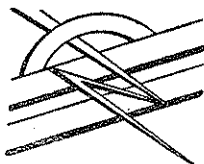


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE

SPUR

AUTUMN TERM 1960



VOLUME XVI

NUMBER 1

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XVI

Autumn Term, 1960

No. 1

CONTENTS

	Page
School Officers	3
Headmaster's Notes	3
Prizegiving	4
House Notes	7
Christmas Concert	13
The Vanburgh Theatre	13
H-E-A-V-E!	14
Quest	15
Going Home	17
Northbound Train	18
Winter Scene	18
Music	18
The Old Man Remembers	19
School Singers	19
Orchestra	20
Recorder Club	20
Pianoforte and Musicianship Course	20
Da Vinci Society	21
Classical Society	23
Debating Society	24
Literary Society	24
Astronomical Society	24
Christian Union	25
565 Squadron, A.T.C.	26
19th Wimbledon Scout Group	27
Model Railway Club	28
Chess Club	28
Printer's Guild	30
Jazz Listening Group	30
Stamp Club	30
Bridge Club	31
Rugby	31
Cross Country	36
Acknowledgements	38

SCHOOL OFFICERS

AUTUMN TERM, 1960

Head Boy : C. M. Hopper.

Deputy Head Boy : R. F. D. Crowe.

Prefects :

J. A. Bull, P. T. Greene, B. W. Spencer, M. Barker, J. J. Brown, R. M. Clarke, N. E. Cole, C. L. Courtenay, P. L. Davies, M. A. G. Evans, K. L. Forsdyke, H. A. Glass, K. D. R. Hanson, J. A. R. Higham, M. J. Lawrenson, G. J. Mansell, R. I. Megan, P. E. Nicholls, C. C. Parish, A. J. Phillips, D. I. Shaw, C. J. Steer, R. C. True, P. F. White, J. H. G. Wilbraham.

Secretary of Games Committee : J. A. Bull.

Captain of Rugby : P. E. Nicholls (1st XV)

Captain of Rugby : R. F. D. Crowe (2nd XV)

Secretary of Rugby : J. J. Brown.

Captain and Secretary of Cross Country : C. J. Steer.

Prefect of the Hall : M. J. Lawrenson.

Prefect of the Library : B. W. Spencer.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The School in general, musicians in particular, were shocked to hear of the untimely death in September of Mr. David Tucker. He had been the enthusiastic instructor and friend of the woodwind players since instrumental teaching was revived here five years ago, and supported them himself at concerts and carol services. For his wife and young family we all feel real sympathy in this loss : he will be much missed and long remembered here.

It is depressing to see another December pass without a play. But the stage is still unfinished, still completely devoid of lighting or other fittings. When production is possible, priority must be given to House plays, perhaps with some relaxation of restrictions. We have been promised completion by the builders, so far, on May 1st, June 13th, September 9th, October 14th and November 18th.

A year ago we celebrated our first Rugby Blue. The precedent has soon been followed : we sent cordial congratulations to B. S. Spencer (1949-1956), now of St. Edmund Hall, on his appearance in the Oxford XV against Cambridge on December 6th.

About G.C.E. results in general enough has already been said at prizegiving and otherwise. The "Spur" must, however, record the School's congratulations to V. E. Bown and E. Phillips on the award of State University Scholarships.

T.H.P.

PRIZEGIVING, 1960

Tuesday, October 11th, was the occasion of the annual School Prizegiving. Wimbledon Town Hall was, as usual, packed with parents and friends of the School to hear the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. E. F. Dakin, welcome our many distinguished guests, which this year included the School's first Headmaster, Dr. J. Garrett.

After Mr. Dakin's introductory remarks, the Headmaster gave his report on the previous school year. He said that, despite continual interruptions by builders and carpenters, all the usual school activities, both academic and non-academic, had been carried on and considerable success had been met with in all fields. The Headmaster was appreciative of the results of the disruptions of the last two years, and remarked on the fact that after twenty-five years we have at last acquired a front door and a dining-hall. Academically, he spoke of the G.C.E. results at all levels and said that results this year were in general, satisfactory. The Headmaster continued by confessing that he would like to see a few more boys getting over 75 per cent in "A" Level, and a few more State scholarships, and went on to lament the extensive demands of employers for good certificates or degrees, often only for "prestige" purposes. Nevertheless, the Headmaster was able to offer congratulation to J. A. Bull and M. D. Ross for their scholarships to Oxford and Bristol respectively.

Mr. Basil Wright, the well known film-maker, having graciously presented the prizes, gave his address to the assembled company. He spoke of the importance of working hard at school and of taking all possible opportunities to further one's education, dwelling extensively on his own experiences.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Hood-Phillips, past Chairman of the Board of Governors, and seconded by the School Captain. The Annual Prizegiving was concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

C.M.H.

PRIZES

Form Prizes:

- 1X A. J. Pollak, R. M. Smith.
- 1Y P. J. Gorton, S. G. Morris.
- 1Z P. Mottershead, J. H. Wildey.
- 2.5 K. Phillips, D. Castling.

- 2.6. N. D. Catton, C. A. Fulbrook.
- 2.7 R. H. Terry, S. H. Brown.
- 3.4 A. D. Robinson, J. Evans.
- 3.8 P. G. Fisk, D. K. Tickner.
- 4.1 R. Pease, M. R. Iliffe.

For Performance in G.C.E. ("O" Level)

- 4.2 P. J. Gibson, A. S. Gorman, A. V. Knapp, J. M. Crocker, F. J. Wilton.
- 5.3 G. R. Capper, J. K. Norton, R. R. Wood, P. G. Wright.
- 5A S. L. Cotterell, C. L. Courtenay, P. J. Hopkins, D. L. Sherwin, A. L. Smith.

Lower Sixth :

- Arts : P. F. White, M. A. G. Evans.
- Science : B. T. Elsdon, P. C. Dishart, A. J. Phillips.
- Economics : J. L. W. Heaver.

Upper Sixth :

- Arts : J. A. Bull, R. I. Megan, C. Mottershead, M. D. Ross, P. Standish.
- Science : Norman Prize, E. Philips ; Whitman Prize, B. M. Ryder ;
D. L. Hammond, R. Impey, S. D. Pattinson, D. R. Thompson,
R. L. W. Brookes, P. T. Greene, D. B. Ring.
- Economics : V. E. Bovern, C. M. Hopper.

General Prizes :

- Effort Outside Class : P. C. Williams, N. C. Boreham, C. C. Parish,
N. A. Dimmock, B. G. Butcher, R. C. True, M. J. Lawrenson,
R. A. Pett, D. F. Blunden, M. Barker, K. L. Forsdyke.
- Music : J. H. G. Wilbraham, S. J. Mawer, A. V. Knapp.
- Hobbies : J. S. Carlow, B. M. Bambridge, J. M. Crocker.
- Art : M. Richardson, R. H. Terry, P. A. Riley.
- Craft : N. D. Catton, W. R. Maidment, C. Robinson.
- General Knowledge : J. A. Bull, C. J. S. Waugh, C. M. Borland.
- Beaverbrook Bennett : M. Burke, J. J. Burt.
- Old Boys : M. D. Ross, C. R. Shute, G. V. Frank-Keyes.
- L.A.G. Strong Prize : P. J. Loveday.
- John Robbins Essay : G. J. Mansell, N. E. Cole, P. F. White, C. Mottershead.
- Leaving Prize to Head of School : R. Impey.

Advanced Level Certificate :

- 6 Arts : M. T. Biddiscombe, M. T. Bond, J. A. Bull, A. J. Burke, N. E. Cole, R. J. Cumes, G. V. Frank-Keyes, H. A. Glass, R. I. Megan, C. Mottershead, C. R. Shute, B. W. Spencer, P. Standish, P. R. Thornton.

- 6 Science : D. L. Hammond, R. Impey, S. D. Pattinson, E. Philips (Distinction in Chemistry), P. C. Redshaw, B. M. Ryder, D. R. Thompson, M. Barker, R. L. W. Brookes (Distinction in Chemistry), R. C. Cottee, B. S. Chapman, G. F. Clarke, M. C. Flack, K. L. Forsdyke, P. T. Greene (Distinction in Chemistry), B. T. Holyman, D. F. Jenner, K. R. Johnson, K. D. G. Jones, J. M. King, R. M. Naggs, C. Pacey-Day, D. B. Ring, (Distinction in Chemistry), A. J. Shipton, R. P. Stickland, J. T. Williams.
- 6 Economics : V. E. Bown (Distinction in Economics), R. F. D. Crowe, P. L. Davies, R. M. Deed, R. M. Foulsham, C. M. Hopper, A. E. Seymour.

