

WYCOMBIENSIAN 1995



The Wycombiensian

1995

The Magazine of the
Royal Grammar School
High Wycombe

Editor: Dr M J Smith

Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr M W Cook

Art Editor and Cover Design: Mr R P Stevens

Staff Leavers

Mr David Flinders

We shall remember David first and foremost as a superb teacher of French, whose perfectionism and dedication were an inspiration to his colleagues in the Modern Language Department and won the highest respect from generations of RGS boys. It was an open secret that in a School Inspection some years ago, David won the highest accolade of being described as being of 'National Demonstration Standard'. While many teachers might use the opening minutes of their lesson to gather their wits, David had his room resonating with French, taking his boys possibly through an irregular verb, the days of the week or enquiring of them how they recognised a giraffe. Forests of hands were always testimony to the enthusiasm of David's pupils. No wonder that most of them achieved top grades in public examinations.

As Head of Modern Languages he has always been admired for his seemingly effortless and total efficiency, and for the courteous way in which he has always treated his colleagues.

The same high standard which he set himself in the classroom, he has always applied in whatever department of school life he was operating, whether for example as a Sixth Form Master, a Field Judge on School Sports Days, or as in Master in charge of School Exams. What administrative ease he exhibited here.

David is a superb linguist and musician, bilingual in French and English, and fluent speaker of German and Italian. He has always been happy to employ his musical talents in the musical life of the RGS. He was a rehearsal accompanist for the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas and Singing Coach for a production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Many have spoken of the professional standard of his work as tenor soloist with the School Choir: for example, in the *St Matthew Passion* by Bach, *St Nicholas* by Britten and, of course, in Handel's *Messiah*. He was also a member of the RGS Staff version of the King's Singers' *The Mastersingers*. Who will ever forget *The Owl and the Pussycat*? He also raised the level of the Staff Room to new cultural heights through his superb singing in two 'adaptations' of Gilbert and Sullivan Operas and in music from Mozart's *Magic Flute*.

Outside school he has been for many years a member of the Wooburn Singers and seems to lend a special quality to the tenor section of that fine choir.

We all wish David and Marie-Claude many happy years of retirement and we will think of them, as they indulge their love of France, Italy, Holland and Austria. One can also imagine David listening to records of Bach Cantatas, only in the best version of course. If David recommends Karl Richter, he must be good, very good.

D.W.-T.

Mr Malcolm Cook

To say 'Mac' is unambitious is not entirely true. As early as 1968, when he started at the RGS, he declared a firm intention to vacate his bachelor flat one day and pursue a child bride. A daring objective perhaps, but one which he successfully achieved at the age of 30, causing only minimal disruption to Elaine's 'A' Level revision programme! Since that time, Mac and Elaine have been virtually inseparable (apart from the golf course, where they are totally incompatible). Their rather unusual symphysis could not, of course, happen today since the National Curriculum for Key Stage 4 does not prepare young ladies adequately for this early wedlock.

One of Mac's earliest challenges was taking responsibility, along with two other teachers, for sixteen Sixth Formers on a cricket tour to Denmark. The combination of Scandinavian liberality and Carlsberg lager was, I recall, particularly exhilarating and led to a great deal of impetuosity and indiscretion. The boys, however, seemed to react far more judiciously! A lasting memory is of a rather clumsy dialogue between Mr Cook and our Danish host Erik, whose English was rather like his forward defensive, laboured and full of technical flaws.

'Erik has your team ever won the Danish League?'

'No Malcolm, I think not, but yes for three years in a row - 1956, 1966 and 1976.'

Undeterred, or perhaps even enthused by the Erik experience, Mac went on to contribute to many school sports and activities. Whether it was hockey, chess, general knowledge or table tennis he would always give

generously of his time. In his twenty-seven years there is hardly anything that Mac hasn't assisted with, been involved in, Secretary of, or Treasurer to.

It is, however, as a Sixth Form master that 'Cookie' will be most sorely missed. His natural and unfussy style belies a genuine and profound interest in his flock of senior boys. His incredible range of knowledge allows him not only to help with their academic and personal development, but also to share with them anecdotes and trivia in his informal and humorous manner. Many have profited from his advice and enjoyed his friendly company.

The Lancastrian stoicism, supported by an innate sense of timing and infectious laugh, makes Mac a most entertaining teacher, as well as the natural choice as Master of Ceremonies at the various staff parties and cabarets: yet another role he reluctantly agrees to because he finds it '...impossible to say no'.

This is not completely true of staff sport where, due to terminal stiffness of the least useful parts of the lower body, the soccer side has been increasingly deprived of Mac's cultivated right boot. On the cricket field Mac has never been quite the same since charging down the wicket to Philip Newport immediately before tea in the 1979 Staff v Boys match. This was described, at the time, by the Staff Captain as '... an act of extreme bravery and unselfishness'. Clearly, the Captain was unaware of the race meeting that evening at Windsor! Golf has taken over to a large extent and the Cook Cup is a cherished trophy competed for once a year by most members of staff who can still walk uphill.

Another part of Mac's life that has taken off recently is that of travel. His introduction to British Airways by my wife two years ago has triggered visits to most of the important places in the European Community. Unfortunately this does not yet include Cheltenham!

For many years Mac has been a self-confessed Francophile and in a corner of Tylers Green it is often possible to detect the strains of jolly baroque music punctuated only by the whirring of a kitchen mixer knocking-up yet another Provençal speciality. He has already been through *Le Tunnel*, is *au courant* with the plight of the European farmers and has waved to Jacques Chirac outside the *Assemblée Nationale* on Election Day.

The anticipation of further continental experiences, without the time constraints, is a major factor behind Mac's decision to retire from teaching. This premature liberation will also allow him time to dabble in racing journalism and eliminate the worst idiosyncrasies of his golf swing.

Best of all Mac will be able to slide, with dignity and a clear conscience, into that prevailing lunchtime somnolence and reflect, with pride, over twenty-seven years of a job well done.

S.B.G.

Mr David Chamberlain

For some time, David had been talking vaguely about 'not going on too long' and retiring early, but this was not something his friends and colleagues took very seriously. The announcement that he was seeking, and had indeed been granted, retirement at what seemed to most of us an indecently early age, was greeted with stunned amazement. We knew that the school would never be the same again.

For twenty-six years, David has been one of the central pillars of the Physics Department. No-one who has had the benefit of his inspired teaching will forget him. No class

was ever too difficult, no pupil ever too intractable to be brought to heel. His pupils developed as full an understanding of this demanding subject as they were capable of achieving. On many occasions, his fertile mind has devised experiments, developed teaching approaches and supplied solutions to current problems in the Physics department.

His contribution to its sporting life has been a major feature of the school throughout those twenty-six years. From 1970 to 1978 he ran U13 cricket. He ran 2nd XI cricket from 1979 to 1985. This was among the school's most successful periods of senior cricket. He has been a school rugby referee throughout his time here, occasionally helping to coach junior sides. As a stalwart of the staff soccer and cricket teams, pupils, ex-pupils and other opposing teams have found him a formidable opponent.

He has been a member of the Staff Common Room Committee for the last ten years, and for four years has served as Teacher Governor on the School Governing Body. On many an occasion he has helped to find solutions to the school's organisational problems.

David had seemed a permanent fixture, for which the school has good reason to be thankful. It will not be easy to replace so strong and gifted a personality. We wish him every happiness and success in his 'retirement', in the confidence that it will be active, energetic and filled with a new mix of activities.

J.A.W.

Mrs Stephanie Stokes

'Steph', as we knew her, has for six years been both a full-time and part-time member of the Biology Department. Having a genuine interest in the progress of her pupils, she was a committed form tutor and active member of the Careers Department. Now having helped a whole generation of RGS boys towards success in their Biology, both at GCSE and A Level, we wish Steph every success in her new role as lecturer at Windsor and Maidenhead College.

E.J.W.

Mr Ashley Robson

Ashley Robson joined the History Department in 1991 and leaves us now to take up the post as Head of History at Aylesbury Grammar School. Besides teaching throughout the school, he has made a major contribution to the sporting programme at the RGS by looking after junior rugby teams. His interest in, and knowledge of, the First World War helped to expand the History Department's contribution to the Year Nine French/History trip by extending the field work to the Somme area. He also introduced the department to the possibilities of the Imperial War Museum. Ashley has been a committed member of the school and a sociable member of the Common Room. He has also made a major contribution to Staff Soccer as 'nod and run Robson'. Furthermore, his possibly over-generous handicap has not prevented him from winning the annual Staff Foursomes as a member of the Staff Golf Club.

He will be sadly missed for his battered brief case and low slung tie knot, but above all for his professionalism and good companionship. We wish him and his family all the best in the new post.

J.R.

Miss Hilary Moffatt

Hilary Moffatt brought a welcome feminine presence to the Business Studies Department in September 1991, joining us from Bristol Polytechnic, and surprising the Year 11 basketball team of that year as their first 'Ma'am' coach: surprising them too into raising their standards as she had similarly with an undergraduate male team. Her introduction of Korfbal to RGS inspired her willing protégés to experience an early effort at mixed sport with the girls of Lady Verney.

She is a strong personality in the classroom, prising high 'A' level grades from unpromising sluggards who thought that they had only opted for 'AS' anyway. Ever ebullient, she entered her students for competitions, and took them on departmental expeditions before defeating them at darts at the post 'A' level get-together. Something of a 'sailor beyond the sunset' in pursuing academic standards, her charges found themselves enjoying 'extra tuition' both in her subject specialism and in her Careers work. She extended these talents to become the first female House Tutor in Uplyme Boarding house – immediately revealing the undercover activities of the boarders, where the Housemaster had previously failed. I have yet to see the water colours her CV alleged, but she has shamed me into a belated interest in IT, and I shall not be the only member of the staff to miss her sly but sharp observations as the flotsam and jetsam of daily Common Room life float past her. The Royal Grammar School is grateful for her energetic and thoughtful work and we wish her every success at St Dunstan's College, Catford.

T.J.N.C.

Mrs Jane Booth, Mrs Linda Fletcher and Mr Andrew McNeil

By one of those strange coincidences which, in my experience, have occurred so rarely in the life of the RGS, three members of one department (Modern Languages in this instance) who were appointed together five years ago, are, for one reason or another, leaving the school simultaneously this summer. Mrs Jane Booth, Mrs Linda Fletcher and Mr Andrew McNeil have all given sterling service to the school and to the Modern Languages Department in particular during this period, and each will be remembered for his or her own special contribution both as teachers, form-tutors and, in Andrew's case, as a boarding house master.

Who could have doubted that Jane Kalyanvala – such was her name before her marriage last year – promised by name alone something out of the ordinary. In the event, she proved to be a thoroughly professional, business-like teacher, who has added a special touch of dignity and sartorial distinction to the department. Her calmness and unshakeability in all circumstances have been much appreciated. Linda, in addition to her competent teaching of French and Spanish, has given generously (and cheerfully) of her time and energy to accompany trips abroad both to Spain and Brittany. She has also shown great concern for the pastoral welfare of her pupils. Andrew's disciplined teaching of French and German has been enhanced by high expectations of his pupils and exceptional organisational ability. Thanks largely to his efforts, we have now acquired our own IT facilities and our first OHP!

All three, in their different ways, have made a major



Nathan McConnell - Year 11

contribution to the work and activities of the department and will, in consequence, be sorely missed and difficult to replace. We wish them luck and success in their future enterprises. Andrew and Linda are moving on to new teaching posts, whereas Jane will devote herself to being a mother.

D.J.F.

Mr Christopher Humble

Chris Humble joined the school as a Maths teacher in September 1992 and quickly made his mark as a cheerful and enthusiastic colleague. He was teased in the Staff Common Room about his splendid display of pens in his top pocket and for the size of his lunch box, and indeed the size of his appetite. When he was appointed we knew that he was in passing on his way to another Head of Department post, but we had two years of his inimitable style in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. His classroom was always well decorated with some excellent work and his teaching lively. His efforts to develop Year Eight's spatial co-ordination even extended to having them juggle. His Sixth Form classes seemed restrained by comparison – each boy working away quietly.

Chris was active within the Careers Department and he helped arrange outside speakers for the Thursday afternoon programme. He also was involved on the Applied Sciences Committee, acting as the secretary and co-ordinator, a post to which he applied a great deal of energy.

A special interest was field events in athletics and he showed enthusiasm with the junior events. He also helped with the rugby, taking teams to away matches.

He is now Head of Maths at Gillott's School in Henley. We trust that he is enjoying himself, and look forward to a pastoral visit.

D.M.B.

University Entry 1994-95

OXFORD

F Anwar: Pembroke, Economics and Management
J Badman: St Edmund Hall, Materials Science
A Cox: Magdalen, Engineering
M Hill: University, History
A Khan: Trinity, Medicine
A MacMillan: St John's, Engineering
S Milward: Hertford, Mathematics

CAMBRIDGE

S Baker: Downing, Philosophy/History of Art
C Bennett: Clare, Mathematics
C Bishop: Christ's, Engineering
M Chacksfield: Clare, Natural Sciences
N Corran: Trinity Hall, Computing
C Fletcher: Pembroke, History
M Goodfellow: Clare, Veterinary Science
M Hulme: Christ's, History
C Irwin: Jesus, History
S Large: Fitzwilliam, Engineering
A Mitchell: Trinity Hall, Law
R Pople: Queens', Natural Sciences
S Routledge: Selwyn, Classics
S-L Tan: Pembroke, Mathematics
T Wallwork: Sidney Sussex, Law

OTHER UNIVERSITIES

P J Addyman: Bath University, Pharmacy
D Andrew: Surrey University, Education (PE/Maths)
M D Aperghis: Leeds University, Pharmacology
M Atalla: Bristol University, Economics/Politics
J J Axworthy: Nottingham Trent University, Business Studies
J A Ayling: Hertfordshire University, Computer Studies
J E Baker: Loughborough University, Financial Management & Accountancy
S J Barlow: Birmingham University, History
C J Bealer: Birmingham University, Geography
R D Beever: Nottingham Trent University, Mechanical Engineering
S J Blackwood: Greenwich University, Psychology
C D Brown: Southampton University, Anatomy/Physiology & Pharmacology
M D Brown: Edinburgh University, History
D J Bryars: Leeds University, Mechanical Engineering & Electronic Engineering
M F Burman: Liverpool University, Marine Biology
S J Champion: Southampton University, Computing
G J Cannon: University College, London, History
J C Cannon: Bradford University, Computer Studies/Business Management
R B Catchpole: Southampton University, Music
D J Catling: Nottingham Trent University, Sociology
J W Conway: Surrey University, Mechanical Engineering
C R Coster: Reading University, Computer Studies
J Cumming: King's College, London, Pharmacology
J F Dadachanji: Portsmouth University, Computer Studies
M R Davis: York University, Biology



M Diaz-Meco: De Montfort University, Business Studies
B G Duncan: Sheffield University, Mechanical Engineering
I Dykes: Nottingham University, Ancient History
S J Elms: Nottingham University, Business Studies with Spanish
D J Estabrook: Cornell University, USA, Medicine
D J Farr: University of London Medical & Dental School, Medicine
S Farrant: Royal Holloway College, London, Business Management
N J Fitch: Southampton University, Accountancy/Law
D J Forrest: Lancaster University, Business/Management Studies (1995)
M N Garcia: Aston University, Business Studies with French
C J Gerrard: Birmingham University, Geography
S Gieler: Sussex University, International Relations in Social Sciences
P Gilliatt: Bath University, Production Engineering
A J Goodfellow: Birmingham University, Commerce & Science
N F Govan: Exeter University, History & French
D M Gowers: Loughborough University, Management Sciences
A J Green: Bristol University, Classics
T R Hadley: Manchester University, Modern Languages
F Hameed: Warwick University, Mathematics & Business Studies
J J Harbour: Bath University, Business/Management Studies & French (1995)
J J Harper: Nottingham University, Medicine
J Harrington: Leeds University, Applied Biology
D D Harris: Hertfordshire University, Astronautical Engineering
D R Harris: East Anglia University, French & Linguistics

- PI Harrod:** Reading University, Education
ND Hawkins: Royal Holloway College, London, Biochemistry with Microbiology
S A Hayat: Manchester University, Medicine
R P Highett-Smith: Bath University, Business/Management Studies
N J Hobbs: Keele University, Computing & Geography
M J Holloway: Leicester University, Combined Science
C Horn: Nottingham University, Ancient History
N Hudson: Imperial College of Science, Biology
ND Hughes: King's College, London, Geography
G R Hyland: Bradford University, Business/Management Studies
CD Irvine: Sheffield University, Geography
RBH Jackson: Durham University, Engineering
M John: Leeds University, French & Spanish
AL Johnson: Cardiff University, Economics
AM Jones: Imperial College, London, Mathematics
RL Jones: Manchester University, Medicine
SP Kemble: Portsmouth University, Politics
KU Khan: University College, London, Medicine
SG King: Durham University, Combined Science (1995)
MA Kingston: Birmingham University, Economics
DR Kottler: Nottingham University, Geography
KM Kumar: Manchester University, Geography
NJ Lamb: Southampton University, Computer Studies (1995)
J Lambert: Imperial College, London, Mechanical Engineering
A Large: King's College, London, Geography
LM Lathom-Sharp: Nottingham Trent University, Business/Management Studies & German
JG Lawrence: Leeds University, Zoology & Genetics (1995)
CG Levan: Edinburgh University, Veterinary Science
RP Levan: Cardiff University, Japanese with French
DJ Lindner: Manchester University, Aerospace Engineering
S Lodge: Bristol University, Biology
AJ Long: Imperial College, London, Geology
S Lord: Goldsmith's College, London, History & Sociology
RN Maharg: Cardiff University, Medicine
J Maknin: Imperial College, London, Physics
TA Marsh: Leeds University, Minerals Technology
J Marshall: Exeter University, Computer Science
PJ Matthews: King's College, London, Business/Management Studies
BV McLaughlin: Northampton University, Business/Management Studies
J McShane: Essex University, History
SJ Medhurst: King's College, London, Pharmacology
DE Mills: Edinburgh University, Mathematics & Economics
A Mir: King's College, London, Medicine
DV Morley: Belfast University, Psychology (1995)
PS Munday: Warwick University, Comparative Literature & Cinematics
JA Neville: York University, History
DJ Nisbet: Warwick University, History
SR Noakes: Canterbury College of Higher Education, Mathematics & History (1995)
PJ Northage: Manchester University, Economics
MJ Nurnberger: Coventry University, Transport Design
AJ Oliver: Portsmouth University, Accountancy
DO Payne: Warwick University, Electronic Engineering
C Pearman: Leeds University, International History & Politics
N Perryman: Royal Holloway College, London, Psychology
E A Phillips: Lancaster University, Linguistics
JB Pittaway: Southampton University, Geography (1995)
N Powling: Loughborough University, Environmental Science & Engineering
AN Poyser: Warwick University, History
BN Rayner: Birmingham University, Ancient History (1995)
DP Redmond: Nottingham University, Economics & Accountancy
A Reed: Birmingham University, Biochemistry
JR Richards: Portsmouth University, Business/Management Studies
MS Richards: Royal Holloway College, London, Psychology & Mathematics
WA Richards: Bristol University, French
JS Roberts: Loughborough University, Management Sciences
MA Roberts: Lancaster University, Marketing
JA Roche: School of Oriental & African Studies, London, Geography
NA Ross: Manchester University, Philosophy
JM Ryan: Southampton University, Chemistry
N Ryan: Southampton University, Psychology
JO Shaw: Leicester University, French
NJ Simpson: Reading University, Drama
M Slagter: North London University, Combined/General Arts
A Smy: Warwick University, Electronic Engineering
MJ Suddaby: Portsmouth University, Geography
BM Sullivan: Southampton University, Aeronautical Engineering
SJ Swain: Leeds University, Economic/Social History
W Tait: Birmingham University, German & Spanish
J Tasker: Exeter University, Economics
H Tegala: Warwick University, Politics with French
LJ Thomas: Warwick University, Philosophy (1995)
BC Toone: St Andrew's University, Geography & Geology
NTucker: Bradford University, Chemistry, Pharmacology & Forensic Science
GC Walker: Loughborough University, Computer Studies (1995)
JH Walker: LSU College of Higher Education, Southampton, Education
NJ Walker: Manchester Metropolitan University, Economics
AP Wallace: Bristol University, Aeronautical Engineering
MR Washbourne: Leeds University, History
MR Watson: Reading University, Computer Studies
SJ Watts: Birmingham University, Chemistry
MJ Webb: Bradford University, Electronic Imaging & Media Studies
NCY Webber: Queen Mary College, London, German
DJ Weir: Nottingham Trent University, Law
DM Whiting: Queen Mary College, London, Economics & History
A Wingate: Warwick University, Mathematics
SE Woolliams: Newcastle University, Biology of Plants & Animals
NO Wragg: Manchester University, Special Needs Education
AN Wright: Manchester University, Biology (1995)
A Zerny: Exeter University, Economics

"A" Level Results 1994

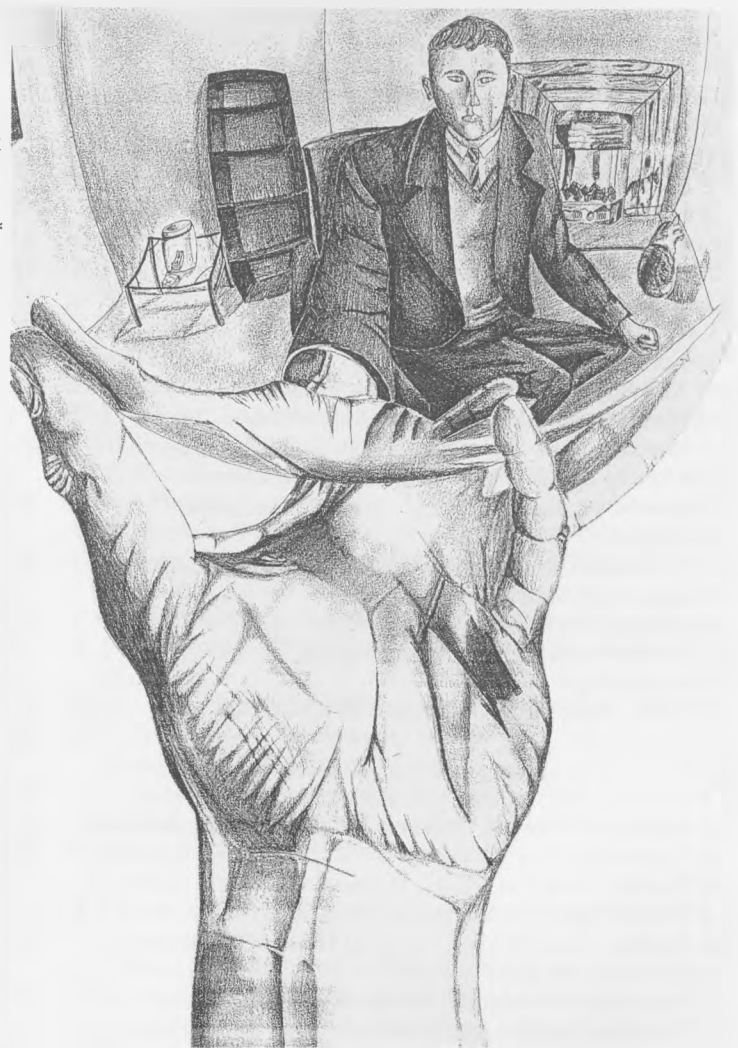
KEY: Ar - Art; Bi - Biology; Bs - Business Studies; Ch - Chemistry; Cs - Computing; Ec - Economics; El - English Literature; En - English Language; Ep - Economics & Politics; Et - Electronics; FM - Further Maths; Fr - French; Fs - Food Studies; Ge - Geography; Gm - German; Go - Government & Political Studies; Gr - Greek; Gs - General Studies; Ha - Ancient History; Hi - History; La - Latin; Ma - Maths; Mu - Music; Ph - Physics; Pi - Philosophy; Ps - Psychology; Rs - Religious Studies; Sp - Spanish; Te - Technology.

AS denotes 'AS' Level. * denotes Grade A.

