had boys. Three boys were chosen to represent the senior, middle and junior schools. P. Loveday for the seniors, P. Riley for the middle school and D. Lemon for the juniors were the judges and were therefore not eligible as contestants in the competition. All three gave excellent criticisms. Mr. Riley was the fourth judge and summed up their findings.

The awards in all three sections were the unanimous choice of the judges. The entries of the junior and middle schools were well up to standard but the small entry in the senior school was disappointing. This in no way belittles D. Brodie's works which gave him the senior award. One was a pen and ink study of a skull and the other a monochrome wash drawing of a figure in a semi-abstract background. The first showed a good sense of observation and construction, while the second had a strong poetic sense. The middle school award to Wilton was the reward for an architectural rendering of an imaginary sea-side resort. This work, while excellent from a draughtsman's point of view, lacked animation. In contrast to this entry the picture of a train, by R. Terry, which won the junior award was full of life and imagination, but was lacking in a sound sense of construction.

As a finale for this term's activities the Society arranged a visit to the Picasso Exhibition at the Tate Gallery and to the Battersea Park Sculpture Exhibition (reported elsewhere in this edition of *The Spur*).

Next term we hope to resume our usual meetings pending the completion of the black-out of the Art Room. Finally, we would like to congratulate Paul Riley on his success in winning the "Eagle" Art Competition, and in having one of his pictures accepted by the Royal Academy this year.

CECIL RILEY,

## GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY

As usual the Summer Term has been a quiet one for the Society. Important choir rehearsals and G.C.E. examinations have played havoc with arrangements for meetings. Nevertheless we have managed to meet three times this term and attendance has been quite good.

In these meetings only two composers, Beethoven and Grieg, have been represented. Beethoven's three most familiar piano sonatas were convincingly played by Wilhelm Kempff: the *Pathétique*, *Moonlight* and *Appassionata* sonatas. The Berlin Rundfunk in Americanischen Sektor Symphony Orchestra under their conductor Ferenc Fricsay played the Eighth Symphony of Beethoven. We also heard the two suites of the incidental music to Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* by Grieg, played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Basil Cameron.

Up to now this society has tended to be a rather minor one because of the lack of interest of School and Staff alike. This will perhaps be rectified next term by Mr. Aldersea, who has agreed to sponsor the Society.

We are indebted to Mr. Riley for the use of the Art Room. In conclusion I would like to invite any new members of the Schol and any others to spend Thursday lunch times listening to good music.

ROBERT STICKLAND.

## LITERARY SOCIETY

*President* : N. Stephenson, Esq.

*Secretary* : G. V. Frank-Keyes.

On the last Wednesday of term a reading took place of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde's fourth and last play, first performed in 1895. As is now the custom, delightful assistance was given by a group of girls from the Wimbledon County School, and I would like to thank them and their English mistress, Miss Thomas, for their enjoyable co-operation. The play is a witty comedy of high society. Conversation sparkles, the rogues are pleasant ones, there is an amusing old battleaxe and much chinking of tea cups and muffin plates. The plot is preposterous, but that is no matter, for Wilde has his tongue in his cheek all the way through; and while using high society, at the same time he makes fun of it, and again at the same he defends it. There is certainly more in this play than a few dozen very funny and sparkling exchanges of witticisms.

Bull was engaging in the part of John Worthing, or Ernest, as he is called most of the time, and Ross as his even more unscrupulous friend Algernon showed hidden comic talent. Shute boomed magnificently as the Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. The girls joined in the wordy frolic with zest and the whole evening passed most enjoyably indeed.

There was one sad point about the evening for this was Mr. Stephenson's last meeting as President. He never sought the limelight, preferring that boys should be encouraged to organise for themselves. His presence at these functions, and in many other connections, besides supply-



ing the necessary aura of respectability, was of great value and a source of much that was informative . . . or just interesting. We are sorry to see him go, and wish him luck in his new venture.

GRAHAM FRANK-KEYES.

## ORCHESTRA

This term, the orchestra has been engaged mainly in preparing for another School concert, a wide variety of items ranging from Handel to Ayton. Instrumental classes under Messrs. Hall, Piper and Tucker have expanded and improved, although a little more practice and concentration on the part of certain members of the string classes would not be out of place. The 'cello class, under Mr. Timpson, has recently attracted more members: this will help to balance the orchestra which is still lacking in the bass sections.

Rehearsals, under the direction of Mr. Ayton, have continued with enthusiasm, although attendances could have been better. A suggestion to form a smaller orchestra, consisting mainly of strings, is now under consideration, and we look forward to future developments with interest.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the playing members, I wish to thank those of the Staff who have contributed in so many ways to the orchestra's progress.

JOHN WILBRAHAM.

