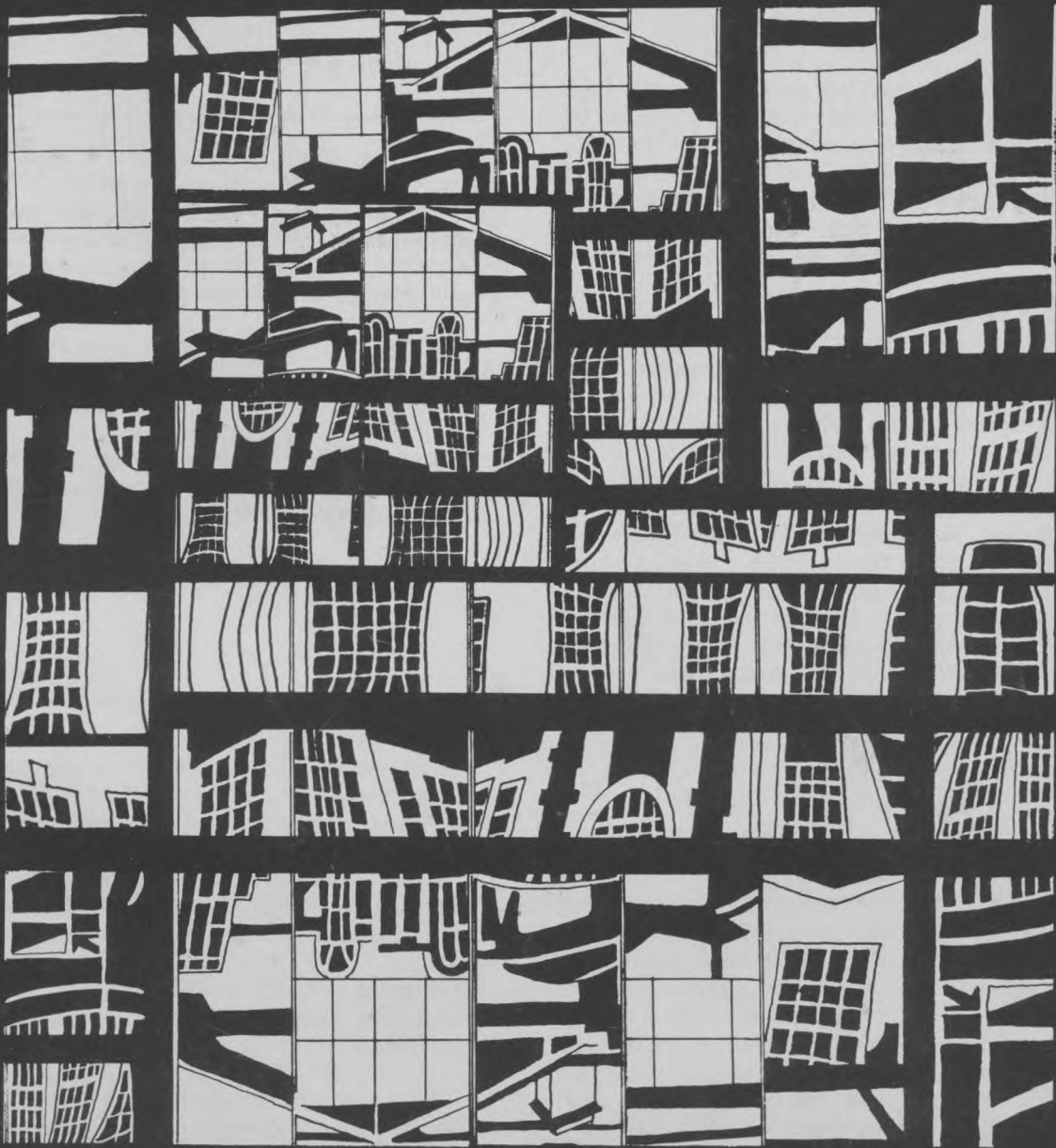


WYCOMBIENSIUM

1989



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The Wycombiensian

Vol. XVII No. 13 1989

The Magazine of the
Royal Grammar School
High Wycombe

Editorial

This edition of the Wycombiensian is evident in showing the great variety of projects and accomplishments which the school has gone forth to do. There is no doubt that the year has been fruitful and far from uneventful. Once again, the RGS has provided the means for boys to excel both in school and in extra-curricular time, a balance delicately struck by both staff and Fate alike.

In reading the reports and articles, you will find the various moments the school has cherished over the year (in addition to those some members wish to forget). The contributions from all angles of school life paint a full picture of the RGS, both at work and in free time, up front and behind the scenes.

S. P. KEELING 6GM₁

Staff Leavers

Frank Wheeler

Frank Wheeler retires this August after 10 years service as Bursar. Having left the Royal Air Force, he brought his administrative and personnel handling qualities as a Warrant Officer to the school and quickly developed the additional skills to draw together, reorganise and develop a rapidly changing Bursarial Empire. Frank has been administrator of the highest quality, with tremendous attention to detail and a disconcertingly good memory.

No-one will be surprised to learn that there is a record in the Ministry of Defence of Frank's last action when serving in Berlin. He sent the Commander of the Russian Occupying Force a belated bill for the Berlin Airlift! The modern development of cash-limited budget targets, with specific allowances for each academic department - as well as other aspects of school life - have been deftly dealt with in an equal and fair-handed way. 'If it's money you want - you can't have any!' It was he who introduced Prayer mats to the Bursar's Office, and his careful handling of accounts is shown by the fact that on Day 2 of the financial year, after the 'Departmental Barons' had received their budgets, he was already preparing 'Overspent' notices. It says much that one man can balance the books in the face of 70 determined people trying to spend money. Never one to flinch from saying what he thinks, he has advised many governors' meetings on the realities of financial life, and has put in many extra hours to prepare the school for Local Financial Management and all that that will bring.

It is not widely known that Frank has very clear views and interests on wild life, and not just in school! Was it W C Fields who said that 'anyone who dislikes animals and children cannot be all bad'? While stationed in Gibraltar he wrote very pithy and disparaging comments on the activities of the resident apes on the Rock (on whom he was trying to serve Mess bills!). At home he is proud to have one of the most foul-mouthed budgies in Bucks.

On a personal basis Frank has always been willing to help people solve their problems if he can. He has a disarming way of rarely having a good word to say about anybody - and clearly not meaning a word of it! He has been a source of jokes, scandal, leg-pulls and a mine of nefarious information. Before his spell of ill health he enjoyed umpiring school hockey matches, always willing to help out.

No farewell to Frank Wheeler would be complete without comment on, and appreciation of Jean, his wife, who has been both Bursar's Administrative Assistant of late, and for longer the Liquid Refreshments Officer in the Staff Room - cheerfully lubricating the much stressed tonsils of the staff. She too has played a very full part in the life of the school, for which we have been very grateful. We wish them both a very happy retirement.

M.J.M

Geoffrey W. Heath

At the end of the summer term, we wish Geoffrey Heath "Bon Voyage" and "Bon Viaje" as he makes the long trek down Amersham Hill to take up his new post as Head of Spanish at Wycombe Abbey.

Geoffrey came to the RGS in 1968 having spent six years working in the Foreign Department of a London Clearing Bank. In 1978, he was appointed Head of Spanish and is responsible for developing Spanish as an 'A' level subject, and giving the subject the high status it enjoys in the RGS curriculum today.

Outside the classroom Geoffrey has contributed multifariously to the musical excellence of the school. He has used his virtuoso skills as an Associate of the Royal College of Organists in Junior Assembly, in the School Chapel, at the Carol Services in the Parish Church and to accompany the Choral Societies. Together with Geoffrey Holmes he helped produce performances of Gilbert and Sullivan; his dulcet tenor tones have greatly enhanced the standard of the Choral Societies, and he has played bassoon at various concerts (including at a staff Christmas Party, where he was accompanied by Dr. Barker on triangle).

He also produced the Spanish Play "El Sombrero de Tres Picos - "The Three Cornered Hat" in 1984, organised trips to Spain, and was a founder member of the 3rd Form French trip in 1981. He has regularly led Junior Assembly, dragging unsuspecting 3rd Formers on to the stage to help illustrate the point he was making with his irresistible dead-pan delivery.

Colleagues claim that Geoffrey hasn't changed at all in 21 years, including his distinctive hairline, his "quietly destructive sense of humour", his passion for Chocolate Wagon Wheels, and his highly respected wisdom at staff meetings, though his pronouncement that Period 5 under the new timetable arrangements has become "interminable" is not thought to have influenced his decision to leave.

But leaving he is, and one of life's true gentlemen leaves the RGS with our very best wishes for a very happy and successful stay at Wycombe Abbey.

A.R.Y.

Tom Cruse

Tom Cruse joined the Maths department from Watford Grammar School in September 1988. In addition to his Maths teaching he helped with school chess and was a fourth form master.

However the lure of a post in industry, for which he had applied in January, was too great and he left us in December.

D.M.B

Obituary

Dennis Smith

Following a most distressing illness and loss of weight over several months, Dennis Smith died of cancer on 24th April aged 58. His agonising decline was not satisfactorily diagnosed until he was very weak and close to death. Despite what at the time appeared a successful operation offering a few days of hope, Dennis never recovered. It was a cruel end to what his friends thought was the beginning of a bright new phase in his life following his long-planned early retirement.

Dennis, 'Big D', had such zest for life, such charm, dignity, style and above all such presence as Headmaster of the Lower School, that it is hard to think of anyone of his generation at the RGS who has etched himself into the memory of so many thousands so indelibly and with such affection and respect. He commanded the stage as befitted his theatrical training. Even when notices proved unreadable or were misplaced, or a thought-train lost, a masterly pause and an ad-libbed exit line would make it seem all part of some greater scheme.

For all his histrionic skill and presence that could freeze his charges, he was never pompous or unapproachable. He was one of nature's gentlemen, and by example and insistence stood for good manners in all things. His enormous contribution to school life has been chronicled in the 1986 edition of the Wycombiensian, and we little expected to be saying a final farewell so soon. He was a lovely man, and his untimely death will cause many to feel painfully diminished by his loss, yet privileged to have known him.

R.C.F

UNIVERSITY ENTRY 1988-89

OXFORD

A D M Brimelow Oriel, Experimental Psychology
M A Chandler St Edmund Hall, Geology
S Dutta University, Classics
P V C Fison Christchurch, PPE
M T Humberstone St Anne's, English
J C T Kendall Exeter, Law
H J Maddock University, Medicine
R J Rainbow University, Physiological Sciences
R J Smith Queen's, Zoology
J W Summers Pembroke, History
J I Thompson St Catherine's, Metallurgy

CAMBRIDGE

J P Aranzulla Gonville and Caius, Modern Languages
S C Ashford Jesus, Music
M P Ball Clare, Modern Languages
P W Blatchford Churchill, Engineering
C J J Charlton Fitzwilliam, Land Economy
D G Crowdy Queens', Maths
S A Guy Robinson, Geography
R F Holloway St John's, Maths
A C Lane Queens', Economics
J R C Loadman Clare, Maths/Nat Sciences
C R MacTavish Downing, Geography
D J Miles Pembroke, Engineering
A L Moody Clare, Chemistry
D G Moore St John's, Celtic Norse
C J Pethers Gonville and Caius, Mathematics
J S Riley Downing, Classics & Law
R M Stenner Queens', Land Economy/Geography
C L Thomas Clare, Medical Sciences
S D M Thornton Clare, Modern Languages
D S Turnbull Gonville & Caius, Economics
A D Yates Fitzwilliam, Geography

UNIVERSITY PLACES

Z S Ali: London University, Medicine (1989)
P J Aranzulla: Durham University, Engineering (1989)
A Bailey: Leicester University, Medicine
S N Baker: Durham University, Psychology/Zoology (1989)
P B Barnard: Southampton University, Electronics & Computer Science
J C R Bealer: East Anglia University, Linguistics (1989)
B T Bennett: Leeds University, Fine Arts
S P Besford: Durham University, Engineering (1989)
M J Bignell: Bristol University, Modern Languages (1989)
J R Black: Leeds University, Geography
W R Bodilly: Exeter University, Engineering
N L V Britnell: Reading University, Economics
N J Brownless: Cardiff University, Science
D Bruce: Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, London University, Zoology
T J Burke: Southampton University, Geography
M J Burns: Southampton University, History (1989)
M A Cavill: Loughborough University, Information Studies & English Literature
R P Chamberlain: Heriot Watt University, Electrical Engineering
S H Chan: Bath University, Engineering
S M Chan: Surrey University, Microbiology
C E Cook: Birmingham University, Law (1989)
P A Cracknell: Bath University, Electronic Engineering
M J Curl: Aston University, French/German & Business Studies
R Devonport: University of Wales Institute of Science & Technology, Cardiff, Engineering
J M Dibbo: Cardiff University, Economics (1989)

C J Doe: Nottingham University, Mathematics
A L Donald: Hull University, Psychology (1989)
S M Drage: Leicester University, Medicine (1989)
C R H Eales: City University, Business Studies (1989)
B D Edwards: Goldsmiths College, London University, History
D Fell: Leeds University, Chinese
A J Folkes: Nottingham University, Chemistry
M Fox: Nottingham University, Medicine
I M Gilbey: Southampton University, Law
D J Hammond: Leeds University, Medicine
A C Harris: Warwick University, History & Politics
N D Haylett: Exeter University, Chemistry with Law (1989)
I P A Hoad: Durham University, Archaeology
J D M Holmes: University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Electronics
A J Howe: Swansea University, Biological Sciences
J B Howe: Cardiff University, Civil Engineering
I Hussain: Imperial College, London University, Maths
P G Icke: Exeter University, Mechanical Engineering & French
D J P Keohane: Leeds University, French/Management Studies
M J Kightley: Aberystwyth University, French/Spanish
C L Lacy: Nottingham University, Chemistry & Business Management
J D Lane: Southampton University, Biology
M J McAllister: London School of Economics, Economics
E J R Moffatt: Durham University, Modern Languages
P A New: Warwick University, Business Management Science (1989)
T M Niedrum: University College of Swansea, Management Science
R R Olds: Kent University, Electronic Engineering
J N G Pearson: Stirling University
A W Pegler: Nottingham University, Industrial Economics with Accountancy (1989)
N Phillips: Liverpool University, History (1989)
A S Rashid: Bath University, Aeronautical Engineering
S J M Rippeth: Southampton University, Business Studies, Economics & Sociology
J R H Rugg: Durham University, French
A J F Scanlon: Leeds University, Economics (1989)
P R Shayler: Manchester University, Joint French & Spanish (1989)
K Slater: Warwick University, Engineering
A H W Smith: Exeter University, Electronic Engineering (1989)
A N Weatherston: Newcastle University, Chemistry
N Wells: Reading University, Pathobiology
A R Wilcox: Aston University, Business & Managerial Studies (1989)
R J Wilkinson: Bristol University, Law
P M York: Bath University, French & German

Polytechnics (Degree Courses)

M J W Dodds: Hatfield Polytechnic, Social Policy (1989)
P J F Doyle: Coventry Polytechnic, Modern Languages
J R Fisher: Coventry Polytechnic, Law (1989)
D P Fortnam: Coventry Polytechnic, Modern Languages
D J H Godley: Thames Polytechnic, International Marketing
S M Hunt: Teeside Polytechnic, Business Studies
R S Hyde: Bristol Polytechnic, Systems Analysis (1989)
E L Jackson: Manchester Polytechnic, Architecture (1989)
N S Johnson: Leicester Polytechnic, Combined Studies
A J Keeble: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Geographical Science
R G S King: Manchester Polytechnic, Humanities/Social Studies
S M Linzell: Bristol Polytechnic, Psychology
A S MacCaskill: Wolverhampton Polytechnic, French
M G Mayo: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Business Studies
P W P Moss: Brighton Polytechnic, Maths
L J O'Toole: Manchester Polytechnic, Business Studies (1989)
T J R Payne: Kingston Polytechnic, Business Studies

S J Riley: Kingston Polytechnic, Applied Science
G J Saunders: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Economics
P A Stewart: North London Polytechnic, Geography
M R Shipley: Birmingham Polytechnic, Accounting
J E Skrimshire: Plymouth Polytechnic, Social & Political Management
M Thompson: Hatfield Polytechnic, Industrial Systems Engineering

'A' Level Results 1988

The successful candidates who took the Oxford GCE Board 'A' Level Examinations were:

KEY: A – Art; B – Biology; C – Chemistry; E – Economics; Eng – English Literature; F – French; FM – Further Maths; Ger – German; Geo – Geography; Gre – Greek; H – History; AH – Ancient History; L – Latin; M – Maths; Mus – Music; P – Physics; BS – Business Studies; CS – Computer Science; GS – General Studies; EPS – Economic & Political Studies; Sp – Spanish; RS – Religious Studies; Russ – Russian; AwH – Art with Art History; Chi – Chinese

* Denotes Grade A

SN Baker C,P,B*,GS: **DJ Clarke** H,M,GS,BS: **SM Drage** M*,C*,B*: **IPA Hoad** Eng, H*,Geo: **M Fox** C*,P*,B*,GS: **JK Iveson** L*,F*,H* Russ*: **J R Holloway** B: **JHC Jones** L*,H*,Gre* **A Howe** C,B: **JCT Kendall** Eng,L*,F*,M*,GS **CC Nduka** C,P,B*: **PR MacLeod** L*,H*,GS,Gre: **SBJ Walters** M,C*,B*,GS*: **SJ Riley** Geog,BS: **N Wells** C*,P*,B*: **PR Shayler** L*,F,FM,GS: **A Bailey** C,P,B*,GS: **PJ Ayton** H: **ADM Brimelow** C*,P*,B*,GS: **MJW Dodds** H,EPS,GS: **D Bruce** C,B: **BD Edwards** F,H,E **SM Chan** C,B,AwH: **JB Iver** Eng,F,H,GS: **AL Donald** C,P,B,GS: **PW Iveson** Eng, F*,M,GS*,Russ*: **DJ Hammond** M,C*,B*: **PJ Lawrence** Geog,BS: **IJ Harding** C*,P*,B*: **SM Linzell** Eng, F,H: **RJ Mould** M,C,B,GS: **AS MacCaskill** Eng,F,H: **DJ Peart** M,C*,B*,GS: **MG Mayo** Eng F,E: **GJ Russell** C,P*,B*,GS*: **JE McCauley** F,E: **JM Shepherd** M,C,P*,B*,GS: **GJ Saunders** Eng, H: **AN Weatherston** C,P,B,GS: **BT Bennett** Eng,H*,EPS*,GS*,A*: **S Ali** M,C,B: **SA Currie-Cathey** H,E,Geo,GS: **CP Cope** C,P,B: **CL Grace** Geog: **SC Johns** M*,C*,P*,B*,GS: **R Hicks** H,E: **JD Lane** M,C,B*: **DC Largent** GS,BS: **AJ Mogg** M*,C*,B*,GS*: **CE Nickolay** Geog, GS,BS: **NP Moore** M,C,B*,GS: **THR Payne** BS: **RJ Whalley** C,B: **RJ Rogers** Eng, H,M: **AR Wilcox** M,C,B*,GS: **M Roadnight** E NS Adams L*,F,M*: **JE Skrimshire** H,E: **J Bealer** L,F*,GS: **TJ Aylott** Geog,P: **RA Eaves** EPS,Geog,GS: **WR Bodilly** F,M*,FM,P: **NA Hall** Geog: **RP Chamberlain** M*,FM*,C,P*,G: **AC Harris** Eng,H,Geog*: **TJ Clark** M*,FM,P*,C*,GS*: **NS Johnson** Eng,M,BS: **R Devonport** F,M,P*: **RGS King** H,EPS, Geog: **CH Doe** M*,FM*,C,P: **CR MacTavish** Eng,H*,Geog*,GS: **I Hussain** M*,FM*,C,P*: **AW Pegler** Eng*,Geog,BS: **RW Bayley** M*,C,P*: **JRS Tapley** F,H,Geog: **AB Dutta** M,C,P: **JR Black** H*,EPS,Geo: **AJ Folkes** M*,C*,P*: **TJP Burke** Eng,E,Geo*,GS: **JS Gregson** M*,FM*,C*,P*: **MJ Burns** H*,E*,Geo: **G R Hamilton** M,FM,C,P: **MP Cull** E,Geo: **PJ Haydon** M,C,P: **CRH Eales** Geog*, FM,BS: **GP Higgins** M*,C,P*: **DJ Fell** H*,Geo,Chi*: **JDM Holmes** M,C,P: **IM Gilbey** Eng,EPS,Geo: **PA New** M,P*,BS: **PWP Moss** E,Geo: **PJ Aranzulla** E,M,P*,GS: **RJ Priest** H,EPS,Geo,GS: **JC Deary** Ger,P: **MR Shipley** Geog,GS,BS: **JS Hall** Geo,P: **RM Warboys** F,H*,Geo: **ND Haylett** M*,C*,P*: **NLV Britnell** Eng,H,E*: **RS Hyde** Geo,M,P: **JG Buxton** Eng,H,EPS,GS: **AJ Keeble** Geo,P: **JR Fisher** H,EPS,GS: **M Waller** Geo,P,AwH: **MJ McAllister** H,E*,M: **PB Barnard** M,C,P*,GS: **EJR Moffatt** H*,EPS*,GS*,Sp: **JS Bennett** M,C,P,GS: **LJ O'Toole** Eng,F,H,GS: **NJ Brownless** M,C,P: **N Phillips** F,H,E: **SH Chan** M,C,P:

CS Starling F,H,E: PA Cracknell M,C,P*,GS: PA Stewart H,E,Geo,GS: JM Dibbo E*,M,C: RJ Wilkinson H*,EPS*,Sp: MJ Hatfield C,P: DC Chapman Ger,E,GS: LT Moore M*,C,P: NG Cook F,Ger,M: R Olds M,C,P,GS: MJ Curl F,H,BS: NK Panchan M*,FM*,C*,P*,GS: PJF Doyle F,Ger: NJ Weaver M*,FM,C,P*,GS: DP Fortnam F,Ger: A Boghossian P,BS: SJM Rippeth Ger,M,GS,BS*: TG Heritage P: HEP Twitchen BS: JB Howe M,C,P,GS: PM York Eng,F*,Ger,GS: SM Hunt M,P,BS: MJ Bignell F,Ger,H*: EL Jackson AwH, GS,BS ID Cann F*,H*,Geo*,GS: CL Lacy M*,C,P: MA Cavill Eng,F,GS: TM Niedrum M,P,BS*: CE Cook F,M*,Sp: SA Rashid M,C,P: N Cook F,M,P: AHW Smith M,P,BS: DJH Godley F,BS: MV Thompson M,C,P: DJ Keohane Eng,F,E: MJ Curl GS: JNG Pearson Eng, F,M: M Ponting Geo: JRH Rugg Eng,F*,H*,GS: M Roadnight E: AJF Scanlon Eng,F,E*: RP Hoskins M*,FM*,P: MC Taylor F,H: JF Dinn M,FM,P: AN Collier M*,P,GS: AJ Brown E,P: PN Denison M*,FM*,C*,P*: SC Cooke P: JN Haynes M*,FM*,C*,P*: NJF Pinder P T: J Hodson M*,FM*,C*,P*: K Slater E,M,P*: PG Icke F,M,P,GS: JA Jones M*,FM*,C*,P*: MJ Kightley F,M*,FM,Sp: BFG Sidentopf M*,FM,C,P*: RE Wheeler E,GS: G Bambury Geo*,M*,FM,P: SP Besford Geo,M*,FM,P

Boothroyd (9); IM Brown (10); BH Bushill (9); JM Bryom (5); GR Carson (9); RB Chacksfield (10); P St J Churchett (9); FL Currie (9); TA Doig (6); MN Drage (9); JR Fieldhouse (9); JW Gibson (8); IL Glover (9); TJ Green (7); P McI Holloway (10); SJ Hough (7); BC Jerrome (7); JE King (9); RD King (7); PD Lewis (8); RA Muchmore (10); RA Nicholson (9); M Saunders (8); JE Sherlock (9); TCB Webber (9); PJ Wheeler (9); KM Wootton (8); MA Wybrow (8); SH Jie (6).

'GCSE' Results. 1988

The following boys obtained Grade A-C in five or more subjects in the GCSE Examinations:

AJ Aitken (10); SM Bennett (10); DA Conway (10); AB Cooper (9); NW Edmonds (10); S Edwards (9); RM Elliott (10); AB Fitzjohn (10); D Gatum (9); JA Goozee (10); MC Harrison (10); AJ Hunt (9); JM Jenkins (10); AN Johansen (10); SP Keeling (9); P L Krinks (10); MG McCarthy (10); DJ McNamara (10); RJA Monk (9); MJ Musgrove (10); MJ Nixon (10); NJ O'Doherty (10); DS Pearce (9); JL Pendleton (9); JA Ross (8); MR Sanders (9); THF Shakeshaft (9); TI Sparks (10); RC Swain (8); CM Walsh (7); GRP Wynter (9); P. Airley (10); DJ Anderson (9); SR Ashdown (10); NJ Baikie (11); JL Ball (10); MA Bickford (10); D Brockway (10); D Brown (10); C St J Cropper (10); RP Duffy (10); AJ Eastbrook (9); SP Garvie (8); DM Hancox (10); PD Hardie (7); J Hart (10); CP Hazelden (10); JSA Hemuss (10); W Holden (10); RH Johns (10); RK Mills (10); SJ Munday (11); ACD Palmer (10); SDC Pearson (10); SG Pratt (10); AP Somerville (10); NC Stapleton (10); A Steel (10); MF Stidworthy (11); JS Uden (9); MJ Weaver (10); ST Zabel (10); OM Barkey (10); CMJ Bray (9); CP Birmingham (8); NA Charles (8); PA Cranie (10); MAJ Day (10); JS Dickinson (6); JD Dyer (10); LJ Hill (9); GR Holmes (6); FJ Joel (8); AD Kydd (10); AJ Law (8); FP Martin (9); PC Moynihan (9); SP Owen (9); RA Page (8); SJD Paton (10); AJ Phillips (9); AC Pinks (8); SJ Reid (10); KA Sarshar (9); S Slater (10); CR Smith (7); MS Stewart (10); LW Thompson (10); AR Till (9); A Toms (8); RH Tulloch (10); PJG Watson (9); JRH Wilkins (9); DO Allen (9); JS Arthur (9); AH Ashton (9); DJ Ayling (10); PAG Benstead (10); SR Brown (10); PD Buckley (9); JS Clark (8); A Collins (6); JR Dean (8); D Fawell (7); IR Fazey (8); JBW Francis (9); D Garner (9); JR Gatward (9); PA Gould (10); GW Groves (10); C Hamp (10); SJ Johnson (9); SC Lacey (9); SJ Oldcorn (10); N Orolin (10); D A Peddle (7); DC Pike (9); JD Rattray (9); PJ Read (9); CM Rylett (9); LM Santucci (7); NA Seymour (10); RID Sweetman (9); M Wise (10); PM Zimmerman (9); TR Adams (7); I Ahmed (9); RW Baker (8); SS Bent (8); AJ Brooks (7); AT Brown (10); GP Cavill (6); M Chan (9); SR Clark (5); SJ Cornish (7); IR Gould (8); ICW Hamilton (5); GLR Herschel (10); J Howard (6); PSR Jackman (7); GD Lamb (5); CJ Marsh (9); RK Mayer (6); RM McManus (7); HR Morjaria (8); JRV Pearson (9); D Pereira (9); JC Pinot de Moira (10); A Qureshi (10); KR Sampson (8); SM Shaw (10); TCH Stiles (5); SP Tullett (9); GS Wagstaffe (6); MD Archer (6); J Blenkarn (10); AF



Open House

Role-Playing - A Mainstream Hobby?

