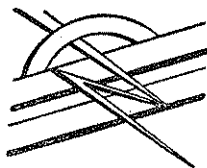


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE

SPUR

SPRING TERM 1961



VOLUME XVI

NUMBER 2

THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. XVI

Easter Term, 1961

No. 2

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SCHOOL OFFICERS

SPRING TERM, 1961

Head Boy : R. F. D. Crowe.

Deputy Head Boy : J. A. Bull.

Prefects :

M. Barker, J. J. Brown, R. Clark, N. E. Cole, R. C. Cottee, C. L. Courtenay, P. L. Davies, M. A. G. Evans, K. L. Forsdyke, H. A. Glass, P. T. Greene, 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, B. W. Spencer, C. J. Steer, R. C. True, P. F. White, J. H. G. Wilbraham.

Captain of Hockey : R. F. D. Crowe.

Secretary of Hockey : C. L. Courtenay.

Captain of Cross-country : C. J. Steer.

Secretary of the Games Committee : J. A. Bull.

Prefect of Hall : M. J. Lawrenson.

Prefect of Library : B. W. Spencer.

EDITORIAL

It is unfortunate that we had to go to press before receiving a report on what was one of the term's most interesting and, for some, most time-absorbing activities, the House plays. An article by the adjudicator will, however, be published in the next issue.

In another field, we would like to take this opportunity of congratulating two members of our editorial body on sharing the L. A. G. Strong Memorial Prize. J. A. Bull's entry being, as it were, all in one piece proved rather too long to publish in *The Spur*, but one of P. J. Loveday's winning entries will be found in these pages.

We were also pleased to receive other contributions of original verse and prose of an equally promising quality; and we wish there were more. No less pleasing was the receipt of a letter protesting about a report in the previous issue. Letters to the editors on matters relevant to the composition of the magazine or to any aspect of School life will always be welcome.

HOUSE NOTES

COBBS

Captain : J. A. Bull.

Vice-Captain : C. J. Steer.

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

Perhaps it is typical of Cobbs that we should have done so well at the so-called minor sports this term—nevertheless it is, I am sure, a good augury. Only a very few seniors remember the last time we were Cock House but now it seems our turn may be coming round again very soon.

We gained two pieces of silverware—for Debating and Dramatics. Those few (I wish it had been more) who saw the final of the Welby House Cup will agree that it was an exciting debate and P. F. White, Gorman, and M. A. G. Evans deserve our congratulations for their piquant speeches. The House Play was "Engame" by Samuel Beckett; C. J. Steer, Evans, Capper and Brodie acted with spirit and sometimes with real talent, so that as a result we were awarded the cup for the first time (almost) in living memory. I would like to thank also those who worked invisibly behind the scenes to make this production so successful.

In the Chess Cup we are well placed to challenge Miltons (probably now favourites for the Cock House). We came second to them in the cross-country, and might have narrowed the gap more than we did if only more seniors and colts had bothered to qualify; nevertheless the colts won their race (Brazier being 4th and Chapman 6th) while Steer came first in the senior competition and Parkin was 5th.

The Hockey Trophy never really looked like being ours, though we were unlucky to be pushed into fourth place in a very close finish. The colts won three games out of four—Tickner, Ventham, and Fisk being very active. The seniors, after a disastrous start, were narrowly (and some thought unluckily) defeated by Halliwells, but beat Newsoms. Attwood and White, R. F. were indispensable.

All this, and we share with Miltons (again!) the rugby half of the Junior Shield, thanks to Fleming, Colombo and their teams. This is an encouraging sign.

Since these are my last House Notes I will merely wish the House well and hope all of you will remain as enthusiastic, cheerful and typically "Cobbs" as you have been in the past.

JOHN BULL.

Two "small" things Bull omitted to mention. He himself led the Debating Team and produced the House Play. For this and all else he has done, we thank him and wish him well.

G.J.A.

GIBBS

House Captain: P. E. Nicholls.

Prefects:

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

In a term of various minor competitions, the House has won the only major trophy, the Hockey Cup, for the second year running. After a series of hectic matches we finally totalled 13 points.

The seniors, although not a strong side, have played with the usual Gibbs' spirit, opening with a 10-0 victory over Cobbs, followed by a 5-0 win over Newsoms. In an atrocious "battle" against Miltons we lost 2-5, but in a defensive match against Halliwells, we scraped home 2-1. Leading members of the team were R. Clark, P. Davies, H. Dalton and M. Eastwood; N. Preece scored the goals.

The colts, led admirably by Evans, did even better. They beat Miltons (3-1), Newsoms (15-0) and unexpectedly Cobbs (4-0). A draw was recorded against Halliwells (1-1). Although Cox, Morgan and Evans were outstanding, this was truly a team effort.

The minor competitions have not had such a successful outcome. After good qualifying, we finally finished third in the cross-country. The senior team were disappointing; R. Clark, the captain, being the only runner to distinguish himself. The colt team, once again more successful, finished 2nd. Holland 2nd, Keen and Bennée were the leading House runners.

Our debating team, admirably led by Loveday, were unfortunately beaten by Cobbs (the eventual winners), by $1\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 150.

Gymnastics remain undecided, though at the last count the House was placed 1st. Should we fail to win the Cup, it will be no fault of M. K. Wood, who has arranged practices and has inspired us with his own achievements. Likewise the result of the chess competition remains in doubt, but whatever the outcome we can be sure that the team will have given of its best.

The shortage of time in House plays could affect the usual Gibbs polish in production. However, R. York, our producer, by his magnificent efforts, has given the House every chance.

The juniors in the House matches played very disappointingly, drawing one match out of 8; yet we have six members of the School Under-12 XV. Juniors should think very seriously about the reasons for this odd state of affairs.

Next term, we compete for cricket, athletics, swimming and tennis. For swimming and athletics there will be points for qualifying—in the cross-country we were beaten into 3rd place because a few members of the House failed to qualify—let there be no repetition of this next term. To retain the Cock House Cup we need to win all four trophies.

PETER NICHOLLS.

HALLIWELLS

House Captain: R. F. D. Crowe.

Prefects:

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

Had luck not deserted us on one or two vital occasions, I would have been able to have reported this term as wildly successful; as it is, it has turned out to be satisfactory.

Our hopes for the Hockey Cup were not quite fulfilled—we finished second. The seniors beat Cobbs and Newsoms, held a purportedly much stronger Miltons side to a draw, but lost the vital cup-deciding match to Gibbs in a game in which we did everything but win. The colts, whose outstanding players were Featherstone and Robinson, played well and finished with the same overall result as the seniors.

Fourth place was the best that the combined efforts of the colts and seniors could attain in the cross-country, despite fine runs by Ring, who came fourth, Cotterell, Hall and Guest.

In the P.T. competition the Sixth Form performed splendidly, but certain other sectors of the House failed to support this effort and we finished third.

Our successes in the more intellectual spheres have been rather limited. We lost in the second round of the Debating Competition to Miltons. Unfortunately the quality of the play chosen for the House Play Competition did not do justice to the talents of our actors and stage-hands and so we finished fourth equal.

Our chess team, though very strong on paper, has performed disappointingly and cannot hope to finish higher than third.

The net result of this term's activities is that four Houses are all within about half a dozen Cock-House points of each other, thus Cock-House will be decided in next term's competitions, when every qualifying point will be vital.

A final happy note — congratulations to I. Stevenson on being made a Prefect.

RICHARD F. D. CROWE.

