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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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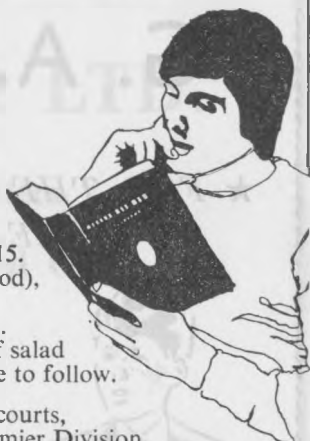
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The Tempest



1ST XV RUGBY TEAM 1972-73

Back Row (left to right): D. Currie (Touch Judge), J. Spencer, I. Shearer, T. Carroll, M. Scott, S. Hunt, S. Andrews, A. Foulds, M. King, Mr. J. Learmonth
Front Row: R. Edwards, A. Lewis, D. Perks, A. Wood, M. Saunders (Capt.), J. Woodbridge, W. Trendell, P. Harris, M. Dudley

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

EDITORIAL

The size, colour, lay-out and even the name of this magazine have been under review for quite a time now and although little has in fact changed, it is quite probable that changes will be made in the near future. However, once freed of many of the frustrating restrictions (such as how to accommodate such varied subjects in one magazine)—restrictions that can probably only be escaped from by changing the function of the magazine—will the subject-matter be of greater interest, will it be more widely read and will more people contribute to it, for all its more aesthetically-pleasing appearance? To say that it may well not, is not to pour scorn on the whole tradition of the school magazine. Whilst the sections of Examination Successes, Sports Reports, Old Boys' Notes and Original Compositions etc. most certainly have a bad effect on the pieces of writing that are intended to be seen as original, but not classified, the lay-out is a disadvantage, which for this edition at least we must try to overcome.

So, far from excusing ourselves for not having attempted to improve the image of the *Wycombiensian* we feel that it is essential to forget the drawbacks that writing for the School Magazine entails, not only to do justice to those who have contributed, but also to derive any pleasure from the features included here.

TIM HARDY.

The other editors were:—Jon Flint, Max Adam, Paul Scott-Dow, Mike Watson, Chris Burnham, Steve Edwards, Tim Ross, Fraser Pearson, Keith Tanner and 'Doff' Allen.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES 1972-73

We congratulate the following on gaining Open Awards:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| A. J. W. Dicker | Open Exhibition in Mathematics, St. John's College, Cambridge |
| D. M. Edwards | Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Pembroke College, Cambridge |
| K. M. Knowles | Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Churchill College, Cambridge |
| R. C. Lacey | Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Selwyn College, Cambridge |
| D. A. Lowe | Choral Exhibition (to read English), Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge |
| M. C. Smith | Open Exhibition in Medicine, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge |
| J. A. Sunley | Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Pembroke College, Cambridge |
| J. E. Underwood | Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Clare College, Cambridge |
| A. P. G. Walker | Open Scholarship in Natural Sciences, Trinity College, Cambridge |

Places at Oxford and Cambridge for 1973:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| D. G. Costello | Wadham College, Oxford, for Biochemistry |
| K. J. Dean | Lincoln College, Oxford, for History |
| E. T. H. Evans | Trinity College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |
| F. D. Glenister | St. John's College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |
| R. M. Mawhinney | Worcester College, Oxford, for History |
| R. C. S. Newton | Merton College, Oxford, for Modern Languages |
| M. W. D. Oldnall | Pembroke College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |
| A. P. Paine | Pembroke College, Cambridge, for Engineering |
| S. Plumridge | Downing College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |
| H. G. L. Russell | Brasenose College, Oxford, for English |
| P. M. Stevenson | Churchill College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |
| M. J. Weston | Hertford College, Oxford, for Geography |
| M. J. Wild | Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for Natural Sciences |

University Places 1972

J. S. Adam	Kent, Politics
T. J. Allen	Imperial College, London, Geology
R. V. Allnutt	Salford, Civil Engineering
W. H. Barksfield	Brunel, Electronics
R. F. Barnes	Liverpool, Biochemistry
D. K. Battisby	Liverpool, Law
C. V. Beale	Wye College, London, Agriculture
J. E. Benyon	Sussex, Electronics
N. M. Clark	Hull, Psychology
P. R. Coe	Keele, Geography/History
P. J. Coltman	Nottingham, Russian Studies
P. M. Copping	University College, Cardiff, English
A. G. Cowin	Southampton, History
S. M. Dawson	Aberystwyth, Modern Languages
C. L. Froude	Southampton, Biology
E. P. Gibson	Kent, Natural Sciences
B. W. Hill	Queen Elizabeth College, London, Physics/ Computer Science
J. R. Hill	St. Andrews, History
J. Hutchison	Newcastle, Economic Studies
S. R. Jenkins	University College, Cardiff, Geology
G. Lacey	Birmingham, Biochemistry
M. J. Lee	Birmingham, Law
J. W. Lewis	University College, Cardiff, History/Economics
G. D. Long	Loughborough, Civil Engineering
J. Lowe	Hull, Psychology
D. N. Lord	Southampton, English/Music
R. S. Lord	Swansea, Modern Languages
G. P. Lunnon	Exeter, Economics & Law
A. H. Massey	Brunel, Computer Science
R. A. Moore	Kent, Microbiology
G. D. Morris	Nottingham, Mechanical Engineering
R. E. Nicol	Birmingham, Medicine
V. J. Osborne	Nottingham, Mining Engineering
G. J. Pearce	Southampton, Law & Politics
J. Pepper	Birmingham, Metallurgy
J. M. Powell	St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, Medicine
S. C. Roberts	Manchester, Town Planning
R. S. Shearer	Strathclyde, Business Administration
A. G. Smith	East Anglia, Chemistry
M. Solomon	Manchester, History & Economics
H. Stevens	Aston in Birmingham, Engineering
J. M. Stonham	Aberystwyth, Law
P. F. Thomas	Imperial College, London, Mathematics

S. R. Thompson	Liverpool, Botany
J. L. Vernon	Birmingham, Geography
M. T. White	Sheffield, Materials Science
D. I. Wicks	Swansea, Computer Science
G. M. Wilson	Imperial College, London, Civil Engineering

Polytechnics (Degree courses)

J. N. Blake	Bristol, Law
P. J. Howland	Portsmouth, Quantity Surveying
M. J. C. Reed	Hatfield, Business Studies
N. J. Sherriff	Kingston, Geography
J. J. Szwerc	Portsmouth, Computer Science
K. A. Weston	Portsmouth, Law

SCHOOL NOTES

At the end of last term the staff played to packed, and appreciative, houses in their dramatic(?) and musical(??) production: *Luftstaffe* '72.

During the Spring Term, the Dramatic Society presented *The Tempest*, and the Choral Society sang Fauré's *Requiem* and Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*. There are reports on all these in other parts of the magazine.

We welcomed to the school in January B. K. Gelsthorpe, B.Sc. from Gordano School, Portishead, to be Head of Science. Mr. J. D. Lingard has left the school to be Head of Biology at Kington, Herefordshire; he will be succeeded by Mrs. M. C. Brown, B.Ed. Mr. R. C. Dorrance is to be congratulated on gaining the degree of Ph.D.

The C.C.F. General Inspection was held in fine weather this term; the senior inspecting officer was Rear Admiral Leach.

It has been decided to abandon the House system for games, and this has been largely replaced by inter-form competitions which were felt to have greater meaning for the boys taking part.

We look forward to a future free from rotten window frames and sudden flooding, now that the workmen are busy repairing the Junior Building.

We have been pleased to welcome Mr. Hills to the school after his two terms' absence, during which he was sorely missed. The school has again been indebted to Mr. Ryle who took over Mr. Hills' lessons during the autumn term, and whose enthusiasm and energy enabled him to carry two jobs simultaneously: here and at the Open University.

LIBRARY

We have just finished what proved to be a highly successful, but gargantuan, task of retrieving all the books issued during the Spring Term. During the 1971-72 academic year we 'lost' about 300 books (i.e. at least £200 worth of stock), and obviously some tightening up of the extremely liberal attitude towards the borrowing of books was inevitable. Librarians are now 'on duty' during private study periods, as well as the usual dinner hour, to date-stamp the books. We have therefore been able to keep a far closer check on who has the book out, and so who to chase! There has been a noticeable improvement in the Sixth Form's co-operation over the use of the Library, which is gratifying and beneficial to all concerned. We hope the relatively new lay-out of shelving in the library has enabled far more light to reach the work tables.

The Summer Term will see a major change in both the lay-out and use of the library building. With no first form next year, several classrooms will be vacated. We are moving the Junior Library into Room 1 in the Junior Block which will give the Junior School the feeling that the library is part of their everyday academic life, and will be better placed for use during 'Library lessons'. We hope Room 25 will be available as a magazine and newspaper room and Sixth Form private study area.

The present Junior Library will be freed for development as a Library Resource Centre and Reprographic Room. An audio-visual assistant, Mrs. Worley, will be in charge of the latter, and Mrs. Twitchen will perform any secretarial duties. We hope to develop, at the very least, a centre where information is stored on what material is around the school (e.g. film strips, tapes, records, magazines, books).

K. A. HILLIER.

I hereby certify that the person, animal, water-creature or ichthyosaurus variously referred to in these pages as 'Fuzzy-Goldfish' or 'F.G.' does not exist, and in fact has never existed.

'THE TEMPEST'

The Tempest is one of Shakespeare's last, and most unusual plays: unconventional in construction, complex linguistically, containing the elements of a ritual 17th century masque, and demanding sophisticated acting and an appreciation of the age it represents. Plainly, it is a difficult play to act; particularly so for a school production.

Having said this, all credit must now go to John Mitchell's production: it was an entertaining and memorable evening. Having watched the play in rehearsal through its development to its birth,

I know well how much work went into its production, both the rewards and the heartbreak, and also I know how much progress was made, especially in the last few weeks.

The cast divides itself naturally into the inhabitants of the island, on the one hand; and those from the ship on the other, these latter dividing again into the comic and the serious. The first group contains the most important characters, and here, William Ramsay as Prospero was outstanding: on stage for three-quarters of the performance, forced to play a man several times his age, he nonetheless dominated the stage, as Prospero must dominate it, although his major asset was his voice. Unlike so many school and amateur actors, Ramsay can modulate his voice impressively, and moreover he speaks verse as if he understands and appreciates it. Prospero has two especially great speeches:

‘The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces . . .’
and, later,

‘Ye elves, of hills, brooks, standing lakes and groves,
And ye that on the sands with printless foot
Pursue the ebbing Neptune . . .’

and Ramsay gave them the poise, rhythm and resonance that they must have. My only criticism would be his beard, but that is not his fault! He was, to my mind, superb; the acting discovery of the year for us.

Apart from Prospero, the most memorable thing was Miranda. This is not a good acting part, being very ‘static’, but Ava Huttak added more than a touch of ‘class’ to the homely features surrounding her. She looked the part, being strikingly pretty in an appealing, but innocent, way; and she spoke well, with conviction. She was, indeed, I suspect, a joy to coach, in that she was always ready to learn, or to co-operate.

As Ariel, David Gerrie eventually gave us a performance far in advance of anything he had promised in rehearsal. His one long speech, ‘You are three men of sin . . .’ was always slightly beyond the compass of his voice, but, let us face it, the part is outstandingly difficult. By contrast, the light relief of Caliban and Co. is easy to do well. Peter Ross produced an uninhibited and amusing display as a grotesque, though he may have sacrificed the simultaneous pathos available to the part. However, we look forward to his next performance, rumoured to be on the bell-ropes of Notre Dame. Roger Laing gave us an interesting Trinculo, his only fault being his occasional quietness. At times, assisted by his make-up, he touched on the combination of comedy and tragedy inherent in the great clowns. He could, in a part that encouraged it, be strikingly successful, I feel. As Stephano, Tim Ross was . . . Tim Ross. He coped quite well with the difficult task of acting the comic drunk, and, like his brother lacks self-consciousness, an advantage for any actor.

In the other 'courtly' parts, mention must be made of David Wagstaff's Gonzalo. The conventionally honest, if stupid, old man is not a rewarding part, but Wagstaff produced a realistic and amusing portrayal. Of the others, Graham Townsend stood out as Sebastian, as having thought about what he was doing. I, for one, would like to have seen him as Ferdinand, a part in which Christopher Mould did his best, but was out of his depth. It isn't his fault, but he does not look or sound like an Elizabethan courtier; he lacks the sophistication and the overt charm which Ferdinand should have, while he also lacks, understandably, the necessary experience: he looked occasionally rather frightened of Miranda. Alonso, his father, is a wooden character, possessing little realism or charm, but I do think Peter Flint could have sounded as if he believed what he was saying. He also showed an unfortunate talent for being in the wrong place on stage, which is one reason why the producer's hair is greyer than it was three months ago.

In the masque scene, Lesley Paterson as Juno sounded the most convincing, though all three girls were competent. The 'sunburnt sicklemen', bravely disguising the fact they were women, suffered from being out of time and giggling about it, which must have been as irritating to the cast and producer as to me.

Finally, Dennis Smith produced an effective and ingenious set, which doubled as a ship, and as the island, though the first scene was successfully made invisible by smoke, as it was intended to be. It did not, however, carry a Government Health warning.

