

**The Annual Magazine
of King Edward's School
Birmingham**

CHRONICLE



1997

CHRONICLE

EDITORIAL

I am writing this on the first of July, at least five months before you or I will have the chance to see the Chronicle in its entirety. Even though I have just semi-scrupulously edited the paltry collection of articles that are now in the Chronicle file, I have, in truth, little idea of how well or badly the thing will turn out. Yet I am still expected to write an editorial about a magazine that does not actually yet exist. This could be a bit tricky.

However, I can predict with almost complete certainty that there will be a Chronicle this year - as if there were not, you would probably not be reading this. Whether that Chronicle is a good or a bad one will largely depend on two things - firstly, on the Chronicle section editors in the Divisions, an intrepid band of volunteers responsible for obtaining articles and writing them up. However, I am not the first Editor to point out that the Chronicle largely depends on the labours of ordinary members of the school. To write a Chronicle article well is a difficult task, yet potentially a rewarding one, in that by doing so you will be contributing something to the history of the school. Yet curiously enough, the Chronicle is not a chronicle, not a mere dry record of events. Through the many different writers it has (perhaps even you, dear reader, have already scrambled your way through the pages to see your own article and checked whether we have spelt your name correctly), it provides a lively, varied and, at times, witty discussion of the events that have taken place during the school year.

Chronicle articles can even be useful. Those of you who, in the future, find yourself in a position of authority may well appreciate the experience of previous years as displayed in their writings in Chronicles past. I know, for example, that the Agent of the Conservative election campaign carefully studied past Mock Election records in order to learn from their successes and failures, and agrees with me that such study leads to good results. Even heads of societies may find ideas for meetings within these pages: the Secretary of Parliamentary Society informs me that many of its events had their origins in previous Chronicles. Take note of the experiences of the past, and you will be far more capable of facing the future.

My thanks go the Resources Centre for helping in the production of this magazine, to the Section Editors who have been so efficient in their work, to Miss Tudor and Miss Sheringham and, of course, to Mr. Burns, the real head of the whole operation [*honestly Patrick, you are too modest - Chronicle Staff*], and to anyone else who has helped in making Chronicle as good as it probably is. And finally, thanks to you, dear reader, for reading Chronicle, as if nobody read it, there would be little point in my writing it.

Patrick Finglass, Editor

P.S. I must apologise for stating in the Music section last year that the concert to commemorate the retirement of Miss Evans took place in March, when it actually took place in May. I couldn't show myself in public for weeks afterwards... Finally, apologies are also due to my good friend Idnan Yunas, whose article about the 1996 Young Europeans' Conference failed to include his name at the bottom.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE...

After seven years at the helm, I pass the good ship 'Chronicle' on to Miss Sheringham and Miss Tudor: I wish them every success (even if I did, fleetingly, feel like rubbing my hands together and cackling wickedly, like a lunatic leaving his unwitting victims holding not so much a baby as a bomb). My thanks go, as always, to the helpful and supportive staff of the Resources Centre, to the editorial team who have worked furiously to type up and lay out the sections, to Patrick Finglass for gracing us with his presence (last year) and his legacy (this year), and to Philip Wheatley, editor-elect, who has already tackled the post with unprecedented energy and conscientiousness.

JCSB

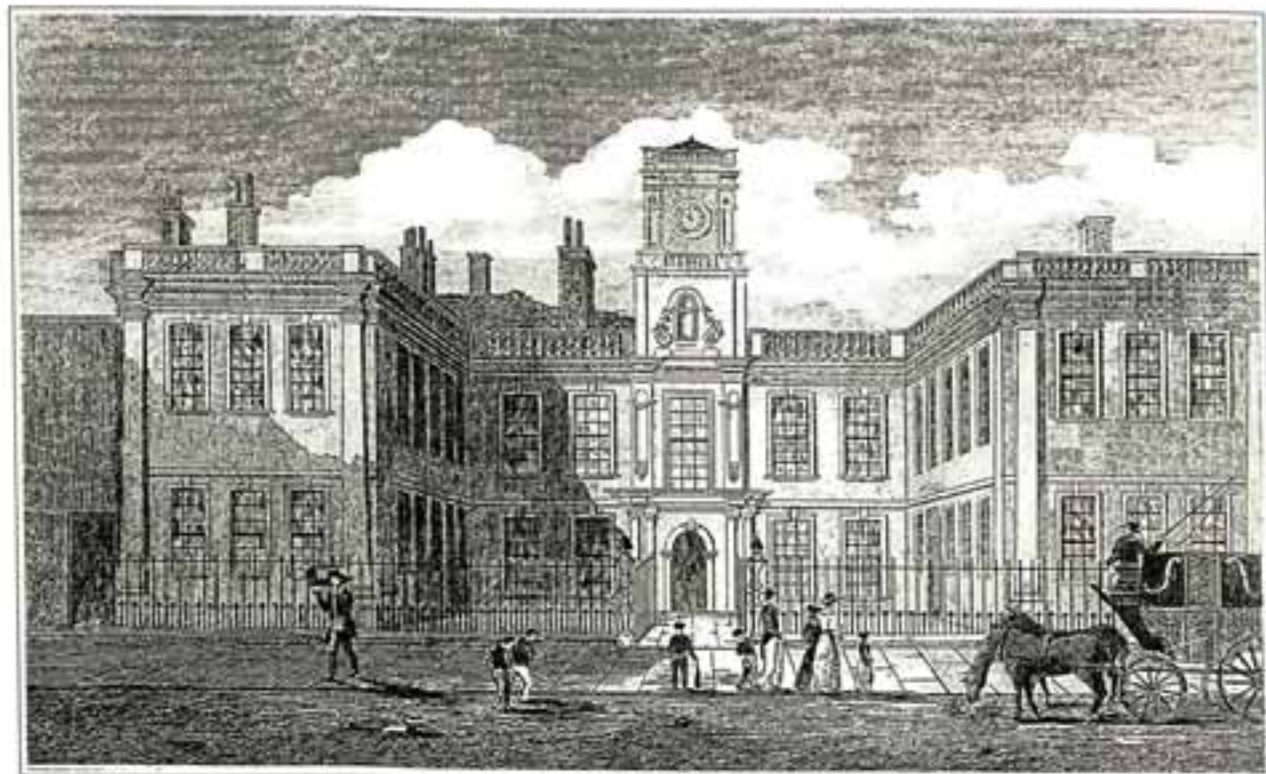
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TRIPS	Simon Moriarty
HOUSES	Ben Sharp
MUSIC	Andrew Clayton
SOCIETIES	James Murphy
SPORT	Kevin Garrington and Richard Flynn
EDITOR	Patrick Finglass
STAFF	Julian Burns, Catherine Tudor and Sophie Sheringham
ARTWORK	Alasdair Jubb and Tom Slater



King Edward's School, New Street, c1733

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

The first erection, of wood and plaster, which had stood about three hundred and twenty years, and was originally on the outside of the town, was taken down in 1707, when the present building arose on the site. It is in New-street, at the lower, nearly adjoining to the Hen and Chicken's hotel, and occupies three sides of a quadrangle, of which the line of street forms the fourth. The style is heavy, and the area wears a gloomy aspect. In the centre of the building is a tower, which was ornamented with a statue of King Edward VI, dressed in a royal mantle, with the ensigns of the garter, and holding a bible and sceptre, having beneath it this inscription, now remaining: - "Edvardus sextus Scholam hanc fundavit anno Regni quinto." This tower contains a clock and bell.

In 1824 it was found necessary to take down the statue of the royal founder from the niche of the tower, a portion of it having, from decay, fallen into the front area. The vases on the balustrades (set up in 1756) being also in a very perished state, were, for the prevention of accidents, at the same time removed. Very recently the cupola and vane with which the tower was surmounted, have also been taken down.

THE

App Bart d wire bar for St Hilda's

Oxford's last all-female college, St Hilda's, has been told by the city council to remove barbed wire put up to stop men climbing over a wall into a hall of residence. The three lines of wire were erected without planning permission after students complained that they had climbed a tree and jumped over the 8ft wall in the garden of the Iffley Road, Oxford.

GR Dr. his Moul tender ions and funeral. A very special c. Andrews Paris several. Essex a. Saturday. Novem kindness. Novem of Cancer. Novem Hospice. Novem Funeral. c/o T. Great Baddow CM2 7DW. Tel. JAM 11.

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Just who are the

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Nick Barrable



C: Tell us about your past.

NB: Well, I grew up in Kent and went to Skinner's school, where I did a lot of running over the Wealden countryside. I then went to Oxford to do my degree and, after a spell of teacher training in Sheffield, I came here.

C: Did you have any preconceptions about King Edward's?

NB: No, not really. I just thought that it was a very good private day school that wasn't very good at running.

C: What do you think of the Birmingham nightlife?

NB: There are a few hot nights out there but you really have to know where to look. There are a lot of very poor nights out as well.

C: What do you think of the K.E.S. pupils?

NB: Generally, I find them well behaved and fairly enjoyable to teach. Obviously I don't have a vast amount of experience with which to compare, but I did my teacher training in a comprehensive in Rotherham, and in comparison KES lads are streets ahead.

C: What has been your favourite geographical experience?

NB: I went with a few friends to Norway a couple of years ago to do some orienteering. Before the competition started, we went training in the mountains, taking in the sights-

fjords, dammed-ice lakes, elks and so on. There we watched the sun set at half eleven at night. It was pretty incredible.

C: Is orienteering the new rock'n'roll?

NB: Orienteering is the taste of today and the future.

C: Mr. Barrable, thank you very much.

Tim Cross



C: What did you do before KES?

TFC: I was born at an early age...well, I was previously teaching at Wolverley High School, near Kidderminster, for five years, where I was second in department and in charge of Sixth Form Mathematics. Before that, I spent eight years at Droitwich, teaching maths. I did a PGCE at Birmingham before that, having done a maths degree at Nottingham.

C: How are you finding life at K.E.S?

TFC: I'm very much enjoying it. It's a lot of hard work and there's always something to be done. I notice that every time I empty my pigeon hole, somebody comes and fills it back up again! It's also nice to teach so many intelligent boys below Sixth Form level; at my old school, to balance my timetable out, I would end up teaching a lot of Sixth Form sets and then a lot of less bright sets lower down the school. It was a case of going from the sublime to the ridiculous, so teaching here is a pleasant change.

C: What do you think of the standard of maths being taught and learnt here?

TFC: It seems to be very high, and more to the point, very rapid. Everything moves much more quickly than it would do at a state school; apart from the obvious example of boys being entered early for GCSE, for the first three or four years they're taught very rapidly.

C: How do you think maths can be made more interesting especially to, say, Shells and Removes?

TFC: Well maths is very much its own discipline, separate to a large extent from other subjects, and interest depends mainly on enjoyment. The lower school has been encouraged to take part in these Maths Challenges, something a bit more fun, which lets you test yourself. People like a challenge and that is what makes the subject interesting. There is also a lot of satisfaction in being able to think for yourself - you have to learn and apply in maths.

C: Do you have any hobbies outside school?

TFC: I do, yes. I particularly like reading crime and thriller novels, but I don't get much chance now. I used to have time, as a student... I also play the piano and have four children who take up a lot of my time. Any extra time is taken up with maths and problem solving, oddly enough.

C: Finally, who is your favourite Spice Girl?

TFC: I don't really know who they are - they all seem to flash their knickers a lot, which makes it hard to tell them apart! I only know a few names; Mel, Mel, Em. Whatever...

C: Mr. Cross, thank you very much.

Sebastian Deckner

C: Where are you from?

SD: I was born in Kiel. I grew up in a small town near there.

C: How have you found the move?

SD: Shocking at first. Kiel compared to Birmingham is only a small town

so first impressions were daunting. I thought Birmingham would be very industrial but I found it was very colourful and the people are nice.

C: Do the Germans have a stereotype of the English?

SD: I think that the typical Englishman for a German would have a nice neat suit, would be very precise and would have a clock and a chain. He would be like Phileas Fogg: quite conservative perhaps. But we have more of a stereotype about your weather, that it is always foggy etc.

C: Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

SD: No, actually I always wanted to be a bus driver. I really envy them for having all that power.

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

SD: Hopefully I will have some sort of job. I hope to have a family.

C: What do you miss most?

SD: I have a boat in Kiel. I miss sailing.

C: If you had three wishes what would they be?

SD: 1) Get a good job
2) Make a lot of money
3)...

C: Wish for more wishes?

SD: Yes. Probably.

C: What do you do with your spare time?

SD: I do a lot of travelling and have found it very difficult to drive on the left. The roundabouts have been a surprise as there are so few in Germany.

C: Herr Deckner, thank you very much.

Robin Deeley

C: Hello Mr. Deeley. What did you do before KES?

RJD: I did some research at Aston University in Psycho-Physics which concerns measurements in sight. Then I did a two year teacher training course at Cambridge. After that I taught at



another school and then came here.

C: Why did you decide to go into teaching?

RJD: It's something I thought I could do well and which would allow me to teach a lot of different material - I teach several A-Levels. I enjoy it: there's lots of holidays, it's a pretty secure job and you can shop around if you don't like a particular job and go teach somewhere else - teach privately or give tuition.

C: So what do you think of KES?

RJD: It is a very good school with a very high academic attainment. It's well run. The professionalism of the teachers is excellent and I haven't seen anybody who is bad at their subject. The atmosphere is good and everyone is generally very friendly - between staff and pupils and between staff and that helps you with your job. You don't go in thinking 'Oh bother I've got to see so and so...'. That just doesn't happen here.

C: Do you take part in the Friday Afternoon Activities Rota?

RJD: Yes. There are some parts of it I quite enjoy and some I don't. I enjoy the visits the most and seeing the various places, but when you've been to the same place for the fourth time it gets a bit wearing. It's better than normal Friday afternoons when you're doing something academic: then a lot of the pupils just want to go home and academically you don't get much done.

C: Do you have any unusual interests or hobbies?

RJD: I used to play Mah-jong at University while I was studying there - although I spent rather more time playing and not studying. Apart from that I don't have any particular hobbies but I do quite like to watch the odd game of sport...

C: Football?

RJD: Not really. It's okay but I prefer rugby.

C: Do you support any teams?

RJD: Within rugby I 'support' Leicester, as far as that I watch their games. I don't actively support any teams by going to matches or anything like that. As far as cricket is concerned, it has always been Warwickshire and I'm not one of those people who have just discovered Warwickshire existed over the last two or three years now they've won some trophies. I was born in Warwickshire and it's quite pleasing seeing them winning some.

C: What do you see yourself doing in ten years time?

RJD: I don't really think that far ahead: it's foolish to do so. I have some ideas, such as to be head of department, but it's not a massive ambition. I wouldn't think if I were to retire that, yes, I've done really well in my life because I was a head of department at a school. I don't even see teaching as the be all and end all of my existence - like good old Mr. Chips after x years of teaching getting a gold watch and being told, 'Well done, thanks for being a teacher for x years'. I would like to see myself doing other things, but I don't know what will happen. I don't really have any set plans for the future.

C: OK, well, thank you very much.

RJD: ...Is that it?

Bérangère DeHame

C: Whereabouts in France are you from?

BDH: How many pages do you have?

C: Are you from all over?

BDH: Yes

C: Where were you born?

BDH: I was born in Bellefort, which is in the east of France and then I moved to the South. Now I share my time between Paris and the South.

C: Whereabouts in the South?

BDH: Toulouse

C: What was your foremost impression of our country and culture when you arrived?

BDH: Politeness. The men especially are extremely polite and it's really nice. Even when someone just holds open the door for you. French people look so rude.

C: When did you first come to England?

BDH: Six years ago.

C: Could you speak English then?

BDH: Yes. When you live in Paris it's so convenient to go to London by the Eurostar, so I spent many weekends in London.

C: What do you miss most about France?

BDH: I miss most points of reference.

C: Sorry?

BDH: Yes. It is what will always make me feel a stranger in this country. When you are in France and you talk about Ketty for instance...

C: Is that a place?

BDH: No it's a kind of puppet on television and if you mention that name to anybody of your age everybody will understand, but here nobody would. I mean, it seems ridiculous but in daily life it's these little things which make you feel a stranger.

C: Good answer. Why did you choose to come to this school?

BDH: The school chose me.

C: Did you not go anywhere else?

How did you hear about the vacancy?

BDH: To be an assistant you have to be a student and you apply at the university. A teacher interviews you and writes a report on you. Then he sends the report to London and the school picks whom they want.

C: Can you remember anything about the interview?

BDH: We were supposed to be interviewed but I wasn't, because we were in a very, very small university with only twenty-five in my form and so after three or four years my teachers knew me well.

C: Do you have any plans on leaving us?

BDH: Too bad! I'm here next year.

C: Glad to hear it! Thanks very much for your time.

Rosemary Hector



C: Welcome to KES, Mrs Hector. I hope that you have found it easy to fit in here.

RAH: I have found it to be a very interesting environment. I have taught in boys' schools before, so a lot seems very familiar, but KES has a distinctive flavour.

C: Perhaps you could tell us a little about yourself.

RAH: I was brought up in County Down: my father is Irish and my mother Scottish. I moved to Scotland

following my graduation from St Andrew's University. Teaching has been my career. I taught for two years in Ireland and, following my marriage, I moved to Scotland where I taught in Edinburgh for five years. I then took a break in my career to have a family: I have three children. After this, I taught in Bath.

C: Have you found it easy to settle in with the new colleagues and students?

RAH: Yes, I have. There has been a lot to learn and I have enjoyed it. It has been great fun joining the Geography staff. We are all quite different and that variety gives a department which is greater than its individual staff. The resources available to us are very good, and we are very privileged to have a geography technician who is available to assist in finding and collecting resources. KES has a lot to offer.

C: Do you have many hobbies?

RAH: One of my interests is in the restoration of old houses, more especially ours! I had a year off last year to see the family settled in Birmingham, in which time I have been able to see to our house, and to indulge another hobby of mine: writing. I wrote a short A-level textbook and had it published. I am very interested in the links between literature and geography. I would love to produce, over the next few years, a sort of literary guide to geography, an essential list of good reading and of good geographers.

C: Thank you, Mrs Hector, for your time. I hope that you enjoy your teaching at KES.

RAH: Thank you.

Jeff Howe

C: Could you start by telling us something about your background?

JH: I was born in Nottingham and lived there until I was fourteen. After that, I moved to Coventry where I lived until nineteen, when I joined the



Army and stayed with them for the next twelve years until coming to King Edward's. Between then and now, I've got married and had a daughter as well.

C: So what did you do with the Army?

