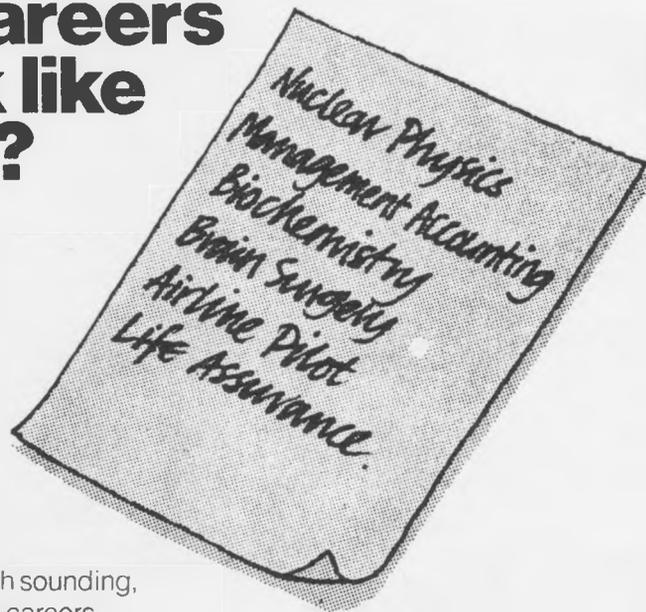


THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

JUNE 1977

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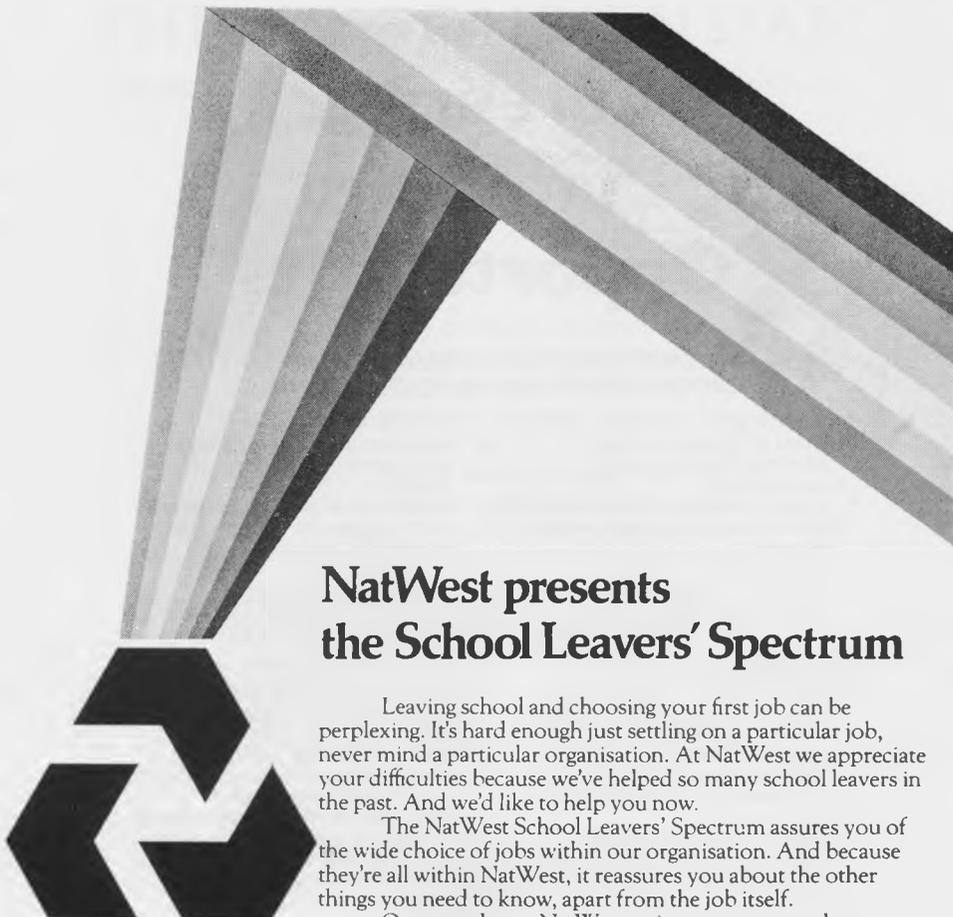
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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

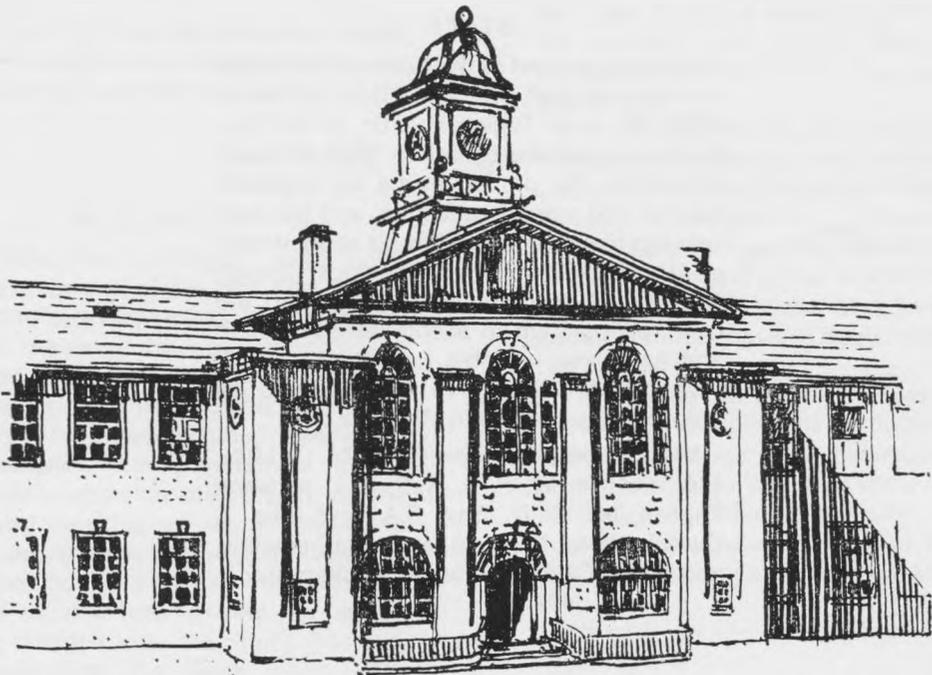
MAY 1977

EDITORIAL

This year we were positively inundated with contributions, some good, some less so, which were eagerly accepted by the editors. Our thanks go both to you and to the publicity department for this. It took a good few lunch-times to wade through all your work, and to decide what to publish and what to reject. If your efforts have not appeared in print we hope you will look forward to further opportunities to contribute in the next edition.

Thanks to all those who helped to produce the magazine.

C. C. Tite, K. Butcher, C. Standen, R. Reed, I. M. Channing, R. P. Easterbrook, P. Lord et al.





STAFF

We lose at the end of the Summer Term four members of staff: Mr. W. Clark, Mr. A. C. Hills, Mr. J. A. Tucker and Dr. R. W. Fair. Dr. Fair joined the school in 1972 to teach Chemistry. He proved to be an excellent teacher and valued colleague, and his success has been recognised by his appointment as Head of Chemistry at Warwick School. Outside the laboratory he has guided the Orienteering Club in accomplished fashion and has given valuable help to the R.A.F. section of the C.C.F. We wish him and his wife every happiness in Warwick.

We welcome in September Mr. C. Mills, B.A. and Mr. W. P. J. Ruff, B.A. to teach English, Mr. S. D. Box, B.A. and Miss J. Curnow, B.A., M.Sc. to teach Mathematics, and Mr. J. Cave, B.A. to teach Chemistry.

W. CLARK

Wally Clark, former scholar of Selwyn College Cambridge was appointed head of the mathematics department in January 1936. At that time the school with strong classical traditions had two boys studying mathematics in the sixth form; the numbers have mushroomed to about 170 today!

Apart from six years war service with the Royal Artillery, he taught full time until 1974 and then decided to continue on a part time basis. He has given invaluable service to the school and to innumerable youths who will remember him as a firm disciplinarian and a rigorous exponent of his subject.

An accomplished pianist he proved a great asset when the Gilbert & Sullivan operas were an annual feature of school life.

A forthright but kindly midlander, Wally has mellowed over the years—his hair has changed from sandy to grey, his mode of transport from a bicycle to a Cortina and his status from new recruit to president of the Common room.

Many colleagues have envied him his ability to enjoy a regular lunch-time snooze in what is regarded as his chair, before he has embarked on further Pythagorean instruction.

We all wish him and his wife many happy years of retirement after what has been a life time of devoted service to members of the School.

H.S.

A. C. HILLS

Charles Hills, Head of English since 1949, is retiring at the end of this term and already we begin to sense the extent of our impending loss. His manifold contributions to the life of the school, some now almost forgotten, some quite unexpected, and all of them invaluable, have included editing the *Wycombiensian* with professional proof-reader's skill; umpiring majestically on the cricket-field; making-up the principals in dramatic productions; singing an awesome bass in the choir and playing an even more awesome double-bass in the orchestra; presiding eruditely over the Stamp Society; and shepherding the Sixth Form with

pastoral zeal and a sympathy for black sheep. In addition to these have been his truly profound knowledge of his chosen subject and his ability to encourage and inspire his pupils.

These, however, are the virtues which command respect, even awe. To inspire affection a schoolmaster also needs some quirks of character, some foibles, preferably idiosyncratic and imitable; these Charles has. Nature endowed him with a lofty and portly presence but the gliding in billowing gown like a stately Spanish galleon was his own invention. The measured, ministerial manner of speech, always grammatically faultless; the pensive stroking of his paunch (in recent, post-operation years merely a reminiscent gesture) as he delivered his opinions, slumped comfortably in his arm-chair, these will remain in the memory.

His colleagues acknowledge his generosity, his loyalty and, above all, his consistent Christianity. He will be succeeded: he cannot be replaced.

A.J.S.

J. A. TUCKER

Mr. 'Jim' Tucker is leaving us at the end of the summer term, forced into premature retirement with 30 years of good teaching still in him.

He came to the Royal Grammar School, which he attended as a boy, from Hazlemere Church of England School in 1944 and left in 1950 to become Deputy Headmaster at Hatters Lane School. He retired from there in 1966 at the end of the academic year but his zest and vitality were not to be contained and he returned to us in September 1966 to teach Mathematics.

The help he has given in the last 11 years has been invaluable. His particular strength is his sympathetic and understanding approach with boys who find some aspects of the subject difficult. In some ways he possessed the 'happy knack' for which Mr. P. L. (Pilgy) Jones was so well known and liked.

We wish him and his wife every happiness.

M.M.D.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES 1976-77

We congratulate the following on gaining Open Awards :

- A. R. Berendt : Open Scholarship in Medical Sciences, Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- D. J. Gardiner : Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Peterhouse, Cambridge.
- M. I. Hagger : Open Exhibition in Engineering, Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
- D. P. Keen : Open Exhibition in History & Law, Trinity College, Cambridge.
- S. J. Parker : Open Demyship in Modern Studies, Magdalen College, Oxford.
- A. C. Rackham : Open Exhibition in Engineering, Jesus College, Cambridge.
- K. Richmond : Open Exhibition in English, Brasenose College, Oxford.

Places at Oxford and Cambridge for 1977 :

- P. J. Atfield : Christ's College, Cambridge for Natural Sciences.
- C. Boggon : Worcester College, Oxford for P.P.E.
- S. Coltman : Jesus College, Cambridge for Natural Sciences.
- J. S. Dicker : Queen's College, Cambridge for Engineering.
- R. J. Edwards : Pembroke College, Cambridge for Geography.
- G. Lewis : Magdalen College, Oxford for Modern Languages.
- A. B. McElroy : Churchill College, Cambridge for Natural Sciences.
- C. P. Mould : Magdalen College, Oxford for History.
- G. J. Murnane : Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge for Engineering.
- A. C. Pillidge : Corpus Christi College, Cambridge for Natural Sciences.
- S. M. Reed : Trinity College, Cambridge for Law.
- R. A. Searle : Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, for Theology & Religious Studies.
- N. J. Shepherd (Conditional) : Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge for Geography.
- T. G. Strickland : Merton College, Oxford for Law.
- L. Underwood : Brasenose College, Oxford for Modern History & Economics.
- C. Webb : Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge for Engineering.

University Places 1976 :

- T. Ahmed : Leicester, Mathematics with Astronomy.
- T. P. Airey : University College, London, Medicine (for 1977).
- C. D. P. Austin : Exeter, Engineering Science (for 1977).
- N. Bowen : University of Wales Institute of Science & Technology, Law.
- J. A. Bower : Bath, Mathematics.
- C. P. Brown : Reading, Economics.
- D. J. Brown : Bedford College, London, English (for 1977).
- A. J. Buchanan : Queen Elizabeth College, London, Food & Management Science.
- A. S. Burnand : Bristol, Psychology.
- R. P. Chambers : Southampton, Mechanical Engineering (R.A.F. Scholarship).
- N. Cleverley : Birmingham, Physics.
- M. D. Copcutt : Bristol, Aeronautical Engineering.
- M. C. Coulter : Keele, French.
- D. N. Currie : Southampton, Economics / Business Studies.
- J. P. Diffley : Leeds, Law.
- C. R. Dixon : Warwick, Accounting & Financial Analysis.
- M. H. Dixon : Bristol, Mechanical Engineering.
- P. Dolphin : Manchester, Mathematics.
- S. J. Eckersall : London Hospital Medical College, London, Medicine (for 1977).
- G. M. Edwards : Keele.
- A. M. Fenton : Loughborough, Mechanical Engineering.
- M. Fisher : Southampton, Electronic Engineering (for 1977).
- R. D. Gray : Leicester, Combined Arts Studies.
- S. P. Gray : Aston, Management & Administration Science.
- R. W. M. Greaves : Lancaster, Psychology.
- P. J. Green : Brunel, Building Technology.
- M. A. Grieve : Exeter, Social Studies / Psychology.

