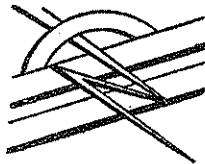


RAYNES PARK COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE  
SPUR

SPRING TERM 1962



VOLUME XVII

NUMBER 2

# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL

*"To each his need, from each his power"*

Vol. XVII

Spring Term, 1962

No. 2

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## SCHOOL OFFICERS

SPRING TERM, 1962

*Head Boy* : A. J. Phillips.

*Deputy Head Boy* : B. W. Spencer.

*Prefects* :

R. A. Barnes, J. J. Brown, C. J. P. Chambers, M. Chandler, R. M. Clark, I. Corbett, C. L. Courtenay, R. J. Crittenden, J. M. Crocker, H. Dalton, B. T. Elsdon, M. A. G. Evans, D. L. Forster, M. J. Lawrenson, R. G. Miles, C. I. Moffat, P. E. Nicholls, N. A. Preece, D. I. Shaw, A. L. Smith, I. Stephenson, R. C. True, P. F. White, J. H. G. Wilbraham, M. K. Wood.

*Captain of Hockey* : C. L. Courtenay.

*Secretary of Hockey* : R. M. Clark.

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

*Prefect of Library* : B. W. Spencer.

*Prefect of Hall* : M. J. Lawrenson.

*Secretary of Games Committee* : P. F. White.

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Old Boys will have heard with sorrow of the death in March of Robert Oates. He was one of the original quintet on the staff, and though he left to become Usher at Magdalen College School in December, 1944, and then Headmaster of Crewkerne Grammar School, he was a regular visitor in recent years. His loss is premature, and we feel it together with his family and his School.

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Mr. Hounslow leaves us this term, to undertake a cultural mission to Wimbledon Technical College, after four years with us to our mutual satisfaction. He has taught some Latin and English, as well as Modern Languages, and showed so amiable a toleration of the English that we all take a more favourable view of Australians. Being nearby, he will, we hope, pay us regular visits.

We welcomed in January Mr. V. M. Nicholls, M.A., of Cambridge, who has undertaken Mr. Adrian Smith's timetable at least until July; and also Mrs. Gout, B.Sc., London, who has been rescuing Mr. Courtney's classes from their mathematical neglect. Mr. Courtney, though still not well, is back home from hospital and improving, and promises us a visit shortly. For the Summer Term Mr. Hounslow is replaced by Mr. Forryan, M.A., London, who comes to us from Carrisbrooke Grammar School, Isle of Wight. If boys realised how difficult it is to find those so well qualified to teach them, they might more seldom neglect the opportunities while they have them.

Mr. Timpson left us as a memento a new cup, for a musical competition, and after discussions, under Mr. Aldersea, with House representatives we hope to have Mr. Timpson to do the final judging and award the Cup in July. Houses will compete in lunch-time concerts in four sections—for instrumental groups, for soloists, a novices' class for those in the first two years' study of their instrument, and for small choirs. This scheme is tentative, and in the light of our this year's experience may be amended later.

## HOUSE NOTES

### COBBS

*Captain* : P. F. White.

*Prefects* : J. M. Crocker, D. L. Forster, M. A. G. Evans.

This term has been one of some success, but even more of persistent misfortune. The first major disaster was the debating, for which we were favourites; unfortunately drawn against Gibbs, the eventual winners, in the preliminary round, the team, with the exception of Blackwell, was well below form, and lost a damp debate quite deservedly.

The Hockey Cup remains undecided, though we are assured of second place. The seniors, ably led by Jones E., though not star-studded, played well together, Banks, Fisk and Ventham being particularly prominent. They lost 1-2 to Halliwells and defeated Miltons 3-2 and Newsoms 1-0. The colts won all their matches, Newsoms 8-0, Gibbs 2-1, Halliwells 3-1, Miltons 2-0: it would be unfair to mention individuals.

In the cross country, qualifying was quite brisk, thanks to Parkin's efforts, but our main strength lay in the colt team, who packed eight into the first fourteen, Cottrell coming 3rd, Nelson 5th, and Calder 6th. The seniors did well to hold Miltons to an eight point lead, so that we had a substantial overall win.

The chess team slid into second place: Blunden, Raison, and Whitaker must be congratulated on their steadiness, and M. A. G. Evans on the durability and imagination of his defence against Harvey.

The gymnastics was another complete disaster: we came fourth.

"A Resounding Tinkle" was enthusiastically received by the audience, who appreciated its entertainment value, the acting of Capper, Gill, M. A. G. Evans and Elliott L. F.; the adjudicator did not agree with them or with our choice of play, and we came second equal. I would like to thank all those, particularly Forster, Ness and Gent, who put in such a lot of effort behind the scenes, as well as the whole cast.

Co-operation between various levels of the House has been excellent, and we came second in the Junior Shield rugby section, largely due to the efforts of the second form under Palmer and Columbo.

P.F.W.

## GIBBS

*Captain* : P. E. Nicholls.

*Prefects* :

R. M. Clark, H. Dalton, N. A. Preece, B. W. Spencer, J. H. G. Wilbraham,  
M. K. Wood.

Although this has been a satisfactory term, the emergence of Cobbs as our rivals causes anxiety as to the final outcome of the Cock House Cup; Miltons, too, are unpleasantly close behind us.

The Hockey Competition is still unfinished, but the House is in a favourable position to share the cup. The colts results have been disappointing. Newsoms and Miltons were overwhelmed by the scores of 8-1 and 5-0 respectively, but Halliwells and Cobbs both proved, surprisingly, too strong for us. The seniors have still to play two matches, but we can look forward with optimism after the victories over Miltons and Newsoms. Few players have been outstanding in either team, for the training under Mr. Pratt has made Gibbs a team instead of a group of individuals.

The minor cups have brought us success. The Gymnastics and Debating Cups have been won, bringing welcome points for Cock House. M. K. Wood, through his own brilliant gymnastics, has inspired others to gain points, thus enabling us to retain the cup. I. P. Jackman obtained the most marks of the Senior School, with the amazingly good total of 61 points. The Third and Fifth forms must be congratulated on their fine efforts.

For the Debating Cup we must thank C. J. Rose, who led the team and spoke admirably. He was well supported by Oakes, York and Jackman, and, though it was a close thing, they deserved their unexpected victory.

Magnificent bullying by R. M. Clark pushed the cross-country runners into second place. The qualifying was adequate, although, I feel certain that many did no attempt to achieve an "A," contenting themselves with the easy lower standard. The race itself was a success, for we won the senior section and finished runners-up in the colt race. Holland, Bennée and Keen were outstanding for the seniors, whilst Onslow and Mallett ran well in the colt race.

Chess and Dramatics fared badly, although the respective captains, B. W. Spencer and R. J. York put much effort into the organisation. The former was never able to choose his best team, owing to the apathy of certain members, and we finished fourth. York, an extremely promising producer, did not have the necessary actors, although Oakes, Wood and Cox must be praised for their fine performances on the actual night.

The juniors, benefiting from their regular practices, have won the Rugby Section of the Junior Shield. Having the second-best team in both the first and second forms, they have collected enough points to win the shield. Players such as Callender, Marsh, Ridler, Jones, Lusby, and Hall, whose rugby shows great promise, will, in time, be an asset to the House and School.

So, once again, we are in a strong position to retain the Cock House Cup. At present we lead Cobbs by six points. This does not mean that the House can relax in the Summer Term. We *must* qualify in both swimming and athletics, for neither of these cups is by any means "in the bag." We possess good cricket teams and a reasonable tennis five. I only hope that everyone will respond to the challenge which lies ahead of our House next term.

P.E.N.

## HALLIWELLS

*Captain* : D. I. Shaw.

### *Prefects* :

M. D. Chandler, I. Corbett, R. J. Crittenden, M. J. Lawrenson, I. Stephenson.

We started this term with the loss of our House Captain, J. A. R. Higham. He has always been in the midst of our activities, especially rugby, and we wish him success in the future. May he provide the House with its third University rugby blue.

The Hockey Cup, the major tournament of the season, remains undecided until next term. If the senior team, ably led by I. Corbett, produces the same form as shown in our previous matches (Cobbs 2-1 and Newsoms 9-1) the cup is ours. Credit must be given to the colt team. Under the leadership of D. A. King they have done much better than expected, winning three out of their four matches. A repeat performance next term in cricket will surely see us with that cup for another year.

The rest of the term's activities were the so-called "minor competitions." Cross country was neglected by too many people, and we were pushed into last place. S. L. Cotterell put a lot of time and work into the cross-country, and with more support from certain members of the House, we would have done much better.

Chess and debating again saw us in last place. With only one recognised chess player, we could hardly expect to do any better in that sphere. In debating we lost, rather unluckily, to the eventual winners.

Our lack of qualifying effort in gymnastics put us in third place, when we could have won the cup. This indifferent attitude to qualifying lets the House down badly. We must not let it happen next term in the athletics competition.

Our obtaining second place for the House Play Cup surprised some people. A lot of work has been put into it and I think the result was rewarding.

A word about our juniors. Rugby is obviously not their strong point, but with determination I hope they can improve on this year's results in future seasons. Next year the junior shield will count towards the Cock House Cup so it is up to them to do their very best.

The Cock House Cup can be won only by the House as a whole, not by individuals. A really determined effort by everyone can bring it back to Halliwells.

D.I.S.

## MILTONS

*Captain* : A. J. Phillips.