MILTONS

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 the House has come nearer to Cock House than ever before. After the amazing success of the rugby last term, the seniors have gone ahead to win three and draw one of their four hockey matches. For this the Captain of Hockey, J. L. W. Heaver, must be congratulated. The chief goal scorer was Rusling, but J. J. Brown, C. L. Courtenay and Edwards (who scored 3 of the 8 goals scored against Cobbs) all played well. Total score was 20 goals for and 6 against, which sums up a good season. The Colt Hockey XI, however, followed the tradition of their rugby playing, by losing three and winning one of their matches; but the scores were not too bad and the win against Newsoms was decisive (7-2). This was a display of the potential abilities of an all-too potential team. All round, the House came third in the Hockey Cup.

Our great success of the term was the winning of the Cross-country Competition by a margin of 200 points. Both the colts and the seniors did very well on qualifying points before the race, and the seniors put up a magnificent performance in the race by getting all their scoring runners (the first eight) within the first 20 places. Best performers were: J. J. Brown, 2nd; C. L. Courtenay (capt.), 3rd; H. Satchell, 6th and M. Barker 7th. Our thanks are due in this connection to Mr. Wyatt, who gave up much time sponsoring cross-country practices.

The juniors played their rugby competition this term and must be congratulated on something of a School record in the way of victories. They won all four matches with a total of 138 points scored for and nil against. The captain of this excellent team was Pollak, to whom congratulations are certainly due. We must also thank Mr. Marks for putting in a great deal of time training the juniors. This result, and the results of junior cross-country and First Form rugby, both of which were very good, has won us the Junior Shield.

Our debating team did an excellent job this term by coming second in the Welby House Cup competition. Nobly led by N. E. Cole, the team put up a good fight at all debates although attendances by members of the House were not very high. At the final debate in the competition, the House was narrowly defeated by Cobbs, the marking being 99 points to 92.

At the time of writing, the Chess Cup is still undecided, although if the team continues to play well we should achieve first or second place, depending on the result of the final match against Cobbs, who are our rivals for the Cup. Although our team could not be described as brilliant, they fought hard throughout nearly all their matches, and all credit is due to Barker M. (capt.), Moffat, Harvey and Callanan for their valiant performance.

In gymnastics we have done quite well in qualifying and with an extra effort could win this cup. Also undecided at the time of writing, is the House Play Cup.

Next term we look forward with high hopes to the cricket season when our seniors should put up a good show, and we hope that the colts will improve on their performances in rugby and hockey. We also have hopes for the Swimming and Athletics Cups.

To summarize: the House has put more go into activities in general this term, and we hope further successes will result.

K. L. FORSDYKE.

NEWSOMS

Captain: P. T. Greene.

Prefects: K. D. R. Hanson, R. C. True, R. C. Cottee.

Last term we said goodbye to Colin Hopper, our previous House Captain, who was always a keen contributor to House activities, and in the same breath, our congratulations go to R. C. Cottee on being appointed a School Prefect.

The term started off badly for us in every respect. The first disappointment was the mediocre effort in the hockey, the most important trophy to have been contested this term. The seniors, ably led by Morley D. J., never quite found their form, and although their keenness was not damped by their continual defeats, they rounded off the term by an unconvincing 1-2 loss against Cobbs. The colts, captained by Craze, lost every match.

This term also saw the advent of the new cross-country system, but as in other sports with qualifying attached, the results were poor, excepting the colts who scored a reasonable number of points. Jackson is to be congratulated on winning the colt race, and Towey, who came 8th in the senior race. The seniors themselves were placed second in the actual race.

The results of the gymnastics qualifying are not yet known at the time of writing, but it was very gratifying to see an almost 100 per cent turn-out by the Sixth Form at some of the specified times. We owe our thanks to Barnes R. for all the work he did in "encouraging" his fellow Sixth Formers into the gym.

Still on a bright note, let us turn to junior rugby. George, their captain, has led them well, and they won their matches against Gibbs (6-3) and Halliwells (9-5), but lost against Cobbs (6-14) and Miltons (0-32). Overshadowing their victories was the apparent inability of half the team to appear for an organized practice.

The chess has not yet been decided, but it looks as though our prospects are not too high with one match still to be played against Gibbs. We drew 5-5 with Cobbs and lost 3-7 and 2-8 to Halliwells and Miltons respectively.

The final cup to be contested this term is the Dramatics Trophy. We hope for success in this as much work has been put into the play, "St. Simeon Stylites," by producer Cottee and our chief stage hands Lewis and Taylor. Cottee especially deserves credit for all his "coaching," and stepping into one of the parts at very short notice.

Although it is obvious that the House at the moment has less talent at its command than other Houses, it must be remembered that this is a temporary phase, and the luck of the draw may come our way again. In the meantime we must try our utmost in every activity to improve our position in the Cock House Competition.

Great interest will be centred on the cricket, tennis, athletics and swimming competitions next term.

PETER T. GREENE.

STRAPHANGERS

Captain : J. A. Goosebloode.

Prefects :

P. E. Boot, R. F. D. Addercrumbie, P. T. Stockfysh, K. E. Wildespunge.

I must begin these notes by bidding farewell to our former House Captain, Fred Mallow, who has left School to spend a term at an institution of another kind in Brixton. Next it is my duty to welcome to the House a splendid influx of first formers: may they prove as loyal to House traditions as Freddy Mallow.

Turning to this term's sporting activities, it is with some regret that I must admit that Straphangers did not do so well as expected. I give below

a brief resumé of our achievements, which depended, as so often before, on those who nobly resisted the temptation of playing squash on Wednesday afternoon :

Backgammon : We were unlucky to lose the Backgammon Tournament mainly because our captain, Peter Boot, was forced to play with a blistered thumb. Thus after losing our first two matches we were defeated in the third and beaten in the last. Congratulations are due, however, to Boot for raising a team and for buying the drinks afterwards. Carry on, Peter !

Croquet : Hard pitches and a warm, dry spell seemed to promise well at the beginning of the croquet season. Nevertheless we were unfortunately beaten in every match (against one House their captain actually admitted kicking the ball through the hoop) ; I must stress, however, that this is no reflection on the play of our leader, Dick Addercrumbie, who put every effort into encouraging and training the team. It may truly be said that the House has never had a finer captain—and never, since Dick introduced the double-headed penny, have we won the toss so many times.

All-in Wrestling : Pete Stockfysh led the team and is now making a good recovery at the Nelson Hospital. I feel bound to congratulate also Arrowfoot E. J., of the Fifth Form, who in the last bout of the term brilliantly pinioned his opponent in a Dutch quarterlock with forearm side-spring, which I have never seen performed so elegantly before. He too hopes to be out and about again before very long.

Dramatics : Ken Wildespunge produced this year's House Play, which was " St. Simeon's Comedy," by S. Flayem-Smith. We were unlucky to be placed fifth, especially as we had taken so much trouble translating the play into the modern idiom ; the scene was transferred to Johannesburg and St. Simeon (ably played by Mortimer-Cuttle R.) was represented as a negro supporter of apartheid whom no persuasion could succeed in softening. I would like to thank the cast and stagehands on behalf of all those who, like myself, enjoyed the wonderful tornado effect at the end of Scene Two. Better luck next time !

So another term draws to a close and Straphangers are still without a point in the Cock House Cup. Nevertheless we must not be despondent. It is not winning that matters, but playing, and the game is more important than the result. Those of you who have been treated for minor injuries after losing a House rugby match will agree with me ; after all, N.H.S. contributions do come out of House funds. I must end these notes with a brief appeal to those who seem too reticent to support the House—come forward ! Backgammon may be your game.

J.A.G.