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find a report from the Role-Playing Club which proves that role-playing games (RPGs) are alive and well at the RGS. A quick calculation shows that just over 7% of the school are members of the club. The actual number who play RPGs is much larger than that. This is not just a craze - it has existed for 15 years and, unlike many other hobbies (for instance BMX), it shows no sign of slowing down. Since the first edition of "Dungeons & Dragons" was published in 1974 the number of people playing RPGs has never stopped growing. In Britain alone over 20,000 people regularly buy the house magazine of one company, and those people represent only a tiny fraction of role-players. There are well over thirty games on the market. Major stores, like W H Smith, stock RPG magazines (and sometimes the games themselves). Any relatively large school or university will have a Role-Playing Club of one sort or another.

Even more encouraging is the number of players who are carrying on beyond their twenties. Role-playing has established itself as a respectable adult hobby.

All this is astounding when you consider that the first import of D&D was made only a short 14 years ago. It was a large, risky order - six copies!

The spread of role-playing should please those involved in teaching, because the games form one of the most educational and mind-stretching hobbies around. It has been described as 'a jam session for the mind'. The games demand creativity and imagination from the players. Extensive reading is also required, for inspiration, or simply to get a flavour of the games. And, most important of all, the games require continuous, sustained attention.

Of course, being so widespread has its disadvantages. I have been role-playing for over seven years now and I have watched the hobby's rise with interest and, at times, worry. The first problem with popularity is that you become a threat to something, whatever your hobby or pastime. In the case of role-playing certain elements of the church saw a threat and set about an anti-RPG campaign. Role-playing has, however, remained largely unaffected.

The second problem, one that I have felt particularly, is that role-playing is no longer an exclusive club. The larger games companies are now plainly run for the money and not, I feel, for any real love of the hobby. Admittedly, there are great benefits the quality of games has improved tremendously - however I think we have lost something of the spirit the hobby once had.

But why is it so popular? Role-playing goes against every trend of the late twentieth century. It requires players to exercise the mind. It eats into that most precious of twentieth century commodities, time. It needs extended periods of concentration. In short, it is almost totally the opposite of the 'three minute culture', which TV has developed. The answer is that role-playing's popularity lies with the very people for whom the three minute culture is a disaster. The people who can concentrate, with minds that need a workout. The people who want to create their own fantasies and not be spoon-fed by TV. As long as such people exist, there will be people who play role-playing games.

COLIN HAZELDEN

Home at Last

I was home at last, could it be true?
Things all around me looked like new.
The day I had dreamt of for many weeks past,
After so much waiting had come at last.
From room to room I wandered about,
It made me so joyful I wanted to shout.
Excitement increased as I mounted the stair:
With crutches and stiff leg I took great care.

I entered my room and stood quite still
To see my belongings gave me a great thrill
No hospital equipment so stark and white
To stand out sharp in the dark of the night
My own little bed O joys of joys.
Where I could snuggle down with all my soft toys.

JAMES PETERS 3HM

Perestroika

(the events of April 9th 1989)

They speak of perestroika,
And of glasnost teach,
They herald an age of openness,
And the advent of free speech.

The people of Tbilisi,
Exercised their right,
To hold a peaceful demonstration.
With no suggestion of a fight.

The Russians under Stalin,
Had been very harsh and cruel.
They imposed onto the Georgians,
Their hard oppressive rule.

Oppression still did linger,
In the hearts of the police,
They pumped out nerve gas on the crowd,
And shattered hopes of peace.

The people were justly angry,
"Hypocrisy", they cried,
For of that peaceful number,
Twenty souls had died.

Dozens of people were thus maimed,
Or lost their power of sight.
For them, it was as if they'd plunged,
Into eternal night.

Many have serious brain damage,
Who of that gas took but a breath,
They live on, still unable to think.
In a ghastly living death.

The Kremlin says it's improving human rights,
But its name should be trampled into mud.
For the tale of the cruelties in Georgia that day,
Is written in suffering and blood.

D P CHAPMAN 3H

First impressions...second thoughts.

A Second Form who joined the school in September 1988 were invited to look back on their first year at the RGS. Here are some of their thoughts:

As the last few days of the summer holidays arrived, I started to feel the dread of such a large school, nearly double the size of my old one. I knew about the 1,000+ pupils and I began to feel very small. These few days went by so slowly as if to torment me. On the morning of the first day I felt very tired because I did not sleep too well the night before. When I changed into my uniform I felt so much older....One thing that stands out very clearly in my mind is the night before my first day at the RGS. I can remember going to bed early so that I could rest in preparation for the next day. I was so excited that I ended up tossing and turning in my bed for three or four hours. I was looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends, and for some really weird reason I was also looking forward to the work.

On the morning of September 5th my mind was a blur. It was clogged up with thoughts such as, would the teachers be strict? Would there be a lot of homework? Would I know any people in my class? All these thoughts had suddenly struck me. Then I put my uniform on. It was all new and itchy. When I looked into the mirror I appeared to look neat but stiff....On the journey to the RGS I walked with a friend. We talked about anything, anything but the school. It was obvious we were both exceedingly nervous and a little excited at the same time....On the first day I was very self-conscious about my appearance. Was my blazer too big? Would everyone else's costume look as stupid as mine? As I came into the quad I saw a lot of large people. Could these really be second formers? They all looked so relaxed. I decided to go and see if any of my friends were there. No, they weren't. Well, another five minutes standing around looking as though I had no friends wouldn't kill me....I waited in the quad. I knew only five people in the crowd of one hundred and eighty pupils and I felt intimidated. I suppose I felt that everyone else knew each other....I stood with my friends from my middle school until a man in a black cape sent us to the Queen's Hall. The sight of the black cape made me shiver, and I thought to myself, 'What have I let myself in for?'....I went up the wide steps to what seemed like the end of the world as I knew it, the Queen's Hall. Here we were told our forms and our form teacher. Then we trod silently, too silently, down to our rooms....At our table I was seated with three other boys. They were all silent; nobody spoke. I thought to myself, 'Come on you lot, say something', so I said, 'Hello everybody!'. At last we started to make conversation.

It was on the second day that I learned how much fun coach travel can be, as I spent 99% of the journey on the floor, being sat on by my sister and many other Lady Verney High School girls. I cannot say I minded though....Within the week I learned who the comedians in the form were, who the pests were, and the others. After the first two weeks I hardly ever knew I was new to the school. If I had had no map I would never have known where I was, but now I can always go anywhere without thinking. A typical day is just automatic to go here and there for every lesson....The worst things about the school are litter duty and detentions, but they are important for keeping our environment tidy, while detentions will make you think twice. I think that the detention is quite a good means of punishment but sometimes I feel the cane should be brought back....In some subjects there is at least one test a week. This is unfortunate

for us because everyone tries not to think about it except for one particular individual in the form who goes about shouting 'Test! Test!' at the top of his voice. He even writes the word 'Test!' on the blackboard.Tests make me nervous and sometimes I cannot sleep because I am so worried.

I know it is for our own good but still I do not like it. That is why I like the GCSE because most of it is sometimes coursework so this gives a chance to the people who do not do well at exams to prove themselves....My fears about work were already subsiding. I now know that the Victorian image of canes and reciting tables was not true and some of the teachers were actually nice....Teachers in general I always thought were stupid to take up the job in the first place, but the teachers at RGS are better because they do not go on and on. They set you work and leave you to it....I expected the RGS staff to be strict and cruel but as it happened they were on the whole very pleasant. After the first week a few suddenly seemed to grow very solemn. I think the best bits of the RGS are teachers giving you encouragement and respect. They don't treat you like a young boy, but more like a teenager....Some of the teachers make us work extremely hard while others let us take it a bit more easily. I have kind teachers with a stricter side, and soft teachers with a fierce barrier.

Overall I have enjoyed my first year but first of all it was hard. All the teachers are very kind and do want to help you....On the first day I came in feeling rather nervous, not knowing what to expect. I thought that it would be a very upper class school with very posh teachers and no litter. However, the teachers are mostly alright and there was a little bit of rubbish on the ground....Now that I have been here for nearly a year the school is nothing like what I expected it to be. I thought that the boys would be all posh because I knew that this school was quite famous. The teachers have all been very kind to me and have helped me when I have asked for it. I enjoy all lessons....Before I came to the school I was told it would be full of swots who were useless at sport. But when I came here I found that 99% of the people were ordinary, nice people who liked a bit of fun.

The other 1% were swots. This is about the average for most schools. Now I am glad to have left my old school and am finding life being treated as an older person good....I also like the opportunities I have been given or will be given. The school has many clubs and activities, and I thank the teachers for that. Now, school is perfect....Overall, I think most of my expectations were met and I settled in well. As a whole, I think I have enjoyed my first year at the RGS and I am looking forward to many more happy years here!

FORM 2B





Spring

The sun rose over a dewy hill.
 Apollo steers his horses o'er.
 Far, silent, away, the birds do trill.

The dew coats, dewdrops softly spill.
 Crows scatter away from the sower.
 The sun rose over a dewy hill.

The juices flow, buds respond with thrill;
 Venus comes; their beauty they'll show her!
 Far, silent, away, the birds do trill.

The snowy owl returns to the mill,
 she carries the fieldmouse below her.
 The sun rose over a dewy hill.

Cat waits, ready, pounces for the kill;
 Diana waits at his shoulder.
 Far, silent, away, the birds do trill.

On such a morning is there no ill?
 Apollo steers chariots o'er.
 The sun rose over a dewy hill.
 Far, silent, away, the birds do trill.

S P KEELING 6GM

ICARUS

I have flown too close to the sun
 I am falling
 I am spurned
 I am falling.

My wings of wax,
 they were my heart
 I flew too close
 I am falling.

Her face,
 So bright,
 like the sun,
 and I am falling.

A vision
 an angel
 Her face
 so bright.

Her lips
 red
 like fire
 I burn.

We kiss
 the red burns
 I scream,
 the screams of passion.

Betrayal
 Denial
 Burned, by Her lips
 Her red lips.

Burned
 Used
 I see red
 I am falling.

I see Her, red
 she, does not see me
 I hit rock bottom
 all I see, is red, burning RED.

S SAHOTA, 6GM₂



A Great British Tradition

"It's so true to life, that sort of thing really happens, you never know what's going to happen next." An opinion not uncommonly held of most TV soaps. You could just imagine your Auntie Doreen saying it. Yet one such (in)famous programme couldn't claim to hold any of these 'assets.' It gains a 15-million-strong cult following every day and is the most popular programme of the under 10s. What else but 'Neighbours'?

The quintessence of a soap is eagerly sought by programme makers, but the secret of 'Neighbours' is not altogether very clear. One would have considered that the whole ethos behind TV soap is credibility, for example 'the Archers', with its eternal preoccupation with the mundane: 'However does Maud get out of Enid's dinner invitation, and Amos discovers another sheep's got dysentery.' Speaking of which, 'Dynasty' is the exact opposite. People regularly manage to plummet 200 feet out of skyscrapers and get up without spilling any champagne from their glass (which is still in their hand), not to mention at least one member of the cast being shot each episode, with the bullets 'just missing their vital organs.'

However, the script of 'Neighbours' is so utterly flawed and hackneyed that you begin to wonder, is the writer (if there is one) deliberately trying to be tongue-in-cheek? Take Lucy - a harmless nine-year-old (complete with terminal adenoids) who, on one uneventful Tuesday, managed to get stuck down a three-foot sewer (which, as fate would have it, conveniently appeared from nowhere). After going blind and nearly dying in the process she mysteriously decides to take a trip to Paris, and on returning, we behold that Lucy is now five years older, two feet taller, and has a completely different voice. Curiously enough, no one seems to notice, or find it too boring to mention, considering they're far too busy making Harold some camomile tea, or taking Helen round a casserole, all whilst having a heart-to-heart with Eileen.

Anyway, after a particularly boring day at school, the new Lucy comes home and has a brain tumour. Off they all trot to the 'Ramsey Street hospital bed' and within two days she's back at home again alive and well and everyone had

forgotten all about it. Rumour has it she's about to undergo a third metamorphosis (blond this time), making three actresses in one year; even Doctor Who can't manage it that often!

That's just one example, there are many other similarly drab lifestories. The writers claim that 'Neighbours' is about an 'average street' in an 'average suburb' of Australia. Is it then true to say that: everyone in Australia has a job, usually working for their brother-in-law? (Australia has a surprisingly high level of unemployment). No one ever has any arguments/fights/bitching scenes? Everyone has enough money and no one is poor? There are no coloured people? (considering that Australia has the third highest percentage of immigrants in the population in the developed world). It all seems a little too nice and the claimed 'average' turns into 'cliché' with its regular batch of stereotypes: bossy old dragon, rich business tycoon, agony aunt and kid who's 'always getting into scrapes'.

The one word that most frequently pops into the mind is 'cheap'. Everyone always wears the same clothes, the 'music' is exactly the same every episode. (They've had the same record playing in the coffee shop for at least two years!). Also, no one can stay near an open door for very long because the 'outside' is a pantomime painted backdrop with a few potted plants as trees. Oh, and if you ever felt inclined, for whatever reason, to leave your £20,000 a year part in the programme, you're given a choice of these endings: A: car crash, B: forgotten you ever existed (eg. Shane and Clive), C: go back to Brisbane. Whichever you choose, you can guarantee that the audience will be moved by heartfelt sadness at your demise.

So what is the attraction of this complete farce? Perhaps it's a form of anti-culture or high camp for the late 80's? Out with originality and intelligent acting, in with any cheap old rubbish. I have a suspicion that they write it on the bus on their way in each morning. Another point is the way that the 'actors' now think they're 'celebrities', (eg Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan) and appear on all the corny Royal Variety Shows and do guest appearances on 'Jackanory'. Maybe it's all an utter gimmick and will be forgotten in six months? But don't let me put you off, I watch it every day!

JOHN PALMER 5RR



Societies & Activities

Model Railway Club

Looking back at previous reports for this learned journal I find that nearly all Wycombiensian reports from the Model Railway Club have begun something along the lines of "The Model Railway Club has had another successful year", but 1988-89 really has proved an excellent one for the club. A number of trips have been undertaken complementing the numerous journeys made by individual members up and down Britain over the last 12 months. All this despite yet another exorbitant fares increase in January in order to fatten BR up for privatisation. Yet this may not prove to be a totally bad thing for the MRC as the committee is currently looking into the possibility of helping to finance the purchase of a Class 50 locomotive from BR to operate on loss-making lines which look like getting the axe in the next few years. This will allow preservation to go well beyond its 'caged-lion' status and we all hope to see our favourite locos being thrashed to some order on the Settle & Carlisle and other lines in the next few years.

Turning to the model front we were all staggered by the success of our Exhibition held in the Queen's Hall on Saturday 25 February 1989 which raised a substantial sum for the club. Widely applauded by all, the club had justification in feeling proud at the result. Most of the exhibitors want to repeat it all next year!

Work is well advanced on totally rebuilding our '00' gauge club layout, and we are at the final stages in preparing for the arrival of '0' gauge to our club.

As I write this the future of the club appears to be in some doubt due to the plans for the new library, but the committee hopes that the school will find an alternative site for what must be one of the school's most financially viable extra-curricular activities.

Thanks must go to my fellow committee members, Richard Sparks and Andrew Palmer, for their assistance during the year. Also we thank Ian Fazey for the provision of water supplies to the clubroom throughout the year. May I wish next year's committee of Andy Palmer (Chairman), Richard Sparks (Treasurer) and Joe Baguley every success (especially in our donation to purchase the Class 50 locomotive 50035 'Ark Royal') and finally thank Mr Lovell for his ever reliable assistance throughout the year.

MARK HOPWOOD
(Chairman 1988-89)

Uplyme Report

Last year saw the departure of eight Uplymers, leaving only three to await the new arrivals. Originally we greeted eleven newcomers but Christmas saw the departure of Paul Huber and the arrival of Miles Nurnberger and James Baker. This brought our contingent of second formers up to seven, the most it has been for twenty years.

Other inmates in the year included Dominic Shaw, Paul Matthews and George the Cat, all of whom only stayed for a week. The departure of George was shrouded in mystery, he

disappeared after following us to breakfast one Saturday and therefore missed the tasty sausage that had been smuggled out for him.

The year saw many strikes. One member of the house had his umbrella struck by lightning; fortunately there was a witness otherwise no one would have believed him. Other strikes included the second formers refusing to accept punishments although this was soon resolved and more recently Miles was struck by a mysterious flying foot. At the time of writing this was the only unfortunate incident that took place so, touch wood, the house will survive the year intact.

Uplyme was well represented on the sports field this year with Simon Samuel and David Harding performing well in hockey and Shane Slater making his presence felt on the rugby field. Lower down the school Darren Mills, Simon King and Robin Callister also enjoyed themselves representing the school in rugby.

Non-sporting achievements included Steve Todd gaining the title of Lord Lieutenant's Cadet and also demonstrating his skills as an actor in "The Tempest". Congratulations go to Jon Summers who should be going to Oxford University, providing that nothing disastrous happens in June.

Regular readers of the Wycombiensian will know that this is the point where the Head of House says thank you to Mrs. Stubbs for washing his walking socks, Mr. Stubbs for casting a watchful eye over us all and Mr. Edwards for telling us when to stop eating at tea and to go to prep., so that's that. However, just for a change, I'm also going to thank Maureen the cleaner for coping with us for the last year.

As I sign off, I leave with the fond memories of just over a year of boarding and with the hope that the friendly atmosphere continues for years to come.

JAMES MANSFIELD
Head of House

School House Report

The end of another school year and School House is still standing, despite the attentions of Jonathan "Pyro" Hart. After losing Ed I., Ed J., Bert, Bone, Ernie, Alan, Clive and our Head of House, Slinz, we were severely lacking in real characters (apart from 6²¹) especially in the lower years. Fortunately enough for us Nick "Chubby" Walker, Steve "Interesting" Champion, Nick "Ferret" Humphries arrived in the junior dorm, and higher up Mark "Perfect" Booth, Han Jie, Anthony Steele and Chris Claydon joined us. We also had the much vaunted pleasure of having the Head Boy of the school in our midst: Nic "Love'em and Leave'em" Smith.

School House had many representatives in the school sports teams including Jonathon Buckley, Flackers, Clubber, Fatty, Slappy and Smiffy to mention but a few. Unfortunately Uplyme refused to participate in any inter-house fixtures as they did not want to be humiliated once more.

There have been several communal outings; one to Aylesbury for ten-pin bowling and a more select soirée in which the juniors donned their glad-rags and hit the town at 2 a.m. and were lucky enough to be escorted home by two very nice gentlemen in uniform, both having the initials P.C.

Our thanks go to all the Staff of School House; Mr and Mrs G and Mr Goldthorpe for keeping us in order and getting us out of the Boarding House WELL in time for

school, Mrs Wilcox (Matron) for caring so much, Gill and the cooks for keeping us fed and watered and all the ladies for keeping us clean! Thanks to little Ed for raising the level of after-dinner conversation and a final congratulations to Steve and Pippa Gamester on the birth of their second son, William.

P.S. Has Toby "Busby" Doig finished on the phone yet because tongue-'man' wants to use it.

P.P.S. Has anyone seen Simon Albino's shoes?

M.D.B., J.M.B., B.O.T., T.O.M., S.T., R.F., J.M., N.S.,

Red Nose Day 2

The day commenced with the kidnap of Head Boy, Nick Smith, from the boarding house by girls from Wycombe High School. Ransom money paid for Nick's safe release amounted to around £150, which was shared between the two schools (although I am sure Nick would have been quite happy to stay in the girls' clutches).

Another kidnap occurred when Peter Cowburn was forcibly removed from Junior Assembly. He was later locked in his office and still more cash was raised.

Many boys had already paid 10p each to guess which two members of staff would arrive at school in fancy dress - Hilary Munday and John Roebuck obliged as a girl guide and an Arab respectively.

Throughout the day boys and staff had to pay 10p for the privilege of wearing a red nose in class. Staff supplemented this with various fines for minor offences such as not working hard enough or not standing up quickly enough when another member of staff came into the room.

Martin Berry promised to have his beard shaved off provided £100 was forthcoming by lunchtime. Some persuasive boys collected the required amount in a bucket and the deed was done in the Queen's Hall the following Monday.

Hundreds of boys signed pledges to pay money if Mr. Brown would appear wearing shorts and a red nose. HM proved to be a good sport, as the photograph shows.

By the end of the school day, almost £800 had been raised and everyone had enjoyed the fun. When pledges were finally honoured during the following ten days, a total of £1,130 was sent to Comic Relief.

Boys and staff alike deserve thanks for their generosity and good humour. It was a happy day.

LINDA LUNN



Benevolent Fund

One of the more quiet but on-going aspects of RGS life is the donation of money to charity. Much of this is collected and given via the School Benevolent Fund.

Sometime during the year there are special collections for a particular cause, but most of the time money is given both by boys and staff on a Monday morning, and the money put in a deposit account until the end of the Summer term. Then, form representatives meet and allocate gifts to a number of different charities ranging from say, Dr Barnardo's at national level, through to local needs like Wycombe Scam appeal.

This year we have had special collections for The Armenian Earthquake Disaster Fund and following the recent football crowd tragedy, for the Hillsborough Disaster Appeal. The combined gifts for these exceeded £500.

More recently still we heard the news of the untimely death of our former Junior School headmaster, Mr Dennis Smith, and in his memory had a collection to be divided between The Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the two Awards he himself set up, the Dennis Smith Drama Award and the Dennis Smith Music Award. Boys, staff and many grateful parents have so far contributed more than £700.

In all this year, the Benevolent Fund, apart from other monies raised in the school for charity (such as Red Nose Day), will have contributed well over £3,000 to many needs at home and overseas.

J.R.B. KEMPSON
Fund Treasurer

General Knowledge Quizzes

School Teams

In the Junior Schools' Challenge, our best team beat Arnold House, Belmont, Haberdashers' Aske's, and The Oratory to win the London Region for the first time since 1985. The margins of victory in all of these games were wide enough to suggest that there were good chances of progress in the national competition. It therefore came as something of a disappointment to lose to Bancroft's School, Essex, in the first round, a scrappy, low-scoring affair in which our team never really got into its stride.

Team: David Chapman (3H), Edward Bennett (2B), Miles Davis (2B), Simon Eade (2C).

The senior Schools' Challenge team began with very convincing victories over Mill Hill (820 points to 270) and the John Lyon School, Harrow (1050 points to 630). This brought them into a semi-final with Sir William Borlase's School, a team new to the competition this year. Borlase played well, and our team was below its best form. The result was that Borlase won by 480 points to 380.

Team: Shomit Dutta (6C²), Richard Buckley (6BK²), Jeremy Weingard (4MS), Robert Hutton-Squire (4C). Substitute (one match): Simeon Thornton (6C²).

Internal Competition

The Fifth Year competition was won convincingly by 5Y (102 out of a possible 158). Their nearest rivals were 5JR(76), 5RR(74) and 5G (73). The Staff again proved to be better than all comers, but their score of 119 represented only 75% success. Perhaps the questions are getting harder. (Or was the Staff Revue too much of a distraction?).

The Fourth Year competition was won by 4B, the Third Year by 3H, and the Second Year by 2C.

J.P.E

Stage Lighting and Sound

1988 saw another successful year for the RGS Stage Lighting and Sound teams. Notable achievements included the acceptance of former member Steve Drage in the National Youth Theatre Technical Team for six weeks in the summer. His lighting expertise, gained from his membership of the RGS team, served him well in this venture. He made a point of coming to see the team on a Thursday afternoon and offered advice having encountered professional lighting at first hand. Steve is the second member to apply successfully for a position on the NYTTT, following Nick Haylett's example the previous year.

Iain Gilbey, who left us last year to read English at Southampton University, has stepped straight into the position of chief lighting operator at the University's Nuffield Theatre: a worthy attainment following his experience in the RGS S.L.T. Another past member, Peter Denison, having designed and constructed the computer interface used to control the school's lighting system, is actively involved in lighting University productions whilst reading mathematics at Cambridge.

The combined efforts of staff and pupils in the Stage Lighting Team contributed to the smooth running of the staff review at the end of the Autumn term. The show depended heavily on the computer controlled lighting system for the rapid switching of many lights in the finale: Andre Sihera and John Hart are to be congratulated on the excellent software they developed for this equipment. The lighting produced would not have been possible without the new computer control. Mr Everett extended and improved the stage sound communication network and after one or two teething problems it worked well to ensure the smooth running of a show which was totally dependent upon such a system. Kelvin Sampson stage-managed the whole show most efficiently and is to be congratulated on the excellent job he did.