*Prefects* : J. J. Brown, C. L. Courtenay, C. I. Moffat, A. L. Smith.

The Spring Term, busiest of the School year, is now behind us and on the average we have not fared too badly. We narrowly failed to repeat Cobb's success of last year of winning the Intellectual Treble. In the chess, under the captaincy of C. I. Moffat, the team, after a doubtful start, soon got into its stride and carried all before it. J. J. Brown showed us he had brain as well as brawn by steering our entry in the House Play Competition into first place. Special congratulations were given to the actors and the producer by the judge for utilising what little they had and putting over a difficult play. In debating, despite a fine speech by C. I. Moffat, we were unluckily beaten in the final by a margin of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points.

On the athletic side we did not do quite so well. After a strong start, we only managed to finish second in the Gymnastics Competition by a few points which could have been won by two or three typical Miltonians had they tried. In cross-country we finished in an overall position of third, Marsh being first home for our colts and as usual Brown and Courtenay for our seniors. Hockey has been the blot on our record. Even though the competition is not yet decided, we stay rank outsiders, owing to our record of : played 7, won 1 (our colts defeated Newsoms), lost 6.

The juniors have had a mixed term. They convincingly won the cross-country and equally convincingly lost at rugby. At this stage of the year we must not give up hope. There are four more cups next term and if everyone pulls his weight in each, we should do well.

A.J.P.

One name has been omitted from the above report, that of A. J. Phillips. No one has done more for the House than he has. In debating, gymnastics and drama, he has done much or all of the work. If the House could match his example, we would win every cup.

A.L.S., C.L.C., J.J.B.

## NEWSOMS

*Captain* : R. G. Miles.

*Prefects* : R. A. Barnes, C. J. P. Chambers, B. T. Elsdon, R. G. True.

This term we said farewell to K. D. R. Hanson ; we wish him every success at Cambridge University.

The hockey was nearly been completed, but we have had scant success although we beat Miltons 2-0. A member of an opposing team was heard to liken one of our players to a man felling a tree—at least we seem to have our moments ! Morley played well in goal and was an enthusiastic captain. He deserves congratulation on being chosen to play for Surrey Schools XI.

Although Jackson and Shrubbs won the senior and colt cross-country races respectively, we still only managed fourth place overall. Here it seems that a slight misquotation from Sir Winston Churchill sums up the whole attitude of this House towards qualifying, "Never, in the field of human

conflict, have so many done so little . . ." Qualifying plays a great part in winning this cup, and, although we did well in the race itself, only a minority actually qualified. Towey was a hard-working captain, but unfortunately received little support. Both he and Thompson ran well and gained high positions.

The Chess Cup was virtually a three-cornered fight between ourselves, Miltons and Cobbs. We led the competition until the last round when we played Cobbs and lost badly. We were rather unfortunate in that we came third when only three points separated the first three Houses.

We were disappointed to come fourth in the House Plays. All credit for a fine, simple set is due to Lewis. Chambers worked exceedingly hard producing the play and taking the lead.

Two other cups have been competed for this term, the debating and gymnastics, but any comments about these are better left unmade.

Next term we should be more successful. We should retain the Tennis Cup and at least we have a few people who can "swipe" at a cricket ball. Our lumberjack should be most useful in this regard. The Athletics Cup is won mainly by qualifying. So, the more people that qualify, the greater are our chances of vacating the esteemed fifth position.

R.G.M.

## THE HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION

Whether we like it or not, in the contemporary theatre, and particularly the amateur theatre, the director (a more apposite term than "producer") is responsible for the co-ordination and the fusing of script, actors, sets, lighting—indeed all the arts which go to make up "Theatre." Theatre is execution. It is nothing if it has no life in performance before an audience. The director's responsibility, then, is considerable. He must decide for himself what the play is about, what are the author's intentions. He must take the written play to pieces, hold those pieces in his hand and then put them together again within the limits imposed upon him by the conditions of the performance. Remembering that a play is written backwards from its climax or climaxes, he must disguise the weaknesses and bring out the strengths.

The complete integration of the strictly visual aspects of the production (setting, writing, costumes, make-up) is of paramount importance. The finest pieces of acting will be as nothing if they are inadequately lit or badly grouped. The settings, for example, must strengthen the play, offer opportunities for the actors and facilitate the pace and style of the production.

In the winning production by Miltons of Christopher Fry's "A Sleep of Prisoners" the play and the performances had to contend with a not entirely helpful staging, although the idea of the opening silhouette of the organ-loft was a good one. The producer should have organised the stage set with the dream sequences much more in mind. A diagonal view of the



chancel of the church would have helped. As it was, the problem of allowing the actors to climb into their bunks and leave the stage unnoticed was not successfully solved. In this play the audience needs every help in understanding exactly what is happening. Changes of costume, more dramatic lighting and sound could all have been used to greater advantage here. But, the performances were strong and convincing and the writing and production fused more happily here than in the remaining plays, and it was for this reason that I placed it first, although as a *House* play it was not in itself an ambitious choice.

Halliwells production of "The Insect Play," which shared second place with Cobbs "A Resounding Tinkle," was a good choice since it offered a wealth of small and easy-to-sustain character parts. I question the excessive nervous vitality of the Tramp and also his cleanliness. An older, wiser and more ragged figure would have been preferable. The visual possibilities of the play were adequately realised in the general dressing and masks, but the set was not used to its full advantage. For example, a suggestion of the battle seen through the arches would have proved a more effective finale than the haphazard comings and goings downstage left, and could easily have been contrived. The play, although repetitious, still carries its message strongly and this came over.

It was plain from Cobbs version of "A Resounding Tinkle" why N. F. Simpson re-fashioned the piece. The pseudo-intellectual shenanigans of this academic exercise in Goonery soon grow tedious beyond belief in this first draft. The cast performed against an excellent set without quite capturing the spirit or the timing which this type of off-beat comedy demands. The art of the pause is extremely difficult to master.

"Everyman," produced by Newsoms, did not have the simple imaginativeness of staging which this play requires if it is to strike any chords of terror or pity in a contemporary audience. For the most part the director was content with a recitation of the lines and little visual beauty in grouping. The characterisations needed to be crisper and cleaner in outline and more vivid in detail. Hardly any use was made of the set which did, however, manage to suggest distance, if not much else. Had the director not been playing the title role I am sure that he would have been aware of these faults. As it was, his own performance suffered from a restricted feeling for movement and gesture.

In any version of "Richard II" absolute continuity of action is a first essential. The production by Gibbs did not achieve this at all. The use of the blackout was not only unnecessary, but disastrous. The organisation of entrances and exits was chaotic and it was small wonder that the performances never stood a chance and that the venture ended in near-uproar. Yet, here was what appeared to be a useful permanent set. The three blocks would have been better used for the opening Tournament scene placed closely together with the King seated aloft and the Court grouped behind and around him. These blocks could then have been split as the Kingdom divided, perhaps placed diagonally across the stage, and so forth—

a wealth of possibilities were here, but unrealised. Time spent on the historical accuracy of the details of Carlisle's robe and the making of the brass rubbings, which were barely seen, should have been devoted elsewhere to overall choice of costumes (a crown for the Queen, for instance) and some practise in make-up.

The gentle reader may feel that I have been rather harsh and serious in my judgement, but then playmaking is a serious business for the amateur and professional alike. With a lapse in the dramatic tradition of the school I feel that some stronger guidance in the essentials of play production is indicated. Lighting, for example, where five plays are concerned needs more imaginative planning and co-operation. Instruction in the art of make-up, too, is a necessity. This year's productions, although not without promise, showed a very real need for essential theatrical planning.

John Powell.

## MUSIC NOTES

Members of *The Raynes Park Grammar School Singers* were pleasantly surprised early this term to learn that the B.B.C. had been present at and sufficiently impressed by their Christmas performance of "Messiah" in Wimbledon to agree to consider the choir in a less restricted repertoire for a possible broadcast: a compliment to the choir's potentialities and a challenging opportunity for even greater artistic achievement among this largish number of gentlemen; but a challenge unaccepted.

There have been difficulties. The School grows alarmingly, considering the stretchability of its skin: it tends to eat three instead of two dinners a day and lunch-time rehearsals have frequently needed to be curtailed; again, a grossly overcrowded Morning Assembly tends to make it embarrassingly difficult (though not impossible) to secure an appropriate place in "the choir-stalls" and a few members (who ought to know better) give up trying, carelessly forgetting that every member of this choir is vitally important to his team, and so the work and spirit of the choir are apt to suffer. And what of the Winter Season, now drawing to its close? In the School Hall it has seen the thermometer standing (with effort) at 41 degrees Fahrenheit and a system of ice-cold draughts wafted into the contrapuntal complexity of a Bach fugue. Conditions have sapped energy and made a mockery of much teaching, learning and rehearsing: it needs a powerful strength of purpose for a chorister to sing enthusiastic praise to "the glory of the Lord" whilst his teeth are chattering and his knee caps turning blue. But perhaps this is the whole *raison d'être* of such difficulties in educational institutions—the development of character! And on this assumption we should be producing some impressive personalities. At any rate, the choir distinguished itself in the Wimbledon Music Festival, winning the trophies in the Secondary School Choirs' class and, more impressive, in the Open Choral Society class.

