



1993

WYCOMBIENSIAN

The Wycombiensian

1993

The Magazine of the
Royal Grammar School
High Wycombe

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Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr M W Cook

Art Editor and Cover Design: Mrs E J Probert

Rowland P. Brown, OBE, JP, MA

A man of many parts

Educational folk-lore has it that a new head has at the most ten minutes to put his personal imprint on to a school, after which it is too late! Rowland Brown did it to the Royal Grammar School with a few minutes to spare, by referring at the outset of his first assembly to "our" school and how "we" were going to make it even better.

Rowland was only the fourth head to be appointed to the RGS this century. The previous three had been renowned for the successful way in which they had built on their predecessors' noteworthy achievements, and it transpired that Rowland was to be the same. They had all been individuals with strong characters and an unswerving sense of what was permissible and what was not: he too will always be remembered for those qualities. Like them too he was one of the very few state school heads elected to the Headmasters' Conference.

After distinguishing himself on the soccer field and setting the long jump record at Queen Mary School, Basingstoke, Rowland won a state scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford, where he read French and rowed for his college. He was then commissioned into the Intelligence Corps on National Service and spent a year at Cambridge studying Russian. For five years he taught at Hampton Grammar School, where he was responsible for Russian, the army section of the Combined Cadet Force and the boat club, which he launched from scratch. He has been similarly supportive of our CCF as well as being a member of the RAF officer selection panel for twenty years. As head of modern languages at Tudor Grange Grammar School, Solihull, he led school trips to France, Russia and the USA. He was Headmaster of King Edward VI Grammar School, Nuneaton, then Principal when it became a sixth-form college.

In 1975 Rowland was selected from a large field to become Headmaster of the RGS, and neither has looked back since.

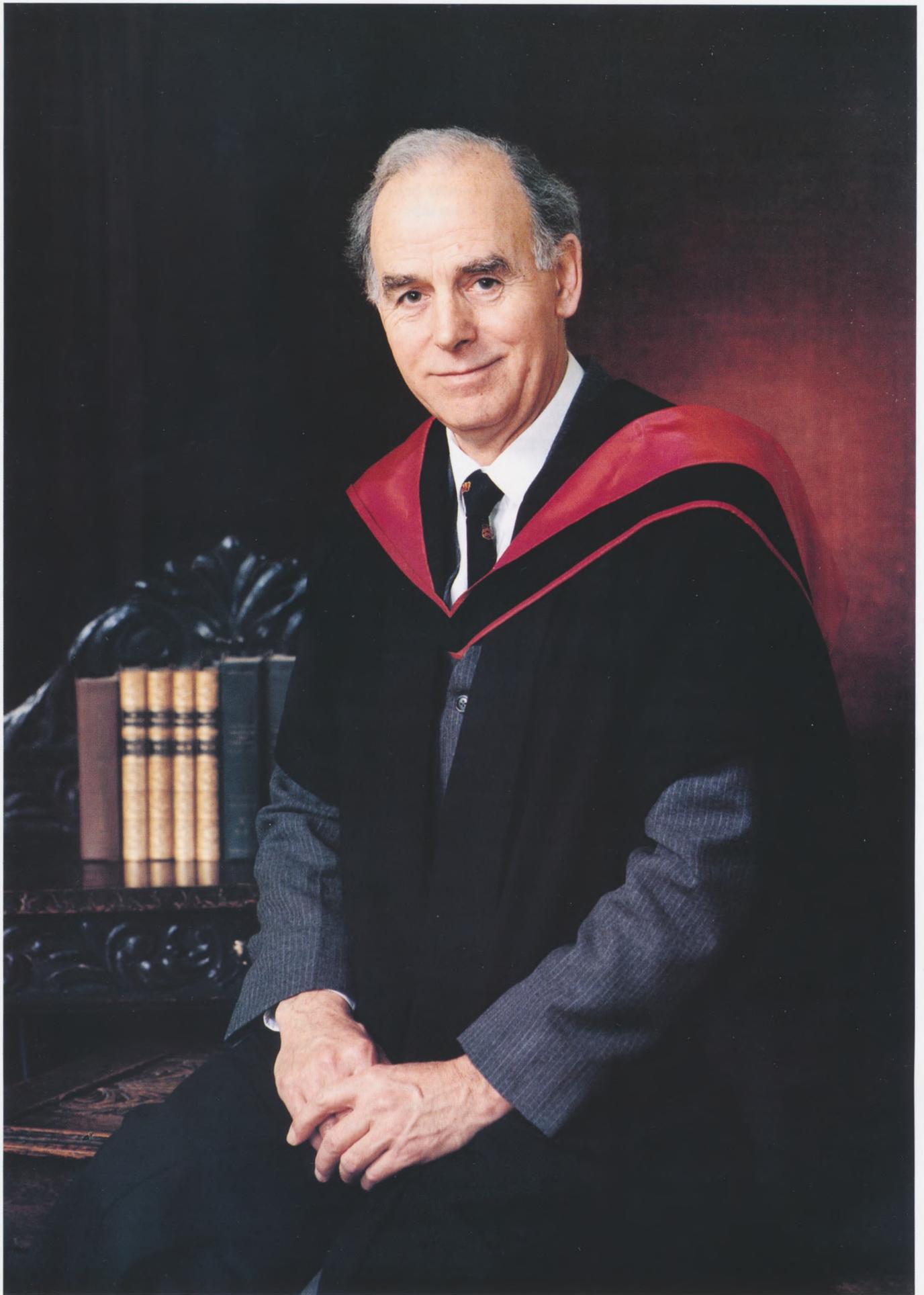
We have always considered that the best, but only the best, is good enough for the RGS. Rowland has succeeded in ensuring that everyone connected with the school shares that view. He has extended the top management team and delegated considerably to them, raising academic and sporting standards still further and becoming a member of

the Oxford University Delegacy of Local Examinations. Tradition has been blended with innovation; pupils have been given responsibility and staff developed, their initiative being encouraged and their careers extended.

Rowland has defended our school against all political threats and delays to development. During the comprehensive era he continued Malcolm Smith's sterling fight and helped prepare a change of status to independence had that proved necessary. The economic threat to boarding was overcome and that important aspect of RGS life is now preparing for expansion. His latest exercise has been to steer the school from voluntary-controlled to grant-maintained status via the Local Financial Management and Local Management of Schools programmes, without losing the school's traditional sense of teamwork and fellowship. This last transfer has coincided with his departure, but he has still found time to help in the selection of his successor, David Levin of Cheltenham College, and to do all he can to help David prepare for his new post.

Rowland was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in 1966 and is a JP of the Wycombe bench, chairman of the Youth Panel and vice-chairman of the Juvenile Branch. He inaugurated and became chairman of the Association of Principals of VI Form Colleges. He was also elected to the National Council of the Headmasters' Association and subsequently became chairman of the Bucks, Berks and Oxon Secondary Heads and legal secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association. A noted National President of the SHA in 1985-6, he is now a legal consultant and adviser to that organisation.

Despite his remarkable public success, Rowland is an intensely private man. He is held in great respect by everyone who knows him, and his crisp decisiveness reflects his prodigious legal knowledge and his infinite care over detail. One of his team puts it thus, "He encourages everyone else to go the extra mile, then goes two himself." He is always willing to "have a go", as will be confirmed ruefully by the many pupils and staff who lost their bets when he stood in the quadrangle on Red Nose Day wearing Bermuda shorts and the trappings. Despite what one journalist called his gravitas, he always



Rowland P. Brown, OBE, JP, MA, Headmaster of The Royal Grammar School 1975 - 1993

enjoys a joke – even, or perhaps especially, at his own expense. Having said that, it is well worthwhile to listen carefully to what he says and to bear in mind that he does not find it easy to suffer pomposity or arrogance gladly.

Rowland has always been strongly aware of the fact that the RGS is a Christian foundation, and he has brought with him his ten years' experience as leader of the Crusaders in Strawberry Hill and Solihull, his leadership of beach missions and more recently his trusteeship of the Union Baptist Church, of which he is a former deacon and chairman of the foundation.

A member of Rotary International from 1968, he became President of the High Wycombe club in 1990. His contribution to the club's life in the town is warmly appreciated and during his presidential year he introduced the first Rotary tree-planting scheme in the country. The club's motto, "Service not self", truly represents his efforts and contribution to this field of social activity.

Despite all his other activities, Rowland has managed to give advice and help with the editing of the *Head's Legal Guide* (1984 *et seq*) and the *School Management Handbook* (1992). These have helped many other heads to overcome the difficulties ensuing from LFM, LMS and the intricacies of the Education Acts of 1986 and 1988 and the Children's Act of 1989.

Naturally, much of a headmaster's time is spent with members of the board of governors, and Rowland has always been willing to make time to be consistently and unsparingly supportive of the governors, whilst tactfully ensuring that the interests of the school alone must be at the root of all policy-making. In his last term he has been a governor himself, but throughout his eighteen years at the RGS he has behaved at all times as a very effective chief executive whilst being accepted as a completely professional colleague by all members of the staff. As chairman throughout Rowland's tenure of office I can pay first-hand tribute to his extraordinary dedication to the school and to the value of his support as well as his friendship.

But the headship of the RGS has comprised even more than Rowland alone; the Brown family have been fully behind him and similarly devoted to the school. Jay teaches at Piper's Corner School, Great Kingshill, but has taken a very full part in many of the activities of the RGS. The staff and other friends have been deeply appreciative of her renowned hospitality far beyond the call of duty, and in this she has been fully helped by their three daughters. Jay has attended a phenomenal number of school events, and we hope we shall continue to see her frequently in future.

Rowland Brown has been a truly great headmaster and it has been a privilege to work with him in the interests of the school, which has continued to develop in all its academic, social and sporting aspects during his tenure. This is evidenced by the willingness of their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess of Wales to pay major visits to the RGS which will never be forgotten. He has carved a permanent place for himself in the history of the Royal Grammar School, and although only the most naive would refer to his "retirement", at least he may indulge his interest in golf and his love of the theatre and music, perhaps even returning to his playing the piano and organ? He and Jay will undoubtedly expand their exotic foreign travel, and we hope they will enjoy themselves and that we shall be privileged to continue our valued friendship with them and their family for many years to come.

J.K. Prior
Chairman of Governors

Mr David Levin

On 1 September Mr David Levin, Second Master at Cheltenham College, becomes only the fifth Headmaster appointed to the RGS this century.

Mr Levin was born in Durban, Natal, and was educated at Cowan House preparatory school, Pietermaritzburg, and Kearsney College. Following school, he spent a year doing his compulsory military service, and then studied for a year in California, having won an American Field Service Scholarship. He then returned to South Africa and read Economics for his Bachelor's degree at the University of Natal. In 1973 Mr Levin came to Britain where he studied at the University of Sussex, gaining a Master of Arts degree by dissertation.

Mr Levin then served articles with a solicitors' firm in Westminster, but decided to make his permanent career in



Mr David Levin

teaching. He has taught at Portsmouth Grammar School and at Whitgift School, Croydon, before moving to Cheltenham as Head of Economics in 1980. There he introduced an annual Industrial Link scheme which succeeded in placing over one hundred Lower Sixth formers with commercial or manufacturing firms in the Gloucestershire area; the scheme has also involved international attachments with Japanese firms in Tokyo as well as with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Houston. On the pastoral side, Mr Levin served at Cheltenham as House Tutor in a boarding house; and for the last six years he has been Second Master at the school.

The new Headmaster is an enthusiastic sportsman. At Natal University he played first class rugby and captained the swimming team, and at Cheltenham he has continued these interests by coaching both sports. Another of his interests is long distance swimming. In 1987 he took charge of a college team which challenged a local swimming club to a charity relay race across the English Channel. When

two of the boys had to drop out, Mr Levin stepped in (literally) and made up the numbers. His team won convincingly and set the record crossing time for that year.

In his spare time Mr Levin enjoys the theatre in London and Stratford, as well as hill walking in Scotland; his interests are further rounded by his becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Economic Research Council.

In all these activities Mr Levin has been fully supported by his wife, Jenny, who hails from Hertfordshire. Mrs Levin has a research degree in Economics, and then became a business development manager for a multi-national company. For the past nine years she has worked as a management consultant.

Mr Levin plans to develop the RGS's new Grant-Maintained status, and to enhance the school's academic and sporting achievements further. He will seek ways to increase the number of boarders; and he is particularly ambitious to explore the international dimension for education in the 1990s, giving the RGS a greater international perspective.

M.J.S.

Staff Leavers

Mr Roger File

The interminably repeated question at the Staff Common Room door, 'Is Mr File there, sir?', will be asked for the last time in July. Presumably its predecessor, 'Seen young File anywhere about?', was being asked when, in 1945, he walked to school, cap on head, over the green fields where the roads off Arnison Avenue now are.

The eldest member of the 'Been here man and boy' club, he has taught colleagues who had been teaching here before I arrived fifteen years ago. He came to fill a gap in the English department for a term, and from thence moved by easy stages to starting up A Level Economics, running Under 15 cricket for thirteen years, and creating the Economics department, before becoming Director of Sixth Form Studies in 1977. As admissions tutor he has admitted about 400 Sixth formers from schools outside, and as our ambassador to Oxbridge has seen a similar number gain entry (roughly 150 to Oxford and 250 to Cambridge).

In his own Sixth form career here, he boxed as county champion, sang the lead in 'Yeomen of the Guard', played for the school 1st XV for three seasons and captained 2nd XI cricket for two. According to his Under 15 rugby coach, 'We couldn't drop him, his mother always turned him out so immaculately, you see, even if he couldn't always find touch'. It isn't just the exercise of skill, but the nuances and flavour of incident as it reflects personality and human circumstance, that interest him in sport as in the world of theatre, films, literature, and political activity both here and abroad, particularly the USA. It explains his kindly tolerance of the weaknesses of his fellow man, especially in the tricky transition from adolescence to early adulthood. A number of unlikely candidates have slipped into and held out in Sixth form courses to secure surprising results, due to his loyal defence of opportunity for the academic underdog.

Never at a loss for words himself, he is almost passionately moderate, a careful listener for the still small,

sometimes almost inaudible, voice of wisdom amidst the hurly burly of the daily school round. His judgements are always informed; his foibles are endearing when not actively entertaining. His ill-parked car gently reversing itself across three streams of traffic into an astonished Amersham Road housewife's rosebed while he was buying a pack of biscuits in Archie's Stores, sits joyfully in the memory.

Life has been kind to R.C. File and it shows: colleagues and students alike have benefited from his courtesy, patience and thoughtfulness. I know that I speak for many past and present in wishing him and his wife, Judy, a long and happy retirement.

T.J.N.C.

Mr Iain Meyer

After 11½ years Iain Meyer has left the RGS for a new life in Australia. He spent a year on an exchange at Brisbane Boys' College (1991) where he has now taken up his new post. He did not find the decision to go an easy one but after much heart-searching he left in January 1993.

Although inclined to a pessimistic view of life, he was able to couple this with a sharp sense of humour, often making jokes at his own expense. He came from Haberdashers' Aske's school as a well-known and respected geographer and teacher, having co-authored a number of textbooks and written articles for various academic journals. He pioneered the introduction of coursework at the RGS in pre-GCSE days and brought expertise and innovation to the Geography Department.

Iain played a full part in the life of the school. He was an enthusiastic and skilled rowing coach, giving willingly of his time and producing many fine squads. He put in place a wide range of fund-raising events for the Boat Club, from the much loved summer "bash" at the Remenham Club to evenings with John Mortimer.

He was happiest when busy organising trips and events and many will remember their first taste of skiing whilst on one of the regular trips of Meyer Ski Tours Ltd! His wit and musical talent were also appreciated in his staff revue and cabaret performances. He was at ease in both formal and informal settings and he could cut a dash whether in the Stewards' Enclosure or dressed as a major in the CCF during the General Inspection.

We shall miss a respected colleague, not just for his staff-room humour, best exhibited when voicing some complaint or commenting on the minibuses which always seemed to break down when he was driving them, but for his high level of professionalism which many students over the years have valued so much. Brisbane Boys' College have gained an enthusiastic and rigorous member of staff. (We hear he is already arranging a ski-trip to New Zealand and bringing his rowing VIII to Henley to win the Princess Elizabeth Cup!) We wish him sincerely all the very best for the future.

R.N.P.

Mr Nick Arnfield

Nick Arnfield joined the RGS in September 1988 after teaching English as a foreign language in Greece.

He has many interests – chief among them being fine art painting. It is from his love for the moody 'darker'

landscapes of Cumbria – his native home – that many of his colleagues will draw an image of his art. But Nick was truly a multi-media man – from supporting ‘Vulture’, editor of *Ikon* magazine, re-awakening his interest in the cello and the school choir, to taking on this year’s set design and construction for the production of ‘Government Inspector’ – a great success!

Other colleagues will recall Mr Arnfield’s contribution to school and staff cricket and his awesome determination in fitness training. (He set the standards on the rowing machine which few could match!)

Despite his wide interests Mr Arnfield was foremost a perceptive and understanding teacher. As a form tutor he was most caring – with a genuine interest in pastoral care, and as a teacher of art his energy, vision and charismatic approach brought new insights into the department. He successfully integrated information technology into the art studio where he has established a focus for the creative use of computer-aided design and video technology.

Mr Arnfield is now moving to Harpenden near St Albans to take up the post as Head of Art. We wish him our congratulations, success and happiness in this new venture.

R.P.S.

Mrs Sandra Ball

Mrs Ball came to join the Mathematics department in September 1990 after a career around the world, including work as Head of Department. Thus she brought expertise to her teaching, and the results were soon seen. Room displays were extensive and splendid, with much excellent pupils’ work displayed on the classroom wall. Sandy was very conscientious and spent much time making sure that her pupils were well prepared for the various examinations. Outside the classroom she made her presence felt, campaigning for women’s rights and facilities in the staff room. The Fourth Form industry course was well organised, as was the Young Enterprise Scheme under her guidance. In addition to these activities, Mrs Ball was an active Form Teacher, looking after a group of boys from their fourth form years up to their GCSEs. In July 1992 she left the Maths staff to be second in department at the Sir William Borlase School in Marlow.

D.M.B.

Mr Adrian Griffin

Adrian Griffin joined the school in September 1990, having left in 1985 to do a degree in Chemistry at University College London followed by teacher training at Oxford Department of Education, where he gained a Blue for fencing.

He quickly settled into the department and became involved in a wide range of out-of-classroom activities, the School Fencing Team particularly benefiting from his expertise.

We wish Adrian well in his new post with the Medical Research Council.

B.K.G.

University Entry 1992-93

OXFORD

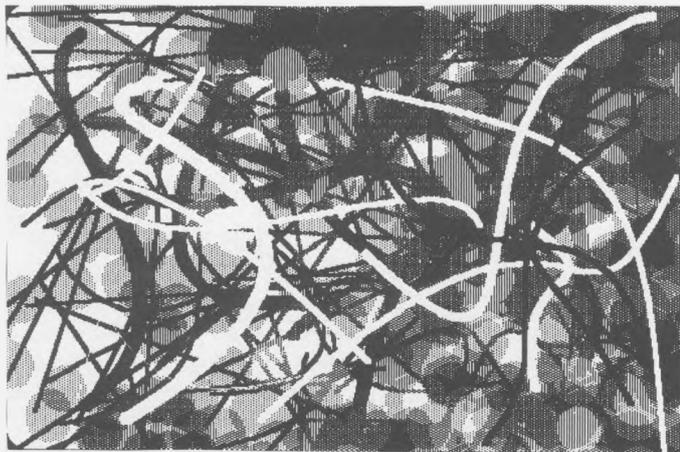
C Bryan: University, Biological Science
J Cox: Hertford, Geology
J Farley: Balliol, Ancient & Modern History
G Horridge: Pembroke, Law
A Khan: Christ Church, Law
A Machacek: Trinity, Physics
N Mann: St Hugh’s, Modern Languages
P Toller: Pembroke, Mathematics
R Weaver: Worcester, Geography
J Windle: Balliol, Engineering

CAMBRIDGE

A Ball: Magdalene, Social & Political Sciences
C Bishop: Christ’s, Engineering
M Chacksfield: Clare, Natural Sciences
D Chapman: Selwyn, Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic
A Chenery: Homerton, Education
A Curry: Girton, Medicine
T Davies: Peterhouse, History
A Gambhir: Caius, Natural Sciences
A Hickman: Jesus, Engineering
N Page: Caius, Economics
R Pople: Queens’, Natural Sciences
D Sheiham: Trinity, Mathematics
P Szyzsko: Downing, Law
C Tang: Magdalene, Engineering, Electrical & Information Sciences
P Tidball: Downing, Modern Languages
M Wheater: Queens’, Medicine

OTHER UNIVERSITIES

G M Addison: Belfast University, History
J N Alwis: Derby University, Business/Management Studies
P P Athwal: Newcastle University, Economics
T A Badman: Bristol University, Mechanical Engineering
C M Bailey: Reading University, Cybernetics & Computer Science
R Barnicoat: Kingston University, Geography
C L Bartington: Royal Holloway College, London, Latin
S R Bayly: Newcastle University, Architecture
C G Baynes: University of Hertfordshire, Economics
E M Belcher: Liverpool University, Psychology & Business Studies
D A Bennett: Aston University, Chemical Engineering
M S Bharj: Westminster University, Economics & Business/Management Studies
S R Birney: Bangor University, History
M R Booth: East Anglia University, Economics with Accountancy
A S Bowen: St George’s Medical College, London, Medicine (1993)
A D Boyle: University College, London, Combined/General Science
W A Brooks: Leeds Metropolitan University, Language Studies



A. Levicki 6LF1

- T J Brooksbank:** Sheffield City Polytechnic, Statistics (1993)
P S Brown: Exeter University, Economics
C M Brownridge: Exeter University, Economics
I R Brownridge: Surrey University, Law & Russian
T J Buck: Leeds University, Animal Science
A P Calleja: Leeds University, Italian
J S Chan: Staffordshire University, Computer Studies
M J Church: Edinburgh University, Geography
P Clark: Leeds University, Economic/Social History
S P Clements: Swansea University, Computer Studies
D A Coleman: Bristol University, Computer Studies & French
C D Collins: De Montford University, Combined/General Course
P A Colmer: Bangor University, Music
C R Constable: Hull University, Production Engineering
R J Coope: Reading University, Software Engineering
A J Cotter: Swansea University, Zoology
M E Cracknell: Bournemouth University, Institutional Management
S P Curl: Southampton University, Law
M R Darby: Cardiff University, Sociology & Industrial Relations
M R Davies: Lancaster University, Sociology (1993)
T D Davis: Brighton University, Business/Management Studies
T P Day: Bournemouth University, Law
P DeRaney: Leicester University, Economics & Economic/Social History
G Devlin: Southampton Institute of Higher Education, Accountancy
P R Doe: Bristol University, Aeronautical Engineering
P R Element: Edge Hill College of Higher Education, History
R O Fell: Reading University, Politics & History
C A Fielding: Southampton University, French
C A Fines-Allin: Staffordshire University, Business/Management Studies
R P Flint: Leeds University, Medicine
M S Gomm: Reading University, Latin
J W Gordon: Southampton University, Geology with Geography
N J Grant: University of the West of England, Sociology
C R Green: Bangor University, History
N R Hall: Southampton University, German
P A Hall: Exeter University, Mechanical Engineering
R Hall: Birmingham University, Electronic & Computer Engineering
T P Havelock: Nottingham University, Medicine (1993)
C P Heaven: Bristol University, Aeronautical Engineering
J M Heil: Birmingham University, Combined/General Arts
F H Hill: Exeter University, French & History (1993)
A B Hoad: Durham University, Classics (1993)
M J Hobden: De Montford University, Computer Studies
T P Hogbin: Manchester University, History
M E Howell: St Andrews University, Psychology
R E Hutton-Squire: Edinburgh University, Computer Studies (1993)
S Q Jones: Salford University, Civil Engineering
A R Kinner: Hull University, Italian & History
G R Knight: Durham University, Combined/General Science
M J Koster: Nottingham University, Politics
D C Kumar: Sheffield University, Psychology
C R Leslie: King's College, London, Law
A C Levan: Bath University, Sociology with Industrial Relations
A P Lewis: Bristol University, Music
G S Lord: Sheffield City Polytechnic, Business/Management Studies
S W Lucas: Aston University, Business/Management Studies
M J Lunnon: Southampton Institute of Higher Education, Sociology
A C Mawhood: Leeds University, French & Spanish (1993)
J R Mawson: Exeter University, Sociology
A P McCarthy: Leeds University, French & History of Art
T J McCullagh: Nottingham University, Geography
M J McKenna: Leeds University, Linguistics & French (1993)
R J Mole: Lancaster University, Politics
M S Moore: University of Teesside, Sociology
P D Munday: Bristol University, Electrical & Electronic Engineering
D J Musgrove: Exeter University, History & Archaeology
J M Nurthen: Bristol University, Physics
M Oden: Exeter University, French & Italian (1993)
D J Orr: University of the West of England, Computer Studies
J J Parkinson: Exeter University, Engineering
C J Parsons: Southampton University, Electronic Engineering (1993)
M G Pavitt: Nottingham University, Law
M N Pavlovic: University of Greenwich, Pharmacy
B P Pearce: Southampton Institute of Higher Education, Accountancy
D A Peddle: Royal Holloway College, London, French & Music
M T Perkins: Birmingham University, History & Archaeology
T J Perrins: Warwick University, Mathematics & Economics
J C Pettit: King's College, London, Geography
R M Pickles: Bristol University, Mathematics
J R Powell: Bournemouth University, Institutional Management
S R Priestley: Loughborough University, Financial Management
R D Proctor: King's College, London, Medicine (1993)
J P Rake: University of Central England, Export Engineering
M R Ratchford: York University, Economics
J N Read: Southampton University, Computer Studies
P J Read: King's College, London, Philosophy
S P Reeve-Parker: Warwick University, History

B D Rendall: John Moores University, Physical Education
S Renyard: Leeds University, Zoology
J B Richards: Royal Holloway College, London, History
A S Rogers: Portsmouth University, French & Spanish
A K Rubis: Middlesex University, Geography
D J Russell: Exeter University, Spanish
H G Rye: Brunel University, Combined/General Social Science
P S Sawyer: University of Hertfordshire, Computer Studies (1993)
S P Schlaepfer: Leeds Metropolitan University, Secondary Teaching & PE
E L Sermon: Aberystwyth University, Business/Management Studies (1993)
E A Sey: North Cheshire College, Business/Management Studies
M Seymour: Leeds University, Business/Management Studies
A J Shepherd: Exeter University, Psychology (1993)
G Singh: Kingston University, Chemistry with Business/Management Studies
D Slater: Aberdeen University, Forestry
D G Smith: Nottingham University, Law
S L Smith: Sunderland University, Politics & History (1993)
W H Spooner: Southampton University, Oceanography with Chemistry
M J Spraggon: Warwick University, Mechanical Engineering
J S Stephens: Staffordshire University, Biology
R J Storey: University of Glamorgan, Combined/General Course
G T Stythe: University of Hertfordshire, Combined/General Course
J D Sugg: St Mark & St John College, Exeter, Media Studies
J P Symmons: Nottingham University, Geography
D J Tecke: Birmingham University, Production Engineering
N S Thompson: University of the West of England, Law
E L Toms: Imperial College, London, Materials Science
T C Townley: Bristol University, Sociology
S P Tyler: Liverpool University, Psychology
S R Tyrrell: Liverpool University, Economics & Economic/Social History
M C Vance: Birmingham University, Law with French
D H Wai: Imperial College, London, Civil Engineering
M A Waldron: Lampeter University, Ancient Language & German
J Walmsley: Birmingham University, Physics
A M Walters: Reading University, Computer Studies/Electronic Engineering
J L Weingard: Leeds University, History
PM Wilson: University of Hertfordshire, Production Engineering
M G Wingate: Warwick University, Financial Management & Accountancy
T P Witcher: United Medical & Dental Schools, London, Dentistry
J A Woodley: Leeds University, Economics & Business Studies
M D Wynter: University of the West of England, Law (1993)
N Yaseen: St George's Hospital Medical School, London, Medicine
A A Zachary: Kent University, Law

"A" Level Results 1992

The successful candidates who took the GCE "A" Level Examinations were:

KEY: Ar - Art; Bi - Biology; Bs - Business Studies; Cn - Chemistry (Nuffield); Cs - Computing; Dm - Decision Maths; Ec - Economics; El - English Literature; En - English Language; Ep - Economic and Political Studies; Et - Electronics; Fr - French; Ge - Geography; Gm - German; Go - Government and Political Studies; Gr - Greek; Gs - General Studies; Ha - Ancient History; Hi - History; Ja - Japanese; La - Latin; Ma - Maths; Mf - Further Maths; Mu - Music; Pi - Philosophy; Pn - Physics (Nuffield); Sp - Spanish; Te - Design and Technology.