R. D. J. Harvey: Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Accountancy.

C. A. Hawtree: University College, London, English.

I. N. Hazlewood: Bristol, Mechanical Engineering (for 1977).

C. J. L. Hellier: University of Wales Institute of Science & Technology, Town Planning Studies.

S. Hoare: Southampton, Archaeology & History.

M. R. Hopkins: University College, London, Mathematics.

A. D. Jones: Birmingham, Development Studies.

N. V. Lawrence: Aston, Civil Engineering.

P. P. Lidgley: Bristol, Science/Geography.

I. D. Lipscombe: Loughborough, Business Management/Modern Languages.

P. A. Logan: Hull, Law.

M. C. A. Long: Aberystwyth, Agriculture.

W. F. Longworth: Bradford, Mechanical Engineering.

S. Masters: Royal Veterinary College, London, Veterinary Science.

I. S. Mason: Royal Veterinary College, London, Veterinary Science.

D. W. Merriman: Leeds, French/Management Studies.

M. Morphew: Swansea, Geology & Oceanography.

S. J. Newman: Swansea, Economics & Social Studies (R.A.F. Cadetship).

R. A. Parks: Queen Mary College, London, Biology.

P. W. Peckham: Warwick, Engineering Science (for 1977).

J. M. Preece: King's College, London, Medicine.

J. de W. Preston: Lanchester, Urban & Regional Planning.

I. D. Quiney: St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine.

S. D. Roe: Imperial College, London, Biochemistry.

I. C. Rollins: Reading, Latin.

P. T. Russell: Southampton, Electronic Engineering.

J. J. Scorey: Brunel, Metals & Industrial Administration.

P. W. Scott: Brunel, Mechanical Engineering.

W. J. Shadbolt: Exeter, Chemical Engineering.

F. R. A. Sharps: Surrey, Hotel & Catering Administration.

M. E. J. Sinden: University College, London, Law.

R. P. Steare: Bedford College, London, History.

M. A. Stinchcombe: Southampton, Accountancy & Law.

C. B. Stottor: Bangor, English & History.

T. W. Tagg: Nottingham, Civil Engineering.

A. T. Thornton: Glasgow, Marine Engineering.

J. B. Vaughan: Surrey, Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

I. P. R. Wallis: Brunel, Economics & European Studies.

A. R. I. Walker: University College, London, Geography.

G. F. Watts: Manchester Institute of Science & Technology, Maths/French.

C. D. Woodbridge: Warwick, Comparative American Studies (for 1977).

P. B. Yaghmourian: Leeds, French/Management Studies.

Polytechnics (Degree Courses)

S. R. Calvert: South Bank, Surveying.

J. Gavin: London, Accountancy.

D. G. Lindsay: City of London, Business Studies.

T. A. Pawley: Bristol, Building Science (deferred entry).

I. H. Price: City of London, Business Studies.

J. H. Sands: Portsmouth, Hotel & Catering Administration.

Other Colleges of Higher Education

G. M. Bishop: Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Business Studies.

S. C. Cooper: Sandhurst.

P. S. Copas: Royal College of Music (1977).

P. L. Edwards: Guildhall School of Music.

D. G. Fallows: Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.

M. W. P. Ferguson: Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.

M. Hobbs: Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Business Studies.

- A. C. A. Horner: Ealing Technical College, Business Studies.
 C. M. Shepherd: Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Art.
 S. D. Taylor: Slough College, Business Studies.
 H. M. Thomas: Ealing Technical College, Accountancy.

R.G.S. GEOGRAPHY FIELD COURSE Aberystwyth, 1st–8th April 1977

On the last day of the Spring term we set off from R.G.S. to see if all Mr. Samways had said about Aberystwyth was true—was it the Mecca of geographers? Although the university food was rather unimaginative the accommodation was of a very high standard even if the cells weren't big enough to swing a geography master.

Our first day in the field was spent at Borth conducting a coastal study (i.e. leaping off sand dunes, getting cut off by the tide, and other such lunatic activities). Our enthusiasm for geography reached its peak on Sunday 3rd when it was found to be extremely difficult to execute a good field sketch with frost-bitten fingers. When half way up Cader Idris we found ourselves in the midst of a howling blizzard, unable to see in any direction—well almost. (N.B. Wales is always dry on Sundays even when it's raining)!

Monday was spent in Machynlleth interviewing the local population for an urban survey. Amongst the locals we discovered a Mr. Glyn Jones (head of science at R.G.S. c.1950), he sends his regards to Messrs. Davies, W. Clark, Pattinson and Scott. The coach did the Machynlleth—Aberystwyth run in record time that afternoon conveying the field trip's first victim to hospital. Whilst others spent the remainder of their stay studying the Rheidol river valley and the urban use of Aberystwyth, Julian LeGood was living it up in Aberystwyth General (soon to be joined by Peter Lee). During a rather hectic last evening, several tons of glasses, beer mats and Welsh road-signs

found their way back to our hall of residence.

Disasters always come in threes . . . we nearly got home safely. However, Benny (Canute's got nothing on me) Minch decided that he could stop a Ford Capri whilst it was travelling at about 50 mph. Needless to say he earned himself a visit to Wycombe General.

In spite of a few mishaps all enjoyed their stay in Wales. Many thanks must go to Messrs. Samways, Moffatt, Cook and Wilson, Trevor, his coach, and Boots the chemist in Evesham, and last but not least to Bronglais General Hospital Aberystwyth.

NIMES 1977

This year's exchange with the lycée Daudet at Nimes was, as usual, a spirited affair, and was operated in conjunction with the Lady Verney High School. The party was 25 strong, 9 from the R.G.S. and 16 from the L.V.H.S. We were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Flinders and Mrs. Keen who performed admirably the task of herding us to Nimes and back again without losing anyone.

The journey down was uneventful, apart from a slight mix-up in the couchette numbers, which resulted in one of our party being separated from the rest.

On arriving at Nimes we were greeted by our correspondents and dispersed throughout the city. The insular existence, however, did not last long, and we were soon mixing freely with the group from Lady Verney as well as with the French.

The next two weeks were very eventful, including a visit organised for us, to Avignon, Orange, Pont du Gard, and Uzès, and a party on the last Thursday at the lycée.

The trip back started very tearfully at the station, with some of the boys having a secret cry as well as the majority of the girls.

We should like to thank, on behalf of ourselves and the other members of the group, the teachers who gave up their time to organise such an interesting and enjoyable holiday.

A.K.P. & M.N.W.

SKI 77

Jubilee Award in Jubilee Year

Friday 11th February saw a party of 29 from the R.G.S. gathered on Wycombe station ready to depart for snowy Austria. At last the moment had arrived when all the practice on the dry(?) ski slope at Hillington was to be put to the test.

At lunch time next day, after travelling by boat and train through the night, we were welcomed by Annie Wilhelm at the Hause Tyrol in Pfunds. Having settled into the hotel the rest of the day was spent fitting boots and skis and investigating the locality.

The party was divided into three groups according to previous skiing experience and spent the next six days carving up the slopes. The instructors, led by Sylvia and Hubert Ortler, were once again impressed by the rapid progress made by the novices.

During the week Peter Timms was treated to a ride down the mountain, on Hubert Ortler's back, when he twisted his ankle and Peter Llewellyn made a rapid descent on the ambulance sledge when he was unfortunate enough to break two bones in his leg.

At the Fondue party on the last night awards for both the Austrian Ski School and the British Ski Club were presented. The party was attended by four Dutch people who had joined the novices group, they awarded a consolation prize to the boy they had beaten in the ski race.

The final day was spent in the duty-free haven of Samnaun where a certain variety of Chinese firecracker attracted customers. After 18 hours on trains and boat a tired but happy group returned to Wycombe on the 20th.

Returning to school after the holiday, notification was received of an Award from the King George V Jubilee Fund for the high standard of skiing achieved on previous ski trips, recommended by the Ski Federation of Great Britain. The sixty pounds awarded has been spent on a super 8 cine camera which should enable some of the events during school trips to be relived on return.

C.P.S.

OSNABRUCK

This was the seventh exchange in eight years. Both Lady Verney H.S. and R.G.S. took part in the exchange with the Ratsgymnasium in the north of Germany.

The German party came to England first and stayed for three weeks. They attended some lessons where they were openly welcomed by Masters. Trips were organised to Ercol and Windsor for the Germans alone. We accompanied them on an interesting trip to Oxford. The school laid on some sport and the German boys went to London several times with their teachers.

The R.G.S. organised the German Evening to entertain and amuse our guests. The cast for the comedy sketch was P. Rander, C. Poole, A. Baxter, A. Bezer and J. Steel.

A most enjoyable party was held at the Lady Verney School. After an uneventful journey the German and English parties reached Osnabruck late at night.

Despite bad weather in the first few days we all enjoyed ourselves immensely. The German families were extremely hospitable and took us to many interesting places.

German schools start at 7.50 and go on till 1.30, but there are two hours on Saturday morning. Most of us soon adjusted to this arrangement.

The Ratsgymnasium organised a canal trip and an evening's bowling, both of which we found interesting. There were also two evenings of dancing, and on another day the whole party were received by the Mayor of Osnabruck in the historic Town Hall.

I'm sure that everybody would like to thank Herren Weiss-Schneider and Durbin for organising and accompanying us on the exchange. Also many thanks to the Frauen Gill and Gnoyke. Long may the exchange flourish!

P. Rander

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

MUSIC SOCIETY REPORT

There were two main public appearances before Christmas; the Christmas Concert and the Carol Service given in All Saints Parish Church. The items of the Concert were all ensemble pieces. The Wind Band performed the 'Capriccio Espagnol' of Rimsky-Korsakov, an exotic piece which gave each section of the Band an opportunity for display. The Second Orchestra then played pieces by Roman, Playford and Pleyel and sounded most promising. The First Orchestra completed the half with three pieces: the *Joyeuse March* by Chabrier, the Copland *Variations on a shaker melody* and the Prelude to the Third Act of *Lohengrin*. The orchestra responded to the challenge of each of these and gave firm, well-integrated performances. In the second half the Choral Society, accompanied by Mr. Geoffrey Heath and Mr. Richard Wardell, performed the beautiful but little-known *Hodie*, a Christmas Cantata by Vaughan Williams. In this the solos were sung with assurance by David Hellier, Simon Jones and John Vincent (trebles), Mr. David Flinders (tenor) and Mr. Philip Ferris (baritone).

The principal event of the Spring term was the Spring Concert on 29 March which was designed to give members of the society an opportunity to perform as soloists. The Concert began with two quite demanding piano pieces by Debussy, which were played with considerable promise by William Stephenson. Jonathan King then performed two of the attractive guitar pieces of Villa-Lobos. Here the rhythmic subtleties and expressiveness of this Brazilian music were well brought out, as well as the tonal qualities of the instrument. This was followed by the

Wind Band who played the Second Suite for Wind Band of Gustav Holst. These are an enjoyable set of pieces and despite the occasional lapse in intonation, they received good straightforward performances. Then, two pieces for Doublebass and Piano were played by Anthony Houska, a member of the National Youth Orchestra, who played with brilliance on an instrument with which that quality is perhaps not normally associated. He was accompanied by William Stephenson. A Wind ensemble directed by Mr. Geoffrey Heath followed this with a performance of two movements from the delightful and ambitious *Petite Symphonie a Vents* by Gounod. The first half ended with a memorable performance by Roderick Kettlewell of two piano pieces by Chopin and Debussy. Each piece was played with the correct degree of feeling and each was thoroughly idiomatic. The second part of the concert consisted of two items performed by the Choral Society. The first, Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*, accompanied by Mr. Richard Wardell, was conducted by Mr. Alan Steel, a student from Reading University who had spent the Spring Term at the school. The Concert finished with the setting of the *Magnificat* attributed to Pergolesi, in which the Society was accompanied by Mr. Steel. The soloists were Simon Jones (treble), Stuart Parks (alto), Mr. David Flinders (tenor) and Scot McKendrick (bass). The Concert was important as in its first half it presented a facet of the school's musical life which is perhaps not as evident in the Christmas and Summer Concerts.

S. D. Everson

STAMP CLUB

The Stamp Club is still meeting every Friday in Room 26 to swop, sell and talk about stamps. One of the club rules is that mint stamps and used stamps are sold at half and one-third of Stanley Gibbons prices respectively. This encourages 'trade' between members without burning holes in their pockets.

The annual trip to Stampex was again very successful and we were able to run a full coach.

The other notable event this year was the Post Office's offer to schools of reduced price First Day Covers and Presentation Packs for the stamps commemorating the Queen's Jubilee for which there was a large response.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Hills for the valuable help (and stamps) he puts into the club.

K.T.

THE CHESS CLUB

This year the Chess Club must have broken all records for the number of matches played. The grand total is just under 60 with about 500 games played. Over 55 boys have played for one of the teams.

We have done very well in friendly matches this season, the seniors having only lost 2 out of 12, the U.16s 2 out of 15 and the U.14s 4 out of 14.

We did not do as well in the *Sunday Times* as last year, being knocked out in the zonal semi-final by a strong Watford team who went on to win the zone.

Our First team, after just staying up in Division I of the Bucks League last year, was rather outclassed this time and finished with $\frac{1}{2}$ point out of 8, drawing with Slough II. However we did put up a good fight especially against Gerrards Cross ! ($2\frac{1}{2}$ — $3\frac{1}{2}$) and Slough I (2—4). Michael Church had the best record with 4 points out of 8. Our Second team in Division III has one match left and has promotion chances. Several members have played very well, Ball getting 6/8, Rutherford $6\frac{1}{2}$ /8 and Barraclough $4\frac{1}{2}$ /5.

This year we entered two teams in the Junior U.6 League. Our First team finished

near the top with $4\frac{1}{2}$ /6. There were 44 entries in the 2nd and 3rd year Tournament, which was won by Carr, with Wagge 2nd and Fletcher 3rd.

Thanks to Raouf Allim, our captain, Russell Wood and Mark White, our joint treasurers and good luck to David Carless, next year's captain. We all appreciate the work Mr. Clark puts into the Chess Club and thank him for this.

John Hoy

BOOKBINDING REPORT 1977

A fanatical band of bookbinders is hard at work every Thursday afternoon in the Resources Centre. That is if one can call destroying library books and then hiding them at the bottom of the cupboard so Mr. Mitchell won't find them, work. Alas last term saw the departure of the great Chairman Orr (Author of the famous book 'Mein Book-binding') and we now run under the loose supervision of Dr. Dorrance. Our supervisors are now N. Spoel 6MI (laughs) and J. Broadribb 5SE (loud groans). The rate of books finished (that is ones which one can open) is about one every two weeks. When we do finish a book it is sent down to our master below and we, feeling about as safe as the President of the Congo or the leader of the Lebanese left-wing, find out later that he has said 'Wonderful, another finished product'. After five minutes he has chiselled it open and grudgingly accepted it. Next week (surprise, surprise) we find it back in our cupboard again. Books are in three piles: (1) Those waiting to be done or being done and forgotten (deliberately?); (2) Those being done; (3) Those finished. The first two piles are very large, the third is generally pitifully small.