Another successful show was the production of "The Tempest" - under the technical direction of Mr Moore. The

new sound and lighting team, some of whom had not participated in any production previously, worked well together to illuminate an original and somewhat adventurous set which posed significant problems to the lighting riggers. The team spent many hours both during and after school, preparing for the four-night production run in March.

This year will see major changes in the lighting facilities on the stage when new, longer, winched lighting bars are installed. The bars will have considerably more circuits on them than the old bars and will allow much greater flexibility when rigging on-stage lanterns. The additional circuits will require a substantial re-routing of cabling to the patch panel on the lighting gallery but the improvements should greatly facilitate the rigging and adjustment of lights in the future. The lighting team are very grateful to the Parents' Association for the on-going funding of lighting projects: a single bulb costs as much as £50 these days and the generous support of the PA is much appreciated.

KELVIN SAMPSON and R.A.E.

Forum

This is a series of meetings open to those interested in any way in the Christian faith. We meet every Friday lunchtime, between 1.40 pm and 2.20 pm, for coffee and discussion. Discussions vary from week to week, but are usually centred round a passage in the Bible (coffee varies from pleasurable to passable!). The Group is a mixture of sixth, fifth and fourth formers, and of those who appear regularly and those who drift in and out. The atmosphere is open, friendly and relaxed, there is no sense of pressure or leadership on any given individual, only of discussion amongst group members. Sometimes Mr. Ratcliffe offers us his words of wisdom, and sometimes it is left to one of us (or even a visiting speaker) to lead the meetings. I find the meetings quite helpful and encouraging, and a pleasant way to end a week at school. Come and see what you think!

JOHN ARANZULLA 6LD₂

Focus (or Christian Union)

Last year a large number of our members left to go to university, and the leadership has been taken over by relatively inexperienced Fifth and Lower Sixth formers. We have recently, very thankfully, had our numbers swelled with several new members in the upper school.

We had another very successful week-end away in February where we all got to know members of Christian Unions from other schools, and learnt a lot on the subject of prayer from a very good visiting speaker who works for Aylesbury Youth for Christ.

Recently we have livened up our meetings by inviting several visiting speakers to address us. Their presence definitely increased numbers for those meetings.

We also have prayer meetings during the extended Monday break-time and occasionally hold Inter-School meetings - during which we get together with other schools and support each other by telling of how our respective Christian Unions are faring.

S.G. PRATT, 6MP¹

The BBC Computer Network

This term the BBC network has had to recover from a couple of setbacks. Just before Christmas our Archimedes (super) computer left for repairs. It turned out to be a long rest, as it has just returned three months later. We are now all set to explore Computer-Aided-Design, at last. We are also about to order another Archimedes and we are about to move into colour printing with the Art department, and some serious desktop publishing. The other disaster in December was our first hard disc crash. It was so serious that Rod and Peter had to be summoned by telephone to confirm the bad news. All is now restored (we were still under guarantee) and the BETA and GAMMA discs are filling up again. Other centres of activity of note have been the new telephone line and modem (interesting chats with Italians and Germans), the new Future directory from the second form, Jon Hart dismantling protection system, Peter Mennie conducting the orchestra at station 10, Linus (Archimedesless) chancing his arm with a screwdriver, some very smart rotating graphics from Mark Roworth, and the amazing speed of André knocking out machine code. Lunchtimes are as crowded as ever. Thanks to DMB and RAE for their help.

P.M.A.G.

Computer Club

The beginning of the year saw the arrival of the new Nimbus computers and a powerful new file server. The acquisition of a colour printer meant that members could take home their brilliant pictures drawn on one of the many art packages.

The school has recently received a desk-top publishing package called Aldus PageMaker. A laser printer may well be needed to take full advantage of this software package.

With its present level of equipment the school is adequately equipped to further the education of pupils well into the next decade.

JAMES MANSFIELD
Assistant Network Manager

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

During the past year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has enjoyed great success, with a great rise in the number of participants and the number of activities available. The Award Scheme was set up to help young people from the age of 14 to 25 to use their free time enjoyably and beneficially. People can learn new skills, help the community, go on expeditions and courses and also get to meet many people of their own age with similar interests.

The Award Scheme consists of four main parts, a service, a skill, a sport and an expedition at three different levels of involvement - gold, silver or bronze. Each participant must put in a certain amount of time and effort into each section.

At the moment we have a very wide range of activities for boys at the R.G.S.

We have many people helping at Wycombe Hospital for



the service section, some helping with learning about nature conservation and others on courses at local police and fire stations, to name but a few.

For skills the activities that boys are involved in range from candle-making to electronics, from car driving to snooker, and from photography to rifle shooting.

In sport our most recent successful addition has been the start of courses in archery by a large number of participants, but judo, fencing, squash, cycling and rugby are also increasingly popular.

Due to the large number of participants, we now have also been able to organise our own Duke of Edinburgh's expedition training sessions in order to prepare ourselves with knowledge of camping, walking, First Aid and the Country Code. Hopefully canoeing expeditions will also soon be possible.

Our main dates on the calendar are a bronze training expedition on the 1st and 2nd of July, a bronze assessment on the 8th and 9th of July and also in September some of us are hoping to go to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Rally '89 at Green Park to try out lots of new activities whilst meeting other people on the Award Scheme.

MICHAEL NIXON

Staff-Aid: The Producer Tells all – Well, Some.

Part 1: The Idea

It had been five years since "Staff and Nonsense" had flared across the R.G.S. like a destruction-bearing comet. Only a handful of boys had seen a Staff Revue, plus the staff; and the staff have appalling memories. And so it came to pass that "Staff Aid" (the ninth revue), was conceived and born. "We'll write the script over the summer holidays," said the script-writers at their first meeting. They allocated tasks and departed. There were to be many more of these meetings, at a variety of venues: the Careers Room, School House, Mr Yeates' flat, the Royal Oak, Great Missenden. (And is it a coincidence that this hostelry is now closed down?)

In September, they reconvened, bearing great wads of coruscating material. Or, to look at it another way, with inane grins, and cries of, "I've got some great ideas! Honest! Just haven't written them down yet...." And so time passed on tiptoe, its finger to its lips.

Memories flood back. JJOR: "I don't want to offend anyone." ARY: "No, but I want to get that——,——"

SBG: "How about this....?"

IAB: "That's VERY funny!.....But it's well out of order."

JJOR: "I don't want to offend anyonebut I want to be the Chairman of the Governors."

ARY: "I want to be a teddy-bear."

SGB: "I ought to be Freddy Mercury."

IAB: "I'll tell you what we REALLY want here — another woman!"

And so Linda Lunn, innocently believing what she was told, stepped in where angels get a smack in the mouth. Well, she didn't know us, THEN.

Part 2: Rehearsals

Rehearsals are the funniest bits of a revue. Performances are exciting, but rehearsals are hilarious. For one thing, there are the jokes which can't possibly be told in public. Jokes like the one about Mr....No, no! It's really not on! Then there's the producer standing in the middle of the stage, yelling, "Where the hell is.....? He knows we're rehearsing!" And someone saying, "Oh, he's in Aylesbury/taking a team away/seeing the Headmaster/incapably drunk." (Delete where applicable, along with the resulting expletives.) And, of course, then, like the chorus of a song, "What would you say to a boy who did this to you?"

There's the realisation that some of the material IS funny...the finale will be a hit. Pippa Gamester in the front row in hysterics: "Leave it! Leave it! If you get it any better, it will spoil it! They'll think Derek is supposed to be doing it like that!" But if rehearsals are fun, dress-rehearsals are a nightmare. There's the cast realising that there is more than one sketch; there's the sound-effects man turning up for the first time and realising that he has to correlate with actors...something that never occurred to him. There's the Lighting Director finding out that revue casts never stand in the same place twice. There's the producer losing his temper with everyone in turn. Oh, and the "Neighbours" slides haven't come out; they'll have to be retaken. Well, we've got 36 hours!

There are two dress-rehearsals: the "technical" one finishes at midnight...everyone's nerves on edge. The second is for real. IAB: "Right. Now this is a performance, lads OK? No hitches. Straight through." It breaks down approximately 150 times and lasts five hours. Then the cast go home/have a nervous breakdown and say they can't go on/ blame it on the lighting and sound. The producer and the director of lighting go ten rounds in the front of the Queen's Hall. And tomorrow is the Day of the Jackal.

Part 3: The Performance

The first night! Room 13 full of clothes, props, alcohol, and ice-cool staff putting their tights on backwards, dropping their props, screaming, and otherwise demonstrating professional grip. "We, in the flagship of the fleet, are cool," etc.

But who'd have thought it? There are a load of loonies out there laughing! (Often at the bits we didn't think were very good.) They're applauding too. They don't know about the paper bag that never turned up in the staff-room sketch; that the producer forgot to do the intro to....; that Freddy Mercury ran on stage and had to run off again to get his dummy microphone. (Monserrat Caballe, in a savage Yorkshire whisper: "What the hell are you doing, Gamo?") And many more. But if they did, they wouldn't care—that's part of the fun. Nor do they know the sherry in the staff-room sketch is real—or that three nights used three bottles...

By Saturday night, the cast is wrecked—they're on a permanent high; they're running out of adrenalin; they'll be suffering withdrawal symptoms for weeks afterwards. But it worked! Everyone liked it—even that member of the — Dept. who never likes anything. Letters of congratulation from all sorts of people. The chairman of the Governors is a bit tight-lipped, but the Headmaster hasn't sacked anyone—a permanent source of surprise. And so, it's down to the staff-room for the post-revue party; always a winner. "I thought Friday was the best....remember when Linda had hysterics?...What the hell was——doing in the —— sketch?...Weren't Saturday's audience dead?..." And so on into the small hours.

And that's it for another year. Two years? Who knows? But I've got the video, including the back-stage shots....X certificate stuff that....I wonder if we SHOULD have included that joke about Mr. ——?....No....but what about next time, eh.....?

I.A.B

RGS Show Day May 1988

Before the Show even opened it had one clear advantage over its immediate predecessors - a dry sunny day, ideal for wandering round to see all that was on offer.

Accompanied by four enthusiastic boys from 7 to 12 years old, this visitor was persuaded to spend the entire afternoon circling the main arena and so missed what was available elsewhere in the school. The Push Ball competition was greatly appreciated with much laughter at the sight of beefy rugby players trying to control the huge and often wayward ball.

The marching band and school band provided musical accompaniment to the tour of sideshows, the success of which was demonstrated by the speed at which pocket money disappeared. The younger end particularly enjoyed the trolley slide and the novelty of swingboats, the latter reminding the adult member of a distant childhood. The candy floss stall was even more popular, the queues bearing witness to a roaring trade - PACE dentists of Wycombe!

The Black Knight and his protagonists in the Medieval Combat, it has to be admitted, produced more mirth than interest and were abandoned in favour of the Radio-Controlled Helicopter Display. This was watched with keen attention and the inevitable "please can I have one like that?"

Another circuit of the arena took in the Fire Brigade, antique fire engines and Thames Valley Police. This group also spent considerable time at the RAF stand, not so much out of a burning desire for information but more for the goodies on offer. Badges, posters and models to make were added to the adult packhorse's load. Round again and a stop at the Wycombe 6 cinema quiz where it was fascinating to see friends and colleagues demonstrating an erudition worthy of Barry Norman.

Then to the main attraction - the White Helmets motor cycle team going through their breathtaking routines. It has to be said there was a certain amount of malicious glee in this group at the fallibility of even these professionals when one rider came off his bike but the whole display was greeted with great enthusiasm. As no less so was the arrival of the Red Devils and some disappointment that the parachute jumps could not be repeated.

The tremendous effort put into organising such an event obviously paid dividends as it is gratifying to learn that £5,320 was raised.

J.E.G.

The Tempest by William Shakespeare



On arrival at the Royal Grammar School's production of *The Tempest* we were lulled into a false sense of security. Soothing wave sounds established the atmosphere of an island, re-inforced by yards of seaweed draped over the stage. The calm was shattered by an opening tempest worthy of the Royal Shakespeare Company - a sail billowed frantically over staggering figures backlit through dry ice as Prospero's spirits caused the shipwreck. The shock subsided into the long narrative second scene - one of the most difficult in Shakespeare - as Prospero explains the history of his plans for revenge. Here the flagging pace was lifted by visual interest: Miranda was a suitably pretty castaway, contrasting with her aged father.

Matthew Humberstone's Prospero was perhaps disappointingly not in control of this *Tempest*, but the energy and confidence of all the characters more than compensated for this. The teenage actors performed very capably, appearing as individuals rather than Prospero's puppets. Sarah Rymill's Miranda and Andrew Shankland's Ferdinand developed into an innocent and earnest pair of lovers. The 'three men of sin', respectively Peter Barber's Antonio, John Hawkin's Alonso and Stephen Todd's Sebastian, displayed great maturity in their erratically menacing parts. Alonso's grief for his lost son was touching and by simple staging, Antonio and Sebastian remained isolated from the rest of the Royal party. Colin Hazelden and George Rockett as the drunken Stephano and Trinculo raised genuine laughs from the audience, which is not always easy with Shakespearean clown parts. The spirits Ariel and Caliban were an effective contrast: Rhodri Jones soared as a nimble, blue Ariel while



Matthew Drage's Caliban aroused audience sympathy despite resembling a toad!

The visual effects of this *Tempest* really confirmed the production as a magical one. Spirits appeared as huge white shapes and floating butterflies in an enchanting masque, a shoal of sea-nymphs clad in green make-up and seaweed flowed over a barren island. The backstage team had clearly put in many hours to produce these magical effects.

Altogether this was a charming and competent production from young people who had clearly worked enthusiastically to achieve near professional standards. The director, Mr Peter Cowburn, is to be congratulated for his encouragement of this new theatrical talent.

SIAN CASE

Debating Society

The R.G.S. debating society has tended over the years to retreat into long periods of hibernation with fluctuations in enthusiasm. However the society re-emerged with a debate last June at Wycombe Abbey organised by Mr Roebuck. With the carrot of high office dangling before them Matthew Humberstone and Jamie Riley stepped forward to speak and consequently were appointed vice-president and president respectively.

Since then various entertaining and enlightening debates have been held in a ripple, if not a wave, of debating mania! This has been spearheaded by other various illustrious speakers such as David Moore, Simeon Thornton, David Turnbull, Shomit Dutta and Peter Fison (renowned in fencing circles). These potential Ciceros thrusted and parried with arguments with consummate ease and "foiled" the opposition with "Sabre"-sharp wit.

The topics of debate included such motions as "There is no intelligence North of Watford" and "It is better to be a poor philosopher than a rich philistine". The speakers, at our home venue of the sixth form common room, made good use of the room's width whose acoustics allowed the creative flair of the RGS to shine through, with first and second speakers combining well along with impressive second phase points of information.

One of the highlights of the season was the society's participation in the national school's debating competition at the Wembley of the debating world - the Oxford Union. Against strong opposition the old firm of Riley/Humberstone put in a meritorious performance coming in fourth place.

With such a strong squad the society entered the international arena, speaking against the Oxford Union whose team featured an all-star line up with old-boy Matthew Leigh, ranked currently no.5 in the world!

In view of the success the society has enjoyed in this first season after re-emerging on the scene it would be sad to see it once more fade away. Nevertheless it is hoped that members of the current Lower Sixth form who gained experience in debating this season such as David Allen, Richard Monk and Philip Krinks can continue to hold the flame of debating aloft.

Thanks go to the ardent support of the upper-sixth Medieval History set, the vociferous backing of certain members of the upper-sixth Biology set and first year sixth Philosophy set as well as the encouraging attendance of several members of staff. Special thanks must go to Mr Roebuck for his indispensable organization, provision of transport and refreshments and his perpetually active support.

JAMIE RILEY
(President)

Vulture Club

The aim of the club is to offer pupils the opportunity to experience a wide range of cultural activities at a reasonable cost. This year the programme has included art, theatre, film, light opera and dance.

The Senior Vulture's year got off to a memorable start with a visit to the National Theatre to see a production of Ben Jonson's "Bartholomew Fair". Despite some confusing colloquialisms, luckily explained in the programme notes, the satirical humour was appreciated. A pre-show tour of backstage gave us an understanding of the working of the excellent set.

The Junior Vultures also had a chance to see an impressive setting for the English National Opera's production of "The Mikado" at the Coliseum. The stark contrast of black and white in costumes and scenery was quite stunning on what seemed to be a huge stage. The interpretation of the story in the context of an English home of the 1920's was a surprise to me.

Another highlight was the Seniors' visit to the Purcell Room to see the Tag Teatro Company perform in the tradition of the Commedia dell'Arte. The production was decidedly multi-lingual, at times almost simultaneously in English, Italian, French and Flemish. Although not even the linguists amongst us could follow all the lines, the visual nature of the performance made for a very enjoyable evening.

The programme this year has had a distinctly multi-cultural flavour, including visits to an evening of African Tribal dance and Chinese Opera by Seniors and Juniors respectively. The lively enthusiasm of these visits was well contrasted by the more serious and even sombre themes of the films "A World Apart" and "War Requiem". The joint efforts of Messrs Cowburn, Mitchell, Keysell and Arnfield arranged these visits.

We would like to thank our various guests during the year for their help with minibus driving and supervision. We all hope for an active year to come with increasing membership in both Junior and Senior groups.

T.N.A.

Isle of Wight Trips 1989

This year the Westbrook Centre, Isle of Wight has received two "visits" so far from a group of boys from the R.G.S. We stayed near Ryde and upon arrival everyone was pleasantly surprised by the facilities there - these including a 9-hole golf course, swimming pool, soccer pitch and table tennis room.

The short holiday comprised of a mixture of games, free time and excursions. The games usually resulted in getting wet or muddy (or both) and a number of us got egg on our faces - quite literally. Free time involved shopping, playing squash or swimming at the local sports centre. There is a great deal to see on the tourist-based Isle of Wight and we saw a lot of it. Excursions included trips to the Needles, Alum Bay, Blackgang Chine, Carisbrooke castle and Brading wax works museum.

Each evening a short talk was given by some of the staff who came. Thanks must go to Mr Powell, Mr Pantridge, Mr Keysell and Mr Neale who all helped the holiday run smoothly. Above all Mr Ratcliffe should be thanked for organising the holidays and keeping all of us amused.

A. SPEEDY

Kart Club

The Royal Grammar School boasts a very wide range of extra curricular clubs and activities. A newly formed club has joined their ranks. The R.G.S. Kart Club took to the track at Rye House, Hoddesdon in Herts. on 11th March, for its first race meeting. The Club have been fortunate to obtain five racing karts from a school in Eastbourne and a trailer to transport them, from a school in Bexley, Kent.

School kart racing is governed by the National Schools Karting Association (NatSKA) whose teacher members organise race meetings throughout the country under strict safety rules. Eight classes are run ranging from 50 cc single gear karts to 80 mph 6 speed water cooled 125 cc racers.

Before they can start racing, pupils must obtain a natSKA racing licence, involving race practice and marshalling at three race meetings followed by a driving and oral test. Once obtained, the licence allows a pupil to race at any National meeting including the National Championships held over a weekend in early July, with some 300 karts racing. This year this will be at Fulbeck in Lincolnshire.

Karting can be expensive and the club is very grateful for the financial support from the School and they are always looking for similar support from anyone else who may have an interest in introducing pupils to the bottom rung of Motor Sport.

It is early days, but hopefully in the months to come, R.G.S. drivers will be taking the chequered flag and bringing home some hard earned trophies to Wycombe.

C.W. HOWE

Library Report

Yet again the library has seen staffing changes over the last year. Mrs McGuinness, after her two year stay, has moved on to develop her journalistic talents, enabling Mr Yeates to jump into the driving seat.

But the crew change was far less traumatic than those in the past due to the continuing stability provided by Mrs Grieve. Thanks to her, piles of books in the library cupboard waiting to be dealt with are no more, and TAA is now, thankfully, a much calmer affair. As a result our new recruits in the form of Richard Sparks, Robin Johns, Mark Gomm, Jeremy Weingard and Charles Johnson have had an easy year compared to their hard-worked predecessors! Unfortunately it still all proved too much for one of our new recruits, Andrew Eastabrook, who handed in his resignation at Easter.

However, with the conversion of the Old Hall about to commence, the RGS library can look forward to a bright and secure future in years to come. Thanks are due to Messrs Yeates and Mitchell, Mrs Grieve and the members of the TAA team who have assisted in the smooth running of the library machine in the past year.

Finally, may I wish next year's Library prefects, Rob Elliott and Robert Swain, good luck in their new posts.

MARK HOPWOOD
(Library Prefect)



Biology Field Course, 1988

It was early one autumn morning, when thirty "biologists", bright-eyed with enthusiasm, looked forward to a week studying marine ecology in the wilds of Pembrokeshire. The course was a varied one, and involved such diverse activities as counting periwinkles on the first day, progressing to seaweed on the second, and finishing the week off in style with shrimps, grasses and limpets. Leading us on this trip to the frontiers of science was Francis and his huge cat, "Buster G". The course actually succeeded in educating us. We learnt from the stern figure John, that barnacles have much in common with Nelson's column. We observed the beautifully delicate nature of dune plants, as Russell Gigg bulldozed through them, and by ripping up ancient sponges, skimming limpets and shredding seaweed, we learnt to fully appreciate the wildlife.

One major recreational pursuit consisted of laying the table, and serving each other meals. Many exciting games were played on the table tennis table, and even more exciting games were watched, as seventy or so people waited their turn. Hidden talent was revealed, as shown by Jon Buckley and co's endless repertoire of Elvis songs. The variety of vegetable and plankton impressions revealed how stimulating the Orielton Field Studies Centre really was. In addition to the ecology, we learnt how to Bhangra dance; to fire toothpaste from louvre windows and discovered that outboard motors just do not work with plankton nets wrapped around them. Friendships were forged: there were the wacky bat ecologists; the completely unpretentious public school pupils and a nice Welsh man living nearby, who everybody went to for refreshments. Love blossomed as Charlie Thomas impressed potential nuns with classic lines such as "Did you know that it snowed in the summer of '77?".

We left the course older and wiser, able to tell Fucus from Ascophyllum. The moral of the week was "invertebrates have feelings too". Thanks must go to Mr Clark, for stepping in at the last moment and taking us on the course; for showing us with real enthusiasm that ecology could be interesting; and for not being annoyed when woken up by various songs from "Grease".

R. SMITH and G. SELLORS

French Exchange 1989

This year's French Exchange to Nimes, which took place over the Easter holidays and in conjunction with Wycombe High School, was a successful and thoroughly enjoyable 3 weeks spent, for the most part, in gloriously sunny conditions.

Enthusiasm for the trip was somewhat dampened for the half a dozen of us who, on arrival at Montpellier, found that the luggage had not managed the same trip. It was indeed difficult to believe that the size of the plane could cater for all the passengers and all the luggage and this proved to be the case (sorry, no pun intended!)

For our first week our French counterparts were still at school so the week was spent partly in school and partly on trips out to see Nimes itself and a coach trip around the more immediate surrounding area. The fact that these trips were jointly undertaken with the W.H.S. girls was also seen as an added attraction (or do I mean distraction?).

Our hosts were extremely generous and organised many varied trips throughout our stay including a trip to Avignon, a guided tour of a disused mine, a visit to a bamboo forest and a stop-off for a wine-tasting session (one which proved popular if a little short).

Judging by the prolonged "au revoir"s on our departure, it seemed that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had benefited enormously from their stay.

All that remained was for us to undergo a similar farcical situation at the hands of Air France whereby 2 of us were nearly not allowed on the plane, and on our rainy arrival back at Heathrow 5 more of us didn't have any luggage. Vive Air France!

Everybody is now looking forward to July when we hope to return the great generosity and friendliness shown to us during our stay.

S.J.N.

Osnabrück Exchange 1989

Outside the High School, five o'clock in the morning, hoards of bleary-eyed girls, guys and parents. Piles of suitcases disappearing into a swish double-decker. The final name is ticked off the list and it's away to Dover for the 10 am ferry. Hard to imagine at this point that we were going to enjoy the next 18 days. We'd hosted our German partners in Wycombe for the last two weeks and coped with the end of term; now we were off to rejoin them in Osnabrück, speeding down the motorway amid the dawn mist, 36 High School girls, 20 chaps from RGS, 4 teachers and a video camera - and 17 hours on the road! Our bus did us proud; tapes and video films, coffee and coke, not to mention a growing conviviality upstairs and before you know it we were stepping out the door into the German night. It was every man (and girl) for himself for the next 4 days and it was lucky we'd learned some German before we came!

When we met again it was a Monday morning. We'd spent the last few days with our host families and today two buses were taking us and our German partners along the autobahn to Bremen - a beautiful North German city with a huge inland-harbour and a really quaint old-town. We split up into several groups and were given a guided tour of the sights. We reassembled after lunch for a boat trip through the harbour, which made for a fascinating afternoon.

Just when we were beginning to get into a holiday mood it was time to go back to school, except it was called the Ratsgymnasium and wasn't quite what we were used to....What were you doing at 7.45am during the Easter holidays? We were just starting the first lesson! By the time they took their first "Grosse Pause" at 9 o'clock everyone was ready for the sandwiches they'd brought. When school finished at 1.15 you felt you'd done a good day's work.

One frantic day in school was spent rehearsing our contribution for the forthcoming European night - an evening extravaganza of musical and theatrical offerings from the four countries with exchange groups in school. For this was no ordinary exchange visit but the 20th anniversary of our link with Osnabrück and their 10th with a French school from Angers. A Dutch school was there too and we were pleased to have WHS with us for the first time. Their teacher, Mrs Shingleton, coaxed the English group into a performance of "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and a slightly less embarrassing version of "Yellow Submarine".