JH: Well, I originally joined up for six years with the Royal Signals and then signed up again to do a further six: another three with the Royal Signals whilst waiting to transfer to the P.T. Corps whom I did my remaining time with. After those twelve years came a big decision time as to whether to stay in the Army or not and I decided to get out.

C: What would you say that the hardest part of your training was?

JH: The very beginning! From the first day of basic training, they were the hardest twelve weeks of my life. I was unfit, slightly portly (!) and generally not very sporty.

C: Would you say you are on a par with our very own fitness guru, Mr. Collins?

JH: That's a little unfair because Mr. Collins is an old man so I'd say I'd beat him anytime!

C: So what do you get up to at KES?

JH: I'm the manager of the Sports Centre here and also teach PE. As well as that, I help to run the C.C.F. as an S.S.I.: I look after the day-to-day admin. and also run the stores, making sure that the boys have all the necessary kit for going on exercise etc.

That's how I fill my days, along with running a Rugby team and hopefully being involved with the gymnastics next term: I was in a display team whilst in the Army.

C: When MNAO came to the school, he talked about setting up a Friday afternoon Balti option. Would you consider helping him to found this?

JH: Well... you've got to finish the evening off when you go out, maybe two o'clock in the morning, so the Balti has got to be the place to go, hasn't it! So, yes, I do quite like the odd Balti.

C: I see that you openly display posters of Crystal Palace... I hope you don't affiliate yourself to them!

JH: Oh no! Not at all! The Sports Hall changing rooms looked like a druid's cave when I first arrived so I thought that I would brighten the place up with some posters I got from Adidas and Nike. I don't actually support a football team: it doesn't interest me particularly.

C: Phew! Thanks very much Mr. Howe.

Phil Rees



C: What did you do before you came to KES?

PAR: I spent the last four years studying chemistry at Pembroke College, Oxford, the last year of which I spent in research, synthesising porphyrins, for incorporation into

photo-voltaic devices. It was interesting making things that no-one else had made before, but I wouldn't have wanted to carry on doing this as a career.

C: So why chemistry of all subjects?

PAR: Originally I wanted to be a geologist and I only took up chemistry as a fourth A-Level, just to see what it was like. In the end I ended up carrying on with the chemistry, because I found that I enjoyed it a lot. I liked the practical side, it's not all theoretical or mathematical, and also I think that it's a fairly fundamental science. With a good knowledge of chemistry, you can branch out into almost any science if you want to.

C: And teaching?

PAR: I found that having done a year of research, it wasn't for me and I didn't really fancy an office job sitting around from nine till five. I enjoy the chemistry at school level and also it is nice to be able to get involved in outdoor activities and the other extra-curricular activities available here.

C: How do you find teaching the A-Level students who are a very similar age to you?

PAR: Not a problem - I tend to treat people of all ages in the same way. I don't really think about their age.

C: You mentioned outdoor activities - can you elaborate?

PAR: Mountaineering, climbing, hill-walking, sailing and associated things like Geology, Botany, books and birds [of all kinds!]. I'm particularly keen on rocks and collect vast numbers of them. [Some of which were on view in the Science Corridor last term: any reasonable bid accepted - Ed]

C: How big is your rock collection?

PAR: Massive! Most of it is in a hen house at my parents' house at the moment. It's only limited by the size of the storage space available.

C: Is the rumour true, that not only are you the smallest member of staff in the Science Department, but you

also have the smallest desk in the Science Common Room?

PAR: Yes!.... That may be true. Let's just say that I'm not the biggest member of staff (!) but that's no excuse for giving me a small desk.

C: Is it true that you have a whole set of purple clothes, including the famous purple wig?

PAR: I think I probably do have a full set. I'm going through a bit of a purple patch at the moment. I make sure that I never wear them all at the same time though, because that would look really stupid.

C: Word has it that you're going to follow in Mr. Tomlinson's footsteps and climb all the Munros in Scotland.

PAR: Ahh yes, I most definitely am, and I hope to finish within the next two years. However I'm also doing the subsidiary tops as well, which means that there are almost twice as many tops over 3000 feet.

C: How many are there left?

PAR: Well, I've done 386 tops out of 517. When I've done those I'm also trying to do all the 2000 foot tops in Wales, the 3000 foot tops in Ireland, the 2000 foot tops in England and then the rest of Europe....

C: OK! Finally, have you every had any embarrassing incidents in your school life?

PAR: When I was a GCSE student, not that long ago (!), I spent the whole evening revising for my GCSE Geography exam, only to discover on turning up the next morning that it was the Maths exam. Fortunately it didn't make too much difference.

C: Mr. Rees. Thank you very much indeed.

Sophie Sheringham

C: Can you tell us what you did before coming to KES?

SES: Well, directly before coming to KES, I did a PGCE at Manchester University. I did my teaching practice at the Manchester Grammar School



and decided that it was the kind of school I would like to work in. This job came up and so I went for it. Before that, I did a degree in English at King's College, Cambridge.

C: Do you think that too much emphasis is placed upon academic subjects here?

SES: No, I don't think so. There is a wide curriculum and there seem to be opportunities to really explore the things that you are interested in, whatever they are, whether that's computers, sport or music. Even if there aren't curriculum subjects to cater for those interests, there are certainly enough extra-curricular societies to make sure that all interest areas are covered.

C: Have you become involved in many school activities?

SES: I am currently co-directing the Junior Play with Mr. Milton and I'm also getting involved with Chronicle to a certain degree, possibly with a view to taking it over. [Can we allow this? - Ed]

C: Do you feel that the English syllabus needs to become more up to date with more modern resources?

SES: I think that there are a lot of interesting things to teach, by both modern and classic authors in the department's bookstore. Also, if there is a text that I particularly wish to teach, then within reason, that text can usually be bought for the department. For instance, a set of "The Illustrated

Man" by Ray Bradbury has recently been bought for the Upper Middles.

C: Do you do much with the Literary Society?

SES: I have given a talk on Dracula, which I think shocked a few people though I don't actually run the society.

C: How do you like to relax?

SES: Well, I play the cello in the West Midland's Light Orchestra, where we play show tunes and that sort of thing, which is quite fun. I also enjoy going out for a curry and to the pub with some of the other teachers.

I like the cinema: I saw "Evita" recently, which was a visually spectacular film and I saw "Daylight" before that, which wasn't! I like 'E.R.' because of all the sexy doctors.

C: Do you have many ambitions?

SES: I had ambitions in my younger days... to pass my driving test was my first one and then to get into Cambridge to do English was the second. Since I accomplished both those things and my degree ended, I found it very difficult to look very far ahead, so at the moment, I am enjoying teaching and coming to terms with that and getting used to the lifestyle, which I find very exciting at the moment.

C: Anything in the future?

SES: Er... I'd like to be a jazz singer.

C: Fair enough! Thank you very much, Miss Sheringham.

Simon Stacey

C: What have your first impressions of King Edward's been?

SLS: Immensely favourable! One couldn't fail to be impressed by the school's academic achievement, pleasant physical surroundings and its good working atmosphere and environment.

C: Do you have a favourite aspect of teaching?

SLS: I teach at all levels, especially as an English teacher, which is a joy.



Academically, A-level provides the greatest potential for intellectual debate. However, you often glimpse that lower down in the school.

C: What did you do before KES?

SLS: Nothing terribly exciting, I'm afraid! I taught at Loughborough Grammar School, whose ethos would not be dissimilar to KES. I then moved on to teach at a public school in a rural environment, which was boarding and somewhat different. So, I have had some range in my teaching posts to date, but I would still call it a narrow one.

C: Do you have any ambitions towards the more administrative side of education?

SLS: Obviously, there is a career structure in teaching, but it is limited. You do not enter teaching if you are "ambitious". So much of educational administration is a thankless task, and often mundane. I admire those who take the responsibilities on but I am not sure that positions such as head of department are much more than admirable, but thankless tasks. I prefer the more academic side of teaching.

C: You've been instrumental in resurrecting the Literary Society and founding the debating club. Does KES need any other societies?

SLS: I would not say that I resurrected the literary society. Miss Frazier (from KEHS) and I revamped the society's status in the school. The idea came

very much from the Sixth form. It has been interesting to see such keen involvement from students in setting up the sessions and presenting papers and so on. In so doing, they really help to enhance the school's literary culture, which is encouraging. As for debating, I have always been involved in that in schools I have taught at. It is great fun, the element of constructive argument probably appealing to me because I am a "loud mouth"! Personally, I would like to do more in the school to further raise the literary and philosophical profile. I would like to found a junior version of the literary society. I think the school also needs rather more events associated with the arts rather than just the sciences.

C: Mr. Stacey, thank you.

Carolyn While

C: What did you do before you came to KES?

CW: Originally I worked as a computer programmer for a number of years, then I had children so I stayed at home to look after them. I then went back to University to study French and Sports and then part-way through I did a year here at KES as the Computer Technician so that I could have a break, which has now been extended so that I'll be staying on for longer.

C: Why did you go into Computing?

CW: After school, it just seemed like a good thing to do - and it was! I really enjoyed it but when the time came to have small children, I didn't want to go straight back into computing and my aim was to go back to University and study to become a teacher.

C: What are your Hobbies/Interests?

CW: I am very sporty: I play hockey regularly as well as a bit of squash and anything else that crops up. I spend quite a bit of time doing water-sports at the moment - I'm a Kayak instructor and I work for some friends: we do river trips and instruct children. I also

enjoy windsurfing and that is my main past-time although it is time consuming and not always easy to do.

C: Do you take part in the extra-curricular activities here then?

CW: I enjoy any of the outdoor activities. I've been on Caving trips, Shell camps and even Rems' weeks.

C: Do you find that as the Computer Technician you have to be more of a 'people-person' than the Chemistry/Physics technicians?

CW: Yes I do, and I'm not a very low-down technical type of person, so I do enjoy any of the people contact (Staff and pupils alike) and that is what most of my time talking to and relating to people.



C: What would you say is the most and least interesting part of your job?

CW: (Oh thanks....) That's difficult to say, because all the parts go to make up the job and I wouldn't like to be doing one thing alone for the whole of the time. I enjoy the people contact, although it is quite nice (depending on what I'm doing at the time!) to be able to sit down, with no-one around and to get on with some of the other tasks as well as helping people and doing other things.

C: What's your favourite music band?

CW: I have quite a diverse range of musical interests, which include a lot of current Pop music. I enjoy some dance music, some hard-core techno music, some classical and artists like

Alanis Morissette, Lighthouse Family, Lightning Seeds and Ocean Colour Scene.

C: What do you see yourself doing in two or three years time?

CW: In 2 years, I should be finishing my degree (having gone to University part-time), so hopefully I'll be collecting my degree and I also hope I'll still be enjoying my work here at KES and will be given an opportunity to stay here and, maybe, do a little bit of teaching (...and maybe not!)

C: Would you recommend going through University part-time as opposed to full-time?

CW: I don't know yet, as I went full-time for my first two years and I haven't yet done my two years of part-time. However the idea that I'm going to be paid a little bit of money to help me go through University is going to be good. The only thing I would say is that I do believe that in a lot of cases, for a lot of people, it helps to have had a period of time after school before going to University. I don't believe that everyone needs to go to University immediately after A-Levels. For some people taking the year out and doing something productive can help them make better decisions for the future.

C: If you could sum up this school in a sentence or two, what would they be?

CW: I believe it's a nice school and many of the boys are very lucky and have a lot of opportunities that aren't always available to people in a lot of other schools. In my opinion I'd happily bring my son Matthew here if he was bright enough to...

[At this point Mr. Boardman enters and interrupts...]

CDB: I should tell them nothing... Make sure you've read everything that they're going to say!

CW: ...So it can't be all bad, as I would send my son here.

C: Have you had any interesting/ embarrassing incidents whilst at this school?

CW: NO!... I'm positive. Certainly none that I'd admit to...

C: Thank you very much Mrs. While.

Richard Simpson



C: What did you do before coming to KES?

RHCS: I spent 35 years in the Royal Navy, serving initially as an Engineer Officer in Submarines, but later as a Manager of people and resources. I've had a very varied and rewarding life. My wife, Claire, and I moved house more than 30 times in as many years of marriage; we've seen many years of marriage; we've seen many beautiful places and things, making countless friends on the way. Knowing that I would be forced to retire in my early fifties, I signed up with the Open University some years ago and learnt my mathematics and teaching through them. It has all be a very happy career change.

C: What was your most interesting experience during your Navy time?

RHCS: Many, many ... some of which are not suitable for public exposure! I spent my first two years in the Far East when Britain was still major colonial power. By the time I was 21, I had travelled from Japan to Australia via most points in between. I think then I was most affected by the appalling poverty seemingly willingly endured by those escaping from oppressive

regimes. That, 30 years ago, people risked all to leave China and live in a cardboard box on a rooftop in Hong Kong defied any rational explanation other than that they found life generally better. When one sees virtually naked crying children in a mile long queue for a single water tap, the words 'better' and 'poor' take on entirely new perspectives from those found in our society.

C: What do you think of King Edward's as a school?

RHCS: Well, it's early days for me. Clearly the pupils are selected from the more intelligent stratus of society. I find them a delight to teach!! It strikes me as excellent that it is such a cohesive establishment in comparison to the 'boarding' schools that I myself attended, where a sense of corporate bonding was much easier to achieve. KES was described to me as an 'exam machine'. I have found no evidence of that at all .. I think my correspondent was just jealous! It's a privilege to be here.

C: What do you do in your spare time?

Unfortunately I have far too many interests and succeed at none of them. Apart from Mathematics, I've always enjoyed the engineering of cars which is why I drive old - but I hope interesting - 'bangers'. I have a vintage Lagonda, a newish V12 Jaguar, and of course the 'green machine' which graces the school car park. I flirt with electronics, computing and kite flying. I love music of all kinds; my tastes change of course - very sadly I don't play an instrument. I've never liked Mozart much apart from his operas, which medium is my current passion. I am determined to see Wagner's Ring at Bayreuth before I die. I would love to write plays - I have lots of ideas but I don't currently have the ability. Maybe one day?

C: Thank you very much Mr Simpson.



David Buttress

David Buttress' connection with KES started more than fifty years ago when, as a young boy from West Bromwich, he entered Shell B in September 1947. He was in Ted Leeds' house: they wore red ties and red rugby shirts and by the end of the year he had been promoted into the top stream i.e. Rem A.

By the time David left school in 1954, Ronald Lunt had become Chief Master, Leeds' house had become Jeune and David had been a sergeant in the CCF, had been awarded his XXX club rugby colours and been appointed one of a very small and select band of prefects.

There were strong clues at this time that suggested that David would become a man of distinction: the school Chronicle of 1954, under the title of "Debating Characters of the Year" describes David as "a new boy (!) who has rapidly acquired the skill of an old master. It is impossible to associate him with a bad speech. When he is at his best there speaks an authority with the facts at his fingertips, whose strident tones would resound to good effect both in the Bull Ring and the Mother of Parliaments". A clear hint there of the Churchillian character to come, I would suggest.

In his final year he won an Open Scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself by achieving a first with honours in History, followed by a Certificate of Education with Distinction from Oxford in 1960.

The years between KES and Oxford were spent doing National Service in the Royal Navy, so the antics of the Royal Naval Section of the CCF here must have brought a wry smile to his lips over the years!

From Oxford David went to King Edward's Grammar School, Camp Hill as assistant History master for seven years, a time that he thoroughly enjoyed, and then he gained promotion to be the Senior History

Master at King Edward's Grammar School, Aston, a job he did for a further seven years.

From September 1st 1974 David took up the post of Head of History here at KES and it was quite clear from the very start that Aston's loss was very much our gain. Generations of boys will tell you of how they were inspired by David's teaching to choose History as a subject to offer at O level, and A level and to university entrance, a high proportion of them going on to Oxbridge to read the subject.

Their enthusiasm was unleashed by the force of his intellect, his total command of the subject and a method of imparting the information that included a level dash of humour and some memorable phrases.

Anyone who has seen him taking boys round Conwy Castle on a Rem Study Week or heard him explaining the complex alliances in Europe at the turn of the last century will have seen the complete professional at work; grabbing the boys' attention, manipulating their emotions and understanding to make the topic exciting and memorable: the boys loved him - all of them.

We were reminded of his power to hold an audience and weave his magic in recent Big School assemblies: no-one who heard his address on "keep right on to the end of the road" will ever forget it!

The fully deserved and universally welcomed promotion to Deputy Chief Master in 1987, was not to be a simple straightforward job even for someone of David's calibre. During David's time as Deputy Chief Master, the government of the day in conjunction with the educational establishment introduced GCSEs, the National Curriculum, The Children Act, Records of Achievement, Parent Power, Modular A levels, Ofsted Inspections and a host of other initiatives. All of these David studied with total dedication, carefully assessing their worth and then reporting back to the Chief Master or

Heads of Department with great clarity and detail. The negotiations with outside agencies, Heads of Department and Chief Master over the merits or otherwise of these schemes, and how some were to be implemented here took an enormous amount of time and effort over and above the normal routine.

The Ofsted Inspection four years ago, dropped like a bombshell at a few weeks' notice, meant that the organisation required to get everything in order fell almost entirely to David - a Herculean task which he performed with his usual tremendous efficiency and without complaint.

When David was Deputy Chief Master the school grew in size, and inevitably there were growing pains. Two Chief Masters served as Chairman of HMC - a unique achievement certainly but one that inevitably placed an additional burden on David's shoulders, as did the tragic death of Nick Holliday.

All this came over and above the teaching and marking and the normal annual routine of administration: meeting parents, organising Founder's Day and Speech Day, Admissions Examinations, school examinations and interviewing hundreds, probably thousands, of boys over the years for scholarships, for UCAS, for Oxbridge entry or those leaving or in serious trouble. It was an interesting experience to share with David the interrogation of boys suspected of serious wrongdoing - the truth invariably came out!

As a colleague I believe he has no equal. He is the finest example to us all of what a schoolmaster should be - loyal, honest, caring and always working to help others before himself. As a Head of Department, and particularly as Deputy Chief Master, he was always prepared to make time to discuss matters, offer advice and help his colleagues.

I have not, indeed could not, cover all the facets of David's work and influence here: a few more at random



DJB

might include playing for the Common Room rugby team, never missing an Open Day, running the 3rd XV for several years, playing the wind machine in school productions, being in charge of field events at athletics matches, running Historical, Parliamentary and Debating societies and much, much more. The list is long

but it is not possible to overestimate David's role here - a man who had never missed a day's work in his life until his recent illness, a scholar, a workaholic, an inspiring teacher and a totally dedicated and professional schoolmaster.

Indeed, David Buttress has often been described as "the best Chief

Master King Edward's never had.