TROPHIES

From Open Competition

The Wimbledon Schools' Athletic Association Sports Cup and Junior Shield.
Surrey Grammar Schools' Sports Relay Cup.

SCHOOL

Eric Parker Cup	}	P. R. Williams
		V. E. Bown
Michael Welby Debating Cup		Newsoms
Chess Cup		Cobbs
Parents' Rugby Cup		Newsoms
Governors' Cricket Cup	}	Halliwells
		Miltons
Spur Society's Hockey Cup		Gibbs
Cray Swimming Cup		Gibbs
S. H. Marshall Cross-Country Cup		Cobbs
John Garrett Athletics Cup		Gibbs
T. W. Powys Cobb Tennis Cup	}	Miltons
		Gibbs
B. C. Michez Cup for Gymnastics		Miltons
Junior Shield		Cobbs
B. T. King Cock House Cup		Gibbs

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

Captain : J. A. Bull.

Vice-Captain : C. J. Steer.

Prefects : M. A. G. Evans, P. F. White.

Last July we said goodbye to our captain, V. E. Bown, two prefects, R. M. Foulsham and C. R. Shute, and to many other seniors who took an active part in the affairs of the House ; we wish them all well in their future careers. On the other hand, I must welcome a new group of first-formers to Cobbs, congratulate C. J. Steer, M. A. G. Evans and P. F. White on being appointed prefects and Steer on his appointment as captain of School cross-country.

The phenomenal "Cobbs revival" of last year did not, unfortunately, extend to the Rugby competition which was played this term on something resembling a malarial swamp ; nevertheless, thanks to the Colts, we managed to avoid a complete humiliation. With Ventham and Quilliam as their two leading players, they won two of their matches (the first by a comfortable margin) and were only narrowly defeated in another. The juniors, too, have been holding useful practices and preparing for their own competition which will take place next term.

Perhaps the total defeat of the senior team needs some explanation. Steer began the term as captain of a team which included no First XV players and a number of keen Association footballers. In general we lacked speed and fitness and it was only in the last match, against Halliwells, that the scrum showed the necessary vigour and fight ; our three-quarters were often changed and usually outplayed. Steer himself was magnificent in filling a gap at full-back and we possessed two fine halves in Jones and White—the injury to the latter destroying our chances of beating Newsoms. Robson was our best forward, while Jacobs, Jones (R.), "Fred" White and "George" all played well. Francis gave much vocal support but, like the hard work of the team as a whole, it was to no avail. Nevertheless their high spirits and the enthusiasm of a certain reserve did much to alleviate the misery of losing all our matches.

On November 15th we held a House Supper for the success of which we must thank the housemasters, parents and boys who shared in its organisation. Fish and chips were consumed, the ritual game of "clumps" was played and a film was enjoyed.

The Rugby finished, the worst is behind us. Next term we shall be grappling with hockey, cross-country, gymnastics, chess, debating and possibly house-plays ; we have some fine experience behind us here and should do well.

JOHN BULL.

GIBBS

House Captain : P. E. Nicholls.

Prefects :

R. M. Clark, P. L. Davies, C. C. Parish, B. W. Spencer, J. H. G. Wilbraham.

As usual, at the end of the Summer Term, we lost many Senior members who, in the past years, had contributed so much in retaining the Cock House Cup. The greatest loss was Graham Frank-Keyes who led us so ably in the past year. Conspicuous in every sport, he set an example which the rest of us could not fail to follow. We wish him every success in his University studies and subsequent career. Our other losses included M. D. Bond, B. M. Ryder and R. Deed. To these and all others we also extend our best wishes. We welcome all newcomers to the House and hope that their stay will be both enjoyable and successful.

For the second year Gibbs were runners-up in the Rugby Cup. The Colts played admirably winning three matches out of four; their opening game was unluckily played against Halliwells, the strongest of the other Houses. With Cox injured before the match it wasn't surprising that they lost 12-19. However, in the other matches they won magnificently, crushing Miltons 68-0, Newsoms 78-0 and Cobbs 9-6. The outstanding members of the XV were Cox, Evans and Castling.

The Seniors did not fare so well partly owing to the fact that in each of the four matches we could muster only 14 men, and also to a general apathy towards Rugby amongst fifth and sixth formers alike. They opened in a style reminiscent of 1958-1959 with a 31-5 victory over Cobbs, and 13-3 defeat of Newsoms. However, we lost the other two to Miltons 3-5, and Halliwells, the strongest team, 3-18. These were our first losses since 1957. Prominent members of the Seniors were R. M. Clarke, Early, and P. L. Davies. Others tried hard but there remained a general lack of teamwork.

Next term House Rugby interest moves to the Juniors. The first year, during practices, have shown much enthusiasm for the game which is more that can be said for the second formers. Unless the latter improve a great deal we cannot expect to do well in the Junior Shield Competition.

Also, several cups are up for competition: Hockey, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Chess, Debating and possibly House Plays. Every effort in these competitions is needed to close the gap between Halliwell's and ourselves. Third formers start Hockey and one can only hope that they rapidly master the game.

I conclude with the thought that it would be more encouraging if our Seniors would kindly remember their kit, reserves especially.

P. NICHOLLS

I would like to add a word about Nicholls himself. The fact is that such success as we have had in Senior Rugby has owed far too much to Nicholls' own brilliant play. He had some good supporters but, as he has said, there was a lack of teamwork. If this lack continues in Hockey it will be fatal. I want to thank Nicholls for the keen interest he has shown and the time he has devoted to coaching the first and second formers. They may not realise how lucky they are to have such a coach.

H. A. PRATT.

HALLIWELLS

Captain : R. F. D. Crowe.

Prefects :

J. A. R. Higham, M. J. Lawrenson, G. J. Mansell, R. I. Megan, D. I. Shaw.

I must start these otherwise jubilant notes by saying goodbye to all those who unfortunately but inevitably leave us at the end of the Summer Term. Whether they be going on to University or out into the world, we wish them happy and successful lives.

The only competition this term was for the Rugby Cup and we did not merely win this—we walked away with it! The Senior team was the strongest we have had for several seasons for we were able to field four regular First XV players and five members of the Second XV who were good enough to win first team places on several occasions.

Our first match, against Newsoms, was played under reasonable conditions. We began slowly, but in the second half the team knitted together and we scored an easy 21-3 victory. The remaining three matches were played on the bog which resulted from "the wettest autumn in over a hundred years," and in these conditions we made our one mistake—we only drew 3-3 with Miltons. The other two matches, against Cobbs and Gibbs were both won quite easily by 21-3 and 18-3 respectively.

In a side which was essentially a team it is difficult to pick out individuals, but the play of our captain, Higham, and of scrum half Stephenson was particularly brilliant. These two are also to be congratulated on their selection for the Surrey Colts XV, Higham in the scrum, and Stephenson as reserve.

But no matter how good the Senior team, the Rugby Cup cannot be won without the support of the Colts, and this was very much in evidence. Most ably led by Featherstone, they have won all their matches to date

by very handsome margins, beating Cobbs 35-13, Gibbs 19-12 and Miltons 66-0 with the Newsoms game still to be played.

We have begun well, but there is a long way to go if the Cock House Cup is to be ours. Next term's very full calendar will decide the Chess, Debating, Gymnastics, Cross-country, Hockey and, very important, the Junior Rugby. I hope the Juniors realise that their matches count just as much towards the Cock House competition as the Colts' and Seniors'. There is also the possibility, depending on the fixture or otherwise of stage lights, that the House Play competition will take place again.

That then is the programme. Our success in it depends upon every one of you.

RICHARD F. D. CROWE.

MILTON'S

House Captain : K. L. Forsdyke.