## PIANOFORTE AND MUSICIANSHIP COURSE

A course was made available just over twelve months ago for specially selected boys. Below are published the very creditable examination results achieved during the past year by the boys at present on the course.

The examinations are those of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (Royal Academy and Royal College). There are eight grades of examination leading up to a professional diploma.

### THEORY

### PRACTICAL

(max. marks available : 98)

Grade :		I	II	III	IV	V	I	II
Clarke, D.	...	92	84	—	94	—	merit	—
Holloway, A.	...	96	84	—	—	—	distinction	—
Stone, R.	...	—	—	—	88	—	—	distinction
Terry, R.	...	99	87	—	—	—	distinction	—
Wilbraham, J.	...	—	—	98	—	95	distinction	—

In addition to these results all the above boys have been active as practising musicians at concerts and in the choir of Wimbledon Parish Church where R. Stone is the present Head Chorister. J. Wilbraham, who has further passed Grade V on the trumpet, is the founder-leader of a flourishing jazz band which has been much in demand both locally and as far afield as Westminster.

D. ALDERSEA.

## THE RECORDER CLUB

At the present time the Recorder Club is about ten strong. This summer term M. D. Ross has been giving his precious time to a few of us in lunch-hours, during which we have prepared a recorder ensemble, the *Terzetto* by James Hook.

We performed this at the School Concert. It was, I think, successful, even though there may have been an occasional squeak somewhere!

Ross will be leaving us to go to Bristol this term, and on behalf of the rest of the Recorder Club we would like to thank him for all the time he has willingly given up. However, we are sure that R. C. True will do his best to carry on his predecessor's good work.

The Club is not as big as it might be, and we hope more boys will join so that we may have a really good club to rival other School activities.

LEE ELLIOTT and BARRY PREECE.

## THE SCHOOL SINGERS

This year the choir (now about 60 strong) has made greater progress than ever before. As a result of our performance of part of *The Messiah* at the School carol concert, handbills and posters throughout Wimbledon before Easter announced that after evensong on Sunday, April 10th, the Raynes Park Grammar School Singers would take part with the church choir in a service of Passiontide music and lessons at Wimbledon Parish Church. For weeks beforehand the School was regaled with the Nunc Dimittis and Magnificat. Our main contributions to the service, however, were *God so Loved the World* from Stainer's *Crucifixion*, Bach's *Passion Chorale*, and the beautiful anthem by Sir John Goss, *O Saviour of the World*. After the service, the 60 of us went to the house of Dr. Brass and consumed a magnificent repast, to the background of recordings of our own singing. We eventually departed replete and well satisfied with a most enjoyable evening.

Returning to School after the holidays, we were delighted to find that the Singers had been invited to provide music for the Torch Players' production of *Henry V* at its four performance at the Town Hall at the end of May and again at the Southwark Shakespeare Festival on Saturday, June 4th. After heated arguments as to whether or not the top basses were singing flat in *The Agincourt Song*, we found ourselves in the midst of the dress "rehearsal" at the Town Hall. Our battle with the weird acoustics led us all over the building, as we endeavored to make *Non nobis, Domine* sound as if it were sung by cloistered monks. However, the applause and remarks of the audiences at the ensuing performance assured us that our efforts had not been in vain.

The performance at Southwark was in the courtyard of the George Inn, on a box-like Shakespearean stage without any scenery. It was fascinating

to watch part of the play from the wings, but rather a strain on our ribs not to betray our presence by laughing when Pistol grinned and grimaced at us from the stage. Thanks, I suspect, to the inability of B.R. ticket-collectors to count us up, we all reached Wimbledon safe and cheerful after a most entertaining afternoon.

Our programme for the School concert on July 14th included the Passion-tide music and the items from *Henry V*, together with Elgar's *Come and Dance*, two part-songs, and the *Hallelujah Chorus* (a description of the concert appears elsewhere). For the Singers, at any rate, this marked the climax of a year's hard work.

Nevertheless, by next July we hope to have made as much progress as we have made since July, 1959. Four-part singing is now a permanent feature of assembly. We have been invited to sing the Christmas Part of *The Messiah* at Wimbledon Parish Church at Christmas. An Old Boys' department of the Singers is being formed to enable those who leave school to return when they can and strengthen the Tenor and Bass sections. But to make such progress, we *must* recruit more members: Mr. Aldersea would, therefore, be glad to hear from anyone with eyes and a voice who is prepared to do a certain amount of work in return for a lot of satisfaction, enjoyment and fun.

MALCOLM ROSS.

### 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT TROOP

Since Easter three camps have taken place. Easter camp, which was based on the Explorer Badge, was very successful; Garden Party camp also went very well and everyone worked hard to realise a satisfying total for funds. A weekend camp was held at Walton Firs, Cobham, but unfortunately the weather was not as good as we had hoped. Preparations are now in full swing for Summer camp which will be held just outside Battle, Sussex.