David takes with him our congratulations, our total respect, and our thanks for a magnificent career of service, particularly to KES. We all wish him and Ginny many years of healthy and happy retirement.

DCE

Ian Connor



When a new teacher arrives at the school it is often the case that he or she is not noticed by the boys until they are face to face in the classroom, or the games field. If however the teacher is of a length that he has to sleep on the floor when he goes on ski trips because there is no bed long enough to simultaneously support his head and his knees, he is immediately noticed. The length when horizontal being almost completely converted into height when vertical (remember gravity pulls down) and so you have Ian Connor. A man who stands out in a crowd but not only because of his 6'10" frame.

Ian came to King Edward's after a period as a salesman of insurance policies. He greatly enjoyed this job but found that the freedom it gave him meant that he spent a lot of time 'on the road' and very little in the office. This resulted in him being unable to form friendships in the way that suited him. As we all know Ian is very much someone who likes interacting with people for that is his great gift.

Ian has the knack of making Physics relevant and, of course, his pupils liked this immensely. He particularly enjoyed introducing problems into his teaching related to his recent experiences. For example, how much liquid in a cola can will make the can most stable against tipping? And what is the maximum speed that I can

cycle in the rain so that my bottom does not get wet from the spray off the back wheel: Ian could not afford mudguards! As a teacher of Physics, Ian moulded into the department and made a full and positive contribution to the exemplary results that physicists achieved.

Ian also committed himself fully to the extra-curricular activities at the school. In particular, on the sports field and in the CCF. He will be remembered particularly for his coaching of rugby where his teams achieved great success throughout his time at King Edward's.

The CCF took up a lot of his spare time and it was an inspired choice to make him the Contingent Commander to succeed Derek Benson even though he was half Derek's age and the youngest by far ever to hold the post. Together with the other Officers, Ian made the CCF even more popular than it was before he arrived. Boys flocked to join and really that was no surprise given the exciting trips which were on offer. One in particular springs to mind. A whitewater rafting trip in Austria. Having enjoyed rafting the year before Ian had no hesitation in putting white-water rafting on the itinerary for the trip to Austria. The morning was occupied in practice down a grade 3, mediocre, part of the river - no trouble. The afternoon was somewhat different. It was a real spectacle, so much so that when the local population heard that 'the English' were to raft down the grade 5/6 part of the river they came out in their hundreds. It was here that Ian nearly lost his life. At one stage he was catapulted into the air and finished up in the water ahead of the raft. Only the quick thinking of an instructor on the side of the river who swam out to Ian with a rope, saved him. William Armitage, Trevor Collins and Ian all agreed after the experience that it was one of those days they would never forget.

The most significant day in Ian's life whilst he was at King Edward's was

not at school but in China. It was the collecting of his adopted daughter from an old minibus on the busy streets of Nanjing. Daisy Arabella, is now a young lady and very much keeping Ian in check. His only problem is that now he has two high spending women in the family!

Ian is going to take up his post of Head of Physics at R.G.S. Worcester has left a gap at King Edward's but he is certain to make a substantial contribution to the life of that school and who knows - he may come back to us as the Chief Master!

GA

Sarah Fenby



Sarah arrived in September 1996 to join the Religious Education Department, but left in July 1997 - ironically before her 'welcome' interview could appear in print. So this is something of a 'Hail and Farewell' article. Sarah joined the RE Department straight from a Theology degree which she had taken as a mature student, after some years of experience in teaching and lay chaplaincy work - so she was very up-to-date with her Christian theology, which made her a real asset to the new Religious Studies A-level. She kept her studies going, combining part-time research with her part-time post here; but when she secured funding

to pursue her research full-time, we had to agree it was sensible for her to take up that opportunity.

During her time here Sarah put a great deal of hard work and dedication into her teaching, both with the A-level development and with her Lower School teaching, and boys at all levels were able to benefit from both the depth of her scholarship and the breadth of her imagination. She was also to be detected at ungodly hours of the morning thrashing up and down the swimming pool, or thrashing the piano keys in the Music School - all the more impressive as for much of the year she was having to commute from Bristol, as her husband was transferred to Bristol soon after she started here!

Excited by her subject and dedicated to her teaching, Sarah gave much to King Edward's during her year here. Her research will benefit from the same qualities of rigorous thinking and meticulous preparation which characterised her teaching; we wish her well for the future.

DHR

Tom Campbell

Tom arrived at KES in January 1992 as Sports Hall Warden to replace John Cotter who had served the school for so many years. Right from the start it was clear that Tom was to redefine the Warden's job - not only would he run the Sports Hall but in addition he would coach rugby, be S.S.I. in the C.C.F. and teach some P.E. He came to us from the Army Physical Training Corps and although Tom had left the army, the army had not left Tom. His sheer presence commanded attention from boys (and colleagues) and his rigorous drilling of rugby unit skills came straight from a military parade ground.

In his first full year at KES, Tom was assigned as my co-coach of the star-studded under-15 XV with The Daily Mail Cup our aim. This team's success

is well-known but Tom's contribution was central - his fitness-training and warm-ups were loved and admired by one and all. From Twickenham we went around the world and from Singapore to Australia and New Zealand to Fiji, Tom's commitment to all aspects of rugby touring was a wonder to behold. Against all advice he even played a game of rugby in Christchurch after four weeks of hospitality had taken their toll. It was very impressive and, for those of us who saw him play, it was absolutely hilarious.

On Neil Gutteridge's departure in 1995, Tom took over the First XV with notable success starting with the South Africa Tour which he organised. More significantly in view of his future career, he had become involved with County and Midlands Schools' rugby and here he showed a remarkable ability to enthuse and to mould into a team the most disparate groups of players. It was this skill, along with his knowledge of the young rugby players of the Midlands, that led Moseley RFC to recruit him as a Development Officer, very much a post that is part of the brave new world of professional rugby.

Tom was much more to KES than a rugby coach, of course. In the summer he was an important member of the athletics coaching staff and even gained a cricket coaching qualification from which the younger teams certainly benefited, even if his performances for the Kestrels CC remained idiosyncratically muscle-bound. As S.S.I. in the C.C.F. Tom brought a physical rigour to military training that his cadets loved to hate and he will be greatly missed by all but the C.C.F. minibus.

Tom's social life became something of a soap opera to some of us. The endless, thrilling tales of nightclubs and rugby clubs, of the theft of virtually every car he ever owned, of his tennis-and-balti binges with the Reverend Weaver all held us enthralled at break or lunchtime.

Nevertheless, we never doubted the seriousness with which Tom went about his job. He built up the Sports Hall lettings to unprecedented levels and notably improved the fabric of the place. Few coaches were so enthusiastic or so willing to spend time on muddy touchlines or in cold committee rooms listening to the trivia of County selection meetings.

He still pops in to KES quite often and it's always a pleasure to see him, even if he now does some coaching at - dare I say it - Bromsgrove School! We look forward to his wielding the willow for the Kestrels again in the summer and wish him and his daughter Kimberley all the best for the future.

KDP

Jeremy Everest



Jeremy Everest joined the Geography department in October 1995 following the tragic death of Nick Holliday. Jeremy had recently graduated from Edinburgh university and was preparing to pursue research into glaciology.

As a former pupil he was familiar with the context of courses and our style of teaching. We owe a great deal to Jeremy - his calm, assured, optimistic manner did so much to help the recovery of the department.

Stepping into the task to take over the teaching of the Geog VIth he quickly won their confidence, restored

their spirits, and made room 51 a delightful working environment with coat stand, potted plant and an interesting variety of background music.

Jeremy contributed so much. He brought wisdom, well beyond his years, an enthusiasm for physical geography and a capacity for sustained hard work.

His teaching was first class and he was an inspiration on field trips. Outside the classroom he was involved with several water based activities and he valued his time for Remove study week and leadership weekends. He even managed to introduce winter wind surfing.

The purchase of his red Landrover was always a clue that his antics lay beyond the classroom and having helped us through a difficult patch he returned to Edinburgh to begin research in the delgewaters of

Scotland. He is, I understand in the Cairngorm mountains and will spend the summer in Iceland. I am sure we shall meet up again.

JAC

Rachel McCarthy

Rachel came from Coventry University to take up the post of Geography Technician as part of her degree course. She seemed well qualified with interests ranging from turtles on Greek islands to gorge walking in France.

She had a special gift of putting people at their ease with her open and natural manner.

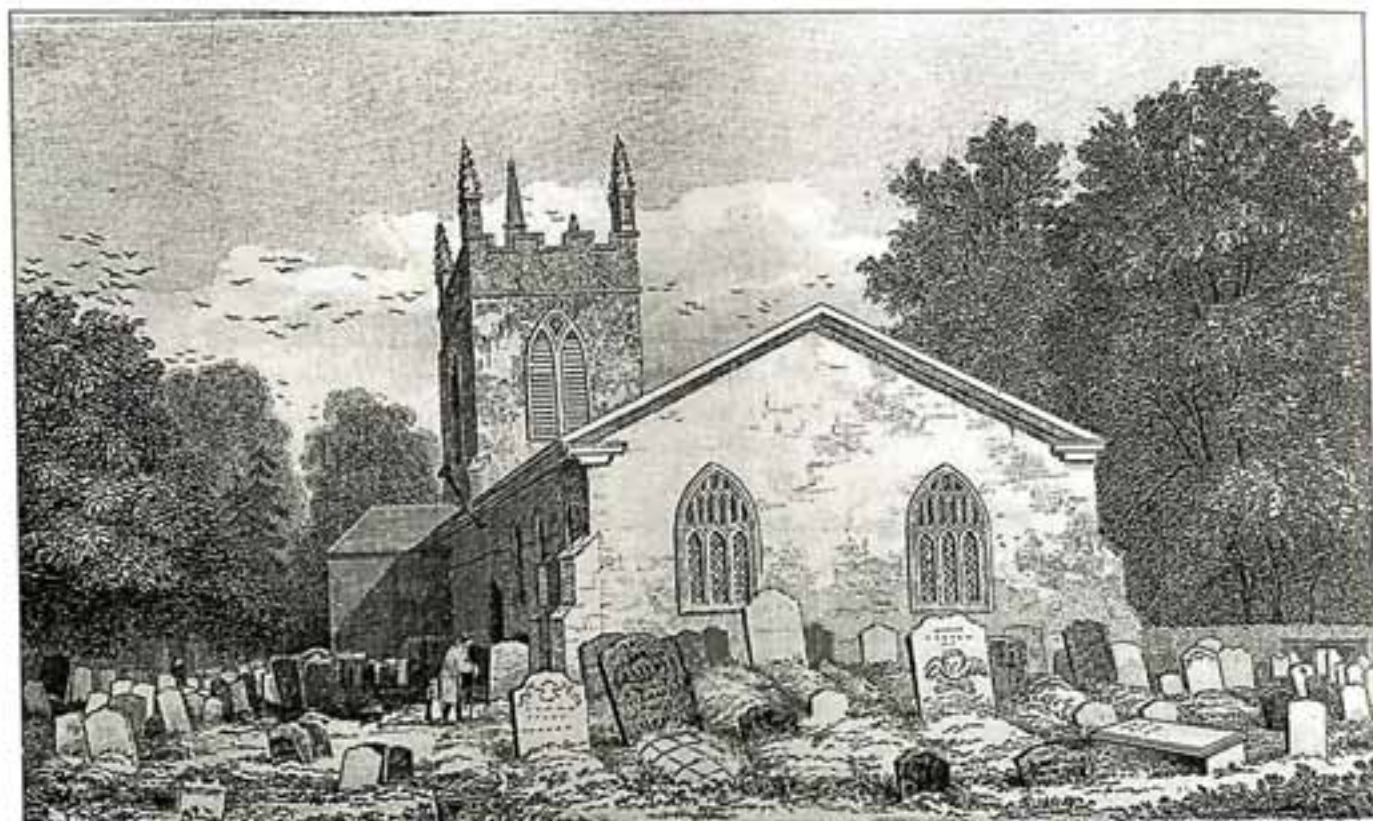
She also did a great job whether in assisting students with laboratory work, helping on field trips or keeping things running smoothly in the



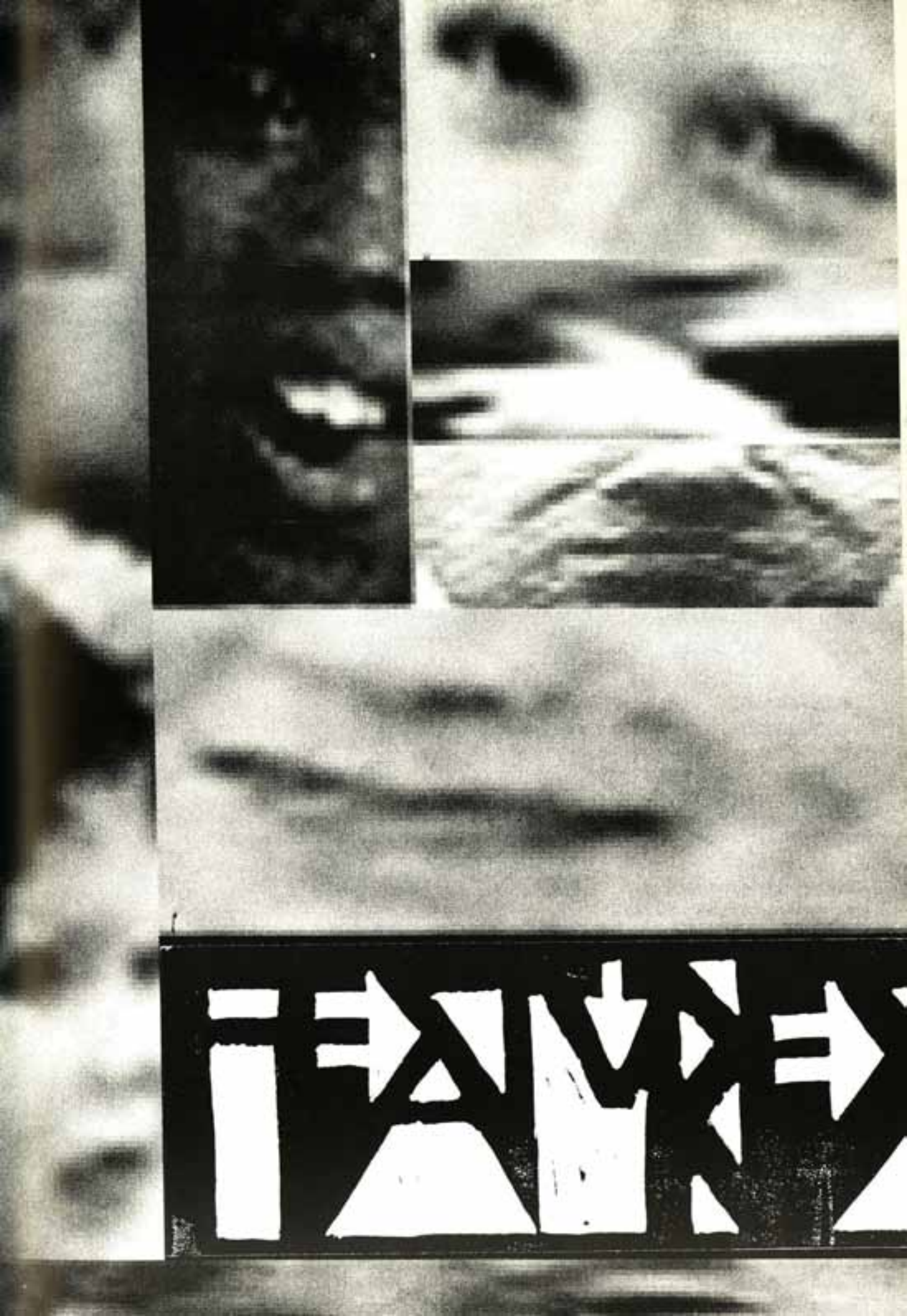
resources room, and her distinction grade for this part of the course was thoroughly deserved.

Rachel will be remembered for her cheerful, enthusiastic and helpful approach to everybody, and she is, I think planning a course in teaching.

JAC



EDGBASTON CHURCH



CCF

FAREWELL GENTLE GIANT

a tribute to Mr. Connor

Ian Connor joined the CCF shortly after starting at KES in late 1990, during a period when we were having problems enticing adults into the Corps. Luckily Commander Derek Benson gave him an offer he could not refuse. He began full of enthusiasm and hope and has finished with the same burning desire that the CCF is an important activity within the School, developing young men through their own endeavours by giving them a worthwhile challenge.

As we all know Ian has a natural disability - his height! On many occasions whilst on expeditions those enormous feet have been seen poking out of a tent joined to the legs of someone who is an incredible 6'8". He has towered over us all for seven years now and it is to his credit that never once has he used his build to intimidate even the smallest of us on any decision having to be made on

the running of the cadets. In fact his calm, intelligent, resourceful manner has been an asset to the Corps and the school.

Ian willingly stepped into the shoes [pun?] of Derek Benson on his retirement as Commander. A daunting prospect for even the best when trying to follow Derek's devotion, time and excellence to the Corps. I am glad to say that the force has never looked better through his own hardwork and motivation.

Ian encouraged many outdoor pursuits whilst with us, his one love in particular being mountaineering. He led many expeditions with me in the UK, Germany and Spain and through his sheer enthusiasm and knowledge of the sport gave great comfort and confidence to many, even in the most arduous conditions. A lasting achievement which he was responsible for starting this year, is

the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In his own words the Scheme was started "to give boys a team spirit, self reliance and a love of outdoor pursuits". The D. of E. is a fitting memory of him as he now leaves us.

Sadly for me it is the end of the little and large act. We shared many experiences and achievements whilst working with KES CCF, all of which have been very rewarding. He takes up the mantle of Head of Physics at RGS, Worcester; a job he will do well. We wish him, Charlotte and daughter Daisy all the very best for the future. There are always lasting memories from a successful tour and if I can give him any advice at all for the future on just one episode from last year (which was white-water rafting): a phrase comes to mind from a well known film, Ian, "Never get out of the boat; absolutely god-damn right".

TC

ARMY

Yet another fruitful year in the Army Section of the CCF! Due to the large numbers of new cadets joining last year, there were not enough staff to make a new intake feasible. This meant that, as of next year, Fourth and above will be allowed to join the CCF. The absence of new cadets has enabled C/Sgt. "I know he's not called Beavis!" Sheldon and WO2 Emery to mould Vyse and Conolly, respectively, from the crack platoons of highly trained rifle cleaners, to a force so keen that T.W. Ryders have doubled profits. The new format of the CCF did cause some anxiety among some cadets - Sanjay Rupal was seen with tears in his eyes as Maj. Connor explained he would have no new third years to play with this year.