Prefects :

M. Barker, N. E. Cole, H. A. Glass, A. J. Phillips, J. J. Brown, C. L. Courtenay.

This term we had to say goodbye to all our prefects from last year. Roger Cumes had had a very successful year as House Captain, and had helped the House a great deal by being a very active participant in nearly all sports and House activities. Peter Standish played very good Tennis for the House, and we are very sorry to lose him and Tony Burke. Among non-prefect House members, we notice the loss of Kevin Jones who ably demonstrated the use of the clarinet in House assemblies. We also lost Albert Shipton who led the House in Chess and Debating.

So far this term, the House has been more to the fore than in many previous terms. The Senior Rugby team have had an exceptional season, being unbeaten in all four matches. Courtenay and Heaver were the chief scorers and both played really good Rugby football, as did J. J. Brown (captain), Nisbet, Edwards and Sinfield. The scores were very good, being 29-9 v. Cobbs ; 8-3 v. Newsoms ; 5-3 v. Gibbs ; and a very good draw against Halliwell's (3-3). One or two "new" players showed good promise this season, especially N. E. Cole, A. J. Phillips and M. Barker. For this excellent performance we owe a great deal to the captain of Rugby, J. J. Brown.

The Colts team, however, were not so lucky, being beaten in three matches out of their four. They did succeed in scoring a definite victory over Newsoms (15-0). Owing to a certain lack of House spirit shown by some members of the Colt team, it was only possible once to field 15 players, i.e. in the match against Newsoms (We may draw our own conclusions).

R. P. Wright did a good job with a not-so-good team by holding the scores to the margins of defeat they maintained.

The total Rugby results put us third in the Rugby Cup, which shows a good effort on all fronts.

Next term we are hoping for good results from the juniors who will be playing first and second for competitions separately. If they could win most of their matches, we might be lucky enough to win the Junior Shield towards which the Rugby results score.

Hockey has good prospects for the Senior team, and we hope the Colts will do better than they did in Rugby. The Senior team will contain a number of School players, which should give us the necessary start for a good season and it is hoped that the forms who have not played Hockey before will play well enough to back the seniors up. We could, with luck and good playing, gain the Hockey Cup for the second time in three years.

Unfortunately the House Plays have not been produced this term owing to a certain apparent inability of the builders to complete the school stage fittings on time.

A House Supper was held on October 26th to celebrate last term's winning of the Gymnastics, Tennis and Cricket cups. A meal of fish and chips was provided and House members and guests alike enjoyed the food very much. The film "Private's Progress," starring Ian Carmichael, was to have been shown, but unfortunately a fault developed in the projector and this had to be postponed until the following night.

The House Assembly has taken a new form in the School Hall with J. M. Hunt and G. H. Windsor providing the music on the piano. It has proved more successful than the Physics Laboratory chiefly as order is easier to maintain.

To summarize, the House has shown a strong and generally enthusiastic start in all this term's activities, and we hope that this will continue throughout the year.

K. L. FORSDYKE.

NEWSOMS

Captain : C. M. Hopper.

Prefects : P. T. Greene, K. D. R. Hanson, R. C. True.

Last July we had to say goodbye to P. C. Redshaw, our previous captain, M. D. Ross, R. L. W. Brookes, Clarke and Wheeler, all of whom contributed regularly and unselfishly to House affairs.

This term has seen the yearly commencement of the struggle for Cock

House supremacy. Once again we have to lament last year's performance and once again the future does not seem particularly bright.

Last year we won the Rugby Cup. This year the Seniors have won only one match—that against Cobbs—although the side always seemed potentially promising. Cottee has gallantly taken on the difficult role of captain but has had the usual trouble of discovering that there are apparently only fifteen boys in the House from whom to choose a team. The Colts have unfortunately lost both matches that they have so far played. Let us hope that the familiar cry "Come on, Sammes" will not be uttered in vain in future seasons. Whilst on the subject of Rugby, we owe our congratulations to B. S. Spencer for his obtaining an Oxford Rugby Blue this year.

Prospects for Cross-country are not as dismal as might first seem apparent. Owing to the new system whereby both the Senior and Junior races count towards the Cup, we may find considerable success on our hands. I confidently expect the Juniors, led by Jackson, to win their race, and hope that Towey can find a Senior team to complement them.

The pages of the Spur again contain mention of House Plays. It is two years since a House Play was last produced and on enquiring into the situation I find we have no new up-and-coming generation of stage-hands, electricians or technical advisers. Producer Cottee has, however, a fair sprinkling of acting talent and we hope he can successfully instil stage knowledge into the members of our House. Perhaps we have a slight advantage over other Houses in that we did succeed in a short production for the last House Supper.

Next term the main point of interest will be Hockey. We hope for more success than last year and I think we have an average team. I must recommend all third-formers to try their skill at the game for they are the boys who will carry on the Hockey spirit to fight for the Cup in forthcoming seasons.

A similar all-out effort is needed in both Gymnastics and Swimming. Qualifying was poor in both sports last year, especially among the Seniors; the fact that we were second in the Swimming Gala last year shows that it was not through lack of ability but through a lack of House spirit.

On a somewhat brighter note the House welcomes K. D. R. Hanson and R. C. True to the Prefectorial body and Barnes, Chambers and Miles to the Sixth Form from other schools. Mr. O'Driscoll, Mr. King, Dr. Morgan and Mr. Poulter must be thanked for their continued support in all aspects of House administration. Let us, in conclusion, hope that there will be a revival in Newsoms' fortunes in the New Year and that the House will go from strength to strength in the future.

COLIN M. HOPPER.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 1960

This year's concert was given on December 20th, and once again the evening was divided between the first part of the *Messiah* and the traditional series of carols and readings. The experiment of putting the Orchestra on the stage and the choir on the floor of the Hall was a success—the choruses were heard to advantage. The soloists in the *Messiah* were C. Shute, R. Oakes, A. D. Smith, R. N. Preece, and L. Williams, while J. Wilbraham and P. Nicholls played the trumpet part. Both soloists and choir deserve our congratulations for a thoroughly competent rendering, and Mr. Aldersea for his hard work in producing such a well-trained group.

The carols were well performed by Mr. Ayton and his orchestra in pleasing arrangements. The standard of playing continues very high, and special mention must be made of performances by A. V. Knapp (bassoon), S. Mawer (violin), J. Wilbraham (trumpet), A. D. Smith (horn), and the Recorder Group, directed by R. C. True. The small choral group also sang delightfully.

KENNETH KILBURN.

THE VANBURGH THEATRE

The Vanburgh Theatre differs radically from London's West End theatres in all that it represents. Owned by London University, it is acquired periodically by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for the purpose of presenting plays in which R.A.D.A. students may act repeatedly, and in a variety of roles, before the public. This is the Vanburgh's prime objective; in order to evolve into an efficient actor a student requires the valuable experience of playing, not to sympathetic colleagues and associates, but to a public which might prove, if not hostile, at least discerning. Thus the theatre, situated in Malet Street, is not primarily a profit-making concern. It charges no admission fee but endeavours to recoup the cost of mounting productions by means of patrons' contributions to R.A.D.A. funds and an ingenious price-system for coffee served during the intervals. As such, unlike the commercial West End theatres, its productions are not dictated by the caprices of popular or vulgar predilections, and so the public is afforded the opportunity of seeing plays which are not normally viewed outside the Universities. The student, too, cannot but profit from the experience of acting in intellectually desirable plays.

Since the present series of performances was inaugurated in 1956, the Academy has produced over eighty plays, and it is some measure of the success of the enterprise that whereas in that year nine plays were undertaken, this number was surpassed in the 1960 autumn season alone without, in any sense, a restriction in the diversity of plays which have been produced. They range in chronology from Sophocles to Dylan Thomas and Priestley, and in genre from Brecht to Sheridan. Especially notable is the number of foreign playwrights whose work is rarely performed in this country who have achieved representation, and with the English playwrights who are usually read but not seen, the fruits of the past five years have

formed a notable harvest. Obviously, space does not permit a comprehensive catalogue of the plays produced, but mention of works by Brecht, Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov and Sheridan will suffice to indicate the calibre of presentations. Ambition is apparent not only in the range of orthodox plays, but also in the numerous presentations of complex and obscure ones. Goethe's *Faust* has been recently produced. The Academy has contributed several excellent actors to the London stage, including Albert Finney, now in *Billy Liar*, Tsai Chin in *The World of Suzy Wong* and Laurence Asprey at the Old Vic.