And so we brave bookbinders soldier on under the leadership of Gruppenführers Spoel and Broadribb. However our rare breed seems to be dying out. No 4th formers joined the set this year and there are rumours of the purchase of a bookbinding machine (horrors)!!

So come on all you 2nd and 3rd formers and join the Honourable Company of Bookbinders—after all I'm sure your Rupert Annuals need re-covering.

A. Duncan and J. Broadribb

MILITARY SOCIETY

Although the Military Society is small in numbers (14, only 6 regular attenders), we have enjoyed our first year in existence because of the brilliant dictatorship, riots, bundles, arguments and, of course, some wargaming. This enjoyment is helped by the absence of a master and frequent interruptions from the caretaker.

We feel that we have more to offer members than the er, War-something Club do because we provide two ranges of World War Two, Gladiatorial, Arabs, Foreign Legion, Napoleonic and real battles. We are willing to try anything new members want, including Middle Earth and Starship fighting. We play every wargame with one exception, Board Wargaming, so new members are welcome at 20p per annum.

I would like to thank Mr. White-Taylor for helping this Society to get started and also for spearheading the attack on enemy territory, i.e. 6M's form room. We fought hard, but in the end we made a strategic rout and for the moment have given up meeting at lunchtimes. But we are looking for an empty form room on Wednesdays. Any offers?

I would also like to thank the few regular members who turn up on Wednesday evenings and also our trusted treasurer Julian Keen.

*Brian Banham President
Chairman
Acting Secretary*

THE MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The model railway club, as usual, is in a great financial mess—the present bank balance being 24p! The club does now own 1 *working loco* and 4 coaches.

Things done: Started (almost finished!) repairing exhibition layout for R.G.S. Show! day. Asked the electricians to come.

Things to do: Finish exhibition layout; Wait and wait and wait for electricians to come (the lights however *do* work); Get new members.

If you are interested in railways, come down to us in the old hall under the stage, and become a member. We are open almost every school day.

The Committee

STAGE LIGHTING AND SOUND TEAM

During the last year, we have participated in 13 productions by the School. These have included dances, plays, concerts and an operetta. Most of the designing of the lighting plan and the positioning of the lights takes place in the evenings and at the weekends. Mark Foster, 6C, and the rest of the team spent over 20 hours designing the lighting plan and positioning the fifty spotlights and floodlights for the School Play *Philoctetes*.

Sound effects are equally important although less glamorous. They are our 'bread and butter' work as the sound console must be operated every morning for Assembly. The members of the team are now quite good at repairing microphones and amplifiers at short notice. The main challenge of the year is Sports Day when we have about two hours to build up a Public Address System which works!

The team's aim is to bring professional standards to the R.G.S. productions. In February, we visited Oxford University to see a stage lighting exhibition and to hear a lecture on modern theatre design. We have been invited to the BBC studios in May to see how they light one of their productions.

Many thanks to Mark Foster, John Laidler, Stephen Laws, Adrian Paull, and Jim Lambert for their help.

R.C.D.

DEBATING SOCIETY

There have been two debates with other schools during the last term, one with Lady Verney High School on 24th Feb. (to which unfortunately not very many of their girls came), and a very successful and enjoyable debate with Wycombe Abbey School on 28th March. On both of these occasions we had the privilege of hearing the extremely cynical J. Davies in action.

We have also held several debates during Wednesday lunchtimes. We would like to thank Mr. Mitchell very much for his help during the year, and for providing the coffee.

If anyone is interested in speaking at any debate would they contact either the committee or Mr. Mitchell.

R. J. Appleton

WARGAMES CLUB

The club continues to amble along from one wargaming height to another, especially in the Board Wargames Competition. This year's contest, which is nowhere near its conclusion, is being dominated by Bobath, who causes continual consternation (I know alliteration was last year's thing) by beating all the 5th formers.

We are now preparing for the RGS show. Plans for this are completely top secret, but rumours of a re-fight of the Somme on the school field using the CCF (now with eagle-eyes) are completely unfounded. The club really continues to function as it did a year ago—the most interesting thing that happened was Harrison's rejoining the club.

There are still meetings after school on Tuesdays, but no longer in the lunch hour, as it was felt that the poor attendance at these meetings did not merit their continuation.

But despite takeover bids by armadillo fetishists, despite the completely and utterly crippling loss of Taylor, despite Wells's brother and despite Frank, the Wargames Club soldiers defiantly on. If you're not put off by that awful pun we'll see you on Tuesday?!

Alasdair Duncan

CHRISTIAN UNION

In the fellowship at school over the past year, although there has been a slight depletion in numbers, there have been increasing representatives from the lower part of the school. This past term we have had many visiting speakers, who have spoken on quite varied subjects, and we are hoping to have regular speakers this term also. As there is no master available to lead the meetings, it has at times been quite hectic to organise them on our own, and as such we were forced to reduce the number to only two a week—the main meeting during Thursday lunchtime, when there is a speaker at least every other week; and a meeting on Tuesday, which might be a Bible Study or a more informal time.

Often in our notices in assembly it says 'Everyone is free to attend', and this still applies. Obviously people are rather appre-

hensive going to a strange meeting or place, but those who have made the effort are glad they did. So if you would like to talk about the Christian life, what it all means, how Jesus Christ can be relevant today, then please feel free to come up to the Chapel any lunchtime, we will be only too glad to speak with you.

J. M. Tagg

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The photographic society is at present preparing a competition for the school show on May 28th and several members have been busy tearing around Wycombe happily snapping away with their cameras.

The society now has large supplies of FP4 film and photographic paper and also has a new enlarger in the darkroom to supplement the one already in use, so we are now very well equipped for photography at this school.

R. D. Gurney

'YOUTH AND MUSIC' REPORT

Since Christmas a new society has come into operation, started and organised by Mr. Keysell, which promotes concerts of classical music by offering tickets for certain London concerts at substantially reduced prices by purchasing them through the national 'Youth and Music' organisation. All genres of music are available: Opera, Ballet and Choral and Instrumental concerts. At the main venues, the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, good tickets (normally c.£2.50) can be bought for about a pound, and at Covent Garden (where full ticket prices go up to eleven pounds) quite reasonable seats can be obtained for £1.50. The range of concerts available is limited but large. Mr. Keysell arranges transport to the most popular concerts but members can buy tickets for any of the available concerts.

So far we have been on three trips: to a concert given by the Northern Sinfonia at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, which included the Mozart late G minor symphony, to a memorable performance of Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* at Sadler's Wells and to an enormous rendering of the Berlioz *Grande messe des morts* at the Royal Albert Hall.

S. D. Everson

STAGE TEAM REPORT 1976/77

In November the stage team had a new intake of recruits. These were taken in for the busy year ahead. These events all took place in the Spring term. There was the main school play *Philoctetes*, which was not very well patronised because the title put people off. SHAME!! There was a lot of hard work put in by the hard-working stage team and by the actors.

The high point of our term was the 'GERMAN EVENING'. (I had to say this because C. Tite is bigger than me!). The sets for this were mostly built in the half-hour before the evening began, and even in the interval! There was free food for all (except stage team) and the evening was a

great success. L.V.H.S. were something to do with it.

On the whole a very successful term.

D. Hamilton

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The School entered four teams—two from the Fourth Form, two from the Sixth—in competitions this year. The success was only moderate in terms of results: a senior team won the Tom Evans memorial reading desk, the others did not survive the first rounds. However, the experience of speaking in public is valuable, and I hope the participants benefited. Perhaps others will come forward next year—they have much to gain in confidence, if nothing else.

J.M.

THE MASTER WHO WEEDS AND HOES

(after Edward Lear)

When awful darkness and silence still
Reign on the high Wycombe hill,
In the long long school-term days,
When the irate masters roar
As they beat on the staff-room door,
When schoolboys crowd, as in human maze,
When the time is a quarter-to-four.

Then through the vast and gloomy dark
There moves what seems a man, but mark,
A man with long loony ways
Piercing the coal-black night,
A master large and bright
Hither and thither the visage strays,
A simply amazing sight!

Slowly he ambles, pauses, creeps,
Then with hops and jumps and leaps
Over the flower beds, on ward he goes,
A haze on the rosetree stems he throws,

And those who watch of this haunting hour
From the Hall or geography block to glower
At the figure who on their sacred lawn's be,
Hurrah, Hurrah its Mr. Hornsby!
The incredible man through the garden goes,
The master who weeds and hoes!

P. S. Lowe

THE MYSTERIES OF THE NIGHT

A fuzzy moon diffuses through celluloid clouds,
The sun has gone. It is dark.
Trees, silhouetted, seem to move in sorcerers'
shadows;
A glint of cat's-eyes, hollow, sharp, then black.
Another world, an adumbration in darkened skies.
Awesome, unknown, yet attractive, and grey.

P. Howard

A WALK IN TIME

In 1900 a little girl walks
hand in hand
with a withered old lady.

In 1960 a withered old lady walks
hand in hand
with a little girl.

Trapped by time, and on it goes.
On and on.

P. Howard

R.G.S. 'GERMAN EVENING'

22nd March 1977

The R.G.S. has something of a reputation for excellence in the field of school productions, be it an opera by Gilbert and Sullivan or a more prosaic piece such as the recent *Philoctetes* or perhaps Melville's *Billy Budd* of the 1976 school amateur dramatics 'season'. This time the patrons (would that there were more of them!) of such endeavours were treated to something of a different style altogether, rather more akin to the series of zany staff revues produced by the indomitable humour of Mr. Hillier before he left for other climes. For the paltry fee of 15p those who came, and there were many, were entertained by a varied succession of sketches (some serious, most not) about 'Germany and her people, and their way of life' (so proclaimed the advertising posters strewn liberally about the school).

After being greeted by Mr. Durbin it was left to Mr. Davies to humour the assembled multitude with his tales of Germany between the wars and to whet their appetite for what was to come. A film, courtesy of the German Film Library, provided an insight into the daily life of the German nation, including presumably the contingent from Osnabruck, for whom the evening was largely arranged. Following the film there was a troupe of girls from Lady Verney High School singing a selection of German folk songs—for some the highlight of the whole performance!!

During the long interval the audience could sample a literal 'taste' of Germany in the form of cakes and pastries provided and served by Frau Gisela Long and girls from the LVHS, and look over an exhibition of books and posters illustrating Germany.

Following the break came a rather more serious piece with a social message from the pen of the German author Heinrich Boll, translated by Christopher Tite, and acted out by Mark Coburn and Paul Brown with a set made to look like a rather spartan office. It was perhaps this more serious vein which led to this piece being less popular to many of the audience but it was soon over and there was fun to follow; more musical pieces,

courtesy of Jonathan King and the LVHS, and to round-off the evening a game based closely on the popular BBC-2 quiz programme *Call My Bluff*—but this time with all the words German. Mr. Mervyn Davies made an excellent compère and the two teams, comprising Mr. David Flinders, Mr. Peter Raymond, Paul Brown, Mark Coburn, Philip Green and Peter Newman gave a very professional and slick performance on a par with Messrs. Campbell and Muir on the real thing. Once again the set was excellent, built as it was by the incomparable RGS Stage Team who also built the imaginative kiosk from which the food and drink was served. It is a tribute to their efficiency and unending hard work when one considers that the sets were still being built and painted only 30 minutes before the audience began to arrive! Our thanks must go to them: Keith Butcher, Neil Timberlake, Colin Falconer, Nicholas Wadsworth, David Leaser, Douglas Hamilton, Nicholas Podger, Richard Law, Marcus Hunnibell and Stephen Boreham. Also to Frau Long, without whose help the Evening could never have taken place, and to all the girls of LVHS, those who performed as well as those who helped on the stalls.

We thank too the German department for all their help and encouragement and the Stage Lighting Team for their hard work and skill in providing illumination for the rest of us: Dr. Richard Dorrance, Mark Foster, Adrian Paul, Paul Robinson, John Laidler, Stephen Laws and Jim Lambert.

Finally thanks to all those who appeared, to Mr. Dennis Smith who fought back tears of despair watching us try to put the show together and who lent a hand with the make-up and costumes, and to our (eminent!?) Stage Manager and Producer, Christopher Tite whose brainwave the whole idea was.

Supporters will be pleased to hear that, despite everything, a profit was made which has gone to the purchase of two German dictionaries for the senior library.

Neil C. Timberlake

PHILOCTETES

This year the necessity of an all-male cast suggested the choice of *Philoctetes* by Sophocles as the school play. Inevitably this choice lacked popular appeal and produced smaller audiences than usual, but the experiment was an interesting one.

The play centres on the moral dilemma of Neoptolemus. He is pressed by the hard-headed, pragmatic Odysseus into deceiving Philoctetes and obtaining from him the sacred bow of Heracles, but Neoptolemus is so moved by the anguish Philoctetes suffers from his terrible poisoned leg that he cannot bring himself to do it. Neoptolemus opts for honesty, but the intervention of the great Heracles himself enables Odysseus to obtain the bow, without which the Greeks will not conquer Troy.

The success of the production depended very much on the acting of Jo King as Neoptolemus and Rod Kettlewell as Philoctetes, and both were excellent. Jo King (who hopes to go on to drama school) produced some fine dramatic moments, holding the audience riveted through long speeches with his commanding appearance and confident gestures. Rod Kettlewell, clutching his beloved bow (ambiguously suggestive of a

sten gun to match the modern dress) and dragging himself around like a wounded animal, was equally effective, especially when his sufferings were reinforced by throbbing electronic music.

The support given to these two was of a high standard, especially in the impressive clarity of the verse-speaking (though physical movements were often less good, with some of the cast not really seeming comfortable on stage). Alan Paterson's playing of Odysseus had the right sternness and determination, and Jeremy Kindell, concealed by a black beard, seemed to be enjoying himself as a seaman. The chorus, sprawled wearily among the angular rocks and scrawny trees of Dennis Smith's set, created well the wartime atmosphere, and Clive Stainton linked the two halves neatly with his own song, supported by Peter Chapman's recorder.

I hope next year we will have a more popular type of play to bring back the crowds, but this year's inventive production from Dennis Smith was a very successful venture.