Quite a few Proficiency badges have been gained this term and we have already some new recruits. A small number are going up to the Seniors as they attain the age of 15. There will be more room in the Troop then for new recruits in September.

Two of our Seniors are erecting a porch outside the Scout Hut door as their post-G.C.E. project. Soon we hope to have a gate for the gatepost!

The troop entered for the Wimbledon and District Scout Sports. Everyone got a good position in their events and we managed to obtain quite a pleasing third place. Next year we hope to do even better.

As usual we have had a number of outdoor activities, including a Wide Game centred round the Raynes Park-Oberon area.

A. (JUMBO) McINTYRE.

## SIXTH FORM JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

The Group has continued to flourish this term despite the counter-attraction of the warm weather. The policy of pursuing a broader coverage of jazz has been continued, and attendances, although recently depleted due to examinations, have been quite good.

A few of the well-known jazzmen whose records have been played are Gerry Mulligan, Count Basie and the Modern Jazz Quartet, while others have included Art Pepper, Mose Allison and Joe Harriot.

Programmes in the traditional style have featured records of the Firehouse Five, Ken Colyer and the Dutch Swing College, the last-mentioned record being loaned by the London Jazz Record Centre to whom we are grateful.

At one meeting two modern jazz versions of *My Fair Lady* were played and compared, one by Shelley Manne and his Friends, and the other by Oscar Peterson, while at another meeting a programme of vocal jazz was presented. Singers included Ella Fitzgerald, Ottilie Patterson, Big Bill Broonzy, Josh White and that Bristolian Basher, Mr. Acker Bilk, who ably demonstrated his mastery of aposeopeses.

Altogether we have enjoyed a successful and enjoyable term and once again I would like to thank Mr. Riley for the use of his art room for meetings, and also those masters and prefects on duty at lunch on Tuesdays for their courage in the face of extreme difficulty of pronunciation due to the eccentric names of several jazzmen.

MERVYN C. FLACK.

## SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Our activities during the Summer Term have covered a wide field, ranging from modifications to the track to the manufacture of open wagons. Trackwork was largely composed of repair work, replacing worn sections, and additions to the scenic effects. On Cobbs Hill, for example, we "planted" a new line of sturdy poplars (steel wool arranged round wooden pegs!) and we also fenced in the paddocks near the level crossing at Milton Park. Time had also played havoc with the background seascape, so all the wooded hillsides, cliffs and beaches had life renewed by a fresh "backcloth" on the same theme. We also introduced a few more passengers and station staff on the platforms and in the streets, whilst the switching operations at Newsom Vale were simplified by the replacement of the old control panel by an entirely new one appropriately colour-coded.

The model wagons (open 10-ton type) were constructed of stout card with a varied assortment of "private-owner" lithographs applied. Mounted on scale frames and wheels, they looked quite effective, and reflected considerable credit on those members of the Club who had built them.

As in earlier years, the Garden Party provided the opportunity to put the Model Railway on view, and throughout the afternoon we had a steady flow of visitors, old and young, boys and girls, Mums and Dads, for whose attendance the G.S.F. is now all the richer. Mr. Haw had contrived an excellent scenic setting for the Club's home-built models, and these attracted considerable attention and admiration. It was noticeable that many of our younger visitors displayed considerable knowledge of the technical side of model railways and entered into discussions on volts, amps, isolating sections, electronically-controlled switches, etc., etc., and we were happy to provide the answers to their numerous questions. Altogether we have to report a very successful afternoon, the culmination of a term in which the difficulties associated with the School re-building were overcome with cheerfulness and enthusiasm.

J.H. and S.G.C.

## No. 565 SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

The Easter Holidays this year saw the Squadron at Annual Training at R.A.F. Waterbeach. The training period was very successful, most Cadets getting at least two flights and a half day on the .303 range. Flights were supplemented this year by meteor jet trainers in which some Cadets were flown. Other flights were in Chipmunks and an Anson. A large number of Cadets qualified for Marksmanship badges, both A.T.C. and R.A.F.

Attendances at Training Parades have been satisfactory this term and training efficiency was shown by the Squadron gaining nine Advanced and six Proficiency Certificates in the May examinations. These included five passes with credit (over 70 per cent) and four passes with distinction (over 85 per cent).

The Squadron has held two exercises on Wimbledon Common during the term although one was unfortunately in the pouring rain. Both were of a new type to most Cadets and proved a great success.

Sunday, May 29th, was the date of the Wing Annual Inspection at R.A.F. Kenley. The Squadron had unfortunately, on this occasion, to hand over the Wing Pennant for the best all round Squadron in the Wing to No. 1172 (Esher) Squadron. As we have held the Pennant for two years we are sure that No. 1172 Squadron, who have been second two years, deserve to hold it for a year. The Squadron did, at the parade, have a good turn out of Cadets, the best in fact for several years.