WELBY CUP HOUSE DEBATES, 1961

They very nearly did not happen ! In a House Cup debate chance, and not one's own views, determines whether one has to support or oppose a given motion. Debates in the Autumn Term were, with one exception,

even more poorly attended than usual, and a demand arose for discussions rather than debates: a demand with which I found myself in considerable sympathy. Fifth and Sixth formers who are interested in thinking about matters in general at all, are interested in the search for truth rather than in sharpening their wits proposing or opposing motions often in flagrant defiance of what they themselves sincerely believe. The debate as a game perhaps belongs to a later and not necessarily more admirable stage in growing up—or should it be down? However, when in the light of all this we seriously discussed abandoning the House debates for this year, the more conservative elements of the Sixth were horrified at the idea of giving up what had become a time-honoured institution. The debates happened as usual.

Two small alterations were made in the rules and regulations: first, the number of speakers from each House was reduced from five to four; secondly, the rule severely restricting the written material to which a speaker might refer was completely withdrawn; at the same time extra emphasis was given to the warning that those who read their speeches were unlikely to score high marks.

MOTIONS	Prop. by	Opp. by	Voting	Judges' Verdict
That the monarchy should be abolished	Gibbs	Cobbs	lost (4-7)	Cobbs (2:1)
That Pop music degrades Great Britain	M'tons	N'soms	cd (11-10)	M'tons (un)
That commercial advertising is immoral	M'tons	H'wells	cd (9-8)	M'tons (un)
That discretion is by far the better part of valour	M'tons	Cobbs	cd (16-11)	Cobbs (un)

The first three debates were a little dull and I was interested to see that those who did secure high marks were invariably those who, in addition to putting forward a good case, had been able to introduce an element of humour, to have some lightness of touch. I also observed that among the first speakers on either side, the one who gained a lead over his opponent in the opening speeches often more than lost it on account of the relative poorness of his summing up. The whole fate of a House sometimes depended on the summing up, which perhaps more than anything else enables a debater to show his quality. A small point to note is that in a formal debate it is useless for those who ask rhetorical questions to pause for a reply!

In marked contrast to the preliminary debates the final was lively throughout, hard-hitting and humorous. Speakers had gone to considerable trouble to find apt quotations with which to illumine their case and these were used with admirable effect. At the end of this debate one felt for the first time this year that senior debating was worth while continuing after all. It was a good game and excellent fun.

H.A.P.

S.C.M. CONFERENCE, 1961

If you are opposed to Communism, how do you intend to combat its rapid growth, and what constructive alternative would you offer the world today? This was the question before the Conference of the Student Christian Movement held in the School Hall on March 28th. The Reverend D. A. Rhymes, B.A., who was a member of the Communist Party during the years 1935-9 was the speaker, and representatives of the five schools present had the opportunity of group discussion and questioning afterwards.

The Rev. Rhymes stated that more than half of the world's population was Communist at the present time, and he went on to show how this situation has evolved. The progression of man's attitude was, "God over Man" in the Middle Ages, "Man over God" in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, "Man concerned with himself" in Victorian times, and now "Man disillusioned." This disillusionment caused by two world wars and a constant sense of insecurity has left a large spiritual vacuum in the world, and this has over the last fifty years been filled by Communism. If one faith goes, another must take its place, and there has been nothing more acceptable than Communism to fill the gap.

The Western World, offering a flabby materialism only concerned with its own wealth, is no answer to the problem, and it seems that Christianity is the only suitable alternative that can settle the world's problems. If Christianity is to succeed there must be a great spiritual revival in the Church, and it is up to each of us to play our part in this.

The address produced much fruitful discussion, and a large number of questions were answered in the open forum after the refreshments. Our thanks are due to the Rev. Rhymes for the excellent way in which he conducted the conference.

N. E. COLE.

ONDINE

On the 15th of March a body of French-speaking Sixth formers visited the Aldwych Theatre to see a performance of "Ondine," by Jean Giraudoux. The play was first produced in 1939 and this was the first London performance.

Leslie Caron played the part of Ondine, substituting a gamine charm for the more ethereal beauty that the part would seem to demand. However, the production was excellent, rising well to the demands that Giraudoux makes in this play.

Extraordinary feats of prestidigitation were perpetrated and other interesting effects achieved, including the appearance of *Venus au naturel*. The play itself is rather puzzling but certainly amusing, and the evening was well enjoyed.

G. J. MANSELL.

THE MINSTREL'S FEET

Juan's fingers ticked a lazy rhythm on the hollowed body of the wise old guitar, wise with the music of many hands, and a line of dust grains shifted uneasily across the wood, jerking to the movements of his corded fingertips. He kept on tapping until the line of grains had reached the edge and had seen the dusty ground below, had hesitated, then slid away leaving the weathered varnish clean and free. All is ready, thought Juan, and he plucked with easy deliberation, releasing the pent-up wisdom of the guitar, plucked and fingered and strummed and caressed so that the worn old instrument took the music in its cupped body and vibrated down in its own hollowed belly. Presently when, he thought, the guitar was ready and the time was ripe, Juan began to sing, low and humbly, so that he wouldn't disturb the rippling words of the strings.

*They built the Colon railroad, tie by tie,
Under the sun till their blood ran dry,
It never did matter what the weather was like,
They had to build that railroad spike by spike.*

Juan lay back and let the music drift away. There were more notes, more verses, but the one verse was enough. In itself it was an entirety. Juan could see the construction gangs burning under the white sun, their aching heads bent low over the powdering earth, their backs knotting and bending over their labours. He could hear them chant as they hammered spikes into ties. He could see sweat fall on metal and be swallowed away by the furnace heat of the afternoon. Juan lay back in the shade of the old wall and shifted his bare feet out across the dividing line between shadow and burning sunlight. His feet were horny and dust-coloured. They looked like two fawn rocks lying on the crumbling dust. Only when he flexed his strong toes did they look like feet. Juan stared at his feet, and his feet stared back.

Back beyond his feet the dusty ground stretched away in a dun-coloured slope down to the single track of the Colon railroad. Soon a train of sugar cane would rattle down the metals that burnt under the scalding sun.

Juan's fingers took up the rhythms of the strings again, loosing the gentle voices easily with his supple hands, moulding the sounds. He watched the railroad track from under sagging eyelids. The scene shifted and wavered loosely in the heat-dancing air. He began to sing again, gently and easily :

*In the good land, Father planted sugar cane
To flourish under wind and sun and rain.
He planted sugar cane in the good land
And cane and I grew up strong hand in hand.*

Once more he let the music drift away and for a moment the last vibrant notes lay lightly in the sun-soaked air. As an answer the sad-throated sound of a locomotive whistle sounded down the track and the rattle of wheels and pistons gathered itself louder and louder. Juan stood

up so that he could see the first burst of smoke over the knoll. He brushed the dust from his faded singlet and tattered jeans.

With a cloud hovering over its big funnel stack, rods flashing, the locomotive churned down the line at the head of a line of cane cars, piles of dull, golden cane.

Juan strummed on his guitar, fiercely and eagerly, catching the strident rhythm of the pounding wheels, throwing back his head and singing proudly :

*Rolling down, to the sea,
Rolling down, to the sea,
Sugar cane, to the sea.
Locomotive, carry me,
Rolling down, to the sea.
Rolling down, 'long the track,
Ain't no need to bring me back.
Locomotive, carry me,
Rolling down, to the sea.*

The train slewed away. Just a drift of smoke for Juan to watch, just a whip of loco grease to sniff, the smell of travel, of wide horizons.

The dusky engineer turned to his dusky stoker.

"Y'know," he said, "I wonder 'oo that guy is, man? Every damn time we pass that crazy knoll, there 'e is. Man, I just do think 'e's crazy. Ain't no damn sense in it."

The stoker grinned like a keyboard as he opened the firebox door. "Man, 'e's just some pure bloody frustrated fella," he said.

