

WELLS

CHRONICLE

1996



CHRONICLE

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EDITORIAL TEAM

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TRIPS	James Powell
HOUSES	Milan Thomas
SOCIETIES	Anurag Sharma
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MUSIC	Patrick Finglass
SPORT	Alastair Treharne
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The aerial photograph of the school opposite was taken by a Canberra aircraft of No. 39 squadron from RAF Marham, which King Edward's cadets visited for their 1995 Summer Camp. The curious grid-like markings on the playing fields by the Bristol Road indicate the site of the school's temporary buildings, erected in the 1930's.

Editorial

Having eagerly awaited the arrival of last year's Chronicle, my anticipation this year was even greater. What started as a notice in Big School from Mr Burns last October has developed into a marvellous account of 1996 at King Edward's.

As captain of the good ship "Chronicle", I have often had to cope with the threat of mutiny in the ranks as Mr Burns and his able assistant Miss Tudor begged and pleaded with the editorial staff to start doing some work, or else - a frightening threat as I'm sure you'll all agree. But fear not. It all came good (as it always does), even despite the best efforts of some boys to ignore the constant requests for clear, legible, word-processed articles that are handed in on time.

Last year it all seemed so easy. As a lowly Sports Editor, I marvelled at the way the Chronicle finally managed to come out on time, and constantly improve upon its predecessors. This year, I have learnt just how much work is involved in organising such a huge project.

Without the unflappable leadership of JCSB and CMLT, this year's Chronicle would have collapsed months ago. Their sarcastic yet encouraging comments proved effective, and their huge contribution should not be underestimated. Hopefully, the production of the Chronicle has been a little easier for the staff at the Resources Centre. In my absence during the Summer term, I assume that the editorial team carried out their mission to file every article on disk, and if so, then they have done superbly. I thank both the editorial staff and "them up the drive" for the invaluable and dedicated efforts.

Finally, a word to boys in the Lower School. When I first joined this school in 1989, I was unaware of the importance of involvement in school life at KES. The subsequent editions of the Chronicle that you receive will be a measure of your contributions to school life, and will provide you with wonderful memories of your seven years at King Edward's. Make sure that you use your time here wisely.

Since this edition marks yet another sad departure of pupils and staff from KES, I should like to take this opportunity to wish all of the leavers the best of luck. Once again, thanks to Mr Burns for his help and guidance, and to all those who were involved in the production of this year's Chronicle. My best wishes go to all future editors of the Chronicle - it could be you ...

Dan Montague: Editor 1996.

'His Master's Voice ...'

My thanks, as ever, go to the Resources Centre staff, for their good-humoured help and reassurance; to the Chronicle staff, who worked hard to transfer so much of the material onto disk, (a Chronicle first); to Bradley Spencer for the colour artwork; to Alastair, Henry and Nick for the magazine cover and individual section pages; and to Patrick Finglass, who selflessly took on the mantle of proof reader, with an efficiency not seen since the days of Hugh Houghton.

Although the obituary to Nick Holiday was published in last year's Chronicle, his death occurred some five weeks into the academic term covered by this edition. Thus within these pages are recorded both the gratitude of boys for Nick's help on the geography trip in September, and their touching expression of loss of his death a few weeks later.

JCSB



HELLOS

Mark Beard



C: What did you do before coming to K.E.S.?

MB: I left school after taking my A-levels and had a year off, teaching at a school in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. My job mainly involved teaching English, Science and sport. For part of the year, I also travelled around the world experiencing different cultures and societies which was both educational and interesting. I went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford to do a degree in Chemistry. Before coming here I was at King Alfred's School, Wantage, Oxfordshire.

C: Was teaching the profession that you set out to do originally?

MB: Yes, from the time that I started secondary education, I enjoyed the idea of teaching. I got the impression that teachers had a really good time. Then my experience in Malaysia showed me that it was what I really wanted to do. In addition it gave me the chance to pursue my sporting interests. I coach the U15 B rugby team, who have had an up and down season (mainly down), but I have enjoyed it.

C: What interests do you have outside school?

MB: I am a keen squash player and have joined a gym in the centre of town. I enjoy going out to the countryside at the weekend to get away from the city. I also go to the theatre and cinema.

C: How does Birmingham compare to London?

MB: I used to live near Croydon, which is in South London. The cities are quite similar in terms of facilities, now that Birmingham has the Convention Centre and the Symphony Hall and the lively Broad Street. London is, however, more spread out so it takes much longer to get to the centre, whereas Birmingham is far more compact. It is also generally easier to park in Birmingham.

C: What do you think of the facilities here?

MB: I am very impressed with the facilities at K.E.S and every taste is catered for. There is a strong emphasis on all sports here. It is common for a school to be proficient in one particular sport, but at this school there are competent teams in every field. For those not tailored to sport, there is music and drama to be involved with.

C: Journalism, too.

MB: Indeed.

C: What ambitions do you have for the future?

MB: One day I hope to move on and become head of a Chemistry department myself, whether it be here or at another school.

C: Hint, hint?

MB: I think Mr. Hancock has got a long way to go yet! Anyway, I am very happy where I am at the moment.

C: Thank you very much, Mr. Beard.

Jeremy Everest



C: So what is it like being on "the other side of the fence"?

JE: It's better paid than being a pupil! It is hard work, and it can be quite stressful at times, but on the other hand it's also very good fun, and more importantly, rewarding. I would certainly recommend teaching here. If you should want to become a teacher, then this is the school to be one.

C: Does your father keep checking up on you?

JE: (Laughs) No!

C: Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

JE: As Professor Sir Jeremy Everest, the man who finally disproved the theory of global warming once and for all.

C: If you had the choice of any one person whom you could teach, who would it be?

JE: I'd have to say Cindy Crawford.

C: Could you tell us any Common Room gossip?

JE: This might be printed, so I daren't.

C: What do you do outside of school?

JE: Some of the staff go out, perhaps for a few drinks or a curry. I like to go wind surfing, one of my passions in life or I visit friends in Edinburgh, where I used to go to university, or I visit my girlfriend in Manchester. I also seem to spend a lot of time fixing my Land Rover.

C: If you were the Chief Master, what would you change about the school?

JE: I'd quickly organise the abolition of homework, so that I wouldn't have so much to mark! But seriously, I'd reduce the pupil intake from what it is now, at 130, to about 90. This would reduce the class sizes substantially, and would maintain the quality of teaching. I would also encourage people to take active years off between leaving school and going to university. A lot of emphasis is placed on years out ahead, but I think it is a very important part of your life. It gives you a different outlook on life, because it allows you to travel to various parts of the world, visit people and make new friends, which moving straight from school to university wouldn't do.

C: What did you do in your year out?

JE: I travelled around New Zealand, hence the maps on the wall and the poster of their rugby team.

C: Mr. Everest, thank you very much.

Brian Henderson



C: Could you tell me a bit about your early life?

BH: I went to Quarry Bank High School which is famous as John Lennon went there. I went on to Liverpool University, where I did my Physics degree and then a Certificate of Education. My first teaching post was

at a Liverpool comprehensive school where I stayed for three years.

C: What did you do after that?

BH: I fancied a change and so moved down to the Midlands where I became Head of Science at a school which had just turned comprehensive. It was quite challenging as I had money to spend on apparatus and I was also responsible for starting up Physics as a subject at 'A' Level. After that I came to this school.

C: Is teaching something you always wanted to do?

BH: No, not at all - I thought that I would never go into teaching, but before I went to University I spent a year working in an ICI research plant and found it far too impersonal there. I realised that I wanted a career where I would come into contact with people, and so I decided to go into teaching after I finished my degree.

C: What do you think of the facilities here at K.E.S. compared to those at comprehensives such as the one in which you have taught?

BH: Comprehensive schools are struggling, but during the late 70's a lot of money was pumped into them which means that they have relatively modern apparatus for the science subjects. The apparatus available here is splendid and I don't think that pupils here realise how lucky they are; admittedly, in certain areas the apparatus is somewhat more aged, but I suppose this adds to the character of the school.

C: What interests do you have outside of school?

BH: At the moment I teach part-time which is brilliant as it allows me to get on with my interests outside of school. I am secretary for the local Canal Society which is hard work, but I relax by going on my canal boat. I am also involved with my local church and at the moment I am learning how to make church organs, which is great fun as it allows me to use the skills I have learnt in physics.

C: Mr. Henderson, thank you very much.

Martin Monks

C: Could you tell me a little about your past?

MM: I was born in Ashford, Kent but went to school in Nottinghamshire. I progressed to the Royal College of Music, London. Before coming here I was head of music at K. E. Aston.

C: Have you been exhilarated or simply depressed at the standard of music here?

MM: I've been very impressed.



C: What have you brought to the K.E.S. music team?

MM: Youth and enthusiasm!

C: Do you share the music department's distaste for popular music?

MM: Um...no but I think that pupils can develop that side of their musical interests easily out of school, whereas, with classical music they need the guidance and facilities that school can provide. Also with pop music I find that people play it so loudly that they can't hear when it's going wrong.

C: What developments do you anticipate in the music school in the next few years?

MM: I've got to go with the flow. I have got ideas but it's not really up to me.

C: Have you always wanted to teach?

MM: No, I nearly studied ophthalmic optics, (being an optician), but it suddenly occurred to me that staring into people's eyes all day, every day would be horrifically tedious.

C: What instruments do you play?

MM: The oboe is my main instrument, and then I dabble with the piano, saxophone and guitar. I started on the oboe at the age of 13 and I've played piano since I was 8.

C: On whom is your hairstyle modelled?

MM: It just sort of happened...

C: Thank you, Mr Monks, very much.

Rob James



C: Your first contact with KES boys was on the rugby trip to South Africa. How did you get on?

RJ: It was great. Everyone made me feel very welcome, and it was nice to see the country. All the locals were extremely friendly - it's a terrific place. Both myself and the boys were amazed at how high the standard of school boy rugby was. I would say that it is of higher standard than Britain.

C: And how has KES itself struck you?

RJ: It's a superb school, and I'm not sure the boys appreciate how lucky they are to be able to come to a school like K.E. They have so many facilities at their disposal. There is a tremendous amount of sporting opportunities available, and all are coached to a very high standard.

C: Do you think there is room for any more sports? How about football?

RJ: I think there are enough options already. To have a football option would require extra staff, extra pitches, and extra time, which we just haven't got available. Also, there are many football clubs outside of school, which pupils could join if they so wish.

C: Is there not a place for soccer at a recreational level, say in a PE lesson?

RJ: On those sorts of terms, I would say yes, with certain groups and at certain times, although as I have said, there is already a large number of options on offer. Boys can always play on the Parade Ground in their spare time.

C: What sports do you like to play or watch yourself?

RJ: I'm a big rugby fan, but I also like basketball. I've recently started supporting Birmingham City (*big mistake - Ed.*), because I like football as well. I also play golf, when I can find the time.

C: Can you tell us a piece of Common Room gossip?

RJ: No way, Mr Campbell wouldn't like it if I let on about his...

C: Mr James, I think we'll leave it there. Thank you.

Gwyneth Gardiner

C: What did you do before coming to KES?

GG: I got to Southampton university, and then decided to go to West Africa on voluntary service for a year, teaching maths and physics in Ghana. I came back to Oxford to do three years' research, and then I went into lecturing at a teacher training college for students majoring in maths. Then we moved to

Birmingham, and I started teaching in Solihull School, and then became head of maths at Edgbaston High School. I decided to call it a day after the birth of our third child, but continued tutoring and doing summer schools for the Open University. I was then roped in to help with under-graduates at Birmingham University before coming here.

C: What was different about teaching in Ghana?

GG: Well, we're talking about nearly twenty years ago. To be honest, I think I learned more from them than they did from me. It was very peculiar teaching physics to them, because, say, I would be teaching them about electricity and they would not have any electricity in their homes. Some of the syllabus was completely alien to them. Children were trying to learn about oceans, never having seen the sea. It was a boarding school, and this meant that most of children were living in two completely different cultures - that of the school

and that of the village. But overall, it was good fun and I got a lot out of it.

C: Were any preconceptions about the school you had as a parent confirmed or disproved when you came here to teach?

GG: Overall I think it is generally similar to other schools I have taught at, but I was confirmed in the fact that the boys are extremely busy and cram an awful lot into one day. The pace, not just the academic pace, but the pace of life in general, is very great here.

C: What would you change about the school if you could?

GG: I don't think I'm in a position after one year to change anything ... but I would like to see boys getting more enjoyment out of maths.

C: Could you tell us a bit about your outside interests?

GG: I have to admit I don't have much time for them! - most of my spare time is spent here teaching maths. I do go to concerts, though not as much as I used to, and I play the piano. I also like to



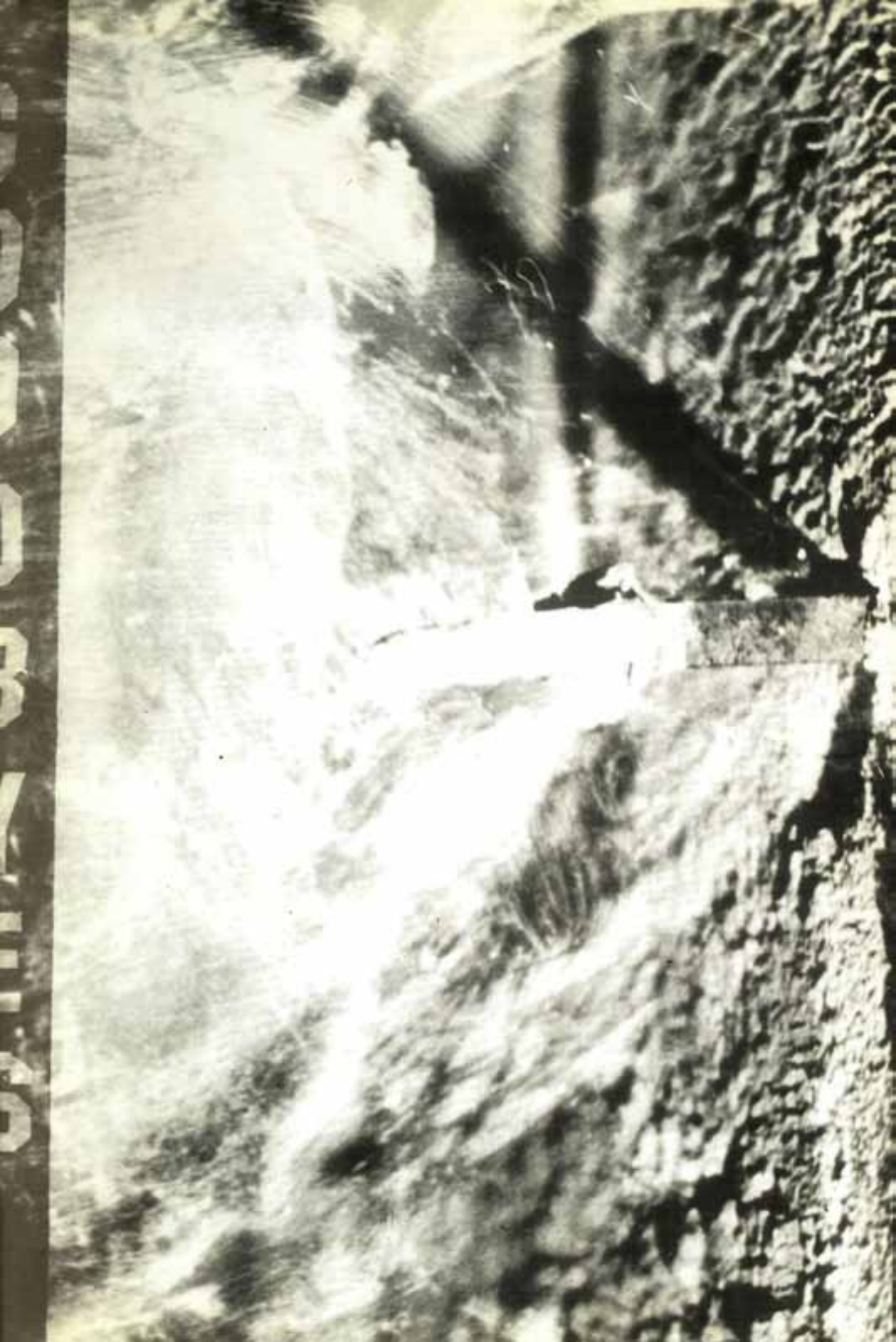
curl up with a book - I'm very fond of Dickens.

C: Do you have any plans for the future?

GG: No! ... not really - the only thing I like to do would be to get boys more interested in maths.

C: Mrs Gardiner, thank you very much.





Brian Nightingale

Brian Nightingale was my second Head of Department to leave in a year and, like Peter Tyrer also, is a rather quiet and private person. However, one doesn't serve a school for 28 years, as Brian has, without leaving a considerable mark on the place. He joined in September 1968 when legendary figures such as Canon Lunt, Maurice Porter and E V Smith were still around, and KE was still a Direct Grant Grammar School. So when I joined a number (unspecified!) of years later, he was already a senior member of the Maths Department much respected by (then!) youngsters such as myself.

As a mathematician I think he'd describe himself as a sound, down to earth traditionalist, certainly with no interest in computers. As a colleague, he always seemed to be further on in the syllabus than me, and his sets always seemed to get higher marks than mine - usually the highest! The boys respected his efficiency and grip, and the results he got. Many years of top science sets learnt their Further Maths Mechanics from Brian - plum teaching he was in a good position to secure by virtue of his long involvement with the timetable! He proved himself an excellent Head of Department in the two terms he was allowed to do it before retirement - it was one of his life's big disappointments that he hadn't been asked to fill the position earlier.

I soon found we had a common interest in mountain walking and we have been on several school trips together to Snowdonia and the Lake District - a superb ascent of Striding Edge in sun and snow being followed by a distinctly hair-raising failure to cross the icy Wrynose Pass in the minibus! Son Mark made his first impression on me as a Shell, allowed to accompany a senior boys' trip to Scotland because his dad came too, and chattering away a hundred words to his dad's one even when walking steeply uphill. Mark later proved to be one of the School's best distance runners for a long time, and motivated Brian to revitalise Senior Cross Country so that he'd have some inter-school competition. This is still going strong, of course, and has been another area where it has been a great pleasure to work with Brian over the last couple of years. He has been an inspiration in several ways - a good leader of the team,

motivating both with his pithy but relevant pre-race pep talks, and by example out on the course. How many members of the Common Room would be prepared to compete in the same races as the Senior X Country team in their retirement year, I wonder? He's not known as 'Iron Brian' for nothing, and I had to train pretty hard so as not to be disgraced by him, despite ten years in my favour.

Apart from teaching and his family, his big interest in life is rugby. I don't know much about the game, but it's clear even to me that to become Treasurer of the English Schools' RFU can only follow on from a lifetime's devotion to it at schools' level. This was certainly true within KE, the Under 16 XV being his team for many years, and more recently he has frequently been out of school watching matches elsewhere in a regional and national selector's role. This will remain a major interest and occupation; he is retiring from KE, but not from Schools' Rugby. In the past he has also been involved with School Cricket, and more recently has been a fixture i/c Finish at numerous Athletics matches. Bridge at School has also benefited from his keen player's interest - not I though, I'm afraid, despite his attempts to teach me the rudiments of Acol during long evenings spent sitting on Compo boxes by the light of a Tilley lamp on the 1980 Norway Expedition.

I have a great respect for him as teacher, colleague and friend. He's a great judge of character, able to sum a boy (or colleague) up in a few words with a wry sense of humour and a twinkle in his eye. I will miss him, and the Department can ill afford to lose one of its strongest teachers - but I'm sure we haven't seen the last of him. There is a threat to turn up at some of next year's X Country races, and he and I plan to walk some Munros



together. Meanwhile I and the rest of the School wish him and Anne a very happy retirement with the rest of his family.

RTI

Paul Ford

Paul Ford joined the English Department at KES in 1986, fresh from a stint as a research student in Aberdeen. In his introductory interview in the 1987 "Chronicle", he remarked that one of the things which impressed him about this school was that "there's always so much going on", and during his time here he has taken care to become involved in a wide range of activities. To begin with, he was scarcely in through the door before he was editing "Chronicle". He actually produced two issues of the magazine, before moving on, in 1988, to a series of Junior Plays which established him as undisputed capo of the Drama Studio: "Under Milk Wood" ('88), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" ('89), "Twelfth Night" ('90) and "As You Like It" ('91).

In addition, Dr Ford ran the Bulletin Board for a while, and founded a "legendary" lower school magazine called "Fly On The Wall" (last published in 1987), a film society and



a Junior Literary Society, which last seems to have died out owing to the apathy of the lower years. He has also been responsible for organizing the Shell Friday afternoon rota since 1987 (with a brief interregnum in 1993, when Mr Dewar stepped into the breach). Add to this the organizing of trips to plays and (a personal passion) to the opera, form mastering first of all in the Shells and later in the GCSE years, and a position as an Evans House Tutor, and it becomes clear that his involvement in the life of the school has been active and diverse.

Nonetheless, it is as a teacher of English that Dr Ford would finally choose to be judged: it is certainly in this sphere that I am glad to have the chance publicly to congratulate him and to thank him. He has been, for all of his time here, an exemplary teacher: his quiet scholarship, his good sense, his patience and his gentle wit have won the respect and appreciation of many students. Much the same qualities have also made him a valued colleague: that the department has come so smoothly through the continuous national upheaval of curriculum rewrites and examination changes over the last ten years is owing in

considerable measure to his good humour, thoroughness and tolerant but acute eye for nonsense. We will all miss him, both professionally and socially.

Dr Ford is leaving us to take up a post teaching English in Singapore. This seems a logical culmination to a growing interest in travel which perhaps began with the Australian exchange of 1993, and which has seen him spending much of one summer in Romania more recently. He takes with him our very best wishes and our hearty thanks for all he has done for the school: we hope that happiness and success will attend him in this new stage of his career.

TFPH

Sandra Higgitt

Sandra joined KES in September 1987 from a research post in physical geography at Liverpool University. Her eighteen page application gave a clue to a thoroughness and attention to detail which was to characterise her work over the next nine years. Her arrival simultaneously doubled the number of full time female members

of staff in the common room and gave the Geography department a research scientist of distinction. It is remarkable that she managed to avoid an introductory interview with the Chronicle staff and so some of her more extraordinary qualifications are revealed here for the first time. For a start, her research work on peat sediments had covered such diverse topics as fall-out from Chernobyl, analysis of a preserved body in a Cheshire bog and an analysis of 18th century land registers in France. In case this gives an impression of an ivory tower geographer, she had also completed a teaching practice in a Liverpool inner-city school and achieved a distinction in her Post Graduate Certificate of Education. Somehow she had also managed to qualify as a football referee.

With these qualifications she quickly established herself at KES. Her deep interest in the subject readily committed itself to generations of boys who discovered a fascination for fieldwork. Under her guidance, students discovered the importance of precision and scientific vigour which was to enable them to achieve academic success and prepare them for University. With her guidance and expertise we were able to build up and extend laboratory facilities and Sandra devoted many hours of her time during the summer holidays to helping boys to process the results of their fieldwork.

Her interests in the subject continued to grow and develop during her time with us. Her preparation and teaching materials were meticulous and she encouraged her pupils to take a pride in the presentation of their work. Her curiosity constantly extended into different areas of the subject and boys were frequently engaged in investigative work in soil sediments and meteorology. Outside school she served on the committee of Birmingham G.A. and chaired meetings of Foundation Geography Departments. In every sense she was a full time geographer.

Sandra approached her responsibilities with single mindedness, focussing time and energy on the tasks that were given to her. With very limited experience she took on the organisation of the school tennis teams in her first year. She created an environment in which KES teams regularly reached regional and national finals, defeating schools with reputations nationally for the quality of their players and coaching.



Characteristically, she did this in a modest and self-effacing manner, professing that she knew very little. It was clear that she had the capacity to bring out the best in boys. This same quality was reflected in the success of her geography quiz team which reached the national finals in London.

Many boys will remember Sandra though, as a caring and kindly shell form teacher who did much to put them at their ease in their first few weeks at school. She always made time for them, created an orderly atmosphere in which boys could gain confidence, and was always sensitive to the feelings of those who encountered difficulty. She was fond of the pupils in her form and rejoiced at their successes.

Sandra was very happy at King Edward's. When a post came up as head of department at Alcester Grammar School she wrote her very first job application and it seemed inevitable that she would leave. She has substituted the daily grind of the journey in her yellow metro up the M5 for the quieter cross country route of the Salt Way in Worcestershire. Colleagues will miss her quiet, thoughtful and sensitive presence in the common room and we wish her well as she takes up the challenge of running her own department.

JAC

Juliette Bond

"The great thing about being a teacher," said Miss Bond, "is that it gives you the chance to try out being all sorts of other things too." She was clearly speaking from experience, having packed a good deal into her six years at KES. She has been a form teacher in all four of the lowest years of the school, a stalwart of Rems' Week (and recently of a Geography Field Trip), and a House Tutor in Gifford,

She has been the school's Press Officer for two years, squiring news-papermen and film crews around the building, exuding charm and unruffled confidence (and all too often at short notice). She has even found herself pressed into service as a model, in the catalogue of a manufacturer of audio-visual equipment who wanted some verite shots of a typical classroom (the Cartland Room).

I know that one of her favourite extracurricular activities was the year that she spent editing "The Idler" ('94-'95), and that she has also enjoyed being solely responsible for producing "News and Views", a publication which she took over from Mr Bullock in '93, and which has continued to prosper. But her most striking achievement outside the classroom must be the series of Junior Plays which she co-produced and, since '94, co-wrote with Mr Milton: "Pygmalion" ('92), "Animal Farm" ('93), "The Power of



Magic" ('94), "Child Out of Time" ('95) and "The Chronicles of Life and Imagination" ('96). The last-named is reviewed elsewhere in this magazine; taken together, they represent a splendid body of work and a great deal of enjoyment for all who took part in them.

She has brought the same qualities to bear on her teaching as have informed the rest of her work here. Many boys will be able to testify to her enthusiasm, to her capacity to jolly along the less confident while keeping the brightest fully stretched, to her judicious balance of firmness with sympathy, to the thoroughness and constructiveness of her marking. The rest of the English Department will join me in registering the loss of a

cheerful, conscientious and resourceful colleague.

The startling thing, really, is that I never recall seeing Miss Bond look harassed, short of time or under pressure. This is not something that can be said of all of us. She has preserved an affable serenity which I, at least, can only envy, and which I am sure will come in handy in her new post as Head of English at Oundle School. She goes there with our very best wishes.

TTPH

Peter Tyrer

When I was asked to say a few words on Peter's leaving KE at Christmas, I was initially at a loss, as he is such a quiet and private person. Once I thought about it, however, there seemed plenty to say. Peter joined KE (from Uppingham), in September 1991, and the contrast with his predecessor, Richard Higson, was immediately obvious. While RH was dervish-like, living in the fast lane, hyper-organised, leaving a five year plan behind him, APT was tranquil, quiet, understated and in comparison so laid back as to be almost horizontal. From the start his approach was conciliatory, to fit in with what we were doing, never to impose his point of view but always to consult. There was an interesting contrast in the feelings evoked by memos on departmental business. Those from RH were usually a full A4 side of tight, clipped handwriting referring to deadlines, must do this or that, blood pressure rises, screw up, in the bin. APT's, on the other hand tended to be an inconvenient A3 photocopy of large scrawl in blue biro, barely legible, or even visible, containing modest suggestions to consider, over an indefinite period, screw up, in the bin!

Such a quiet, unassuming character was not easy to get to know, but gradually he turned out to have other strings to his bow than just mathematics. Quite literally, in fact, as he apparently once gave a talk to GAW's V Greek set on the legend of the stringing of Odysseus' bow. He is a keen archer and brought several of his own bows along - sadly GAW, like Penelope's suitors, failed to string even the weakest. It must have been a good talk, as apparently even Kieron listened!

As well as the Maths Department, Peter inherited the poisoned chalice of School Timetabler, and was the first incumbent of the post to wrestle with the SIMS timetabling software.



Frequently this was intensely frustrating, stretching even Peter's equanimity beyond reasonable limits, and he became well known at SIMS' help desk as successive 'upgrades' gradually destroyed the original functionality of the system. However, he managed in the end, and the last four school timetables have been due to his work.

Another major interest of his is Lifesaving, which he worked at really hard in the pool, so that just before he left he was able to pass his exam and qualify as a lifesaver. Apparently his only *faux pas* during the test was to strap the casualty firmly to the stretcher *before* the helpers had extracted their hands from underneath! He is also an adequate sailor, helping KMcI on Friday afternoons, and in his spare time is a keen SCUBA diver.

He left KE for sunnier climes down South, and our loss is Exeter school's gain. We hope he and his family will be very happy there.

RTH

Chris Goodlad

Chris Goodlad is fairly unique in that he got his KES position by not being at the interview and outshining the other 7 candidates who were. He has impressed us all in the Maths department by being quick to adapt to his role, showing excellent organisation and extreme conscientiousness. Chris is an outstanding chess player and he has been a knight in shining armour helping to restore pride to an ailing school team. His five hour phone link-up for the match against Belfast tested him. British Telecom and the Chief Master's discretionary fund to the full. He has also contributed to school hockey, U13 cricket and Levett House. So it is my opinion that even though



he has only stayed a year he will be sorely missed. It does need to be said, however, that on the few occasions that I have observed him teach I have seen him prove that all angles are right-angles, every triangle is isosceles and even that $1 = 0$. I hope that the legacy of this does not take the rest of the department too long to sort out.

As an Old Edwardian Chris will always have close ties with the school and many of us will miss him greatly. He has scored lots of runs for the Kestrels, overshadowing even the legendary pinch hitter Tom Campbell, and I hope that he will join our ever growing list of ringers in the future. I am sure everyone will wish him well and that he will have every success when he moves to London.

ST

Ros Brownsword

Ros took up a part time post for one year in September 1995. With a first class degree from Oxford and several years' experience working with water companies she was attracted by the possibilities of teaching. At the interview it was obvious that she had a natural enthusiasm for the subject and an instinct for presenting ideas in original and exciting ways. Her work



with lower school groups was superb and when the opportunity came to teach senior boys they were impressed by her command of the subject. As a former President of Oxford Rambling Club Ros took part in fell walking trips, Shell weekends and the Rems' week. There was not enough time to use her musical or dramatic skills, but we will recall with pleasure the cakes that she baked for us. She started a PGCE in Bath to become fully qualified and should have a very exciting career ahead of her. As I write she is settling down in her new home in Oxfordshire. We are so grateful for all that she did for us in a very short time.

JAC



Liz Davies

Liz came to us in March 1995 with a degree from Wolverhampton University and several years' experience as a cartographer to take up the post of geography technician. In this time she did so much to help students and staff alike with friendliness and efficiency. Liz seemed unflappable and her talents were endless. Apart from the laboratory and computer work, she chaperoned boys through Middlesborough, joined in all the fun of field trips, rode the roller-coaster at Morecambe and managed to be pursued by stranded Russian seaman on her staff development weekend. In times of difficulty she was also a tower of strength and it was to Liz that boys turned following the tragic death of Nick Holliday. She has our gratitude and best wishes as she begins a PGCE course in Plymouth. She has still to swirl down the grand staircase of the Midland Hotel, but one day.....

JAC



Rainer Klock
German Assistant

C: Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

RC: I come from a town called Koblenz which is situated between the rivers Rhine and Mosel. I am training to become a teacher and I studied English and music at Koblenz University.

C: Why did you decide to come to England?

RC: I came for the experience abroad but also because in Germany teachers are required to spend at least three months in a foreign country. I decided to come to Birmingham when a friend of mine recommended King Edward's School where he had spent a year as German Assistant. It is also a good opportunity for me to improve my English.

C: How do you like spending your spare time?

RC: I like listening to and playing music. I especially like jazz and play the jazz guitar. My favourite musician is Frank Zappa but other good ones are Wayne Krantz and Bill Frizzell. I like playing football and table-tennis and used to belong to an athletics club. Unfortunately I haven't had much time for sport recently due to work and my music. I very much enjoy going to the cinema and there are some really good ones in Birmingham.

C: The German football league is reputed to be one of the best in Europe - how does it compare with football in England?

RC: I have found that the English are more fanatical about football than the Germans. One can really feel the atmosphere and the buzz of the crowd when you watch a match. In Germany

they play less football because there is a break from November to February for the winter. Although I don't really support a team as such, I did for some reason like Bayern Munich, especially when I was younger.

C: Finally, have you any ambitions for the future?

RC: Yes - I would like to set up a band playing jazz music. I want to remain in Germany and work as a teacher and hopefully, later get married.

C: Thank you very much, Herr Klock.



Jérôme Gicquel
French Assistant

C: Could you tell us a bit about your background?

JG: I come from Brittany. I went to a Catholic school and then did English at university. I taught for one year in France before coming to England.

C: What are your reactions to the standard of French spoken by the boys here at King Edward's?

JG: It's excellent compared to the standard of English spoken in France. I was very impressed. It really is good.

C: ...and that of the staff?

JG: They're quite good.

C: Do the English fit your stereotype of them?

JG: I don't believe in stereotypes.

C: What did you have for breakfast this morning... a croissant maybe?

JG: Nothing except coffee.

C: What do you do in your spare time?

JG: I enjoy literature, cinema and music. I have quite wide tastes. In the evenings I watch television. I like Jennifer Saunders. She's funny.

C: You have a very distinctive hairstyle. On whom is it modelled?

JG: My sister.

C: If you were a superhero, what superpower would you like to possess?

JG: The ability to fly.

C: What would you do if you won the lottery?

JG: I'd buy a flat in London and one in Paris.

C: What are your plans for the future?

JG: I want to carry on working and be happy.

C: Jérôme Gicquel, thank you.

Constanza Lezama
Spanish Assistant

C: So, where have you come from, Constanza?

CL: I'm from Argentina originally. That's where I met my husband - he's a violinist, and was on tour there. We got together for a few days, but we knew that the relationship was going to be hard work, living 6,000 miles apart. After a while he left, and the Falklands War started. We felt this was going to distance us further, so one day he rang and said: "This is getting desperate, let's get married!", and we did. We met for 15 days, but have been together for 13 years!

C: Obviously you're teaching now, have you only taught at KES?

CL: No, I've taught at KEHS too, for five years. I've been very impressed by the standard of Spanish at both schools.

C: Would you send your son to KES?

CL: Actually, I am! It has been an interesting exercise teaching here, as you can judge from the inside in a way Open Days don't allow. The general atmosphere is very nice, and the teaching is excellent.

C: Do you think there is a bigger need for modern language teaching in today's schools?

CL: Oh, definitely. Only your generation is showing a sort of multi-lingual ability. Most foreigners are taught English, and because they always want to practise it. English people do not need to know an extra language. I find it disgraceful.

C: How do you relax?

CL: I like chamber and classical music, and enjoy reading. I prefer Latin-American authors. I also like B-movies, as well as French and Italian films. Above all, I like American cinema though. English movies are too "Laura Ashley". Oh, I love horses, too.

C: Finally, tell us some Common Room gossip.

CL: Well, Gerry Gunning is a real charmer, he'll get anything out of you. He's very sharp, and very cunning. Derek Benson is a real smoothie too, a real ladies' man.

C: Constanza, thank you very much.



FIRE

South Africa Rugby Tour '95.

After months of fund raising and numerous changes in the itinerary, the King Edward's South African Rugby Tour began on 1 August 1995. The party consisted of Mr. Campbell (Tour Manager, obviously) Mr. Andronov and Mr. James, accompanied by twenty-eight senior rugby players. We travelled to Heathrow by coach and then to Johannesburg via a ten and a half hour flight.

Once in Johannesburg, we were taken to Ellis Park, home ground to Transvaal R.F.C. and national stadium of South Africa. We were given a guided tour through the interior of the stadium, around the changing rooms, onto the pitch and in the main conference hall. It was all very lavish and grand. We could see from this first day that we had come to a country which took its rugby very seriously indeed.

After the tour of Ellis Park we went to Gold Reef City, a theme park just outside Johannesburg. The park was empty because it was still term time, but we still managed to have a good time. Following four hours spent in the various bars, the majority of the tour party returned to the coach half an hour late. It was at this stage that we were introduced to the first rule of the tour: punctuality. Mr. Campbell said that he did not want to speak to us about it again.

We took a late evening flight straight to Port Elizabeth to meet our hosts at Cillie High School. We were split up

into twos or threes and dispersed with our billets for the night. The next morning was spent in the assembly hall of the school where each boy was introduced individually to the whole school. We were also given the opportunity to display our quality rendition of the National Anthem. The rest of the day was spent with our hosts.

The game took place on the following day. After a very tiring and exciting match played in extremely hot conditions, the match ended:

Cillie Hoërskool School
(Port Elizabeth)
8 - 3 (Won)
King Edward's School 1st XV

The game was played in good spirit and everyone enjoyed it. The evening was spent at a brie (I hope that's the spelling). This was like a barbecue to which you brought your own food.

A final mention must be given to President Mandella, Michael Jackson and the dancing girls for giving us an entertaining half hour.

After a night out partying at the infamous Barney's bar where beer was the equivalent of 50p a pint, we hit the road again for the Holiday Inn, Wilderness. It was a time to relax, play Crazy Golf, volleyball and tennis, or watch the whales dive in and out of the sea. We spent two nights here adjusting to South Africa and catching up on sleep lost from the flights and early mornings in Port Elizabeth.