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

P Addyman: Bi Ch Ge AS:Ma **D Andrew:** Bi Ch Ma AS:Fr **R Andrews:** Ha **M Aperghis:** Bi Ch Ge AS:Ma **M Atalla:** Ec El Hi* AS:Fr **J Axworthy:** Bs Ge Hi **J Ayling:** Bs Cs **J Badman:** Ch* Ma* FM* Ph* **J Baker:** Hi Ma Ph AS:Cs **S Barlow:** El Fr Hi* AS:La **R Bates:** Ec Fr AS:Ar **C Bealer:** Bs* Ge Hi AS:Fr **R Beaver:** Fr AS:Te **C Bennett:** Bs Ma* FM* Ph* **E Bennett:** Ch* Fr* Gs* Ma* Ph* **S Bhatti:** Bi* Ch Gs Ph **S Blackwood:** Ep Ps **C Brown:** Bi* Ch* Ma AS:Ph **D Bryars:** Ch Ma Ph Te **M Burman:** Bi Ch Ph AS:Ma **S Champion:** Cs Ma* FM Ph* **G Cannon:** El* En* Fr* Gs* Hi* **J Cannon:** Cs El Ep **R Catchpole:** El Hi Mu AS:Go **D Catling:** Bi Ch Ma AS:Pi **M Coakes:** Hi Ma* FM* Ph* **J Conway:** En Ma Ph Te **N Corran:** Cs* Gm Ma* Ph* **C Coster:** Cs Ph **A Cox:** Ch* Ma* FM* Ph* **J Cumming:** Bi Ch Ph AS:Pi **J Dadachanji:** Cs Ph AS:Et **L Davies:** Ep* Gs* Ha* Hi* AS:Pi **M Davis:** Bi Ch Gs Hi **M Diaz-Meco:** Ec En Hi AS:Ma **B Duncan:** Bs Ma* Ph AS:Te **I Dykes:** Ep Ha Hi Pi **S Eade:** El Fr* Gs* Hi* La* **S Elms:** Bs Ge Sp* AS:Ma **D Estabrook:** Ch Gs Ma FM Ph* **D Farr:** Bi Ch Ph AS:Pi **S Farrant:** Ec* El Gs Hi* AS:Pi* **N Fitch:** Bi Ch Ma AS:Fr **C Fletcher:** Hi* Ma* FM* Ph* **D Forrest:** Ec Ge* Gs Ma AS:Ph* **N Garcia:** Bs Fr Sp* AS:Cs **C Gerrard:** Ch Ge Gs Ma AS:Fr **R Ghosal:** Bi* Ch* Ma AS:Fr **S Gieler:** El Ep* Gs Hi AS:Pi **P Gilliatt:** Ge Ma* FM Ph* **A Goodfellow:** Bs Fr Ma* Sp **M Goodfellow:** Bi* Ch* Ma* Ph* **N Govan:** Fr Hi Sp AS:Ma **D Gowers:** Bs Ge Ha AS:Ffs **A Green:** Gr La Mu AS:Ha **T Hadley:** Fr Ge Hi Pi **S Hallam:** Bi* Ch* Ge* Gs* AS:Fr* **F Hameed:** Bs Cs Ma* AS:Ph* **J Harbour:** Bs Fr* Hi Sp **J Harper:** Bi* Ch* Ma* Ph **J Harrington:** Bi Ch Ec AS:Go **D R Harris:** En Fr Sp **D D Harris:** Fr Ph AS:Et **P Harrod:** Bs El Hi **W Havelock:** Ch* Ma Ph **N Hawkins:** Bi Ch Ph **S Hayat:** Bi* Ch* Ma Ph* **R Highett-Smith:** Bs* Fr* Gm **N Hobbs:** Cs Ge Ma AS:Mu **M Holloway:** Bs Ch Ma Ph **C Horn:** Fr Ha Hi **M Hotston:** Bi Ch Fr AS:Mu **N Hudson:** Bi* Ch Ep AS:Ma **N Hughes:** Ep* Ge* Hi **M Hulme:** Ep* Gs* Hi* Ma* AS:Fr* **G Hyland:** Bs* El Gs* Hi* Sp **C Irvine:** Ec Ge* Hi AS:Fr **C Irwin:** En Fr* Go* Hi* **R Jackson:** Ge* Ma* FM Ph* **A Johnson:** Ch Ec Ge **A Jones:** Ch* Ma FM Ph* **R Jones:** Bi El* Hi* **S Kemble:** Ep Gm Hi **A Khan:** Bi* Ch* Ma* Ph* **K Khan:** Bi* Ch* Ma AS:Fr **A King:** Ar Cs El **S King:** Ch* Gs* Hi Ma Ph* **M Kingston:** Ec En* Hi* AS:Rs **D Kottler:** Ge* Hi* Ma* AS:Ph* **K Kumar:** Ep* Ge* Hi AS:Fr **N Lamb:** Cs* Ma Ph **J Lambert:** Ch Ma* FM Ph* **A Large:** Ge Ma Ph AS:Fr **S Large:** Ch* Ma* FM Ph* **L Lathom-Sharp:** Bs En Gm **J Lawrence:** Bi Ch

Ph AS:Mu C Levan: Bi* Ch* Ph AS:Fr **R Levan:** Fr* La* Sp* **A Levicki:** En Gs **D Lindner:** Fr Ma Ph **S Lodge:** Bi* Ch* Ph* AS:Et* **A Long:** Ch* Ma* FM* Ph* **S Lord:** Bi Ge Hi AS:Go **A Macmillan:** Gm Gs Ma* Ph* AS:Et* **R Maharg:** Bi* Ch* Hi Ma* **J Maknin:** Ch Ma Mu Ph **R Marsden:** Bs En Sp AS:Go **T Marsh:** Cs Ph **J Marshall:** Cs* Hi AS:Fr* **P Matthews:** Ep* Fr Hi **B McLaughlin:** Bs Ma Ph **J McShane:** El Ge Hi* AS:Cs **S Medhurst:** Bi Ch Ma **D Mills:** Fr Ma* Ph AS:Go **S Milward:** Gm Gs Ma* FM* Ph* **A Mir:** Bi Ch* Ma AS:Ph **A Mitchell:** Fr* Gm* Gr* Mu* **D Morley:** Ge Hi Ps AS:Mu **D Moxon:** El Ep* Hi **P Munday:** El* Ge Hi Pi* **J Neville:** Ec* El Hi* **D Nisbet:** El Ge* Hi* AS:Ma **S Noakes:** Hi Ma Ph **P Northage:** Ep Fr Hi AS:Ph **M Nurnberger:** Ar Ge Ph **J Oliver:** Bs Ge **D Payne:** Ch Ma Ph **C Pearman:** Fr* Hi Ma AS:Go* **N Perryman:** El Fr Gs Hi AS:Rs **E Phillips:** Ec Fr Gs La AS:Go **J Pittaway:** Bs* En* Ge **N Powling:** Ch Cs Ma AS:Ph **A Poyser:** En* Hi* Ma AS:Go **B Rayner:** Gr Ha La **D Redmond:** Bs Hi* Ma* Ph* **A Reed:** Bi* Ch* Ma Ph **J Richards:** Bs* En Fr AS:Ma **M Richards:** Ch Ma* FM Ph **W Richards:** Fr Gm Hi AS:Pi **J Roberts:** Ar Bs Ma **M Roberts:** Ec Gs Hi Ph **J Roche:** Ge Gm Hi AS:Go **N Ross:** El Ge Hi Pi **S Routledge:** Fr* Gr Gs Ha La* **N Ryan:** Ec Gs Ma Ph AS:Pi **J Shaw:** Fr La Sp **S Shingleton:** Ec Ge Ma **N Skelton:** Bs En Fr Gm **D Smith:** En AS:Ar **A Smy:** Cs* Fr Ma Ph **R Steiner:** El Ge* Gs Hi* AS:Go* **M Suddaby:** Bi El Ge AS:Ar **B Sullivan:** Cs* Ge* Ma Ph **S Swain:** Bs Ec Gs Hi **W Tait:** Ar En Fr* Gm* **S-L Tan:** Cs Ma* FM* Ph*



Luc Pestille - Year 11



Matthew Locke - Year 11

J Tasker: Ec Ge Gs Ma **H Tegala:** Ep* Fr Hi AS:Ma
L Thomas: Ep Ge Hi Pi* **D Titterton:** Ar* El Ge
B Toone: Bs Ge Ha **N Tucker:** Bi Ch Ma AS:Ph
C Waldron: Bs Fr* Hi Sp **G Walker:** Cs En Ge AS:Et
J Walker: Bs El Mu AS:Rs **N Walker:** Ec Ge Hi
A Wallace: Ch* Ma* FM Ph* **T Wallwork:** Bs* Fr* Gm*
Gs Ma **M Washbourne:** Fr* Ge* Hi* AS:Ma **S Watkins:**
El Ge Hi* AS:Ar **M Watson:** Cs Ma Ph AS:Et **S Watts:**
Bs Ch Ph **M Webb:** Bi Ge Ma AS:Ar **N Webber:** El Gm
Hi **D Weir:** En* Hi Sp AS:Go* **J Wilkinson:** El Ep Hi
AS:Fr **A Wingate:** Bs Ch* Ma* Ph* **S Woolliams:** Bi Ch
Gm Ma **N Wragg:** El Ps Pi **A Wright:** Bi Ch Ge
A Zerny: Ec En Hi AS:Cs*

S Garidis (10); M Garland (9); M Garrard (8); A Gilbert (9); S Gilbert-Davies (10); S Gillett (8); M Gilliat (9); J Gledhill (8); J Goodfellow (7); M Gooding (10); S Grant (9); A Graveley (9); K Greenhill (10); X Griffin (10); K Guha (10); G Harper (7); N Harte (8); B Hatton (9); J Hayat (9); P Hobbs (10); A Hogwood (10); C Hotton (9); J Hooker (9); A Hoyle (9); M Hunter (9); M G Hussain (7); M Hussain (9); A Hyland (8); S Iftakhar (9); N Irwin (7); P Jackman (9); A Jagger (9); I James (8); P Jarrett (10); C Justice (10); D Kent (10); K Kilshaw (8); J King (11); K Langridge (5); D Large (8); C Lawrence (10); M Leftwich (9); P Little (8); M Luscombe (10); T Malyon (10); A Manktelow (11); R Marshall (10); N Marwood (6); K McDonald (7); M McDonnell (9); R McNaughton (10); D McShane (8); J Meyer (9); R Mesure (5); J Milford (10); B Miller (7); D Moore (5); S Nickols (10); G Norburn (8); H Ogden (8); S Parkinson (10); M Patterson (11); D Peck (7); J Pegrum (8); A Pember (10); B Persson (8); R Phelps (10); J Pickering (8); D Pike (5); J Plummer (9); N Prior (10); B Randles (6); R Redstone (8); O Rhys Williams (9); M Richards (11); M Richardson (9); O Ricketts (8); J Rider (10); M Roberts (10); S Rogers (9); R Royce (10); W Rysdale (9); P Sapsed (9); K Saunders (8); M Saunders (8); M Saw (10); N Scarff (10); T Scholes (9); T Sermon (10); O Seys Llewellyn (8); P Sharples (9); T Shelley (8); M Sheraton (9); S Sidhu (10); N Sinclair (10); M Sleeman (9); B Smaje (10); K Smet (9); J Smith (8); M Smyth (9); D Staines (10); R Stattersfield (9); J Steiner (8); M Stopp (9); D Synnock (7); D Taylor (10); P Tester (9); D Thonger (8); M Upton (10); W Village (8); A Wainman (10); M Walker (10); G Walton (9); T Walter (10); N Ward (9); M Warden (7); N Warfield (10); N Washbourne (8); G Watts (10); R Weaver (10); J Webb (9); K Weedon (9); S Wells (10); R Wheaton (8); J Whelan (11); A White (7); P White (8); J Whiteside (10); T Whitfield (10); R Wood (9); G Woods (10); C Woodbridge (9); D Woodward (10); C Worland (9); C Wright (10); W Wyman (10); I Yunus (9).

“GCSE” Results 1994

The following boys obtained Grade A-C in their ‘GCSE’ Examinations:

J Ahmed (9); H Al-Dhahir (10); R Andrews (8); L Angel (8); T Arundel (9); M Astbury (8); O Atkins (10); A Bailey (9); M Baldwin (10); D Barnes (10); P Barlow (9); R Barksfield (8); T Bedingfield (7); B Beecroft (10); B Bennett (10); S Biddle (9); C Borysiewicz (10); P Burgess (9); C Butterfield (10); T Carter (9); M Chapman (10); S Coakley (9); D Cockburn (10); P Coleman (9); A Connell (11); O Cox (10); J Crawford-Phillips (11); B Credland (9); J Crompton (9); T Crompton (10); J Cummins (9); I Curry (8); N Daugherty (10); M Davidson (10); S Day (8); M Denholm (8); I Derigs (9); L Donald (8); R Dudley (8); C Dutton (8); G Eade (9); G East (7); M Eaves (10); J Fagan (7); B Farrugia (6); S Fawell (10); J Fletcher (8); T Fletcher (10); J Flower (8); A Francis (6); N Francis (10); J Free (8); T Gallagher (10);

OPEN HOUSE

Democracy or Aristocracy?

In Britain, we like to think that we live in a democracy. Most people assume that we do, but they are only half right. For although the MPs in the House of Commons are democratically elected, most of their counterparts in the House of Lords are only there because one of their ancestors was granted an hereditary peerage many centuries ago. We are stuck with a medieval system of Parliament invented when people thought that the earth was flat and the sun revolved around it.

Bishops are automatically members of the House of Lords, as long as they are Anglican. Cardinal Hume is not a member, neither is England's Chief Rabbi, nor are Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhists guaranteed a representative. In a society of many faiths, one denomination of one religion has two dozen of its leaders as Lords, while all the others have none.

The creation of life peers, begun in 1958, was meant to increase the Lords' diversity. It has been partly successful, but has also increased the Prime Minister's powers of patronage. Many life peers make a significant contribution to politics, such as Old Wycombiensian Lord McIntosh, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords. Unfortunately, however, life peerages are also used to pension off ageing ministers who are past their prime, so the Upper House is in danger of becoming a politicians' retirement home.

Over half of today's Lords are Old Etonians. Although there is nothing wrong with being an Old Etonian, is it truly democratic for the alumni of one particular school to enjoy an absolute majority in our Parliament's second chamber? Democracy or aristocracy? Hereditary peers' automatic right to sit in the House of Lords should be removed, to keep out criminals like the Marquess of Blandford, with his string of convictions for drugs-related offences. Only a handful of Anglican Bishops should be left in the Lords, and they should be joined by leaders of Catholics, Jews, Baptists, Muslims and others. Life peers should continue to be appointed, but prominent businessmen, lawyers, academics, actors and so on are preferable to paid-up members of the major political parties, who rarely have the guts to defy their Chief Whip. Other people could be elected by proportional representation. Since MPs are already elected 'first past the post', we would then have the best of both worlds: the representation of local interests in the Commons coupled with the influence of minority political movements in the Lords.

The existence of two Houses in Parliament is essential, in order to prevent the Commons becoming dangerously powerful. If the Reichstag had had a second chamber then the Nazis would have found it much more difficult to gain power in Germany. Our second chamber needs to be substantially improved if it is to be a strong institution capable of standing up to the House of Commons, and making useful contributions to the drafting and implementing of legislation. The sooner we reform the House of Lords the better, because it is inadequately prepared for the vital democratic role it must play in the 21st Century.

Matthew Richards 6HK1

The Little Brother from Hell

Yes, the title reads correctly
He's the little brother from hell.
I went to change his nappy once
But was put off by the smell.

I decided to stay in one Saturday night
But my parents found it fitting
That simply because they were going out
I should do the baby-sitting!!

He was a little terror
Particularly at supper
He didn't drink any of his milk –
But tipped it out his cup – pa. (sorry – bad rhyme)

When he'd finished off his meal,
He started screaming 'MORE!!'
I obliged and fed him some baby food
But he threw it on the floor.

I informed him of the mess he'd made
It seemed he didn't care.
Instead he wobbled all about
And flew right out his chair.

I covered my ears and closed my eyes
To block out the sight and sound
When I looked he'd collapsed on our cat
And pinned it to the ground.

The poor moggie was extremely distressed
Over breaking the baby's fall
He went to run out of the door
But tripped over the little brat's ball.

I went to read him a story
When it was time for bed
He didn't seem to want to listen
So I ripped off his teddy's head.

When my Mum and Dad returned
And saw the dreadful mess
My Dad flew into a major rage
Even Mum began to stress!

I tried to explain what a pain he had been
But would they listen? NO!
Dad said 'Here's the penalty, son'
I thought to myself 'Ugh- oh....'

I'm now in a state of utter despair
I have to buy that brat a new teddy bear!
I still try to convince them Baby's a pain
BUT DO THEY REALLY CARE?
NO!

He's their son and they love him,
Which I suppose is just as well
I know I don't feel the same way
He'll always be the brother from hell!!!!

Russell Smith 9C

A Year Downunda

'Can I speak to Mr Claye please?'

'Nah mate. He's gorn fer the year. My name's Mr Kirkbride. Anything I can do fer yer?'

Adelaide was the place; South Australia, with very much its own government, was the State. Clearly, 'Australia-is-Sydney/the Great Barrier Reef/Ayer's Rock' wasn't going to be true for me.

Blackwood High School is a comprehensive in the well-heeled South Eastern hilly suburbs above Adelaide's plain. The terminology and systems were bound to be different – my form were a 'home group', break was 'recess', there were four uninterrupted-by-half-term terms, detentions were handed out like confetti at a wedding, there were no internal or external examinations, formal schooling ended at year 12 (Lower Sixth) (followed by four years for an 'Honours' degree). There were changes,



Spot the marsupial!

great and small, that all needed getting used to. The school had Student Counsellors or social workers, that could be, and frequently were, turned to by students in connection with any aspect of their home or school life. Keeping track on people who would otherwise cut lessons or the whole day required far greater attention on the part of the teaching staff so that a daily list of absentees was centrally recorded. The egalitarian nature of the society reflected very strongly in the students viewing the staff as equals, certainly not as the source-of-all-knowledge. On the positive side this meant great self-confidence, on the down side it meant 'surprising' manners – particularly as general manners seemed to be so good in Australia at large. There was no assembly hall. Occasional assemblies had to occur with students cross-legged, most facing the right direction, sitting on the hockey pitch, or 'oval' as it was called, or in a large shed-like gym.

Teaching the tiddlers (Year 8) was fun for someone who spends most of his time with spotty males-only Sixth Formers; teaching them Geography and History (Ancient Chinese) was novel. Some 'spuds' swotted, others 'bludged' time off with a 'sickie' as their parents alleged they were 'crook', 'tall poppies' got cut down to size. On 'yard duty' I was on the footie oval – not a soccer ball in sight – where young males played Aussie Rules – calling

themselves after the idols of the local home premiership team – the Adelaide Crows. I coached junior girls' soft ball after school, and, as the seasonal round came, junior girls' soccer too. Invited to referee, I demurred... until I saw the standard of refereeing whereupon I volunteered at once – only for our opponents of the day to rush to one of their number, cluster round her solicitously 'cos she's hurt her knee'.

Year groups actually spoke to each other socially, thereby breaking one of the RGS's (unwritten, I believe) rules. We had a 'beach day' soon after the academic year started (in February) when a mass of Year 10's vanished 'innocently' up a huge storm drain. Mixed 'touch' rugby league was played all the time everywhere – by the young at school, by families and friends in parks or beside the sea. Netball is so serious a game, with parents in solemn attendance on Saturdays and Sundays, that the men are now moving into it as a sport. The school library could be, and was, booked by two classes at a go, who cheerfully chatted throughout their air conditioned time there, grateful for the cool.

'South Australia is the driest state in the driest continent', I was needlessly reminded at frequent intervals. I was grateful for air-conditioning whenever it was both available and operational in the many times of great heat. Seasons happened in a 'sort-of' way. Certainly winter day time temperatures were warm, but unheated homes were cold at night. Camping in the desert on our coach route to the 'Red Centre' (Uluru/Ayer's Rock) was a freezing (-1°C) experience away from a roaring camp fire where the driver cooked 'damper' bread in an earth oven to accompany the barbie food. I did have one friend who lived upstairs in a flat – a great novelty in the land of attractive bungalows – many with 'Sydney lace' (cast iron decorations especially on the verandas and supporting pillars).

I ran on the beach, scuba dived among a variety of flora and fauna, including sharks, drank South Australia's excellent wine (its big export), ate out exceptionally well and exceptionally cheaply, enjoyed the very diverse culture mix with people from all over Asia and Europe, and relished the bluntness of Aussie wit and welcome; a cocksure nation developing socially, culturally, ecologically, politically in kangaroo leaps and bounds.

Australia hasn't got all the answers to all the questions ('What to do about the Aborigines' being one of them), but it does seem to be asking a lot of the right questions. It's an exciting place to live, and to be able to live the sort of life that you choose to. It's an urban life (my teaching colleagues were terrified of being sent out 'into the country' to teach) at some variance with the national stereotype of Castlemaine 4X advertisements. I recommend going to have a look for yourself as many of your predecessors have done in the years around Higher Education (Adelaide seemed to be tricky for casual work, the Eastern seaboard from Melbourne to Sydney to Brisbane to Cairns rather easier).

'Good on yer if yer do go. G'day.'

T.J.N.C.

p.p. The League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers

File Past

From the Wycombiensian of 1915:

THE NEW SCHOOL

With the exception of the laying out of the grounds and asphaltting, the work upon the new School is almost complete. In the first week of April, the Headmaster hopes to enter his house, and expects to have everything ready for the opening of the Summer term on April 27th. There will be no formal opening at present, owing to the War. It has been arranged provisionally that the ceremony shall be combined with the Speech Day celebrations in July.

From the Wycombiensian of 1953:

TERPSICHORE

Dancing classes were started early in the spring term, the first being held at the Grammar School when we were hosts to a number of girls from the High School. Since then the classes have been held at the two schools in alternate weeks.

The dances have been made up of American square dancing and old-time steps with a small slice of English country dancing and a good helping of modern ball-room dancing. 'Couple' dances have alternated with 'square' and 'longways' sets, to add variety. The types of dance, formation and step, have been varied greatly, the dancers having some taste of all types. This will help them to choose the style they like best and concentrate on it. But perhaps, like so many dancers, they will find all types equally attractive so that they cannot drop one style in preference to another.

In order to make the teaching of such a large group a great deal easier, several couples have given up some of their time on Friday afternoons to practise, and they have been able to demonstrate the dances to the whole class.

We are very grateful to Miss Ainslie, who has given us such expert instruction, and for the records provided by the High School, and to the boys who have played such difficult and fast tunes so well, also to those who formed part of the exhibition sets.

G.E.M.

From the Wycombiensian of 1977:

OPINION POLL 1977

Two hundred and forty-eight boys were interviewed by a team of editors and others to elicit their views on some topics of current interest. We hope their opinions are reasonably representative.

1. 'Would you like this school to become co-educational (boys and girls together in one school)?'

Yes : 74.5%

No : 18.5%

Don't know : 7%

Perhaps a surprising result to many people.

2. 'Would you like this school to become comprehensive?'

Yes : 12.5%

No : 81.8%

Don't know : 5.7%

3. 'Do you think the minimum school leaving age should stay at 16?'

Yes : 75.4%

No : 20.2%

Don't know : 4.4%

Nearly all of those who voted 'No' thought the age should be lowered.

4. 'Do you think there should be more features in the *Wycombiensian*?'

Yes : 60.9%

No : 15.3%

Don't know : 23.8%

Perhaps those wanting more articles instead of reports will send them in next time – they don't just materialise.

5. 'Are you satisfied with the cost and quality of school meals?'

Yes : 17.7%

No : 58.5%

Don't know : 23.8%

We hope canteen staff won't be too downhearted – if they hear! Most Don't knows were from sandwich eaters.

6. 'Do you approve of the idea of school uniform?'

Yes : 52.8%

No : 38.3%

Don't know : 8.9%

If the poll had been about sixth-form uniform, many indicated they would have voted differently.

S Bramley, A Gaines and C Holmes

Reliquiae Mortuorum

In a small village deep in the heart of the English countryside there rests a story, that of one man's humility following the death of his fellow villagers. They were all victims of the plague. After having buried them, the last living villager dug his own grave and then buried himself with the loose earth knowing that when he died his small son could neither manage his corpse nor the grief of having to bury his father alone. His name was written on no gravestone, and only on some parchment was his last act of humility recorded.

There is a need to honour those whose kindness overshadows our greed, those forgotten heroes who so often leave their mark upon our lives. This means the generous who sacrifice themselves for others; the honourable, whose integrity is more ridiculed than

rewarded; the innocent who are never delivered from guilt; and the brave who never shy from the challenge.

The Mass for the Dead has lost the meaning that it carried in medieval times. Then it was the device used to assure the living of safe passage to heaven for their honoured dead. For them it was an expression of solidarity, the independence of the living from the dead. In our times a Mass for the Dead should carry something of the same meaning. The memory of the innocent keeps innocence alive in our own souls. Their virtue makes accounting easier for us. We are ignorant of how to remember their death. But any offer of reward would be completely meaningless if we failed to exemplify in our own lives some part of the gift they have left behind.