AS denotes "AS" Level * denotes Grade A

J Alwis: Fr **A Ardron:** Cn* Cs Ma Pn **F Askew:** Sp
P Athwal: Ec* En Ge Gs AS:Dm **T Badman:** Cn Ma* Mf Pn* **C Bailey:** Cn Ma Pn AS:Cs **R Bareham:** Hi* Ma* Mf* Pn* **C Bartington:** Fr* Hi La AS:Go
S Bayly: Ar Cn* Ma Pn* **C Baynes:** Ec Fr Hi AS:Go
E Belcher: Fr Hi La AS:Pi **D Bennett:** Cn Ma* Mf Pn*
M Bharj: El Ep Ge **M Booth:** Ec Ma Pn **A Bowen:** Bi* Cn* Pn* AS:Et* **W Brooks:** Ep Fr Hi AS:Bs
T Brooksbank: Cn Ma Pn **B Brown:** Ec* Ge* Hi*
M Brown: Cn* Ma* Mf* Pn* **R Brown:** El Ge* Hi* AS:Go
C Brownridge: Ec El Fr* AS:Pi **I Brownridge:** En Fr Gm AS:Bs **T Buck:** Bi* Cn* Gs* Ma AS:Pn*
A Butler: En Ge Hi AS:Fr **A Calleja:** El Fr Ge Gs AS:Bs
L Chadzynski: Cn Fr Pn **J Chan:** Cs Gs Ma Pn
A Charles: Bs Fr AS:Pi **M Church:** Ge* Hi Ma AS:Cs* **P Clark:** Bs* Ge Hi **S Clements:** Bs* Cs
D Coleman: Bs Fr* Ma AS:Go **C Collins:** Bi Cn Ma AS:Cs **P Colmer:** Cs Ma Mu **C Constable:** Hi Ma Pn
R Coope: Bs Cs **A Cotter:** Bi* Cn Ma AS:Pn*
M Cracknell: Fr **S Curl:** En Fr* Gm AS:Bs **M Darby:** Bs* En Ge AS:Go **J Davies:** Bi* Cn* Ma AS:Pn*
M Davies: El Ge Gs* Hi **T Davis:** Cs Ep Ge AS:Bs*
M Dawkes: Mu **T Day:** Ep Fr Ge Gs AS:Cs
C Denison: Bi* Cn* Ma* Pn* **P DeRaney:** Ep Ma Pn
G Devlin: Bs Fr Ma AS:Cs **P Doe:** Cn* Ma Pn* AS:Te
L Edwards: Bs Cn Cs **P Element:** Ge Ha Hi AS:Pi
S Ewing: Ar Ge **A Fallaize:** Cn* Ma* Pn* AS:Bs*
J Farley: Gs* Ha* Hi* La* Ma **J Feasey:** Cn* Gs* Ma* Mf* Pn* **R Flint:** Bi* Cn* Ma* AS:Pn* **P Foot:** Cn* Ma* Mf* Pn* **R Fraser:** Cn* Ma* Mf* Pn* **J French:** Fr* Ma* Mf Sp* **S Godley:** AS:Dm **M Gomm:** Ge Hi La AS:Pi
S Goodfellow: Ar Fr Ma Pn **J Gordon:** Bi Cn Ge Gs AS:Fr
N Grant: Fr Gm Gs Hi AS:Go **C Green:** Ec* Hi Ma AS:Go
J Green: Bi El Hi AS:Fr **J Hadley:** Bi* Cn* A Pn* **N Hall:** Bs Fr Gm AS:Cs **P Hall:** Cn Ma Pn AS:Te
R Hall: Cs Ma Pn AS:Et **P Handley:** Ar En Hi **T Havelock:** Bi Cn* Ma Pn* **A Hazell:** Fr Ge AS:Bs
C Heavens: Gm Ma* Pn* **J Heil:** El Fr Hi AS:Go
P Hext: El Ep Hi AS:Pi **F Hill:** Fr* Gs Hi Ma AS:Pi
A Hoad: Ge Ha La **M Hobden:** Bs Ec Gs
T Hogbin: Ec Gs Hi Pn AS:Go **N Hollin:** Ar Ge* Gm Gs Hi
A Holmes: El Ha Hi AS:Fr **A G Horridge:** Ep Fr* Ma* AS:Pn* **M Howell:** Cn* Fr* Ge Gs* AS:Dm
P Huber: Cn **R Hutton-Squire:** Gs Hi Ma* Pn AS:El
S Jones: Ec Ma Pn **T Kawakita:** Cn* Ja* Ma* Mf Pn*
A Kinner: Fr* Ge* Hi* **C Leslie:** El Ep* Ge* Gs* Hi* Pi
A Levan: Ec Ha Hi AS:Go **A Lewis:** Gm Ma Mu* Pn* **M Linney:** El Hi Pi **P Lishman:** Ma Pn **S Long:** Hi Ma* Mf* **G Lord:** Ec Fr Hi AS:Bs **S Lucas:** Bs* Ge

Gm AS:Fr M Lunnion: Ec Ge Hi G Maddock: Cn Ec*
 Ma Pn* N Mann: El Fr* Gm* Sp* T Marsden: AS:Pi
 A Mawhood: Fr* Ge Hi Sp* J Mawson: El Ge Hi
 AS:Ar R Mawson: El Ep A McCarthy: Ar Fr* Hi Sp
 M McKenna: Fr* Ha Ma AS:La P Mennie: Hi* Ma*
 Mf* Pn* R Mills: Bi* Cn* Gs* Ha* AS:Fr*
 T Milward: Cs Ma* Mf* Pn* T Minton: Cn* Ma* Pn*
 AS:Pi A Mirza: Fr N Molden: Ec* Gs* Hi* Ma* Mf*
 Pi* R Mole: Ec Ge Gs* Hi M Moore: Fr Ha Ma
 AS:Bs* S Morley: Ec Gs Hi Ma AS:Te P Munday: Cn
 Ma Pn* AS:Et* D Musgrove: El Ge*A Hi AS:Fr
 K North: Cn* Ma* Mf* Pn* J Nurthen: Cn* Ma* Mf
 Pn* S O'Donovan: Ep Ge Hi AS:Ha M Oden: Fr* Gm
 Ma D Orr: Bs J Parkinson: Cn Ma Pn AS:C
 C Parsons: Cn Ma Pn* AS:Et* M Pavitt: Fr* Ge* Gm*
 Hi* M Pavlovic: Bi Cn AS:C
 B Pearce: Gm Hi
 AS:Dm A Peattie: Fr Hi M Perkins: Cs Gs Ha Hi
 T Perrins: Ec Fr Ma* Mf J Pettitt: El Ge Hi AS:Go
 M Pickles: Fr Ma* Pn* J Powell: Bs Ge R Proctor: Bi
 Cn Ma* Mu A Pullen: Bi* Cn Pn J Rake: Ec Hi
 AS:Bs M Ratchford: Ar Ep* Ge* Hi* J Read: Cs Gs
 Ma Pn AS:Et S Reeve-Parker: Ec Hi Ma* AS:Fr
 B Rendall: Cs Ma Pn S Renyard: Bi Cn Ma AS:Pn*
 B Richards: Gm Hi Ma AS:Fr A Rogers: Fr Sp
 A Rubis: Ec Ge Hi AS:Dm D Russell: Fr* Ge* Sp*
 AS:Go P Sawyer: Bs Cs Ec S Schlaepfer: Ec Fr Hi
 E Sermon: Ec Fr Ma AS:Ar E Sey: Ec El Fr AS:Dm
 M Seymour: Bs* Fr* Ge AS:Go A Shearer: Ec Hi Ma
 A Shepherd: En* Gm Hi AS:Dm M Skingley: Ec Ge
 S Smith: El Ep Hi AS:Ar W Spooner: Cn Ge* Gs* Ma
 Pn M Spraggon: Cn* Ma AS:C
 J Stephens: Bi Cn Ma
 AS:Fr G Stythe: Ec En Ma AS:Pi* J Sugg: En Fr Hi
 M Sykes: Cn* Ec* Ma* Pn* J Symmons: Ge* Hi Ma*
 AS:La* A Taylor: Bs Cs Fr J Taylor: Cn Ma* Mf
 Pn* D Tecke: Ec Ma Pn L Thatcher: AS:Fr
 N Thompson: Bs* En Fr S Tobler: El Fr* Gm* Gs* Pi
 P Toller: Bs* Fr* Gs Ma* Mf* D Toms: Bi* Cn* Ma
 Pn* E Toms: Cn Gs Ma Mu Pn A Toone: Ge*A Ha Hi*
 AS:Go T Townley: Bs* En Ge AS:Go S Tyler: Bi Cn
 Gs Ma AS:Go M Vance: Fr* Gm* Hi AS:Bs D Wai: Ec
 Ma Pn J Walmsley: Cs Ma Pn A Walters: Cn Ma Pn
 AS:Et J Weingard: El* Ep* Hi* Pi* P Wilson: Cn Pn
 AS:Te M Wingate: Cn Ma Pn AS:Go T Witcher: Bi
 Cn Fr* Gs AS:Pn J Woodley: Ec* Hi Ma AS:Fr
 M Wynter: El Fr* Hi AS:La A Zachary: El Fr* La
 AS:Ar



B. Markham 2S - Fabric Collage

“GCSE” Results 1992

The following boys obtained grade A-C in four or more subjects in the “GCSE” Examinations:

P Addyman (10); D Andrew (10); R Andrews (7);
 J Axworthy (8); J Ayling (7); J Badman (9); J Baker
 (10); S Barlow (10); R Bates (8); C Bealer (9);
 R Beever (8); C Bennett (10); E Bennett (10);
 A Berry (7); S Bhatti (10); S Black (10); S Blackwood
 (9); C Bowen (9); C Brown (10); D Bryars (10);
 M Burman (10); R Callister (4); S Champion (10);
 G Cannon (10); J Cannon (9); P Carter (9);
 R Catchpole (10); D Catling (9); M Coakes (10);
 J Conway (10); N Corran (10); C Coster (7); A Cox
 (10); J Cumming (6); J Dadachanji (5); L Davies (9);
 M Davis (9); M Diaz-Meco (10); M Downing (5);
 B Duncan (10); I Dykes (9); S Eade (11); D East (6);
 R Evans (5); D Farr (10); N Fitch (10);
 C Fletcher (10); I Fogden (8); D Forrest (10);
 C Gerrard (9); R Ghosal (10); S Gieler (9); P Gilliatt
 (10); A Goodfellow (10); M Goodfellow (10);
 N Govan (10); A Green (11); J Green (4);
 T Hadley (9); S Hallam (10); J Harbour (9);
 J Harper (10); R Harper (7); D Harris (9);
 P Harrod (8); W Havelock (9); N Hawkins (9);
 S Hayat (10); R Highett-Smith (10); M Holloway (9);
 C Horn (6); M Hotston (9); N Hudson (9); N Hughes
 (9); M Hulme (10); C Irvine (9); R Jackson (10);
 A Jones (10); R Jones (9); R Judd (7); S Kemble (9);
 K Kennedy (5); A Khan (10); K Khan (9); A King (6);
 S King (10); M Kingston (10); D Kottler (10);
 K Kumar (9); N Lamb (10); A Large (11);
 S Large (10); L Lathom-Sharp (9); J Lawrence (9);
 C Levan (10); R Levan (11); A Levicki (7);
 D Lindner (9); S Lodge (10); A Long (10);
 B Lovelock (8); K Lucas (9); S Mackinder (5);
 A MacMillan (10); E Madden (8); R Maharg (10);
 J Maknin (10); R Marsden (8); T Marsh (5);
 J Marshall (9); P Matthews (10); B McLaughlin (10);
 J McShane (9); S Medhurst (10); D Mills (10);
 S Milward (11); A Mir (10); A Mitchell (11);
 D Morley (10); P Munday (9); D Nisbet (10);
 S Noakes (8); P Northage (10); M Nurnberger (7);
 J Oliver (8); D Payne (10); C Pearman (10); M Pepper
 (8); N Perryman (10); E Phillips (10); J Pittaway (9);
 A Poyser (10); M Quelch (5); W Qureshi (4);
 B Rayner (8); D Redmond (10); A Reed (10);
 J Richards (7); M Richards (10); W Richards (9);
 J Rivett-Carnac (5); J Roberts (9); M Roberts (9);
 J Roche (9); S Routledge (10); N Ryan (10);
 Z Shamim (6); J Shaw (10); S Shingleton (10);
 N Skelton (9); D Smith (8); A Smy (10); T Smyth (7);
 G Sparks (9); R Steiner (9); M Suddaby (8);
 B Sullivan (10); S Swain (9); B Synnock (8);
 Y Taher (6); W Tait (11); S-L Tan (10); J Tasker (9);
 H Tegala (9); L Thomas (9); N Tucker (10);
 C Waldron (10); G Walker (9); J Walker (8);
 N Walker (8); A Wallace (10); T Wallwork (10);
 M Washbourne (10); S Watkins (9); S Watts (9);
 M Webb (10); N Webber (9); D Weir (9); J Wilkinson
 (10); A Wingate (10); S Woolliams (10); A Wright (9);
 A Zerny (9).

OPEN HOUSE

Somebody Else's War?

The plane journey had, on the whole, not been too bad. It wasn't too rough and the service was friendly, if a little basic and slow. The food however, was awful and I advise you never to eat on Yugoslavian Airlines. I was a journalist for *The Times* and I had been sent by my editor to Yugoslavia to send back war reports – the last journalist had been killed.

We made a smooth touchdown (for which I thanked the pilot) at Dubrovnik Airport, or what was left of it. Eight months of Serbian shelling had reduced the control tower to little more than rubble. The other international journalists and I nervously crossed the tarmac to the waiting bus which swiftly took us to our hotel.

The next morning I met up with my guide and translator who was to take me around the Croatian villages still under attack to see what life was really like for the people in and around a war zone. He was not a tall man, about five-foot-ten and he looked ragged and almost half-starved due to his slim build. He had not shaved for at least a couple of days but the dark stubble was semi-disguised by his grubby face. In fact, his altogether downtrodden appearance seemed to sum up what I had then seen of Yugoslavia. He introduced himself as Andreus Critznin in bad English – at which I cringed. If there is one thing a journalist hates it is a translator with bad English – and led me to the jeep that was to be our home for the next four hours.

"These roads are terrible," said the guide as we bounced and slipped our way along the mud track that looked like it could have come from a film about the dark ages. "I used to get car sick. And when I did I would vomit all over the place..." He broke off as we hit an unusually large rock and I replied "Great", totally unenthusiastically as I realised just how peculiar I was starting to feel.

We came over the brow of a hill and I could see the village of Stoksov in the valley below us. It seemed to be mainly farm buildings and it was surrounded by fields which must have been full of crops at one time, before the war. We could see some people making their way around but they were all bent over to avoid sniper fire, making the place look like a town of hunchbacks. We wound our way down the side of the hill and more and more details of the damage caused emerged: holes in walls, piles of rubble, burned out buildings and graves; row upon row of graves. And then it really struck home: this was a *real* war, it wasn't somebody else's war thousands of miles away; hundreds of innocent people were *dying* out here.

We squelched our way into the village through the mud and suddenly the jeep was surrounded by a heaving mass of people. We were forced to stop. I got out of the jeep and I was virtually mugged. I could see nothing but desperate faces pleading for help. My guide seized me by the arm and led me to a large, semi-intact building. I pushed back the door. There was a dark shape in the corner of the room. As my eyes became accustomed to the light, I saw that it was a one legged man who, my guide told me, wanted to be interviewed by the Western press. He claimed to have been captured and tortured by the Serbs and from the looks



R. Eade 2G

of his injuries I was inclined to believe him. The guide now took the role of translator and he introduced me to the man.

Just then there was the sound of the roar of many diesel engines, then the screech of brakes and then I heard a gun fired. I went to the door but as I was reaching for it, it burst open in my face. A young man in a flak jacket burst in. I tried to protest but was silenced by the muzzle of a rifle being pointed at my head. He screamed something incomprehensible and my guide tugged at my jacket and indicated me to follow him out of the door. As we left the building I could see all the other villagers being rounded up by armed men.

"What's going on, Andreus?" I hissed at the guide.

"It appears, sir, that we are prisoners of war."

I was suddenly overcome by a huge sinking feeling as I, and everyone else, were bundled into trucks.

The journey to the P.O.W. camp, most of which I slept through uneasily, was a bumpy and crowded ride. My watch said it took two and a half hours to reach the camp although it seemed like much more, even though I was asleep.

An hour after I got off the truck, I received my first camp meal. It consisted of one slice of mouldy bread and one cup of murky water. I would rather try to forget the following week of my life, in the camp. The conditions were unbearable: virtually no food, no beds, no washing facilities, no toilets.....

I was rescued a week later by UN troops in the area. I must have been tracked down after failing to report back to the hotel. When I left the camp, all I could see on the faces of the fellow prisoners was resentment and confusion as to why I was getting out and they were not. To be quite honest, I can't say I blame them, and I had only been there one week. Some of the poor souls had been there for much, much longer.

Chris Smart 3N

The Trojan Horse

After nine years of besieging Troy without result, Odysseus, the cleverest of the Greeks, devised a plan. The plan involved building a large wooden horse, taller than the gates of Troy and big enough to hold thirty men. After much hard work, the horse has been built, and positioned outside Troy. Inside the horse the thirty men are eagerly awaiting dawn. On the horizon, out to sea, the last of the Greek fleet can be seen sailing away.

Inside the horse thirty men dressed in heavy armour are finding it difficult to keep silent. However, at the front of the horse, looking out of its nostrils at the scene below, is Odysseus himself. In the darkness of the horse, all are listening for the first Trojan to arrive; the townspeople's reaction to the horse means life or death for the men inside.

Soon sounds are heard inside Troy, and a scream when the horse is sighted. Within minutes a babbling crowd is gathered around the horse, silencing as a carriage draws up carrying King Priam. The King is seen talking to his wise men, but this is interrupted by a fight which starts among the onlookers. People are chanting, 'Smash it up!', but others wish to accept it as a gift from the retreating Greek army.

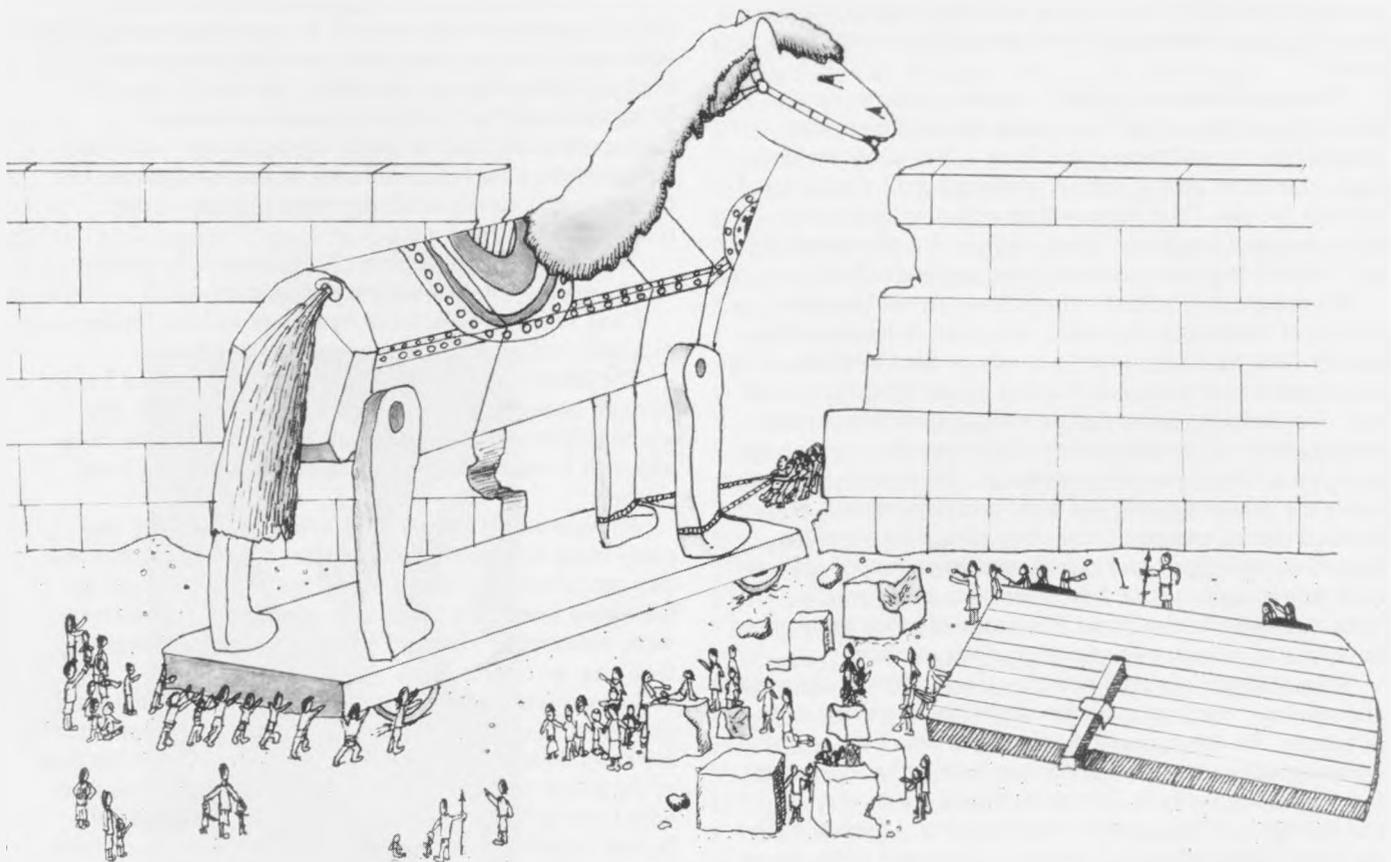
Inside the horse the men are listening from above. As their fate is discussed they experience changing emotions, but still they keep silent. All the men fear their death is at hand, but the reaction of the Trojans is an unexpected aid. Down below the crowds decide the horse is from the Gods, and the men are soon put at ease on hearing shouts of 'Into

the city', and 'How shall we get it in?' King Priam rose to speak. He said that the sooner the horse was safely in front of the temple of Athena, the better, and that it must be in place before nightfall. People started shouting ideas about getting the horse into the city, each trying to impress the King, but he calmly states that part of the wall must be demolished. Inside the horse, the men almost leap for joy.

The wall is fast disappearing, and in an effort to impress their King with their strength and efficiency they have removed far more than is necessary! Odysseus is getting impatient, but turns to look at the men behind him. None is sleeping, and all are ready for action. There is a jolt as the Trojans below start to push the horse along, and they are wheeled slowly to the temple where the horse is met by preparations for a huge party celebrating the end of the war. It is late at night before the celebrations start to die down, but Odysseus is encouraged by the fact that all are drunk, and will not be able to oppose an attack. Soon all the Trojans have left for home, and Odysseus speaks to his men, giving each one his instructions.

The hatch is opened and the men descend. Down on the ground below, they stretch and start to chatter. Odysseus reprimands them, and they head for the beach. Looking out to sea, the fleet is seen returning. It has been hiding behind a nearby island. The men head back to Troy, ready to attack.....

Oliver Atkins 3W



James Locke-Hart 3W

The Monarchy

George V liked to stroll on deck
He was married to May of Teck
It's 100 years since they were wed
But now unfortunately George is dead.

Edward VIII was next in line
Edward liked sport and he liked to dine
But then he plunged the monarchy into crisis
By his announcement to marry Wallis.