A new scheme of rehearsals for the School Orchestra was introduced this term. On alternate Mondays, during the first lunch, the Full Orchestra

meets for a major rehearsal: sectional rehearsals take place during the intervening Monday lunch-times: and every Monday and Tuesday at 4 p.m. The sectional rehearsals are a preparation for the full rehearsal and are thus of equal importance. All members of the various instrumental classes are expected to attend the full rehearsals on Mondays, even the very beginners who are themselves potential members of the orchestra. Each school musician is of vital importance to the plan. Apart from two or three members who have failed to adapt themselves adequately to the new pattern, the scheme has already proved remarkably successful. The final rehearsal of term was an occasion for congratulation to the orchestra on its progress this term, which has been spent in preparing works of some difficulty by Purcell, Haydn and others for the concert next term.

The Recorder Club, under Rodney True's direction, has done a valuable term's work, mainly on pieces by Hook and Bach. They are to be congratulated on gaining an Honours certificate in the Wimbledon Music Festival for their excellent performance of music by Beethoven.

A group of enthusiastic choristers, the Truvian Singers, again under True's direction, secured second place in the Madrigal Class at the above Festival, against considerable opposition.

Adrian Crowe must be congratulated for winning the trophy in the Under-17 Guitar Class, especially considering that he is self-taught.

John Wilbraham has secured a place for himself at the Royal Academy of Music and we shall watch his progress as a trumpeter with close attention.

Parties have attended a piano recital by Clive Lythgoe and a concert by the Jurgen Hess Piano Quartet in the Wimbledon Concert Club series. We are ever grateful to Sir Cyril Black for providing us with complimentary tickets on these occasions.

There has been much more musical activity during the term than space permits to note here. Much in the way of results will be forthcoming next term when we shall be having a Da Vinci Concert of schoolboy compositions, House Music competitions for the first time, and the School Concert on July 24th.

D.A.

## VIOLINS

In the hall  
a sudden church-like silence fell —  
the bell of a horn mouthed its golden bubble;  
and, from candle-light disorder,  
the bows of the violins gathered  
echeloned  
poised for the slanted plunge —  
into wild frenzies of flight,  
as in a hall of mirrors.

In the great silence of small  
sound crystallised,  
someone coughed  
as in the night the far-away bark of a dog,  
clear from another planet.

At the word, below us,  
powered bows are brought down  
at last  
on the strings.

Lee F. Elliott, IIIA.

## THE DA VINCI SOCIETY

The first meeting of the term was held on Monday, January 22nd, when Mr. Greenwell gave the first part of his talk on Design in Contemporary Furniture. The historic development of furniture was traced and Mr. Greenwell illustrated his talk with many reproductions and illustrations of his own to fill in the historic background as a preliminary to the second part of his talk.

Brass Rubbings was the subject of the second talk of the term which was given by L. F. Elliott of 3A. We were fortunate in being able to display examples of Brass Rubbings, made by the speaker in the Art Room. The strong sense of design in these works made them excellent decorative panels and it is to be hoped that we may persuade Elliott to do some for display around the School. Elliott, in his talk, traced the history of brasses and also explained the way in which he obtained the Rubbings.

Dr. Morgan in the following meeting of the Society gave an excellent and informative talk entitled "Saints and Symbols" in which he explained some of the ways in which Saints have entered into the fabric of our existence, both in a serious and at times light-hearted vein. His talk was well peppered with wit, and, on occasion, horror!

Mr. Greenwell gave the next talk when he continued his lecture on Design in Contemporary Furniture.

The final meeting of the term was devoted to the criticism of the Da Vinci Art Competition, the subject this term being "The Harbour." It proved to be a most popular choice and produced some most exciting results, especially in the Junior and Senior sections. M. Munro, of VI Arts was the winner of the Senior Section with a very powerful dockland scene in wash and ink. All his works entered were of a very high standard. The second and third places were very close and again a high standard of work was shown by Gill of VI Arts, second, and F. J. Wilton of VI Science, third.

In the Middle School, first prize went to C. L. Gray of 3A, second to A. J. B. George 3E and third to N. D. Catton of 4I. Again the standard was high for this group.

A most exciting number of works came from the Junior School and it was very difficult to come to a decision, the competition was so close. W. Munro of 2H came first, H. L. Tan of 2B and G. A. Wright of 2D second equal and N. J. Murphy of 2D third. The judges of this competition were Mr. Venning, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Riley. In the opinion of the judges this was an outstanding competition and it is to be hoped that the subject for next term, "The Jungle," will further inspire our artists.

The Society has now completed ten years of its existence and continues to be sound in wind and limb. As I have hinted in a previous report, I feel it would be a good idea to have a dinner to celebrate the occasion some time in the Summer Term, when past speakers could gather together. Perhaps past-speakers who read this report would write to me at the School so that I could get some idea of the support I might get. I am sure it would be an enjoyable event.

A.C.R.

## TWO POEMS

Turning at sunset  
I have seen  
the clouds radiant like white flash,  
a goddess stretched in sleep  
across the house tops,  
the sun a wound  
scored in the firmly tendoned flesh,  
the rim of housetops  
blood-splashed paste-board.  
And I,  
who have desired to waken her,  
to part the mists that drift about her  
like a breeze-stirred veil,  
have also seen a trail of birds  
spatter, like my thoughts,  
across the sun,  
and turning back again have seen  
myself  
the lyrical dreamer  
a shaven-headed clown  
in the congealing pool  
that is my shadow.

## VISION

Polyphemus' gutted brow is over the world-rim.  
I must be blinded too,  
must tear away this trellised mask  
and leave my face open  
to the swordthrusts.

The West is like a distant city burning,  
the trees smudge out across the glow ;  
and so, let the refining flame  
burn off the city of my mind,  
smudge smoke across the watchman's eyes,  
consume the sooty suburbs and the endless crowds  
of empty faces.

Then let the evening breezes come  
and drive the clouds like bellied sails  
across the glowering sky-brow ;  
let wind scream like prisoners starving in a cave,  
let the lightning tear a silvery vein  
down the darkness ;  
let the smell of the wet leaves  
drown the thunder that thuds out  
like a ball among the skittles.

So it must be  
and if tomorrow  
the lake lies below me in the yellow mud  
like the weary, yellow-circled eye  
of one debauched,  
if the bathos of my mind  
is like the young birds that,  
crashing from the gutters,  
lie like snot-dried rags  
on the hard concrete,  
I shall still have stood uncovered  
in the lightning's flash  
and seen.

C. J. S. Waugh, VI Arts II.

## LOVE POEM

If I should say  
That I find in our relationship  
Something that will outlast all eternity  
And you should confess that you fail to understand my meaning  
It would (though I should like it to come to more and be  
something full and sympathetic) come to the same thing;  
For either you are there  
Or you are not  
Either you hear  
Or I am simply not penetrating;  
But though I may wander withdrawn and self-contemplative  
In the clear darkness of a neglected street  
Where the moon becomes, looming in a blue-dark, quiet-filled  
Sky, at once sympathetic and unfeelingly distant  
I can know at least the private loves, affections, experiences,  
Worlds, even, entire, of my own soul,  
Where the attachments and calmly naïve emotions  
Of early childhood and adolescent's fantasy  
Can perfectly resolve themselves,  
Where the quiet confidence of a mother's love  
And of a child's feeling towards her protection  
Can be recalled in warm floods and spasms of reminiscence  
And convince me that my whole  
Life is not entirely an extension  
Of mine own self  
But part of a larger Whole.

M. Munro, VI Arts II.

## O'REILLY

The wind whipped lightly through the dark street, stirring faint odours of humanity, and rustling the many papers which decorated the gutters. As it went it played gently over O'Reilly's legs, and raised goose-pimples among the curly brown hairs which liberally covered the bony calves. O'Reilly shivered slightly, and pulled the old coat tighter about his shoulders. He regarded his legs with a faint smile of disgust. There they were, long, thin and ill-clad. The ragged trousers barely extended beyond the knee, and the expanse of shin only ended in the mouldering boots which served to protect the sockless feet.

O'Reilly shivered again, and thrust his hands deep into his pockets, and continued on his way, peering into the gutter, searching for enlightenment among the litter. He found none, but he did find a little white cylinder, which he picked up and sniffed with appreciation. He fumbled for his matches and lit the cylinder, inhaling with deep satisfaction. O'Reilly continued on his way, and the little wind continued its game with the paper.

The street ended in a cross-road. "This," thought O'Reilly, "is a problem. Shall I," he mused, "go left, go right, or keep straight ahead?" He stood and stroked his dirty chin reflectively, using an equally dirty hand for the purpose. "Left, right or forward?" This was a problem indeed. O'Reilly considered his choice with the air of detached grievance that he used for all difficulties. "Why," he thought, "Can't I enjoy the simple life, without such problems?" O'Reilly's brow wrinkled with concentration as he mused on his choice of action.

Inspiration came to O'Reilly. He would go straight on. Of course he would. He would go straight on. He could go no other way. He would carry on forward, he would strive for his Purpose, he would not be turned from his path. To go straight on would be his existence. "Oh" he thought "in years to come they will say 'There goes O'Reilly, he went straight on. He got there!'" O'Reilly squared his shoulders. His mind was set on the subject of straightness. His face lit by a glow of enthusiasm. He breathed deeply, and instructed his much-despised lower limbs to carry him forward. O'Reilly was going straight on!

He walked for many miles, his heart light, now that it was no longer beset by any problem. O'Reilly felt well able to face his Purpose.