Despite our misgivings we were all, I think, a little sad when, on the evening of the show, the programme overran and our numbers were cancelled. The international disco that followed had to be seen to be believed.

The next day dawned and we were on the train to Münster; another day saw us in Detmold, a German version of the Chiltern Open Air Museum and in Hamlin, which turned out to be most people's favourite. It was only when we viewed our video record of the trip on the way home that we realised how much we had actually done besides hearing and speaking a lot of German, experiencing German towns and life at first hand and tackling rather too many pastries. Most people would have cheerfully stayed on but the thought of another week without Marmite and a proper cup of tea was too much even for the most dedicated Deutschophile....but we'll be back next year.

Bis dann, aufwiedersehen Osnabrück from pupils too numerous to mention, teachers Jaqui Lock, Ruth Shingleton, Trevor Durbin, Alan Crease and not forgetting the long-suffering host parents, - sine qua non!

A.S.C.



Music Society

The RGS Music Society has seen an exciting and memorable year thanks to the considerable efforts of Messrs Smedley and Hussey.

The Autumn term's proceedings began with a recital in which the music ranged from Susato to Arnold. This was followed, only 6 weeks later, by the annual Christmas concert for all the major Society groups. The Choral Society managed, despite short rehearsal time, to master some tricky short pieces allowing two members brief limelight; James Ball in a Spanish 16th century song 'Riu Riu Chiu' and Philip Krinks in Rutter's arrangement of 'I wonder as I wander'. The 1st Wind Band produced an excellent Beatles medley for the more groovy parents onlooking, while Chris Thompson, Elliot and Alex Toms and Alex l'Estrange performed a rock item 'La Villa Strangiato' by Rush, producing the odd strange expression from those less so. The Jazz Band concluded the varied programme, proving themselves every bit as good as last year's team. In fact their performance inspired 100 or more sales of the highly acclaimed RGS Big Band record 'Making Grooves' recorded last summer - or perhaps they just wanted Tim Clark's autograph. Well, whatever the reason and despite the wild rush, I do believe there are a few unsigned copies still available. The term ended with the customary school's Service of Lessons and Carols.

The Spring term began again with a recital in which we were pleased to see an increasing staff involvement. Then intensive rehearsals began for the two main events of the year. Firstly, the massed performance of Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana' at the Royal Albert Hall proved an inspiring, well organised event with over 800 representatives from schools all over Bucks singing and the County Youth Orchestra supporting. Those participating seemed to enjoy the occasion immensely while members unable to sing in the RAH could join in the School's own production in the Queen's Hall a few days later. The first half of this concert consisted of Beethoven's 5th symphony with the combined symphony orchestras of the RGS and Wycombe High School. In the second half Carmina Burana was performed again with the combined RGS Choral Society and High School Chamber Choir, a strong kitchen department, two pianos and an array of staff never before witnessed in a Music Society activity, heading the bass, tenor and alto sections. The whole evening was a delight to be part of and hopefully there will be many more such large scale productions in future.

The Summer concert included two of Vivaldi's Seasons, Purcell's Te Deum and brought together once again all the major groups.

Overall 1988-89 has been a highly successful year and special thanks must go to Mr Smedley and Mr Hussey for organising such an enthralling programme of concerts and for their unforgettable contribution, along with Mr Yeates, to this year's very entertaining 'Staff Aid' as three little hockey playing maids cum teddy bears. Those also deserving of our thanks are the music staff at Wycombe High School, the fine body of RGS supporting staff and in particular Mrs Campbell (Box Office), Mr Everett (Stage and Lighting) and Mr Edwards (Front of House).

MICHAEL CHANDLER
(Secretary)

Role-Playing Club

The Role-Playing Club is thriving. After three years of operation it has well and truly established itself as part of the school.

This year has certainly had its moments, not least a lively debate in what used to be the Christian Union. Membership is up on last year and the members we have now are far more committed than before - the lunchtime meetings in room 5 are normally packed, although, curiously, attendance after school is sparse. (Mondays and Fridays - Room 25). All this is very gratifying to those of us who began the club and shows that the time we put in was more than worth it.

This year has seen something of an upsurge in the playing of Fantasy and Sci-Fi wargames and also in Superhero RPGs, a trend which mirrors a revival in the sales (and 'respectability') of Comic Books.

Members still retain the privilege of a five per cent discount at Not Just Stamps and are also able to borrow a whole range of games from the club.

Future events include a certain amount of perestroika as the club prepares itself for 1990, when the founder members will be leaving the school; possible trips to Labyrinth for Live-Roleplaying (an even crazier side of the hobby) and expanding the club's range of games even further. Anyone want to borrow the Neighbours RPG? (No, I mean it!!)

COLIN HAZELDEN (Club Secretary)

What's Cooking at the RGS?

Launched under the title of "A Course enabling sixth formers to cope with leaving home", this new idea for TAA soon became a simple course in cookery. Ably led and supervised by Mrs Mary Nickols, a group of about eight upper sixth formers have learnt through various different techniques how to cook "proper" food. The recipes have varied vastly, from spaghetti bolognese through to various curries, pasta dishes, as well as pancakes and chocolate cake.

At the start of the Autumn term, we were forced to cook using Bunsen burners and tripods. However, after collective contributions from the school and the staff, there is now a mini-kitchen in the prep room of G3. This includes stoves, cutlery, plates, a micro-wave oven, and several dozen pots and pans. With all this at our disposal, we had a competition to try and find the best, and the most economical meal. With Mrs Bushell, Mr Claye, Mr Cowburn and Roy the technician as judges, John Burke narrowly won with a delicious stir-fry recipe. As a result, Mr Claye became addicted to Chris Grimmond's Chocolate mousse, and we were all amazed as to how Jason Banks managed to produce mussels in cream, followed by kebabs for two, and still claim he hadn't gone over the limit of three pounds.

Allegations of food poisoning after statements like "I'm sure that egg will be all right. I know it smells bad, but cook it anyway-after all it'll be well cooked in an omelettewon't it?" soon led to the statement that the management held no responsibility for food cooked on the premises. Other hiccups were encountered, including a chocolate sponge cake that would have made a good manhole cover, and Steve Baker putting just a bit too much garlic in his tagliatelle, but other than that it has been well enjoyed by all who have taken part. The highlight was probably the Christmas Dinner, whereby everyone took equal shares in



preparing a gargantuan meal. Jake Burnett was particularly lucky to find a corroded five pence piece in his serving of xmas pud.

Despite the inevitable mick-takes (no names here Mr File), we have all had a very enjoyable three terms of cordon-bleu cookery. The light atmosphere has helped, and it's a well-liked, well recommended course, which is likely to prove invaluable in future years.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Nickols, for all her help and efforts, as well as her deft ability to always manage to do the washing up. Also, thanks to Roy who has put up with us, and particularly the mess that's left over. Thanks to Andy Swain for eating everything, Steve Davis for being sensible, and Steve Baker for washing his hands (once at least!). John Burke was also fantastic at drying up, noticeable by the teaspoon he dried once. There has also been a great deal of tolerance by the science staff, especially Mr Butterworth, who have borne the brunt of the aromas from the kitchen downstairs. Danny King was also especially good at panicking.

J BURNETT

Art Activities

Extra-curricular Art activities take place during lunchtimes. The club sessions are open to all boys in the school. Classes for painting, drawing and simple print making processes are available on Monday and Wednesday with Mr Arnfield. On Fridays a Figure Drawing class is held for middle and upper school pupils. A multi-media sculpture workshop is open from Tuesday-Friday with Mr Stevens while Mrs Roberts offers her expertise to teach the Art of Calligraphy on Tuesdays and Fridays.

This year has proved an exciting one with visits to several museums and major exhibitions including: The 'Leonardo da Vinci' exhibition and the 'Art in Latin America' exhibition at the Hayward Gallery; Italian Art in the twentieth century exhibition and the Henry Moore exhibition at the Royal Academy; The Christ Church Picture Gallery, The Ashmolean Museum and the Pitt Rivers Ethnological museum in Oxford; and the 'Makondo' African sculpture exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford. The motivating nature of gallery visits cannot be over-estimated and often have in the long term an irreplaceable value.

Work on the establishment of an Exhibition Space will commence during the Summer vacation. This is an exciting

extension and addition to the school. It is intended that a range of exhibitions will be mounted which are to reflect the broad nature of Art and Design related activities.

We are also intending to participate in an artist in residence scheme. "The basis of such a scheme is that a school will offer space to an artist to work over a specified period to develop his or her own work. The artist will be accessible both to teachers and to students and as a quid pro quo for the provision of the space will work alongside teachers and students to develop a project related to his or her work. It is now recognised that during their school lives, children should see works of art at first hand, should have direct contact with artists, and should learn about twentieth century art through active participation in discussions and practical workshops. The purpose of a residency, in which the artist sets up a studio in the school, is that children can experience at first hand the processes and techniques involved in making paintings, sculptures and a range of other art forms; and as well as producing his or her own work, the artist runs practical projects as a means of actively engaging the children in the ideas that lie behind the work." The exhibition space with its direct link with a workshop space will allow such an activity to develop.

An exciting prospect for 1989-90 will be the acquisition of a computer graphics package which will allow work with a video camera to be linked into a computer and colour printer. The introduction of Computer-Aided Art & Design in the Art Studio will complement other processes and prove valuable both as a 'medium' and as a 'tool'.

R.P.S

Photographic Society

The Photographic Society meets on Tuesdays - 4.00-5.30pm in the Photography Darkroom. The aim of the Society is to teach boys how to develop and print black and white photographs.

Photographic assignments are arranged and cheap black and white film is available for purchase.

A new darkroom has been acquired fitted with a new flooring, and new equipment purchased. We are grateful for the support of parents who have donated various items of hardware including a new enlarger.

The society supports the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme by offering skills courses.

R.P.S

YHA Club

Since the last issue of the Wycombiensian, the club has had four weekend trips and four longer ones. The weekend trips were to Truleigh Hill in Sussex, Cheddar, Swanage and Lulworth. In October last year we had our regular trip to Llwyn-y-Celyn in the Brecon Beacons, with the usual mixture of weather. There was also the usual visit of Mr Ratcliffe. The other holidays were to the Lake District, the Engadine in Switzerland and to Snowdonia at Easter. There follow accounts of these three by boys who went on them.

Lakes May-June 1988

At 9.45 am on Saturday 28th May we left the RGS in one of the minibuses and one car to catch the 11.01 train from Reading to Penrith. This meant that we had a slight

advantage over the minibus group, who had to leave at the ungodly hour of 7.15. The third formers left the train at Oxenholme to spend two days at Thorney How, while everyone else met at Blencathra Centre with Mr Pantridge, Mr Grout and Mr and Mrs Bushell.

The work started early on Sunday, in the form of preparing packed lunches, cooking and washing up. The fourth formers went with Mr Grout in the minibus to the Langdales while the remainder were launched straight into action. In pouring rain, we circled around Blencathra to Gage Gill, and then began to climb Hall's Fell Ridge, one of the most desolate spots known to man, being liberally strewn



with the sun-bleached bones of unfortunate animals. Huge rocky precipices plunged down on either side as we clambered amongst the slippery boulders, enveloped in thick mist and buffeted by gale-force winds. By the time we reached the top at 868m, many of us had been transformed by terror into nervous wrecks. A few intrepid adventurers chose to come down via Sharp Edge, and the less intrepid came down via the quickest route. Experience had now taught us that paths, especially easy ones, were always avoided. This policy was observed for the next week.

Over the next few days, we were split into various groups as we wandered throughout the Lakes. The third formers, with Mr Berry, came to Blencathra, while the other second form group spent two nights at Longthwaite with Mr Grout. From Glaramara, although Mr Pantridge scanned the horizon for a glimpse of the hallowed shores of Ireland, we did see the Isle of Man and the Southern Uplands of Scotland. From Helvellyn we had an exciting view of some fog.

We went on to spend the night at Buttermere, a luxury but crowded Youth Hostel. Our group of seven spent some of the time there constructively, by skimming stones on the lake. There followed a 15 mile slog across Great Gable, carrying overnight kit, which took us to Longthwaite Youth Hostel. Mr Pantridge assured us that the last walking day would be relaxing. It was actually 13 miles long. The most notable incident was when someone's rucksack rolled down a steep bank and began to float slowly down the River Derwent. It was fished out by a heroic paddler.

The Saturday after, the 4th June, was the day on which we travelled back. We were told that we could now eat our emergency rations, but most people had already eaten theirs. The most common emergency was feeling hungry.

DAVID CHAPMAN. 3H

As the train pulled in at the final stop on our journey to Switzerland, several sleepy faces appeared from under various rucksacks and newspapers etc. and we all staggered out of the carriages to take a look at the surrounding countryside, which was to be our home for the next ten days.

Within fifteen minutes we were stumbling along the dusty track roads, desperately trying to keep up with Mr Berry. However, we frequently stopped to bask in the sunshine and to admire the fantastic views.

Refreshed after a good night's sleep, we split into two groups and set off on our first big walk. Those of us in Mr Berry's and Mr Edward's group set off at a vigorous pace along the Val Roseg. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the mountains towered above us. Our intrepid team of 'explorers' launched themselves at one of the highest mountains. We had started off the climb feeling full of beans and raring to go. By the time we were at the summit we were all half-dead. Various dark mutterings were heard, debating whether to hire an assassin to deal with Mr Berry or to get the job done quickly by throwing him over the edge of the mountain ourselves. But we were all too tired to do anything but think about it, and besides, Mr Berry was a speck ahead in the distance, striding along oblivious to everything. By the end of the day we had walked in a massive circle, encompassing 18 miles.

The next day we awoke stiff and sunburnt, but were delighted to discover we were going on a much shorter walk, which we all appreciated. The following day happened to be Mr Berry's birthday: rumour has it he is around the fortyish mark. However a champagne breakfast was not on the menu, so the day started by ascending half the mountain on a rickety old chair lift, and then walking on a circular trip up and around the mountain.

On Friday, we went half way up the mountain on a funicular. More used to mountain walking, a few of us were able to keep up with Mr Berry. However the relentless heat of the sun soon began to take its toll, and a certain Reuben Haylett attempted to chat up certain members of the alpine cow community. They weren't particularly impressed. But not to be outdone, Reuben tried his charm on a horse, and was doing quite well until I pointed out that it was a male.

Saturday was spent travelling to our new hostel in Arosa, and on Sunday we changed groups, and we were now led by Messrs Grout and Yeates. Unfortunately, we spent the whole day walking through thick fog and rain showers. The bad weather didn't last long and on Monday the sun beat down on us once again, with temperatures around 90 F.

The next day we intended to start off on a walk along a footpath that was marked on the map, but it seemed to have disappeared off the face of the earth. Whether this was due to Mr Grout's navigational skills or the fault of the map printers is still open to debate. Anyway, we had an enjoyable walk along a different footpath. The rest of the week passed fairly uneventfully, with the party split up again, the fittest of us being in one group, and the rest in the other.

Thanks must go to Mr Berry for making it such a brilliant trip, Mr Grout for controlling our finances and Mr Yeates and Mr Edwards for being an excellent back-up team.

We arrived outside the Youth Hostel at Idwal Cottage at about half past three in the afternoon on Saturday 25th March and set out for a short walk to the dramatic Devil's Kitchen which is just under a kilometre from the hostel. The weather was very bracing. On returning to the hostel, we found that our dormitories were in an old chapel which formed an annexe a few yards from the main hostel.

The next morning, we scrambled up Pen yr Ole Wen, which Mr Grout and Mr Arnfield at first thought was Carnedd Dafydd. Eventually, despite the very cold and windy weather, we managed to climb this, and also Carnedd Llewelyn, which is the second highest mountain in Wales. We found an interesting way back along the A5.

On Monday we set out to climb the Glyders (Glyder Fach and Glyder Fawr) by the infamous Bristly Ridge. This is a knife-edged ridge studded with jagged pinnacles. On either side, sheer drops shelve down into ghastrly abysses. We had nearly scrambled to the top, with no casualties, when Mr Berry decided it was too hard, and we should have gone around the side instead. Unfortunately, it was too late to climb the Glyders and we walked back to the hostel, stopping at Cwm Bochllwyd, where someone put their rucksack behind a boulder and never saw it again.

The next day, we climbed the Glyders and Y Garn, which had received a thin layer of snow during the night, by an easier route, and went by minibus to Bryn Gwynant, a hostel at the foot of Snowdon.

On Wednesday we drove to Porthmadog. On the way, Justin Tonna vomited copiously all over the floor. After arriving, we went on the scenic Ffestiniog Railway to Blaenau Ffestiniog, an extremely picturesque town surrounded by gigantic black slagheaps. Having gone back to Porthmadog on the railway, we went to the beach, and then to the swimming pool at Caernarvon, where we were very intrigued by the colour of the water in the footbath (orange) and the pool (bright green).

On Thursday, it poured with rain, and we had a choice between a ridge walk and a valley walk. Seven people chose the ridge walk between Talysarn and Rhyd-Ddu. The first part of this walk consisted of miles and miles of featureless moorland, and two deserted farms. After climbing up Craig Cwm Silyn, we came back, by this time rather damp, down to Rhyd-Ddu past a lot of old slate mine workings.

Friday was the day chosen to climb Snowdon. We started at Pen-y-Pass in very dull weather, but climbed through the clouds, and soon we were in brilliant sunshine. Surprisingly, this seemed one of the easiest mountains we had climbed. The top of Snowdon, dominated by a concrete railway station and café, is at 1085m the highest eyesore in England and Wales, but there is a very nice view from it. At a lake on the way down, someone's water bottle was accidentally thrown into the middle, but eventually retrieved. By a river called the Afon Cwm Llan, the same person agreed to stand fully clothed in the water for money.

On Saturday we went home, but the day was not an anticlimax because the YHA porridge-eating record was broken by Stuart McKellar, who ate nine and a half bowls. The previous record (nine bowls) was set by his brother in the Lake District the year before.

Sport

Cricket 1st XI

It was a disappointing season. Three games were lost to the weather, so only 13 (the lowest number for some time) were played. Four defeats (the highest number for some time) were suffered. The first two, and the last two, inter-school games were lost - to Tiffin and Hampton initially in, and to RGS Guildford and RGS Colchester finally, the last two in limited-overs games at the RGS Festival at Worcester.

In between these disappointments, however, six wins and two draws were achieved. Lord Williams', Thame; St Benedict's; Oxford School; Aylesbury G.S.; The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover; and Enfield G.S. - these were all beaten. The games with Dr Challoner's G.S and with Abingdon School were drawn, and at the very end of the season the match with the Staff was also drawn.

The highlights were perhaps the 80-run win against Aylesbury and the nine-wicket win against Enfield.

Results: Played 13 Won 6 Lost 4 Drawn 3 Cancelled 3

Bowling and Fielding: The bowling was weak. The disappointing loss of form of slow left-armed Robert Devonport, and the injury-riddled season of left-arm seamer Martin Taylor - these were severe blows. Much had depended upon these two. The spin bowling was particularly weak, and the seam attack lacked penetration. Off-spinner Colm Lacy, given a 1st XI chance, did his best. Seamers Richard Flack and Tim Clark had their moments. There were weaknesses in fielding too. Wicket-keeper Simon Shaw lost form and confidence, and the ground fielding was not always what 1st XI fielding should be like.

Batting: This was potentially very good, and it had its moments, but it was at times inconsistent, most sadly in the RGS Festival games. One or two players struggled for form, notably the experienced opener Philip Shayler, and, despite a fair start, the captain John Skrimshire. Shayler hit just one, belated 50. Fortunately, Matthew Dodds (although inconsistent), Shomit Dutta, and Roger Mould (who had one purple patch) had fairly successful seasons. Dodds hit an aggressive century against Enfield. Simon Shaw showed much promise as a batsman, and Tim Clarke, Martin Taylor (with some hard hitting) and Robert Devonport, with limited opportunities, showed that they were no mean batsmen.

The side was well led by John Skrimshire, despite his personal struggles with bat and ball. It was a happy side. Although it knows that it did not realise its full potential, it enjoyed its cricket. It played positive and fair cricket at all times.

Four players appeared for the County Cricket Club's nursery side, the Bucks Young Amateurs: John Skrimshire, Matthew Dodds (back in 1987), Shomit Dutta and Roger Mould (in 1988). They are to be congratulated.

The seven who have now left school will, in most cases, play university and college cricket, whilst Roger Mould, Shomit Dutta, Richard Flack and Andrew Swain (who will surely do better in 1989) return to the 1st XI, along with occasional 1988 players, Anthony Ball, Dale Parkinson and Alistair Whittome.

I wish them all, leavers and stayers, the best of cricketing success and enjoyment for the future.

My thanks to the Groundsman, Richard Tedham (sadly, his last season with us), to the Tea Ladies and to all those members of Staff who do so much to make RGS cricket happen.



Congratulations on Full Colour awards to: Tim Clark, Shomit Dutta and Richard Flack. Half colours to: Dale Parkinson and Alistair Whittome.

Averages

Batting

Shomit Dutta	291 runs	@	41.6
Roger Mould	297 runs	@	37.1
Matthew Dodds	317 runs	@	35.2
Simon Shaw	144 runs	@	20.6
John Skrimshire	171 runs	@	19.0
Philip Shayler	168 runs	@	15.3
Andrew Swain	102 runs	@	12.8

Bowling

Tim Clark	16 wickets	@	22.1
Robert Devonport	13 wickets	@	24.4
Richard Flack	12 wickets	@	28.0

Catches: Shaw 12 (11 as wicket-keeper); Dodds 6 (2 as wicket-keeper); Shayler 6; Skrimshire 6.

S.R.G.

2nd XI

In a year when the England captaincy changed hands almost every match, it seemed that the same thing was happening to the 2nd XI, with three different captains being employed at various stages of the season.

On the field, although a playing record of Won 7 and Lost 3 was achieved, the team never quite realised its full potential with victories being against mostly inferior sides. The fixture with a strong Aylesbury side pointed out most of our shortcomings, when after fielding under a hot sun for most of the afternoon watching two county bats pile on a 210 unbroken stand, we were promptly dismissed for under 80.

One of the more pleasing aspects of the season was the rapid maturation of David Gatum into a solid opener, culminating in a splendid hundred in the makeshift game against the 3rd XI. Here he shared a 200 opening partnership with Richard Warboys, who narrowly missed his own hundred, scoring 96.

Lower down the order the cultured hitting of Mike McAllister could usually be relied on to provide the necessary acceleration towards the end of the innings.

As ever at this level of cricket, the brunt of the bowling fell on the shoulders of the spinners: slow left armer Dale

Parkinson bowled with tremendous guile, assisted by the off-spin of leading wicket taker Anthony Ball. Unfortunately, Nick O'Doherty could never quite perform out in the middle; still, he has undoubted talent and with experience will become a first class spinner.

Other mentions must go to the all-round endeavour of Alistair Whittome, the calling of Greg "Yes.No.Wait.Get back.Sorry mate" Higgins and Azhar "Over here son, on me head" Hameed.

Our thanks go to Mr Yeates for organising and umpiring all of the games (except on Cup Final day), in a highly enjoyable season.

ANTHONY BALL

3rd XI

3rd XI cricket continued to prosper, although the defeat at Hampton spoiled a two year unbeaten record. Tiffin were beaten by 5 wickets, St. Benedict's Ealing by 164 runs and we were on top against Enfield GS when a thunderstorm ended play. Seymour, Ahmad and Goode produced good batting performances, Mactavish, Summers, Monaghan and McCaskill bowled well. The gulf between 2nd and 3rd XI remained, especially in the quality of the bowling. Playing against the RGS 2nd XI, the 3rd XI could only watch and admire the opening partnership of 215 compiled against them. All in all it was another good season with all team members contributing and enjoying their cricket.

M.W.C.

U15 XI

Played 11 Won 8 Drawn 1 Lost 2

With eight victories and a draw the U15XI enjoyed a more successful season. The year started in great style as they travelled to Wellington College to play in the Lords Taverners Competition. Having held Wellington to 128-8 in 40 overs, an excellent 63 by Captain Iain Hardman helped RGS in the second round. Putting the U15XI in to bat on a very damp pitch Radley destroyed the RGS batting, bowling them out for 59. When the first Radley wicket fell without a run being scored, there was hope but Radley mastered the pitch and the RGS bowling to inflict a 7 wicket defeat. The only other defeat also came at the beginning of the season against Hampton, but from that point the team performances showed steady improvement recording victories over Desborough, Aylesbury, Dr. Challoners and Enfield. Iain Hardman, John Wyatt, Sean Priestley, David Warboys and Matthew Dawson all produced good batting performances. Richard Parker and David Harding were the pick of the bowling attack and all the above will be worthy of places in the Senior Cricket squad next year.

C.C.T.

U14 XI

The 1988 team had ability but lacked consistency and penetration from its bowling attack.

One of the best performances came in the 2nd round of the Lords Taverners' KO Competition. R.G.S. were rescued from the depths of 39-4 when John Gordon (60) and Tom Davis (28) put on 72 for the 5th wicket and Wycombe

finished on 153-6. Dr Challoner's collapsed from 50-2 to 106 all out with Alex Toone (4-25) bowling impressive off-spin.

However in the final against Sir William Borlase School we were unable to separate the early opposition batsmen and then had to chase a sizeable total. After the loss of our first few batsmen Andrew Hazell made a brave attempt to reach the target which had always been just beyond us.

Alex Toone's batting lacked confidence, Mark Howell played well at times and Justin Sugg could hit the ball hard. Stephen Curl was patient but limited and John Gordon timed his shots well. Tom Davis had to work on the technique and Andrew Hazell showed that he could develop.

Jon Symmons had the best control of the seam bowlers, Stephen Curl was quite tidy at times, Andrew Hazell struggled to maintain a good rhythm and Mark Darby also lacked control. Alex Toone was probably the bowler most likely to take the wicket of a competent batsman.

There is talent in the side and enthusiasm for the game. With continued effort many of the players will become sound cricketers in time.

D.G.S/I.J.W.