Next stop was Villiersdorp and a match with De Villiers Graf High

School. We stayed for a couple of nights. The match at Villiersdorp was played with 'a predominantly younger side' who found the pace of the opposition too hot. The game finished:

De Villiers Graf High School
(Villiersdorp)
17 - 10 (Lost)
King Edward's School 2nd XV

I must also mention James Hynes becoming the youngest ever first team captain of King Edward's School in this match (five quid please, Jim). Once again the visit finished with an exchange of gifts from the coaches and captains and a brie.

Another long coach journey took us to Belleville Technical High School. Here we spent a few of the most enjoyable days of the tour. The stay here included a well timed visit to the apple factory where we were told how apples were boxed and prepared for shipment to all over the world. Although there seemed to be no apples around at the factory, except in cold storage, the manager found us a couple of boxes which he gave us. Although Alistair Treharne begged us for all the apples he could eat, we managed to salvage a few which we fed to the sheep and Roy, who was driving a tractor in the fields.

The day of the match seemed to arrive very quickly and the K.E. team were really fired up for this one after the loss against De Villiers. The team put up a storming performance, with their aggression erupting into a short brawl towards the end of the match -

but worry not, Phil and Dan sorted things out as the video shows. The game finished:

Belleville High School
(Capetown)
15 - 7 (Won)
King Edward's School
1st XV

There were videos of this match given to all the members of the tour party, so for those who wish to see KES in action in South Africa, ask any member of the tour for the video. The next morning saw a lot of tired, headache-ridden boys head off to the next destination: Holiday Inn, Capetown. This was situated in the centre of Capetown



and a taxi journey was all that was needed to see any part of this beautiful city. Many boys visited Table Mountain. The weak and faint-hearted faced the huge queue for the cable car and the brave few decided to scale the mountainside and conquer the mighty piece of rock. Near the mountain base were lots of tacky souvenir stalls where, naturally, all the foreigners (tour party included), brought lots of tacky souvenirs.

After the mountain, many chose to go to the beach. It was winter in South Africa, but it was like a mild British summer and the beach gave opportunity for relaxation and volleyball (and a quick, involuntary swim in the sea for Mark Endall). At night the place lit up and was teeming with activity. The older members of the tour party took advantage of the various bars and clubs, providing cheap beer and tempting concoctions such as the Brain Haemorrhage and the Eyeball. Sherg broke the all time world record for shot downing, nailing 36 shots in one go, but he still protested that he hadn't touched a drop when TC questioned him about his inebriated state the next morning. Jimmy Allen's chocolate chunder defied reality.

After the hotel we went to play a township side, Northerns RFC. This was a match to forget as far as K.E were concerned. A mix and match side were played and due to tired limbs on aching bodies that had been indulging the night before the score line finished an embarrassing:

Northerns RFC

(Capetown)

28 - 18 (Lost)

King Edward's School 2nd XV

After the match gifts were given to the Northerns, including ties, badges, T-shirts and anything else the Northerns could lay their hands on. Mr. Campbell gave his usual speech, thanked the referee for doing a thankless job and commended the trainer for his hospitality. Northerns gave us a song in true Zulu style. Our renditions of 'A Yellow Bird' didn't quite match the quality of the Northerners'



harmonic offerings (though it was probably better than Ali Shepherd's version in the Hard Rock Cafe).

Down but not out, the K.E boys picked themselves up for the big one. We hit the road once more, this time our mission was to vanquish the mighty Bishop's College, test of the tour, the one we had all been waiting for. The match arrived and we were all very nervous but thanks to counselling by Mr. Andronov, the boys managed to keep their cool. The match was a very exciting and enjoyable one to watch, but the K.E rugby machine was not firing on all cylinders and the score ended:

Bishop's College

(Capetown)

44 - 22 (Lost)

King Edward's School

Once again this match was on video. Although we had played five, and only won two, we were assured by Mr. Campbell that Fairmont High School was well within our capabilities. We only spent one day at Fairmont School, but it was exciting. First came the 2nd XV, boasting a large, mobile pack and with the likes of J. Pittaway and J. Thomas, we expected to win a lot of ball. After several tries and a few awesome runs from prop, J. Parker, the score ended.

Fairmont High School 1st XV

32 - 17 (Won)

King Edward's 1st XV

The 1st XV fixture was a much tighter affair but we still managed to pull a win!

Fairmont High School 2nd XV

38 - 9 (Won)

King Edward's 2nd XV

After the game, we all dispersed for the last night of the tour - wisely spent in a very hospitable Irish pub where we met some ex-pats who taught us the Ringaranga song and bought us a few beers.

The morning was a chance to reflect on the tour and say our last good-bye to this beautiful country. We took back with us fond memories of the tour, the people on the tour and in South Africa and most of all the rugby, which out there is a religion.

KES South Africa Rugby Tour '95

Played:	7
Won:	4
Lost:	3

COMIC RELIEF

The activities of Jacob Roseman in raising money for Comic Relief was not included in last year's Chronicle. Fortunately we have been able to print them this year.

It was the 13th of March, five days before Comic Relief. I had read articles and had looked for something to do to raise money but there was nothing original. That night though, I watched the news which included a documentary on Bosnia where, because of the dirty water, many people caught malaria and were blinded by it. Then it struck me how difficult it must be to go around without sight. So I decided to try on an allotted day for twelve hours.....

I picked the Sunday after Comic Relief to be the day and I frantically went around the school, my home and other areas begging for cash. Friday was the collection day and I worked out I had over sixty pounds in sponsor money. My sister did it with me and that raised more sponsor money.

So on Sunday morning I woke up around six as normal and dressed, then woke up my sister and father as usual. I had breakfast and then donned my blindfold (a pair of pads with a scarf tied around my head). I tried to get used to the feeling but it was impossible as I was continually bumping into things and was dealt quite heavy blows by the edge of the table and a typewriter falling on my head. What an idiot I must have looked. I sat down and rested, nursing my wounds and waiting for something to happen.... and it did. A few minutes later my also-blindfolded sister

bounded into the room and landed in the pit of my stomach, which hurt immensely. My dad soon followed her into the room and told us the first test was to be a trip to Safeways. "So many people! I bet they will all look at me, and what if someone I know sees me?" I thought. I tried to stay calm.

I left these horrors at the back of my mind and with difficulty I scrambled into our car. We arrived at the superstore and I never let go of the trolley - it was a frightening experience as I thought I was going to bump into things when I wasn't and so on. I don't know how blind people do it.

My next and last and hardest test was to climb the Clent Hills unaided except for a few hints if I was walking over a cliff edge. I managed to climb up quite easily but coming down was hard as I didn't know where the steps were and continually fell down. It was hard work. I managed though, eventually.

I arrived home sweating, bloody and injured and I asked myself was it worth it and the simple answer was yes. I sat down for dinner which also proved a difficulty as, although I could direct my fork to my mouth, I didn't know how high the food was so it usually hit my lips and fell into my napkin.

I was glad to take the blindfold off at six thirty and while I was adjusting my vision I fell asleep.

Jacob Roseman

PERSONAL SERVICE GROUP

I must admit that my initial decision to join PSG was down to wanting something useful to put on my UCAS form, but my year in the option has proved extremely enjoyable.

I have been helping at the Balsall Heath Church Centre on Friday afternoons, a day centre concentrating its efforts on the elderly, along with a changing team of around five others on average, from KES and KEHS.

There is a set routine to what we do there, which we have mastered in order to keep the old people happy. Bingo, clearing up, tea, cake and washing up (in that order).

All of the people who attend are regulars and are very pleasant and lively on the whole. It is always pleasing to see the old ladies attack Kavi Dhana with their bags and sticks. The atmosphere is very friendly and helping out has become more of a pleasure than a chore (also because it often entails searching for a lost OAP around the building).

It is a welcome break to get out of school at the end of the week when cabin fever starts to set in, but the change of scenery and work is still a real learning curve, as most of us have never been a part of this kind of inner-city community atmosphere.

I would recommend any PSG placement to other boys, because it has been a very good experience, as similar reports from many other members of PSG will testify.

Danny Hay

Family Fun Evening

Each year a group of Divisions eager to win their yellow-spotted tie convene in the U.S.C.R. to plan that perennial favourite with younger members of the school that is the Family Fun Evening. The result this year was a more spectacular event with innovative ideas for stalls such as Bungee Running and a Bowling Machine as well as the more familiar (and still imminently popular) Bat-a-Rat and Penalty Shoot-out.

Pre-start entertainment was provided by Calum Gray who, not content with supplying the Bungee Run, elected

further to amuse us in breaking his front teeth in an over-zealous somersault onto the inflatable. He was taken to hospital, had them fixed, and returned later in the evening in a rare show of heroism. The rest of the evening was pretty quiet, however, the only highlight being James Hynes' and Alister Shepherd's expropriation of the tannoy to relay their own messages as well as a bit of karaoke.

The responsible Divs toiled ceaselessly all night (the idea of running a stall had lost some of its glamour by the end of the evening)

in order to pay off the debt of gratitude they felt they owed former pupils for running the event when they themselves were young enough to enjoy it. Stars were Tom Manners, whose fervent enthusiasm and propensity for fair play were the probable causes for the immense popularity of his Pillow-Fighting-astride-a-Wobbly-Pole event, and Mr. Chamberlain, without whose control the evening would certainly have been less successful.

James Hynes

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE 1995-1996

With the bitter taste of defeat still present after the very close end to the 1994-5 campaign, the Senior Schools' Challenge Team was eager to capture the prize which, like Tantalus' grapes, seemed ever to be within reach before being rudely snatched away. The two juniors of the previous year's team, Henry Pertinez and Patrick Finglass, were both in the new team; the latter had by now come of age and was forced to be one of the senior players, along with Kieron Quirke, absent the previous year due to the age quota. George Simms, who had excelled in the Junior Team the year before, was made the second junior. Practice sessions before our first match left us all pleased with what seemed quite a strong team, and Mr Milton was already predicting "This will be our year" - a prediction whose accuracy in recent years did not exactly fill us with confidence.

A bye in the first round, followed by being drawn against KE Handsworth for Girls was a good start. Traditionally, the quality of food has been in universe proportion to the quality of the opposition. Seeing the luscious cakes laid out for us thus inspired us to a fairly complete victory - our gentlemanly instincts prevented our going for 1000 points, however.

The regional semi-finals and final were held at our school (where the quality of the food is in direct proportion to the quality of play, of course), as our A-team and B-team had got through, along with the KEHS A-team and Rugby School. We had been drawn against Rugby (I couldn't help but wonder whether there was a public school called "School's Challenge" anywhere), and in a very tough match managed to pull through. Our B-team had lost (just) to KEHS, so it was up to us to avenge it. And avenge we did - proving that whatever league tables say, the cream of the country's intellect remains reassuringly masculine.

So, we had won the regional final. Mr Milton managed to persuade the National organisers to give us only one inter-regional round (it was in our second I-R that we had lost last year), though it was not all good news. We had to travel to Stoke, and it was about 8pm before the Norwich-Stoke match ended. Our victory against Norwich was "highly efficient" as



EJM put it, but the fact that we were playing way past our bedtimes detracted somewhat from our total.

We were now in the National Finals - and positively brimming with confidence. Experience shows that frequently, juniors can be only so much dead weight in a team, languishing while the seniors work. Our team's greatest strength was its breadth of talent and energy, and the fact that all four members were very fast on the buzzer (Henry especially) and strong on bonus questions (where the experience of the two seniors was especially useful). Having a single star is no good when the star fails - and from last year and three years ago we know that only too well.

The National Finals were held in Bishop's Stortford School, Essex, on Sunday 28th of April. We were unseeded, and were set to play the hosts whom we dispatched with great power. The fact that four sets of questions were now designated for juniors only (worth in total 200 points) was a great help for us, as no other team had juniors approaching the quality of ours. As it was, even without these questions we were too fast for our opponents, who were relying on one player to a great extent.

After lunch, we came up against RGS Lancaster, who had defeated Monmouth with great ease. However, again our greater speed, knowledge and co-operation won the day - they never seemed to discuss the bonus questions properly at all.

So the National Final beckoned. Our opponents, Merchant Taylors, had defeated their previous two foes by scoring over 1000 points both times, destroying the team who had defeated

Maidstone, winners for the last three years. The psychological advantage went to us, when Kieron strode purposefully down the hall to assume possession of the red buzzers - we had both used them for our previous victories and, in the two Junior finals we lost in 1992 and 1993, we lost control of our lucky buzzers just before the final. The fact also that the first question, the somewhat esoteric "What has recently turned blue?" (Answer - the Pepsi can), fell to Henry, followed by a sweep of the bonuses, added to our confidence. Though the enemy drew level after five minutes, we streaked ahead in the 5-15 minute section which seemed always to have us at full pace. And indeed, by twenty minutes, there was no sinking feeling as we had felt in previous lost finals - only a repressed thought that, finally, it was going our way. So it did.

As captain, I received the trophy - a new one, owing to the previous one's being filled up. But not before Mr Milton had congratulated us on a victory which has been so long in coming. I thank the parents and families who supported us during the games (and who, on a couple of occasions, got a dodgy decision by the questioner reversed); I thank and congratulate the team whose play has been so outstanding and whose determination and resolve, and indeed basic skill, has shone through during the campaign, and most of all I thank Mr Milton for organising, training and inspiring us in what is his sixth year at running this game at KES. It is a joy which I know is felt by all of us that the trophy, which he so much deserves, is at last his.

Patrick Finglass

BASKETBALL EASTER TOURNAMENT

The Easter tournament, the reciprocal of the tour down to Churston in February, brought together the teams of Stockland Green Juniors, St Columba's (the national champions), Churston and ourselves. Our first match was against Stockland Green who we had lost to on one previous occasion.

Despite their considerable size and athleticism, the scores were kept close for most of the match. It was only towards the end that Stockland Green managed to pull away, in spite of determined efforts from the Purdon double act. The final score was 46-42.

Our next match was against St Columba's who had beaten us quite conclusively earlier in the season. Many were expecting a repeat of our previous meeting, this match being merely an exercise in damage limitation. However, we fought hard during the game and were amazed to find ourselves drawing with only a minute to go (32-32), due mainly to some outstanding shooting from Andy Purdon and some powering drives from Phil Bennett-Britton (who scored the free-throws to tie the lead).

A few moments later Phil had hit another, only to be retaliated against by Columba's to tie the score again. It was with just eight seconds left on the

clock that Phil scored again to put us in the lead (36-34), as we called a time-out on their possession.

Mr Birch called for drastic action, a repeat of the dramatic "99" call, when Columba's put the ball into play. Miraculously, Jamie Walton managed to steal the ball without fouling, but the lob pass for Mike Sheldon was just too long and he struggled to keep it in play. The ball was stolen back by the Columba's side who had been put at an advantage by a delay in starting the clock. They rocketed it down to the other end of the court and scored to tie the game.

Our hearts sank, as we thought we had lost our chance to beat the national champions. We felt tired and demoralised as we went into extra time, but Mike Purdon opened the scoring early on, closely followed by another from Phil. They pulled one back, but, with only seconds to spare, Andy Purdon clinched our victory with a 3-point shot followed by a foul, in which he secured all four points. We had beaten the national champions and, as you can imagine, we were more than a little jubilant. The final score was 44-40.

Our final game against Churston was to decide the tournament. However,

the match turned out to be a formality and we won quite comfortably 43-28, with good performances from Mike Sheldon and Andy Purdon. We won the tournament overall, and also had the highest scorer in our ranks - Andy Purdon, who amassed 58 points in total.

We played Churston again on Sunday, in a full length game, but the story was much the same as on Saturday, the final score being 81-58. There were good performances from most of the team, but particularly Alistair Treharne, who rose from his warm, cosy spot on the bench to become second highest scorer on the day (after Andy, of course!).

Overall, these two tournaments have been the highlight of the season, a view I'm sure is shared by the rest of the team. We have made some great friends in the Churston side, who I'm sure we will see again this summer (in a more social capacity). Thanks again must go to Mr Birch, who gave up even more of his time to coach the side and help co-ordinate everything, but in particular to Andy Purdon and Phil Bennett-Britton, who organised most of the planning of the tournament and helped make it such a great success. I hope it will be repeated again next year.

Michael Sheldon

Charity Basketball Match

The idea for the fund-raising basketball match came from a variety of events. My first "inspiration" was sitting in Big School listening to the endless list of achievements of the famed Shell B who were churning money into the Cot Fund faster than Mr Dewar could announce it. After the revelation of their latest triumph, I thought to myself "I can do that", but still needed an effective fund-raising event. It was only when I was having a conversation with a member of my form concerning the similarities between netball and basketball, that it dawned on me that we could play a game against the Girl's School. Unfortunately I soon discovered that this had already been done and as it had been held in the Girl's school, was obviously horribly fixed. This minor setback didn't stop

me, and I spoke to Mr Birch about using a gym for one lunch time, to Mrs Hodgkin about watching the match and keeping it all in order, and to anyone else who had a good idea. All that was left was to work out the teams, and not surprisingly I had no difficulties in getting willing volunteers from the our school, and some fourth year girls arranged a team from their year with the incentive that Chris Timmis would be referee. I had no difficulty in collecting money as the gullibility of Shells and their willingness to sign anything was well known to me, and my ploy in persuading the less generous was to offer them the deal that they would donate a small amount of money per point scored by us.

When the dreaded day came I frantically checked everything possible and the whole event looked as if it

would go smoothly. As the match began it looked like a nail-biting contest, but soon the game began to tip in our favour and a rampant finish left the final score as 56-24, a thorough victory for the boys. Although not so good a result for the spectators, who were hoping for a tight game, the score helped the money raised immensely as the less generous were forced to pay larger sums than they had expected. The final total raised was £72 and a good time was had by all.

I would finally like to thank Mr Birch for allowing us to use the court, Mrs Hodgkin for finding the referee and keeping a watchful eye over the proceedings and finally Mr Owen for allowing us to leave Latin early before the match to get changed!

Jonathan Pollard

THE IDLER

The Idler has become something of a hot potato in the staff common room. This year it fell tuberously in the lap of Dr. Hosty. He was heartened to find a new crop of industrious Divisions, eager to add coleslaw. At the first meeting of the would-be hacks a rigorous system of production was put in place. The various sections of the paper would report to their sub-editors who would keep The Doctor up to date. Specific articles were promised by most staff.

The first issue, due for half-term, came out a month late. This was partly due to late submission of articles and partly due to a hasty rewriting of the front page. The original piece, an as-it-was account of the rugby tour to South Africa, was not as-it-should-have-been. The bibulous author had seen the world too darkly through his glass. Yet the first issue had achieved its aim, a part for part mixture of all kinds of article. School news was catered for by James Heaton, who covered the recent House Challenge competition. There was also sport, film and music reviews, satire and current affairs.

The opinions of the Idler team were mixed. Some thought the first issue a triumph, pointing to its wide scope,

providing something for everyone. Others felt it was balanced but boring, and decided it would change.

The second was the St. Valentine's Day issue incorporating the famed Idler message service. This did everything but balance. A few writers, having decided to change the tone of the paper, between them wrote over half of it. Kieron Quirke provided a determinedly light-hearted history of the message service. Robin French commented astringently and wittily on American talk-shows. Ben McIl Dowie extruded an expected (but welcome) humour on the topic of lavatories. The result was hilarious for all those working on the paper. Sadly, many jokes went missing en route to the readers.

Our third and last issue to date was perhaps our least successful. The "hot-shot satirists" went too far, inviting and receiving large-scale censorship. Those who found meaning in the Agony Aunt column had misunderstood. The issue's share of success rested on the wacky antics of the new columnist Edward Edgbaston and the hugely popular crossword.

Three issues may not seem a great achievement for two terms of work, but by Idler standards it is a consider-

able one. We must thank Dr. Hosty for his guidance throughout the year. His persuasion has yielded rewards. His censorship has saved some of us from embarrassment. His time, effort and advice are greatly appreciated.

As I write, another issue is in the pipeline. We look back on a year's work with mixed feelings but the future, of course, holds great treasures. Most of the current staff will be here next year. Some writers are beginning to diversify, some to specialise. We have reviewers a-plenty to cover the dramatic and musical side of school life. We have people with original ideas, of whom (Big) Adam Johnson springs to mind. We have people to make you laugh. We have people to make you think. With people like these, how can we fail? We must draw on our experience. The youths gathered in the Cartland Room so many months ago are now mature. Our creative flames burn more slowly, as RSI sets in, yet shed a more constant light. Some work of noble note may yet be done.

It is rumoured that Spud-U-Like will offer sponsorship next year.

Kieron Quirke

WORK EXPERIENCE - WIESBADEN

This was a novel idea to enhance the usefulness of work experience by combining it with a normal language exchange. The potential for learning is thus doubled and all participants can benefit hugely.

J. Goldman, T. Howles, M. James and M. Purdon embarked on their three week trip, with the perfect chaperone Mrs. T. Hodgkin, on 24th June. The first week was spent in the School where we were treated surprisingly well by the German school children; who seemed very much more friendly than we at K.E.S. Even the 70 or so people in the

pub watching the England-Germany football match were not hostile. (I can't imagine Germans being treated the same way in England!). A trip to Frankfurt was also included in this week which provided a break from our exchanges.

The two weeks of work were spent in four different hotels and were certainly an "experience"! Being a chambermaid was far too much like hard work for me and waitering was a bit tricky as well. Once again, the friendliness of the staff made this time more enjoyable than expected.

Everyone's German language improved, even learning absolutely foolproof chat-up lines! Well, almost!

The journey home was naturally welcome, but everyone eagerly anticipates our partners' visit here during which we can show them our appreciation through our own hospitality.

Michael Purdon

INDUSTRY 1996 BUSINESS GAME

As part of "Industry 96", a scheme designed to promote a future in business for young people, economics and business studies students were offered the chance to take part in a simulation game which models the car industry. Mr. Mason managed to supply three teams of five members each for the first round, captained by Ben Stinton, Calum Gray and Peter Doona.

The first round was typified by a rather variable King Edward's

performance. The Stinton-led "Vanguard Motors" managed to perform unspectacularly, making a slight overall loss while Calum's team, "Essence Motors UK" made losses of tens of millions every week, or so it seemed. However, the school's reputation was saved by a steady, intelligent approach from "Gethebeersinson", although no-one will admit responsibility for the team name. The scientific approach of Messrs Doona, Burley, Ross, Thomas

and Whitehouse paid dividends as the firm finished the round with the highest profits per employee from all nine firms in the industry and sailed through to the semi-finals.

At the time of writing it looks as if "Gethebeersinson" are destined to blow out in the semi-finals, but all is not yet lost from this strangely enjoyable game.

Peter Doona

AND NOW FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE: ECONOMICS RESULTS

Congratulations, Rosie and Tim's children read the letter. Rosie and Tim? More commonly known as Mrs Temperley - that's the one with the red hair for all those of you still getting her mixed up with Mrs Cook - and Mr Mason - that's the balding one with the moustache. The children? That's us; Economics Div Y. But more of that later.

The letter was from and regarding the Financial Times ProShare Investment Challenge, a national competition in which the Economics and Business Studies sets annually compete and, usually, fail miserably.

But not this year. Although Mr Mason's favourite set, the Economics Division, unsurprisingly fell at the first hurdle, his not-so-favoured set, a collection of geographers, mathematicians and chemists charged unstopably into the national semi-finals, a record-breaking achievement for the school. The competition had begun in January, when we were sent the first challenge, imaginatively named Challenge One. We were given a theoretical twenty thousand pounds to spend on various types of specified shares. We had to spend a certain amount on a local company (we chose GKN), a national company (BT), a multinational organisation (ICI), and with the remainder we could have as much as we wanted of any share, provided that the total number of companies in our portfolio did not exceed five. For the

remaining cash, our resident 'share whiz', Sayu Sinha, (well he had to be good at something) and Ben Stinton decided upon the unsung Trafalgar House, hovering tentatively at 23 pence a share.

Three months later, with the acquisition of British Gas (as a once nationalised industry) at the expense of BT, our portfolio value had risen to £28,000, a £9,000 rise on Trafalgar House, and a loss on the rest! We comfortably qualified for the regional final.

With the guessing game over, the next round involved us having actually to explain our decisions and show some understanding of the share index. Up stepped Mr Sinha to take charge and, with Rob Beaton and Mike Sheldon pecking away on TM's modern 286s, he managed to produce the biggest load of waffle since..... well, since his last essay, and this inspiring nonsense was, for some reason, very well received.

So, back to the letter now, just two weeks before the summer exam, and a three-part challenge was enclosed. Part one was the one-week challenge, where we had to choose eight shares and monitor their progress over a week, hoping that their value increased by lots and lots. Sayu went into overdrive again, shouting out his insider knowledge of possible take-overs. Mrs T joined in enthusiastically, picking companies with the oddest

names she could find (Pliva being one of them - Pliva!) Expertly followed by Alistair Malins, we expected good results, but Sayu's luck had run out and everything collapsed.

The one-day challenge was more of a success. Luckily, Sayu was at an open day and could perform no more damage. Yours truly took over in style, adjusting to the technological demands of the assignment with consummate ease. We were E-mailed a question sheet in the morning and had to produce answers to complicated questions like the FTSE value and FT and news headlines, along with some simpler one and, with some help from Geoff Cook, this task was completed and E-mailed back.

Part three, a brief essay that was beyond my rather limited understanding, was written and sent off by Tom Marchant and, yes, you've guessed it, Sayu Sinha.

Unfortunately, we just missed out on a place in the grand final, but (I have to say this) we gained a lot from the experience and improved our understanding greatly. Thanks to Mrs Temperley for her well-meant but misguided advice and to Mr Mason for allowing us lesson time to complete the challenges. Good luck to next year's teams.

Mustafa Jaffe

CCF - RAF SECTION

This has been another successful year for the RAF section of the CCF, as it continues to mature from its infancy under the leadership of Flt Lt Burns. For the first time in the RAF section's short life we have had a suitable number of NCOs to assist with the running of the section. Special mention must be made of Cdt Flt Sgt Mark Whitehouse and Cdt Sgt Nasar Ahmad, who help to keep things ticking along each week. Special tanks must go also to our liaison staff, Flt Lt Wood and Flt Sgt P Ward.

The prospect of flying attracts a large number of recruits each year, this year being no exception. But flying isn't the only outside activity we engage in. Every year to date we have taken both new cadets and old off to RAF Cosford for a weekend of activities. This proves to be a valuable time for cadets and officers. It provides the cadets with an opportunity to get a feel for what an RAF station is all about. While most RAF stations virtually close down at weekends, that feeling of being behind a secure fence and on a base which is not like civvy street is something most cadets notice first.

When cadets join the Upper Middle year, they are put through a rigorous training programme to enable them to pass their Proficiency Part One. They engage in activities like command task exercises, drill, orienteering, map reading and there is the opportunity to go flying, of course.

Older cadets continue with their training, striving to learn more about the RAF and the aircraft they fly. As well as learning more about the RAF, cadets are progressively being trained in the art of leadership and self development. The RAF lays on a number of courses for older cadets to try and achieve these goals. Last year James Godwin successfully completed a gliding course, an identical course to that which Mark Whitehouse and Chris Poole attended this year.

The highlight of every RAF year is summer camp, and this year was no exception. Ten cadets of all ages, accompanied by Flg Off McMullan, attended camp at RAF St Athan, the largest RAF base in the country, situated on the South Wales coast outside Cardiff. The weather was

superb and helped the week go well. Mark Whitehouse writes in more detail about this camp.

TAM

This summer's RAF camp was held at RAF St Athan, a base in South Wales which is devoted to aircraft maintenance. This fact made it a unique experience for our section because all previous camps had been to operational bases where the skies were constantly filled with fast and very noisy jet aircraft.

The camp began with a delayed start for the ten cadets from King Edward's, since our officer and minibus driver, TAM, had damaged his left gear changing arm in a rather keen challenge during the RAF annual football match at school the day before. However, with a commercial coach having been pressed into service, we set off. The three hour journey was largely uneventful and it was only livened up after we crossed the Welsh border by a 'sheep spot'.

Before we had a chance to settle into our accommodation at the base - dormitories of eighteen boys each - we were called out to tea in various states of partial uniform. The meal presented us with the opportunity of meeting other cadets on camp - from Ryde school, St Mary's, Isle of Wight, and Liverpool College, both from Merseyside.

During the week we were kept busy by a variety of activities. Section visits and work experience sessions offered us the opportunity to view the work of everyone who is deployed at the base, and also to get involved with the maintenance crews. Some cadets worked on aircraft such as Tornados, Jaguars, Hawks, Harriers and VC10s.

The other events on the programme were all part of the inter-flight competition. These included: Ten Pin bowling, Drill, Leadership Exercises, an 8 mile Navigation Exercise, Quiz, Football, Rounders and Swimming. At the end of the week the points gained from each activity were added together. C-flight came out as winners, despite a knee ligament injury to their leader, Flt Sgt Whitehouse, earlier in the week, and six other injuries - legacies of the night exercise.

On the whole this was a very good camp which ran smoothly as a result of good organisation and was enjoyed by all the cadets who attended. All the cadets mixed well with those from other schools and plans to meet up again in the future are already in the making.

We are grateful to Flg Off McMullan and the other officers who gave up their time to come with us and make it such an enjoyable experience.

Flt Sgt Mark Whitehouse



Flt Sgt Mark Whitehouse and Cpl Chris Poole proudly wearing their gliding badges, awarded for the successful completion of Basic Glider Training.

CCF - ARMY SECTION

The Autumn term saw a record intake of sixty third years, creating a logistical nightmare in kitting them out with at least vaguely matching uniform. This year's Connolly Commander was WO2 Tom Armitage, who later earned his promotion to the Head of CCF through his natural leadership skills, as much as through an "unthinking moment". This year's batch have now been refined down to a crack, hard-core of thirty trained men, who make up for in enthusiasm what they lack in military skills. The platoon was dominated by the larger-than-life personalities of Barry Bahar and Prayag Rajpura. Cadet Cadogan beat off stiff competition from the likes of Joe Tipper and Private Benjamin.

The excellent guidance of Sgt Tom Tipper and Cpl Dave Clark has moulded a new breed of Universal (Vyse) soldiers. Their efforts have been made increasingly difficult by really, really scary cadets like Sanjay Rupal and Amir 'Goliath' Ali. Cadet Sterry impressed the NCOs enough this year, and walked

away with the 'Cadet of the Year' trophy.

This year's Cadre has produced a bilingual troop who can conjugate verbs faster than an SA-80 firing on automatic. Platoon commanders were Sgt Jon Aning and Cpl 'Trooper' Cooper, who both benefited from their timeshare cadets by taking a fortnightly break. The cadre competition '96 was dominated by Jon Goldman, John 'Scissorhands' Walton, Ben Forgiel-Jenkins and Robin Vickers. A tie-breaker lecture finally produced Jon Goldman as the winner.

There was only one Expeditions Weekend, to the new venue of Long Marston - a cross between Swynerton and Euston railway station. Cadre and Vyse spent two full nights exercising under canvas, whilst Connolly enjoyed the comfort of modern 4-star barracks.

The annual inspection this year was notable for its lack of human errors. Group captain S B Schofield was clearly impressed with the Cadre, made apparent by the brevity of individual

criticisms during the inspection.

This was a year for experimentation, with the introduction of the NCO elite Training Wing, headed by Sgt Campbell. This has been cruelly compared to Napoleon's elite in 'Animal Farm', but I can safely say that Mr Campbell has no intention of conquering the school and establishing a fascist dictatorship. The training team comprised Sgt Caldicott, Cpl Tom Marchant, Cpl Stinton, Cpl 'Iron' Mike Sheldon, Cpl 'Waj' Armitage and Cpl Ross 'Dynamo' Emery.

Many thanks must go to Mr Connor, Mr Collins and Mr Campbell, as well as to all the NCOs throughout the sixth form, who have made 1996 another successful year for the CCF.

Finally, Nick Holliday will be sadly missed by all who had contact with him in the CCF. His humour, care and expedition expertise will be sorely missed, and his untimely death is a tragic event for us all.

Cpl Ben Stinton Cpl Michael Sheldon



CCF - NAVY SECTION

The Royal Naval Section of the CCF has continued to grow this year with a sizeable intake of eager third year cadets. As usual there has been a large turnout for the summer and Easter courses that the Navy offers, with cadets taking advantage of the opportunities for shooting, sailing and flying.

All the expeditions that the section has organized have been a success. The first of these was a barge trip to Worcester in keeping with the section's naval heritage. In the summer term we visited our parent establishment HMS Dolphin. This trip was well-enjoyed, with cadets participating in boatwork in a variety of vessels.

Annual inspection gave the naval section an opportunity to display its wide-ranging talents with displays including survival, lifesaving and windsurfing. It was a fitting send off to the inspirational SNCO Ian Brown.

More recently the senior members of the section visited the Derbyshire Peak District and walked and mountain hiked their way around the hills.

There was also a minecounter measures sea-day attended by four NCO's. This provided a welcome opportunity to see how the Navy works and sample life on board a minesweeper, HMS Berkeley.

Many thanks are owed to the strenuous efforts of CPO Branimah, Lt. Everest, Lt Stead and S-Lt Tudor. Their continued work makes the Royal Navy CCF a reward and challenging option.

Cdr'n Edmund Norris



CCF TRIP TO BAVARIA

Six o'clock on Saturday 20 July at New Street Station, and the members of KES CCF arrived in parties of one and two ahead of us a journey by rail and ferry to Southern Germany. Almost 24 hours later we finally make it to Hindelang in Bavaria. Although we were not actually at the hotel we were meant to be at nobody seemed that bothered.

The next day we got up early and began the ascent of the impressive looking Rotspitz (2033m). As the day drew on the temperatures rose, forcing some members of the group, who will remain nameless, to turn back. The rest of us pushed on to the top and spectacular views. The first day had been a long slog, but luckily day two promised to be more relaxed. The group was split

in two, one group went rock climbing, the others mountain biking. The rock climbing went smoothly, but the mountain biking was less successful, the bikes were picked up late, Alex Kearns forgot how brakes work and Barry Bahar had a close encounter with a tractor.

On the third day the group that went rock climbing went mountain biking whilst the others canoed. Again the biking didn't really go right, although a small detour over a 1500m mountain was compensated for by the descent. The next morning we got up extra early, as this was what everyone had been waiting for: we were going white water rafting. We spent the morning on a gentler river, then in the afternoon the more senior members of the group went

on to try something a little trickier. The afternoon was a sheer adrenaline rush that we will never forget, although I am sure Mr Connor wishes he could.

For the next two days we split in two again. One group set off to conquer Hohes Licht, at 2651m the highest mountain in the region, spending the night in a mountain hut. The other group spent the days canoeing and rock climbing and being generally amused by the antics of John Aboaja.

The final day was spent shopping in Obersdorf before heading back home to face our greatest challenge yet. London in the rush-hour during a tube strike. I am sure all those who sent on the trip would like to thank Messrs. Collins and Connor for an excellent time.

William Armistage

1996 CONFERENCE OF YOUNG EUROPEANS HELD AT ST MARK'S COLLEGE, LYON

Wednesday 20th March

On this day began my voyage to Lyon to attend the second meeting of young Europeans in Lyon. Having woken up at the unearthly hour of 5.00am I was driven to Heathrow to catch the 9.00am plane destined for France.

After a comfortable flight, I was welcomed by my host Tristan Solanet at the airport. The rest of the day was spent settling in with the family, who made me very welcome indeed.

Thursday 21st March

After breakfast we travelled to St Mark's college by the metro system, where we met representatives from all twelve EEC countries as well as from Lithuania, Bosnia and Poland. Our first assignment was to decorate the hall, in which we were to debate and give our presentations, with all that we had bought to educate the French with. Following this began the first debate which was on the subject of the importance of organizing such a conference.

Then began the first of the presentations. Although in alphabetical order, Grande Bretagne somehow jumped in front of the likes of Allemagne and Bosnia to be listed as the first! The British presentation both informed and amused the French and the other Europeans of many things about one of the greatest countries in the world. It undoubtedly set a very hard act to follow encompassing, history, current affairs, geography and many topical issues. Then came the presentations of Spain, Poland, Bosnie and Greece.

The afternoon was taken up mainly with a display of different types of French costume throughout the ages, which was presented by some of the younger pupils. In the evening the college put on a concert which was greatly appreciated by all.

Friday 22nd March

The first part of the morning was taken up by the presentations of Holland, Belgium, Norway and Sweden. Then came a most passionate talk on the former Yugoslavia presented by Colonel Philippe Coiffet who had recently served in the Balkans. After this most captivating talk we were

scheduled to be welcomed with the many souvenirs and other artefacts.

The afternoon consisted mainly of sport, including both a volleyball and football tournament followed by a solidarity run raising money for people in the former Yugoslavia.

Saturday 23rd March

This day was very exhausting, but fortunately it was most enlightening. It consisted of walking around Lyon sightseeing.

During the day we encountered the l'Opéra, an art museum, the Basilica at Fourvière, St. Jean's cathedral and the Place Bellecour shopping centre. The Basilica itself is a very beautiful and awe-inspiring building quite unmatched

by any English efforts. The day also consisted of visiting a delightful park, containing both animals and a varied selection of plant life.

Sunday 24th March

The rest of the weekend was spent with my host family, in which I undertook more sight-seeing, particularly of Lyon's older districts.