The road, the straight road, was indeed a long one, but O'Reilly fortified himself by dreaming of what was to come. This was what he was for. What else? A complacent smile flitted across his face as the vision of his ideal stirred within him a responsive chord. This was what he had struggled for. This was what he had lived for. O'Reilly dreamed. And walked.

The road, the long road, the straight road, seemed to go on forever. Hour after hour he walked, the Purpose, gleaming in his mind, an ever-constant spur to his resolution. Then O'Reilly shivered. And shivered again as a cold, damp draught played a rondo on his spine. He pulled the ragged coat about him in a vain attempt to shield his protesting flesh from the icy blast. The Shadow was upon O'Reilly. He was puzzled. Was this his reward? Had he gone on, only to earn this? O'Reilly felt his resolution, only a moment before so bright, falter like an expiring match. If one was going to be molested by Shadows then surely it was not worth continuing?

A spark of resentment flared within O'Reilly. That spark, igniting his soul, was fanned to a flame, which became a mighty holocaust, firing O'Reilly's dormant spirits. O'Reilly would not be put off. He would go forward again. No Shadow would threaten O'Reilly and make *him* turn from his chosen course. He would triumph and become a shining example, a gleaming addition to the world's mighty men. Turning, O'Reilly smiled gently, feeling that any



more aggressive action would hardly be compatible with the glow of righteousness which burned within him. Shaking his head at the frustrated Shadow, he continued, his heart uplifted by this new won confidence.

This burning confidence aided O'Reilly for many a long hour, and sustained him over many a rough road. It was, however, inevitable that, while the spirit was willing, the flesh, the corrupt flesh, was idle, and even though O'Reilly burned with his fanaticism, he knew, as only he could know, that physically he was through. The only thing left was sleep. O'Reilly found one of those little wooden benches, so generously supplied for the comfort of the tired wayfarer. O'Reilly delicately sat down on the bench, and, in one practised, smooth movement, he turned, lay down full length and, twitching the ragged coat over himself closed his eyes. As he lay there, contemplating his new won faith, he heard a voice, a soft, smooth, caressing voice, murmuring in his ear.

"Come, O'Reilly, come and see your Purpose, come and see what lies ahead."

O'Reilly could not find heart to protest at so soothing an injunction. He rose to his feet, hardly surprised to find his weariness gone, his limbs free from their aches, his head clear. O'Reilly, surrounded by the Voice, moved on, his feet barely touching the ground.

"Very soon" said the Voice of gentle promise "we will arrive, and you will see the Ultimate as it really is. You will be honoured O'Reilly. Few see it until it is too late."

O'Reilly was too bemused to consider the Voice's words. Sure enough, in but a short time, he saw a wall, a huge wall, stretching from one side of the horizon to the other. When they were closer, O'Reilly realised what a colossal edifice it was, as it rose above him, sheer and smooth and hard and flawless. Flawless but for a door, a small door that seemed to appear suddenly in the callous barrier. O'Reilly slipped through the little door and saw before him a sight that robbed him of his powers of utterance. There, stretched out before him, was a glorious orchard, from the trees of which hung an abundance of ripe fruits. The air was touched with a delicate perfume that seemed to invade O'Reilly's very brain. The sound of tinkling rivulets, lightly tripping from rock to rock, merely served to drown the gentle cries of the smooth, tinted-skinned maidens that frolicked on the green lawns. O'Reilly gazed, entranced at this scene. If this was his purpose, then he had arrived, for it was for just such as this that O'Reilly had striven so hard for so long. He had fulfilled himself at last. He stretched out a hand to caress a passing maiden, but the Voice stopped him, saying: "Not yet, O'Reilly. There is more to come. You have not seen it all. There is more to come."

O'Reilly looked puzzled. Could there be more than this? He was amazed, and eager, eager to see the rest of this glorious paradise. He walked on, his eyes imbibing the splendour which surrounded him. The warmth, the softness, the harmony of beautiful shapes and discreet aromas, were nectar to O'Reilly's thirsty soul. He was so absorbed that he did not notice that they had reached another wall, a beautiful, virgin white wall, covered with

magnificent plants, which basked in the warmth, their flowers so bright that O'Reilly was almost stunned.

In the middle of this wall was a gate. A beautiful gate, golden, of unparelled beauty as it stood there, the hasp of glittering jewels undone. The gate opened and O'Reilly slipped through, expecting to be met with visions that surpassed the beauty of what he had just left. Instead he saw a sight which made him want to vomit. A grim and nauseous spectacle lay before his eyes. All around were piteous, naked figures, their bodies covered with the scabs of foul disease writhing naked in their agony upon the ground unable in their torture to crave the mercy of their unseen tormentors. Figures lay sprawled in the mire and filth wasted by their own desires, destroyed by the greed of their own wanton bodies, poisoned by their own unwitting hands. O'Reilly vomited. And vomited, spewing up the glories he had so lately seen, so that his stomach could accept this sprawl of tortured figures as they fought and starved and screamed and died and struggled against their too-powerful destiny. He turned to the gate, to escape from this place of untold misery. The gate had gone, and the wall rose steep and hard and contemptuous as it faced O'Reilly, staring at him with unseen eyes. O'Reilly hurled his puny body at the wall, and was mockingly repulsed. He beat his hands upon it in useless endeavour to escape. Again and again he battered at the wall, until he fell, beaten and exhausted, at the bottom of the untouched barrier.

O'Reilly was not allowed to rest. Unseen hands fastened upon him and held him upright, so that he could watch as his body stumbled away, bleeding and useless. O'Reilly was fascinated and helpless, as his wandering shape trudged away. As he watched, he saw it begin to change. It became thin and gaunt, eaten by maggots, corrupt and putrifying. The eyes became glazed and sightless, the limbs limp and helpless, the organs barren and useless. He watched as his own body consumed itself and ate itself and wrung itself until it was only its own remains. O'Reilly could not stand it. He blacked out, and then, a moment later came to, back again in his own body, a limp, broken, tortured body, racked by pain, eaten by disease, gutted by the fire of its own desire. O'Reilly tried to utter but he seemed unable to. He tried to scream but he seemed unable to. He tried to free himself but he seemed unable to, for the hands held him in an iron grip. They dragged him forward, forcing him to wade through the writhing frames that lay scattered, half-alive corpses, upon the reeking ground.

O'Reilly found himself before a door through which he was thrust. Before him lay a sight that his overwhelmed brain could hardly grasp. A vast, vaulted hall, flickering with the light from a dozen fires. Upon the walls hung figures, some dead, some dying, some twitching with the agony, of fresh-inflicted torture, some awaiting, trembling, their fate. Around stood a number of shadowy figures, grinning at the tormented. One held a red hot poker, and O'Reilly watched, unable to tear his eyes away, as the Shadow lunged forward, plunging the fiery iron deep into the stomach of its victim. O'Reilly heard the gentle hiss of hot metal on naked flesh, and heard the

horrible cry, half-strangled by the abrupt cessation of life. The figure swung mockingly, upon its hook, the seared flesh still steaming, the stretched, almost transparent skin of the skull twisted into a last agonised grin.

O'Reilly was lifted from his feet and before his bemused mind could grasp what was happening, he felt himself hooked to the wall, held in place by the remaining tatters of his coat. His arms and legs were shackled to the wall, held in place by thick steel bands. A barely-seen hand ripped away O'Reilly's clothes, exposing his battered, rotten, nauseous torso. A Shadow tore a hot iron from the fire and made to run it into O'Reilly. As the gleaming tip missed O'Reilly by inches, he felt the sweat rise on his emaciated body which trembled and quivered with fear. O'Reilly could see nothing but the glowing iron as, again and again it was swung at him. The vaulted chamber echoed and re-echoed with the hideous cackling of the tormentors as they surveyed the terrors of the tormented.

An instant of pure silence descended upon the gathering, as the Shadow advanced upon O'Reilly, the feverish iron poised for the final blow. O'Reilly gazed at it, mesmerised, while it came nearer, and nearer until it hung above him. O'Reilly felt its heat, then heard it hiss as it plunged into his vitals, the hot iron tearing, cauterising the naked belly. O'Reilly screamed . . .

Feeling the cold air caress his sweating temples, O'Reilly eased up his trembling body and sat, in contemplation.

"I was dreaming" he said, and sobbed. "What did it mean? What did it all mean?"

O'Reilly knew.

He rose to his feet, gathered the tattered coat about his thin body, and walked off, his head bent so that the cold wind, still playing with the hair on his legs, could not touch the thin, but smiling, face.

Richard York, VI Arts 2.

## INDUSTRIAL PARADISE

The murky water — my tropical lagoon,  
Palm trees here, where gantries maze :  
Fireflies whirl — as the red-hot rivets zoom  
Along the sandy shore of oily slip-ways.  
The copra schooner, the coaling barge bring relief  
To the thatched village, the cement jungle,  
Risking grounding on the iron jetty, my coral reef.  
Among imagination's lava-flows freighters mingle,  
While natives toil, welders unite each seam :  
The copra shells, the welded plates, their life blood, my dream.