James Allan 6LY2

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

Venezuelan Expedition 1995

In July twenty-one boys and two members of staff, Mr Hollingworth and Mr Webber, will be taking part in a four week expedition to Venezuela. While there we will be involved in a variety of activities, including a two day trek through the Guatopo rain forest and a seven day hike towards and through the Tepuis, followed by a climb up Mount Roraima to a height of 12,000 feet. We will also be travelling by boat up to the highest waterfall in the world, the Angel Falls, and taking part in a variety of charitable initiatives for a community project we have been involved with called the 'La Paz' project located in an impoverished barrio of Barquisimeto.

The whole venture began in March 1994 when World Challenge, a company which organises special activity excursions, came and gave a slide presentation to promote their very unique form of school trip. As an organisation,



Mr Webber showing off his South American Indian haircut.

they were well known to the RGS because it was with them that Mr Claye and 13 RGS boys travelled to Bolivia in the summer of 1993.

The response to the slide presentation was excellent and twenty-one boys decided that they wanted to take part in an expedition to Venezuela.

Since then much has happened and the Venezuelan team members have become involved in many group ventures.

In terms of fundraising the RGS Venezuelan team has organised a variety of events including a 14 kilometre cross-country run, a special film preview of the Oscar winner *Forrest Gump* at the Wycombe Six Cinema, and a sponsored relay run across the Ridgeway. All of these have been thoroughly successful and some of the boys have received in the region of £300 for just one of the events alone.

The team has also received a large donation from the Rotary Club and has secured some photographic sponsorship courtesy of Agfa for films and processing used during the Venezuelan Project. The team will also be involved with the organisation of a Craft Fayre at the RGS which again should help to raise expedition money. All the money raised by these events will be divided between the

'La Paz' Project Charity and the boys going on the expedition.

The ethos behind the World Challenge expedition is that of self-reliance, leadership, cooperation and communication. It has been through the setting up of their own goals, by organising their own fundraising events, by taking part in group activities, by obtaining sponsorship from friends and family as well as from business companies, and by working together at regular sessions to improve their physical fitness, that the boys have developed their independence and strength of character. All these attributes will be greatly needed when we are hungry and exhausted after a long day's climb on the sixth day in the Roraima region.

S.P.W.

Ski Trip to Austria 1995

The 1995 ski trip to Radstadt, Austria, was a great success: skiing in blue skies and bright sunshine on a variety of different runs. It was led and organised by Mr Chuter, accompanied by Mr Davies, Mr Howe, Mr Stevens and Mr and Mrs Henderson.

At midday on 17 February about 40 boys started on what they knew was to be a long, boring coach journey to Austria. During our travels through France, we came to realise that our so called 'luxury' coach was not really that luxurious since neither the toilet nor the TV and video worked properly! When we finally arrived at our destination in Austria, it was relief all round that we could now get off a very stuffy coach and stretch our legs! However, this was not to be. We had arrived an hour early and could not go to our rooms until our designated time!

Apart from the journey, hiring out skis, boots and poles is the most boring part of the trip. Nevertheless, it is essential and has to be done! With ten boys being allowed in the shop at any one time, it took the best part of an hour to complete this stage. It was then back to the hotel, a quick unpack, dinner and then get a good night's sleep in preparation for a hard week's skiing.

The week's skiing was spent at three different resorts. The first two and last two days were spent at Radstadt and the middle two at Flachau and Flachauwinkl respectively. These neighbouring resorts provided us with a greater range of slopes to ski.

The week was not purely skiing. In the evenings Mr Chuter organised activities through our representative, Ingo (whom we never saw). The activities included a disco, ice-skating, bowling and swimming in thermal baths about an hour's drive away!

The trip was great fun for all and many thanks must go to all the staff, but especially to Mr Chuter.

Matthew Ginn 11DM

Italy 1994

On Friday 21 October, 13 boys and 3 teachers crammed into a minibus for the one and a half hour trip to Gatwick. Our flight to Ciampino–Rome was due to hit the sky at 2.45 pm and by 5.30 that evening we had reached Rome.

The next day dawned bright and fresh, and after a short journey on Rome's underground we reached the Vatican City. The Vatican Museum was good, the Sistine Chapel incredible, but for many it was the last stop of the morning at St Peter's that took the breath away. Emerging from the cavernous depths of the cathedral we were lucky enough to be confronted with a procession of a couple of hundred Italians singing haunting religious tunes, who were carrying on as if the masses of tourists weren't there.

The afternoon was both tiring and exciting to say the least, as we visited the Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps.

Sunday started with the Borghesi villa park gallerie and the Italian Modern Art gallery, and in the afternoon we went to visit the Colosseum and Roman Forum. Unfortunately both were closed, but we got a good view from outside both, especially the Forum. We actually spent rather a long time at the Forum because :

1. One of the not so rare street traders had set his heart on selling a hat to Lee Richardson;
2. One of the Sixth Formers in our group had left a poster he had bought earlier on in the day by the Colosseum and a search party was sent out to find it; and
3. The authorities came to arrest the persistent street trader who made a run for it, leaving some of his merchandise in Mr Webber's hand, who felt it was his duty to return it.

We spent the next two days entirely in Florence visiting famous sights such as the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, Uffizi, lucky pig, Dante's house, Michelangelo's David and the Medici Chapel, and by the end of those days I felt that I knew Florence like the back of my hand.

The last day of sightseeing was the Lucca and Pisa day. Everyone enjoyed Lucca a lot. After visiting the Duomo we hired bikes to cycle around the town walls (as it was a medieval fortress) and many of us managed to get lost in the maze of alleys and backstreets which made up this enchanting town.

After another train journey we arrived in Pisa for, in my opinion, the best sights yet. Everyone was amazed at just how much the tower leaned, and after enjoying just

Art and Design

Extra curricular art and design takes place during lunchtimes and often after school hours. Facilities for a range of two and three dimensional activities are available for all boys, including drawing and painting, print-making, ceramics, sculpture and computer graphics.

Visits this year have included 'Critical Studies' work at the Museum of Mankind, the National Gallery, and the Tate Gallery in London. These curriculum-led visits are always well received by the boys whose personal work is often illuminated by the experience of studying the original master works on show at these galleries.

R.P.S.



When in Rome

lounging around for several hours on the grass outside the tower, duomo and baptistery, we made our way back to the station for the two hour train journey home.

The return journey was as busy as on the way out and we arrived back at Gatwick at around 3 pm.

It only remains to say that the trip was a first class success and that we are all very grateful to Mr Stevens and especially to Mr Webber for all their organisation.

Thomas Collier 11MD

Osnabrück Exchange 1995

We arrived in Germany with some trepidation as to what Osnabrück held in store for us, the blurred recollections of past visitors providing little confidence. Our fears were scarcely eased by the unerring stream of German hurled at us after 12 hours' travel, and the turbulent behaviour of our hosts in school. However, once language difficulties had been overcome, the search was on for the pool maestro supreme, with constant lame excuses being offered whenever anyone lost.

Many were initially disappointed by the distinct lack of High School students of the same age. However, the situation was soon resolved through the realisation that the standard of our spoken German had progressed sufficiently to enable us to converse with the locals. Again, the notorious 'Grüner Jäger' proved a happy hunting ground for all things female! Furthermore, as the exchange progressed participants from both schools and age groups became increasingly amicable. Indeed, any attempt to split us up into 'tour groups' was greeted with marked hostility.

On a more cultural level, three other cities were visited, each with manifest features: the magnificent cathedral in Cologne, the beautifully decorated town hall in Bremen and an ingenious quiz in Munster. Other highlights included Mr Yeates' bounding enthusiasm whenever he found anything 'grammatically stimulating' written down (and more literally his new acquisitions to his famed tie collection), and Mr Wolton's inability to pass a Konditorei. Negative aspects were few and far between, although consistently early mornings and twice daily servings of 'Aufschnitt und Käse' (cold meat and cheese) produced a few grumbles.

Tom Arundel 6LY1

Year 10 French Exchange: St Germain en Laye

I'm sure I speak for everybody on the trip when I say it was a tremendous experience. The example of one of my friends who came epitomises for me the whole point of the excursion. He (who will remain anonymous) was struggling at the beginning of the week to understand the simplest of all French, yet by the end of the week he was speaking as well as the majority of the top French set, if not better!

After travelling over to France on 31 March, we ended up at a pretty little village just the other side of Paris. After being introduced to the families of our exchange partners we were briefly shown into the school, and I was frankly quite surprised by the small size of the playground and the buildings as well.

The next day, after having spent the evening at home, we spent the day in St Germain visiting the town hall for a very nice presentation about the town, and its history. I felt, as nothing had been down for the French when they came to England, that this was a very kind and generous offer, and we should perhaps take a leaf out of their book.

The rest of that day was spent in the main part of town where there was a food market and many very beautiful little shops including the full range of patisseries that sold the traditional variety of French delicacies. In the evening the whole class of French students organised it so we were taken skating near Paris where there were a lot of funny moments, believe me, because I was involved in quite a few of them!

The rest of the week was spent visiting the very historical area of Paris where monuments visited included the Eiffel Tower, L'Arc de Triomphe, Le Louvre, Le Chateau de Versailles and many others. These attractions were amazing and I advise anybody who has the opportunity to visit all of the above.

To conclude, I would say that the trip was a great success and that every single person on the exchange benefited greatly from it. There were a few broken hearts when it came to departure time but they will soon be mended because this year I think that everybody apart from one person will be writing to at least one of the French people. In conclusion I would like to thank Mr McNeil, Mrs Frost and Mrs Walker from the High School for making the trip an enjoyable yet educational one. As the Headmaster would say, 'We enjoyed it but not too much!'

Ross Howlett 10H

Photographic Society

The Photographic Society is open to all boys interested in developing their skills in black and white photography. Skills courses in design and composition, and developing and printing processes, are available.

With the introduction of GCSE Photography this year, the darkroom has been reorganised and upgraded. We thank Mr Willmot for this new venture.

The Society supports the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh 'Skills' Award Scheme.

R.P.S.

Biology Field Trip 1994

In July 1994, Mr Wolton led a group of some thirty Biology students on a field trip, based at the Orierton Field Studies Centre, Pembrokeshire. A thoroughly exhaustive time was enjoyed by all, studying various aspects of marine ecology on the Welsh coast. The field trips were wet and consisted of rocky coastlines, sand dunes, rain, rivers and more rain. However, tuition by resident ecologist, Andy Simms, was both stimulating and fascinating.

Despite the excessively long hours of teaching to which we were subjected, members of our group still ensured that all the dormitories were periodically soaked with water at all times of the night, as a result of their water pistol raids.

The trip ended on a high note and the final evening was enjoyed by all except those required to clean the toilets! A special thanks go to all those Biology teachers who joined us, particularly the long-suffering Head of Department who ensured that the trip was interesting and enjoyable for all students.

Finally, in the words of Mr Chumley-Warner: 'I spent five pounds at Marks and Sparks on lingerie For my wife!'

Michael Reid 6HK₂

Model Railway Club

The club is currently suffering from a lack of funds. Since a break-in last year we have been paid approximately 10% of our total claim by the insurance company. As a result we would be very grateful for donations of track, trains etc.

Could anybody who would like to join the club please see Mr Lovell.

Illya Derigs, Club Secretary, 6MBA₁

Young Enterprise

This year's band of energetic, enthusiastic young capitalists, otherwise known as Young Enterprise, met in September to plan the new company's activities over the coming year. Under the steadfast direction of MD Michael Garland and his resolute deputy, Geoff Watts, the company gently took off. All members worked extremely hard throughout the year and were well rewarded when the company, Krypton, won the Wycombe District round against strong competition from four Wycombe Abbey teams as well as other local schools. The company now goes through to the next round from which the best Bucks company will be selected.

Because of the cold winter, T-shirt sales were not as high as we expected. Fortunately, our other products were of greater success, particularly the coffee which we sold at RGS Music Recitals and our newspaper 'Backwash' featuring the informative 'Levin Interview'. The company has been reasonably successful financially. However, more important is the experience which has benefited all those involved.

We would like to thank all the shareholders, the Headmaster, Mrs Allen, Rank Xerox, and especially our advisers from Equity and Law for their help and support throughout the year.

James Fagan 6GL₁

School House Report

Since the house was already overflowing with eager young students we were, alas, not joined by a vast number of new boarders this year, though Paul Whaley and James Nicholson joined the three other boys in the new 'yellow' junior dormitory.

Lenny 'Dime Bar' Lu is a constant source of amusement at every meal time. The new Nick astonished us all with his hidden acting talents, whilst the old Nick is still unsuccessful in his perilous search for the door handle. Phil and an anonymous newcomer have joined forces with Simon and 'anonymous' Sixth Former in a bid to help boost the local newsagent's profits. In his short time, Phil has also managed to become Public Enemy No. 1 through his perpetual debt, vandalism, GBH etc. etc. 'Sandeep or Splinter the Rat' has become a legend as we all await the moment he actually does something!

In all fields of sport and the intellect we ground Uplyme's miserable faces into the dirt. Meanwhile, Kurt successfully managed to improve vastly upon his own record of a Bud in 10 minutes. Tragically, the dream Boarding House romance ended with the death (or that's how he now regards her) of Neil's girlfriend. However, the blow was cushioned literally by his room-mate . . .

Mentions must also go to Neal Colpitts for his amiable attitude encompassed in those immortal words 'Well . . . ya gotta live'; to Richard for being so big (at least, that's what the McMouse tutor said); and to 'Topper' Harvey and Porky.

Earlier in the year we were heartbroken to hear that School House was to close. In truth, however, it's not the building but the people that make the boarding what it is, and we can all claim to be glad to have 'suffered' the experience.

Also, we can't say thanks enough to everyone who helps us to survive. Goodbye Mr Moore, Mrs W., all of the great staff . . . and, of course, Mr McNeil for his capable handling of delicate situations, omni-presence, not to mention the BLACK LEATHER CHAIR. What will life be without you? By far the greatest thank you has to go to Mr G. Everything that you could ever hope for in a Housemaster.

Long live Boarding, long live the Gamesters, and goodbye from the penultimate School House report.

KLJ, NRK, RCB, NPC, SJK, MAH, PSR

Uplyme Report

As the class of 1988 departed to various universities, having graduated as Uplymers, a new breed entered the House in September. Fresh faces eager with anticipation but stomachs jangling with nerves. Chessington provided a rare venue for a boarding induction day for the eight newcomers. Could the excitement be maintained after such a helter-skelter start?

There was another new phenomenon for the old hands to encounter. Guy Harrison-Williams from Sydney, Australia via Stowe School. "G-day mate. Give me five Gareth!" The most Australian Australian ever in RGS. Was this Wycombe's version of Crocodile Dundee? Meat pies were consumed with passion and Victoria Bitters (VB's) were imported. The Hospital Block suite became a rare cultural specimen of a different kind, with which any Uplyme sixth former will never compete.

The newcomers have all made their mark during the year. From the first day they were never short of confidence and by Christmas were prepared to attack the Housemaster with pillows following the traditional party. There have been few occasions when the House has accumulated such an array of musical and sporting talent. Their energy appeared to be inexhaustible as staff and prefects wondered whether they had any energy limits.

The seniors also brought a style of their own. Which ball was Rupert going to this week? Were Toby and Brendan sharing the same girlfriend or were their sign-out slips muddled again? Was Ryan the first boarder with a Bodum at breakfast? Many of the answers to the subliminal life of a senior boarder will never be answered. Life in the Hospital Block reached levels of luxury never previously experienced, even if the Jacuzzi request was never fulfilled.

A variety of new faces have also been seen on the staff. Mr Hunter and Mr McKellar arrived during the year to support an ailing Mr Robson as he ran the creche for Dominic and Gareth. The boys could be forgiven for wondering who would appear next and what new dimension they could bring to Uplyme duty. Mr Edwards again solved many of the general knowledge problems the Uplymers suffer daily, as the assumption was made the Housemaster would only answer questions on the glory years of Welsh rugby.

In what may be the last year of Uplyme House in its present form, there have been many memorable moments - some good, others not. The lingering memory of 1994-95 will be of the immense energy, ambition and talent of the colourful individuals in the House, and the contributions they have made to Uplyme and RGS.

MJD

Chess

This year the first senior team had a much better season, after being relegated to division 2 in the previous year. The team won nearly all their games except for two which were drawn and a single loss, and as a result has won promotion. Well done!

The second team had a bad start because they were thrashed 5-1 by the first team, but they persevered well, and the players gained very valuable experience.

We did well in the *Times* competition, reaching the final of the zone before losing to Haberdashers' Aske's, one of the strongest teams in the country. We then reached the

quarter-finals of the Plate Competition when we narrowly lost to Northgate High School, Ipswich.

This year six teams have also played in the junior leagues with varying degrees of success.

Jody Shuttlewood and Mark Patterson have been awarded half colours this year.

D Lambourne 6MBe₂, School Captain

P.S. My whole-hearted thanks to Daniel for all his hard work over the years in the Chess Club, and to the others for their help in organising teams.

I.R.C.

Music Society

This has been another highly successful year for the Music Society, with several sell-out concerts being performed. This was the debut year of Tim 'Mr Music' Vennell as Music Director – he joined us from Kingston Grammar School.

The musical year kicked off with the Autumn recital where we were entertained by a variety of highly accomplished solo and small ensemble pieces. These included Vivaldi's double trumpet concerto played by Andrew Davidson and Kieran Shipley, David Popper's *Hungarian Rhapsody* played by Patrick Watson on cello, and solos from four of the six A Level Music candidates. The newly-formed RGS Jazz Group contributed two slick numbers under the direction of the multi-talented Assistant Music Director Patrick Gazard.

The Christmas concert provided an evening of excellent musical entertainment with Mr Vennell's influence already showing through. The biggest surprise of the night came from the once lowly 2nd Wind Band, previously thought somewhat second-rate, but which now had a new lease of life and dazzled the audience with its rendition of two up-tempo numbers. This concert was to be the swan song for Fairly Close Harmony, which soon afterwards broke up amid controversy. Other highlights included an Andrew Lloyd Webber spectacular by the Junior Choir, arranged by Mr Gazard, and an enthusiastic performance of the 1st movement of Schumann's *Rhenish Symphony*.

Another collection of virtuoso solos from such renowned artistes as Lawrence Power, Michael Jefferies and Gavin Winston formed the basis for the aptly named Spring Recital. Barbershop buffs were not disappointed, since by the time of this concert, Fairly Close Harmony had been re-incarnated as the all-new Singers Limited (a title which is supposed to be humorous, but which no-one apart from Mr Vennell finds funny). Soloists David Wheeler and Julian Dunnnett headed an all-star cast of former Fairly Close Harmony members, plus a couple of others.

The joint concert between Wycombe High School and the RGS in the Parish Church had a lot of hard work put into it from pupils and staff from both schools, and was deservedly a resounding success. After two contrasting motets by the two Haydns, Josef and Michael, we were treated to the exquisite and virtuoso playing of violist Lawrence Power in Stamitz's viola concerto, ably supported by the joint orchestra. The climax of the evening's entertainment was a performance of Dvorak's *8th Symphony*, conducted by Mr Vennell, and handled with great maturity by both conductor and orchestra.

The Jazz Band continues to progress by leaps and bounds under the direction of Patrick Gazard, with bookings for several gigs. Its chart-topping 3rd album 'Rock, Groove and Swing' released last year, has sold over 200 copies. One of Mr Gazard's own compositions premiered by the Band has just been recorded by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra's 2nd Band. Once again the Jazz Band has achieved success in the *Daily Telegraph* Youth Jazz Competition. It has been awarded a National Seminar Prize, which will consist of a Jazz Masterclass given by a top jazz musician.

The School Choir had the honour of being invited to sing Evensong in Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford on April 4th with the organ being played by William Village. This was an experience which proved beneficial and educational for everyone concerned.

Congratulations go to Jonathan Wood, Robin Harris, Michael Jefferies, Patrick Watson, Philip Harris and Tim Powell for their successes in the Wycombe Orpheus Music

Competition. Congratulations also go to Daniel Grant on being awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra. Eight RGS pupils are at present members of the Buckinghamshire County Youth Orchestra.

The first full colours for music were awarded this year to James Allan, Andrew Davidson, Michael Jefferies, Matthew Lewis, Lawrence Power, Philip Watson, Julian Dunnnett, David Wheeler and William Village. We wish Lawrence all possible success in his musical career as he leaves the RGS for further study abroad.

Thanks go to Tim Vennell and Patrick Gazard for their organisation and inspiration over the past year.

Philip Watson 6C2

Music Society Concerts 1994-95

For the seasoned RGS concert-goer the 1994-95 Music Society season opened with an added sense of anticipation. A new gov'nor! What to expect? The iron discipline and immaculate performances of an EGH? The no-bridge-too-far approach and the irrepressible joie de vivre of an MCS? Very hard acts to follow! Memories of past highlights – the Gilbert & Sullivans, Haydn's *Creation* with John Shirley-Quirk, the magical opening horn calls of Bruckner's 4th, the Verdi *Requiem* raising the roof of the Parish Church. And then the progression of excellent instrumentalists, the like of whom one thought, each year as they left, that one would never see again. But it is in the nature of this School that a seemingly inexhaustible supply of cream is always on its way to the surface, and I have to report that this year's music-making under the nouveau régime has given me as much pleasure as any I can remember, both as a whole, and for some outstanding individual performances.

Space does not permit a comment on every single performance from five diverse evenings, so I must begin by saying that the general standard has been exceptional. The strength in depth was demonstrated at the Christmas Concert by the Second Orchestra and Second Windband. In the past one has often expected to have to 'make allowances' at this point in the programme, but this time obvious effort and concentration produced intonation and ensemble playing of a very high order. As for the First Orchestra and First Windband, one can forget that one is at a School Concert, close one's eyes, sit back and just enjoy the music. And what music! – Schumann's 3rd and the Holst *Military Band Suite* – rousing stuff! (I defy anyone not to tap their feet to the 'Dargason', at least until the counter melody kicks in.) The Guitar Ensemble offered a complete change of atmosphere with its delicate pointillist textures. The arrangements of Lloyd Webber were an excellent choice for the Junior Choir who did them full justice. The Choir (who showed their full potential a little later on at the Carol Service) gave us two tantalisingly brief songs. And the Jazz Band again demonstrated its show-stopping (and cassette-selling) abilities.

The Chamber Recitals were full of memorable performances. (I recall that the very first of this continuing series was billed as a one-off, 'because we may never have as talented a group of boys again'. That was 13 years ago – little did we know!) Of the soloists this year I particularly enjoyed Michael Jefferies' flute-playing, Jonathan Wood's singing (good to have a solo singer back in the programme after some years), Patrick Watson playing the extraordinary Popper *Hungarian Rhapsody* on the cello, Joel Meyer with the mercurial Berkeley *Flute Sonata*, Philip Watson taking liberties with *Carmen* on the saxophone and Gavin

Winston playing the Chopin *Fantaisie-Improvisation* with great élan. And then, of course, in a league of his own, there was Lawrence Power playing the viola: his rendering of the gorgeously Romantic Schumann *Adagio and Allegro* will stick in the mind. Of several pleasing ensemble performances I would single out the Dvorak *Serenade in D minor* as the high-point.

In the light of all this, when the best of RGS joined forces with the best of Wycombe High School for the Parish Church concert in March expectations were inevitably high – and they were not disappointed. Lawrence Power gave a sparkling performance of the elegant Stamitz *Concerto in D* – a fitting climax to his distinguished musical career at the School. He was ably supported by the orchestra, which, duly augmented, went on to play the *8th Symphony* of Dvorak. This was a delight from start to finish. All sections of the orchestra had their moments – some lovely interplay between woodwind and strings, rousing brass, especially in the finale – and the whole was cogently shaped by the precise conducting of Mr Timothy Vennell, who was clearly enjoying every minute of it. The new gov'nor had arrived!

Other memories? PDG's raps between numbers; the ever-increasing slickness of William Village's stage-management (no more musical chairs between musical items); and the smoke that certainly got in somewhere. And to those I failed to mention by name: you were good too!

J.P.E.

Debating

After an eighteen month absence, the Senior Debating Club re-emerged and on 1 May debated the motion that 'The Criminal Justice Act is a harsh and repressive measure with no place in a democracy'. With a somewhat makeshift argument before a sizeable audience, the proposition scored a memorable if unsurprising victory.

At the time of writing, further meetings are planned on the future of British comedy, Eric Cantona and political correctness.

In the current academic year, the Junior Debating Club also debated Northern Ireland, school uniform and, yes, Eric Cantona.

Anyone interested in the pleasant diversions of debating should contact me.

Neil Daugherty 6HR1

Public Speaking

This year the RGS again competed with success in the opening round of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition, though we were not able to proceed to the later stages.

The senior team, composed of chairman Jonathan Brinn, speaker Guy Holland, and vote of thanks Ulrich Payne, speaking on 'Marital Mayhem - the answer', argued that a return to 1960s 'free love' would cut the divorce rate and restore harmony. In their first (and last) appearance for the school, they did very well and won second prize.