Monday 25th March

With the arrival of the sixth day came even more sight-seeing. During the course of it we visited a wine distillery outside Lyon and sampled the beauty of the Alps. It was a long

and fatiguing day being the third consecutive one "out and about".

Tuesday 26th March

We were gathered in the college for the majority of the day. In the morning we were entertained by the presentations of Finland, Italy, Ireland and Portugal which were of varying quality. After lunch the IVth year pupils put on a fabulous display, describing the different regions of France focussing on their characteristic qualities. After this came some more debates based on "The influence of the USA on Europe," "Racism" and "The Environment".

The evening was taken up with a disco in which a group of boys from the college showed off their musical talents when they performed as a rock group.

Wednesday 27th March

By this time some of the representatives had already made their way back to their home countries. The morning was left to spend discussing what had been achieved during the week. After lunch, the remaining representatives said goodbye to each other and left for home.

The plane journey home was peaceful, enabling me to ponder and reflect on the many things I had learnt and what had been achieved throughout the week.





RIPS



Ski Trip To Bad Kleinkirchheim

An adventurous, able bodied and (allegedly) active group of thrill seeking, would-be skiers met at the Foundation Office for this year's ski trip. The coach arrived after the customary thirty minute delay, and everyone managed to fit their luggage - at least three times over the allotted limit - into the coach's hold. At last we were off! One Wallace and Grommit film and a rugby match later we were at Dover, and the first surprise of the trip confronted us. Seven boys, several teachers and a whole load of skis and luggage were waiting to board our coach! Dave 1 and Dave 2, the coach drivers, struggled diligently with the extra baggage until after a half hour delay we were boarding the ferry for France.

The night passed slowly until we finally drifted off to the sound of the ranting and raving of those at the front of the coach. We slept until about 4am. As dawn rose so did our spirits, as there was ample evidence of fresh snow on the ground. The day passed slowly until our arrival at a tiny village in deepest Austria. We thought we were just asking for directions; little did we know that this was Dellach, our home for the next week. Out we poured into the hotel that was surprisingly well equipped.

Having learnt of the programme for the week, we retired to our rooms, contemplating the ridiculously early wake-up time of 6 am. When we woke in the morning, we were being blitzed by a snowstorm outside. After a

satisfying breakfast of rolls and jam we headed for the slopes. It didn't stop snowing all day - forty centimetres in all; Austria's largest depth for ten years. The groups met their instructors; Pete from Newcastle led the crack, elite, call them what you will - their desire for speed greater than their will to live. Jurgen took that hearty band of men, the intermediates, and Brigit led those who can only be called beginners.

The skiing was cold, enduring and challenging, and the beginners had to retire to the bottom by lunch time. By the end of the day we all needed a rest. After a fulfilling dinner we were briefed by Judge Stead. He had a frightening hold over us, charging us two schillings (13p) for every offence. These included condiment abuse and sleeping on the coach!

The rest of the week's skiing was fantastic, with snow and sun aplenty. On Thursday we were good enough to attempt the timed slalom; easy for most, but a few beginners thought the aim was to hit the pretty flags. The evenings consisted of coach trips to the bowling alley and the swimming pool at Romerbad, as well as a quiz organised by Mr. Stone.

All too soon the week had to end, and the entire group heaved a sigh as we reluctantly boarded the coach for the voyage home. Thanks go to all the teachers for organising such an enjoyable trip and making it run so smoothly - well, most of the time anyway.

Stephen Hewitt

TEXAS EXCHANGE BRITS ABROAD

In early Easter 1996, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Benson, eight intrepid British explorers, from the Divisions and Fourth year, went forth to conquer America. The real America - Dallas, Texas, the Deep South, home of the cowboys and land of the free. For two weeks we savoured a healthy slice of the American Dream and glimpsed successful Americans at their best. Fed on a rich diet of genuine generosity, beef, baseball, dead presidents and historic excursions we experienced a society at its peak. For many of us, myself included, this was our first time in America and we left both impressed with our hosts' generosity and sorrowful to leave it all behind.

Parents' initial worries about the gentle gun laws and pupils' initial terror at the strict drink laws proved unfounded as we experienced the best of lifestyles. For example, Sam Chilcott's exchange partner was an attractive blonde saving for her first Ferrari, while I took advantage of the British beef crisis as an excuse to eat too many hamburgers. The food was fantastic, manic Mexican dishes containing the now legendary Jalapinio Chilli Peppers, responsible

for many an unsuspecting tourist's nose bleed which justified the locals' need to drink bucketloads of Dr. Pepper's to drain the sensation. Literally bucketloads - it's an American cliché but everything is bigger in Texas and most things are cheaper. I've heard that Britain could fit into Texas five times, which gives you some idea of just how big America is. That much land and competition means the pound goes a long way.

The school we are twinned with - St. Mark's - was a modern-looking school with a long tradition of producing the best and brightest boys. This is one, and perhaps the only, similarity that it held with King Edward's. Lessons are more discussion-orientated, while the school uniform is white shirt and shorts! It is worth noting that the St. Mark's boys receive the best education Texas can offer, but it pales when compared to K.E. standards. Patrons of St. Mark's include the actor Tommy Lee Jones and the sons



of the failed political candidate and billionaire Ross Perot, who I lived two doors down from.

The 1996 trip to Dallas was a wonderful experience - pupils would be making a tremendous mistake if they had the option to go on it next year and decided against it. You have been warned. Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Benson and Mr. Andronov for giving us the opportunity to visit America.

Angus Henderson

KES Greece and Crete Trip Easter 1996

As the group of holiday-makers convened outside the Foundation Office on Saturday, there was an overwhelming feeling of an event; something special. As we thundered down the motorway, the only way Mr. Worthington could control the frenzy was by handing out the official KES Greek Trip Guide, the contents of which were Mr. Lambie's "No Bull Guide to the Palace of Minos at Knossos" - the first joke of the trip - a series of irrelevant cartoons and a vital vocabulary list (motopothilato-moped). This stunning handbook silenced the throng. There is little to say about the journey, other than the 'plane was delayed.

It was nice to see that Athens airport had retained all the 'charm' we

encountered two years ago. As we travelled to the hotel we saw the city in all its night-time glory (you don't get to see all the pollution in the dark). As we all went to sleep straight away, a complete picture of Hotel Euripides had to wait until the next day.

And what a tribute to the hotel industry it was, set in cramped, built-up surroundings, with gourmet breakfasts (just what were those cereals? And the bread, oh, the bread). In its favour the hotel did have a decent view of the Acropolis. But Athens' most famous site had to wait, since it was a national holiday. This enabled us to discover 'modern' Athens in relative serenity. Over the next two days, the party wandered through Athens, ate at McDonald's, experienced the view from the Lykabetos Hill, visited the Olympic stadium and ambled round the 'Plaka' where all the same shops

sell all the same things. Aside from the visits, our time in Athens provided the first in a long line of attempts to improve foreign relations. On this occasion it was the Fourths who tried to fraternise with some Italians.

Because of the veterans (Luke, Matthew and Dave, who'd enjoyed themselves so much in '94 that they decided to come back), rather than visit the same sights again, those on high chose Crete as a suitable destination for the KES crew.

As we boarded our ferry, it became clear that Homer had never travelled with Anek Lines, for the ship was not 'swift', nor was it 'black'. A more suitable epithet might have been 'tiny cabined'. Peter and I realised that, as two years ago, the Fourths have the most fun and so from this point on we joined them in their evening activities (the less said the better).

Having woken at the horribly early hour of 05:30, we set foot on Crete, and journeyed to Agios Nikolaos. On arriving at the Hotel Apollon, we were shocked by its plushness - a pool table, and especially by the welcome breakfasts: proper orange juice and tea and toast. In the morning we visited Lato, 'a flourishing Dorian city from the 8th century BC'. It involved a very long walk, but even so 'David's Greek Trip Diary' described it as 'pretty ace'. Then we were given the afternoon off, in which I had to fill seven hours wandering around Agios Nikolaos, or playing one game of pool. Dinner was great fun, in a puerile way, asking for lots of water, and talking with a very nice waitress. The teachers' demands to go to sleep at a certain time were



nonchalantly disregarded (hey, rebel classicists), and we amused ourselves with endless card games.

After yet another good breakfast, we boarded our coach to travel yet again, this time to Gortyn, where from the union of Zeus and Europa, Minos was born, and also to the site of the Code of Gortyn, the longest surviving Ancient Greek inscription, written 'boustrophedon' (great word). Having spent an hour there, we proceeded to Agria Triada, the possible summer residence of the Kings of Phaestos, where we saw 'the room with bench', as our guidebook told us. After a lunch where almost everyone had an omelette, we went to Phaestos, a most impressive Minoan palace and the site of the oldest theatre in the world. Our final night in Crete was celebrated in style.

We ate our last good breakfast, and boarded our coach to journey around the Cretan countryside, a change in our itinerary, since a strike meant that all the ancient sites were closed till lunch. We took in the marvellous views and took advantage of a couple of 'big photo opportunities'. We then came to Knossos, coach capital of the world, where Mr. Stone had severe problems with his digestive system. Two hours were hardly enough to take more than a fleeting glance at the palace of Minos, though Mr. Lambie's notes were a valuable aid. We also visited the Heraklion museum, home of such famed items as the Phaestos Disc, the Snake Goddess, and many frescoes. As before, an hour was only enough to do justice to the starred items in our guide.

Having had an excellent time in Crete, the 'wretched strangers' set sail back to the mainland and Hotel Euripides. The voyage was action-packed. On our return, welcoming with open arms the bloke with the free sweets in the shop across the road, we partook of another mighty breakfast; they had actually improved... a little. We spent the day at Athens' famous sites. First stop was the Agora, home of the Temple of Hephaestus. It was then onwards and upwards to the Acropolis, site of the Parthenon, the Erechtheum, and the temple of Athene, which despite scaffolding, cranes and lots of tourists, were outstandingly impressive. After lunch we visited the Theatre of Dionysus, and the National Museum. Before dinner Mr. Worthington encouraged us 'to shop till you drop', which we duly did.

Our final day was spent in Delphi, in my humble opinion the best site of

the trip, which was smothered with yellow flowers, and memorable for the American woman, who, looking down on the roofless Treasury of the Athenians, proclaimed perceptively 'It's hollow inside!'. Back in Athens we wandered around the 'Plaka' again and watched an enigmatic Greek TV quiz show host. The climax of the week, the *Son et Lumière*, was brilliant, dogs and all. Our final moments in Athens were spent serenading some foreigners in the hotel.

Special mention must be made of the teachers: firstly Mr. Lambie who was unable to join us due to an untimely misfortune. His boots were filled by the able Mr. Stone, who spent his time getting in the way of everybody's photos. Mr. Evans was the listening but not necessarily doing bank, whilst the tour leader Mr. Worthington was able to cope with strikes et al, admirably. Thank you all for such a great holiday.

David Saunders

UMT PARIS TRIP 1996

Mr. McMullan was so impressed with his Upper Middle class of 95/96, that he decided to take us on an Easter trip to Paris. No one knows if he now regrets his rash decision, but he must be looking forward to when we leave his class in the summer.

Sunday 31st March

Why every school trip has to leave at 0600 hours is beyond me, but this one was no exception. No pupil had the embarrassment of forgetting to put their clock forward the night before; the teachers were duly impressed.

Even before we reached the Channel a near-disaster struck. At the first service station one of the two coach drivers was taken ill and escorted to hospital by ambulance. We were very grateful to Phil, the substitute driver, for stepping in at such short notice, thus allowing the trip to continue. (This was his sixteenth trip to Paris so far in 1996). The ferry crossing was uneventful and we soon arrived at the hotel, near the centre of the city. As we prepared for a good night's sleep, the teachers sprung the horror of a walk on us. The walk lasted half an hour and soon we were at the beautifully lit Sacré

Coeur. The view from the top of night-time Paris was worth climbing several hundred steps for. When we returned to the hotel we soon fell asleep, resting until 0700 hours the next morning.

Monday 1st April

Surprisingly no April Fool's day tricks were played today. We spent the entire day in the huge theme park, Eurodisney. We arrived at about 0900 and had a good three hours to sample the gentle rides, saving all the horrific ones till after dinner. The popular choice for best ride went to the breathtaking Space Mountain, close contenders being The Indiana Jones Experience and the Star Wars simulator. We had great fun mocking the entertainers, especially Micky and Donald, whilst the Ewoks in the Star Wars area had fun belittling us. We were disappointed when we had to leave; little did we know that the scheming teachers planned to take us on a five mile walk after dinner. On this walk we saw Le Louvre and La Place de Concorde.

Tuesday 2nd April

After another early start and another typical French breakfast of croissants and jam, we were off to see the Palace of Versailles (made famous in 1919). As soon as we got off the coach, we were mobbed by street vendors who had postcards and the ilk. After losing them we squeezed our way to the front of the queue. We took a short guided tour followed by a stroll in the gardens.

We then returned to Paris where we were allowed some free time to sample the city. It was recommended to us to try a typical French cuisine for lunch. Guess where we ended up - in McDonald's. After lunch came the visit to the most famous French monument.... the Eiffel Tower.

Although we were forced to walk up several hundred steps to the second stage, the view was terrific. After this venture we went down the Seine in a boat, and then Phil took us on a coach tour of the city.

Wednesday 3rd April

The coach journey back to England was a lot less exciting than the way there. We did stop to see some WWI trenches which were unappealing, and arrived in Birmingham about 2100 hours feeling very tired.

Many thanks to Mr. McMullan, Mr. Goodlad and Mr. Ostrowicz for such a great trip.

Chris Houslin



Jugendtreffen '96

temperament saw them through many a conversation. Old Edwardian Sunny Mann, returning for a third time, and thereby showing that campness is not restricted by international borders, helped us immeasurably as well as keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Before we knew it, the final night was upon us with its promise of frivolity and the traditional farewell show. James, ever the comedian, gave a felicitous rendering of "Wonderwall", for which Tom M., no doubt spurred on by the serious and wanton damage to some of his best-loved items of clothing, felt induced to dress up in drag and act as a backing singer. His fans cheered.

Finally, hearty thanks must go to foul-mouthed Mark Whitty, his affable fiancée Ann, and big-boned Alfredo Paulus who made up the team, as well as to Mrs. Hodgkin - who ably organised the travel arrangements - for two great, fun-packed weeks which surpassed all expectations.

James Heaton & Charlie Webb

Having broken up just the day before, six of K.E.'s finest set out for Germany as the sole British representatives for "Europaisches Jugendtreffen", an annual opportunity for the youth of Europe to meet and discuss the problems of the world today. The future is in our hands.

Yet it was not all pondering. Trips were organised to the local town of Bumsenheim, as well as to the Steifermuseum at Karstadt. However, we spent most of our time in the serene surroundings of the St. Jakobshaus in Goslar. There was every amenity one could wish for: showers, toilets, a chessboard, and a chapel with fully-operational organ. In spite of all this, some of the group felt the need to escape these confines at times, and so, although having suffered a freak hamstring injury, Tom Manners - school administrator, house captain, chapel warden, and U.S.C.R. committee man - took it upon himself to act as group chaperone for these misguided souls as they drowned their sorrows at the local Kneipe.

Besides the visits, the programme included discussions, games - containing an unsavoury amount of physical contact - and general do-goodery.

We also partook in a mini-Olympics which allowed Tom M.'s many self-proclaimed skills to come to the fore and established him a firm fanbase.

The following morning we started the second leg of our excursion by moving on to Hameln. By this time the group was taking shape: the Italians were friendly and fun-loving, the Finns impulsive and reckless, and the Poles were sincere and profound. However, it was we English who were the talk of the town. Tom Page's hedgehog impression was as memorable as it was disturbing, but his address book swelled nonetheless, Pete 'n' Neil's cool



Wiesbaden Exchange 1996

It was with very mixed feelings that a group of about 40 boys and girls (we went with Edgbaston High School) arrived at Birmingham International Airport at around nine in the morning on a Thursday in July. We were apprehensive about the exchange, almost dreading it, yet we should have known that our fears were to be proved unfounded, and that we would have an excellent time. After checking in, we sat around in the waiting area while Mr. Tomlinson took advantage of the duty free. A bit later (quite impressive for British Airways!) we took our seats



Poss does a good duck impression

on the plane for the short flight to Frankfurt Airport. A few pieces of smoked salmon later, we touched down in Germany, and then were greeted at the airport by Herr Diederich, the teacher in charge of the German party. We had not been there 10 seconds before Mr. Tomlinson started trying to impress everyone with super-fast German - so fast that even Germans couldn't understand it! Herr Diederich led us to the nearby train station, from where we spent half an hour on the train to Wiesbaden.

Arriving in Wiesbaden, we were met on the platform by our exchange partners. Herr (pronounced 'Hair', meaning Mr.) Tomlinson (or 'No Herr Tomlinson' as the Germans later called him) bade us all farewell and we all went to our exchange partners' homes for the afternoon. On arrival, a few of us experienced the German tradition of 'Kaffee and Kuchee' (afternoon tea). It is, so we're told, an honour to join in

with a family's K & K and I'm sure that we all felt duly privileged. There was a lot to discover from the German families. They wanted to talk about two things mainly - BSE, and our recent failure (and their success) in Euro '96. On the subject of BSE, they seemed to think that everyone was dying from it. Germans obviously have an equivalent of 'The Sun'. The parents were also keen to try a bit of their English on us. It was limited, however, to what they had learnt at school which, strangely, was: Umty Dumty sit on ze vall.....

The next day was the last day of official school, so we went with our partners. School runs from 8 am. till 1 pm which seems a very good idea. Anyway, we experienced the rather different German school. And an experience it certainly was! The pupils seem to have more control than the teachers. The only way we saw of 'disciplining' the class is using the cake system. Anybody talking out of turn in a lesson gets a point. When someone has collected three points, they have to bring in a cake to share with the class. I did say it was different!

The pupils, however have power. They vote on all important subjects, and some less important ones. One class



Heidelberg

spent half an hour discussing and voting on what sort of plant they would get to liven the classroom up next year. In another class, the teacher was five minutes late. The pupils were so disgusted they walked out as soon as she arrived! Not bad.

The next week we had a couple of sightseeing trips, interspersed with a few days of 'Project Week', in which the pupils choose an activity to do. Those sampled by our group included favourites such as Square Dancing and Body Building. The teacher who took my art class tried to speak English when she thought that I had misunderstood that we were meant to be drawing a tree. I had to explain that I was, and that Art wouldn't have been my choice as a project!

The ten days passed too quickly, and most of us loved Germany and got on very well with our exchange partners. Some are planning to go back next year. Finally, our thanks to Mr. Tomlinson. It was great! - we would recommend it to anyone.

Paul Rutter and Oliver Neuberg

The Rhine





Tallinn Harbour

Travel Scholarship 1996: Helsinki and the Baltic States

In the summer of 1996, we spent three weeks travelling through Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the former Soviet Socialist Republics, who, having gained independence in 1991, are now in the process of building towards the future whilst restoring their cultural, architectural and religious glories. We started our trip by flying out to Helsinki, a city that is not packed with delights for the tourist, but is pleasant enough on a summer's day, and proved to be an ideal place to break us into the routine of travelling. From Helsinki it was a short ferry trip to the true start of the trip, in Tallinn, capital of Estonia.

For the majority of our time we stayed in the three capital cities. Tallinn is by far the most beautiful - its old town of narrow cobbled streets, painstakingly restored city walls and the stunning Alexander Nevsky Cathedral must rate as one of the most picturesque in Europe, if not the world. Riga, capital of Latvia, is the largest city in the area (although its population is still less than that of Birmingham) and, despite seeming drab and industrial at first, was the most cosmopolitan and lively city that we visited. Vilnius is a green and pleasant city, and had the added bonuses of being cheap and having the best restaurants in the region.

We also took the opportunity to visit areas outside the major cities.

Highlights included the charming island castle of Trakai and the Gauja National Park in North-West Lithuania. Finally, we spent 10 hours on various buses and trains to visit the Hill of Crosses in Northern Lithuania. Here, in the middle of a field miles from anywhere, stands a small hillock where millions of crosses have been planted as an expression of both Nationalism and Catholicism. The Soviets burned and bulldozed the site three times, but the crosses always sprang up again. The present crop have all been placed on the Hill since 1980. This was a truly unforgettable experience: there may well be churches better than the Nevsky Cathedral and castles more beautiful than Trakai, but the Hill of Crosses is unique.

Despite the pleasant aspects of the trip, there were constant reminders of the appalling history of the area. Between the wars Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were independent, but following the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, the Soviets invaded in 1940, and at once started killing and deporting the local population. In 1941 Hitler invaded and continued Stalin's work: the Holocaust killed nearly a million people in the area, including some 400,000 Jews. Despite the horrors of the war, it was the years of communism that did most damage to the area. Until 1940 the history of Finland mirrored that of its neighbours. By 1991, Finland had one of the highest standards of living in the

world, whilst the Baltic States had a crumbling infrastructure and economy, widespread poverty and a population decimated by Stalin's purges. During our trip, we visited the sites of the Nazi concentration camps at Kurtenhof and Kaunas, the Jewish Museum of Vilnius and the KGB prisons until 1987, our guide had spent 1 year here and 12 in the gulags of Siberia.

Even more recent is the evidence of the Soviet invasion of 1991. Notably, we visited the Vilnius TV Tower, with its display of photographs of the street fighting in which 14 Lithuanians were shot by the Russians or crushed under their tanks. To a Westerner accustomed to peace and stability, it is hard to believe that even people of our age have had to live with such repression, fear and insecurity.

We very much enjoyed our time in the Baltics, and are grateful to the school for offering us such an opportunity. We had planned and organised the journey on our own, and were working on a tight budget, and so we were satisfied to see our work paying off. We saw all that we wanted to see, and our greatest problems were a man who insisted on kissing us repeatedly on the hands and cheeks, and a transvestite who accosted us as we waited for the night train back to Tallinn. Our trip taught us many things that you will never learn in school, and we can only encourage people to apply for this excellent opportunity in the future.

Adam Johnson and William James



Soviet Sculpture: Kurtenhof Camp

Travel Scholarship to Germany - East and West

Seven years ago, I had the opportunity to go to East Germany only months after the wall came down, on a visit organised by my local church. I applied for the travel scholarship to go there again, to see how the situation has changed there in the remarkably fast transition from communism to capitalism.

My first stop was Berlin, the old and new capital of Germany. I saw the huge amount of building work going on in the centre, on the new parliament and the public transport system. I also saw the suburbs in the east, where the old, soot covered and badly maintained eastern blocks of flats still stand; where the poor, the drug addicts and the drunks are forced to live to avoid the dramatic increase in rent in the western-owned buildings.

From there I travelled to Dresden, the capital of the former Kingdom of Saxony. A lot of money has been spent here, and the beautiful historical buildings have been rescued from neglect. I spent four days in the village of Lichtenberg, just outside Dresden. The story was different here to in the big cities; small businesses have been forced to close, save those now owned by western corporations.

Unemployment, previously

unknown, has brought some residents to living as recluses, never leaving their homes. Residents bemoaned rampant materialism, less community spirit and exploitation by the west. But the change has also brought benefits, as villagers now have cars and so can travel more, and a sewerage system which filters waste rather than dumping it straight into a river. There was building work here too, on new houses for the new rich, and on new streets for the new cars.

My next stop was Liptitz nearer to Leipzig. After a bombardment of information in Lichtenberg, this was my chance for rest. I saw that the situation there was similar to in Lichtenberg - the father of the family I stayed with had to commute to Bavaria to find work. I also had a lot of chances properly to investigate German beer: the best of which comes from Saxony. I learnt some words of the local Saxon dialect - incomprehensible to Germans and not to be used in the A-level oral exam.

I arrived thirty minutes late in Leipzig, delayed by the enormous amount of building work going on on an otherwise very efficient rail system. Leipzig was similar to Berlin and Dresden: the inner city transformed for better or for worse, and the suburbs for the most part left alone. Residents do not have the money to pay for improvements after the tremendous increase in prices. I travelled out to Torgau, where American and Russian troops first met at the Elbe. I also saw the environmental monitoring system

where my host, Jörn worked. This is a new development to examine air pollution, and would never have existed in Communist times.

My last city in the East was Magdeburg, half the size of Leipzig. My hosts here have definitely benefitted from the changes; they have got back the family factory, and the father is now a true Mercedes - driving cigar - smoking capitalist. Others have not been so fortunate, and I saw many cases where the inefficient heavy industrial plants have been forced to close because of competition from the west.

As a control, I decided to visit the modern financial city of Frankfurt am Main in the west. It was easy to see what was being aspired to in the East - the tall skyscrapers, the huge shopping complexes, the modern buildings and transport systems, all much bigger and better than in the east. But it was also easy to see the problems the East is going to have to face. I saw beggars and buskers in the city centre, junkies and their used needles in the streets. Sex shops and prostitution could be seen, there were many areas unsafe to walk at night, and the police fought a battle against gangs. These were unknown in the East before the collapse of Communism. They hoped things could change so they would get the good aspects of capitalism but be able to keep what they liked about socialism. They were very wrong.

Marlene Strick/Nicholas

Shells' Fell Walking 1996

It was eight o'clock on a rather cool and chilly morning. The date was February 4th. The party was beginning to arrive for what we all thought was to be a lovely walk in the Derbyshire hills. We set off in the bus and went down the school drive to the Cadet Headquarters, to pick up waterproofs for those who had forgotten them.

The journey passed as one would expect; boys shouting to one another over a distance of half a metre about their favourite bit of a gory film, others telling rude jokes in hushed voices, for obvious reasons.

At last we arrived and a very strange sight met our eyes; about twenty centimetres of snow covered nearly all the ground. Immediately there was a snowball fight by the side of the single track road.

Mrs. Brownsword and Mr. Boardman ruined our fun by leading us into a sloped field where our walk was to begin. Little did we know Mr. Boardman had other plans...

Suddenly he dropped his bag and started snowballing us. Then came Operation Boardman; the pupils decided to gang up against the teachers. The fight lasted for a frantic twenty minutes of fun; nobody seemed to mind the cold snowballs down their neck.

I must say the scenery was extraordinary: snow covered hills and fields glowing white with only hints of green and brown; trees shining with glorious white tops. There were only occasional signs of life: a car passing along the road or a family on an outing. We eventually began to climb the hill

towards a rock face; when we got there we changed direction so that we were walking parallel to it.

It was slow going, even for the best members of our group, as snow hampered our movement. There weren't as many mad people as us walking on this freezing day. We followed the rocks for 500 metres and then found a safe passage between two cliffs where the snow was already beaten down. Upon reaching the end of this small climb we stopped to eat and drink and replenish the lost energy.

The afternoon continued with more fun and excitement, until disappointingly it was time to leave. I would just like to say thank you to Mr. Boardman and Mrs. Brownsword for organising such an excellent trip.

Nicholas Fisher

LEADERSHIP WEEKENDS

Each year 24 boys in the Divisions spend one of three weekends of laughs and leadership at the Bredwardine Lodge in Hereford and Worcester. The idea of these weekends is to place the participants in a challenging environment, and to make them perform tasks that will test their leadership qualities.

Boys depart without the slightest clue as to the horrors that lie ahead. All I can say is that the more standard leadership exercises are interspersed with the products of Mr. Roll's twisted mind.

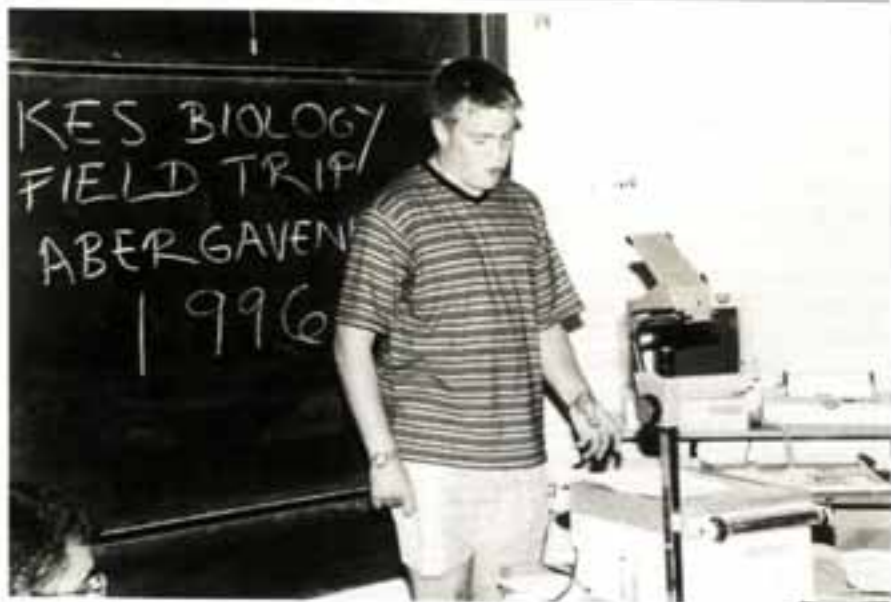
Be prepared for the unexpected!

I don't know anybody who didn't enjoy the course, and even those who were initially apprehensive soon overcame their fears. Many who didn't apply for a place soon regretted it upon our return with exotic tales.

You don't need to be particularly fit to do well; the entire weekend revolves around communication. You are put into a team with people you've never met before; they rely on you to succeed. You'll return with a hefty pile of washing and feeling rather tired, but will have gained in self-confidence.

Thanks go to all the Foundation school teachers for giving up their time for us, in particular Mr. Roll, for making this wonderful experience possible.

James Powell



Biology Field Trip to Abergavenny

Monday morning, 8 o'clock, and there was a tangible feeling of anticipation as thirty-six keen and energetic biologists queued up to be on their way. Even the teachers could barely contain their excitement, knowing (as they did) that this was the biggest group ever to go on a Biology Field Trip, and doubtlessly confident that their pupils would rise to the occasion. Both Mr. Lampard, beard newly trimmed, and the evergreen Mr. Rigby were on excellent, if slightly competitive, driving form, while Dr. Galloway's experimental tough-talking tactics ensured that the journey of those travelling by train went smoothly. Mrs. Matthews was also on hand to keep order. Since the party consisted in the main, of prospective doctors, most people's experience of foreign

lands was quite limited; the country of hills, dragons and sheep was a new, and slightly worrying proposition. Nevertheless, the mood was one of quiet confidence as we crossed the invisible dividing line and entered Wales.

Ty'r Morwydd ("The House of the Mulberry Trees"), our home for the week, was a large, green building, thankfully situated well away from Abergavenny's

many nightspots, but still quite close to the town centre. Inside, the atmosphere was businesslike: various officials rounded us up to say hello briefly and lengthily lay down the law; we collected our equipment, took it to our rooms, and returned downstairs to eat. To our delight, we discovered that the lack of leisure time was going to be more than made up for by the spectacular quality of the food. Why worry about the glorious weather outside, we reasoned, when we could merely take our time over a delicious ploughman's lunch?

That afternoon, we were to look at succession in a local spoil tip. The science was interesting, and the group began to settle down to some serious work; the highlight of the afternoon, though, was when black smoke began to pour out of Mr. Lampard's minibus, much to the consternation of the teachers, but much to everyone else's amusement. Still, nothing more serious occurred, and we were thankfully able to see through the day's activities, which included a visit to the very beautiful St. Mary's Vale. That evening saw the eagerly awaited arrival of some students from King John's School in Essex (a mixed school), and, in the true spirit of companionship, we leapt on the opportunity to get to know each other that much better.

The next day, after a very poor night's sleep, we split into two groups and went our separate ways; half of us studied pollution in the Ebbw Fawr river, while the other half spent the day taking moorland transects. The evening was taken up with teaching and note taking, and such was the need for light relief after all of this that Vikram's infallible nose sniffed out a balti house. This was, of course, excellent news for



most people, although Andeep's sudden liking for Chinese cuisine was a cause for puzzlement. Wednesday consisted of exactly the same programme of events, except that the spectre of personal investigations was now looming large, and we had to start coming up with ideas. We were also augmented in number by the excellent Mr Porter, who arrived in the evening; unfortunately, Anurag Sharma was unlucky enough to break his leg while on the moor and had to be taken home. Hope you're well by the time you read this, Anu.

The last two days of the trip were given over to investigations, probably the most important part from an educational point of view. Project titles were many and varied, but most of them had something to do with bracken. My own investigation dealt with mating pairs of shrimps, which raised several eyebrows and a few laughs when it came to project presentation time. Still, the project presentation evening was, on the whole, a solemn affair, with Mo Tariq putting on a quite outstanding performance to gain a richly deserved standing ovation. Our last night on the town was marked by an exuberant sense of release, as the signing-out book (now in the safe hands of the science department) will testify, but we departed for Birmingham the next day with fond memories of the week.

It is a shame that what cannot be adequately described on paper is the effort that the teachers have to put in to make this trip work: it is a feat of organisation and especially of patience. In a way, this is the most important thing to be said, and so it seems right that it should be said last: thank you very much.

Michael Pindall

Removes' Study Week

Although not yet physically drained - though we should be after numerous lengthy, tiring walks - it can be justly said that Rem M were nothing less than emotionally enervated. The stressful exam week had consumed much of our strength and the desperate feeling of anti-climax after the final chemistry exam the previous Friday meant that it would be less than easy to pull together our remaining few ounces of strength in an effort to appreciate the forthcoming trip. However, gathering ample stamina was made easy by one of the most pleasing factors of the trip - the class spirit.

Any slight fears that a poor atmosphere may have somewhat spoiled the week were pushed aside when the two walks of the first day were made so gratifying by the many jokes passed around and the congeniality of the class towards each other and the teachers. My enthusiasm for walking was boosted greatly by these and the many other pleasant walks and I consider it a possible pastime for the future. Most - and certainly I - went to bed that day exhausted but immensely warmed and encouraged by the day's events.

Tuesday, by general consent the most enjoyable day, was spent at the nearby outdoor activities centre canoeing, skiing and rather precariously, abseiling. The friendly atmosphere helped to make the day that bit more pleasurable. A few hearts were broken, but many minds - including mine - were soothed when it was announced that

appalling weather had caused the postponement of the much-awaited mountain-eering trip up Snowdon. Although being substantially improved by high spirits, perhaps the most disappointing day then followed. The wet and miserable weather somewhat dampened the

enjoyment of the orienteering course and following hilly walk.

Perhaps the most educational day then followed, which may have seemed rather more lengthy than the others. The programme of a trip to the nearby slate mines and the Ffestiniog Power Station and Railway, however failed to disappoint. The delightful day proved the success of the trip in that, as well as being educationally worthwhile, the week generated much enjoyment for all.

With just a single day remaining, we went to bed slightly downhearted, but in the knowledge that another pleasurable day was still ahead.

A walk at the Aber Falls provided an appropriate end to such an enjoyable week. The coach pulled into the parade ground with loud, amicable chatter still being generated, to end a wholly enjoyable and worthwhile trip.

Stuart Ratcliffe



Removes' and Shells' Easter French Trip

Getting to school by 2 o'clock may not seem very arduous. It's when you place an "A.M." after the "o'clock" and mention that this was following a Sunday night visit to the local club that it starts to sound quite painful. If you then add that, after this act of endurance, an epic journey ensued taking about 15 hours and including a long boat ride over choppy seas, then things start to really hurt. However, this is exactly what happened on April the 14th when 40-odd Rems, Shells, teachers and the coach driver named Steve set out on a gargantuan voyage of discovery.... sort of.

Arriving in Normandy after the gruelling journey, we quickly reached our accommodation for the next three nights: a centre named "Bon Sejour". While in Normandy, we visited Bayeux, a museum dedicated to the two American paratroop regiments that paved the way for D-day, and then we went to see some of the Landing Beaches themselves.

Our second port of call was Paris. While Mr Dewar was haunted by memories from "The Day of the Jackal", we climbed to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. Here we watched with great amusement as gendarmes failed pathetically to keep the traffic around the monument in order.

Other highlights included Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower and a boat trip on the Seine looking at its many, interesting...errm...bridges.

Even more laughs were to be had when we saw the hotel we would be staying in that night. We tried not to notice the bannister sellotaped to the wall as we asked for our room keys from the manager, only to find out that we would only be given them if we said our room numbers in French. So, is that your little contribution to the educational service then mate? Great stuff. The next day we paid a visit to Vimy Ridge which was held by the Canadians in World War I. The land itself was given to the Canadians by the French as a token of thanks. After visiting the Sheipval Memorial, we went to our final hotel in Arras which was a complete departure from the "condemned" look of the previous hotel.

The following day, we set off for home accompanied by the music of "Goldeneye" (supplied courtesy of Matthew Clarke) and "Queen's Greatest Hits" (supplied courtesy of Tom Prew).

Oliver Scanlan

UMs' Geography Field Trip 1995

On the second Friday of term UME set out for a Geography Field Trip. The coach departed at 8.30 ready to take us to the first destination - Bridgnorth. Bridgnorth is a town with 12,000 inhabitants which is transforming into a commuter town. At Bridgnorth we saw the middle course of the River Severn, and the flood plains surrounding it. We then took notes on how the town developed, before going to Wenlock Edge. Wenlock Edge is a point from where one can see for 30 miles. It must be said, that a few of us had alternative ideas to looking out across the beautiful views. Instead we beckoned others to walk near the edge. But the harsh words of Mr Cumberland the "packleader" were enough to ensure that no-one went too near. Church Stretton, our next destination, was a scene of, well, fish and chips. We had been given a town quiz but this took a very short time, so most of us

met up with other forms in the local fish and chip shop. Church Stretton is a beautiful small town in a rift valley. It has 4,000 inhabitants who have come here mainly to retire. The town quiz compared it to Bridgnorth a lot.