Next in line was the sixth of the Georgies
This particular one was fond of corgis
He led the British through the war
But he hated public speaking and was to the public a bore
The King liked shooting and was a joker
But he died because he was a heavy smoker.

When his daughter Elizabeth succeeded she was away
But she and the Duke returned to England the very next day
Vivat Regina! the Nation cried!
But she was in mourning because her father had died.

It was 51 years since a Queen had ruled last
But at the King's funeral thousands filed past
The Queen took the job on and held on to the crown
And in the 1960's she slowed her life down
She already had two children and added two boys
So now in the Palace there was such a great noise.

There were many State banquets and many special dates
The Queen went to see Dwight in the United States
She adored corgis, the little Welsh dogs
And finally in 1972, Edward VIII popped his clogs
Three of her children wed, and there was laughter
But not one of these couples lived happily ever after.

1992 was not a year of bliss
And the Queen called it an *annus horribilis*
Anne divorced Captain Mark
And there was the Fergie lark
It was too much for the Queen to handle
And the press leaked the Royal scandal.

For forty years good ruling has been seen
Gloria Gloria, God save the Queen!
She is the richest woman to date
So long live our Head of State!



A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH
A. Cox 2G



Barnaby Miller 4th Year – Monoprint

Jonathan Edwards 2E



N. McConnel 3JAK

Humblebeenskin

Down in the suburbs where the light is dim,
Next to the tramps with their whisky and gin,
Right behind a large, filthy, smelly black bin,
Sat a cat by the name of Humblebeenskin.

Humblebeenskin was involved in every single maul,
Around his neighbourhood all the shots he'd call,
And there's one thing from which he'd never fall,
His title as the Supreme Caterwaul.

He could wail louder than all the others,
Louder than the fathers, louder than the mothers,
Louder than the sisters, louder than the brothers,
Yes, he was the cat, the girls did smother.

But one day all this came to an end,
As Humblebeenskin a dog did offend,
"Humble" ran, on his life it did depend,
For he knew this dog was definitely not his friend,
Alas the dog caught him going round a bend,

And "Humble" wailed
To no avail.

Ross Underwood 2F

File Past

From the Wycombiensian of 1910:

This Term a slight alteration has been made in the afternoon School hours. There are now four periods of 40 minutes each instead of one of 1 hour and two of three-quarters of an hour, and work begins at 1.55 instead of 2, and ends at 4.40 instead of 4.35.

From the Wycombiensian of 1947:

BOXING FINALS, Friday 14 March 1947

Midge Weight (7 stone and under): Baker v. File

File used his extra reach to good advantage but Baker kept his guard up constantly. File used both right and left to the body and face; he stood in the centre of the ring, waited for his man to attack, then hit hard and followed up well. In the second round Baker, attacked by File, kept out of trouble whilst inflicting fairly heavy body punches with his left. The tempo, which was decidedly slow in the first two rounds, speeded up in the third round and there was some heavy punching. File used his left more often and more heavily and thus gained the decision.

From the Wycombiensian of 1957:

EDITORIAL

During the past twelve months juvenile delinquency has been the subject for much informed comment. Teddy boys and rock'n'roll fans have committed acts of hooliganism. In view of this certain cafes and other establishments in High Wycombe have been placed out of bounds to boys of the School. But will this ensure that R.G.S. boys do not indulge in these lower forms of social activity? Most boys – despite "prep" in ever increasing amounts as they move up the School – have a fair amount of spare time. Quite naturally, they seek enjoyment during this time, many of them joining the various Youth Clubs in the town. But, while Youth Clubs are not entirely unsuitable for Grammar School boys, most of them cater mainly for boys who have left school and are working in factories, shops and offices. Grammar School boys, when they eventually leave, generally acquire jobs of a more responsible nature and therefore mix with people of higher social standing. This is not class prejudice, it is a plain fact. Therefore they must be brought up in the way of life which they hope to live.



R. Eade 2G

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

Uplyme Report

Not a lot has happened in Uplyme this year, so for a change we have decided to make the whole thing up.

The school year started badly with a huge fire burning the premises to a smouldering cinder. Luckily our efficient and well practised fire drill ensured that all lives and school uniforms were saved and thus all boys were able to continue school attendance while sheltering in the bus station and begging on the streets of Wycombe. On a more serious note the nocturnal visits of international super models Cindy Crawford and Elle Macpherson continued to the 6th form block. Arriving and departing in the early hours of the morning by private jet on Uplyme playing field the visits have so far gone undetected by house staff and junior boys alike.

3rd formers Jamie and Martin have had regular chart success with a string of ambient rave hits and are due to headline this year's Reading Festival.

Simon Moody has achieved cult status around the world and is shortly due to appear in Neighbours which should hopefully not affect his school career or playboy lifestyle.

Field marshal Willy Richards continues to enjoy a glittering CCF career while Andrew White, England Rugby captain and everybody's friend, has had his fair share of

gorgeous girls (or so he tells us).

Okay, so this is getting a bit silly so on a more truthful note Uplyme finally managed to win the interhouse football match in a closely fought 1-0 match with the winning goal coming from the lightning feet of Jamie Cotgreave.

Wednesday evening activities were much enjoyed as were the chapel services, the beginning of which was made all the more interesting with light hearted betting on how late Mr Davies would be and whether Gareth really would throw his red ball to Mr Brown.

Undoubtedly the highlight of this boarding year was the extravaganza performed by Joe, Toby and Dan at the Christmas service. Simon's text entitled "3 old men madly mumble while the audience tries not to laugh" was a masterful and intriguing insight into a universally unifying theme and married its divided segments to produce a rational and humane contribution to a complex debate.

As ever many thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Davies, Mr Edwards and Mr McNeil for all their hard work and to Mrs Gamester and the ladies for feeding us and trying to keep us tidy.

Dave, Stu and Simon

School House Report

It has been a relatively quiet year in School House, mainly due to the large proportion of newcomers settling in. The hoards of new arrivals included: Mark "Hockey Boy Grin" Madden, Ben "Scott" Matthews, Fraser "Jabba" Hutchinson, Brendan "Complete Absence of an Amusing Nickname" Clarke, Alex "the Punter" Markwick, Bav Patel, Ross "Club" Swain and Danny "Swede" Westerholm, who had his horizons widened by certain senior boys. Oh, and we mustn't forget Jon Palling either.

In the old surgery, Adam and Jon probably reached new heights of grunge metal toughness, but nobody really took much notice. The seniors fared badly academically with Chris "Major" Bryan being sent to Oxford (or was it Coventry?), but Justin's idea of exam technique was an example to us all!

We fared somewhat better on the sporting field against Uplyme, with wins in Table Tennis, indoor Football and General Knowledge. Alas, however, the result of the annual outdoor Football was disappointing. The under-manned School House squad fought valiantly against the energetic, well-trained Uplyme team who were clearly taking steroids, but after 30 seconds the entire squad, none of whom had eaten for five days, all broke their left leg and began to suffer violent migraines. Our team were plagued by driving sleet whilst Uplyme basked in warm, dry conditions and the lie of the grass was against us even after we changed ends at half-time. We fought bravely against the Uplyme Olympic team, but a cruel fluke in the last five minutes enabled them to claw to victory, 1-0. At the least the referees were unbiased!

"Captain Caveman" Twort had a good year, and a fortunate few could see his girlfriend from time to time

trying to find her way around parts of the boarding house which rarely saw the light of day. "Rizo" McDonald (does that really stand for Richard?) spent the year more leisurely, not minding so much where he slept as how often (at the expense of our freedom). Chris Bryan took time out from studying his propaganda and indoctrinating the Juniors, and could sometimes be seen loitering about Wycombe Wanderers' Car Park at Adams Park. Strange ... Scottie Walters gave animal rights a bad name, and reached heights of left-wing extremism condemned by even Socialist Worker.

We leave the boarding house in the capable (?) hands of the new Sixth Form, apparently without Simon Kingsnorth (odds 11-7 on) and with Tom "God" Hadley showing particular potential and responsibility (clearly Prefect material ..?). The present Fifth Form have all found new friends courtesy of SEGA UK, and with Kurt Johnson's drinking capabilities (reportedly a Bud in 10 mins), the new Sixth Form should carry the torch for future generations.

We would, as always, like to thank Mr. Moore, the Sheriff, Mr and Mrs Gamester for their immense patience, understanding and support throughout the year (and for the Christmas party), Edward and William for (truthfully) being an example in dining etiquette to us all, Rhona for her unceasing loyalty, laundry and amusing conversations about her daughter, Gill for her unrivalled culinary expertise and unceasing joviality, the cleaning staff and, of course, Monty "the Larch" Python. See you all next year when we retake our A-levels (or Maths GCSE).

Scott Walters, Richard McDonald, Chris Bryan, Tom Hadley, Jon Thrupp, Chris Bealer, Justin Twort and Mark Madden.

Rostock Exchange

"What's the German for brass monkeys?", mutters Benstead, as he leans into the storm-force wind and pushes his way, lashed by sea spray, to the lighthouse at the end of the pier. Well, what do you expect when you go to Germany's Ostsee in mid-February?

There's nothing wrong with a bit of bracing weather when you're with friends. The fourteen pupils from Wycombe High and the RGS knew their partners from the



Leaning into the storm force wind, lashed by sea spray.

Germans' visit in October and this was our return trip to Rostock.

On this exchange we went as a group to Berlin and most people made various other trips with their partners, some as far as Sweden or Poland. Most of us got involved in intense discussions about East Germany's past and its present problems. It was a fascinating week and an invaluable experience for A Level pupils and teachers.

As for the "brass-monkeys", the best we could manage in the circumstances was "verdammt kalt", though broad-minded scholars may like to note the more risqué rendering in the Collin's dictionary. We'll be ready next year ...

A.S.C.

Sixth Form Brittany Trip April 1993

The annual quest to Brittany began at the ungodly hour of 3am on Thursday 1st April, a sick joke obviously, as the most talented French students the school could offer stumbled, half-asleep, aboard the "luxury" coach that awaited – some stumbling more heavily than others, as Neil Fitch will testify. We were led by the best of the best: Miss Munday, Mrs Fletcher and Mr Treharne. After a long but calm crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe, we continued on our journey west, the only memorable moment being Mrs Fletcher's close encounter with a French peasant. We arrived in Trébeurden in the early evening and dispersed to our families.

The next day was spent sight-seeing in St Malo, a town used to dealing with English pirates, where Dave Harris was involved in a particularly unfortunate incident with a seagull. That evening, we were invited to a reception at the

town hall where everyone became considerably more relaxed in the presence of our Breton hosts. Thanks go to Glyn Cannon for his excellent speech.

Our Saturday was unfortunately marred by bad weather when we were all tricked into visiting the Ile Millau, from which we returned cold, wet and fed up; although our knowledge of the Island's rock forms was greatly increased. Our misery was short-lived as many of our number met in the evening at the local bistro, where several liaisons were struck up with the natives, most notably involving Neil Govan and Michael "maybe next time" Roberts.

The rest of our days in Brittany included visits to Quimper, Dinan, Ploumanac'h and the local churches at St. Thégonnec and Guimiliau – which would have been of particular interest to the absent Mr Noyes. However, the highlight of the trip for many of us was the mountain climb.

After an excellent week spent in Trébeurden we made our farewells early on the Thursday morning and returned culturally enriched and not empty handed to England's green and pleasant land.

For a thoroughly enjoyable and informative trip, special thanks must go to Miss Munday for organising everything along with her ever-present charm and wit; Mrs Fletcher for keeping us all in line, particularly Mr Hash Tequila; Mr Treharne, to whom Nick Skelton owes a great deal; Mark the coachdriver; Chris Waldron for falling into a pond; 'Queen' for providing music and Fred the horse.

Chris Horn 6C₁, Neil Govan 6LF₁
and Ben Rayner 6C₁

American Exchange

Injuries were evidently the status symbol on this trip (with late honours to MW for wrist and ankle displacement just hours before take off). The trip to the airport was every bit as fulfilling as expected. You just can't beat a forty mile snarl up in one-lane traffic in the clear air of the M25. Our minutely detailed action plan slid into operation as the trip leader proceeded to ask various members of her flock what to do next.

After an uneventful flight, replete with touching baseball film no one could follow, we trudged wearily into the welcoming embrace of our hosts, only to be carried in the whirlwind of excitement on meeting *Perry Farrell* outside of Boston airport!!! (Whaddya mean, who? The lead singer of ... oh never mind.) Fortified by a cultural experience of such magnitude we sat in polite silence as we were given: a local tour guide commentary (featuring many, many McDonalds); a run down on our glorious holiday resort ("... while Stratham has cows, Brentwood has (gasp) trees..."); and what entertainment had been planned ("... at the "Make your own bowl" party we'll...").

The holiday soon settled into a comfortable routine: going into Exeter High School at what seemed like 3am each morning; sitting in the cafeteria ("not canteen, cafeteria!"); being dragged round some bizarre, antiquated, God-Bless-America exhibition ("and then the lousy, cowardly and tyrannical British did really nasty things to the wonderfully proud, patriotic and heroic Americans, who incidentally won anyway") and evenings filled with merriment, glee, and such inspired trips as going to the beach. The "Make Your Own Bowl" party never appeared,

but we were treated to an unreal band show, in which four utterly talentless bands attempted to deafen the youth of America with the worst cover songs ever performed, played at ear splitting volume (no one could work the amps, so they just turned them up to maximum).

However, the enjoyment of early mornings, tedious days and scintillating evenings, as well as constant amusement at flourishing personal relationships (and at vast numbers of "I can't get enough of your accent" comments which AR received) couldn't last, and the sad day came when we had to return. Boston airport saw many an emotion-charged scene. To be honest this ranged from the coldest member of the group ("Over the last few weeks I've come to regard you as people ... that I met.") giving mandatory hug and leaving, through to heartfelt upset and snivelling. The flight back was immensely enjoyable (!?) and a fitting end to an experience to rival any other in school life (other than a rugby tour).

A thousand thanks and pleas of gratitude to Ray.

Austin Jones 6MBA1

Spanish Trip April 1993

1993 brought 30 keen and eager Spanish students from the RGS to Toledo, a small, walled city just south of Madrid.

The first day, Friday, saw the temperature rise into the mid-nineties as we got taken around Toledo by our newly arrived guide: Javier – a young man full of charisma, brimming with knowledge and who had the uncanny ability of taking us to monuments that had closed up for the day. Nevertheless, we all saw and appreciated Toledo's own personal charm, enhanced by the gorgeous weather.

Next stop Cuenca, perhaps one of the most beautiful regions of Spain and again the weather did it justice.

The famous Don Quixote's route was next on the agenda though this couldn't be fully acknowledged as nothing was actually open, though the quaint villages gave everyone an insight to a little known aspect of Spain.

The capital Madrid was port-of-call on Tuesday, where we visited the famous "El Prado" Art Museum with thousands of masterpieces by such artists as El Greco and Velazquez. Surprisingly, it was open and with the expertise of Mr Arnfield, we came out oozing Spanish culture.

Wednesday, our final day, we all visited the palace of El Escorial where all the dead monarchs of Spain are buried, then on from there we went to the huge, oppressive Valle de Los Caídos ("Valley of the Fallen") which although very impressive, is the symbol of tyranny as Spain was under the Fascist rule of Franco. A very interesting day. Thought provoking and I wouldn't have thought many of the boys would forget it in a hurry.

The trip was a great success, especially in the improvement of spoken Spanish. Our sincere thanks go to Miss Kelly and Mr Arnfield for giving up their time to organise the boys, and also the bus drivers Chris and Chris who are perhaps the two most laid back people I have met in my life.

Michael John 6LF2

Jazz Band

The RGS Jazz Band has had a particularly eventful year. In November 1992, we were fortunate enough to be among the seventeen jazz bands and other groups who joined together at the BBC TV Centre in an attempt to break the record for the Largest Jazz Band in the World. Playing the same 8-bar chord sequence approximately 576 times in the space of one day turned out to be extremely wearing, although it proved to be worth taking the opportunity to "gig" with Roy Castle, Cheryl Baker (!) and Londonbeat. The final result was shown as the final "climax" of the current series of "Record Breakers", made all the more exciting by the self-appointed choreographer, once again, "Paula Abdul" Gazard.

Our next gig was made possible by the school's PTA, at whose Christmas party we were to provide "light" music. The only real light music was heard in the middle set of the evening, with Mike Andrews' arrangement of a piece by Sky, played by the rhythm section, Mike Andrews (guitar), Tim Lambert (bass), Tim Crompton (piano), and Chris Thompson, playing cello for the band instead of getting his kit out. There were also solo numbers by Tim Crompton on the piano, and the middle set was rounded off by Mr Gazard's first ever solo piano-vocal performance of a piece originally written for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

For the second year running, the Jazz Band has emerged as runner-up in the *Daily Telegraph* Big Band Competition, this year with a PDG arrangement of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Little Girl Blue". However, the judges seemed to like it.

Future appearances for the Jazz Band include the RGS Cricket Festival, a possible concert in Manchester in connection with the *Daily Telegraph* Competition, and a joint performance in the new Wycombe Swan Theatre with bands from Wycombe High School, John Hampden Grammar School, and Lady Verney High School.

The Jazz Band is looking forward to another busy year, but sadly, many of this year's most prominent members will not be here, including two excellent brass players, and the complete rhythm section. They will be sorely missed, but rehearsals will probably be smoother and quieter from now on. Adios amigos!

Tim Crompton 6LF2 and Tim Lambert 6C2

Music Society

The music department has enjoyed a year of excellence, with solo players displaying notable distinction, and the many orchestras and bands reaching new heights under the expert direction of Mr Smedley and Mr Gazard.

Early in the year the technically demanding pieces 'Les Miserables' – Boubil Schönberg and 'La Creation du Monde' - Darius Milhaud (our thanks to Wycombe High School) were ably executed prior to the traditional Christmas celebration in the Parish Church. A carol performance was also given at London's Royal Festival Hall at this time. The most recent performance before going to press was an emotional realisation of Bach's 'St John Passion', also with the High School.

Lawrence Power and Mr Smedley showed their talented viola playing in Bach's 6th Brandenburg Concerto, and

Daniel Grant performed the Mozart Horn Concerto before going on to win the U14 section of the Wycombe Orpheus Choir Competition. Tim Crompton attained an outstanding standard of piano playing this year - special mention should be made of his meticulous and strenuous practising technique which sadly left his hands in bandages and rendered two pianos unplayable. Rupert Brown of the lower school made a bold statement about the pressure that performing can put on individuals when he was violently sick outside the headmaster's study as the Christmas Concert progressed - shortly before his distinguished namesake withdrew for coffee during the interval.

The Jazz Septet made a brief and unfortunate departure into the world of 'free jazz' in the February concert, when their final piece collapsed due to a gross misinterpretation of the time signature. Fairly Close Harmony continued to make their typically irrelevant contributions to the many concerts, shamelessly daring to venture into the realms of alternative comedy - our thanks to Mr. Armstrong.

This year has been marred only by the split of the Maryjanes, a band avidly supported by the indie/rock faction of the music society; however the meteoric rise to stardom of jangly indie five piece 'Spiral Dance' was not without considerable media attention and helped soften the blow to Wycombe's music scene. A trip to Mozart's 'Don Giovanni' in Wycombe's Swan theatre revealed a shattering end to Don's lustful advances when the fire service 'trod the boards' in pursuit of a suspected bomb - the police have now dropped charges. This year's Upper Sixth will be deeply missed.

Mike Andrews 6SE₂ and Chris Thompson 6MBA₂

IT Centre

The IT centre has had a very successful second year with gradual improvements to the existing system. The most recent addition was the new state of the art file server, and once in operation its benefits were felt by all users. The new server brought with it the facility for every pupil to have their own hard disc storage area where pupils' work can be safely stored. For safety, the days' work on the network is backed up or copied every night onto a new digital (DAT) tape recorder. Other good news was the recovery by the police of a monitor and a laser printer which had been stolen a few years ago. New software included an update to the UCCA/PCAS CD-ROM, a CD-ROM containing CorelDRAW clip-art and two CD-ROMs filled with stunning animations. *The Times* CD-ROM was also updated and now contains the contents of the *Times* newspapers for the whole of 1992.

An increasing number of GCSE and A level courses, which are not normally associated with computers, are being conducted in the IT centre. Examples of these include English lessons during which pupils use the word processor, and Maths work using specially written programs.

We have two laser printers which are well used both in lessons and lunchtimes, when the centre is very often filled to capacity. Whilst in the past the IT centre's main users have tended to be enthusiasts we now have a significant number who are producing projects and essays. This does not mean that programming has become a forgotten skill. The programs written by the majority of the programmers are for their own mini-systems which are run by groups of

pupils, the most popular of which is Erewhon (anagram of nowhere).

Without the assistance of Cedric Tang and the team of assistant network managers none of this progress would have been possible. Andrew Brant has produced a new booking system, James Page has written a disk space limiter for users, and Jonathan Page has updated our Show Day demonstration.

Thanks also go to Mrs Briggs and Mr Gibson for their help and the administration of the IT centre.

Jonathan Blogh 6SW₂, Network Manager

Computer Network

Many changes have taken place this year with the addition of several "new" computers and the removal of the old RM 480Z system which has been donated to a local school who will make good use of it.

The future for the Computing lab's facilities looks more hopeful as the old IT file servers will soon be relocated to this network. These will be installed as a replacement for the current under-powered 286 server. The extra hard disk space will allow for more secure user areas for those who need them and will enable us to make more complex packages available to all users.

A couple of years ago, a Multi-User Dungeon system came on-line. However, due to various problems it went off-line after one year. This system was then re-installed in mid 1992 and proved to be quite popular, until it failed yet again and has been removed since.

It is the time of the year that the network is used the most, when the project deadline approaches us. This demonstrates the real speed of the network. We now look forward to the installation of the new network and the link to the IT Centre.

Jonathan Tarry 6LF₂, Computer Network Manager

Console Games Club

This new school club started very promisingly with an estimated membership of about sixty. Sadly, this attendance was not maintained, as the two major console companies effectively banned most of the services we operated. At this stage, the club changed from being supply orientated to discussion-orientated, topics discussed varying from console games (as expected) to the more bizarre evolution and chalk manufacture! Just how many authorities we had on these subjects I don't know ...

Over the year, we had a number of tournaments held in a local church (thanks vicar!) where contestants battled over a wide range of games. The overall reigning Nintendo champion is Nick Clark of 5A. The Sega Championship is to be held over the holidays.

Membership was highest in the Sixth form, although none of the seniors wish to be associated with the club ...

Thanks to Mr Page for allowing the running of the club, and to the Bursar for putting up with us.

Nathanael Page 6SE₂

The Government Inspector

A lively and energetic production of 'The Government Inspector', directed by Jeffrey Walker, played to full houses on the 25th, 26th and 27th of March. This new adaptation of Gogol's play by Adrian Mitchell well transmitted the theme of endemic corruption whilst reminding us of the universality of such a theme – in a way guaranteed to amuse. How topical was the hospital with patients two to a bed and 'recovering like flies'.

Of course the school superintendent could not have had any establishment known to us in mind when he divulged that the Geography master still had difficulty in finding his way home and the History master was 'as mad as a meat axe'.

As public life and the professions were scrutinised and found wanting, perhaps there would be some hope for society in the honest, hard-working merchants. But no – they were ever ready to doctor their produce and fleece their customers. Could the female characters offer some hope for the future? No – they were ambitious, flirtatious, deceitful or vindictive.

What common-sense there was came from Osip who, with overtones of Figaro, took comedy from the stock master/servant situation. However, any remedy for society's ills took second place to the play's intention to entertain.

Nick Simpson as the Governor had a commanding presence throughout the play and just enough arrogance to



The bogus Inspector makes up to his wife (Rhodri Jones, Kate Stevens); the Governor and his daughter (Nick Simpson, Katie Bowler) look on dubiously.

differentiate him from the other officials. Nicholas Webber's caricature of a postmaster contrasted beautifully with the professional classes represented. The stature of the small landowners produced a delightful visual pun and the energetic performances afforded some amusing diversions.

As a *deus ex machina* Rhodri Jones appeared from the bed in scene 2 and continued to delight the audience from that moment with his portrayal of Ivan Khlestakov. We watched his eyes positively glowing with hunger pangs, whilst his excellent timing allowed him to take full advantage of such lines as 'later waiter'. He fully showed his skill and commanding presence in his very long speech in the third scene. This was confidently delivered with



The merchants (Faisal Anwar, Sam Cameron) plead with the Inspector, observed by the servant and the constable (Andrew Sloane, Stewart Watkins).

excellent variety to convey the humour – both obvious and subtle.

The production overflowed with memorable moments such as a small landowner's hand appearing at a window or the pastiche of a wooden waiter, and Nick Armfield's well lit set provided a richness of colour which finely complemented the action.

As the actors froze in their positions at the end of the play they left the audience laughing, applauding and thinking.

J.L.H.

Photographic Society

The aim of the Photographic Society is to teach boys how to develop and print black and white photographs. (Photographic assignments are arranged and basic design and composition skills introduced.)

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

R.P.S.

Badminton Club

This popular club meets every Wednesday after school for years 8, 9 and 10. The club holds 'league' and 'knock-out' doubles competitions as well as 'free'-play. This year's 'open' league winners were R Lawrence and O Pearson of the 2nd form and the Darbyshire brothers who won the 'knock-out' trophy during the Spring Term.

The Club supports the Duke of Edinburgh 'Skills' Award Scheme.

R.P.S.

Chess

Mixed success was obtained by the school's chess teams. The first Senior team performed well against some very tough opposition in the first division of the county league. It looks likely that the team will narrowly avoid relegation. The second team, after good performances in the latter part of the season, just failed to get promotion.

The five teams in the Junior league failed to distinguish themselves due to several players retiring earlier than expected from their involvement. Thanks mainly to Daniel Lambourne, the chess club managed to run smoothly.



Andrew Bentall, Daniel Lambourne, Philip Hobbs, Colin Hobbs, Paul Colburn, David Haynes and Nathanael Page. Zone winners of the Sunday Times chess competition.

There was success in the *Sunday Times* competition managing to beat our rivals Dr Challoner's and win the zone. However, the luck ran out in the next round and we went out on board count. At county level all the first team and reserves played regularly. Some of the first team could be playing for England in the future.