Four small Sixth Form parties have visited the theatre this term to see *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, by Pirandello, *Amphitryon 38*, by Giradoux, and two English 18th Century plays.

These works all impinge in some degree upon Advanced Level French or English courses and as such all members of the parties benefited. However, quite apart from their academic qualities, the plays provided lively entertainment, all having been competently acted, the *Six Characters* in particular demanding and receiving a high degree of skill. *Amphitryon 38*, written appropriately enough in 1938—by a happy coincidence it was also the 38th improvisation on the original Greek legend—contained much dated wit, but the production was lavish and equalled any commercial presentation. Finally, the boisterous 18th Century comedies provided entertainment which, while only in a special sense instructive, was eminently suitable for evoking the Christmas atmosphere.

All the plays were enjoyed, and when one considers the abilities of the students, it is disturbing to reflect that only a small proportion will ever attain more than the dizzy heights of Repertory.

M. A. G. EVANS, VIA.

“H-E-A-V-E!”

The Coronation Hall, Kingston, was filled with smoke-stained breath, anticipation and the incessant, turbulent chant of “H-E-A-V-E! H-E-A-V-E!” by the excited audience as Jackie Pallo held Bernard Murray in an excruciating double arm lever. The onlookers sensed the kill as Murray winced with pain and the referee, Tiny Carr, asked for submission. Murray, a favourite at the baths, still had the support of the fat, squalid and jovial old women in the upstairs balcony who were bellowing out phrases which they hoped might give him at least some moral support such as, “Leave my Bernie alone! Don't you 'urt my baby!”

For the old women this was the night of the week, the night when they really let themselves go and heaven help those who were sitting near them. It was surprising to see the various types of people who were attracted by professional wrestling and all its thrills. As could be expected a large section of the audience consisted of droopy-looking teenagers in exaggerated Italian clothes with the Cuban heels of their winkle-pickers worn down to the extreme; and the whistling, shouting exhibitionists of the motor-cycle

gangs dressed, or supposed to be dressed, in black leather jackets with white trimmings, and the girl friends in black tights, clinging on to their heavily padded shoulders. Many of the girls are in love with the motor-bikes, not the boys.

However, there were also many educated young gentlemen dressed in blazers and college scarves with well-groomed hair; middle-aged gents who had known a hard outdoor existence, for their faces were eroded by the weather. A bunch of men, clad in caps and overcoats, were gathered round the door to the licensed bar with glasses of draught in their hands. The sweet-trolley man stood alone at the end of the hall with his bottles of Coca-Cola.

Meanwhile, Murray had eluded his opponent and slipped through his legs. Pallo was too slow, and before you could say "Seconds away" he was the victim of a vicious front head chancery. The shaven-headed Murray in his briefs beamed like a six-month-old baby in a nappy as his bicep muscles bulged while he squeezed Pallo's head. By a series of leg-flips Pallo eased out of the hold and clasped Murray's arm; shoving up into a back hammer he threw himself against the ropes and on the rebound he hurled Murray across the ring with his arm locked up his back. After a count of seven Murray was still dazed; Pallo pounced and with a folded body press he attained the winning pin-fall. When the master of ceremonies, Reg Stanley, had made the necessary announcement, Pallo left the ring to mixed ovation, Murray amidst uproar.

After announcing the winning number of the raffle, the M.C. introduced the next fight: "Now ladies and gentlemen, we have an international heavyweight contest: two falls or submissions or a knock-out to determine the winner between, on my left, the Japanese matlord from Tokyo, the Great Togo, and his opponent, the ex-amateur heavyweight champion of Canada, from British Columbia, "Powerhouse" Gordon Nelson.

Realizing the great possibilities of this contest the audience cheered, whistled through the gaps in their teeth and showed their appreciation by standing on their chairs which were clipped together in rows across the hall. But, when a whole row of chairs fell over taking their occupants with them, the remainder of the standing crowd took the hint of fate and sat down to concentrate on the contrasting styles of the wrestlers.

R. WHITE.

QUEST

Once,
In a world which cannot see,
because I have not yet the eyes
which accept all and create with their seeing
everything,

I am but two cells,
each one in its citadel
with strict and narrow walls about.

In the ecstasy
of the pagan godhead Virility,
two cells that are me,
who is perhaps a god, who alone can see,
embrace.

Is this, I now ask, the burning climax,
the soaring, searing culmination of the race?
Or am I but a dancing dust mote
In the shoddy light of a cheap electric bulb?

Once I am two cells—now look at me.
So perhaps there is a god, I might say,
even if I am not he.
But it proves only the depths of the well
and the inadequacy of the pathetic bucket.

Sometimes the flames burn brightly in the widest skies
and my eyes draw in all that lies there;
Othertimes the worldplace is dark under a shroud
and my eyes are open to the nightness,
spilling into me to douse the warmth of wonder
which might have burned into the enduring fire of certainty.

Not for me the wreck-strewn beach of stagnant faith,
the paradox of personal truth,
nor the isolation of Descartes revisited.
The world will not be clockwork just for me,
nor will a white-bearded deity sit upon a fiery throne.
All that remain are questions
without answers,
humming like wires in a racing storm,
like a choir of hungry interrogatives,
who will sing until death stills their voices,
or perhaps even longer.

I put aside my pen,
turn my head towards the open hearth

and the proverbial faces leer hotly back at me.
To primeval shambling man
they too must have been gods and demons.
I listen and silence whispers at my ears.
Are there no answers?

P. J. LOVEDAY, VI A1.

GOING HOME

It's sullenly raining
And the sky's dismal and dark.
It keeps on sullenly raining
And there's mud on your shoes from the park.

You've looked in all the shop windows,
You wish that the bus would come.
There aren't any more shop windows,
You forget when you last saw the sun.

The bus comes round the corner
Splashing water all over your shoes.
It stops ten yards from the bus stop.
How you hate those sadistic bus-crews.

You clamber aboard the bus
And climb every wet, slimy stair,
You settle in your seat—a moment of doubt—
You're sure you have got the fare.

You fumble around for your money :
The conductor waits by your side,
And then he impatiently passes by,
Leaving you to your dismal ride.

You get off the bus and it's raining,
The sky is forbodingly dark,
And still it is sullenly raining
And there's mud on your shoes from the park.

G. M. BRADSHAW, IVJ.

orchestra in traditional carols in between selected readings, instrumental pieces and smaller choral items.

Under consideration now is the possibility of the Singers entering the field of Music Festival Competitions next term. Other plans, which will be of considerable interest, are at present unofficial and may not be published at this stage.

Finally, a word of praise for M. J. Lawrenson who, as Hall Prefect, has the charge of our hymn books, seating arrangements and recorded music at Assembly. He does a fine job and we are genuinely grateful to him.

DENIS ALDERSEA.

THE ORCHESTRA

The orchestra now consists of violins, cellos, a viola, flute, oboe, bassoon, horn, trumpet and various percussion instruments, and for the greater part of this term has been practising for the carol concert.

Owing to the sudden death of Mr. David Tucker, woodwind classes were suspended, but other instrumental activities have continued to flourish. The brass section has attracted two trombonists; the violin section has several new members and has provided the orchestra with a number of badly-needed recruits; A. V. Knapp, in addition to playing the bassoon with the orchestra, is teaching the viola to a potential recruit.

Next term we shall be rehearsing for the School Concert. With the possibility of the orchestra being augmented by the instrumentalists now under instruction, we look forward to developments and more ambitious programmes.

J. H. G. WILBRAHAM.

RECORDER CLUB

We met regularly during the term and for the last few weeks we worked on an *Allegro*, by *Beethoven*, which we played in the Christmas concert.

Next term we hope to work on some contemporary music, possibly using the piano and, since the members of the group are now efficient, we can concentrate upon dynamics and phrasing, and possibly some solo items.

R. C. TRUE.

PIANOFORTE AND MUSICIANSHIP COURSE

The following successes have been achieved during this term by boys on this course.

Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (8 grades):

THEORY PIANOFORTE
(Max. mark 99)

D. Clarke	. . . . . V (78)	II (Pass)
R. Stone	. . . . . V (89)	III (Distinction)
R. Terry	. . . . . III (90)	II (Distinction)
J. Wilbraham	. . . . . VII (93)	II (Distinction)

In addition, R. Preece gained a choral scholarship to Wimbledon Parish Church Choir and J. Wilbraham gained, under Mr. J. Hall's guidance, a distinction in Grade VI trumpet playing. Wilbraham further achieved the distinction of being selected for Britain's National Youth Orchestra.

D.A.

THE DA VINCI SOCIETY

At last the new Art Room is complete. We have our two-inch lens for the strip projector and a really efficient blackout, so the Society now really has a home to be proud of.

Unfortunately all this was not ready at the beginning of the term, so our first meeting was held in the Biology Lab, where Dr. Morgan gave a talk entitled "8001 Beards," based on his summer holiday in Athos. This lecture was illustrated by a collection of Dr. Morgan's own coloured photographs and a fine beard, no doubt grown especially for the occasion. In his talk the lecturer traced the development of the peninsula as a religious community and brought it to a triumphant conclusion with a fine photograph of the largest "smallest room in the house"—a 42 seater!

"Technique" was the title of the next of the term's lectures. This was given by Mr. Ayton and was another in his musical series, a field which he has made his own. In his talk Mr. Ayton pointed out the importance of technique in the hands of a musician and contrasted the approach of a number of eminent players dealing with the same piece of music. Mr. Ayton did not confine his illustrations to music alone but also explained the value of technique to actors, and stressed the point that acting was not just a matter of feeling, but was a craft in its fullest sense and one that had its own particular rules to be learnt.

Mr. Peter Smith gave the third lecture, another travel talk, this time on Morocco. As in the case of Dr. Morgan's talk, this lecture was also illustrated by the speaker's own colour photographs. Mr. Smith pointed out the close proximity of wealth and poverty to be found in this colourful area. We were also shown a number of interesting pictures of native craftsmen at work in their shops in the native quarter. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated on the quality of these particular shots, bearing in mind the technical difficulties to be encountered by the photographer in these areas of intense light and shade.

Riley P. A., of 5 I gave the next talk and, although this was also a travel talk it was of rather special note, being an account of his prizewinning trip to the U.S.S.R. sponsored by the Eagle magazine.

On his tour, Riley visited Moscow, Sochi on the Black Sea, and Leningrad, flying from England by Comet and by the T.U.104 in Russia. In his talk the speaker gave a lively personal impression of the country and its peoples and, although only armed with a box Brownie, brought back a number of interesting photographs with which he was able to illustrate some of his points. A second meeting on this talk was held on the following day when Riley showed a number of Russian coloured transparencies of Leningrad.

The next meeting of the Society was devoted to the first Photographic Competition. It had been felt for some time that photography had been rather left out in the cold as far as the Society's activities were concerned so it was decided that this term's Da Vinci Art Competition should be devoted to this subject. We were a little disappointed by the number of entries and felt that perhaps the minimum size of 6" x 8" may have deterred some would-be exhibitors owing to the cost of enlargements. We felt that this was the minimum size one could conveniently display. The Headmaster and Mr. Ayton kindly consented to help me in the task of judging and criticising the entries. On the whole the standard of the photographs was quite good, although the photographic technical experts were rather critical of "sharpness." I for my part felt that the majority of pictures lacked imagination and a lively personal eye. The competition aroused much interest and it is to be hoped that the next one will encourage more people. In the opinion of the judges, the small number of works demanded that one prize should be awarded to the Sixth forms and one to the Middle and Junior Schools combined. Crocker J. M., of VI Arts, was awarded First Prize in the Sixth Form and Spanos B. J., of VK in the Middle and Junior Schools. Both entries were of a high standard and showed a real feeling for the medium. I would like to thank the Headmaster and Mr. Ayton for the thought, care, and time they gave in acting as judges.

Inspired by Paul Riley's talk on the U.S.S.R., Oake J. S., also of 5 I, next gave a talk entitled "Behind the Tin Curtain," an account of his travels in Yugoslavia. As in the case of the other speaker who had been lifting curtains, Oake was very impressed by the friendliness of the people he came in contact with. He showed us many interesting pictures of their modern architecture and also a number of pictures of national costumes and played records of some of their folk music.

"I Eat Roots" was the intriguing title of Mr. Venning's first talk to the Society. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Venning, who has recently joined the Staff as master in charge of Pottery and Light Crafts, to our Society.

A packed audience turned up in full force to support Mr. Venning, no doubt ghoulishly waiting to see him devour his roots. Here I am afraid they were disappointed, but the speaker explained that he had a theory, which he was working out with a friend, on a fresh approach to painting. "It is necessary," said Mr. Venning, "to comprehend a subject with all one's senses in order that one may understand it enough to paint it," and this meant that the sense of taste should be included, hence "root eating."

Examples of Expressionist painting were shown by the lecturer in support of his theory and we were invited to inspect three early attempts at painting according to this theory.

The final talk of the term was given by Mr. Oboli, a Nigerian student who had been visiting us this term. Mr. Oboli introduced us to the lively sculpture to be found in Nigeria and showed us many very forceful works in clay, stone and bronze. He pointed out that this was still carried out today in Nigeria, often by illiterate people, as he put it, the craft having been handed down from father to son. One felt that while the Nigerians worked in this idiom their work was forceful and significant. It seemed a pity that many young Nigerians were today turning from their traditional styles and attempting to work in a European manner. I feel no Europeans could contain the Nigerian spirit in their work and conversely this also applies to the Nigerians. Each people have their own mode of expression and Mr. Oboli's illustrations showed amply this national artistic expression of virility.

Once more I wish to convey my debt of gratitude to all our speakers this term and to thank them on behalf of the Society. This term we have always had a "full house" which is most encouraging. We look forward to the New Year with optimism and the hope that more of you, our members, will now come forward with further talks.

CECIL RILEY.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The only meeting this term has been the one held in the library on September 16th when the Society read the *Discolos*, a comedy by Menander, a Greek dramatist writing in the latter part of the fourth century B.C. At the beginning of this meeting the President announced the resignation of the Secretary, C. R. Shute, who had left school the previous summer, and J. A. Bull was elected to this post.

The play-reading was rather different from usual since a uniform set of translations was available and we did not have to cope with the strange discrepancies between English versions of the same original. Menander's play belongs to the New Comedy and depends more on the humorous situation and comic "type" than the splapstick and obscenity of Aristophanes; this was the kind of play which Plautus and Terence were imitating when they wrote their comedies. The plot in the *Discolos* concerns a young man, Sostratos, in love with a girl whose father has become so crabbed and misanthropic that he cannot stand the sight of other human beings—and this is the situation from which the humour of the play is extracted.

A certain amount of cunning was used in the casting and there were the usual grotesque attempts at the feminine roles. One of our members gave an unforgettable performance as a character with the unlikely name of Gorgeous and, the President's spirited rendering of a dying sheep

obviously owed much to the influence of "the Method." Even if some of the humour of the original was lost (and the play can hardly be called a classic in the field of comedy) the evening passed very enjoyably.

JOHN BULL.

DEBATING SOCIETY

This term the Society has passed through a critical stage but it now seems that at long last there could be revival of interest in debating.

There was at one time a serious proposal to abolish the Society and replace it with a small group who would discuss controversial subjects on a much less formal level; nevertheless there is obviously still some support for debating as was demonstrated by the large numbers who came to the library to hear P. T. Greene propose "The study of the arts is useless," on December 12th. This must have been the largest turn-out for five years and I believe none of the audience went away feeling cheated even though some unorthodox methods were used to get them there.

No doubt there are many topics which could more profitably be discussed in a small group, but then debating is really a sport (like Rugby and Cricket) and not a means of discovering the Ultimate Truth. If the speakers in a debate consider themselves as contestants in an elaborate verbal game and the audience spend an entertaining evening the aims of the Society are fulfilled; all the propaganda produced is not an effort to "educate" unwilling members of the School by dragging them into an intellectual wrestling-match, but an attempt to make lively and amusing speeches worth while.

In the Lower School, debates are thoroughly enjoyed despite (or perhaps because of) a certain lack of discipline in some of the speeches, and only a vague idea of the motion. Both the Juniors and ourselves are grateful to Mr. Pratt for his unceasing efforts to organise debating and hope that they will not prove fruitless.