The Squadron had its own Annual Inspection on Friday, May 13th, when the date certainly seemed to bring good luck and not bad as it may suggest. Capt. Hunnyball (Royal Signals) was the Inspecting Officer and gave us a very good report indeed. Also present were Sqdn.-Ldr. Simmonds (D.I.O.), Sqdn.-Ldr. Cousins, and F/O. Rhodes.

On Friday, July 15th, the Squadron paid a visit to Gatwick Airport. This was enjoyed by all who went as the weekend traffic had just commenced on our arrival.

Sent. Cdt. Carlow and Sen. Cdt. Marsom are to be congratulated on being awarded Gliding Courses at R.A.F. Hawkinge, which they will attend during the summer holidays.

K. L. FORSDYKE.

## CRICKET

### 1st XI

*Master-in-Charge* : N. T. Poulter, Esq.

*Captain* : R. F. D. Crowe. *Secretary* : M. D. Bond.

This year's cricketing story is very similar to that of the past few seasons for successes have been few, but I nevertheless feel that it can be honestly said that the team has enjoyed its Cricket, and surely enjoying a sport is far more important than merely winning.

The main reason for the lack of wins was simply that the batsmen did not score enough runs for the bowlers to play with. This was surprising since several of the team showed, in brief flashes, that they were capable of making high scores. This inability of potentially good batsmen to score runs has been the main reason for the failures of the past few seasons and was caused, at least in part, through lack of confidence as a result of playing on poor wickets. In an attempt to overcome this problem, the wicket was shifted round so that it now lies across Oberon, with the result that in the last match, the team, playing on the first good wicket of the season, turned in its best batting performance and only win.

The bowling, although lacking somewhat in variation, was consistently good so that opposing teams had to work hard to score runs. Their task would have been even harder had fielding been cleaner, but the ball is liable to do strange things on the Oberon outfield.

The Oberon's appearance has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a sight-screen and boundary-boards for which we are indebted to Mr. Poulter and various hard-working members of the First and Colt elevens. A further welcome improvement has been the painting and renovation of the small pavilion which was undertaken as an end of term project by J. J. Brown, Crittenden and Satchell.

The team usually included :—

*Williams*. A stylish batsman who, when not caught through slashing in the first over, scored quickly and well.

*Dalton*. He is a very sound opener and, with a little more force, could score a lot of runs.

*Frank-Keyes*. Another stylist whose main fault is lack of concentration. His bowling varied, but was, on occasions, of a very high standard. He also assisted with ground improvements.

*Bond.* He bore the brunt of the bowling with considerable success, although he still tends to bowl too many short balls. He is a forceful batsman, but never really managed to get going. Our thanks to him in his capacity as secretary and for his work on ground improvements.

*Redshaw.* He fielded soundly but needs to pick his ball more carefully before bringing his powerful, if somewhat unorthodox strokes into play.

*Wheeler.* Unfortunate in that our low scores prevented him from playing his natural hitting game. Due to the wealth of bowlers he was not called upon in this capacity, but house matches showed that he can bowl well.

*Nicholls.* Throughout most of the season his bowling lacked penetration and there were too many loose balls down the leg. In the last match, however, he showed his true ability in a magnificent spell.

*Cumes.* A very useful change bowler who often managed to make the break-through when the openers failed to do so. His fielding is sound and his bat usually straight.

*Courtenay.* He was brought into the team towards the end of the season and his forty against Beckenham was the highest score of the season, a just reward for his grim determination.

*Crowe.* Through winning the toss most of the time, and keeping wicket very successfully, he has captained the team well. As our number four batsman, he has met with varied success due to some unlucky balls, and the mixed fortunes of this season are no reflection upon his efforts:

MARTYN BOND.

*Colours were awarded to:* Williams, Dalton and Frank-Keyes.

RICHARD F. D. CROWE.

#### BATTING AVERAGES

	Matches	Innings	N.O.	Highest Sc.	Runs	Average
Williams ... ..	10	10	—	29	117	11.7
G. V. Frank-Keyes ...	9	9	—	37	103	11.4
Dalton ... ..	10	10	—	28	89	8.9
R. F. D. Crowe ...	10	10	—	26	85	8.5

*Fielding:* R. F. D. Crowe (ct 7, st 1); M. D. Bond (ct 3).

#### BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wickets	Average
R. J. Cumes ... ..	42.5	14	100	11	9.1
M. D. Bond ... ..	101.4	23	266	22	12.1
G. V. Frank-Keyes ...	46.1	5	162	9	18.0
Nicholls ... ..	72.0	20	170	9	18.8

## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI has not won a single game this season. The excuses offered for the "feat" could range from the ancient one of losing all our players to the 1st XI, or the more recent one of "our opponents threw the ball," but unhappily these would be untrue. The answer is that we had no consistent batsmen, no attacking bowlers and our fielding was atrocious.

There were, however, the brighter sides to our games: Edwards admitted being out l.b.w.; Shaw was hit on the head and had two stitches; Morley made 28 runs in one innings; once Megan played for us.

Compliments are due, however, to Shaw and Elliott who never failed to astound with their throws to the wicket, and to Early, Attwood, Hall and Heaven who toiled so unrewardingly the whole season. Batsmen were few but Morley and Clarke were relatively consistent while Early and Attwood had spasms of untechnical brilliance.

Apologies are due to all concerned for the failure of the captain to bowl "Fred" White earlier in the season.

Despite the fact that results were poor and that we were always travelling (we only had two home games), spirit within the team was extremely high and socially speaking the season was most enjoyable.

The team was chosen from: Foulsham, Attwood, Early, Edwards, Morley, Clarke, Shaw, Corbett, Elliot, Thompson R. H., Thompson D. R., Courtenay, Hall, Preece, Heaven, White.

Others "persuaded" to play: King, Bower, Goddard, Megan.

RICHARD FOULSHAM.

## Colt XI

An opinion, expressed early in the season, that this was the most promising in recent years, has been largely justified by events. The spirit of the team has been good and individual standards have improved during the season.

The batting, however, has been variable. Woodhall has, as usual, been the mainstay, but good innings have also been played by Lancaster, White, Sinfield, Rusling and Featherstone. There are others who could bat well if they took more care to play down the line of the ball.

At the start of the season the bowling lacked penetration, but Castagnola's improvement in accuracy and Jennings's steadiness have brought better results in later matches. These two have borne the brunt of the bowling and have taken 80 per cent of the wickets.

Fielding, throwing, and running between the wickets have not always been good, but here, too, there has been improvement. Featherstone and Rusling have both done well at times, and Woodhall, besides keeping wicket well, has been a thoughtful and knowledgeable captain.



A word of praise is due to Butcher who has done all the scoring for the Colts this term.

G. J. ATKIN.

### Junior Cricket

The Under 14 XI, captained by Wright, has enjoyed a full fixture list this season although on most occasions their opponents have proved superior. The batting has generally been much weaker than the bowling. There is plenty of ability in the team but most of this will go to waste unless the players realise that with cricket, more so than with most games, talent is only a beginning; the rest has to be learned in the nets and from one's bitter failures in matches.

This year two fixtures were introduced as an experiment for an Under 12's XI, one against Wandsworth School, which was lost, and the other against Surbiton C.G.S. which we won. These games revealed a lot of promise amongst our youngest players and next year we hope to run a regular First Form side.

N. T. POULTER.

### ATHLETICS

*Master-in-Charge* : R. Hindle, Esq.

*Captain* : R. Impey.

*Secretary* : J. J. Brown.

Although we had slightly fewer fixtures than in previous years, this term has proved to be a satisfactory one as far as the School Team has been concerned. By now it is almost traditional that our first fixture should be against Sutton on the Nonsuch track, and so on Monday, May 9th, we began the season with a triangular match: Sutton, Wallington, ourselves. We were placed third but the differences in points were not great and several of our Athletes put up fine performances. The track at Nonsuch has been changed this year and it seemed to provide incredible times (so incredible that it would mean the open 220 yds. record was broken by a junior). Since there was obviously some cause for doubt none of the several "record" times have been ratified.

The following week the Wimbledon and District Sports were held at Motspur Park. This was a very successful afternoon as both the Junior and Intermediate teams won their competitions. But the Surrey Grammar Schools' Sports on June 2nd, again at Motspur Park, proved, as always, much harder competition. As no-one gains any points until he gets into a final every point is well earned. Our performance this year was better than any year since we won the competition in 1956. The open relay team of Impey, Hopper, Redshaw and Bower won the trophy in a dead heat with Purley and in a record time.

Our second triangular match was held on June 13th at Epsom against Sutton and Glyn. We came second to Sutton in an enjoyable evening's Athletics. Several members of the School team represented the Wimbledon District in the Surrey Schools' Meeting the following Saturday.

The Inter-House Athletics Sports were again held in two parts with field events on Tuesday, July 5th, and the track events two days later. Full details of results are included at the end of this report. As often seems the case, the result was still in doubt up to the relays. Our thanks are due to all the Staff who helped to run the Sports, and particularly to Mr. Hindle, not only for organizing the Sports and marking out the track, but also for all his hard work this season with the Athletics Team.