Although the Fifth forms have had French every other week they have still done activities - from the range to orienteering, and from learning how to operate radios to classified military tactics, such as how to make a three bedroom bungalow from an

anorak, a bucket and a sharp HB pencil. Conolly have inevitably caught up to a similar standard of soldiering as Vyse, and subsequently most cadets now have their Army Proficiency Certificate (or as many mothers may know them, the little red star you've had to sow onto your son's brassard).

The two Expedition Weekends this year were to Bramcote and Long Marston. Both were made up of ambushes, escapes and evasions, patrols, and, in the case of Bramcote, the experience of using a small arms trainer (SAT range). Fun was to be had by all, even by Alex "Stud" Kearns who revelled in cooking things with his brand new blow torch, and by David Eckley who discovered a talent for making clothes out of grass.

The attempted crossing of Dartmoor from Okehampton to Ivybridge ended in Princetown, due to extremely bad weather, and not (as some rumours

suggested) depression brought on by 'The Parrot of Despair', outside what can only be described as the chip shop with the slowest service in a developed country.

We were able to field a team of elite cadets in the Midland Military Skills competition. We ended up 19th out of about 26, but this result must be put in context, for our team had been on Expeditions Weekend the week before and thus were tired. Many of the teams were Army Cadet Forces who have more experience at competition and are known for their violence against people who beat them. John "Mine's a chicken tikka masala" Walton has taken command of the Military Skills team, from C/Sgt Clark, and has already begun training next year's team.

Similar bad luck faced the CCF in this year's Midland Orienteering CCF Championships. These took place on the Sunday of the first Expeditions Weekend. Our team had had a total of about four hours sleep over the previous two nights, so inevitably we did not do too well - although Dan Burns did come third in his age group.

Birmingham University Officer Training Corps showed an interest in the CCF when they requested some cadets to "be the enemy". Naturally Mr. Connor saw this as an opportunity to get rid of some of his "less desirable" cadets. He arranged for four cadets C/Sgt. Armitage, Sgt. Herriots, Cdt. Anderson and Cdt. Sterry to be led by WO2 Stinton on a "nice little visit to Sennybridge, Wales". Well, obviously Mr. Connor underestimated the ability of these cadets, as they all returned. With them they not only brought back their experiences of fighting in built-up areas (Fibua), but also the recipe for "Sheep à la muddy puddle".



"join the army to see the world..."



The show piece of the year was, as usual, the Annual Inspection. We were lucky enough to have Lt. Col. O'Brien inspect us, who was impressed by the turnout of all the stands. I feel particular praise must go to Mr. Collins, who proved, yet again, that decisive leadership, rock hard reputation and smiling nicely (with teeth) will get you what you want! He planned a stunning abseiling display, with Rob Colledge causing a few ladies' hearts to flutter with his rendition of "The Man in Black" from the Milk Tray adverts. Mr. Collins invested a lot of time after school brain-washing Chris Padmore until he agreed to swing through a doorway at high speed. The rehearsals for the abseiling would not have taken so long had it not been for Ben Forgiel-Jenkins removing his helmet, and running to the toilets to recomb his quiff after each abseil.

On the day, awards in the Army section went to Cdt. Tipper for Conolly Top Cadet, Cdt. Sterry for being the closest thing to Tony Hart's "Morph" in the CCF (Top Vyse Cadet) and to WO2 Emery for the best use of bleach in a combat situation (Top Training Team Instructor). C/Sgt. Clark got Senior Marksman in the House Competition, and WO2 Ben Stinton got the Knight Memorial Prize as well as the honour of being Parade Commander.

To look ahead, at the end of July a group of cadets will be going to the Picos de Europa in northern Spain as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This will be the final trip Mr. Connor goes on with King Edward's CCF, before he leaves for RGS Worcester. Mr. Beard will be replacing his lab. coat for a combat jacket every week next year as he takes over as Officer in Charge of the

CCF. Nothing escapes the keen eye of Prayag Rajpura, as he asked, "Why has Mr. Campbell taken his Ron Hills off?", for in fact we have a new Staff Sergeant Instructor to replace Mr. Campbell. His name is Sgt. J. Howe, and he joins us from the Army Physical Training Corps (so not to worry Prayag, your fitness won't suffer).

Thanks must go to Messrs Connor, Collins, Beard, and Howe on another excellent year in the CCF, which has again proved to be more than just a Friday afternoon activity.

*Gavin Sterry
and Robert Gardiner*

NAVY

The Navy Section was faced with two problems at the start of the year. Firstly, how were we to survive without the amazing Ian Brown and his Christmas parties? Secondly, would the sixth form be in any way capable of leading us? Whilst several members of the team are still in mourning for Mr. Brown, the rest have come to terms with the new leaders of our select band: Ed Norris and Oliver Bogaerts. The section has continued to take part in many courses with Edmund Norris and James Wood joining the Royal Marines for arduous training. Richard Bradley and Rob Impey have continued with their sailing. The 4ths have spent the year doing general training, whilst the 5ths have been doing the Cadre course. In

February, six intrepid 5th formers joined the Army on Dartmoor for a navigation exercise: the Navy navigated; the Army followed.

With recruiting figures for next year apparently good, we look forward to next year with confidence. Thanks must be extended to Miss Tudor and Mr. Everest and we give our congratulations to Mr. Connor on his appointment at R.G.S. Worcester.

A/B Matthew Wheeldon



Ship shape and bristol fashion

RAF

This year has been the R.A.F. section's most busy and successful to date. Despite not recruiting in the UMs, our numbers remained modest but healthy and we are now in the unusual position of having a fairly large body of ready and willing NCOs to run the section. The autumn term saw several surgical strikes on R.A.F. Cosford from where our cadets fly. Everyone got up in the air and we were even honoured with the presence of none other than the Chief Master who, smartly done up in flying suit and parachute, just failed to make his flight owing to bad weather. We have been far less successful with gliding: the flimsy nature of these aircraft makes them susceptible to poor weather, and a

miserable, boring Sunday morning spent grounded at Cosford is an experience some of us would rather forget.

The high point of the year for the R.A.F. section was the annual West Midlands C.C.F. (R.A.F.) Competition, held at Cosford (as most things are). This is a day long round of activities, six in all, in which thirteen cadets from each of the thirteen schools involved compete against each other in disciplines ranging from drill and shooting to aircraft recognition and a first aid initiative exercise. Ably led by W.O. Mark Whitehouse, we won the shooting trophy and were placed high enough in the other five disciplines to carry off the victor's trophy: first place in a competition we

had entered for the first time this year is a fine achievement. As part of the prize we were offered a round trip for one cadet to Akrotiri in Cyprus aboard a Tristar; Jacob Mackenzie was the lucky cadet and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

At Easter, three cadets, James Smith, Jonathan Chapman and Jethro Johnson visited R.A.F. Germany for a week, an opportunity that only comes round every three years or so. In addition, Tom Bond successfully completed his Basic Glider Training to solo standard.

The summer saw us at R.A.F. Coningsby for our annual camp. This Tornado F3 base laid on an interesting and varied range of activities: drill competition, swimming, shooting,

work experience, flying, night exercise etc. Such camps provide boys with a rare experience: living and working with cadets from other schools, (female ones too!). Summer camps are an eye-opening, stimulating and enjoyable experience, and we are lucky that despite the closure of so many R.A.F. stations, cadet camps are still run each year, and successfully so. Indeed, the flying and gliding opportunities, the trips to R.A.F. Germany and to Akrotiri and the regional competition are all provided by the R.A.F.'s cadet organization, and we in the section should not take for granted our good fortune.

Thus we have had a fine year, and I should like to thank T.A.M. for his invaluable support, ingenuity and man-management skills, Flt Lt Martin Wood and F/S Pete Ward for their guidance and continued help, and Mark Whitehouse, who led the section in his quietly spoken but firm and purposeful manner. Mark embarked on his R.A.F. Flying Scholarship in September, and he takes our best wishes with him. Ben Sharp takes his place as leading N.C.O., with Jacob Mackenzie as the power behind the throne.

JCSB

R.A.F. Section **AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES 1996-7**

Flying Scholarships

Mark Whitehouse

Ben Sharp

Russell Downing

Sixth Form Scholarship

Ben Sharp

Basic Glider Training

Tom Bond

Round Trip to R.A.F. Akrotiri

Jacob Mackenzie

Visit to R.A.F. Germany

James Smith

Jethro Johnson

Chris Chapman

*C.C.F. (R.A.F.) West Midlands**Regional Competition*

First place:

King Edward's School



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The new computer rooms and extended network

Two purpose built computer rooms have been opened in the school during the past year. Each has a class set of computers (26 + 1 for the teacher). By having two rooms available the school can now make full use of Information Technology to support teaching and learning across all subject areas. Boys will continue to have specific IT lessons once per week in their Shell and Upper Middle years, together with a General Studies option in the Divisions year. These provide a general grounding in IT skills which can then be used in any subject.

First to open was the Ruddock Computer Room, named after Mr Paul Ruddock, and Old Edwardian who has donated a substantial sum towards the cost of the room. Next was the Holliday Computer Room, opened in September 1997 and named in memory of Mr Nick Holliday, the KES geography teacher who was killed in a climbing accident two years ago. Mr Holliday's parents made a substantial donation to the school towards the cost of equipping the room.

In addition to these superb rooms, the computer network has been extended and now links computers in the design centre, control technology room, library, geography department, biology prep room, and the common room. The school library catalogue is computerised and can be searched from network computers. A further expansion will take place so that by the end of this academic year most departments will be connected to the network. In addition, by the time this article is published, the network will be connected to the Internet, which is now a mature resource offering a vast range of information. Our Internet connection is via a 'filtered' service,

meaning that undesirable sites are automatically barred. Every boy will have access to e-mail and we have a project with some Canadian schools where boys exchange e-mail letters with a 'key-pal'.

The philosophy behind these resources is as follows. In teaching terms, we expect to make greater use of information technology in all subjects. The network provides software such as desk top publishing, drawing, word processing and spreadsheets, together with special purpose programs such as graph



The new Holliday Computer Lab.

plotters and scientific simulations.

A key part of the IT lessons in the first and third year will be how to manage all these information resources. Boys will be taught what the resources are networked CD-ROMs, normal CD-ROMs, internet sites, the school library, text books, etc. They will then learn how to search these resources efficiently. Finally, we will discuss how to present their research neatly in their own words - copying text from CDs and the Internet is not an acceptable way to complete work!

In addition to lessons, the computer rooms open daily at about 8:15am, are open every lunchtime, and are open twice a week after school. So that senior boys can use resources without the noisier presence of younger boys, the Ruddock room is for boys in the fifth year and over whilst the Holliday

room is for junior boys. The computing technician is available to help boys on request.

We know that the majority of boys have a computer at home. This is in no way compulsory - the computer rooms in school provide a good facility before and after school and at lunchtime. However, boys who do use a home computer will now more easily be able to take work home or bring it in, using floppy disc. The school is network computers have automatic virus protection just in case. Another option is that you might use a school scanner to get a copy of a picture, then take the picture home on disc.

Rules have been created for the new network so that it can function as well as possible without interruption. Some are obvious - no food or drink or muddy shoes, no fiddling around with the settings on software or hardware etc. A less popular rule is that boys cannot bring programs (including shareware) from home on floppy disc or CD-ROM, nor may they download programs or 'plugins', from the internet. There are several reasons for this rule. We have decided what software we want to offer, and boys wanting to run other programs can suggest we buy them. Boys must not install their own programs because the school is not licensed to run them.

Now that the school is so well equipped, it means that I.T. will certainly take its place as a valuable tool, where appropriate, alongside more traditional resources, in most subjects which we offer. In this way I.T. becomes truly a 'cross curricular' subject. With I.T. being assessed as one of the 'Key Skills' at A-Level, and with boys needing to be computer literate for their University days, all of these developments are timely and useful.

CDB

The Rants and Raves of the 'Doc'

Why do people do what they do? Do they expect that no-one will notice? It's a bleak Sunday in mid-January and several people have already had a go this weekend at destroying my limited faith in human nature.

It's 2am Sunday... I am watching the video of the Scotland vs. Wales game on the new big screen TV when from outside impinges a racket of colossal proportion... the neighbourhood fox at the bins again? The pub revellers trying to siphon petrol through a locking cap from the car again? No! It's a Land Rover trying to negotiate a canal bridge at 60 m.p.h. (mv²/r considerably larger than mg - Divs. Mechanics in-joke), taking flight, skidding in a 360 degree turn, demolishing the next door neighbour's just constructed wall and ending up blocking our drive with two farming type totties (Jack Kerouac '60s beat generation slang now re-emerging) saying "It's all right... nobody's hurt and we are not drunk!". I shake my head and go inside to report its a Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy) S.E.P. (Somebody Else's Problem). They could have killed themselves. WHY did they do it?

It's 5pm Sunday and I have just finished typing up a report concerning a soccer game between under 15 sides. The problems started (for them in the game and for me having to type the reports) when the goalkeeper of the visiting side caught a long ball and then, with the ball securely in his hands, attempted to trip the centre forward who was running by him. WHY?... it's a penalty which was hit so softly that the goalkeeper was so surprised he nearly dropped it.

I run (well trot... all right amble slowly) up-field and note that a player is taking some stick from his supporters on the touch-line. He faces away from them, pulls his shorts down, bends and exposes his nether regions to the spectators... who go a bit quiet...

It is not a pretty sight. It's foul and abusive (body) language and he is sent off. WHY did he do it?

I suppose that many people (you and me included) do many things without realising the consequences of their

actions... just as I'm writing this at the insistence of Phil Wheatley, who will (he says) publish it under the caption 'Rant with the Doc'. Now Phil, who single-handedly upheld the honour of Div. E in raising money for Cot Fund by operating and running a cake sale, without any help or encouragement from anyone else in the form, claims to have a sense of humour. He produces a supposedly thinly veiled attempt at humour as an article which is rejected editorially... what do I say?... WHY does he do it? I tell him that even great comic geniuses have occasional attempts at humour that do not work and he should keep trying... just look at Harry Enfield's Mr. Dead... oh?

You think that's funny.

*The Doc
(aka JGE)*



Doc Evans - master of the Computer Simulations

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering started up this year, under the direction of Mr. Barrable, and because of this Chronicle has been swamped with articles about the sport - far, far too many to print here. So here is a sample of some of the better articles. To all of you who submitted articles which haven't made it to print; Sorry, but there's always next year!

Friday Rota Orienteering

Well, as I found out, orienteering is not just looking at maps with a compass in your hand. As a matter of fact it is an Olympic sport conducted on skis, requiring a high level of physical fitness and co-ordination.

It's not as easy as it looks! You will find that within the time available, many things will have to be covered. For instance, you should look to find the quickest and easiest route to be

taken, always holding the compass in a northerly direction. It is by following that that you have to find the various relevant posts on the course.

Orienteering is also very good fun, which I have found out in my limited experience of it. Going in small groups of two or three to begin with is a very good idea, as you may get lost. At professional level you complete the course alone.

There are two types of orienteering courses. A scoring event is one in which you find as many points or

controls as you can in the allotted time. The second is a linear course going around in a set order of control points in the quickest possible time.

One of the best things about orienteering is that anybody can do it. The challenge is mental as well as physical, so it doesn't matter what your fitness is.

Our thanks go to Mr. Barrable for organising the activity.

David Ghoris

Orienteering at KES

On Saturday 14th June KESO organised their first orienteering event. The CATI (Come And Try It) event was aimed at our primary/feeder schools and years 4 to 6.

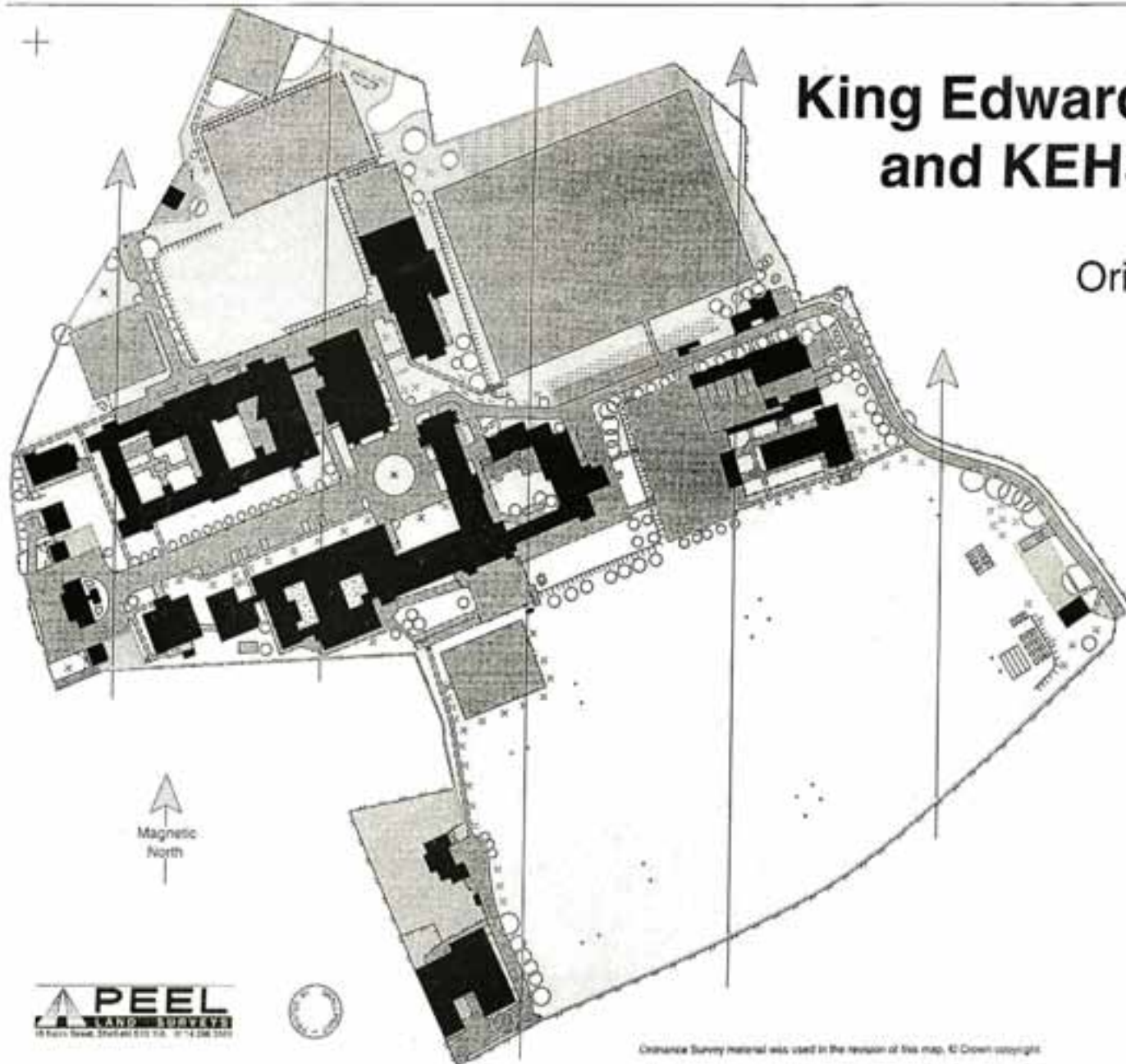
The preparation began early, at 8 am. The control markers, orange and white flags, and punches were set out around the school site. A couple of tents were erected on



King Edward's School and KEHS for Girls

Orienteering map

Scale 1:2,500



- open land
- woodland
- young trees
- stoney ground
- gardens
- dense vegetation
- tarmac / all-weather surface
- single tree; large, small
- road
- footpath
- high fence
- fence, gate
- wall
- building, covered area
- steep slope
- hedge
- x flag pole
- x fountain
- • goal posts



that sacred bit of grass, in front of Big School. One of the tents was run by Harlequins Orienteering club to promote the sport, which also included a display about our own orienteering club!