G. Baker, VJ.

## FROM BOMBS TO BRANCH LINES

On the final Monday of the Autumn Term, some members of the Sixth Form history group went with Mr. Wyatt to the House of Commons, where they arrived in time to see the Speaker's Procession. They then heard Question Time, when the Minister of Health provided the answers to such queries as the number of hearing aids issued in the previous two years and how many general practitioners had contracted out of the National Health Service from 1955 onwards. This was supposed to be followed by a debate on Rural Transport but an announcement by Mr. Heath, Lord Privy Seal, concerning the Government's promise to the United Nations of bombs for use in Katanga caused a more interesting interruption and a discussion of some importance followed, being finally concluded by the Speaker who postponed further consideration of the matter until the official debate on the following Wednesday. Rural Transport, with particular reference to the preservation of a branch line in West Cornwall, presented an anti-climax after this. Most of the group left about 4.30, grateful to Mr. Wyatt for a revealing, entertaining and valuable afternoon.

C.J.S.W.

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The Society has met only once this term, to hear a talk by Mr. T. W. Melluish about the epigrammatist Martial. The epigram was originally a tombstone inscription, but the resultant brevity of the form soon made it the vehicle for cutting lampoons rather than posthumous flattery. Martial's wit was as vinegary as any to be found in first century Rome, and he used it to devastating social and pecuniary effect in the overcrowded society of the capital. His individual targets have long since been forgotten, but the caricatures remain — the *novus homo*, the fading beauty, a Roman Sweeney Todd, a kleptomaniac whose professional reputation for table cloths was such that shopkeepers took in their awnings when they saw him coming. Mr. Melluish illustrated his talk with some brilliantly funny translations he had made: if one's first impression was that Martial's wit, humanity, and sometimes pathos could still affect us unimpaired after so many centuries, one could not help wondering on reflection whether the amusement and vitality of these verses was due more to the humour of the translator than the wit of the original.

P.F.W.

## GUIDE TO POPULAR SAYINGS: No. 2

The saying to be considered this term is another Latin saying, namely: SUAVITER IN MODO FORTITER IN RE.

It is in the public belief that this saying is Latin for "gentle in manner, firm in deed," but after close studying of its origin, I feel justified in disproving this. So I give you the origin of the phrase.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there occurred a very nasty occurrence, which was quite out of keeping with early nineteenth century etiquette. It was so ungentlemanly that the Daily Telegraph published it on its front page. It all started when a rotund old Georgian gentleman by the name of Henry McSideburn was strolling with his mistress in either Regents or Green Park, I'm not sure which.

After walking for several miles round the duck pond, Henry's mistress decided she would like to spend a farthing (the cost of living was very low in those days). Feeling like a rest, Henry McSideburn heaved himself over to the dirty, green bench and sat down with a very abrupt grunt. Just then a greasy-looking Italian gentleman with a small moustache slid onto the bench beside him. After a time the two gentlemen got chatting and it turned out that the man was the famed Robinson Caruso, brother of King Louis De Gaulle, Emperor of Holland.

It turned out that Mr. Caruso was the Italian potato crisp eating champion and had never been beaten. Henry McSideburn, who I might add was rather fond of his food, agreed to challenge Caruso for the Grand Championship. It was to be held at an Italian restaurant in Brixton called "Modo's," which as you all know is Italian for "fashionable."

At last the great hour arrived, the two competitors arrived separately in their carriages which I believe they borrowed from British Railways.

Amongst the spectators there were many stars such as young Harold McSwillan, R. A. Sutler, Ernest Sharples (with hairnet) and Iain McClod.

The two gentlemen were sitting at their respective tables in front of two great mounds of potato crisps. Robinson Caruso was dressed in a very smart dinner jacket and looked extremely suave. Henry McSideburn, however, was in shirt sleeves and he had removed his collar, because, he explained afterwards, his Adam's apple got caught on his collar stud when he swallowed.

At the firing of a musket the race was started and the two men started shovelling potato crisps into their large greedy gullets. The Italian, surprisingly, did not seem to be hurrying himself. Every now and then he would drink a glass of rustic ale and occasionally dust the crumbs off his best suit.

They went on in this fashion for over half an hour and at this stage Henry was way ahead of the Italian. Then suddenly the Italian gasped "Mama mia (which he called his mother when he was small), there is the tax inspector in shorts!" Everyone immediately looked in the direction that Caruso was indicating, including McSideburn. While all the heads were turned, Caruso swapped his plate of crisps for McSideburn's.

When it was realised that it was a false alarm, heads turned back to the two competitors, and McSideburn's head turned towards his plate. What he saw did not amuse him, and he commenced to hurl abuse at the crooked Italian. The Italian returned with an equally violent torrent of Italian and English abuses. Then the fighting started, McSideburn threw a plate of

crisps at Caruso and the latter returned the compliment in the same manner. This developed into a very unruly brawl and it was only stopped by a couple of Bow Street runners who were having a quick clay-pipe in the exit outside.

Naturally Harold McSwillan and his colleagues dashed to their carriages and spurred their horses on with an occasional crack of the Labour Chief Whip. Their destination was the offices of the Daily Telegraph, and the following morning this headline appeared on the front page:

SUAVE EATER IN MODO'S FOUGHT EATER HENRY.

A. J. McIntyre, SJ.

## KEW

Kew in summer when flowers are out  
 Mothers and fathers and children about  
 A most pleasant prospect without any doubt  
 In summer at Kew.

Kew in autumn, still people around  
 Frost in the air and leaves on the ground  
 Enjoyment and pleasure are still to be found  
 In autumn at Kew.

Kew in winter, the trees are bare  
 Scarcely a visitor seen anywhere  
 Only the stalwarts would brave the cold air  
 Of winter at Kew

But springtime at Kew when the year's at its dawn  
 Plants, shrubs and flowers about to be born  
 The air smelling sweet from the newly cut lawn —  
 That's Kew in the spring.

D. K. Gilman, IIIA.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The Michael Welby Cup was contested this term and was won by Gibbs. The motions were as follows:

Motion	Prop. by	Opp. by	Judges' Voting	Verdict
That Punishment in Education is an Admission of Failure.	Gibbs	Cobbs	c. 10-4	Gibbs
That it is better to be Red than Dead.	Miltons	Newsoms	cd. 7-2	Miltons
That Examinations should be Abolished.	Gibbs	Halliwells	lost 6-8	Gibbs
That a Scientific Attitude destroys the Joy in Living.	Gibbs	Miltons	dr. 8-8	Gibbs

A feature of these debates was a general failure to grapple with the essence of the motion. In the "Red v Dead" debate, for example, only the slightest reference was made to the Bomb which surely should have provided a key to the argument. Often houses failed because they could merely reiterate a handful of ideas without developing them; summing up became a fifth restatement of a couple of points. At times one felt a lack of enthusiasm—there was a tendency early on to read, rather than deliver a speech—and often the salient feature of a debate was its flannel-like quality. The exigencies of competition excluded much humour; Oakes' natural flair came over to the audience, but at least one House suffered defeat, albeit gloriously, through attempting to force humour.

Gibbs' success, despite their small margin of victory in the final, was thoroughly deserved. It stemmed from Rose's leadership which gave his team a sense of direction; his ability to modify motions with insouciance to suit his side is laudable and would augur well for a political career. Most of the other houses lacked this sense of direction and failed accordingly.

The Society continues to flounder along its chosen path with a hard core of faithful supporters in attendance. If anyone suggests, as some occasionally do, that debating should be "laid to rest" a chorus of protest results; but few of the chorus are prepared to keep the body alive. New life is indeed coming up from "below," but will it arrive in time?

M.A.G.E.

## CHRISTIAN UNION

Last term's series of talks on "What we believe," was followed this term by a series on other Christian religions. The opening talk was given by Mr. O. T. Taylor, of the Protestant Alliance, on Roman Catholicism, and the second talk by the Rev. L. Roberts, Vicar of Christ Church, New Malden, on Mormonism. We have seen a number of new people at our meetings this term, and we hope that they and others will attend our meetings next term, when we shall continue with our present series.

We can judge what is New Testament Christianity by two standards laid down in the Scriptures. Firstly, Jesus Christ must be acknowledged and honoured as what He truly is, "perfect God." Secondly, New Testament Christianity must acknowledge that our salvation is a result of that "full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice" made by Christ for our sins, when He, both as priest and victim, died as our substitute and sin bearer, on the cross of Calvary; a sacrifice never to be repeated or re-offered (Hebrews 7.27). All of the religions being dealt with in our present series deny either one or both of these essential truths.

We would like to draw the attention of the Juniors to the Scripture Union group which meets on Monday lunch-time, to which all juniors are warmly welcomed. The senior Christian Union meets on Friday lunch-time and we also would welcome new members, whatever their denomination.

J.C.

## 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The Boy Scout Troop's level of proficiency remains as high as before: at least two members of each Patrol are now First Class, the majority are Second Class, and in addition a large number of Special Proficiency examinations were passed during the term.

Early in February a party of Patrol Leaders and Seconds went down to West Hoathly, where they spent a day clearing the Group camp site. The work was mainly cutting the long grass between the cabin and the lake and in the spinney, but the cabin itself was thoroughly inspected too, and was found to be in a good condition. It is hoped that West Hoathly will be used more often in the future, for it is an excellent camp site—well secluded and in good open country for hiking. Perhaps Patrol Leaders might use it for patrol camps in the summer?

At this time of the year camping in the junior section is best reserved for the older boys; for in the colder weather it is an experience which may prove distasteful for the tenderfoot. And so the two major outdoor activities this term were undertaken by the Patrol Leaders, Seconds, and more experienced Scouts only: a long hike in central Surrey held towards the end of February; and a short camp (in the bitter cold) which took place at half term.

Summer Camp this year for the Boy Scouts will be at Steps Bridge, near Dunsford, in Devon, from August 11th to August 20th.