P.M.G.

SEVEN YEARS ON

On the 1st September 1970 I and 146 other boys entered the Royal Grammar School, twelve year olds from a sheltered background, a tiny primary school, suddenly thrust into a world of trials and tribulations, personal, academic and social, few friends and the prospect of at least five years of living, working and growing up in this same environment. Friends, masters, enemies, all have come and gone, a constant barrage of new ideas, new concepts, new lives from which those 146 twelve year old boys must choose their own wordly path. Endless decisions and traumas, the psychologist's teenage complex; the number of teenage suicides is going up every year. Some fail, some succeed, but have all been given that fair chance of life in an isolated lifestyle? Have all the chances of growing up successfully been offered to those chosen few boys?

Seven years on, looking back at those last few stressful and straining years, has it all been worth it? A few academic qualifications under our belts, a new tie as recognition for reaching that elevated status of sixth former or for having achieved noteworthy

sporting feats, the first XV rugby team, captain of hockey. A small swan endowed badge to show that the staff have seen fit to make you a prefect; the wasted lunchtimes looking after the new twelve (or is it thirteen) year olds in the junior block. But is that all? What about the sponsored trips to London to see a play or a ballet? What about the opportunities to act on stage, or to become a member of the lighting team? Would you have had the chance to be the member of the 1st XI hockey team had you gone somewhere else?

A privileged position they call it; coming to the Royal Grammar school. Is it? I leave the reader to decide. It is not for me to tell anybody what to believe what to feel, whether to rebel or fall into line. The pros and cons are so numerous, the standpoints of each individual, it would be worthless to attempt to make a judgement but isn't it worthwhile just having a little think about it? Yes or No?

Answers on a postcard to T. D. Stone room 24 anytime after 4.00 (providing he hasn't left for home an hour earlier!).

BOARDING HOUSE REPORT

SCHOOL HOUSE REPORT

In the absence of Neil McLeod (no relation) this year's head boy, we have been invited to write this term's School House report. As always we are indebted to Messrs. Skipp and White-Taylor for the way in which they maintain the standards of the Boarding House and to Mrs. Symonds for her untiring efforts in the kitchen. We warmly welcome Mrs. Pattinson as our new, friendly and highly efficient Matron.

Last term saw the arrival of the long-awaited telephone coin-box, removing the endless queues in the evening. The Lower Sixth are grateful for the installation of new fluorescent lighting in the old Common Room, which means they can now read what they are writing in prep.

Since Christmas we have had two new arrivals, Simon Axtell and Julian Shaw plus Table-Tennis Table. The table has resulted in sustained enthusiasm for the sport and an almost world-class standard of play; even Mr. Skipp takes part in what has become one of the house's more pleasurable pastimes.

To correct the mistake that occurred in the last edition, Rugby, not Hockey, has been the most represented sport within the House with Nick Billig, Pete Chapman, Chris George, Stuart Robinson, Julian Shaw and, finally, Martin 'Chuff-Chuff' Walker all engaged in Senior Rugby. Chris Carpenter and Ally Diack represented Bucks at Under 19 level Hockey. A motley crew of other players represented the 2nd XI Hockey including captains Neil Diack, Brendan McNally and Dickie Appleton. On other sporting fronts Mark Coburn is a member of this year's 1st four rowing team. Again the School House football team ran over the Staff side, 8—4.

With over two thirds of the House being Sixth Formers the place is usually deserted in the evenings, especially at the weekends. However, with eleven 'A' level candidates

this summer this activity may well become less fervent. While we are on the subject, we hope that everyone in the school taking public exams this summer will be successful.

The Prefects Study

UPLYME HOUSE REPORT

With the end of the Spring term we say goodbye to two boys, Andrew Staynor and Francis McDermott, who have both left to become day-boys and we would like to wish them both luck in their O-level term. Since the last report, there have been two new arrivals, namely Rod Walker and Guy Moultrie. In addition we enjoyed a brief visit from Wolf the partner of Nicholas Morris in the Osnabrück exchange.

Once again the house has been well represented in school activities. Michel Hill has been a regular member of the 2nd XV—when he hasn't been injured—and he has also taken a very active part in the organisation of the Rifle Club. In Hockey Neil Featonby and Andrew Staynor have also represented the 2nd XI whilst lower in the school Tim Burgess and John Carter played in the U.15 Rugby and Chris Sweeney in the U.13s. Tim was also captain of the U.15 Basketball team and was accompanied in side by Dave Tordoff and John Carter.

Unfortunately, or should I say fortunately, for the opposition, the joint football games with Tylers Wood which were to be organised against School House and the Staff both had to be cancelled, but we hope to rearrange them for next term.

The House has been very active during Parents' Evenings and other School Presentations in providing refreshments, to boost the House Fund, and also in car parking. I would like to thank everyone in the house who helped with the selling of coffee and in particular to the team of car parkers, Daryl Phillips, Graham King, Guy Moultrie, and Chris Sweeney who turned out in all weathers whenever they were needed.

As always it remains for me to thank Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs for their tireless and patient efforts throughout the term and also to Mr. Edwards for helping everything run smoothly.

Neil Featonby

TYLERS WOOD HOUSE REPORT

It is some time since the last Tylers Wood report (thank you, Robin!) and quite a few major alterations have occurred.

The senior end of the common room has taken on a 'new improved' look with a complete refurbishing, complete with carpet—thanks go to the parents association for the furniture (the sofa's being made good use of, Simon!). The prefects' study has received a new coat of paint, as has the old stable dorm, which is now a very comfortable TV room. This room too has been furnished

with 'comfy' chairs (oh no! Not the comfy chair!) and a carpet. We can now visit the loo in warmth, due to the new central heating system in the extension.

We continue to support the school's sports activities. Malcolm Noblett is captain of Fencing, and Steve Smith has been a regular member of the 1st XI hockey. Also four of our juniors have played for the younger Rugby teams.

Congratulations! — rather belatedly — to Robin Edwards, on his place at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Also to the others who gained university places last year—here's to hoping we have the same success this year.

Finally thanks to all the staff, Mr. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. Samways, for their efforts to make the house run smoothly.

The Study

AGAIN

I stretch my hand, clutch vacant laughter,
In sorrow and in sweet, sweet pain,
Without demand, but with a longing,
For what will never come again.

I smell your perfume on the sheets—in the morning,
It lingers like the patterns on the window—after rain,
A past that lives, if only for the present,
Which is gone and will never come again.

To your sad eyes, turned away, never say,
'Do you? Did you? How?'
As the darkness rolls away the day
It shows what was and makes what is now.

I see your picture as though it were a mirror,
But there's no part of you outside the frame,
Except the change that you brought to me,
This will never come again.

I am me, I was so before you,
But afterwards I am not the same,
You are gone and I am with you,
This will never come again.

M. Goldstone

GRAY'S ALLERGY (Written in a Country Farmyard)

The perfume holds the smell of new-mown hay,
The mowing-time is not so nice for me.
Finding over turfed sods my bleary way,
I breathe the pollen blowing off the tree.

Oft did my best friends with their chuckles peal,
Through sorrow, though, I'd never see the joke,
Each second I would try my ills to heal
With powder that would nearly make you choke.

My sneezy day's an incensed, seething storm
From waking, spluttering, 'til I go to bed.
The clock's shrill clarion tells me it's the morn,
No more the 'Vick inhaler' clears my head.

Far from the madding crowd I lead my life.
Out blows the pollen as they turn the hay,
And as they sing my dust-filled nose runs rife,
I stand, a noiseless tenor, in their way.

I boast of forestry, devoid of flowers,
Although their scent and beauty still I crave.
They start my eye's inevitable showers,
Their pollen makes my tearducts misbehave.

A. J. Glover

C.C.F. NOTES

ARMY SECTION

Since the last issue the main events in the calendar have been a weekend in Snowdonia, a week end camp at Bordon, Annual Inspection and Adventure Training Camp. There have been interesting sidelines such as Duke of Edinburgh's award expeditions and sessions on tent-making, when under the guidance of Capt. Hollingworth many boys have made their own tents at a fraction of the cost of the new item.

The Snowdonia trip was to provide instruction in mountain leadership and survival techniques and naturally was confined to the senior cadets, whilst the week-end camp at Bordon was aimed at giving a broader spectrum of training across a wider age range. The facilities provided by a regular army garrison in the shape of accommodation, army catering, and areas used for training most suited to the age and aptitude of the cadets are proving very attractive for cadets of all ages.

Annual Inspection this year followed the pattern of previous years, alas this year without even a single bugler for the Guard of Honour preceding the Inspection.

The rival claims of GCE music classes on Thursday afternoons, whilst producing a school wind band of unqualified excellence, have removed all hope of the return to the glories of former years, of a band led by a resplendent Drum Major with his silver mace.

It was the turn of the Royal Navy to provide the Inspecting Officer and Captain R.N. Holley, Assistant to the Controller of the Navy, descended on the School on the 17th March with the usual team of Staff Officers. His report is not yet to hand but his attitude on the day leads one to hope that an encouraging and satisfactory report will in due course appear.

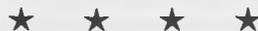
Easter Camp

Leek has become such a popular venue in such a great variety of ways that it is difficult to imagine any other site.

This year the Biology Field Camp did, by a gentleman's agreement, claim the services of 'Bill' for the culinary arts, but happily Mrs. Pattinson and Mrs. Stubbs provided the bacon and eggs for breakfast and roast joints and apple pie after the exertions of the day, so both camps were happy.

The camp, as ever, provided a wide variety of interests to suit all tastes. First came a map reading exercise to check the efficiency of everyone with map and compass on the ground as opposed to the classroom. A day followed training for the two day and night exercise and an introduction was given to rock climbing with ropes, under the expert eye of an old boy of the school, Tony Boreham, now a fully qualified climbing instructor teaching in the Sheffield area. A day spent on tasks involving River Crossing, Building Burma Bridges and team tasks of similar nature to those given at Officer Selection Boards concluded the active side of the Camp.

There followed a happy evening of presentation of prizes for the various team events and shooting competitions with Cadet S. R. Drysdale getting the newly instituted award of 'best trier' among the recruits, the splendid idea of Robert Harry and Richard Wallen, two former cadets now helping regularly on Thursday afternoons as well as at Camps.



The past year has been a memorable one for the Army Section in many ways. The C.O. Lieut. Col. R. Pattinson was invited to preside over the Annual C.C.F.A. Dinner

with the first Sea Lord, Sir Edward Ashmore, as principal guest.

One of the highlights of the year was the return of Capt. Michael Kefford to give an account with beautifully illustrated slides of the army conquest of Everest of which he was a team member. He graciously conceded that the Army section of the C.C.F. had started him off in the pursuit of mountaineering. His talk was fascinating and very warmly appreciated by all those privileged to hear it.

It is pleasing to record that an increasing number of cadets are enrolling in the belief that the C.C.F. offers a wide variety of interesting, exciting and worthwhile activities.

R.P.

RAF REPORT

Once again, the section has had an enjoyable and successful term. Most of the term has been taken up with preparations for the proficiency exams, which had a 93% success rate, but we still found time for Chipmunk Flying at Abingdon and some interesting films.

Easter camps were at RAF Valley (20 cadets), Laarbruch (14 cadets) and Malta (3 cadets). All the cadets who took part in these camps enjoyed themselves tremendously. Summer camp this year is at RAF Marham from the 16th—23rd July.

Several cadets are going off on gliding courses and flying scholarships this term and we wish them the best of luck.

We must congratulate Flt/Sgt. Rowe on being selected to participate in the International Air Cadet Exchange. He is to visit the U.S.A. for three weeks in July.

The section now has a football team and they played against the Navy section on the final Thursday of last term. Despite appalling weather conditions and Phil (he never claimed to be Pat Jennings) Brown's goal-keeping, they won by 5 goals to 2. Matches are to be arranged against the Army and, we hope, the Masters as well.

This term we say goodbye to our second year sixth NCO's. Particular thanks must go to Under Officer Peter Browne (who is being commissioned in August as a Fighter Controller. Good luck, Pete) for being in the

right place at the right time, to Flt/Sgt. Thomson for his excellent grooming of the new Fourth Year recruits, and to Flt/Sgt. Rowe for his very capable handling of the Fifth Year.

The primary glider is temporarily 'hors de combat' after being shot down by an Irish tennis ball, but we hope this will soon be fixed.

Finally, many thanks to Flt/Lt's Smaje and Sollars, Flg/Off. Dr. Fair and Flt/Sgt. Heath, without whom many of our activities would be impossible.

Good luck to all those cadets taking GCE's this summer.

W.O. P. J. Brown

R.A.F. CAMP, VALLEY

This Easter, some of us were fortunate to attend camp at RAF Valley, Anglesey. Unfortunately the weather was against us, and consequently the programme had to be drastically re-arranged for the first two days. However, we did manage to pay some interesting visits, and when the weather settled, we were able to go hill climbing, in practice for our climb up Snowdon on the last day.

A very exciting night exercise was one of the highlights of the camp, but had to be called to a halt because of dangerous situations which arose. There was also an orienteering event, which was won by a team led by Sgt. O'Keefe. Shooting with .22's and 7.62 SLR's went off with a bang, together with sports, which were optional. Flying on Chipmunks was 'weather permitting', and not everyone got into the air that way, but at least we all had the satisfaction of being winch-lifted by a hovering Wessex helicopter. F/Sgt. Hannam and Cpl. Shields were perhaps the most privileged NCO's, as they both managed a flight in a Gnat training jet.

Finally it leaves me to thank the staff of the 'Rocket club' (the less said the better) and also for the assistance of F/O Fair, F/L Smaje and F/L Sollars, who made it a very worthwhile and interesting stay.

M-F Hill

R.A.F. SECTION

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are pleased to announce that in addition to two Gold Standards already completed this term Robert J. D. Webster will have completed the scheme by July.

Well done!

R.A.F. C.C.F.

EASTER CAMP

RAF Laarbruch, Germany

This camp must go down as one of the most enjoyable camps ever.

The journey out by Boeing 737 took ten hours in all and was marred only by one of our number deciding to change his clothes at Wycombe Station and delaying the train.

The camp got off to a good start with a taxing Night Exercise where the opposition consisted of rolls of barbed wire and Military Police in their Landrovers.