This small town lies in the shadow of Carding Mill Valley, which happened to be the next destination. There we saw the ancient Pre-Cambrian rocks and the steep valley sides. We had to measure the angle of the sides and the upper course of a river's discharge. We did this for about an hour, and then headed back to the coach which took us back to school at 5.20 just in time to see Neighbours (for me anyway).

Our thanks must go to Mr Cumberland, Mrs. Brownswood and the coach driver for an excellent day out.

L. O. Rushell

September 1995 Geography Field Trip to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales.

We set off from KES at about 9.00 a.m. on Friday after a slight delay. Due to the large number of geographers this year, we were in an élite group of just six, later to be christened the "Super Six" by Mr Cumberland, no doubt for our extraordinary geographical talents. We hurtled down the M6 in what was supposed to be luxury minibus.

We arrived at our first destination, the village of Malham, by lunchtime and had lunch there. We were then taken up to our first field area, Malham Tarn. We walked from the lake to Malham Cove, a massive natural amphitheatre, noting the limestone features along the way, including the magnificent limestone pavement on Malham Cove itself. We walked back down to Malham before taking the minibus to Goredale Scar, a limestone gorge nearby. On this particular day the gorge was dry, although this was exceptionally unusual. We made our way to our accommodation through winding country roads and it was almost dark by the time we got to Arncliffe Youth Hostel. After a little while to freshen up, we were herded

straight off to dinner, which was the usual Youth Hostel food (those of you who have been on a field trip will know what I mean). We then did some follow-up work on the day's activities before getting about an hour of free time, which most of us spent in our rooms or playing pool.

The next day we were woken up bright and early and, after a good breakfast, we set off on the day's activities. We were to climb the Conistone Fells in the Lake District and study the rock type present there. We had a strangely enjoyable packed lunch half-way up, where a skinning competition was also held on Goats Water. By 4.00 p.m. we had returned to Arncliffe but instead of going to the Youth Hostel, we were shocked to find we still had work to do. This time we had to investigate the development there by looking at services. Eventually we did return to the Hostel for the usual evening routine.

The final day, Sunday, was spent studying human geography. For the first time the weather turned on us and in the pouring rain we did surveys of the villages around Arncliffe. We then

moved on to Morecombe, a Victorian sea resort which has seen a rapid decline in recent years. We had to look for signs of decline and possible reasons for it, while spending half an hour in the arcades.

The return journey was fairly quiet, with most people listening to music, listening to the return of Eric Cantona, or, failing that, being entertained by James Hynes's singing.

As usual, many thanks go to Dr. Higgitt, Mr Cumberland, Mr Holliday Mrs Brownsword, Liz the technician and of course the staff at Arnside Youth Hostel, who bravely put up with us year after year. Also thanks to the teachers in charge of the other group at Stainforth.

Bonny Nair

Fourth Form Geography Field Trip to North Wales June 1996

Thursday morning saw the arrival of most of the Fourth year geographers at school. All were laden with rucksacks, plastic bags packed full of questionnaires, equipment, clothes, personal stereos, torches and all the other essentials for a three day visit to Wales. Having been ordered to arrive by 07.45 at the latest, we were under the impression that we would depart by 08.00. Apparently not!

With Geography Room B rapidly becoming a waiting-room for those of us bound for Lledr Valley Youth Hostel, I occupied myself by folding a stack of 140 A3 questionnaires. A joyous task! However, after the few latecomers arrived and a brief reminder of what would be happening was given - including Mr Cumberland's famous warning about keeping personal stereos personal (he has been known to confiscate complete strangers' personal stereos on public transport!) - we boarded the coach.

The journey to Wales was a pleasant one - the time being spent listening to music, eating, sleeping, and finalising our plans. Before we knew it, we were in Wales. We began to deposit groups at their requested locations. An hour after that, I, along with the other two-thirds of my group, Chris Rodgers and Sanjay Rupal, were dropped in Llanrwst. Although other foolhardy groups risked a passing visit to Llanrwst, we were the only group to spend our entire time there!

The first task on our agenda was to measure the cross section of the river Conwy. Despite having cunningly planned how easily this would be - using weights and labelled string dangled off the bridge - it wasn't! The river thwarted our plan - purposefully flowing too fast for measurement to be possible. Eventually, we managed to develop a working method and get the required data, thanks partly to the gloriously sunny weather (and the drought since last summer!) which meant that the level of the river was exceptionally low. This success was followed, after lunch, by the completion of gradient and flow-rate measurements of the river - somewhat easier than the pre-lunch efforts - excepting the fact a certain seagull decided our floats were a delicacy.

Pleased with our progress, we were collected at 18.00 - making our way to Lledr Valley Youth Hostel for the night. After waiting outside for a short while we made our way to our rooms and unpacked. An interesting dinner was followed by forced planning for the next day and exchanging of data for our river measurements - then later, some played football.

The start of Friday was a somewhat hectic one, compounded by the rather long queue for the showers (two between all 35 of us) and the fact that some of the initial enthusiasm had faded. After eating a very welcome breakfast, the atmosphere lightened and we prepared for our second day of work. For my group, this involved collecting people's opinions of the river using the questionnaires I had prepared earlier (cue Blue Peter). This was a successful venture, the highlight being when Chris interviewed a man who turned out to be the head of geography at the local school! The same day we also completed a "shops and services"



survey and three traffic counts across Llanrwst Bridge.

The order of events in the evening was similar to those of the night before with one notable exception. A practical joke was played on a certain member of 4B, Ashley Pope, who had managed to terrify himself into thinking that there was something weird outside the hostel (I bet he watches X-files!). This took the form of Mr Chamberlain turning a blind eye, while the occupants of the room above dangled plastic bags out of the window, rattled cans on the end of bits of string up the fire escape ladder, and flashed torches down at the window by this character's bed. The results were, to say the least, convincing and very effective.

Saturday was spent tying up loose ends, completing a few more questionnaires, and relaxing. Sanjay spent some time bird watching, though not in the conventional sense. This culminated in a profound quotation from one of the locals: "You dirty b*****!"

At around half past twelve, we caught the train with Mr McMullan to Llandudno, where we ate a hasty lunch in the local chip shop, before meeting up with the others - and the coach. Having departed, Ashley, much to the amusement of everyone else, was told the true nature of the spectral events of the previous night and declared that he had "never really believed it anyway." All that then remained was to get home and sleep.

Thanks must go to all the staff that helped in the different Youth Hostels especially Mr Cumberland - an old hand at the field trip game, to the Youth Hostel staff, and, of course, to the countless people in Llanrwst and the other towns that put up with us for three whole days.

Matthew Cornall

GEOGRAPHY FOR GERIATRICS



..... OR PARENTS' PROGRESS

It was July 1995 and Mr Cumberland had organised a SAGA style field trip for us poor, unsuspecting parents. We duly turned up with compasses, cagoules, sunhats and crampons and were ushered aboard the char-a-banc. The register was called, not for the last time, and we set off. The trip started gently with a geo-political consideration of the Halesowen bypass and an analysis of the farms and fields of Worcestershire. But at Bridgenorth the trip took a sinister turn.

We not only had to explore the Severn flood plain, but had a series of questions and tasks to complete. From here on we were being transported deep into the Welsh Marches, but we had to be continually observant and vigilant. Wenlock Edge presented physical danger (thank heavens for crampons), and a whole host of intellectual challenges relating to drainage, soil

types and even A E Housman's geographically inaccurate poetry, tested us. By now the race for correct answers had split the parent body into groups of suspicious antagonists. At Church Stretton the competition keenies continued their quest with vigour whilst the also-rans had a leisurely lunch in beech-shaded exhaustion. By Carding Mill Valley (a classical glacial valley with interlocking spurs and a misfit river), the organisers were beginning to panic at the pressure of too many correct answers, and so the judging was to be decided by artistic merit. This only served to encourage those who did not have a natural geographical bent and who had failed so far to score points. Eventually questionnaires and sketches were handed in (on time) and the fiercely fought prize was awarded.

The trip was a great success, thanks to Mr Cumberland and his team, who could now appreciate whence their pupils found their rivalry and competitive edge. And will there be a further adult adventure? 'pila in area tua est'

J & C Ball

MUCH (ADO ABOUT) WENLOCK

Gratefully, I dumped the two huge boxes of waterproofs outside the door of the Foundation Office, wondering how the Upper Middle from the IT Department had managed to carry them as far as the coach. Having done this,

I trudged back up the hill to the steadily accumulating pile of bags that was just as quickly being piled into the coach by our (superhuman?) driver.

Fifteen minutes later we were off.

We got all the way there without anyone being travelsick (unusual), eating or drinking on the coach (very unusual), or asking the seemingly unavoidable question, "Are we nearly there yet?" (very unusual indeed) despite numerous bets on how long it would take to get there. Once all the bags were, once again, piled in a shapeless mound around the back of

the coach, Mr Boardman gave us a ten minute lecture on the rules and regulations of the Country Code, told us to set up our tents straight away, and then did what we all wanted him to do - directed us to the toilets! A much relieved five minutes later we had tent pegs, canvas and flysheets all over the shop, piled around seven or eight half-collapsed tents, at which a boy whose name I will not mention was



screaming blue murder. After the chaos had finally been sorted out we engaged ourselves in a thirty minute game of soccer, before breaking off to rampage through the woods. A wide game. Trackers (basically tig in the woods) was introduced and a minute later I was sitting in a shallow hollow in the lower levels of the wood, surrounded by rocks and boulders, whilst listening to the sound (uproar?) of three "trackers" wandering through the woods.

sounding more like clumsy, overweight elephants than anything else

At about 6.00 p.m. we gathered round the yard to face the nightmare challenge of cooking our own food. Many groups were successful, Justin Loke's team being the best with some superb chicksticks, but the runners-up had to be our group with the delicious bacon - as I'm sure Mr Boardman and Mr Russell will agree (the two teachers pinched three-quarters of it after we

had cooked it for over 45 minutes). A major soccer game followed, from which we emerged victorious at 4-3, and after numerous games of Trackers, we were all thoroughly exhausted. However, someone had the bright idea of building a campfire, and for the next half-hour we set about collecting wood, until a huge pile of sticks and branches had been accumulated around a small hollow in the field opposite to the one we were camping in. Thomas Reynard will be remembered as the man who finally managed to set the fire blazing, using two matches (cheat!).



Nevertheless, as we added sticks and branches to the steadily crackling pile, a merry old blaze sprang up like a beacon in the night sky, and the traditional campfire songs began to be sung. Groovy numbers included "My Dad was a Lavatory Cleaner" and "I Shot My Teacher" (much to the consternation of Mr. Boardman and Mr. Russell, I might add). An hour later, we decided to retreat to the civilized (?) comfort of the indoors, and this we did even though the fire kept burning all through the night. Hot chocolate was supplied as we battled our way through a fiendish Twister game, built Jenga towers and knocked them flying, and participated in nine games to find out who was the tent Connect-4 Champion (claimed by yours truly). Then, at 11.19 p.m., Mr. Boardman announced Lights Out in an hour's time. Regardless of this, the occupants of a certain tent, whose names I do not care to mention, talked till something like 1.00 a.m., thoughtlessly disturbing us while we were having our midnight feast (oops). Two occupants of that same tent also decided to get up at 3.00 a.m. and run around, waking the entire camp up, but were caught immediately by Mr. Boardman who was right in the middle of the camp, having slept the entire night underneath the stars (Clue: the offenders' initials are R.E. and Y.S.).

Waking up at 4.41 a.m. I managed, along with the other members of our tent, to get back to sleep until 6.00 a.m. We then stumbled over to the building in the courtyard where several other members of the camp were already there, playing Connect 4 and Twister. We had cereal for breakfast, pitying the poor souls who'd decided to have theirs cooked (we hadn't forgotten the washing up that we'd had to do the night before) and at 10.00 a.m. Mr. Boardman packed us off to do a fiendish 2-hour orienteering course. On returning, we took down our tents, packed our bags and loaded them onto the coach (once more with the help of our superhuman driver) and enjoyed a superb walk up the Wrekin. Once we'd descended safely it was finally time to make the long coach journey home. Thanks to Mr. Boardman, Mr. Russell and everyone else who make this camping trip a wonderful, wonderful time. Roll on Rems' Week....

Tim Mort

Divisions' Geography Field Trip March 1996

There had been mention of a Divisions' field trip to Majorca. Nobody seemed quite sure whether it was simply Mr Cumberland's sense of humour working overtime or a genuine suggestion, but nevertheless March brought sand, sea and chemical poisoning (!!) as all good holidays should.

Admittedly, Teesside and the wonders of Middlesbrough and Whitby possess neither the glamour nor the reputation of the Mediterranean, but undeterred we set off with high spirits for the Bungalow Hotel in Sandsend, Yorkshire.

Initial evidence did not bode well for the remainder of the week. The two Mr Everests delighted in relaying information about Grangetown - a district of Middlesbrough - having the highest crime rate anywhere in Britain. In the light of this, news that we would be carrying out questionnaires in that very area were unsurprisingly less than enthusiastically received. The mention of regular, violent muggings and gang warfare did little to improve our confidence.

The sandy beach below the hotel in which we were staying was the site of another coastal study. While others listened to walkmans, waiting intently for the vital Premiership results, James



Not Majorca after all

Thomas braved the oceans in freezing conditions to obtain wave pattern results. Initially, the tests were signs of pollution poisoning. These turned out to be less serious than the more melodramatic members of the group had feared, as James emerged unscathed in time for the evening's review of the day.

The human geography days were spent in Middlesbrough and Whitby as well as analysing industrial locations in the region, and comparing two local coastal villages - Staithes and Sandsend. Time did not allow for the questionnaires in Grangetown - much to the obvious disappointment of all concerned. The human side of the trip was a particular success in the sense

that one of the intentions of the organisers was to inspire students for their forthcoming coursework projects. So enthralled were some boys that they pledged to return to the area during their summer holidays to further their analyses.

All concerned felt that one of the major contributions to the success of the week was the impact of the teachers concerned. Mr Chamberlain and Dr. Higgitt worked alongside the aforementioned teachers, with assistance from Miss Davies and Mr Lambie, to turn what could have been something of a slog into an enjoyable week away. And who needs Majorca? (Well, maybe next year.....)

Jack Phillips

Sail Training Scholarship 1996

The evening of August 8th, at 9.15, and I report for my ticket at Gatwick airport. Guess what - the flight is delayed! The intervening couple of hours resulted in a great deal of apprehensive thought, and seeing other people of my age group on their own, the question of which ones would turn out to be my shipmates for the next two weeks, was continually upon arriving in Copenhagen and at the ship (the STS Sir Winston Churchill), we were given our bunk numbers and told to get a few hours' kip.

9 o'clock and we were awoken to be greeted by the smells of a cooked breakfast which were wafting down from the galley. After breakfast, we all

mustered for a brief talk given by the mate, of which the opening line was: "If anyone thinks they're here for a holiday, I suggest that they get off now!" After signing on as a member of the crew, shaking the Captain's hand and giving in all of our money and valuables to the purser, we started to get to know each other and learn about the running of the ship.

The ship has a total complement of 55, which comprises 39 trainees like myself, split into watches of 13 - fore, main and mizzen watches. There is also a permanent crew of the Captain, Mate, Bosun, Cook and Engineer, an afterguard of a Supernumerary, Purser, Navigated and three watch leaders. In

addition to this there is a Bosun's Mate, a Cook's Assistant, and three watch leaders the same age as ourselves. I was in fore watch, number F12.

The first part of the day's events proved to be the daunting one of climbing the rigging up to the crow's nest. At this, the first time, most people went up with white knuckles and came down as fast as they could, although by the end of the voyage most people were running up and down the ratlines without a thought, and some of us even took to going up to the crow's nest or out on the yardarms for relaxational purposes! We were then taught in the method of receiving and carrying out orders whilst at the helm. These took

two forms: steering a compass course, or following direct orders from the captain, normally used only when leaving or entering a port, or in an emergency (starboard 15 ... ease to 10). We also commenced learning the black art of tacking the ship. At this stage we would only have been able to do it using all three watches, though by the end of the voyage we would be able to do it with just one watch.

We finally set sail on the following evening (Saturday 10th) in a "parade of sail" to celebrate the end of the Cutty Sark Tall Ships' Race 1996. We then headed towards Norway. After a 2 day sail we entered Flekkefjord, on the South Coast of Norway, having had to change from our original port due to bad weather. That evening we started the interwatch competitions with a rowing race and a heaving - line throwing competition. The following day we were given shore leave after happy hour (when the ship is cleaned and scrubbed from top to bottom), and our watch all went off for a swim in the fjord, which was very, very cold! That evening we set sail for Britain, although we didn't know whereabouts yet.

We arrived in Edinburgh's Leith docks early on the morning of Friday the 16th, having had an eventful crossing. We had all the conditions imaginable, from flat calm to a force 9 gale, which was very exhilarating. In addition to the sailing, we had a lecture every morning after happy hour from one of the crew, which would help us to qualify for our RYA Competent Crew certificate. We also had a man-overboard practice, where a member of the crew was dressed in an immersion suit, and thrown off the side of the ship! We left Leith on the Saturday evening, and set sail for London.

We arrived at Tilbury, at the mouth of the Thames, on the Tuesday morning, after stops at Whitby and Great Yarmouth were ruled out by bad weather. At Tilbury we loaded the ship up with stores for the next voyage and did the infamous egg-drop. The aim of the egg-drop is to get a raw egg from the crows nest, as far aft on the ship as possible, without it breaking. In this we were successful, leaving

the other watches miles behind.

The following day we motored up the Thames to Canary Wharf, which was to be our departure point, and where I was informed I had been recommended to be invited back as a watch leader. The next morning, after a farewell party the evening before, and after leaving the ship tidy and having signed off, we all went our separate ways, many of us with a tear in our eye.

Suffice to say I have left the ship with many memories which will stay with me for the rest of my life and many very good friends. Guess what: I can't wait till the next time!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who made this wonderful trip possible.

Chris Downham



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'The Chronicles Of Life And Imagination'

'The Chronicles Of Life And Imagination' is the third play conceived and directed by Edward Milton and Juliette Bond. For sheer entertainment this year's Junior Play surpassed its predecessors, sticking to many of the ideas that have proved successful in previous years: a volatile mix of teachers and pupils, and a whole new fantasy world.

'The Chronicles...' swaggered onto the stage, tongue placed firmly in cheek. Most notable was the depth and quality of acting in the lower years. It would be unfair to single out individual performances, but to do so would deny John Marsters the public acclaim he truly deserves. He portrayed a disillusioned teacher with confidence and flair. Nicholas Pilsbury was dangerously cool as Nayron (also displaying a magisterial control of his right arm!) and Saul Howard was a commanding Storyteller.

The portrayal of secondary school staff was enlightening. We were treated to such gems as "I *W* are so ugly!" Do our staff really talk about us in such lewd terms. Rory Melough was unforgettable as the games-master, employing the words, "some beers and a curry..." to great effect, with one actor remarking wryly "Why are games staff permanently aged 19?". Would we



be wrong in suggesting that the inspiration lies firmly in our own common room?

The fun didn't stop there, not by a long way. We were exposed to the full horror of parents' evening - from the teachers' perspective! Whilst watching, it was hard to ignore a veritable multitude of knowing looks being exchanged between the staff on the front row of the audience. When quizzed during the interval

one teacher confessed, "There's some heavy symbolism going on!". Anyway, it was hard to fault the wealth of acting talent displayed by the cast, especially my personal favourites, Ben Russell and Matthew Rees as Maths and Science teachers respectively.

The second act brought us to a frankly hilarious 'James Bond' - resplendent with Moneypenny, M, Q, Felix and a 'mad' female tarot-player. All in all, a triumphant production, splendidly executed and extremely well received even on the first night. My hearty congratulations to Miss Bond and Mr. Milton who can justifiably be proud of

themselves. Final thanks must surely go to 'super-trooper', Mr. Duncan Dewar. I count myself lucky to have gone on a night on which he was in the audience. I fully remember being on stage in a previous Junior Play: his immediate, and it has to be said, enthusiastic feedback should not (and could not) be ignored.

Robin French



SHELLS' CLASSICAL PLAY COMPETITION, DECEMBER 1995

This year's instalment of the annual event took place in the Drama Studio at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday 14th December. Organised and presented by Nathaniel Coleman, secretary of the Junior Classical Society and a born showman, the 1995 competition was made memorable by the sheer volume of the fake busts worn by female characters. A distinguished judging panel included members of the Classical VIth and Division, and

and wings was at times inefficient, there were some very acrobatic stunts, particularly in the death of Aegeus. Shell H followed with "Fatal Attraction", a strange variant on the traditional and well-loved courtroom sketch, involving the prosecution of a slave, Grumio. Appearances by Forrest Gump and Brutus added an element of surrealism. Since the female parts did not use any artificial aids, this offering was lifted only by its

character with the line "Gimme a break!" and a 3-person wall, which was moved around by attendants. The narrator's final observation, "It was a good thing they died like that" was, in context, hysterical. Finally Shell T presented us with "Androcles and the Lion", also known as "Mr. and Mrs. Clees and their son Andrew". The play had all the ingredients for success: good costumes (particularly the lion mask), female



Mr. Al Tracer, the celebrated artist.

First to go were Shell B, with their sketch "Quintus and the Barber", a tale of the murder of Quintus by the sinister Tommy Tonsor, ending in a police chase and courtroom scene. As Shell plays go, the presentation was rather pedestrian, and certain walk-on parts were entirely incomprehensible to a bemused audience. The size of Quintus' mother's appendages failed to raise the artistic value. Next went Shell D, whose "Theseus and the Minotaur, Part II: Back with a Vengeance" made use of music, good costumes and even larger busts. A revisionist storyline saw the Minotaur kill Theseus and abduct Ariadne. Although the transmission of props between stage

recycling of the old "Weeny, Weedy, Weakly" joke and as such was not memorable.

The final two plays, however, were of an extremely high standard, and either might have won. Shell S's "Roman Romances" boasted the largest breasts of all, which were almost longer than the character's arms. A Blind Date scenario pitted Pyramus, Brutus and Caecilius against each other for the hand of Thisbe, under the eye of Ancilla Black. Clear instructions were provided as to when to cheer, boo, hiss and applaud. Surreal moments included a fixation with sprouts and an announcement of National Lottery numbers, while highlights were awful jokes such as the presentation of a KitKat to a

costumes of stupendous proportions and, the highlight of the whole competition, evocative animal noises provided backstage by Mr. Lambie.

The verdict of the panel - by no means unanimous - put Shell T top with 103 points, with Shell S in second place seven points behind. Shells B and D tied on 87 points, while Shell H brought up the rear with 65. Maybe the courtroom scene has had its day. Hopefully next year's competition will continue the high standards achieved by this peculiar, and unique, institution.

Luke Houghton

'OKLAHOMA!'

Following last year's success of "Pirates in Penzance", Mrs. Herbert announced that this year's senior school production would be Rodgers' and Oscar Hammerstein's popular musical "OKLAHOMA!"

The action takes place in Indian territory just after the turn of the century. The story revolves around

Other memorable performances include Hannah Proops's portrayal of Ado Annie Carnes, a vivacious, well proportioned dizzy dame, who seemed not to know when she was being taken advantage of by characters such as Ali Hakim, a slick, smooth talking, dodgy Persian trader who was played quite brilliantly by Michael Pandazis. Robin

which was vital to the success of the play. It amazes me how often the orchestra fails to get a mention in such productions.

The stage crew out-did themselves this year, as they moved around silkily like shadows changing the sets between acts. The set designs were very well constructed, the scenery painting was



Adam plays home



... and away

Curly and Laurey who were played with style by Adam Johnson and Lucy Johnson respectively. They were involved in a sort of love-hate relationship, and kept on playing off each other. However, during the course of the show true love does eventually blossom between them, but not without its fair share of obstacles. One suitably impressive obstacle in their way was that of Jud Fry, portrayed with vigour by Kieron Quirke as a mean, threatening and rather vulgar character, who spent most of his time in a grotty smoke house playing with his gun. He too declares that he has feelings for Laurey, and eventually a show down occurs between Jud and Curly, with Curly being the victor and thus ensuring Laurey's hand in marriage.

French and Tom Herriots were particularly boisterous in their roles as fellow cowboys Slim and Mike, and Jennie Fellows was a very convincing Aunt Eller who always had good advice on hand.

The chorus of "Territory Folk" sang and danced their way through the popular numbers of the show such as "Oklahoma", and "The Farmer and the Cowman". John Carey was outstanding, with his light-footed Irish dancing in the musical number "Kansas City" earning him a long lasting ovation. Stacy Bold was elegant in her ballet and Meeta Verma led an enjoyable can-can performance.

The talented orchestra, led by musical director Nigel Argust, provided an effective musical accompaniment

very good, and they refrained from playing any practical jokes on the cast.

The show was performed in early March, and unfortunately the first showing had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. However, this hiccup did not mar the rest of the performance, and from there onwards each showing was done in front of a packed Big School.

Finally, yet again, congratulations must be given to Mrs. Herbert and Mr. Stone, who seem to produce high quality and enjoyable performances year in and year out.

Aruna Sharma

*Hannah
Proops
finds
it rather
difficult to
say 'No'*



'The Changeling'

Senior Dramatic Society meets for one lunchtime a week, and draws from the collective talents of the KES/KEHS sixth form. For such a bravely amateur organisation, the performance of a 17th century tragi-comedy was an enormous task, and one that was almost met. Before the play started we were treated to a pre-emptive and somewhat worrying apology from one of the sixth form directors. She confidently asserted that her actors lacked firm knowledge of the script. The play did prove to be a little, shall we say, rough around the edges, but it was far from spoilt by it.

A confident and talented Angus Henderson was pitted against an equally confident and talented Katie Leighfield in the two leading roles. Alsemero and Beatrice Joanna. Hassan Kapadia stepped up from his rather subsidiary part in 'Oklahoma!' (a member of the cowboy chorus) to

become frighteningly and surprisingly commanding as Vermandero, Beatrice Joanna's father. He also wore talcum powder in his hair. Michael Pandazis faced a fair few unrequited problems during the show yet faced them in his own inimitable style, his beloved branding him, surely just a little unfairly as 'dog face'. Theresa Marie Timmons masqueraded disturbingly well as a man, Alonzo, complete with full facial hair.

The 'comedy' subplot was always going to be something of a challenge for the performers. We read in the programme that it was "full of innuendos and puns"; however these were predictably incomprehensible to a modern audience. The cast, however, tried hard and succeeded admirably well in bringing some real life into the slightly laboured script. Jennie Fellows (another man) was

suitably outstanding in this respect. The whole play rather anachronistically culminated in the double suicide of Michael and Katie.

"Top calibre", "an outstanding performance", two of the directors told me, during the interval, to write in my review. Rupa Reddy, in contrast, donated something rather unprintable to our forum of journalistic discussion. I would say the truth lay somewhere between these two extremes. Anyway, many thanks and much appreciation must be offered to the direction team, Emma Waring, Rachael Cummings and Rupa Reddy, for their immense hard work and dedication. A warm handshake of approval to the performers and enthusiastic and widespread adoration for the note perfect work of man behind the scenes, James Gratrix, sound engineer.

Robin French

GREASE

After the long months of 'A' Level stress, thirty Sixth formers, now free from the shackles of exams, attempted the impossible - staging a quality musical completely under their own steam.

The cast was headed by John Travolta lookalike Rory Natkiel and the gorgeous Liz Dicker, playing Danny and Sandy respectively. They were backed up by a hugely talented company, which provided some truly memorable moments, mainly of the very comical variety. One of these was the stunning performance of "Greased Lightning" by the gang of leather-clad, Brylcreemed boys. Were ever screams as vociferous heard in the KEHS hall? Ovation after ovation declared the sell-out



audience's excitement and appreciation.

The crew, led by Tina Thuckral, deserve special mention, since they worked tirelessly to make all the props and scenery, as well as taking care of the lighting. The band, which was put together in a bit of a panic, provided some of the highlights of the show in their lively interpretation of the score.

Congratulations must go to the cast and most of all to the extremely committed director Sally Ireland, who took the well-known show and with it captured the imagination of the privileged audience. Credit must go to all who took part and gave their support from both schools. With the show being a greased-lightning sellout, it was just a shame there weren't more of those summer nights.

Andrew Wile



MUSIC

KES/KEHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 1995

With Mr. Sill now banished to the tuba section, it was left to the Music Department's newest recruit, Mr. Monks, to conduct the Concert Band. It started with Philip Sparke's "Concert Prelude", which was followed by an arrangement of "A Chorus Line Spectacular" - both familiar excerpts from the Concert Band canon. A surprise appearance at the microphone by Mr. Bridle now resulted in a first-time concert-goer, Mr. Andronov, randomly being awarded a prize - though whether Mr. Bridle's prizes will be as elusive to obtain as Mr. Sill's were is another question... The Chapel Choir, with Mr. Monks again conducting, followed with tuneful performances of "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" and "Nativity Carol" by John Rutter. Swing Band, in its first Christmas Concert for quite a while, gave an interesting rendition of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", among other pieces, conducted by the irrepressible Mr. Monks. A solid-sounding "Donkey Carol" from Junior Choir came before two more carols from Choral Society. The first half ended with the perennial favourite of Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival", played with vigour and enthusiasm.

As is traditional, Symphony Orchestra somewhat dominated the second half, commencing with a cosy

playing of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas". There followed the enjoyable farce based on "The Twelve Days of Christmas", read by Miss Evans in her final year as the Girls' School's Headmistress, but it was undoubtedly the animated percussion section which stole the show, 'animated' not being, however, an adjective that can be used to describe the audience's contribution to the carol which followed.

The serious work this year was Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite", for which no expense was spared - even to the extent of bringing in the CBSO's principle harpist to aid our two home-grown ones. The many soloists played to the high standards which have so characterised Symphony Orchestra over the years, and as a whole the sound was very pleasing. But for "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and the unforgettable "Sleigh Ride" - beacons of perpetuity without which this concert would not be the same - the concert was now over. One thing which was different, though, was the complete lack of any error or mistake in the programme. I really cannot begin to conjecture about the cause of this new-found accuracy: surely only a complete managerial shake-up could have had such an effect. Any ideas, anyone?...

Patrick Finglass

KES/KEHS SPRING TERM CONCERT 1996

The Spring Term Concert was held this year in KEHS Hall on 14th February at 7:30 p.m. Concert Orchestra, conducted by Peter Bridle, opened with "Tales from the Vienna Woods" by Johann Strauss, and the first half also featured the Junior String Group, who performed a number of nursery rhyme arrangements with gusto, a fine French horn solo from Richard Bradley, and a string quartet (Tom Prew, Ben Felderhof, Gregory Nixon and Kwesi Edman), whose playing of a movement from David Stone's first String Quartet showed astounding virtuosity and rhythmic precision. Concert Orchestra then concluded with the lively and tuneful overture to the musical "Fiddler on the Roof", performed with appropriate enthusiasm.

After a very brief interval Wind Band, under their new director Martin Monks, presented us with a march from "The Maestro" by Eric Osterling. The flair with which this music (previously the exclusive preserve of the Concert Band) was performed caused some distress amongst members of Concert Band in the audience. The account of a 'Gymnopedie' by Satie that followed was of a similarly high standard. Simon Meredith provided a jazzy and entertaining saxophone number, and the Junior Brass Group under Tanya Houghton, after a rousing rendition of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance March

Number 1', gave an admirably precise and characterful performance of three Sea Shanties. Directed from the piano by Nigel Argus, Junior Choir were as angelic and, indeed, accomplished as ever in their singing of "Bless the Lord", three pieces by Andrew Carter. Despite the numerous tongue-twisters involved in the lyrics, the words were very clear to the audience. Wind Band closed the proceedings with another march by Eric Osterling, "Bandology", which formed a suitably spirited conclusion to an enjoyable evening of music.

Luke Houghton



The McNaughton MASTERCLASS

The second McNaughton Masterclass was held on the 14th March 1996. It starred Naomi Blutterworth, a professional 'cellist who proved not only a marvellous 'cello-player but also a very entertaining lady who helped to make the whole afternoon very enjoyable. Those of us who could bear to miss afternoon school went to the masterclass, and listened to various pieces (most of which seemed to have been written by the curiously-named Arnold Trowell) played by various school 'cellists before hearing Naomi give them her advice on how to play them with greater skill.

Somewhat unsurprisingly, not as many came to the concert in the evening. This was a shame, as it was well-performed, with Kai-Wing Shiu's rendition of Ernest Bloch's "Prayer" being particularly effective. At the end, the lady herself played for us, concluding with some liltingly beautiful Rachmaninov. All in all, this was a very successful masterclass, and I thank John and Elizabeth McNaughton for giving us this opportunity to hear such polished musicians in the comfort of our own Concert Hall.

Patrick Finglass



HOUSE MUSIC

There has never been a House Music Report in the Music section of the Chronicle before, but as it is such an integral part of our school's music calendar (metaphorically speaking, of course, as it does not actually appear on the calendar proper) I have decided to include one this year.

You may have noticed the positioning of the apostrophe in the word "school's" above. House Music is virtually unique among musical activities in that it does not require the participation of Those In Green; as such, it reaches into the stratosphere of musical brilliance. House Music is the time when we show the School Over There that we don't really need them, we're all right on our own, we don't need their help, etc, etc ...

As usual, no expense was spared, and as the adjudicator for this prestigious event the school procured Mr Robert Johnston, principle harpist for the world renowned CBSO! Though how he quite managed to distinguish between the astonishing talent arrayed before him is really quite beyond me.

The House which really shone through was of course Levett - the only House which attempted to put more than two people together to play something. In the end though, it was Cary Gilson (or Gary Gilson, as the typically erroneous Music Department programme read) which carried the day, with Christopher Gibbs giving a solid performance of some Rachmaninov.

House Music cannot be said to have had any effect on the Cock House final result, however, because of its $x\frac{1}{2}$ rating. Ah well, undoubtedly it takes far more skill to run across some grass carrying a ridiculously-shaped piece of pneumatified leather than it does to play Telemann's sonatina in E minor.

Patrick Finglass

KES/KEHS CONCERT OF BAROQUE MUSIC

On Friday, 10th May 1996 a concert consisting entirely of Baroque music (hence its title) was held in "the beautiful surroundings of St George's Church, Edgbaston". The concert opened with a Trio Sonata in F by Handel, played by Jennifer Graham, David Clark and Tania Otto, with Mr Bridle displaying the ubiquity of his musical ability by accompanying them on the harpsichord. This extremely accurate performance set the tone for the evening. Mr Sill now made a rare appearance as conductor, directing the small brass ensemble (consisting of Simon Wakeling, Colin Ball, Christopher Downham, Patrick Finglass and Christopher Tuplin) in Locke's "Five-Part Things for the Cornets and Sackbuts". Despite our lack of sackbuts, using trombones instead, this piece went down very well - the audience clearly recognised the chiastic order of the movements. Following on from this came Albinoni's "Concerto à Cinque, No 6", starring as soloists Russell Hargreaves and Amy Matthews on the oboe (hautboy?!). As would be expected from such a talented pair, they played with great skill and maturity.

The highlight of the evening was, however, undoubtedly Vivaldi's "Gloria". I was slightly worried when I saw the spelling mistakes in the programme (such as "agikmus" and "to" for "agimus" and "tu") as to whether the sung Latin was to be similarly wrong - but such fears were unnecessary. The Chapel Choir sang this work with great power and - after a hesitant start - with fluency, using the acoustics of the church to great effect. Particularly impressive were the soloists - Ryan Chetiyawardana, Ben Felderhof, Samir Faroqui and Peter Madill - who were both musical and audible, displaying considerable promise for the future. Mr Monks is to be thanked for organising both choir and concert with such impressive results.

Patrick Finglass



KES/KEHS ORCHESTRAL CONCERT 1996

Held in the Adrian Boulton Hall on Sunday 24th March 1996, this year's Orchestral Concert proved as popular as ever, attracting a large and appreciative audience. The evening opened with a stirring rendition of Berlioz's "Roman Carnival" overture, performed with great enthusiasm and jollity, and conveying appropriately the vivacity and bustle of a sixteenth century Italian urban festival. A hint of poignancy was added by the cor anglais solo (played here by Amy Matthews), but was quickly dispelled by the ebullient gaiety with which the overture concludes. As we have come to expect, the ensemble performed splendidly under the baton of Mr. Bridle, and the vigour of the percussion section in the final reprise deserves particular mention.

This was followed by the first 'cello concerto of Shostakovich, with Abigail Parker as soloist. With fine support from a reduced orchestra, the 'cellist's virtuosity and professional technique were never less than astounding, especially in the third movement of the piece, which serves as a cadenza. Shostakovich's powerful and occasionally alarming harmonies were vividly brought to life in a masterful performance, and Alex Makepeace's horn accompaniment in the first and fourth movements was similarly impressive for its clarity and precision.