The junior team was composed of three members of Year 9: chairman Brian Peers, speaker Brian Lacy, and vote of thanks Sam Jahanshahi. They spoke on the subject of 'The Seven Deadly Sins - the schoolboy's perspective'. Here, they revealed all about avarice, gluttony, pride, etc, etc, but thankfully drew a tactful veil over lust.

A humorous performance secured them the third prize in their first ever appearance.

M.J.S.

Junior Vulture

We have had a very enjoyable series of trips with the Club so far this year. Our first was to the National Gallery where we went on a tour and discovered some interesting facts on some of the gallery's most famous pictures.

We also got a chance to use the new CD ROM computer system in the gallery which allows you to look at details of any picture on exhibition and have a print-out of it.

From there we went on to see an excellent production of Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* at the Globe Theatre. The acting was of a very high standard and I think that we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

On 29 November we went to see Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Wycombe Swan Theatre. Both the acting and the beautiful singing met all our expectations.

Our most recent trip was to the Royal National Theatre to see the renowned production of Kenneth Graham's *The Wind in the Willows*. Prior to the visit we were taken on a backstage tour showing us how all the scenery was made and the way that the rotating stage worked. The performance was also amazing. The stage was a special drum stage. This meant that it could revolve and pop up. There were other sets inside the drum which were used as the creatures' houses.

Our next excursion will be to the open-air theatre in Regent's Park.

Tom Green 9IW

Senior Vulture

Vulture has completed a rare feat this year: all four trips have been to London locations.

One of our trips has been to the Barbican, to see Carlo Goldoni's *The Venetian Twins*. The scenery and highly professional acting made the evening far more enjoyable than three hours (the Headmaster's recommendation) of pouring over textbooks.

Anton Chekhov's play *The Seagull* was a masterpiece of late 19th century humour, but it was the portrayal of Masha and Medvedenko that really made the night. The reason why the play was so enjoyable is that these two characters were very realistic and very convincingly acted.

The third event was to the film *Three Colours Red*. This film has been highly commended by film critics, and its director, Kiesiowski, was nominated at the recent Oscar's ceremony for being the best Director. The novelty of this performance is that it is a French language film with English subtitles. The theme is based on the French Revolution, but its modern context is of an elderly man attempting to wage war on his neighbourhood by tapping into their phone calls. It was certainly enjoyable to watch, and I especially liked Irene Jacob's acting.

Our fourth and last trip will take place in mid-May. Again this will be a film, *The Madness of King George* (another Oscar nominated film).

However, it is not purely the events that cause the most fun. This year's pièce de résistance was the cancellation of a bus by the bus company without prior notice and everybody racing down Amersham Hill with a quarter of an hour to spare before the train left for Marylebone.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Messrs Keysell, Mitchell, Cowburn, Miss Kelly and Mrs Probert for making these enjoyable trips possible, and everyone who took part for their marvellous company.

Nicholas Weingard 6E2

Spanish Trip to Salamanca 1995

In April a group of Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form boys went to Salamanca, a large university town situated about 100 kms north west of Madrid.

The coach did not leave the school until 45 minutes after it should have done, yet we arrived at Portsmouth with plenty of time to spare despite some travel sickness shown by those sitting at the back of the coach. On arriving at Portsmouth, we were introduced to our two drivers, Robin and Alistair.

After 32 hours in a coach and very little sleep, we finally arrived at our destination in Salamanca one hour early. The general consensus of the boys and teachers was that even at seven o'clock in the evening it was very warm.

All of the boys were of the opinion that families were very welcoming and hospitable and that their stay went



El Valle de los Caidos where General Franco is buried

very well indeed with the opportunity to improve spoken Spanish and comprehension while listening.

During the week we visited places such as El Valle de los Caidos, El Escorial, Segovia with the famous aqueduct, Salamanca itself and a day trip to Madrid to see the Prado museum and the changing of the guard at the Royal Palace. With the expert knowledge of our guide, Mercedes, we were able to understand and get a better feel for the Spanish culture.

Our thanks must go to Miss Kelly for organising the trip itself and for making sure that everything went smoothly, and to Mr Webber for also supervising the trip and for adding his knowledge to the more artistic side of the trip which gave us an interesting insight in to the culture and architecture. Finally, thanks also to Ed Moffatt for helping in the actual language side of the trip and for translating the more complex texts and parts of speech.

Duncan Moore 6CL₁

Schools Challenge

The RGS Schools Challenge team, consisting of Stephen Gilbert-Davies, Matthew Richards, Tom Payne and Ben Wilson, won the Regional Final this year. The competition is run along the lines of the BBC's University Challenge, but with less intimidating Question Masters than Jeremy Paxman.

In the first round we overcame old rivals Abingdon and went on to beat Radley. Bedford Modern proved to be tougher opponents in the Regional Final, but we emerged as the eventual winners.

In the tripartite Inter-regional fixture we were totally outclassed by RGS Colchester and Bishop's Stortford College, whose captain was apparently telepathic. Example:

Question Master: 'Which Jane Austen novel...?'

BSC Captain (interrupting): 'Emma.'

Question Master: 'Correct. Here are your bonus questions...'

We are grateful to Mr McNeil and Mr Edwards for driving us to the away fixtures.

Matthew Richards 6HK₁

Business Management Conference

On 7 and 8 March 1995 a large business conference about management took place at Wycombe Abbey School. The Conference was a liaison between Wycombe Abbey and RGS and that fast moving, fast living world of business management. Eight members of Year 10 were asked to co-operate with the seven Abbey girls and run the business game (Unisim) and tutor the delegates. They were putty in our hands as we were able to call the shots.

We entered data given to us by the delegates into the computer, and some extremely dodgy software did some very suspect calculations to work out which company came out on top.

All in all the Conference was a great success and the free food provided had nothing to do with our opinion, that it was a stimulating experience for all involved.

Matthew Hickman 10H
and Neil McCarthy 10C

Model Aero Club

The Club is ever increasing its numbers. The Parents' Association kindly donated £250 towards our finances this year.

The Club had its very first indoor flying meeting in the Queen's Hall on 12th February: £130 was collected on the day's flying.

We were invited to demonstrate our flying at the May Day event on the Rye on 8th May, at the Hazlemere Fete August Bank Holiday Monday, and also at the High Wycombe Model Flying Club's flying day at Hard to Find Farm, Flackwell Heath on September 11th.

Unfortunately, we were not able to go to the Model Engineering Exhibition at Olympia this year, but look forward to going there in 1996.

Tony Chamberlain

Christian Forum

This has been a good year for the Christian Forum and discussions have been interesting and stimulating. It has been particularly encouraging to see that Forum has been well attended throughout the year, provoking much thought amongst all who have attended.

Thanks must go to Mr Ratcliffe who, maintaining an informal but vibrant atmosphere, has continued to be the driving force behind the group. His commitment to the Forum, stimulating debate, providing tea and biscuits and having genuine interest in the Christian welfare of all boys attending, has been greatly appreciated.

I would encourage anyone interested in the Christian faith to attend. It has been an enjoyable year and I hope all those who have attended have found discussions as helpful and challenging as I have.

Michael Reid 6HK₂

Islamic Society

The Islamic Society has now been running for two years, the aim being to learn about the religion of Islam.

In terms of attendance, this year has been an outstanding success. Interest has been getting stronger and stronger through the year; people from different religions and backgrounds have attended.

The Society holds weekly meetings in which a talk is presented by a member of the Society. Then there is a question/answer session and time for an open discussion. Topics this year have included: how to combat evil, sincerity, the Soul's journey after death, prayer and the Signs of the Day of Judgement.

A further sign of the progress made this year is that the Society has been allowed to hold prayers at lunchtimes.

Many thanks are due to Mr Wolton and Mr Ratcliffe who have helped us to continue the Society.

Mudasser Hussain 6BW₁

Christian Union

The beginning of 1995 marked the turning point in the CU. 'Super' Jon Brinn, Pete Douglas, Mike Reid, (Jamie McCallion!) and the rest of the current Upper Sixth who have led us lot over the past two or three years finally gave up the leadership (albeit with deep reservation) to the Lower Sixth. Thanks a lot guys for everything you've done. We'll miss you.

However, JB, MR and JMcC did organise this year's Inter-School CU Weekend at the Wycliffe Centre near Stokenchurch. Over 80 people came, at least 20 more than last year. None of us who went will ever forget the talks, worship or the power of God's presence over those two days in February.

The Christian Union itself continues to meet on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes in room 4 with a lively mix of talks, studies, serious (and not so serious!) discussion and occasionally some LOUD worship! We also have Prayer Meetings every morning before school in the Committee Room (in the Queen's Hall foyer).

Numbers are steady, but we hope to see more people

from Year 11 and below. The Christian Union is run by a group of Lower Sixth formers for the rest of the school, and our aim is to be a non-denominational set of Christians or people who want to find out more about being a Christian. We are not 'bible-bashers' and we respect the fact that people want to come to God in their own time. If you're interested in our group, come along to one of our meetings (Friday meetings tend to be less formal). You never know, you might like it!

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped us three to settle in as leaders. We are always open to questions, ideas, or just to chat.

Michael Roberts 6MB₁
Colin Wright 6LF₁
Robert Hart 6SE₁

Kart Club

Last July we lost a number of our long and some not so long standing drivers. Jake Conway, Miles Nurnberger, Robert Beever, Daniel Bryars and Andrew Smy all ended their school racing careers. This has resulted in considerable reshuffling of drivers and karts and the recruitment of fresh blood.

The 1994 season was not quite as successful as previous years. Nevertheless Jake Conway won a number of trophies at County level and confirmed his National third place standing at the National Championship, held in Birmingham. Year 9 drivers, Peter Shaw and James Blanch, did well to claim a fourth place at the same premier meeting. Peter Shaw again came good at the last meeting of the year in October, the annual Hertfordshire Championships, to take not one but two first place county awards.

The winter saw a number of new additions on the kart and accessory front. We purchased from another school a complete kart with 60cc Comer engine that had a good pedigree and has proved a winner already. A second-hand four wheel racing car trailer was bought to replace our ancient two wheel version. This has been converted to carry six karts. A brand new Honda engine was purchased to put on an existing frame but the team responsible have so far not managed to mate the two successfully! All these items were bought using funds supplied by the PA for which the club is more than grateful.

We have already begun our 1995 season and have had two practice meetings at Rye House in Hertfordshire, and have just returned from the Cheshire County Championships, held in Birmingham (30th April). Peter Shaw has built his own kart over the winter and tried it out for the first time. As usual there were many teething problems but things look good for the future, when in one heat he managed to come second behind last year's national champion. Charles Garner from Year 9 gained a well earned 3rd place trophy in our new Comer 60 against some top class opposition.

We have two or three very promising drivers and hopefully next year I can report even more success in our hunt for speed, power and trophies! Please remember helpers are always welcome. Contact Mr Howe at School for race dates etc. If you want a wet weekend away, the National Finals are again in the Lake District, July 1st and 2nd 1995.

C.W.H.

History Field Trip to Burgundy 1994

The opportunity to take part in a restoration programme in a medieval castle in France was irresistible to me, eleven A Level History students who were keen to go, and Mr Keysell who was persuaded to help drive the minibus. So we had a team that set off in late July for the castle of Valleriois le Bois in Burgundy.

Once at the castle we took over from an international group of students who had been working there alongside professional builders and restorers for about three weeks. The first night was thus a farewell party for them which merged into a welcoming party for us. Brief as it was, the overlap was enough time for Chris Irwin to 'get the blonde one' and for the RGS students to settle down to a routine of imbibing that set a pattern for the rest of the stay.

The owner, Dr Jean Paul Borsotti, knowing that we had a fairly large contingent of 'rigger lads' in our group, set us to work clearing rubble out of a ruined keep, shifting rocks, moving beams and sweeping up endless mounds of grit and dust. The most satisfying job we were given was to clear out a twelfth century window niche that had been blocked up in the seventeenth century. As the stones and rubble were cleared away, the curved edges of the stone seats in the recess were revealed for the first time for three hundred years.

It was not all back-breaking toil and we used the minibus to visit many local places of interest like Dijon, Luxeuil, Besancon, other local chateaux and the flesh-pots



Neil Govan finds an arrow in his back!

of the nearby town of Vesoul. We also shared the castle with the Chevaliers de Franche-Comté, a bunch of local enthusiasts who dressed up in armour and put on displays (of doubtful authenticity) of medieval armed combat.

The Borsotti family looked after us very well. Monsieur also had a well stocked wine cellar and so in the warmth of the evening we sat round the trestle tables in the courtyard eating boeuf bourgignon, discussing the merits of machicolations and gulping the abundant wine. The ever-patient Madame Borsotti supervised all this as her two children ('les enfants terribles') challenged Glyn Cannon and Neil Govan to wrestling matches or tried to set the castle alight with home-made bombs. Meanwhile the pile of discarded green beer bottles grew into a sizeable pyramid on the pavé.

The memories I have are of the heat, the aching limbs, the ghosts, the good humoured group and the ultimate feeling of having had a worthwhile experience.

Thanks are due to Mr Keysell (who added driving

French lorries to his skills), the wonderful Borsotti family, and the positive-minded RGS students: Chris ('what a larf') Pearman, Stephen ('Albert at the zoo') Barlow, Chris ('what's a pickaxe?') Fletcher, Iain ('leave the bottle by me') Dykes, Leo (camera lens) Davies, Nick ('I feel ill again') Webber, Simon (francophile) Eade, Robert (mad medic) Maharg and the three mentioned above. Well done, lads. The Chevaliers will never forget you! I look forward to taking another group, perhaps in the summer of 1996, to repair the damage you did.

J.R.

Inherit the Wind

This year's child of sorrow took little more than seven weeks from conception to birth, or to put it another way, this year's dramatic production had been fraught with difficulties and problems from the start. The original production cancelled before rehearsals had begun, and an internal producer unable to be found; we could have been looking at disaster. *Bucks Free Press* headlines: 'RGS play abandoned! Shock, horror, probe!' could have been the latest local scoop.

But it didn't turn out like that: an external producer was found, a play was decided on, a cast selected, and *Inherit the Wind*, produced by Noel MacDonald, starring Sam Cameron and Alistair Brook, illuminated the Queen's Hall at the end of March.

Being centred around a trial, it is a play resting more than most on pure dialogue, and on character confrontation. This obviously makes massive demands on the main actors - maybe unfairly so for school players. However, Messrs Brook and Cameron shouldered this burden manfully, producing a gripping court-house confrontation between the enlightened Henry Drummond (Brooks) and the manic demagogue to whom Darwin represents Satan (Cameron). The play's success or failure rests solely on these two, and I thought they did equally well. For a start, they both produced convincing American accents, not as easy as it seems. Brady's collapse after the trial was dramatically striking, and Drummond's 'rocking-horse' soliloquy was equally vivid. Brook also coped well with the long-drawn aftermath to the trial, when the play points its moral, at unnecessary length, in his conversation with the defendant, Cates. (This latter was played by Nick Heath, who made the most of limited opportunities.)

Outside these three there was a wealth of background roles, of varying importance. Nicola Shepherd was notably convincing as Rachel, daughter of the preacher, Cates' girlfriend and unwilling witness for the prosecution; Robert McKenzie managed very credible authority as the Judge; Malcolm Devoy, I thought, was particularly successful as the supposed victim of Cates' Darwinian teaching. The other major role was E K Horndeck, the cynical, world-weary reporter from the big city, whose eventual disgust at Drummond's compassion for his dead opponent provides the play's secondary climax. Neil Daugherty gave this part his full charge, but struggled to vary the intensity required: I was quite impressed by his first appearance, but he became more grating as the play progressed, thanks to a continually unvarying volume and tone of voice. It's not an easy part. The other supporting townspeople, witnesses, etc. all carried out their jobs effectively.

The set was good: quite simple in its way, but with the

upper level for the street, and lower level for the courtroom, it worked very well. The lighting effects, always a high-spot (so to speak), had limited opportunities in this production, but there were some nice touches: the wheeling clouds, and an especially good blackout with silhouette, stick in my mind. So does the RGS crest projected on the curtain.

So overall what? A thoroughly enjoyable evening, skilfully mixing comic and serious, and I think everyone present enjoyed it. They certainly did the night I was there. It was a pity that more people did not, in fact, see it – presumably because the title did not catch the ‘public’s’ imagination. But those of us who know how little time a very inexperienced cast had to prepare, were considerably impressed, believe me!

I.A.B.

Stage Lighting and Sound

This year has been one of design, construction, execution and ultimately destruction, yet again. It started out fairly well with the enrolment of four Year 9 boys. Training then occurred for all members of the team, but particularly those involved in TAA. Led by James Page 6MB₂, and ably assisted by James ‘Stormin Norm’ Whiteside 6SW₁, team members learnt how to rig, safety-chain and focus the vast array of lights that we possess. (One member of the team also learnt how to use a hammer and screwdriver to demolish brick walls.)

Although many people do not know or care about our existence or what we do, a lot of them find that we do have our uses. This year we have provided lighting and/or sound for three concerts, three music recitals, one cheese and wine party, two drugs talks, two open evenings, many parents’ evenings, every assembly and a partridge in a pear tree (one dramatic production not to be forgotten in a hurry – *Inherit the Wind*).

The school play was undoubtedly our major project this year. James Page bravely decided to take on the daunting task of designing, rigging and controlling the lights. Despite many people’s misconception that these things can happen overnight, it took nearly a month to finalise the design, over two weeks to prepare, rig and focus the lights (including weekends 9am to 7pm), and several hours to take all the lights down afterwards.

Although the play was not overly complicated and was aptly coordinated by James Page (Lighting Operator), Nigel Homer 6LY₂ (Lighting Operator and Cueman) and Mark Suret 6SB₂ (Stage Manager), a few mishaps occurred. In particular, many of you may have spotted the infamous ad-libbed lighting effect during the first night performance!

We would like to thank all the members of the team for a memorable two years, and in particular Mr Moore and Mr Everett for their continued help and advice. Finally, we wish James Whiteside and Mark Gooding 6SB₁ the best of luck for next year and leave you with the Stage Lighting and Sound Team motto.

We the unwilling, led by the unknowing are doing the impossible for the unforgiving. We have done so much with so little for so long that we are now qualified to do anything with nothing!

James Page 6MB₂ and Nigel Homer 6LY₂

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

‘It’s 8 am and I’m already tired. I have just eaten a particularly unappetising breakfast. I am carrying a heavy rucksack through the pouring rain, accompanied by four people who all have different opinions about which muddy track we should follow through the woods. It’s half-term and I should be having a lie-in. Instead, I am hiking across the Surrey Hills. WHY AM I DOING THIS?’ Thoughts such as these must be familiar to anyone who has done the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

Having obtained my Bronze Award in 1993, I decided to have a go at Silver. That is why I found myself lost, soaking wet and questioning my sanity early one morning in October. I opted for an Exploration rather than an Expedition – this involved a detailed study of hedgerows, but less walking. If you think that sounds like a soft option, try finding dozens of interesting things to write about a hedge in the Project Report.

For my Physical Recreation I took up fencing again, having given it up in the 3rd Form. Mr Roebuck commented that I had got much fitter since then, presumably because I am no longer totally out of breath after running up the stairs to the Sports Hall! My Skill was playing the clarinet, and the Award gave me an incentive to practise enough to pass my Grade VIII.

For my Social Service I went to a series of lectures given by the local Police. The highlight of these was a trip to see the Operations Control Room at Aylesbury Police Station - we were taken there in a police van used to transport dangerous criminals. I also went to watch cases at High Wycombe Magistrates’ Court, which was of interest to me since I am contemplating a legal career.

I would recommend the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award to anybody at RGS. There is a lot of effort and commitment required, but the rewards are great: a deeply satisfying sense of achievement, a shiny badge to pin onto your blazer, and useful ammunition for the inevitable UCAS form.

Matthew Richards 6HK₁

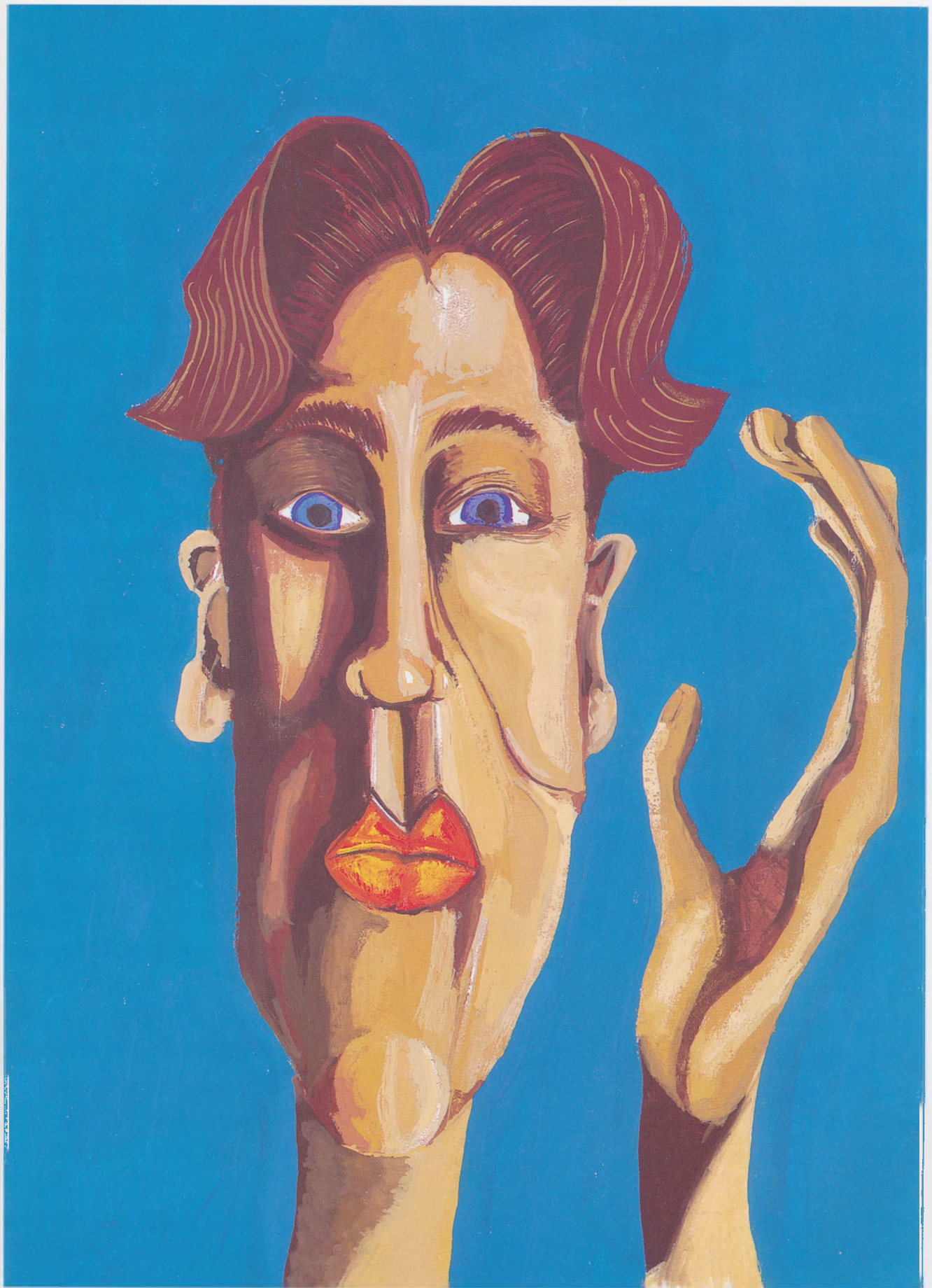
Role-Playing Club

This year has again been successful for the Role-Playing Club. Our membership has remained steady with about 40-50 members. Magic, the Gathering, is still the most popular game in the club. The most successful of the newer games is Star Trek the Next Generation, and this has taken a firm hold on some of the club’s members. Some role playing games, eg Star Wars and Aliens, have been particularly popular, and have lasted more than a year.

This year a small group of beginner Role-players entered the national Advanced Dungeons and Dragons Tournament run by TSR. Our fledgling team was up against strong opposition, but reached 12th place in the regional finals.