Most of the camp was taken up with visits mainly to Holland to places like Arnhem, Nijmegen, Overloon War Museum and the Philips Exhibition at Eindhoven. We also had full use of the Station's Sporting and Club facilities ranging from Flying and Gliding to Bowls and Badminton.

The only let down was unfortunately the last day when there was a Station Alert which meant that the visits that day had to be cancelled.

The return trip was unfortunately even more eventful, because first of all an officer took Pete Browne's holdall by mistake (which took a week to get back and meant he had to spend what was left of the night in London) and then a bottle of champagne broke in Baker Street Underground Station. So it was a rather depleted group that met Dr. Fair at Uxbridge at 1.00 a.m.

Many thanks to Mr. Smaje for taking us and Fg/Offs Graham Bowerman and Kevin Seare for organising the Camp.

K.T.

R.N. C.C.F. REPORT

As the saying goes, Hello Sailors! This is another report from High Wycombe's ancient mariners. The first item is news of the second coup in seven months. The Loony Scientist party that overthrew Plaid Cymru under 'Taffy' Taylor has itself been ousted from office by the 'crucify Preece' party under yours truly.

At the time of writing we are about to start boating down at Longridge and it is hoped that all cadets will enjoy what is undoubtedly the best part of our section activities. The major job on hand is the renovation of the 16ft. motor boat and, if we're lucky, we will have gone a long way towards getting it running by the time this is printed.

Back at the school our major advance has been the revamping of the Seamanship Room to provide a rival, we hope, to the RAF Crew Room. The Seamanship Room has been equipped with tables and chairs and a few other amenities on which we are hoping to improve. This room will be open to all 6th Form C.C.F. Navy cadets and their invited C.C.F. guests.

This year there have been no big Section camps like last year's 'Aveley' trips, but a number of cadets have been on courses individually and I am sure will have been encouraged to go again. All 4th year cadets must keep in mind that, for promotion to Leading Seaman and above, a cadet must have attended a week long course at an R.N. establishment or on board an R.N. ship. A number of R.N. cadets have also attended army camps this year and, as the army section are prepared to let us go on their camps, all cadets are urged to at least consider going, particularly to the Easter camp which fulfils the adventure training requirement for the Petty Officer exam.

This year's General Inspection went off fairly well and although we have not yet received the final report, it is believed that the result was quite satisfactory. The rigging of the whaler mast was a very successful new idea and will no doubt be used a great deal from now on. The shooting team, by a gallant effort, managed to come third, as had long been predicted. The Navy section's

shooting ability is at least consistent, abominable but still consistent. Preparations are, at the time of writing, under way for our next big event, the R.G.S. Show where we hope to see the apparently marvellous recovery of Navy drill efficiency manifesting itself in a drill team.

All in all, that's about it, except to say that in the reorganisation, L/S Preece has joined the stores staff, hopefully taking over completely late this term or early in the next school year. So I hope that you have enjoyed this piece and that, as one submarine said to another, 'Deep down you know it makes sense'.

Cadet Cox'n P. J. Maynard

Sink petals, sink, and jaundice the concrete.
But the tone of your dry rasping limbs lowers the
whole pitch of the district.

Blow Mankind.
Every delicate grain sifted, swirling in the breeze.
Poor Old Bud. All on his own.

He's a rotten potato as far as the other guys are
concerned.

Seems they dropped him like a jaundiced millstone
when they got wind of his unorthodox game.

They say the new pitcher is just as good as when
you had to look for the little blue twist of salt.

Poor Old Bud.
Wrong size to pass through crisp quality control.

M. Daly

SEASON AND YOU

The sun is shining through the trees,
And drifting
Gently
On the breeze
Is the smell of grass
Freshwashed by April's rain.

The sun is shining over me,
And drifting
Gently
Through the trees
I hear your footsteps
As you hide from my mind again.

EYES!

Your big brown eyes,
So full of lovely words,
Look out at me
And at the world
And know not what to make of it.

ODE TO A LOVER, THERE, FORGOTTEN

Her name is sweet as dew to lip.
Her hair, short, dark, fascinating.
Her face, immense in style, character.
Her actions always seen, imagined, hoped.
Her emotion, never shown, sometimes escaped
From love's guard; a reason for my life.

My name is but a carcase for her ears.
My hair, untidy, faded, uninspiring.
My face not to be seen, thin, sad.
My actions planned, concealing all.
My emotion encaptured in my heart, beating in
Lack of love; no reason for my life.

Her thoughts, of me? Of all competitors.
My words, murmured, withdrawn in silent rest.
Our voices, kissing, intertwined;
Our eyes avoiding, joining, flickering.
Belief of passion arousing sense of pattern
Is all my love, now there, soon to be forgotten.

t.d.stone

SPORTS REPORTS

1st XV RUGBY 1976/77

P 27 W 19 D 1 L 7 For 407 Against 220
Once again the 1st XV had another highly successful season, by way both of enjoyment and results. However it could have even been a better one if only Lady Luck had been on our side. Right from the start and throughout the season, the team was dogged by injuries, and this, combined with the few who left the school in mid-season, meant the team was continuously being chopped and changed. However those who were brought in to take their places played admirably, and it is encouraging to think that many of them will be present in the team next season.

The start of the season began similarly to the previous one. The first 6 games were won with comparative ease including victories over Forest Grammar School, St. Bartholomew's and, best of all, over Emanuel School. The next couple of matches resulted in defeats against St. Benedict's School and Tiffin who both proved to be as difficult opponents as ever but soon we got back on the winning trail and by half-term we had every reason to be pleased with the way the season was going. By this time we had lost the services of Mark Woodbridge, Roderick Kettlewell (who decided to hang up his boots at the ripe old age of 18!) and Robin Edwards, who had completed his Oxbridge studies, and so changes were forced upon us with Kevin Titcombe and Neil Connor among those who were drafted into the side. The team continued to play good rugby and by Christmas another five victories had been recorded along with three defeats, including our heaviest of the season at the hands of Steve Gamester's XI by 30 pts to 3. For the rest of the season, the team continued to work hard at the game and were rewarded with further victories including those over Vyners School (19-0), Royal Latin School (4-0), Gunnersbury School (22-6) and a Welsh touring side (23-13). There were only two defeats after Christmas

and it was a pity that one of these was in the last match of the season against Rickmansworth School by 9 pts to 0.

What of the team itself? In the forwards Murry Fane led the way with a great deal of determination and Paul Dickinson who replaced Eddie Will as the kicker, scored valuable points for the side. The second row played well together and the front row was capable of matching any opposition on their day, with Carroll and Hammond providing sturdy support for Stewart. The criticism that could be made of the forwards was that although the effort was there, they only worked together as a unit on a few occasions and many times were slow in setting up the second phase. In the backs Dave Smith and Mark Jordan proved to be a successful combination and both Morrish and Chapman scored valuable tries on the wing.

County honours were won by Will, Fane, Stewart and Jordan at Under 19 level with the latter having played for the Area 6 side. Morgan, Stott, Connor, Molesworth, Speed, Corfield and Vladar won places in the Under 16 side with Carrel reaching the final England trial.

Finally our thanks must go to Mr. Learmonth who continues to put a great deal of effort into the side and whose presence is greatly appreciated by the players.

L. N. Holmes

2nd XV RUGBY

P 16 W 7 Lost 9 For 204 Against 185
In a season that promised so much, the 2nd XV found that with five different captains (counting our absent 'friend' K. Titcombe!), it was definitely a case of 'too many "captains" spoiling . . .'

With the squad consisting mainly of relatively inexperienced fifth-formers, the season started disastrously with four defeats in the first five games. There were in these defeats, however, some very creditable performances. Emanuel's strong and well-drilled team were kept at bay for three-quarters of the match



1st XV RUGBY 1976/77

Back Row: STOTT, PATERSON, MORGAN, CARROLL, FANE *Middle Row:* HAMMOND, DICKINSON, WALKER, CONOR, SMITH, CHAPMAN, Mr. LEARMONTH *Front Row:* HOGGETT, TITCOMBE, MACLAREN, HOLMES (*Capt.*), WILL (*V. Capt.*), STEWART, MORRISH
Absent: JORDAN, SHAW

by some fine defensive tackling and St. Benedicts, after an unfortunate injury to our full-back J. Shaw, came back from 9—0 down to snatch victory 11—9. After a very close game against Tiffin which was just lost 14—15, the 2nd's returned a fine 44—4 win against local rivals Sir William Borlase.

The pattern for the rest of the season was thus set, that of an inconsistency reflected by the continual call-up of key players (N. Connor, R. Hammond, A. Paterson, N. Maclaren and J. Shaw) to the 1st XV.

The backs, notably Chris Corfield who ran in 10 tries, scored most of the points and with P. Speed's goal-kicking improving considerably as the season progressed, the school all too rarely converted their potential into points. In the forwards, the back row trio of B. Morgan, D. Molesworth and S. Robinson, proved more than a match for most of their opposite numbers. Behind the scrum a half-back combination of P. Speed and N. Billig proved most successful, Billig along with P. Morrish proved to everyone that it was their skill rather than size which mattered.

Thanks must be extended to the unflappable efforts of Mr. Edwards, who gave up a lot of his time for the benefit of the team. His efforts and unquenchable enthusiasm were greatly appreciated.

All in all a rather frustrating season with several games lost by narrow margins; however the continued enthusiasm of the rather large squad ensured an enjoyable time for all and sundry. The four other captains and I would like to thank everybody involved for their efforts and look forward to a more successful season next year.

Half-colours were awarded to: Barrett, Billig, Corfield, Molesworth, Morgan, Morrish, Newberry, Shaw, Speed, Stott and Vladar. Bad luck Chas, better luck next season!

R. J. F. Shaw

U.15 RUGBY

P 14 W 9 D 1 L 4

This season proved to be our most successful yet, including impressive victories against Forest School, Vyners School and Gayton

H.S. All players steadily improved throughout the season with confidence constantly growing. Of our defeats two were by less than 6 pts which shows promise for the future.

Our results were achieved largely by good team work but several individuals deserve a mention: Glyn Davies was again top scorer with a final tally of 23 tries including some good solo efforts in the forwards. Cussell's line-out play was excellent as was the aggressive mauling of Servantes and Burgess. John Ward's kicking ability proved a great asset to the team (he scored 94 pts).

The 15-a-side season terminated on a high note with the game against Rickmansworth S. We had been defeated 28—0 the previous year but some of the best rugby ever produced a sweeping 36—12 victory.

We finished 2nd in our only 7's competition despite beating the eventual winners, Aylesbury, 6—4.

Many thanks to Mr. Gamester for coaching us, and Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Samways and Mr. File for refereeing our home games. Finally I would like to thank Mr. Palmer for his endless enthusiasm and support at all games.

Other regular players: Cheesewright, Campbell, Randev, Harding, Ade, Mole, Palmer, Jordan, Nilson, Gardner, Carter, Hutson.

D. Cheesewright

U.14 RUGBY

P 14 W 5 D 0 L 9 (4 cancelled)

Points for 178 Against 248

This year's U.14's started very badly, losing their first 4 games, 3 of them without scoring and 3 of them by margins of over 30 points.

Thereafter things improved, and 5 of the remaining 10 games (4 others being cancelled owing to bad weather) were won, despite quite a number of injuries. Only one of these ten games was lost by any sizeable margin. To offset the earlier heavy defeats there were two later substantial victories.

The signs now, after two difficult seasons, are that this team, not altogether unlike last season's U.14's, will improve steadily in the U.15 group.

It has been very enjoyable and genuinely

heartening to see this group of players recover so well from being demoralised in September/October to being a team with a real determination to win in January/February.

They may lack the individual ability of some R.G.S. teams of the last five years, but from adversity they have developed a determination and character that are not always found in boys' teams of this age. They have learned how to eliminate mistakes, to keep pressure upon their opponents and to stick at a game that is going against them.

Many in the group have shown fine qualities of consistent effort and determination, but one or two have been unreliable and disappointing, not fulfilling their potential. Much may depend upon them next year. If they pull their weight, team spirit will be high and performances will undoubtedly prosper; if they do not, they will be letting down not only themselves.

Among the team's 'regular' players I would specially commend the following: the captain, Smith; the vice-captain, Davies; Sutton, Scott, Platts, White, Vlarar, Newport, Wright, Cheesewright, Fairbrother and Coles. They all played with wholehearted effort and determination. Others in 'set one', less regular team-members, also performed admirably, and others, while not always reliable and consistent, had praiseworthy moments.

Apart from the above-named, the following played 'semi-regularly' for the team: Gamble, Walsh, Weiss, Blaby, Black, Smith (M.) and Wattis. Lastly, the following also played for the team at least once: Murgatroyd, Lambert, Martin, Stokes, Scriven, Howick, Hunter, Bowker, Williams and Amos.

Congratulations to all who were selected.

Particular mention should go to the captain, Smith, who in less than 12 full games scored as many as 18 tries.

It is my sincere hope that all the players gained something from the season's Rugby, and that next season they will all gain even more.

S.R.G.

U.13 RUGBY

P 16 W 11 L 5 For 358 A 199

Looking back over the season as a whole it is pleasing to note a creditable record. Both the 'A' and 'B' XVs performed well at times, and recorded good wins over Lord William's, Thame 14-12, Sir William Borlase 38-0, Gayton High School 31-24, Rickmansworth 31-12 and Gunnersbury 12-8. Most gratifying were the victories over schools with an extra year's rugby behind them.

Both Max Welby and Tom Petersen performed their duties as respective captains of the 'A' and 'B' XVs with efficiency, and Max Welby set a good example by scoring seven tries. The outstanding player was Martin Gillingham, who as centre/fly-half scored no fewer than 130 of the 'A' team's points, a magnificent effort. He scored 17 tries, 25 conversions and 4 penalties! In all twelve members of the 'A' team scored one or more tries, indicating good teamwork and cohesion between the forwards and the backs. The try scorers were Payne 1, Hutton 1, Williams 2, Boyes 2, Pinder 2, Peacock 2, Hayes 3, Bavelja 3, McGill 3, Noyes 6, Welby 7, Gillingham 17.

I would like to thank Dr. Dosser for his invaluable help with training and for looking after the 'B' team; and also wish the team every success next season. With the wealth of talent and enthusiasm they have I am sure they will go from strength to strength.

D. J. Stubbs

SUNSEEKER

I've been chasing the sun
All the years I've been alive
And when I think I'm sure to catch it
It never seems to rise.