Train gone, smoke gone, grease-smell gone, Juan looked sadly at the guitar that lay like a stranger, awkward in his hands. Tentatively he touched the strings, threw back his head self-consciously,

*Locomotive, carry me,
Rolling down, to the sea.*

It was stilted. He was defeated. He wasn't on a train to God-knows-where. He hunched his shoulders and walked off down the hill under the fierce sun, the guitar loose in his hand, bumping now and then on the ground. He reached down and touched one of the rough, sun-whitened ties. A tear ran down his face to his unshaven chin.

"I'm never going to leave," he said aloud, "I'm just gonna lay around here and wish and wish, but I'm never gonna leave. Just gonna sit."

Juan lay back and stretched out his dusty feet that looked like the ground. He stared sadly at his feet and with infinite sadness his feet stared back.

P. J. LOVEDAY, VI Arts.

AND WHAT IF WE DO DOUBT

Dare we ask "Well, is there?"

Might we say :

"As flies to wanton boys, are we to th' gods ;
They kill us for their sport,"
Or watch,

Not falcons they, perhaps,
But anxious to observe
The fruits of their precocious minds.

"Come, there is no more to see :
Let us now go home to tea."

"All hail to Thee, Great Father."

And what if we do doubt and yet there is

An outer darkness

As ours within ?

Shall we then not gnash our teeth

"Forgive us our trespasses."

Let us then kneel, brethren,
Before our graven image of stone worn smooth
By shuffling sandals and

Polished to the pitch of angular knees

To reflect half-formed anxieties

"I believe"

Fetch it, kitten, that ball of wool !

Weave it about you like a warm sweater,

For wool will keep you warm and good.

Yet let us not probe within the stone

"Feel after me and ye shall find me"

Nor bare our hearts unto it

"All hail to Thee, Great Father.

"We believe we believe we believe."

PAUL F. WHITE, VI Arts.

POEM

We lie in the boat,
you and I.

Water is still.

The dank forest is silent
looming up on two sides,
thick.

Yet so misty,
that it looks as if it will dissolve

a rain of green
upon our two bodies.
Sky is quiet,
Clouds amble.
Birds glide,
singing with their wings
and I turn
and look at your face,
dreaming into the water
where your small hand trails.
Soon you will age.
Soon your face will crack.
Soon your body will rot,
Your beauty will vanish,
and
will have made as much impression
on this earth,
as the tail of a pheasant
on the winter snow.
When I realize this
I want to scream.
Scream at the smirking God
sitting in the forest.
I want to strangle him.
I want the birds to fly
cackling
cackling
high into the air.
—But
all
remains
silent.
And you dream
into the water
where your
small
hand
trails.

P. J. ANDREWS, VI Arts.

EARLY DAYS

A Symposium of Memories by Members of the Second Forms

When I was two years old, my father was still at University and my family lived in the basement of a typically Victorian house in Swiss Cottage, where green and vaguely cream plaster and ceiling were constantly falling into the porridge; and taking a bath meant sitting in an ancient zinc contraption behind the gas-stove (which had old wooden handles that kept falling off). My mother was always having a row with the landlady, who apparently lived somewhere up the stairs (blocked with prams and packing cases) which ran alongside the dimly-lit passage. These rows usually consisted of many unprintable adjectives about my rabbit, of which we had lost control, and which was running wild somewhere in the garden, now riddled with holes.

Anyway, one morning I was climbing up the bars, which conveniently blocked the window of the dining-room-cum-bedroom, when I was called by the 'cello player upstairs. She explained that a letter ("probably one of those bills again") intended for my father had somehow got into her post, and would I please give it to him. She then leaned out of the window (some of the sill crashed to the ground at this point) and dropped the brown, official-looking envelope, but it fell into a sort of bricked-in ditch these Victorian houses have, which serve to let in light for the basement windows. I had always been warned not to go into it because of the broken glass and old tobacco tins, and this really made it all the more a daring venture to go down into this ditch and retrieve the letter. I was surveying the ditch, planning my strategy, when I slipped down into it. The ditch was about four feet deep and as I fell I cut my face and leg.

The next thing I remember was being rushed to hospital in a taxi with a cold flannel smothering my face, while I was screaming the place down. We entered the "Casualty" entrance, which had a red-lettered sign looming above me as I was carried in.

Nothing extraordinary happened from then onwards, but I still have a three-inch scar on my leg, to remind me of the incident.

L. F. ELLIOTT.

A VISIT TO THE SWIMMING BATHS

The very first time I went to the swimming baths is a day I shall never forget. I was seven years old and I went with my old school. Although I had been to the sea before and had gone into the sea, the level of the water was never far above my knees, and if a big wave came it was easy to run out of the way. When I went into the swimming baths the sight of all that water gave me the jitters, but when I was meditating on the edge whether to get in or not, one of my classmates decided to have a bit of fun and he pushed me in. I think those few seconds while I was floundering about in the water were some of the most frightening seconds of my life. At last I managed to find the bottom with my feet and before I had a chance to

re'cover my senses there was the booming voice of the baths instructor, namely Miss Templeman (At the time we thought that Miss Templeman, commonly known as "Temp," was an old battleaxe, but she is a very good instructor although she makes you work jolly hard.). This lady made us do a number of exercises, all of which were very exhausting. Before the best part of ten minutes were up I had given up all hopes of ever being able to swim, was shivering with cold, quaking with fright and thoroughly exhausted. I was also feeling sick and ill and, although I wanted to get out, I decided to grin and bear it. By the time twenty minutes were up I was numb all over and the water seemed to be pushing me over (for it was only about three or four inches from my neck) and I was wondering whether I would be buried or cremated. After half an hour Miss Templeman told us that it was time to get out. A sudden pang of relief came into my reeling head.

I managed to scramble to my cubicle (how I do not know) and literally fell in. By the time I had dressed I was fully recovered, and when I saw my companion next to me still half naked and trembling like a drowned rat I said with an air of heroism, "Did you enjoy it? I didn't think that there was much to it, did you?"

B. PREECE.

THE BROKEN NEEDLE

I was quite small when this happened to me, and it is rather blurred in my mother's and father's minds, but I remember it vividly.

I must have been about five years old and my mother had taken me to the clinic in Burlington Road called "Roselands" to have a B.C.G. injection, because it was suspected that my father had a small patch of the illness which he had brought back with him from the Azores.

It was Monday morning and all the busy housewives were collecting as many bottles of babies' orange juice as could be sneaked into the secret compartment under their push-chairs specially made for this purpose.

At last we were ushered into a small, empty waiting room, reeking from ceiling to floor of sickly smells, such as surgical spirit, polio immunisation, and other such surgical, but nevertheless forbidding odours. Just as in other clinics and health establishments we had to wait half an hour for the doctor to arrive, and another twenty-five minutes for the nurse who was meant to assist him.

At last my mother and I were led into the small surgery where the two tormentors were standing. The doctor filled his syringe and placed a needle on the end of the instrument. "Now this won't hurt," bluffed the nurse, knowing full well that it would.

All would have gone well if that clumsy nurse had not jogged the performer. Of course she was sorry, but it was too late because the needle had broken in my arm. As it broke, the syringe leaped out of control and I received B.C.G. immunisation full in the eye. I could only scream for the next few minutes because of the agonizing pain, while the frustrated nurse

and doctor bribed me with a handful of "Smarties," tipping them down my throat, while the doctor, with feverish haste, tried to urge the half an inch of tubular steel out of my arm with a pair of tweezers.

At last the needle was ejected, leaving a hole but no blood on my arm. By this time the nurse had nearly choked me with "Smarties."

By the way, I suffered from bilious attacks for the next four days.