The Scouting proficiency of the Senior Troop is improving. As yet we have no Queen's Scouts, but it is expected that by the end of next term at least two or three Senior Scouts will have received their Royal Certificates.

This term's major single activity was the attendance of the Wimbledon and Merton District's leadership training course, designed to help Senior Scouts pass the initiative tests of the Venturers' activities compulsory for Queen's Scout. The course will finish next term, when the initiative tests will be taken during a camp held for that purpose. Other Venturer activities were undertaken during the Easter holidays, and included several twenty mile hikes "over stiff country."

The Seniors' Summer Camp this year will take the form of a camping trip along the canals by canoe or possibly, if funds permit, by longboat. At the time of writing the route has still to be decided upon.

A good start has been made to 1962, and all look forward to the Summer Term and the start of a new camping season.

N. C. Boreham.

## No. 565 SQUADRON, AIR TRAINING CORPS

As is usual for the Spring Term, the Squadron has been involved in few outside activities. On Sunday, 4th February, there was a church service at Kingston Parish Church to commemorate the foundation of the Air Training



Corps in 1941. This was followed by a parade and march-past, at which Air Chief Marshal Sir John Baker took the salute. Next term, we look forward to another parade, this time at Guildford Cathedral, in which both the Surrey and Sussex Wings of the Corps will be taking part.

At the end of last term we were awaiting a re-allocation of flying at R.A.F. White Waltham, which we received on Saturday, 10th February. All thirteen cadets who attended had a twenty minute flight in one of the Chipmunks of the Air Experience Flight stationed there.

Shooting on the .22" miniature range on Saturday mornings has continued fairly regularly throughout the term, with some measure of success and improvement. We owe our congratulations to Cdt. Maskell who has been awarded the A.T.C. marksmanship badge, after only a few months' service in the squadron. Congratulations also to Ldg. Cdt. Greenman on his passing the Proficiency Aircrew examination in February, the last examination to be set on the old syllabus, and to Senior Cadet Satchell on coming fourth in the senior section of the Wing Cross-Country Championships.

The annual Wing aircraft recognition competition for the Archer trophy was held in March, the Squadron team coming second. Special mention must be made of Ldg. Cdt. Mercer who won the special prize for being the only cadet present to be able to give the official name of the "Tunen"—the Swedish J-29 fighter.

Forthcoming events are a .22" rifle competition between the Squadron and the Greenwich Sea Cadets which is arranged for Saturday, 31st March, and, of course, Annual Training at Easter, which, this year is to be held at R.A.F. Linton-on-Ouse, York. Besides flying and other general training, we are scheduled to visit the British Railways museum at York, the Marine Craft establishment at Bridlington, and also to spend a night out under canvas.

J.F.

## JUNIOR AIR GUILD

This term, the J.A.G. has shown a substantial increase in numbers—at the time of writing there are twenty-six members—thus making it necessary to divide the Guild into three training groups. Next term we hope to arrange a comprehensive training programme, and also to arrange visits to various places of aeronautical interest. Any member of the school who wishes to join the J.A.G. will be very welcome on any Friday evening at 7 p.m. At the age of 13½ years, boys are eligible for entry to the Squadron, but previous training in the J.A.G. will provide a good and useful grounding in air and other subjects in the A.T.C. training syllabus; and boys graduating from the J.A.G. to the A.T.C. will have a distinct advantage over those who join the Squadron directly.

J.F.

## PRINTERS' GUILD

This term the Printers' Guild has improved in its standard and quantity of work, but its membership has decreased so that we are now down to sixteen members out of a possible twenty-five. We would welcome new members, especially from the lower half of the school.

Our work this term included the "satis" cards, some letterheads, a reprint of the School song for hymn books, and a booklet for an outside customer. All were reasonably successful.

We are now awaiting the delivery of some new cases which we hope will be useful and time-saving. Every member has had an opportunity of helping to print the Garden Party tickets.

The District Scouts have decided to use our facilities to test Scouts for their printer's badge.

Next term, the Summer Term, we will spend printing a number of private orders, and preparing for the new school year which is looming out of the distant gloom.

B.G.B.

## SPUR MODEL RAILWAY

During the Spring Term most of the Wednesday meetings have taken the form of "Work nights" and much reconstruction has been carried out. Very little railway operating has been possible as rewiring the control circuits has also been taking place. The work has, however, been more coherent and better planned—some working on scenic effects while others concentrated on track work.

Mr. Carlow has now left us and the Club is very grateful for the great amount of work which he put into the Railway during his long period in charge. Although no longer a regular visitor, he is making a special point for the flyover junction and we are sure he will take an interest in the lay-out for a long time to come and he knows he will always be welcome on Club nights.

Membership has tended to fall as a result of lack of operating facilities but we are confident that when fully working the Club will once more attract all those interested in railway affairs.

L.P.N.

## CHESS CLUB

*Captain* : C. I. Moffat.

*Hon. Secretary* : J. M. Harvey.

*Hon. Sec. (Juniors)*: B. W. Spencer.

The first five weeks of the term were taken up by the Inter-house competition for the Chess Cup. The final table was:

1. Miltons	x	7	5	8	8	28
2. Cobbs	3	x	8	5	10	26
3. Newsoms	5	2	x	8	10	25
4. Gibbs	2	5	2	x	8	17
5. Halliwells	2	0	0	2	x	4

With only three points separating the top three teams it is a pity that they might not all have shared first place. Rarely able to field their strongest team, Gibbs fared worse than expected; Halliwells, alas, had only one player worthy of the competition. The games were usually very exciting, but the chess itself was not of the highest standard, for there were too many alarming changes of fortune.

While the House Competition ran smoothly, the Knock-Out Tournament followed an old Club tradition of exceeding all time limits. A. V. Knapp and C. I. Moffat meet for the second year in succession in the finals. The former arrived there by defeating N. A. Preece in a very long game, the latter after three draws with R. G. Miles.

A pleasant innovation this season was a match between the Club team and the Gentlemen of the Staff. A hard-fought battle, with grunts from Mr. Smith and cries ranging from exultation to despair from Mr. Gibson, gave victory to the Club  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ . It is to be hoped that this will become an established annual fixture in the future.

The four inter-school matches played this season produced satisfactory results. The senior team drew 3-3 with Mitcham and Tiffins, lost to King's College School  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  and scored our first ever win against Rutlish,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

We are very sorry to record that Mr. Pratt is relinquishing his sponsorship of the Chess Club. We greatly appreciate all he has done for us and thank him for many years' work on our behalf. In the same breath we welcome Mr. Wyatt to the post, knowing that under him the Chess Club will continue to flourish,

C.I.M.

## JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

Membership this term has again increased, amounting to over 100, but unfortunately some of these still fail to realize that the Chess Room has only one use—the quiet playing of chess; there are, however, many who play frequently and keenly, and take much interest in Club activities.

The Club tournament this term was split up into three sections, with competitions for the first, second and third forms respectively. The first half of the first-form tournament showed certain surprise victories, but the pace became quite stiff as the rounds elapsed, and congratulations go to G. B. Brookes, who defeated R. M. Peet in the final. Everyone who entered the tournament showed outstanding keenness, and even after they had themselves been eliminated, remained constantly interested in the progress and results of the competition.

The second formers afforded few surprises as their results came in, except for P. J. Brown, who now finds that, with care, he can play some useful chess. R. J. Hendry went on to overcome P. Fischer in the final.

In the third form tournament no surprises appeared until G. P. Taylor's semi-final victory over C. E. Hingston, and he should not let his subsequent loss to R. T. C. Whitaker in the final cause him any discouragement.

The Junior School chess team have had a mixed fate in inter-school matches, gaining overwhelming victories against Bushey ( $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ ) and Mitcham ( $5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ ), but sustaining equally overwhelming defeats against Tiffin and King's College Schools. Individually, G. P. Taylor, a newcomer to the team, won both his matches, while R. Whitaker had success in two of his three games, P. Fischer, P. J. Gorton and C. E. Hingston won a half of theirs, and A. J. Ring won his game against Bushey.

On the last Tuesday of term a team of six first-formers tried their hand against Rutlish School; this match resulted in a victory, C. P. Ainger, G. B. Brookes, S. R. Hall and A. J. Patrick winning their games, whilst R. M. Peet and S. F. Silver were defeated.

B.W.S.

## BADMINTON CLUB

Owing to the fortuitous manifestation of a court marked out on the gym floor, a sixth-floor badminton group appeared by a sort of spontaneous combustion. Sessions this term have been severely affected by House play rehearsals, and those who have come have found facilities by no means perfect: the low ceiling and the beams have been the cause of most curses, as well as the ruin of many shuttles, but the slippery floor and inefficient lighting have not gone entirely unnoticed.

In a fit of enthusiasm we agreed to play a match with Wimbledon County Boys' School, after the Club had only met once. Inexperience told, and we lost by 5 matches to 1: Waugh scored our only win.

P.F.W.

## HOCKEY

*Master-in-charge*: W. H. Herdman, Esq.

*Captain*: C. L. Courtenay.      *Secretary*: R. M. Clark.