Colours were awarded to Andrew Bentall. Half-colours went to Colin Tough, 2nd team captain, and to newcomers Colin Hobbs and David Haynes.

With more commitment from the Junior members a brighter future looks possible.

Paul Colburn

Many thanks to Paul Colburn for all his help over the years.
I.R.C.

Model Railway Club

The revitalised Model Railway Club is making slow but steady progress, with work now beginning in earnest on our layouts. This has been made possible following the completion of plumbing and decorating works in the club room, allowing us to set up the baseboards and commence building and track laying. The Club plans two layouts. One is an exhibition (portable) layout which is undergoing renovation of the baseboards and trestles prior to track laying. It is hoped to have this layout operational before the end of the summer term. Our second layout is a much larger fixed layout in the club room which we have to construct from scratch. The baseboards are to be laid in the near future and the development of this new layout is a medium to long term project.

We would like to thank the Headmaster for his continued support, together with the Parents' Association who have so generously helped us to purchase the necessary track. Our thanks also go to the Bursar who has organised all the plumbing and decorating work and, of course, to Mr Lovell, our adviser.

New members who have a genuine interest in Model Railways will be most welcome.

Mark Sleeman 4H
(Vice-Secretary)

Thursday Afternoon Environment Group

The Environment Group was set up as a new venture last September, and since then we have spent Thursday afternoons working with a number of organisations with the aim of enhancing the local area. Our numbers have swelled from five to eight and we have high hopes of attracting more support in the future.

Our first major project was helping to build a Dyer's House in the reconstructed Iron Age area of the Chiltern Open Air Museum. This was by the traditional wattle and daub method, in which long sticks are woven together to form a wall, and the daub, a mixture of clay and horse manure, is then applied by hand. Worms may be left in or removed according to preference. In a large vat, admittedly of stainless steel, the plants woad, weld and madder will be boiled down to make dye – once a large-scale industry but now long since fallen into disuse. It is hoped to sell the dye produced to the general public.

At Keep Hill Wood, with the Community Woodlands Officer Ian Butterfield, we have opened up a glade by removing dogwood to let in more light, to encourage a greater variety of plants and insects than is normally possible on the woodland floor. We have also removed trees from an old flint quarry, partly for the same reason and also as part of a scheme sponsored by Ercol to increase public awareness of the history of local woods. The quarry provided the flints for the pub "The Flint Cottage" by the railway station.

After two terms of highly productive work, thanks must go to Mr Claye for transporting us to our various destinations and ensuring the smooth running of the operation.

David Chapman 6C2

YHA Club

The club continues with its usual activities, with new and old members, including welcome additions to the staff involved – Mr Lovell and Mr Chuter had their initiation during the year. There were weekend trips as usual, leaving after school on Friday afternoons and returning, to frantic homework, on Sunday afternoons. Long distance footpaths were the focus of many of these weekend trips, including The Ridgeway from Wantage Hostel, the South Downs Way from Truleigh Hill near Brighton and The North Downs Way from Holmbury St Mary in Surrey. In March we went to Cheddar in the Mendip Hills with Mr Treharne, and we got to St Briavels, a Norman castle in the Forest of Dean, in July.

During the October half term holiday, the Lake District was the destination, with old boy Matthew Skingley and his father helping. The weather was certainly variable, with plenty of snow on the hills and rain lower down, but some very good views.

During the summer holidays in 1992, a group went to the Austrian Alps for a hutting tour around the Stubaital south of Innsbruck. The following is an account of the trip, written by Jonathan Brinn of 5H.

D.M.B.

To be fair to Mr Berry, we were given two days walking in the Mittenwald area to get used to the idea of carrying heavy packs. Unfortunately, we were now expected to climb 1300 metres in what was only the first day of an eight day high level path in Stubaital. On the plus side, the sun was shining.

The majority of that day was spent zig-zagging slowly up a little-used path, with occasional rests in the shade as the sun became more and more fierce with the thinner air at high altitude. Mr Berry's attempt to lighten the mood a little by singing extracts from *The Sound of Music* was, strangely enough, a failure. The revelation that we were taking this path because the main path was 'too easy' did not go down well either.

During the final stages of the walk we stopped at a mountain cafe, where Mr Claye entertained us all by falling in love with the young girl who worked behind the bar ('I'd just love to gaze into those deep blue eyes' he mumbled tearfully).

We made it to the mountain hut, ordered almost everything on the menu and collapsed, reviving only briefly to celebrate Mr Berry's birthday. Unfortunately he refused to tell us how old he was, but did admit that his birthday cake collapsed under the weight of the candles.

The second day was as tiring as the first, being a long contour walk around a glacial valley, and followed the first day's pattern of walk, eat, collapse, die.

The third day was a much shorter walk, lasting only four hours. Most of the group took advantage of this and spent several hours resting at the walk's halfway point, a high, snowbound mountain pass where, I'm ashamed to admit, we built a snowman.

Three intrepid members of the party, including the incomparable Mr Arnfield in his purple vest, decided that they wanted to stretch their legs. Setting out from the pass after a short break, they immediately demonstrated fine technique on ice when one of them took the shortest and most dangerous way down the snowfield, miraculously failing to break anything.

After this progress was smooth and speedy, reaching the

Neue Regensburger Hütte (that night's resting place) in half an hour and then climbing 800m to the secondary peak of the Knotenspitze (3100m high) and back down again in slightly over four hours, having paused only for food and water and to strike heroic poses for the camera.

As well as over-inflated egos, the group also brought back a rather nasty bug which dogged the group in general and four members of it in particular, resulting in several trips to the toilet, one visit to the doctor and one member of the group being airlifted off the mountain by Mountain Rescue helicopter and taken to Innsbruck hospital.

However, the final part of the trip, from the fifth day onwards, was easy walking through spectacular scenery, which even included the odd mountain goat wandering around. By now everybody had eaten their emergency food on the grounds that feeling hungry was an emergency.

There were only two minor crises in the remainder of the trip. In the first, we had to rush to save a third former from a lynching at the hands of a German mob (he'd been loudly explaining how Germany lost the war – thanks Neil). The second, on the trip's final day, started at five am when we were rudely awoken by a herd of noisy goats outside our window and ended at ten am when we finally escaped their clutches.

Thanks go to Mr Berry for not singing after the first day, to Mr Claye for his debonair beret and to Mr Arnfield for ably supporting the two older members of staff.

Jonathan Brinn 5H

Library

Grimaces. Information on dry stone walls. Monastic daily routine in the Middle Ages. Archimibaldo pictures. How many foxes are there in Great Britain? May I borrow your scissors? – highlighter? Have you got two elastic bands? (apparently essential items of CCF uniform). Have you got Mr Mitchell? – a tissue? – a phone card? These are some of the more reasonable requests which your librarians try to satisfy. The Library remains as busy as ever, with pleas for help not only from boys but also from staff, including the Quiz-Whizz-Kids.

School libraries have received the ultimate accolade – Information Retrieval, which we librarians have been promoting for years, is now a National Curriculum requirement! All new entrants to the RGS already receive instruction on finding their way around the available resources, and this year has seen some of the older pupils, particularly the Sixth Form, being shown how the library can help them with their research.

Several boys have made their mark as literary critics by reviewing books for The Childrens' Book Foundation. Their reviews have been included in "Our Choice" – a list of recommended reading for teenagers. This publication can be seen in the library.

What next? Your librarians, always keen to meet a new challenge, face their most demanding yet. The computerisation of the library really is about to happen. If, in the coming months, we seem a little "distract", please bear with us. The task of entering some 11,000 volumes on to the database will no doubt take its toll!

S.P./J.E.G.

Bolivia 1993

.....a difficult if attractive lady who's given me a hard time since this time last year.

Ten people signed up for the 'foreign legion' in May and the expedition now stands at thirteen (three Upper Sixth, seven Lower Sixth, three Fifth formers), self and Richard – the leader with whose imposing presence I would not wish to argue. So we really are going.

October comes and World Challenger put 'our man' into Bolivia to check that it's really there. 'Our man' returns. So we are really, really going.

December, and in amongst the Christmas cards is a shopping list from World Challenge which reads, "Buy altitude anti-headache pills, take Union Jack to meet Mururata, a dubious blonde who is apparently 18,947 feet



Llamas near the summit of Mururata, 18,947 feet high.

high, pan for panning gold on Gold digger's trek, not forgetting a dug out canoe for Amazon basin when/if we get there, world atlas to locate S. America etc".

Meanwhile as Santa packed his presents into stockings, Ben Donnelly, Christopher Brown, Andrew Cox and Laurie Lathom-Sharp prepared for terra vertical by packing stockings for a stroll in Winnie-the-Pooh country in Surrey, erecting their very own house for Eyore late at night only to find themselves briefly sleeping in it before bog trotting blind-fold through Eyore's gloomy place in the wee small hours.

The New Year arrived together with my mastery of the request, in classical Castilian Spanish, for an ashtray, a phrase that will be used at some point somewhere on the trip in view of the expense and effort it has cost me. Not having been blown off my feet in my life before, January gives me one whirl on a peak in Lakes where I practised walking up hills and started to acquire a collection of ice axes and crampons (---er, which bit does this fit on to?), and another whirl in the Brecons where the two adults in the group took a rapid but unintended dive into the hollow besides the path. Most of the lads were with us as we practised shifting tents about a field at night in a freshening gale and got the hang of river crossing.

In February it occurs to World Challenge that I might perhaps not be a fit and proper person to accompany the lads on the away leg, well not a fit person anyway, and, as yet another Derbyshire wall looms through the surreal fog at two o'clock in the morning of the Leaders' weekend, compass in hand, I am inclined to agree with them. The group's second go on the climbing wall in the school gym goes well, courtesy of Roger Hollingworth, Old Boy, Captain in the Army Section of the CCF and future member of the Physics Department in September, and who

has aided us in the Brecons as well. Photographs of the team hanging about in rope harnesses are taken to point up the despatches of our cub reporter, Robert Stanton of the Bucks Free Press.

The parents have been busy fund raising with an Appeal letter to Old Boys and local organisations. In amongst the flotsam and jetsam of replies there are many 'Do not pass go, Do not collect £200' messages, but also some cheques and encouraging letters from Old Boys and well wishers with memories of past RGS trips 'with Hannibal over the Alps', and others who have actually recently been to Bolivia. "A well known company" sponsors our collecting soil samples thus lending us the cloak of serving the cause of Science.

In March, Squadron Leader Mel Owen of the RAF Mountaineering Club kindly gives parents and expeditionaries a reassuring multi-slide talk of the absolute safety of "bagging a few peaks" in the country, and on another evening we finally meet Richard Burke our expedition leader.

A letter arrives March 11th, in reply to one of mine of September 20th, from Jorge Ruben Mamani Cerrogrande, a twelve year old who lives with his mother and a brother on a Christian Children Fund project on the high, cold, windy, desert-like plateau of the Altiplano. It's a strange little missive, in Spanish, with a typed stilted English translation, in which he speaks of his football, the lack of food, the return of cholera to the area, and Spring. Perhaps we shall be able to do something for the C.C. Fund whilst we are over there: the La Paz office have suggested a need for money for machinery for the co-operative packing of a high protein cereal, or educational books for the school libraries.

What next? Are we fit in mind and body? Are our passports in good working order? Are the course of jabs complete for all the party? Well, soon it's going to be too late to ask any more questions, and I, and I dare say the Expeditionaries, will be glad enough.

One thing is certain. Whatever we have planned, it will be something else that actually happens.

T.J.N.C.

Geography Field Trip 1993

Bleary-eyed and ready for action the Lower Sixth Geographers looked forward to a quick journey to the "coastal splendour" of Aberystwyth, thankfully minus the company of a Mr Axworthy. The coach driver, starting his five day smokeathon, managed to miss all major roads to Wales, mercifully adding five hours onto our journey!

After a brief stop at the Teme Valley and Mr Pantridge sharing a dispute with the local farmers, glacial analysis was finished and we continued to Wales.

Having mistakenly driven into Aberystwyth Army barracks (we thought), we witnessed our 'home' for the next five days. The night ended with strange nocturnal noises emanating from one of our more rotund friends' rooms, quickly followed by stern words from one of our upset leaders.

Cader Idris hung over our heads like the forementioned two and presented a glacial challenge. Dominic "Stay Off the Moors" "My Dad used this coat at Everest" Morley and an elegant Jon Roche inspired the party. Highlights were "Mountain Goat" Ross and "life saving" Titterton (with a punch!). The day ended with a "beautiful" trek back to the coachdriver. Four miles of fun!

Tuesday brought with it the Rheidol gorge littered with

dead sheep and deathly paths. The thought of this was too much for Mr Gamester, who ran to the security of the Wycombe High School Geology Group! CBD 'work' followed with a good look around the 'public' side of Aberystwyth. Again J. Roche found trouble, chased around a council estate by an irate Welsh washerwoman!

Whilst at Ynyslas sand dunes, our "wayward" friend, the sand dune warden, taught us all we need to know about ... rabbits. Meanwhile Tom Hadley collected starfish which later fell foul to the sea monster observed by the "feelie box challenge" club.

Our last exploration was headed by Dan "the world's strongest man" Gowers, whilst Chris Bealer and Jon Axworthy removed sea urchins from the bay.

Well done to Timmy-temper Suddaby, and the breakfast brawl, Sheridan and Marc, who provided each other if no-one else with company, Madrid and bare-headed tribal women from Staffordshire.

Thanks must be said to Mr Pantridge and Mr Gamester who provided an informative and laborious set of lectures, as well as a worthwhile field trip.

C Bealer 6HR₁ and T Hadley 6HK₁

Activity Holiday at Anduze 1992

In August of last year we were lucky enough to spend an activity holiday at Anduze, in the South of France. We set off for Dover in the mid-afternoon and proceeded to take the ferry to Calais. Only a few hours' sleep were possible as the journey continued overnight in a coach.

After arriving at Anduze in hot sunshine we met our instructors for our ten-day stay. We were then divided up into several groups of four for our sleeping arrangements. We slept in tents which were situated on the campside near



Andrew Pilkington and Tim Gardner in at the deep end.

a small shop, ideal for stocking up for our 'midnight feasts' and soft drinks for the extremely warm days.

The activities on the ten-day trip included rock-climbing, swimming, gorge-walking, snorkelling, windsurfing and probably the group's favourite of a day's descent down the River Ardeche in two-man canoes.

There was some excitement on the last day of our stay as a large thunderstorm was the only blemish on a beautiful week's weather. Many thanks to Mr Howe for organising a very enjoyable holiday.

Tim Gardner 3W

Isle of Wight Trip

Every year Mr Ratcliffe takes a group of boys from the school to the Isle of Wight. I have been on many of these trips during my time in the lower school and I have thoroughly enjoyed every one, and despite this trip only being 3 days long, a great time was had by all who participated. Our accommodation was at the Westbrook Centre, which is a large house in its own grounds only about 10 minutes from Ryde.

The centre is very well equipped with a 9 hole pitch-and-putt golf course, a football pitch, outdoor swimming pool, table tennis and an assault course. This trip was taken early in the year and we had various trips which included going to Sandown, where we swam in the leisure pool or visited the pier. We were also able to go ten-pin bowling and ice skating at Ryde's new leisure complex.

As always the evenings were the highlight of the trip. After a brief discussion about some aspect of Christianity, the games began. The first night was spent with a half-dozen eggs and Mr Ratcliffe's sense of humour. On the second night the 6th Form planned and put into action what had to be the most successful wide game ever. A peaceful night's sleep followed the game and rounded off a very fine trip. We look forward to the next trip this July.

Nick Hudson 6ER₁

Ikon Magazine

1993 was a leisurely year for all at the *Ikon* camp. Despite an early push for contributions towards a March issue, the best we received was a spoof Magritte from an old editor at Swansea University, and the total number of entries could be counted on a small gathering of fingers. Due to this apparent complacency from the public, nothing much was achieved, and the 1993 *Ikon* Project was left to stew slowly at Gas Mark 3 for several months. In fact, the only thing which prevented *Ikon* from slipping from the collective consciousness altogether was Glyn's persistent questions about how we were going to spend all the profits from previous issues. The best suggestion involved a giant 'Flub' rabbit sculpture, two paperclips, an RAF Tornado and 3lbs of Semtex, but sadly we couldn't get planning permission so the project was abandoned.

Still nothing was done, and it looked like 1993 was going to be an "an sans *Ikon*", the first since it was set up several years back, but recently a rumour has been circulating that a new issue will be brought out over the summer. I don't believe a word of it myself, of course, but now Glyn is at the helm who knows what may happen. One thing's for sure – you will never see that hysterical, eight-page assembly spoof. Or then again... I would like to thank Graham Chapman, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones, Eric Idle, John Cleese and Michael Palin for being a source of inspiration over these formative years, and Mr Arnfield for being a general star.

Scott Walters 6BC₂
Editor

Young Consumer of the Year Quiz



'Are you sure Hong Kong isn't in Europe?' asks 'Tim' Bocquet.

On 2 March a handpicked team of specialists travelled to County Hall Aylesbury to compete in the Bucks round of the Young Consumer of the Year quiz. Skipper Adam Smith (expert in consumer law), Matt Hill (the EC), Dave 'Tim' Bocquet (geography) and David Schruers (driver) comprised the team hoping to emulate the success of last year. However in the first round we came up against a strong, well trained Stowe four, and a suspect buzzer, and soon fell behind. A late rally was abruptly ended by Dave Bocquet's mislocation of Hong Kong within the EC, and despite a stoic effort, the team went down sportingly but by an unfortunately large margin.

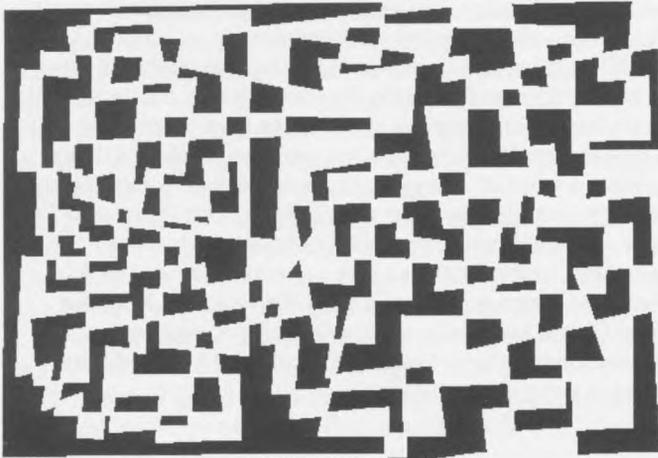
Matthew Hill 6E2

Schools Challenge Quiz

The Schools Challenge quiz team enjoyed a reasonable degree of success this year. We overcame two schools at home, Presentation College, Reading and John Lyon, Harrow, and Abingdon School away, before a narrow defeat at the hands of Bedford put us out of the contest. A 10-point lead changed hands several times in the course of the last few minutes, but at the end of the half-hour we had lost this crucial margin.

Thanks must go to Mr McNeil and Mr Edwards for organising the team and transporting us to our away fixture.

David Chapman 6C2



A. Levicki 6LF1

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Expedition 1992

*Saturday 4 July Great Missenden, early
(too early for a Saturday anyway):*

It was cold. It was damp. It was morning. The group set off, late, for a 17km walk to Green Park across Buckinghamshire countryside. After fifteen minutes we had a rest, and while the party finished off their 'emergency rations', James did a quick 'Van Gogh' of the view. We continued in good spirits, until two hours later, it happened. We 'took a detour' ... OK, we got lost. It turned out we were over two kilometres off course due to temporary problems in map reading! When we finally arrived where we thought we were, we were three hours late! It was lunchtime, and the good weather broke. Not despondent, discouraged, disheartened or depressed we continued. Many, many rests and half kilometre walks later, we arrived at Green Park, slightly late. The clouds had waited until we were ready to put up the tent, when the clouds broke once more. It did not avail, so after constructing the tent under the tree beneath which we hid, we comically carried it out to our place of rest, where we burned our chicken curry dinner and toasted marshmallows until we went to bed for a good night's rest that never came. That day held many first time experiences for all members of the party. Some of these included getting wet, getting tired, exerting ourselves and carrying 16lb rucksacks!

Sunday, still too early:

We set off, again after everybody else (we were not the most punctual group ever) and had almost walked two kilometres when we were thrown off an RAF airbase that we had accidentally walked onto. (I decided not to pull my rank as a Junior Cadet in the RGS RAF section of the CCF). After many more miles past villages, farms, muddy fields, and a place aptly called "World's End", we arrived at Wendover station, nursing our blisters, and holding each other up just in time to reach home without missing the Men's Wimbledon Final. Whether the weather was against us or not, we shall never know, but as soon as we reached our goal, the rain stopped! All in all the trip was worth the effort, and everyone had a great time. We look forward to next year when we are hoping to take our Silver award.

James Latham and Jonathan Dormand

A wide variety of activities continue to be an intrinsic part of the experience this Award scheme offers, including even more venturesome expeditions. As part of his Gold Award, Andrew Gilmore has successfully completed an exhilarating and challenging trip to some remote areas of India. All boys of 14+ years of age can take part in this scheme. Mrs Catling will provide details gladly.

N. J. G. Catling

Role Playing Games Club

This has definitely been the best year that the Role Playing club has ever had, because membership has increased to an unprecedented 66 members. The average number of attendees in room 25 has been better than ever, although Sixth form attendance has been non-existent.

With the money raised through the membership fees we have been able to buy four new games (to add to our existing eight): Paranoia, Warhammer Fantasy Roleplay, Aliens Roleplay, and G.U.R.P.S.

This year a "library system" was introduced to allow members to borrow club games. I am pleased to announce that this facility has been successful and will continue next year. All that is required to borrow a game is a R.P.G. Club Card (only 50p) and you can keep the game until somebody else wants to borrow it.

I would like to thank Mr Clark (our master in charge) and the other members of the R.P.G. Club Committee for helping me to resolve the few problems that the club has suffered throughout the year.

Colin Bennett 6MBA₁
Chairman

Careers

Archivist, aromatherapist, chef, doctor, engineer, jockey, journalist, lawyer, manager, scaffolder, translator etc etc. In consideration of any career the Careers staff search their extensive, and continually up-dated, files for the relevant information. A programme of careers talks – learn from the horse's mouth – backs up this information. This year the talks have covered biology careers, the police, solicitor, environmentalist, medicine, the prison service, architecture, journalism, computing and mechanical/electrical/civil engineering.

Taking a 'year off' is growing in popularity and two talks have been devoted to some of the options available.

Most of the RGS students intend to proceed to higher education. 'What grades do I need to study biotechnology?' 'Which universities offer Financial Studies?' 'Where is De Montfort University?' 'Isn't Loughborough University in Scotland?' 'Where can I get sponsorship for Aeronautical Engineering?' 'What can I do with a degree in History?' 'Can I become a lawyer if I take a degree in Maths?'

In dealing with these and many other queries, the Careers staff, in support of and with the guidance of the Director of Sixth Form Studies and with the wide range of material available in the Careers Room, have done their best to provide the answers.

This year the input from Wycombe Careers Office in the person of Mrs Ros Carr has been much appreciated; her weekly visits to interview students have proved of great value.

The benefit of work shadowing is acknowledged and this year has seen a better participation level than in the past (persistent nagging can pay dividends!) with many students undertaking more than one placement to gain career insights.

The Careers staff would like to express their thanks to all the members of staff actively involved in careers/higher education guidance in the school, to those outside speakers who have given their time and to the individuals and organisations who have supported the work shadowing scheme.

H.R.M./J.E.G.

Public Speaking and Debating

The pattern of previous years repeated itself this year: success in public speaking, specially in the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition, paralleled by lack of success in debating.

In the Observer Mace debating competition held at Windsor in December, Tom Adams and Matthew Brown had a sharp encounter with the girls of Piper's Corner school on the topic of the continuation of the monarchy. Greater spontaneity, quick thinking and unrehearsed fluency gave the victory to Piper's Corner.

The English Speaking Union competition produced a similar result. The RGS fielded two teams but were beaten again by Piper's Corner, whose excellent main speaker was the same individual who had sunk our team at Windsor



Matthew Brown and Tom Adams victorious in the first round of 'Youth Speaks'.

(though on this occasion she was perhaps boosted somewhat by the presence of a large body of home supporters). The ESU competition has a question and answer session which is a notorious minefield for RGS teams. Convolved – indeed, often incomprehensible – questions from the audience tend to throw the speakers into confused circumlocutions, whereas the trick is to pretend confidently to answer the question while in fact doing nothing of the sort.

Again, it was the 'Youth Speaks' competitions, with their unadorned set piece performances, which showed the RGS teams to their best advantage. In January, at the Wycombe and Marlow round, the Lower Sixth team of Glyn Cannon, James Wilkinson and Edward Bennett produced a highly polished and technically perfect presentation. The winners of the evening were, however, the Upper Sixth team of Tom Adams and Matthew Brown, who won despite the absence through illness of the Chairman, Chris Clarke. Matthew Brown improvised and ad libbed superbly, acting as both chairman and vote of thanks simultaneously, and undoubtedly squeezing the 'sympathy vote' for every conceivable drop of support. With the enlistment of the excellent Roger Blow the team's composition settled down, and with Tom Adams on superb form they won the district semi-final at Wycombe Abbey in March on the topic 'What is a Brit?' They then reached the finals at Oxford in April (where they were in fact the only boys' team), and after another vintage performance were declared the runners-up, being narrowly defeated by the girls of Rye St Anthony's school, who spoke on the subject of why humans should eat hamsters instead of turkeys. To have come second in the final is the equivalent of having beaten over one hundred schools – an excellent achievement.

M.J.S.

Junior Vulture

The year's Junior Vulture trips started with a visit to the Royal National Theatre to see a production of "Pygmalion" by George Bernard Shaw, which was enjoyed thoroughly, in particular all the special effects, which were really spectacular.

Secondly we went to the new Wycombe Swan Theatre for an entrancing performance of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" by the London City Ballet Company. For many, this was a first experience of ballet, and an excellent one at that.

At the beginning of the new term, we went on a double trip to the National Gallery followed by a concert at the Royal Festival Hall. At the National Gallery we were taken on a tour entitled "How to Look at Paintings" which was entertaining and amusing whilst still being informative. After the tour all were allowed some free time to look around the brand new Sainsbury Wing. We then walked to the concert hall for "A Celebration of St Valentine" culminating in a moving rendition of "Carmina Burana".