There were two courses, a white and a Yellow/Orange. The White course was shorter and technically easier. Most youngsters had a go on the white course before graduating to the tougher Yellow/Orange course. The junior orienteers then had to copy the course from a master map onto one of the new orienteering maps (These have been professionally produced by Dave Peel, after a survey of the school site earlier this year). [see map on next page - Ed]. The children then used their map and some control descriptions to navigate around the

school site, between control markers. At each marker they punched their control card, which was then later checked.

It provided an excellent introduction to orienteering for some, and for the more experienced it allowed them to develop their skills. In total about 70 year 4 to 6 pupils orienteered, some coming from as far as Kidderminster.

It was a great success and will be repeated next year. A final note of congratulation to Mr. Barrable and his band of Orienteers for their efficient organisation.

Oliver Mytton



Some of the runners copy points onto their map

The KESO Yorkshire Tour

We at KES might be relatively new to orienteering, but we made up for the fact by having a jam-packed calendar of events. The major event for this year for KESO (King Edward's School Orienteering) was the Yorkshire tour, a three day event in Yorkshire called *Yorkshire Relish*.

In one of our (increasingly dilapidated minibuses - more of that later) we set off from KES a little after 11 on Saturday 3rd May. Our first stop was to be the Cawthorne and Deffer woods for our first badge event, (badge: officially certified event), a short run through the (at this point) dry Yorkshire countryside.

This event was to set the trend for days to come. Mr. Barrable came in with an astonishingly quick time for his run (but then he is a national class orienteer), Andy Hind managed to pull a muscle in his bottom and I myself managed to lose my

Orienteering card (without which you cannot complete the race).

Day two offered more prospects for us in the now relatively wet Yorkshire woods - a short race through fairly thick forest next to the grounds of the University of Huddersfield (that's right, the one that was built in the grounds of an old mental hospital). Andy Hind (despite his injuries) managed to come a respectable fourth in his race with Oliver Mytton not far behind, with Owain Thomas and Shafiq Rasheed also picking up highly respectable times. As we packed up to go for a well earned swim in the Metrodome (which to our pleasure had a rather funky Black Hole ride) the weather (not for the last time) turned sour.

Very sour. In the CCF minibus we braved the storm, only to find the rain coming in through the hole(s) in the roof, and through some (if not all) of the windows.

Day three was much the same as day one with another long orienteer, but the course was technically difficult

and very hilly. The day started not too well with a light shower, which over time developed into a very heavy thunderstorm, leaving all who ran thoroughly soaked, and cold. Andy Hind had to retire due to suspected 'knee injuries' with Oliver Mytton gaining a respectable 90 minutes, and Mr. Rees, Mr. Boardman and Mr. Barrable pulling off their normal fantastic sprint. I myself, whilst not exactly getting lost, got lost and took over 200 minutes to complete the race, and because the weather had been cold and wet, by time I got to the finish my fingers had got so numb, I had to resort to biting the punchers.

But finish I did, proving to all that Philip Wheatley was not a quitter.

Anyway we all licked our wounds and recovered our pride as we set off, rather belatedly, for home.

And despite Mr. Barrable's driving, arrive home we did. Unfortunately someone (whose name shall remain nameless) forgot to organise the heroes' welcome.

Just as well really.

Philip Wheatley

Orienteering at Haywood

Orienteering was, this year, the latest sport to be introduced into the King Edward's list of sporting teams. You may, possibly be wondering what orienteering is. It's a recognised sport and is based on a mix of cross-country running, (but much more entertaining) and map reading. The idea is a simple one - you are given a map and compass and have to find a series of points, scattered around a large area of ground, and return to the finish as quickly as possible.

Speed is not always required, and if someone is a very fast runner and gets lost, a person who goes round steadily and follows the map carefully will beat him *[or her?? - Ed]*, and thus everybody can have a go at this sport and enjoy the challenge. There are a lot of different courses for people of different abilities. There are courses where you can follow the paths round and walk the course in 15 minutes. Likewise there are very difficult

courses taking nearly an hour for the best runners, and they never see a road.

The team was formed when, at the beginning of this year Mr. Barrable asked if anyone would be interested in going Orienteering and thus a minibus full of complete and utter novices trooped out to Kinver Edge. There was a series of meetings where the team (KESO - Which stands for King Edward's School Orienteers), did quite admirably. It was the start of the season and everybody attempted easy courses, learnt the sport and found out what the general idea was. Many of these competitions, both major and minor, as well as an orienteering tour to Yorkshire *[see elsewhere in Chronicle - Ed]*, were used to prepare the team for the West Midlands Schools competition.

This was Mr. Barrable said, 'The highlight of the season', but was not, as we found out very rapidly, an easy

competition. The competition was held at Hay Wood and we entered a number of age groups. I was in the year 7/8 category and trying to break into the sport. Despite one major error I managed 10th (of 37) competitors in my age group, and I was very pleased with the result. Other people in this age group also ran well, but some people found the course a little too demanding this time and finished in a time of almost an hour longer than the winner. The other age group performed to about the same degree with very good, and not so wonderful performances.

The team will be meeting again next year and we always want new members, so please if you are at all interested see Mr. Barrable, our resident orienteering organiser. I would like to thank him along with Mr. Rees for taking us to, and organising our entries for the many events this season. Thank you.

Nicholas Pilsbury



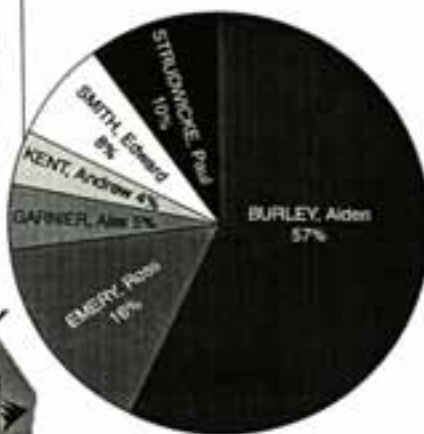
(most of) the Orienteering team

MOCK ELECTION '97

MOCK ELECTION

CONSERVATIVE	BURLEY, Aiden	386
NIPPLES	EMERY, Ross	112
<i>(Nearly Intelligent Political Party for the Liberation of Elvis into Society)</i>		
LIB. DEM	STRUDWICKE, Paul	70
COMMUNIST	SMITH, Edward	56
NEW LABOUR	GARNIER, Alex	37
REFERENDUM	KENT, Andrew	31

VOTES CAST: 702
 TURN OUT: 78.52%
 SPOILT PAPERS: 10
 FORGED PAPERS: 15



A review by the Conservative agent

It could well be said that, on mature reflection, the year 1997 will, perhaps, not go down in history as one of the more successful years the Conservative party has ever had. Yet at a time when Labour candidates were returned to the Commons in Edgbaston, Brighton and even Kent (is nothing sacred?), the worthy electors of King Edward's School voted in huge numbers for a self-confessed Tory. This article is the story of what it was wot won it.

The partnership between Aidan Burley, that rising hope of those stern and unbending Tories, and his loyal agent Patrick Finglass was the driving force behind the Conservative campaign. We organised secret meetings before the election began, and spent most of the Easter holidays on the 'phone - our only significant expenditure during the whole affair. The strategy we decided upon was twofold - the intellectual and the sensational. For while we made good use of the Conservative Mock Election Pack in pointing out our achievements and policies, we realised that most members of the school would not be interested in falling income tax levels

or the balance of payments deficit. Furthermore, the popular image of the Conservatives - as greedy, sleazy and out-of-touch - had to be changed by a campaign that would entertain as much as inform. So out went John Major, in came the Spice Girls.

The flag which greeted boys on the first day of term, proudly proclaiming "Tories Do It Better" was a very visual beginning; on the ground, blue ribbons and "Vote Conservative" stickers appeared at an alarming speed on lapels. Aidan and Patrick were continuously on walkabout, while the

other candidates were nowhere to be seen. Indeed, our canvassing was so successful that boys would spend long periods of time gazing at the Spice Girls posters near the USCR, obviously quite overcome by the "Low Taxes" and "Lower Inflation" commitments written upon them.

The subsequent launch of our manifesto proved a great success. Aidan had met the then (alas) Prime Minister and the then (alas) First Lord of the Treasury courtesy of his mother, a journalist, during the holidays, and hence emblazoned across the front of this professionally-printed leaflet was a picture of the two of them together (truly a case of *rex quondam rexque futurus*) with the words "Conservative Manifesto 1997 - As discussed by Aidan and John." The pledges inside caught the school's imagination to the extent that many forgot that this was a mock election and thought that there really would be a joint dining hall and tabloids in the library if we were returned. Although populist in tone (inevitably so, as the voters' average age was just fifteen or so), our policies were all clearly linked to the basic Conservative principles of freedom and choice.



... but two in three conservatives lost their seats in '97



Our momentum was kept up for the rest of the week by a piece of carpet displaying the words "1 in 3 enters here on an Assisted Place. Conservative X" placed in front of the main entrance, and then by a note which contained a message apparently from DCE saying that everyone in the school was required to vote Tory. The opposition had no momentum as such. The Labour team lacked the originality of thought which had won a deserved victory for S. Banerjee in 1994: they merely resorted to scurrilous attacks on Aidan coupled with semi pornographic posters embarrassingly lacking in wit. The Referendum Party's posters were amusing if you were a Sixth-Former and incomprehensible if you were not (through the Remove Samir "Two Brains" Farouqi we made sure that our campaign was always reaching the lower years). The Liberals, meanwhile, relied on a mass of tedious statistics about our record in industry - obviously a subject which an average fourth year would find utterly gripping. Only the Elvis Party had much appeal to those vital lower years - yet as the upper half of the school thought that they were somewhat pathetic they had nothing more threatening to offer us than Ross Emery's haircut.

At the Hustings, Aidan's oratorical flair rose to the occasion and delivered an impassioned defence of our achievements in government; the other candidates were left either ignored or abused by the crowd. Poor Alex Garnier had barely begun before the gathering began shouting "Off! Off! Off!" at him, while poor Andrew Kent was upstaged by Aidan dramatically throwing down a Referendum party video from an upstairs window.

The coup de grace of our campaign took place on Polling Day itself. A

poster of the Spice Girls wearing black underwear so small that it was hard to tell that it was underwear was draped on the entrance blackboard, with John Major's plea "Don't send us naked into Europe!" displayed underneath. After a strenuous search for Tories who had not yet voted - made easy by the ribbons - the long haul was finally over.

Our winning total of 386 (57%) came as a pleasant surprise. Particularly pleasing was the fact that we scored more than ten times the Labour vote, despite their victories in the last mock election and in the real General Election. Our majority of 274 (39.6%) was, in percentage terms, greater than the Conservative majority in Huntingdon - our safest seat - not only in 1997, but also in 1992.

The irony of this election was that, although we put forward Conservative ideas, our campaign was very much influenced by New Labour. Just as they targeted their audience of Middle England voters, so we too marketed our message in a way which would appeal to bright(ish) teenage boys, combining seriousness with entertainment. It seems that, both on the national and the scholastic fronts, the age of the spinductor is here to stay.

Patrick Finglass



MOCK ELECTION '97

A review by the New Labour Candidate

The 1997 School Mock Election started with the usual pomp and sense of occasion, with the Chief Master assuming the role of Returning Officer at Big School. The election had potential, it was the dawn of a new era, and the candidates were there to prove it.

The announcement of the candidates and their parties caused some amusement, but rather more bemusement. The esoteric Edward Smith, with his newly acquired air of subservience had, aptly, decided to stand for the Communists. The least bumbling fool of the six, some might say the most suave and sophisticated of them, yours truly, was to stand for the underdogs, New Labour [*Hardly. For the benefit of younger readers, Labour won with a landslide in the School Mock Euro-Election in 1994 - Ed*]. The open-toed-sandals (beards optional) mob, the Liberal Democrats, had put their faith in the unlikely hero, Paul Strudwick. The wealth of experience, however lay amongst the Conservatives, Sir Band Kentsmith's Referendum Party and the Nearly Intelligent Political Party for the Liberation of Elvis into Society, the latter headed by the King himself (Ross Emery). The second joker in the pack was to be led by that formidable leader, Andy Kent. The Conservative party with its powerful party headquarters (situated in the most upmarket Geography corridor) was captained by Aidan Burley (or was it Patrick Finglass???).

The campaigns were fought honourably, if not without loss of blood and allegations of sleaze and misdemeanour. The New Labour party mentioned laptops not once and their campaign (masterminded by the immortal Oliver Mytton) got off to a tremendous start. 'Vote communist and you'll never have to vote again' was the Communists' best effort and proved to be an instant classic. The Tories, with at least 20 factory-floor workers, and a huge financial budget [*Hardly. We spent almost no money on the election - Ed*] rolled off poster, after banner, after poster.

The hustings wrapped up a week which had seen insults, strong words and, according to one reliable witness, a bout of fisticuffs. The speeches were the climax of a long and hard race during which opinions changed, friendships were broken and candidates had been scarred emotionally for life.

Hustings were a somewhat tense affair; the crowd, hands clutching tomatoes, were ready for public executions. In his very own style, Ed

threw his speech (for which, allegedly, James Murphy was paid) into the crowd, who ripped it to bits like a pack of hungry dogs. The crowd wanted blood, and blood (the dark metaphorical type) they got. As I arrived on the podium, with the speech that was to drive them to patriotic tears, they began to turn nasty, chanting rudely, thus leaving much of my speech unheard. A similar fate befell Strudders whose emotional appeal to the sympathisers of that silly game where a piece of leather is kicked around was laughed off.

Some say the Spice Girls did it, others the sheer level of grass roots support. Whatever it was that led to the landslide victory for the Tories it certainly included the campaigning skill of Aidan Burley. Well done Aidan and well done all the others who campaigned honourably (sometimes) and fairly (always). Thank you also to Mr. Mason, without whose policing and perseverance the election would not have been the great success that it was.

Alex Garnier



HUSTINGS

The hustings, climax of the School mock election were, this year received with the traditional mixture of humour and insult. The Nearly Intelligent Political Party for Liberation of Elvis into Society (it's an acrostic, so guess) and their candidate Ross Emery were by far the most extraordinary group of political activists that the school has seen in a long time, including Stuart Estell, (the 1992 Plaid Cymru representative). *[No offence intended - Ed]*

However, the traditional British political parties were also represented. Ed Smith, Communists, demonstrated solidarity within the party by disposing of a carefully

re-written speech in a public act of total lunacy. Having disposed of all his notes, he proceeded to give a

passionate, if confusing speech which was generally received with laughter.

The KES office of the Referendum party were received with jeers and hoots, but apart from this minor moment of potential hostility, the candidates were heard (if not actually listened to).

In conclusion, nothing particularly strange happened at this year's hustings. Although on reflection the normal state of the hustings is strange enough already.

Thanks must be expressed once again to TM who selflessly devoted time and energy to ensuring the success of the KES Mock election, even if he did have to teach Ross where you put your mouth on a megaphone! *(see photo)*

Andrew Clayton



LIBRARY

All Change

How our Library is preparing for the next century.

This year there has been a general euphoria for change, be it in Government or even in our Library.

As you will no doubt by now have seen, the Library has undergone several transformations. The out with the old and in with the new philosophy of the twentieth century had finally reached one of the last, great, bastions to its resistance.

Apart from the physical changes to the tables (which were recycled from the old ones), the chairs and the carpet, the Library has had a major upgrade to the computer system. This upgrade brings with it a more stable, and more

effective way of managing the Library, which has not only increased productivity in the Library, but also the security of the data stored within it.

And will we be noticing any changes from the student Librarians? Maybe, maybe not - time will tell - but at least for now we can be sure of the same old service with a smile.

Philip Wheatley

PROSHARE INVESTMENTS

Each year, the ProShare organisation runs the National Investment Programme, a competition designed to test and increase student's understanding of business, finance, personal investment and the stock market. Across the country, teams of Sixth Form students face the same initial challenges: to create a fictional portfolio of shares and options with a starting value of £50,000 and then to select two companies whose share prices will rise rapidly over the duration of the competition.

KES has entered teams over the last few years and so it fell upon the Economics and Business Studies sets of this year's Divisions to try and

match the success of previous teams, some of whom had got through to the national quarter-finals. Under a number of inspirational pseudonyms, including "Four Beers and A Shandy" and "The Chocolate Budgies", four teams of around seven people were entered. During the week at the end of October, boys could be found *actually* reading the Financial Times, desperately searching through it for companies that would make them enough, unfortunately notional, money to progress in the competition.

A number of conditions were also built into the challenge, including that at least £5,000 had to be invested in a company with its headquarters within

50 miles of the School (Cadburys proving popular there). Similarly, at least £5,000 had to be invested in a company which had been privatised since 1979.

Ultimately, only the "Budgies" came out of the challenge having made a profit on their shares, though everybody involved seemed to enjoy the competition; this was of course nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that it meant using a couple of lessons to diligently scan the papers. Thanks must go to all of the Economics teachers for so carefully advising us on how to not throw our money away in future.

Ben Sharp

MEN OF IRON

Sci. Div. C. Sponsored triathlon.

The Halesowen Triathlon - an annual event in its tenth year - was graced for the first and last time by the presence of the KES Triathlon Club (a.k.a. Sci. Div. C.) Our intention was to involve the whole form of nine. The reality was that only five of us and Mr. Connor took part, roping in Oliver Mytton and Mr Collins to bring down the average time. Those who dropped out had clear reasons; the foolish "elite" who stayed on bitterly regretted it.