### RESULTS

v. Beckenham Grammar School	(A)	Lost	1-4
v. Trinity School ... ..	(H)	Lost	1-2
v. Elliott School ... ..	(A)	Won	23-0
v. Royal Masonic School II ...	(A)	Lost	1-3
v. St. Mary's Training Coll. II ...	(A)	Lost	1-2
v. Reigate Grammar School ...	(A)	Lost	1-4
v. St. Mary's Training Coll. II ...	(A)	Won	2-1
v. St. George's College II ... ..	(A)	Lost	2-4
v. Badingham College ... ..	(H)	Won	3-1
v. Archbishop Tenison's School	(H)	Lost	1-4

## MATCHES CANCELLED

Hampton and Sunbury Hockey Club II (A).  
Russell School (A)  
Reigate Grammar School (H).  
Thames Valley Grammar School (A).

## GOAL SCORERS

Courtenay (11), Wood (9), Nicholls (7), Cox (4), Crittenden, Clark (2), Sinfield (1).

This season the teams were unable to hold any holiday practices as "Oberon" was either snow-bound or waterlogged during the latter part of December and early January. Beginning of the season practices were confined to the school field, and these did not clarify all the team selection problems. It is to be hoped that the Council's recent work at "Oberon" has improved the drainage of hockey pitches for next year.

The season has not been a successful one as regards match records, though enthusiasm and a never-give-in spirit has been in evidence. Unwillingness of the forwards to shoot when presented with goal-chances, and slowness of the defence in covering the circle were the most obvious faults. These faults must be remedied if the teams wish to meet with more success next season.

## MATCHES

An untried, though enthusiastic team, playing against a practised Beckenham XI found itself 0-2 down in the first quarter but settled down and rallied during the rest of the half and scored once. In the second half Beckenham blotted out the Raynes Park forwards and netted twice.

The game against Trinity, on a muddy pitch, proved to be a hard-fought one. Honours were shared in a goal-less first-half, but in the second-half Trinity broke away and scored twice, whilst Raynes Park only netted once in a game they were unlucky to lose.

Against Royal Masonic II, Raynes Park scored the first goal but thereafter Masonic made better use of the flat, firm ground and scored three times without reply.

The team, away to St. Mary's II, did not play together as well as in earlier matches, missed goal-chances, and thus lost a game which should have been won.

A disputed goal gave Reigate a half-time lead in the next match. The Raynes Park defence fell to pieces early in the second-half and Reigate added three goals. A belated rally during the last quarter gave Raynes Park a consolation goal and, though the final result was never really in doubt, they were unlucky not to net once or twice more.

The return match against St. Mary's II ended in a reversal of the previous result, and a well-deserved victory for the School. The inefficiency of the team's goal-scoring machine was put under the spot-light in this match.

For the first-half of the match against St. George's II Raynes Park were in command, but failed to take advantage and turned round with the scores even. In the second half the team again pressed, but was unable to score until St. George's had netted twice from infrequent but more purposeful attacks.

Against Badingham College the team quickly exerted its authority and three good goals were scored before the interval. Shooting in the second half grew wild; shots going over and around the Badingham goal but not in it.

Owing to the calls of the 7's team, four regular first team players were unable to take part in the final game of the season, which was lost to Archbishop Tenison's, a team of superior stick-workers.

R.M.C.

## PEN PORTRAITS

*MORLEY*, goalkeeper (Colours 1960): The most talented player in the side he thoroughly deserves his Surrey Cap. He has, unfortunately, not produced his best form this season in School matches, but with a sound defence in front of him he is capable of further honours. We wish him luck.

*WOODHALL*, right back (Half-colours 1962): A calm player who rarely looks worried although on some occasions he could have been. He uses the ball intelligently but must practice to give a stronger clearance.

*SHAW*, left back (Colours 1962): Another cool back who also suffers from a lack of urgency. However, despite being slow on the turn, his unruffled play has broken up many opposing attacks.

*CORBETT*, right half (Colours 1961): The veteran of the side, he has eventually settled down at right half. His experience has stood him in good stead but his backing up of the forwards sometimes takes preference over running back on to the defence.

*SINFIELD*, centre half (Colours 1962): Picked for this responsible position, he has at times played extremely well, but in other games been guilty of nightmarish mistakes. His best asset is his strong clearance.

*CLARK*, left half (Colours 1961): He has been a most competent secretary, whose hard work and determination is evident both on and off the field. Besides being a tireless chaser and worrier in the defence, he has also been a sixth forward.

*COX*, right wing (Colours 1962): He has proved the discovery of the season, combining his natural speed with a hard shot and effective stick-work.

*NICHOLLS*, centre forward (Colours 1960): A forceful player, he has scored goals from mêlées in the circle rather than clear-cut shots.

*CRITTENDEN*, inside left (colours 1962): After many games in the seconds, the result is a deservedly earned permanent place in the firsts. He has fetched and carried well, relying on neat, clever stickwork, rather than strong play, with varying success.

*EASTWOOD* (Half-colours 1962) : He is a natural left winger with above average sprinting ability and remarkable reverse stick centre. Only experience and practice is needed in distribution and dribbling for him to develop into a first class player.

C.L.C.

*COURTENAY*, inside right (Colours 1961) : As captain he has effectively communicated his enthusiasm to the whole team. His continual grafting has provided the forwards with many goal chances, most of which have been wasted.

R.M.C.

## 2nd XI

### RESULTS

v. Beckenham Grammar School	(A)	Lost	0-3
v. Trinity School ... ..	(A)	Lost	2-5
v. Wandsworth G.S. I ... ..	(H)	Drawn	3-3
v. Royal Masonic School III ...	(A)	Drawn	1-1
v. Reigate Grammar School ...	(A)	Drawn	1-1
v. St. George's College III ...	(A)	Lost	1-2
v. Badingham College ... ..	(A)	Won	7-0
v. Elliott School I ... ..	(A)	Won	4-0

Played : 8 ; Won : 2 ; Drawn : 3 ; Lost : 3 ; Goals for : 19 ; Goals against : 15.

There are two basic reasons why the 2nd XI failed to line up to the standard set by last year's team. Firstly, the fact that the 2nd XI has not played any two games with the same team. This was due to the demands by the 1st XI for our best players, and also to the fact that there were several border-line players, whose potential was tested. And secondly, due to lack of practice and training on the part of the team as a whole, with a few exceptions.

Since it took some time to develop our typical rhythm of play, results did not reflect the true standard of hockey of which the 2nd XI is capable. Speed was largely lacking in most members of the team with the result that the backs grimly potted in our own circle with few first-time clearances, and the forwards were too slow to move on to through passes, and also lacked shooting power when given opportunities. The spirit of the team was well below that of previous seasons, and keenness to win combined with perseverance in attack and defence were sadly lacking. The results, however, do show that the team has not disgraced itself, nor has it gone entirely without success.

The most regular members of the team were : Francis, Dalton, Ventham, Smith A. L., Cotterell, Nisbet, Taylor, Featherstone, Wood M. K., Crittenden, Tickner, Benée.

The following also played : Williams D., Sherwin, Lancaster, Jones E., Preece, Crowe, Wilcox, Fisk, Shaw, Raison.

Goal scorers : Smith A. L., 4 ; Cotterell, 3 ; Wood M. K., 2 ; Wilcox, 2 ; Taylor, 2 ; Crittenden, Featherstone, Lancaster, Jones, Benée, Dalton, 1 each.

Half-colours awarded to : Wood M. K., Smith A. L., Dalton, Featherstone, Ventham.

R.C.

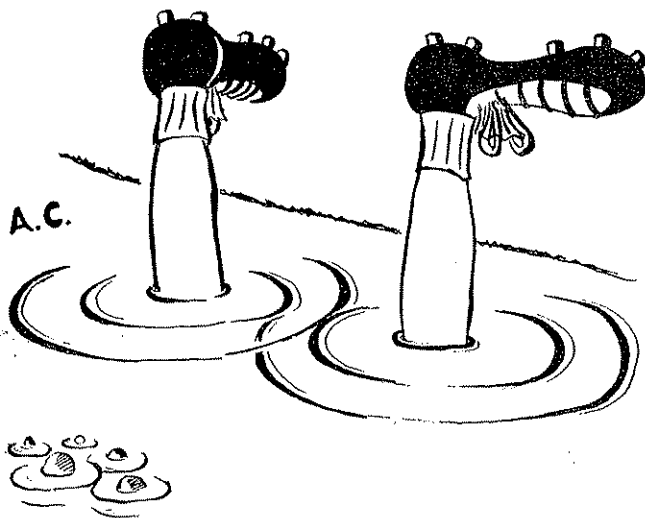
## CROSS-COUNTRY

*Master-in-charge* : M. C. Glead, Esq.

*Captain* : K. E. Jackson.

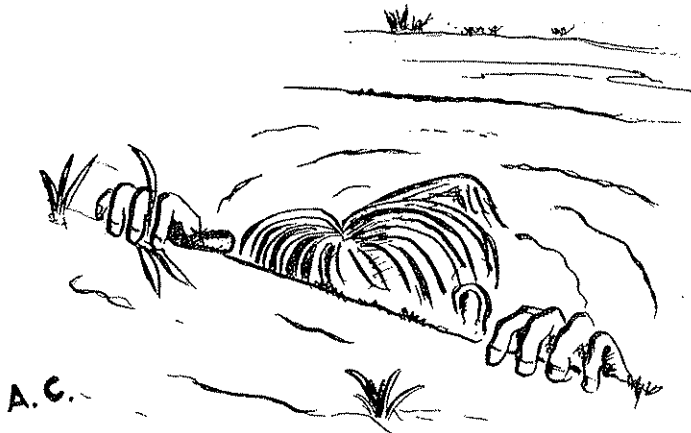
The Cross-Country team had a most enjoyable term's sport. Perhaps our best performance was in the Surrey Boys' Cross-Country Championships at Morden Park, where we finished second to a strong team from Mitcham Athletic Club, in spite of the fact that this event was on the day following the School Cross-Country Championships. Individual positions were Jackson eighth, Shrubbs fifteenth, Onslow twenty-sixth, and Holland twenty-ninth.