JOHN BULL.

LITERARY SOCIETY

A reading of Auden and Isherwood's play *The Ascent of F.6* was held towards the end of the term. The main part of the neurotic mountaineer was very ably read by G. J. Mansell and there were some other good character studies, but the play itself was felt to be something of a curate's egg.

It was a pleasure to find some Old Boys taking part.

I.R.B.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Astronomical spectacles of interest are appearing in the Universe around us all the time, but unfortunately the proportion that can be seen from the British Isles is relatively small. Of these, the majority are obscured

by the thick blankets of cloud which seem to wrap us so persistently, and the remainder are either too small to be seen without a large telescope, or occur during the daytime when it is impossible to observe them. It was a great coincidence, therefore, that on November 7th the Transit of Mercury was observed by a few members of the Society in bright sunshine and ideal conditions.

Mercury is the nearest planet to the Sun and is considerably smaller than the Earth. Its comparatively tight orbit is in the same plane as the Ecliptic, and therefore it is inevitable that on occasions it should appear to pass across the face of the Sun. On this occasion we projected the image of the Sun through the telescope on to a white sheet of paper, and at approximately 2.35 p.m. Mercury appeared as a little black bubble on the South East limb. During the time available for observation, we watched it proceed very slowly across about one tenth of the Sun's face.

The telescope, which has recently been painted and reconditioned, has also been used on five other occasions during the term to observe sunspots and a few of the brighter stars.

The official instructional meetings of the Society have been neither regular nor well attended, but nevertheless talks on "Astronomical Terms" and "Interesting Constellations" were delivered by the secretary to largely senior audiences, and encouraging interest was shown. This means that the Society will not discontinue its meetings, and a new and varied programme will commence next term if support is continued. We hope our efforts will not be in vain.

TED COLE.

CHRISTIAN UNION

The Christian Union has continued to meet regularly this term during the Friday lunch hours, and the attendance has been consistently good. Although we have much to be thankful for in this, it is deplorable that the second and third year sixth forms, which might be expected to give generous support, have not yet spared us one member, and have adopted a cynical and stubborn attitude towards us. There is no dishonour in witnessing for one's faith by attending a meeting, in fact it was one of Christ's commandments that we should. Therefore, I urge all sixth formers who profess to be Christians, to reject any warped impressions they may have gained about our meetings, and to come along to make our fellowship even greater.

In addition to our regular programme, we started this term to hold weekly prayer meetings on Tuesday mornings before school. This was later changed to Mondays after school, and the solid backing to our Friday meetings that this provided, has, I know, contributed to our success. The subject for our Friday Bible studies has been the New Testament book of Hebrews. This very difficult book which explains the Old and the New Covenant of God has been thoughtfully studied under the guidance of a rotation of our senior members, and many difficulties arising from the Old

the River Ouse which, we are told, is good for anglers and we have been invited by the local Sea Scout Troop to do some boating. The Seniors plan an expedition to Scotland and we all look forward eagerly to the year ahead.

N. C. BOREHAM.

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

During the autumn and winter months members have been active with pliers, soldering iron, paper and glue, in effecting improvements and modifications to the layout. These include the construction of a tunnel near Oberon Station, and the excavation and re-turfing of the flyover embankment. New fences have been set up around Milton Park to replace the old and untidy hedges, while Gibb's Farm has recently acquired a whole new herd of pedigree Jersey cows.

The flyover track, built in 1955, has always presented engineering difficulties, but members are certain that these can be overcome, pending the introduction of some new techniques, and perhaps a new controller.

One of the main faults with the layout has been that, periodically, one controller has decided to "poach" on another's territory, and control two trains. Recently, however, during the demolition of Milton Park Station, the whole cause of the trouble was brought to light—a thick copper wire connecting two of the circuits!

As the reader may have gathered, the time has come for Milton Park to be replaced, and many ideas for the redevelopment of the site have been put forward. It has been proposed to make one side into a terminus, so that suburban trains could run; on the other hand a passing loop has been suggested, so that two engines could be operated. Whatever the outcome, it will doubtless provide many hours of enjoyment for all Club members.

This last term has seen an influx of new members who come along enthusiastically each Monday night from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. to operate the railway and effect any repairs that may be necessary. May I extend a welcome to any boy who would like to come along at the above time and share in the thrills of the "Iron Way" in miniature.

I would like to close by making an appeal for two parents who are willing to give up Monday evenings to take over the Club, as Mr. Carlow will not be able to give his time much longer owing to other engagements, and as Mr. Maw has been unable to attend during the term. Will someone who has a son interested in Model Railways please come forward and carry on the good work of the Club?

JOHN CARLOW.

CHESS CLUB

This term the time-honoured method of renewing sets was revived—subscriptions were once again introduced. Nevertheless this has not resulted

in a drop of Club members, membership in fact has risen. Furthermore we now have for the first time within living memory six new chess sets. No longer do we have to ask Club members for the loan of their sets when we have played at home to other schools. For this we have to thank the money brought in by the subscriptions and a long-needed subsidy from the School.

It is particularly gratifying to note that although there are twenty-five fully paid up members of the senior section, the recently formed Junior Club has forty-five. This is an increase of thirty-nine since last term! Barry Spencer must receive all the credit for fostering this important section of the Club. The juniors have in fact completed two tournaments, while the School tournament was still being arranged. The latter, following a tradition, was still far from being completed when these notes were written, but it is pleasing to note that one reason for this is the number of people who entered—indeed, there were over fifty entries from the third forms and above.

Apart from the flourishing activity during the lunch hours and Friday evening we have reason to feel satisfied this term. This is due to the inter-school games that we have played. We beat our new opponents Burwood Park 8-2, Surbiton G.S. (always strong opposition) $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ and Wimbledon County (Boys) $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. The games against Tiffins and the return match against Burwood Park had to be postponed for various reasons.

Despite the fact that the Club is flourishing, we still welcome new faces, so if any of you would care to spend a quieter and more thoughtful lunch hour or Friday evening than is your wont, come along to the Chess Club where you will be very welcome. After all, anyone with a little brawn can play rugby, but for real intellectual satisfaction I think you will find the School cannot better chess in the way of outside activity.

CHESS INTER-SCHOOL RECORDS

Seniors	v. Burwood Park (home)	v. Surbiton (away)	v. Wimbledon County (home)	Total
Megan	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Moffat	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Hall	1	1	1	3
Miles	1	1	—	2
Attwood	0	1	1	2
Harvey	1	0	—	1
Juniors	v. Burwood Park (home)	v. Surbiton (away)	v. Wimbledon County (home)	Total
Blunden	1	0	1	2
Mallett	1	1	1	3
Whitaker	1	0	0	1
Raison	1	1	1	3
Results	(won) 8-2	(won) $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$	(won) $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$	

R.I.M.

PRINTER'S GUILD

This term started with both a new Senior Foreman and a new Master-in-Charge. Mr. Venning has taken over responsibility of the Guild, and B. Butcher has become Senior Foreman. We made a slow start on the Prizegiving programmes, but thanks to C. Børlund and S. Brown putting in some overtime we were able to produce enough for parents and guests.

A large number of first-formers proved themselves keen enough to join and were able to learn sufficient to take the examination at the end of term. The results were very good, the top mark being 81 per cent by Gorton, Ashworth coming second with 80 per cent.

Our other publication during the term was Mr. Venning's wedding Order of Service cards, which were quite successful.

During the next term we hope to form the Guild into an efficient working unit.

B. G. BUTCHER.

JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

Attendances have increased considerably this term; at times we have had as many as forty people crammed in Room F, while the normal figure, nearer twenty, is still up on last year.

The jazz has been varied, including records by Dizzie Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, Stan Getz, Gerry Mulligan, Mr. Acker Bilk, the M.J.Q., Chris Barber and many others, too numerous to mention.

This term we have had programmes of music presented by four different sixth-formers, and we have also featured the use of different instruments in jazz, such as the trumpet and the piano. Before this term finishes, Mr. Poulter will be presenting his own selection of records to the Group and I am most grateful to him and all those who have helped out by lending records, and presenting programmes.