We finished the year as we began it, with a trip to the Royal National Theatre, this time to see the award winning production of "An Inspector Calls" by J B Priestley. This thought provoking tale had a balance of the chilling and the entertaining, to make a truly grand end to a great year's trips.

We would like to thank Mr Cowburn, Mr Mitchell, Mr Arnfield, Mr Keysell and Miss Kelly, all of whom helped to make these trips possible.

John Kelly and Damian Curtis 3JSK

Senior Vulture

Not having been a "Culture Vulture" before I was not sure what to expect from this year's four trips. I can see now though, that they were a perfect selection for someone like me, without the first clue about the cultural scene in London.

Our first outing was to Brian Friel's play 'Philadelphia Here I come'. The setting was Ireland and the superb acting brought out a script which was both witty and provoking, whilst avoiding typical stereotypes of the Irish. The set was cleverly designed in that it made you feel as if you were present, witnessing the intimate family scenes.

Vulture continued its tradition of successful Oscar prediction with a trip to 'Howard's End', a faithful and entertaining adaption of an E M Forster novel.

Soon after Christmas our third trip took us to 'Tag Teatro' in London for the International Mime Festival. If we were expecting painted white faces and imaginary panes of glass, we were quite disappointed as a lively multi-lingual Italian production was presented to us. The assumption was that, if you couldn't understand the words, you would pick up the story from the action – and, with actors constantly dashing across the stage or appearing at windows or in door ways – there was plenty of it. After a rather exhausting Italian-filled hour of this romantic comedy (yes, exhausting for those just watching!), a far better second half followed – more enjoyable for having more English and French which enabled us to understand more of the jokes.

I think quite a few of us were dubious at the prospect of seeing a ballet and so were pleasantly surprised at how good our last trip was. The evening consisted of two productions by Maurice Bejart's company. In 'Opéra', the dancing was set to wonderful music by Verdi and the story looked at, amongst other things, St Matthew's Gospel and "work", the meaning of the title. 'The Miraculous Mandarin', the second production, had a more sordid

storyline with 20th Century music by Béla Bartok, with references to Weimar Germany and pre-war Berlin. Both productions were very powerful visually and showed us how strong and supple the ballet dancers need to be whilst still being relaxed and elegant.

All in all Vulture has been a good thing. I have enjoyed productions that I might not have otherwise seen, because they do not hold a great deal of credibility with people of my age; I now know otherwise. I shall be joining again next year and I would recommend anyone else to as well.

Thanks to Mr Keysell, Mr Mitchell, Mr Cowburn, Mr Arnfield, Miss Kelly and others for making this possible.

William Tait 6LY1, assisted by G Cannon 6E1

Staff Football 25th Anniversary Dinner

The 25th Anniversary of regular Staff Football was celebrated with a dinner at The Chequers, Wheeler End, in February. Invitations had been sent to as many past players as possible and it was good to see many old faces on the night, including Jeremy Lingard, ex-Biology master, on



'Here are the registration numbers of the cars most at risk tonight as Roger leaves the car park.'

whose initiative Staff Football had been started in 1968. The Headmaster, no mean footballer in his heyday, has not played Staff Football, thinking when he came that he was too old. In this he was mistaken, as in view of recent staff sides, he would have been approaching his prime.

"Joe Royle"

What's the use of DNA?

What indeed? For many, DNA has something to do with why blue eyed parents don't have brown eyed children and conjures up images of those computer generated helices we've all seen on *Tomorrow's World*. However, it's now becoming apparent, to the student of Dawkins and Milton, that we exist not only because of it but for it.

With this in mind Sixth form Biologists and Mr Wolton attended a lecture on the subject given by the Joint Biology Committee, a Charity whose biannual lectures are invariably sold out, and this was no exception. However the pre-lunch speakers were uninspiring. Dr Evans, despite his obvious love and enthusiasm for the 'Human Genome Project', which aims to find and document the position of every human gene and which is expected to lead to new fundamental discoveries in medicine, failed to inspire the audience. Similarly 'Nitrogen Fixation' proved too conceptually demanding to be included in a lecture designed to explain gene diversity.

However the afternoon lectures more than made up for the disappointing start. The speaker on the 'Molecular Study of Hereditary Diseases', aided by Lego models of DNA strands and enzymes, explained both concisely and clearly the methods and techniques involved in the cloning, identification and manipulation of disease causing genes, even going so far as to show that a cell may differentiate between maternally and paternally inherited genes and how this affects the genetic disorder arising. The final lecture on 'DNA Fingerprinting', discovered in 1985, illustrated the importance of the work described in the previous lecture. This technique allows any individual to be identified on the basis of their genetic code, which is of vital importance in forensic science. It is also of great value in determining whether an individual can pass on a suspected hereditary disorder.

As usual the lectures were well worth attending. However the disappointingly high ratio of teachers to students means that we are rarely able to astound with our new found knowledge!

Mark Goodfellow 6BG₁

Biology Trip – Natural History Museum

Near the beginning of December, a rare opportunity arose for Lower Sixth Biology students to see the electron microscopes at the Natural History Museum, London, not normally open to the public.

The visit helped pupils to further their studies of the topic of microscopy, by enabling them to see the electron microscopes in action and learn more about the various preparation techniques, as well as seeing how the microscopes could be used in viewing non-biological specimens.

An enjoyable day was spent by all, not just in looking at the microscopes but also the whole of the museum, including the recent "Dinosaurs' Exhibition".

Our grateful thanks to Ms Barnes at the museum and Mr Wolton for organising the trip.

Christian LeVan 6BW₁

Biology Field Trip 1992

On Wednesday 8 July 1992 a party comprising Mr Knight and 31 eager Biology students boarded the coach for the Orierton Field Studies Centre, Pembrokeshire.

On arrival we were greeted by Mr and Mrs Crump, our highly jovial custodians for the week. Next came luvly lispng Litha and her boyfriend Steve, our ecology tutors.

The first night was spent performing social duties and meeting Mrs Crump's bats.

At 9am next day work commenced – usually two hours' theory, five hours' field trip, one hour break and then work until 9pm. The field trips were wet and consisted of rocky coastlines, sand dunes, rain, rivers and more rain. Other activities included the daily blue dog whelk award for prattish behaviour – 'commando' Curry winning it an unprecedented twice. A. Dover was thrown in a bath fully clothed, A. Mohammed got nicknamed "Evil's Aumran" after a particularly nasty attack on P. Cox, and the persons occupying the room "Goldeneye" were severely chastised by Mr Crump who caught them indulging in an illicit recreational pyromaniac activity.

The last day was greeted with great cheer amongst the students. The coach trip was uneventful except for the singing of the best team in the land. We arrived back at the RGS exhausted but educated, and in good spirit.

A special thank you must go to Mr Rex Knight, commonly known amongst us students as the Boss, for looking after us in his final year as Head of Biology. His wry sense of humour will be sorely missed in the dark depths of the Biology department.

D. Shaw, P. Cox and R. Tang

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is a partnership between business and education, which offers young people a chance to run their own companies. The aim is to help pupils develop enterprises and personal skills through practical training in all aspects of business. Local Area Boards, business people (volunteer Advisers) and Link Teachers in schools help groups of pupils (Achievers) with their projects. This year 30 boys from the RGS Lower Sixth joined girls from Lady Verney to form two Young Enterprise companies. The companies produced a wide range of products, from wind chimes to hair bands.

The highlight of the year is the Young Enterprise Trade Fair, which was held in Wycombe Abbey School in March. Our companies competed successfully, winning trophies in all categories.

Every Achiever has the opportunity to take the Young Enterprise examination. Last year the results from the RGS were outstanding, with a success rate of 100%.

We are indebted to our Advisers from Axa Equity and Law, for their assistance and support through all the ups and downs of business life!

J.M.A.

Kart Club

The last year has seen a great improvement in the reliability of our karts. The club saw an increase in the number of trophies gained overall last season, with at least one result each meeting. We also gained five new licence holders at various stages throughout the season, who then went on to race for the school.

Jake Conway got off to a promising start by winning his first ever race in the fast 125cc kart. The rest of the 1992 season was plagued by minor problems that kept him off



Mr Gene Pitney, winner of this year's Colin Howe look-alike Karaoke competition.

the podium. These appear to have been solved and he starts the 1993 season with high hopes. Robert Beever, although not focusing on any particular kart, managed to keep our school with at least one Hertfordshire Champion, as we have done for the last three years of the club's four year existence. He was also awarded half-colours for his constant effort and achievement. He continues onto a Honda 100cc powered kart, competing against fellow club members. Mounis Hussain surprised us all in the Hertfordshire Championships in October 1992 by managing to get third place in his kart, although only having gained his licence earlier that year.

Andrew Smy and Chris Smart set out to beat the rest in their 100cc kart, but due to various problems including finally burning out the engine, never managed to gain a trophy in this very competitive class of racing. Andrew Smy was also awarded half-colours for the amount of effort that he put into maintaining and racing his kart. The rest of the trophies were won by myself, with one first place, one second place, a third and fourth place in the national finals and a third place in the Hertfordshire Championships. I was also awarded the Clive Rowland trophy for being the most successful driver in the club this year and full colours. I have now changed karts and until I leave am driving a 100cc powered kart with Robert Beever.

Mr Howe tried his best to win the teachers' races, whenever he got the chance, favouring the 125cc powered kart which is our fastest one. He dodged and diced with the opposition, although seemingly taking it easy around some of the corners, which he excused by claiming to be 'taking care of the kart'.

The rest of the club gained experience in racing their karts and look set to be the future trophy winners at national and county levels during the next few years.

Jonathan Tarry 6LF₂
Kart Club Team Leader

The Benevolent Fund

The RGS Benevolent Fund Collection continues to be a most encouraging aspect of school life. As previously, the gifts to the fund are made by boys throughout the school on a voluntary basis most Monday mornings of the school year. These, plus a few special collections, are all donated by the end of the year to charities of many kinds.

At the end of the summer term 1992 the fund had received £4,160.95, over a thousand pounds beyond the previous year's total and certainly unexpected in a year of national recession.

Our two major donations of the year, to Albanian Children and Judo for the Blind, amounting to approximately £1,250, were recorded in the 1992 *Wycombiensian*. The bulk of the fund was distributed at the end of the Summer Term among nearly twenty charities ranging from Cystic Fibrosis Research and the Mission Aviation Fellowship through to the High Wycombe Scannappeal and the High Wycombe Hillcrest Day Centre for the mentally handicapped.

So far this academic year our fund has received just over £3,100, and special collections have helped to put central heating into an Albanian hospital, via an expedition led by an RGS Old Boy, the provision of a new nebulizer system for the local three year old asthmatic boy, Mark Arnold, and aid for handicapped Arab children in Palestine. We are certainly on target for a total to equal last year's and our thanks go to all contributors for their splendid support.

With the retirement of our headmaster this summer, may I as Fund Secretary give him our special thanks? Mr Brown has not only encouraged and supported the Fund but repeatedly fostered its interest and activities in many ways.

The Secretary of the Benevolent Fund, B. Kempson

Forum

VIth form Forum has enjoyed an exciting year of much needed rehabilitation under the guidance of Mr Ratcliffe. Numbers have steadily grown throughout the year, with a very welcome influx of Lower VIth formers boosting attendance to over twenty at times.

A wide range of topics has been covered, spanning a large area of the Christian faith. Most meetings have been led by the ever vibrant Mr Ratcliffe, but members such as Roger Blow, Taavi Davies and myself have taken the reins from time to time.

An informal, relaxed atmosphere has been maintained throughout the year, allowing free discussion and at times colourful debate to take place.

The future looks promising for an increasingly strong Forum. Why not come along anyway to see what goes on, every Friday at 1.40pm in Room 4?

Carl Barkey 6GC₂

Christian Union

Over the past year, under an inexperienced but enthusiastic set of 5th form leaders, the CU has seen a substantial rise in attendance. Inspired meetings by Paul Spackman, Peter Douglas, Michael Reid and others may have been the cause of this rise, but it may also have been the marked drop in temperature during lunchtimes over the winter.

The RGS's CU again organised the February Inter

Schools' Christian Fellowship Weekend at the Wycliffe Centre this year, and again it was a great success (mostly through the unceasing toils of Jon Brinn). A combination of thought-provoking talks by the talented group of Paul New, Nikki Thomas and Paul Elliott, brilliant music by the ever-wonderful "Void Without Him", and an awful lot of shaving foam helped to make the weekend thoroughly enjoyable (if a touch bleary-eyed) for all who went.

In the coming year, without the awesome Anton Machacek or enigmatic Phil Crozier, under revised leadership and organisation and God willing, the CU hopes to spread the Lord's Word further throughout the school community, and at the rate it has been going, this should prove to be less fraught than expected (by some).

Peter Bailey 5H

(The Christian Union meets in Room 4 every Wednesday at 1.40pm and every breaktime in the Junior block division rooms for prayer – all are welcome to attend.)

Stage Lighting and Sound

This year the team has provided lighting or public address services for three dramatic performances, four musical concerts, approximately ten public hirings of the hall, and about 400 assemblies! We are responsible not only for setting up and operating equipment for these functions, but also in the maintenance of, among other things, about 70 stage lanterns and 50 extension leads. We have over 25 members, and an electrical connection capable of supplying us with 48kW. As can be imagined, this work keeps us busy – one estimate gives the total number of pupil-hours this year as over one thousand.

We were able to improve the versatility of the lighting for the school production by using the dimming equipment from the Arts Centre. This increased the number of dimming channels from 24 to 36. In the sound department some earth loops were found and broken, with the result that the sound system now has considerably less noise and interference than before.

It is very encouraging that the team contains so many enthusiastic fourth and fifth formers who are all too willing to help out, even with unpleasant jobs. I wish to thank especially James Page, Nigel Homer, James Whiteside, Michael Roberts, David Thonger, Mark Suret and Stephen Wells for their help and support. Their interest has resulted in more training taking place this year.

The main event this year was the school play, Gogol's 'The Government Inspector'. Peter Dewar (6BW₂) and the sound team had the unenviable task of playing small fragments from a Rossini overture which required very precise cueing, especially as he couldn't see the action on the stage from his position. On the lighting side, the additional dimmers meant that manual operation was necessary. This was good from the point of view that it made the lighting operators more in control of the play, but some of the cue sequences became interesting logistically. The impressive team work of the operators – Chris Thompson and Jaimie Johnston (both 6MBA₂) – was largely responsible for the success of those sequences.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Peter Flack, the Physics department laboratory technician, who for some years now has assisted significantly with running

repairs and the construction and wiring of new equipment. His quick and highly efficient service has been a vital element in the development of several of the systems in regular use.

In conclusion I would like to express our gratitude to Mr Everett and Mr Moore without whom there would be no Stage Lighting and Sound Team as we know it.

Anton Machacek 6MBE₂

Ski Trip to Austria – December 1992

We set off from school at 11.15am on a luxury coach for a very long journey to Austria. We reached Dover and crossed the channel by ferry. By the time we were across the channel it was dark. The coach stopped in France so we could get something to eat. We watched a video and then settled down to sleep. By the time we awoke we were half



New Year's Day, 1993, above Saalbach, Austria.

way across Germany. The coach stopped again in Germany so that we could have some breakfast. We watched another video and we were in Saalbach at 11.00am.

We went straight to the hotel to unpack our bags and settle into our rooms. Each room had bunk beds, a shower and toilet. After unpacking we walked to the town to see about hiring our skis, boots and poles, then we took a walk to admire the beautiful setting. By the time we were back at the hotel we were ready to have dinner and go to bed.

The next day started bright and early at 7.00am. We had a continental breakfast and were off for the first day's skiing. The slopes we were to ski on were in the next village. We met our instructors and were soon onto the slopes. By lunch time we had tales to tell whilst we ate our packed lunches. Time flew by as we enjoyed ourselves and by the time we were back at the hotel we were all very tired, but this was by no means the end of the day. To our surprise we had to do Karaoke. The next evening was ice-skating, then curling, then a party, then bowling. All were great fun.

Soon it was the last day and we had a mini slalom competition in our groups. These were exciting with medals for the winners and certificates for everyone. There was also a large firework display for everyone to watch.

Mrs Henderson also gave out her own awards for such categories as 'the most impressive tumble' and the 'best mountain walker'.

This skiing trip was enjoyable and a great success.

Matthew Bryars 3JSK

Rugby

1st XV

Played 21 Won 11 Lost 10 For 237 Against 227

To play at Twickenham is every schoolboy rugby player's dream. The RGS senior rugby squad realized that dream when they accepted an invitation to play at Twickenham for a day over the Easter Holidays experimenting with various law initiatives. The opposition were boys drawn mainly from Aylesbury Grammar School, and it was a wonderful way for boys in 62 who have given so much to RGS rugby to finish their rugby playing days. For those who remain to play next year it has given them the taste of what it would be like to reach the Daily Mail Cup Final.

The season was disappointing by recent 1st XV standards. Only two players remained from last season's very successful team and a complete rebuild was required. However too many players misjudged what is required of a current school 1st XV player. They arrived at the start of the season lacking fitness and expected to play to get fit rather than being fit to play. Personal skill levels had been neglected during the summer break and without practice they did not suddenly re-appear. Players often under-estimated their opposition failing to understand that everybody now wants to beat the RGS, and just because we turn up on a field we do not have a God given right to win. When we look back on the season, many of the defeats were by small margins and the question will be if only we had ...? It's too late to ask those questions now and perhaps the younger players can learn that if they want to play 1st XV rugby at the highest level and beyond they must be fit, work hard on basic skills and be prepared to listen and learn. They must also learn discipline and personal organisation so that they can enjoy their rugby but still complete their homework on time, and revise thoroughly.

After an early defeat to Watford who had just returned from a tour to Australia the 1st XV gained good wins over Hampton, Emanuel, QES, and St Benedict's. We were out-played in a new fixture at Warwick losing by three tries, and three further defeats followed including a 10-0 defeat at home to Aylesbury GS, the first time they had beaten the 1st XV for six years. The 1st XV halted their run of defeats with their best performance of the term in an excellent 12-3 victory at Berkhamsted, but were outclassed by a very good Bedford Modern team just before Christmas.

The Spring Term saw an improvement in playing ability and an amazing game at Tiffin where a 26-3 deficit was turned into a wonderful 27-26 victory by sheer hard work and determination. A brilliant display of running rugby brought a deserved 22-0 victory at Reigate to close the season. Wai Kwong Lin captained the side with enthusiasm throughout the year leading by example and thoroughly deserved his selection for the England U18 President's XV game at Hull. He was ably supported by Philip Hills and James Windle. A number of players played for the County U16 and U18 XV teams, with Joe Davis (lock), Barry Mason (wing) and Ian McLaughlin (No 8) moving forward to represent the South East U16 XV in the Divisional Championship. Barry Mason was selected for the England



Hands off! Laurence Sargent on the attack against London Oratory in the preliminary rounds of the National Schools Sevens.

Photograph: Tom Jenkins, The Guardian.

U16 'A' XV squad for the game against Spain, and Ian McLaughlin gained his England U16 cap playing with distinction in the internationals against Spain, in which he scored a try, and Wales.

It was pleasing to see so many old boys still involved with the game and playing well. David Currie (Oxford) and Alexis Read (Cambridge) both gained Blues when they played against each other in this year's Varsity Match. Simon Shaw was involved in the Loughborough University team for the UAU Championship final and scored for the Bucks U21 XV when they won the County U21 Championship at Twickenham. Former captains Nick Beal and Matthew Dawson have had an outstanding year. Both are now playing in the Northampton 1st XV and in the current season have played in the Divisional Championship; for the England 'A' XV where Matthew scored two tries against Ireland; and the England Sevens team that won the World Cup Sevens Tournament in which Nick made an outstanding contribution of 70 points for the England Team. Both have now been selected for the England Senior tour to Canada in May. Our warmest congratulations go to both of them, for they are wonderful role models for all the boys playing rugby at school and we wish them and all our old boys continued success.

C.C.T.

2nd XV

Played 17 Won 14 Drawn 1 Lost 2 For 507 Against 110

More than ever this season the 2nd XV fulfilled its traditional duty as the nurturing ground in which skill and raw talent are allowed to blossom without the constraints of burdening pressures.

A central core of senior players provided the backbone to the squad, and were complemented by a strong

contingent from the Lower Sixth, as well as the occasional fresh-faced Fifth former adding the spirit of youth to the team. This blend provided an enjoyable, competitive and, above all, winning atmosphere.

The first-choice front-row of Doug Andrew, Brian McLaughlin and Toby Shaw consistently won scrum ball and were everywhere in the loose. However, their puerile tomfoolery plagued most attempts at serious training sessions, and led to their eventual sacking, allowing their replacements, Stuart Hazelden, Dan Talbot and A.N. Other to set a new world-record for combined front-row weight (estimates for which varied from 48 stone to 12 tonnes). Line-out possession was ably secured by second-rows Robert Pople and occasionally Andrew Carter (weather permitting). A whole host of quality players were used in the back-row, led by Nick Wragg, Adam Harrison and Vikas Kapoor, who never allowed his great potential as a flanker to interfere with his unique flair for sustaining serious ankle injuries. Peter Cox who played at No. 8 added considerable ballast at the base of the scrum.

The explosive back division was ignited by the top-class half-back pairing of Jon Cox and Richard Weaver, who master-minded all attacks. Andrew "Eric Cantona" Sloane was slippery and ever-present in the centre, and had the honour of being partnered by either Neil Govan or Jon Thrupp, who made alternate "guest-star" appearances.

Unending, often nocturnal, practice sessions perfected a powerful arsenal of set three-quarter moves, which was used to devastating effect, and allowed wingers Matt Page, Rhodri Jones and particularly Andrew Price to power home with equine elegance for many breath-taking tries. The team was completed by Nolan Ross, who performed with greater authority as the season progressed.

The end-of-season results and points tally gives an indication of the destruction and humiliation that was inflicted on many of our opponents, but cannot show the style and panache the 2nd XV brought to what were often virtuoso displays of "champagne rugby".

Many thanks go to Mike Davies for his early season coaching and Keeganesque leadership, and to the ever-present Les Taylor whose 3D's (determination, discipline, decision-making) and inexhaustible supply of enthusiasm and Murray Mints, concentrated our minds on the task at hand.

Congratulations go to all the squad members who helped make this a highly successful season.

Jon Thrupp, Richard Weaver, Jon Cox
2nd XV Captains

U15 XV

Played 17 Won 3 Drawn 1 Lost 13 For 191 Against 317

This playing record does not reflect the enthusiasm and effort that the U15 squad has shown this season. Many games were closely fought and eventually decided in the last twenty minutes when tiredness can lead to errors. Unfortunately, the team were often guilty of mistakes which denied them a just result. However, the wins at QE Barnet and Windsor were achieved through hard work and concentration, and I am sure these games remain as the most enjoyable moments of a tough season.

The 'B' team won five of their seven matches. Many of the players represented the 'A' team during the season

because of the large number of injuries accumulated and played far beyond my expectations.

The post-Christmas fixtures are always very difficult and, although we did not win any of these games, I would thank the parents for their generous support during that time, and I am sure they enjoyed the excellent games against Tiffin and Guildford as much as I did. Well done to all the players who trained regularly, often in difficult conditions. I wish them well next year.

R.A.C.

U14 'A' XV

Played 16 Won 9 Drawn 3 Lost 4 For 390 Against 150

The U14 season promised much before a ball was kicked because the side as U13's had played most impressively. The unfortunate long-term absence of Mark Highett-Smith was counterbalanced by the arrival at the school of Daniel Smaje, a talented ball player who fitted into the centre admirably.

The season started well enough with a convincing win over Watford (41-12), and a thrilling, last kick of the game, victory over Emanuel (27-26), but then took a nasty nose-dive with 3 defeats in 4 matches against John Fisher, QE Barnet and St. Benedict's.

The Benedict's match, in many ways, proved to be the turning point of the whole season. Having been thumped 27-0 in one unforgettable first half, we then came back in the second half to lose less emphatically by 12-27, and from this point on, never really looked back.

Victories over Warwick School (38-5) and Windsor (73-5) followed, and facing a very awkward post-Christmas fixture list, we remained unbeaten, recording handsome victories over Royal Latin School, Tiffin School and RGS Guildford. The season ended in fine style with a rather bizarre but enthralling 0-0 draw against Reigate GS.

By the end of the season, the team were playing with considerable cohesion and team spirit which certainly augurs well for their Daily Mail Cup campaign next year, and beyond into senior school rugby. The squad were a pleasure to work with.

The season's report would not be complete without mention of the U14 "army" of supporters who braved all weathers to support their lads. Their encouragement and support were quite unbelievable and appreciated enormously by the players and myself.

S.J.N.

U14 'B' XV

Played 9 Won 5 Lost 4 For 172 Against 133

The U14 'B' team had a slightly up and down season, not helped by the fact that on many occasions the team was hampered by squad injuries, late changes to 'A' and 'B' teams and a general lack of availability, especially amongst the forwards.

However, there was a core of ever-present 'B' team players who played consistently well and together they

were able to record 5 victories out of 9 games played, winning impressively against Watford GS (43-0), QE Barnet (29-5), and Windsor (49-0), in particular.

All players who participated in the games and turned out consistently for training deserve much credit. If these boys can retain their interest next year, the future for school rugby looks bright.

S.J.N.

U13 'A' XV

Played 12 Won 10 Lost 2 For 372 Against 106

The U13 Squad worked with great commitment and enthusiasm in September and October in preparation for their season. This is a limited amount of time to produce teams capable of confronting a school with players of considerably more experience. Nevertheless, a 5-19 loss to Warwick in a very tough first game gave early indications that the U13 XV would be a tenacious and determined team.

Five consecutive victories followed. Compact scrummaging, good foraging in the back-row and determined tackling in the midfield were the features of these very good performances. As confidence grew the team displayed good handling skills and plenty of penetrative running. A hard fought contest at Bedford Modern resulted in the second defeat of the season, despite a brave comeback from the RGS.

The four games after Christmas showed the progress made during the season. Three fine victories, albeit by margins of one score, were recorded against Tiffin, RGS Guildford and Reigate. In the final contest against Aylesbury, the teams scored eight superb tries to close the season on an emphatic note. There were many fine individual efforts during the season, but more importantly the squad developed an excellent spirit and played with great enthusiasm and enjoyment.