Chris E. Sinden

UNDER 19 BASKETBALL REPORT

Played 10 Won 8 Lost 2

The season proved to be highly successful with the team reaching the quarter-final stage of the Nationals only to be beaten by a strong Theale Green side 62-45. The team's overall record was particularly good in light of the fact that all the matches were played away from home because of our very limited space in the gym.

The team started in fine style with a narrow but exciting victory over Ranelagh 57-54 and after a narrow defeat at the hands of Oxford recorded convincing wins against Desborough, High Wycombe College and Aylesbury who might even turn up for the home match next year. The closest match of all was against Watford where the U.19s, after being behind for most of the match, eventually trounced the opposition 42-41.

At guard Paul 'Ref' Dickinson played with authority when he wasn't being fouled off and was ably assisted by Ed 'the head' Will and Ben 'jumpshot' Morgan, while Al Paterson disproved the maxim—'the ball ends with Patti'. In attack Martin 'Boris' James was a blur, Chris 'I'm nearly 5' 10"' Morrish provided invaluable experience and Chris Carpenter was just too cool for words, while Dave Balmer played with style and Dave 'Scouse' Smith was classy (?). At pivot John 'Fonzie' Key played excellently and was the team's highest scorer.

Full colours were awarded to C. Morrish, E. Will, M. James and J. Key, while half colours went to B. Morgan, D. Smith, P. Speed, A. Paterson and D. Balmer.

Finally, many thanks to Mr. Stubbs who acted as coach, chauffeur and referee throughout the season and who has helped make this season such an enjoyable one.

P. Dickinson

UNDER 16 BASKETBALL

Won 8 Lost 2 Pts for 557 Pts against 406
The Under 16's enjoyed a successful season, reaching the last 16 in the National Competition and the semi-final of the Bucks Cup. Unfortunately in both competitions we came up against our old rivals Pembroke, who were the only team to defeat us this season.

All the matches were good games but of special note were the games against Leon in the Bucks Cup when we beat their strong team 63-53, and Redbridge in the Nationals when we travelled to Southampton and won 51-40 in an extremely good and close match. The climax to the season though was the second match against Pembroke in the Bucks Cup semi-final. After having been thrashed 38-70 in the first game we knew we really had nothing to lose. The match was probably our best of the season and was very close until the last minute when Pembroke, after having been behind for the whole match, suddenly surged away and scored eight points in fifty seconds to win 60-53.

Perhaps the most satisfying thing about the season was the way we extended our game technique. At the beginning of the season we tended to play rather statically towards our big men in the middle, but by the end we could also play effectively to a fast-break pattern. In defence too we learnt from our first thrashing by Pembroke and began to play much more tightly.

All the team wish to thank Mr. Stubbs for arranging fixtures and taking us to matches and especially for all the valuable time he put into training and teaching the team. His time and help was valued by all.

Ben Morgan

UNDER 14 BASKETBALL

The season started well with wins against Cestreham, Brenchwood and Hatters Lane. We lost to Lord Grey School in the Bucks Cup, and this game showed our weakness at shooting, especially when under pressure. We also lost games against Aylesbury G.S. and Beaconsfield School, but finished with wins against Hatters Lane and Raans School. Record: won 5, lost 4. Lane as Captain played steadily, and gave the team confidence, while Hazleton and Carpenter were the best at scoring baskets. The most improved player was Smith, but unfortunately with a broken arm he was out of the side for most of the second term. All the squad represented the School in some game and in future years should do well, especially if some of the smaller boys grow—for some

of the squad was small compared to the opposition!

J.R.L.

INTER-FORM BASKETBALL

This year's competition was larger than usual because of the extra second form. A total of 55 games were keenly contested and the many spectators enjoyed supporting their teams.

The results were:—

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Form 2	S	F	PR	W	B	GR
Form 3	G	B	S	F	D	
Form 4	H	G	R	D	E	
Form 5	G	RP	CP	ME	SE	

The sixth form competition was run alphabetically with Eddy Will's team winning, followed up by the teams of Martin James, Paul Dickinson and lastly John Key. During the last few seconds of the last game of the competition Eddy's will to win resulted in a broken ankle from a bad landing from a defensive rebound, and after my spending the whole season trying to speed up his fast breaks!

D. J. Stubbs

JUNIOR CROSS-COUNTRY

This year also saw the start of organised team fixtures in the lower-school, sparked initially by Woodman in the 4th year and Gower in the 2nd year. The initial enthusiasm of the 2nd year was so profuse that matches just had to be arranged. Martin Gillingham, John Wilkinson, Simon Sharpe, Toby Howick and David Gower won the District Sports at Bourne End, but competition at full county level proved to be too tough, Gillingham doing best by coming in 15th. Woodman won himself selection for the County Team at U.16 level while still U.15, and with the ever-improving James and Haynes on his tail we should have a useful U.16 team next year.

Both the U.13 and U.15 team running usually against older opposition had victories against Borlase and Slough, and defeats against Watford and Desborough.

I. J. Wilson

SENIOR CROSS-COUNTRY

This year saw a great change in RGS cross-country, we were actually winning matches against teams from schools other than Borlase. We beat Alleynes and Watford (as well as crushing Borlase 25-72) and were only narrowly beaten by St. Nicholas, Magdalen College and Abingdon. No longer were our positions 1, 15, 17, 23 etc. John Hoy has been ably supported by Neil Forrester who is still improving fast. Roger Orr, Ian Holliday, Mike Law, Stuart Rowe, Paul Ernest, Philip Green, Jeff Picton, Dave Jeffreys and Mark Foster, as well as several others who have all run well and put a lot of effort into their performances. A novel idea of the captain's was training! So all (?) our runners were busy on Monday evenings around the hills of Wycombe.

Probably the most notable achievement of the year was at the Oxford Tortoise Relay where we finished 10th out of about 60 teams in a very strong field, Manchester Grammar School being the winners. We did well on most of our other relays coming 10th in both the Challoners and Randall Trophy relays, and 8th at Alleynes.

We had some very good performances in the Bucks Schools Championships where Hoy was first, Forrester 4th and Orr 9th. Holliday and Foster did well to finish the five mile course. (You try running five miles through mud nearly up to your knees!)

Hoy and Forrester were selected to run for Bucks in the All-England Schools Race at Redditch, while Orr was the non-travelling reserve. After going off too fast at the start Hoy dropped back to a creditable 56th and Forrester, suffering from a heavy cold (and only coming to watch!) eventually ran to come an admirable 157th out of about 350.

The boys got their revenge against the Staff when the First-Year Sixth team beat them. The fact that they also beat the Second-Year Sixth team is promising for next year when we look towards even greater achievements.

Finally thanks to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Cooper (whose running has put some of us to shame) for helping organise and transport the team.

John Hoy

ORIENTEERING CLUB

The Orienteering Club has enjoyed another successful season and membership has been healthy, if not flourishing. The Club has attended eight meetings, organised by the Reading Orienteering Club and the Thames Valley Orienteering Club (of which this Club is a member). Although the confines of our Club harbours no prospective world champion at this sport, it is most encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which our members tackle the demanding courses.

Special thanks must be given to Dr. Fair, who has given up his Sundays in search of virgin forest, and his lunch hours in search of new members! Dr. Fair is leaving us at the end of this term but the Orienteering Club will continue—so why not come along and give it a try? You do not have to be an ace athlete, or a master map reader, just keen.

A. Jones

FENCING

Since the last magazine there have been matches against Oxford University, Stowe and Pangbourne. As expected, we went down to Oxford but Richmond and Noblett both managed to get a fight each. The match against Stowe turned out to be our first defeat by a school team, and if the RGS team had been properly warmed up, we might have won. The under 16 performance was particularly disappointing on this occasion. But overall, it was the tendency of RGS fighters in failing to clinch close fights that could go either way, that was over-apparent in this match. Luckily, the final match against Pangbourne finished the season on a good note. Both foil teams won convincingly to secure a match score of 20 fights to 7.

All the senior fencers (Noblett, Radvan, Speed, Laidler and Vladar) will be returning in September. This should provide a strong first team, well backed up by an eager and talented group of under 16s in Mole, Orchard, Bezer and Hughes, who will be pressing for team places.

Full colours were awarded to Malcolm Noblett and Martin Radvan; half colours to Paul Speed.

J.R.

FIVES

The beginning of the season started well with the school beating St. Bartholomews and Mill Hill, losing only to Wolverhampton.

During the winter term the season proper got under way with matches against Aldenham, Highgate and Berkhamsted, all without success. By this time the Fives regulars had been established as the second pair. Other noteworthy players were Evans, Kendall and Lane.

Although things did not go too well against Stowe the school did well to beat Marlborough College away. In the final match against Eton, the school was unlucky to lose after the deciding match went into the fifth game.

Now . . . ? Roll on next season, for with some of the younger up and coming players we should have more success in the future.

H. Atkins

BADMINTON

This season has proved to be very successful for the 1st VI. Twelve matches were played ten of which were victories for ourselves. The two matches which were lost were in the latter part of the season and were due to weaker teams because of the mock 'A' levels and university visits.

There were however a good many creditable victories over Abingdon School, John Hampden School and Sir William Borlase. The staff match turned out to be one of our defeats. losing 6—3.

The first pair of Nigel McNally and Mark Methuen played at their usual high standard and lost only one game in the entire year. Outside school they won many individual cups in their respective age groups.

But for the spasmodic play of the 2nd and 3rd pairs, who improved a lot towards the end of the season, the two defeats might have been avoided. Quite a successful find was Doug Perry who played well through the year.

Thanks go to Rod Kettlewell for captaining the team through the year and Mr. White-Taylor for arranging transport and matches.

R. M. Kelly

BOAT CLUB

With the serious business of the regatta season about to commence, it is tempting to draw a veil over this winter's efforts and dwell upon the exciting(?) prospects for the summer. But this would be doing less than justice to certain members of the Boat Club, namely Mark Coburn, Dan Havard, Pete Amos, Mike Jolly, Trev Dibb who collectively form the 1st IV. They have broken the long-standing tradition of failing to win Head of the River races by winning the Restricted division of the Schools' Head, finishing twelfth overall. For their trouble they received a pretty mauve pennant, but Kingston G.S. apparently can't bear to part with the cup, so we wait and hope. Admittedly their victory was not achieved in fine style, and their margin of victory—0.2 secs or 3 feet—left little room for error, but it was nevertheless a very worthwhile achievement.

This undoubtedly marked the high point of the winter's training, which will otherwise be remembered for the state of the river. Last summer's water shortage was but a memory, as the river swelled, and overflowed, putting the towpath under a foot or more of water—but not so the top of the resourceful Mr. B's wellies. In these conditions extremely fast times were inevitable in training, and so it was, with all-time records set. Unfortunately the Henley Head was upstream and into a gale, causing the 1st IV to put in a performance well below training standards. Put it down to experience . . .

The Abingdon Head should have been held a week after Henley, but because of the

floods, was postponed three weeks to three days after the Schools' Head. Against the flood, and another headwind, the 1st IV wrenched itself into 4th place, once 2 had dragged himself from his sickbed, and 3 had stopped coughing. (That's their excuse.) Meanwhile the 2nd IV, in their first event, became hopelessly entangled in the trees at the start. Chris says it wasn't his fault . . . anyway, once two launches had dragged them off, they set off behind everyone else, and managed 6th place, 6 seconds behind the 1st IV, and they had the faster boat!

Fund-raising activities were a market-stall which yielded over £40, and should have included a jumble-sale, but this had to be cancelled owing to a disappointing lack of support, and communication. It will now be held in November, and a little more commitment would go well here.

And so to the summer. At present the 1st IV have injury problems, and are loafing about with little to do until bow's back improves. The 2nd IV (Andy Tyler, Pete Hornsby, Alan Cardy, Richard Dalton and Chris Sinden) have been training hard, going fast, and intend to acquit themselves well this summer, so 1st IV beware! As usual the Colts have dwindled to the enthusiastic core: one IV has emerged keen for competition—the stern pair are big—the bow pair are small—the cox is very small. They must be highly fancied! And so: the mini-bus has been repaired, the boats are polished. All we need now are some cups. . . .

A. J. Tyler

How doth the little two-bug
Improve his preparation,
And get top marks in history,
In physics and dictation?
How doth he take the masters in,
With work so fine and neat . . . ?
He swiped it from a three-bug,
The rotten little cheat!

1st XI HOCKEY

1976/77 was not a vintage year . . . history however will probably reflect benevolently upon it as a 'transitional' season. The team possessed (some) spirit and skill but was lacking in the determination and aggression to exploit the potential which was clear for all to see.

Frustrating disappointments against Desborough (0-2), Shiplake (1-2), Merchant Taylors (1-2) and St. Bart's (1-2) were hardly recompensed by the six victories and two draws against Aylesbury and Reading, especially after the team led on both occasions.

Tim Stone and Steve Smith played competently at the back, although the whole defence was prone to mild attacks of panic. In the second-half of the season, however, Mr. Page's new found enthusiasm for the so-called 'Sweeper' system meant that our defence was strengthened by Dave 'Bechenbauer' Careless leaving Tim to unleash attacking instincts. Jon Davies and Pete

Browne revealed rare flashes on the wings and Dave Mould learnt to pass the ball, occasionally. Ali Watts proved a 'Brash' player, free with advice, and 'Stick' Highton, the second highest goal-scorer, a gentleman.

Chris Mould, a testimony to prodigious effort, was captain until he left at Christmas—to be replaced by Chris Carpenter, the top scorer who produced many superlative performances. Alistair Diack made remarkable progress in goal; all three fully justified their places in the Bucks Under-19 side.

The team's ability to play well, but inability to win consistently (due quite often to its fatalistic approach to second-halves) is evident in the results. However, despite its ups and downs this has been an enjoyable season.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to the father figure of Mr. Page who has had a particularly fraught season himself, his absence from the field is a loss to us all.

J. Davies / C. Carpenter

2nd XI HOCKEY

The hockey 2nd XI has had rather a mixed season and the team's record is hardly impressive. On the other hand, there has been a marked improvement in both results and standard of play when compared to last year and results might well have been more noteworthy if our ability to score goals had matched our overall competence at playing the game. We did however beat Oxford 5-0—the best result of the season.

Nevertheless all players enjoyed the season and put a lot of effort, all too often unrewarded, into each game, which is a credit to the team. Enthusiasm for the game was reflected in the fact that competition for team places has been hard. Indeed, no

fewer than 2 dozen boys played for the 2nds last season.