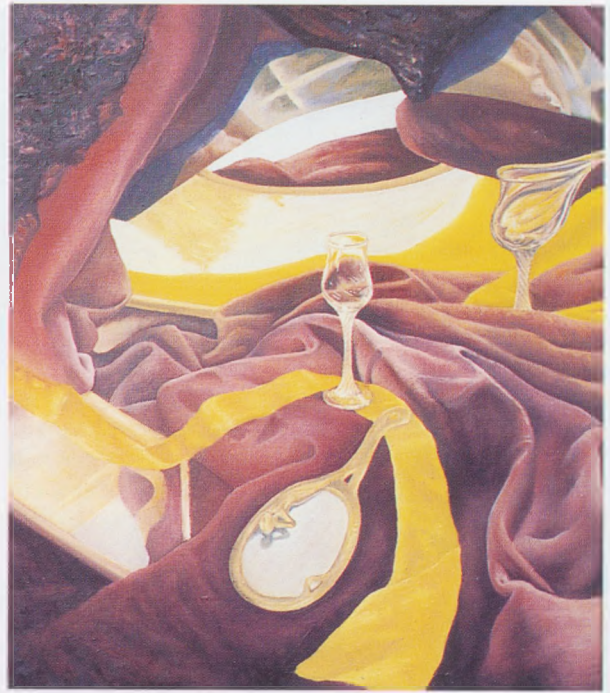
Thanks to Mr Earl for his support and better luck to the team next year.

Paul Bond 6CL₂ and William Gerrard 11DM



Alexander Cox - Year 10

Darren Goldie - Upper Sixth



James Ward - Year 11



Year 9 Sculpture (Direct-Plast)

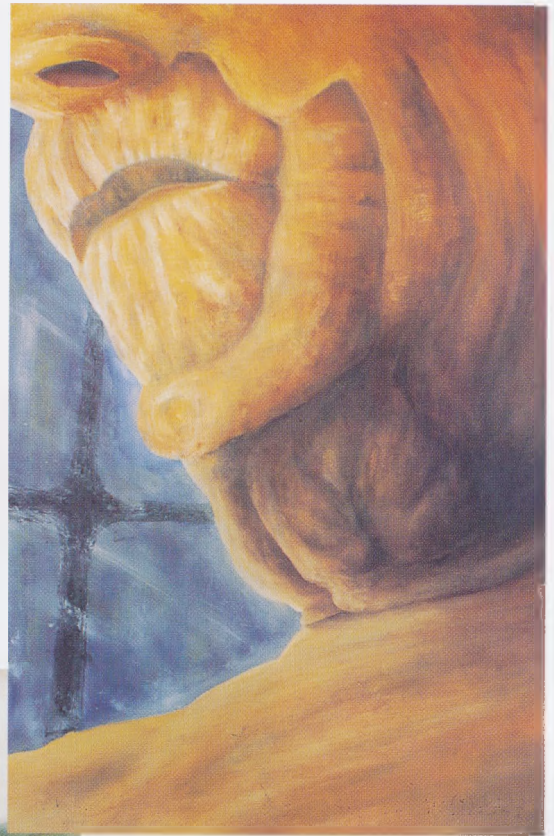
Matthew Stephenson
Upper Sixth





Year 9 Sculpture (Direct-Plaster)

Darren Goldie - Upper Sixth



James Gledhill - Lower Sixth

IT Centre

The 1994-95 academic year started with the upgrade of both the servers to RM Lan Manager Version 2.0. As many of you may remember, this led to a less than fully working system for the first few weeks of the Autumn term. We also used the time to install many of the items of software which we had purchased, in particular Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 (including Word for Windows 6.0, Excel 5, Access 2.0 and Powerpoint), Visual Basic 3.0 and Corel Draw 4.0. When these were eventually up and working many of you found these applications useful for the endless projects, pieces of coursework, or just normal school work that looked better on computer. The speed problems caused by the lack of memory, when using Word for Windows 6.0 and Excel 5 especially, were partially solved by the upgrade of all the 486s and some of the 386s from 4Mb to 8Mb.

This year has also marked the completion of the network extension into the Maths Block, the arrival of the new Year 8s, and the first successful use of the Showday display program written specially for the IT Centre network by Jonathan Page 6MBe2. For those of you who did not make it into the Library during the Prospective New Boys' evenings or on Show Day 1994, this program enables pictures, special effects, music and messages to be displayed, FXed, played and scrolled in perfect synchronisation using the network.

Finally, I would like to thank several members on behalf of the IT Centre patrons: Andrew Brant 6SE2 and James Page 6MBe2 for being the Network Managers over the past two years; Jonathan Page 6MBe2 for his help in managing the network; Paul Cooper 10RS and Michael Hazelden 10RS for generally doing the jobs Andrew Brant or I could not be bothered to do ourselves; Mrs Briggs and Mr Gibson for putting up with us and for their help. And last, but not least, Andrew Brant and I would like to thank (!???) Ivan Phillips 6CL2 (rival Network Manager) for his impromptu notice placed in assembly on the penultimate Monday of the Easter Term wishing both of us Happy Birthday!

The IT Centre is open to all every lunchtime, and after school until 5 pm, five days of the week.

James Page 6MBe2

Computer Club

Well, another year has passed and what an exciting year it has been. Apart from Michael 'you do it, I'm busy' Roberts and myself becoming network managers, the network has been upgraded to such an extent that puts it on par with the IT Centre.

Since last year the operating system (network software) has been upgraded. This year has also seen the upgrading of three 486 DX 33 to a staggering 20 Megs of RAM. The network has acquired a second Star Laser Printer, kindly donated by the IT Centre, as well as a new HP LaserJet 4M Plus, which at 600 dpi (dots per inch) offers high quality at great speeds.

The number of users has increased from around 150 to around 300. This has placed a great demand on resources, partially alleviated by the increasing of the number of workstations from 18 to 20.

It is because of this stretching of resources that we eagerly await the arrival of the new Pentium file server. This, along with new software, should attract increased custom and help provide an even better service (if that's

possible?) to our existing patrons.

I can't finish this article without thanking various people without whom the network would not run as smoothly or as efficiently as it does. Firstly, to Mr Lovell who has put up with Michael and me with his usual forbearance, and without whom there would be no Computer Club. My thanks go to Michael for his help during the year and I wish him well for next year. Finally, my thanks go to Andrew Brant for his assistance during the year on matters beyond Michael's or my knowledge.

Ivan Phillips 6CL2

Mr White-Taylor's Tuck Shop

Over the last year, Mr White-Taylor's Tuck Shop has enjoyed two successful seasonal promotions.

Last Christmas, the Tuck Shop turned into Mr White-Taylor's Christmas Grotto in which we offered our customers a chance to take part in a lucky dip. Over 900 entries were made and many instant win prizes were won.

As well as this, three mega-prize winners each won £10 at the Grand Draw which took place on December 15th. We were pleased to welcome Santa Claus to the Draw,



Tim Mavers receiving his prize at the Easter Promotion Draw.

who drew out the three lucky winners who were: L Biddle, M Redmond and N Lunn.

At Easter, Helga, our mechanical hen in Mr White-Taylor's Easter bunny nest, laid eggs for our clientèle. The eggs informed the customers whether they had won one of the many instant win prizes. After Helga had laid over 600 eggs, we held another draw on April 5th. This made two more customers, namely N Langdon and T Mavers, very happy indeed, as they walked away with prizes of £10 and a large egg each.

Mr White-Taylor, our manager, said later 'The promotions were very good indeed and we look forward to our summer promotion later this term. I would like to thank all my staff for all their hard work throughout the year. They are: Mark Lawton, Marcus Pilgerstorfer, Greg Walton, Richard Lawrence, AJ (= AJ Moore) and doorman - Michael Hinchy.'

Mr White-Taylor's Tuck Shop is open every break-time and lunchtime, and with a vast stock range is *the* place to go in order to satisfy your hunger.

Marcus Pilgerstorfer 11AM

Rugby

1st XV

Played 21 Won 13 Drawn 0 Lost 8 For 382 Against 261

This year's 1st XV certainly had plenty of potential and ability, but when they look back on the season they will regret not really giving that extra effort to maximise fully their talents. They will join many of their predecessors who in their reminiscing start by saying, 'if only we had...'

The season started well with a victory over Hampton 20-8 and a good performance in the Douai Festival which was sadly marred by a serious facial injury to Patrick Lennon which kept him out of action all season.

St Edward's Oxford, one of only three sides to outplay us during the season, exploited weaknesses to record a 35-3 victory, and our own mistakes allowed Radley to win 14-5.

Ian McLaughlin brought his team together and suggested that the season would not be as easy as some had thought and that if they could not apply themselves they could leave the squad. QES Barnet, fielding three international school boys, felt the backlash as RGS romped home 23-12. In the *Daily Mail* Cup, Henley College 64-0, and Maiden Erleigh 33-5, were dismissed as performances improved. Warwick were beaten 20-13 but silly mistakes

allowed St Benedict's victory 10-6 in a game RGS had dominated. The St Joseph's Festival showed that we could raise our performance for some matches but not sustain our efforts. A great deal was learnt about the players and their strengths and weaknesses. A young scrumhalf, Daniel Smaje, emerged from Year 11 to gain a regular place in the 1st XV. He was joined at times by Andrew Kahn and David Wilson. Threatened by the young pretenders the older players in the 1st XV produced some excellent performances in the second half of the Winter Term, gaining impressive victories over Emanuel 17-3, Aylesbury 19-11, Desborough 26-13, Solihull 22-16 and London Oratory 26-0. During this period of the season the 1st XV played some of their best rugby of the year, including a wonderful win in the cup away to local rivals Windsor School. Having sustained early pressure a Kahn drop goal and a Smaje try gave RGS a lead they were never to relinquish. It was an excellent team performance and whilst the younger players made the early breakthrough it was the other 62 players of Shaw, Davis, Moretto, McLaughlin, Priestley, Johnson, Harrison, Stubbs who provided the backbone defence of the team when the pressure was really against us, and secured victory 18-8.

With only sixteen teams left in the competition RGS had to play Abingdon in the final of their section of the competition in the last school game of the term. The dress rehearsal was a game at Bedford Modern on the Saturday prior to the match which was a disaster from start to finish, and we were totally outplayed, losing 0-25. The cup game was completely different. Players were very focused and forced Abingdon to make early mistakes which James Cornish punished with some assured goalkicking. The Abingdon threequarter line always looked dangerous, but Ian McLaughlin leading the forwards never allowed the opposition enough ball and RGS secured victory 26-13.

The cup had been our focus of the season and the team were now playing well. The Christmas vacation and mock exams totally destroyed the organisation built up in the Autumn Term as the team struggled to find time to train. A month was lost and the rugby pitches looked suitable rice growing areas. Only three matches were possible before the quarter final tie against Campion. Tiffin outplayed us at home but we lost to Latymer Upper and Reigate through our own mistakes.

Campion entered the quarter-final as favourites, but there was terrific support for RGS from parents, staff and friends that had made the journey to Essex. Playing with the wind Campion attacked the RGS line relentlessly, but RGS tackled without fear. Kurt Johnson, last year's leading try scorer, has made a habit of scoring tries in cup games this year and his interception try, scored over 65 yards uphill into the wind, gave RGS hope, 5-8 at half-time. When Smaje scored early in the second half to give a 12-8 lead it looked as if RGS would be going to Castlecroft for the semi-final. Entering the final quarter of the game seven minutes of madness and lack of concentration saw RGS give penalties away one after another and Campion exploit this to score twice and snatch victory.

The 1st XV squad gave everything in the game to try and secure a win. In the end they lost with dignity. They, their parents, and the school should be proud of their efforts. Ian McLaughlin was voted man-of-the-match and presented with a tankard at the after-match function. Many of the senior players played for the county and Daniel



*Thomas Beecroft - Upper Sixth
Self-portrait*

Smaje and David Wilson both played for the South West Division U16 XV before being selected for an England Final trial. In a cruel twist of fate David Wilson broke his leg playing soccer and this robbed him of a chance to play against Scotland for the England U16 'A' XV. Daniel Smaje performed with distinction in the Final Trial and was selected to play against Portugal and Wales for the full England U16 XV and gained his international cap. His selection created a unique treble for RGS at scrumhalf this year with last year's captain Jun Shaw selected in the England Colts squad at scrum-half, and old boy Matthew Dawson selected at scrum-half for the England 'A' tour to Australia this summer.

My thanks to all the squad who have worked so hard throughout the year. For those in 62 who are leaving I wish them every success and hope they will continue to play. My special thanks to the loyal band of parents, many of whom will also finish this year, for your support in all weathers and in different parts of the country. You will always be welcome at our games.

C.C.T.

2nd XV

Played 16 Won 9 Lost 7

The season was always going to be a learning process, with only a few of last year's team remaining, but learn we did and the result was a memorable season with victories over many larger sides.

The first match of the season was always going to be tough, the team having only been together for the two training sessions. The outcome was a loss of 7-17. We continued to train hard but the next two matches proved to be part of a learning curve when we were defeated by St Edward's Oxford and by Radley College. After the Radley game we started to play as a team with many of the players playing in their preferred positions. We went into our matches with great optimism and were pleased when we beat QE Barnet 22-7. This was really the start of a good season. Unfortunately we suffered two more defeats at the hands of a strong St Benedict's team and Warwick. Alistair Marchant returned to the team for the Warwick match after fracturing his collar bone in the first match of the season. His presence was nearly our saviour in a very close game which contained a great opportunist's try by Nick Walker.

Our next match was against an Emanuel team which we dominated in almost every aspect, scoring no less than nine tries but only converting one. The boot of Paul Tester proved to be very temperamental but we viewed some great displays by him. Unfortunately we eventually lost him to the 1st XV. In the next six games we really came to form, beating Aylesbury in the local derby 17-5 in soaking conditions; Desborough 20-17; Berkhamsted 31-7; Solihull 8-0; London Oratory 12-0 after a debut try for U16 Simon Peake; and John Hampden 1st team 10-5. Our run was only stopped by a strong Bedford Modern team in our final match before the Christmas break when we lost 5-27. After Christmas we only played two matches due to unfavourable conditions resulting in the other two being cancelled. We came back strongly after the break to beat Latymer Upper 30-0 but suffered a final defeat at the hands of Tiffin 5-31.

Thanks must go to everyone who attended the tough training sessions, come rain or shine, run by 'Mr' Harrison-Williams, particularly for his giving us his instruction and guidance as well as insight into the Southern-hemisphere style of play. Finally, our thanks

to Mr Taylor, who gave up every Saturday to offer us encouragement, support and First-Aid, and soft words when we lost, such as 'training Monday or else', and finally for his never ending supply of buttermints. Thanks Sir. Good luck next season.

Rupert Stephens
2nd XV Captain

3rd XV/U16 XV

The U16 XV was a much different team to the one that finished the season before, with many key personnel unable to play for various reasons. So the team that stepped out against Hampton was all new and raring to go. This showed with excellent team results against Hampton (48-0) and a narrow loss against the year's nemesis, St Edward's Oxford (7-13). For the rest of the term the team clocked up the miles and points against and were unlucky in almost everything that happened on the field, although there were good victories against QES Barnet and Aylesbury GS. Losing key personnel to injury and promotion severely tested the depth of the squad, and the boys found themselves playing in unfamiliar positions. Come Christmas the team had a creditable 100% home record (two games as their alter-egos the 3rd XV) but a 0% away, the less said the better:

After Christmas the boys managed to produce two great efforts with their best displays of the year: a trench warfare 0-7 to Tiffin and a 14 man loss to Reigate. With that, the 15s season was over but the team was looking forward to the Sevens season with renewed confidence.

The U16 VII had five Sevens tournaments and there was hope that the Sevens could put a shine on a difficult season. With the return of Kahn from the 1st XV the team was confident in putting out good performances. At Guildford, Richmond and Warwick the team failed to qualify from the group stages, at Guildford only missing out by points differences and at Warwick the team finishing with only five fully fit players. With the Barnet tournament the day after Warwick, the squad was severely depleted but the boys again showed that when they were on the ropes they can produce very good performances. Qualifying as second in their group for the plate they were only narrowly defeated in the quarter-final by Arnold School (5-12) in a close fought match.

As the season came to a close the boys produced their best display of the year at the Oxford National Sevens. The team managed to clock up 104 pts for and only 12 pts against in their group matches. The quarter-final was a very different affair against King Henry VIII Coventry with a 10-0 win. In the semi-final against St Edward's Oxford (a hard fought match that could have gone either way) the RGS lost 12-17.

The 3rd XV season was much like the U16s, good in parts, and inherited the bad luck that followed the U16s. However, the mixed matches did give the U16s a good taste of senior rugby.

J.A.McK.

U15 'A' XV

Played 20 Won 15 Drawn 0 Lost 5 For 461 Against 228

A strong squad of players, very few injuries, enthusiasm and hard work in training (and the odd piece of good fortune) usually leads to a successful season. The U15 team

produced several excellent displays of determined rugby to end up with an impressive record, which is just reward for their team spirit and approach to the game. Memories of hard-fought victories in the mud at London Oratory summed up the whole character of this squad of players and it was rewarding to see so many players pushing for 'A' team places as the season went on.

The *Daily Mail* Cup quarter-final match at Bristol GS gave the team a taste of playing against one of the best school teams of this year. And with Ed Morrison as referee, this should stay with the boys as a highlight of their school rugby careers, despite losing 0-32!

Many thanks to the loyal band of parents, who travelled with the team to various distant venues. Your support often made a crucial difference when the going got tough!!

R.A.C./A.T.J.

U15 'B' XV

An excellent set of results by the U15 'B' XV team demonstrated the great depth and level of talent available within this year group. It is no exaggeration to say that many of the boys, if at other schools, would find themselves easily holding down regular first team places. This was reflected in some of the outstanding individual and team performances. Throughout the entire season only two matches were lost – one to Sir William Borlase's 'A' team (in a very close game) and the other to Radley. The list of scalps reads most impressively indeed, with notable victories against St Edward's (53-0), Queen Elizabeth's Barnet (64-0), Berkhamsted (31-5) and Bedford Modern (24-0).

The key factors in the undoubted success of the 'B' team were their determination and consistency, their strong team spirit and commitment to each other, and above all their enthusiasm and will to win. This has been an outstanding season, and one of which all the boys can be justifiably proud.

A.T.J.

U14 XV

It was always going to be interesting to see how the U14 XV squad would react to their new coach for the year. An Antipodean; the man from Oz; would they understand him? Could he understand them? The result was a resounding success for Guy Harrison-Williams and the squad with whom he worked.

The 'A' XV won all their fifteen matches with an open running style of rugby. Their defence was solid and very few schools crossed the RGS line. Notable victories were achieved against St Edward's Oxford 44-0, Radley 17-7, Warwick 24-0, Solihull 61-0 and Bedford Modern 43-0. The 'B' XV won 10 out of 12 matches.

Having lost in the quarter-final of the National Schools' Sevens last year, a fitter, tougher, more focused U14 VII squad were determined to show that they were possibly the best U14 team in the country at the start of this season's campaign. At Sherborne they won their first tournament of the year, defeating Millfield in the final. Back to back wins in the tournaments over one weekend must surely have been one of the highlights of the year, winning the Warwick Tournament on Sunday. Victory at Barnet was sweet, as the final pitted us against last year's National Sevens' winners, Dulwich College. Coming from behind, victory for the RGS with the final move of the game in

injury time was never in doubt! Victory in the final tournament of the year at Reigate allowed the team to avenge their defeat by Christ's Hospital School in the National Schools' last year, and beating RGS Guildford 52-0 in the final left schools wondering quite what they had to do to stop the team next year.

It would be unfair to mention individual players for it was a squad of 34 players that put all the hard work in. I know that Mr H would like to thank them and their parents for such a great and enjoyable season. Thank you, Mr H, for all your efforts and enthusiasm. We hope you have fond memories to take back to Australia.

C.C.T.

U13 XV

After the success of the U13 squad in 1993-94, many school players were inevitably asking if this team were as good. The comparison, whether by playing record or ability, should not be made. This was another season where RGS junior rugby excelled, and is the envy of all our opponents. Again many boys had gained valuable playing experience in their previous schools or local clubs. The most satisfying feature of the season was to see the experienced playing alongside the beginners, allowing players to develop at a pace.

The 'A' XV, when playing at its best, displayed real intensity and determination amongst the forwards, supported by outstanding half-backs and a sharp midfield. Rarely was the defence tested. However, the game against Solihull before Christmas, and against Reigate with an injury-hit team in the final game, showed that RGS did not lack quality in any area. The first point against the 'A' XV was not scored until the final game. The 'B' XV showed the same characteristics, and made an enormous improvement during the season.

Unfortunately, the weather affected the latter end of the season. The challenge for the squad must be to improve their individual skills and knowledge, and to develop the excellent foundation they have laid.

In the Sevens, the squad had the unenviable task of following a team that had won all three Sevens tournaments entered in 1994, and reached the quarter-finals of the Nationals at Rosslyn Park.

The schedule this year placed three tournaments in three days. The 'A' squad were outstanding in winning the Bedford Modern and Berkhamsted tournaments, averaging over 40 points a game, without conceding a single score. The 'B' squad produced a valiant effort, against some tough Midlands opposition at Warwick, and won three out of six games.

At the National Sevens, RGS destroyed all opposition on the first day, before confronting Hymers in the quarter-final on the second day. A 46-0 win saw the team reaching the semi-final without conceding a point in their whole campaign. Despite scoring first, RGS lost to Dwr-Y-Felin, the eventual winners by 5-19. An outstanding effort from a magnificent team.

My thanks to all staff who assisted during the season, to the players for their commitment, and to the parents for their enthusiastic and ever-present support.

Playing Record

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
A XV	11	10	1	0	398	10
B XV	11	11	0	0	441	42
C XV	5	4	0	1	112	24
D XV	1	0	0	1	0	25

M.J.D.

Hockey

1st XI

Only three matches were lost this season. October defeats against Kingston GS 4-1 and Sir William Borlase 1-0 could be attributed to a new team taking time to settle down. A month later, the side drew with Kingston 1-1. A fine undefeated run then followed including a 3-2 defeat of a very strong Watford GS team. The School finished runners-up in the South-East England championship defeating Teddington HC 3-0 and Hurstpierpoint College 3-1, but a defeat by Simon Langton GS Canterbury prevented a strong RGS team reaching the last eight in the country.

Three days later, the school lost to the same school in the final of the St George's College Weybridge six-a-side tournament.

RGS were also very close to qualifying for the National Indoor Finals but mistakes in crucial games prevented the school from realising its potential.

Key players have been Laveen Jandu and Tejinder Hanspal who arrived at Sixth Form level this year. Excellent contributions from the four Upper Sixth Formers, captain Tim Parr, goal-keeper Alistair Bendyshe-Brown, Daniel Ginn and Matthew Lewis, have really made the team so formidable that many victories have been by large margins. I wish continued success to all these leavers. The future for next season is very promising as eight of the current team return.

It is interesting to note that three former RGS players were selected for this season's Oxford v Cambridge University match, and Jonathan Wyatt, the 1991 RGS Captain, received his first England cap and received the prestigious 'Player of the Season' award after captaining Reading HC to 2nd in the National League.

Honours 1994-95

The following are congratulated: Laveen Jandu (S East U18), Tejinder Hanspal (S East U17), Philip Barlow, Alistair Bendyshe- Brown, Scott Biddle, Simon Grant, Tim Parr and Karsten Smet (All Bucks U21); Tony Fletcher, Chris Murray and Greg Walton (All Bucks U18).

D.G.S.

2nd XI

A blend of experience from the Upper Sixth and skilful exuberance from the Lower Sixth gave the side a nice blend and some good results were obtained. The hockey played for the first twenty minutes against Watford GS was the best I have ever seen from a second XI and the two victories over Kingston GS 2nds were particularly meritorious. New opponents Whitgift were defeated, as were Haberdashers' Aske's, always difficult to beat. In between these performances were some very mediocre ones and the final record reads: Played 17, Won 8, Drawn 4, and Lost 5.

The most pleasing aspect from the manager's point of view was the spirit of the side. Captain Jon Maxmin led the side well and earned his full colours. Half colours went to stalwarts Ben Walters, Ulrich Payne and Jonathan Greenfield. The latter was responsible for the only serious breach of team discipline – seen eating chips in a parked car with his girlfriend on the night before a big match!

M.W.C.

U16 XI

The team's best performance was the defeat of Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree. Good support play and swift, controlled passing contributed to an excellent victory. In other matches, inability to retain possession when under pressure created problems for our defence and led to defeats by Hitchin, Kingston GS and Radley. The team lost the Bucks U16 final to Sir William Borlase.

Marc Antoine and Nicholas Finch were both selected for the County U16 team and showed that they have the ability to compete for a 1st XI place and will be able to reach School 2nd XI standard when they enter the Sixth Form.

Many of the team took advantage of the link the School has with High Wycombe Hockey Club and several performed very well for the HW U16 and senior teams.

D.G.S.

U15 XI

Played 17 Won 6 Drawn 3 Lost 8 For 22 Against 26

This was a mixed season for the U15s, although the majority of the defeats were very close games. It took some time before a regular side took shape. The team started to play some very good hockey towards the end of the season. The 2-0 defeat by Kingston GS U16 'B' was a creditable performance.