M.J.D.

U13 'B' XV

Played 10 Won 9 Lost 1 For 290 Against 47

This was an encouraging season with the sole defeat being suffered at the hands of a strong Bedford Modern side before Christmas.

The success was primarily due to the development of a fine team spirit. The squad system worked well and competition for places meant that players remained highly motivated.

The team improved throughout the season. Indeed, only five points were conceded in 1993. It is to be hoped that the enthusiasm and skill will continue at U14 level.

A.M.R.

Hockey

1st XI

This has been an outstanding season in all respects.

In the National Indoor competition the RGS reached the finals and finished runners-up with Adam Smith scoring 13 of the team's 17 goals in the four matches played at the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace.

The school also qualified for the National Outdoor Finals at Birmingham University by becoming South-East England Champions after defeating Eastbourne College, Harrow HC and drawing with Chatham House, Kent. The highly motivated RGS played excellent hockey to record a 3-1 victory over Kingston GS (the defending champions) in the first match and then went on to beat King's School, Macclesfield 6-1 (before the tournament King's had a +ve



Arshad Khan stick-tackled by a Kingston GS player, National Finals, Birmingham University.

goal difference of 102 in 31 matches this season). These wins secured a semi-final place against Hall Cross, Doncaster, a team unbeaten in all matches before the finals. A well-disciplined performance gave the RGS control of the game and Jon Axworthy's penalty corner goal ensured an appearance in the final. Kingston GS drew their semi 1-1 with Millfield and went through on penalty strokes.

The RGS defence was superb in the final with the strong Kingston team unable to penetrate into our 25 but Kingston scored from a penalty corner five minutes before half-time. With the RGS squad now depleted by injuries it was difficult to put Kingston under pressure although their goal-keeper was forced to save well from a succession of penalty corners. Eventually a second goal secured the title for Kingston and silver medals again for the RGS.

In 19 matches during the season the RGS lost only once (to Kingston) but the team reversed this result a month

later. Matthew Cameron and Alan Morton shared goal-keeping duties effectively, and playing in front of them were Mark Madden and David Bocquet. Andrew Goodfellow was the most improved player of the season but was unfortunately injured for the finals. Matthew Walters was a very capable defender playing well at left defence. Serious injuries to Michael John (dislocated finger) and Andrew Wardill (dislocated knee-cap) in September put them out for most of the season but Michael just recovered for the finals and quickly regained his touch. Arshad Khan was outstanding in the centre and was well supported by the tenacious Aumran Mohammed. Paul Seddon was very versatile, Jon Axworthy's penalty corner striking was crucial. Nick Hughes was strong on the right and Adam Smith was always a threat to opposition defences. Younger players Tim Parr and Chris Murray played really well at the end of the season and Matthew Lewis trained hard with the squad along with Stephen Barlow.

The team has been a real credit to the school and the effort of all the players is really appreciated.

Honours:

Jon Axworthy and Arshad Khan - Bucks Seniors
 Jon Axworthy - England U17 and SE U18
 Matthew Cameron - SE U18
 Alan Morton, Mark Madden, David Bocquet,
 Michael John, Arshad Khan, Aumran Mohammed,
 Paul Seddon and Nick Hughes all played for Bucks U21
 Andrew Wardill was selected for Bucks U18.

Full Colours to:

Nicholas Hughes, Andrew Wardill and Matthew Walters

Half Colours to:

Andrew Ball, Stephen Barlow, Andrew Goodfellow and Richard Stidworthy.

D.G.S.

2nd XI

Played 16 Won 8 Drawn 2 Lost 6 For 28 Against 38

A young 2nd XI, consisting almost entirely of Lower Sixth, improved throughout the season to end with a very creditable record. Despite two heavy defeats to a strong Kingston GS side, the team enjoyed excellent victories over Hitchin School 6-3 and, in a new fixture, against Warwick School, 3-2.

The hockey played was often very attractive leading to fast, open games with numerous scoring chances created by both sides. The team's defence regularly had to be reorganised at the last minute due to the needs of the 1st XI, although this allowed Neil Fitch to excel in goal. A strong midfield of Andrew Ball, Marc Washbourne and Steven Barlow proved an effective attacking force, with Marc finishing as the team's leading scorer. In general, however, the team suffered from a shyness in front of goal and this was reflected in the number of centre forwards tried during the season, with varying degrees of success.

The team would like to thank Mr Cook and Mr Grundy for their time and support throughout the season.

Andrew Ball

U16 XI

Played 6 Won 1 Drawn 1 Lost 4

The side was capable of playing excellent hockey with some very skilful individuals. Radley College and Daneford School were different class but all the other games were closely fought, with the 2-2 draw at Hitchin a particularly exciting game. It is a great pity that more of this team do not play hockey for clubs at the weekend.

M.W.C.

U15 XI

The U15 XI have had an enjoyable season. In terms of results the record looks to be disappointing but the team has progressed from being a set of individuals relying very much on a few gifted players to a team supporting each other. The quality of passing and support play is good and the potential for the future high. Performances of note were against Rye Hockey Club, Kingston Grammar School, and Reading School.

Tony Fletcher led the side by example but many of the team deserved credit for their commitment and enthusiasm.

We had a few games against local schools for the 'B' XI. I hope the boys who were given this opportunity to represent the school enjoyed the fixtures. All involved enjoyed their enthusiasm and energy displayed in the matches.

Representative Honours:-

SE U15 - Tony Fletcher, Karsten Smet
 Bucks U15 - Scott Biddle, Tony Fletcher, Simon Grant,
 Kaushik Guha, Jonathan Hooker, Joel Meyer, Tim Scholes, Karsten Smet, Greg Walton.

R.M.P.

U14 XI

The U14 squad's first season of hockey started well with a 2-0 win over Kingston GS 2nd team. However, as most of the players were not experienced in the match situation, we suffered some defeats at the hands of schools who had been playing longer than us.

Gradually we became more experienced and started to win a number of matches, playing particularly well against Shiplake College (4-0) and Aylesbury GS (2-0). We were strengthened in some games by the arrival of Chris Murray from Australia.

The final match of the season was against Windsor School and we won very convincingly 9-0, with four goals from Andrew Burnette, three from Simon Duncombe and two from Tim Noakes. This game showed how much the team has grown in ability with many good passing moves and goal-scoring opportunities.

We have also supplied six members of the county team. Finally we would like to thank Mr Pantridge and Mr

Stone for all their hard work and guidance throughout the season and we look forward to a good season next year.

Squad: (c) county

James Hammersley (c), Nicholas Finch (c), Alex Haynes, Michael Spragg, Nathan McConnell, Tim Noakes (c), Chris Murray (c), Paul Tudge, Andrew Merkley, Chris Mavers (c), Andrew Burnette, Marc Antoine, Martin Grant, Richard Pearce, George Goodchild, Richard Lawrence (c) and Simon Dunscombe.

Tim Noakes

Hockey Tour to Holland 1992

A party of 22 boys and 3 staff departed for The Hague in the last week of August for some pre-season training and matches against top Dutch opposition.

After a very smooth crossing from Sheerness to Vlissingen during which Mr Ratcliffe managed to convince some younger players that he had coached hockey to



International level in the last decade, the group travelled through the flat countryside to Scheveningen (the Hague's coastal resort).

Matches were organised by the Klein Zwitserland Club and included a visit to Leiden on the third and last day.

The U18's were impressive even without three regular players and defeated two K.Zwitserland teams and drew at Leiden. At U14 level the boys did very well to win twice and only lost to the Klein Zwitserland team which featured in the Dutch National Championships the previous season.

All members of the party acted most responsibly on and off the pitch. They handled a '50's' style hotel without complaint and enjoyed themselves thoroughly at the 'Water Park' near Wassenaar. Mr Pantridge and Mr Ratcliffe were both in fine form on the water slides and deserve special thanks for helping the tour to run so smoothly.

D.G.S.

Cricket

1st XI

Played 12 Won 1 Drawn 3 Lost 8

The 1992 season was embarked on with great excitement but with players and coach not quite sure what to expect from such a young and experienced side. The side was a blend of experience and youth and thus the season proved to be one of rebuilding.

The season commenced as usual with wet wickets thanks to a traditional English summer, and the team experienced a thumping defeat at the hands of a very competent Hampton side. However the side bounced back with a convincing win over Dr Challoner's thanks largely to the penetrative bowling of Steven Curl, 6-26. Tight draws against Reigate, Desborough and St Benedict's followed, all of which could quite easily have been turned into wins by the RGS. However the team crashed in the latter part of the season with a string of defeats, culminating in the RGS Cricket Festival at Guildford, where we failed to gain a victory, unfortunately losing form at the wrong time.

The batting proved to be the biggest problem and especially the failure to score runs – the 1st XI were bowled out on 3 occasions for less than 100 runs. The only batting performance of any note took place at Aylesbury Grammar where Ryan Brown and Arshad Khan scored 81 and 58 respectively. However all looks good for the future with 4th year Robert Morgans who scored a fifty in only his second 1st XI game.

On the bowling front, there were many options available, but we often lacked the penetration needed at the crucial times. Steve Curl and Michael John proved effective in opening the bowling, and were well supported by Andy Hazel, Ryan Brown, Jun Shaw and Philip Hills.

The bowling was supported by some excellent fielding throughout the season, which at times reached remarkably high standards.

Team spirit was excellent throughout the season, and despite not winning many games the players never gave up and enjoyed themselves immensely with many players in the 4th, 5th and Lower Sixth showing promise and gaining experience. One can view next season with greater optimism.

Special thanks must go to Mr Davies for coaching us and putting up with us all season, and to Messrs Page and Chamberlain for their work in the nets and on the field.

Ryan Brown

Ryan Brown was an outstanding captain of the 1st XI. He inherited a team with a very limited experience of senior cricket, and led them with exceptional skill and judgment. He maintained enthusiasm and optimism throughout the season and received many compliments from umpires and opposition alike.

M.J.D.

2nd XI

Played 7 Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 2

This was a rebuilding season and as a consequence we knew that it would be difficult. However the first game against Hampton GS on a wet, cold Saturday with a very long outfield was even worse than we expected; RGS struggled to 53 all out off 47 overs and Hampton reached 56 for 2 off just 17 overs. Things could only get better!

The next game against Reigate GS saw us lose chasing a total of 181, but we only just failed, and our prospects looked brighter with a much more competent all-round performance. Our next fixture was Desborough School whom we beat comprehensively by five wickets; then St Benedict's by six wickets; Latymer Upper by six wickets; the old enemy Aylesbury GS by 82 runs; and finally a draw against Abingdon School. The season turned out to be successful and thanks are due to the enthusiasm of captain William Brooks (14 wickets at 11.5 runs each), who bowled well to lead by example, and the batting of Stuart Large (average 56.5), a good prospect for the future, John Gordon (average 20.6) and Chris (Slogger) Baynes (average 24).

The 2nd XI is always a mixture of those who did not quite make the 1st team and those who aspire to the 1st XI. Sometimes the mix does not work but this was a happy team who encouraged each other and were a pleasure to umpire. The rebuilding has started and we look forward to next season, particularly setting the record straight against Hampton GS!!

R.M.P.

U15 XI

Played 13 Won 6 Drawn 3 Lost 4

The U15 XI experienced a season of mixed fortunes with disappointing performances against Sir William Borlase and St Benedict's but exciting finishes against Desborough and Reading Oratory.

Robert Morgans was the outstanding performer with the bat, scoring three fifty's with a seasonal average of 40, and Daniel Ginn the best bowler (6-23, 6-39). Nick Pembroke, Pierre Nasr, Jon Greenfield and Kurt Johnson gave total commitment. Philip Gibbs kept wicket well.

Following the team's success last year in the Bucks Cup, they progressed to the national stage of the Lords Taverner's Competition where they lost to Bradfield College, the eventual finalists.

The highlights of the season were wins over Reigate GS, Desborough and Reading Oratory. The most disappointing result was at Abingdon, where their last man scored the winning run on a disputed run-out.

Ginn and Morgans were picked to play in the RGS Cricket Festival, where Morgans scored a fine fifty against RGS Colchester.

Overall, the team played well and everyone gave good performances at some time. Thanks to Mr Yeates for his work and dedication to the team.

Daniel Ginn

U14 XI

The cricket played at this level matured significantly as the season progressed. Lack of consistency however in both batting and bowling departments prevented the school from dominating the opposition but several very encouraging performances took place.

Andrew Francis, Duncan Moore, Richard Royce, Tim Crompton and Kaushik Guha all showed promise at times with the bat. Kaushik scored 63 for the county.

James Pickering was the quickest of the bowlers and he was well supported by Mudasser Hussain's away swing and the seam bowling of Thomas Arundel and Duncan Moore. Andrew Francis was the main spinner but Geoffrey Watts and Paul Tester also showed potential for further development.

The team spirit remained very good throughout the season and it is hoped that all players together with several on the fringe of selection will become more confident in their ability as they progress up the school.

The following played for the county: Tim Crompton, Kaushik Guha, Duncan Moore and Geoffrey Watts.

D.G.S.

U13 XI

Preparations for the season started in February with weekly coaching sessions run by Mr Stephen Goldthorpe. It took a time for the side to settle down but the season's record shows the usual mix of wins and losses. Disappointing defeats were sustained against St Benedict's, Latymer Upper and Aylesbury GS, but Abingdon School were beaten in an exciting run chase.

Our batsmen and bowlers took it in turns to do well, with Kahn, Bentall and Ginn being the main run scorers and Lloyd, McCallion and Payne playing useful innings. Wilson and Bentall took most wickets with Highett-Smith being the most penetrative bowler.

As the side matures and gains in confidence with experience, I am sure that they will make useful contributions to school cricket in the future. It was good to see an enthusiastic band of parents at every match.

M.W.C.

Cross Country

We began the season with high hopes with good runners in every department of the school.

At senior level we had potentially the strongest team for many years with captain Nic Beecroft, supported by the likes of Matthew Hill, Matthew Fitzgerald, newcomer Nic Powling and several others. But with Dr Challoner's and St Albans regularly contesting the first two places in most trophy races, 3rd place was always the best we could hope for; as it turned out we finished the season with three 4th places, at Guildford, Haberdashers and Merchant Taylors, always by the narrowest of margins. Nic Beecroft was troubled all year by a rib injury which only very late in the season was finally diagnosed as a cracked rib. So it was left to Nic Powling to end up as the most consistent

performer, earning County selection along with Matthew Hill after the County Championships held this year in our own Hughenden Park. Our 5th Friendly Relay was run in spring-like weather in the Park where happily the stream has once again resumed full flowing order, and I was delighted to give Nic Beecroft one of our unique T-shirts for being a member of the winning team.

The Juniors have had mixed fortunes. The 3rd year team started splendidly with bronze medals at Dr Challoner's Junior Relay while Tim Gardner won the gold medal at the Waddesdon Open. In the Milk Cup regional round, held in Hughenden Park, the 2nd year team failed to qualify despite an excellent performance by Matthew Hickman, but the 4th year team qualified in first place. They went to Kings Lynn for the semi-finals and despite problems we came home in 3rd place to qualify for the Finals at Leicester in December. But the team was robbed of one of its key runners when Nic Richter tragically died a week before the final. His parents have kindly donated a beautiful silver trophy in Nic's name to go to the outstanding 4th Form runner, and fittingly it has been awarded already this year to Nic's colleague Tim Crompton, who has always been our top runner in his age group.

Both the Intermediate and the Junior trophies were won at the District Championships, while Tim Gardner and Ben Walters earned places in the county team by their splendid runs in the County Championship. Tim went on to win silver at the St Nicholas Trophy Race while Ben won silver too the following weekend at Haberdashers.

All in all a hectic, but in the end tragic year, with successes and disappointments, but as always we can look forward to next year with anticipation.

I.J. Wilson

Golf

The school team of Richard Weaver, Nic Pembroke, and Luke Donald represented the school in the Regional Qualifier for the Golf Foundation National Competition for schools at Sonning Golf Club near Reading in October. The course provided an excellent test and we just managed to edge into first place, helped enormously by a round of 74 from Luke Donald. Thus we qualified for the National Final held during the Easter holidays at Kenilworth Golf Club near Coventry. After an excellent practice round on the previous day the boys went into the final, against about 35 other regional qualifiers, in buoyant mood. But we soon realised it was not to be our day as we kept missing fairways and finding trees in the blustery conditions. Luke Donald was the exception, however, and his immaculate driving and approach play earned him a splendid 75, second best of the day but 3 over par. A total score of 250 pushed us well down into 17th place, but with Luke being only a Fourth Former and Nic a Fifth Former, further opportunities lie ahead.

The County Championships were held at Abbey Hill Golf Course in Milton Keynes in April. Not surprisingly Luke Donald's superb round of 69 (par 68) earned him the title, 8 clear shots ahead of his nearest rival, while Nic Pembroke came home in 3rd place.

Golf is thriving in the school with many young players taking up the game, and the name of Luke Donald is a name we shall be hearing a lot of in the coming years.

I.J.W.

Athletics

A successful athletics season began with the Junior 4x400m Relay Team winning at the Dr Challoner's Relays at Stoke Mandeville.

All of our teams competed well in the District Championships. The 2nd Year team won by twenty-nine points, and the 3rd Year team retained their title comfortably (Kieron Weedon winning both Triple and High Jump). The 4th Year team dominated their competition with an impressive thirty nine point margin of victory. Ian McLaughlin achieved a notable double in Shot Putt and 800m. Neil Kingsnorth was outstanding in the 100m and Triple Jump.

A number of athletes represented the District at the County Championships. Tim Crompton achieved second place in the Junior 1500m and Ian McLaughlin continued his success by breaking the County record in the Hammer (60.80m). He also won the Discus competition. Ian has been an outstanding athlete and went on to compete at the All-England Championships in Hull. He also achieved the AAA's U17 Bronze medallist in the shot and gained first place in the Discus – a tremendous individual achievement.

R.A.C.

Fencing

Because of the requirements of *The Wycombiensian* our report always starts at the end of our previous season. That finished well with the team retaining the Southern Section U18 Foil Team title for the fourth year in succession. That set us up well for further success in the autumn term with a straight sequence of wins over Wellington, Eton and Aylesbury Grammar School and in the spring term with another sequence of wins over Harrow, KCS Wimbledon, Whitgift, Wellington (again) and Merchant Taylors.

Local competitions brought in a haul of medals. At the Berks, Bucks and Oxon championships RGS fencers dominated the proceedings with David Whiting winning the Master-at-Arms trophy (first in foil and sabre, third in epee). Tim Whitfield was third in the U16 foil with Richard Lawrence 3rd at U14 level and James McGregor a creditable 2nd in the U16 sabre. Michelle Williams (Lady Verney/RGS) won all the top medals in the girls' weapons at U18 level.

In the Southern Section competitions David Whiting once again took the Master-at-Arms trophy after taking first place in U18 foil and sabre and 3rd place at epee. At U16 level Tim Whitfield was 4th in foil, William Rysdale 4th at epee with Richard Coombes 3rd in sabre. They qualified for the National Finals along with Austin Jones who scraped in with a 5th place in the U18 epee. In the event Austin gained one of the best National results with a superb 3rd in the epee, only outdone by Mark Chacksfield's 2nd in the U20 epee. Tim Whitfield was 13th in the U16 foil.

In other national series competitions RGS fencers performed well. David Whiting was 2nd in the Open Slough Foil and was picked to represent England Schools at foil for the third time. In the annual match against Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, he helped England to a comfortable victory by winning all his fights. In the Whitgift U17 Epee, Austin Jones was 2nd with S-L Tan 9th

and Tom Roebuck 10th. Edward Rysdale won the U19 Leon-Paul foil at Maidenhead.

The season culminates with the Public Schools Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace, the largest fencing competition in the country. RGS fencers once again distinguished themselves. The best result was Edward Rysdale's brilliant 2nd place in the Senior Epee, followed closely by S-L Tan's 5th in the Senior Foil and Richard Coombes 5th in the Junior Epee. With two other finalist medals won by David Whiting (6th at Senior Epee and 7th in the Foil), the RGS managed to gain 4th place overall in the team event and win the Pearson Cup for the highest placed small-entry school. All the RGS fencers who took part contributed to the team score by getting through at least one round of the competition. Special mention should go to Jamie McCallion who gained the best RGS sabre result by getting to the last 24 of the Junior Sabre.

My thanks go to David Whiting, this year's captain, and also to Edward Rysdale and Mark Chacksfield who have given distinguished service to the school and who will all be sadly missed. Thanks also go to Adrian Griffin (who managed to leave the school on his second attempt) for his contributions, which at least allowed me to have a short rest before taking up the poisoned chalice once again. Thanks also go to Mr Harry Jones for his thorough and skilled coaching and also for his support of the RGS at fencing competitions. Finally, thanks go to the in-house support services of Matron who keeps our aging lame jackets on the road and to the Technology Department who never seem to mind me blunting their files and bending their screwdrivers as I struggle, Canute-like, with the endless weapon breakages.

J. Roebuck

Table Tennis

Another good season for RGS table tennis! 1992/93 membership stands yet again at over 50 boys, with a further twenty or so playing weekly during T.A.A.

The school has fielded three senior teams in different divisions of the High Wycombe and District Senior League, and five further teams in the two divisions of the Youth League. In addition we entered three teams (U19, U16 and U13) of four players each in the English Schools Table Tennis Association National Team Championship.

Our U19 team captained by Andrew Hickman (6MBE2), and including Desmond Sheiham, Simon Woolliams and Christopher Monnington, won the Bucks Schools Competition to become the 1993 Bucks Schools champions. This was a first for RGS table tennis.

To crown our success, Desmond Sheiham won the Individual competition and will play in the next stage of the National competition in May.

In the Wycombe League our teams have met with varying success. The A team finished 5th of 11 in Division 4 – a most pleasing result – and also reached the quarter finals of the Runners-Up Cup Competition, the Dane Baskerville Cup.

Our B team ended bottom in Division 5 but reached the semi-finals of the League's principal cup competition, the Roland Sewell Knock-out Shield. The D team finished third in Division 7, equalling the runners-up on 61 points

but losing out on games difference. They also reached the third round of the R. Sewell Shield but lost to one of the eventual finalists.

This season's matches have been played with an excellent standard of sportsmanship and responsibility. Andrew Hickman has been an exemplary captain. He also finished the season with the 4th highest individual averages in his division, a splendid 80.5%

The Youth League teams have played enthusiastically but notable success eluded them this season.

Finally, in place of some of the regular club sessions we have had a coaching course this year led by Mr Ken Muhr, the principal ETTA coach for London and the South of England. This was regularly attended by 16 boys, and it is hoped to do a repeat next season.

My thanks go again to all the parents who have been involved with supervision and transport through the year.

B. Kempson

Boat Club

1992 Regattas

To begin the season the Boat Club competed in the Ball Cup Races, held by Wycliffe College on the Gloucester canal. Though several schools attended, the IVs competitions turned into a private match between the RGS and the hosts, who between them contested three of the four finals. Despite the warm sunshine, there was a very strong headwind all day, which made racing conditions difficult. In the Senior Cup, the 1st IV beat the Wycliffe College 'B' crew to reach the final against the same school's 'A' crew. The final race had to be stopped owing to a clash of blades shortly after the start. At this point the RGS crew had been down. In the re-started race the RGS gradually pulled through to a one-length lead with about 150 metres to go, at which point Wycliffe lost heart and conceded a good win to the RGS. In the Junior Cup, the J16 IV (in which Robert Beever was rowing as substitute for Mark Burman) beat Wycliffe 'E' and King Edward's, Stratford, to reach the final, which they won in grand style over Wycliffe 'C'. The J15 IV lost in the first round of the Junior Cup to the Wycliffe 'C' crew. In the ensuing "plate" competition they beat Wycliffe 'E' in the semi-final, but lost to Wycliffe 'D' in the final. They could be consoled by the fact that both of the crews which beat them were at least a year older. This was a pleasing performance in their first regatta. In the J16 sculls Robert Beever beat two scullers from King Edward's, Stratford, to win the trophy with some ease. While the RGS has won each of the IVs cups in the past, we have never before won both in the same year.

For the 1st IV, the Ball Cup proved to be their final regatta as a complete crew. It was a pity that their final season was so short, but they had rowed together unchanged for four years from J15 days, and served the Boat Club well. We wish them every success in their future careers.

The J16 IV continued in their winning ways in the next regatta held at the Coate Water Park, near Swindon. In a straight final they were drawn against Clifton College, and Magdalen College School, Oxford. Clifton and the RGS

soon left Magdalen far behind. By half way Clifton had opened up a one length lead over the RGS, but our crew attacked impressively in the second half of the course and succeeded in pulling back all of the deficit to win by three feet.

The J15's competed in the Bedford Star Junior Regatta and in two events at Thames Valley Park (Reading) without registering a win, but gaining valuable experience. In Novice IVs at Thames Valley the importance of staying on one's seat during a racing start was underlined. The J16 IV also competed at Thames Valley Park, but this time without success.

The 1992 season concluded with the now traditional R.G.S.B.C. annual visit to the sunny West Country, where we competed in the 125th Totnes and Bridgetown Royal Regatta. A composite crew, made up of Andrew Mawhood and Jarrod Farley from the 1st IV and Ian Dykes, Chris

Pearman and Chris Fletcher from the J16 IV, competed in the Senior C IVs event. After a convincing 2-length win in their heat, they contested the final against the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon, and Exeter Rowing Club. Our crew took a lead after about 200 metres of the 1000 metre course, which they held to the end, though hard pressed by the naval cadets, winning by 1 length. This was an impressive performance for a "scratch" crew, and it especially underlined the excellent progress that the J16 oarsmen made during this year. The J15 IV also took part, but succumbed to ill-luck. Only a few metres after the start, stroke's oar-gate fell apart owing to metal fatigue - a 1000 to 1 chance. In these circumstances they were unable to compete any further. The Rules of Racing state that "a crew shall abide by its own accidents".

At Prize-Giving, the Saunders Rowing Cup was awarded to David Farr, stroke of the J16 IV.