Speaking purely for myself, it was a very welcome change to see a 'traditional' production, after such a long period. We should, after all, be capable in a school our size of producing a vivid and memorable play regularly. Other schools do, and we have the facilities and the people to do it extremely well. What of next year . . . ?

I.A.B.

'LUFTSTAFFE '72

After staggering to its feet during the beginning of December, *Luftstaffe '72*, the long-awaited successor to the now-infamous *Loochs & Son*, hobbled along the rehearsal runway, lurched uncomfortably into the opera of the first night, became airborne during the second half of that performance, and by Saturday had spread its wings and soared to the highest heights (well, almost!).

The opera, *Charado, or Comprehensively Beaten*, managed to present a refreshingly humorous view of a situation which most of the people involved regard as a life-or-death struggle. The story concerned an entirely fictional grammar school, which (although completely unlike the institution at the top of Amersham Hill), was threatened by the same black shadow of equality and fairness,

going COMPREHENSIVE (obedient gasps), and the Headmaster's efforts to avert that tragedy. That he succeeded may be an omen for this establishment; however, those in authority are unlikely to approve of his methods. Artistic highlights were provided by the dulcet tones of Messrs. White-Taylor, Ferris and Flinders, and I fear the spectacle of Simon Gay, David Lowe and Keith Ray as 'Three Little Maids' will be forever imprinted on the memories of all those who were privileged(?) to see it. Full credit, too, must go to Adam Hardy for his version of the original Mikado, which contained many a sharp prod in the direction of both reactionaries and trendy socialists.

It was the second half that we had really come to see, though: the funnies. And very funny they were, too: from the first castrati screechings of 'Mactezuma' to the freak-out at the end, the audience were kept on the verge of laughter for almost an hour—no mean feat. Apart from some of the old chestnuts dug up and used as padding, most of the humour was of a very high standard, 'Mactezuma', 'This is your life . . .', the Melodrama and the RGS news being outstanding. Best of all the comics, surpassing even the crass idiocy and refined smut of that well-known comic turn, Ian 'Shutup Barrett!' Blyth and Ken 'I don't drink' Hillier, were Derek 'Which act shall we miss out tonight, Ken?' White-Taylor and John 'Batman' Mitchell. With no disrespect to their teaching abilities, one can't help wondering if they haven't chosen the wrong profession. D.W.-T. we have seen before of course, and again proved by his versatility on and off the sports-field, that you can take a White-Taylor anywhere. Mr. Mitchell, however, was an unknown quantity as far as comic capers were concerned. What a peasant surprise. He was in turn camp as a row of tents in 'Macte', a metrical poet, a rustic moron with amazing powers of expectoration, a sinister Irishman and a cross-channel fairy.

The rest of the cast followed close behind the aforementioned funsters in combining lack of inhibition and astounding silliness with surprising Thespian abilities to make the revue a worthy successor to previous ventures. Everyone concerned put in large amounts of effort, from the scriptwriters and actors to the hard-drinking, hard-splicing sound team, the lighting normals, the nice make-up squad, minute stage-hands, dwarf programme-sellers, tasty pianists and many others. Altogether a resounding triumph for silliness. And next year? WHO NOS?

K.M.W.

'LUFTSTAFFE, OR HOT AIR APPARENT'

The distinction between history and Hillierity is not always drawn as clearly as one might expect, and a Staff Revue is more than likely to hold up a distorting mirror to the School's recent history. The effect is probably traumatic: no one is immune from the shafts

of mockery, from the cleaners in their subterranean refuges to the headmaster getting into a muddle over the week's rugby results. *Luftstaffe* carried the mad series, *Loochs is a backward School*, *Nos, son of Loochs* and *I'll be furry* yet another lunatic stage further.

The bogey of comprehensive upheaval cast in the mould of a Gilbert and Sullivan send-up was an obvious starter this year, with more topicality than could have been foreseen. Adam Hardy's skilful versifying, fitted to 'Mikado' tunes made 'The Charado, or Comprehensively beaten' a brilliant opening for this year's extravaganza. The 'book' achieved a real Gilbertian quality of moral dilemma and anguished tension between high principle and passion for the Head Boy (David Flinders) and the Head's daughter, Matilda (beautifully sung by Margaret Payne). Of course love triumphs: 'Blow trendy ideals if I can have you!' The Little Scheme of the ruse Headmaster (Derek White-Taylor) to engineer a mock-up of a comprehensive school and thus fob off Authority (or indeed the DES itself—'the great Civil Servant in the sky') is *not* after all betrayed. And its August Representative, the H.M.I. (Dennis Smith), making a splendidly flamboyant entrance is no less devious in his ways than the Head. He guarantees the School seven years' immunity from actual metamorphosis until his own 11 + son is safely through—a welcome respite from the general principle:

'And our ancient grammar schools
Perish at the whims of fools.'

The hilarious 'three little maids', rumbustiously galumphed by three lusty sixth-form boys, and the masters (trad. and trendy) all combined to establish a goonish school ethos appropriate to a nightmarish educational crisis. Something of the ingenuity of the words was occasionally lost, but the Gilbertsullivan merriment was readily appreciated.

Cortès, from last year, obviously asked for it, and duly got it—from the lithping thibilants of the prologue and the alleged Mehichan names like Ahuputsitallin and Otcocoa, to Ponce de Leon (who else but Dennis Smith again!), the whole thing liberally sprinkled with Aztec Bars and so on to the punch line of Corteth' corpthe, 'I'm only here for the bier.' Assorted telephone jokes and other witty imaginings punctuated a variety of more elaborate numbers. Memorable among these was Ken Hillier's cricket sermon on the text from (?) Acts: 'And Peter stood up before the eleven and was bowled.' Fred Brown, our beloved caretaker, was, not surprisingly, the subject of 'This is your life.' A wild radio quiz game managed to combine the I.R.A. (Buzz O'Behan) with a very convincing Indian gentleman from Bradford. The Victorian Melodrama was extravagantly melodramatic, and radio-news made

much play with staff names. We liked the idea of the character who was 'helping Mr. Morgan with his inquiries.' Finally the familiar (recorded) transatlantic voice of Lawrence Ryle provided a superb build-up for a new feature, a film, 'The 1972 Olympic Awards,' done in School (sometimes upside-down) in record time by our own home-grown camera-men R. A. Clarke and A. D. Brown. After a series of slides giving an amazing tale of motor episodes, the film regaled us with a stupendous display of nation-wide cross-country pounding, and tennis of a quite unusual swiftness, dominated above all by the droopy shorts of the indefatigable Derek White-Taylor, not to mention a cricket team (with spectators) entirely enacted by John Samways. It could have been the Goodies or the Monkees!

It is good for a school to be able to laugh at its own foibles and even to make mockery of cherished values and institutions. At least the masters know how they are being rumbled by their pupils! An audience composed of staff, boys and parents in just proportions is, of course, ideal for extracting the maximum of mirth from such a situation, even if the in-jokes are sometimes of evidently esoteric appeal. This wild flight of fantasy was the brain-child of Ken Hillier and his ebullient compère, Ian Blyth, to whose inspiration and untiring zest we owed such an outrageously entertaining evening.

OBERSCHLOGGMEISTER.

(Note: A number of masters will be leaving this summer.)

THE SPRING CONCERT

On Wednesday, March 28th, once again the resources of the Royal Grammar School and the High School combined in a very fine concert of high quality. In the first part Fauré's sensitive and dramatic *Requiem* was most effectively presented, with Mrs. Su Dunnett, Mr. David Flinders and our latest choral exhibitor at Cambridge David Lowe as the soloists. After the interval they were joined by Simon Gay as the counter-tenor, when the choir sang Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*. Anything less 'solemn' it would be hard to imagine. The delightful and lively music, very reminiscent of the operatic Mozart, is set to resounding and sonorous Latin texts—perhaps the best language to sing in.

The High School choir was under the direction of Miss Millicent Brown, and the united forces were conducted by Mr. Geoffrey Holmes. The precision, the vigour and the altogether excellent singing and playing made it a most memorable evening, and all concerned are to be thanked and complimented on the performance.

Arsenic and Old Lace.

At the R.G.S.

July 13th, 14th. ~

Tickets 30p Res 20p Un-res

HISTORY FIELD DAY 1973

It was a fine, warm, sunny day when a group of historians and one master went to discover our historical heritage (oh yes, Wagstaff came too). Throughout the day, historical sites covering English history from Roman times until the 17th century were 'studied.' Guides cunningly directed the group to souvenir shops where dear little old ladies emptied the pockets of unsuspecting visitors, and Wagstaff's too. There were fascinating 20th century football pitches to view at the Roman city of Verulamium, and a glorious example of an aristocratic table-tennis table at the Jacobean Hatfield House; not to mention paeons to Lord Grimsthorpe and his masterpiece of 19th century piety—St. Alban's Abbey, or Wagstaff imitating the entire chorus of elfins from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* on the 11th century earthworks of Berkhamsted Castle.

However, the day can be termed a great success, because Mr. Hillier purchased some excellent antique maps in St. Albans; and when prop-forward Andrews sat on a fine example of a 20 ft. 16th century solid oak table, it groaned horribly, but steadfastly refused to break. Apart from these excitements, there was a history field trip: this was interesting because one can take pleasure in looking at the remnants of our heritage. But, because the syllabus is as it is, these cannot be brought into the context

of the A-level history course. If the latter could be changed, these field-days could be of direct use; as it is, they do give one a greater affinity with the past.

We would like to thank Mr. Hillier for getting us back in one piece, in spite of harrowing tales of driving disasters told with evident relish by Kevin 'accident-prune' Smith and John Gillespie. Others who came were Mike Williams, Steve Edwards, Geoff Haynes, Iain Currie, Stephen Winter, Fizz Andrews, Geoff Hunt, Niall Oakey, Fraser Massey, Simon Green, Nick Jones—oh yes, Wagstaff came too (that's what he told Mr. Roebuck, anyway).

S. C. WINTER.

LIMESTONE PAVEMENT WEEK 1973

(or The Geography Field Trip)

Some bright Spark said, 'There are few, if any, landforms the origins of which are known with absolute certainty', a statement that was conclusively upheld by this year's field course. Staying, as indeed we were, at Giggleswick School, Settle, an old market town some 40 miles from Leeds (and 220 miles from Watford), an erratic Scot comforted us with the knowledge that conditions could be more extreme (and proved it by soaking an elderly member of the party!). But with an indoor heated swimming pool for 'Tubby' Johnstone to wallow in, all were happy. Joking apart, the weather was fabulous, the food superb—thanks to Benjamin Paley.

The week consisted of four major excursions and two days of group studies, which will be dealt with in due course. To break the young hands in gently we started with a brisk climb up Ingleborough, all 2373 ft. of it, for a scintillating view of the Carboniferous series. The lads stood up to it well, but a peach pram would have speeded us up. It also gave us our first sight of that recurrent hairy yellow rock-ape, as we picked up litter descending to Gaping Ghyl (Gill) where there was a marked absence of a certain member of staff. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the day spent in the Lake District, climbing a Langdale Pike. The magnificent eleven scaled Pavey Ark despite the lack of wallbars for the Yorkshire Yokel. The splendour of Gordale and Malham Cove with its edible water was tarnished by the loss of the peach bobble-hat. Whether reversing a coach for three miles is the most logical way of studying Kingsdale Beck is a matter for conjecture, certainly it turned out safer than stepping backwards to view alluvial exposures (tarrif 1.7)—see Parker for expression—useful ideas here. Good.

Two days were spent on group studies, Mr. Samways whistling round drumlin swarms at Hellifield and Burton-in-Lonsdale, chased by farmers; while that famous geographer K. A. Hillier made urban studies of Lancaster and Skipton, discovering that Mrs. Dinsdale had a large sphere of influence, that there was a shortage of underwear in Skipton, and locating his central business district. Valuable rural studies were completed at Gargrave, Settle, Kirkby Lonsdale and Austwick, featuring Arthur Negus, as you were, Stuart Gummbie on a white filly.

In conclusion, who was more erratic: Norber or Mark? Congratulations to Alan on keeping himself and his coach intact for a record two years, although reverse gear is a bit worn. Thanks to the old man, who is going back to where he came from—in the Davisian sense of the word, and certainly did not waste those last valuable evening sessions aided by our resident bedding plane (he'd land on his feet, even in his dressing gown).

Though the staff struggled to stay the pace, the involvement up front was reflected in the high number of field sketches and the success of the trip in educational value for the staff alone was immeasurable. Well, what do you think?

P. (for Parisi) BLEWETT, *et al., et ad.*

THE R.G.S. ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

Patrons: P. G. Taylor Esq., J. A. Walker Esq.

Chairman: J. Berth-Jones.

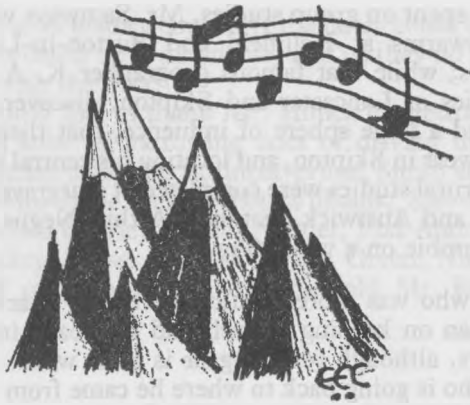
Treasurer: W. M. R. Ramsay.