As to individual Athletes: Bown and Eastwood particularly deserve congratulations for their consistently fine performances all through the season;—they both set up new records in inter-school matches as did Deed and Nicholls. Nevertheless thanks are no less due to everyone who turned out for the School, especially to those not quite in the top classes. It can be very disheartening to be always performing second string in an event, never gaining a first or second place. Yet without their support we could not hope to win any matches.

Full colours have been awarded this season to J. J. Brown, R. M. Deed and P. C. Redshaw for their consistent performances and support.

RICHARD IMPEY.

### Results of the Athletics Sports

100 yds.

Minor: 1, Zerfahs (C); 2, Hutchins (M); 3, Lake (H); 13.0\* sec.  
Major: 1, Pickard (M); 2, Russell (C); 3, Lancaster (H); 11.8 sec.  
Junior: 1, Burgess (G); 2, Spanos (N); 3, Chandler (H); 11.2 sec.  
Colt: 1, Powers (C); 2, Wilton (G); 3, Osborne (M); 11.5 sec.  
Open: 1, Bown (C); 2, Redshaw (N); 3, Cumes (M); 10.5 sec.

220 yds.

Minor: 1, George (N); 2, Catton (H); 3, Warren (C); 30.0\* sec.  
Major: 1, Russell (C); 2, Pickard (M); 3, Crowe (N); 27.9 sec.  
Junior: Eastwood (G); 2, Featherstone (H); 3, Emmings (N);  
26.2 sec.  
Colt: 1, Courtenay (M); 2, Powers (C); 3, Shaw (H); 25.0\* sec.  
Open: 1, Bown (C); 2, Hopper (N); 3, Impey (H); 24.4 sec.

440 yds.

Minor: 1, George (N); 2, Warren (C); 3, King (M); 69.4 sec.  
Major: 1, Nelson (C); 2, Goulding (M); Shrubbs (N); 63.2 sec.  
Junior: 1, Nisbet (M); 2, White (G); 3, Robinson (H); 61.4 sec.  
Colt: 1, Clark (G); 2, Rusling (M); 3, King (N); 59.0 sec.  
Open: 1, Hopper (N); 2, Impey (H); 3, Foulsham (C); 54.5 sec.

880 yds.

Junior: 1, Jackson (N) ; 2, Burgess (G) ; 3, Lonsdale (M) ; 2 min. 19 sec.

Colt: 1, Courtenay (M) ; 2, Crittenden (H) ; Andrews (G) ; 2 min. 27.9 sec.

Open: 1, Brown (M) ; 2, Deed (G) ; 3, Dollery (H) ; 2 min. 12 sec.

Mile

Open: 1, Dollery (H) ; 2, Deed (G) ; 3, Steer (C) ; 5 min. 9.2 sec.

Relay, 4 x 110 yds.

Minor: 1, Cobbs ; 2, Miltons ; 3, Gibbs ; 60 sec.

Major: 1, Cobbs, 2, Gibbs ; 3, Newsoms ; 54.3\* sec.

Junior: 1, Gibbs ; 2, Newsoms ; 3, Halliwells ; 57.6 sec.

Colt: 1, Miltons ; 2, Gibbs ; 3, Halliwells ; 51.5 sec.

Open: 1, Newsoms ; 2, Cobbs ; 3, Miltons ; 48.1 sec.

High Jump.

Minor: 1, Lovegrove (N) ; 2, Cotterell (C) ; 3, Turnbull (G) ; 4 ft. 0 in.

Major: 1, Blunden (C) ; 2, Castling (G) ; 3, Hall (N) ; 4 ft. 5 in.

Junior: 1, Eastwood (G) ; 2, Robinson (H) ; 3, Taylor (N) ; 5 ft. 3 in.\*

Colt: 1, Clark (G) ; 2, Lawrenson (H) ; 3, Castagnola (M) ; 5 ft. 0 in.

Open: 1, Bownern (C) ; 2, Wheeler (N) ; 3, Goddard (M) ; 5 ft. 3 in.

Long Jump.

Minor: 1, Catton (H) ; 2, Zerfahs (C) ; 3, Turnbull (G) ; 14 ft. 5 in.

Major: Rance (G) ; 2, Goulding (M) ; 3, King (H) ; 15 ft. 10 in.

Junior: 1, Featherstone (H) ; 2, Roylance (G) ; 3, Banks (C) ; 16 ft. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Colt: 1, Nicholls (G) ; 2, Osborne (M) ; 3, Wood (H) ; 17 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Open: 1, Redshaw (N) ; 2, Impey (H) ; 3, Foulsham (C) ; 18 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Shot.

Junior: 1, Nisbet (M) ; 2, Spanos (N) ; 3, Buckley (C) ; 32 ft. 6 in.