The second half of the concert was occupied by Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.4, a popular work in the orchestral repertoire, and given ample justice in performance by the schools' orchestra. The forceful fanfares of horn and trumpet (and trombone! - Ed.) which open the symphony were very effective, firmly setting the tone for the first movement and the recurrence of the "fate" motif later in the work. A sharp contrast was provided by the nostalgic opening of the second movement, which included admirable oboe and bassoon solos from Russell Hargreaves and Sophie Fox, followed by an expansive tune on the strings. The scherzo, with its pizzicato strings and woodwind and brass passages, was executed with delicacy and rhythm before bursting suddenly into the festive fourth movement with great impact. This last movement was perhaps the most exciting of all, as the music whirled around towards its

joyous conclusion following the final reiteration of the "fate" theme. The atmosphere was skilfully caught by the orchestra, and Mr. Bridle's direction was consistently impeccable. Nadezhda von Meck, to whom Tchaikovsky dedicated the work, wrote of the piece to the composer, "I cannot play it without a fever penetrating all the fibres of my being and for a whole day I cannot recover from the impression." Fortunately, this does not appear to have been the case for the majority of the performers!

Luke Houghton



KES/KEHS CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

On Sunday 19th March a special concert was held to commemorate the retirement of Miss Evans from her long-held post as Headmistress of KEHS.

It was opened by another stirring rendition of Vivaldi's "Gloria" by the KES Chapel Choir, fresh from its success in St. George's the week before. Thankfully, the spelling mistakes in that concert's programme had been corrected; the singing itself was perhaps even more accurate than previously. Following this came Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante", featuring as soloists Helen Feltrup and Elisabeth Varlow on viola and violin respectively. They both played with immense flair and were ably supported by the Chamber Orchestra. The final piece played was Mozart's "Vesperae Solemnnes de Confessore", which finished the evening in an appropriately grand manner. Choral Society displayed admirable familiarity with the Latin, with the beginning of "Laudate Pueri", sung so lustily by the basses, deserving particular mention. Miss Evans then gave the speech which is required by such occasions, reflecting on the fact that none of the girls at the school now had actually been born when she became Headmistress. She was then given a lovely bouquet of flowers and a lot of applause in thanks for the support she has given to the two schools' music over the years.

Patrick Fingland



KES/KEHS SUMMER CONCERT 1996

This was the last school concert in the Town Hall before it closed for refurbishment, and the Music Department clearly wanted to go out on a good note. A boisterous rendition of Philip Sparke's "Barn Dance and Cowboy Hymn" by Concert Band began the proceedings with the exuberance that was to characterise both halves, before the more restrained, though no less musical, tones of KEHS Senior Choir were heard. Particularly nice was "The Water of Tyne", which lost nothing from the fact that it had been sung last year as well! Then came Wind Band, which actually was quite good, despite its perennial desire to make the man with the white stick (in this case Mr. Monks) completely redundant. Still, such musical independence of thought is to be commended and shows good promise for the future. Three very loud performances from Swing Band led into "Cartoon", an interesting piece played by Concert Band which mixed the majestic, the lively and the plain bizarre. The soloists, including the two first trombones, John Marsters on the trumpet, and the entire percussion section, all deserve particular commendation. The half was rounded off with a joint performance of "Bandology" (wonderful name for a piece) by Wind Band and Concert Band,

with the former's enthusiasm and the latter's experience combining to produce a most effective sound.

A great cymbal-crash began the second half as Symphony Orchestra opened with the Finale from Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. This magnificent movement was played with great power in a performance which had lost nothing from the one in the Orchestral Concert earlier in the year; the rich, resounding sounds from the brass section were particularly impressive in what is essentially an extremely loud piece of music. Mr Bridle's conducting was so enthusiastic that at one point the baton went flying out of his hand - luckily he had a spare. There followed Malcolm Arnold's "A Grand Grand Overture", which was similarly unquiet - however, the appearance of four vacuum-cleaners, played by the retiring Miss Evans, by our Chief Master's wife and by Mrs Bannister and Mrs Flinn from KEHS, markedly differentiated this from the Tchaikovsky. Apart from their silliness value, it was perhaps difficult to see what purpose these instruments had in the music, but no doubt that is a matter of opinion.

Junior Choir, accompanied by Symphony Orchestra, now sang a selection called "Seaside Postcards"

which was made up of various sea-songs. I must say that I have not heard the choir sing so well in years. Some of the lyrics were extremely strange, but they were sung with such passion and panache one could almost believe oneself to be on holiday already...well, perhaps. The orchestra was not as good, but in such a piece it does not normally come under much scrutiny. The trombone section, as I can report from first-hand experience, was atrocious.

The final work in this, the final school concert before the Town Hall's closure, was inevitably Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture". A highly polished performance was given, with an excellent opening on the 'cellos, followed by some good renditions of very technical passages on the strings. The somewhat exhaustingly loud ending was dominated not only by the brass section, but also by Mr. Monks playing both the bells and the cannons at the same time (electronically, unfortunately). And so this magnificent concert came to a close, a fitting tribute to the manifold efforts of Mr. Bridle, Mr. Monks, Mr. Argust and Mr. Sill over the past year. My sincere thanks go to them for their tireless leadership of school music - long may it continue!

Patrick Finglass

KES/KEHS SYNDICATE CONCERT 1996

The swansong of this year's sixth form opened on 13th July 1996 with the Adagio from Khachaturian's "Spartacus" suite. Alex Makepeace's conducting, clearly inspired by Mr Bridle's, displayed a maturity that was easy for the orchestra to respond to, and the lyrical beauty of the piece towards its end was expressively drawn out. Two songs conducted by Mythili Vamadevan followed, which were performed with clarity and enthusiasm. Annamaria Taylor displayed some nerves in her rendition of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, yet the overall effect was musically very pleasing. Undoubtedly the highlight of the concert, however, was Luke Houghton's conducting of his arrangement of

"Bohemian Rhapsody", played by old and new members of the Brass Ensemble founded by myself so many years ago. Luke's direction was flawless, and the tone of the ensemble was musical in the extreme. The only disappointment (well, to one half of the audience) was that Luke did not this time take off any of his clothes during the performance.

After a tasty interval filled with strawberries and cream, Abigail Parker conducted a string ensemble in Elgar's "Serenade for Strings". The curious "Opus Number Zoo" by Berio followed, in which the performers spoke the words of a story in strange voices while they were not playing - it was actually quite good and well co-ordinated. The

evening was rounded off with the choir singing "The Long Day Closes" and "Love Walked In", conducted again by Mythili Vamadevan, before Delibe's "Flower Duet", conducted by Annamaria Taylor, was performed - the solo parts being sung so beautifully by Elizabeth Dicker and Mythili Vamadevan. The traditional 'award ceremony' concluded the concert, with Mr Argust being given a painting for his new house, and Messrs Bridle and Monks being presented with a piano-shaped teapot. This concert was a credit to the year's sixth form - a group of very talented musicians who will be missed and fondly remembered.

Patrick Finglan

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

There has been a typically fine crop of recitals this year, displaying the ripeness of the musical talent at our two schools. Indeed, the only things which failed to flower were the audiences, which at times seemed blighted by the plethora of activities which sprout up on Thursday lunchtimes - or simply by withering apathy. Yet those who take the trouble to go to the Concert Hall on Thursday lunchtimes (well, on those Thursday lunchtimes when there is a recital on) will find that these performances are really quite enjoyable. Triple Greek on a Thursday afternoon is somehow more manageable with the sound of the Waldstein Sonata ringing in one's ears.

Talking of the Waldstein Sonata, it was that piece along with a Chopin study in Ab minor, which Kieron Quirke played in the year's opening recital. Dazzling as ever, Kieron's piano playing was matched only by the



deftness with which he coolly passed his left hand through his hair in the midst of some semi-hemi-demi-semi-quavers.

No expense is ever spared in the music department at KES, and thus there was no surprise that a very old harpsichord was obtained, undoubtedly at immense cost, for the next recital.

Alexander Makepeace proved as adept at this instrument as he is at the horn, and those of us who were daring enough to stay onto into registration heard some excellent playing. David Clark provided the other half of this recitative double act, and breathed fresh life into the Bach he was playing in an accomplished and exciting performance.

There followed two recitals given by the

leading lights of the Orchestra's string section - Jennifer Graham and Abigail Parker on violoncello and violin disrespectively. Both played with the skill and maturity which we have come to expect from them over the years.

Russell Hargreaves is the most talented oboe player that the school has produced in a long time and he did full justice to his reputation in his recital. Indeed, his brilliance was compounded by the way in which he kept raising his eyebrows every few bars, as if the music surprised him and he was sight-reading the whole thing!

The final recital was that of the Chamber Music groups - giving people a chance to play in a recital who otherwise would not be able to. It was extremely enjoyable and a tribute to the groups' hard work over the year, and a fitting conclusion to the year's series of very accomplished performances.

Patrick Finglan



WORDS



WHEN AUTUMN

When the last blossoms of summer fall
and migrating birds follow nature's call,
winging their way in straggling lines,
to spend their winter in warmer climes.
Autumn clothes herself in hues of gold,
attempting to fend off the winter cold.
Crisp sharpness invades the shortening days,
as the retreating sun casts empty rays.
Mother Nature to her creatures calls,
to make haste and gather in the Autumn falls.
For winter has begun her relentless round,
to cast her icy spell on the dormant ground.
And when the Autumn smoke-filled skies
echo with the sounds of children's excited cries
and bonfire blazes have long ceased to smoulder,
I know that my favourite season will soon be over.

Marcus Hogg

GAZING

A lonely figure standing on the rocks.
The rain and wind and sea are lashing out
Yet still he stands there gazing out to sea.
Just picked out in a brighter shade of grey.

His eyes are fixed upon some far off interest.
Perhaps a thing that none but he can see.
Perhaps he's gazing not to sea but inwards.
A memory which is tossing on the sea.

And as the rain and wind and sea rush onwards.
He stays there gazing, inwards, out to sea.

Geoffrey Piddock

ABANDONED

The night was passing, strongest winds were blowing.
The lonely figure stood gazing towards sea.
The cries of sorrow were showing sadness to me.
Full of depression, the tears kept growing.
She lay upon a rock, no-one knowing.
The altercation, which had caused the misery.
Had led to her being abandoned, do you see?
So I took her home, a halo was glowing.

But there are now foster parents,
Orphanages, where many are loved.
Abandoned children brought back to life,
No thoughts of suicide, using the knife.
No tears, but the kind hands embrace me.
The children forget the past, it's the future they see.

Mohammed Imran Sajid

SLOW REALISATION

Agitation builds laboriously
The jaws of anxiety, slowly gripping,
as the woodchopper's thud
Mimics Hansel's
Horror.

A fine muslin veil descends.
A mosquito net closing,
as the once golden sheen
Becomes a misty sea of
colours.

Nausea overpowers my leaden stomach.
An uncanny gravitational strength
pulls me towards the blurred vision;
the wash of pastel water
colour.

Darkness.
The once translucent curtain becomes
an opaque blanket.
The jeering call is at last silenced.
Realisation.

Simon Meredith

LET THERE BE LIGHT

A grating dissonance and suddenly the match
 splutters into life.
 It's touched to the lifeless wick, which steadily
 grows into a tall proud pillar of fire.
 Majestic on its waxy throne,
 high above the tabletop,
 its fiery beauty belies its hazardous heat.
 Silent and still,
 vulnerable only to strong breaths of air or water,
 the people's god is giver of light supreme.
 It is the authentic one, the first source of light,
 the ancestor of our vision.

But now the future blows upon it,
 the flame flickers but holds on against the first
 wave of attacks.
 The flame shouts in a flurry of light
 'I am the real one, the first,' but the future attacks
 again.
 The light sways once again, but this is to be the last.
 Its heart of wick glows still, but it is far past recovery;
 Its final act is to pour smoky phantoms into the air,
 the last piece of its eternal saga against the
 filament light bulb.
 It is now resigned to the cupboard, only used for
 halloween and smart dinner parties.

Tom Prew

HISTORICAL THOUGHT

The sun scorches particles of earth,
And empties the sky of birds
As I watch a dry, red mouth give birth
To wandering, worthless words.

And here are the. Remains
Of the
secondcitywallfrom - the
1st. Century ai dee.

He hesitantly recites in language never spoken
By those who saw these bricks complete.
These bricks now, as his English, broken,
Lie unused at my unused feet.

donot. Touch please. But
welcometo take photo
Graphs. Soon we willbe
Moving On.

Those people. Did they stop by these bricks and
wonder,
At the greatness of the wall?
But no. They sat here and tried to ponder
The nature of nature's call.

Please. Come.
wemustmove - On. yes
Okay just.
one more photo Graph.

Above, the bright blue sky shines clear.
The dust flies to where I stand.
Behind, the never-settled sea is near,
And the sun strikes strong to starve the land.

Excuse . Me, we
consider thosevery
Valuable. Soon we willbe
Moving On.

Joshua Goodman

THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH

A crown lies fallen beneath the bushes
a King lies dead on the ground,
and some of his men are wounded
and others dead are found.

The victors have long since parted,
with honour and with pride,
and still men lay dying,
whilst the women and children cried.

A man stooped and upwards lifted
A jewelled and golden crown
Which he offered to his leader,
retreated then bowed down.

"Hail King Henry" the people cried,
"May he try to keep the peace,
So the world can live in harmony
and all the fighting cease."

For these people the war was over
and they sought a peaceful life
and to be able to live in a country
not troubled by war or strife.

They looked at the dead men lying,
spread all over the town,
ghosts of the Battle of Bosworth,
to be remembered by that crown.

Tim Goodwin

A FORWARD'S LOT

There's no glory in the game of the oval ball,
for the forwards, whose duty is to ruck and maul.
No runs for the line or hands raised in glory,
just legs ripped to ribbons, blooded and gory.

We're not built for speed and not built for grace:
it's better to be gifted with a fearsome face.
Ears bandaged tightly against the head,
legs mad of steel that after the game turn to lead.

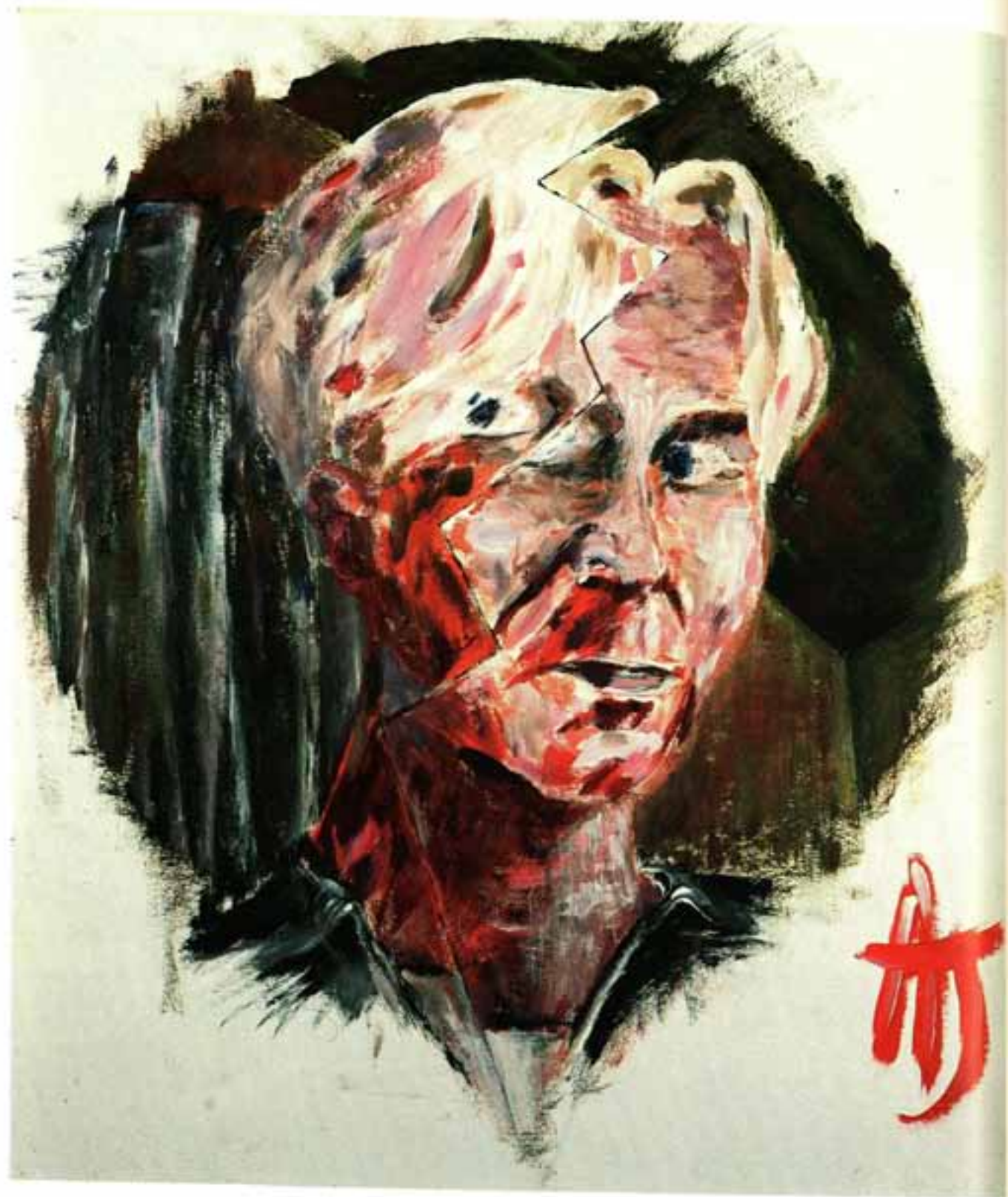
The "donkeys" are we that make up the pack:
our rewards are cauliflower ears and aching back.
Run faster, jump higher, push harder they call,
"Where are you forwards? Keep up with the ball".

Yet we turn out every week, for more of the same,
for the pride of our team and love of the game.

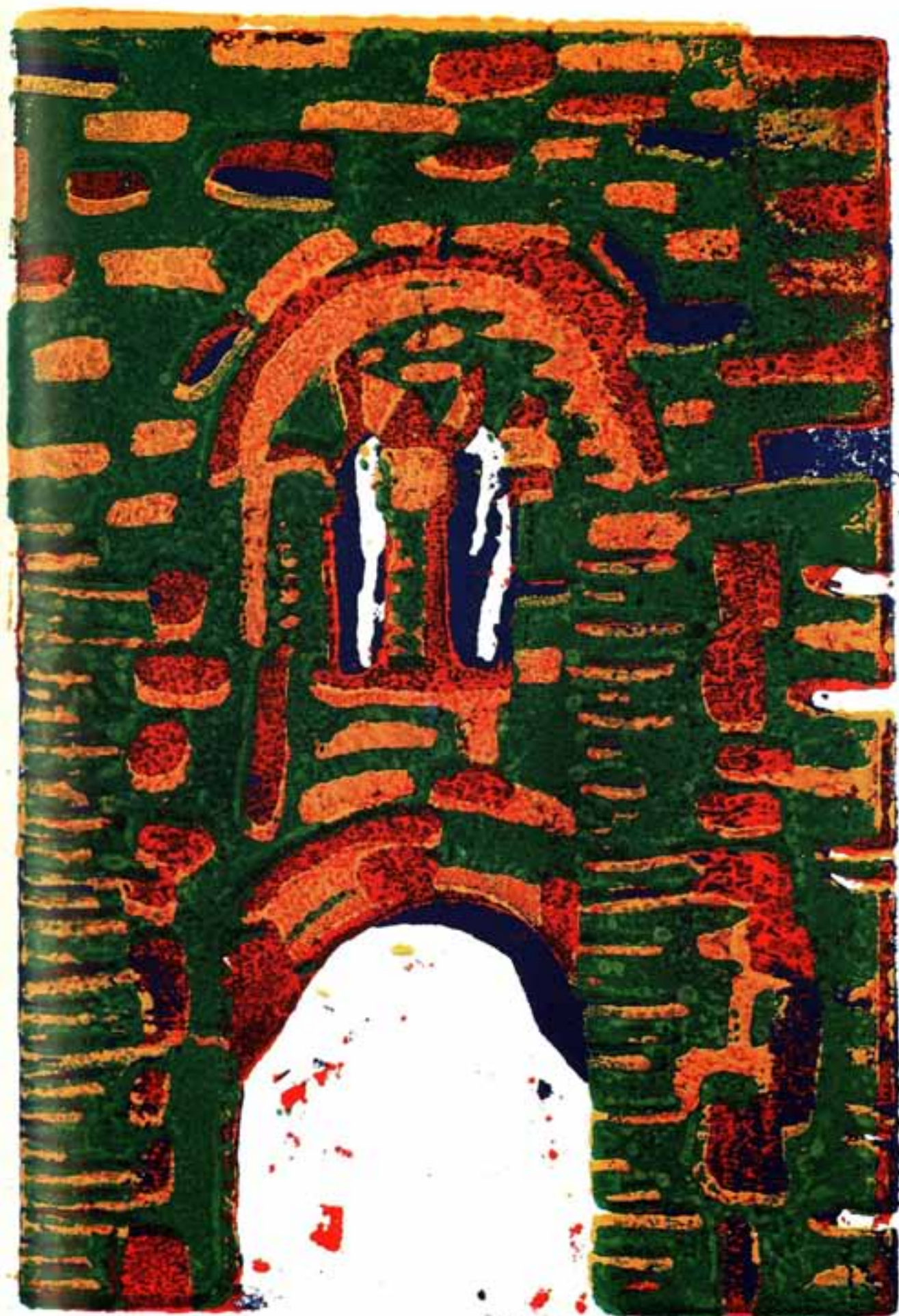
Marcus Hay



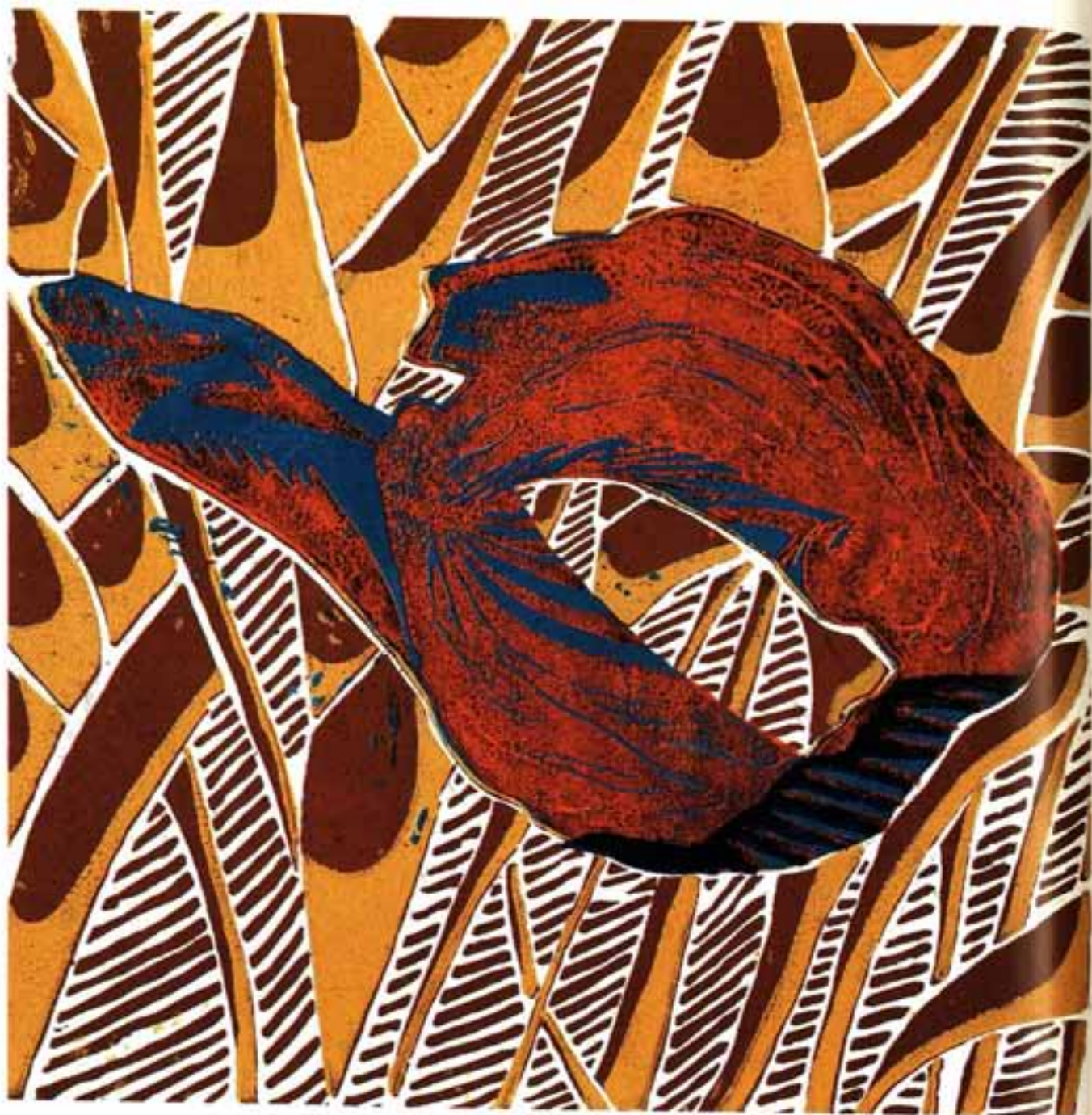
LINO PRINT "SEED HEAD" Gurpreet Chawla



LINO PRINT "ALASTAIR" Alastair Jubb



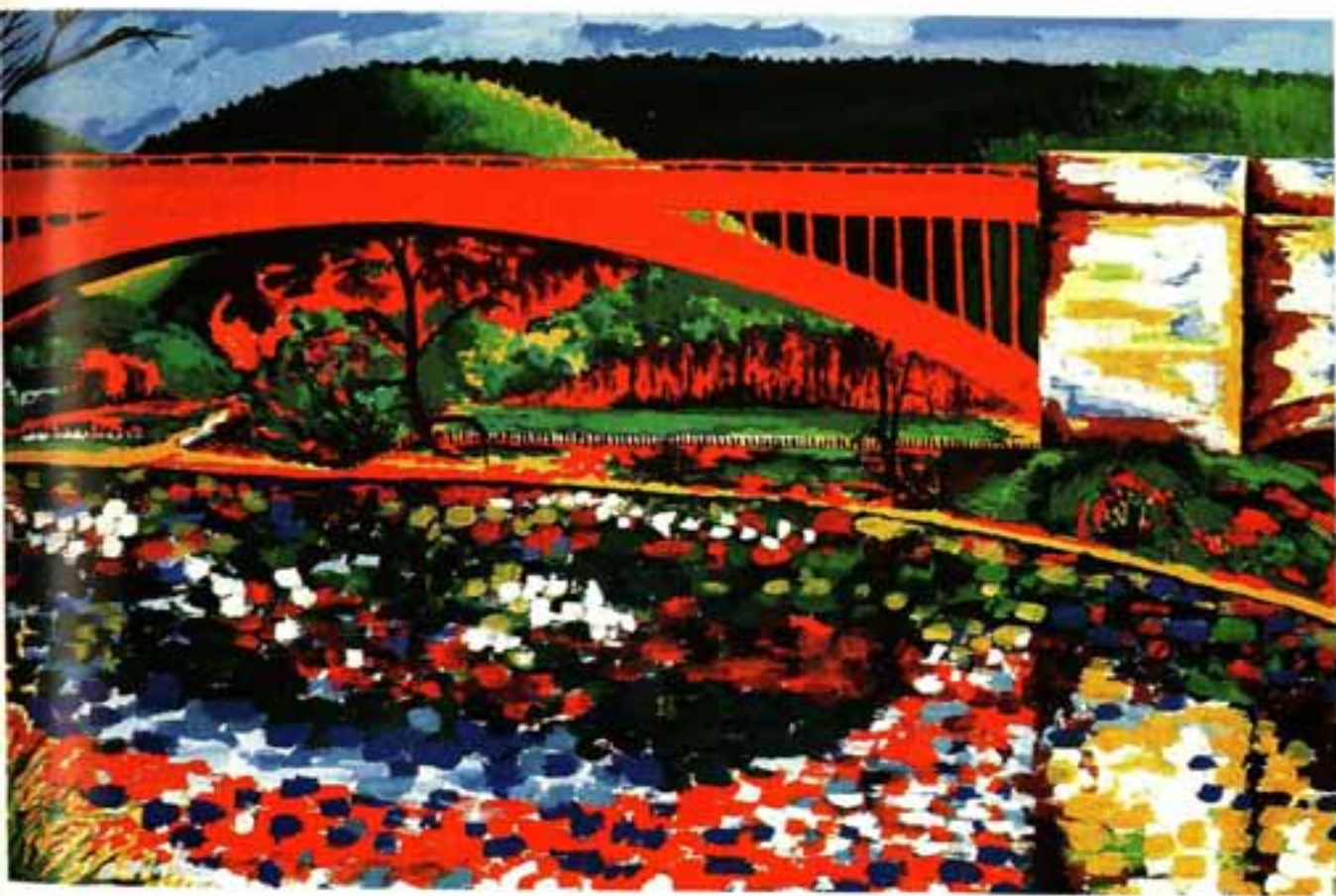
LINO PRINT "CHURCH DOORWAY" David van Marle



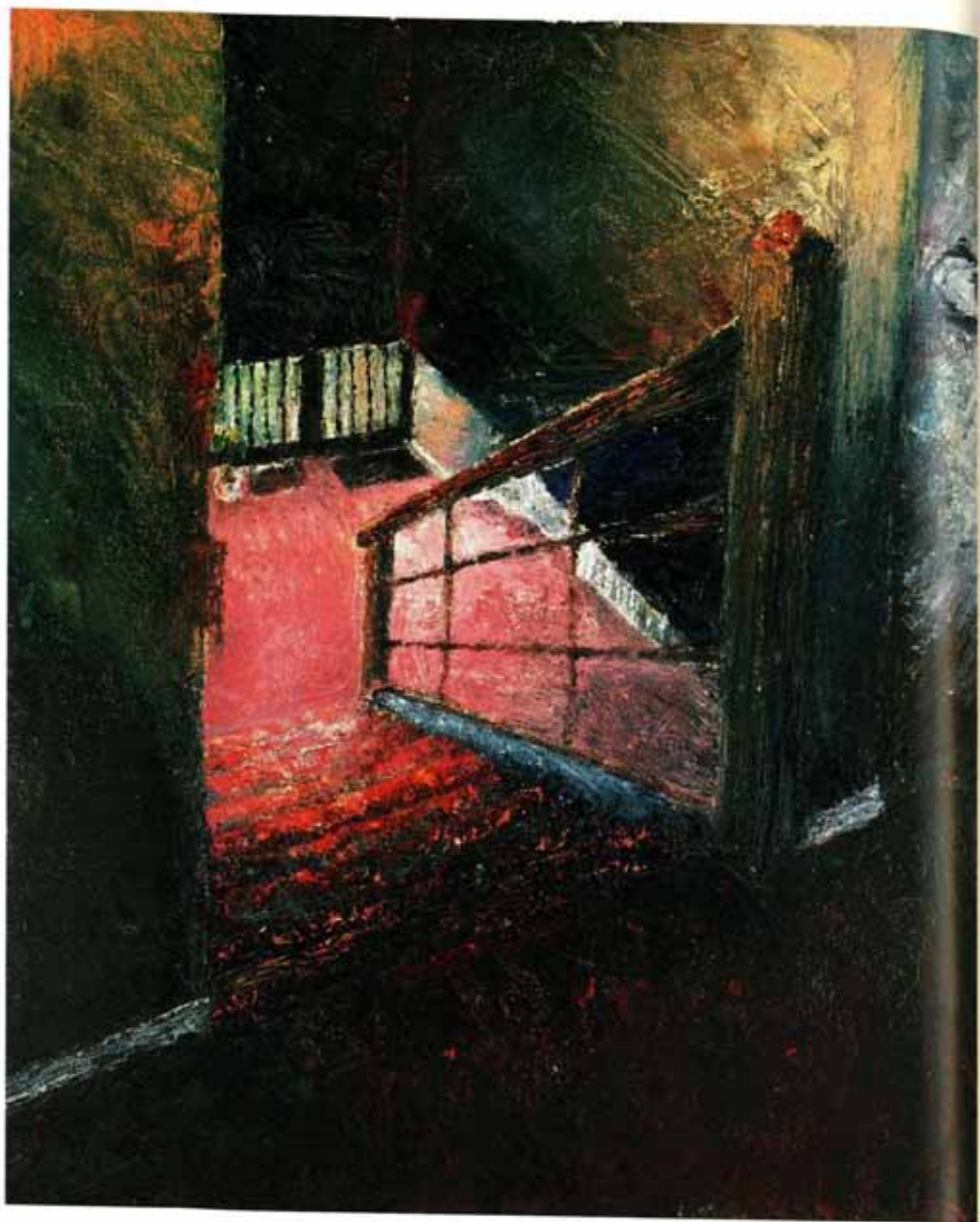
LINO PRINT "SHELL" Stuart Westland



"STILL LIFE" TOM SLATER



"LANDSCAPE" TOM SLATER



"HALLWAY" Nick Williams



COLLOGRAPH PRINT "SEATED NUDE" Nick Williams



"LANDSCAPE" Alastair Treharne

HOUSE



COCK HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

SUMMER 1996

FINAL PLACINGS

	CHALLENGE	CHES	TABLE TENNIS	HOCKEY	RAD MINTON	FIVES	BASKETBALL	GVMNASTICS	SQUASH	BRIDGE	CROSS COUNTRY	RUGBY	MUSIC	SHOOTING	CRICKET	TENNIS	ATHLETICS	SWIMMING	TOTAL	POSITION
GIFFORD	2	6	3	6	4	12	21	7	16	5	18	48	2 ¹ / ₄	5	30	12	36	28	261 ¹ / ₂	1st
VARDY	1	12	5	10	16	14	18	1 ¹ / ₂	10	8	22 ¹ / ₂	30	1 ¹ / ₄	3	12	4	42	32	242 ¹ / ₄	2nd
HEATH	5	4	8	4	6	10	15	6	6	1	22 ¹ / ₂	36	1 ¹ / ₄	2	36	15	48	12	237 ¹ / ₄	3rd
EVANS	3	14	4	2	10	7	24	1 ¹ / ₂	12	2	4 ¹ / ₂	42	3	4	48	6	30	16	233	4th
LEVETT	4	16	2	16	12	4	6	4	8	4	12	18	3 ¹ / ₂	7	42	9	18	20	205 ¹ / ₂	5th
CARY GILSON	6	10	6 ¹ / ₂	12	2	2	3	3	4	6	9	24	4	6	18	9	24	24	172 ¹ / ₂	6th
PRINCE LEE	8	8	6 ¹ / ₂	14	8	16	9	5	14	3	4 ¹ / ₂	6	2 ¹ / ₄	1	24	15	12	8	164 ¹ / ₂	7th
JEUNE	7	0	1	8	14	7	12	8	2	7	15	12	¹ / ₂	8	6	2	6	4	119 ¹ / ₂	8th

GIFFORD

Pheh! Without doubt the whole of Gifford were prepared for the worst as we assembled for the final meeting of term. DNDC was called to the front of the Concert Hall at 10.25 am by House Captain, Andrew Owen to open the sealed envelope containing the Cock House results. Gifford's recent run of success (three wins in four years) could be at an end, it was strongly felt. The results were tantalisingly revealed in reverse order until Mr Chamberlain got to the top three places. He warned us not to be disappointed, not to riot and threaten members of the Houses and then he went on; 3rd place - Heath; 2nd place - Vardy! His declaration of Gifford's win was drowned in a huge cry of celebration with the Sixth formers hugging and the rest of the House cheering. We had won again!

This year's win was undoubtedly a surprise to the House, but marked it out as a whole House effort. Mr Chamberlain, once the celebrations had calmed down, reminded the House that we have relatively few stars, as other Houses may possess, but the team effort and contribution of all helped us to our success.

Winning Rugby overall was a highlight of the year, with excellent performances from stalwarts such as Dunnnett, Robertson and Addison in the Seniors, along with emerging talents such as Cooper (Shells), Rees (Rems), Skidmore (UMs) and Burns (Fourth). The Squash, ably led by Modi, was another very promising overall win (the Pittaway brothers also contributing effectively), and the 2nd place in Basketball was a real show of team spirit and effort - Sheldon in the Seniors being outstanding, ably helped by the departing Broomhead and ably hindered by the Rugby playing Sixths whose tactic of playing the man rather than the ball was successfully intimidating against more talented opposition.

A series of 2nd, 3rd and 4th places kept our points tally overall fairly healthy, and we emerged from the lowly position of 7th at Christmas to squeeze into 1st by one point at Easter. We had been robbed of further glory by the astonishing non-event of the House Music competition - what a shame, probably the most popular House event, and one that brings "music" to so many was bafflingly not run this year. Gifford, under the competent direction of Rana Mitre, were ready to launch their version of the Village People's

YMCA - it would have been a sight.

Perhaps next year?

It didn't stop Rana living the part for most of the year.

Anyway, the summer term has not really been our strength - sports requiring dexterity, finesse and subtlety rarely bring the most out of Owen, McDermott, Howard and Co., but we surpassed our expectations. A 3rd overall in Tennis was most impressive - including a dazzling display of "Tim Henman Spirit" in the Seniors with Montague's Team, including Hockley and Hewitt, beating the top seeds. In Cricket, we had solid achievements across the age groups, with the controversial cricketer Skidmore contributing well in the Juniors in addition to the talented Newman.