Hon. Secretary: J. W. M. Chadwick.

Committee: M. N. P. Rogers, K. A. R. Liebscher, M. J. Waring. The Environmental Society was inaugurated in January of this year. After a somewhat slow start, we have succeeded in building up a thriving society. Already this last half-term we have shown several topical films, and we have already a substantial membership.

We have launched a campaign to collect newspapers, journals and magazines. This not only helps the environment because the collected newspapers are recycled, but also raises useful funds and decreases the tonnage of imported wood-pulp. We urge parents and pupils alike to support this worthy activity by collecting and bringing newspapers to school.

p.p. THE COMMITTEE.



ANY FOOL CAN SING ABOUT HILLS !

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE REPORT

The prospect of writing a house report offers the omniscient narrator the opportunity to give a detailed list of events which are informatively boring to the outsider and repetitively boring to the boarder who has either been part of the event or had first-hand commentaries on it. Therefore, it is more constructive to remind people in the know of the highlights of the team even if nobody else understands.

At the end of the Christmas term, the cessation of shrieking gales of laughter from the kitchen indicated the departure of our cook Brian to the sanctuary of Cheltenham, to be replaced by Mrs. Westwood. Welcome to her and thanks for satisfying the gargantuan appetites of the grateful inmates. A special thanks from Roger Butler for the tomato sauce which he spreads on his bread and butter.

The appearance of A. West, extrovert turned introvert, portended the arrival of the Tylers Wood band called Raffia whose advertising notices appeared in various unusual places such as Mr. Embrey's pocket-money box and on Simon Culverley's blazer during one breakfast. Publicity apart, however, the band have had two fine gigs—one at Christmas and one at Easter. It featured Andy West on guitar and vocals (too many of them), 'Ernie' Peake on guitars and vocals (not enough of them), Nick Planas on flute, Russell Mansfield on percussion and Phil on 'piano'. Special thanks to A. D. Broadway's band which starred in the Easter concert, providing a fine blend of humour and music with special starring attraction, Ian 'my brain hurts' Pattinson—congrats on the engagement.

As usual there have been many sporting achievements, the most notable of which is R. H. (Dick) Edward's gaining of 1st XV colours. Also congrats to A. West, S. Calverley, M. South who gained half-colours. S. Winter got full colours for perfect attendance at the non-games set.

Thanks to all the staff including Walter, Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Pattinson and especially Mr. Embrey who is getting hitched and leaving us at the end of term. He denies all rumours that he will be following an orienteering course to Germany afterwards. Good luck and thanks for all you've done. Thanks also to Mr. Wilson for coming in to do duty and refereeing the football match against Uplyme, the score of which will remain unknown to non-boarders.

Finally, good luck to all taking G.C.E. this year, especially the three fine 'A' level candidates who have worked especially hard.

I. CURRIE.

C.C.F. NOTES

The C.C.F. continues to flourish in spite of the attentions of those who would seek to destroy it.

The main event of the term, the annual Inspection, proceeded much as usual, in spite of an attempt by the so-called 'Peace Lovers' to destroy the Peace with a 'bomb' timed to reduce the school to a mass of rubble during the Inspection.

Those who are duped into believing they are furthering the efforts of Peace by joining such an organisation would do well to ponder what sort of leaders they are following who resort to the civil offence of a 'Bomb Lie' with its consequent demand on the time and efforts of those public servants which would be better spent in solving other crimes. They might also ponder that those leaders would appear to wish to resort in secret to the worst possible type of warfare which openly they pretend to condemn.

The Inspecting Officer, Rear Admiral H. C. Leach, the assistant Chief of Naval Staff, concerned with Policy, was received by a Guard of Honour and the General Salute by a steadily improving Band. He was then conducted round a programme of normal training whilst his Staff Officers, Major A. W. Blackmore, Lieut. Cmdr. E. N. T. Morris and Sqdn. Ldr. A. J. Hillyard concentrated on their respective service sections.

The Inspecting Officer complimented the Contingent on the excellent standard of enthusiasm and efficiency shown by the cadets but regretted that he could not make complimentary remarks about the appearance of some cadets which fell below the standards required on Service stations.

ARMY SECTION

Adventure Training Camp, based as in the past few years on 89 Week End Training Centre situated on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border near Leek, followed a pattern similar to that of former occasions. It was pleasing however to have two former members of the C.C.F., Officer Cadets J. Pepper and P. Thomas, now at University, eager to help with the training, which a benevolent clerk of the weather helped to turn into a highly successful week.

All tastes were catered for in more ways than one. Those who like the rugged scenery of the Moors on the fringe of the Peak District found the orienteering and Map Reading Treasure Hunt a very satisfying pursuit. The two-day exercise under bivouac satisfied the military minded and the Initiative Exercises provided a good test of team work and leadership. The 'trenchermen' were well catered for with the roasts of lamb, pork, chicken and turkey, and even the most demanding of appetites sharpened by exercise and the invigorating air of vintage quality, were satisfied by Bill's unending supply of second and third helpings.

It is pleasing to record the success of last year's Cadet R.S.M.—Mike Oldnall in one of the new short service Commissions prior to taking up a place at Pembroke College Cambridge, and of C.S.M. Andrew Paine in obtaining a University Cadetship in engineering at the same college.

R.P.

R.A.F. SECTION

For the first time in many years the section has its own officer which has led to an upsurge in activities. Most marked has been the amount of Chipmunk flying carried out at R.A.F. White Waltham.

Efforts by members in a sponsored 'Litter Pick-up' raised sufficient money to buy a minibus, enabling a wider range of activities to be arranged.

Highlights in the section's out of school activities include, a visit to the B.O.A.C. simulators and maintenance hangar, a weekend exercise in company with the army section and a visit to the R.O.T.G. (Reserve Officer Training Group) at the American High School at Daws Hill. Two cadets enjoyed a weekend as guests of the staff and students of R.A.F. College Cranwell.

Under Officer S. Green and Sgt. P. West have completed Flying Scholarships and frequently find the time, and money, to disturb

the peace of the Bucks countryside flying aircraft from Booker. Cpls. N. Upchurch and Mansfield mastered silent flight on gliding courses last September.

General inspection saw the section putting on demonstrations of drill, navigational plotting, wind tunnel, dinghy drill and model aircraft. The section took the honours in the shooting competition held as part of the inspection, thanks to the expertise of the captain, Sgt. Harvey.

The year's major event was Easter camp at R.A.F. Finningley, Yorkshire, where a good time was had by all 22 cadets who attended. About 150 hours flying was clocked up by the section in Varsity and Dominie aircraft. The Station Commander's Plaque for the best flight on camp was won despite fierce competition from three other schools, including Eton.

Mr. S. Crawshaw will be joining the section, in spite of a week at camp, and should prove a great help to Flt. Lt. Smaje.

K. DOUTHWAITE.

R.N. SECTION

With the onset of warmer weather we are once more beginning to think about the resumption of our boating activities at Longridge Scout Centre next term, and practical seamanship has taken over from classroom teaching. This culminated in two demonstrations by the section during this year's General Inspection.

Unfortunately the senior Field Day had to be cancelled due to the rail strike, but the new-entries class went to Portsmouth on February 1st, and several cadets are expected to be visiting H.M. ships and establishments on courses during the Easter and summer holidays.

The General Inspection this year was made by Rear Admiral Leach, R.N., and his party included the C.C.F. Liaison Officer, Lt. Cdr. Morris, R.N., so it was particularly important that the Naval displays were of the required standard. In this we were successful despite the painting and chalking activities of certain misguided and childish people.

In his closing speech the Admiral drew our attention to the fact that the Unit's standard of smartness is 'well below average', but continued to say that in terms of keenness and efficiency, which he considered more important, we are well *above* average. The Inspection was of value to the section in other ways too—it finally provided the required incentive to clean and tidy the office and seamanship room, and perhaps brought the date of the survey of the 16-ft. motor boat a little nearer.

P.O. T. J. BARTLETT.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The Science Society has had one of its most enterprising years for a long time.

There have been extremely interesting trips to British Steel at Newport; Wiggins Teape at Beaconsfield; the Guinness Brewery in London; and Kodak at Stevenage. The weekly films have, on the whole, been extremely entertaining, and the lectures have mostly been of a very high standard.

Our thanks go to Mr. McKnight who, as usual, has been very helpful.

THE COMMITTEE.

R.G.S. BENEVOLENT FUND

Last term we collected £135 as against the £152 of Autumn 1972. These are princely sums when compared with previous years when we were pleased with £100. We need only £40 to topple the highest total on record—£325 for 1964 (we now have £287.34). Many thanks to all our contributors, and the collectors who have worked wonders these two terms.

PAUL SCOTT-DOW.

WHEN WILL WE LEARN

Many thousand years ago the first war began. It is not recorded in history, but it is reasonable to assume the following points: it was caused by one tribe or caste attempting to take the food or belongings of another; it began with a surprise attack on an unsuspecting target; it ended in a massacre. The survivors of this war probably learnt from their experiences, and afterwards kept an armed guard ready. Once potential attackers realised that they would always face prepared defenders, further attacks became rarer.

Now, of course, things have changed, and wars are not fought with stone axes, but with far more fearsome devices. Our modern deterrent is not a crowd of warriors with spears, but several highly developed submarines carrying the 'Polaris' missiles. Despite these differences, however, the basic principles remain the same. Throughout history it can be seen that the most successful offensives have been made against undefended targets. Moreover, it can also be seen that almost all attacks are made on targets which are *thought* to be undefended. The Nazi invasions of the Second World War are all examples of this second case. Sadly, Hitler was correct about the defences of all except Britain and Russia. The price, in terms of human suffering, paid by the invaded countries, is well known. Britain too was almost defeated, and stood teetering on the verge of defeat until late 1942, when the balance of the war began to swing back in the Allies' favour.

You may wonder why Britain was so unprepared. The answer to this is fairly obvious. The overriding political sentiment in

Britain in the thirties was one of pacifism, largely due to a large and vocal organisation called the Peace Pledge Union. This caused British re-armament to be delayed, almost until the beginning of war. I would say, therefore, that the P.P.U., though perhaps acting with the best intentions, was responsible, at least in part, for the deaths in the first three years of the war.

Now this organisation has appeared again, still recommending the same means of preventing war. The fact that this simple method, simply disbanding the armed services, does not work, seems irrelevant. Czechoslovakia offered no resistance to the Russian invasion, but this did not encourage the Russians to pull out. On the other hand, Switzerland, renowned and respected as a perfect neutral for centuries, maintains a modern Army and Air-Force, and has National Service. Not only is the P.P.U. Peace Plan useless, but the methods used to encourage support for this plan are insupportable, ranging from leaflets based on half-truths and fiction, through disruption of various activities, to physical violence.

We are told that there is no P.P.U. in the R.G.S. If this is so then perhaps the various incidents during the C.C.F. General Inspection, and the leaflets which litter the school are due to Pixies which live at the bottom of the Headmaster's garden! I do not believe in pixies, and I certainly do not believe they could cause a bomb-hoax. This can lead me to only one conclusion, which I cannot elaborate too much, or this article might not get printed.*

I would like to leave you with a few small points to think about: do you think that by trying to disrupt the C.C.F. the P.P.U. is greatly affecting Britain's defence, or is merely annoying those people who believe that C.C.F. is an interesting and valuable way of passing Thursday afternoons?

If the P.P.U.'s wider policies were successful, and Britain were invaded, would you be glad to live under conditions similar to those in France in 1940-1945?

If there were no Navy, Army, or Air-force, who would save the 2,000 or more civilians rescued each year by the services, and who would go to the aid of thousands of people in natural disaster areas?

T. J. BARTLETT.

(* Censorship self-imposed.—ED.)

W.P.S. REPORT

After a most successful season we would like to thank the C.C.F. for their existence, with a special thank-you to T. Bartlett for his helpful co-operation in our cause.

Love and Peace.

WYCOMBE PEACE BOYS.

'If there is hope it lies in the Proles.'—George Orwell

If we could stand together,
Bound for ever by love,
Then,
We could destroy the guns,
Rockets, missiles, submarines and bombers
With one vast united love.
We could love so loud
That all their greed and hate dissolves
Into a flood of tears.

SAIL ON SILVERGIRL

Sail your dreamboat, baby, and you'll get along
Just fine.
But mind you don't fall in the water, or you'll find
In disillusionment
That the river of life is a powerful thing.
Watch out!
It'll pick you up and smack against the rocks
Those delicate visions
That'll shatter 'n' scatter in a merciless swirl
Of green and white.
Baby, let your dreamboat slide along the shining, winding way
toward
The ultimate sunset.
Let your body soak in silver, paint your tight skin
Yellow and gold
The inner depths of your soul, jet-white.
Go ahead, baby,
Spend your days with colours in your eyes ('cause we all know
Life is
A brief kaleidoscope—enjoy it while you can).
But
When it's time to go you'll have nothing to show
Just
A handful of groovy coloured dust that'll trickle
Through your fingers.
Sail your dreamboat, baby, don't lose any sleep
Over me.
I'm searching for the truth somewhere on the ocean of being
In reality
And that crystal craft of yours could never
Take the strain.
It doesn't bother me that the river of life is a powerful thing
Cause I've got
The biggest pair of waterwings, baby, that you ever did see.