U13 XI

PLAYED 6 WON 0 LOST 6

As the results show, this was not a successful season for the U13. Many of the opposition sides included either one very good batsman, or one good bowler, or both, and our bowling attack was never strong enough to take the wickets needed.

Nevertheless, many players showed promise, particularly Michael John, who took the majority of wickets, and Philip Hills and Matthew Cameron, who showed a steady improvement with the bat and the ball. Philip Crozier improved his bowling line and length over the season, and David Foord was always active in the field.

Arshad Khan, Philip Hills and Matthew Cameron all skippered sides with varying success, and the three Matthews (Page, Walters and Ward) worked hard at the crease to score runs.

Chris Strand kept the scorebook for the team.

In general, this was a low scoring team, with limited penetration coming from their bowling attack.

The team were enthusiastic, despite their poor results, and hopefully as their technique improves, so will the results.

M.J.G.

Hockey

Playing Record

	P	W	D	L	For	Against
1st	18	11	1	6	49	25
2nd	15	4	0	11	22	39
U16	18	14	3	1	73	13
U15	13	8	1	4	35	25
U14	13	8	4	1	33	14

Individual Honours

School Captain Martin Tucker was selected for the Bucks Men's XI and played in the County Championship. Simon Noakes, Nial Sawa and Jonathan Wyatt played in the very successful England U16 XI.

Bucks U18, U21 and S.E.U18: J. Dean, J. King.

London U18: S. Samuel.

Bucks U16: C. Carter (S.E.U17), D. Harding, J. Isaac, S. Noakes (S.E.U16),

N. Sawa (S.E.U16), M. Vassib,
J. Wyatt (S.E.U16).
Bucks U15: M. Darby, J. Gordon, M. Howell,
T. Minton, T. Townley.
Bucks U14: J. Axworthy, A. Ball, D. Bocquet,
M. Cameron, M. John,
A. Khan (S.E.U14), M. Madden,
A. Smith (S.E.U14), M. Walters.
Full colours were awarded to: J.R. Dean, J.E. King.
Half colours were awarded to: C.N. Carter, D. Gatum,
T.R. Grapes, P. Krishnamurthy,
S.D. McCauley, D.G. Moore,
S.J. Noakes, N.P. Sawa,
S.J. Samuel, J.F. Wyatt.

International Youth Tournament - The Hague - Easter 1989

The Royal Grammar School Under 19 side travelled to Holland as English National Youth Champions over the Easter weekend to play in the International Youth Hockey Tournament at HDM Hockey Club in The Hague.

With sponsorship provided by Nationwide Anglia and the Hockey Centenary Club and money raised from several school functions, the R.G.S. finished third out of 12 teams including many of the National Champions of Europe including those of Scotland and Ireland as well as the Belgian National A side.

Cheered on by parents and supporters who had made the weekend trip R.G.S. won each of their first four pool games to establish themselves as firm favourites to reach the Semi Finals of their group.

Centre Forward Mike McAllister was on fine form scoring four goals as R.G.S. defeated local side Hudito 3-1, Spanish Champions Egara 1-0 and Switzerland's top team Stade Lausanne 5-0 on the first day of the tournament.

A McAllister hatrick against Dutch Youth League Leaders Klein Zwitserland left R.G.S. needing only a point from their final pool match to come top of the group.

Unfortunately in a hard fought game with a Divisional Side South Holland A, a tired Wycombe team lost 1-0 and finished second in the pool. This left them facing the hosts and favourites HDM in the Semi Final the following morning.

On a sunny Easter Sunday R.G.S. were outplayed for the only time in the tournament as they went down 3-0 to a quick, well organised HDM side.

R.G.S. had few chances although a shot into the side netting by McAllister early in the second half could have brought his team back into the game at 1-1. In the third place play off R.G.S. were again matched against the South Holland A team. With something to prove after their Group game defeat R.G.S.'s best team pattern emerged. A fine lay off in the circle by McAllister to skipper Martin Tucker led to the first goal. Then the Centre Forward sealed the victory with a second goal after a short corner. In an evenly matched Tournament Final HDM were beaten 1-0 by last season's Dutch Champions Bloemendaal. This R.G.S. success marked the final match for a team which has grown in stature since it won the National Under 16 Championships in 1986.

In particular in this tournament the defensive play of Gavin Elliott, Colin Carter and James Dean brilliantly supported by goalkeeper Justin Hall stood out.

The team's success can be measured by the fact that four players were missing due to International commitments with Gavin Bambury playing for England U21s and Jonathan Wyatt, Simon Noakes and Nial Sawa all playing for England U16s.

As a final accolade after R.G.S. captain Martin Tucker had collected the award for third place, Mike McAllister was presented with the Player of The Tournament Trophy by the President of the HDM Hockey Club.

The Squad:- J. Hall, G. Elliott, C. Cook, C. Carter, J. Dean, S. Samuel, M. Tucker (Capt.), S. Ali, D. Gatum, M. McAllister, J. King, S. McCauley, S. Ashdown, P. Krishnamurthy, D. Harding, D. Anderson, S. Garvie.

National U16 and U18 Schools and Youth Championship - May 1989

The Under 16 hockey side narrowly missed out on the National Schools and Youth Trophy at Coventry over the Bank Holiday weekend when they were beaten 2-0 by St George's Weybridge in the Final. Traditionally R.G.S. sides make heavy weather of the first day qualifying group and this year was no exception. When on top form Wycombe were easily the most skilful side in the competition but all too often they failed to turn their superiority into goals.

In the first of their group matches R.G.S. playing against Katharine Lady Berkeley's School from the West Division got off to a perfect start when Nial Sawa scored after 14 minutes. Slack play in the second half allowed KLB back into the match with an equaliser and it seemed that the game would end all square. However, in the last minute R.G.S. won a penalty corner which Tim Townley finally converted with a reverse stick shot after a clearance off the line. The final whistle went immediately.

In their second match against the bustling Trent College side R.G.S. again appeared to be playing themselves into an unassailable position when Skipper Jonathan Wyatt scored from a penalty corner before half time. The large R.G.S. following of parents and staff were again treated to a nerve racking finale as R.G.S. failed to maintain control and goalkeeper Simon Noakes was called on to make two fine penalty stroke saves to give R.G.S. their second win.

In their third match against their trickiest opposition Calday Grange from the North West a more disciplined performance enabled the U16s to make it three victories in three. With Sawa and Wyatt scoring twice in a minute from short corners a Calday goal was not enough to knock R.G.S. out of their stride. A Martin Cartledge strike from a rebound in the second half made it 3-1.

By coming top of their group Wycombe were matched against Group B Runners Up Bedford School. After an evening meal and breakfast at the Post House Hotel R.G.S. took to the Coventry School Astroturf at 9.30 on Monday morning. Bedford scored first as Wycombe struggled to find their form but two fine Penalty Corner goals from Nial Sawa settled the team. They then went on to play some of their best hockey of the tournament before David Harding broke free on the right, made his way into the circle and fired a fine shot into the corner of the net to secure the 3-1 victory and a place in the Final.

Against St George's Weybridge the match was neatly balanced throughout the first half. As the second half progressed Wycombe visibly tired and the stronger St George's team began to sense victory. To their credit R.G.S.

came back strongly but a penalty stroke goal from Marsh and three fine saves by the St George's 'keeper meant that this year's trophy was on its way to Surrey.

The team would like to thank Manager David Stone and Coach Fraser Auld for their encouragement over the weekend.

In the Under 18 tournament won by R.G.S. last year, the 1989 side deprived of the services of its U16 players Wyatt, Carter, Sawa and Noakes put up a creditable performance as defending champions.

The team captained by Martin Tucker were very unlucky to lose their first match 1-0 to Hall Cross Doncaster, a save off the line depriving them of a point. Two dubious penalty corners gave Wellington College, eventual finalists, an advantage in R.G.S.'s second match. A solitary goal was not enough to prevent a 3-1 defeat.

In their final match against Calday Grange who needed a point to qualify Wycombe put on their best performance. With Tucker moving to centre forward, James Dean at centre half and Colin Carter coming on as sweeper the R.G.S. pressed forward and should have been rewarded with a penalty stroke. A late goal by Calday ended Wycombe's hopes of a Semi Final place which had surprisingly still been alive even after two defeats in a closely fought group.

The management team of Roy Page and Roger Pantridge were well satisfied as their team played up to its full potential.

TIM STONE.

1st XI

With as many as five U16's playing for this team continuity has been a problem as these players have not been regularly available for Wednesday matches. The school has however coped well with the loss of six outstanding players from last year's powerful team.

The best performances were in the defeats of Kingston G.S., Stowe (away) and National 6th Form College Champions Luton. There were high-scoring wins over Shiplake College and Cheney, Oxford. The team showed fine defensive qualities in its games with the very strong Sir William Borlase School, just failing to hold them in both matches.

Martin Tucker has always been able to penetrate opposition defences with his stickwork or using high flicks but his performances at times have been inconsistent since Christmas. James King, Jonathan Wyatt and James Dean worked together very well on the left while Colin Carter and Mike Chandler could be relied on to cover and mark at the back. Much time was spent trying to form good pattern on the right with different combinations of David Gatum, David Harding along with newcomers Simon Samuel and Pavan Krishnamurthy. David Gatum, Simon and U16 Nial Sawa were all used at centre forward during the season. Daniel Anderson, Scott Ashdown and Stuart Garvie all made significant contributions to the team's success.

With only two players likely to leave, there is the potential for a very strong side next season.

D.G.S.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a very disappointing season considering the talent that was available. Failure to adapt to grass pitches, failure to come to terms with bigger and stronger sides and poor attitude combined with problems of temperament were some of the causes of the poor record. The side badly missed a centre-forward with a real appetite for goals. Much of the approach play was good but goal-scoring was the real problem. At times some very good hockey was played, a 2-0 defeat by Kingston Grammar School was no disgrace and the mighty Borlase were nearly beaten on R.G.S. grass. Highlight was the 2-1 defeat of Haberdashers' Aske's, a victory really grafted for on a bog of a pitch.

The difference between 1st and 2nd XI hockey is considerable. 1st XI games are mostly played on all weather surfaces, 2nd XI games on grass pitches of variable quality. The hallmark of the really good and effective player is the ability to adapt and produce quality performances whatever the venue and/or level of performance surrounding him.

My thanks go to Tim Grapes for help with general organisation, his job as captain was not an easy one, with different factions within the side. David Moore became the side's utility player and he accepted with good grace his constant shift of position.

M.W.C.

U16 XI

With a fine squad, the season has been geared towards success in the National Indoor and Outdoor Competitions. It is never possible to run regular U16 fixtures but several extra matches were arranged to complement the training programme at High Wycombe Sports Centre on Tuesday afternoons.

Many of the team have played for High Wycombe H.C. Colts XI which finished the season with a 100% record by winning the Mercian Colts Home Counties title defeating Berkhamsted in the final 7-3.

The school team achieved what is believed to be a record score when it defeated Milton Keynes H.C. in the qualifying stages of the Nationwide Anglia Championship by 25-0.

It was particularly encouraging to note the improvement of Levon Litster as a goal-keeper, Martin Cartledge as a forward, David Warboys, James Isaac, Chris Lockyer and Chris Pateman who along with James Richards had a fine second day of the National Finals. As well as the Internationals in the side Murad Vassib and David Harding were always potential match winners and it will be interesting to watch the players from this age group develop over the next two years.

D.G.S.

U15 XI

The team had a good first half to the season with our two new goalkeepers alternating games and gaining in experience. The Spring term saw a number of very tough fixtures but in many respects we played some of our best hockey. This was especially true against Haberdashers' Aske's School, and when we played Watford we held and outplayed the opposition for much of the game before going down through a couple of late breakaway goals. So overall it has been a good season with many talented players

developing their skills and showing that they can play very good hockey. Five of the team played for the County Squad (C-County): John Gordon(C), Tim Townley (C), Mark Darby (C), Toby Minton (C), Mark Howell (C), Jon Symmons, Justin Sugg, Simon Goodfellow, Tim Brooksbank, Alex Butler, Stephen Curl, Mark Hobden, Gary Lord, Stephen O'Donovan, Andre Calleja.

R.N.P.

U14 XI

The Under 14 team has had an excellent year with one of the best playing records of a junior team for many years. The whole squad has been very enthusiastic and we were able to arrange a number of 'B' Team fixtures as well. The skill level has been very high, especially for boys who have only just learnt to play the game. In fact our only difficult games were against some of the Public Schools whose more robust style of play foiled our good pattern. A number of the boys have excelled with eight of the team in the County Squad which won the Divisional title for Bucks. Arshad Khan and Adam Smith became the first boys from the R.G.S. to play for the U14 South East Divisional Team at the National Tournament in Coventry. Overall the considerable depth of talent at this age-level points towards a strong U15 and U16 team next year.

Squad (C -County, D -Divisional): Arshad Khan (C,D), Adam Smith (C,D), Matthew Walters (C), David Bocquet (C), Mark Madden (C), Michael John (C), Andrew Ball (C), Matthew Cameron (C), Alan Morton, Matthew Ward, David Schruers, Scott Goozee, Neil Benstead, Richard Stidworthy.

R.N.P.

Rugby

R.G.S. rugby has gone from strength to strength, with all teams enjoying yet another successful season. The 1st XV completed the year with a run of twelve games undefeated, and from the senior squad, Matthew Dawson was selected to play for the England U16 XV in Italy. Junior teams continue to improve and reflect the time and effort given by staff working with them.

However, pride of place must go to the U15 XV who had a wonderful season, which took them eventually to Twickenham for the final of the Daily Mail Cup. Anyone who witnessed their performance against Rossall School would have been impressed with their attitude and style of play. To watch them lead for so long and have victory snatched from their grasp in the closing minutes, losing 10-11, was heartbreaking for players and spectators alike. Yet there was tremendous pride from all those involved with the R.G.S. in watching the team go straight over to congratulate their opposition. All that is good about rugby at R.G.S. was there for all to see. Rugby is about playing in the correct way, within the rules, and with the right attitude win or lose. We may have lost the game that day, but R.G.S. rugby gained many friends.

I would like to thank all staff and parents for their help and support and for making this another memorable year.

C.C.T.

1ST XV

Played 22 Won 18 Drawn 1 Lost 3
Points For: 393 Against: 124

With only four of last season's regular team returning, the 1st XV made a promising start to the year by retaining the Windsor 15-a-side Festival Cup. It was clear from the outset that we were not going to have the forward strength to contest matches against sides with physically bigger forwards. We should instead play a running game, giving the ball to our talented threequarters, and then try to win quick second phase possession.

The threequarter strength was clear and in the opening games Lord William's were defeated 28-0, Hampton beaten 37-0. A new fixture against Shiplake College saw a much closer game, and R.G.S. had to come from behind in the closing minutes to win 13-7. The match showed that the team could play under pressure and that there was a tremendous team spirit underpinning their performances. However Emanuel ended early season excitement with an emphatic 13-0 victory as R.G.S. failed to hold their strong forwards. A second defeat followed as R.G.S. lost an exciting encounter with St Edward's School, Oxford 9-11, another new addition to the fixture list. Once again R.G.S. played an open running game and led into the closing quarter of the game, only to lose eventually to another big set of forwards.

If there was disappointment in losing these games, it did not last long and only served to make the squad train harder, as the team bounced back to record two victories before going on to play in the St Joseph's College Festival at half term. The standard of play in this Festival increases yearly, and it attracts a very strong entry of top schools from throughout the country. With the exception of the game against Bradford Grammar School, the 1st XV did not play well on the first day of the tournament. The second day saw a complete change, with R.G.S. dominating all opponents to eventually win the Plate Competition for the second successive year, defeating Cwmtawe School from Swansea in the final.

There was some excellent rugby played after half term with nine wins being recorded. Throughout, Nick Beal, captain and fly half, dominated proceedings. Having had two tries against local rivals Aylesbury G.S. disallowed, and then watching them draw level, who will forget his superb drop goal in the final minute to give R.G.S. victory for the third successive year 12-10? Paul Aytton returned to school and was able to share his experience with the team. He will have enjoyed dominating the game against Desborough (the only team to defeat us last year), by scoring five tries in our 50-0 victory. Other notable victories were against Reading School 19-13, and London Oratory 21-8. The Spring Term started with a fine 9-4 win at Tiffin and closed with a 7-7 draw at R.G.S. Guildford. The 1st XV finished the season undefeated in their last twelve games and a large number of boys went on to play for County and Area teams.

My thanks go to all the players, particularly Gareth Sellors and Matthew Humberstone in the front row, and to vice-captain Dale Parkinson at flanker for his leadership of the forwards and for being first to the ball in the loose. It was fitting that the players' "player of the year" was a forward. Simon Pearson had an outstanding season at lock-forward, having played the majority of his school rugby until this year as a centre. The team benefited greatly from the support of a band of loyal parents, whose enthusiasm was greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to Mr Tattersall who devoted a lot of his own time towards making the season enjoyable and successful for all members of the team.

N. Beal (Capt.) and C.C.T.

2ND XV

The 2nd XV again enjoyed a very successful season, winning 20 of their 24 matches and drawing one. The early season showed a succession of victories, but in a desire to find a more stable pack a combination of six different hookers was tried. Once James Roberts filled the problem position the pack started to work as a unit. With good lineout work by Frazer Martin, supported by David Pardon, reliability in the props Matthew Bickford and Scott Couper, along with the strong tackling of the back row of Wayne Holden, Daniel McNamara and Phil Read (occasionally too strong for the referee's liking), an established platform was created from which the backs could play off.

The backs, who were particularly effective (all at one time representing the 1st XV), played a major part in the 124 tries that were scored during the season. This achievement was reflected in the team often proving too strong for the opposition: 66-4 v. Windsor, 68-3 v. Enfield, and 40-0 against Douai.

Matthew Dawson and Scott Cutler formed an innovative half-back pairing, joining together for tries and the kicking honours and providing a successful link between the forwards and the three-quarters, giving rein to the speed of Shane Slater, Guy Walker, Nick Smith and Matthew Ball, who was the top try scorer and would possibly have scored more, but much to his own annoyance, the ball often went to ground. John O'Connor and Charles Thomas (later replaced by Chris Hamp due to injury) all provided speed and safe tackling in the centre; and all of us were backed up by the stability of Full-back Duncan Sutton, who often managed to open up the opposition's defence.

Many thanks go to all team members including:-

G. Walker, M. Weaver, C. Downing, T. McCullagh, G. Thomas, M. Govan and J. Buckley, and to Mr Yeates who encouraged us all throughout the season. I myself would like to thank our loyal band of parent supporters and the considerable pride and effort shown by all in this admirable season.

SCOTT CUTLER, 2nd XV Captain.

U16/3RD XV

Record: Played 13. Won 6. Drawn 2. Lost 5. Pts For 212. Pts Against 100.

The 3rd XV/U16 team enjoyed a reasonably successful season despite never having a particularly settled side. The midweek XV relied entirely on 6th formers and for weekend fixtures quite a number of U16's (notably Matthew Dawson, Peter Maxmin, George Thomas and Mark Govan) regularly represented the 2nd XV.

Those who did represent the side always played with a great enthusiasm and a good deal of skill and produced some convincing victories (Shiplake College, 28-0, Verulam, 30-4, Windsor, 24-0 and Douai, 46-0).

Other fixtures produced some very close matches and despite losing five games, overall they were never more than one score behind the opposition at the final whistle.

I would like to thank all those who played their part in an enjoyable season and also a special mention to Mr Gamester who often refereed at very short notice (and always impeccably!).

S.J.N.

U15 XV

Played 18 Won 16 Lost 2

The squad began the season hoping to build on their considerable successes as U13's and U14's. The front row of Paul Element, Ben Rendall, Tom Badman, Mark Parkinson, Jody Davies, and Mike McKenna powered their way through the early games, winning much good ball for the backs. The jumping duo of Tom Davis (pack leader) and Adrian Walters, combined their basketball skills to dominate line-outs in many of their games.

The regular back row of John Stephens, Dominic Coleman, and Toby Marsden plus Mark Pickles created excellent second phase ball.

The backs' speed of handling improved throughout the season, and the "Schlaepfer Pop" was used with great effect to put Richard McGrath over the line on many occasions. Richard was top points scorer for the team. Andrew Hazell kicked many magnificent goals, and contributed significantly to the points total in many of the games.

The half-back partnership of Peter Toller and Alex Toone played a vital part in distributing the ball cleanly and effectively to the centres and the wings.

The five 'B' games were all won, and the 'B' squad continued to keep the 'A' team players on their toes.

In conclusion, the first six games presented no problem to the team, as they amassed 173 points and only conceded 24.

The Watford game proved to the team that they still had a lot to learn in terms of discipline and commitment on the pitch, as they crashed to a 28-0 defeat. With that lesson learned, they then won the next nine games, losing to Gunnersbury, and inflicting a significant win over R.G.S. Guildford, who had won the Daily Mail Schools U15 Cup last year.

1989 Daily Mail Schools Cup (U15)

The R.G.S. had been knocked out the previous year in the first round, but this year's squad were confident, following their excellent season. We qualified as the Bucks' representatives by beating Aylesbury G.S., and met the Herts' representatives, St Edmund's Ware, in the first round. A comfortable win 28-3, eased the team into the second round against King's School from Hampshire. The game was played at High Wycombe RUFC in front of a good crowd of supporters. A 16-0 victory put R.G.S. through to the Quarter finals against St Olave's Kent, and R.G.S. won. The result was much closer at 4-0. The boys could now sense that they were one game away from Twickenham, an opportunity that is granted to very few players in the course of their rugby careers. The semi-final was a nail biting affair, against King's College, Taunton at HWRUFC. The only points of the game came from a penalty by Andrew Hazell, securing a 3-0 win for the R.G.S., and a place in the final at Twickenham on April 1st against Rossall School from Lancashire, the winners of the Northern division.

The Daily Mail funded an overnight stop at Royal Holloway College of London University in Egham. The team had a morning practice at R.G.S. in hot sunshine, to finalise their game plan. Mr Tattersall had organised a trip to Twickenham to look at the stadium before the game, a privilege granted to few international sides. A trip to the "Heathrow Bowl" was next on the agenda, to keep team spirits high. We discovered that many of the players were happier with the oval ball! With a good meal and an early night behind them, the team, dressed in No 1's, travelled to the Harlequins' ground opposite Twickenham for a brief practice and to change prior to going over to Twickenham.

Entering by the players' entrance to cheers from the

supporters, the team trod the path of many international players, and prepared themselves for the photo session. With last minute adjustments to hair do's and knee supports complete, Roger Quittenton, the English international referee, called the team out onto the pitch in brilliant sunshine. The atmosphere was highly charged with good support for both R.G.S. and Rossall from many of those who had come to see the Toshiba County final between Durham and Cornwall.

A strong start by R.G.S. almost completely swamped Rossall's pattern of play, and we were rewarded by a try from Richard McGrath in the corner. This was Richard's 49th try of the season, and I hope he will return to Twickenham to score again later in his rugby career.

Skipper Simon Schlaepfer showed his class by slicing through the defence on many occasions, and earned favourable comments from Mr Kendall-Carpenter, the Chairman of the Rugby Football Schools Union.

Andrew Hazell thumped a penalty goal in the second half, and was deafened by the roar of the crowd as the ball sailed through the posts. With a 7-0 lead, and only a few minutes remaining of the first half, Rossall countered and pulled back three points with a penalty goal. The half-time score was 7-3.

Rossall continued their pressure in the second half and were rewarded by a try from their strong number 8. With the scores level at 7-7 and fifteen minutes remaining, R.G.S. were awarded a penalty which Andrew Hazell converted. Defending a lead under these conditions was always going to be difficult, as a highly motivated Rossall pack began to dominate play to score another try with only a few minutes remaining. With our hearts in our mouths, Ryan Clark nearly scored from a through kick by Alex Toone, and a long shot penalty from Andrew Hazell narrowly missed the posts.

The final score of 11-10 was a disappointment, but since every player had given 100%, the disappointment soon disappeared as we watched a less exciting game between Durham and Cornwall, and were well entertained by the Daily Mail.

Thanks to all the parents who supported the team through the season, and for their cheers at Twickenham.

M.J.G.

U14 'A' XV

**Played: 18 Won 13: Drawn 2: Lost 3:
Points For: 476: Points Against: 93**

This season owed its success to a high level of commitment, which was reflected not only in all-out effort put into training sessions but also in the side's exemplary conduct on the field.

The addition of Lin at tight head and conversion of Hills to hooker made for an awesome front row, completed by Sargent, whose breaks in the loose frequently carved huge gaps in opposition defences. Shaw won much line-out ball and was as tenacious as he was vociferous in the mauls. Kapoor proved to be a fearless tackler, while the back row of Hutchins, Windle and Nichols developed a keen sense of where to be and when.

Cox and Weaver, the half backs, made up for lack of stature with their elusive running and Hill became more direct and inventive as the season progressed. Most important was his service to the other addition to the side - McLaughlin - who made the transition from number 8 to centre to add pace and drive to the backs. Price made telling

runs on the wing, his try in the 4-4 draw v. London Oratory being the most important. Lippiat covered swiftly and countered well at full-back and Newell proved that hookers with injured shoulders can make excellent wings! Ahmid kicked well and occasionally broke effectively but too often lacked direction in his distribution.

Several 'B' teamers performed well when called upon, notably Nixon, Cronin, Hazelden, Marchant, Allen and Page.

The most exciting fixtures were the narrow wins at Desborough (11-6) and Aylesbury (14-6), and the draws v. Oratory (4-4) and the final match of the season, (8-8) v. R.G.S. Guildford.

I would like to extend my thanks to all parents who supported the team so well on the touchline and in the canteen. Anyone for Twickenham next year?!

D.R.P.

U14 'B' XV

**Played 7: Won 4: Lost 2: Drawn 1: (64.3%)
Points for - 90: Points Against - 84:**

A most enjoyable season. A few of the previous season's Under 13 'B' side had switched to hockey, so there were gaps to be filled. Selection policy placed keenness and reliability above all else, so that those who trained were selected ahead of those who did not. Team spirit gained as a result. Twenty-five players represented the side, some inevitably being lost to the 'A' team to fill gaps there. It was pleasing that all Set One players were able to represent the school. Some who were promoted from Set Two did notably well.