We won Athletics and Swimming standards - again. Without standards our position in both would be very lowly and therefore congratulations should go to all those who contributed, and Mike Sheldon can breathe a huge sigh of relief that his one (two?) second(s) of madness was not an embarrassing mistake (though he has had others, notably after the Summer Ball!). In Athletics, Alcock, Sharma and Cooper are excellent prospects and Rees, Skidmore, Burns, Dunnnett, Sheldon and the Bushells contributed in varying degrees of success! In Swimming, though weakened some-

what, we did well to come 3rd overall and Atefi, Addison, Kahn and Aspinall deserve particular praise.

For outstanding contributions to Gifford, three Graham Dunn Awards were presented to Daniel Burns (4ths), Owen Addison (6ths) and retiring House Captain, Andrew Owen.

Sadly, Miss Bond has left us for the relative calm waters of Oundle - we wish her well as Head of English there and a presentation of a House tie and a bouquet of flowers marked her departure.

Andrew Owen thanked the House Tutors - we are lucky in having JTB, RNL, JSL and M-CG in that they are always willing to get involved without the cynicism sometimes associated with the House system - and then thanked Mr Chamberlain for his continuing effort, organisation and behind the scenes puppeteering of events and personnel! Genuinely thank you, Mr. Chamberlain, for all that you have done and long may you carry on doing it.

I wish Matt Kahn, the new Gifford Captain, well next year - we are going for the hat-trick so the pressure is on! Thanks to the outgoing Sixth formers for their character, loyalty and effort over many years and to Andrew for doing the Captaincy thing his own way!

Good luck, Gifford - Viva Gifford!

Rana Mitre, Andrew Owen



Ben Dunnnett doing what Gifford do best - win!



Adrian Lee ... (waiting to attack)

VARDY

Having come second in the Cock House for the past few years, hopes were high amongst the members of Vardy House that we might now consolidate this all too familiar position and finally beat our long-standing rivals Gifford. Things did appear to be going according to plan when, having positioned ourselves in fourth place at Christmas, we managed to move up into second by the spring. All was set for the final push during the summer but, perhaps, it just was not meant to be.

Over the past year we have won the Badminton, Bridge and Swimming competitions outright, with some sterling performances from all years. Particularly noteworthy were the House's achievements in the pool, where in the Seniors Joe Penna, Ross Emery and Adrian Lee dominated Sports Day by winning all of the individual races between them, winning the team free-style relay by "a clear ten metres" and managing to finish second in the medley relay.

Our 'Achilles' heel' however still remains Cricket, a game at which members of Vardy do not particularly excel, although we did have what some may regard as bad luck in playing teams who were consistently more skilful than ourselves. The only notable "flash of brilliance" (although to a Vardy ear this phrase smacks of considerable hyperbole!) was in the third round of the Senior competition. Having lost the previous two rounds, the play-off for 7th/8th saw the participation of some

generous deity whose unconquerable influence allowed Vardy to defeat old rivals Jeune by a massive three wickets. This left us in the low but homely position of 7th, which is where we finished in Cricket overall.

It would, as ever, have been nice to have seen a few more at Athletics Standards, but on the whole it was a good House performance. Altogether 72 cards were handed in, 17 more than last year, and we amassed 14,970 points, 2,000 up on last year's total.

But Vardy's 2nd position in the Cock House must be attributed to a complete lack of cricketers, and I hold out little hope for the future unless some star players can be found. This still leaves the older and wiser members of the House wondering about the truth of "Victory may still be shame". Will any of them ever get close enough to victory to find out? Will *this*, finally, be Vardy's year?

Aidan Burley

HEATH

Yet again Heath have come third in the Cock House and in the past ten years we have not come below third. We have also not won in this period, keeping up the tradition of being always the bridesmaid, never the bride. This year our master plan was disturbed somewhat when House Music didn't happen. With our past history in the event and the musical talents of our

Music Captain Steve McCrory we felt cheated of some big points.

Phil Bennet-Britton led the House this year, ably supported by Jon Aning and Charlie Chambers. Once again we dominated the Cross-Country, finishing first equal with Richard Field being the individual winner in the Senior section. It looks like the hours of extra training implemented by our Head-Coach, Mr Nightingale, have finally paid off. What will we do without him? Good performances from the Minor and Senior Basketball teams gave us an overall fourth position. We came first in Table-Tennis, fourth in Fives, sixth in Badminton and a disappointing eighth in Bridge.

This was nothing to worry about as the last competition of the Winter Term was the hugely important Rugby. In Rugby Adrian Tipper captained the Shells to first place but this is where our success in this sport ended. The Upper Middles and Fourths finished below their seedings and, despite valiant efforts from the Seniors coming third, we could not lift our overall position above third. Notable performances came from Sid Hawkins, Alistair Caldicott, Phil Bennet-Britton and Jon Aning whose vision and accuracy would later prove useful in House Shooting. This year's Golden Boot award went to Steve McCrory, whose dazzling footwork made a big impression on Gifford.

The Summer Term was full of promise for all Heathens and we fully expected our victories in Athletics and Tennis. We also came third in Cricket (due to some dubious decisions in wet weather) and fourth in Swimming. Dave Clark and Alistair Caldicott wiped the competition out with impressive use of the forehand which led to Dave, as captain, being awarded the Tennis Trophy. Athletics was a much deserved victory after a big effort from the entire House, which placed us in second position for a Standards Competition. We then went on to win by twenty points at Sports Day. Good performances on the day came from Phil, who won the Discus. Andy Kent's High Jump was an inspiration to all of us when he calmly missed the bar and the mat, taking out the post and Mr. Campbell in one full sweep. It has been a good year for Heath with achievements on the sports field from all years. This points to possible success in the future with younger Heathens like Elliot Taylor, Adrian Tipper, Matthew (need we say more) Benjamin and Sid Hawkins.

Mr Nightingale will be much missed after twenty-eight years of service in Heath and we all wish him the best of luck with his new job as a Rugby Selector. Miss Tudor will be leaving us temporarily after her shock revelation in the last House meeting. Thanks go to Mr. Milton, Mr. Nightingale, Dr. Bridges, Miss Tudor, Phil Bennet-Britton and the departing Sixth Form.

Finally I call on all other Houses next year to collaborate and cheat in order to stop Gifford winning the Cock House.

Ben Stratton

EVANS

It is now nine years since Evans last won the Cock House trophy, but following his appointment as House Master in the Summer 1995, "Old Evansonian" Mr Tinley set about his task with gusto. His major targets were to ensure a good turn out in the standards competitions and to make sure that Evans always produced a full team for all events. If sporting talent was to prove lacking, effort would take its place.

Indeed, throughout the year Evans teams produced a string of fine performances. Evans teams won Senior and Minor Basketball, and hence overall and Minor Tennis. However, our greatest triumph came in Cricket where Senior and Junior victories gave us the overall title and a much needed forty-eight points. The year also saw excellent performances in Swimming and Athletics standards, where the Senior boys contributed some much needed points. The importance of these events was demonstrated when they boosted our position in both Swimming and Athletics.

Despite these successes, there was obvious room for improvement throughout the year. Each team put in an excellent effort, but our problem tended to be a lack of teams. Bad communication and idleness hampered our chances in House Challenge, Senior Swimming, Cross-Country and Athletics. The points thrown away could easily have made a difference in the final Cock House standings. An expectant crowd gathered in Lecture Room One on the last day of school, eager to learn the final results of the House Competitions. Excitement grew as the results were read out in ascending order. We soon learned that the Green Army had finished fourth, just three points behind third placed Heath, and only around thirty

points off the lead (in comparison around thirty points also separated 4th and 5th places in the competition). Next year we'll do better.

Thanks must go to Mr Tinley, and to all of our House Tutors, especially to Dr Higgit and Dr Ford who are leaving the school at the end of this year. Their contribution to the House will be missed. Finally, our best wishes must go to the departing Sixth formers, in particular House Captain Andy Purdon and Vice-Captain Saikat Santra. Who knows, in ten years' time, it could be Saikat or Andy who is standing at the front of Lecture Room One leading the campaign for Evans glory.

Adam Johnson

LEVETT

Having finished a stunning sixth in the Cock House last year, Levett House's hopes were high that we would continue our (extremely) steady pace up the table. These hopes were cemented by the return of Mr. Goodlad to the House after a three year break in Oxford, especially as it was he who would be organising House Chess this year. Before that, though, came House Challenge, a competition in which Levett has traditionally done well. The team captained by Patrick Finglass was somewhat lacking in depth, and a first loss to Jeune meant that it finished fifth, crushing Vardy in the second round. Chess proved more favourable. The team topped its group and beat the other group winners, Evans, 5-1. There was a slight hiccup in the first round when the captain, Patrick Finglass, lost to a third year from Jeune: however a couple of rounds later we had Jeune disqualified for "board order irregularities".

A poor showing in Table-Tennis, particularly by the 8th placed Seniors, resulted in a position of seventh; however this was more than redeemed by a Hockey team which finished top of its group, before defeating Vardy 2 - 1 on penalties and then Prince Lee 1 - 0 in the final. Thus at Christmas, with four whole competitions completed, Mr. Phillips announced to a euphoric House that Levett was sitting proudly at the top of the Cock House table. Hope abounded that we would be able to use this as a springboard for the victory which had eluded us for so long. We were ready for what was once called the Winter Term.

It seemed indeed that our luck was to hold. Senior Badminton had finished in

the Autumn Term with us in 6th place (Matthew Spindler being awarded a bonus point), but excellent performances by the Minor and Junior teams which both finished third, left us in third place overall. However, this was the only time we finished in the first four places in the first half of the term. Fives proved somewhat of a disappointment - although the Minors finished an impressive third; seventh positions from both Juniors and Seniors resulted in a overall position of seventh. Our miserable seventh in Basketball only confirmed that physical activity was not to be our forte this year. The rot really seemed to have set in when the Gymnastics team, captained by Imran Shaikh, finished fifth on 325 points, in a competition traditionally dominated by us. Not all was lost, however. An impressive performance by the Juniors in Squash, winning their section, left us fifth overall with Karndeeep Khara being awarded a bonus point. We finished a creditable fifth in Bridge also.

This year saw the introduction of a new system for House Rugby and Cross Country; however no new system could make up for our veritable dearth of strong talent. Positions of 4th, 3rd, 1st and 3rd from the first four years should have ensured a top half position; however a poor Senior performance resulted in a meagre 5th place. Rugby proved equally uninspiring - despite the valiant efforts of the Removes, who finished 1st, our overall standing was in sixth place.

House Music, which my predecessors have generally used as a break from the ennui of continued sports reports. Unfortunately, my scope for such a manoeuvre is considerably limited, as this year there was no House Shout. Instead the whole competition was decided on the recital, judged by the principal harpist of the CBSO. Levett was the only House which attempted to make a genuine group effort rather than simply sending along some Grade 13 pianist; our trio of Russell Hargeaves, Samuel Brockington and Kai-Wing Shiu performed extremely well and earned an excellent second place. If only music had a x 6 weighting and Rugby a x 1/2 one, we might be slightly higher up the table. As it was, at Easter we were in fifth place on 109.5 points.

In the Summer Term, the Shooting competition produced an impressive sixth place - unfortunately, the low weighting of the event prevented our getting many points. Cricket, however, proved the exception to Levett's

traditional failure in sports with a weighting greater than two. Impressive second places from Minors and Juniors (with Dyer awarded a bonus point) were let down by an eighth place from the all too accurately seeded Seniors. However, our overall second position was a credit to the talented play of the lower half of the House.

Tennis was less successful. The Minors finished a creditable second; the Juniors - that indomitable pair Idnan Yunas and Alistair Middleton, who gave me a Junior Tennis report about as long as this entire House report - finished sixth after being seeded eighth, with an impressive 7-5 victory against Cary Gilson after being 0-4 down. However, a Senior position of sixth resulted in a final placing of joint fifth.

Athletics proved somewhat more daunting. Powerful performances from Shells, Removes and IVs (second, first and third respectively) were again let down by the Seniors, who finished seventh. There were individual successes from Borg-Bartola, Anyanwu, Ferdinand, Cockerton and Bahar - the last of whom set new records in Shot, Discus and Hammer. Our standards performance (sixth) was somewhat lower than normal: this was undoubtedly due to the lack of a House meeting right at the beginning of the term, in which our House Master would inspire us to go down to Eastern Road and do our bit. As it was, we were sixth overall in Athletics.

And so to Swimming. Despite one young star's "forgetting his trunks", the Minors ended up fourth, with Borg-Bartola - clearly a name to look out for in later years - awarded a bonus point. The Juniors too finished fourth, the plunge being won in style by Brooke. Despite the Seniors' best attempts (which included a "Golden Goal" in the Water Polo), we ended fourth overall.

The end of this report is at last in sight. Mr Phillips announced to a pleased House that we had finished fifth this year, thus continuing our slow progress upwards. At this rate, we will be first in the year 2000! All credit is due to the House for what was a generally good performance, and the high standards of the lower years give much hope for the future.

Unfortunately, it will not be a future that Mr. Goodlad will see, as he leaves the school a second time in five years - we wish him well for his City career. Even worse, however, is the sudden departure of Mr. Phillips from his position as Levett Housemaster.

Evidently overwhelmed by his skill in galvanising this House into such success, the 'powers that be' have elevated him to the position of Third Deputy Master, leaving Mr. Roll to take over his old role. Mr. Phillips has been the heart and soul of Levett House for many years now, and it is with sincere reluctance that we see him leave us. True, we have not seen much success under his tenure - when he took over in December 1989 we were first in the Cock House; we were last by the summer - but there is more to the House system than mere success. That undefinable character of our House meetings, that warm but sternly inspirational man in the non-existent chair, that oft-heard cry, the last resort when talks have been forgotten - "What about the football, then?" all this will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. If the House competition were only between House Masters, Levett would win every time.

Patrick Finglass

CARY GILSON

In 1995/6 had been widely predicted as the year when the latent power of the slumbering giant, such as Cary Gilson was, would be brought to bear on the Cock House competition. Unfortunately, this proved to be no more than an over-optimistic dream of Mr. Russell, who in his despair, began to believe some of his own inspirational addresses.

The future had indeed looked rosy, as we had gathered to sing festive Yuletide carols in Geography Room A. We had gained a creditable third in Hockey, whilst we had climbed, albeit somewhat dizzily, to previously unscaled heights in House Challenge. All the years were turning in excellent performances, which led to several furtive chuckles from the much-maligned APR. All this unexpected success left us in third position at the end of the Christmas term.

However at this point, as they say, it all went pear-shaped. As soon as we returned, the Cary Gilson self-belief took a battering, since the grip on success began to slip. Although we ground out a battling third in Senior Rugby, House reports frequently read like a dirge, as a chance at the title slipped away. Our woeful showing in the indoor competition, averaging seventh, at last put an end to Kris Shergold's hopes of replicating the feat

of Mike Ellis of lifting the trophy.

The one notable high point during the winter of our discontent was the House Music. The popular part, for so long a sign of Cary Gilson strength, was axed, so the unforgettable song and dance routine of Hynes and Shergold will never be seen in public. However, in the remaining discipline of classical music, Cary Gilson recorded only its second top-half placing of the term, as we slumped to eighth place.

Despite this disappointment, we came back to repair some of the damage in the Summer Term. Solid performances in Cricket under the captaincy of Ross served to drag us back in the right direction, whilst the custom of winning several events in Athletics was continued. A less pleasing part of this tradition was the dearth in standards cards, which did not aid our cause.

At the end of the year, our final position was not at all as we had hoped for, but we would have taken it if it had been offered at Easter. The turn-round in our fortunes was brought about by tireless work by Kris Shergold and the Tutors, whom I thank for their dedication. I wish the next year's captain good luck, and sincerely hope we can recapture the cup we won in 1994.

Ian Brown

PRINCE LEE

The start of the 95/96 campaign left even the oldest members of the House unable to remember any position other than eighth being achieved in the last few years. This does not help if Mr. Connor is trying to influence his House to pick themselves up, brush themselves down, and climb up the ladder in the Cock House Competition.

The House began the year well with our House Challenge team achieving victory, followed closely by a second place in Table-Tennis. It was only an extremely controversial decision by a Gifford House Master, acting as umpire in House Hockey, which prevented Prince Lee sitting on top of the Cock House at the end of the Autumn term, and left the House in second place.

After such a successful term, all members knew that House Rugby was approaching. The fact that whichever House wins Rugby collects more points than even the top House had achieved after a whole term's efforts, left the Autumn term's achievements meaning next to nothing, and we slumped miserably down the table after managing to come eighth in this event.



Andrew Wolfe - a driving force in Prince Lee's Tennis Team

Whether this position could have been improved will never be known, but I'm sure if the Senior Rugby side had managed to get more than nine players onto the pitch, we might have stood a chance.

A victory in House Fives and a runners-up spot in Squash helped to increase our standing in the Cock House but, due to the small weighting these events have concerning points won, Prince Lee found themselves in sixth place, with only the Summer Term left to make any improvement.

Athletics Standards, usually one of our many downfalls, actually became one of our strongest areas this year, with the Shells and Removes both handing in nearly 100% of their cards. This kind of effort is extremely encouraging but seems to do little to urge the Seniors do likewise. A position of fourth was attained, which could so easily have been first if only a few more people had remembered to bring in their standards cards.

In other competitions our Minor Cricket team deserve a mention, where a position of first was achieved: a positive sign for the future. With solid performances from each age group in House Tennis, Prince Lee received joint top honours.

Every year that I can remember, the

final House meeting of the year involved the whole House listening to our House Master reading the Cock House placings from last to first place, so that our name was read out first, and so that all the other Houses could be met with large numbers of jeers. But this year was to be different! Prince Lee came seventh! This position gives the House something to build on at last, and leaves us with the determination not to fall back down to the last place which we have held for so many years.

I can only hope that those who have tried so hard this year can encourage those in the House who are, quite frankly, lazy, to give their best and help drive us into the top half of the Cock House table. To conclude, thanks and congratulations go out to Mr. Connor and the House Tutors who helped

us to improve on our annual position by installing a firm authority, so forcing many more House members to play their part. Prince Lee, Cock House Champions 1997? Why not? (Hm!) *Tom Manners*

JEUNE

It was in 1991 that Jeune last had a taste of glory, in winning the Cock House. The once mighty Jeune has, however, in recent years not been so successful. Following last year's disappointing seventh position we really had to make a big effort to pull ourselves to the top, where we belong. At the start of the year Mr. Evans told the House that good leadership and commitment were the keys to success. It was just a case of whether we could put this into practice. The Shells had already been warned of how important their contribution would be. The rest of the House had all the potential, all we had to do was to put this to good effect.

We kicked off the year with a mixed start. The Seniors came third in Badminton and a respectable fourth in Squash. However we lost our momentum with, a not so terrible, fifth in Hockey but a disappointing eighth in Table Tennis.

Sadly this reflected our Cock House position, of eighth.

Our unsatisfactory position was largely down to people entering the competitions with little passion to boost the House's standing. Attitudes had to change and the sooner people competed positively, the sooner the House would prosper.

After the Christmas break, spirits were high and we looked to lift ourselves up. An excellent first in Gymnastics, led by the House Captain Tom Tipper and a good performance by Mathew Hall, was definitely a step in the right direction. The remaining Indoor Competitions were completed by the lower years and good results were achieved, with second overall in Badminton and respectable fifth positions in Basketball and Fives. However our good progress was hindered by eighth in Squash overall. On the non-sporting front our fortunes were mixed, yet again. A well earned second in House Challenge and in Bridge were excellent, but this was spoilt by yet another eighth position, this time in House Music.

Our trump card seemed to be Rugby with the attacking might of Francis and Tipper, but after narrowly losing a couple of major matches the team ended up in seventh for the Seniors and sixth overall. We seemed to have missed out on the big points carried by this event, but a courageous first position by the Senior Cross Country team, captained by James Barraclough gave us some consolidation - for our morale only, since lack of commitment in the lower years pulled the overall position down to fourth.

By Easter the House had moved up a mere one position to seventh, but with Athletics and Cricket to follow things looked hopeful. This thought was crushed when, during a rain-swept Senior Competitions week, we ended eighth in Cricket. This was not a true reflection of our capabilities and we narrowly missed out on higher positions. The fact that Alex Blaikley, our key player, was out injured didn't help either. Hard work and good results in Athletics were let down by a poor number of Standards cards handed in. On the last day, when Mr. Evans opened the envelope, the worse had come to the worst and Jeune had once again slumped to eighth: a disappointment, especially to those individuals who had put some hard work into the House. We can only look forward to better things next year.

Milan Thomas



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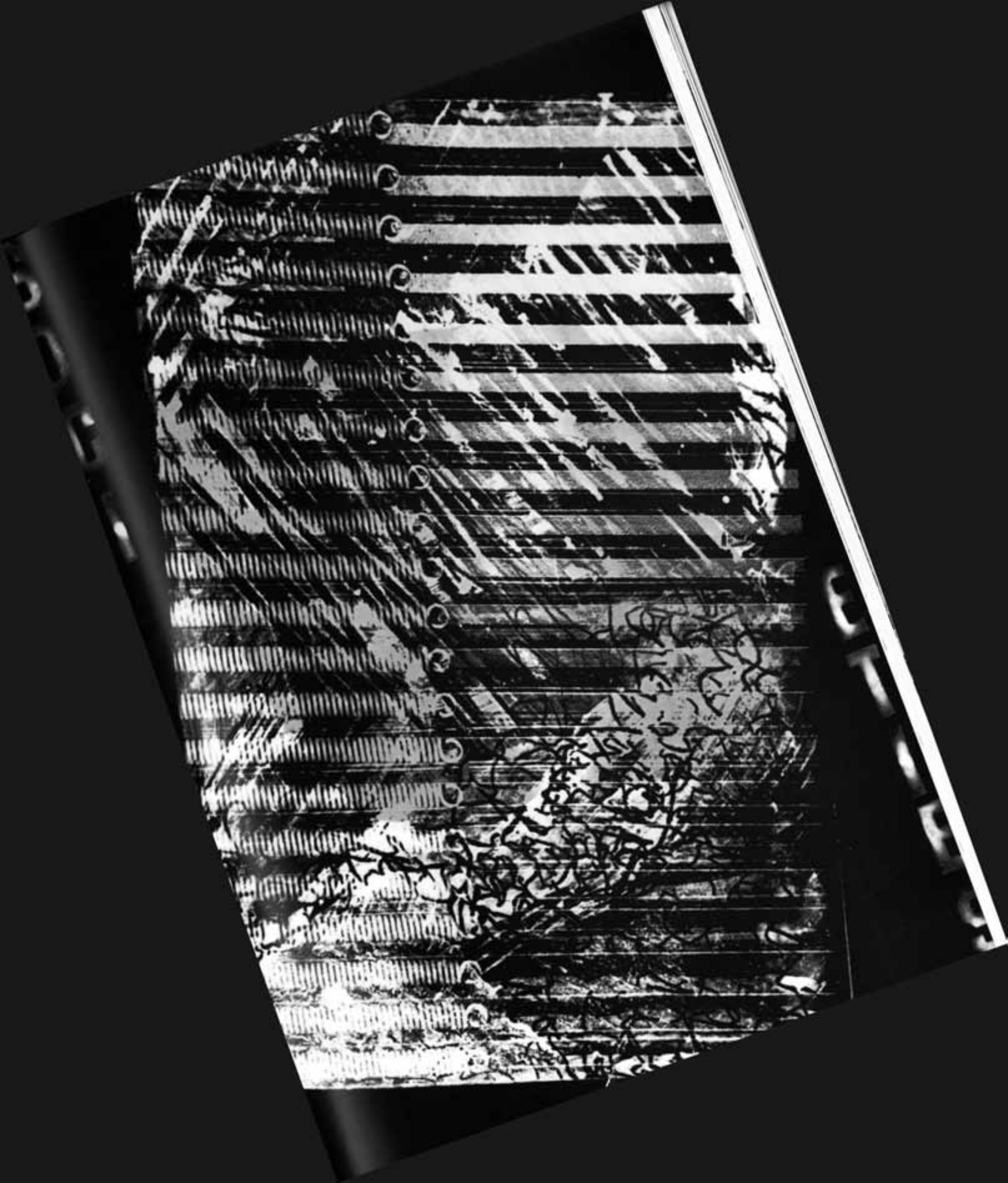
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ANAGNOSTICS

After the concluding "Ajax" in the open air, a few doubts were raised as to whether the society would be able to improve on last year's performance. In fact, Anagnostics has enjoyed a vintage year, with no fewer than ten plays being read to consistently high audiences. The Autumn Term opened with a reading of the old favourite, Aristophanes' "Frogs", in which David Hingley's portrayal of Dionysus was especially memorable, and the dramatists Aeschylus and Euripides were vividly acted. Tragedies this year have included Sophocles' "Antigone" and Euripides' "Helen", "Orestes", and "Medea", the last of which was greatly enhanced by the variety of foreign accents which somehow permeated into it. A traditionally high proportion of ancient comedy has been maintained with Plautus' "Menaechmi", Meander's "Dyskolos" (once again incorporated into the all-swinging, all-dancing David Hingley Show) and something of a novelty in the form of Euripides' and Sophocles' satyr-plays "Cyclops" and "Searching Satyrs", the latter clearly illustrating the remarkable ability of several future Oxbridge undergraduates as impersonators.

The year was rounded off in jovial fashion with a performance of the set book, the "Birds" of Aristophanes, with the first half held in the Stoa. Patrick Finglass sang the part of the Hoopoe with much enthusiasm but little talent, and those classic lines about Excestides and Laespodias met with roars of mirth, as expected, from a hugely appreciative audience (well almost....). Participation from the Divisions has been encouragingly high, one of whom, Stuart Handcock, is the clear winner of this year's Award for Ridiculous Overacting, in every part he read (his Triballian - a part deliberately written to be incomprehensible - almost seemed restrained by comparison). A large KEHS contingent has loyally attended, and the work of Misses Hughes and Perryman in publicising the society is greatly appreciated, as are the numerous and entertaining renditions of female roles by these and other young ladies.

Thanks must go, as ever, to Mr. Owen, Mr. Stone and the Rev. Raynor (himself secretary of Anagnostics in 1975-6) and to the Dining Hall Staff for

the unfailing supply of refreshment. Dr. Hosty's loan of the Cartland Room has provided a comfortable and atmospheric venue for meetings. It only remains to be said that, with the departure of the last members to have attended a meeting chaired by the legendary Matthew Peacock, the school's most distinguished society - with a fine tradition dating back at least 1958 - is entering a new era.

Luke Houghton

A.R.E.S.

This year has been a very quiet year for the society, with the majority of its members buried in their G.C.S.E. revision. A skeleton crew has manned the shack in our absence, but in the way of events the society has been very relaxed. Our Friday afternoon sessions have been limited in their usefulness by our periodic French lessons. However, on a positive note, next year means an end to the G.C.S.E. revision, and hopefully a joyful and widespread return to the common room. And with the secretarial battle already heating up, the forthcoming AGM is going to be, in the very least, entertaining. So cling to your seats and prepare yourselves for the return of the weird.

Ed Bennett

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

This society, undoubtedly the sleeping giant of the School Club, needed only to be gently awakened from the torpor of previous years to regain its former status. The two secretaries, building on the foundations of the previous year's talks, approached this weighty task with support and advice from Mr. Stone, and organised an ambitious programme of meetings for the academic year. Although unfortunately hampered by the unavailability of one of the guest lecturers, the majority of the talks went ahead as planned and met with an encouraging degree of support from boys in the school.

The inaugural talk was delivered by Mr. Stone himself, and covered the subject of the Roman remains in Gaul; entitled "Gaul Stones" at the vociferous insistence of the Classics VI,

the talk attracted a substantial and appreciative audience which presaged well for future events. Indeed, G1 was filled for the next meeting, delivered on the subject of education in the ancient world by Dr. Theresa Morgan of Cambridge University; we were honoured to have such a distinguished speaker in our midst and enjoyed her very interesting talk. There followed, in the Spring Term, a series of short talks (by Messrs. Evans, Lambie, Worthington, Houghton and Nicholls) delivered under the aegis of the Classical Society, which offered illustrated descriptions of some of the archaeological sites of ancient Greece; these had the dual purposes of providing some background knowledge for the boys embarking upon the 1996 Greek Trip, and of increasing the general erudition of interested members of the School.

The customary thanks are all due to all members of the Classics Department for their continued support, and especially to Messrs. Stone and Worthington; also, the help of Cressida Perryman and Rebecca Hughes in distributing posters in KEHS has been much appreciated. The success of this year's talks has been both pleasing in itself and encouraging for the future of the Classical Society; with the members of this year's Classics Division engaged in fierce internecine strife to secure the secretariat (or, rather, the position of *primus inter pares*) for next year, we feel sure that the society will go from strength to strength.

Matthew Nicholls Ian Brown

CHRISTIAN UNION

At the beginning of the year, the Joint Christian Union moved to a room in KEHS and decided to meet twice weekly. Following this change we have grown considerably, adding to our number from both schools.

Visiting speakers and a taped series of talks brought variety to our programme, and the Christian Union has begun to take a higher profile in school life.

Special thanks to Andrew and David for their able assistance and commitment, and to Angela, Joy and Mirilee of KEHS.

It has been a good year and we pray that the promising growth will continue.

Andrew Clayton

DEBATING SOCIETY

Another year, another attempt by Dr. Hosty to resurrect the "King Edward's tradition of debating". Debating at KES has its highs and its lows.

"This House believes that a woman's place is in the home" was one of the better debates. Ben Jones and Emily Andrews put up a reasonably serious argument against the motion. However, in a tactical error, Ben Sheriff and Emma Waring chose to argue for the motion (Leon Francis pulled out on the grounds he wanted a woman to take her place in his home). Curiously, the motion was defeated by a large margin (rugby training was on that lunch time).

A sterling, though ill-attended, debate brought in Jon Anning, Ben Dunnet, Jamie Child and Ali Shepherd to debate the merits of Will Carling's comments on the RFU. Surprisingly, the House found in favour of Carling (representing as he does every schoolboy's dream of playing for England and playing with Princess Di). The joint nature of the society was somewhat overlooked by KEHS for this meeting.

"This House believes that debating is a pointless pastime" lays claim to possibly the most entertaining debate in years. Organised by the lower Sixth, rather than the authors, the speakers were finally decided ten minutes before the meeting. Rana Mitra moved from opposing to proposing the motion, to join Ming Ye Shiu (the only person who had prepared anything). Kwesi Okanta-Ofori and Ali Shepherd



stepped in at the last minute to oppose the motion. Ming Ye (full scholar, four As, Cambridge, Law) produced a logical and coherent argument for the motion. Kwesi stood up and said "Yeah, it keeps people off the streets". Rana argued that anyone who had not turned up had obviously voted for the motion. Ali incisively pointed out that it keeps people off the streets. In summing up Rana noted that there are many other ways of keeping people off the streets, such as tying them to large pieces of furniture. The opposers, whose combined speeches lasted slightly less time than it took to introduce the speakers, won.

"This House believes that arrogance is a virtue" was probably one of the finest moments of the society. Despite the slightly obvious billing as a debate between KES and KEHS, some very good arguments were put forward by Andrew Owen and Benjamin Sheriff. Unfortunately, Lucy Johnson and Elle failed to put forward

any convincing counter-arguments. The motion was carried by seventeen votes to two once those disqualified by hormone imbalance were discounted (twenty-two votes were thus invalid).

In competitive debating, J.J. Lee and Adnaan Ali won the first round of the Observe-Mace competition. Adnaan put up a spirited argument against the motion "This House believes that in Britain the punishment no longer fits the crime" in the second round. Unfortunately Ben Sheriff let the side down by producing a speech of such unfailingly poor quality that one of the judges felt obliged to point out how far he had to go. The school did not come in first place or as runner-up of the six schools competing on the evening, and was probably placed last.

Congratulations to Adnaan on winning the Hammond Debating Trophy. Mea culpa.

*Kwesi Okanta-Ofori, Head of Society
Benjamin Sheriff, The one who does the work
Ranadeb Mitra, Society impressionist.*

EURODRAMA

This has been something of a quiet year for Eurodrama, as for one reason or another the meetings were cancelled or postponed. Through circumstances beyond our control, only one play was read in the Autumn Term, "Knock" by Jules Romains. This French farce about doctors was an apt way to start the year, and was

followed in the Spring Term by a modern day version of an ancient Greek tragedy, "Antigone", our version by Jean Anouilh. The other highlight of this term was the reading of La Leçon, a play with just three roles, and as typically strange as you would expect from an anti-piece of Eugene Ionesco. This meeting featured an attempt at acting out a scene, where one curious individual managed to dance around a helpless girl before stabbing her to death with an invisible knife. Comme c'est bizarre!

Thanks must be given, as ever, to Mr. Tomlinson and Madame Crossley, the teachers in charge of this illustrious society, to the dining hall staff for providing coffee and that gorgeous chocolate cake (thanks!), and also to all those who attended and read, a number of whom shone with their fluency of reading, notably the President of the society and his female counterpart Michelle Donovan.

David Hingley

FELLWALKING
SOCIETY

Yet again the Fellwalking Society has provided a high quality walking experience for its members. Mr. Boardman has ensured a supply of new members by running several beginners' days out for the lower half of the School, whilst there has been a number of trips for the veterans of the senior group.

The first, at the start of the Christmas holidays, saw a group of such people setting off for a weekend in the Cotswolds. At around eleven o'clock we set off for a walk over some pleasant ridge scenery, in good weather. A number of the party entered into the festive spirit and either donned Santa hats or attached as many bits of tinsel to themselves as possible. Throughout the two days it also became obligatory for everybody to wear a communal pair of reindeer's antlers.

The walk finished in a small village, from where we set off for the Youth Hostel, pausing only for a short cafe stop en route. Once at Stow-on-the-Wolds Hostel we set to decorating our attic dormitory with balloons, tinsel and streamers in the time-honoured fell walking fashion. After dinner, the group split into two, boys, the fish and chip shop, teachers to the pub.

The next day dawned wet, and having tidied the dorm we were off to the Marlborough Downs. The views were probably magnificent, but the rain cut visibility hugely. It was in fact so wet that we forwent a second lunch stop in preference to a speedy return to the minibus. The return journey was full of Christmas cheer, with carols from the official music sheet and a world record length rendition of "Alice the Camel".

During the Easter holidays another band of chosen young men started out for the Peak District. We followed a circular route covering both the spectacular moorland scenery and secluded river valleys. A great deal of enjoyment was obtained from one particular person, both his hairstyle and attempt to ford a river. The walk was concluded in style in a very pleasant cafe.

Thanks must go to Messrs. Boardman & Lambie and Miss Brown-sword (the only teacher to wear the antlers for any length of time), and Mr. Cumberland for his organisation skills.

James March

FIELD STUDIES
SOCIETY

This year the society has again undertaken many and varied projects within Edgbaston Park Nature Reserve. These have included the continuation of the wildfowl census and the ladybird population study. The wildfowl census has this year shown some alarming reductions in the number of certain species, possibly attributable to an increase in pollution levels in the lake.

The ladybird project has this year primarily been concerned with a study of the number of ladybirds inhabiting the school grounds, in particular the south field, and the trees adjacent to it. New projects to be undertaken this year have included the setting up of a moth trap, a survey into the life found in the pond recently built on the school site adjacent to the field laboratory, a study into plant succession in the vole field, and a pollution survey carried out jointly with the University of Birmingham.

The aim is to eventually obtain an idea of the extent of the pollution levels in the lake, their possible causes, and the effects they are having on the local populations of birds and fish. Many species have been found to be diminishing rapidly over the last couple of years and this has been attributed to the build up of pollution levels caused by the adjacent golf course discharging fertiliser into the lake. The study of pollution is aimed at finding out if this has been the case, or if there is another reason for the dwindling numbers.

Andrew Cartmel

GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE

The Graphic Universe has had yet another 'Marvel'ous year. Attendances rose throughout the year with fresh faces brightening the meetings. What was once a small underground society swarming together each Friday has turned slowly into a mainstream society and slowly the perception that "comics are for kids" is dissipating (if there is still doubt we suggest you read *Preacher* by Garth Ennis). The highlights of this year have included a debate on "Marvel's Image" by myself and Olivier Bogaerts which was hugely popular, especially as I arose victorious

However, the most popular event was clearly the Science Fiction Quiz which proved that the teachers are not nearly as stupid as we all thought (partly due to Miss Bond's last minute intervention). A huge thanks to all involved especially Mrs Loxton for providing the prizes.

So overall we have another successful year under our belt, with definite plans for a fanzine next year. "Special guests" will be appearing and the Graphic Universe will be encompassing more and more of Science Fiction. We are on the up!! As one man commented: "Excelsior! Nuff Said."

Next Week

INTERFAITH
SOCIETY

The Interfaith Society provides a forum for interaction between



people of various faiths, allowing open discussion on an assortment of issues.

True to the Indo-European view of cyclical history imbued with destruction and subsequent regeneration, the society underwent a year of continual flux. Initially Parantapa Dasa, (a Krishna Consciousness devotee), skillfully presenting a rendition of his faith, was able to draw in large crowds. This was due to his lucidity of his argument, the charisma of his speech and perhaps also partly because of the free food which tended to follow him. His act was a tough one to follow, and mid-way through the society underwent a slump in numbers. However regeneration was not far away; better advertisement and organisation led to a reinvigoration of the society. A discussion on the relationship between science and religion raised a number of interesting issues. The Vedic Society, under the stewardship of Anurag Sharma, provided an insight into Hindu mythology. It is hoped that a planned discussion on various religions' views of society and community will also be successful.