ANONYMOUS II.

BATTLE HYMN

Pink is the colour,
Wally is the name,
Twenty in a box,
And Woodbines is the game!
There he goes in his coat so grey,
Lending Woodbines, Woodbines, all the day.

c Wally Woodbine Enterprises in association with To-Toes Inc. 1973.

YET ANOTHER WORLD-WIDE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE WYCOMBIENSIAN!!!

An interview by the intrepid art-critic, Kevin Booby, with that living legend, Wally Woodbine:

KB: Firstly I would like to ask you, Mr. Woodbine, what were your early influences?

WW: Urrrh . . . well, Buddy Holly, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Farley's Rusks, Frank Zappa and Sainsbury's Cooking Sherry, to name but a few.

KB: To what do you attribute your present state—er, I mean, status, in contemporary society?

WW: Well, basically, Kevin, it all stems from a traumatic experience several years ago with next-door's cat . . . Well, what I mean is, most people are searching for an outlet for their feelings of alienation—

KB: —You mean some kind of catharsis?

WW: Well, not as such, Kevin, more a, um . . . psychosomatic—

KB: Yupp, right on!! But what *are* the ultimate objectives of the Wally Woodbine Lending Co. Ltd.?

WW: Well, basically, the utter destruction of the present capitalist-based industrial-military system, which would leave the world free to accept such a talent as what I have.

KB: So you're influenced by Ernie Wise as well, then?

WW: Well not so much Ernie Wise, more a sort of . . . Fuzzy Goldfish.

KB: But I thought you and F.G. were deadly rivals.

WW: Oh no, best of friends, best of friends. (*Goes bright pink.*)

KB: (*hastily changing the subject*) How much importance do you attach to the symbolism inherent in school dinners?

WW: Oh, about as much as I attach to Tudor Crombey and similar unprincipled, long-haired, left-wing trouble-makers.

KB: Finally, Mr. Woodbine, which facet of your undeniably impressive personality would you consider to be the most important?

WW: Oh, undoubtedly the fact that I don't exist.

THE OLD WOODEN MOUTH-ORGAN

In the early winter,
before the fog and mists
which besiege the city at this time of year,
I used to pass an old but clean beggar,
who squatted on a street-corner
playing an old wooden mouth-organ.
But as the winter drew on,
it became too cold and dirty to walk,
and I took the taxi for the short journey
from the station to my office.
Through the dirty yellow of the London fog
I could no longer see the old man,
but I could still hear his music
struggling through the heavy air.
One exceptionally bitter morning
early in the New Year,
I noticed that the music was no longer there,
and suddenly it seemed cold inside the taxi;
all colour turned grey, monochromatic.
I shouted to the taxi-driver to stop,
and I leapt out
even before the cab had pulled to a halt.
I stumbled half-blind towards the corner
and experienced an apprehensive sense of relief
as I perceived a dark shape
outlined against the stone wall.

But there was no life here:
just a bundle of rags and grimy limbs.

It seemed that I could hear
faint echoes of music as I bent down
and carefully removed the old wooden mouth-organ,
clasped tightly in the cold, grimy hand.
I stood up slowly, knowing
that no more music would dance, as before,
from the old wooden mouth-organ,
and wondering
why the world was so cold, grey and empty.

J.P.

THE LITERATE LAMENT

I tried my best to write a rhyme
On life and death, seasons and time
But when I did the people bood
And now I'm only labelled 'pseud'.

D. HINTON.

THE LAST LAUGH

A quick glimpse
of the mountain tops;
the mist again . . .

—
the last laugh.

The mouth-piece of forgotten dreams,
I shall run alone across the plain.

IAN C. VALE.

MIDDLE CLASS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

You have nothing to lose but your televisions, fridges, potato peelers, greenhouses, fountain pens, billiard tables, cars, little mats for putting the teapot on, twin-tub washing machines, unsatisfactory hire-purchase agreements, perambulators, transistor radios, football programmes, oxo cubes, lung cancer, dishwashers, dog kennels, fitted carpets, nightclubs, tricycles, greengrocers, yoghurt cartons, nylon sheets, take-away Chinese food, stereo systems, semi-detached houses and your complacency . . . JOIN TODAY!

by ALFRED, MARX and SPENSER.

The Kings and Queens
are drowning in the sky,
quiet as clouds they die.

Someone's sunlit hair
smoulders on their shoulder
over there

Cigarette unravels
in electric blue
ribbons for you.

SMOKING

If I sit alone in my room
in the weak morning sunlight,
and smoke, and all is quiet,
the smoke around me
becomes the bars of a cage,
and I cannot move
until I have finished my cigarette.

IAN C.

THE SUN WILL RISE ALONE

Morning breaks.
The old tramp takes
so long to get back on the road
that one day
the Sun will rise alone.

CLASSROOM + CROBBLE = CLASSROOM BAFFLEBANG?

Bing clang bong doooo
Silly mud door you know what
Zeedop zeedop piggle thorpe
It means kipper never does any
Cluck cluck (and other chicken sounds)
One yes me birem birem
Shridlycon kfly bok tok
Who's this hey there O SIR
Age is dawn whooooooooooooo
O SIR O SIR O SIR
So to language cribble
You know we have to
Shock ta foggerly bop bop neep
Already
Shreedorp Shreedorp blop dop neep
O SIR O SIR O SIR
Drama signs signs sign
Sketch bragam yeeer
Woof Woof Cluck Cluck
Snickfall barga hab hab
Moooooooooooooooooooooooooooo
evtchhuhhuh middleman
Troudle in santa crack black
Sir it is basalt
Dilemna black? Where? How?
don't you, don't you
why my god it's
don't you don't you
Trueeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
Ahhhhhhhhhhhh
Liesssssssssssssss
Oh Sir Oh Sir
Trueeeeeeeeeeee
Oh Srrrrrrrrrrrr
Liesssssssssssssssss
SIR!
P.S. Schtunk Schhhtunk.

KEITH WALLER
BRIAN STREVENS.

'OUI, L'EAU COULE ET L'ARBRE ATTEND'

The clouds darken upon the horizon
and slowly approach the tree
which is dying, withering, dusty
from lack of rain. It sees the clouds
but the tree does not stir,
the clouds move so slowly
but the tree does not stir,
it understands that Nature is wise
and is totally resigned to her hands.
The tree makes no sound,
looks up for the last time.
You can hardly tell it has stopped breathing.
Still the clouds move slowly
and as they pass above
they break a little,
and the soft drops of rain
wash the dust from the leaves of the tree.
The clouds move on, the tree is dead,
but it sparkles in the sunlight.

IAN C.

JUST A MINUTE, DEAR,
I THINK THERE'S A
BOEING 747 ABOUT
TO CRASH INTO
THE HOUSE...



EPIGRAMMAR

Hello lads—how's tricks?
Old Pavillion—number six.
Cricket must at last resign,
Concede the game to nicotine.

GEORGE.

A MAN GIVING AWAY REAL MONEY IN GLASTONBURY

Today, the twenty-sixth of march, 1973,
a man was found in the streets of Glastonbury
giving away real money.

Many people refused his offer,
after all what would you say
if a stranger approached you
and said, 'have a fiver'?
—I'd thank him and take it.
He also gave away a dozen combat jackets,
valued at £5 each,
and twenty pounds to a spastics home,
(saying 'it's better to do good turns than bad').

He was questioned by the police—
was he insane, a forger
or another Robin Hood?
But no, it was real,
he was just being generous,
but the police could not understand.
He is believed to be a londoner.
Watch out, there's a madman in the town.

I suppose by now you're feeling jealous
and wishing someone would give you money,
but don't you see, he's saying the opposite—
it's better to give than receive.
But you don't understand
with your preconditioned money lust,
your greed and selfishness.

A man was found today
giving away £400
on the streets of Glastonbury,
believed to be a londoner,
questioned by the police—
said 'it's better to do good turns than bad.'

BEYOND

Lie in shallows and warmth
of chalk-bound water
and peer down

through the crack, watch
infinity end.
And beyond . . .

Graves yawn and ghosts rise up
to keep vigil
upon your incredible experience
as the blinding flash of war
outlines the jagged edge
of Time and Being

And beyond . . .

I cannot enter.

KLEPE.

HAILSTORM

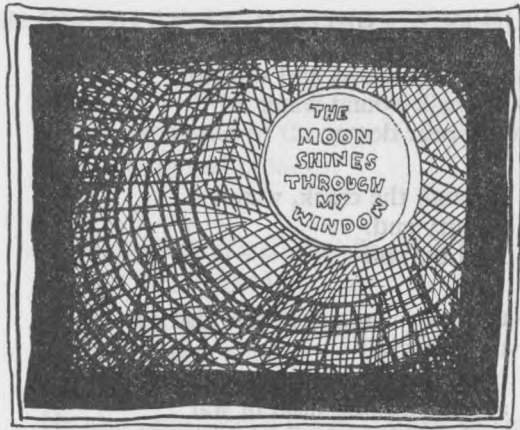
Hailstorm
Hailstones playing bouncing
(Blanched flies in a shaft
of artificial fountain's light)

In the aftersun
Walking the green glistening
I smelt wet soil, thought

It is so long since I dug
Holes in the ground
With my fingers and nails

Years I have stood off, upright
Civilised covered unbent knees.
I should:

Climb trees (musty bark)
Splash stones in water
Laugh
Gape widefaced at newness
Ask why does it hail?



... SOMETIMES

THE FLIES CRAWL UP THE WINDOW

(To the tune of 'The flies crawl up the window')

The flies crawl up the window,
That's all they have to do;
The flies crawl up in thousands
And crawl down two-by-two!

They put up their umbrellas—
When it starts to rain;
And when the rain is over—
They put them down again.

(Repeat first VERSE)

ANON. (A. Spider (edited)).

AN ODE TO SCHOOL

I love to do my school work right,
I bring an apple every day,
I even love the men in white,
Coming to take me away.

S. G. WAIGHT.

AN ODE TO BONES

I went to take my driving test,
The examiner was glum,
The test, of course, I made a mess,
And called the examiner a idiot.

S. G. WAIGHT.

DAWN SINGER

I am a Dawn Singer
as I sit alone upon the rock
and watch the mountains awake
open their eyes and lift their brows
to the dust and debris
of Time and Power
pervading my flaring nostrils.

Industry drowns my song
and I rise to follow the Sun
to greet the Dawn once again.

J.P.

THE FOUR OF THEM

The four of them
sat, pensively
in the crater,
around the sleeping cross
and occasionally laughed.
If their ancestors were watching
they had lost their lustre,
their eyes had been dulled
by the cloud of time
swirling around their lips.
Finally,
although still pregnant,
they had to leave;
Night was drawing on.

IAN C.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP 1973—HARTLEPOOL

This year's Geography Field Trip was undeniably a success and the 40 of us who went on it came back having learned a lot.

We set off at 5 o'clock in the morning, having been assured that an early start was imperative, and in the capable hands of our coach driver, Albert Embankment, we arrived at Hartlepool, one of the most attractive industrial towns of the north-east, a few hours later. Admittedly we did run into a bit of bad luck on the way but it was the other driver's fault and we do sincerely hope that Binns Minor will be discharged from hospital within the next few months. Most boys escaped with less severe injuries and find their crutches a little less difficult to use now.

On the first day we were lucky enough to be taken on a trip to see a river several miles away. We would have appreciated it more had a coach been laid on, but nevertheless no one complained about having to make the ten-mile journey crocodile fashion and, after all, it was a very nice river. I must say the so-called 'glacial deposits' in it looked suspiciously like industrial waste to me and I still want to know why both of Blenkinsop's legs dissolved away while he was paddling in it. Actually, Blenkinsop is quite cross about that episode too. Later that day we returned to our camp which consisted of huts cleverly made out of sun-dried mud with pieces of wood here and there to reduce the possibility of their falling down. These proved ineffective against the storms and blizzards at night, and we agreed with a certain geography master who shall remain anonymous that indeed it *was* a shame he had forgotten to book us into the famous Hartlepool Hilton. We duffed him up a treat that night.

On the second day we went to see the river again, and noted with excitement that it had not undergone any dramatic changes since we last saw it. A packed lunch was provided this time and we had fights to see who would be the lucky person to get it. Bunter won and scoffed the lot.

Bubonic plague broke out in the evening much to our dismay and quite a few boys were dead by the morning. However this was not considered a good enough excuse for missing the excursion next morning, which this time went to the river. In fact we went to see the river for the first six days of the week we spent there. It was jolly exciting and we all had a wizard time, but I feel that interest in the river had dropped by the sixth day. Some boys were tearing their hair out and foaming at the mouth while others simply jumped in and drowned themselves.

In the evenings after supper we would sit around talking about the day's work. After the third day we had said all there was to say about the river and so we started to tell each other jokes. Cobbledick Major told one particularly weedy one and was

immediately knifed by Sturgeon. He was told off and promised never to do it again.