Only one game was lost to another school's 'B' side, to Windsor, who won well in the final quarter after a well-contested game. The other defeat, in the first match of the season, was against one of Lord William's Lower Schools. There was an exciting 18-18 draw with Desborough School, and four good victories. It was particularly pleasing to finish the season with two rousing victories, v. London Oratory and v. Latymer Upper. In both games the level of determination and spirit was very high.

Congratulations to all who played, and my thanks to them all for such enjoyable rugby.

Appearances: 7 - Benjamin Cronin, Charles Evans, Andrew Sloane; 6 - Peter Cox, Stuart Hazelden; 5 - Edward Allen, Nicholas Beecroft, Michael Hutt, Lloyd Marchant, Cully Paterson, Daniel Talbot; 4 - Stuart Baker, Adrian Churchett, Warwick Dixon, Timothy Jenkins, Darren Lomas, Kenneth Nixon, Andrew Wardill; 3 - Andrew Curry, Kevin Hodgson, Christian Lathom-Sharp, Andrew Meldrum, Matthew Page; 2 - Andrew Gilmore; 1 - Michael Andrews.

Best wishes to all in their future rugby.

S.R.G.



U13 XV

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
A.XV	13	8	1	4	216	110
B.XV	12	11	0	1	250	56
C.XV	2	1	0	1	32	14
7'S	11	10	0	1	182	42
Overall	38	30	1	7	680	222

Our first game against Watford was marred by losing Martin Downing with a broken leg very early in the game. We then lost to both Queen Elizabeth Barnet and Bedford Modern. Given that these three teams have played together for virtually a season and a half, I was not too despondent. The team gradually gelled together and we had a marvellous run of nine unbeaten games. We then took part in the Bedford Modern Sevens the day before playing Aylesbury at the full game. Bedford was a great triumph and we won the tournament taking such notable scalps as Dulwich on the way. It was not surprising we lost to Aylesbury the next day!

The front row of Stuart Black, Robert Highett-Smith and Zulfikar Shamim proved to be a solid platform and were well supported by a second row of Callum Irvine, Paul Munday/James Lawrence. Our back row proved good scavengers and attackers with Martin Downing (eventually!) at number 8 scoring 6 tries and ably backed up by Jeremy Badman and Alex Large.

The backs were a talented unit with Jim Shaw at scrum half and Neil Fitch outside half launching many a good attack. In the centre our captain, Neil Govan, was outstanding and scored 14 tries. He was ably supported in the centre by Matthew Hotston/Awais Mir, and our wingers Brian McClaughlin and Rhodri Jones. The kicking and positioning of Tom Hadley at full back was also a feature.

The 'B' XV also had a very fine season as their report shows. The highlight of the end of the season was a fine run in the Rosslyn Park National Sevens, where we beat St. Olave's York 16-6, St. Olave's Orpington 30-0, St. Illtyd's Cardiff 12-10, Judd 10-6, before finally going down 4-0 against Tiffins in the quarter finals.

Overall then a great season with much promise for the future. My thanks go to Dr. Dosser and Mr. Moffatt for their invaluable help, to the many parents who supported us, and most important to the squad whose enthusiasm, skill and sense of enjoyment made the season a pleasure.

D.J. STUBBS.

U13 'B' XV

The Under 13 B Rugby Team have had their most successful season since they were formed in 1974.

Of the 12 games played they won 11 losing only, albeit heavily, to London Oratory. Furthermore, only a few games were played at home and Aylesbury were the only Bucks opposition so that eleven of their opponents had a year's experience behind them.

The major factor in the team's success was their covering and tackling which often sent other schools backwards on their own ball. As a result only two schools scored more than 6 points against them. The squad had great depth and therefore illness and injury did not disrupt the team's progress.

The forwards worked well as a unit and were well led by Laurie Lathom-Sharp at number 8 with reliable support from Peter Addyman, Tim Smyth, Andrew Long, Simon King, Liam Radley, Mark Tan, and James Lawrence. Jonathan Axworthy and James Roberts were versatile half-backs. Rhodri Jones, Chris Brown, Chris Horn, Mike Roberts and Douglas Andrew were our regular three-quarters. Amongst others who played were Darren Mills, Nick and Glenn Walker, Chris Waldron, Duncan Kottler, Awais Mir, Mark Burman and Robin Callister.

Congratulations to all these boys on an outstanding season.

R.J.D.

Sevens

The 1st VII had one of their best seasons in recent years, producing some excellent performances to win the Barclays Bank, Windsor, and Bucks Schools Tournaments.

It was the first time that R.G.S. had entered the Barclays Bank Sevens, a tournament which attracts an entry from many strong schools in the London area. The 1st VII started slowly, but their performances improved throughout the day. They completely dominated Emanuel School in the final to win 28-4 and avenged their defeat in the 1st XV game earlier in the season.

At Windsor, an excellent win in the quarter finals against Brynteg School from South Wales helped steer R.G.S. into the final. The Brynteg team including two current Welsh Schoolboy Internationals, led R.G.S. 10-0 at half time, but in the match of the tournament, R.G.S. fought back to win 12-10 with a touchline conversion in the closing seconds of the game. R.G.S. went on to defeat Tiffin, before beating Windsor in the final.

The Bucks Sevens title was retained this year with a win against old rivals Aylesbury G.S. However, the overall strength of the squad was demonstrated at the Douai Sevens, where without two of the regular seven the team still managed to reach the final with excellent wins against Wellington College, Marlborough College and Downside. R.G.S. had to settle for the runners-up place when they were defeated by a strong Cheltenham College team in the final.

At the Oxford Sevens, the 1st VII gave the best performance from an R.G.S. team since 1955, only to lose in the last minute of the semi-final against Millfield School. In other tournaments junior teams played well and the U13 VII produced good displays to win the Bedford Modern Sevens and reach the quarter finals of the National Schools Sevens.

1st VII Squad: P. Ayton, D. Parkinson, S. Pearson, S. Shaw, N. Beal (Capt), I. Gould, M. Ball, M. Cunningham, S. Slater, R. Mills, R. Dawson.

C.C.T.

Fencing

Once again, the team results have been very good. We ended the previous season by retaining, for the third year running, the Southern England Under 18 Team title and went on from there to record match victories over Bradfield, Eton, Harrow, Marlborough, Douai and St. Edward's, losing only narrowly to St. Paul's, Wellington and KCS Wimbledon.

As far as competitions were concerned, it has very much been Nick Payne's year. He dominated all the weapons

locally and regionally. He came fifth and fourth respectively in the National Under 20 and Under 18 finals. Consequently, he was in the England Schools Foil Team with the additional honour of being appointed captain. The England team had a clean sweep in the Home internationals. His greatest triumph was undoubtedly winning the Senior Foil at the Public Schools Championships. This meant that not only was the cup retained by the RGS but that it also stayed within the same family, as his brother Tom had won it in 1988. This also means that an RGS fencer has won this prestigious trophy three times in the last five years (Adrian Griffin was the first RGS winner in 1985). As Nick also reached the semifinals in both epee and sabre, he won the overall Master at Arms trophy. There were also other very good individual results at the Public Schools. David Whiting came 4th in the Mount Haes under 14 foil, Jeremy Parkinson reached the quarter finals of the Junior Foil and Jon Thompson reached the semis of the Senior Sabre.

There is obviously going to be a dip in the standard of fencing at the RGS as the 'Payne Era' comes to an end. That problem will be compounded by the loss of four other upper sixth team members: Tony Chambers, Peter Fison, Iain Sharp and Jon Thompson. However, their loss should eventually be made good by the very promising young fencers coming through who are already making their mark in individual competitions. Edward Rysdale and David Whiting came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Southern England under 14 foil and (as this goes to press) are due to fight in the national finals. Seang-Lin Tan and Roland Levan came 3rd and 6th in the Eton International under 12 foil and also fenced outstandingly in their first match for the school against KCS Wimbledon. In the last fixture of the season the juniors once again showed their promise by dominating the KCS/RGS Under 15 foil. Jeremy Parkinson won after a fight off against Alistair Sweetman with David Whiting taking third place.

My thanks go to those mentioned above who are leaving and who have given loyal service to the school team. Also thanks are due to Mrs Payne our efficient and hardworking coach. Finally, congratulations are due to Simon Aspinall who fenced for the RGS team for many years and who was awarded his Blue at Oxford for fencing this year. He has also been elected the University Team Captain for next year.

J. ROEBUCK. Master I/C Fencing

Athletics

Following recent initiatives aimed at fostering sporting links between the six R.G.S.s in the country, R.G.S. Newcastle invited the other five to a full athletics meeting on May 13 at Monkton Stadium, Jarrow, the home-club of Steve Cram. In the event, R.G.S. Colchester were unable to accept, but teams from High Wycombe, Guildford and Worcester made the long journeys to Newcastle on the Friday before, where they were generously hosted by the families of boys of R.G.S. Newcastle, (Lancaster made the brave decision to travel on the day). The masters in charge were treated to a reception in the Headmaster's office before spending the night at a local hotel.

We were blessed with a fine, dry day as the meeting got under way at 11 o'clock. It soon became obvious to all why Newcastle were hosting the event, as they proceeded to pick up 34 of the 61 medals with some exceptional performances. High Wycombe were best served by its junior team with David McLaughlin picking up two golds in the Shot and

Discus. The intermediate and senior teams were severely depleted due to exams but Peter Maxmin ran a splendid second in the 800 metres, but the star performance came from Matthew Cunningham in the High Jump, twice improving his personal best to win emphatically with 1m.90.

Several people doubted the wisdom of taking 30 boys in 3 minibuses the 600-mile round trip, but the event was an undoubted success. The boys enjoyed the journey, will have learned much from staying with North Eastern families, albeit only for one night, and had the opportunity to participate in a top event, excellently organised on a superb track, to which many responded with personal best performances.

There is no doubt that the boys are looking forward to a similar event next year.

I.J.W.

Chess

This season the Chess Club did not have as much success as in previous years. Whilst the second team consolidated its position in Division Three, the first team was relegated. Six junior teams were also fielded but none of them won their league. I feel that this performance was below standard, mainly because of a disappointing lack of commitment from a number of players, both seniors and juniors, and I hope this trend will not continue next year. Nevertheless, there were some pleasing aspects to this season. R.G.S. again had quite a few players in the County U18 team with three of them becoming County Champions in their respective age group. The team in the Times Competition reached the zonal final, losing to Windsor by the narrowest of margins and a strong quartet recaptured the lightning tournament. My thanks to all the players, especially those who helped in the running of the club and the organisation of the teams. Thanks also to members of staff: Mr Clark, Mr Cook and Mr Cruse.

MATTHEW BALL

My thanks to Matthew Ball for all his work as captain for the last two years.

I.R.C.

Badminton

This season has seen the formation of a new team at U19 level. A series of battles with old rivals, such as John Hampden and Watford Grammar produced entertaining play and fluctuating scorelines.

The lack of a solid team of six allowed M. King, D. Kumar and D. Stevens, all of the fifth year, to be invited to play in certain school matches. With their full involvement next year, we can look forward to a fine season.

The Staff Match lived up to its reputation for entertainment, with a 5:4 victory to the Staff. Messrs I. Clark and I. Wilson remained the only team undefeated.

Half colours have been awarded to:

A. Eastabrook (captain)

R. Page

S. Paton

The Badminton Club meets on Wednesdays from 4.00 - 5.00 p.m. in the New Sports Hall. The Club is well attended and is open to all boys in the lower and middle school years.

R.P.S.

Golf

The school team of Nic Beal, Michael Weaver and Jonathan Blenkam narrowly failed to win their regional round of the National Schools Championship, losing out by just one stroke in the qualifier played at Reading G.C. back in October. This should make us more determined to qualify next year at Stoke Poges G.C.

The Bucks Open Championship was held at Ellesborough G.C. in December, where Nic Beal was edged into 2nd place.

The Bucks Team Championship was held at Windmill Hill G.C. in April. We entered 3 teams, and our team of Andrew Somerville and his father, Nicholas Hollin and Peter Toller, emerged as winners of the very attractive shield. Michael Weaver and Nic Beal shot the two best rounds of the day and earned places in the 4-man team to represent Bucks in the Inter-Counties Championship at Wyke Green G.C. on June 1st. Our best wishes go to Nic who will be leaving school this year after giving excellent service to school golf teams.

I.J.W.

Eton Fives

After last season's results, the Eton Fives senior team of Matthew Ball, Bruce Jerrome, Mark Bussell and Nicholas Lewthwaite had a lot to live up to. This season the club played away matches at Stowe School, Harrow School, Wellington College and Harrow Hill Fives Club, with home fixtures against Queen Elizabeth's Barnet and the Eton Fives Association. Our best result was a draw against Harrow Hill, a match we were unfortunate not to win. However, all the fixtures were keenly contested and some only narrowly lost, including a final set cliffhanger at Stowe. A donation from the Parents' Association was gratefully received and was used to buy a stock of new balls. The club also has a number of junior members who have produced some very encouraging play this season. The most notable performance was a home victory over Harrow School with both pairs winning 3-0. Nevertheless, with the courts still uncovered, badly needed practice was lost due to bad weather; a problem from which none of our opposition suffers.

Our thanks go to Dr. Smith for his organisation and transport.

MATTHEW BALL

Tennis

This season has been the best for many years in respect of the results and the standards set in the two school teams: The 1st VI and our Colts VI.

Our 1st VI have only been beaten once in 10 outings and this was against Magdalen College school which was a narrow 5-4 defeat. Other results however were quite outstanding, these being due to capable leadership by our Captain, Paul Ayton, Nick Smith our ex-National Junior Champion, and some excellent back up by Andrew Jackson. Some of our best results were 7-2 against Highgate School, 5-4 against Merchant Taylors, and 8-1 against Aylesbury Grammar School.

Results:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st VI	10	9	0	1

Our 1st VI also played in the Bucks Schools Senior Team championship and our undoubted strength in depth saw us through quite comfortably, to retain the cup for the third year. In the last week beginning 11th July our top pair, Nick Smith and Andrew Jackson have been competing in the National U19 Pairs championship - The Clark Cup - held at Queen's Club, Wimbledon. In the early rounds we comfortably overcame Marlborough College, Leeds Grammar and Bournemouth Grammar before reaching a quarter final against St Paul's. This was won quite comfortably before a tough semi-Final against Repton who were the holders for the past four years. Our Captain fought extremely well against a very strong National player Mark Loosemore before losing in the deciding sets and our second player, Andrew Jackson also losing in 2 sets. This was our best performance in 6 years.

The 1st VI Team squad also included: Mike Bignell, Ian Cann, John Higgins, Simon Brooksbank, Richard Claydon, Guy Walker.

In our Colts team we have had our best season ever winning every match we have played mostly in convincing fashion. We have been ably led by our Captain David Conway and his partner Kuros Sarshar and very capable support from Nicholas Baikie, David Allen, Murad Vassib, Mark Cracknell and Chris Claydon. Our best results were against Abingdon 6-3, Merchant Taylors 5-4 and University College School 5-4.

Results:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
Colts VI	7	7	0	0

The school teams will again be very strong next season and our ambition will be to enter and hopefully succeed in the National Schools Team competition the Glanvill Cup and again, of course, the Clark Cup.

S.J.G

Table Tennis Club

The 1988/89 season has been an outstanding one for the club. With over sixty paid-up members the club has been stronger numerically and in talent than in all its 10 year history.

In addition to our twice weekly after school playing sessions, over twenty boys per week have used the club's equipment for their Thursday Afternoon School Activity.

This year we have had nine teams of different ages and ability playing competitively for the school in the High Wycombe and District Table Tennis leagues.

Our A Team, captained by Joel Mawdsley, has had their best ever season finishing as winners of Division 6. They won all their eighteen matches and ended the season a full 21 points ahead of their nearest rival.

The B Team, playing in Division 7, started the year late, but still finished in a creditable fourth place.

In the Wycombe Youth League, we entered four teams in Division 1, with our D and A teams coming 2nd and 3rd, while in the second Division our F team were champions.

The season has also been marked by the commencement of professional coaching. We have been very fortunate to enlist the services of Mr David Fairholm, one of England's foremost coaches (including the England Team itself), and have held two series of coaching sessions. Our players have

gained immensely and both series were over subscribed. We intend to continue coaching with David Fairholm next term.

Finally, and surely the high-point of the season was when our A Team players received their School Half-Colours. This is the first time in the history of RGS that colours have been presented for Table Tennis and we hope that in future, other players will win theirs as deservedly as Joel Mawdesly, Sean Priestley and Trevor Woolliams, who by their skill, commitment and sportsmanship have notably helped the place of Table Tennis in the school.

J.R.B. KEMPSON

Cross-Country

After the dizzy heights reached last season, courtesy of Messrs Panchen and Bailey, the Senior Team has performed much more moderately this season. However, I am sure that the performances of the individual runners have improved during the season, particularly of the Captain, Paul Fines-Allin, who has run superbly since February, culminating in selection for Bucks and his best-ever run in what will be the last of his four runs in the Nationals. The team has regularly comprised - Paul Fines-Allin, Simon Russell, Simon Brooksbank and Marc Gordon of 6², and David Allen, Paul Airley, Andrew Palmer, Donald Garner and Matthew Sanders of 6¹.

Further down the school, there looks to be a good nucleus developing in the 4th year led by Matthew Vance, while among the juniors Nic Beecroft has done exceptionally well; he won silver medals at Waddesdon and in the District Championships, an excellent bronze at the County Championships and justified his number 3 rating in the County with his performance in the Nationals.

To bring the curtain down on the season Mr Wilson launched the R.G.S. Friendly Relay in Hughenden Park, with runners from 8 schools running not as school teams, but as mixed teams. This enabled an R.G.S. runner, Captain Paul Fines-Allin, to come home in 1st place for the only time this season. We may well aim for a repeat next year, perhaps involving 12 schools.

I.J.W

Staff Soccer XI

I refereed the RGS staff Soccer XI on 18 occasions in the 88/89 season. The Staff won 11 of these encounters and lost 7, with a goal tally of 120 for and 46 against. However 48 of the goals for were scored in the early season romps against five 5th Form teams, though 5JR deserve special mention for only losing 3 - 2.

Things became harder for the Staff when they encountered 6th Form and adult teams. Victories over 6th (German) and 6th (Economics) were balanced by losses to 6th (History), 6th (Geography), 6th (French) and the 1st Rugby XV. A victory over the ACC included the most amazing incident of the season. A cross from the ACC right winger found the Staff's defenders, including their goalkeeper, hopelessly out of position - with three forwards 12 yards out facing an empty goal. The first one stepped over the ball, the second one fell over it and the third one mis-hit it and his shot went closer to the corner flag than the goal!

The Staff beat the Prudential Insurance team from Watford and the Staff of the Misbourne School, but lost to

the Staff of Desborough School, Maidenhead, John Hampden and Windsor Grammar School. The only caution of the season went to an opposing Master for dissent. This should not be taken to imply that matches were not hard fought - it speaks volumes for the spirit of RGS that boys can play masters with utter commitment on both sides and no holding back from tackles without any sign of ill-feeling or spite. There were, of course, some tackles which had their foundation more in the rules of Rugby Union than those of the Football Association - but there was no sign of intent to maim, except from Mr Gamester!

Mr Hussey and Mr Noyes scored most of the Staff goals though Mr Yeates produced one or two 25 yard blasters when Wycombe Wanderers were training on the adjacent pitch. There were hopes of a large transfer fee - but the deal never came off. Mr Wilson, the Staff Captain, devised one or two interesting penalty area incidents to ensure I was paying attention and Mr Claye regularly wore intimidating yellow trousers which verged upon ungentlemanly conduct.

I am glad to be able to report that, if one is patient enough for long enough, it is just possible to teach a member of Staff to take a throw-in properly!

The final match of the season was a trot out against a 5th year combined team. The Staff duly won easily - but come next season those boys will be 1 year older, taller, fitter and faster; the Staff will only be 1 year older! I look forward to next season.

DEREK J READ 5RR (Parent)

Basketball U/19

This year, despite an initial defeat at the hands of St.Columba's College, St.Albans, it did seem as if things augured well. Once again we had the services of an England international, Matthew Cunningham, who gained an international cap playing for England U17 team against Iceland, as well as many other talented players. With a large squad to choose from at the beginning of the season, we could afford to experiment a little before finalising a starting five of average height 6'3" and a team average of 6'.

Yet again, reaching the final of the Bucks Cup was a mere formality, although a warm-up was played in the semi-final against Gyosei School, Milton Keynes, whose determination was admirable, but their diminutive height could not match even the smallest of our players. With a place in the final assured, we switched our sights to the National Competition, hoping to match the mighty performance of the 86/87 season. After mixed fortunes in the South-West regional pool, we managed to win a place in the quarter-finals by defeating the over-hyped Portsmouth Sixth form College.

With Mr.Stubbs' excellent coaching skill sorely missed, a victim of the new Sports Hall, it was left to Mr Davies to cohesse ten individuals into an effective team able to defeat the strong Northern opposition of Loretto College, Manchester, a difficult task indeed! Fatigue from a four hour mini-bus journey could not be used as an excuse for defeat at the hands of a superior side, whose individual and collective ability were more than a match for us, especially with Matthew getting into foul trouble very early in the first half.

Victory in the Bucks Cup over Chesham was small consolation for our defeat in the Nationals, especially for those of us in 6(2), who will not gain another chance. Our main team this year consisted of Rex Stenner (Captain),

Jamie Monaghan (Vice-Captain), Guy Walker, Firman Ghouze, Matthew Cunningham, Frazer Currie, Phil Read (Secretary), Simon Shaw, Simon Pearson and Ian Gould.

I would like to thank Mr Davies for providing transport to distant locations such as Manchester, and to the Boarders, who provided vociferous support at our home games. Those of us leaving this year wish the team well in the future.

REX STENNER (CAPTAIN)

Junior Basketball

Junior School basketball teams have enjoyed mixed fortunes this year. The U16 team made an early exit from the E.S.B.B.A Cup and it was not until the second half of the season that they played their best basketball. Having lost to Chesham High School earlier in the year it was a very determined RGS team that faced Chesham again in the final of the Bucks Cup. An excellent game saw RGS come from behind to snatch victory in the closing minutes.

Having unexpectedly reached the U14 National Schools finals in 1987/88, the U15 team eagerly awaited the new season to see whether they could make further improvement. They were not to be disappointed as they enjoyed another excellent run in the E.S.B.B.A Cup. With their best display of the season they crushed John Bentley School, Calne 151-50 to become champions of the south, only to face the mighty Millfield School champions of the south west for a place in the National Finals. An excellent game played at Millfield in front of a good crowd saw RGS emerge as victors 86-63.

The National Finals this year were held in St. Helens, Merseyside and although the U15 team gave a good account of themselves, they could not re-create the form shown in earlier matches and had to settle for fourth place. They dominated domestic matches throughout the year and won the Bucks U15 Cup with ease.

Lack of practice early in the year caused the U14 team to be poorly prepared for the E.S.B.B.A Cup and they lost in the first round. However, from this point the team improved and recorded some pleasing victories before the end of the season.

C.C.T

Rowing

1988 Regattas

There can be little doubt that 1988 was the busiest and most successful regatta season for many years. For the first time ever the School regularly boated two VIII's. Crews at all age levels from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth competed, and all crews won at least once.

There can be no doubt at all that this resurgence in enthusiasm and performance has been due in great part to the new equipment (boats, cars, trailer, and, most recently, coaching launch) provided through tireless work of Iain Meyer and the parents (both those on the Appeal Committee and their helpers). To all of them the whole Boat Club, both coaches and boys, owes a considerable debt of gratitude.

Among the highlights of the the season was a delightful May day at Wimbleball Lake in Somerset (one of Rowing's

less well-known but more beautiful venues) where the J16 VIII, deprived of opposition of their own age by the chicanery of Monkton Combe, went on to beat the same school's 2nd VIII in the final of Senior C. Not content with this, they then split into two IV's and proceeded to come in first and second places in the J16 IV's event. The 1st and 2nd IV's and the J15 VIII all managed good second places in their respective events, and the 1st IV closed the day on a rousing note by winning the Senior B sprint. Well worth an arrival home after midnight!

The 1st IV failed to distinguish themselves in early outings at Chiswick and Hereford. Hopes were raised by much improved performances at Wimbleball. However, sadly, their season came to an abrupt end after this, as the allure of "A" Level revision proved to be greater than that of rowing for at least one member. A case of potential unfulfilled.

The 2nd IV for much of the season continued in their unfortunate habit from J16 days of losing in finals. They were especially unlucky at Stratford where, after easy wins in the first two rounds, they met in the final a crew from Trinity College, Oxford, which was clearly rowing a class beneath its ability, and were well beaten. However, they at last achieved their Senior 3 status with a good win in their final regatta of the season at Huntingdon.

Having won in their first event at Chiswick, the J16's spent most the rest of the season learning that life is tough at the top. They were not helped by running into some of the best rowing schools in the country (Eton at Cambridge, Shiplake at Stratford, St. Edward's at Reading Town). However, they showed that they could hold their own in this company, and their convincing win over Radley and Monkton Combe in the first round at Reading was particularly satisfying. Rowing as a squad in IV's during the summer they showed that there were few crews in the West of England that could live with them.

A Competitive J15 VIII emerged during the first half of the season, learning some useful lessons on the way. (Lessons such as the desirability of keeping away from bridges on the Tideway, and of holding on to leads once they have been established.) This culminated in their overwhelming victory over Radley in the J15B event at the Bedford Star Junior Regatta. The day was nicely rounded off by the cox (I thought that you would prefer to remain nameless, Joseph) leaving for home with his parents, taking the minibus keys with him. Another late return home!