The only depressing part about this term's jazz listening is the number of times I have heard someone say, "I'm not coming today, I don't like Modern!" I do wish these people would overcome their prejudices and give it a try once in a while. I should finally like to point out to these people that there are only really two kinds of jazz—good and bad!

ROGER COTTEE.

STAMP CLUB

This newest addition to School activities has begun extremely well. Already there are thirty-three keen members, including Mr. Wyatt, and we have great hopes for an increase in these numbers. As yet the main activity has been that of comparing collections and "swapping." If you are interested in stamps come along and see us during junior lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays. You will be very welcome.

R.I.M.

BRIDGE CLUB

After only a brief notice, and frantic canvassing, the word "bridge" has come to mean regular meetings once a week, in the Geography room, for several members of the Upper School. We are very grateful to Mr. O'Driscoll, not only for permission to use the Geography room, but also for taking an interest in this new venture. Several members of the Club were new to the game, but have soon become familiar with at least the basic essentials.

Interest and attendances have fluctuated and, except for the first meeting, the maximum has been only four tables. We hope to be organising inter-house bridge next term, and we have already some connection with at least one other school. Cards at first presented a problem, but a few kind members donated packs, for which we thank them, and we now have sufficient. We hope that bridge will always be a School pastime, and that the Club will go from strength to strength in the future. New members will always be welcome at any meeting.

KEITH HANSON.

RUGBY : 1st XV REPORT

Master-in-Charge : R. Hindle Esq.

Captain : P. E. Nicholls. *Secretary* : J. J. Brown.

RESULTS

SCHOOL MATCHES

v. Bec School	... ..	Lost	6-18
v. Wimbledon College	... ..	Drawn	12-12
v. Beckenham	... ..	Won	14- 0
v. Surbiton	... ..	Lost	3-39
v. Mitcham	... ..	Lost	6-24
v. Sutton	... ..	Won	17- 0
v. Thames Valley	... ..	Lost	5-14
v. City Freemans	... ..	Won	17- 3
v. Reigate	... ..	Lost	0-16
v. Elliot School	... ..	Won	21- 6
v. Tiffin's	... ..	Lost	3-15
v. Hampton	... ..	Lost	0-17
v. Purley	... ..	Lost	8- 9

OTHER MATCHES

v. R. Hindle's XV	... ..	Won	25- 0
v. D. M. Marks' XV	... ..	Won	13-11
v. Old Boys' XV	... ..	Lost	13-20

Played	Points for	Against	Won	Lost	Drawn
16	163	208	6	9	1

After a satisfactory season last year, hopes were high this term, but it seems that they have been lost in the mud. The team as a whole must learn not to lose heart when trailing or when playing bigger sides. The pack must be a team, not eight individuals, if they are to get possession against heavier packs. The threequarters have had an uncomfortable time with the mud and rain, but despite this they have attacked well. Their defence, however, could have been stronger.

A good excuse for us could be Mr. Hindle's illness, for we have missed his encouragement, his suggestions, and his guiding influence. We all sincerely hope that he is now fully recovered, for without him we don't seem to make any progress. The team, especially the scrum, would like to thank Mr. B. T. King for his valuable advice and his encouragement, and his ideas which have been so successful. Our thanks are also due to our loyal supporters (i.e. friends, plus one solitary first-former) who, ably led by C. R. Spencer, Esq., and who, despite Surbiton, remained faithful; and to Mr. and Mrs. Hillbery, whose kindness has made our home games so enjoyable.

The first match against Bec School was disappointing. Both last year's and new players made silly mistakes which cost us victory.

It was a vastly improved side who held Wimbledon College to an honourable draw. The threequarters showed for the first and unfortunately last time a cohesion and spirit; the pack played well, but they too have not kept up this standard.

A scrappy match against Beckenham resulted in frayed tempers. Only the coolness and control of Nicholls kept the match from ending in a free-for-all. However, Barnes made a promising debut, after only a few weeks of rugby.

The Surbiton centres exploited a gap in our defence (a gap which cost 30 points and has taken five weeks to fill). Much of the defence work fell on two people, Nicholls and Wilbraham.

Against Mitcham, the score seems big, but till half-time (9-6) we were holding our opponents, but with Early off in the second half, the team lost heart and gave away points by half-hearted tackling.

Sutton, though inexperienced, were big and hard tacklers. But Cottee and Hall in the centre played well, Cottee getting two fine tries. King also credited himself with an excellent try.

The next match was unique by fact that Valley scored within fifteen seconds. Why it happened will be debated for years, but the majority of the team agree "a distraction on the touchline" was the cause. We played well, and lost to a good side.

With Nicholls at centre, and Brown at scrum-half, it promised to be an interesting match against City Freeman's. It was! Nicholls showed himself to be as good a centre as he was a fly-half. However, both the wingers played well, with Crittenden getting a try and Barnes having two disallowed.

Against Reigate, lack of possession from the scrum and their superior tackling beat us. As usual Stephenson and Nicholls were superb in defence, and kept the score down.

In the mud-pool of Oberon we swam to victory against Elliotts, scoring most of our tries from Elliotts' mistakes. Stephenson, playing for the first time as centre, teamed up well with Nicholls, both scoring tries.

Still on a mud-pool, Park attempted to football in the mud, while Tiffin's still threw the ball around. Tiffin's gamble won, but the determined defending by Hall was a wall even Tiffin's found hard to break. The pack played well in the terrible conditions, with Nisbet getting a try.

Against Hampton, two mistakes gave away two goals; and a disheartened side lost to a side who are of the same standard as ourselves.

Against Purley, after being eight points up in ten minutes, their superior strength sapped our energy, and we eased up; this cost us victory, although a revival in the last moments won a penalty which Nicholls just failed to convert.

The Old Boys fielded a very strong side, and they seemed likely to thrash the School. But within minutes Elliott touched down from a forward's rush, giving the School a three point lead. This was followed by Stephenson scoring a brilliant try near the posts, which Nicholls converted. The Old Boys came back, scoring three tries before half-time, giving them a 9-8 lead. After half-time the School recovered and held the Old Boys, but the O.B.'s scored. However, the School still fought (both meanings of the word) and a movement between Nicholls and Brown allowed Brown to touch down between the posts; this was easily converted. This gave the School the lead and the Old Boys a nasty jolt—there was only ten minutes left. The match turned into a vigorous battle; then when Brown was off with a shoulder injury, the Old Boys scored again. In the last moment, a break-away in the middle gave the Old Boys a 20-13 victory. A creditable performances by the School—pity we can't play School matches like that.

1st XV PORTRAITS

Hall, Full Back: Although a natural three-quarter, he has settled down admirably at full-back. He is both a safe handler and kicker, but must learn not to delay his touch-kicking. Played very well against Tiffins.

Barnes, Right Wing: A renegade from football, turned into a useful wing, showing speed but occasional failure to catch the ball. With this art learnt, he will become a useful player.

Courtenay, Right Centre: Inconspicuous at practices, his success has been largely due to the presence of a supporter. His handling and passing are weak, but running and kicking excellent; but sometimes his knowledge of the rules seems lacking.

Cottee, Left Centre: An adaptable player, he has been moved around, but has shown up well in every match. Must learn to follow his passing, but a small fault in comparison with his abilities.

Crittenden, Left Winger : Brought into the team after the disastrous Surbiton match, has shown himself both a speedy and tough winger, who always takes his chances. He seems to have the knack of running into his opponents, a fault which he must cure before next season.

Stephenson, Scrum Half : Although receiving a slow service from the scrum, has managed to get his outsides moving. Is an excellent tackler, and his covering cannot be faulted. Useful in any position, as he showed late in the term. Unlucky not to play for Surrey.

Brown, Prop (vice-captain) : As vice-captain he has shown a good example of forward play, is mobile, fast and leads his pack everywhere. Changed his position owing to team injuries, but continues to give his vocal support to the pack. Has continued his progress since last year, and next year should bring many honours. I thank him for his efficient secretarial work.

Higham, Hooker : A good boxer, who has claimed many victims. His hooking has been superb, but his service was slowed by the second row. Has worked extremely hard, both in loose and light scrums, and this led to a well-deserved county cap.

King, Prop : Coming from the Colts, has shown that he can stand the speed of 1st XV. Is seen always near the ball and never fails to use his heel. Has done very well in his first year of senior rugby.