Thanks must go to Niranjan Dey and Anurag Sharma for their organisation of meetings. Michael Bywaters for his helpful suggestions and Rev. Raynor for his aid in logistics.

Aidan Ali

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

This year, the weather between January and May has been generally nastier than last year. The average dry bulb temperature has been 3.6 C lower than last year; last year the average dry bulb temperature was 7.3 C and this year it was 3.7 C. This year has also been much colder than last year; the average minimum temperature this year was - 2.7 C, whereas last year it was 3.3 C. There has also been more rain, and the average day between January and May has been more overcast this year than last: this year the average cloud cover was 6.6 oktas (eighths) and last year it was only 2.1 oktas. Over the past few years, data from readings has been typed into the Geography Department computers and quite successful graphs have been drawn. These are updated on a weekly

basis on the notice board outside room 51. In 1996/7 we hope to improve the standard of presentation of data, and collect more of it.

David Thomas

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

It has been a busy year for the Modern Languages Society, which has profited from healthy attendances and zealous modern-language fervour from the lower Sixth in particular. Highlights of the year have included a splendid talk from Alice Stanley, an ex-pupil, exposing us to the benefits of a GAP year, both in terms of personal development, and university entrance. Matthew Price followed this with a resplendent talk on his year spent as an assistant in a French school. Both our assistants, Jérôme Gicquel and Estelle gave superb and clear talks about François Mitterrand and Les Restos du Coeur respectively. Thanks must be given to all of the above, and also to Dr. K. Inch who gave up his time to give us a talk about Marguerite Duras.

Eoin Parker and Damian Flowers

PARLIAMENTARY SOCIETY

There are certain traditions associated with societies. The free cake of Shakespeare Society. The speaking of foreign languages of Modern Languages Society. The being

quite serious actually of Economics Society. Parliamentary Society has its traditions also. Some of these have been shattered by the new dynamism of the leadership and the general consensus that is reshaping King Edward's. New King Edward's. New Parliamentary Society. Building a brighter future. New advertising. New, witty advertising of talks that actually take place. New, polite, sitting in chairs at meetings. A new, young, audience. Never mind that the old audience has left. Let us concentrate on what we have. We have, and have had many meetings. Many, many meetings. None of them scheduled in the calendar. We shall not reveal our plans until the meeting. Not because people will not like them, but just because we don't have to. People may ask "Why do we only see Parliamentary Society when there is an election?". We can now say, and say with pride, "Look at our posters! We are here for you."

Unfortunately, the reason that in the past the Parliamentary Society never seemed to meet is that nobody cares. The complete apathy of the school is, in truth, the most important tradition of the Society and we seem not to have forgotten it. Old Parliamentary Society still exists.

Our first meeting of the year, a general - question - answering talking thing, was quite successful. A debate, "This House believes that the Conservative Party has been the salvation of Britain", was held jointly with Debating Society. Aidan Burley's Communist bile was believed by the indie faction present and so my humble preferment of such a self-evident truth was rejected. The other two speakers dropped out (Matthew Robinson on the



grounds that he couldn't be bothered to argue with people who should be shot anyway).

Our third meeting was the immensely successful "Question Time". With a panel consisting of Mr. Mason, Mr. Hancock, Mr. McMullan and myself, and with Mr. Buttress in the chair, a lively and, occasionally, illuminating discussion ensued. A record audience of sixty arrived for this triumph. The next meeting was not as well attended. For the much-advertised "Discussion of the implications of the long-awaited [Scott] report" we attracted an audience of five. Plus ça change. The final meeting of the year, held jointly with Economics Society, was to be a discussion of the political philosophies and economic policies of the three main parties. Twice cancelled due to unfortunate absences, once that of myself as a speaker and once that of an audience, this talk would have been the most illuminating for the man on the Clapham Omnibus. Pupils at King Edward's are, however, unwilling to be bored rigid outside of lessons and sensibly steered well clear and went to watch the football (Sixths against Fifths) instead. I turn these ingrates over to Aidan Burley or El Jefe, the New President of King Edward's School Parliamentary Society, First Lord of the Treasury and Deputy Prime Advertiser as he now wishes to be known.

Benjamin Sheriff

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The Scientific Society has once again celebrated a successful year with a number of fascinating talks being arranged. These included a number of eminent scientists in their fields. A leading member of the Physics Research Council addressed us on the theme of "Black Holes", and made it interesting even to a hardened physico-phobic like me! We had a senior environmental researcher from Lancaster University come to talk to us on biological pest control and ecology, parts of which, dubiously entitled "Bugs and the Arms Race" evoked mixed memories, for those Sixth Formers present, of the A-Level Biology Field Course.

Two "firsts" for the Sci. Soc. took place this year, both of which will hopefully continue as regular events in future years. A researcher from Birmingham University came to discuss his own research on nanotechnology with us, and even offered to give us a tour of his labs, an offer which next year's committee will surely take up. Hopefully his warning that Britain needs more top quality research scientists lest the Japanese and Americans should dominate this field did not

fall on deaf ears (he says, going off to do medicine). Also the Society was invited to the University to hear a lecture on the current state in the battle to find a cure for AIDS. Most members really enjoyed being kept up to date with current research.

The idea to celebrate November 5th with a presentation on Fireworks failed to go off with the expected bang; in fact it failed to happen at all, but the Chemical Society has assured us that they will come next year, so watch this space.

It only remains for me to thank all the pupils who turned up to talks and the other members of the committee: Jodie, Krupa, Anne & co. from next door and Adnaan Ali, Naeem Nazem, Jon Aning, Imon Chakraborty, and Ben Sheriff (whose attendance record stands out from the rest) for all their hard work over the year. Finally, thanks to Mr. Porter without whose effort there could not be a Sci. Soc. and who deserves everyone's sympathy for having to put up with us for a year! Next year the society will be in the safe hands of Rahul Bera and Anurag Sharma, and I wish them the very best of luck.

Oh yeah, and I think we had a talk on "Memory" as well - or did we???

Kashif Samra



SPORT



ATHLETICS

The 1996 season started off with its annual fixture against Loughborough, Repton and RGS Worcester. Quickly, the school's athletes realised that the junior team were a force to be reckoned with. They had stormed to their first victory, and solid performances from the Inter and Senior team gave KE first position in their very first match.

Astonishingly, this very first match gave Barry Bahar of the junior team his shot putt record of 13.15m, which is longer than any throw in the school's history in any age group (not taking into account that the older you get, the heavier the shot). This talented thrower even broke the school records in the hammer throw and the discus this year, asking the question whether he is one of the best throwers ever to grace the Eastern Road stadium.

This first match was to lead to an unbeaten run of matches involving the junior, inter and senior age groups when they were all to compete together.

The senior age group won 16 of their 23 fixtures this year, with an extremely impressive team and many determined athletes. Ben Dunnett comes immediately to mind by having the stamina to run the 400m and 800m in virtually every match. This is a feat in itself but even more amazing is the fact that he hardly lost all season. These events were always one of KE's strengths, with the captain Tom Tipper and James Barraclough helping KE to a first-second placing on numerous

occasions. The appearance of Neil Ramsorrun into the Divisions was welcomed with open arms as he added an extra step into the sprint team's stride, while Phil Bennett-Britton was reliable in the discus and shot and Michael Sheldon was equally capable in the high jump.

The Inter team won 13 of their 20 fixtures which is also impressive. Captain Jonathan Goldman was constantly performing in field and track events in the form of the 200m and the triple jump. Ben Levine decided also to put himself through the strain of 400m and 800m in every match, winning on several occasions.

Jolyon May and James Birch threw well in the javelin and discus respectively and Tony Hodson performed admirably in the sprint double.

The junior side were quite easily the most successful side in the school this year, winning all but one of their eighteen matches, losing their final encounter by merely one point.

Matthew Benjamin has been continuing with his record-breaking form of first two years by smashing the long jump record. He represented West Midlands at the English Schools in Sheffield and came fourth, a remarkable achievement.

Jonathan Pitt was another athlete who handled the fatigue of running 400m and 800m week after week, and did so with great success. Joe Tipper, part of one of the most talented families in the history of school athletics, also tackled this task on occasion and also performed well. Mark Howes was very successful over the sprint hurdles and Jonathan Pitt was very impressive in the javelin.

The future of KES athletics lies in the shell year and they performed well enough to suggest that the school's athletic ability is in capable hands. Adrian Tipper was powerful in his hurdles and 100m combination and also in the high jump.

Gregory Cooper jumped well in the long jump and Andrew Gillespie will assume the challenge of throwing the shot and discus for many years to come.

The West Midlands Championships gave KE athletes the opportunity to wear the delightful gold vest to compete for King's Norton. It led to King Edwards having four county champions, which is one of the school's most successful achievements in year. Tom Manners won the senior 400m hurdles and came third in the 100m final. Matthew Benjamin won the junior long jump and reached the final of the 100m as well. Barry Bahar won the junior shot put and Jonathan Pitt won the junior 400m. In addition, medals were also won by Ben Dunnett and Mark Howes in the senior 400m and the 80m hurdles respectively.

Despite the ever-changing English summertime, fluctuating from sun to rain continually, Mr Knight the groundsman, was able to keep the track in great condition. Thanks must be given to him, and also to the teachers who organize the athletics teams, namely Mr Birch, Mr Campbell and Mr James, as well as the others who gave up their free time to help on Saturday afternoons.

Upon reflection, this was quite possibly one of the most successful seasons in recent years.

Tom Manners

BASKETBALL

U19

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With seven of last year's team having left, this U19 squad was packed full of youthful exuberance and potential but somewhat lacking at times in experience and confidence.

Expectations in basketball, the school's most successful sport are always high, which meant a heavy burden lay on the shoulders of the

senior players - Andrew Purdon, Phil Bennett-Britton, Mike Sheldon and Jamie Child. Not senior in terms of age but senior in terms of his ability and contributions was Michael Purdon. He was the final piece in the starting five and deserves special congratulations on his accomplishments as he was the first 5th year to be in any KES U19 Team's first five.

The season got off to a flier! We did not lose for twelve consecutive games which consisted of the preliminary rounds of the Birmingham League, the West Midlands Cup and the prestigious ESBA National Cup. This run of wins was due to consistent "stepping up" by one or more of the 1st five in every game. In only one game out of the first

twelve did nobody on the team score at least 20 points.

The first real tests of the season came in the following two games. They were both friendlies but only in the sense that they were not in a specific competition. St. Columba's from St. Alban's and Stockland Green from Erdington, North Birmingham were the opposition and despite our losing both games, they were extremely beneficial, especially for the younger players who gained experience of high pressure basketball; similar to that which we could expect later in the season in the nationals.

Almost without trying, we now found ourselves in the last sixteen teams in the National Cup. We had

breezed through the regional qualifying rounds and were drawn away to Charter's School, Ascot who were something of an unknown quantity. It soon became apparent, after our arrival at Charter's, that they were a one man band with their star player being good enough to be part of the Great Britain team which was trying to qualify for the Olympics in Atlanta. Soon after the tip-off it was clear that we would not be able to stop this player from scoring but instead should aim to contain him and put as much pressure on his shots as possible. This we did and kept him below 25 points for the game which was an outstanding team effort. Towards the end of the game it was Charter's reliance on one player that was their downfall. We had trailed for the whole game but with five of six minutes to go their star got tired and started to miss his shots. We held our composure and continued to play as a team and for the first time in the game, gained the lead. When the buzzer sounded for the end of the game, we were leading 63-61 and had achieved probably our greatest win of the season.

Approximately two weeks later we found ourselves once again in the minibus, this time travelling to Northampton Grammar School for the final of the National Cup. We knew more about this team than we had about Charter's which in my opinion, worked against us. Instead of having confidence in our strength and our abilities, there was a lot of talk about their strengths and who their players were. When we arrived, my fears became a reality. Northampton had a very big, athletic team and a large crowd to support them. These added together meant that several of players were overawed and we had probably lost the game before it started. In the end we lost 80-65 which was particularly disappointing as we did not perform to anything like full potential.

The remainder of the season was taken up with the Birmingham League in which we were unbeaten and consequently won; the West Midlands Cup in which we beat Stoke 6th Form College in the final by 20 points and the Birmingham League Cup beating Twycross School in the final 104-78.

If somebody had told us at the beginning of the season that we would win the three local competitions and get to the quarter finals of the Nationals we would not have believed them. What unfolded was a season focussed on teamwork and consistency which

U19



U16



was, as always, instilled into us by Mr Birch, our wonderful coach. Even he admitted that he did not expect this team to do very well, so we can look back very proudly and also look forward with anticipation as this young team promises great things again next year!

Andrew Purdon, Captain

U16

Played: Lots Won: Most Lost: A few

The heavy burden of potential had hung around this team's neck for three years and it was hoped that this was to be the year in which it would be finally realised.

Early season form was not good despite the acquisition of new players from the fourth year such as Alex Booth, Amir Ali, Richard Thomas and

Craig Maddison. These pre-big game performances were less than encouraging, but KES still managed to win. These victories were ground out mainly thanks to the aerial exploits of H Kuraishi, the devastating shooting of D Broomhead, the spectacular dribbling, passing and dribbling of J Walton and consistent points from M Purdon.

The first big test came from a tough North Bromsgrove team. Played in the Arctic conditions of their sports hall, this second round West Midlands Cup Match would prove to be a classic. Down by four at half time, KES were being out - rebounded and overpowered by bigger players. A tactical switch of bringing on D Clarke at guard and putting D Broomhead at forward proved decisive. We stormed into the second half and the fast break led by

the two guards and L Halliwell gave us a tense four point victory.

The team had also cruised into the last sixteen of the National Cup and with this victory fresh in the memory, it was a confident U16 team that took the floor to play European School. A diabolical first half performance did not do justice to the team and we really lacked conviction. Despite an improved second period, a loss was inevitable and the term 'under achievement' was common in reference to this game.

The next big game, and the highlight of the year, was against Ninestyles, the vanquishers of KES the previous season. A similar pattern to the last contest versus this team emerged in the first half as they outran us to lead by eight at the interval. However, they could not cope with an outstanding second half performance, due to the amazing outside shooting of the entire team. As the buzzer went, the game was tied and so extra time was necessary. The next five minutes were all important. The contributions of R Vickers, G Hamer, K Bennett, R Hockley, J Birch, A Akurei and A Booth were vital and will be needed in years to come. The match finished with a four point win for KES.

The West Midland Cup Final was played against Baverstock and is now considered to have been one game too many. Another mysterious first-half breakdown cost the team the cup and was a poor way to finish the season.

With the miraculously improved L Halliwell and D Broomhead departing, the future is not easy to predict. But with Mr Birch continuing his great coaching, anything is possible. Once again it has to be said - perhaps next year?

Michael Pardon

U15

This season was quite successful for our team. We only saw 5 losses and were victors in 13. This was a big improvement on last year.

We started training on the second day of term and trained three times a week for a month before our season began. We played our first match in the Nationals and won by 18 points. The second match was also won comfortably. We were not however to be so fortunate in the next round. We came up against a strong North Bromsgrove side. They were too big and out - rebounded us, and basically outplayed us.



U15



U14

We still had all to play for in the West Midlands Cup and Birmingham Cup. In the Birmingham league we qualified easily by winning 8 out of our 10 matches. This was thanks to having a good offensive framework, which allowed lots of one on one opportunities of which R Thomas and A Majeবাদia took full advantage of. It was also due to excellent defence by C Maddison.

In the Birmingham Cup we were drawn against a strong King's Norton side in the quarter final. They took us by surprise by their good jump shooting, but once we knew who their main players were we stopped them scoring and beat them

comfortably by 12 points, when at one point we were down by 11. In the semi-finals we were too laid back and as a result Ninestyles beat us due to poor defensive play, which resulted in slow and rushed offences. We lost by 2 points in the end.

That was to be the end of our season after losing in the West Midland's Cup in overtime, a few weeks before.

By the end of the season we had developed from a slow, inexperienced team to a team that is set to win many trophies to come. D Burns especially emerged as a key player in the latter half of the season.

I would like to make a special thanks from the team to our coach.

Mr Mintoft for the time and effort he put into coaching us. He may not have turned up to every training session but hey, nobody's perfect. I would also like to thank Mr Birch for his excellent advice and for refereeing all our matches throughout the season.

Amir Ali

U14

PT 102 25

A new Coach saw the 1995 U14 basketball season open. A large number of players attended the first practice and, surprisingly, continued to do so throughout the Autumn term. In comparison to last year, practices were much more intense. There were three practices per week as opposed to the previous one, weekly. This year, many more tactics were built into our team game and we became increasingly aware of individual skills which needed to come into play.

Our first match against Twycross was disappointingly lost 44-57. We had battled hard, but it was still early in the season and all the players in the squad still needed time to adjust to each other and to the different styles of play. Through diligent practice, our next match was won, though close, in great style. It was this crucial match which kept us in the English Schools' Cup; it seemed as if things had begun to fall into place. However, our impending match was to be our impending doom. At first look, the opposing team were immense. Their smallest player was at least 5'7", whereas our average player height is 5'5". A valiant effort was made, but they dominated the match with a 20 point margin and Idsall won 22-84. The fourth match of the season was a victory against Windsor High. Determined to regain our confidence, each member of the team took the game into his own hands, most notably, J Cadogan, R Kay and D Earl. KES stormed to a not quite rampant, but satisfactory victory 43-38. The final three games of the season were lost, but none without an outstanding effort by the squad.

I would like to thank both Mr Birch and Coach Wilson for all the dedication and commitment they have shown to the 1995/96 U14 side (At the time this report went to press, the U14's were still to play a Russian team, with hopes for victory!).

James Cadogan



U13

At the beginning of the season, Mr James (PE Department) accepted the job of coaching the U13 Basketball team. Almost 50 Rems turned up to the trials and it took 3-4 sessions to cut the squad down to 24. The squad practised on Tuesday nights and Friday lunch-times and had a game on the Monday.

12 players were taken to our first match against St Thomas Aquinas School, away. This was good experience for us and we managed to win our first game. We carried on strong throughout the season, remaining undefeated.

Our toughest game was against Wheelers Lane and was 20-20 at the half, but overcame them to record yet another victory. Probably the most important match this season we had was against Baverstock. With

Baverstock's leading players not playing up to scratch and our team playing our best game of the season, we won convincingly 86-42 with a 31 point splash out by Gene Awo. A game was played against a stronger and taller U14 side from Small Heath. However this did not prevent us from gaining our final victory of the season.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr James for coaching us and driving us to the games! Each player gave it their best whether it was on or off the court.

Awards were given to the players who had worked hard and improved. Prizes consisted of: A pair of Converse shoes (going to Stuart Rutter), two basketballs (going to Shuman Chakraborty and Ian Moss) and many trophies and small gifts.

BASKETBALL RESULTS 1995/6

	P	W	L	Honours
Under 13	12	12	0	Kings Norton League Champions
Under 14	7	2	5	
Under 15	17	13	4	Birmingham Cup semi-finalists West Midlands Cup Quarter finalists
Under 16	10	8	2	West Midlands Cup Finalists. Reached last 16 of England Schools Cup
Under 19	26	22	4	Birmingham League Champions Birmingham Cup Winners West Midlands Champions Quarter final of England Schools Won both the Churston G.S. & KES one day tournaments

BADMINTON

This has certainly been an eventful year for the school's badminton team. After the disappointment of only finishing second in the Warwickshire Top Schools tournament, we were determined to go one better this year. This was made more likely by the arrival of Gary Chan to the sixth form, a player with a great deal of skill.

Our toughest test was when we had to play Princethorpe in our group. Although the final score was 6-1, this was highly flattering as three of these games went to 15-14. This vital win was achieved due to the solid play of Ejaz Ahmed and Parmbir Mavi.

Unfortunately, organisation of this event is erratic to say the least, and this year it was disastrous as the finals which were meant to be played at the Coventry Racquet Centre collapsed. However, thanks to the perseverance of Mr Ostrovicz we were able to

arrange the final, which was again against Princethorpe. Disaster struck when we found that Garry couldn't play. However, the drafting in of Pete Madill and Binoj Nair, proved to be a master stroke of management resulting in us winning 4-3 and claiming our rightful position as county champions for the first time in the School's history.

Robert Clapham

CROSS-COUNTRY

Another season, this time our most successful ever, comes to an end. Mr Nightingale retires, the solid core of sixth-form heroes move into the real world and the fine trophy collection goes into the cabinet. We (generally) ran well all season, starting with a solid run of two wins in three races. KES runners filled the first three places against Newcastle. A brilliant third place in the Sutton Park race showed our trophy-winning potential with J Gwyther's 3rd place individually providing the highlight. As the season progressed, a number of runners stood out with their consistent dedication, including J Barraclough, P Madill, M Robertson and J Wood.

The final race of the season proved to be a tense affair; victory over Newcastle (away) would give us second place in the league, losing would give this accolade to Five Ways (providing they beat Solihull, a likely result). Unfortunately, despite several good individual performances, the team slipped to defeat. The disappointment wasn't eased until the last meeting of the season, the Lichfield Relay (where the presentations are made). The results provided us with a reason to wait for the presentations; second place had been achieved (with Five Ways losing to Solihull) on the cross-country equivalent of goal difference.

better individual race positions. Our second place also meant that we won the award for Most Improved Team (up from 5th position last season). Second place in the 'B' Team league confirmed the school's strength in depth. Victory in the Second Team's race at Five Ways, all due to the fine motivational skills and superb performance of T Alden (or so he told me), gave us a healthily large trophy collection, the largest in living memory.

Thanks must go to Doc Bridges for all his enthusiastic support, the markers for well, marking so well and the caterers for yet another excellent supply of food. Well done

to the team and good luck to next year's captain.

Finally, thanks must go to Mr Nightingale, the Founder of the option who has dragged successive KES teams from obscurity to a steady supply of honours. He retires this year both from the high-pressure job of team manager and from the school, joining the English RFSU in the role of treasurer. Without his consistent dedication and enthusiasm, the sport would have floundered long since.

Best wishes from all the team.

Richard Field



CRICKET

The
XI

BATTING - qualification 150 runs

Name	M	I	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	Av.
A Brindley	11	8	1	98	205	29.29
A Martin	17	15	3	60	333	27.75
R McGuire	25	22	3	77*	509	26.79
J Child	24	22	6	100*	420	26.25
A Treharne	22	22	1	98*	518	24.67
A Purdon	25	24	2	83	502	22.81

ALSO PLAYED

Name	M	I	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	Av.
J Ross	23	13	2	28	68	6.18
J Allen	22	12	5	11	14	2.0
M Robertson	17	9	1	37	68	7.56
S McCrory	16	12	2	20*	103	10.3
R Newman	15	13	1	21	105	8.75
N Khan	14	12	0	28	86	7.17
R Bera	10	6	0	38	67	11.17
W Webb	8	5	3	52*	109	54.50
D Cauldwell	7	6	0	45	46	7.67
A Natkiel	3	3	0	15	21	7.0
B Dunnett	2	2	0	71	71	35.5
A Blakley	2	2	1	2*	2	2.0
T Owen	2	1	0	10	10	10.0
K Kher	2	1	0	1	1	1.0
B Muralidhar	2	0	1	1	1	1
C Chamber	1	0	1	1	1	1
M Nicholls	1	0	1	1	1	1

BOWLING - qualification 15 wickets

Name	O	M	R	W	BEST	Av.
J Allen	193	31	713	28	13-0-37-4	25.46
R McGuire	85.3	7	412	19	9-1-39-5	21.68
M Robertson	103	14	385	17	18-2-66-4	22.65
J Ross	226	50	721	25	13-4-44-4	28.84
A Treharne	236	61	701	28	13-3-29-4	25.04

ALSO BOWLED

Name	O	M	R	W	BEST	Av.
S McCrory	106.5	13	437	7	13.2.49.2	62.43
R Bera	52.3	6	191	8	12.3.31.3	23.88
A Purdon	26	3	122	1	2.0.19.1	122.0
W Webb	26	2	105	2	2.1.2.1	52.5
B Muralidhar	10.4	1	41	2	5.1.16.1	20.5
R Newman	6	0	36	0	3.0.13.0	1
J Child:	5	0	39	1	3.0.20.1	39.00

KES v KE VI COLLEGE

STOURBRIDGE
Wednesday 24th April at
Eastern Road

KE Stourbridge	168-9
J Ross	3-47
J Allen	4-37
KES	170-4
A Treharne	98 N.O.

KES won by 6 wickets

KES v DENSTONE COLLEGE

Saturday 27th April at Denstone
Denstone 220-3 dec
KES 117-7

Match drawn

KES v KING HENRY VIII

COVENTRY
Wednesday 1st May at Eastern
Road
Coventry 41-2
KES Rain stopped play
Match Drawn

KES v SOLIHULL SCHOOL

Saturday 4th May at Solihull
KES 111 all out

R McGuire	31
J Child	31
Solihull	113-5
A Treharne	4-29

Solihull won by 5 wickets

KES v MALVERN COLLEGE

Wednesday 8th May at
Eastern Road
Malvern 197-1 dec
KES 67 all out

R McGuire	31*
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Malvern won by 130 runs

KES v SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Saturday 11th May at
Eastern Road
Shrewsbury 124 all out
J Ross 3-38
KES 35 all out
Shrewsbury won by 89 runs

KES v BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

Wednesday 15th May at

Bromsgrove	
KES	176-3
R McGuire	77 N.O.
Bromsgrove	130 all out
J Ross	4-44
A Treharne	4-36

KES won by 46 runs

KES v BABLAKE SCHOOL

Saturday 18th May at

Eastern Road	
KES	199 all out
A Martin	42
M Robertson	37
Bablake	159-5
J Ross	3-35

Match drawn

KES v RGS

Saturday 25 May at Worcester

KES	224-7 dec
A Treharne	35
A Purdon	83
RGS	227-2

RGS won by 8 wickets

KES v ETON COLLEGE

Saturday 8th June at Eton

Eton	236-1 dec
KES	49 all out

Eton won by 187 runs

KES v WARWICK SCHOOL

Saturday 15th June at Warwick

Warwick	276-7 dec
KES	206-6
R McGuire	44
A Treharne	49
A Martin	60*

Match drawn

KES v KING'S SCHOOL

WORCESTER

Saturday 22nd June at Eastern
Road

KES	202-6 dec
A Treharne	36
A Martin	52
Kings	175-8
M Robertson	3-33

Match drawn

KES v POCKLINGTON SCHOOL

Sunday 23rd June at

Eastern Road	
Pocklington	198-9 dec
R Bera	3-31
A Treharne	3-25
KES	118-5
A Purdon	46

Match drawn

KES v REPTON

Wednesday 26th June at Repton

KES	83 all out
Repton	85-2

Repton won by 8 wickets

KES v TRENT COLLEGE

Saturday 29th June at Eastern

Road	
KES	193 all out
A Purdon	43
R Bera	38
Trent College	162-8
J Allen	4-39

Match drawn

KES v MARYLEBONE

CRICKET CLUB

Thursday 4th July at

Eastern Road	
MCC	190-4
J Allen	3-34
KES	106 all out
J Child	34

MCC won by 84 runs

KES v WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Friday 5th July at Wolverhampton

Match Abandoned.

KES v OLD EDWARDIANS'

ASSOCIATION

Saturday 6th July at Eastern Road
Old Edwardians 127-7 dec
J Ross 3-24

KES 128-4

R McGuire 37

KES won by 6 wickets

KES v KESTRELS

Sunday 7th July at Eastern Road

Kestrels 148 all out

R McGuire 5-39

KES 151-4

A Treharne 41

A Martin 43 N.O.

KES won by 6 wickets

KES v STOCKPORT

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Monday 8th July at Stockport

KES 197-1 dec

A Treharne 66

J Child 87 N.O.

A Purdon 26 N.O.

Stockport 162 all out

J Allen 4-42

KES won by 35 runs

KES v HEREFORD

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Wednesday 10th July at Hereford

KES 186-8 dec

A Brindley 98

W Webb 52 N.O.

Hereford 187-3

Hereford won by 7 wickets

KES v XL CLUB

Thursday 11th July at

Eastern Road

XL Club 233-2

KES 234-9

A Martin 36

B Dunnett 71

KES won by 2 wickets

KES v GENTLEMEN OF

WORCESTER

Friday 12th July at Eastern Road

Gents 220-9

M Robertson 4-66

KES 102 all out

A Brindley 38

Gents of Worcs won by 118 runs

KES v QUEEN MARY'S

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Saturday 13th July at

Eastern Road

KES 214 all out

A Treharne 87

Queen Mary's 92 all out

J Ross 3-25

J Allen 3-26

A Treharne 3-28

KES won by 122 runs

KES v KING EDWARD'S ASTON

Monday 15th July at Eastern Road

KES 192 all out

A Purdon 43

R McGuire 50

KE Aston 168-6

A Treharne 4-36

Match drawn

KES v OLD EDWARDIANS'

CRICKET CLUB

Wednesday 17th July at

Eastern Road

KES 252-2 dec

R McGuire 737

J Child 100 N.O.

A Purdon 75 N.O.

Old Eds 218-9

R McGuire 3-43

Match Drawn

The XI

The season began without the captain Alex Blaikley and secretary Andrew Martin due to long term injuries. Andrew Purdon captained the first half very well and filled this unfamiliar role admirably. Andrew Martin and Richard McGuire then shared the captaincy.

We started positively despite the changes with a win over Stourbridge (Alistair Treharne scoring 98 n.o.). Over the last few seasons only 2 or 3 people have scored 50s, but this year 7 players reached this milestone with Jamie Child hitting a superb 100 n.o. in the last match. This reflects how not only the overall standard of batting has improved, but also in the absence of any 'stars' everyone took a much greater personal responsibility at the crease, which there hasn't been for the past two years.

The 4th years played a prominent role in the side especially over cricket week, with many creditable performances from Robbie Newman, Will Webb and Alastair Natkiel who all look very promising for next year.

The bowling was generally consistent with John Ross, Jim Allen and Alistair Treharne forming the backbone of the attack which managed on several occasions to bowl teams out who were playing for the draw.

Steve McCrory, Matthew Robertson and Rahul Bera all bowled with great enthusiasm and made valuable contributions to the side.

The first half of the season included a whitewashing of Bromsgrove with a great innings from Richard McGuire and exceptional bowling from John Ross. The likes of Shrewsbury, Malvern and Eton, who were all at full strength this year, proved too strong. The team never let their heads drop, though, and everyone always stuck to their task. Against Pocklington when their England batsmen looked like making an enormous total, great spirit was shown in turning the match around.

The most satisfying part of the season was 'cricket week' in which we played 12 fixtures in 14 days and won 5 of them.

A combination of team spirit, self belief and lessons learnt from earlier matches was the main reason for this success. Great character was shown especially against Hereford Cathedral School, when we were 30-7. An outstanding 8th wicket partnership of 150 between Adrian Brindley (98)



1st XI



U15



U14A

and Will Webb (scoring his first 50) really showed what the side is capable of.

The majority of the XI will be returning next year and with more maturity, I can hope for a very successful season.

Thanks must go to Mr Stead and Mr Huband for the organisation and the coaching. Also many thanks to Tony Hood for all his behind the scenes help.

Andrew Martin

U15 'A'

The season had its ups and downs. There were good wins against Solihull School and Wolverhampton G.S. and decent draws against RGS Worcester and Denstone College. There were, however, disappointing losses against Shrewsbury and Warwick schools who were allowed to get good totals due to poor bowling and fielding.

Good performances with a bat came from Alastair Natkiel who scored over 400 runs in 8 games including 112 against King's School Worcester. William Webb provided a good all-round performance, being the leading wicket taker and second highest run scorer, and Tim Owen had a good season with the wicket-keeping gloves and the bat.

There was good team spirit and we did well considering we lost our captain and no.3 batsmen (and Robbie Newman) who played only one match before stepping up into the XI (Alastair Natkiel, William Webb and Tim Owen also made appearances for The XI throughout the season).

Alastair Natkiel and William Webb

U14

The season began for the U14 team, with a real belief that the team could achieve an unbeaten record, which so nearly had occurred the year before. With two additions, James Skidmore and Amresh Singh to the squad the team looked strong and our season's aim seemed to be possible.

The first game of the season was against Denstone College. They batted first and with accurate bowling, we restricted them to 130/5. Unlike our bowling, our batting was poor and we finished on 101/6. This mediocre score was only due to a very good innings of 40 by James Skidmore.

Solihull, at home, proved to be one



U14B

of the better performances of the season. Edward Treacy bowled superbly and took 2 wickets for 4 runs and Solihull set KES 137 in 37 overs to win. An excellent opening partnership of 101 between James Skidmore (47) and Gurjit Bhogal (46) laid the foundations for the victory.

The match versus Shrewsbury was our first defeat of the season. KES batted first and only two batsmen made over 25 runs; Treacy (46) and Bhogal (30). In wet conditions, Shrewsbury got the 155 runs required Richard Cauldwell bowled well and took 2/56.

The next three matches against Bablake, RGS Worcester and Wolverhampton were all draws. The high points being a brilliant bowling spell of 3/19 by Richard Cauldwell against Worcester and in the same match Richard Kay produced a brave, fighting innings of 38, which secured the draw for us. Lastly, but the best performance of all was by Edward Treacy who made two exceptional hundreds against Bablake (103) and Wolverhampton (102).

In between these draws, we played our first and last, game in the Lords Taverners Competition, against Camp Hill in which we lost by 12 runs.

The Warwick game, at home, was not a very good batting performance, in favourable batting conditions. Warwick batted first and scored 211 all out, with James Skidmore taking 5/50 in 11 overs: an excellent performance. The KES innings produced an amazing collapse. After 20 overs KES were 101/1 with Cauldwell on 50 and Bhogal on 35. When Bhogal was dismissed, it was the signal for the collapse, and KES finished on 136 all out: a disappointing defeat.

The King's School Worcester match was an easy win. Cauldwell and Ghogal picked up 2 and 3 wickets respectively in a Worcester total of 98 all out. In reply Bhogal made 43 and Treacy made 30 and KES won by 9 wickets.

The penultimate game against Trent College, was a poor batting performance and an extremely good bowling performance. KES batted first and only made 101/9 in 37 overs with Bhogal top scoring on 30. In the Trent innings they got 70/8 with Cauldwell taking 4 wickets.

With one game to go Edward Treacy topped the averages with 330 runs at an average of 47.2 runs. Richard Cauldwell took the most wickets - 17 at 19 apiece.

The season was disappointing, we did not achieve an unbeaten season as hoped but the team hopes to do better next season.

The team would like to thank Mr Roll for the time and effort he has put into the side. Also thanks must go to Mr Huband who has helped the team over the season.

Gurjit Bhogal

U13

The 1996 season was generally a successful one for the U13 XI. Eleven matches were played, 6 won, 3 drawn and 2 lost - both to Royal Grammar School, Worcester.

The side was strengthened by the arrival of all-rounder G Brandrick, opening bowler R Rees and batsman J Grigg: these additions served to strengthen the bowling attack and increase the depth in batting. The bowling was generally well balanced

with Rees and Brandrick providing the pace backed up by the medium pace of Ghoris and swing of Pears. Vamadevan bowled leg spin with some success. In the latter part of the season Furber also provided some leg spin. Brandrick was the leading run scorer with an average of 47, Sharpe and Dyer also scored heavily and Moss, Grigg and Vamadevan contributed useful runs. Ground fielding was generally competent with Dyer being outstanding. Too many catches went to ground and some improvement there is needed. Moss kept wicket and captained the side, picking up 4 stumpings and 4 catches.

We were pleased to beat Solihull and Warwick schools, and the wins against Bablake, Old Swinford Hospital and King Edward Aston were comfortable. The drawn games against Wolverhampton Grammar School and King Henry VIII were closely fought whilst we were pushed to hang on for the draw against Trent College.

Notable performances with the ball were Brandrick's 5-30 against Solihull, Rees's 4-25 against King's School Worcester and Ghoris's 6-14 including 4 wickets in 4 balls and 5 wickets in 6 balls against Oldswinford Hospital. Vamadevan took 6-43 against Trent College. With the bat Brandrick made 84 against Royal Grammar School Worcester and 61 not out against Bablake. Sharpe made 77 against King Henry VIII and 52 against Bablake, Dyer made 51 not out against Old Swinford Hospital, 45 not out against Warwick and 38 not out against King Edward VI G.S. Aston.

Three members of the side were selected for County representative sides: Brandrick for Staffordshire and Rees and Moss for Warwickshire.

I would like to thank all members of the team for their enthusiasm throughout the season, particularly to Mr T Mason for his support, advice and umpiring, and to the scorers.

Jane Moss

Iain Moss captained the side well and scored useful runs in the middle order, usually quickly. He was, however, totally unselfish about his batting, being willing to drop down the order to give someone else a chance. I am grateful to him for his efforts.

As a whole, the team played well with a good spirit. It was a pleasure to spend the time coaching them and umpiring their games.

T.M.



U12



U12A

U12 'A'

Overall we had a very successful season with wins over everyone except R.G.S. Worcester. We managed to become Warwickshire Champions in the Calypso cup after convincing wins over Eversfield, Washward Heath and in the final Holt. We are now in the National stage of the competition which will involve a lot of travelling.

Apart from our good cup performances, we established ourselves as a force to be reckoned with by

winning a lot of our 'friendly' games with other schools. Many people contributed to these wins such as Neil Brandrick - 3 fifties, Ranjan Chopra - 3 fifties and 17 wickets. On the bowling side Arshi Thind and Neil McGuire alias 'Alan' all put in good performances.