Sunday morning, five o'clock - normally time to crash into bed (or, on a good night, somebody else's...) for Critchlow, Sharp and Garrington - the hard-core of the unfit wasters. Why were they waking so early? Block and MacLachlan were less downcast. They had been training,

something they neglected to tell us three was somewhat useful. Tiredness was evident as Critchlow steered himself and Garrington the wrong way up the M42 and then pulled a quick U-turn on the A38, having picked up Block. Having allowed time in the plan for cock-ups such as this, we were still late due to the Metro's inability to climb hills carrying three bikes.

Upon arrival we were distressed to have a short cycle to the start position. Relieved to be there at all, we set out confidently to the start - Block leading the way with the map. After seven miles of cycling we had steered ourselves in a big circle back to where we had parked the car.

When we had finally got there and begun, the swim was relatively straightforward: over the 800m distance, the only problem incurred

was the stubborn refusal of Garrington's afro to fit under a swimming cap. The bike ride was much more tranquil. It was particularly enjoyed by Critchlow - forced to retire with a "puncture" just as he got tired - Steward's enquiries continue...

For a good hour after the 32km cycle was finished, Sharp was misplaced. Nobody knew where he was and morale was consequently lifted to the extent that even the already tired Critchlow attacked the 7km run.

A good day was had by all, apparently, and in the end, the Cot Fund was the winner with a good sum of around £400. With our macho tales of bravado the following day at school, we all bravely said we'd do it again - until some stupid psycho mentioned the Hereford Triathlon....

Kevin Garrington

FAMILY FUN EVENING

This year, the Family Fun Evening was not only planned, worked out and carefully put together, but rained on, washed out and moved indoors. This presented numerable problems of various proportion and nature. For instance, how it is possible to draw a 30lb longbow and shoot an arrow in the Gymnasium without bringing the wrath of Mr Birch upon the archer. This was, though, by no means the greatest problem.

As an archer, I could not see the strangely tense organisers and their worries as they waited to see if anyone turned up. There should have been no such fears, as many parents arrived and threw themselves (not literally)

into events spread throughout the school, gaining points on their map/scorecard. There were also prizes offered by the very generous members of staff involved in certain activities. Mr Davies, the experienced archer and my boss was able to give away a prized pair of crossed silver arrows, and as a result, the standard of competition was very strong. The winner of this prize was of a very high standard (higher than mine!).

It must be assumed that all who came

had an enjoyable evening, as I heard no complaint and I certainly don't know of anyone who was dissatisfied with the arrangement of the various stalls.

A thank you, then, to those who organised the event, to those who ran it and to those who came to support us. And as for those who saw fit to beat me at archery, I'm in training. See you next year!

Andrew Clayton

ANDREWS COPPICE

Campsite Warden's Report

Less than 1 mile from Alvechurch station, and one third of a mile from the Redditch road, is a 0.9 hectare retreat owned by the school. On the Ordnance Survey map it's called Andrews Coppice and the school has owned it since 1962, when it was purchased by the Scout Group.

It allows groups to camp near Birmingham, but in rural surroundings, and walk in one of England's most beautiful counties. Perfect for groups practising for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. There is a hut (useful for when it rains!) and a toilet block. KES families are welcome to camp there, and Spring (when the bluebells are in profusion) and late Summer are the most attractive times. Perfect for an extended family picnic or barbeque.



Mr Russell - in the Coppice

Andrews Coppice is looked after by Mr. A. P. Russell, and a small band of camp site wardens (new recruits are always needed for Friday Afternoons), who learn some useful conservations and social skills. Groups of boys on the Friday afternoon Rota of activities visit, get involved in conservation, do projects, or just enjoy the place.

We hope more use can be made of our resource by boys on Friday and, a warm welcome is extended to families or individuals who would like to help or use the site. There is limited

parking. For more information get in touch with Mr. A. P. Russell at school.

Next year there will be the opportunity to become a "Friend of Andrews Coppice" and contribute more fully to its upkeep and development - watch out for details in your News and Views next term. If you know of any Scout Group, D. of E. group, or other charitable group who might like to use the site please let Mr. Russell know.

APR

JAPANESE at KES

Why learn Japanese?

The Japanese are here in force! There is a high concentration of Japanese companies here in the Midlands, and in the country as a whole. It is evident that there exists an increased 'employability' which enhances career prospects for those who eventually study Japanese (and/or Chinese?) at University.

Hopefully, the study of a non-European language will be enjoyable! It should be possible to gain an insight into a culture that is very different, and to acquire a knowledge of a people that has a major influence on the world. Japanese is an intriguing language, with elements that are very simple or regular, as well as features that are very unusual for our European linguistic situation.

Since September of 1996, the school has offered within the Extra Studies programme in the Upper School a course of study based on the textbook called *Japanese for busy people (1)* and the *Cambridge Certificate* tests. This is a well established and clear course, that makes use of the system known as *Romaji* i.e. a Romanised script. At the same time, the two phonetic syllabaries of Japanese (*Hiragana* and *Katakana*) and a number of the more everyday characters borrowed from Chinese (known as *Kanji*) are introduced in 'Survival situations'.

As there are three kinds of writing in Japanese, the students must be prepared to spend time at home practising these systems. In addition, it is hoped that an insight into Japanese culture and daily life will be gained through the use of video materials such as the BBC course called *'Japanese Language and People'*.



The Cambridge Certificate requires the candidate to take tests in Speaking, Listening and Reading. Thus, the difficult skill of Writing in Japanese is not tested, although writing is

introduced during the course. A cultural section is tested by means of coursework completed in English about a wide range of topics concerning Japan.

PGG

PSG

Despite the fact that the number of boys involved in P.S.G., this year has had to shrink as a result of time-table and curricular changes, the quality of what has been done has remained high and there has been a diversification of activities with the addition of three new nursery home placements.

Boys have been involved in the usual variety of activities in schools, nurseries and playgroups, helping with reading, sports activities and computing, music, technology and drama. We have had a nucleus of older boys who have in several cases spent

four years in the option and have achieved a great deal and whose contribution has been acknowledged via prizes on Speech Day, but much good work goes on week in and week out without a great deal of fuss or indeed acknowledgement.

Next year the option is set to regain its former members as a result of further modifications of the time-table and we would hope to resume contact with those placements where we have been unable to send boys this year.

JRRE

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

A day in the life of: a stage crew worker

Well, it has been one busy term. Every Friday we have sacrificed our lunch hours and afternoons in order to construct, paint and design various sets for various school productions. The main focus of our blood, sweat and guts was 'The Mikado', something which looked completely impossible to construct. However under the supervision of Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Stone we (just about) managed to build the "Pagoda Palace" with all its various shops and construction nightmares - the bridge and "Titipu Toner's" gym. Our incentive the production weekend, when we had basically to stop dossing around and get the job done. We spent

hours, and hours making sure we had got every little detail perfect, to the point where we had gone cross-eyed with exhaustion. Sort of. As clichéd as it may sound, it was actually quite satisfying to look at the sets after all our (hardish) work this year.

I would actually recommend joining up next year to those who haven't already, despite the hard slog entailed. Watch out for the soon-to-come Junior Play - we'll be involved.

David Wong

[You can read the both review of the Junior Play and the 'Behind the Scenes on One Wish' review in the Reviews section: how eminently logical! - Ed]



David Wong - Enjoying a quick break from work

YEARBOOK REPORT

With the trusty Rod of Jostens backing the team up for yet another year, we were sure that nothing could go wrong and yet another quality Yearbook would be produced. Mr. Mason allowed us the use of his superb telephone manner, immaculate accounting skills and, importantly, his tape player to ensure success for the intrepid team which consisted of Andrew Sinclair, Michael Pandazis, Richard Hockley, Andrew MacLachlan, Richard Flynn, Ravi Thukral not forgetting our long-haired, 'Beautiful South'-loving leader and editor Geoff Cook. To Geoff, a special message of praise must be voiced as without his skill, determination and perseverance none of what has gone down in the annals as the greatest Yearbook in KES history would have been achieved.

Although initially aimed at the upper two years of the school, good sales in the lower years has meant that Yearbook '97 represents a photographic record of the whole school whilst still maintaining its image as something the leavers can take with them to reminisce over in the coming years. With coverage of trips, events, forms and the individual sixth-form photos the Yearbook is the ideal coffee table school book.

The Yearbook is now a firmly established KES institution, and even without the weighty presence of Mr. Mason around for next year we hope to see the book go from strength to strength. Thanks again must go Mr. Mason, Geoff and the rest of the team for a hard year's work.

Ravi Thukral

LEADERSHIP REPORT

On a Friday afternoon towards the end of April I left with seven other KES boys to the Welsh borders on a Leadership weekend. I had absolutely no idea what I was going to do over the next two and a half days, but I had been assured by the year above that I would have a great time and come back on Sunday evening really feeling as if I had achieved something. We departed at about 4pm with a group of other Foundation School pupils from Camp Hill and drove for about two hours to our base in the country.

The accommodation was basic but adequate and as we settled into our rooms everyone, rather anxiously, pondered about the tasks we might have to perform. Various nightmare tasks were discussed and then rejected on the basis that "no teacher could be that cruel"; meanwhile LMR listened to our conversations with a smug grin on his face. Having eaten a satisfying meal, we formed up into groups to discuss Saturday's tasks in our rooms.

Although I am bound not to tell of these tasks, rest assured they were very mentally and physically demanding - testing our ability to compete with massive time pressure and the other groups. By Saturday lunchtime, our group was doing very well but we were exhausted. The afternoon exercises were again taxing, but less so, and this provided welcome relief for our blisters. We arrived in the pouring rain and driving wind back at the rooms for a welcome shower and feed.

The rest of the evening was spent complaining about the harshness of the exercises, but also wondering what Sunday had in store. The local pub provided good hospitality and must be thanked for agreeing to allow



us in. The pool table and darts meant we could actually relax for a couple of hours before heading back to the room for a good night's sleep. We were told our positions and end of the day we were doing very well, although the physical nature of the exercises took its toll on a number of people who were seriously considering catching a bus back to Birmingham.

An early start on Sunday and hearty breakfast set us up for a long day ahead. A slightly different type of exercise in the morning allowed us to take our minds off the pain we had endured the previous day and people generally really began to enjoy the tasks. The afternoon saw the conclusion of the main exercise and after a lot of running around from post office to base camp to car garage, we eventually finished second. The drive back was spent sleeping on the back seat of the minibus and before we knew it, we had arrived back in Birmingham.

The weekend was unique in every sense of the word - no one could have guessed what we were going to be doing over the two days and this tested everyone both mentally and physically. We all learnt the importance of teamwork and distribution of tasks together with skills such as communication and decision-making. To everyone who is considering such a weekend, I can only encourage them wholeheartedly - it is an experience that you will never forget. The organisation of the trip, the tasks, the accommodation and interim exercises were superb and LMR and the rest of his team must be greatly congratulated for their endless patience and commitment to the students. The Leadership Weekends run on three weekends in Spring - sign up or miss out on something special. This is one event all KES students should take part in.

Ravi Thukral

ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME REPORT

Over the last few years, a number of teams have taken part in the Engineering Education Scheme, as a Friday afternoon option in the Divisions year. The scheme is a national event and its purpose is to promote engineering as a career and to give students an opportunity to experience professional work in industry. This year the team consisted of Stephen Block, Andrew MacLachlan, Bill Critchlow and Philip Richardson, all under the guidance of Mr Lloyd. Once the team had been selected in October, we were appointed our engineer with whom we would be working for the next five months. The emphasis of the scheme is that each team works towards solving a real-life engineering problem, as opposed to the often rather artificial circumstances of a school design project. This means that the engineer and their company are vital in both supplying the problem to be solved and also in offering their knowledge and experience of industry to the team. The team was affiliated to GKN Hardy Spicer and our project engineer was Rachel Howard.

When we were first presented with our project brief, giving the outline

of the problem we were to solve, we reacted as I am sure many of you reading this article now will react. It read: 'To design and manufacture a direct reading process gauge to determine the position of a circlip groove on a tulip stem. Having very little idea what on earth this could possibly mean, we set out to research the problem, beginning with several visits to Hardy Spicer's factory in Erdington. The first couple of visits were taken up by guided tours of the so-called 'tulip' factory and these immediately began to throw some light on the problem in hand. Hardy Spicer manufacture vehicle driveshafts, and the 'tulip', with which our project was concerned, is a type of constant velocity joint which is found in all front wheel drive cars. The tulips are located in a part of the gearbox and allow the power of the engine to be transmitted to the road wheels independently of the movement of the car's suspension.

After these initial overview tours, we began to look in detail at the process which actually grinds the circlip groove into the tulips. In brief, we were being asked to improve upon a measuring device used to determine

the position of the circlip groove to within a hairs breadth, and it had to be accurate every time, for every single tulip produced by the factory! As more and more time and further company visits were spent researching the exact details of the problem, so it became increasingly complex and a solution seemed almost impossible to achieve. We began by brainstorming a variety of ideas and, having chosen one, began to develop it. By this stage, Christmas had already arrived and it was soon time for the residential course. Each team spends four days at a nearby university and this is an essential part of the scheme: offering a vital opportunity to spend a substantial amount of uninterrupted time with the engineer, working on the project and making use of the university facilities. We were based at Birmingham University, and despite being a little closer to home than was the case for many of the other teams, the residential was a great opportunity to meet teams from all over the West Midlands and a convenient excuse to miss the first week of the Spring Term! After four days of hard work, we left the university with a firm hope that we had an almost finalised solution to the problem.

Well, we thought it was nearly finalised, anyway! Rachel took our proposal to a specialist gauging engineer at Hardy Spicer and she returned a rather surprising report. It is important to note that there is rarely an ideal solution to a complex problem of this type and that almost all designs will be a compromise in some aspects of the requirements. Terry, the gauging engineer, liked the basic principle behind our idea, but there were several aspects with which he was not happy. We had not made a serious mistake, but his experience of



aspiring - the Young Engineers

industry lead him to recognise the most important areas of the requirements.

It turned out that we had placed the emphasis of our design in the wrong area and had neglected what he would consider to be some very important ones: namely the misuse and abuse that the gauge would have to withstand in use on the factory floor. With this information, we returned to our design process and began to consider other alternatives. Infact, we soon settled upon one of our initial ideas, which had been discarded early in the development process, yet which was best suited to this new emphasis of requirements.

After only a couple of weeks of fairly intense work, we had almost finalised our design and when we took our technical drawings to Hardy Spicer we were much relieved to hear their approval. All that remained to be done was to produce the working drawings from which the gauge could be manufactured; and this proved to be far easier said than done: the British Standards for engineering drawings are a great deal more complex and stringent than you may imagine and it was not until many hours of work, an entire pad of A3 paper and several rubbers later that we succeeded. (It was somewhat disheartening to learn later, that the gauge manufacturers to whom the drawings had been sent had made some small alterations to our design for ease of manufacture. To this end, our pristine collection of eight sheets of perfect drawings had been completely discarded and the gauge produced from a quick sketch on a small piece of paper.

We had finalised our design and arranged for its manufacture, but we now had to produce an in-depth project report which was to be assessed by five professional engineers. As with any project, the amount of work that there appears to

be required still to do increases dramatically as the deadline approaches! We had produced a project schedule, but the complications of having to almost restart the entire design process had

thrown us somewhat behind time. The amount of work to be done was large, but achievable and we each left school for the Easter Holidays, with a sizeable 'chunk' of project to complete. After a long day at Andy's house, the project was compiled and 1000 pages of photocopying and £60 of Hardy Spicer's petty cash later, we sent a copy of the sixty page report to each of the five assessors and to all the other people involved with the project. But that was still not the end of the work: the next deadline to be met was the presentation at the NEC. Each team was to produce a display stand to give a brief overview of the project to someone with no prior knowledge of what we had been working towards.

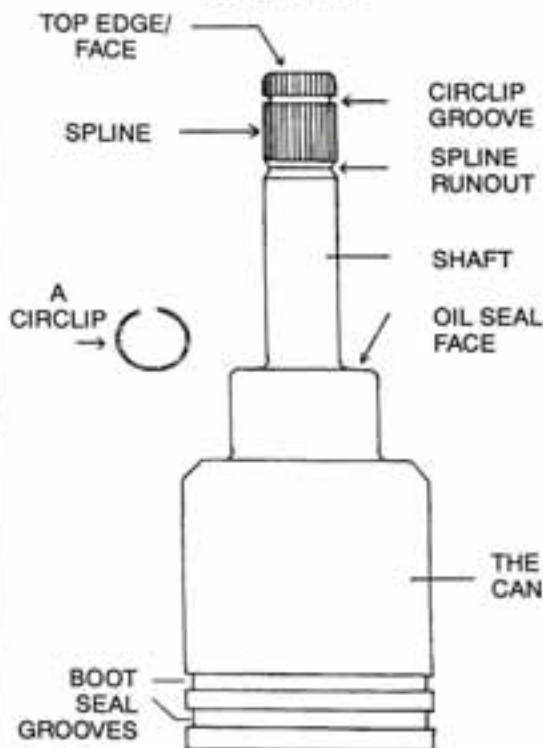
This was simply a matter of more expensive colour photocopy enlargements, but far more worryingly, we had to give a fifteen

minute verbal presentation, using only an OHP, to the assessors who had read our project. The presentation went very well indeed on the day, the only other worry being that our gauge did not arrive from the gauge manufacturers until the morning of the presentation! Everything turned out very well in the end: engineers present at the presentation day were clearly impressed by our display stand and project as a whole and our assessors spoke very highly of both our written and verbal reports. The scheme was certainly a real eye-opener into the work of a professional engineer and was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the whole team. All that remains is for me to thank Mr Lloyd and Rachel, Terry and all of the other engineers and technicians at Hardy Spicer whose help was so invaluable to us. Lastly, I would certainly recommend the scheme to any boys who are interested in engineering, as both a very challenging and worthwhile project to undertake.

Stephen Block

THE ENGINEERING EDUCATION SCHEME

A TULIP



Cot Fund News

1997 End of Year Special

Chronicle Edition

Cot Fund goes from Strength to Strength in 1997

This year has proved exceptional for Cot Fund. Totals have been getting higher and higher each year. This year had an excellent start with over £4200 raised in the autumn term, going mainly to War Child but also smaller amounts to MacMillan's Cancer Fund and Leukemia Research Fund. Events this year have included a "soak the teacher" event in darkest November (Cold!) but with more and more teachers helping out with the Cot Fund the total (especially by Junior forms) is getting higher and higher.