Richard Lawrence deserves special mention for his captaincy. He played in every game and scored some very good goals. Many players also appeared in most games: Paul Channon, Daniel Flint, Martin Gibson and Daniel Grant only missing the odd one or two games. Robin Eade has started playing in goal with great enthusiasm. With some coaching he could become an accomplished goalkeeper. Daniel Grant, at sweeper, gave a good deal of strength to the defence. His tackling is extremely strong.

Next year should see them gain in strength and improve their overall game.

D.F.W.

U14 XI

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
12	6	1	5	19	15

This season saw a very good team spirit and a steady improvement in the standard of hockey. The best team performance was against a very strong Watford GS team and we also played well against Kingston GS. Most of the opposition teams had been playing hockey for several years and our results are very creditable for a first season.

We look forward to building on our successes next year. Five members of the team played for Bucks U14 including Edward Harrison of Year 8. We also had some very enjoyable 'B' team fixtures.

Team: [(C) = County] J Davies (C), J Nicholson (C), S Fitzgibbon (C), S Pearce (C), E Harrison (C) T Jarrett, C Tague, R Burton, C Gunn, D Keating, D Cox, O Dutton, R Hendry, L Biddle, C Garidis, J Bayless.

R.N.P.

Cricket

1st XI

The pre-season and first half of the summer term gave cause for much optimism with the 1994 1st XI. Tiffin, Hampton and Sir William Borlase's were all defeated, whilst a fine run chase against Dr Challoner's ended in a creditable draw. Miles Davis and Chris Irwin showed some good early bowling form, and were ably backed up by Daniel Ginn. The leading batsmen all produced at least one good score, dispelling early concerns over a fragile batting order.

However, by the end of June the team began to show some familiar frailties. A combination of lack-lustre batting and erratic catching and fielding saw Magdalen College School easily reach a target of 148, inflicting our second defeat. Thereafter, a poorly handled run-chase against St Benedict's and an inability to take the last wicket against Latymer Upper produced two draws. The Oratory were far too powerful in both bowling and batting departments, and the MCC game followed its traditional pattern - two more losses. The Abingdon game, before our departure to Newcastle for the Festival, reinforced concerns over our ability to chase runs and make into the opposition batting.

RGS, therefore, arrived at the Festival with considerable talent, but unfortunately with a number of players out of form. In all games the opposition batted first. The bowlers, at different times, produced some excellent, economic spells, often supported by good fielding performances from a team with limitations in this area. However, our five leading batsmen failed to muster in excess of 170 runs between them during the week. This was a tough learning experience for a team that did not always give themselves the best opportunity of performing at their best.

Jun Shaw was a determined captain who led by example and produced some excellent batting performances in the early part of the season. He was ably supported by David Forrest who was a fine, economical leg-spinner. The results gave a clear indication of the shortcomings of the season which was ultimately disappointing, but nevertheless had many enjoyable moments with an enthusiastic group of cricketers. Miles Davis was Cricketer of the Year - his performance against RGS Newcastle reflecting what a wholehearted player he was.

M.J.D.

2nd XI

Played 8 Won 2 Drawn 5 Lost 1

The results above do not do credit to the 2nd XI which was ably led by Neil Govan.

The season began with promise and expectation with many of last year's players returning. Batting first against Tiffin we scored 203 for 2 (P Nasr 59, J Harrington 56 no), declaring before tea. Tiffin declined the challenge and settled for a tame draw (113 for 4, D Redmond 2 for 25). Old rivals Hampton School proved more competitive, reducing RGS to 75 for 8 before some bold hitting by G Holland (28) and J De Gelas (21) took our total to 136 all out. Hampton completed the match with ease winning by 7 wickets. The local derby against Dr Challoner's produced a very exciting finish with RGS, chasing a total of 167, ending up at 161 for 7. Magdalen College, set a total of 158, collapsed to 95 for 9 (D Redmond 3 for 26, D Gowers

5 for 12). It was similar stories against St Benedict's who were asked to chase 194 (N Fitch 73) but collapsed to 104 for 8 (I Crichton 3 for 25, D Gowers 3 for 15), and Latymer Upper, who were asked to chase 159 but collapsed to 96 for 9 (K Johnson 4 for 33, D Gowers 4 for 28). The season ended on a high note when all seemed lost. Batting first against Watford GS, RGS could only manage 116 all out (K Johnson 26) and with Watford at 53 for 3, RGS were staring defeat in the face. However, A Pember coming on at fourth change bowler returned figures of 3 for 9 from 4 overs to produce an unlikely win for RGS.

I would like to thank all members of the 2nd XI for making the season an enjoyable one on and off the pitch.

R.M.P.

U15 XI

The season started well with a strong squad turning out regularly for practices and hoping to build on last year's performances. Having lost Chris Murray, who had scored the majority of last year's totals, to the 1st XI, runs seemed hard to come by, starting disappointingly at Hampton with 94 all out. The fielding and tight bowling almost made up but could not break the 7th wicket partnership and we lost by 3 wickets. The next few matches were rained off, and vital match practice for newer players in the squad lost.

Trying to find a good batting side was the main aim for the season. Bowling was penetrating, with performances of Sam Musk 5 for 8 and Andrew Moore 5 for 27 being examples of the potential of the bowlers. Rizwan Ali and Asim Hanif took wickets at vital moments. There were a lot of spinners this year, with Graham Marsh, Ross Parrett and Akhil Markanday showing a lot of promise for the future, on unhelpful wickets.

A good opening partnership was developing towards the end of the season between Andrew Bentall and David Wilson, each scoring a fifty and topping the averages. Andrew Kahn, Sam Musk, Matthew Ginn, Alastair Lloyd and Andrew Moore provided good support batting but with a season of only four individual fifties, runs were scarce. The season ended well with a draw and two wins to round off a disappointing year. A tight match against RGS Worcester was the highlight, Andrew Pilkington hitting three runs off the last ball to win the game.

We must thank Mr Yeates and Mr Noyes for all the time and effort they put into practices and matches. Our thanks also go to Dr Barker for stepping in to transport us to, and umpiring, some of our matches, and to Marcus Pilgerstorfer for scoring.

Bucks U15 squad players: Chris Murray, Andrew Bentall, Andrew Kahn, David Wilson, Rizwan Ali, Andrew Moore.

Andrew Bentall 11MD

U14 XI

Played 13 Won 5 Drawn 2 Lost 5 Abandoned 1

The team played well at times with all members attending regular nets sessions.

The batting lacked consistency with Jehan Jayanetti, David Novell and Chris Matcham all showing promise on occasions. Simon Duncombe has considerable potential but had a disappointing season by his standards. The best batting came on the Lord's Taverners' semi-final when RGS, chasing Dr Challoner's 170 for 9, made 172 for 4 to defeat the county favourites by 6 wickets. Andrew

Pembroke made 65 and Daniel Grant 39.

Andrew Pembroke and Alex Robinson were the regular opening bowlers, and they were supported by Michael Bailey, Wajid Hussain, David Novell and Edward Jagger. Daniel Grant and Martin Gibson provided variety with off-spin, often proving to be potential match-winners with Martin taking 7 wickets on one occasion.

Wicket-keeping duties were shared between Alex Cook and Ed Turley.

A further group of very keen cricketers practised regularly and some showed improvement by the end of the season and could compete for places in next season's team.

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

U13 XI

The season began and ended on a low note, with the customary defeat by Hampton School in April and a comprehensive defeat by Watford GS in July. In between, the side did very well, winning all the games, with especially noteworthy wins against St Benedict's and Abingdon School, when asked to make substantial totals to win. St Benedict's put on 103 for the first wicket and declared at 172-4 – we won by six wickets, Melrose 57 not out and Crompton 46 putting on over a hundred for the third wicket. It was a similar story at Abingdon. The home side made 152 for 7, and we won by eight wickets with Shaw 54 not out and Crompton 40 setting the foundation.

This side has the potential to do really well, with several players capable of making big scores, and bowling which could be really penetrative. There were several promising cricketers in the 'B' side and nobody can rest on their laurels. Competition for places will be a good thing.

M.W.C.

Athletics

Several RGS athletes represented Wycombe District Schools in the County Championships at Milton Keynes. Tim Gardner finished second in the Intermediate 3000m (9m 48.1 secs), a new School record. Robert Ogden gained second place in the Junior 400m final (57.2 secs). Ben Gilbert qualified for the English Schools' Championships with a Discus throw of 35.40m. Ben gained a superb Bronze medal at the National Championships at Telford in July, with a throw of 38.92m.

The District Schools' Championships were again very successful. All Year Groups won their respective team competitions. Our Year 8 team produced several outstanding performances. Adam Page won the 100m and 400m finals, and finished second in the Triple Jump. In his first year at the school, Adam has equalled the 100m School record (12.4 secs). This record has stood since 1971. He has also broken the 400m record (58.8 secs), previously held by the Olympic athlete Martin Gillingham. Simon Gilbert (Year 8) now holds the School and District record for Discus after a National Qualifying throw of 35.06m. This was just too late for him to accompany his brother, Ben, to the National Championships.

Both our Junior and Intermediate teams qualified for the South-East Finals of the TSB National Cup. Our Year 8 team finished second with an impressive 394 points.

My thanks and congratulations to all our athletes in all age groups. This was a very enjoyable and successful season.

R.A.C.

Fencing

The fencing team has, once again, come to the end of a very successful season. The team won all its inter-school matches with victories against Aylesbury Grammar, Bradfield, Eton, Harrow, Marlborough and Wellington. This means that the school also retained the Southern England U18 team foil title and the épée team (of myself, Richard Coombes and Alastair Gerrard) won the London U19 Leon Paul competition.

Members of the club have also enjoyed successes on an individual level. The RGS dominated the local Southern Section and Berks, Bucks and Oxon competitions. In the Southern Section RGS fencers gained the top three places in every weapon at U18 level, with Tim Whitfield, Alastair Gerrard and Simon Fawell gaining the first place medals (at foil, épée and sabre respectively).

In the B, B and O competition, Tim won the Master-at-Arms trophy for best all round fencer at U18 with Toby Roebuck doing the same at U16 level. Further success was also gained by Richard Lawrence who won both the U16 sabre and foil competitions.

Further achievements were made by RGS fencers in the National Finals held in Cardiff and Warwick. Four fencers gained third place medals: Tim Whitfield (U18 foil), Alastair Gerrard (U18 épée), Toby Roebuck (U16 épée) and John Benham (U14 épée). John's success was particularly noteworthy as he defeated strong opposition and achieved the best ever result for an RGS fencer in that age group and weapon. Tim, Alastair and Toby were subsequently selected to represent England in the Home Internationals against Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which were held at Wrexham. They all received winners' medals as members of victorious teams.

The season culminated with an excellent performance at the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace. The school equalled last year's achievement of winning five finalist's medals. These went to Tim Whitfield (3rd=), Alastair Gerrard (3rd=) and William Rysdale (6th) in the Senior Foil, Richard Lawrence (8th) in the Junior Sabre and Toby Roebuck (3rd) in the Junior Épée. An excellent all-round team performance by all competitors meant that the school retained the Wheeler Cup for third placed team overall on points.

The breadth of RGS contribution to fencing outside school was reflected in several fencers being selected to represent the county in matches as well as Southern England in the Winton Cup.

Congratulations also go to Mark Chacksfield and S-L Tan for representing Cambridge in the Blues Match as well as to Eddie Rysdale and David Whiting who are two thirds of the London University foil team.

On behalf of all the fencers I would like to thank our coach, Mr Harry Jones, for his invaluable help, encouragement and training, Mrs Whitfield for her help on Thursday evenings, and Matron for sewing new life into old jackets.

I would also like to give special thanks to vice-captains Richard Coombes and Tim Whitfield, to armourers William Rysdale and Simon Fawell and to everyone who has been a part of school fencing this last year.

Tom Roebuck 6GC2
Captain

Golf

This year Luke Donald finally earned selection for the England Schools' Golf Team and won all his matches in a fixture against Scotland.

Not surprisingly, with Luke in our three man team, the RGS team won the regional qualifier for the National Schools' Championship played at Stoke Poges Golf Club. But he received excellent support from Nic Pembroke and Alan Bailey in winning by a considerable margin from the 25 other schools.

Unfortunately Luke was not available to play in the National Final at Forest-in-Arden Golf Club as he had been selected to play for England in France on the same day. But his replacement, David Novell of Year 10, gave excellent support to Nic and Alan in gorgeous Easter sunshine, and although all three players felt they should have done better – what golfer doesn't think that? – they finished in a respectable 9th place out of the 30 qualifying schools. If Alan and David, and others on the fringe of the team, can keep improving, and Luke can avoid being selected for England at the crucial time, then next year we should be in with a very good chance of winning it.

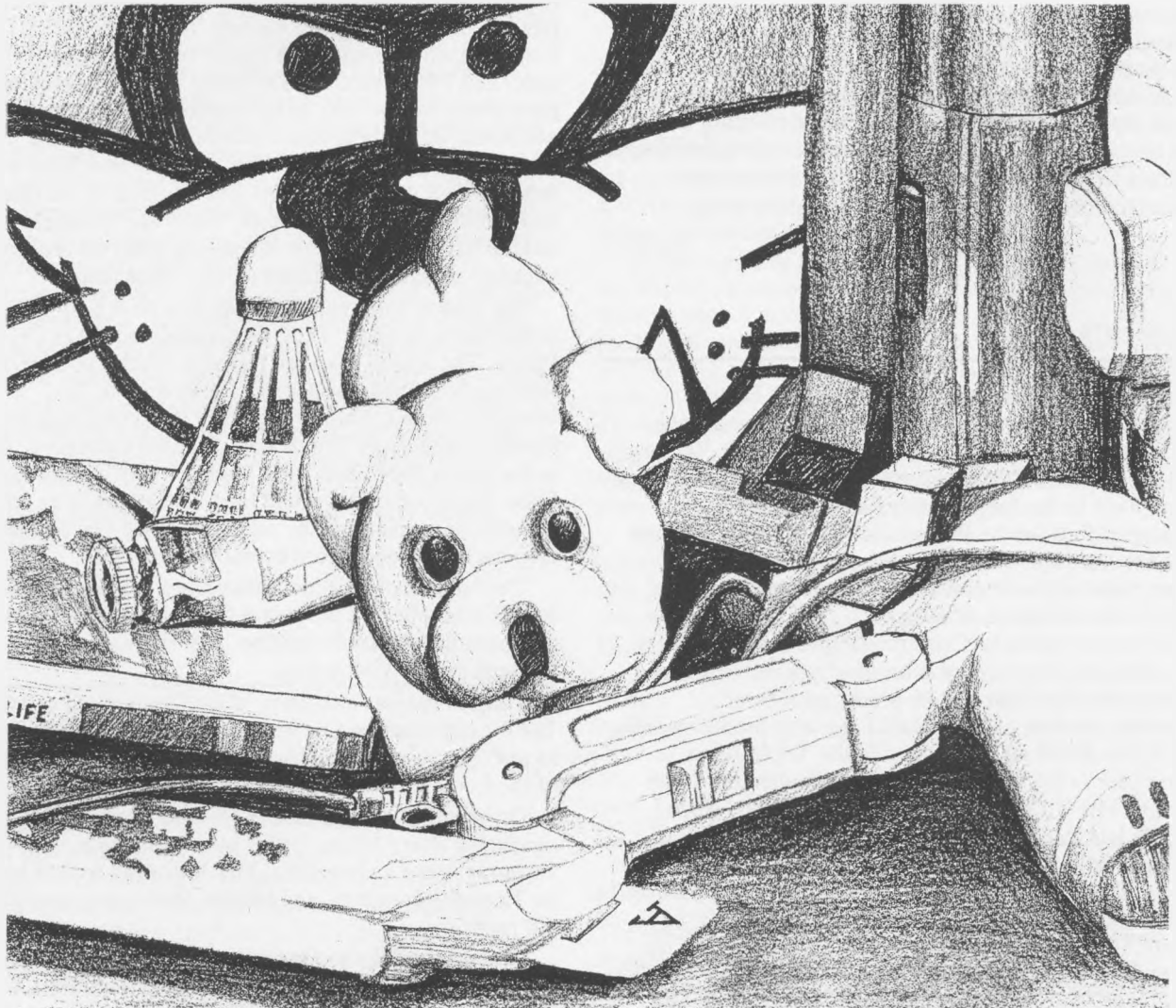
I.J.W.

Cross Country

Another enjoyable season has now finished. It has been a moderate season in terms of team performance, but two individuals have excelled. At Intermediate level Tim Gardner has continued to lead the way; he may have been disappointed to come only 4th in the County Championships in Hughenden Park, but he followed that with a splendid run in the Nationals at Kenilworth, coming home as county number two, in the low hundreds, his best national finish in four attempts. At Senior level Simon Molden emerged as a worthy captain putting in several splendid performances; he was delighted to come home in 2nd place in the County Championships, but surpassed even that in the Nationals where he finished as county number one in 103rd place, an outstanding effort.

There is a wealth of talent in Year 11, which if it fulfils its potential, should see two more successful seasons at senior level. The stalwarts of this year's senior team have been Simon Molden, Tom Beecroft, Andy Caldwell and more recently Damian McShane, while the emerging talent in Year 11 has come from Tim Gardner, Rupert Brown and Ben Walters.

I.J.W.



Rhys Cannon - Year 11

Basketball

In a season where the U19 team made early exits from the National Championships, Bucks Cup, and were not sufficiently competitive to enter the Herts League, RGS finished the year with much success and optimism for the future. The U14, U15 and U16 teams all changed their playing styles, developing an aggressive man-to-man defence and consequently playing some fast dynamic basketball which all gave great enjoyment.

The U16 team did not progress beyond the first round of the Nationals. Victories against Carterton and Licensed Victuallers' were not enough to compensate for a loss to Garth Hill (68-70). In the Herts League, RGS won six out of eight games, gaining great benefits from playing in this highly competitive environment. Sound wins in the early rounds ensured a meeting with Chesham High in the final with RGS seeking revenge for a narrow defeat the previous year. RGS were behind until the final quarter, before opening a 61-55 lead. In a tense last few minutes, RGS held out to win 64-61 in the game of the season. In a fine team that displayed great enthusiasm and commitment for the future, Ben and Simon Gilbert were both involved in National Development Squads.

The U15 team won only a single game in the National Championships, but had a fine run in the Bucks Cup, also meeting Chesham High in the final. In a performance reflecting their excellent progress during the year, RGS won by 102-80.

The U14 team, playing their first year of inter-school basketball, settled very quickly with many naturally talented ball-players. Although they progressed in the National Championships to play a very capable team from the European School, the U14s also reserved their best basketball for the Bucks Cup. They sought a hat-trick of victories against Chesham High in the finals. Simon Gilbert produced the outstanding individual performance of the year in scoring 50 points in the game as RGS won by 81-73.

My thanks to Mr Chuter whose excellent coaching of the U14 and U15 teams has done so much to develop the enthusiasm for basketball in the School.

M.J.D.

Swimming

Highlights this season included fifth place for James Horridge in the 100 metres individual backstroke in the National Finals. Once again the senior relay squad performed well in the Division 10 relays, gaining second place in the Freestyle Relay and third place in the Medley Relay. Our time in the freestyle relay was the eighth fastest in the country, and we were invited to the National Finals in Oldham. Injuries to two of the teams forced our withdrawal from the major event.

Large numbers of boys in the junior school represented the District in the County Schools' Championships held at Stowe.

C.C.T.

Boat Club

1994 Regattas

The Boat Club attended five regattas this season, and achieved a total of five wins and two second places.

The J16 VIII began their racing season at Wallingford Regatta. Rowing in the open Novice VIIIs event, they met Oxford Brookes University in the first round. In the lead after the first third of the 1500m course, the RGS crew saw their opponents hit a buoy and stop rowing. After completing the course under no pressure, RGS faced a quarter-final against Radley College. The public school boys proved to be a much sterner test and RGS went down



The J16 VIII at Bedford Star.

by four lengths. Later study of the times, however, showed that Radley had produced by far the fastest time for the event, and the RGS time in losing was comparable with those of all the other crews.

The turn of the senior crews came in the Ball Cup Races, held over a 1000m course on the Gloucester canal. In the Junior Ball Cup the 2nd IV rowed well to score a comfortable win in a straight final over the hosts, Wycliffe College. In the School/Junior sculls, Nick Webber beat a Wycliffe sculler easily to reach the final. Here he met a powerful challenge from the Becket School, Nottingham. Achieving a small advantage early in the race, but pushed very hard throughout, he eventually came through to win soundly by two lengths. The 1st IV also met Wycliffe in the first round, and duly completed a hat-trick of RGS wins. In the final their opponents were King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon. Against a very strong headwind both crews had to draw upon reserves of fitness. KES maintained a strong challenge in the first half of the race but, keeping the rate low and relying on power and technique, RGS steadily drew ahead and eventually won by three lengths. RGS thus won the Ball Cup for a third year in succession, and the Junior Ball Cup for the second time in three years.

Two crews competed at the Coate Water Park Regatta in the same atrocious weather that plagued RGS Show Day. In the conditions neither crew was able to find its form. The 2nd IV, in Senior 3 IVs, were beaten, having led in the early part of the race. The J16 VIII, in Novice VIIIs, faced Oxford Brookes University and Wycliffe College. Brookes were out for revenge after our defeat of them at Wallingford, and this they duly achieved. In the battle for second place RGS and Wycliffe dead-heated.

At the Bedford Star Junior Regatta the 2nd IV faced tough opposition in KCS Wimbledon in their first round. Despite putting up a good display over the first part of the

course they failed to match the power of their opponents at the end. The J16 VIII were entered in two events. In J16B VIIs they faced Eton College in the first round. In an excellent race the crews overlapped throughout the course. Eventually Eton managed to scrape home by a 'canvas', but our crew had acquitted itself very well. In the straight final of Novice VIIs they met a crew from the local Bedford School. Again rowing well, and putting up a faster time than in their earlier race, they nonetheless were unable to beat Bedford who won by $\frac{2}{3}$ of a length.

To complete the season the Boat Club made its now traditional annual trek down to Devon to compete in the Totnes and Bridgetown Royal Regatta, which is held over a lovely 1000m course on the River Dart. To make the long journey worthwhile our two crews were entered in four IVs events in the morning and in the VIIs event in the afternoon. The J16 squad was split into two IVs for the morning events. In the Novice IVs event, the 'B' crew, coxed (rather unexpectedly) by their coach, had a good win over Torquay and Wimbleball in the first round, but then failed to match the challenge of Ross-on-Wye and Paignton in the final, thus depriving their coach of his first-ever coxing pot. In the J16 IVs event, the 'A' crew beat Dartmouth easily to reach the final. Here they met Torpoint and Bideford 'Reds'. Torpoint were soon left far behind and RGS and the Reds contested a very close race, RGS emerging as worthy victors by $\frac{2}{3}$ of a length. The Lower Sixth crew (now rowing as the 1st IV) in Senior C IVs beat Dartmouth and Bideford 'Blues' to reach the final. Here they lost out to a good crew from Dartmouth, but beat Exeter into third place. In the straight final of Under 18 IVs they had a good win over Bideford 'Blues' and Dartmouth. These results meant that RGS retained both of the Junior trophies first won last year. For the experience, and to round off the day, the J16s were entered in the prestige Open VIIs event. (This was the only VIIs event on offer,

most West Country rowing being in IVs.) Here they faced a powerful and experienced adult crew from Greenbank Falmouth Rowing Club. After a shaky start, which gave their opponents the advantage, they rowed well over the second part of the course, and, in the circumstances, did well to limit the margin of defeat to four lengths.

At Prize-Giving, the Saunders Rowing Cup was awarded to Michael Garland, cox of the J16 VIII.

Summary of Events

[*win **second place]

Wallingford	J16 VIII
The Ball Cup Races	1st IV* - 2nd IV* - Junior scull*
Coate Water Park	1st IV - J16 VIII
Bedford Star Junior	1st IV - J16 VIII - J16 VIII**
Totnes & Bridgetown Royal	1st IV* - 1st IV** - J16 A IV* - J16 B IV - J16 VIII

Crews

Captain of Boats: D J Farr

1st IV	2nd/1st IV	J16 VIII
M F Burman	A Farley	R J Barksfield
M Aperghis	P C Spackman	D G Cockburn
C J Pearman	J D Brinn	J H Crompton
D J Farr (str.)	A J E R Cox (str.)	D L Large
C D Fletcher (cox)	G D Sugg (cox)	O H Seys Llewellyn
		A S Jagger
		G S Woods
		B G Beecroft (str.)
		M J Garland (cox)

J.P.E.