M. STONE.

SHOULDER RIDE

Third Lanark versus Celtic, March, 1953! My first taste of a football match. The eager crowd surged around me and my father as we queued up to enter the "Cathkin." I could hear the buzz of the crowd who had already entered and I could distinguish the noise of the rattles from the noises of the refreshment, programme and rosette sellers, who were pestering the crowd.

The teams entered and the whistle was blown to start the game, but my father, myself and about two thousand people were still outside, pushing, elbowing, kicking and all the time surging forward, crushing the people near the barriers. Some men, seeing I was going to be pushed into the barriers shouted "Get the wee boy on your shoulders, and we'll pass him forward over our heads."

The next thing I knew, I was being catapulted forward. I would compare it now with a racing dive in swimming, only instead of water, people! I was dazed but very glad to be out of the crush and down to the pay barrier, where I paid my money and entered the ground where I waited for my father.

The thrill of a shoulder ride was not appreciated then, but when I imagine it now I think I would rather like to have another one!

G. FLEMING.

A GUARDSMAN AT WINDSOR

My eyesight has never been particularly good from the day I was born. Even before I started school at the age of five I wore spectacles. Before I wore them I lived in a world of my own, a world of contorted vision, a world where everything seemed distorted and hideously ugly.

One day my mother took my elder brother and myself to Windsor Castle. We reached the castle just in time to see the guards finish their parade, and were standing in the gateway through which they had to march to reach their quarters. Then things began to happen. As the soldiers marched towards us my vision seemed to focus on one man, and as they came on my sight seemed to swirl about him.

The advancing figure was clothed in a bright red tunic and was carrying a rifle with a lethal-looking bayonet attached to the muzzle. His face was contorted in a most horrible way, and as he passed he shouted a

command. I started with fright. I could not any longer stand the noise and the vision that I perceived. I screamed and screamed and my mother could not control me.

I became dizzy and then I sank to the ground. The next thing I knew I was in the train going home. When we reached home, my mother took me to an eye specialist. He looked at my eyes very closely and he turned and said to my mother, "Your son has very bad eyes. The visions he must have had are quite unbelievable." From that time on I have never been without a pair of spectacles and I doubt if I ever will be able to see properly without some form of aid.

J. LOVEGROVE.

THE CIRCUS

One of my clearest recollections was the night I went to Bertram Mills' Circus, when I was about four. It was at first rather dark and I could not see the band or the ring, but soon realised the ring was a small space, roughly circular and a long way away. I don't remember much about it, but I do remember very vividly the man who climbed a very tall white pole. A few fat old ladies let out involuntary screams as the white "thing" swayed dangerously. I didn't scream. I just hoped he would fall because I had never see a dead body or a fat old lady having hysterics. Several times I thought he would fall, but he didn't, and all the fat old ladies gasped with relief.

J. BELCHAM.

MUSIC NOTES

This term *The Raynes Park Grammar School Singers*, making their first appearance in a competitive music festival, created a very favourable impression indeed by their singing of Bach and Elgar at Wimbledon. They boldly entered the Open Class, the only junior choir to do so, and were thus competing against adult and very experienced choirs; it was an encouraging achievement, therefore, that they gained second place and an Honours Certificate. In the Secondary School Class *The School Choir* gained the prize, a large shield, as well as the highest marks the adjudicator had awarded to any class. In his public summing up the judge paid great compliments to the choir, including the stimulating suggestion that here was a fine school choir which ought to be capable of producing a string of Oxford and Cambridge choral scholars; why not take this up, somebody? The choir found its photograph in the local press and was invited to appear in the Prizewinners' Concert, which it did, singing a four-part arrangement of "Swing, Low, Sweet Chariot." The Headmaster has agreed that the choir should now sing an anthem from time to time at the morning assembly. But a word of advice: The hymns are frequently not being given a sufficiently lively lead and their performance is not always worthy of the choir's fine reputation. Finally, it seems likely that the choir will be invited to sing in a professional theatrical production during the coming months: this would be excellent experience.

Meantime, *The School Orchestra* has been busy on Monday evenings rehearsing for the annual concert in July. There have been good and enthusiastic attendances and the works rehearsed have included an arrangement of 'The Mastersingers' Prelude and the Schubert C major Symphony.

John Wilbraham continues to distinguish himself as a trumpeter. Recently, he gave a fine performance of the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the Surbiton Light Orchestra and by the time these notes appear will have been televised at the Royal Festival Hall playing 1st trumpet in Britain's National Youth Orchestra, under Sir Malcolm Sargent and in the presence of the Queen Mother.

The newly-formed *String Orchestra* has made a promising start with works by Boccherini, Bach and Grieg; it will make its first appearance at the July concert.

The *Recorder Club*, under R. C. True, has been working on suites by Mayr (18th cent.) and Peter Crossley-Holland, a contemporary British composer who is also a B.B.C. producer. A programme of study has been carefully worked out for the Summer Term and the Club will be making a contribution to the School concert.

The *Da Vinci Society* this term sponsored a challenging music competition in which boys were invited to submit and record their own compositions. The judges' decision is not available for these notes, but the material presented has included works for orchestra, choir, viola, bassoon and piano; there has been a classical suite, a funeral march and a musical portrait of mythical one-eyed giants. There appears to have been general respect for tonality and the School will have an opportunity of hearing these works at a Da Vinci concert.

D.A.

DA VINCI SOCIETY

The first talk this term was given by Laird of 5I, under the title "Maori Art." Laird, who recently came to us from New Zealand, had learnt how to carve in the Maori style. He lucidly explained the technique and gave a short history of the Maori people.

Mr. Riley was the next lecturer to address the Society. He gave an illustrated talk on the work of the English artist Paul Nash. In his lecture Mr. Riley emphasised the mystic quality of this artist's work.

This term marked a new venture in the history of the Society. In addition to our usual Art Competition we have organised a Music Competition of original works. Details of this competition and the results will be given in our report next term.

The criticism and announcement of the winners of this term's Art Competition occupied our next meeting. This time competitors were asked to make a picture based on a piece of poetry by James Joyce, or a piece of prose by Henry Williamson. The entries in the Senior Section were of a

very high standard and after great deliberation the judges awarded the Senior Prize to P. Loveday, the Middle School award went to J. J. Burt, and the Junior School award to L. F. Elliott. Our thanks are tendered to the judges, Mr. Bell, Mr. Venning and Dr. Morgan.

In the next lecture, P. Loveday of the 6th, gave an excellent talk on Salvador Dali and at the same time traced the history of the Surrealist Movement.

The Society was pleased to welcome a new speaker, Mr. Bell, who has recently joined the staff. "The Living Theatre?" was the subject of Mr. Bell's talk. The picture he presented was one of pessimism and the verity of his exposition on the Government's attitude towards a National Theatre was borne out by the subsequent news in the press that there is to be no Government support for such a project.

The final meeting of the term was addressed by P. A. Riley of 5I, who chose as his subject "Struggle in Art." In his talk Riley covered a wide field and admirably illustrated it with reproductions from a large range of artists.

Readers will no doubt have noticed the unusual brevity of this term's report. My verbosity has been curtailed by an edict from "above" that society reports should be pruned. Perhaps this is a good thing, but may I anticipate any misunderstanding that this short report in any way suggests that the activities of the Society are in abeyance; on the contrary, attendances are as high as ever and the interest shown is testimony to the excellence of our speakers.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking them all for their enthusiastic support this term.

CECIL RILEY.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

A very entertaining meeting took place on Monday, January 16th, at the President's house, when Mr. Kilburn spoke about Lucian, whose works he had recently translated. His talk included a reading of extracts from Lucian's "True History," an hilarious parody of contemporary travellers' tales. The story anticipated science fiction and was a brilliant exercise in the light fantastic which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The evening closed with wine and olives.