Then came the spring term, in which we elected to support St. Basil's, a locally based charity, and it is the first time we have supported a charity within Britain since we changed the system to one charity we would give most of the money to. However all this was overshadowed by "Comic Relief" with most of the forms organising events. There were cake sales, quizzes and even quite bizzare comedy acts by teachers and pupils alike. The technicians raised several hundred pounds in a massive raffle with literally dozens of prizes!

The summer term kicked off with the Committee listening to Mr. Connor (one of our Physics Teachers) making a plea for us to support orphanages in China which are desperately underfunded with over one million babies (mostly baby girls) being abandoned each year. However being exam term, we were not



One World Orphanage Trust - One of the charities we supported this year.

confident of raising too much, so you can imagine our surprise when after totting up all the money we raised this year, we found we were just shy of the £10,000 mark, so action was taken, stimulating all the forms to make just that little extra effort, and credit must go to Sci. Div. C for their fantastic £407 from their Tri-athlon. Tension was mounting within Cot Fund, as speculation mounted - would we reach the £10,000 mark that has eluded us for so long? Inevitably everything pulled through, and we scraped past the post. Once again we have broken, even our own high standards. Congratulations to all who contributed to this massive total.

Year End Grand Total:
(96 - 97 Academic Year)

£10,740

Cot Fund Honours List - How well did you do?

The amount of money that Cot Fund raises each year can be directly attributed to just a few individuals (many of whom appear on such lists year upon year). The top sport this year has to go to Nick Bradley doing a superb job as Cot Fund Secretary.

Commendations also go to Jos Lavery, James Benwell, Andrew Papadamou, Sharjil Baig, Peter Surtees, and the 5 brave divisions who raised £407 doing a sponsored Triathlon - B. Sharp, K. Garrington, A. MacLachlan, S. Block and B. Critchlow. Well done!

"...the amount of money raised can be directly attributed to just a few individuals..."

Cot Fund News - A year in the field

This newsletter has been running for over a year now (since June 1996) and has become an integral part of the Cot Fund. CFN was set up to more accurately and speedily disseminate information from the Cot Fund Committee to the masses, but in the year since it first started it has become something bigger, something greater. It has now become almost synonymous with Cot Fund, with a new format which includes debates on Cot Fund policies, reviews of events as well as extended information on the charities that we are supporting.

Finally:

Welcome to this special edition, one not just for boys but for parents also. In the style of the normal newsletter we present an overview of this year's events.

So why not make a pledge to Cot Fund, so that next year we can beat our total.

COMIC RELIEF

Is there anymore sound more joyous than that of people laughing at their superiors? I doubt it. It is on this principle that James Benwell and I based our Comic Relief event. (For those who have been living on Mars with toilet paper in their ears, or at another school, or even (most hated of all), those who chose to spend their lunchtimes elsewhere we had a Teacher 'Talent' Show).

We had Mr. Rees on the piano, Mr. Wig on Mr Rees *[and what a lovely wig it was too - Ed]*, the truly inspirational Mr. Buttress singing, with conviction that could give Topol uneasy nights, 'The policeman song'. Mr. Davies made a late entry with 'My Way', changing the words to suit his twisted purposes, a sort of Noel Coward from Hell. But oh, the acts we could have had... 'The dinner ladies

do the spice girls' *[!!]* 'The DT department with 'YMCA' - We will get them *[next time? - Ed]*

In all the hilarity, it is very easy to forget the reason - Comic Relief. To most people, myself included, until a few years ago, this was an opportunity for B-List comedians to try and revitalise their sagging careers. It isn't. Comic Relief helps millions of people world-wide to live a life that anyone reading this article would consider hellish. It is thanks to us as a school, and you as an audience, that these people have the means and will to have a decent life.

Our 'Talent Contest' was not the be-all-and-end-all of KES's Comic Relief celebrations. It would be complacent of

me not to mention Arthur Dyer's Bristol road unicycle, or Mr. Milton's 'Just a Minute' contest (Oregano isn't a Spice Girl, Patrick) *[and yes that was yet another reference to our illustrious Editor, whose name can be found more times in this Chronicle (and most others) than there are words in this article. P.S. no prizes for the first person to tell the Chronicle Staff exactly how many times his name appears in this Chronicle - Chronicle Staff]*

In short, in brief, and coming with all speed and no unnecessary waffling to my point: See you in '99.

Jos Lavery



SENIOR SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Basking in the glow of last year's victory in the National Final, the KE Schools' Challenge team set out with renewed vigour to repeat that success. Unfortunately, the team from last year was not able to play together any longer - for we have to include two members from the fourth year and below, and Henry Pertinez had had the temerity to age a year and become a fifth-former. This meant that, after much thought, it was decided that the seniors should be Henry and Patrick Finglass, with Oliver Watkins joining veteran George Simms as a junior member. Meanwhile, Kieron Quirke was appointed captain of the B-team: his squad included Adam Johnson, Joshua Goodman and Peter Pears. However, the labels of A and B team are somewhat misleading, as the B-team regularly defeated the so-called A-team in lunchtime practices.

Victories against Solihull and KE Stratford were swift and brutal. The B-team, similarly, cruised effortlessly through their opening rounds. We had both reached the regional semi-finals.

The A-team were paired against Rugby school - a tough opponent, as we have learnt in previous years. We quickly built up a substantial lead, only to see it gradually whittled away by timely interventions on their part. However, they rarely managed to answer all their bonuses, and in the war of attrition that ensued we ensured that their advance was considerably delayed. With only 20 points difference, we got the last two starters and won by a whisker. The B-team, meanwhile, crushed the KE Five Ways team, which was unfamiliar with the concept of actually interrupting on a starter question.

This led to both KES teams reaching the Regional Final - a situation unique in the annals of the game. Instead of playing what would have been a tense match, Mr. Milton selected the players

who had performed best to go forward into the next rounds. These were Kieron Quirke (whose new-found speed on the buzzer had quite overtaken Henry's), Patrick Finglass, George Simms and Joshua Goodman. The fact that we had the luxury of such an action shows how complete our domination of our region has been in recent years.

Our inter-regional round was against Monmouth, a school which always wins its region and not much else. Having solved the first problem in actually getting there, we were made to play in a darkened, eerily empty lecture theatre, with the buzzers on a desk which was too small for them, and with a question master whose voice was too quiet and went at annoyingly different speeds. We were also in Wales. All these seemingly trivial, yet highly annoying factors led to one of our worst performances ever - although we built up a large lead at first, we were incapable of stopping their catching up on us. Indeed, with just a minute to go, they took the lead. Fortunately, Kieron concluded an outstanding performance on the buzzer by getting the last starter - the subsequent bonuses put us just ten points (that is, one question) in front.

Mr. Milton was laughing all the way back in the car, but the team was somewhat shaken by it all. On reflection, however, we realised that inter-regional rounds had tended to put us at our worst in the past, and so concluded that an improvement was certainly possible.

That victory took us through to the National Finals, but again, we were handicapped before we began. Kieron's exertions in 'The Mikado' over the holidays had quite exhausted and drained him, leaving him with a form of tonsillitis which inevitably left him weak and ill-fitted to play. These problems looked like coming to a head in our opening round against King's Canterbury - our characteristic early lead failed to materialise, and we were soon left two hundred points down. However, a series of timely successive interruptions by the whole team over a short period led to us catching up and eventually overtaking them; finally, we saw off a late challenge by them to end up in front. This was another tense match which did nothing for my blood pressure.

A tense lunch was followed by the national semi-final, a match which was considerably easier than our previous one, and which we won with



relatively little trouble. Merchant Taylors' beat RGS Lancaster in a much tighter match in the other semi-final: the scene was set for a repeat of last year's final, and - hopefully - last year's result. They took an early lead, yet by about halfway we had almost caught up on them. However, their captain from last year had become much faster since our last encounter,

and proved too swift on the buzzer to be caught. A last rally was, unfortunately, not enough and we were left as National Runners-Up.

Thus ended our campaign, which had nevertheless been extremely successful, and thus too ends the contribution of Kieron and me to Schools' Challenge. We would both like to thank all those who have been

involved in the running of the game over the years, and especially Mr. Milton, without whose organisation and enthusiasm we would never have had the chance to play. Our best wishes go to him and to next year's team in their effort to regain what has been ours, and what shall be ours again.

Patrick Finglass

JUNIOR SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Junior Schools Challenge is, in case you didn't know quite like University Challenge except for boys in the Removes year at school and below. After a lengthy selection process of pretend quizzes, and difficult decisions, a squad of eight boys was formed. This meant that practices could be held as there are four in each team with the questions posed by Mr. Milton, the school organiser. The team was eventually decided as Ruari Kerr, Nicholas Pilsbury (Captain), James Silber and Haide Hong. As Mr. Milton said "The team has no one star player, which is one of your big advantages", and I agree with this.

The first match was against Handsworth Girls School against whom we had never lost. With a reputation to keep up the team performed well and won convincingly the first match. Pleased with the first performance we went to King Edward's, Stratford who decided to take full advantage of our lack of awareness and raced up a 300 point lead. We did not give up and even though Mr. Milton thought we had lost we continued to play on. The gap slowly, and I mean slowly, decreased until the buzzer sounded after half an hour to end the game. Remarkably the scores were level on 710 all.

After a quick break play commenced in the now tense atmosphere. After just a minute of play we had already taken the lead and had firmly decided that was how it

was going to stay. After the extra five minutes had passed by we had a respectable lead and a well deserved victory. Mr. Milton still says that he has never seen such a huge lead closed. After a break for half an hour we proceeded to play Bablake School and a respectable performance in a relaxed and casual atmosphere gave us a comfortable win.

Next came a match against a small preparatory school called Aberly, who were a little too polite and rather strange. Despite a bad question master we proceeded to win the match in an adequate fashion against a very good side who had already knocked out Kings School - Worcester. The team was now improving rapidly and it was beginning to show; only one man in the reserve squad was able to keep up with our now, well toned reactions and no doubt he, Simon Ferrie will make a grand appearance next year with Ruari.

Next came Marling School, Stroud, who after refusing to come to us, or even to a mid-point forced us, the *Regional Champions* of south Birmingham to journey for an hour and a half to them. After this tiresome journey we came across something quite unexpected, a computerised Schools Challenge machine. This put us out completely for the first five minutes, because we had never before been faced with having to use, what can only be described as Doorbells for Buzzers. The computer then showed

us its advantage and gave us a full range of statistics on how many times we buzzed in, how we did on the bonuses and how many questions we got right. It then dawned on us that we were in the *National Finals*!

The National Finals consist of the top 8 teams in the country. After waking up at 6am we ventured down to Colchester. Tired and nervous, our position was not improved by Mr. Milton arriving an hour late with Haide. In the first round we faced Wellesly House, a preparatory school. After an incredibly tense match the scores ended up level. After 5 minutes of extra time we overcame Wellesly to go through to the semi-finals. Wellesly House actually ended up with the highest ever losing total - well into the 800's. Next we faced Devonport who beat us soundly, but we put it down to the first match taking too much of our fighting spirit. Nevertheless we finished 3rd equal in the whole of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, not a bad result. We did moreover have a great day out in Colchester and were put out by the eventual winners of Junior Schools Challenge 1997.

I would like to thank everybody in the team and in the squad, especially Imran Shafi, who came all the way to Colchester to support us. I hope next year that Ruari, Simon and their team can go one step better and win.

Nicholas Pilsbury

THE POLITICAL FORUM

On Friday 7th March, the Sixth Form from KES and KEHS assembled in Big School to hear a political discussion in the light of the then forthcoming General Election. First on stage was David Willetts, Conservative MP for Havant and old boy of the school. "Two Brains Willetts", as he is known, had recently been forced to resign from his position as Paymaster-General because of "dissembling" to a House of Commons committee, and is now a Shadow (alas) Minister for Employment. As if to reflect their political stances, the Labour and Liberal Democrat representatives were separated from him by Mr. Buttress in the Chair. The Liberal Democrat was John Hemming, another old boy of the school who was standing in the three-way marginal of Yardley (which Labour was to keep with an increased majority); the socialist candidate was Ms (Ms!) Gisella Stuart, who was about to win the Conservative safe seat of Edgbaston, and was definitely not an old boy of the school.

The questions (submitted in advance) were many and varied, ranging from the legalisation of narcotics to whether politics makes one more attractive to the opposite sex (no followed by yes being unanimous responses). There was much talk about the need for social cohesion by the then (alas) Opposition parties - talk which was undermined by the immediate reference to the Assisted Places scheme from the floor. Ms. Stuart declared that she "made no apologies" for wanting to abolish this scheme, even though it was clear to

the aforementioned floor that it enhanced social cohesion by giving poorer children an education which otherwise would inevitably be confined to the rich. Mr. Russell melodramatically walked out during her denunciation, to loud applause.

Another highlight was the irrepressible Emily Andrews (the Labour candidate in the KEHS Mock Election, who fared little better than our own one), who tried to demolish all Mr. Willetts's arguments by brandishing a newspaper cutting saying how Ford was shedding x hundred jobs in y-town. Somewhat bemused by this, Mr. Willetts pointed out how other companies were very happy to invest here because of our low employment costs, which meant that our unemployment levels were much lower than other European countries'. Poor Emily was getting a little strident at this point, roundly declaring, "Well - you're just wrong!" without the heavy burden of argument or evidence which often so encumbers people's speeches. At least she had a go. A row of rugby lads sitting in the front rows had no such intentions, and giggled their way through the whole proceeding like a gaggle of second year girls. They may not have been interested, but could at least have had the decency to shut up and show some appreciation for the fact that three rather busy people had sacrificed their

day for the sake of jobs like them.

Afterwards, a select few had lunch with the candidates. I was talking to Ms. Stuart, and although I profoundly disagreed with everything she said, she was interesting to listen to. Pressed on the question of whether money from the AP scheme would be enough to reduce class sizes, she said "At least it's a start"; pressed on why she wanted to get rid of (largely Tory) hereditary peers and not (largely Labour) C of E bishops in the Lords she said "At least it's a start". Of course, that was not all she said, but even Labour politicians have mastered the art of expanding a five word sentence to a series of paragraphs, filled with emotional rhetoric. I am sure, however, that Ms. Stuart will make a good constituency representative, as she seems quite a powerful lady who should be able to defend her constituents' interests almost as well as her predecessor did.

I should like to thank Messrs Emery and Buttress for helping to organise this event with such success, and, of course, the candidates themselves for so generously giving up their time to speak to our schools. Most of us do appreciate it.

Patrick Finglass



... 1987

More on the



... 1987



... 1987

Achtung punter!

Up to now there's been just a big, bad
Gary Greening, who's a pig at Fulford



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REVIEW

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Trinity Review

It was with great sadness that Miss Bond left, ending an era of Milton-Bond plays, ending one of the most productive years of the drama studio - or so it seemed. This year, to prove everyone wrong, not only did Mr. Milton write an all-new star play, but he also ventured into an all-new playing arena - the Senior Play. This latest incarnation from Mr. Milton's devious (and somewhat twisted) mind was 'Trinity' and those of you who have watched it will have to agree that it's one of the darkest - and exciting - plays to date, aptly led by none other than Robin French, playing the ultimate evil game-show host. However even Robin's star performance as the Host was eclipsed by the brilliant performance of the cynical, dark Jos Lavery as the voice-over man. Gone are the days of sterile informative announcements and in are the cryptic crossword-like clues.

Of course 'Trinity' wouldn't be complete without the contestants - The Three. Andrew (Adam Johnson) the teacher with a bit on the side, Isabella (Katie 'Ophra' Davies) the insecure chat-show host, and finally Mark (Saul Howard) the guy with no life, and now no wife: 'Trinity' sees all three pitted against each other to win the star prize, to survive. Who wins? Do you prefer the teacher, the chat-show host or the academic with no life? But who won? Every night a different contestant won, and thus each night the audience saw a different ending!



Robin French as 'The Host'

The play doesn't end there, however, and, in a novel retelling of the old proverb, "He who wins shall lose, and he who loses wins", courtesy of the voice-over man, it ends in one final bang, but is far from a pantomime ending. And those of you who want to know more - well, tough: you should have been there!

But of course credit not only goes to the multitude of actors involved but also to Tom Bond and his Stage Crew, Ben Sellman, Philip Wheatley, and all those other people who worked behind

the scenes to make this play happen. Big thanks also to the Practical Drama group for providing excellent scenery.

And, seriously, if you fancy a night of first-class entertainment, then you could do worse than postponing that trip to the pub, and going to see Mr. Milton's next play, this summer.

Philip Wheatley



'The Three'

The Remove Play - Ernie's Incredible Illucinations

Mr Stacey came to us this year, as a new member of the English department, but he soon set about breaking into the Drama department along with Mr. Milton and Miss. Sheringham.

He quickly assembled a bunch of eager Rems, and over the course of several Friday afternoons and a few

after school rehearsals near performance day, taught the Rems (from scratch) to act. The end result was quite surprising: in short order he had assembled an efficient stage crew and technical staff (of One Wish fame) and put together, not nearly an improvised romp, but a well planned and sophisticated comedy.

For this Mr. Stacey should be congratulated. We wish him success for next year, in anticipation of his next play.

Philip Wheatley

LONG STAGE PLAYERS PRESENT

ERNIE'S INCREDIBLE ILLUCINATIONS



KES DRAMA STUDIO

MONDAY 14th JULY



The Mikado



As a connoisseur of the Junior Play, I was a little uncertain as to what I would be letting myself in for when I bought a ticket to see the all action, singing and dancing Senior variety. However, as soon as I took my seat in Big School, I realised that I was in for something special.

Under the wise direction of Mrs. Herbert, the company performed "The Mikado" by Gilbert and Sullivan, with a breath-taking

degree of excellence and professionalism. Even before the start, we were treated to DJ Tom Manners and his warm up act: the precedent was set for the remainder.

The play concerns the love life of Nanki-Poo, the son of the Mikado of Japan, and the difficulties he is forced to overcome in order to marry his dream girl, Yum-Yum. Superbly played by Gus Gallagher, Nanki-Poo travels to the town of Titipu under the guise of a wandering minstrel (*second trombone! - Ed*), though his clothing was hardly inconspicuous, bearing a striking resemblance to Joseph's Technicolour Dreamcoat. However, upon his arrival he finds his beloved Yum-Yum, played by Vythekei Vamadevan, already betrothed to Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner of Titipu, portrayed magnificently by Kieron Quirke, who managed to play him as only Kieron could.