Consequently the biggest disappointment has not been the lack of good results but the large number of games that had to be cancelled owing to bad weather. In those games that were played, under the captaincy of Neil Diack, everybody generally played well so it would be unfair to pick out anyone for special mention.

Thanks are due to Mr. Stone for running the team and we hope that the standard of 2nd XI hockey will continue to improve next season.

M. Magill

UNDER 15 HOCKEY

Played 8 Won 1 Drawn 2 Lost 5

The record does not reflect the enthusiasm and ability in the team. The side was not helped by frequent absences and it became difficult to produce consistent team work.

In attack King, Ellis and Plane were the most creative players whilst Stott and Lever were the pillars of the defence. Pleace in the few games he played at full back, showed great promise for the future. Landrock had a good season in goal and he was rewarded with a place in the County side along with King, Lever and Ellis.

S. Lever

U.14 HOCKEY

Played 7 Drawn 2 Lost 5

This was a season very much hampered by bad weather. Consequently, little training was available at this introductory level. The limited practice meant that basic skills could not be developed to any great extent.

The team nucleus settled to about 14 players. Confidence was soon found in Ireland as goalkeeper; Johnson played reliably at back; Greene (captain) and Keen worked well at half position; all the forwards showed promise, and should give good service in the next season.

My thanks to Messrs. C. Mills and D. Stone for their help and assistance during the year.

A.J.S.

KNUTS

(An introduction to the work of R. D. Laing, an eminent psychologist whose book 'Knots' attempts to convey the thoughts behind the deeds and actions of men and women.

The following is a brief imitation of the way he works, taking the general thought behind the present day educational system as a pretext.)

I read. I don't read.
I understand. I don't understand.
Although I read, I may not understand.
If I don't read I will certainly not understand.
He reads. I read.
He understands. I may not understand.
If he understands what I do not understand he makes me read to understand and explains to me what I have not understood, thus making me understand what I have not understood.
I now understand and so I read more to understand more about what I understood when one who understood it explained it to me.
Hence the teacher/pupil relationship.
He who understands teaches me, who has not understood to understand what he understands.

t.d.stone

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held in the Masters' Common Room of the Royal Grammar School at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday 19th March 1977. The goodly number of 32 Old Boys were present. The President, Mr. Rowland Brown, took the chair.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, confirmed and signed. Arising out of the minutes:—

(a) *The Financial Report*

An improvement in the Club's finances was noted in the balance sheet drawn up by the Hon. Auditor, A. E. Franklin Hole. The increase in the Life Membership fee to £10 and the annual Membership fee to £1 had reduced the loss for the year. A greater improvement would probably be seen next year. Several Old Boys had paid a Voluntary Levy.

(b) *The School Magazine*

Many present stated how worthwhile they found this publication. The Headmaster from the chair said that what the School was doing was reflected in the quality of the magazine. The School was making a great contribution in South Bucks, and the magazine was its own big means of publicity. All agreed that the standard should be kept up despite the cost.

(c) *The Future of the School*

Mr. Rowland Brown said that the governors were in no two minds about the correct function of the School, whatever was printed in the newspapers. The School would carry on its splendid work.

The governors had passed a unanimous resolution that the distinctive contribution of the Royal Grammar School in the past was in their opinion its function for the future.

(d) *The Election of Officers*

The Hon. Sec. informed the meeting that R. S. Wombwell (now resident in South Africa) and C. R. Rollason (working in York) had resigned. The White twins D. B. White and C. M. White were elected in their stead.

The officers for 1977-78 are:—

The President: Rowland P. Brown Esq.
The Chairman: G. C. Rayner Esq.
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. A. Grant, S. Morgan.

Committee:

S. E. Hands	(1915-20)
J. P. Lord	(1934-38)
G. W. West	(1933-40)
G. E. Green	(1940-46)
G. W. Ray	(1917-23)
J. K. Prior	(1934-40)
G. C. Rayner	(1937-45)
S. A. Goulborn	(1928-36)
D. B. White	(1968-76)
C. M. White	(1968-76)
The Revd. A. J. Skipp	(1928-37)

Hon. Secretary: M. M. Davies Esq.

Hon. Auditor: A. E. Franklin Hole Esq.

(e) *The Durham Light Infantry and the Youens V.C. Medal Appeal*

The Durham Light Infantry Regimental Museum Committee is looking for £2000. They have been offered the medal for £4,900. Former members of the regiment have raised £2,900 and Col. Watson, Committee Chairman, is appealing for the balance. The Headmaster stated that the School had made a contribution. T. C. T. Knowles proposed that the Old Boys' Club should give £25 from its funds. This was seconded in many places and carried unanimously. It was also decided that an announcement should be made at the Annual Dinner and a collection taken.

There being no other business, the Headmaster was thanked for conducting the meeting and all repaired to the Junior School Dining Hall for the Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner 1977

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 19th March 1977. 125 Old Boys gathered to welcome and pay tribute to their Guest of Honour, Lt. Col. S. E. Hands, T.D., who was at the School from 1915 to 1920.

The toast to the Guest of Honour was proposed by J. P. Lord (1934-38). He outlined Sydney Hands' contribution to the

School, the town and to the world of stamp collecting. He had recently retired as chairman of the family furniture firm, Wm. Hands and Sons, after 56 years service. He was a founder member of the Old Boys' R.U.F.C. in 1929 and later Captain, Treasurer, Chairman and finally President. He had been a member of the Old Boys' Committee for over 50 years. He was a Past Master of the Old Wycombiensians' Lodge. He had been a member of High Wycombe Rotary Club since 1953 and was President in 1968-69. A keen philatelist, he had served as Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London for 19 years and was President from 1968-75. He donates a cup annually to the most promising philatelist in the School.

Sydney Hands was always passionately involved in all he did and the Old Boys' Club was proud to honour him.

Sydney Hands reminisced amusingly in his reply. He was grateful for the start the School had given him. The fine gathering made him proud and he was particularly grateful for the magnificent support on the evening from the Old Boys' Masonic Lodge and the Rugby Club.

The toast to the School and Club was proposed by Keith Richmond who had just left school. 'At school one looked at the Old Boys' Club with suspicion and doubted its necessity; was the School worth keeping in touch with, had one seen enough of one's teachers, but in the unfettered freedom of the outside world after only a few months warm affection grew which was not there previously. The new world absorbs one, tries to kill individuality but the Club helps to keep it alive. Many young leavers present on the evening were vindicating the Club's existence and were putting a little back by supporting the School.'

The Headmaster replied: 'The School remains firmly committed to its job of enabling young people to develop themselves. A quarter of the staff has been over 15 years at the School and this stability in the teaching force brings its own special rewards. 120 boys left last year to attend University, Polytechnic or a College of Higher Education. Standards are as high as ever, the School is delivering the goods and

wants to be left to do the job. The School is active in 16 different sports—cricket and rugby are the two main games but the School has achieved success at national level in fencing, sailing and basketball. The Parents' Association is flourishing. It has gone a long way to supplying the money for a new minibus. On 28th May a major event will take place—the Royal Grammar School Show on the School Field. It will be a Gala, a Show and an Open Day, all rolled into one. All are invited to see the School as it is in 1977. The School is in good heart.'

The Durham Light Infantry Appeal for funds to enable the regiment to buy Lt. Frederick Youens' V.C. was outlined to the Old Boys present at the Dinner. As a result a cheque for £140 was sent to Col. Watson, Chairman of the Museum Committee. Col. Watson gratefully acknowledged receipt of the cheque and said that the Museum had set up a Youens V.C. display, containing a replica of the V.C. (the actual medal is too valuable to display) and other souvenirs. Old Boys will be very welcome should they be in the Durham area.

DEATHS

Staff and Friends

Mr. Reg Edmonds

Mr. Reg. Edmonds, a director of Markhams, died recently. He was associated with the School for some years through his activities as Gliding Instructor at Booker, when the School A.T.C. Squadron was at its greatest strength (350 cadets) during the last war. He will be remembered by many who were in the School Squadron at this time and received their gliding training at Booker. The School Squadron and the Gliding School were established simultaneously in 1941 and from the beginning Mr. Edmonds was an indefatigable mainstay of the Gliding School, voluntarily giving his time every weekend as well as some evenings to train boys from the R.G.S. to fly gliders as a preliminary to Air Crew Service in the R.A.F.

Mr. T. H. Evans

Mr. Tom Evans was killed in a road accident recently. He was not an Old Boy but

for 20 years as teacher and then Headmaster of Priory Road School he sent streams of boys to the R.G.S. and was always vitally concerned about their progress. He was 'one of us'.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Sadie Evans and a son E. T. H. Evans (1965-72).

Mr. John Hudson

Mr. John Hudson died in January 1977. He taught Zoology at the School for a short time after the war before leaving the teaching profession to enter industry. He continued to live in High Wycombe and was always interested in the School. Those who taught with him or were taught by him, will always remember his friendliness and gentlemanliness.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Joan Hudson and two sons.

Old Boys

L. G. BAKER (1914-18), on August 9th 1976 in High Wycombe, aged 72 years. Leslie George 'Nibs' Baker, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.) was educated at the Royal Grammar School and Bedford School before qualifying at the Royal Dental Hospital in 1926. He set up in practice in High Wycombe and retained this distinguished practice with his undiminished clinical standards until the year of his death, half a century later. Sport, especially cricket, was his other main interest in life. He captained the High Wycombe Club in the 30's. He represented Bucks. in the Minor Counties team and was accepted as the best opening bat in the region. He also became a Wycombe and County hockey player like his brother G. H. BAKER (1906-12).

He is survived by his wife Betty, sons John and Robert and daughter Penay.

R. J. B. COX (1958-64) was working in the Far East when he was killed recently in a road accident in Japan, aged 30 years.

W. Y. CRAVEN (1932-39) died recently in Wycombe General Hospital aged 54 years. William Yorke Craven retired as manager of Bellhouse Hotel, Beaconsfield last September due to ill health. He spent 24 years at the Bellhouse first as restaurant manager and then as general manager.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Tania Craven and four children.

D. R. LISHMAN (1963-69) died in February 1977 while climbing the north face of Ben Nevis, aged 25 years.

Douglas Lishman of Old Keen Road, Penn was caught in an avalanche while skiing.

P. N. P. WILLIAMS (1936-43) was killed in a road accident in April 1977, aged 51 years.

Peter Williams was a School Psychologist and worked for the South Herts. County Council.

NOTES

BARBER, J. R. (1953-58). Flt. Lt. Roy Barber is a member of the Red Arrows, the Aerobatic Team of the R.A.F. He flies a Hawker Siddeley Gnat T. Mk. I.

BASKIN, E. (1921-25), one of P.L.J.'s boarders, has left Dorchester and returned to Bucks. He attended the Annual Dinner in the Mason's party. He was the first Lodge Secretary and H. S. GROOM (1906-08) was the first Master.

BEDINGHAM, M. F. (1967-72) has been awarded a half-blue for Eton Fives at Oxford. He has a job in Hong Kong.

BENYON, J. E. (1965-72) joined the Old Boys' Club recently as he had reached the stage of being curious about what his friends were doing. He obtained an Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sussex and has just completed a 2-year engineering course with Rolls Royce Aero Division in Leavesden. He remains with R.R. as Development Engineer on small gas turbine engines. He sees regularly K. A. Weston (1965-72) training to be a chartered accountant in London, A. D. WILLS (1965-70) a police constable at Harrow Road, in London, D. M. TAPPIN (1965-72) training to be a doctor at the Middlesex Hospital and S. L. FRY (1965-72) a bank clerk in Beaconsfield.

BERENDT, N. J. (1967-74) is in his third year at St. Andrews University studying for an Honours M.A. in Economics. He originally came to read French and Economics but found the French course far too literature-based and gave it up. He

- likes St. Andrews very much as a University and a town. There are 4000 students, 6000 townspeople and the atmosphere is one of friendship. He has been elected Vice-Captain of the University Hockey Club for 1977-78. He would be pleased to hear from anyone coming up next year and from friends, particularly in the 'Russian Set'.
- CAPELL, L. W. (1926-31) has retired after many years as manager of the High Wycombe Trustee Savings Bank.
- COOPER, S. C. (1969-75) is training at Sandhurst for service with the Army Air Corps. His contemporary in the R.A.F. section S. J. NEWMAN (1969-75) is training at Cranwell for service as a pilot or navigator with the R.A.F.
- COVER, M. C. (1970-76) has joined Lloyds Bank Ltd. with day-release at Swindon College, following a course in Business Studies.
- CRISP, S. R. (1965-72) has been researching for his thesis on the socio-linguistic aspects of the development of the Avar language in Dagestan Caucasus.
- CROOK, A. J. (1946-52) came to the rescue of the German Department last term during the very popular 'German Evening' in the Queen's Hall. At 7.30 p.m. the catering staff found it had no milk. Various dairies were rung up without success and then A. J. Crook answered. He immediately gave the School all the milk it needed. He is proud to be the owner of Beechwood Dairies, Wycombe Marsh, the oldest established family dairy in High Wycombe. His kindness and generosity are much appreciated.
- DEAN, T. W. R. (1948-55), a paper industry consultant, was having dinner at 9.24 p.m. in the Lido Hotel in the heart of Bucharest when the centre was destroyed in the worst earthquake ever to hit Europe. He rushed out into the main street and a big block of flats in front of him came down in a matter of seconds. Trevor Dean has been going to Romania for 15 years as a consultant to the Bucharest-based firm of Tehnoforest Export.
- EDWARDS, R. H. (1968-75), a Freshman at Oxford, played some games as full-back for the University and was well written-up. Another 'blue' should be looming up here.
- ENGEL, P. G. (1961-67). 'Music and Musicians' published a photograph in November 1976 showing Lord Harewood, managing director of the English National Opera, presenting Philip Engel with the second Stephen Arlen Bursary (a cheque for £700), which the latter will use to enable him to take the Concert examination for conductors at the Hamburg Hochschule.
- FARMER, A. S. D. (1958-66) Ph.D. left Bahrain in March 1976 but has now returned to the Middle East to Kuwait in charge of another Shrimp Cultivation Programme.
- FRIEND, L. G. (1956-63) conducted *Così fan Tutte* in a Promenade Concert last year when on tour with the English National Opera. He now has a 3 year contract as Assistant Conductor to the Kassel Opera in Germany. He has also demonstrated music on Radio 3's *Music Maestro Please*. Brother D. R. A. FRIEND (1955-58) is Training Manager of the Hunting Survey Group.
- GAY, S. M. (1967-74) sang with the King's College Choir in the Royal Festival Hall 'Tribute to Britten' concert in February 1977.
- GEORGE, G. E. (1915-22). Although it is 55 years since he left the School, he still finds the magazine of great interest. In the last edition he was pleased to read items relating to Dodgson, Hallasey (the great blackboard artist), Ray and Winter, who was Captain of Cricket in his time. He retired from the Wycombe business 15 years ago and for the last 11 years he has got away from it all in Cornwall. He still keeps in touch with H. C. and J. F. LUTTMAN (1915-19), J. W. K. TAYLOR (1918-24), J. G. PEACE (1917-20). Recently he renewed friendship with Group Capt. G. H. WALKER (1915-23) who won much fame both at School and in the R.A.F. for boxing. In Cornwall he sometimes meets old friends such as F. W. GRACE (1915-22) and looks forward to an annual call from A. W. BRYANT (1919-23). He will be mortified with countless

others if the School is ever forced to lose its fine records and traditions after 415 years of excellence. He ended his burst of nostalgia by recalling that both his grandfathers, his father and an assortment of uncles were all pupils at the R.G.S. in their time.