In a steeplechase event at Purley, a water jump was provided about four feet deep and filled with a suspension of debris from a nearby building site. Chapman's arrival at this was eagerly awaited by a large crowd, as he, in each of three attempts at it gave himself a thorough bath. After a few hills he galloped thankfully through the funnel in twenty-fifth position, the other two suffering scorers being Jackson, eighteenth, and Holland, twenty-third, giving a position of eighth out of twelve. The only sad part of this match was the fact that Holland only "ducked" himself once.



*During the steeplechase against Purley, Chapman gave an exciting display of underwater athletics...*





A.C.

*... Only to repeat the performance on the second and third time round.*

Two teams of eight runners were entered for the district championship, the Juniors finishing third out of twelve schools and the seniors first out of four schools.

As for the Junior team, their biggest success after the County Championships was the Simmond's Trophy relay race organised by Sutton and Cheam Harriers. In this, thanks to a brilliant run by Onslow on the third leg, we finished an easy second behind a strong Mitcham Athletic Club team.

A special match was also held against Chiswick Grammar School. In this there were ten runners from each school with eight to score. After gaining the first five places, we saw Chiswick promptly take the next six. The result of the race, however, was assured by our gaining the next four places. Indeed this shows our greatest strongpoint, our ability to pack in early, an ability which means much more than the ability to provide the individual winner.

The season has seen changes in both courses but not before Brown, Jackson, and Holland had all beaten the record for the old course. Better performances such as this and our team successes can only be kept up by consistent training.

Our thanks, are due to the enthusiastic support given to us by Mr. Glead in all our achievements.

Colours were awarded to : Chapman, Holland, Jackson and Towey.

Half-colours were awarded to : Brazier, Callanan, Keen, Onslow and Shrub.

The following ran regularly, Juniors : Shrub, Onslow, Cottrell, Miller, Marshall, Woodley, Blunden, King. Seniors : Jackson, Chapman, Keen, Holland, Towey, Callanan, Brazier, Auger, Guest.

## RESULTS

	Points	Individual
U.16		
Bushey	Won 23-78	Shrubb 1st
O.16		
Rydens	Won 4-9	Jackson 1st
U.16		
Rydens	Won 66-131	Shrubb 1st
U.16		
Simmonds Trophy	2nd/18 teams	Fastest lap Onslow
Open U.16		
Epsom & Ewell	7th/26 teams; 1st school	Jackson 13th/166
O.15-U.17		
Wimbledon & District Championship	1st/4 teams	Holland 2nd/33
U.15		
Wimbledon & District Championship	3rd/8 teams	Shrubb 2nd/54
U.16		
Surrey County A.A.A. Championship	2nd/24 teams	Jackson 9th/158
Chiswick	Won 54-84	Jackson 1st
S.L.H. Invitation	12th/20 teams	Holland 25th/128
Purley G.S. Steeplechase	8th/12 teams	Jackson 18th/36

K.E.J.

### INTER-HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY RACE 1962

The position after qualifying was:

Cobbs	...	...	...	...	994
Gibbs	...	...	...	...	973
Miltons	...	...	...	...	966
Newsoms	...	...	...	...	784
Halliwells	...	...	...	...	770

In the senior race a dry course provided fast times by all the first four home. A break was made from the start of the race by these four: Brown, Courtenay, Holland, and Jackson, and they kept together until the brook was reached. Here a decisive burst was made by Jackson, taking Brown with him and eventually winning by fourteen seconds. Brown coming second and Holland third eight seconds further behind.

The team result was :

Cobbs	...	...	...	...	343
Gibbs	...	...	...	...	349
Miltons	...	...	...	...	258
Halliwells	...	...	...	...	344
Newsoms	...	...	...	...	310

In the Junior race another leading group was formed by Shrubbs, Cottrell, and Onslow. After a mile, however, Shrubbs gained a large lead over Onslow and was seventy yards up as the brook was reached. Shrubbs's lead was too much for Onslow to make up despite a fast finish. Cottrell came in an easy third to lead home a good piece of packing by the Cobbs team which clinched their victory in the overall positions.

Colt race result :

Cobbs	...	...	...	...	418
Gibbs	...	...	...	...	362
Miltons	...	...	...	...	272
Halliwells	...	...	...	...	237
Newsoms	...	...	...	...	222

Final positions being :

1st	Cobbs	...	...	1755
2nd	Gibbs	...	...	1684
3rd	Miltons	...	...	1582
4th	Newsoms	...	...	1316
5th	Halliwells	...	...	1265

## RUGBY "SEVENS"

*Master-in-charge* : A. R. Pannel, Esq.

*Captain* : P. E. Nicholls.

After practising during the Spring Term, always without certain players, the team entered for the Surrey Schools Tournament. The ground was in perfect condition and the weather reasonable. The team played well, beating Wallington 14-0, Sutton 8-0, and City of London 8-3, before meeting the strong Dulwich Seven in the semi-final. Encouraged by the large crowd, the team played brilliantly, although being defeated by 8-0.

The next tournament was at Warlingham where two teams were entered. The standard of play was low, since the pitches had been turned into a marsh by continual heavy rain. The first seven, although beating Judd School 11-3, did not play well and lost to City of London 0-3. The second team were defeated 11-3 by St. Albans, but shaped well in their first tournament.

The Staines Sevens, postponed from Christmas, was played on the following Sunday. Both teams won their first matches against Hayes and

Bec II respectively, but the seconds lost to Isleworth in the second round. The senior seven disappointed in the victory over Surbiton II, and it was no surprise the Bec I beat us in the third round, in spite of having only six men. Bec won the tournament.

The Wasps Sevens take place during the holidays, and the results will be described in next term's magazine.

The play has suffered owing to the soft grounds after the Surrey Sevens and the team has been too small and light in the heavy conditions. Cox has played well on the wing, whilst the forwards have shown enthusiasm as a substitute for size. Barnes and Featherstone combined well for the seconds, but lack of practice has ruined their chance of success.

Teams :

1st Seven : P. L. Cox, C. L. Courtenay, P. E. Nicholls, I. Stephenson, R. M. Clark, J. J. Brown, J. Nisbet.

2nd Seven : R. A. Barnes (capt.), G. A. Featherstone (or J. Banks), R. A. Lancaster, I. Taylor, A. J. Phillips, S. L. Cottrell, A. D. Robinson.

P.E.N.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

The Head Boy deplores the appearance of advertisements in the last issue of the *Spur*. I suggest he make a choice between a school magazine that is financed solely by the General School Fund, but preserves its disdain of the outside world, and one that pays its own way, if only in part, and allows the money thus saved to be used in the provision of better facilities for the members of the school.

Yours faithfully,

D. Williams.

Dear Sir,

In reference to the advertisements in the rear end of the *Spur*, I must agree with Mr. Phillips when he calls them degrading. We like to think of our establishment as one of the best, and it has been regarded as such by many people, including the *Sunday Times*, so that for us to enter the Advertisement Consumers Brigade brings us down more than a few pegs.

Being connected with the printing trade myself, I can understand some of the reasons for the delay in the last issue ; however, if this delay was caused by lack of an advertisement or a part of it, I feel it was definitely *not* justified.

Although the reason given, concerning the School's financial position, may have been sufficient to persuade the majority, I would have thought that

the increase in our termly contribution to G.S.F. was ample to hold our head above water without introducing an external element into a definitely internal magazine.

I conclude by echoing Mr. Phillips' wish for a promise of its not recurring.

Yours faithfully,

B. G. Butcher.

[The delay in delivery of the previous issue was in no way connected with advertisements, but was due to circumstances beyond our control and beyond the printers' control, Ed.]

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editors wish to acknowledge receipt of the following magazines and to apologise for any inadvertent omissions :

The Ashtedian, Beccehamian, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Caterham School Magazine, Elysian, Fettesian, Radleian, and Saga.

## EDITORS

Messrs. I. R. Bell, M. A. G. Evans, P. F. White, P. J. Andrews, J. M. Harvey,  
R. J. York, A. S. Gorman.

## THE SCHOOLMASTER'S LAMENT

(With apologies to Robert Frost)

This saying goodbye at the end of the term  
To the break of a bondage so tryingly firm  
Reminds me of all that can happen to harm  
A schoolboy cut off from the scholarly calm.  
For long weeks away from learning and school  
Just running around and playing the fool,  
Will he do that holiday task as he ought  
To retain that knowledge so painfully taught ?  
I wish I could say I shan't wake in the night  
Just thinking of cures for this schoolboy blight.

A. H. Tuley, IIB.

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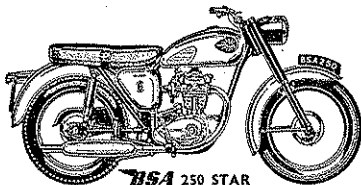
Minor Repairs same day

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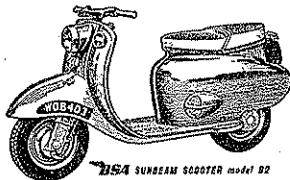
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