JOHN BULL.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The Society met at School on Monday, March 27th, when we read "The Cocktail Party," by Eliot. This play is long and difficult to appreciate in one reading, so that despite spirited readings by the protagonists, the evening tended to become somewhat dull.

M. A. G. EVANS.

CHESS CLUB

Yet another successful term has been completed and the School lost only one match. House matches are, at the time of writing, still under way and at a critical stage. It is impossible to see any decisive result yet, but both Miltons and Cobbs are in strong positions; Newsoms, however, have definitely captured fifth place.

The tournament has dragged somewhat, owing to illness, drawn matches and, on many occasions, laziness. Congratulations are due to Moffat for reaching the final, and Raison and Knapp the semi-final.

A league system has been incorporated into the junior section, and another tournament has been completed. In inter-school matches the juniors too have more than held their own, and if their early promise is maintained all looks well for the seniors in the next few years.

Before closing I should like to thank Mr. Pratt for sponsoring us, Mr. Rudgeley for the use of the library during School matches, and Mrs. Sutherland for helping us with the catering. I am also indebted to Johnny Attwood for the amount of work that he has put in as Secretary—and as purchaser of sets and boards—and to Barry Spencer for giving up so much time to run the Junior Club. I can only hope that the Captain next year has as much support as I have had.

Played this term: v. Tiffins, won $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$; v. Wimbledon County (Boys), won $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$; v. Rutlish, lost $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$; v. Bushey (juniors), won 8-4; v. Bushey (juniors and seniors), won $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Overall Record	Played	Won	Lost	Pts. for	Against
Seniors and Juniors	8	7	1	46	18
Juniors	1	1	0	8	4
Individual Record	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Seniors: Megan	7	3	2	2	8
Moffat	8	2	6	0	10
Hall	8	6	2	0	14
Attwood	7	5	0	2	10
Miles	5	4	0	1	8
Harvey	6	3	0	3	6

Also played: Mansell, Preece, Blunden.

Individual Record	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Juniors: Blunden	5	3	1	1	7
Mallett	6	4	1	1	9
Raison	6	6	0	0	12
Whitaker	5	3	0	2	6

Also played: Gorton, Hingston, Ring.

R. I. MEGAN.

CHRISTIAN UNION

The programme of the Christian Union this term has centred around the First Epistle of Peter, and the opening chapters of the Book of Revelation.

Practical Christian belief is a subject that is rarely studied in great detail nowadays since there is so much that man cannot hope to understand about the nature of God. The Bible exhorts us to have simple faith like that of little children, but is it a good thing occasionally to look a little deeper into our beliefs and so come to grips more firmly with our faith. This has been the underlying intention behind this term's meetings.

We are told in the Bible that God the Father is perfect and eternal: fearful to those that neglect Him but merciful to those that repent. People often wonder how it was that this perfect God was able to create sinful men. The questioners, however, rarely realise that they are themselves basically at fault; He did not; Man turned himself to sin some time after his creation.

How was it, then, they ask, that sin suddenly evolved in a world that was perfect?—Surely something in the world must have been imperfect?

This question is best answered by a parallel. Most people have had the experience of walking in the countryside on a glorious sunny day—what could be more perfect? Now assuming that a country rambler started out on a walk being perfectly clean in his body, sooner or later he will get dirt on him from the countryside. We have already said that the earth in the countryside was perfect, and we know that the rambler was once perfectly clean, but the combination of these two perfect items results in a grubby rambler.

The Christian Church on earth is the spiritual body of Christ, and everybody on earth, without exception, gets spiritually grubby through contamination with the world. What then can be done? The natural thing for our rambler to do would be to wash the dirt off himself, and so it is also necessary for men on earth to wash themselves spiritually. This the death of Christ enables them to do. Just as man can have no use for a diseased limb in his body, so God can have no use for diseased members in His Body, the Church. One day He has promised that He will purge it clean.

N. E. COLE.

565 SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

This term the Squadron embarked on a recruiting campaign, the effects of which we hope will be felt early next term. The chief part of this campaign was an Open Night which was held on Friday, March 17th, and we feel was very successful. About 250 parents and boys from the School attended and displays of all the Squadron's activities were shown, and most of our visitors seemed duly impressed.

Examination results have once again been favourable this term and four out of the five entered for the Proficiency Aircrew examination passed. They were Cadets Mercer, Manger, Maidment and Cox, all of whom had outstanding marks. Four Cadets have passed their Basic Training examination this term, which makes them eligible to attend Annual Training. They are Cadets Borland, Bambridge, Pitt and Rance.

Annual Training this year will be at R.A.F. Swinderby, near Lincoln, between April 12th and 19th. It is a Flying Training Command Station and hence it is hoped that a maximum amount of flying will be had by all of the 24 Cadets that are attending.

Most of the Parade Nights this term have been spent preparing for the Open Night. The Junior Cadets and the Junior Air Guild had been under instruction in Ground Combat Training in the gymnasium for the excellent display they put on on March 17th. Seniors have been engaged in Aircrew Training, Engineering Training and drill, which all added to the success of the evening.

It is hoped that a large number of the boys who came to the Open Night will join us next term any Friday night at 6.45 p.m. when recruiting we hope will be vigorous.

K. L. FORSDYKE.

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

By the time these notes are read the Scout Movement will have made its annual impact on the general public through Bob-a-Job week. This event is the means whereby the central administrative unit of Scouting is financed. Scouts feel that it is better really to earn their money than to solicit it by less arduous means. Scouting is less centralised than most organisations and the Scout patrol within a Troop is still the most important unit in the Movement, but for convenience some central authority is necessary and the 19th has done its share, along with other Groups, to support the Imperial Headquarters.

The Senior Troop has made good progress since its formation last September and now has two patrols. Many badges have been gained and several members are well on the way to Queen's Scout and the Duke of Edinburgh's award. At the time of writing, the Seniors are preparing for their Venturer Hikes in Sussex, which will take place at Easter, and for their summer expeditions to Scotland.

While the Seniors are carrying out their Venturer project, Scouts with their First and Second Class will attend a Pioneer and Backwoodsman Badge Course at our camp site at West Hoathly. Less experienced Scouts will have their first opportunity to camp this year at the Garden Party and at patrol camps in June.

Scouting is a movement and we therefore look forward rather than back. However, April marks the beginning of the new Scout Year and is a time when we might reflect on the past year's achievements so that we

may profit by our experience in the coming year. The standard of technical training in the Group is high and we have maintained full numbers throughout the year. The formation of the Senior Troop left vacancies in the Boy Scout Troop, which were soon filled by first formers. We hope to create some more vacancies in May to accommodate those waiting to join. All look forward to another year as happy and rewarding as the last.

P.R.W.G.

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Since publication of our last report, there has been continued activity on the part of members on the two projects mentioned. The tunnel on the approach track to Oberon is now complete, the engineering problems involved having been satisfactorily solved with the aid of cardboard and plaster of paris, with an overlayer of surgical lint! (The plaster of paris, incidentally, has literally "left its mark" in the School!)

Milton Park Station is in an advanced state of complete reconstruction. Following discussions with the engineers, designers, permanent-way staff and operating personnel, a decision was reached to provide a terminus for local trains. (The commuters were tired of waiting for "through" trains which, all too often, just did not stop!) The station buildings and booking hall have been rebuilt at the end of the platforms, one of which provides a halt for the long-distance trains, whilst the other acts as the local terminus for the "train to town," often hauled either by the tiny tank engine or its more modern counterpart, the diesel.