Elliott, Lock : A convert from the centre position, has settled down in the second row. Has not accustomed himself to binding in the pack, but I think he can do it, as he is very reliable all round.

Nisbet, Lock : As next year's jumper, it will be necessary to spring higher than he is doing at the present. Is inclined to be too gentle in the loose, which is a common fault of the forwards. However he does his work quite efficiently.

Clark, Wing Forward : After a slow start in his new position, he is now tackling the fly-half well, but could perhaps use more of his natural speed, which sometimes seems lacking on the field. Backs his three-quarters very well, and unlucky to have scored only one try.

Wilbraham, No. 8 Forward : Suffered somewhat from a disjointed nose, which now has ended his rugby career. Has shown more fight than last year and is not afraid to get mixed in the loose Maul. Has often led the pack well, in Brown's absence. Gives useful advice to the team's kicker.

Mansell : Has little idea of what he is doing on the field, but fire, weight and bustle have secured a team place. Easily gets worked up on the field, while we often hear loud grunts. Would be wise to read the rules some time.

Early : An injury cost him his place, but it may have been a blessing in disguise. He has now been able to learn the essentials of a three-quarter, and we look forward to next season.

PETER NICHOLLS.

P. E. Nicholls (captain) : It is difficult to describe how much the 1st XV has depended on him. Top scorer and designer of most tries, he is always in the right place in defence, and never fails to bring off his tackle. Must be the best captain a Park 1st XV has ever had.

Also Played : Davies, Rusling, Cotterell, Woodhall, Robson, Crowe.

Colours Awarded : Higham, Stephenson, Clark and Wilbraham.

JEFF BROWN.

2nd XV

The 2nd XV has met with only moderate success this year, having played eleven games and won four. We beat Bec, Sutton Grammar School, William Ellis and Guildford. We lost to Wimbledon College (a close game), Beckenham, Surbiton Mitcham, Wallington, Croydon and Hampton. At least we have done better than last year. We rarely fielded the same team and our captain was generally missing to the 1st XV. Nevertheless some of us enjoyed some of the games, despite the positively paludal condition of some of the pitches.

Our official captain was R. F. D. Crowe. Other outstanding players were Woodhall, and indefatigable full back, and Rusling, who usually played scrum half. Crittenden was efficient on the wing while Robson, Boddy and Sinfield were useful members of the scrum. Jones E. sometimes turned up.

The team was usually chosen from : R. F. D. Crowe, G. J. Mansell, Woodhall, Sinfield, Cotterell, Crittenden, Francis, Rusling, Castagnola, Osborne, Spanos, Sherwin, Robson, Boddy, Smith, White, Jones, Lewis, Taylor, Eastwood, Edwards, D. Shaw and J. A. Bull.

G. J. MANSELL.

COLTS XV

Although the season has not been a successful one as far as winning is concerned, the team have played well even when the weather and the size and age of their opponents were against them.

Matches have been lost through lack of determination in the forwards. The halves and backs have been well up to the standard of opposing teams, especially Cox and Featherstone. The latter has been an inspiring and conscientious captain.

D.B.M.

THE UNDER FOURTEEN XV

Special mention must be made of the very creditable record achieved by the Junior Fifteen this term. Following an undistinguished start to the season when it was beaten by Bec and Beckenham successively, the team settled down to play an inspired game against Surbiton, who were beaten by 17 points to 8 points. From this time on, the team gained tremendous confidence and was unbeaten in its remaining eight games : by the end of

term the team had scored 131 points with only 38 points scored against.

Tribute for these fine performances must go to Castling, who led the side quietly and firmly, and to Quilliam, his vice-captain, both of whom are developing into very skilful players. Warren, too, gave stalwart service and with Castling and Quilliam helped to make a very determined and thrustful back row. Vincent, at hooker, was a great asset, seldom wasting the efforts of the pack, who always tried to give the backs a fair share of the game. Of the backs, King proved himself a safe and skilful fly-half and gave Ammann, Pett and Jackson plenty of scope for their penetrating type of play; the latter must also be praised for his solid and courageous defence. As always, however, the strength of the team was to be found with its reserve of players; boys such as Cocker, Laing, Woodall and Calder, who always gave particularly loyal service and were rewarded with but a few appearances for the team. To all concerned we offer our congratulations and hope that next year they will achieve an even finer record.

A.S.

CROSS-COUNTRY

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

Captain and Secretary : C. J. Steer.

The cross-country teams have had considerably more success this term than hitherto. This is because, with more fixtures, greater interest has been shown, especially among the juniors.

The season started on September 21st with a senior match against Tiffin. In spite of a noticeable inferiority complex, the whole team ran well and won comfortably by 36 pts.-43 pts. Our six scoring runners were : Steer 3rd, Brown 4th, Nicholls 5th, Satchell 7th, Courtenay 8th, Hopper 9th.

On October 1st there were two matches against Surbiton G.S. The juniors narrowly won by 28 pts.-29 pts., Shrubb coming 2nd, Chapman 4th, Brazier 5th, Gent 8th, Burgess 9th, but the seniors, somewhat unluckily lost by 40 pts.-38 pts.

On October 13th the seniors took part in a triangular match with Sutton G.S. and Tiffin, with disastrous results. Sutton won with 36 pts., Tiffin were second with 48 pts. and Raynes Park managed to amass the total of 99 pts. !

On October 22nd the juniors overwhelmed a team from Bushey by 31 pts.-47 pts., Jackson coming 1st, Holland 2nd, Shrubb 4th, Chapman 5th.

The seniors notched up their second win on October 26th, beating Kingston G.S. by 38 pts.-40 pts. Our leading runners were Steer 2nd, Nicholls 4th, Satchell 6th, Hopper 7th.

On November 5th there were two matches against Wimbledon C.S. The juniors won crushingly by 25 pts.-60 pts. (Jackson 1st, Holland 2nd, Chapman 4th, Shrubb 5th) but the seniors, running a much weakened team, lost by 40 pts.-38 pts. in spite of good runs by Steer (1st) and Hopper (3rd).

The seniors lost again to Wimbledon C.S. in the return match on November 16th, this time by 42 pts.-38 pts.

On November 12th quite a strong team made the trip to Guildford for the Richard Haskell Trophy relay race. All runners ran quite well and finished 15th out of 45 teams (an improvement of 20 places on last year). On their respective legs Steer was 8th, Courtenay 7th, Satchell 13th and Brown 15th.

On the same day the juniors competed in the first of three races, organised by Epsom and Ewell Harriers for the Selwyn Trophy; 19 teams and 149 runners competed and, after excellent performances by Jackson 1st, Holland 6th, Chapman 13th, Shrubbs 19th, Raynes Park were placed 3rd.

On November 26th two teams entered races organised by Sutton and Cheam Harriers. The juniors were placed 4th, being beaten by Walton A.C., Goldsworth School, Sutton and Cheam Harriers and beating Purley G.S., Belgrave Harriers and Chattsworth School; Jackson was 3rd, Holland 9th, Chapman 18th, Shrubbs 26th. The seniors came 3rd out of four teams, beating Sutton and Cheam Harriers, but finishing behind Belgrave Harriers and Purley G.S.; Steer was 9th, Satchell 12th, Ring 14th, Heaver 15th.

Two senior and one junior teams competed in Mitcham A.C.'s inviation race on December 3rd. The juniors, owing to an injury to Jackson and appalling conditions, could only manage to come 9th out of 20 teams. The Senior "A" team came 8th out of 11 teams (Steer 16th, Parkin 34th, Satchell 35th) and the "B" team finished a rather dismal last.

For the second race in the Selwyn Trophy series, on December 10th, we were unlucky to be deprived of three of our best runners, Jackson, Shrubbs and Brazier. However, the rest of the team ran very well and were placed 4th. Holland was 7th, Chapman 10th and Onslow 44th. Their overall position remained 3rd. There was also a senior race for individuals and, in quite a strong field, Steer was 4th, Hopper 9th and Parkin 10th.

This proved to be our last fixture since a proposed match against Glyn G.S. had to be cancelled owing to the inability of the opposition to raise a team.

Thus ended a fairly successful term and judging by those results it would seem that cross-country is at long last on the upward trend. Let's hope it continues.

CHRISTOPHER STEER.

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