Colt: 1, Powers (C) ; 2, Shaw (H) ; Edwards (M) ; 31 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Open: 1, King (H) ; 2, Wheeler (N) ; 3, Bond (G) ; 36 ft. 3 in.

Discus.

Junior: 1, Sinfield (M) ; 2, Taylor (N) ; 3, Evans (G) ; 95 ft. 9 in.

Colt: 1, King (N) ; 2, Courtenay (M) ; 3, Jones (C) ; 92 ft. 10 in.

Open: 1, Hopper (N) ; 2, Shute (C) ; 3, King (H) ; 101 ft. 11 in.

Javelin.

Junior: 1, Sinfield (M) ; 2, Chapman (C) ; 3, Evans (G).

Colt: 1, Clark (G) ; 2, Castagnola (M) ; 3, White (C) ; 137 ft. 3 in.

Open: 1, Goddard (M) ; 2, Parish (G) ; 3, Wheeler (N).

\* Denotes new record.

	C	G	H	M	N
Qualifying Points ... ..	584	629	544	548	500
Track Events ... ..	430	360	220	390	340
Field Events ... ..	220	260	200	230	230
Result ... ..	1234	1249	964	1168	1070
	2	1	5	3	4

## AN IMPRESSION OF SPORTS DAY

In my opinion Sports Day is a very hot and enjoyable day, even if you are not participating in any of the events. It is great fun sitting down in a comfortable posture, just making notes of the winning competitors.

The mile is my favourite event, as it is a great test of nerve and stamina. This event picks out the first-class long-distance runners, who may be of some advantage in other races too. I also think the most exciting part of a track-race is the start, and here is how I would describe it. First, the starter audibly shouts, "To your marks!" The competitors stroll confidently up to the starting line, awaiting the "Get set" signal. The starter shouts, "Get set!" and the athletes raise their nimble bodies into the starting position. Each person is tense with excitement, no doubt many of them have the so-called "butterflies" in the stomach. The gun goes, and the athletes hurtle into the distance, breathing heavily.

As the sports draw to an end, spectators gradually drift off after saying a somewhat hurried goodbye to their friends. The competitors receive vigorous back-slapping, if they are triumphant, and then they stroll slowly back to the pavilion, eager to have a shower.

About an hour afterwards, and everyone has left, all is quiet. There is no loud laughter or commotion, no bangs from the starter's gun, in fact no noise at all. The trees that once shuddered in the noise and commotion gently sway, elegantly

in the breeze. The track which once vibrated with the steady thud of running boys is very still.

Everyone is thoroughly happy and satisfied.

JOHN STONE (first year).

## TENNIS

*Master-in-Charge : T. Horler, Esq.*

*Captain and Secretary : P. Standish.*

### Ist VI

#### RESULTS

Purley G.S. ....	Lost 3-6
Mitchell G. S. ....	Won 8-1
Wandsworth School ...	Rained off
Rutlish ...	Won 5-4
Mitchell G. S. ....	Won 7-2
Wandsworth School ...	Rained off
Purley G.S. ....	Rained off
Wimbledon County ...	Won 9-0

"As can be seen from the results, the School Ist VI has enjoyed a very successful season . . . . The team opened their account with a trip to Purley and were unlucky to be beaten in a tight struggle . . . . We proved altogether too strong in a light-hearted game for Wimbledon County . . . ."

These words opened the report on Tennis for 1959 and the 1960 results confirm that this year has been little different. Purley, as always, provided our only worrying opposition and the remaining matches were fought with more spirit than skill. Once more House Cricket matches made Wednesday afternoon teams against Wandsworth School consist of scratch pairs who produced doubtful shots against an unlucky but game opposition. In fact the season has been overshadowed by Cricket and this, coupled with the lack of facilities which affects all schools to varying degrees, has resulted in the now habitual inconvenience to which all participants must resign themselves. Among those who deserve mention in the first team are Crowe, for his consistent accuracy and speed, and Wood and Elsdon, for their success in annoying their opponents with punishing consistency.

The team was selected from fifth and sixth forms, usually consisting of : Standish, Crowe, Phillips, Mottershead, Wood R., and Elsdon, with frequent appearances by Early.

This year the School undertook a new venture in the Rootham Shield, a trophy awarded to the winners of a knock-out competition for Grammar Schools in Surrey. Unfortunately the draw landed us in the first round against Emanuel School. The team, which consisted of Standish, Crowe, Phillips and Mottershead, entered the contest with somewhat restricted optimism, since our opponents are renowned for their ability at

the game—and our apprehension was not unjustified. Although we lost 5-0, we came very near to winning at least one singles match, and weather conditions did not inspire keenness in either team. The attempt was worthwhile, since experience and more formidable opposition are the team's present needs.