Tennis

1st Team

The season was one of so near and yet so far for the 1st team. In the Glanville Cup, after a bye in the first round, victories against Stowe (6-0), Dr Challoner's (5-1), and Shiplake College (6-0), meant that we faced Windsor Boys' in the 5th round for a place in the National finals in Sheffield. All 4 singles were lost and although both doubles were won, the result was a 4-2 defeat.

In the Midland Bank Cup, wins against King Alfred's School Wantage (4-2), Dr Challoner's (5-1), and Cooper's School Bicester, meant we faced Bradford College again for a place in the National finals. In a very close match the result was 3 sets all with RGS losing by 32 games to 27.

The final competition of the season was at Eton College in the Youll Cup. After losing in the 1st round to last year's winners and this year's finalists, Sevenoaks, we entered the plate competition. Wins against Hampton, King's School Macclesfield, and Eton College, took us to the semi-finals where we were beaten by Eastbourne, again on games, in a very close match.

The record for the season was :

Played 17 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 5

The nucleus of the team was Adam Harrison, Chris Monnington, Mike Jefferies and James King, but Guy Holland also made valuable contributions.

Colts

The Colts team also had a good season winning 5 of their 8 matches, and their enthusiasm and skill augurs well for the future of school tennis.

M.E.

Badminton Club

The Club meets on Wednesdays from 3.45 - 4.45 pm in the Sports Hall and runs throughout the academic year. The Club holds 'league' and 'knock-out' doubles competitions as well as 'free play'.

The year's medal winners are Nick Rochowski of 8E with Stephen Pain and Richard Pearce winning the U13 Knock-Out Doubles. P Skelton and D Dickson retained their U13 League title.

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

R.P.S.

O.C's Report

It is a great honour for me to take command of the RGS CCF. Surprisingly, I am only the third CO since the end of the War in 1945. Lt Colonel Pattinson, under whom I served as a Cadet whilst at school from 1953 to 1960 and as a young officer from 1966, died suddenly during our Summer Camp in 1977. He was succeeded by Lt Colonel Cooper, who after 17 years of vigorous and successful activity, stood down as OC last October. I am most grateful that he has kindly agreed to stay on and assist as the Officer within the Army Section responsible for NCO training and to continue to play an active part in weekend training and camps. The Contingent has been fortunate to have been under his guidance during a period of great change within the Ministry of Defence when the role of the CCF has been in question. There can be few who are greater believers in the value of the CCF experience.

I have found myself approaching the many demands of my new role with some apprehension, but reassured by knowing of the support and help that I should get from everyone connected with our CCF. I find that this support comes from all levels: the Regular Services, the TA, Officers and Instructors, parents, Old Boys and, of course, cadets. To get it is an uplifting experience. It makes it so splendidly enjoyable and I am most grateful.

It has been a very busy time since October. As well as a wide range of training activities, we have had our biennial Inspection by MOD and we were also, rather unexpectedly, inspected by the OFSTED team. I found it encouraging that the OFSTED report comments very favourably on the contribution that the CCF makes to the development of self-confidence and leadership qualities; a view that I have held for some time and one of the main reasons why I am determined that the CCF will continue to flourish.

We have yet to receive the formal report of the MOD Inspection but the indications are that it, too, will be encouraging. We were greatly favoured by the weather and the Inspection got off to a good start when the Naval Section conveyed Commodore Craig down the Thames from Medmenham to Danesfield on a glorious spring morning. The Guard of Honour were splendid: well turned-out and with immaculate drill, a tribute to our SSI, Mr Rowland, and to Sgt Pollitt from the Cadet Training Team. After lunch, the Commodore and his team of inspecting officers were shown a selection of the many activities undertaken by cadets on Thursday afternoons. He has been kind enough to write and to say: 'that he found standards to be high and everyone to be smart, willing and enthusiastic'. He has asked me to pass on: 'his sincere congratulations to all Officers, NCOs and Cadets for an excellent performance.' I am very pleased to do so.

The following pages give detailed reports on the activities that have been undertaken by the three Sections. There are also articles which provide a cadet's eye view of some of these training opportunities. There are a large number of out-of-school activities throughout the year, ranging from Range Days to week-long camps. The aim of all these is to develop useful skills whilst having fun with friends. I believe most achieve this aim.

All of this activity is only possible as a result of the hard work put in by our CCF staff. This year there have been important changes, one of which I have mentioned at the beginning of this report. We are fortunate that Lt Chris Cunningham has agreed to take over from me as OC Army

Section. 2/Lt McKellar, who has much useful TA experience to share with us, joined the staff last September and is starting to make a valued contribution on Thursday afternoons and at camp. Mrs Jenny Holt has agreed to join the RAF Section as a Civilian Instructor and she is already contributing to the very varied programme organised so vigorously by Flt Lt Darby.

I shall look forward, therefore, to the start of a new CCF year when we welcome new recruits from Year 9. I hope many will join and enjoy the experience of their first year in the CCF. They will need to take part in the range of activities, with enthusiasm, to get the most from it. I hope that many of the current Year 10 cadets will choose to stay on and to work towards the challenge of becoming an NCO. It is then that those coveted leadership skills are really developed.

R. G. Hollingworth

Royal Naval Section

The Royal Naval Section has had a very active year. Thirteen new cadets joined us in the autumn, and almost immediately they were involved in the visit of Captain Ritchie of HMS Dryad, who came to inspect us. After lunching with David Levin, Captain Ritchie saw our cadets in action raft-building at the Danesfield Sailing Club, where we are fortunate to have group membership. It was a highly successful afternoon, although one raft capsized spilling its occupants into the cold waters of the Thames. Another raft was first-rate and was paddled each way with apparent ease.

Our new cadets have applied themselves very well and completed their syllabus in record time, and are to be promoted earlier than usual as a result. Our senior cadets, who act as instructors, deserve considerable credit for this. Regular activities for everyone have included orienteering, shooting, climbing, seamanship, and the assault course as well as our waterborne training.

Sub-Lieutenant Joan Henderson has introduced us to Jet Skiing. We have made two visits to the Jet Ski Lake at Theale near Reading and this has proved so popular that a further visit is already planned for the summer term.

In early February we had an excellent Field Day at HMS Dryad where our cadets worked very hard with missile-directing simulators used by the Royal Navy. They also took part enthusiastically in an 'It's a Knockout' session in the swimming pool. Our overnight accommodation was on a destroyer, HMS Bristol in Portsmouth Harbour.

The General Inspection was carried out at the Thames in marvellous weather on 23 March. All our Toppers were on the water, and the Commodore watched Leadership Exercises involving bridge-building and a simulated mine-field.

Several cadets have attended courses and camps at Easter and many more are to do so in the summer. Courses chosen include diving, canoeing, leadership, power-boating and arduous training.

Our newcomers show plenty of enthusiasm and willingness, and the developing leadership skills in our senior cadets are quite evident. Our coxswain, Jonathan Brinn, has had the honour of being chosen as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, and he represented us admirably when the Queen visited High Wycombe recently.

Lieutenant Ross Barker
OC Royal Naval Section

Army Section

The Army Section has enjoyed a busy and successful year and has attracted an encouraging number of recruits from within the school. Last year saw 42 cadets join in July and brought the total strength of the Army Section to 66. In the autumn term Lt Col Hollingworth took over as OC CCF and his year in charge of the Army Section was greatly appreciated by those who worked with him and by the cadets. Lt James McKellar joined the staff and is assisting with the Army Section. A special thank you is due to Major Neil Cooper who, having handed over command of the CCF, is giving the benefit of his expertise in training the senior cadets.

Most of the training programme on Thursday afternoons is devoted to instructing the recruits in the Army Proficiency Syllabus and a total of 24 cadets gained their Certificates during 1994. The training programme also included visits to the assault course at CMETS Beaconsfield, use of the school climbing wall, map and compass exercises in Hughenden Park, orienteering in Wendover Woods and presentations by the Royal Logistics Corp and REME.

The Section has taken part in a wide range of activities: field days, weekend and evening training, and camps. The majority are organised within the Section by Officers and cadets.

Last summer the Section camp was under canvas in the Brecon Beacons and a stretching programme of activities was accomplished with enthusiasm and enjoyment. The Adventure Training Camp in March was once again based in the Peak District with battlecraft exercises carried out on the Leek Training Area, rock climbing on the Roaches, orienteering and an afternoon spent on command tasks. Our thanks go to Mrs Clare Cooper and Mr Clive Rowland for their catering and organisational skills at both these camps.

The Section has also taken part during the year in the Patrol Competition, the Target Rifle Competition, and the Skill at Arms Competition, all of which are organised by HQ Aldershot Area. Last year, the Section attended the Bisley Meeting and we are grateful to Lt Rysdale for his dedication and time to shooting activities. Other activities have included two battlecraft field days, three range days, a night navigation exercise in the Chilterns and weekend expeditions to Snowdonia and the Black Mountains.

Six senior cadets attended a Methods of Instruction Course organised by 16 CTT and have benefited greatly. Their expertise is aiding the training of the junior cadets and has been of use during camps and outside activities. This course and our training during the year owe a lot to the assistance given by the Training Team from Bicester and especially Sgt Pollitt. This year, for the first time, nine Army cadets and one RAF cadet are taking a weekend Lifesaver Plus course run by St John's and this will lead to a nationally recognised Adult Certificate in First Aid. This qualification is one of those included by the Army in the Advanced Proficiency Certificate.

We said goodbye last year to a number of senior cadets and we wish them well in their future careers. RSM William Richards and CSMs Alex King and Mark Burman were especially helpful during their year in charge. They have been succeeded by RSM Charles Porter, CSMs Andrew Davidson and Christian Hatt and C.Sgt Jonathan Dormand, and I am grateful for their help and support to me in my first year as OC.

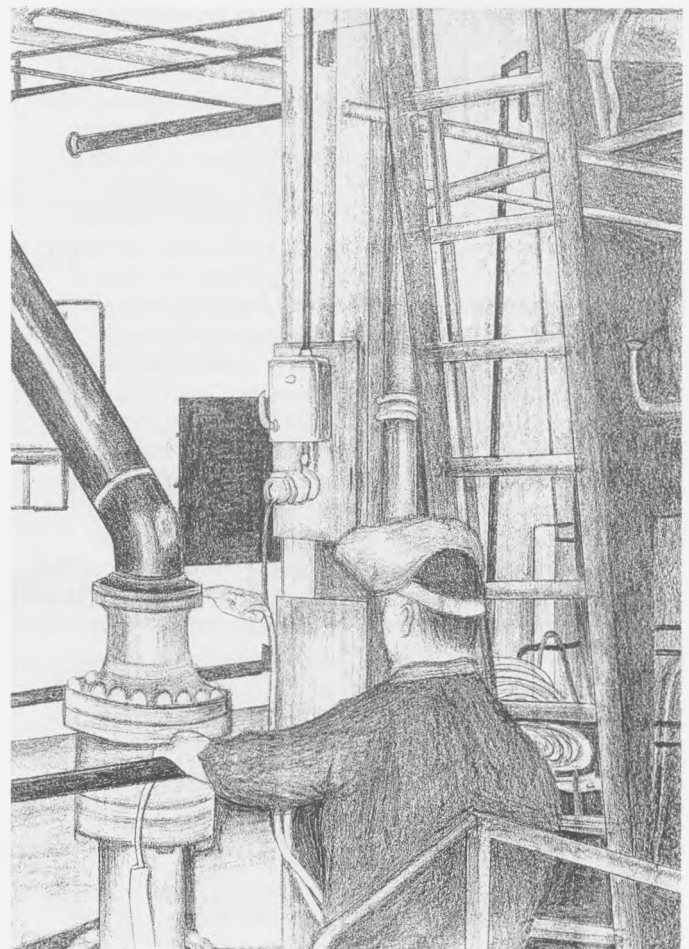
We rely heavily on regular support from adult instructors and former cadets and I would like to record my appreciation to Tony Boreham, Lt Jody Davies, Midshipman Neil Benstead, Sgt Jo Baguley, Alex King, Giles Edwards and Kevin Hodgson.

Lt C. J. Cunningham
OC Army Section

Battlecraft Exercise - November 1994 and March 1995

November: With the usual assortment of 'ex-SAS and mercenary forces' opposing us, the platoon of 'willing volunteers' set out to clear the training area of the enemy and relieve them of whatever destructive hardware they had managed to get their hands on this time. After the attack demonstration (during which the section commanders briefly defected to lend a hand), the platoon settled down for lunch only to be rudely interrupted halfway through by several enemy who even had the bad manners to open fire before we got our ammo sorted out! Luckily, they were scared off by 30 cadets shouting 'BANG' and so we set off on our mission.

Things proceeded smoothly, although the first platoon



Matthew Locke - Year 11

attack had to be repeated twice when the covering fire was too far away and one or two enemy managed to slip through our fingers. Things continued in this fashion as we moved toward the enemy's main base, since one section got lost and another was wiped out by the 'large, unidentified automatic weapon' we were warned about at the briefing.

A recce party was sent out to check that the enemy hadn't moved from where they were meant to be and the platoon attacked. The enemy were duly slaughtered and the position occupied for tea while the opposition retreated to their second main base. Despite two sections nearly shooting each other on the recce, it was successful, so plans were made, the rifle and gun groups sent out, the base destroyed, all enemy shot and the 'bombs' defused so we could progress to the best part of the day – the soup and roll at the end.

March: All fired up after the pre-lunch orienteering, the platoon set out to stop a set of unknown terrorists poisoning a reservoir and detonating an army surplus nuclear bomb after they had escaped from the local police station, and promptly crashed their car into a ditch (which, as Andy Davidson will verify, is a silly thing to do). We quickly arrived at our first objective with minimal hindrance (just the odd section sized battle) only to find that the enemy had, quite literally, gone West. Undaunted, we followed on behind and got caught up in a small 'argument' between us and them over who was going to occupy a hill. The platoon was unstoppable, however, and drove all opposition before it so it could stop and have a breather. Again we set off, and after a running battle with a group of exceptionally persistent enemy, had to execute a 'tactical withdrawal' when all the section commanders were unfortunately killed and reduced to riflemen while the 2ics took over.

With the threat of an imminent mortar attack hanging over them, they led off and successfully destroyed the two enemy bases in their way so the night phase could begin. The sections went out, found the enemy and returned for 'tea and medals' while the platoon commander concocted an absolutely infallible plan which, of course, promptly failed when two enemy hid in a ditch and wiped out the gun group. Result: a grudging win by the enemy who poisoned the water supply although they didn't blow up the bomb.

Although the battlecraft days are never as involved as the 24 hour ones on Leek and Greenfield camps, they are still a good opportunity to have fun while learning something (such as, the enemy does tend to get annoyed if you jump on them from high banks!).

Sgt O. Atkins

UKLF Leadership Course XXIV

If your idea of a fun second week of the Easter holiday is going to a cold army camp, then try the UKLF Leadership Course. I was lucky enough to be put into the only billet in which both heaters were broken!

Each morning, the Royal Scots, who were running the course, decided that we would be woken to the sound of bagpipes. We would then be thrown straight into PT or drill. The rest of the days were spent in mud or water or both: even though it did not rain until the last day, the instructors still managed to find streams and bogs through which we had to run.

Most of the leadership tasks were arduous and prolonged. For example: the ammo race performed as a sprint, the stretcher race through several bogs, and the trailer race where the trailer had to be pushed over uneven ground for about 1 km. All of these were done with webbing and a rifle digging into your back.

The highlight of the course, 'Highland Charge', was a 24 hour exercise: recce patrols at 0000hrs using night sights, sentry duty at the platoon harbour at 0200 hrs and 0400 hrs, and then an attack by the Regulars who set off our trip flares at 0530 hrs.

The course did improve our teamwork, leadership, self-confidence and we also learnt many new skills.

Sgt K. Saunders

Summer Camp 1994

The advance party, of which I was a part, arrived a day and a half before the cadets, set with the task of transforming a field deep in the Brecon Beacons into a place where everyone could eat, sleep and relax after the day's activities in relative comfort.

As always the activities kicked off with a morning of lessons in a training circus. Cadets were taught useful skills such as first-aid and survival, all of which would come in handy if the situation ever arose on the expedition or during the exercise. The afternoon then continued with orienteering up, down and around what seemed a very large mountain! Everyone enjoyed themselves, even though there was the odd injury. Captain Hollingworth cruised the course with his partner, Robert Skeggs, while most of us ended up slightly lost. However, the Captain's efforts were in vain as he was again deemed to be too good, which then surprisingly meant that Cadet Cotgreave and I took first place.

The next day, everyone was busy getting ready for the two-day exercise, which was to start at lunch. Two sections would pit their wits against each other in order to achieve a common goal. This year, information was to be collected from various sources and then picked up from a rendezvous point by a helicopter. Battle after battle took place and frustrations were gradually rising as both sections seemed to be getting nowhere. Unfortunately the exercise ended as a draw as neither C.Sgt Porter nor Sgt Dormand could beat the other.

Following the exercise but after a short well deserved rest, everyone set out on the expedition across the Beacons. Luckily, the weather remained quite pleasant and, although perhaps tiring for some of the younger cadets, they all seemed to be having a great time.

The following day, however, the weather took a turn for the worse and we were unable to do any command and leadership tasks or rock-climbing. However, the afternoon was filled with a trip to the local swimming pool where everyone without exception enjoyed a nice hot shower! At the end of camp, 'thank you' presentations took place, this year being special as it was the last camp Colonel Cooper would attend as CO of the CCF.

The camp was certainly very challenging while still being enjoyable and, more importantly, a great success. Thanks to all those who put in the time and effort to make it what it was.

Colour Sergeant Major A. Davidson

RAF Section

The RAF Section has been growing in size over the last few years and now stands at a total of 91 cadets, a strength that was boosted by a bumper intake of 42 junior cadets last September. Whilst this growth in membership gives more boys the opportunity to benefit from the training and personal development that the section offers, it stretches our limited resources – particularly the availability of trained adult staff. One of the reasons that Fg Off Seymour and I have been able to manage so far is the excellent support that the section receives from parents and Old Boys. For example, several parents have given many hours of their time to take boys gliding at weekends; an Old Boy, Fg Off Iain Brown, uses part of his annual holiday entitlement from work to carry out weapons training; and Mrs Sylvia Randles, who is a para-medic with the Ambulance Service, has for the past two years trained all our junior cadets in first-aid during her limited off-duty time. It is not possible to express adequately the gratitude we feel for the generosity of spirit of all these people.

The RAF Section has also been fortunate to gain another member of the RGS staff. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Jenny Holt has joined us as a Civilian Instructor, and her help is already proving a major asset to the running of the unit. Nevertheless, the section has now reached its optimum size, which means that competition to join and remain in the section will be even greater in the future. If any parent who has served in the RAF is interested in helping to run the Section, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Once again Easter brings the annual hand-over of command from the senior entry of Upper Sixth cadets, very well led for the past year by Cadet Warrant Officer Adam Harrison who did a particularly good job preparing the section for the General Inspection, ably assisted by Flight Sergeant Bruce Greenwood, our calm and efficient adjutant, and Flight Sergeant Julian Dunnnett in overall charge of the four flights of junior cadets. Flight Sergeant Chris Novell has done fine work organising the shooting this year, culminating in a convincing win in the inter-section competition, and Sergeant James Latham has provided the section with excellent logistic support

throughout. To them, and all the 'retiring' Senior NCOs, we wish good luck with their examination results and in their future careers. The new team comprises Warrant Officer Paul Tester, with Flight Sergeant Mark Gooding as Adjutant, Flight Sergeant Kevin Greenhill as Chief Instructor, and Flight Sergeants Colin Wright and Michael Garland in charge of the senior and junior cadet entries. This is an exceptionally strong team which I look forward to working with in the year ahead.

There have been two major developments this year, both of which are designed to increase still further the amount of flying available to cadets. Firstly, the authorities have agreed to RAF Benson becoming our affiliated station. This means that our relationship with Benson will be enhanced to include such things as 'field-days' during which up to 30 cadets will spend a day flying and shooting. The first of these events is scheduled for Friday 2 June.

The second initiative is the plan to form an RAF Section Gliding Club with an affiliation to the Chilterns Gliding Club at RAF Halton. The Chilterns is a club within the RAF Gliding and Soaring Association, whose purpose is to provide gliding for RAF personnel at an affordable cost. We would pay an annual block subscription to the Chilterns which would permit up to four cadets to glide with them each Saturday and Sunday and during holidays. Cadets would be entitled to gliding training at the same low prices as full club members, so a good day's gliding should cost only about £8. The cadets themselves will be largely responsible for the organisation of the club, and once again the assistance of parents will be needed for transportation. If this scheme is successful, our cadets should be able to enjoy as much gliding as they want at a very modest cost.

We have again done very well with the award of Scholarships. Flying Scholarships were successfully completed last summer by Julian Dunnnett, Chris Novell (see his article below) and Ben Sullivan, and as we go to press we have heard that Colin Wright has been awarded one for this year. Julian Dunnnett has also been awarded a University Cadetship, and Michael Garland a VI Form



Cpl Ben Markham prepares for a flight in a powered glider of 613 VGS.

Scholarship which includes a flying scholarship. Michael is also undertaking a gliding course in May.

All of us in the RAF Section are very much aware of the generous help we receive from many quarters. Our grateful thanks go to Flight Lieutenant David Burnett and his pilots of No 6 Air Experience Flight for the Chipmunk flying they provide our cadets at RAF Benson. Also to Squadron Leader Ian Mullan and his colleagues of No 613 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Halton for the much appreciated gliding they provide.

Once again our thanks go to Flight Lieutenant Barry Fryett and Flight Sergeant Andy Waddell of our RAF Liaison staff for their highly professional support throughout the year, as well as to Wing Commander Peter Drissell and Flight Lieutenant Tony Sollars who contribute so much to the success of our camps, to Lieutenant Geoff Rysdale for the shooting, and all the many others who have given so willingly of their free time.

Flight Lieutenant M. C. Darby
OC RAF Section

Flying Scholarship

Every year the Royal Air Force award a number of Flying Scholarships to those who show a keen interest in the service and who have the physical and mental aptitude for flying. Last year I was fortunate enough to be awarded one of these much sought-after scholarships. The course consisted of 20 hours' flying tuition in a light, two seater, aircraft, the Cessna 152 in my case. I spent three weeks at RAF Manston which is situated just north of Dover. Flying on an active station, I often found myself sharing the circuit not just with other light aircraft, but also large transport such as the C-130 'Hercules' and fast jets such as the American F-15 'Strike-Eagle'. However, not all of the time was spent flying. There was also an intensive ground school syllabus followed by the inevitable exams.

After just seven hours of flying with my instructor, otherwise known as Tom Cruise, I found myself calling for taxi clearance to embark on my first solo. It was not until I was about 10 feet above the ground that it sunk in. My first thought was 'Chris! What are you doing?' I ended my 15 minute flight with what I felt was a satisfactory landing. This was to be followed by 4 hours' solo flying and a further 9 hours of instruction. I was constantly tested; at any time in any sortie the instructor would simply close the throttle to simulate an engine failure. I would then have to select a suitable field and fly a circuit and approach without the use of engine power.

I regard my Flying Scholarship as one of the best experiences of my life and I am most grateful to the Royal Air Force. Our school is very fortunate to have a CCF which offers such a wide range of activities such as flying, gliding, shooting, lots of camps, adventure training exercises and, of course, the chance to win an RAF Flying Scholarship.

Flight Sergeant Chris Novell

Easter Camp 1995 RAF Northolt

Due to a clash of dates this year, our usual week of Easter Camp was reduced to five days. Also the venue was a local RAF station to save on travel time. All this, coupled with the fact that the camp was to be led by the newly promoted

Lower Sixth who had only just taken over control of the section, left us with some concern for the success of the camp. Any such doubts were soon forgotten once we arrived.

Because the camp was so short, it was even more jam packed with activities than usual. The senior NCOs were horrified by the lack of time in the programme for drill practice, although this did not seem to worry the junior cadets too much! All of us appreciated the large amounts of flying, shooting, orienteering and other fun activities on the programme. It was also good to meet some of the cadets from Bournemouth School that we had shared a camp with in Easter 1993.

Thus, the camp progressed at warp-speed with many of us being flown in HS125 aircraft, the RAF's executive jet, and others enjoying much coveted Gazelle helicopter flights, as well as powered glider flying. Many cadets flew twice in Chipmunk aircraft, the workhorse of RAF cadet flying that is shortly to be phased out of service. Visits included the RAF Museum at Hendon, and a well-planned night exercise that took place in some local woods, in which our aim was to prevent the outbreak of WW III. Sadly for the world we failed, but hope for better luck next time! Poorly constructed rafts and slight rule bending in the raft-race that followed led to a fun afternoon at the Hillingdon outdoor activities centre, and before we knew it, it was time to come home, happy and thoroughly exhausted.