Summary of Entries

<i>The Ball Cup Race</i>	1st IV* - J16 IV* - J15 IV (plate**) - J16 scull*
<i>Coate Water Park</i>	J16 IV*
<i>Bedford Star Junior</i>	J15 IV
<i>Thames Valley Park</i>	J16 IV - J15 IV
<i>Totnes and Bridgetown Royal</i>	1st/J16 IV* - J15 IV

*win ** second place

Crews

Captain of Boats: A.C. Mawhood

<i>1st IV</i>	<i>J16 squad</i>	<i>J15 squad</i>
W.H. Spooner (cox)	R.D.J. Beever (sculler)	J.D. Brinn
J.L. Farley (stroke)	M.F. Burman	S.J. Conlon (cox)
A.C. Mawhood	I.D.C. Dykes	A.J.E.R. Cox
C.M. Denison	D.J. Farr	A. Farley
M.D.P. Wynter	C.D. Fletcher (cox)	G.D. Sugg (cox)
	C.J. Pearman	R.B. Woolnough

J.P.E.

Tennis

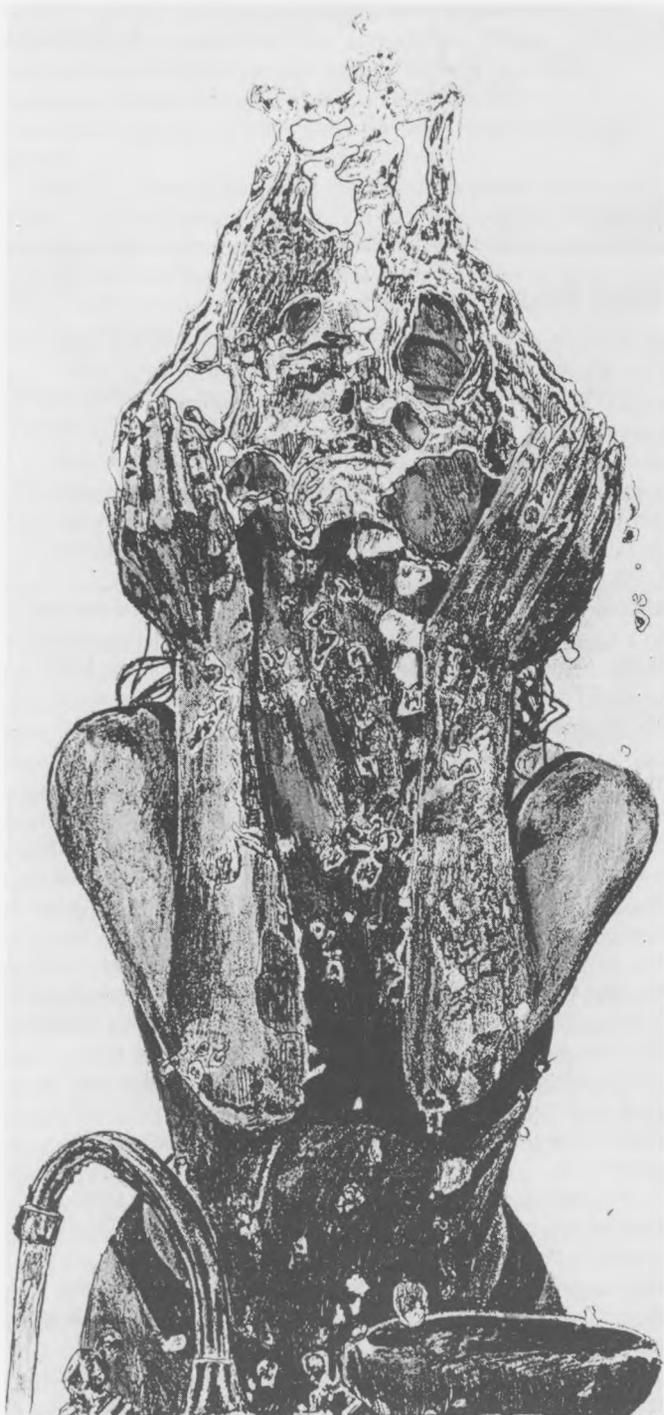
1st VI
Played 11 Won 2 Lost 9

Colts VI
Played 11 Won 9 Lost 2

In the 1st VI, capably led by captain Mark Cracknell, we had a better season than previous years as some stronger players joined our ranks, including Justin Twort. The future is bright however, because a very strong group of younger players is ready to break through, these including James Cope, Chris Monnington, Adam Harrison and James King, plus several other newcomers. Our best result was a defeat against Misbourne School 2-4 in the National Knock-out Cup.

Next season, however, the school is entering three competitions and with a very strong looking squad is expecting to do very well.

Full colours were awarded to Mark Cracknell.



Simon Shingleton 6EC1

S.J. Grundy and M. Earl

O.C's Report

The variety and worthwhile nature of the activities and opportunities become especially clear when we take stock.

This has been an encouraging year for all three Service Sections. RSM Neil Benstead has the honour of being CCF Lord Lieutenant's cadet for the County. We have one active member of staff in charge of each Section: Lt Ross Barker, Captain Grundy and Flight Lieutenant Darby, to whom I should like to pay tribute for their staunch support, as I



'Royal Grammar School High Wycombe CCF Guard of Honour, General Salute, PRESENT ARMS!'

should to our SSI, Mr Clive Rowlands, and CCF Secretaries. We were sorry to say farewell with our thanks to Mrs Julie Cooper, were most grateful to Mrs Liz Cunningham for vital help and warmly welcome Mrs Elaine Thorp.

This position is complemented by a heartening number of Parents and Old Boys whose help is vital and warmly appreciated. This team has been joined by Lt C Cunningham (Army Section and shooting) and Mr Miller (RN Section). Flight Lt A J Sollars has rejoined our RAF Section with a warm welcome.

Our genuine and heartfelt thanks go to all Regular Liaison Staff for their vital help generously and cheerfully given. It is impossible to do justice to them. Their help is essential to our training. The spirit in which they give it has a most important effect on the awareness of what Servicemen are really like to cadets here. We believe this partnership with the Services is of mutual benefit and very much in keeping with the CCF Charter.

After 13 years' very active and enterprising service, Lt Tim Claye decided to relinquish his Command. He has our very warmest thanks for all he has done in his highly effective and unique way. Lt Ross Barker, PhD, has made a welcome return to the RGS and has taken over as OC RN Section, with Lt Claye kindly ready still to assist.

As he retires this year, we should like to pay warm tribute to Major Mike McRitchie, MC PARA HQS District, who has with extraordinary good cheer encouraged us for years in worthwhile activities in which, when possible, he has taken a lively part – most notably, perhaps, in Alpine Challenge, admirably run by 16CTT. We are honoured to take him on strength as an Adult Instructor and were delighted to see him and his wife on Adventure Training.

The Headmaster who also retires this year has been a

constant active support to the Service side of life at the RGS quite apart from his regular place on the RAF Aircrew Selection Board. It is no easy matter keeping up a CCF in a State School and I shall always be deeply grateful for the way in which he has, with close understanding, watched over us and yet let us run our own show. The Chairman of the Governors, Mr J K Prior, MBE, BA, FITD, is a regular welcome visitor at Camps and in Field Days.

There was a General Inspection on 18 March this year. The Chief Inspecting Officer was Air Vice-Marshal P D Clark, BA, CEng, FRAeS, RAF. He and his team were able to be encouraging and we enjoyed their positive and interested approach. At the time of going to print we are awaiting their report.

We now look forward to summer and Adventure Training and our various Camps, with that blend of really hard thought and work and genuine enjoyment of a level of challenge undertaken together.

F.N.C.

Royal Naval Section

The Naval Section of our CCF continues to grow and has now reached more than thirty cadets.

The School has membership of the RAF Sailing Club at Danesfield on the River Thames, and we take advantage of this whenever we can. The Section has two powerboats to use there, in addition to several canoes and sailcraft. We



Air Vice-Marshal Clark coming alongside.

receive invaluable help and advice on all aspects of our use of the river, including safety, from "Dusty" Rhodes who is in the regular navy and looks after schools over a wide area of central England.

The Royal Navy also provide excellent field days. These include centrally-organised events, such as Air Day (when 500 cadets are all guaranteed a helicopter trip), and Mine Counter Measures Day. RGS cadets are never slow to put their names down and we simply aim to take as many as we can.

We also have field days specifically for us, and we are fortunate to have an Old Boy of the School, Lt Commander

Tim Wills, as our liaison officer at SMOPS, the School of Maritime Operations near Portsmouth. He always devises lively action-packed routines, which include ship visits, HMS Exeter being the most recent. The Royal Navy come to see us in return and within seven months both the Captain and the Commander of SMOPS have joined us in turn on the river for a Thursday afternoon.

However, going to sea is what everyone really wants to do, and our affiliated ship, HMS Blazer provides just this. Blazer is a fast patrol boat recently in the news over its weekend visit to Cherbourg. On a craft of this size, everyone must do their share of work. Cadets learn the meaning of responsibility as they take it in turn to be helmsman, navigator, officer of the day, and so on. On our most recent day in the Solent onboard Blazer, visibility was so poor that land was scarcely discernible. Any pleasure craft would have turned tail and gone home. But the skipper simply switched on the Decca navigation, saw to it that everyone was correctly trained in its use, and carried on as usual.

Lt S.R. Barker
OC Royal Naval Section

Army Section

Once again, this has been an outstanding year of achievement and success for the Army Section. As the following reports show, many boys have enjoyed the activities undertaken and once again the Army Section has done credit to the CCF and to the School in competitions. We did very well in both shooting competitions and came an outstanding 9th in the National March and Shoot competition.

As usual, we have to say our sad farewells, and none more so than Sgt Jock Ennis of 16CTT. We wish him well after three years with us in his new job as SSI at Radley College.

Also I must say thank you and farewell to a superb group of senior NCO's headed by Under Officer Jody Davies and his capable deputies, CSM Fraser Hill and CSM Leon Edwards. I wish them well and all the other great men who I worked with last year.

Finally let us look forward to another successful and enjoyable year.

Capt S.J. Grundy
OC Army Section

SEDIST Patrol Competition May 1992

Morale was high as the team of seven NCO's travelled to the annual competition at Longmoor. However a shaky start was in evidence during our traditional Achilles heel event, the command task. The obstacle course and a tough assault course ensued, the RSM gaining extra points for a fine front crawl.

Skilful scoring in the military tests and a third place in

the orienteering exercise were the start of an afternoon of fine performances. On the .22 range some insider dealing with Sgt Pollitt secured a deserved second place, followed by a first aid simulation under fire. Since two casualties were not enough, one sergeant decided to become the third. Even so the helicopter casevac was met, with seconds to spare. A one hour night navex was completed, followed by a well deserved sleep.

Sunday morning saw the arduous March and Shoot (a 6¹/₄ mile speed march backed up by a shoot on the ETR). The excellent effort on the march preceded some fine shooting led by the two warrant officers.

The team finished 9th; a very good performance in this tough competition.

C. Sgt Edwards

Sheepstor Summer 1992

"Summer camp", we were told at the briefing "will be a green-field camp", and that is exactly what it was. The camp was held in a field near a farmhouse in the middle of Dartmoor. Several tents and a volleyball net (set up by the advance party) were the only things standing in the field when we got there.

The camp went well on the whole, with a few minor problems, none of which were particularly hard to rectify. Pushing the four-tonne truck along the road after it had been "sabotaged by an unknown force", was more like fun than a hassle.

The battle craft exercises contained two novelties. The first was the orbat. Due to the small number of cadets on the camp, the section was divided into two teams which fought against each other, rather than the traditional platoon vs enemy scenario. The second difference was the use of the cadet GP rifles. This was the first time that the section had done without the old 0.303 rifles.

In other news, C Sgt Edwards and I beat the highly rated Under Officer Davies and L Cpl Jones in the orienteering.

Corporal Alex King

Exercise Alpine Challenge Summer 1992

Alpine Challenge is an Adventurous Training Expedition to the Alps on the Bavarian-Austrian border. It is run by 16CTT, based at Bicester, and is open to ACF's and CCF's from Bucks and Oxfordshire.

On arrival at Bicester we met our Instructors for the next two weeks; four Sergeants, RSM Clare-Brown, the expedition leader, Major McRitchie, Captain Jacobs, then OC 16CTT, Captain Nicholson, and 'Cookie'.

All 19 Cadets, staff and kit travelled in three minibuses for the 22 hour trip to Bavaria.

The expedition started off with a 15m 'leg-stretch' over nearby mountains, with the following three days including

a programme of walking, canoeing and climbing.

Day 5 was spent visiting Munich and the concentration camp at Dachau.

The following three days were the highlight of the trip, with an expedition to climb Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, at 2966m high. Having successfully climbed it we were rewarded with astounding views across Austria and Germany, and virtual 'white-out' conditions on the descent.

The next day was 'Options day' with canoeing, climbing, walking and mountain biking all possibilities.

The canoeing was to take place on the Eiskanal, used in the 1972 Olympics, but unfortunately the water-level was too low, so we canoed (and swam!) down a river.

The final day was spent waterskiing before the long journey home.

Everyone arrived home absolutely exhausted, but with great stories and memories. Finally, I'd like to thank everyone at 16CTT for such an exhilarating fortnight, and I hope they enjoy many more years of Exercise Alpine Challenge to come.

RSM N. Benstead

CADSAM '92

In September two teams of marksmen took part in the district GP skill-at-arms meeting, held annually at Aldershot. Expectations were high and by the Sunday afternoon a record number of medals had been won.

The team of Chris Novell, Charles Porter, Christian Hatt and Alex Pember won the U16 Electronic Target Range (ETR) team gold, following our success two years ago in the same event. Alex Pember also came through stiff opposition to win the ETR Individual bronze.

The senior team of Giles and James Edwards, Neil Benstead and Carl Bruckner beat 90 other teams to win the team silver for both the ETR and the gallery disciplines, finishing third overall, our highest ever placing.

Efforts were further rewarded in the sideshows, Thomas Walter coming out on top on one day and Neil Benstead and Carl Bruckner on the other.

C Sgt Edwards

Battlecraft Exercise March 1993

The second battlecraft exercise of the school year turned out to be another opportunity for Colour Sergeant Gilmore to exercise his over-active imagination and come up with yet another far-fetched scenario. The exercise area, in Aldershot as usual, was quite hilly and featured the infamous hill shown in P-Company which the Paras train on. With the enemy hampering our advance and displaying their apparent immortality complete with John Wayne impersonations thrown in for good measure, we made slow progress.

The platoon eventually reached its first objective and

from then on nothing could stop us! Still behind schedule we arrived at the final day assault only to be confronted by the afore-mentioned massive hill used by the Paras. Without time for a decent recce it was up to the Platoon Commander to attack without any information on the position of the enemy. As a result a great deal of confusion followed, but we reached the top of the hill in the gathering dusk, minus a section commander and a few riflemen. Not to worry! The night recce patrols went out to determine the position of the enemy and so on their return the Platoon Commander was able to concoct an infallible plan to defeat the enemy.

With one section acting as a gun group, the remaining two sections were positioned where we could not possibly fail to miss the enemy. This was not to be the case as Carl Bruckner with his new target designation system caught the Platoon Commander off guard and so he proceeded to attack his own gun group, much to the amusement of the enemy who were watching from a safe distance. The enemy were soon laughing on the other side of their faces as the Platoon turned its attention to the real target. The result was a victory for the enemy, but plenty to laugh about at the post exercise celebrations.

C Sgt A. Gilmore

Leek Camp Easter 1993

As usual, activities started with the advance party's antics in the back of the four-ton truck, providing entertainment for fellow motorists on the motorways and roads to the Peak District. Official activities began with orienteering in which Captain Hollingworth was beaten at his own game by C Sgt Edwards and OS Saunders.

The battlecraft exercise proved to be one of the most successful and interesting to date, with visibility for most of the first day restricted to around twenty metres, due to heavy mist. However, the courageous platoon achieved their objectives by defeating the enemy which included a demented nuclear scientist and a very peculiar individual known only as "Digger". In fact, the patrol reported that two of these deranged ruffians were seen singing and dancing on top of a ridge, late at night and in atrocious weather. Perhaps they were driven mad by ridiculous banter served to them by their sergeant, recruited from the Grenadier Guards.

The week continued with the traditional trek over Kinderscout in very foggy conditions, ideal for expert navigators such as ourselves. Rock climbing and the initiatives concluded the week. The latter competition was won by a novice team due to the seniors' team being disqualified under the First Rule of Captain Grundy – seniors shall not win, under any circumstances.

This was a camp to remember because of everyone's effort, enthusiasm and the attitude in which everything was done. Special thanks to the officers but also to all the Cadets and NCOs as it was due to everyone that this camp was as enjoyable as it was.

CSM J. Lippiat

RAF Section

The RAF Section has enjoyed an extremely busy and successful year with a large number of visits and activities. Section Warrant Officer Michael Hutt and his new team of Senior NCOs quickly and efficiently took over the reins last May and set about introducing many improvements to the Section's organisation and training. Mike's powers of leadership stood up well to the test of being the senior cadet at our Easter Camp at RAF Manston, and were later honed in the fire of the Hereford Leadership course. By the time Summer Camp came around he had developed into an extremely effective leader. Mike has now handed over to Warrant Officer Nick Hughes to carry on the good work.

Throughout the year Mike has been ably assisted by Flight Sergeant Jonathan Keefe whose work as adjutant cannot be praised too highly. Jonathan has devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensuring that the Section has been well organised and efficiently administered. Although most of his work has been 'behind the scenes', the benefits have been shared by everyone and are greatly appreciated by all. Steven Campion, who has had the experience of acting as Jonathan's deputy, has now taken over as Adjutant to develop further this important function.

Another particularly beneficial aspect of this year has been the way Flight Sergeant Mark Randall has organised the training. Mark was the first incumbent of the new post of Chief Instructor with the remit to 'sort out training'. With an excellent intake of junior Cadets in September, Mark set them the challenge of passing their Basic Training by Christmas and their Proficiency Part 2 examination by Easter. Everyone achieved the goal of Basic on time and sat their Proficiency exam before Easter. The results are eagerly awaited. Whatever the outcome, such rapid progress is a record, and much credit is due to Mark, his assistant Simon Hallam, all the NCO instructors, and not least to the Junior Entry themselves who have set a high standard for future recruits. Mark has made a great success of the new Chief Instructor post, although much still remains to be done by his successor, Flight Sergeant Edward Bennett.

The Junior Cadets have been led this year by Flight Sergeant James Edwards who has been a tower of strength to the Section with his unbounded enthusiasm and energy. Whatever activity we have engaged in James has been in the lead giving an excellent example for his protégés to follow. Flight Sergeant Simon Hallam now assumes this demanding role until he takes over from Nicholas Hughes as Section Warrant Officer in October. Flight Sergeant Matthew Hoare has demonstrated excellent leadership potential as Senior NCO i/c Senior Cadets, as well as organising the Section's gliding activities. Matthew is keen to join the RAF and we wish him luck with his service career. Flight Sergeant Mark Kingston is Matt's worthy successor to lead the senior cadets next year. We have been well served by Sergeant Kevin Hodgson as the SNCO i/c Weapons, and are specially grateful to Sergeant John Steane for his hard work and efficient organisation as SNCO i/c Stores. Space prohibits mention of all this year's Senior NCOs; suffice to say that they have worked together as a team to achieve high standards and we all wish them good luck with their examination results and in their future careers.

All of us in the RAF Section are very much aware of the generous help we received from many quarters. Our grateful thanks go to Squadron Leader Mike Neil and his

pilots of No 6 Air Experience Flight for the enthusiasm with which they introduce the cadets to Chipmunk flying at RAF Benson. Also to Squadron Leader Ian Mullan and his colleagues of No 613 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Halton for all the gliding they have given our cadets over the last year. That gliding would not have been possible but for the much appreciated band of parents who regularly help by transporting and supervising these visits. Once again our thanks go to Flight Lieutenant Dave Quick and Flight Sergeant Andy Waddell of our RAF Liaison staff for their highly professional support throughout the year, as well as to British Airways Captain David Hughes, Captain Roger Hollingworth, Flight Lieutenants Ian Brown, Tony Sollars, Lieutenant Geoff Rysdale and all the others who have given so willingly of their free time.

Flt Lt M.C. Darby
OC RAF Section

Summer Camp RAF Wittering

Most people have heard of RAF Wittering. "Home of the Harrier", and for seven days last July home also to 16 adventurous members of our Section.

The eagerness with which we arrived at this high-tech and fully operational front-line flying station was only slightly dented by the prospect of our rather low-tech accommodation for the week – canvas tents! However, this did not prove to be as inconvenient as some expected: being woken each morning by the roar of passing Harriers seemed much more exciting than a mundane alarm clock! There was a varied and exciting programme which included some very successful shooting on the range, Chipmunk flying, and a visit to the Duxford aircraft museum. The RAF Regiment ran a day of activities involving the use of a novel walk-through firing range with pop-up targets. WO Hutt received a breathtaking one hour flight in a Harrier T4 from No 233 OCU (see the following report), and we all enjoyed (!) the experience of an exhausting night-exercise kindly run for our benefit by station personnel.

Junior Cadets Simpson, Tester and Walter deserve special mention for the excellent way they conducted themselves on their first ever camp before even having reached the fourth year. Our thanks as ever go to Flt Lt Darby and Fg Off Seymour and all the others involved in organising and supervising what proved to be an outstanding experience for us all.

Flight Sergeant S. Hallam

Harrier Flight

During last year's Summer Camp, I had the opportunity of a lifetime when I was lucky enough to win a flight in a Harrier T4. Resplendent in my "Top Gun" flying gear consisting of flying suit, anti-G suit, flying boots, helmet, life-jacket, etc, I met my pilot, Wing Commander Harper, the CO of 233 Operational Conversion Unit, who gave me a detailed briefing on the sortie with particular reference to safety aspects. Then we walked out to the waiting Harrier.

Feeling excited and a little apprehensive, I strapped into the ejection seat carefully, and there I was sitting at the controls of one of the most advanced combat aircraft in the

world. Cockpit closed, straps secured, engines running and chocks away – we were off. We taxied out to the runway, called for take-off clearance, and then I was forced back into my seat as we hurtled along the runway.



Up, up, and away

It is hard to adequately describe the next hour. The glorious feeling of being at one with an aircraft of such power and responsiveness was exhilarating as we carried out a typical training routine of low flying and simulated attacks. Returning to Wittering airfield we put the Harrier through all the hovering, and vertical take-off and landing manoeuvres for which it is famous.

The flight has to be one of the highlights of my life and one of the many valuable and enjoyable experiences that have resulted from my years as a cadet in the CCF. Many thanks to my pilot, Wing Commander Harper, to Flt Lt Darby, and all the officers and NCO's who made it possible; also to Simon Hallam who, but for his bad luck in being just one kilogram too light, would have gone on the flight instead of me.

Warrant Officer M. Hutt

Flying Scholarship

On 17 August 1992, I began my Flying Scholarship course at Peterborough Business Airfield. It comprises 30 hours of flying paid for by the RAF, at the end of which a cadet should be up to Private Pilot Licence standard and have completed 9 hours solo flying.

The flying club at Peterborough owned four Cessna 152's. The characteristics of these single-engine, two-seat, high-wing aircraft emerged as the course progressed. After a short familiarisation flight, the instructor sat back and let me fly the aircraft. Turns, climbs, descents were all practised thoroughly, followed by stalling and recovery. This contrasts with driving where errors and recoveries are seldom if ever practised.

Having practised recoveries from spiral dives, and learnt what to do in the event of an engine failure after take-off (panic!), I was ready to make my first solo flight after 9 hours dual instruction. It was an unforgettable experience and I enjoyed the short flight tremendously. It was a curious sensation to be in an aircraft, alone, 1000ft above the ground. This milestone was celebrated by me becoming the "abominable shaving foam man", by being sprayed from head to toe by other cadets and flying club staff.

After practising powered, glide, and flapless approaches, I began navigation exercises. I was soon flying

to Leicester and Northampton. Navigation exercises were undertaken with instructors before going solo.

For instrument flying we had to wear glasses that allowed us to see only the instruments in front of us. Recoveries from "unusual attitudes" are particularly interesting when you can't see beyond the cockpit. We also practised forced landings without power which involved approaches to suitable fields with flaps down and the engine idling (a frequent cause for concern amongst the local farming community).

We studied hard for the five written ground training examinations, and the oral examination which formed part of our General Flight Test.

On completing the scholarship course successfully, I decided to stay on to acquire the extra 10 hours needed for a Private Pilot's Licence. This involves a radio transmission examination, Navigation and General Flight Tests, and a solo qualifying cross-country flight, including landings at two other airfields. This was the culmination of a highly enjoyable course and I felt very proud when landing at Leicester and Sturgate to be able to sign into their books as a visiting pilot.

Congratulations to James Edwards who also completed his Flying Scholarship course at Oxford.

Flight Sergeant Matt Hoare

RAF Hereford Leadership Course

RAF Hereford is the ideal location for this challenging cadet leadership course, being a dedicated training unit responsible for the leadership training of the RAF's regular NCOs. The course has a fierce reputation in the cadet world because of the rigour of its testing and the uncompromisingly high standard expected. After arriving at Hereford station, I joined a group of fellow cadets all nervously awaiting the events to come. The tension increased when the rumour circulated that nearly half the cadets on the previous course had failed. This subsequently proved to be an exaggeration, but concentrated our minds wonderfully!

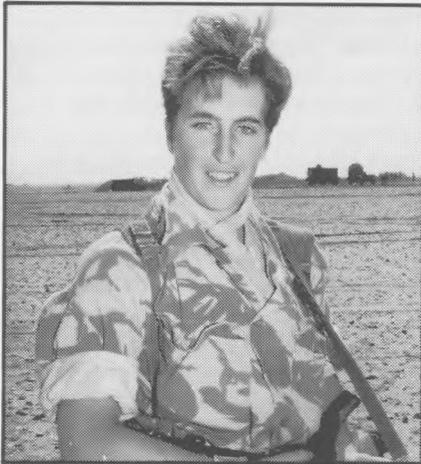
During the early part of the course the emphasis was on physical exercise, and rising at 05.30 every morning for one hour's PT certainly sorted the men from the boys. During the next three days we completed hikes, tests, exercises and races as well as being taught leadership skills and first aid in both theory and practice.