## 2nd VI

### RESULTS

Purley G.S. ... ..	Won 7-2
Mitcham G.S. ... ..	Won 7-2
Rutlish ... ..	Won 8-1
Purley G.S. ... ..	Rained off

The second team remains unbeaten after a number of easy matches. Few schools can produce a second team of players who are all competent. The School is rich in Tennis talent with such performers as Early, Rusling and Pett, who still have some time to stay at the School and will, no doubt, uphold or increase our reputation.

Early, Nicholls, Rushing, McGaw, Sinfield, Morley, Courtenay, Thompson D. R. and Williams P. all played in the second team.

All matches this season have been played in good spirit, and most in rain. Despite the loss of Crowe, Standish, Phillips and Mottershead, there should certainly be no difficulty in finding substitutes, whether from present School members or the additions of next term. We owe our congratulations to Mottershead on the award of full colours, and to Elsdon, Wood R., and Early on that of half-colours.

PETER STANDISH

### RESULTS OF THE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

Junior Singles. Winner : D. A. King. Runner-up : Pett.

Senior Doubles. Winners : P. Standish and R. F. D. Crowe. Runners-up : P. Nicholls and K. Rusling.

Junior Singles. Winner : D. A. King. Runner-up : Pett.

Junior Doubles. Winners : Sime and Ventham. Runners-up : Preece and Smith.

## SWIMMING

*Master-in-Charge* : L. R. King, Esq.

*Captain* : P. G. Trapp.

The Wimbledon and District Schools' Swimming Gala was held this year on Tuesday, July 5th, and the School entered teams in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior events, totalling 18 boys. Although we did not win any of the three sections, individuals won several events.



## Junior Events

Free-Style, 1L: 1, Mallett (G) ; 2, Lancaster (H) ; 3, Bradshaw (C) ; 21.5 sec.

Breast-Stroke, 1L: 1, Castling (G) ; 2, Robinson (H) ; 3, Ventham (C) ;  
\*25.1 sec.

Back-Stroke, 1L: 1, Lane (G) ; 2, Quilliam (C) ; 3, Charlton (H) ; 28.6 sec.

Medley Relay, 3L: 1, Gibbs; 2, Halliwells; 3, Cobbs; \*75.4 sec.

Free-Style Relay, 4L: 1, Gibbs; 2, Halliwells; 3, Newsoms; \*93.6 sec.

### Minor Events

Free-Style, 1L: 1, George (N) ; 2, Humphrey (G) ; 3, Crocker (H) ; 24.7  
SEC.

Breast-Stroke, 1L: 1, Jones (C) : 2, Preece (G) : 3, Pollack (M) : 28.3 sec.

Back-Stroke, 1L: 1, Francis (C); 2, Preece (G); 3, Featherstone (M);  
29.3 sec.

### Diving Events—Open

Plunge : 1, Greene (N) ; 2, Wood (G) ; 3, Goddard (M) ; 38 ft. 6 in.

Plain Dive : 1, King (H) ; 2, Bennee (G) ; 3, Goddard (M).

Springboard Dive: 1, Goddard (M); 2, Bennee (G); 3, Thornton (H).

\* Denotes new record.

The points scored in the Sports by the Houses were :

[illegible]

And the final positions of the Houses after the qualifying points had been added to the points scored in the Sports were as follows :

[illegible]

The Cray Swimming Cup was presented to the captain of the Gibbs team by Mrs. King.

The standard of swimming at this year's Gala was noticeably higher than it was last year. Two individual and three relay records were broken.



Although a good number number of boys attended the Gala it would be both gratifying and encouraging to receive more support at this function from parents. We live in hopes for next year !

The smooth running of the Swimming Sports was once again due to the hard work put in Mr. King before and during the evening, and also to all the other Masters who assisted during the evening. Our grateful thanks are due to them all, and to Mrs. King for presenting the trophy.

PETER TRAPP.

## THE THINGS THEY SAY

"Far be it from me to refuse a piece of cake."—C. R. Shute.

(Re choir's singing). "I want it to come out like toothpaste—with a blodge every now and then."—D.A.

(Seeing notice in church announcing 'St. Michael's Day Trip to London Airport'). "I see . . . rather unnecessary for the Air Vice-Marshal of the Heavenly Host, don't you think?"—G.M.

Heard on lunch-table: "If you hadn't mentioned plum-stones I'd have gone on thinking it was rhubarb."

Foreman to serfs digging mud outside Prefects' Room: "Reckon we'll make this into a rock-garden."

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following magazines have been received: The Aldenhamian, The Ashtedian, The Caterham School Magazine, The Fetesian, The Radleian.

The Editors wish to apologise for any inadvertent omissions.

## EDITORS

Norman Stephenson, J. A. Bull, R. C. Cottee, G. V. Frank-Keyes,  
C. Mottershead.