After these discussions we were free to do as we wished. Some boys went to pubs, where they bought beer, while others did completely different things. At 10 o'clock sharp we were all strapped into our beds and any boy who found difficulty in getting to sleep on his comfy cement mattress was given a hard knock on the head with a sledgehammer to help him along. Talking was strictly forbidden but in all fairness to the geography masters they did ungag us first thing each morning.

On the last day we were given an extra 10 minutes in bed and were then soundly whipped. We were told this was part of the course and quite often came up as an 'A' Level question, but we found this a very weak excuse and did not really understand it either. We were agreeably surprised to learn that we were going to give the river a miss that day and were going to do a farm survey instead. Hartlepool is full of farms as everybody knows and on arriving at one of them we proceeded to ask the farmer and his lads some searching questions. We were surprised to find they had a herd of kangaroos and when we asked them why, they gave us mysterious looks.

Suddenly it was time to go home. Unfortunately Albert the coach driver died in the morning so we had to ask a passer-by if he would drive us back. He agreed to but seemed very reluctant.

On the whole, those of us who were able to crawl out of the wreckage after the motor-way pile-up on the way back enjoyed the trip and agreed that it was unfortunate that so many boys had been killed or maimed for life during it. These things will happen but it would be a shame to let them spoil our enjoyment of the week. As I was saying, the three of us who did get back, that is myself, McLoony and Agnew, all had a smashing time and think that we will probably get our Geography 'A' Levels now. We would like to thank the history master who came with us, and you for being such beautiful people.

CHARLIE WATTS
and J. J. FLASH.

RUGBY—1st XV

Played 24, Won 15, Drawn 1, Lost 8. Points for 564, Against 304

After last year's strong and successful side, this year's team was greatly underrated and considering our inexperience and certain limitations, at times we achieved even more than we did last year, but our hall-mark was unpredictability and there were plenty of pitfalls. We again relied on the backs for our attacks but tended to be inflexible, kicking too often and not switching the play as

frequently as we should. Broadly the season fell into four phases, a shaky disorganised start, a run of nine wins, a spell of excellent teamwork and a disappointing finish.

With only five of last year's team, we took some time to settle and although we beat Windsor G.S. for the first time for many years, we then lost to four schools in a row, including the strong St. Benedict's side and our 'bogey' team, Emanuel. After winning the local derby against Borlase, the pack settled down and supplied plenty of ball for a back division that was running more smoothly, but still relied on individuals for penetration, notably T. Carroll and M. Saunders, the captain, who broke the school try record before Christmas. Between them these two scored over half the total tries. We notched nine victories in a row, the best results being over Watford G.S. 38—11, and Hitchin G.S. 18—3, although far bigger wins were recorded against weaker opposition. However we played poorly against Lord Williams losing 7—9.

Cancellations and postponements meant a long break after Christmas, giving time for practice and preparation whose value was evident in the ensuing games where good teamwork brought some fine results. In an exciting game the strong Harrow Co. side snatched a draw in the dying minutes and four days later our scrummaging work paid off when we outshoved the far heavier Met. Police pack: our 30—7 win included a pushover try. The climax of the season was again our game v. Hampton G.S. The forwards worked hard to negate Hampton's superiority and we made better use of our possession, building up a 24—7 lead with 20 minutes remaining; we then defended bravely but Hampton's constant pressure brought two late scores and a final score of 24—19. After this climax we were unable to regain our form and lost the last two games.

Although not such a great team as last year, we made far greater use of our potential and improved on many of last year's scores. However, though some members worked hard throughout the season, we would have benefited from a greater team effort off the field both in the sphere of fitness and in improving basic skills. It is hoped to run a pre-season training camp next year to generate enthusiasm and quickly find a balanced side. We learnt a great deal about scrummaging, but despite J. Spencer's strength, we still lacked co-ordination in mauls and rucks. F. Glenister won much ball in the scrums and when he left was ably replaced by D. Perks, the 'utility' player, who reverted to his natural position where he was supported by the strength of A. Foulds. At loose-head S. Andrews improved rapidly at the start of the season but must work hard next season if he is to reap the full benefit of his experience. Though he left early, J. Sunley was an asset at the start of the season, but we did not find a balanced second row until M. Dudley joined M. Scott. We had difficulty in finding a flanker of speed

to support J. Spencer and A. Wood in the back-row, ultimately M. King and G. Shearer were vying for the position.

S. Hunt, an accomplished scrum-half with a long pass had a very good season and represented South Midlands, while his partner J. Woodbridge who added much fluidity and speed to the backs was sorely missed during his long injury. W. Trendell's tackling was suspect at the start of the season but he was the mainstay of the defence v. Hampton and though frequently overshadowed by those surrounding him, he shows great potential for next year, as does the most improved player of the season, side-stepping right wing P. Harris. Winger T. Carroll's great attacking and defensive attributes are tarnished by some flaws which he must work hard to eradicate for he could achieve even more than the S.W. England trial he earned this year. Centre M. Saunders had a particularly good season culminating in a S. England trial. R. Edwards at full-back often lacked support but with added confidence and a calmer temperament could contribute a great deal next year. Our thanks must go to Mr. Learmonth whose guidance and encouragement was so vital to our success.

A. K. C. WOOD.

2nd XV

This season was not particularly successful, for out of 22 games only 8 were won; 301 points were scored while 387 were conceded. For most of the season players with ability preferred to play for the 3rd XV and we failed to establish 15 regular players. In all, 45 players had to be called upon. Due to 'pressure of work' and first team calls it was even necessary to employ four captains. Gallant efforts by Mr. Prue to arrange training were met by abject refusals and this led to a lack of fitness and tactics which were all too visible on the field.

The season began in unfortunate style, six successive games were lost and heavy defeats were inflicted upon us by Emanuel School and St. Bartholomew's G.S., before we managed to beat Sir William Borlase's School. Some rather more favourable results included good victories over Watford and Hitchin and these were followed by a mammoth 82—0 victory over St. Albans G.S. From this point until the end of the season we had a succession of unlucky defeats, broken only by a victory in an exciting game against St. Edmund's College and an easy win over Herschel H.S.

The pack was basically an immobile unit and although we had many useful forwards we could never gather them together at the same time. Glenn Shearer led the pack ably during my temporary absence in the higher sphere of rugby and then was duly promoted himself. Ewen Peters was a reliable second row forward, but we were unable to find him a regular partner. During a panic search

to fill this position Steve Halson was converted from a basketball player into a rugby player and he performed here for much of the season. It was not until the end of the season that we found that Steve Kreft was best suited to this position. Nick Jones was a skilful hooker and we had to find him a succession of partners in the front row. Steve 'I'm really a three-quarter'! Ebbs performed willingly in this position, and this was necessary for many other forwards at varying times. We had no sooner discovered M. Pope's skill at prop-forward than he went lame and Bernie Worren's dubious back strain necessitated a move to the backs. S. Amin and Phil Howe were useful utility players and full marks to Mark Bedingham for enthusiasm.

For much of the season the problem in the three-quarters was a lack of penetration, but we finally solved this by coaxing Pat Brown from the 3rd XV. Unfortunately we no sooner extracted Alan Lewis from the 3rd XV than he was required by the 1st XV. Kevin Bennell at scrum-half and Dave 'fingers' Bucknell at fly-half proved to be an incompatible combination and we were forced to use converted forwards such as 'Doff' Allen in the fly-half position. Kevin Bennell had an extremely successful season, during which he managed to accumulate 61 points of which 12 were tries. Alan Newell was a penetrating winger but he was unfortunately plagued by leg injuries. Simon Calverley proved reliable at full-back and useful as a winger.

Towards the end of the season we borrowed some players from the under 15's, namely Coxwell, Hall, Edwards and Lipscombe, and they showed promise for the future. I would like to thank Ian Currie, a non-rugby player, for being prepared to play for us when we arrived at his boarding-house five minutes before kick-off, begging for a fifteenth player. During the season there were many close matches which we lost because we lacked fortune and because we were short of an accurate goal-kicker. Although the season was not very successful I think all those who played did enjoy themselves and this is what really counts. Half-colours were awarded to M. King, I. Shearer, N. Jones, E. Peters, [K. Bennell, D. Bucknell, S. Calverley, S. Ebbs, A. Newell and S. Amin.

I would like to thank Mr. Prue for showing great forbearance in having the misfortune to watch a season of uninspiring matches.

M. KING.

3rd XV

By its very nature the 3rd XV always tends to be a somewhat motley crew of dissidents, honest toilers, players of unrecognised talents, old lags and plain jokers. Only this year it was more so. Putting a side out at all proved an initial difficulty of some magnitude. It was just overcome to meet a lively Windsor under-16 team who proceeded to run in try after try. However, a respectable rally

was mounted in the second half. Thereafter the team settled into the habit of winning.

A narrow defeat was inflicted by the John Hampden School but was avenged in the return fixture. Lord William's 2nd XV proved too strong and a much weakened team lost by a single point to Dr. Challoner's. All the other ten games were won and most won well.

(Another report of some length originating from a group calling themselves 'The Committee' was inadvertently sent to 'The Red Mole'—or was it 'OZ'?)

UNDER 15

Played 20, Won 14, Lost 6. Points for 411, Against 221

Whilst there were some splendid individual performances this season, seldom did the team rely upon these for success. Indeed, perhaps the greatest pleasure was derived from the concerted team effort which was maintained throughout the season—as reflected by regular attendance at training.

Four of the defeats were by a margin of only one score, and of these the games against Lord Williams and St. Nicholas were among the best of the season.

At No. 8 Edwards, the captain, gave a splendid example to the rest of the team—both on the field and in training; it was a pity he sometimes lacked the close support which is so important. Invariably the pack typified the spirit of the side, seldom receiving the glory yet working hard to improve their contribution, with Lipscombe excelling in the 2nd row.

Price and Coxwell formed the most promising half-back pairing, and providing they both persevere at the basics, they could make a valuable contribution to school rugby in future years.

Although not always aware of the need to do the simple things well, the backs moved more fluently as the season progressed, scoring a number of fine tries. Equally important, they became increasingly aware of their defensive responsibilities.

Coxwell, Hall and Price were selected to represent the county and, at the end of the season, the 1st '7' won the U.15 Bucks Schools 7-a-side competition.

Thus, overall, a most encouraging season, and one that augurs well for the future.

Regular players: Edwards, Coxwell, Hagger, Lane, Jones, Longworth, Lipscombe, Holmes, Roberts, Price, Smith, Trigg, Long, Reed, Newman, Hall.

J.S.

UNDER 14

Played 21, Won 19, Lost 2. Points for 462, Against 135

This was an excellent season, an unbeaten record being spoiled only by two narrow defeats when the team was very seriously weakened; at full strength they were all-victorious.

Thirty boys played for the '1st XV', indeed many good rugby players had often to be omitted. So strong was the team that 15 individuals scored tries against opposing schools, 99 being scored in all. But the side was even stronger in defence than in attack; rarely did opponents cross our line more than once in a game—never more than twice.

There were able players in all positions, but undoubtedly the tremendous strength of the forwards, notably Carroll, Hoggett, Fane, Moore and Fenner, in the mauls was at the root of the team's success. Carroll, Hoggett and Fane, the last two very fast forwards, scored 41 tries between them and, with a fine marauding back row which included Dickinson, Richards and Hasted, the forwards in all scored the grand total of 57 tries.

At their best the backs too were a dangerous attacking force, well supplied by two skilful half-backs, Morrish and the captain, Ault, who often steadied the side and generally played astutely. The difficulty was finding the right blend in the three's. Hasted, when at centre, was an elusive, exciting runner and Will a strong, determined one. On the wings Key was a reliable finisher and a stern defender; Jordan had pace and Chapman, coming from Set 2, was a promising find. Hammond and Skinner also fulfilled vital roles, and Hamer was a very steady full back.

It would be unfair not to mention others who made valuable contributions: Goldstone, a fast-striking hooker; Walker and Robinson, fine reserve forwards along with Stewart; Harris and Poland, speedy wingers, and Paton, who has only recently made a rapid rise from Set 3. Magill, Rowe, Tribe, Thomson and Chandler also played for the team.

The team was unbeaten in its last eleven games, culminating in a fine win in the last game on an enjoyable trip to Bristol G.S. with Mr. Garrett's Under 13's.

Among the most memorable games, where the team's rugby reached high spots, were the victories over the powerful Emanuel School, St. Benedict's and Lord William's, Thame. Such games leave much to look back upon with satisfaction and whet the appetite for what could be an even more memorable season in '73-74.

S.R.G.

UNDER 13

The Under 13 XV had generally a most satisfactory season: winning 12 of their 17 matches, scoring 370 points in the process and conceding 150 points. The team played with spirit throughout and achieved a number of highly pleasing results, particularly in view of the strengthened fixture list. The overall standard was high, although they lacked any outstanding players capable of swinging crucial matches in their favour. The captain, S. J. Bourne, led the side well throughout and emerged as the top try scorer. Certain weaknesses became apparent as the season progressed, especially our inability to play constructive rugby against teams who applied any degree of pressure. Nevertheless a highly creditable season and one which all members can look back upon with pleasure.