During the past year the RAF section has taken part in many events, some of which are described in these articles. None of them would have been possible without the help and leadership provided by our officers, Flight Lieutenant Darby, Flying Officer Seymour and Mrs Holt, our Civilian Instructor. Our grateful thanks go to them as well as WO Adam Harrison and his colleagues of the senior entry for guiding us through this past year.

Warrant Officer Paul Tester

Easter Camp 1994 Cyprus

At 0400 on a drizzly Easter morning three cadets of the RAF Section flew from Gatwick to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus to arrive in a heatwave with average temperatures of 35° C.

For two solid weeks, together with 100 or so air cadets from other units, we enjoyed a routine of intensive sunbathing, karting, swimming, abseiling, rock-climbing, walking and sight-seeing. I even managed to try my hand at water-skiing. Most of us were fortunate enough to have flights in one of the station's search and rescue Wessex helicopters. This was my first ever flight in a helicopter, which was an unforgettable experience flying low over this picture-postcard island. During our stay we also learned a lot about the way the base carried out its everyday activities. We were even shown how to riot efficiently by the RAF Regiment. This was so that we could step completely out of character to play the part of an unruly mob, and they could practise controlling us. Final proof of a worthwhile but exhausting two weeks were our deep tans that drew admiring wolf-whistles on our return.

My very greatest of thanks must, of course, go to our officers for organising such a memorable camp, and also to the parents concerned for their help with transport.

Flight Sergeant Michael Garland

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Annual General Meeting

20 Old Boys attended the meeting, held on Saturday 1 April 1995. The minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

The completion of the Science Block had been turned down but other avenues were being explored.

Financial Report

The deficit of £946 was £246 less than last year due to a healthy increase of £205 from subscriptions. Subscriptions were received from 118 new life members totalling £3,540 which, added to the Capital Account balance of £7,928, less the year's deficit of £946, gave a balance to carry forward at the end of the year of £10,522.

Constitution of the Club

Geoffrey Green put forward the revised constitution for adoption. There was a prolonged discussion about whether it was necessary to re-elect Vice Presidents. Eventually it was left to the Committee to decide. Thanks were expressed to Geoffrey Green for his work.

Election of Officers

D. B. White resigned from the Committee, and J. W. M. Chadwick (1968-75) and T. C. Williams (1947-52) were elected to the Committee. Malcolm P. Smith was elected a Vice-President. All other officers of the Club were re-elected.

President's Comments

The school had had a very good OFSTED report and there were plans for a new boarding house and the opportunity to take part in the European Socrates programme. The latter would involve exchanges of staff and boys with a lycée at Futuroscope Science Park, funded by the European Union. A school shop was planned to increase revenue and he was pleased to see how well the school *Who's Who* was coming on. The school is in good heart and morale is high.

Annual Dinner

115 Old Boys sat down to dinner in the New Dining Hall after the AGM. Guest of Honour was Air Vice-Marshall Peter Collins, who was proposed by Bernard Peatey. The health of the School and Club was proposed by David Andrew, and the Headmaster, David Levin, responded.

Obituaries

Staff

A C Hills (1949-77) died March 1995. A C Hills came to RGS in 1949 as Senior English Master, after teaching at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol, and Alderman Newton's School, Leicester. During his time at RGS he established English as a key subject, and was responsible for sending a steady stream of boys to read English at Oxford and Cambridge and many other universities. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of his subject, and was a fountain of knowledge on a vast range of topics. He took a keen interest in the re-establishment of the School Library, classifying all the new books until his retirement in 1977. He was also Head of the Sixth Form, and in charge of the exam invigilation timetable. Outside his school work he was for many years an O Level senior examiner, and was involved in Oxford Diocese's education work. He was a stalwart bass in High Wycombe Parish Church Choir until well into his seventies – Thursday choir practice night was sacrosanct. His garden at Penn was extensive and carefully and expertly cultivated.

Charles was a scholar and a gentleman whose passing many generations of boys and colleagues mourn, and for whose friendship we have reason to be grateful.

Old Boys

J J L Collier (Class 5Sc 1947-48) aged 54 died in February 1987. John was a qualified Accountant employed by McIntyre Hudson Accountants of Cambridge, before he went self-employed. John was a cheery soul and could kick a mean tennis ball at goal in lunchtime breaks. He leaves a wife and family.

A N C Johnson (1927-34) died on 28th December 1994, aged 78.

J R C Loadman (1983-89) died aged 23 in a fall when climbing on Cader Idris just before Easter 1995. He had been President of the University Climbing Society whilst he had been at Cambridge.

T F Rayner (1934-40) On 18th November 1994 at Guy's Hospital, London. Francis Rayner was a boarder at the school, where he belonged to the Hobby Club and joined its annual camps. He also served in the Officers' Training Corps. On leaving RGS he went to Reading University, where he read agriculture. In March 1943 he started farming on his own account at Wooburn Common, moving to Hicknaham Farm at Littleworth Common in 1954. Francis was an active member of the National Farmers' Union in the 1970s and 1980s and served on several environmental committees of Bucks County Council, among which was his advisory role as farming representative in respect of footpaths. He was also a consumers' representative to the regional committee of the Southern Electricity Board.

Francis married Zoe Boddy, who was PE teacher at the RGS during the war, and he now leaves her as his widow, with their three sons and seven grandchildren. His brother Gordon lives at Beaconsfield.

Class of 5Sc 1947-48

16th Reunion August 20 1994

The reunion was in two parts: an afternoon visit to the school, and evening dinner on the Showboat moored at Harleyford Estate near Marlow. 16 old 5Sc-ians attended: Bryn Bennell, Ted Binder, Reg Tapping, * Tony Burrows, * John Tarrant, * John Tournier, Ron Wynands, Mike Durham, Reg Stone, Bernie Bowler, Colin Kennedy, * Alan Cussell, * Dudley Collard, Dick Bird, Dave Miles, John Stevens. Those marked with an * we had not seen for some 46 years! Eric Peddle sent his apologies, and Jim Rear had gone down with a lurgy-flu germ. David Jennings was on Bar Duty at HWRUFC.



Class of 5 Science 1947-48. Reunion No 16, held at the School 20 August 1994.

Left to right: Back Row: Reg Stone, Ted Binder, Tony Burrows, John Stevens, Alan Cussell, Reg Tapping, Dudley Collard, Bernard Bowler. Front: Dick Bird, Mike Durham, David Miles, Mervyn Davies (Master), Colin Kennedy, Ron Wynands, John Tarrant, John Tournier.

Mike Durham can be seen to be carrying some late homework - as usual!

Mervyn Davies, spritely as ever, joined us for the nostalgic trip around the Junior Building (it has not changed – bring your shorts and towel next time, Zoe will join us), the Geography Room, the School Hall, now a library, and other Holy Places, before tea and buns in the Staff Room. Many thanks to Malcolm Cook, Master, for showing us around. We kept losing John Tarrant, who reappeared from time to time with his pockets bulging, and a satisfied smirk on his face: what was he doing? (At 15 he had a penchant for collecting board dusters and hiding them in the class piano, over 20 at one time!!)

We were welcomed onto the Showboat by Angela (née Tucker) in the evening for preprandial drinks. Angela, you will remember, attended various classes at RGS, circa 1949, and so knew quite a number of us. And then to booze and food and a good time was had by all. Reg Stone collected some subs, and presented a pewter tankard to Ron Wynands for his efforts in tracking us all down. Ron replied that he had a full set of School Cert Examination

Papers for 1948, and as a thank you he would be inviting us all to sit again. Alan Cussell had been videoing all day and would be circulating a copy. (The copy is doing the Oz round at the moment – a nine minute edited spectacular.) Dick Bird had to leave early as he was flying to Bulgaria -OVS- early next day!!

Ron Wynands has done a remarkable job in tracking down the form. He has only two to find: David Michael Phillips (1945-51) and Fred V. Claxton (1944-48).

Can anyone help him to find a lead?

Is there anyone else out there who would like to trace the members of a form from school? I am sure Ron would help and the Hon. Secretary will put you in touch.

ANDREWS. S T H (1972-80) Simon finished at the Army Staff College, Camberley, in December 1994. He was posted to the Defence Research Agency, Chertsey, Surrey where he is currently working on equipments for service in Northern Ireland and Counter Terrorism worldwide. He recently saw Mike Summers (1972-80) who is still living and working in Cheshire and has added to his family with a third son.

ASPINALL. S (1983-87) is currently working as a consultant for a company which specialises in strategy consulting for the telecommunications, insurance and banking industries. He is living in London. At university (St Catherine's College, Oxford 1987-91) he was captain of the fencing club and was awarded an exceptional full blue. In 1993 he represented GB in the Fencing World Championships and this year he took part in the Fencing Commonwealth Championships in Whistler, Canada (June 1994). He competed in the individual épée event and the team event for England. About 150 fencing competitors took part in the Games. He won a bronze medal in the individual and was part of the team which took a silver medal (in both cases finally losing to the Canadians!).

BEARDALL. LT M J D RN (1977-82) is thoroughly enjoying being 'Guns' in the type 42 destroyer HMS Manchester presently on patrol in the Gulf. He is looking forward to his wedding in September where S C Bowater (1980-82), now working for Mobil in Washington DC, will be his best man, and T Cook (1976-82) FRCS will be an usher if he returns from Australia in time!

BECKET. G A (1935-40) persists; an operational patriarch, now only remarkable for having been castigated by Chas. Hills for an (alleged) immoderate addiction to litotes. Quietly useful about the town.

BECKET. H A (1964-70) vigorously advertising with his own agency, trading under the name of Ingenia. Father of four, resident at Wheathampstead and continues to play the organ.

BECKET. A R (1966-72) runs the Network Services installation team for Telemetrix, based at Loudwater but usually in rapid motion elsewhere. Lives in Prestwood.

BECKET. N S (1973-77) M.N. Captain of United Marine Aggregates dredger 'City of Southampton', currently removing the sea-bed around South Wales. Has a remarkable CV and a wife, both kept at Southampton. R.N.R.

Gerald Becket sends news of **WILLIAMS. C G F** (1935-40). After a flamboyant life counting exotic beans in the Western hemisphere, now spends half the year at home in N.Y. and the summer months with a boat on the banks of the Thames, being idle but opinionated.

BELBIN. M (1940-44) now works with his son, Nigel, designing and distributing Interplace, a computer-based Human Resource Management System, which is sent out all over the world. They have two overseas associate companies, Belbin Svenska and Belbin Australia. Meredith's books include *Management Teams: Why They Succeed or Fail* and *Team Roles at Work*, with a new one coming out at the end of 1995, *The Coming Shape of Organisation*. His garden near Cambridge was open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme in March and 607 people trailed through it.

BIRD. MALCOLM (DICK) (5Sci 1947-48) visited Australia during the winter and met Tony Ball who has recently retired and is enjoying life in Sydney. Tony was given a form for the *Who's Who* and two more to pass on to Messrs Bob McCulloch and Dudley Bishop – OW's who are also living in Australia.

CANN. I D (1983-89) is switching careers. After getting a First in Spanish and French at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he worked for LEK Partnership, a management consultancy in London for two years. He is taking up articles with the prominent London solicitors Freshfields, where Edward Evans (1965-72) is a partner.

His brother Gareth (1979-85) has passed his Inspector's exams in the West Midlands Police Force.

CHANDLER. G D (1968-75) has been made a manager in the National Westminster Bank. He is to set up a new specialist department. His younger brother, Christopher (1971-76), also works for the same bank in its London headquarters.

COLLEY. P M (1960-68) Peter Colley is a playwright and screenwriter living in California. His plays have been seen in 13 countries now (yes, even England). His latest film is called *Illusions* and stars Heather Locklear, Ned Beatty, Robert Carradine, Emma Sams and Susannah York. In September '94 he also premiered a new play in San Francisco called *The Lighthouse*. He is currently writing for the new CBS series *Due South*.

COLLEY. J P (1960-67) Colley P M's twin brother is living near Taunton and has twin boys of his own and has just had a baby girl. He runs his own company, Landmark Timber Products.

COLLINS. FRANK (1972-79) seems to get involved in everything! Just concluding a year as Area Chairman of Round Table Area 12 (North Wessex); about to become President of Bath Chamber of Commerce. In between times still finds time to be a partner in Moger and Sparrow, Solicitors of Bath, and to wonder what has happened to all his school contemporaries who don't seem to report into the magazine with their news.

COLLINS. D A (1941-48) After nearly 30 years in Research & Development for the Nuclear Power Industry, he eventually became disillusioned and since 1980 has worked as a self-employed maker of violins, violas and cellos – business is good!

GILLARD. P B (1950-52) wrote at length about his career at the RGS (copies can be had from the Hon. Sec.). He regards himself as being particularly fortunate to have been at the RGS. He has spent nearly 40 years of his subsequent career in Agricultural Education and has had many contacts with schools and other educational establishments. He has yet to come across one that had

quite the style, esprit de corps and Staff dedication that he experienced at the RGS. He would like to get in touch with RGS 6th formers of the 1950-52 period.

GOLDRING. M D (1962-68) has been appointed Director of Music at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

HAYWOOD. C (1959-65) As reported in previous magazines Chris is a well known actor in Australia, a veritable king of rogues if you go by the roles he's played in 58 films, 28 plays and 200 hours of television drama. He has just won (April 1995) a Logie (equivalent of an Academy Award) as Best Actor in Best Series *Gates of Janus*.

HOUGH. MATTHEW (1976-82) has become a member of the Royal College of Physicians and is at present on an exchange job at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. A part of his role involves working as the anaesthetist on the flying surgical team.

KNOWLES. K M (1966-72) remains a University Lecturer in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Churchill College, where as of 1 October 1994, he took on the post as Tutor for Admissions in Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics in addition to his other post there as one of the Director of Studies in Natural Sciences.

MERRIMAN. D W (1969-76) After approximately 12 years in the Far East Merriman is now based in the UK where he looks after the European Operation of Alfred Dunhill Ltd, the British luxury goods company.

MONJACK. S (1982-88) is a media millionaire, a friend of some of the most influential people in the music and movie business and plans to revolutionise and revitalise the British film industry through his company Support British Film. Its first movie is already in pre-production. Simon went to America in the 1980s as an art dealer and while he was there met the legendary black film maker Melvyn Van Peebles who taught him how to make movies. The pair set up the world's first interactive magazine, sent by fax and Email, and he eventually founded New Jack Promotions. According to an article in *The Bucks Free Press* one of his missions is to give people from ethnic backgrounds the chance to make movies. 'Fight the Power' he says, using the familiar battle cry of some of America's black history shapers, 'it's what it is all about.'

ORME. I M (1963-70) Dr Orme is internationally recognised for his expertise in the study of tuberculosis and the effects of aging on the immune response to the disease. Thanks to his work, scientists across the world have improved animal models on which to conduct studies so that one day, it is hoped, the world will be free of this serious illness. He has just been inducted into the George M Glover Gallery of Distinguished Faculty and Alumni at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University. He would be delighted to give anyone with an RGS connection a local tour. One attraction is the Rocky Mountain National Park, 25 miles west of CSU.

PRATT. S (1984-90) Stephen graduated first class in Natural Sciences, Clare College, Cambridge (1994). Now studying Computer Science at Cambridge (until July 1995). Due to start work for Praxis plc, Bath, October 1995. To be married to Miss C. Alice Bull, 12 August 1995 at Wesley Church, Cambridge.

SABINE. C R (1957-66) has moved house, but is still in Alresford, Hants. He is now living next to the Watercross Line, and any Old Boys travelling on the line can wave to

him. His Educational Management Consultancy is developing fast, and he is heavily involved in advising schools on Marketing, Public Relations and Promotion. He has been elected as the City Councillor for Alresford and is Vice-Chairman of Traffic.

SAUNDERS. J R (1943-50) has been running the subsidiary in the UK of a German Manufacturing Group in automotive components and is approaching retirement after a lifetime in Manufacturing Industry. He has visited Hall E (1944-51) at his flat in Florida for the last two years. The latter has, at a relatively advanced age, gone into business, marketing a range of computerised flight simulators. The former has also met Langston P A (1943-49) and Varney D G during the last year or so.

SWINHOE-STANDEN. R A P (1975-81) Rupert continues to soldier on in the Royal Artillery, and has just started Part I of the Army Staff Course. Shrivenham is not as rainy as Northern Ireland where he has just come from, and certainly not as sunny as the Cyprus tour before that!

THOMAS. H M (1969-76) Howard is Managing Director of Thomas Pace, a sports hospitality company, based in Banbury. His company is involved in looking after visiting cricket tourists amongst other things.

WHITE. C R J (1978-83) has recently secured the

position of Principal Planning Officer (Policy and Projects) at Wyre Borough Council based in Poulton-le-Fylde.

WILKINSON. P J (1967-74) Peter has gone back to sea in command of the port crew of HMS Vanguard and completed the UK's first Trident Missile deterrent patrol from December 1994 - February 1995. He would be delighted for any other old boys in the RN to get in touch if visiting the Faslane Submarine Base.

WISE. M E (1945-48) went direct from school to Airmec Laboratories to qualify as a mechanical engineer. He moved on to British Communications Corporation in 1955, and Canadair, Montreal, in 1957. He started 28 years of service with Boeing Aerospace, Seattle, USA in 1959, becoming a senior engineer and group leader specialising in missile contract management. He is married to Sonia from Berkhamstead, three children. He has retired and commutes between Arizona and Washington chasing the sun, and he visits High Wycombe every couple of years.

ZERNY. A M (1988-94) is the secretary of Exeter University Conservative Association and has been in regular contact with Barber R J H (1987-93) who is the Chairman of the Association, and Waldron C J (1988-94) who is currently working at the centre of the UK Book Trade.

Who's Who at the RGS

It is just possible that you have not heard about *Who's Who at the RGS*.

It was the Headmaster who devised the scheme and asked me to be the Editor. The aim is to put former pupils back in touch with their peers and the school. It is also important to forge stronger links between pupils in the school now, and those who have left – work experience, careers advice and so on. You can see for yourself in this magazine that there is a large and flourishing Old Wycombensians' Club, but some pupils leave the school without ever joining. If your son is in the school now or has just left, Life Membership of the OW Club would be a fine gift that you could consider buying him.

We set about finding those former pupils and members of staff who had slipped through the net, so that we could include as many as possible in the launch edition of *Who's Who at the RGS*, due out very soon. The local press were very helpful in spreading the word. We put an announcement in the *Daily Telegraph*, and various local and distant newspapers published my letters. Also, there are handbills (designed by a Year 11 boy) in all the local branches of Lloyds Bank.

The members of the club were the first to hear and theirs were the first forms to be sent back in. This is when I started to receive some very touching letters from old boys of the school. *Who's Who* inspired quite a few trips down memory lane. Here are a few extracts, which will (mostly) be anonymous....

From Thirsk: 'I was awarded the RSPCA Bronze Medal (1933) for rescuing a dog that weighed more than me. It had fallen through the ice on the Rye, I dived in and hauled it out, somehow'. In his finest hour, our hero managed to smash his glasses, so he cycled home, dripping wet, frozen stiff, half blind. And his reward from the grateful owner? A framed photo of the enormous dog, now in the school archives.

From Hazlemere: 'I saw those photographs that you had published in the *Wycombe Star*. Did you know that it was my father (a carpenter) who hung the Headmaster's door in the new school in 1914? I was at school in the 1930's.'

From Birmingham: 'When the war broke out I organised patrols after school each day. Armed with broom handles and one bullet between us we searched the lanes of Hazlemere for invading enemy parachutists.' They didn't find any and the bullet was, of course, confiscated.

From Hughenden Valley: 'I wonder if I am the only old girl from Wycombe High who is also an old boy of the RGS?' No, there is more than one former pupil of WHS who has ended up on the staff of the RGS.

From Mount Morgan, Queensland, Australia: 'When I was in Sydney during last summer I got chatting to a fellow at Central Station. It turned out that he was an old boy of the RGS.' We are still attempting to find out who he was so that we can send him a *Who's Who* form to complete.

From Oxford: 'I bumped into someone in Debenham's and he turned out to be an old boy of the RGS. We hadn't met since 1933. I am so pleased that you are compiling a *Who's Who*. I wonder who else I may bump into when I buy the book.'

From various places regarding our new Headmaster: 'I remember David Levin. He was a boarder at the same time as me (61-67). Fancy that, so he's the Headmaster now?' No, different David Levin.

From Jakarta, Indonesia: 'I hear that you are compiling a *Who's Who*. I am a former pupil. Please send me the paperwork. Are there any other old boys of the school here? I would like to get in touch with them if so.' There was one. I wrote with details. 'Thank you for your

fax. I know that fellow. We are good friends. We met when on holiday in Lombok, but I had no idea that he was an old boy of the RGS.'

From Zanzibar, Tanzania: 'I am pleased that my old school friend now in Thailand put you in touch and here is my completed *Who's Who* form. When I was flying recently on BA between Dallas and Gatwick the co-pilot turned out to be an RGS old boy. And there are plenty of others flying out of Gatwick.'

One OW who lives in New Zealand wrote and offered to set up an NZ branch of the RGS OW Club. This is a first and is very exciting. He has written to point out that, being so far away, it is not possible to attend the Annual Old Boys' Dinner at the school, so now they will have their own gathering of the clan in NZ. See details at the end.

John C Williams, who came to the RGS in 1949, has given me the names of several of his former classmates in Mervyn Davies' class of IIc. I have dispatched *Who's Who* forms to them all. John is trying to track down the rest of

them. If you could help, would you please write to John c/o the OW Club at the school.

I have many people to thank for help with our venture. Individuals in the OW Club have donated cash – this will keep the cost of the book to a modest level. One also donated a computer, so the OW Club have their own workstation now. Ray Lovell and Joan Allen of the Computing Department have done a huge amount of work, designing screens for the database and processing data. I have had an army of parents, fellow Governors and old boys who have helped with the data entry. But my final thanks go to the staff of the Resources Centre at the school. Never have so many cups of coffee been made for so many by so few. And cheerfully too, when our spirits were down after we lost data once or twice. It has been good fun, very rewarding and I recommend our two year's work to you. Buy now while stocks last.

Sheila Mawhood,
Editor and Parent Governor

Notices

1. New Zealand branch of RGS OW Club.
Please write to :
Mr Jim Rickard, Waikite Road RD 5,
Welcome Bay, Tauranga,
NEW ZEALAND
2. Calling all OWs who joined the school in 1979.
Antony Michell (1979-83) wants to organise
a reunion next time he visits the UK.
Please write to him :
Flat 2c, 6th Floor, Robinson Crest,
71 Robinson Road, Mid Levels,
HONG KONG
3. To order your copy of the launch edition of
Who's Who at the RGS, apply to the school
for the order form.

THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



RGS

1995

The Royal Grammar School



18th June 1995

From: The Old Wycombiensian Office

Dear Old Boy

I wish that I could give you a publication date for WHO'S WHO and the price. But I can not...not yet, we still have a small way to go before we hand over to the printers and we just can not rush the final proof reading stage. Please be patient with me, after all, this is a once in a lifetime publication (the **launch** edition of WHO'S WHO) and great care is required right now. But then, they will insist on having all of these school holidays in July/August so my parent helpers will all be a bit thin on the ground for the next 6 weeks. Once we are all back on deck in September I expect that we will finish the remaining tasks quickly and you can make way on your bookcase for the book. I have a few items of news for you though.

Did you board at Tylers Wood when you were at the school? If yes, you will remember the Pattinson family I am sure. Well "Pat" Pattinson died 18 years ago, probably you knew that, but Mrs Jean Pattinson lives in my road! We have very recently become acquainted. Her sons Ian and Michael are not far away (Cambridge and Rugby, respectively). She tells me that in all she spent 35 years working for the school - mostly at Tylers Wood but the final 6 years were as Matron in School House. You could drop her a line c/o the school, she does enjoy hearing from you all.

Remember the promised 1962 cine film of the opening of the Queen's Hall? Well, it arrived the other day thanks to Rodney BARNARD, he was in the school in the late 20's. It is marvellous, short and sweet but now a very important part of the school's archives. Perhaps Malcolm Cook will arrange for the video to be screened at your next Club dinner? Rodney also sent a number of very interesting photos. John Roebuck (Head of History) is planning an exhibition at some future point...watch this space for further details.

Did I tell you that I contacted some of the club members in South Devon to spur on the boatclub boys at the TOTNES AND BRIDGETOWN ROYAL REGATTA a week ago? Well it was a great success, they won two events and a few of you attended. I am very grateful to Jeremy P J EDWARDS and his wife who rounded up the local OWs, they have sent some action photos..and yes, we promise to give more notice next year.

I have kept the best wine until last. One of the club members has arranged a very generous sponsorship donation for WHO'S WHO - £2,000 - that will help keep the price down. I hope that you enjoy the summer holidays. I will write again in the autumn.

yours sincerely

Sheila Mawhood Parent Governor & Editor of WHO'S WHO AT THE RGS