Crews

1st IV	2nd IV
P.N. Denison (cox)	R.M.Saunders (cox)
S.C. Johns (str)	M.J. Harrison (str)
R.W. Bayly	J.P. Shotbolt
E.L. Jackson	P.W. Jennings
J.B. Iver	D.J. Miles

J16 VIII	J15 squad
M.F. Stidworthy (cox)	J.B. Baguley (cox)
N.A. Seymour (str)	J.P. Blake
P.D. Hardie	S.J. Carter
J.L. Ball	M.C.N. Dunlop (cox)
R.H. Johns	A.M. Gill
S.T. Zabel	M.D. Groves
D.M. Hancox	R. Holden
J.D. Dyer	D.T. Holland
A.J. Hunt	C.R. Jennings
	S.E. McDonald
	M.E. Thomson

Summary of Entries

Chiswick	1st IV - 2nd IV - J16 VIII* - J15 VIII
Hereford Schools	1st IV
Cambridge	2nd IV - J16 VIII
Wimbleball Spring	1st IV* - 2nd IV** - J16A IV* J16B IV** - J16 VIII* - J15 VIII**
Star Junior (Bedford)	J15 VIII*
Stratford-upon-Avon	2nd IV** - J16 IV
Reading Town	J16 VIII** - J15 VIII
Huntingdon	2nd IV*
Maidenhead	J16 IV* - J15 IV
Exeter	J16/15 IV*
Wimbleball	J16 IV
Dartmouth	J16 IV*
Head of the Teign	J16 IV* - J16/15 IV*
Vesta Winter	J16 VIII - J15 VIII

* win ** second place

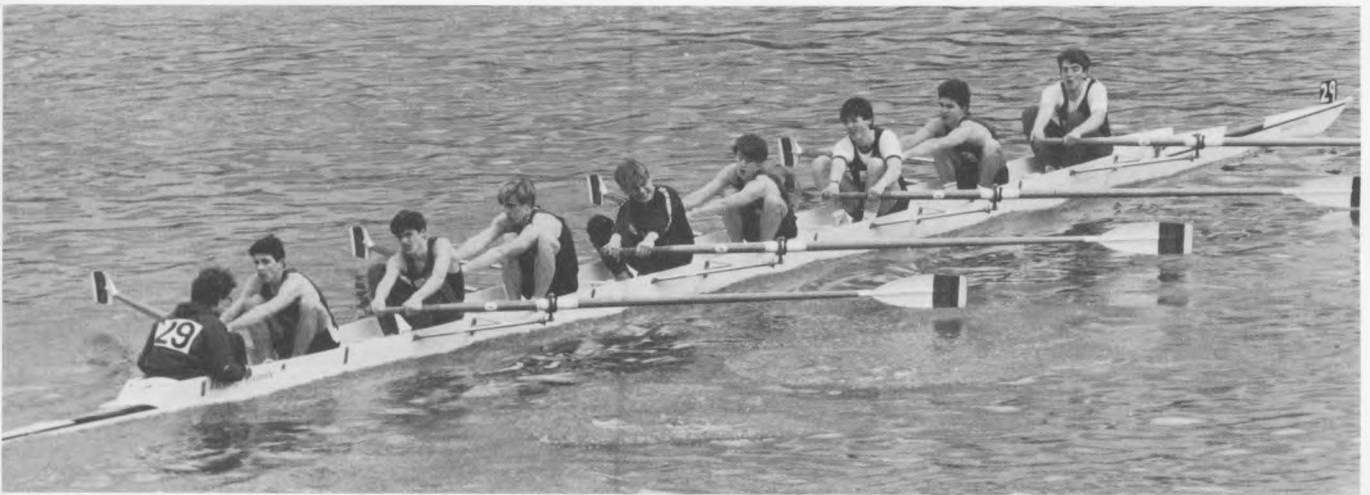
1989 Head of the River Races

The long autumn term's training was not without its ups and downs in morale, especially amongst the 1st VIII. The visit to Vesta Winter Eights in December only served to emphasise how much remained to be done. However, what had emerged by February showed considerably more promise, and the results in the various long-distance Head of the River races were, again, some of the best in the club's history.

At Abingdon the 1st IV, competing for the first time at Senior 3 status, managed a modest 8th place out of 10.

At Marlow the 1st VIII, also competing at Senior 3, came 4th in that well-contested division.

At the Henley Schools' Head, in rough and blustery conditions more reminiscent of the Tideway, the 1st IV had their best result of the season, finishing 9th overall and 4th out of 13 in the junior coxed IV's division. The J16 VIII also rowed very well to finish 20th overall, and 4th out of 14 in



The 1st VIII at the Schools' Head of the River Race

The J15 VIII after their win at Bedford



its division.

The Reading Schools' Head was marred by some chaotic organisation. Notwithstanding this the 1st VIII easily retained the headship which they won last year. The J16's, in a borrowed wooden boat (elderly and heavy), came in only 18 seconds behind them, giving them 3rd place overall. The 1st IV were 5th among the IV's, and the J15 IV, representing the School for the first time, were 15th overall, and 5th in their division - a creditable result, but one which, had they rowed as well as they had in training, they would have hoped to better.

In the Schools' Head on the Tideway the 1st VIII excelled by not only coming home in 15th place out of 88, but also by winning the Small Schools' pennant (for schools with fewer than 40 oarsmen). The J16 VIII, in the same borrowed boat, finished 46th overall, and 13th out of 25 in their division. The 1st IV came 34th out of 80 overall, and 16th out of 22 in their division.

On the following day was the main Tideway Head, which is now an international event with 430 crews taking part. The 1st VIII was the first R.G.S. crew ever to enter this event. Despite fatigue and a strong head-wind past Hammersmith Bridge they did exceptionally well to finish 117th overall, and 9th fastest school crew.

Crews

1st IV	1st VIII squad
R.M. Saunders (cox)	J.L. Ball
M.J. Harrison (str)	J.D. Dyer
J.P. Shotbolt	D.M. Hancox
P.W. Jennings	P.D. Hardie
D.J. Miles	A.J. Hunt
	R.H. Johns
	N.A. Seymour
	M.F. Stidworthy (cox)
	M.E. Thomson
	T.C.B. Webber
	S.T. Zabel
J16 squad	J15 IV
J.B. Baguley (cox)	W.H. Spooner (cox)
J.P. Blake	J.L. Farley (str)
S.J. Carter	T.J. Milward
A.M. Gill	C.M. Denison
M.D. Groves	A.C. Mawhood
R. Holden	
D.T. Holland	
C.R. Jennings	
S.E. McDonald	
M.E. Thomson	

Mention should also be made of Tim Webber (6¹) who slipped through the School selection net back in the Fourth Year, and so he went and learnt to scull with Marlow Rowing Club. He has since achieved success enough in sculling to compete for Junior National Squad selection this year. The School has recently welcomed him back to the sweep-oar fold as a member of the 1st VIII squad for the Heads.

To conclude, the Boat Club is in good heart in 1989, and, if things go according to plan, by the time these words are read the R.G.S. will have made its first entry in an VIII at the Henley Royal Regatta (which is, coincidentally, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year).

J.P.E.

CCF - Introduction

May I start with some friends before we say something about ourselves? They are worth meeting.

On one Thursday I counted nine members of the Regular Services here helping with the Training, they were:

Captain David Nicholson, RGJ, O.C. 16 Cadet Training Team - who also appeared - "blew-in" might describe his approach more aptly on Weekend Training at Cader Idris and Adventure Training in the Peaks.

R.S.M. Norman Fox R.A. - who set up and ran Exercise Alpine Challenge from which several of our senior boys have benefited in the last 3 years - a rigorous and highly enjoyable combined expedition of cadets from Bucks for 10 days in the Alps, climbing, canoeing and water sports.

Sergeant Stephen Sadler, Grenadier Guards - our Regular helper from 16CTT, training climbers on the climbing wall in the New Sports Hall. He also came indispensably for the whole of our Adventure Training in the Peaks.

RQMS McCreedy R.G.J. - who has guided us for as long as I can remember on the Admin. side and whose motto seems to be "No problem, Sir", even with all the kit and logistics for Greenfield Camps.

Flight Lieutenant John Lloyd, RAF Liaison Officer, temporarily down to earth after flying the RAF equivalent of executive aircraft and taking just as much interest in RAF Section Training.

Flight Sergeant Tim Wood - doing valuable long term work training the RAF Cadre "trying to help them see the difference between lecturing and teaching, Sir" he said to me one afternoon. He is also an ocean going crew member.

Chief Petty Officer Clutton - another Regular helper with the RN Section in all aspects.

Two young RN Officers who came three times setting up command task physical, practical and intellectual, supplying the pressure to the decision makers and giving useful debriefs at the end. This was in addition to their Service roles in Flying and Engineering.

These were the visible side of the great network of positive friendly help in the task of giving opportunities of experience, which if properly grasped, does help in the development of qualities useful to the majority of our members who are not going into the Services, as well as those who do. We have seen it do so and in two notable letters from recent members the concrete evidence is there of advantages in decision making techniques, presentation and that vital business of getting on in a considerate and positive way with people, not to mention the more practical skill in getting off a mountain safely in bad conditions.

The staff at the Royal Army Education Corps in Beaconsfield, our Sponsor Unit, deserve special thanks as well. "We're very short of Officers and transport, could you possibly help?" we asked and gave detailed indications. Captain Eileen Cunningham, the Adjutant at the time came, saw and organised.

That particular day was exceptional only in the number helping us; on average someone from each of the three Services is with us each Parade day. Naturally in the light of this we wished our General Inspection to be an expression of thanks by giving the Services the reassurance they quite properly require that whatever our faults, we are doing our best to make their efforts worthwhile.

Captain Cheshire R.N. and his Inspecting Team of Officers who already knew us all well, including Lieutenant Commander Derek Long our PELO, came, saw, and were encouraged and very encouraging. It is always an interesting task to try to reflect as much as possible of our life over the

past two years in about three hours. The N.C.O.'s and cadets working with their Section Officers not only had the ideas but turned them in to practice. The written report recently received officially describes the weather on the day as "foul". We would agree with that in any official expression we might utter. It only prevented the flying of the model aircraft: all the rest of the programme took place with vigour as cadets hurled themselves ferociously into the mud or "survived", orienteered or manoeuvred on the Thames.

It is of the essence of service life that, when a different occasion requires it, those same drenched and bespattered figures can look phenomenally smart. That is exactly what the RN Section did at Danesfield as Captain Cheshire was brought superbly alongside in quite difficult river conditions and piped aboard. It is exactly what the Guard of Honour of Army and RAF Sections did as we arrived at R.G.S. on the dot of 1210. They had been trained by NCO's under the supervision of W.O. Clive Rowland, our S.S.I. They were complimented warmly for their steadiness, bearing and turnout, particularly in the prevailing conditions, by the Inspecting Team. In fact such had been their commitment to practices that they were quite genuinely put into the class of the professionals by the Team.

The services help us because they feel the combination of experiences they are giving is unique and thoroughly worthwhile.

On the Officer and Staff on the establishment and at School, already busy people with full time professional commitments and other extra curricular ones too, depends the organisation of all this help. The cadets recognise and appreciate this and perhaps particularly the N.C.O.'s.

The N.C.O.'s themselves have the satisfaction of knowing that in what they do in planning and seeing the plans are actually carried out, they learn from what goes well and what doesn't.

It is hard work, it is a great opportunity to continue to make something where there would otherwise be nothing of this variety at all. Individuals will be mentioned in Section Reports. Especial congratulations however to Flight Sergeant Stephen Todd on being chosen as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet representing the CCF in Buckinghamshire.

I should like to express my deep appreciation to all these people and also to the Governors and Headmaster, and to the invisible members of this network at District and National level for their continued active interest and support.

Four more bits of good news in brief:

1. William Gamester has appeared on the scene to join his brother Edward. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gamester. Our thanks too must also go to them for being on the spot and dealing tactfully with some MOD matters that arise, simply because they are the nearest people. It has - I cannot in the circumstances say "unfortunately" - meant that Mrs. Gamester, our first class CCF Secretary, has to retire. For her unstinting, imaginative and efficient hard work, our deepest thanks.

2. Mrs. Julie Cooper has been appointed to the post, and learnt rather the hard way by coming in during the build-up to General Inspection, with all the good cheer, interest and efficiency of her predecessors.

3. Mrs. Vivienne Seymour responded generously to our urgent need for Officers indicated in a letter to parents. She has been a Regular Officer and the procedure is going through so that she can become an Officer with the RAF Section.

4. Mr. Geoffrey Rysdale has kindly said he will come to help with shooting. He is an expert. Naturally there are MOD procedures but we are looking forward now to the completion of these.

STOP PRESS

I think it is safe to say that thanks to our friends in TAVRA, it has been recognised that a replacement range is needed here and this is well under way.

F.N.C.

Royal Naval Section

The R.N. Section has had a busy year continuing with its ever varied programme of activities and visits. Led this year by Russell Gigg the section has numbered over 30, making the task of organising and running the unit a suitable challenge for the team of committed and enthusiastic Senior Rates.

The year commenced with trips to the River Thames at Medmenham. Canoeing, sailing, rafting and pulling skills were passed on using the wide variety of craft available and windsurfing was taught with the help of the land based simulator.

As the term wore on, and the weather deteriorated, more time was spent at the school working towards the proficiency exams. These yielded no failures when they were taken soon after the Christmas break, which speaks just as much for the teaching skills of the Senior Rates as it does for the learning skills of the Cadets.

The Section has also used the range at school a number of times and has visited both the range and the assault course at Beaconsfield.

There have been several field days throughout the year, the first was to the Senior Rates leadership school at H.M.S. Royal Arthur and the autumn day saw two teams racing around the assault course and then the cliff and chasm circuit. Everyone gave 100% effort and consequently ended the day tired and dirty. Those who couldn't master the rope swing got wet also. Unfortunately for the world and

Action from the field day at H.M.S Royal Arthur as A.B Spooner, P.O. Clark, D. Ayling (R.A.F), Coxwain Dean, A.B. Haylett and P.O. Hardie complete the assault course.



fortunately for Lt. Claye the photo of him being dumped in one of the many water obstacles by his team of unquestionable loyalty, failed to come out!!

The second visit was to our parent establishment H.M.S. Dryad, also the home of the School of Maritime Operations and stable to some of the most advanced and expensive computer games in the world. In spite of this the section is invited, every year, to try its hand at these games, shooting and various sports, as well as receiving some excellent lectures. The return journey saw A.B. Hallam leaning too heavily on the rear door of the school mini-bus as it negotiated the Basingstoke roundabouts. The door opened and only gymnastics on a par with the Soviet olympic team kept him in close formation with the vehicle!

We have also enjoyed the visits of Officers from the Director of Naval Recruiting C.C.F Liaison Team. They provoked scenes of hilarity when they took charge on the parade ground, gave interesting lectures on subjects varying from general naval knowledge to the more specialist aircrew survival (including appearances by a rabbit, a gun and a knife), and gave much needed advice to the five members of the section who attended the Admiralty Interview Board.

Those who went through the Navy's Officer Selection procedure all enjoyed their two or three day stay at H.M.S. Sultan and will have learnt a great deal about themselves. Jeremy Clark was awarded a place on a Royal Navy Outward Bound and Leadership Course from which he got a good report and glandular fever. James Dean was awarded a sixth form scholarship and a reserved place at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth. Our congratulations go to him for this and for his recent appointment as the new Coxswain.

Finally, thanks go to the entire section for its effort on General Inspection Day. Due to the spirit adopted the planned tasks were completed in spite of the disgusting weather. Thanks also, for the whole of a year of great fun, go as always to Lt. Claye, C.P.O. Clutton and Lt.Col. Cooper and to those members of the forces who have visited. The donation of their time and efforts are much appreciated.

P.O.J. CLARK

Report on a trip on HMS Invincible, 1988

Last year I embarked on probably the most eventful and exciting trip I have ever experienced as a member of the CCF. Through a meeting with Captain Lowe of the Royal Navy Recruiting Staff, I managed to obtain a five-day trip on the most up-to-date aircraft carrier Britain possesses.

I arrived on Sunday, the 11th December, which gave me little time to get settled and meet the people I was due to be messing down with for the next five days. The officers on board advised us to get acquainted with the ship. It took at least two hours and involved getting thoroughly lost countless times.

We set sail early Monday morning (5.30) and we all had to be up on the Admiral's Bridge to see the proceedings. It took over an hour for Invincible to leave Plymouth harbour, which was torture on our bleary but keen eyeballs. The rest of the day progressed in official introductions to the workings of the ship. Through these talks, the party learned about the safety of the ship, the flight co-ordination (FLYCO) and about the SCC or Ship Control Centre, which is the vessel's nerve-centre. The afternoon was very warm,

so I joined in with a few mess-mates and about half the ship's crew in a sponsored fun-run, which was videoed by the navy and shown that night on the ship's T.V. channel. The wind was quite gusty, so a few runners were almost swept off both their feet and the flight deck!

After a peaceful night moored on the Plymouth breakwater, we embarked on another day of the ship's trials in the Channel. Civilian technicians and naval officers were making the ship's metal scream by testing all four of its Olympus engines (similar to those used on Concorde) at once, both forwards and backwards. There was a moment to be cherished; standing at the stern watching the spray breaking over the ropes whilst the ship was doing a sedate 20 knots backwards! I spent most of that day in the engine room and the hangars, where the engineers were trying out the new aircraft hoists. This was pretty frightening, since the hoists had not been used since the Falklands and because I was standing underneath one at the time when it was rapidly descending. Fortunately for me, the pit was deep enough for people to walk around in underneath the 3 tonne object.

On the Wednesday our party was introduced to the ship's weaponry and stores branches. The carrier had just been fitted with Goalkeeper Anti-missile guns, so the talk was not only interesting, but also exciting. The stores warehouses (I am told) have sufficient stores to re-build two Harriers and a Sea King Helicopter, in addition to all the other necessary marine parts. Unfortunately there were no aircraft on board to see being repaired by the mechanics (or wrecked by those less experienced). That day was also quite momentous for the Navy since all her carriers were out at sea and in the same place at once. We cruised up the Channel with Ark Royal and Illustrious, back from visits to Australia and the USA respectively. The Navy said it would never happen....

The last two days were a mixture of interviews with officers and the branches they represented. This was informative and the people I spoke with were quite fair and honest with their opinions. The party also had the opportunity to speak with the captain of the vessel, who was only seen once on the whole trip, despite the fact that he was on board all the time. The night was spent at HMS Drake, a shore establishment in Plymouth. Drake was really a naval four-star hotel, with an uncanny knack of throwing loud parties. The night was ... interesting.

The trip was very good overall. The navy run these trips in the hope of recruiting new officers, so they spent a lot of money in making the ship and the programme work. It was quite rare that a group of officer candidates were allowed on a recently-refitted ship, and I benefited well from the new knowledge I learned on board.

P.O.S.P. KEELING.

HMS Osprey - RNAS Portland CCF Air Day 1989

For the second year running a party from the school has attended this very well organised day at HMS Osprey on Portland Bill.

We arrived at Portland in time for breakfast at 0830 having left Portsmouth at 0530. After an opening address we watched an armed/unarmed combat display by the Royal Marines. This display although positively barbaric at times, was highly entertaining. We then began our programme in earnest. Our first activity was watching a simulated crash/rescue exercise by the rescue parties. When we were allowed

to try to fight the fire, instead of extinguishing the fire Tom Badman managed to soak Chris Parsons with an unfortunate slip of the hose.

Having looked around the static aircraft display where Reuben Haylett almost stood on the 'exciting' end of a torpedo whilst boarding a Lynx helicopter, we were shown around HMS Boxer, alongside in the harbour.

After lunch we had a survival lecture and a visit to the Air Traffic Control before taking a flight around the Dorset countryside in a Sea King of 772 NAS. The flight ended with the landing on the stern of RFA Gold Rover. A tour of this ship preceded the ferry ashore on the Fast Patrol Boat HMS Hunter.

Back on Terra Firma we assembled in time for the air display by all elements of the Fleet Air Arm. The day was spoilt by the sad crash of the Jetstream in the harbour with the loss of both pilots at the end of the display. The programme continued, however, and following an address by the Flag Officer Naval Air Command there was the Beating of the Retreat by a Royal Marines band. This terminated what, despite the accident, had been an eventful and informative day, and hopefully we will have the opportunity of attending again next year.

COX'N J. DEAN

Army Section

This has been, once again, a very vigorous and packed programme of events. The Army Section has been well run by Senior NCOs and many and varied activities have been undertaken. These include an arduous walking weekend in Wales for the more senior boys and two battlecraft Field Days, the usual adventurous week in Leek and a summer Greenfield Camp on Sheepstor in Dartmoor. Many boys have been on various weekend visits and courses but particular mention must go to Philippe Thibault and Rex Stenner for their very encouraging reports on the prestigious UKLF training week. Also this year was the Biennial General Inspection.

Biennial General Inspection

This was a thoroughly good day and, I think, given the most awful weather that I can remember, enjoyed by every NCO and cadet that took part.

The day started with a superb display from the Guard of Honour, superbly marshalled in their training by Sgt Thibault and Cpl Stenner, under the firm guidance of SSI Clive Rowland. It must be noted that a reference was actually made by the Inspecting Officer as to how still and rigid the Guard was throughout the heavy drizzle of the inspection.

The training programme started at 2.00 p.m. and Mjr Paul Leyland saw many different Army Section activities, organised in such a well-drilled way by CSM Chris Charlton, whose booklet put the spicing on to a very enjoyable day. A shame about the weather, the wet boots and the trail of mud to the stores and buckets of water to clean dirty boots.

How many times have boys (and staff!) had to enter the Queens Hall on a carpet to ensure that Margaret (the caretaker) did not get too annoyed.

CAPT. S.J. GRUNDY.

What follows are several anecdotal accounts of the Army Section activities in a slightly more detailed fashion and also a very amusing account of the Army Section from the eyes of a 5th form Cadet.

Shooting Competitions

The CCF entered 2 shooting competitions during the year, one with the acronym CADSAM and the other SEDSAM, (who is Sam?). Mostly the 2 teams of four (one senior and one junior) performed very creditably indeed, considering the lack of practice on the recent Cadet Target Rifle (0.762 cm). The best result was certainly registered at SEDSAM where Andrew Rysdale shot superbly to gain the silver medal in the under 16 category. Our best placed senior cadet was David Pike in the SA80 category. Overall the 2 weekends were great fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.

L.CPL. ANDREW RYSDALE 5Y



Aldershot Field Day February 1989

Upon reaching the exercise area, we set out on an orienteering course. This gave us a chance to familiarise ourselves with the exercise area.

After a brief respite, we began the exercise, with Sergeant Knight as platoon commander and myself as platoon sergeant. The three section commanders, Senior Cadets Foster, Cooper and Cracknell, being inexperienced, got off to a shaky start, but soon gained confidence, shouting orders at their sections like veterans. Our mission was to rescue a high ranking diplomat held by enemy forces in the area.

The exercise produced some interesting moments, such as Corporal Slater's voice on the radio net during a successful attack by the platoon (very satisfying) and Cadet Shearer's attempt at a briefing (very brief but amusing). Although at the end of the exercise we managed to misplace the diplomat during the final attack, it was valuable experience for everyone, with the approach of Leek Camp.

CPL. C. BRAY 6BC,

A View of the Army Section

Being a cadet in the army section in the CCF, fortunately one of the very few state schools to have one, can be a very daunting undertaking or just a bit of fun to pass a usually slow and dull Thursday afternoon. On entering the army section, you have to adjust to the way the section is run, not to mention getting used to the different uniform as the teasing and ribbing seems endless, especially on journeys to school. Although it is said that a uniform has certain effects on the female of the species! There are also the itchy shirts, which take some getting used to, although now, thankfully, there are a non-itch style. However, after a bit of drill, it soon becomes unnoticeable. So stand tall and be proud of your uniform! (Quote: Capt.Grundy).

Sometime during the year, the drill and map and compass become second knowledge for most of us, but the weaker souls of the army section can't take any more and have to step down. It certainly improves in the next year and for those hardy enough to stay on, I recommend it.

One thought always on the cadet's mind at this point in his 'army career' is promotion; when and where and even why. Let me warn you, you have to work for it! Quite often before any promotion you find yourself in a sticky situation on a camp where you find yourself selected as a section commander and you wonder what on earth you should do next. This is the moment of truth when you desperately hope you can remember all those points in your training!

The obvious high point to which all the training in battlecraft and map and compass have led are the camps. A tangible feeling of excitement is evident, mixed with the odd bit of apprehension from all the first timers and even the regulars. Everyone's stomach flutters in anticipation and all clanking in the kit (of which all the new cadets seem to bring either too much or too little - we learn by our mistakes) is stopped so that quiet stalking of the enemy can take place and before you know it, a very enjoyable camp has flashed past (good things never last) with very memorable moments for everyone which they no doubt will remember many years on to tell their grandchildren; well maybe.

SEN.CDT. MARK FOSTER 5CP

Army Section: Leek Camp 1989

From the word "go" this camp was to be a memorable one. On Thursday March 24th, after packing the four ton truck the day before, the 7 members of the advanced party left and steadily headed north in the direction of Staffordshire.

After five and a half hours on the road and a good long stare at a Ferrari in an A1 Service Station we eventually arrived at our destination. Butterton School, Leek, Staffordshire, was soon overrun by hoards of Military people and personal kit. After swiftly unloading the truck the party settled down to have something to eat and some drink to wash it all down. A long day's sleeping in the back of a camouflaged vehicle demands non-strenuous activity the following evening.

On the following day, after long delays the main party arrived. Personal kit was quickly sorted and the evening comprised the camp briefing and perhaps a movie. Saturday saw the beginning of the camp proper with cadets being taught essential camp-craft skills needed for the exercise to run smoothly. A demanding score orienteering course was tackled in the afternoon.

The exercise started at 0945 hours on the next morning. The poor, confused and burdened Platoon Commander was finally allowed to carry out his mission, executing it to the best of his ability. With the enemy wandering off in all directions, not quite knowing where they were at, or where they were supposed to be for that matter, this was no simple feat. The exercise did run smoothly and after a good shoot, became slightly more invigorating. Thanks to all of the cadets for their cooperation.