L. GARRETT.

UNDER 12

Played 15, Won 8, Drawn 1, Lost 6. Points for 288, Against 105

The U.12 'A' team ended the season with a total of 250 points for and only 53 points against. They won 7 of their games, drew 1, and lost to Lord William's, Cressex and St. Nicholas in close fought games. The 'B' team were not quite so successful but nevertheless provided many players for the 'A' team during the season. It was especially pleasing to have so many players regularly training, as this is essential to build individuals into an efficient unit.

On reflection, the best win of the season was against Harrow County, 14—8, where the skills of the forwards and backs combined to give good ball and flowing passing movements in attack; and sturdy cover and tackling in defence.

Throughout the season Barratt, at prop-forward, Molesworth at outside-half, Speed at centre and Revell at wing three-quarter played consistently well.

However all players in the team have good ability, deserve praise, and should become very competent players, given hard work and enthusiasm.

D.J.S.

HOCKEY—1st XI

Played 28, Won 13, Drawn 4, Lost 11. Goals for 54, Against 35

These figures show that the 1972-73 season saw the R.G.S. 1st XI lose more matches and win fewer than for a number of seasons. However, while there were certainly a number of disappointments in the course of the season (both when our performance was disappointing and when the score failed to reflect the run of play), looking to the future, there can be no grounds for pessimism.

The side that was fielded for the first match of the season had only two players from last year's team, and consequently there were a few raw edges in our play, yet it was not until a month of the season had gone and we played a strong Kingston G.S. team, that we were defeated—and then by a single goal, minutes from time. A 'success story' as the local press described it.

As we 'found our feet' with a 4-2-4 formation we produced some promising displays, notably against R.A.F. Halton (4-0), Rickmansworth G.S. (5-1) and St. Albans G.S. (11-0). The midfield pair for much of the season were David Czerwinski and Keith Bolding who took on the responsibility very capably. While 'Chiz's' experience (his fourth season in the 1st XI) was invaluable as was his great skill and determination, Keith Bolding showed that it was possible to produce a consistently high standard of hockey, with no previous 1st XI experience, largely through a very hard-working approach.

In goal, Greg Campbell who replaced Stuart Clark after about ten games, was able to maintain a generally high standard that he had only shown before on occasions. Nick Morgan at right-back played very steadily, and often Charlie Evans at left-back gave vent to the frustrations of being treasurer by storming runs of forty to fifty yards, while rarely being caught out at the back. Tim Hardy was generally a steadying influence at the back when not 'cramped', panicking or concussed and was partnered by either Tim Digby or Michael South. Tim Digby, after recovering from a broken collar-bone early in the season showed great flair with a deceptively casual air and produced an excellent performance against Watford G.S. Michael South, a fifth-former, was less adventurous but often executed vital tackles.

Ian Waddington started with great enthusiasm and yet never maintained his form that on occasions brought spectacular goals. Adrian Corser spent most of the season on the right-wing and yet saved the best of his wing play for when he was moved to the centre. His control, especially on the all-weather pitch at Bisham was often remarkable and with a slightly greater sense of when to release the ball he could cause defences many worries in the future. Geoff Hunt again showed skill but when he lost Richard Lloyd at Christmas as a partner up front, he showed that he needs to play with greater ferocity when challenging to add power to his game. Duncan Howarth, another fifth-former, produced some refreshing performances when he came into the team for the last half-dozen matches. Graham Tinn showed courage on the occasions that he played, Ian Monk persevered against heavier defenders yet tended to lose confidence when the struggle was hard and Ian Edwards had a spell at right-back where he stopped and tackled well but lacked pace against strong-running wingers.

We were delighted that David Czerwinski was selected for the final English Schoolboys' trial and yet he unfortunately failed to win an England place—he could not have been far away. Along with Adrian Corser and Tim Hardy he played for Bucks U.19 against Surrey.

We would all like to thank Mr. Page, who did not always have pleasant duties to perform, and while our admiration for him is boundless he modestly remains feeling 'only that small', which he signifies with thumb and forefinger. We're going to the Netherlands this Easter and it should be a fine end to a pleasant season's hockey, provided Mr. Cook does not show his hospitality once again and invite them here instead.

Goalscorers:—Czerwinski 16, Hunt 11, Waddington 11, Corser 10, Bolding 2, Howarth 2, Monk 2.

TIM HARDY.

2nd XI

Played 24, Won 8, Drew 2, Lost 14

The 2nd XI had a more successful season than last year and the spirit with which a young and constantly changing team played against teams that were generally older and stronger shows promise for the future. Indeed with a number of injuries as many as 31 players played for the team over the year.

The defence generally withstood some heavy pressure well particularly in the matches against Kingston G.S. and Stowe, which were both lost 1—0. Other good performances were the defeats of Maidenhead G.S. (4—1), St. Bartholomews (3—1) and the previously unbeaten Aylesbury G.S. (4—3) after both sides had scored in the last minute.

I. Monk and M. Stone did very well as captains to keep morale high and I. Edwards, S. Latimer, R. Thomas and A. West also received their half colours.

I.R.C.

UNDER 15

The U.15 XI experienced the traditional disadvantage of being obliged to field a small team, yet in order to compensate for this, their skill, which showed gradual improvement throughout the season, eventually brought them results.

They lost their first four matches without scoring a goal, but won their last two with good performances against Maidenhead G.S., and Southern G.S., Portsmouth, with a strong half-back line of Mould (captain), Ahmed and Coltman, they had a solid base

on which to build moves. Wheeler showed fine skills at times, as did Keen, Berendt and Quiney in the forward line often against strong defences. In goal, Cover was very reliable and brave, behind Allison and Parker who showed promise as full-backs. With more weight and confidence the team could do very well in the future.

M. W. COOK.

UNDER 14

Though the team lost all five matches it improved considerably over the season, and was by the end playing with great spirit and increasing skill, which augurs well for the future.

I.R.C.

UNDER 14 BASKETBALL

We have had an enjoyable if not very successful season and the team has shown a steady improvement. Jouhar, our competitive captain, has shown good aggression in the fast breaks, well supported by Morrish, Hamer and Diack. Ault and Dickinson played well in the pivot position, the former's jump shot blossoming especially well against Brenchwood. In defence Moore was a pillar of strength, well supported by Fane and Carpenter (who was also one of our best attacking players), while Robinson learned to use his height better and better as the season progressed. We have plenty of ability and I expect the team to hold its own in the new district league next year.

P.M.G.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Without doubt the efforts of the R.G.S. runners have resulted in yet another successful cross-country season. The facts speak for themselves. In matches ten teams were beaten, with only two teams (one of them from the army) gaining victories over a fairly strong R.G.S. team. The relay results have been marginally better this year than last and undoubtedly the best result was fifth in the St. Nicholas Relay, where the school really confirmed its place amongst some of the best cross-country schools in southern England. The R.G.S. also did well to gain eighth place at the Oxford Schools' Race out of over 30 teams from schools as far away as the Midlands.

Unfortunately the school was never able to field its strongest relay team for races in which medals might have been gained. The first team usually consisted of Humphrey (captain), Hansell, Johnson, Waller, Mawhinney, Fallon, Thorne, Gregory, Wilkin, Spencer and Smith, though Jolly (5a) and Gray (4s) proved their potential ability most impressively when included.

The greatest triumph was unquestionably the three places (out of eight) gained in the Bucks team for the All England Race by Humphrey, Hansell and Johnson. Of those three, Hansell has

maintained the best record and his determination in races has been most admirable.

Many of our best runners will be leaving this year, but despite this, I hope that the promising talent of their successors will again provide the school with a good cross-country team. Finally, thanks go to the canteen staff for teas, to those throughout the school who have helped by marking and apologies to anyone who feels he should have been mentioned and was not.

J. J. O. ROEBUCK.

Much of the team's success has been due to the unfailing support of Bob Brown and John Roebuck, and we should especially like to congratulate the former on his excellent driving and navigation. The highlight of his career was on the journey to and from the Guildford Relay, when he was given gentle hints on how to pass his driving test by passing motorists.

On March 24th at the All England Race the stalwart trio of R.G.S. runners achieved commendable positions to help Bucks come third in the minor counties:—Hansell 123 (2nd for Bucks), Johnson 158 (4th for Bucks), Humphrey 162 (5th for Bucks).

ANON. H.W.

BOAT CLUB

Cambridge beat Oxford again this year—which shows you you can't win all the time. Meanwhile back at the boathouse, it's pouring with rain—when it isn't snowing. The man in the red track-suit is skipping up the towpath, screaming abuse at his wobbly crews; to say nothing of the flash of blue, who is developing a nice action and has a good novice crew on his hands. The frost keeps upper lips stiff and hands numb, though it will be better, we are told, in the regatta season.

Good performances were turned in at the Fours Head—4th; at the Schools' Head—5th (and 33rd); and at the Youth International selection weekend at Molesey—2nd in Coxed Pairs, with a return on May 5th. Others can be expected (or hoped for) in the summer. The Juniors are pounding along, beating Maidenhead R.C., and admiring stroke's vocabulary when addressing lock-keepers; the Colts' A are coming on, untidy but fast, and the Senior C's main claim to success is, sadly, despatching a moorhen to that great river in the sky, when John's blade put a nasty dent in its head. On the other hand, their stroke has pulled most of his muscles and is near to a breakdown because of his unavailing attempts to get speed out of bow pair.

Oh, and one last thing—I hope you've bought a Boat Club raffle ticket. You wouldn't want some of the lads to come round to your place after dark; now, would you?

THE CAPTAIN, *et al.*
(al—Mafia P.R.O.)

BADMINTON

This year has been quite successful for the Badminton Club. We have won seven of 11 matches, finishing second in our division of the West London Badminton League. Play has been consistent throughout the season, improvements having been shown especially by T. Hodinott and C. Keen. The second team has come on well, showing three out of seven. My thanks to all the senior members of the team—P. Bergson, N. Davy, M. Smith, S. Green and M. Inness who have helped immensely.

We also played two mixed matches with the Wycombe High School which were 'quite' successful.

N. UPCHURCH (*Sec.*).

FENCING

Fencing in the R.G.S. has been going for just over a year and though the club has gained little outside the Tuesday evening training sessions, the main success lies in the creation of a group of fairly keen and able fencers. Leece (captain) and Barry of the fifth form have developed into reasonably stylish fencers and Sinden, Ahmed and Berendt of the fourth form make up in vigour what they lack in expertise.

Altogether, about 15 boys take part and it is hoped that next year this can be increased and additional equipment acquired.

J. J. O. ROEBUCK.

LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Last summer's weather still ranking in the mind, one waits rather anxiously for this season's. At present (early April) it is perfect for tennis: not too sunny but dry, not too windy but cold enough to ensure that some of our more static members of the VI move about the court! We will still depend heavily on Guy Johnson—in his sixth season as a member of the 1st VI; Hunt and Aston will be important this year if we are to do well. Guha (5A) and Ault (3s) will both be needed in the team for most of the matches, although the latter will also play for the Colts VI as captain. The one new player is Geudeker who will probably partner Johnson as 1st pair. A variety of skills will be called upon to make up the 2nd VI, mainly in the shape of sixth formers. Mr. Raymond will be in charge of the Colts VI.

We are entering for the Youll Cup (after a gap of two years) and the Thomas Bowl Cup in July, and are also participating in the Glanvill Cup during the term. The first round will be played at home on Saturday, May 5th, and will consist of ourselves, Magdalen College School, and Bloxham School. Other important matches are University College School (the only team we have not beaten in the last four years!), Highgate School, and Radley College.

K.A.H.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

The Annual General Meeting and the Annual Dinner were to have been held at the East India, Sports and Public Schools Club Ltd. on Saturday March 31st 1973. The committee's decision to move the venue to London proved to be a wrong one. The number of Old Boys who bought a ticket was below the number required and the Dinner had to be cancelled.

The Annual General Meeting will now be held on Speech Day, Friday July 13th 1973. Old Boys, who are members of the Club, are cordially invited to come to the School on the Friday afternoon, attend the prize-giving and speech-making, if they so wish, take tea in the canteen about 4.30 p.m. and be present at the A.G.M. in the E. R. Tucker Memorial Room at 5.30 p.m.

Deaths

Staff

R. MATTHEWS (1909-19), on January 30th 1973, peacefully in his sleep, aged 88 years.

Reginald Matthews left the School in 1919 to become Headmaster of Southwell Minster Grammar School. At the time he was Second Master to Mr. G. W. Arnison. R. C. ROSE (1902-09) wrote giving this information.

OLD BOYS

J. G. HETHERINGTON (1909-1913), in January 1972, in Gerrards Cross, aged 74 years.

John Graham Hetherington served in Gallipoli in the 1914-18 War. In the 1939-45 War he served in the Bucks Special Constabulary. He was a successful Estate Agent in the business founded by his father. His interests were his own family, shooting and fishing.