The assessment part of the course really began when we transferred base camp to the Breacon Beacons. Sleeping under bivies in the pouring rain made sleep difficult and mess-tin cooking meant constant hunger. The exercises were all tiring, challenging and always involved either water, or mud, or both! Concentration and self-discipline were vital to keep personal standards high under the all-seeing eyes of the flight commander. Back at Hereford we were individually debriefed and told our results. To our immense relief everyone who finished the course passed it, and all that remained was a final effort to look our very best for the inspecting group captain.

As 'Hereford survivors', WO Hutt and I both feel that the course is an invaluable supplement to the NCO training we received in the CCF and that it does wonders for the individual's self-confidence and leadership ability. Also, rather surprisingly, once it is over you realise that as well as being physically and mentally tough, it is also great fun.

Warrant Officer N. Hughes

“The best GAP year of all my contemporaries”



“It was very rewarding for me to be able to lead my own troop. I feel now that I am ready to go to University as a much more mature, experienced and capable young woman.”



“Apart from the actual exercises in the Yakima Desert there was the opportunity for visits to Seattle and more skiing in the Cascade Mountains.”



“I wanted adventure and travel, an opportunity to practise my organisational and management skills, and to be given responsibility... I honestly don't see how I could have used my year off in a more complete and worthwhile way.”



“I have done things most people will never do – parachuting, abseiling from helicopters, sailing, living in snow holes. I have been to a wide range of countries, seen fantastic Norwegian valleys and bleak Falkland Island hills – and best of all I have been paid for it!”

The above quotes are from some who gained a **SHORT SERVICE LIMITED COMMISSION** in the Army between school and University. This can last between 4 and 12 months and there is **NO FURTHER COMMITMENT** to the Army afterwards. It provides **TRAVEL, VARIETY** and **RESPONSIBILITY** – and pay at over £9,000 pa. The training time at Sandhurst is short and consequently the standard set at the selection board is high. Successful candidates usually have high academic ability, they have frequently been prefects or leading members of school societies or sports teams and had wide interests and a sense of adventure. If you think you could accept the **CHALLENGE** involved please contact:

**Lt. Col. T. A. Barnard, Schools Liaison Officer, Parsons House,
Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AE.**

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Annual General Meeting

25 Old Boys attended the AGM of the Club, held in the new School library before the Annual Dinner.

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

Treasurer's Report

The Auditor (Mr J Read) reported that the deficit for the year of £1,009 was considerably more than previous years due to a much increased loss on the dinner, £206 compared with £31, and a large reduction in investment income due to the general fall in rates in the year. Interest dropped from £302 to £165.

Subscriptions were received from 54 Life Members during the year totalling £1,620, which added to the Capital Account balance less the deficit of £1,009 gives a balance at the end of the year of £7,149 as against a balance of £6,539 at the beginning.

All the Officers of the Club were re-elected. Thanks were expressed to the Hon. Auditor and Hon. Secretary/Treasurer for their work.

The President in his comments informed the meeting that the School had moved from local authority control to Grant Maintained status. The School was now in the care of the Governing Body, thus reverting to its historic status.

Annual Dinner 1993

The Guest of Honour was Oscar Roith (1942-45), who told various anecdotes of his life with BP and as a Civil Servant, working at the heart of government. He was proposed by G. C. Rayner (1937-44). R. W. Stewart (1970-78) proposed the toast to the School and Club to which the Headmaster responded.

Deaths – Old Boys

T L BROWN (1971-78) Tim Brown was killed at Beaconsfield following an incident involving a "hit and run" driver on 16 November 1992. He was a student at the RGS from 1971-78 and rowed for the school. He then studied at London University where he rowed for the College Eights during a successful season and obtained his Degree in Biological Sciences in 1982. During the following four years he attained a prominent position in the Pharmaceutical Industry but became disillusioned with the side effects of conventional medicines and, without Grant Aid, re-commenced his studies in Classical Osteopathy obtaining his Licence to Practice in 1991.

However, his studies continued and the tribute from the Dean of the College of Osteopaths included the following:-

"I knew him as an avid student, thirsty for knowledge, never tardy in his efforts to become an osteopath and naturopath. He joined late in the College programme

having transferred from another college and from the first day with us he probed and researched until he got the information he needed to bring him up-to-date."

He rapidly gained a reputation for his remedial work with the severely disabled and pioneered a new approach to the treatment of para and tetraplegics, particularly injured motor cyclists, with considerable success.

He was an RAC/ACU Instructor and member of the Association of Advanced Motorists and it is therefore particularly tragic that his life should end in this way. However, he pressed into his lifetime several times the amount of activities and experiences enjoyed by the rest of us and when doing so made an exceptional number of friends from all walks of life, who filled the Church to overflowing at his funeral. He was a great personality full of infectious good humour and will be sadly missed by all his friends and patients and especially his father and mother, brother Andrew and sister-in-law Pauline.

Tim had completed the research for his Diploma of Osteopathy the day before he was killed and his parents have pride in reporting that his College awarded him a posthumous Diploma of Osteopathy at the Award Ceremony on 23 April 1993.

The Osteopathic Clinic at London Road, Loudwater has subsequently been renamed the Tim Brown Clinic and has continued to provide the service which he originally intended.

G E GEORGE (1915-21) Died in hospital in St Austell on 12 March 1993. He was an active member of High Wycombe Cricket Club and also played hockey. He used to manage the family's ironmongers business in the town until it closed about 25 years ago, when he retired to Cornwall.

A M HOLLINGSWORTH (1972-79) Andrew Hollingsworth died on 24th March 1993 at the age of 31 from lymphoma.

Andrew joined the RGS in 1972 from Butler's Court Primary School in Beaconsfield. He progressed through the fast science stream into the science Sixth and from there to Bristol University to study Chemistry. He was, however, never a natural scientist and, after gaining his degree, eventually found himself working at the Puffin Children's Bookshop in Covent Garden. For someone with a life long love of books this was an ideal job, and in the seven years that he was there Andrew established himself as one of the leading children's booksellers in the country. He served on various bookselling committees and was a judge for the children's section of the 1992 Whitbread prize.

Andrew will be remembered by all who knew him as a gentle, caring and cheerful person and these characteristics never wavered as he fought the disease he contracted suddenly in the summer of 1992. He leaves a partner, Frankie, and two young children, Jack and Rose, to whom he was a devoted and loving father.

His family are anxious that he be remembered by contributions to the 'Combined Oncology Fund', c/o Frankie Brown, 60 Marmont Road, Peckham, London SE15 5TE.

S C PETRI (1982-87) Carlo Petri died in the Nepal air disaster near Kathmandu in the summer of 1992. A notable sportsman at the RGS, Carlo left to go to Trent Polytechnic to study European Business Studies. Wherever he went he made friends easily and is remembered for a friendliness and honesty that people couldn't help but be drawn to. He awakened the spirit of adventure in many of his friends and had a love of the daring, making for instance, one of the first legal bungee jumps in the UK. He travelled

extensively and was on one of his trips when he was tragically killed.

B PICKLES (1937-41) Died on 18 August 1992, peacefully in Machynlleth Cottage Hospital, aged 68 years. Bernard was born in 1924 near Halifax, West Yorkshire, and moved aged 13 to High Wycombe. At the RGS he rose to the rank of CSM in the Cadet Force. In 1942 he volunteered to join the Durham Light Infantry and after 6 months transferred to the Indian Army where he was commissioned in the Indian Army Service Corps and reached the rank of Captain.

He returned to the UK in 1947 and worked at his father's factory in High Wycombe. He started retail business in 1959. In 1977, when the family moved to Talylyn he ran the Minffordd Hotel with his wife Jessica and son Jonathan.

He took great pride in the achievement of the hotel, winning many awards from the Motoring and Hotel Guides. In 1985 his hotel was among the César Awards – Oscars of the trade – in the Good Hotel Guide. In 1988 it was included in the Welsh Country Gold Collection of Hotels. He was a steam railways buff and a great supporter of the Talylyn Railway.

He leaves a widow Jessica, who continues to run the Minffordd Hotel, two sons and a daughter.

J N ROBINSON (1928-33) died on 9 July 1992.

Deaths – Staff

W N BICKNELL (1930-1944) Warden Bicknell - "J" to his many friends – came to the RGS straight from Jesus College, Oxford, where he had gained a high honours degree and Diploma in Education. After only two years he was appointed Head of the English Department and then Housemaster, in which post he played a leading role in saving the boarders from the effects of the great fire, which razed the interior of School House to the ground.

"J" coached 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Cricket, and during the war he was the Officer Commanding what was at that time the largest school squadron of the Air Training Corps.

In 1944 he was offered Tadcaster Grammar School, which under his headship grew from 320 boys and girls through 900 in 1950 to 1,800 by the time of his retirement in 1972, with increased academic and sporting results to match. He was the founder of the Yorkshire Senior Schools Cricket Association, then its Chairman and, until his sudden death just before Christmas 1992, its Vice-President.

We shall never forget "J", who was a close friend to many hundreds of old boys both of Wycombe and Tadcaster. That friendship and admiration continues with his wife Nancy, to whom we send our condolences and very best wishes.

J.K.P.

Notes

ANDREWS. S T H (1972-80) Simon finished instructing at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in December 1992 before starting at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in March 1993 for one year, as part of the Staff College programme. He and his wife Catherine had their first child, Poppy, in August 1992.

BARRETT. P (1966-73) Paul is living in Christchurch, Dorset and currently works for the Chase Manhattan Bank in Bournemouth. He has started studying for an MBA at the Dorset Business School and would like to make contact with any of his contemporaries at the RGS, especially those who started in form IE in 1966.

BARTON. S F (1974-81) Simon has been appointed to a lectureship at Exeter University. He is a medieval historian but he will be working in the Spanish Department.

BEAL. N (1983-89) As reported in the rugby section of the magazine, Nick Beal has made great strides with his rugby career, playing for Northampton, England A and the successful England Sevens in the world competition in Edinburgh.

BIRD. M (1944-51) Malcolm has kindly made two donations of artefacts to the RGS History Department Museum. One item is an eighteenth century pellet bell which he dug up in his garden and has been authenticated by the county museum. The other item is a 'manilla' which is a crescent shaped iron bar that was used in Southern Nigeria in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century as a form of currency. Mr J. J. O. Roebuck, Head of History at the RGS, would like to hear from any Old Boy who has interesting artefacts for which a good home is needed.

BISSETT. A (1959-66) After seven years of living in Augusta, Georgia, working as Chief Psychiatrist at the

USA Veterans' Administration Hospital, and Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Georgia, Andrew has recently taken up a post with the V.A. at Hilo, Hawaii, as Head of Psychiatry in the new hospital recently opened there. This appointment covers all of the Pacific Islands under American administration, from Guam to American Samoa.

BOYNE. A R (1976-83) Andrew joined the Metropolitan Police on leaving school and served as a Constable until 1988 when he left to continue his education at Aston University. He graduated in July 1992 as a 'mature' student and has taken up employment with the Midland bank on their Accelerated Development Programme.

BULL. M (1974-81) Marcus is joining the Department of Medieval History at Bristol University in the new academic year. His first book has been published.

BUTLER. C G (1981-87) Crispin is nearing the end of his second year of articles at Winter-Taylor in High Wycombe. Brother **BUTLER. G M** (1983-89) graduated from the new University of Westminster, having written his final thesis on Security Systems and Crime Prevention. He obtained one of fifteen places on an MSc course at Leicester University and is studying Security Management and Technology.

BUXTON. G (1980-86) Gordon was, until a week before the Boat Race, going to be the first RGS Old Boy to cox a boat in the race for just over thirty years. Unfortunately he was replaced in the blue boat and coxed the beaten Isis boat instead.

CARTER. C N (1986-91) Colin won his blue for hockey in February in his first year at Cambridge, where he

is reading Natural Sciences. He had an excellent match trying to stem the tide of Oxford attacks and should have been named as the Cambridge Man of the Match. He has since been training with the England U21 side.

CROWDY. D (1983-89) Darren graduated in mathematics from Queens' College, Cambridge in June 1992 and is now studying for Part III Mathematics at Queens'. He has received two scholarships to take a PhD in the United States. He sends news of two fellow Queens' graduates, JONES. J (1982-88) and LANE. A (1983-89). Jon Jones graduated in engineering and is now studying for a Diploma of Computing at Queens' and once this is completed he will be moving into the engineering industry, specialising in the fields of fluids and computing. Andrew Lane graduated in economics and is now employed by MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants in High Wycombe.

CUNNINGHAM. C (1950-58) took early retirement in 1991 after 33 years with the National Westminster Bank, mainly in Information Technology. He is now concentrating his activities on the Wycombe Show Association and has also rejoined the RGS as a Second Lieutenant in the CCF Army Section. His son, Matthew (1984-89) played for Kingston Basketball Club for two years, including a year in European Competition, gaining Junior England Honours. He has completed the first two years of a Basketball Scholarship at Charleston Southern University in the USA, majoring in Business Studies. He vows to play rugby again some day.

CURRIE. D S (1981-87) emulated his father, J D Currie of Harlequins and England fame, by gaining his rugby blue in the Varsity match of 1992. He came on late in the game as a replacement. He had been unlucky not to make the side as he had been a regular member of the team during the term.

DAVIES. J P (1986-92) Jody is currently serving as a troop commander with the Gurkhas in Hong Kong. His short service limited commission terminates in September when he will return to the UK to take up his place at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge to study Natural Sciences.

DAWSON. M (1985-91) Matt's rugby career has really taken off this season with him securing a regular place in Northampton's team at scrum half. He has played for England A and was a member of the England Sevens squad which won the world sevens in Edinburgh in April. John Reason of the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph* is an admirer of Matt's play.

DEAN. J R (1984-90) James has passed out of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and played hockey recently for the Royal Navy U21s against Leicestershire U21. He found he was marking ASHDOWN. S R (1984-90) who finishes at Loughborough this year. James has played for the Combined Services U21 in a tournament against the East (who included Colin Carter) and the South who included John Wyatt.

EDWARDS. J P J (1947-54) Jeremy has been forced to retire as a result of a 'pedestrian accident' in 1987 and he has now moved to live in Totnes. He is in fairly frequent touch with Peter Draper (1948-55) who has retired from globe-trotting mainly in the USA and Japan, and is now living outside Sidmouth.

FENNER. S G (1970-77) has moved to Birmingham to take up an Anaesthetic Senior Registrar rotation. His family is now completed with twin girls.

GIBSON. P (1965-72) Paul has moved from Glen Spectra in North London to Photonic Science in Robertsbridge, East Sussex. Photonic Science manufacture



Keith Langridge 4th Year - Lino Print

a range of cameras for scientific purposes, with applications ranging from astrophysics to zoology.

HAZELDEN. C A (1984-90) is proud to announce his engagement to Christine Duffy from Huddersfield. They have just completed their second year of an English and Drama degree at Hull University. He is in regular contact with HAWKINS. J (1983-89) on the terraces at Adams Park and continues to dream of a life in sports journalism and broadcasting, having recently been runner-up in a national competition.

HICKMAN. H C (1939-46) is planning to retire at the end of the year but has been very busy in connection with the Teeside Power Project – a combined heat and power generating complex using gas turbines. He is in regular correspondence with SURRIDGE. K O (1938-43) who lives near Wellington, New Zealand and his brother, SURRIDGE. D (1940-45) who also lives in New Zealand.

HUGHES. C (1957-64) Clifton works for Logica in their research centre in Cambridge. He ran a large research project in parallel computing and now leads Logica's activities in a new form of computing known as neural networks. He recently set up an industry club – Linnet – which explained neural network technology to its members, and is now setting up a similar educational club aimed specifically at small firms. He runs a club for pianists in Hitchin, where he lives, plays the organ in a local church and is chairman of a choir. His four daughters all play instruments. He recently met his contemporary, Nigel Melsom, who is a programmer with GRE in Preston.

HUNNIBELL. M (1976-82) Marcus continues to enjoy legal practice in Gloucester and has recently moved to Watterson Todman in Cheltenham. He plays hockey at Cheltenham H.C. and occasionally meets LOCKHART. E (1980-82) who plays for Bristol H.C. He sends news of COX. G (1976-82) who survived the redundancies and was

promoted at KPMG; he marries Trisha in August. Also VOUTE. L (1976-82) who spent his Christmas morning performing an operation on a horse suffering from colic. He marries Joanna in September.

KNOWLES. T C T (1920-26) is proud that his grandson, son of **KNOWLES. W A C** (1951-59), was selected at full back to represent England Rugby Football Schools Union 16 Group in games versus Italy at Luton, Wales at Pontypridd and Spain in Spain. Young Matthew scored tries in games won against Italy and Spain.

MACKRILL. M J R (1938-45) retired from NHS general practice just over two years ago, and though still enjoying the relative novelty of an uninterrupted sleep at night, continues to work part-time as medical officer at the local prison in Retford, Notts. He would be delighted if more of his contemporaries would attend the Old Wycombiensians' annual dinner.

MADLIN. R P (1968-75) Robert was expecting to be back in London by the spring of 1993 but he moved to a second posting in Brussels in January, leaving his secondment to the Foreign Office and taking up, on promotion, a post in the new Cabinet (private office) of Sir Leon Brittan, EC Commissioner.

MANN. H K (1971-78) is working in the Middle East as an accountant for Shell. He is married and has one young daughter. He sends information about **HEAL. D S** (1971-78) working as a GP in Didcot and **OFFORD. S G** (1974-78) who has taken time out from working for the family company in order to learn to fly. He is on a two-year course and is living in Haltom City, Texas.

'PREFECTS' MEETINGS 1930 - 33'

The minutes of these meetings have been published in booklet form.

Anyone wishing a copy can acquire one from Mr J. Roebuck at the school.
Price : £1 - including postage

DIVERTING and AMUSING READING

NASH. G D (1954-59) Graham has now retired from International Hockey Umpiring after a record five consecutive appointments at the Olympic Games from 1976-92. In February, at his request, he umpired his former club High Wycombe in a vital game at Wimbledon in the Peroni South Premier League. A win for Wycombe would have earned them a place in the play-offs for the National League. Wimbledon won 2-1, playing in the Wycombe team were **BROWN. P J** (1975-81), **CAPEL. D E** (1979-84), **ELLIOTT. G** (1982-86), **PRIOR. T J** (1980-86), together with current RGS players Arshad Khan and Adam Smith. Other Old Boys to play for Wycombe 1st XI this season have been **PALETHORPE. R P V** (1975-81) and **LANGTON. S** (1978-83) who is spending 1993 in Saudi Arabia working for Mars. **McALLISTER. M J** (1982-88) may join the club from London University next season. On its travels the club has met **BARNES. D C A** (1978-83), captain of Tulse Hill Hockey Club and **FARMER. M J** (1979-85), now playing at Staines.

PARKER. S J (1969-77) Steven took up a new job in January with Holiday Inn in Brussels, as Director Strategic Planning for Europe, Middle East and Africa region. Since

leaving University he has spent eight years with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, in Asia, the Middle East and Asia Pacific. After gaining his MBA (distinction) at Insead Business School, Steven worked for management consultants Booz, Allen and Hamilton in New Zealand, Australia and, for the last eighteen months, the UK. Steven keeps in regular touch with **MOULD. C** (1970-77) who is general manager for Salisbury NHS.

PEATEY. J B (1968-73) is still receiving treatment for injuries sustained in a road accident in Spain last year, although he has now returned to work for the Prudential in Watford, as a Customer Service Manager. He is looking forward to an interesting year ahead, as the company continues to make itself 'Fit for the Future' which, he has recently been informed, abolishes his grade completely!

ROBERTS. N S (1977-83) whilst smoking his clay pipe, sipping his tot and marvelling at the school's excellent results, Nick remembered that he had not joined the Old Boys' Club. This he has endeavoured to put right and at present he is on the Naval Staff at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, training the young officers in leadership, management and weapon engineering.

ROBERTS. P A (1960-67) Paul Roberts has played widely throughout Europe, records for Radio France and the BBC and in the past two years has made two tours of the USA. He has twice been a jury member to the International Debussy Piano Competition. His book *Images: The Piano Music of Claude Debussy*, will be published by the Amadeus Press in America this year and issued simultaneously in Great Britain. He is known internationally for his performances of French and Spanish piano music and his inspiring masterclass teaching. He is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and is the founder and musical director of Music at Ladeve, an international piano summer school in Southwest France, which has the aim of enabling pianists at all levels to work with artists of compelling stature and experience.

ROBERTS. S C M (1965-72) It is sixteen years since Stuart first joined Cheshire County Council's Planning Department and he enjoys the work as much as ever. He is now a Chief Planning Officer leading a team of six professional officers. Stuart has a particular involvement with the Dee and Mersey Estuaries and is a member of a national group of planners which advises the local authority associations on coastal and estuary planning. He drafted the evidence submitted on behalf of the Associations to the House of Commons Environment Committee which held an inquiry last year (1992) into coastal issues. Many of the Associations' views were included in the Select Committee's recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Environment. His cousin **THOMAS. D** (1967-74) is employed by Coopers & Lybrand, heading their office in Warsaw, Poland.

SANTNER. R (1976-82) Richard is currently on twelve month's leave of absence from Engineering Consultants Ove Arup and Partners, and is studying for an MSc in Environmental Technology at Imperial College, London.

SHARP. D J (1959-64) A flying accident in 1983 left him blind in his left eye and he was demoted from fighter aircraft to heavy transport. Life had been routine until Saddam Hussein managed to modify matters and in the Gulf War he flew troops and very 'interesting' pieces of equipment into Gulf airfields. He suspected that the greatest threat to his safety came not from Saddam but from some of our 'friendly allies', especially Patriot surface to air missiles. A large four engine airliner often provided a far better radar target than a little scud missile.

ANNUAL DINNER 1994

Saturday 16th April

Guest of Honour:

Rowland P. Brown

Retiring Headmaster of the R.G.S.

STIBBON. R J (1964-69) Robin still lives in the Brighton area and has recently changed bases from Gatwick to London Heathrow, where he is senior First Officer with British Airways flying Boeing 757 and 767 aircraft on both long and short haul trips.

STONE. D G (1964-71) David is the present master i/c hockey at the RGS and he was appointed manager of the South East England U16 team this season. The team became national champions in the inter-divisional tournament held at Birmingham University in December 1992.

SWINHOE-STANDEN. R A P (1975-81) is currently serving in the Royal Artillery as Adjutant of 19 Regiment RA. Rupert is off to Cyprus in March 1993 as ADC to Commander British Forces Cyprus. The post will probably be for a year, after which practically anything can happen! His brother, SWINHOE-STANDEN. C D S, still works for Modcomf UK and lives in Yateley, Surrey.

TALBOT. C (1981-88) Christopher has moved with his team researching the genetics of Alzheimer's Disease from St Mary's Paddington to St Louis, Missouri, where he will work for two years. He will return briefly for John Kazantzis' wedding in June 1993.

THOMSON. I (1972-80) Ian is a freelance hydrographic surveyor and works on oil rigs and survey vessels in the North Sea and abroad. He is currently writing his thesis for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and hopes to be an Associate shortly. He is married to Suzanne and lives near Bath.

WALTER. J F (1923-27) is the most regular contributor of news to these notes. Now 83, he continues to enjoy life living in North Yorkshire, walking regularly on the Moors and in the Dales.

WATSON. C B (1981-87) after graduating from Keele University with a first class degree in International Relations, Christian is now embarking on a year long round the world trip before seeking his fortune in the world of commerce.

WHITE. C R J (1978-83) is still employed in rural mid-Suffolk and recently qualified as a Town Planner having recently passed a Post-Graduate Diploma in Town Planning at South Bank University. He understands that McDERMOTT. M J B (1977-83) is teaching in Southampton and would like to hear from PILLING. C J and SHRIMPTON. P F C from his year in school.

WHITE. D B (1968-75) after spending 1992 in self employment following redundancy at the end of 1991, Daniel has joined Warner Jenkinson, a division of Universal Foods as European Marketing Manager for regulated chemical colours.

WILKINSON. P J (1967-74) left the hunter killer nuclear powered submarine HMS Superb in September

1992 after twenty months in command. He has been appointed to the Maritime Tactical School located at HMS Dryad, where he frequently comes across WILLS. T S (1963-67) who also works there.

WILLIAMS. T C (1947-52) retired at 59 after nineteen years with P&O. He intends to spend more time travelling and relaxing by gardening and listening to music.

WINTER. P C (1960-68) is still living on a game ranch in Kenya, running a programme for Save the Children Fund in the war zone of Sudan. He often works seven days a week but snatches the occasional safari to a remote mountain.

WOOD. A C (1954-61) Tony finished five years as Head of Department (Electronics) at the Dhahran Technical Studies Institute. He has transferred to the Planning Department working directly with the Royal Saudi Air Force. During the Gulf War he was on the receiving end of scud missiles, but they all missed him.

WYATT. J F (1987-91) Jonathan is in his first year at Corpus Christi, Oxford, and recently his photograph appeared in a tabloid newspaper. He was on the England U21 Hockey tour to India when a bomb at the players' hotel ended the tour without a match being played, the team returning home immediately. He was a member of the Reading Hockey Club's National League Division 2 Championship winning side.

The Old Wycombiensian Lodge

The Lodge continues to provide the much appreciated combination of membership of the Masonic Fraternity with the added fellowship of Old Wycombiensians.

Whilst during the past session several members have joined, due in large part to the School leavers moving away from the district into university or employment, applications from potential new members have decreased.

This is a problem which most Old Boys' Lodges face and some, including our neighbours Borlase and Norman Arches, have for some while now admitted other than former pupils of their schools.

Our Lodge has now decided that it will accept applications for membership from not only Old Wycombiensians but also from their near relations, ie. fathers, sons and brothers.

The 1992/93 session has gone very well despite the fact of our Worshipful Master, A. E. (Dicky) Fleet, having to undergo major heart surgery and consequently being unable to take as active a part in our proceedings as he and we would have liked.

Our Worshipful Master for 1993/94 to whom Dicky Fleet will hand over in October next, will be D. G. Varney and we are looking forward to another excellent Masonic Year under his direction.

The Lodge Secretary, who would be pleased to hear from any interested Old Boy or Old Boy's relative is: P. A. Langston, Primrose Cottage, 20 William Smith Close, Little Woolstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AW.