GODFREY, S. J. (1966–71) graduated from Imperial College in 1974 with a first class honours degree in Mining Engineering. He won a Thouron Scholarship for post-graduate study and has spent the last 2 years at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, U.S.A. In May 1976 he was awarded the degree of M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration). He has now joined Shell International Petroleum in The Hague, where he is working in the technical services section of Shell's coal exploration and mining group—his particular field of interest is in computer applications in mining ventures.

HAMMETT, R. W. (1954–61) wrote last when he was in Tokyo. He stayed there for 6 months and then moved to Osaka to teach English to businessmen and students. The reason for moving to Osaka was its proximity to Kyoto and Nara, two famous capitals of Japan, in and near which there are many historic Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. They are built of wood, almost always unpainted and commonly have roofs of cedar bark. They have beautiful gardens, not of flowers but of trees, ponds, stones and moss. Words are inadequate to describe them and his Saturdays and Sundays were happily filled for a year and a half visiting these manifestations of Japanese culture. He flew to Burma recently, an experience in poverty, and on to Nepal for more temple viewing. He returned to England overland, via India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. He was glad to find England not the smoking ruin that newspaper reports might have led him to expect but he has since returned to Japan via Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union where he took the trans-Siberian railway, 7 days and 7 nights of it. He has returned to Japan because

after 2 years he felt he had only scratched the surface of its culture.

HOFFMAN, S. H. (1928–36). Canon Stanley Hoffman, Director of Education and Warden of Readers in the diocese of Rochester, diffidently writes to inform us of his appointment as Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen. He began his ministry in 1941 at Windsor Parish Church when the Queen was about 15. The only Royals who came to church in his day at St. John's were the young Kents but they always left before the sermon!

HOLMES, J. H. (1952–59) was pleased to read in the magazine that Fives is back in favour again. A resurgence of the sport took place while he was in his final year at school in 1959.

HOSKINGS, P. J. (1957) is now married and lives in Tylers Green. He works locally for Barclays Bank. Ever since he joined the R.G.S. Model Railway Club and became its secretary, he has been interested in railway preservation. He is now sales manager and assistant treasurer of the local railway museum at Quainton Road Station, 6 miles north of Aylesbury, map reference 739 190. It is a standard gauge working railway museum and preserves steam locomotives of all kinds. Visitors can view some 40 steam locomotives and take a steam-hauled train ride. It is a good day out for Old Boys and their children.

HOWLAND, P. J. (1964–71) is reading Law at Birmingham University and is particularly proud of the Rugby XV he captained, which reached the final of the Universities Athletics Union Championships last year.

JENNINGS, R. H. J. (1932–37). Ron Jennings has taken over the Bognor Regis Branch of the Trustee Savings Bank South East. His father, caretaker at the School for many years, is still well at 82 years of age.

KEFFORD, M. H. (1959–65). On December 15th 1976 Capt. Kefford was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society at its Headquarters in London. He and other members of the successful Army Everest team were there to make a presentation of the climb. He came to the School

on December 14th and held the senior boys spellbound with his illustrated talk on the ascent of Everest.

Captain Kefford is Staff Captain in 29 Armoured Brigade in Germany but he will always be a Gurkha.

KNOWLES, T. C. T. (1920–26) came down from Stockton-on-Tees to attend the Dinner and at the A.G.M. proposed that the Club should make a contribution to the Durham Light Infantry Museum Appeal to help the Regiment purchase the Youens V.C. Medal. Like so many Old Boys of his vintage 'Farmer' Knowles reveres the name of Youens. He is very active in his northern retirement and is pleased with his efforts in the Adult Literacy Scheme. His student, although his reading age is 10+, can now tackle some of the abridged junior classics. Equally gratifying is the student's changed attitude—he no longer looks on the police as wanting to suppress him. Son W. A. C. Knowles (1951–58) has spent a few weeks in America, where he met D. S. SUTTON (1951–57) who is well established as a lecturer there.

LANCE, J. W. (1965–72). When he left school, John Lance took an interesting and useful one-year course in Travel and Tourism at Bournemouth College. He found that the travel industry was the ideal one for him. He worked at International Travel in High Wycombe for a year and then became a representative in Austria for Swans Tours. He is now Swans' Head Representative in Brant. He has a flat and spends 10 months of every year there. Winter Sports in winter and the peacefulness of the summer brings English guests in their hundreds. He was joined out there briefly by M. R. COLES (1967–72) who did well but decided to go back to the motor trade and he is now sales manager for B.M.W. in Leicester.

LOWE, D. A. (1965–73) writes often to Mr. Holmes from Schloss Frohnburg, Salzburg where his timetable contains singing lessons, music theory, chor repetiteur, piano, aural, Italian, stage movement, fencing, gymnastik. He hopes to sign on with a master class under Walter Berry.

MALLOWS, S. R. (1970–75) writes from

Golden House, Devizes where he is training as a police cadet. The work is hard and physical. They are expected to get 100% fit and part of the course is a 75 mile walk in 3 days. He was attached to the C.I.D. for a month on a 'scenes of crimes' course and found it very interesting. He is proud of the School and hopes to reach the top.

MAWHINNEY, R. M. (1965–73). In January 1977 the Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple were pleased to award a Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition to Mawhinney who has completed his Law degree at Worcester College, Oxford. D. S. LEVIN (1961–67) a practising barrister in Cambridge, gained the same award when he left Churchill College, Cambridge.

MONAGHAN, N. (1965–72) is in his final year of law at Newcastle and hopes to go to Lincoln's Inn to take his Bar Finals course. He sees R. M. MAWHINNEY (1965–73) and H. G. RUSSELL (1965–73). Russell is considering a job in advertising in London. Another friend N. J. SHERRIFF (1965–72) enjoys work as a marine insurance assessor at Lloyds in the City.

NORTH, L. C. (1960–66) visited the School in March with his wife and 38 6th Form boys and girls from the German school in which he teaches. He is happily settled in Geseke where he has helped the town football team to gain promotion to the Landesliga, the highest amateur league in Germany. The Headmaster is chairman of the football club which is a satisfactory state of affairs.

OWEN, S. J. (1961–67) was an Income Tax Inspector but has deserted the Civil Service to earn an honest living as 'Something in the City', to wit, an advisor on taxation problems.

PECK, A. S. (1955–61) gained a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering at London University and joined British Rail in Derby as a development engineer. He is working on the advanced passenger train and has designed its galley and cloakroom. It is hoped that we can sell this train to America. He is in the T.A., a company commander in R.E.M.E., in the Heavy Recovery Unit. His brother R. J. PECK (1959–65) is

- a Fl.Lt. in the R.A.F. and commander of a Hercules.
- PENDER, W. L. (1953–58). Major Pender was posted early in 1976 to H.Q. 2nd Armoured Division B.F.P.O. 22. Here he found P. J. HOLTORP (1954–58) now a major, serving in the Ordnance Branch. By now M. H. ANDERSON (1959–65) will have joined him there too. He ran into Major W. E. SHACKELL (1952–60) last year while on exercise. He has recently become a member of 'The 1000 M.P.H. Club', complete with tie, following a flight in an R.A.F. Lightning fighter.
- PRIOR, J. K. (1934–40), Chairman of the Governors of the School, received the M.B.E. in the last Queen's Honours List. He is Training Officer of the Prudential Insurance Company. He recently lost a daughter, when she died of cystic fibrosis and is now secretary of the Research Trust investigating the disease.
- ROBERTS, S. C. (1965–72) graduated from Manchester University in July 1976 with a B.A. Hons. Degree in Town Planning and was appointed to the position of Planning Officer with Cheshire County Council. He works in the beautiful city of Chester. He can without hesitation recommend the Town Planning course at Manchester where the studios and facilities for work are first class.
- ROSE, C. A. (1940–44) has been appointed a full-time Member of the British Railways Board. He will remain responsible for personnel matters. He joined the railways in 1944 as a booking clerk and has now got to the top. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Transport and of the Institute of Personnel Management.
- SADDLER, A. J. (1947–54) enjoyed Sinden's poems in the last magazine and was delighted to read of the various Awards at Oxbridge. He ended his letter with the words: 'If the R.G.S. does become another sort of school there will be a precious academic reputation to protect.'
- SHARPE, R. D. P. (1945–50) decided to vet the 'Victor' comic his son was reading in December 1976. In it in the series 'A true story of men at war', the exploit of Ian FRASER (1933–36) which won him the V.C. in July 1945, was graphically depicted.
- SNODIN, S. R. (1956–62) completed an Honours B.Sc. in Geology at Durham in 1965 and a Ph.D. in Geology at Leicester in 1970. He has since worked as exploration geologist in Libya, Paris, Rwanda, U.A.E., Sudan and the Yemen. He married Miss Vera Ann Duchkova on August 22nd 1975.
- STEVENS, S. J. (1935–40) flourishes in Newport, Isle of Wight where he is a butcher. He is a devoted member of Rotary and is tireless in his efforts to help others. On the Island he has been the driving force behind 'Service Bank', an exchange of voluntary unpaid labour to raise the quality of life. Typical services are:—accommodation, baby sitting, cleaning, darning, escorting, fencing, garden care, home baking, judo, knitting, lectures, painting, typing, repairing etc. He produces a Stevens' Christmas News Letter every year—in 1975 he mentioned his brother H. STEVENS (1927–31) now retired to Canford Cliffs, Bournemouth but keeping a hand in mornings at a local butchers. Among his customers are Lord Stokes and Rolf Harris. He also mentioned how he had made contact with his school-time hero and Formmaster, Tom (Cruiser) Hood for the first time since 1940. In his 1976 Letter he mentions the President of the Rotary Club of Okehampton J. A. C. KING (1925–31).
- TANNER, D. W. (1940–46). Sq.Ldr. Tanner, D.F.C., A.M.B.I.M. has just retired from the R.A.F. He wrote into school recently for confirmation in writing of his 1945 Oxford School Certificate examination results. Despite his maturity one prospective employer needed sight of his results other than his own statement!
- TAYLOR, J. W. K. (1918–24) was unable to attend the Annual Dinner and support his old friend, Guest of Honour S. E. Hands. He was on his honeymoon in Sierra Leone. He married Mrs. Eleanor Cooper, the widow of a well known Wycombe councillor and architect, on St. Patrick's Day. He reminisced in his letter—on his second day at the School, he, a 10 year old, was

climbing Amersham Hill and wondering if he would ever reach the top. (In 1918 the Hill was not a regular gradient but very steep in parts). Suddenly he was asked by a bigger boy wearing a West cap, if he were a new boy. On replying that he was, the boy said: 'Well, push my bike up the hill and be here at the same time tomorrow.' John Taylor pushed the bike up the hill for three consecutive mornings before he found out that the boy was Sydney Hands who was not only not a prefect but not even in the 6th Form!

He also wrote that somewhere in a School magazine of long ago, these immortal words appear: 'T. S. Eliot, who was a master at the School, has had some poems published.'

TAYLOR, M. R. G. (1964–70) has qualified as a doctor. He read medicine at London University after entering St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in 1971. He did voluntary work at Wycombe General Hospital while a 6th Former. He rowed for the School and later became captain of St. Mary's and the United Hospitals London Rowing Club.

THAIN, J. E. D. (1961–68) is now Sales Development Manager of Ames Company Africa-Headquarters. He seems to spend most of his time in Africa avoiding coups and Green Monkey Fever. His friends, brothers W. J. (1961–66) and R. J. SEYMOUR (1961–64), are both working more or less full time in Holland—Roger as a senior systems analyst and Bill's job or jobs, which are difficult to define, are making him a very prosperous man.

TOMLINSON, J. D. (1963–69) is now Lecturer in Economics at Brunel University, mostly teaching Economic History. Also in the Department is R. C. L. HEMMING (1962–68). Brunel is not a 'prestigious' University but this does not concern Jim Tomlinson. What is more important from his point of view is the 'openness' of the Department in the sense of not being totally committed to neo-classical economics (cf L.S.E.).

VARNEY, D. G. (1945–48). Don Varney, Manager of British Rail Travel Centre, Lower Regent Street, gave a talk at School

last term on Careers with British Rail. He gave news of other Old Boys in the railway world. D. D. KIRBY (1945–51), General Manager, B. R. Shipping and International Services Division. R. R. COTTON (1943–48), Divisional Passenger Manager, Liverpool.

WRIGHT, J. (1967–73) was among the last pilots to pass out at No. 1 Flying Training School, R.A.F. Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire. He was presented with his wings on April 1st by Group Capt. Sir Douglas Bader.

YOUNG, J. S. (1941–46) spent the first three years after leaving school between the Midland Bank and the Royal Signals at Catterick. For the last 25 years he was with a firm of stockbrokers. He was delighted to read in the magazine that the School was awarded the British Chess Federation School Shield last year. In his last year at school, the chess team was just finding its feet after the war.

ZANDER, M. (1946–51), legal correspondent of the *Guardian*, is our latest professor. Since January 1st 1977 he has been Professor of Law at the London School of Economics.

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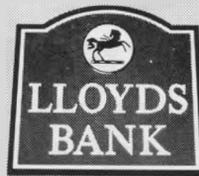
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