T. H. HETHERINGTON (1903-13), in July 1972, at 38 Bulstrode Court, Gerrards Cross, aged 76 years.

Thomas Howard Hetherington, M.C., spent the whole of his career with the Westminster Bank—a total of 43 years service. This was interrupted by the First World War and he served from 1915-19 with the Hampshire Regiment in Salonika. He was awarded the Military Cross and was also mentioned in Despatches. His banking career was spent almost entirely in the City of London. For the last nine years before he retired, he was manager of Westminster Bank, St. Paul's Branch. He was a Freeman of the City of London. He was a founder member and former Chairman of the Gerrards Cross Branch of the British Legion, which he served for 50 years. He leaves a widow, Mrs. H. M. Hetherington.

E. W. H. SELWYN (1914–20), on September 29th 1972, in a Norwich Hospital, aged 68 years.

Edward William Herbert Selwyn graduated in Physics from the Royal College of Science in 1927 and entered the newly opened research laboratory of Kodak Ltd. at Harrow in 1928. In 1935 he produced his classic paper on the subject 'Graininess'. In the 1939–45 War he worked to improve techniques used in photographic reconnaissance. His report to the Ministry of Aircraft Production revolutionised all thought on the problem of the absence of an adequate physical theory relating to the resolution in the photograph with measurable properties of the lens and the film. In 1950 he published *Photography in Astronomy*, still a valuable book of reference. In 1955 he wrote *The Theory of Lenses*. He held the honorary position of Principal of the London School of Medical Photography. In 1930 he married Dorothy Bomback. He is survived by her and his son.

L. F. WATKINS (1908–14) in September 1972, at 6 Sandown Close, Goring-by-Sea, aged 74 years.

Leslie Watkins served in both World Wars—as a lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry from 1914–18, then as Adjutant of the Royal Berkshire Regiment in the last war. He commenced his business career in his uncle's (Mr. Skull) furniture factory in High Wycombe and then started at Waring and Gillows in London in 1920. In 1951 he was appointed General Manager of the firm's Liverpool store, where he remained until his retirement in 1965.

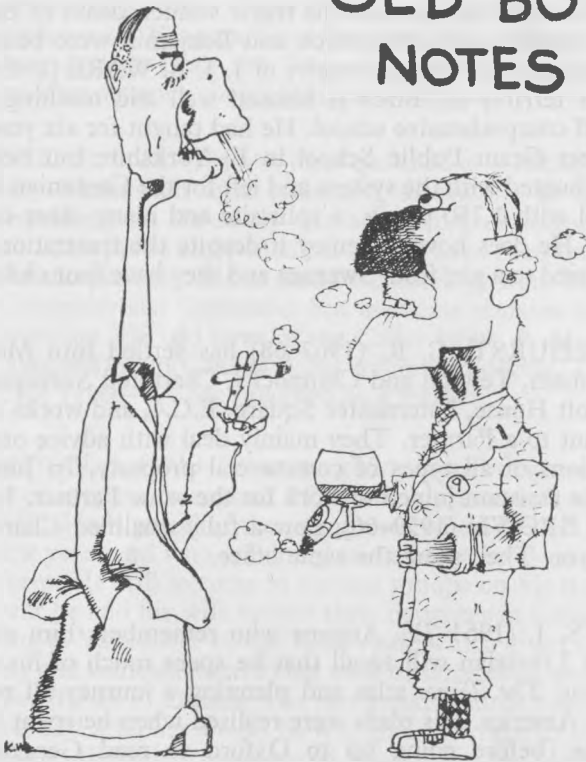
He was a member of the Liverpool Lyceum Club, also of the Rotary Club. He was a former chairman and a past president of the Merseyside Furniture Trade Benevolent Association and represented his firm on the Liverpool Stores Committee. In his youth he was a very able soccer, cricket and hockey player. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Muriel Watkins, and two daughters.

B. O. WELLER (1906–10), on October 12th 1972, in Hillingdon Hospital, aged 80 years.

Bernard Orlando Weller served as an officer in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in the 1914–18 War and later held the position of bank manager with Barclays for 17 years. On his retirement in 1947 he returned to Uxbridge and devoted much of his time to the service of the Parish Church of St. Margaret's where he was a regular member of the choir and held several offices.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. H. K. Weller, who lives at 'The Pichtel', Gravel Hill, Uxbridge, a son and a daughter.

OLD BOYS' NOTES



AVERY, N. F. (1959–64) wrote from Bristol to give news of himself and other 'Uplymers'. He finally got his M.Sc. at Leicester—this gave him particular pleasure, because it was at this university that he failed his first year B.Sc. examinations and was thrown out. He is employed by Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd., which was called Bristol Siddeley Engines Ltd. once. He is a Project Engineer. D. R. COOPER (1957–65) goes round the country doing work measurement for his bank and is thinking of doing some serious motor-racing. He is single. I. J. GRAYSON (1958–65) is now married and still works in a bank. M. R. NIELD (1959–63) had just left I.C.I. where he had worked as a computer programmer.

BERKS, P. M. (1961–67) married Miss Barbara Ann Davis, an Administrative Officer at the Ministry of Defence, on the 30th September 1972 at Worcester Park, Surrey. They now live in Basildon, Essex.

BIRCH, J. B. (1945-50) wrote from Victoria Square, Penarth, Glam. to give the news of the tragic sudden death of Ernest BENJAMIN (1945-50). Birch and Benjamin were boarders at 'Uplyme'. He also gave news of J. J. B. WARE (1945-49) who is terribly ill. Birch is himself well and teaching in a Cardiff comprehensive school. He had taught for six years in a Direct Grant Public School in E. Yorkshire but became disenchanted with the system and left for the Cantonian High School with 1,750 pupils, a split site and many other drawbacks. He does however enjoy it despite the frustration. He is married to a girl from Swansea and they have four children.

BROCKLEHURST, C. R. (1962-68) has settled into Messrs. Debenham, Tewson and Chinnocks, Chartered Surveyors of Bancroft House, Paternoster Square, E.C.4, and works as an assistant to a Partner. They mainly deal with advice on and valuations of all types of commercial property. In January another assistant joined to work for the same Partner. It was H. C. BROWN (1959-66), now a fully qualified Chartered Surveyor. They share the same office.

BURROWS, J. (1964-71). Anyone who remembers him as the Senior Librarian will recall that he spent much of his time studying *The Times* atlas and planning a journey all round North America. His plans were realised when he spent three months (before going up to Oxford to read Geography) travelling 32,000 miles to and on the American continent. His journey took him from New York to San Francisco, to Mexico City. He flew to Miami, then south to Lima in Peru, where he spent a month at over 11,000 ft. in the Peruvian Andes, sleeping in anything from the best hotel to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu, perched high on a rock above the Urabamba Gorge at the headwaters of the Amazon. The experience was incredible and he urges all students to take advantage of the long summer vacation and the cheap student travel service.

CARR, S. M. R. (1927-35). S. M. Roads Carr passed the R.G.S. recently and called in. He was astonished at the growth of the School—the front of it he found almost unrecognisable. He did find the old Headmaster's study which brought back memories of Mr. G. W. Arnison and Mr. E. R. Tucker. He is a professional auditor and accountant working in the City of London often on behalf of large business organisations. Latterly he has been involved in training young students, some of whom are college graduates. He attributes his personal efficiency to the sound instruction and discipline he received at the R.G.S.

CAVEY, H. J. (1925-32) and his son CAVEY, M. J. (1963-70) can see almost into Wales from their new home, Offa's View, Tittley, near Kington, Herefordshire. They hope that any of their friends from the School who find themselves within striking distance, won't hesitate to call in.

DARVILLE, J. M. (1960-67) has qualified as a Medical Laboratory Technician after gaining a distinction in his H.N.C. examinations. He dearly wants to become a doctor but so far his attempts to enter Medical School have been unsuccessful. He accepted an offer to read Microbiology from Birmingham University last September but medicine remains his ultimate ambition. He had news of the Colley twins, P. M. COLLEY (1960-68) is in Canada doing a master's degree, J. P. COLLEY (1960-67) has qualified as a teacher.

DODGSON, A. (1913-18) writes giving news but assumes that he is of interest to anyone left alive only as a sort of historical relic. He is proud of the young men who have left in the past few years and who are doing so well—he loves reading about them. He still lectures to various groups on his travels. This year he and his wife visited their daughter in Canada, travelling to Vancouver by the Polar route which gives an astounding and somewhat terrifying view of Greenland and the N.W. Territories of Canada. His two grandchildren soon wore him out and after six weeks he was glad to return to the quiet of home. His other daughter in Stockholm has five little girls. Allan Dodgson views a suggested family reunion with only some enthusiasm.

DRAYTON, P. C. (1956-62) read Music at Oxford University. He became Director of Music at the New College Choir School in Oxford but recently took up a new post on the music staff of Stowe School, Buckingham.

EYLES, G. L. E. (1915-22) retired recently as senior partner of Hamnett Raffety. He joined the firm 50 years ago when he left school. He made the third member of the staff when he was articled to Mr. Percy Raffety, a local chartered surveyor. There were 90 staff when he left. He keeps remarkably fit, cycles great distances and still plays for one of the lower teams of the High Wycombe Hockey Club.

FARMER, A. S. (1958-66) has completed his Ph.D. on scampi and has left to spend two years in Bahrein. He is sponsored by the government to help the locals improve the quality of their prawns.

FLEMING, A. E. (1960-67) graduated from St. Andrews in 1971 with an M.A. in Economics. He is now employed as an economist in the research section of the Bank of England. He still meets P. J. SMITH (1965-68), now married and living in Manchester, and P. P. HILLS (1960-68) who is continuing research at Oxford. Both gained firsts in respectively Geography and Chemistry. He is also attending Brunel University on a day-release basis and is working for a M.Phil. degree. There he met J. KARWATZKI (1960-67) studying for a Ph.D. in engineering and working as a research assistant at Kingston Polytechnic.

FOX, K. T. (1919-26) retired from the management of the National Westminster Bank, Hanger Lane, Ealing in 1969 and spent several months with his son and family at the Methodist Hospital, Ngao, Kenya. This is an isolated area in the bush on the Tana River in the hot coastal region. While there, he and his wife were asked to take charge of the administration of the other Methodist Hospital at Maua, some 650 miles in the highlands N.E. of Mt. Kenya. After working there for 15 months they returned home via the Victoria Falls, Australia and New Zealand and finally across the Pacific and through the Panama Canal.

FRIEND, D. R. A. (1955-58) is still an electronics engineer with the Surrey firm of Hunting Geology and Geophysics Ltd. at Borehamwood. He is married and has two children. His brother L. G. FRIEND (1956-62) passed out of the Royal College of Music with his A.R.C.M. plus an L.R.A.M. and took up an appointment as a repetiteur with the Welsh National Opera. After two years he went to Glyndebourne as a staff conductor. He was invited to conduct 'Die Entführung' on tour last year. He has just started on a new venture as resident assistant conductor of Kassel Opera in Germany. He is married with one child.

GREEN, G. E. (1940-46) dined recently at the House of Commons. It was the occasion of a reunion of four Old Boys who had taken part in a School production of 'Macbeth' 26 years ago. L. J. DENNIS (1942-45) Macbeth, A. G. DUCKERING (1940-46) Macduff, P. D. FRY M.P. (1941-49) the First Witch and G. E. GREEN, Malcolm. John Dennis was until a while ago Managing Director of Crawfords, the Advertising Agents (until the company was taken over by John Bentley, Barclay Securities Ltd.) and he has now, with some of his other colleagues, established a new Advertising Agency in London. A. G. Duckering is House Master at Leighton Park School, Reading (although his time as House Master is

drawing to a close). Peter Fry still continues to enlighten the dull patches of debates in the House and seems to manage to get press coverage when he speaks. G. E. Green is now working harder than ever, having reached the exalted status of 'consultant' but enjoys life. He is now an Underwriting member of Lloyd's. He had also heard from R. C. HUNTLEY (1940-43) who hopes to come over from California in May to play in the French and British Amateur Golf Championships.

GREEN, P. J. (1936-41) went to live in France 15 years ago and only recently came back to England to live in Basildon, Essex.

HAMMETT, R. W. (1954-61) writes from Bourgas in Bulgaria where he is working for the British Council in the English Language School. Bulgarian pupils receive a general education from the ages of 7 to 14 and then take an examination on the basis of which they are allocated to secondary schools. Many of these are vocational in character—for example, for building or engineering. The school in which he is teaching is one of the six in Bulgaria specialising in English.

For their first year at the school the pupils, both boys and girls, study almost nothing but English with several teachers to ring the changes. By the end of the year they have a fair command of the language. For their remaining four years at the school they do study other subjects but English retains an important place in the timetable. The result is that by their fourth year the pupils are reading *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Lear* with not much more difficulty than that experienced by an Englishman and writing their critical essays in English.

Each day in class he has to test two pupils orally and award marks—they do not know in advance who is to be tested and they all prepare the work well. Hair is short, the boys wear dark suits, white shirts and black ties. They are all very smart. There is also a peaked cap for boys but it is only worn on special occasions such as the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The maximum number of pupils per class is 26. The school building is used by more than one school so a shift system is operated—a month in the morning (7.30 to 1.00) and a month in the afternoon (1.30 to 7.00). The pupils turn up at 7.00 for gymnastics when on morning shift.