Tuesday brought forth the miserable weather expected at this camp. The day's walk on Kinderscout looked to be in jeopardy but eventually the low, wet cloud burnt away to give a sunny day. A small bet was undertaken by some of the cadets and a member of staff and although an illegal route was forced on the favourites, the bet was not made void and money was paid.

Wednesday saw the onslaught of rock climbing, the famous initiative tests and the football match against the local youth side. With the opposition not being as youthful as expected, we went down 3-1 in a very competitive manner.

On leaving the camp on Thursday we discovered we had one lad with three stitches in his head and another on crutches for 6 weeks. A great time was obviously had by all!

SGT. SLATER 6SB,

As usual, warm thanks go to all the Senior NCO's for their help in running the camp and the Army Section in the past year, with particular thank yous to CSM Chris Charlton, C.Sgt Paul Dollin, C.Sgt Simon Rake, Sgt Richard Knight, Sgt Dominic Ellis and Sgt Philippe Thibault.

Also much heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Cooper, Capt Hollingsworth, Lt Boreham and Sgt Sadler of 16 CTT for all of their individual help in the running of Leek Camp and, of course, many other activities.

CAPT. GRUNDY.

2 Lt. P.L. Wilkes

After 3 years with us Phil has moved onto pastures new with a middle school in Porthcawl, Wales, his home town. Phil has always had itchy feet and longed to return to the water to windsurf, hang glide, water ski and any new adventure he could think of.

Phil had his own indomitable style with the boys and was well liked by all. His main strength was his ability to adapt to new changes, particularly on exercise with comments like "what do we do next, Steve?" or with much thought and planning in advance he would arrive on a field day saying "anything you want me to do?"

What a great and affable character who will, and already has been sorely missed. I and all my colleagues wish him a heartfelt thanks for all his help whilst at the R.G.S. and all the very best for the future.

Capt. S.J. GRUNDY
Officer i/c Army Section

RAF Section

This has been another busy and active year. The Fourth Form intake was restricted to 30 cadets, which kept the section to 80 members - a manageable number on our limited adult strength. The senior N.C.O.'s have carried out the training programme to the usual high standard, resulting in 100% pass rate in the proficiency exams.

At the time of writing, it is pleasing to report that Flying Scholarships have been won by Neil Seymour and Duncan Ayling; University Cadetships have been awarded to Brian Robinson and Stephen Todd, who has also had the honour over the last year of being the CCF Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Buckinghamshire; and a Direct Entry place has been offered to Damon Middleton.

We have had much support from the Liaison Staff, Flt.Lt J. Lloyd and especially F/Sgt T. Wood; and also a warm welcome to Mrs V. Seymour, a parent, who is coming to assist the section.

Our training programme has concentrated on 'standard' activities. Cadets have attended numerous courses and camps at RAF bases in Germany, Gibraltar, Locking and St Athan, accounts of which follow.

My thanks to all the helpers and to the senior N.C.O.'s now leaving to take up University and/or flying careers.
A.J. SOLLARS, O/C RAF SECTION

RAF St Athan July 1988

The section spent last year's summer camp (16-23 July 1988) at RAF St Athan, along with RAF sections from Liverpool and South London.

There was plenty of flying for all, with a jet provost flight for one of the Warrant Officers. Our programme included shooting the new cadet rifle, section visits to the Tornado and Jaguar servicing flights, visits to the air traffic control tower and driver training school, a night exercise and a drill competition, which James Gibson managed to miss because of an ankle injury from a tent peg.

Also halfway through the week we all hitched a lift on a Hercules to Lossiemouth, North West Scotland, with an RAF team preparing to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End, in aid of charity.

During part of the return journey, the rear cargo doors were opened to give some breathtaking views of the Scottish Highlands.

For most of the time the tented accommodation was soaking wet, but this could not spoil the great enthusiasm all

42 male and 9 female cadets and N.C.O.'s had for the camp. Our thanks go to Sqn.Ldr. Sollars for his invaluable contribution.

SGT. B.A. ROBINSON.

RAF Locking April 1989

On 5th April, 3 cadets and 2 N.C.O.'s assembled at school and travelled by minibus in an unseasonable blizzard to RAF Locking in Weston-Super-Mare. There were approximately 25 pupils from 5 other schools around the country.

During the week everyone went flying at Bristol at least once, visiting SS Great Britain on the return journey, dry-skiing and shooting on the L98 cadet rifle, as well as the .22 rifle. A navigation exercise, which had started at Wookey Hole, along the Mendip Way, gave spectacular views overlooking Somerset. And a visit to the Air Museum at RNAS Yeovilton allowed us to explore the history of early flight right up to Concorde.

In all a very enjoyable time was had by all on a very good camp. Our thanks to Squadron Leader Sollars.

CPL. R. TULLOCH. CPL. K.M. WOOTTON

RAF Laarbruch April 1989

This Easter four cadets from the R.G.S. took the opportunity to attend a camp at R.A.F. Laarbruch in W.Germany, with 26 other cadets from around the country. After a particularly arduous coach journey, we arrived three hours later than expected; at 2 o'clock in the morning. We were up at seven o'clock the same morning to start the well organised camp programme. Most of the programme was taken up with section visits which included: all the active flying squadrons, the weapon storage facility, the dog section, the fire section, air traffic control and all the various sections which service the different parts of the Tornado. Also during the week a competition was held between two flights which consisted of such events as cross country, a fitness course, shooting and drill.

Our evenings were filled by playing football against the local A.T.C., swimming, a barbecue, a night exercise and various other attractions!

During the weekend the programme organised a visit to the local town, Kleve, to the airborne museum in Arnhem and to Overloon, the Dutch National War Museum.

We were very privileged whilst on this camp for the great hospitality shown, for all the things we were able to see and learn. We are very grateful to all involved. The camp was enjoyed immensely by the four of us; Cpl. Read, Cpl. Seymour, Cdt. Dewar, Cdt. Wells.

CPL. PHIL READ.

18th UKLF Cadet Leadership Course Easter 1989

On the 25th March cadets from all over the UK and some from Canada arrived at Wathgill Camp, Richmond in Yorkshire, for probably the busiest 10 days they had ever seen. The course involves LMG shooting, Cadet SA80 rifle shooting, assault course competitions, watermanship,

signals, fieldcraft, tactics, first aid, map reading, cadet lectures, confidence talks, orienteering and 3 exercises of 8 hours, 12 hours and 24 hours duration.

The exercises are very enjoyable and rewarding if the weather is good; if it isn't, then they are still rewarding but being freezing cold, wet, hungry, tired, lying in a ditch in a wood at 4 a.m. for long periods, is not very enjoyable.

Advice to any cadet going on future courses is to revise fieldcraft and signals especially if not in the army section. I was the only cadet from the RGS on this particular course and although friends are made, I would advise trying to go with a friend.

This course is hard and one has no spare time, but at the end, I was very glad that I had done it.

D.J. AYLING

CCF Gibraltar Camp - Easter 1989

This year two RAF corporals from the RGS attended this camp, although there were an equal number of about 80 army and RAF cadets from schools throughout the UK. Accommodation was on the RAF station, in barracks right next to the runway. The programme was less military than UK based camps and comprised three days for activities from each of the three services: - perhaps the most tiring was the busy day spent with the Royal Green Jackets. On Sunday there was a trip to sunny Spain but unfortunately it rained all day. The remainder of the week was spent visiting the numerous caves and tunnels inside the rock. Despite a "hairy" landing and variable weather, a good time was had by all, and I strongly recommend this camp.

CPL. HANCOX

*Flying Scholarship boys outside Gaunt Room.
Empringham, Todd, Sellors, Fines-Allin, Middleton,
Robinson, A.J.S.*



Old Wycombiensian's Club Annual General Meeting

19 Old Boys attended the A.G.M. of the Club, held in the Masters' Common Room before the Annual Dinner.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed and signed.

Matters Arising. The President reported that the area of the old canteen had not yet been re-instated. Part of the area is going to be a memorial to G.B. Ward, (1979-81), an Old Boy lost over the Bristol Channel whilst serving in the R.A.F. His parents were providing it and the delay was causing embarrassment.

The Treasurer read the Auditors' Report on the state of the Club's finances. The deficit for the year of £522 was £258 greater than the previous year. Life subscriptions each year are credited to the Capital Account and these amounted to £780 during the year. After deducting the deficit of £522, the balance on the Capital Account increased by £258 to £4,554.

All the Officers of the Club were re-elected. A vote of thanks was given to John Read for his work as Auditor.

The President, in his comments, looked forward to the refurbishment of the Old Hall as the new School Library. The School now controls its budget, although the Local Authority is responsible for the outside fabric and it would take £300,000 to put that right.

Questions were asked about opting out and the National Curriculum. The President stated there were no plans to opt out and he was confident the School would take the National Curriculum in its stride.

The Chairman thanked the Hon. Secretary for his work during the year and the meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

ANNUAL DINNER 1989

92 Old Boys attended the Annual Dinner and the toast to the School and Club was proposed by S.B. Gamester (1962-69). The Headmaster replied with a review of the School events and stated that the School was in good heart.

Deaths - Old Boys

EDWARDS A. (1929-34). Arthur Edwards died on 27th March 1989 in hospital in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, after a short illness, aged 71. Arthur joined the L.N.E.R. from school, living in Gerrards Cross, and moved to Yorkshire in 1968 when the Eastern and North Eastern Regions of British Rail merged. Arthur was a more than adequate goalkeeper of the school soccer team and in local league football. He served with the Royal Engineers during the war, after which he made a reputation as a referee in local football.

LAYNE T.E. (1915-24). Thomas Edward Layne, F.C.I.I., F.I.A.S., died on May 6th 1988 in Harrow, Middlesex.

Tom Layne had a long and active surveying career and he was an early pioneer of the composite surveying philosophy. On retirement from Matthews Wrightson he began a fresh career in freelance survey work, something of a novelty in the 1960's but more commonplace now. He also gave great support to the development of security surveying, in its early beginnings, through the Association of Burglary Insurance Surveyors. His other great interest was to be found in steam railways, more particularly the Great Western, and for a time

he served as a director of the Great Western Preservation Society.

PAINE R.G. (1923-30) died on 4th May 1988, of hepatitis caught whilst on holiday in Majorca. He has left a wife, Vera, and two boys, Reg and Angus.

ROLFE N. (1979-85) Neville Rolfe was tragically killed in a road accident in Turkey, whilst on holiday with his two cousins, who were also killed. He would have been 21 the month after he died. Neville had been treated to the holiday by his parents as a reward for gaining his Geography degree from Southampton University. He was due to start a job with an engineering firm in Leatherhead when he returned. As a youngster in Naphill, he had taken a very active part in the life of the village, being involved particularly with the scouts, youth club and sports clubs.

Notes

ANDREWS S.T.H. (1972-80) is still in the Royal Anglian Regiment serving in West Germany, where he takes over as Adjutant to his batallion in July 1989. He is getting married in December 1989. He is still in touch with SUMMERS M. (1972-80) who has changed his name to SOMERS. He lives in Cheshire where he is the Area Manager for Kelly's Directories.

AXTON J.A. (1922-26) retired some time ago from the N.A.T.O. Codification section of the M.O.D. and is now interested in genealogy and travelling. He has learnt that he hails from an old Hazlemere family - Axten - the name was misspelt on his father's marriage certificate in the late 19th century.

BENYON J.E. (1965-72) has moved to a larger house in Burgess Hill to accommodate his family, now five with the arrival of Emily at the end of last year. John is currently employed by the Civil Aviation Authority as an airworthiness surveyor, heading a section responsible for the certification and continued airworthiness of aero engines.

BRITTON G. (1978-84) graduated with Honours in Economics and Business from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania in May 1988. He returned to England in December and is working as a management consultant for a company in Bourne End.

CAMP J.E. (1954-60) has left his job as a part-time minister at St James', Downley after nine months, to work full-time as a hospital chaplain in Northampton. He is continuing to live in the local area and is commuting to his new post.

CHADWICK J.W.M. (1967-74) has been a partner in Gamlens, a Lincoln's Inn firm of solicitors, since 1985. His brother, CHADWICK P.D. (1958-65) is now Secretary General of the Church Urban Fund.

CLARKE S.L.H. (1941-43) a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, was made a C.B.E. in the June 1988 Birthday Honours List.

CONNOR N.R. (1972-79) is still selling computers and playing rugby for Basingstoke, who reached the Hants Cup Final this year and are hoping to get promoted to Area League South.

DARVILLE J.M. (1960-67) is still a Lecturer in Medical Virology at Bristol University. He became a member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1988 but finds prospects for the advancement of scientists limited. He is the father of three children and is in contact with HERON R.L. (1960-67) and COLLEY J.P. (1960-67) twin of COLLEY P.M. and now himself the father of twin sons.

DODGSON A. (1913-1918) the Hon. Sec. was reading his father's Year Book of the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, when he came across a name he recognised from the Old Boys' Lists. Allan Dodgson is now one of the very few surviving St.Marksmen having left Chelsea in 1921. He spent last Christmas in Sweden, celebrating his 88th birthday with his large family. Sadly, he reports that brother Jim is now in a nursing home in Gerrards Cross, whilst Jim's son Peter, an Old Boy from the fifties, is working for EMI on secret radar work.

DRAPER P. (1948-55) has resigned from Procter and Gamble and has taken the position of General Manager of the Japan Market Research Bureau. After 25 years with Richardson-Vicks Procter and Gamble, he is very sad to leave but he is looking forward to the new challenge that awaits him.

FAULKNER R. (1962-69) has moved from Bristol to Scunthorpe where Roger is taking up his first appointment as a Methodist Minister, with pastoral charge of two churches. He joined Equity and Law on leaving school, and while he was chief inspector in Manchester, he became a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute. He trained for the ministry at Wesley College, Bristol.

HANDS S.E. (1915-21) founder member of the Old Wycombiensian Rugby Club, now the very successful High Wycombe Rugby Club, attended the sixtieth anniversary dinner of the club, held in the New Dining Hall of the school. Guest of Honour was Cliff Morgan, the former Welsh fly-half and noted broadcaster.

HEATHER F.J. (1937-45) retired in October 1988 after 38 years in journalism, mostly with Associated Newspapers, concluding his career as Managing Editor of the Mail on Sunday's YOU magazine and, for a final year, as Assistant to the Editor of the Evening Standard. He still indulges in occasional seminar lectures.

HOLLINGSWORTH P.J. (1967-74) has been working as Commercial Manager within ICI Garden Products for the past two years. He has found working alongside people who put together the marketing package for a new lawn care product, Grasshopper, fascinating. He has now moved from Hampshire to Cheshire where he is now Assistant Controller-Operations within ICI Colours and Fine Chemicals. In other words, he is the accountant within the major production function of ICI producing 'speciality' chemicals - mostly for dyes, agrochemicals, polyurethanes and pharmaceuticals. Brother HOLLINGSWORTH A.M. (1972-79) is still enjoying work at the Puffin bookshop in Covent Garden.

HAMILTON R.J.M. (1982-84) is back home in Bourne End after spending two years in the world's most notorious army, the French Foreign Legion. He joined in January 1987 after walking into the Legion office in Nice and after one day he was whisked away to Marseilles for training and interrogation of his motives for joining. He served his time

with a parachute regiment in Corsica, and he was able to put the French he had studied at Sussex University to good use.

JONES F.A. (1957-63) is a Systems Engineer for the Mars Group, who have put his language training to good use by sending him all over Europe and one or two other places.

JORDAN M.A. (1970-77) is still active playing rugby for High Wycombe Rugby Club (in fact there is a very large contingent of OW's contributing in various ways to the success of the Club) and he works for a large insurance company. Brother JORDAN R.W. (1974-80) gained a degree in Microbiology at Surrey in 1984, was awarded his Ph.D in 1988 and is now working for the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge. From January to April 1989 he was on board RRS Charles Darwin in Antarctic waters.

HEYS M.C. (1983-87) is now an assistant golf professional at Wexham Park G.C. near Slough.

LIDGLEY P.P. (1969-76) is still working far too hard as a chartered surveyor, and has now moved to an old railway station in rural Hampshire.

MARCAN P. (1962-67) "Directory and Bibliography", which is a borough by borough guide to local history, organisations, their activities and publications, can be obtained from Peter Marcan Publications, 31 Rowloff Road, High Wycombe, HP12 3LD price £15 plus 75p postage and packing.

McDOWELL P.R. (1957-64) has been living in Edinburgh since 1974 and after several jobs in the Electronics Industry has now set up his own Design Consultancy. The work is very varied covering such diverse areas as monitoring beer in pub cellars to equipment for finding water leaks. He is married with two children and anyone wishing to have some electronic design work done is invited to contact him at 93 Newington Road, Edinburgh.

MOLESWORTH D.V.C. (1972-79) returned to South Africa in April 1988, finding the lure of its weather and way of life too much to resist. His three years in the Republic's coal mining industry ended with participation in the South African Andean Incan Expedition from January to April 1987. After three months further travel in South America and a further three months in the USA, he arrived back in the UK in October 1987. Back home he worked as a motorcycle despatch rider for Delta Despatch, High Wycombe.

MONAGHAN N.R. (1965-72) married Emma, a publishing editor, in June 1988 and they have bought an old farmhouse in north Bucks. He continues to practise at the Bar in London and regularly sees SHERRIFF N.J. (1965-72) who is married and living in Battersea, and BUCHANAN J.G. (1967-74) who runs his own advertising agency in Princes Risborough.

MONK T.R. (1964-67) is Staff Relations Officer at the Eagle Star Insurance Company, based in Cheltenham.

NEWPORT P.J. (1975-81) became the RSG's first Test cricketer when he played against Sri Lanka last summer and was subsequently chosen for the abandoned tour of India. He had an excellent season for Worcestershire and contributed significantly to their winning of the County Championship. On the day these notes are being written, he has taken ten

wickets in the day against the touring Australians, which must augur well for his Test prospects this summer.

ORR R.M. (1970-77) is now programming personal computers in the Research and Development part of the Stock Exchange. He is now the father of two daughters. He is in contact with two contemporaries, HOY J. who is at the Overseas Development Administration in London and Appleton R. who has moved back to London after being in Aberdeen for a few years. Brother ORR M.T. (1972-78) has been appointed Associate Professor in Fine Art at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin.

PAINÉ J.C. (1926-31) has now moved up to the north of Victoria, close to the Murray River. He has a place with two and a half acres, which is all he feels able to cope with these days. He plays bowls and golf on the other side of the river in New South Wales. Nearby at Corowa is the largest bowling club in the world, well financed over the years by poker machines which bring Victorians up by the coachload to lose their money. Poker machines are banned in Victoria!

PEARCE S.J. (1968-75) is still working for Healey and Baker in London. He has been forced to give up rugby. Sadly, his brother John has been debilitated recently but remains chirpy and can be contacted at Ward 6, Bridge of Weir Hospital, Renfrewshire.

PEATEY B.C. (1941-49) retired early from the Civil Service in October 1988. He particularly enjoys not having to entrust himself to British Rail every day, but is finding life almost as busy as when he was working. He is producing a 5 year plan for renovating a neglected garden.

PEATEY G.R. (1937-41) is a Civil Engineer, Chief Executive of the Parliament House Construction Authority Canberra, responsible for the building of the splendid new Parliament Building in Canberra, opened by the Queen in April 1988. He is retiring in March 1989 and planning to come to Europe, his wife Edna has family in Naphill.

PICKLES B. (1937-41) in November 1988, a tiny 300 year old, one star hotel, won the prestigious R.A.C. Blue Ribbon award, the R.A.C.'s top honour. Bernard Pickles manages this hotel - the Minffordd Hotel, with the help of his wife Jessica and son Jonathan. Inspectors visited the hotel incognito and were very much impressed by this small quality hotel at the foot of Cader Idris in Tallyllin, Tywyn, Gwynedd, N. Wales. If any Old Boy wants cosy, comfortable surroundings with good food and good company, let him ring 065473-665.

QUINEY R.E. (1967-74) is now a Surgical Registrar in Brighton for two years. He is still in contact with HARDY R.M. (1967-74) Consultant Surgeon, Ottawa, Canada, and WOODLEY J. (1967-72) a photographer in Bristol.

ROITH O. (1942-44) chief engineer and scientist at the Transport Department 1982-87, has been appointed to the Board of London Transport by Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary. "His expertise in the engineering and safety fields will be of particular help", Mr Channon stated.

SABINE C.R. (1957-66) is now Head of Liphook Junior School, Hampshire. He is still heavily involved with computers in education, especially education administration. His school is one of two in Hampshire which are piloting the computer system that will enable Local Management of Schools.

SEARLE R.A. (1969-76) has been appointed Team Vicar of the parish of All Saints', South Shields. He is in charge of a church on a large working-class council estate (parish population 27,000). Life is good and he has been made an adopted Geordie by his friends. He complains that the local ale is not very good.

SEARS N. (1924-29) has been retired for ten years but still finds figures fascinating. He is honorary treasurer of four charitable bodies and audits half-a-dozen others and is still an active lay-preacher among several denominations. He has re-established contact with FISHER F.R. (1924-29) who has moved from Bognor to Chichester and is active enough to cultivate an allotment as well as the garden. Norman would like news of any of the 1924 III Lower A entry who are still around.

SEYMOUR R.J. (1961-64) following 12 years as a consultant with Logica B.V. has just returned to the UK as Operations Manager of a dynamic systems house in Bristol. Brother Seymour W.J. (1961-66) having spent 15 years in marketing computer systems and services, now runs his own company, Progress Management. Providing a large luxury yacht as management vehicle, he advises companies on incentives programmes, management development and training from his base in Farnham, Surrey.

SHACKELL W.E. (1951-60) has now moved to the Ministry of Defence in London and reports that his brother John (1955-63) is now a Headmaster in Horsham, Sussex.

SHARP H.W. (1976-82) having left Exeter University was recruited to the Corporate Finance Department of National Westminster's International Banking Division. He spent 8 months in that department and has now been promoted to the Regional Office for France, based in Paris.

STEVENS D.W. (1933-40) has recently seen through the press a two volume edition of his collected essays and reviews, entitled 'Musicology in Practice'. The contents range from his first published article, written in 1948, to recent reviews of the New York musical scene for the London Musical Times.

SWINHOE-STANDEN R.A.P. (1975-81) is still soldiering on in the Royal Artillery, and has been posted back to Wiltshire, having been in West Germany for the past 3(1/2) years, including four exercise trips to Canada. He reports that WELCH N., of the same vintage, is serving with the Gloucestershire Regiment.

TAYLOR J.W.K. (1918-23) missed the 1988 Annual Dinner, because his family insisted that he attend his 80th birthday party, which they had organised. He writes of the first Old Boys' tie which led to several people being greeted by Old Etonians, as the colours were the same. He has seen several of his vintage recently, Eric George, Jack Ludman, Jack Peace, Dick (Tiger) Morris and Walter Carden, who he sees frequently - they are both trustees of the Penn Memorial playing fields.

TIMBERLAKE N.C. (1971-79) recently returned to High Wycombe after six years away living in Birmingham and Brighton. Neil is now Sales and Marketing Officer of the Berks and Bucks Bus Company Limited, which, trading as The Bee Line, operates many of the buses and coaches in the area, including ferrying RGS boys to and from school. He is still active in politics and recently stood as the Social and

Liberal Democrat candidate in a by-election for Wycombe District Council, polling over 44% of the vote but, alas, not quite winning. Nevertheless, enthused by the experience, he looks forward to future contests. He was recently delighted to get a call out of the blue from BUTCHER K.M. (1975-78) whom Neil had not met since Keith's wedding.

TRIMMINGS N.P. (1962-69) has been appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the Royal County Hospital, Winchester.

WALTER J.F. (1923-27) last October, for family reasons, moved from North Norfolk to the small village of Topcliffe near Thirsk in North Yorkshire. He, and his wife Mollie, are enjoying their new environment and in May 1989 celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Their daughter and family are coming over from New Zealand for the celebrations.

WARD J.R. (1956-61) is a lecturer in Economic History at Edinburgh University and his most recent book 'British West Indian Slavery 1750-1834' was published by the Oxford University Press on 25th August 1988. For his next area of research he is exchanging the Carribean for the economic development of India from 1800 to the present. His aim is to write a general textbook on economic development in the Third World over the last hundred years or so.

WINTER P.E. (1960-68) continues to live in a solar-powered house just outside Nairobi and to travel around E.Africa as Sales Manager of BP Solar, E.Africa. He is still an active rock climber and went heli-skiing in New Zealand last year.

WOLFENDEN I.P. (1974-80) is now a Barrister working in Liverpool.

Old Wycombiensian Lodge No. 6754

The Lodge was consecrated on Thursday, 6th January 1949 in the School Assembly Hall by Right Worshipful Brother Major General Lord Burnham, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire.

The Freemason's Chronicle of the 29th January 1949 records that the Provincial Grand Master expressed the view "that it was very appropriate that a school such as The Royal Grammar School should have for its Old Boys the assistance of a Masonic Lodge, born from one of life's earliest loyalties. In the affectionate attachment retained for one's old school throughout the after years, there was in the formation of a Lodge of Old Boys a very special appeal", and it is these sentiments which inspired the motives and actions of both the Founders and Sponsoring Lodge, Wycombe Lodge No. 1501.

The name and crest of the Lodge were adopted from the arms of the School, containing the inscription 'Schola Regia Wycombiensis' and the Old Boys' Association known as The Old Wycombiensian Club.

Initially the Lodge met at the School, but in 1952 the Regular Meetings were transferred to The Oak Room at The Town Hall. The Lodge met there until 1971, at which point the meetings were moved to The Masonic Centre at Marlow, continuing to the present time.

The Lodge meets four times a year, and also supports the charitable objects of Freemasonry through The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions. Donations are also made to a number of non-masonic charities, notably Hospices.

In January the Lodge celebrated its fortieth anniversary, and is very proud to have been invited to host, in September next year, the annual meeting of The Federation of School Lodges, which will be held in The Queen's Hall and attended by three hundred delegates from School Lodges all over the country.

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