This term we have made a change in our meeting night: formerly on Monday evenings, the Club now gets together to discuss things mechanical and electrical—and to operate trains—on Wednesdays, and we have been pleased to welcome several new members. We have also been happy to extend a welcome to Mr. Nutton, who has agreed to come along on Wednesday evenings and, with Mr. Carlow, to fulfil the joint functions of Engineer-in-Chief and General Manager of the line. We were sorry to lose Mr. Haw, and extend to him apologies for having mis-spelt his name in our last report.

The Garden Party looms ahead at the time of going to press, and we hope that once again the Spur Model Railway will attract, as in the past, enthusiasts from six to sixty.

S. CARLOW.

STAMP CLUB

Despite the fine weather the Club has continued to flourish. Activities are much the same at meeting times, but now competitions are held to occupy some of the members' time outside Club meetings. Each week a subject is set—for example a design for a new stamp—and the winner is rewarded from the weekly subscription of the other members.

So far, however, the competitions have not been an overwhelming success when compared with the number of members. Membership has remained fairly constant, although now Mr. A. Smith looks in as well as several other new members, ranging in age groups from the second to fifth forms.

R. I. MEGAN.

JAZZ LISTENING GROUP

During the course of this term, besides the usual general programme of the past, various boys have put on programmes of their own choice. C. J. Rose put on a programme containing records by Gerry Mulligan combos and an excellent album by the Junior Mance Trio. D. L. Brodie put on a programme about Dave Brubeck and the M.J.Q. R. Miles presented an interesting album of the alto-sax playing of Art Pepper and this writer presented a programme on the development of the tenor sax in Jazz.

All the programmes this term have been interesting, but have been poorly attended. I do not find this disconcerting as I would far rather listen to Jazz in the company of half a dozen really interested people, than a roomful of people only half interested. But I feel that people are missing a great deal by not attending because there is a "modern" programme. It is true that "modern" Jazz is more complicated musically than "traditional," but the joys one gets out of it are far greater I think, and with the changes made in tone, rhythm, melody and harmony over the last decade, the emotional range has been widened; and emotion is surely what makes Jazz such an individual music form, for here the musician can be himself far more than in, say, classical music, where the musician is trying to attain the original perfection of the great composer.

So to end, gentle reader, please make the effort to come along and concentrate on the Jazz that is played, and the benefits you will get will well reward your effort.

PETER J. ANDREWS.

HOCKEY

1st XI

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

Captain : R. F. D. Crowe. *Secretary* : C. L. Courtenay.

RESULTS

v Reigate Grammar School	...	...	...	...	(A)	Won	2-0
v. Trinity School	...	...	...	...	(A)	Lost	0-2
v. Royal Masonic School II	...	...	...	...	(H)	Won	5-1
v. St. George's College II	...	...	...	...	(H)	Lost	1-2
v. Thames Valley Grammar School	...	...	...	...	(A)	Lost	0-2
v. Reigate Grammar School	...	...	...	...	(A)	Lost	2-3
v. Badingham College	...	...	...	...	(A)	Drew	1-1

Played 7, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 4.

MATCHES CANCELLED

Thames Valley Grammar School (H), Reigate Grammar School (H), Beckenham Grammar School (H), Russell School (H).

GOAL SCORERS

Crowe (6), Nicholls (3), Rusling (2), goals for, 11; goals against, 11.

With five of last year's 1st XI still at school, hopes were high of continuing the run of nine matches without defeat, set up the previous season.

Our first opponent was the weather: the rain teemed down, swamping the Oberon. Although we had three holiday practices, School matches were out of the question with the result that our first four home matches were cancelled.

As the results show, the majority of the seven matches we played we lost, the blame for which undoubtedly falls on the forwards. They continually broke down immediately they were within shooting range, created very few openings and very rarely looked dangerous. This lack of finishing dispirited the defence, which slowed down after an enthusiastic start. However, what the side has lacked in basic skills (stopping and stick work) it has made up with tireless chasing and worrying.

Now that work has begun on retraining the Oberon we can expect that next season fewer matches will be cancelled because of the weather.

MATCHES

We started well with a win against Reigate. Raynes Park, having settled down, pressed consistently and won several corners, most of which were wasted by hesitant corner taking. Our first goal came when Rusling scrambled the ball home from two yards. In contrast our second goal, in the second half was brilliantly hit into the net by Crowe, who ran through the middle onto a long pass from Corbett.

Despite a long warming up session before the match, Raynes Park were soon hard pushed by a polished Trinity eleven, which directed the play as they pleased. Their stopping and hitting was far superior to ours and the energetic defence did well to concede only two goals.

Against Royal Masonic 2nd XI we built up a 5-1 lead in the first half. Attacking furiously, Raynes Park were easily the faster, more purposeful players and the goals came from Crowe (2), Nicholls (2) and Rusling. In the second half, no doubt tired by our exertions, the pace considerably slowed and there was no further score.

Our best match of the season we were unlucky to lose to St. George's 2nd, when a draw would have been a fair result. Moving the ball cleverly and intelligently, St. George's College had the edge in the first half but despite good approach work neither side scored. St. George's were suddenly two up when two awkwardly bouncing shots were misjudged by Morley.

Raynes Park staged a stirring comeback, but we were only able to score once through Nicholls's backing up, before the whistle blew.

Although without three regular players, Raynes Park put on a dreary display against Thames Valley. With attacks dominated by defences, the match looked like ending in a goalless draw until Thames Valley scored an unexpected goal from an acute angle and netted the ball again a few minutes from time.

Reigate, seeking revenge, beat a Raynes Park side which woke up only in the second half. With perfect conditions and a 1-0 lead, we slackened off with the disastrous result that in spite of fine goalkeeping from Morley, our opponents scored three goals. Crowe got a consolation goal, his second of the match, from a penalty bully.

Our final match against Badingham was played on the side of a hill. Starting slowly, our opponents were faster on the ball so that at half time Badingham were one up. Mastering the conditions, Raynes Park fought back but never threatened. At last we equalled when Courtenay broke through and pulled the ball back from the goal line for Crowe to hit the ball in. A draw was a fair result and gives next year's team an unbeaten run of one game to continue.

C. L. COURTENAY.

1st XI Portraits

Morley : Save for one or two inexplicable lapses he has played courageously and well.

Heaver : Unspectacular, slow enough to cause concern on occasion, but nevertheless sound.

Shaw : Sometimes fails to stop the ball but usually manages to retrieve the situation. Can hit the ball well, but sometimes lacks concentration when doing so.

Attwood : A footballer's sense of positional play; he sometimes gets his feet tangled, but usually disposes of the opposition.

Clark : Strong and solid, he tackles hard and wins the ball.

White : Our other footballing half back, who uses his stick neatly and to good effect.

Corbett : His play improved greatly as the season progressed, though he perhaps tends to get rid of the ball too quickly.

Courtenay : Performed the task of secretary admirably. A very hard worker on the field who is capable of clever stickwork, though he lacks a hard shot.

Nicholls : Once on the field he plays with fire and enthusiasm, relying on speed and strength, rather than finesse, to pass the opposition defence.

Rusling : In his first season in the difficult position of left wing he has played surprisingly well, his chief failing being the lack of a reverse stick centre.

R. F. D. CROWE.

Crowe (Capt.) : Not only captain of the team, but also leader of the attack and leading goalscorer. His finest assets are his hard shot and positional play, but has not this season been given enough support or chances from the other forwards. He has been a popular and efficient captain, always ready to give his time and lend his car to carry equipment.

Also played for the 1st XI : Wood, Hall, Sinfield, Brown, Crittenden and Megan.

Colours awarded to : Attwood, Clark, Corbett and Courtenay.

Half Colours awarded to : White, Shaw and Rusling.