HAMPSON, A. J. M. (1961-68) started at Portsmouth Polytechnic last September reading Mechanical Engineering. Three years ago he was a cadet with Clan Line about to join their oldest crate, the *Clan Macdougall*, for a voyage to Australia. After a very eventful voyage where the fire drills

were 'for real' he decided with regret to come ashore and take up his studies again. Since then, he has been postman, barman at 'The Bull' in Gerrards Cross, lorry-driver and labourer. Regulars at 'The Bull' were N. P. G. HUNT (1962-69) about to start his final year at Manchester University in Classics, D. I. HEAPS (1963-67), sub-editor to *Electronic Engineering News*; A. J. E. MINETT (1960-67) who has started a course at the University of Bristol to qualify as a member of the Royal Institute of Physicists, J. S. THROWER (1966-68) who has obtained a degree in Law at Leeds. Droppers-in were Lieut. J. R. SKINNER (1960-67), A. P. LE MESSURIER (1962-65) and A. ARBANEY (1963-65).

HANDS, S. E. (1915-20) celebrated his Presidency of the Royal Philatelic Society by winning a Gold Medal for his Bolivian Collection at the British Stamp Exhibition this year.

HODSON, D. A. (1944-48), one-time *Bucks Free Press* reporter, spare-time musician, father of at least four and owner of a firm dealing with floor preservation, found a tiny shop consisting of two small rooms in Easton Street in High Wycombe some years ago and set up in business. After a time, he, who describes himself as the 'Joe Lampton of High Wycombe', began to take some interest in the buildings around which belonged to the G.P.O. He realised they could be very old and saw their possibilities for development as office space. He bought them at a very reasonable price and with the help of experts he has uncovered a treasure house of Elizabethan architecture. The original buildings have been dated 1580. When all the renovations are completed, there will be about 3,000 sq. ft. of office space for sale. Hodsdon is certainly a man at the top.

HORSWELL, M. D. (1963-70) is living and working in a partly ruined 16th century castle in Austria. It is run by a free-evangelical group who use it as a holiday and conference centre for young people in the summer. He is given board and lodging with superb meals in return for eight hours work per day. Many young people from all parts of the world, share the work. When he wrote, he was helping to convert two very large attics into dormitories. The castle is isolated, surrounded by mountains covered in snow and in the sunlight the effect is magical. In June the summer season begins and with very little cash in the kitty but with much clearer ideas about the future he will be hitching back home.

HOW, D. F. W. (1936-41) of 13 St. Mary's Walk, Kensington, London, S.E.11, would very much like to have the address of L. T. GIGGS (1936-41) who went to Canada about 1955.

HOWLAND, P. (1964-72) went to Portsmouth Polytechnic in October 1972 for a short while and has since re-applied through U.C.C.A. and been accepted by Birmingham University to read Law in October 1973. He is at present working for a local firm as a Goods Inwards Inspector and Driver. He got together the Old Boys XV for the annual match against the School and they won, mainly with the help of A. G. MILLER (1964-72) now at Loughborough Colleges and J. M. POWELL (1969-72) who has played regularly for St. Bart's Hospital 1st XV this season.

HUGHES, J. T. (1962-69) returned to Cambridge for his final year last September. He was Chairman of the University Liberal Club in a term which saw two spectacular by-election victories for the Liberals. He hesitates to claim that the events were connected. He is now looking around for a job—he might yet end up as a teacher (his words).

INSHAW, P. (1969-71) has successfully completed his first year of Business Studies at Trent Polytechnic. Any prospective student from the R.G.S. requiring advice is asked to contact him at the Student Union, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

JARMAN, M. (1951-58) is still working for the Chester Beatty Research Institute (Institute of Cancer Research). Last year his professor appointed an ex-Oxford Ph.D. to work with him. He discovered that the new man was an Old Boy, P. B. FARMER (1957-63) who is doing excellent work at the Chester Beatty. Peter Farmer made a brief T.V. appearance on *Tomorrow's World* in February as part of a programme on the work of the Institute. He was to be seen carrying in a cage of rats although he doesn't work directly with these, being still a chemist (researching mostly) on anti-cancer drugs and carcinogenesis.

JOHNSON, H. W. (1930-36) is still the Housemaster at The Lodge, Edward Street, Louth. J. C. BOWMAN (1955-61) called in to see him recently, back in England at R.A.F. Coningsby, a few miles away. A. HARVEY (1950-57), one of his cricket protégés, is now living in Lincoln as second-in-command Child Care at Kesteven. E. M. SQUIRES (1949-57) is still teaching at Louth which is now a comprehensive school.

JONES, S. E. (1964-72) up at Balliol College, gave a paper speech in the Oxford Union on November 14th 1972. The subject: That schoolmasters teach boys, poets teach adults. He is the first Old Boy to have had a paper speech for some time.

M. J. LOWE (1960-67) was given one in Michaelmas 1969 and appeared in the order paper, but the minutes reveal that he never spoke, though not why he didn't. Lowe is back in residence at Balliol again. Jones has been to see J. W. R. WALNE (1964-72) deeply involved in studying Japanese. R. B. SIMONS (1964-72) appears none the worse for changing to P.P.E. and is enjoying the full social life that Exeter provides so well (the only College where even the International Socialists possess velvet dinner jackets).

KEFFORD, M. H. (1959-65). Capt. Kefford has returned with his Gurkhas to Hong Kong. No doubt Capt. E. L. BARRETT (1954-60) is keeping him in supplies in the New Territories with the help of his troop of mules.

KNOX, A. J. (1958-65) is still working for the B.B.C. as a Senior Recording Engineer in the Video Tape Department and when he wrote in August 1972, was preparing to go to Munich for three weeks to help in the television coverage of the Olympic Games—all expenses paid.

MCCOLL, D. E. (1962-67) works for Hawker Siddeley Dynamics at Hatfield as a Dynamacist. He is living in the Y.M.C.A. hostel in Welwyn Garden City—the hostel is good, Welwyn rather soulless.

MERRINGTON, S. (1956-63) has left Islington Town Planning Department to do research for two years in the Institute of Local Government Studies at Birmingham University. He is specialising in Corporate Planning in Local Government and hopes eventually to lecture on it. His brother P. M. MERRINGTON (1957-64) is still with Shell.

MORTON, D. (1960-67). After finishing his degree in Russian and French at Oxford, Morton spent the summer of 1972 in Chartres and Paris using up a Health Harrison French Scholarship. He has now joined Shell International with a view to working eventually in their East European Department. For the first three years he has been seconded to the U.K. marketing organisation Shell-Mex and B.P. to learn about products and selling. He is rapidly making good the usual arts-man's deficiencies in physics, chemistry and engineering. He is based on the Manchester region and sees K. F. WOODBRIDGE (1959-67) who is working locums as a houseman in various Manchester hospitals and R. J. WILLIAMS (1959-66), a lecturer in the Building Department of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

PAINE, R. G. (1923-30) writes from his retirement home High Cluniter Cottage, Innellan, Dunoon. He gives news of his two sons. R. W. PAINE (1953-59) is back from Africa and is now an assistant engineer with the City of Oxford. When he took his Higher H.N.C. he got 99½% in Mathematics. The United Steel Federation gave him a special award for this. A. J. (Gussie) PAINE (1953-59) has recently graduated from Chief Production Engineer to Project Engineer on the manufacture mainly of heat inplant pacemakers and has a number of inventions to his name.

PATTINSON, I. R. H. (1962-69), Captain of Cambridge this year, did a hole in one in the Varsity match, but Oxford beat Cambridge. He became engaged to Miss Janet Bolding of High Wycombe last February.

PEARSON, A. G. (1960-68) finds his Certificate of Education Diploma course in London quite pleasant except for the stresses and strains experienced in the classroom.

PENDER, W. L. (1953-58). Captain Pender's Regiment returned to B.A.O.R. from Ulster in January 1973, sadly having lost three of its soldiers during the tour. In July he ran into W. E. SHACKELL (1952-60) at H.Q. 4th Division in Herford where he is on the staff of the Commander, Royal Engineers.

PETTITT, P. B. (1940-48) has left Compair S.A., the South African subsidiary of Broomwade and Holman, where he was General Sales Manager, to start a business in plant hire and sales and export of construction equipment. He would welcome a visit from any R.G.S. Old Boy—P.O. Box 68252, Bryanston, Sandton, Transvaal, South Africa. Telephone 706.1545.

PRATT, A. M. (1956-63) shares a flat in London with P. B. FARMER (1957-64). Since leaving Oxford he has been working for Dominion Press who publish *School Leaver* and *Which Course?* magazines. His name is on the title pages as 'Marketing Manager'—he says that means 'general factotum.'

READ, P. (1950-58) is married and happily settled in his new job as Director of Music at Giggleswick School, Settle, Yorks.

RENNIE, K. J. (1956-61) is still working with Unilever (Van den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd.) and is now a Project Engineer associated with factory services (water, steam, ammonia etc.). He finds it an interesting and absorbing job. He enjoyed four parachute descents from aircraft at his last T.A. camp. He still takes part in Gilbert and Sullivan operas, a habit he got into at school, and his son Simon keeps him busy in any spare time he has left.

ROBERTS, S. C. (1965–72) is reading Town and Country Planning at Manchester University. He can recommend the course.

ROLFE, R. H. (1919–26) made a generous contribution to the Old Boys' Club recently. He feels he owes the R.G.S. quite a lot in starting him off on the right track in life. He has a very interesting job as River Engineer to the Thames Conservancy Board and is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

RUNDELL, P. F. (1963–69) is now spending a year in France as part of his Exeter University language course. He is teaching at the Lycée Technique Mixte in Aurillac—nine hours work per week. He has found a very lively free church there and has made many friends. His brother D. J. RUNDELL (1960–67) works as a T.V. engineer for the B.B.C. and is based at Ealing Film Studios. He married a schoolteacher in July 1972, which was wise of him.

SAUNDERS, N. G. C. (1960–67) graduated in 1970 from Imperial College with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. He has just completed two years training with the Department of Environment designing roads and bridges for motorways and major trunk roads in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties. He is married with two children.

SKINNER, J. R. (1960–67). Lieutenant John Skinner R.N. has been awarded his helicopter pilot's 'wings' on completion of training at the R.N. Helicopter School at Culdrose. He went to Dartmouth in 1967 and has since been to sea in the Fishery Protection Squadron and on H.M.S. *Eagle*.

SMYTH, R. L. (1955–62) is now Features Editor of the *Radio Times*. He spent two weeks in America with Alistair Cooke preparing for his T.V. series called 'America'. The middle brother G. M. SMYTH (1957–63) is a very successful architect and the young one C. A. SMYTHE (1960–66) has become a contractor. He recently landed a huge building contract and has no regrets about getting nowhere with Chemical Engineering at Cambridge.

STAYNOR, R. P. J. (1954–71) is to be congratulated on gaining the School's first Hockey 'blue'. He played for Oxford against Cambridge in March. Oxford won.

STEPHENS, J. R. (1945–50) is membership secretary of the High Wycombe L.T.C. and would welcome new members from among the very able tennis players the School has produced over the years. He is proud of having played for the first team that ever represented the Grammar School after the last war.

TOMES, I. M. (1951-58), Major Tomes was very disappointed not to be able to meet old friends at the ill-fated Old Boys' Dinner this year. He is still in the Army and spent most of last year as a Company Commander in Belfast trying to pacify and placate the Irish. It was rather a hectic time for him. Life is now more settled—he is one of the five Army students attending the Staff Course at the R.A.F. Staff College in Bracknell. It is like being back at school again. One of his instructors is Wing Commander G. C. DYER (1945-49).

WALTER, J. F. (1923-27) wrote regretting his inability to attend the Annual Dinner this year. He was in New Zealand visiting his daughter. While there he also hoped to look up D. J. HOUSDEN (1920-26) in Auckland. He was due back on May 2nd and on May 8th at the age of 62 (63 in July) he was taking up a new appointment as Sales Manager (Southern Region) for a northern weaving mill. Circumstances brought about a change of employment for him at 49 and again at 60—he little thought an opportunity too good to be missed would come along at 62. He hopes his experience will give heart to those made redundant at earlier ages.

WARDE, W. D. (1953-62) is now Assistant Professor in the Statistics Department, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He moved to Oklahoma after completing his Ph.D. at Iowa State University. Outside the University he is very active in the Boy Scout movement—he ran two troops in Iowa.

WILKS, D. J. (1942-48) conducted *Die Fledermaus* at the London Coliseum last year. This year he is conducting *The Merry Widow*.

WOMBWELL, R. S. (1960-67), a faithful member of the Old Boys' Committee and the only one with real youth on his side, is now more settled in his work with International Computers Ltd. at Bracknell. J. C. HUGHES (1957-64) works in the same group there.

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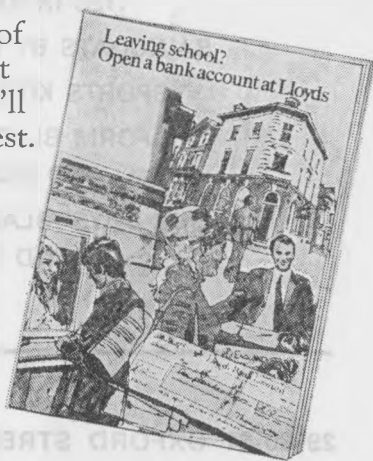
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