Another good point was the fielding which was of a high quality, most of the time! All that is left to say is we're looking forward to next season under the management of Mr Mason.

ETON FIVES

Despite the fact that in the first half of the season we had no matches due to other schools' cancellations, this has been a good year for fives at King Edward's. We have had a very wide range of results: from a disappointing 7 games to nil thrashing by Berkhamstead, to an impressive 5½ to ½ beating of Stowe. We also had an excellent 4 games to 3 victory over St Olaves who are considered one of the best schools in the Country, and unfortunately suffered a hard fought 2 games to 3 loss against Shrewsbury.

In terms of matches the results are quite respectable: out of 10 matches played 1 was drawn, 5 lost and 4 won. This breaks down to show that at U16 level 3 matches were won and 4 lost, while at U14 3 matches were won to 5 lost and 2 draws. There is still room for improvement at both age groups, but progress has been made throughout the season.

At the Public Schools' Championships in Shrewsbury other signs of improvement appeared. Four U16 pairs reached the 2nd round and of these the 1st and 2nd pairs reached the last 16 rounds, where they were unfortunately beaten by Shrewsbury 2 and Harrow 1 respectively. During this competition, KES pairs played 20 games, won 8 and lost 12. The U14 team was, however, not as successful, losing all of their matches. One particularly encouraging thing this season has been the number of Shells who have come to practices. At the nationals three pairs were entered. They played 15 matches winning 3 and losing 12, but this can be put down to a lack of experience.

There have as always been highlights: the U14 pair of Rajpura and Long's victory over a Stowe pair was particularly amazing as they had been grabbed from the bus queue and had never played for the school before. Other unexplained mysteries include the 18 point set, Alec's solo vigil on the roof and the apparently disabling effect of 'Forest Gump' the movie.

Finally, thanks must go to Karl, our coach who has spent many evenings trying to improve our playing skills; his departure at the end of this season was a great loss to all fives players in the school. Thanks are also due to Mr Tinley for turning up occasionally and Mr Worthington for all his time, encouragement and hard work.

James Birch

U16



Juniors



Minors



GOLF

The Golf Season at KES is all year round and began this year with the school qualifying the national final of the British Heart Foundation Junior Golf Championship for schools at the Belfry in October. In previous rounds of the competition Chris Thomas had contributed significantly to the team's success, but was unable to play due to a serious head injury. The team for the day was Calum Gray, Adrian Brindley and William Cutler and then were placed 4th out of the 18 teams from all over the British Isles. A special mention must go to Calum Gray for getting the most individual points for the day out of all 18 teams.

The major competition in the school golf calendar is the National Scratch

Foursomes Competition. We began successfully with a convincing win over Dear Close School, 3:0, the team consisting of Adrian Brindley, Calum Gray, Chris Thomas, William Cutler, Jamie Child and Yusuf Abedin. A similar team with the addition of Matthew Spindler, then took on Malvern in the next round. They were a strong side with several low handicappers and we lost only on the last green in the last match.

In April the team played in an eight-a-side game against the Old Edwardians, with four main team members missing and opportunities for those who had not played for the team before. There were 3 debutants in school golf below the sixth form in Ravi Thukral, William Hylton and Daniel Andrews who all performed admirably. There were also two sixth formers who made a successful debut as the first pair in Ian Cole and James Allen. Although the school lost 3:1, one game was taken

to the 18th hole and involved the acting captain for the day, Jamie Child and Mr Tinley, (who kindly stood in at the last minute) loosing out only on the green. Later in the month we came 2nd in the Foundation Golf Match to Five Ways School, the team consisting of Adrian Brindley, William Cutler and Calum Gray. The next day two members of that team, Adrian Brindley and Calum Gray joined Chris Thomas as the school's team for this year's British Heart Foundation Golf Championship. All three players scored better than their handicap on a championship course at Aston Wood Golf Club but we just failed to qualify for the regional final by four points.

Thanks must go to Mr Andronov and Mr Jeremy Everest for accompanying the team to matches and their hours of organisation, without which school golf could not be possible.

Adrian Brindley

SHOOTING

Shooting continues to flourish at KES and KEHS. In the British Schools Small-Bore Rifle Association the joint KES and KEHS team won its division on points, but not on averages.

This year saw the introduction of the National Small Bore Rifle Association Youth Proficiency Scheme.

This proved very popular with the Removes, five of which achieved Master Shot qualification and 4 expert.

In the House Shooting Competition, Jeune won comfortably with 536 points out of a possible 360, all four members of the team scoring 80/90 or above. Top individual shots were Gwyther (Vardy) and Bond (Jeune) both with 90/90. Canner (Prince Lee) was the best individual Junior Shot.

In the Annual Inter-School Contest KEHS beat KES by 936 points to 897,

though the teams were evenly matched and it could easily have gone either way. Congratulations to KEHS on their victory.

As always thanks must go to Mr Davies without whose enthusiasm, dedication and time none of these competitions would have taken place.

James Gwyther

SQUASH

1st V	P7	W4	L3
U15	P3	W3	L0

The 1st V has had a good season this year, having won four out of their seven matches. The season started with an unfortunate loss against Warwick by 3-2 with a good performance by Mark Endall. The second match was a friendly with Solihull, which we won comfortably 4 games to 1, having put in a good performance myself. The U15 also played at Solihull and won 4-1.

The next match was the first round of the SRA competition and we were

drawn to play our arch-enemies Rugby, having put us out in the third round the previous year. This was a successful match for the 1st V, even though we lost marginally by 3-2; we were greatly held back by injury problems of missing two important players. However there were good performances from Mark Endall, Peter Madill and Chetan Modi.

The next few matches were successful, with the U15 beating Small Heath on both occasions they met: the 1st V then played Bablake and we were overwhelmingly triumphant winning 5-0. Against Trent College we lost just by 3-2 with excellent performances from Balaji Muralidhar and Ben Gleeson. We then met Solihull school again and won 3-2. Chetan Modi had an excellent match winning 3-0.

The last and most awaited match was the 1st against the common room. The match, having been put off for about eight weeks due to supposed injuries in the common room, finally took place in April. The 1st V won 3-2. Chetan Modi produced some squash of a high calibre and finally just beat Mr Tinley 3 games to 2 in front of an enthralled audience. Peter Madill and Mark Endall also had great matches to produce our first win against the Common Room for quite some time. Overall, I would say that the season has been very successful due to players having extra coaching at the Edgbaston Priory Club and thanks must go out to Mr Tinley, Mr Tomlinson and Mr Loram for their help.

Chetan Modi

HOCKEY

1st XI

The XI this season was a new look team with only two members of last year's side remaining. It was obvious that the season ahead was going to be a big test.

The first event of the year was the Buttle Tournament. Winning all our matches in our group, the team moved into the final against KE Fiveways. Although the XI had most of the possession, we could not convert it into goals, with the match finishing in 0-0 draw. The team, having played so well, was bitterly disappointed to lose on penalty flicks. The tournament boosted the team's confidence, however, without a goal being conceded.

The next game was the usual fixture against the Old Boys. Although the team played some good hockey, we were losing 5-0 at half time. In the 2nd half the side fought back to bring score to 5-3, an encouraging result.

The two best matches of the season were against an older and more experienced Warwick side. In the first match Warwick took the lead. However due to some excellent hockey, the team



brought it back to a 1-1 draw. In the 2nd match, at half time Warwick again were leading, the score being 2-0. Although the side put intense pressure on the Warwick goal, we could only bring the final score to 2-1. The rest of the term was extremely successful with the team undefeated.

In the 2nd term several matches were cancelled due to the snow. Nevertheless a few matches were played with the team winning all of them.

A mention should go to Robin Marsland who was sensational between the posts. The defence of Mytton, McDermott, Pal, Emery and McGuire was solid throughout the season. Ross, Manners, Khan and Brindley played

some skilful hockey up front, and Bywaters and Lawrenson never stopped working in the midfield. A special mention should go to Adrian Brindley who scored 17 goals in as many games, and the three fifth form boys (Mytton, Lawrenson and Khan) who coped brilliantly playing against boys 2 years their senior.

Prospects look good with only 3 boys leaving the team and the astroturf pitches being built at KEHS.

Thanks must go to Mr Lye and Mr Roll who have improved our game, encouraged and screamed at us - and laughed on many occasions throughout the season.

Daniel De Costa

2nd XI

With a particularly strong team, the 2nd XI had a highly successful season. After a narrow 4-3 victory at Warwick, under the inspirational leadership of Andrew Lloyd in his only game of the season, we defeated every other 2nd team played, the only defeats of the season coming against Aston 1sts and a 1st/2nd XI from RGS Worcester. Outstanding team performances came against a dogged Solihull team, winning 1-0 and against Ratcliffe College whom we beat 4-1, having been losing with ten minutes to go. The defence was strong throughout, particularly after John McDermott's arrival from the 1st team; Rob Clayburn, Chris Kynes, Steve Belshaw and Andrew Wolfe in midfield were superb, as was our delightfully bearded winger Aminur Rahman. The team as a whole was excellent all season, and thoroughly deserved its success.

Charles Webb



3rd XI

These men were simply awesome. Trained to their physical peak by the eccentric and explosive duo of Mr Tinley and Ian Brown, the 95/96 thirds were the best in KE history, the first team ever to go all season unbeaten, and to beat every team they played.

At the back, Ali, Bera and Jones formed an impregnable defence, leaking only two goals. After a more than frank exchange of views with Queen Mary GS's umpire, Sam's protests failed to live up to early season promise, sliding into insignificance by Christmas.

As one would expect from such seasoned veterans, Adnaan and Raoul always stood out for their tendency to chase and harry; their laid-back attitude was much appreciated, if not by me.

"Sid" Heath and Dave Torbet were never less than outstanding in midfield. Their passing was sublime, their dribbling exquisite and shooting unstoppable, often performed in clothing that would have made lesser men collapse. Sid easily won the silliest shorts of the season contest, whilst Dave's position as team driver is unquestioned. Since in the thirds we look for style in all things, we would deem as too mundane a man who would clip wing mirrors or break a headlight. So, we entrust our lives to a man who drives into swimming pools. Flying wings Samurasinghe and Sandhu with centre forward Stephen Green have been exceptional this season, netting over 25 goals. Stephen has been especially notable, in that he has scored at least twice in every game. Finally, I must mention Chris Woodward, our super-sub, who has played in every position in an exemplary manner which I will long remember. I hope his singing will be easier to forget.

I give my heartfelt thanks to Mr Tinley for his advice and dedication when a wiser man would have packed it in long ago to concentrate on his driving. Finally I must congratulate the whole team on a very successful year and thank them for the privilege of captaining them.

Ian Brown



3rd XI Hockey



U16



U15

U16

P10 W3 D1 L4

Although these results may not be themselves seem impressive, we did however achieve a great deal under the circumstances. Having lost three of our most influential attacking players to the first team at the start of the season, we managed to score a total of 29 goals in 10 games, conceding only 14. Our goals came mainly through our new centre forward, Ravi Thukral, scoring 14 (including 4 in an 8-0 win against Malvern). Many of our goals were set up by our two transformed wingers, Paul Strudwicke and Dale Harris.

Our defence held a familiar formation: however we did lose our centre back, G Bhadri, early on after breaking his knuckle in a 2-1 victory over Warwick. Mehrali, Dave, Muralidhar and Birch defended resolutely through-out the season. K Khara backed up the defence by making some important saves.

The midfield trio of Cauldwell, Lloyd and Christopher held the team in shape, contributing to both attack and defence.

Having said this, the main fault of our side was the inability to capitalise on sustained periods of pressure, especially against Newcastle twice (losing by a one goal margin each time) and Nunnery Wood.

Thanks must go to Mr Chamberlain for being an inspirational coach and leader throughout the season.

Martin Lloyd

U15

The new season saw only one change in personnel. The new man was Robbie Newman, who had finally defected from the rugby option and soon proved a great asset to the team's defence. The side got off to a winning start against Loughborough (2-0) and Camp Hill (5-1). Both matches were fairly easily won, with only the quality of our finishing limiting the amount of goals we scored against Loughborough.

A harder challenge quickly came in the form of Warwick. This was the one match of the season which we never looked like winning and, showing skills and stamina of a generally superior standard, we lost 3-1.

The rest of the season was largely uneventful, with most matches providing either an easy win or a tense draw. The only other matches worthy of mention were the two against Newcastle. Both were highly entertaining and tight affairs, although, sadly, the results were disappointing. Both times, with about 10 minutes left, they came from behind to draw in the first fixture and in the second win. These matches were a good lesson for the defence to tackle harder and give away a free-hit if it will stop a goal.

It is always difficult to pick out individual players and this season is no exception. Again, Richard Barker played well in attack, scoring countless goals with his deadly finishing. The midfield of W Barker, Middleton and Webb had a successful season, passing well and scoring a number of goals. In defence, David Payne played well when caught out of position.

Thanks must go to Mr Lye for coaching us on Tuesdays and organising and refereeing our matches.

William Webb

U14

P11 W4 L6 D1

A very inexperienced, but confident side struggled against teams which obviously had played together for some years.

The season started away to Warwick with an encouraging win, (5-1). The teams which we then played proved stronger and we unfortunately lost the next 4. The losses were at the hands of Nunnery Wood (1-3), Five Ways (0-3), Newcastle (2-4) and Nunnery Wood again (1-3).

After Christmas the results improved. With confidence restored we beat Loughborough (4-1) and Solihull (2-0). Two losses then followed, against Queen Mary's (0-2) and Camp Hill (0-2).

With the disappointments of narrow losses against Queen Mary's and Camp Hill forgotten, we went into our last two games with exceeding confidence. We drew with Evesham away (1-1) and finally beat a strong Bishop Walsh side (2-0).

The goalkeeper spread himself to make good saves on many occasions when the defence was beaten. With a strong midfield that played well at times but should have done a lot better and an attack that scored some very good goals there are lots of good things to look forward to next season. It was a season that ended with plenty of promise and the side showed at times the capability to play some good hockey.

Finally, a very big thank you to Mr Roll who coached us extremely well. We look forward to next season on the new astroturf pitches. We can only move forward.

Amathae Roberts



U14

RUGBY

1st XV

This year's 1st XV was greeted with much anticipation. A successful tour to South Africa in the summer was followed by a pre-season trip to Gloucester. After a shaky start to the season we registered some good wins, notably against Solihull. The Christmas term was reasonably successful, winning most of our matches. Unfortunately, we were knocked out of the Daily Mail Cup by KES Stratford.

Everyone looked forward very much to the Bromsgrove match. We were looking to make it a second victory in two years. The match was effectively decided in the first fifteen minutes as we scored 18 points early on and went on to win the match 25-15.

The pack had a very good season providing good second phase ball for the backs. Jamie Child fitted in well at scrum half after the injury to Alex Blaikley. Ian Cole's goal kicking was vital in many matches (though Dan Montague still claims to this day that his drop goal against Denstone was crucial even though we were 30 pts clear). The front row of Jon Owen and Kris were a formidable force whilst James Hynes and Ad Hiscock ensured quality line out ball. Adrian Lee had an excellent season, scoring many times and giving detailed accounts of each one in the changing rooms after the match. Phil and Leo both had good seasons, though were plagued with injuries, whilst Ali and Tom made good use of the ball they received.

The end of year sevens tournaments were a fitting way of ending our time together as a team, though not as successful as we would have liked.

Many thanks to Tom "Tour Manager" Campbell and Robbie "Skipper" James for their support during the year.

It's been a great seven years playing in the team. We were disappointed not to end on a higher note. The last year was hampered by injuries and other commitments, but the passion and commitment shown by everyone has been great fun. I'll miss it loads!

Ben Dunnett



1st XV



2nd XV

2nd XV

Following the successes of the 2nd team last year, we had high standards to follow. Unlike the previous season, the majority of our team comprised of Divisions. Their youth, tempered with the experience of a few senior members, provided the basis for an extremely successful season.

In our opening match against RGS Worcester, we came away as worthy winners 41-3, demonstrating our potential for the season ahead. Having lost our captain Dan Montague to the first team, our next match against Solihull was a hard-fought 21-11 victory, with an excellent line-out performance from Adam Hiscock.

Our success was due to the forwards' excellent ball retention and the backs' inventiveness and pace. These qualities were realised in our match against Uppingham, where the formidable power of Pittaway, combined with the tackling and support of Shepherd and Shaikh, gave us a 19 point margin of victory over a highly rated side.

The only disappointment of our season was at Warwick, where our uncharacteristically sluggish performance led to a 5-20 defeat.

Galvanised to redress this inconsistency we displayed impressive flair in our victories against Loughborough and Nottingham H.S.

The high point of the season was our victory against a highly charged Bromsgrove side. Our motivation proved overpowering, with superb running in the backs - Nasar Ahmad scoring twice and the pack performing solidly. We won 22-0.

With emphatic victories against Ellesmere, K.H. Coventry and QMGS Walsall, our final match versus Oldswinford Hospital School proved to be a thriller. After they took the lead 5-3 early in the second half, we responded immediately, Arif Khan scoring, and Alastair Treharne converting. Under relentless pressure, our defensive play was by far the best of the year, with try-saving tackles from Matt Robertson and Kris Shergold.

Although never having the same side in any one match, we gelled together well, and through the inspirational coaching from Mr Phillips, we ended the season with the following statistics: P16 W15 L1 D0. Next year's team have even higher standards to live up to.

Shashank Agarwal

3rd XV

P12 W7 L3

The third team started the season in fine form. A strong back line and a weighty pack contributed well to the first few matches with good victories over R.G.S. Worcester, Camp Hill and Solihull. However, injuries and promotion to the 2nd XV soon depleted the side, resulting in defeats at the hands of Uppingham and an extremely strong Warwick side. Good victories followed however, against teams such as King's Worcester and Loughborough.

There followed a shock defeat by Aston, and the regrettable Bromsgrove match, but the thirds rounded off the term with a plucky win over Ellesmere. The following term saw the team narrowly lose to Old Swinford in adverse weather conditions, but having a good win over Queen Mary's Walsall.

Alex Mackay has to be mentioned for scoring so many points (I've lost count!), and Andy Sinclair also for finding the try line on numerous occasions. Conversions and penalties were well taken by Charlie Chambers/Steve McCrory. Santra/Ullathorne/Howard usually made up the powerful front row, with a no-messing back row generally consisting of 3 from Mitra/Penna/Sinclair/Watts.

The backs were fast and skilful (when they got the ball) and should be complimented. Our coach, Mr Evans, put in a lot of work trying to get us into shape each week, and giving up his Saturdays for us!

Charles Ullathorne

U16

P12 W8 D2 L2 F258 A86

The season started with a solid 20-0 defeat of R.G.S. Worcester, but our lack of fitness and preparation was evident against a good Solihull side, and the sending off of Nas Khan proved that Mr Birch was prepared to discipline the team. We lost that match 24-0 but worse than the losing was the amount of training Mr Birch had in store for us. Unfortunately, terrible weather prevented us from flexing our muscles against Newcastle, and we did just enough to win 12-0. We realised the potential we had in the backs against Denstone, thrashing them fifty-four nil. Jon Goldman, Tony Hodson and Matt James all proved their ability with great tries, Jon getting a hat-trick. We had hoped that Uppingham would test our mettle after the post-Solihull



U16

training, as they had beaten us soundly last year. As it was, we outplayed them on the wide Eastern Road pitch, only to be undone by our inability to score. We drew, disappointingly, 5-5. The next week at King's Worcester the exact same game was played, a 5-5 draw being the frustrating result. The early season optimism was in danger of vanishing and our defeat at the hands of Warwick was the last straw. The installation at outside-half of Goldman over the more methodical Bryan-Williams was hoped to set the backs going forward, while losing Owen's precise touch kicking. Also Colin Ball at centre was hoped to inject enthusiasm and straight running. The new look side was tested against Loughborough, who were despatched 20-0, but greater things were to come. An excellent effort against an admittedly depleted Nottingham side was a display of total rugby, with solid forward play from Vickers, Purdon and Jubb releasing the backs - Jon Goldman and Matt James both had excellent games.

Bromsgrove was to be the match of the season: we edged it 19-18 with a try in the last minute. It was a gutsy performance and a desire to win was obvious in everyone's play. Without wanting to single anyone out, Chris Padmore was in the thick of it throughout. The last game of the winter term

was at home to Ellesmere, who we thrashed 52-0. Our last game as a team was away to Henry's Coventry, and it was only fitting that we would win a tired match 12-10 with a last minute Ben Levine try. It typified the will to win (or rather, not to lose) which we displayed all season.

As a team, this has been our most successful season. There are many reasons for this, but most of all is the enthusiasm shown by Mr Birch throughout the year. A good relationship between him and the players led to a good atmosphere throughout the season, which transferred onto the pitch.

Richard Flynn

U15 'A'

On the whole the season was an extremely good and memorable one and the U15's fulfilled much of their potential, a notable achievement being winning the U15 Birmingham Cup.

Many of these successes were due to the forwards playing a hard and mobile game whilst the backs managed to use the power in the centres and the tactical running to help the team score a good number of tries.

The team enjoyed an unbeaten record for the vast quantity of the first half of the season, beating the very strong KES Aston 19-14 of the



U15 'A'

Birmingham final. These victories were due to the commitment and skill contained within the side. The team was on a high with confidence strong, yet unfortunately the team suffered an unhelpful set back when the captain L Hawkgus broke his arm and M Hanson broke his collarbone. This seemed to unsettle the team and was a contributing factor to our first loss, by a narrow margin, to Nottingham. The team faced Loughborough in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup and, due to a lack of organisation and poor play, the side disappointedly lost their second game. The team also went on to lose against Bromsgrove, yet their determination and commitment was shown when they managed to bounce back from the three losses to beat a strong Ellsmere to finish the first half of the season.

After the Christmas break the side began fresh, fully fit and managed remarkably to win every match in the spring term. Some notable wins were against Warwick 29-3 and King Henry's, Coventry. KES U15's had established themselves as formidable opposition. Three losses plagued by injury was only a blemish on our near perfect record. It had been a highly successful season, with many memorable victories.

Although this was the end to the school season, many of the team were selected for the Greater Birmingham County Squad and J Feetam, A Pope, S Rupal, L Hawkins, A Williams and C Maddison all established places in the county 1st XV. Also, A Williams achieved North Midlands honours at club rugby level. All these honours were an obvious sign of how strong the team is and although names can be picked out every game was played on a full 15 man effort.

I would like to thank Mr Porter for spending hours watching nail-biting and exciting U15 rugby. Mr Porter was the vital key to organisation and success. His efforts have been shown in the excellent playing record and his input has been much appreciated by every member of the team. Mr Beard and Mr James were also much appreciated coaches throughout all levels of U15 rugby.

Laurence Hawkins



U15 'B'



U14

U15 'B'

Although the results show a disappointing season, I felt that they really didn't do us justice. We lost 5 out of our 7 games by 10 points or less and were only let down by the fact that we gave away early tries due to bad tackling. The season finished just as we hit form: we won 3 out of our last 4 games, including the all important Bromsgrove match.

The season was a very difficult one. We never kept the same side for two games in a row, as the 'A' and 'B' teams were plagued with injuries, so consistency was a real problem. The team, however, never gave up and we finished the season the way we should have begun it. The match that began the turn-around against Nottingham High School was a superb display from the entire team and we fully deserved the win after all the effort we put in.

Due to the squad being so large, there have been a number of players who deserve mentioning for their efforts: J McCrory and T Owen have given 100% all season and deserve recognition. A Natkiel and R Melough have been moved around a lot but always managed to adapt and N Markou

played well until his injury. Thanks go to the two members of the forwards who helped keep it all together, I Yunus and T Naden and also to D Ford and D Eckley for coming in at the end of the season and playing so well.

Most importantly of all, the entire team would like to thank Mr Beard for being such an inspirational coach when we needed him most and giving up his Saturdays to watch some very mediocre, and some very good performances.

Jonathan Pinlock

U14

We started the season well with wins over Camp Hill (1), RGS Worcester and an outstanding 82-0 victory over Warwick. David Earl, the scrum-half was quickly building up a good partnership with the new fly-half, James Skidmore(2), enabling quick ball for the two fast centres to run in the tries.

The forwards were also as strong as ever. Front row support ensured that our much improved hooker, Joe Tipper, won good clean ball, while the second row combination of Bahar and Haig

powered their way skilfully through each game. Along with the speed and power of the back row the forwards proved too strong for most sides throughout the whole season (3).

Our good form continued into the second half of the season where much tougher opposition awaited us. Good wins against Loughborough and Oldswinford sandwiched the most impressive individual performance of the season with Matthew Benjamin (4) scoring five tries against Bromsgrove.

Our thanks go to Mr Milton, our most successful coach yet, who has had to step down due to commitments with the junior play(5). Courageous performances in a prestigious sevens tournament at Hereford took us to the final where fatigue overcame us and we suffered our first defeat of the season, but we still had our perfect record at fifteen a side.

Our final game of the season was against Camp Hill, in the Greater Birmingham Schools' Cup Final, where we hoped to win our first piece of silverware. This unfortunately did not happen, losing 10-8 with Camp Hill deservedly winning the cup.

However this disappointing end to the season should not be allowed to overshadow the great potential of the side shown at the start of the season and we look forward to the next one with enthusiasm (6).

COACH'S NOTES

1. The win over Camp Hill was especially remarkable. Our running in the Three Quarters was unstoppable, and our forwards competed heroically against a withering assault from our opponents in the Second Half.

2. James was a "big money summer signing" over the holidays, from Bromsgrove of all places! His presence certainly gave the team many new options.

3. The emergence of Russell Benson was a particular pleasure. Mark Howes' tackling was a revelation!

4. Matthew scored in every match that he played in, amassing over 150 points.

5. How kind. This season has been my most enjoyable yet. The team played some breathtaking rugby and were a delight to watch. Their attitude, professionalism and commitment were all exemplary. My thanks to them all, especially Jonathan Pitt for his calm and effective captaincy.

6. The Daily Mail Cup awaits! The prospects are outstanding - if Camp Hill can first be overcome....



U13



EJM

U12

U13

The 1995/96 season was a successful one for the U13 side. Enjoyable rugby was played and fun was had by all.

The season started well with very comfortable wins over T.G.S. Worcester and Solihull. Several more promising (and victorious) matches were cruised through before we played Nottingham High School, with whom we drew last year in a key match: We were immediately put on the back-foot (where we stayed) by their support play and superb back-row. Despite frantic and desperate defence work, the result was never really in doubt: we lost in a close match (an on-field injury to the scrum-half did not help). After this match several other important games were missed due to the poor weather, thus making the encounter with Nottingham the last of term.

As before, the spring term was

disrupted by cancellations, but very impressive performances were put out early on with convincing shows against King Henry's and Oldswinford. The latter emphasised the team's commitment, determination and courage as we had earlier gone behind and had not been playing well.

A very good season was completed with the winning of silverware. We defeated KE Aston with a great team performance in the final of the Birmingham School's Cup at Moseley.

All in all this season was very convincing: we beat most teams by bigger margins than last year, played aesthetically pleasing rugby, and scored a huge number of tries (this was principally done by winger John Ferdinand, No. 8 Oliver Watkins and scrum half Iain Moss).

Although highly impressive efforts were made by all, the most notable were those of the props Richard Rees and

Richard Thompson, half-backs Arthur Dyer and Iain Moss and wingers Leo Duncan and John Ferdinand.

The entire team would like to thank Messrs. Stead and James for their time, effort and energy (?!), and Peter Pears for finishing off easy tries.

U12

This season we played well. The first game we only just managed to win which is due to a failure to play like a team, but for the first match what do you expect? As the season progressed, then, the team got better and Adrian's

tries seem to be more spectacular than anyone else's. He ran from the touchline to the halfway line and virtually any other position on the field.

To our disadvantage Joshi the B team winger injured our best kicker James Forrest in a training match. He broke his collarbone and James had to miss half the season. So Joshi was not a popular player. When James was playing though he kicked conversion after conversion and they all went over.

Andrew Gillespie and his fearless tackles helped us this season. He dived at people who appeared to be on the other side of the pitch and he still

managed to bring them down. Some of his runs were amazing: he would break through three tackles and still have enough power to smash through a couple more.

We all played well this season and won every game, which is a great success. Some matches we played rubbish, but the following match would always be spectacular. So we are grateful to Mr Everest for his support and we hope we play as well next year.

Greg Cooper

TENNIS

1st VI

The King Edward's School 1st VI enjoyed another successful season, with a near unbeaten run in school fixtures. Victories were achieved over schools including Nottingham High School, Malvern College and Shrewsbury School.

The young talent of Richard Stuckey, William Barker and Richard Barker seemed to adapt to and enjoy the hard hitting game of 1st VI tennis and proved to be vital assets to the team. This was also true of Daniel Bramich and William Cutler, who had the ability to attain strategic victories over their frustrated opponents.

In the Midland Bank/LTA National Schools Championships, the Glanvill Cup, the King Edward's side of Ian Cole, William Cutler, Balaji Muralidhar and William Barker qualified for the finals held at Queenswood School in London. This enthusiastic team battled hard to win their first round match against Syr Hugh Owen's School, allowing them a place in the final eight. Unfortunately, the draw was unkind and they faced a very keen Repton side, first seeds in the tournament, who, despite a close contest, proved to be too strong.

Thanks must go to Mr Booth for his coaching, organisation and support, and also to Dr Higgitt who has been in charge of tennis at KES for many years and will be missed by all.

Ian Cole



1st VI

U15

The U15 squad, captained this year by Andrew Gee, had another highly successful season, even though they only played against three schools (outside major competitions). The three sides were Repton, Malvern and Nottingham. The U15 squad of Andrew Gee, Edward Postlethwaite, Sean Cunningham, James Rose, William Hylton, Matthew Flacks and Antony Plotnek performed admirably throughout the season and fully deserved the plaudits they received.

This year the school entered two teams for the prestigious Public Schools'

LTA championship called the 'Thornes Bowl' to be held in Eton. The KES 'B' pair of Richard Stuckey and Andrew Gee played well throughout the tournament before losing in a close quarter-final against Bristol Grammar School, but the KES 'A' team of William Barker and Richard Barker were not to be denied, dominating their semi-final against Bristol, and then coming from a set down in the final against Millfield to win by 2 sets to 1 and win the tournament.

This year, though is also a sad year for school tennis, as it is the last time

that we will have Dr Higgitt as a teacher at this school, and speaking from a personal view, we have enjoyed and appreciated the time and encouragement that she has so generously given. She will be very much missed next year after her move to Alcester Grammar School.

Andrew Gee

U13

Once again the Under 13 squad showed tremendous enthusiasm. This year the squad was so large that it was necessary to divide the Tuesday training with SHB into separate sessions for Shells and Removes on alternate weeks. For the second year running we entered three teams into the Midland Bank competition, and all the teams are to be commended for their commitment and quality of play. Unfortunately none of the teams got through to the next round (at a regional level); the A and B teams had to play a particularly strong Camp Hill A team, and the C team was up against A and B teams from other schools, but a fighting spirit was evident in all the matches. In the A team Oliver Ladbroke, Dan Jackson, Jo Millington and Ben Felderhof maintained their high standard of play from last year. In the B and C teams Richard Folsom, Nagy Rizkalla and James Forrest, in particular, established themselves as competitive, determined players. Jonathon Parton also stood out with his spirited and persistent play, and would take the award for most improved player. All in all, despite the results on paper, a most rewarding season.

JES

U15 Midland Bank

King Edward's School began the U15 schools' Midland Bank tournament in 1995 with a strong team and even with hopes of winning. The squad consisted of B Muralidhar, William and Richard Barker, Richard Stuckey and Andrew Gee. We began our campaign regionally, defeating most schools fairly comfortably and qualifying for the national stage. More than 22,000 players were involved but now only 4 teams were left, the venue being Telford on the 11th December.

King Edwards' beat Hutesons Grammar School from Glasgow in the semi-final to book their place in the final with a thoroughly professional performance. The mammoth task now



2nd VI



Left to right Boys U-15: William Barker, Richard Stuckey, Balaji Muralidhar, Richard Barker, Andrew Gee (reserve)

was to defeat Millfield School (Somerset), a tennis school who play at least 15 hours per week. Performance of the tournament came from Richard Barker, a 7-5 winner against Matthew Gower at No 2 who had been a pre-match favourite. This swung the match in our favour and the cup was ours as we emerged winners, 4 matches to 2. It is the first time in the school's history

that the cup has come back to King Edward's.

Thanks must be given to Dr Higgitt for her superlative organisation, Mr Cropper for his devoted support and training of the team and finally to coach Mr Booth, without whose help this result would not have occurred.

Balaji Muralidhar

WALKING OPTION

Since the beginning of time man has been walking. Now, as the 21st century is approaching, the culmination of physical and mental perfection has been achieved by the member of the walking option.

At the beginning of the year a new influx of youthful walkers boosted numbers in the option. Training of the young protégés began on the first Wednesday afternoon of the autumn term. They were lectured, amongst other topics, on the Green Cross Code and road safety awareness. Many seemed oblivious to these warnings and tension reached a fever pitch as they began their walking careers.

Walking was of a broad and varied nature this year. Many "self-guided" walks took us to locations such as the Birmingham Canal, Canon Hill Park and the Rea Valley. Upon driving to Edgbaston Reservoir for a "find your own way back" walk, I will never forget the words, uttered with eternal walking style, "It didn't look this far on the map." Another memorable walk was the speed walking trip at the Vale lake. After a spirited start, events were marred by the inevitable scuffle on the far side of the lake. The afternoon finished with veteran walkers Luke and Alan battling it out - Luke the victor with his "nonchalant" style.

The walking option has once again proved to be both a challenging and rewarding option. I have every faith in its younger members continuing its famous traditions of in the years to come.

James Rodger

SWIMMING

The U14 team have been outstanding all year. They show enormous potential and have understandably left the opposition in their wake in every fixture. The two most important competitions they have won were invitation matches at Loughborough and Worcester, in which the twelve top Midlands schools took part. The team consisted of J Pitt, M Davis, O Newcombe, J Skidmore and J Rees. First place in the above competitions also went to U16 team member Paul Atefi.

The school team as a whole has only been beaten once this year in a head-to-head competition against Nottingham High School, who had an Olympic trialist in the Senior Section! Naturally enough we did beat them at U14.

For the first time in a number of years the school took part in the Bath Cup and Otter Medley at Crystal Palace. These competitions are attended by about seventy schools from all over the country and are the most prestigious after the National Championships.

Despite the fact that the age group is U14 KES used three of their U14 squad and still finished 22nd. A remarkable achievement.

JCH

WATER POLO

The sport has really taken off and the U14 and U16 teams have made progress in National Competitions though have not yet managed to make the quarter finals of the National Cup, falling to schools where water polo has been much longer established.

More locally the team have started to win on a regular basis and Andrea is delighted with the progress boys are making.

Jonathan Pitt, Oliver Newcombe and Mark Davies have made the last 25 of the selection process for the Midland and District U16 team.

JCH

CHESS

The undoubted highlight of this year's chess season was the return of alumnus Mr. Goodlad, past School Chess Captain, to take over the running of the teams. After that, however, everything went downhill. Aminur Rahman decided to deselect himself from board 2 of the 1st team and barely played during the whole season. Patrick Finglass' play was possibly the worst ever seen on top board - he failed to win a single game in the league, getting instead two draws and five losses. His brother Gearoid was hardly any better, finishing on two out of seven. It was left to the Captain, Alex McTavish, and

Joe Sturge to pull some points in - scoring 4 1/2 and 6 1/2 respectively. Special mention must be made of Joe's 100% attendance record - that and his excellent play should stand him in good stead in later years. The 1st team won one match out of eight (coincidentally, the one in which Patrick wasn't playing...), drawing two matches, and finishing rather too low in the league.

The second team fared no better, beating Solihull 6 - 0 before losing all of its other matches - except when, due to an organisational mix-up, our 4th team was made to play Five Ways' 2nd team, and managed to win 4 1/2 - 1 1/2. The 4th team, captained by Brendan Finglass (School Chess is riddled with nepotism) won all but one of its matches and finished top of its group - an achievement which deserves much praise.

The 3rd team won one, drew one and lost six, proving to an amazed world that however bad the 1st team plays, the 3rd team can do even worse. Two wins, three draws and two losses from the Shell team was a more creditable result.

However, it was not all bad. In the Winter term the 1st team actually won the Lightning tournament (and Mr. Tinley spelt "Lightning" correctly for the first time since the tournament's inauguration!), beating a strong Queen Mary's team to do so. Not content with this, the 1st team also won the U18 Birmingham Quickplay - narrowly missing winning the National one, too. In addition, we had considerable success in "The Times" Chess Competition, reaching the semi-finals of the Plate before being narrowly defeated in a 5 1/2 hour telephone match by the Methodist College, Belfast. It is just surprising that the high standards shown in these events were not displayed in the League.

My sincere thanks go the Dining Hall staff for their chocolate cakes, to the parents who have helped with transport, to Mr. Tinley for giving up his time to run the Lightning Tournament, to Alex for being such a good Chess Captain over the past two years, and to Mr Goodlad, who has run school chess so well and who will be missed. Our only problem now regards his successor, who at the time of writing has yet to be decided. No knowledge of chess is required - though to be honest, it's hardly needed for entry into the 1st team, either.

Patrick Finglass

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