C. L. COURTENAY.

2nd XI

RESULTS

v. Reigate Grammar School	(A)	Won	4-3
v. Royal Masonic School III	(H)	Won	4-3
v. St. George's College III	(H)	Lost	0-2
v. Thames Valley Grammar School	(A)	Won	3-1
v. Reigate Grammar School	(A)	Drawn	2-2
v. Wandsworth Grammar School	(A)	Won	4-2
v. Badingham College	(A)	Won	3-0

Played 7, Won 5, Drawn, 1 Lost 1.

Goals for, 20; goals against, 13.

This season the 2nd XI had a great record to equal, set by last year's team — unbeaten in every match. One match, however, this season has been a defeat, but nevertheless the record is again impressive, and would no doubt have been even better if more matches could have been played.

Our main weakness has been the inability of the forwards to score goals when presented with easy chances, but despite a lack of finishing power, the team as a whole has combined effectively, playing as a unit and not as individuals. The defence has been steady, though not brilliant, and has given the forwards a good service, with the result that the typically Raynes Park hit-and-run style of play has been usually successful.

The most regular members of the team were: Francis, Shaw, Woodhall, Smith A. L., Nisbet, Sherwin, Taylor, Crittenden, Wood M. K., Eastwood, Jones.

The following also played: Megan, Cotterell, Hall, Sinfield, Castagnola, Preece, Edwards.

Goal scorers: Wood 6, Jones 3, Eastwood 3, Crittenden 3, Hall 2, Megan 2 and Smith A. L. 1.

Half Colours awarded to: Shaw, Crittenden, Eastwood, Francis, Nisbet and Woodhall.

DEREK SHAW.

RUGBY "SEVENS"

Captain : P. E. Nicholls.

Master-in-Charge : R. Hindle Esq.

Dry but cloudy, hard but plenty of grass : these were the conditions when we met Hurstpierpoint in the 1st Round of the Surrey Sevens. A quick try from them surprised Park, who never recovered from this initial attack to play their best rugby.

So we entered the Plate Competition, and we had little difficulty in winning the first two rounds against Wandsworth and City of London School. In the semi-final our opponents were Haberdasher Aske's. In this match our superior threequarters outpaced their opposite numbers and we had a convincing 13-3 win. A surprising incident was that Nicholls kicked a penalty (although it did rebound off the upright) !

In the final we played U.C.S. We scored first after a brilliant 60-yard dash by Cox (who with Nicholls was our best player). U.C.S. scored after Nicholls was knocked out twice in as many minutes. The winning try came in the dying seconds, after a scrum-maul on our line. It was a close game and the score could have easily been the other way round.

Team was : Nicholls, Brown, Higham, Nisbet, Stephenson, Courtenay and Cox.

Scorers were : *Tries* : Cox 3, Courtenay 3, Brown 2, Stephenson 1.

Penalties : Nicholls 1. *Conversions* : Nicholls 4.

JEFF BROWN.

SURREY COLTS SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

A Raynes Park seven was entered for the Surrey Schools' seven-a-side tournament at Bec School on Wednesday, March 1st. They started well by beating Sutton 16-0. In the next round they met Mitcham and won 8-3, and in the third round they were again successful when they beat Wallington 3-0. The team was beaten, however, by Purley in the semi-final. At full time the score was 8-8, but Purley scored another try during extra time. The winners of the tournament were Tiffins, who beat Purley 6-3.

R. P. WRIGHT.

CROSS COUNTRY

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

Captain and Secretary : C. J. Steer.

This term cross-country teams have competed in a good number of inter-school and inter-club races and have had considerable success. The juniors especially excelled themselves and must surely by now be one of the strongest teams in the county. A number of runners have received individual honours, notably Steer and Jackson, who were chosen to represent Surrey in the National Schools' Championships.

The senior team has not, perhaps had its full share of good fortune owing to injuries and the requirements of hockey. They have been soundly beaten by Surbiton G.S. (33-59), Tiffin (30-57) and Rutlish (33-45), but

only narrowly lost to Wimbledon A.C. (108-123). These defeats were offset by pleasing victories over Mitcham G.S. (50-28) and Wimbledon C.S. (35-20), Steer breaking the School record in the last match.

The juniors won all their races against others schools, beating Surbiton (37-38), Bushey (25-57), Mitcham (26-53), Wimbledon (26-88), Jackson lowering his own record to 14 min. 59 sec., and came first in the Wimbledon Schools' Championships. As a result of their performances in this race, Jackson, Holland, Shrubbs and Chapman were chosen to represent the district in the Surrey Schools' Championships.

The juniors also shone in more important promotions. In the Selwyn Trophy, organised by Epsom and Ewell Harriers, they achieved an overall position of third. Holland received a medal for being placed second in the overall individual competition. In an open invitation race organised by the same club, the team came fifth, the only school beating them being Wandsworth. A somewhat weakened team entered for Sutton and Cheam Harriers' relay for the Simmon's Trophy and managed to come sixth out of sixteen teams. But the juniors' most outstanding success was in the Surrey A.A.A. Boys' Championship in which all the leading clubs and schools participate. The team of Jackson, Chapman, Holland and Keen ran brilliantly to come 4th.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Glead for his unflagging enthusiasm and encouragement (not to mention diabolical training sessions) which have helped to raise School cross country from the abyss into which it had sunk.

Colours have been awarded to C. J. Steer, I. Parkin, D. Ring, H. Satchell and Half Colours to P. Towey, K. Jackson, F. Holland.

The following ran regularly :

Juniors : Jackson, Holland, Shrubbs, Chapman, Brazier, Goulding, Emmings, Keen, Burgess.

Seniors : Steer, Parkin, Ring, Satchell, Towey, Heaver, Brown, Callanan.

THE INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

The competition for the S. H. Marshall Cup differed this year from previous years inasmuch as both colt and senior sections were included in the scoring and a system of pre-race qualifying points was introduced. Miltons, displaying a formidable concentration of running talent among their seniors, built up a strong lead in qualifying points, a lead which they never lost.

The two races were run in near perfect conditions and Miltons, thanks to a superb display of team running by their seniors, added to their lead to win the cup by a comfortable margin. Jackson of Newsoms won the junior race, smashing his own course record by nearly half a minute. Holland (Gibbs) was second and Shrubbs (Newsoms) third. All three were well

inside the previous record—an excellent performance. Cobbs were the team winners in this event.

The senior race was also extremely fast and was won by Steer of Cobbs in 19 min. 3 sec., with Brown and Courtenay, both of Miltons, second and third. Milton's packing their scoring eight into the first twenty, won the team event.

Scoring: 1st Miltons 1,538 pts., 2nd Cobbs 1,299 pts., 3rd Gibbs 1,296 pts., 4th Halliwell 1093 pts. Newsoms 1,042 pts.

C.J.S.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Prefects' Room, 20th March.

Sir,

The *Spur* has a long and honourable tradition and we, as members of this school, are proud of that tradition.

Thus you can imagine our disgust and horror on reading the Chess Club Report in last term's *Spur*. Obviously the author of such an article must be naive and narrow-minded.

We do not dispute the right of criticism in the *Spur*, but the remarks in this article are not a just criticism—they are an insult and should be treated as such. However, we of the Rugby Club, knowing the Chess captain to be entirely ignorant in the art of rugby, his only claim to rugby fame being as a reluctant wing-threequarter in a House match, and aware that he can't be held responsible for his actions, will regard the matter as a jest. But we must lodge a strong protest to the Editors and implore that there is not a recurrence of such literature.

Yours faithfully,

JEFF BROWN, Hon. Rugby Sec.

[The Chess Report in the previous issue of *The Spur* contained the sentence: "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."

The chess captain writes: "I, of course, did not mean the comparison to be taken as anything but a joke and I thought any clear-sighted person would see it in the same light."—The Editors.]

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