Through careful manipulation of Ko-Ko and also of James Heaton's character, Pooh- "Born with a sneer"-Bah, Nanki-Poo eventually marries Yum-Yum, only to be presented with another dilemma: the elderly lady, Katasha, from the court of the Mikado who is passionately in love with him. Gemma Goggin combined the best of comedy and suspense, backed up by her amazing singing voice; Michael Pandazis too performed exceptionally well as the Mikado, who comes to visit the town toward the end of the play. Notable performances were also given by Gemma Parker and Chris Mountford with his impressive Northern (Japanese?) accent.

Of course, nothing can be taken away from the other great performances by the rest of the main cast and also the male and female companies who sang and danced their way through the entire evening

without any signs of waning. Credit is also due to the back-stage team, Mr. Stone's Stage Crew, who not only created a wonderfully elaborate set but also ensured that the entire show ran without any technical hitches. Similarly, the orchestra lead by Mr. Bridle was superb and played the musical pieces to perfection. And finally, congratulations must be given to Mrs. Herbert who diligently put the entire proceedings together so well: I know that I'm already awaiting the announcement of next year's production.

Ben Sharp



Japan meets Ilkley Moor in the shape of Chris Mountford

The Junior Play: "One Wish"

by
Edward Milton

The sad departure of Miss Bond from the successful Milton-Bond play writing partnership of the past few years did not detract from the quality of this year's Junior Play, but rather changed its tone. Whereas before humour and seriousness had been mixed fairly evenly, this year humour took a back seat as deeper, even darker issues were explored. Shade, a mysterious character whose 'monodesiderative' power of granting one wish and one wish alone caused a surprising amount of chaos, was played by Jos Lavery with considerable talent and flair; the variety of different outfits he wore created a black humour entirely appropriate to the mood of the play - a play in which the fairytale cliché of the genie with three wishes was subverted into a dark discussion of the competing powers of love and hate.

Joe Millington played the lead part, Ryan, a dysfunctional child continually in conflict with teachers and parents. Particularly praiseworthy was the way our sympathies were skilfully manipulated: at one moment we were seeing things from the perspective of Ryan, who ably portrayed a child at the end of his tether, convinced of the hostility of the adult world towards him; at another moment we were invited to see things from the viewpoint of his teacher (played with authority by Sarah Palmer), who, though undoubtedly

aggressive, was not the beast the children made her out to be. By alternating in a single scene between the children's and the teachers' conversations, we were forced away from a simple "heroes and villains" fairytale into a balanced and even-handed perspective.

There were many examples of fine acting, and it would hardly be possible to record them all here. Joe Millington was commanding as Ryan, while Richard Benwell and Aly Kassam swigged their alcopops with worrying expertise. Ryan's parents, Helen Anderson and Alex Nock, both performed extremely well, as did Sabina Gatrad as the technically-spoken psychiatrist - one of the few providers of light relief in the play. The spaceship crew (it had to come in somewhere!) was also accomplished and highly professional, while the lighting was used to particularly excellent effect throughout the play.

As ever, there were a fair number of "Miltonisms" - such as "Enough of talking. It is time to do," and "What is to be done?" (obviously a subconscious echo of the title of Lenin's famous pamphlet); the spaceship, the dark figure of Shade and the rocky relationship between pupil and teacher had all been seen in similar forms in Milton's other works (such as "Child out of Time", "The Chronicles of Life and Imagination" and "Paradise Lost"), so it may well be that next year's play breaks out in a new direction to prevent sterility setting in. Yet this play was no mere tired

repetition of old ideas - it was a powerful and, at times, moving dramatisation of the destructive effects of power, selfishness and hatred, the often damaging effects of good intentions, and ability of love, in the end, to overcome evil only at a price. When to this is added a lively dialogue, an engaging and at times zany plot and some quite outstanding performances from a creditable cast, you have one of the more outstanding Junior Plays this decade.

Patrick Finglass

"One Wish" Behind the scenes

Backstage people are sadly often overlooked, and yet they perform tasks as vital to the end result - the performance - as any actor.





Joe Millington as the dysfunctional 'Ryan'

A let down in any backstage department can lead to disaster on performance night.

So why then are such people so often overlooked? In order to redress the balance this is our report into what goes on backstage.

The main 'backstage department', with the most people are Stage Crew, most often described as, "those men in black who shift all the scenery around": they perform the vital job of preparing the set for every scene.

And what about sound? Would the play be the same without the eerie music cutting in at the same time? Would the spaceship still be on the verge of destruction if the phaser sound didn't come on? Would it have

been the same without the emotional victory music between scenes towards the end of the play when everything started to go right, or the sad music as Miss Perry died? Of course not.

The lights perform a vital function too - would the red alert have been quite the same if the lights hadn't gone to red? Would Ryan's speech have been the same if he hadn't been lit in a spotlight? Would Shade's meanness have been so evident had he not been in a purple tinge all the time?

So to finish I would like to publicly thank all of the Stage Crew (you know who you are), the Sound Manager and of course the skilled Lighting Crew.

Philip Wheatley

SYNDICATE PLAY REVIEW HIGH SOCIETY

Every year a group of newly unburdened Sixth-formers return from their after A-Levels holiday to produce a play completely on their own. In only two weeks they take a play of their choosing, cast it, direct it, edit it if necessary and present it to an eager and rather daunting audience. They do everything themselves apart from writing it. (Oh, and paying for it of course - that would just be silly.)

This year it was the turn of an extremely talented, not to mention

enthusiastic bunch. The first decision to be made was what piece to do. Between them they decided on the musical "High Society", an ambitious piece both musically and dramatically. However this lot were in no shortage of the one thing that would be essential if they were to carry it off - confidence. Rachel Cummins and Jennie Fellows jointly took up the Directors' chairs while Kieron Quirke and Hannah Proops took the parts of Macaulay Connor and Liz Imbrie, the two unwelcome "Spy Magazine" reporters, and Ben McIlldowie and Lucy Johnson played Tracy Samanthar Lord and her ex-husband C.K. Dexter Haven. However, although these four could be said to have taken the lead parts, this really was a play with several other interesting, funny, while demanding roles which really needed a very able supporting cast to make it work. This proved right away not to be a problem. Each actor, without exception, made the part his or her own.

There was Adam Johnson with his manically cultivated hearty laugh (if the rumour is true he spent hours wandering round Birmingham with a dictaphone in order to capture the perfect guffaw on tape). There was Hannah Searly's quite brilliant portrayal of the pig-tailed, all-seeing little sister whose solo song and dance routine should never be forgotten, ever. James Heaton's lecherous old man was truly inspirational, as was Tom Manners' suave millionaire, Seth Lord, and the winged wonder that was Olivier Mayall.

Andy Wolfe did a magnificent job of handling the music and cannot be praised enough for his contribution.

It would be impossible to name everybody who had a hand in this fantastic production but the one thing that was most evident was how well the whole company managed to pull together as a team. I know its a cliché but it's true. Well done, and good luck!

Gus Gallagher

Shells' Classical Play Competition

At first sight, a claustrophobic, sweaty studio filled to the brim with well over an hundred Shells seemed a somewhat unappetising prospect. Nevertheless, it is traditional so, undeterred, the curtain swiftly went up at 1300 prompt on Thursday 12th December for the Shells' Classical Play Competition 1996.

This is the pinnacle of the K.E.S. calendar, attracting much excitement throughout the school: in the Shells where its prestige has made it a coveted thespian prize and in the upper years where all know they're guaranteed a good laugh. Shells are allowed to gather together in a combined space only to explode and release their hyperactive, exhibitionist alter-egos. They are challenged to devise a play based on classical myths (but performed in English!) of no more than ten minutes duration. Of course they invariably disregard this brief and instead of such great stories as Antigone we get Frankie Howard meets "The Rocky Horror Show".

Shell B opened the show with Blind Date in Pompeii. Now it is beyond me why Shells have such an acute fascination with breasts, nevertheless the usual drag acts paraded on with their fake busts literally in your face. Shell B, however, really struck gold in their commercial break: a guy is passed by another wearing a pair of cool shades; where did he get them? - "Calvin Klein". Another passes by wearing a trendy T-shirt; of course, "Calvin Klein". A half naked guy

dodders on stage; "Who is he?" - "Calvin Klein"!

Shell D gave us the Midas Touch. Noteworthy performances include Midas' gratuitously rebellious teenage son. The prize for the most weird and wonderful must go to the guy who proudly sat at the side of the stage and then placidly proceeded to wrap both of his legs behind his legs.

Shell M - What can I say? During the court scene was a sudden melodramatic silence. "It's you!" "It's not me!" "It is you!". Tense mumbling - we had ground to a halt. All eyes were on the one Shell who simply would not say his line. The audience roared.

Shell D, under the direction of Mr. Worthington, inevitably gave us yet another court case featuring the gratuitous use of baseball bats. (The committee wish to make an appeal: ple-e-e-ase no more court room dramas!) The show was rounded off by Shell T with a very amiable scene featuring a slave and a lover.

The plays were diligently (and impartially) judged by our (unbiased) panel (no bribes here!) of our own Fifth and Sixth year classicists, the recent KES Oxbridge undergraduates and the celebrated artist Mr. Al Tracer. We used the now famous ice skating style (!!) of judging. Shell M scored an abysmal consensus of 1s across the board. The closeness at the top was a tearjerker. In second place were Shell T but just one point ahead were Shell B. Shell B are obviously back on a winning streak being full of budding performers.

This is very much a well-established tradition that despite being plagued by anachronisms, is a haven for KES classical culture vultures. The tide of euphoria when the winner was announced said it all, with Shells eagerly clamouring for their Mars bars. This is our own arcane, yet hilarious, alternative admissions ceremony.

Nathaniel Coleman

WITNESS

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Personal. (1903) I.
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The Hills and the Lakes

The ancient contours flow like water
So smoothly from majestic hill-top
To picturesque lake

The hills stand so tall
Looking over their lands
The highest peaks have fairy tale views
So hard to climb yet so worthwhile
The Lake District hills, the marvels of England

1000 metres below the hills:

The lakes are so tranquil; they sit motionless for hours
The odd sailboat creeps past
As you sit there watching the world go by
Time is meaningless as the sun slowly sets
And evening slowly presumes
The red tint of the sun reflecting off the blue lake
Drifts away as the moon overpowers the sun

The ancient contours flow like water
So smoothly from majestic hill-top
To picturesque lake.

Richard Folsom
Rem H

The Walker

The water runs, so long, so deep
From the high fells of stone
And the wind-blown grass,
Down the gills and the rivers
Along the streams and over the stones to the lake.

Here the patient fisherman sits
Amused and unaware,
Sitting, waiting, for his float to disappear
Whilst the water slowly, gradually,
Moves through the lake towards the sea.

Then the thundercloud breaks
And the tranquillity is shattered.
People run for cover, snatch up their coats,
But still the mountains stand unchanged,
Unmoving; a solid mass amongst the mayhem.

The distant walker in the red jacket climbs the hill,
Unerring, determined and unmoved by the storm.
He relaxes, pauses and reflects.
As the squall ends as abruptly as it started
He thinks, "This is why I came."

Nicholas Pilsbury, Rem H

The Terror

The spray lashed against the tall, imposing hull of the battleship. The scummy surface film on the water was whipped up into oily whirlpools by the passing dreadnought. One shadowy figure flitted between a tiny ramshackle raft and the corrosion-flaked hull. The figure swarmed up the sheer metal sides of the craft as if it were a spider. First Engineer James Rodgers slid out from underneath the damaged Assault Walker. The ancient machine had taken a lot of pummelling over the decades and probably longer, as nobody remembered how long the Walkers had been in service. Now it was all beginning to show.

"It's bust," he pleaded.

"Fix it! We need vehicles!" yelled the rider. Grumbling, Rodgers set to work.

Something slipped through the empty shadows of the engine room. It seemed as if the only movement in the dank space were the dust motes dancing in the few shafts of light that escaped downwards through the grilles set in the roof, far above the creeping shadows that obscured the gigantic engines. The heartbeat of the engines gave a jolt as the battleship righted itself on its course. Something stiffened and was absolutely still - so much that it would seem to disappear from the view of all but the most hawk-eyed of observers. Silently the thing crept towards the twin cylinders of the engine.

The hatch banged noisily against the pipes that festooned almost every inch of the walls in the engine room. Three men climbed into the enveloping darkness of the space. A dingy, low wattage bulb sputtered into life, casting a weak glow over the proceedings that lengthened the shadows even more.

"Have you seen my red tool box?" questioned Rodgers. "It's the one full of my electrical stuff. I need it for repairing that Walker I'm working on."

"You're working for that Walker pilot? I heard he was a real moron."

"You heard right. But have you seen my toolbox? And where on earth is Jake? He was here a minute ago!"

"Jake said he was going to get some gear from the store room."

Matt leant against a panel covered in dials. He was just about to write down the pressure read-outs on a grubby piece of computer printout when he realised his hand was stuck to the panel!

"What the heck!" he yelled. "There's some kinda slime on this panel!"

"Oh yeah, sure," called James from behind one of the steel humps that sheathed the engines. "Yes! My tool box! Wait a mo - it's covered in goo!"

"See, I told you! Now help me clean this stuff off the panel."

"Urth!" spat Matt. "What's that smell?"

"Smells like, like rotten flesh. Sick! Probably some guy's idea of a joke."

"Hey, Jake! You all right in there?"

There was a deathly silence.

"Stop fooling around!"

Shaking their heads, the pals sat down on the tubular steel seats that were bolted to the floor.

"Boy, this place gives me the creeps."

"Calm down, Matt. I tell you, it's just some practical joker."

The baleful blue light glowed through the semi-opaque surface of the holo-display. The garish beams illuminated the gaunt, etched features of an armoured man. The Inquisitor's assistants were plotting out his route across the ash desert, chemical sumps and battlefields of New France to the "Black Atlantic". His troopers were already getting jumpy, he noticed.

*Excerpt from the Shells' Hutton Prize story,
by Simon Ferrie*

THE GREEN KNIGHT

The double doors flew open with a crash, and
He rode, tumultuous and terrifying, into the great hall.
Every knight looked up at the fierce, ferocious figure before him.

Green he was, green as green could be,
Right down from head to tips of toes for everyone to see.
Emeralds, twinkling, were studded in the saddle, and
Each of the horse's coverings were beautified by
Numberless amounts of jewels, glittering gems that shimmered all around.

King Arthur, trembling, asked the massive Knight if he came in peace or
No. Or if he'd drink some wine or feast, or dine
In this hearty, glowing hall. But the monstrous Knight roared instead, "I have a
Game. Who, of the bravest knights of Camelot, in this ancient
Hall of hardy seasoned warriors, is brave and bold enough to
Take me on, here and now, and challenge me today?"

Tom Mort, Rem M

Sir Gerald and the Lady of the Fountain

It was on a morning similar to this that my challenge began. The sun was shining with its glistening light piercing through the trees.

I rose early, and had a good feeling inside me. I had nothing planned for the day. I wanted an adventure. I went and groomed my horse. We stood beside each other gazing at the sparkling fresh mountains. I had reached the peak of all of them, except for the Mountain of Gilgath. This was going to be my challenge for the day.

I placed my foot in the stirrup, and then flung myself on the horse. We trotted to the foot of the mountain, and I was soon to meet my first obstacle.

I must only have been riding for about a mile or two, when I met a dwarf. He was a tiny fellow, only about two and a half feet tall. He wore tatty, grey trousers with a dirty woollen cloak. He wore no shoes and his face was badly scarred.

"Good day, sir."

The dwarf didn't answer, but stumbled his way across to the feet of my horse. He held a small cloth bag, which he showed to me and said, "If you want to proceed up this mountain, then you will need these." He handed me the bag and I thankfully received it.

I then asked inquisitively, "What's in here, and what will I need it for, sir?"

"There are two pearls of luck or deception," he replied, "but be careful because you don't want to be deceived."

"In what way might I be deceived?" I asked, disconcerted. But the dwarf just went on his way.

I also went on my way. Both my horse and I were exhausted. We stopped off on the gravelly path, by a little grass verge. The horse was munching its way through the grass, while I sat down and quenched my thirst with my hip flask full of water.

As we were resting peacefully, yet another dwarf came wandering by. This dwarf was dressed tidily, with shiny leather boots, ironed black trousers and a white shirt with a red tie.

"Excuse me, please," he said. "I was wondering whether you had bumped into my friend further down the track?"

"What are his features?" I replied.

"He's a dwarf, like me. Shabby trousers; dirty, ruffled hair. . ."

"Yes, I've seen him," I interrupted.

"I presume you have a luck or deception pearl?"

"That's right," I answered.

"I was just wondering whether you wanted to exchange your luck or deception pearl for all the money in my pocket?"

I thought about it for a minute. But then I remembered the first dwarf and how he warned me not to be deceived.

"I am sorry, sir, but your friend warned me not to be deceived, and I fear I might need it further up the track."

"Not a problem, sir," the dwarf mumbled, and then went on his way.

Now we had gained our energy, we set out to try and reach the peak of the mountain. The clouds were closing in. We were feet away from the peak. As we reached the peak, there was a great sense of fulfilment in me. I'm sure my horse felt the same. We looked around and through the fog and thick mist, I thought I saw a fountain. As I walked closer, yet another dwarf stepped out in front of me. This one was a very smart and handsome young dwarf. He had a black and red waistcoat, very fine trousers, and smooth strands of hair. He looked at me and said proudly, "Why, sir, I saw you met my friend, who offered you his riches, but you turned him down. I was wondering if you would like my riches in return for one of your pearls?"

I thought about this. I was at the top of the mountain now, so I probably wouldn't need the pearls anymore anyway. Even if I did find myself in difficulties, I could most likely buy myself out of them with these riches. I happily agreed to do the deal. I was feeling very pleased with myself at this point. But I was soon to find out that it was a big mistake. . .

As we handed the items over, the dwarf chuckled to himself, then said with triumphant glee, "My friend warned you of being deceived by these pearls, but you obviously didn't listen carefully enough."

I was mystified by this time. The dwarf led me to the fountain. It poured water as clear as cut ice.

"Look into the fountain, and you will see a beautiful woman, trapped under the spell of the fountain. The only way to release her is with the two pearls of luck or deception," the dwarf said evilly.

I stepped over to the wall of the fountain. No water sprayed over the edge. In the midst of the rippling water, I caught sight of the most beautiful lady I had ever beheld. Her hair was long and blond, but her face had no smile, for she was unhappy in the spell of the fountain. I only realised now how the final dwarf had tricked me. If only I had thought about my actions more carefully! How naive it was of me to fall for such a stupid trick.

"How shall I release the maiden?" I asked hopefully.

"There is only one way now," he said. "You need to give me a pearl, and both of your eyes."

How could I do this? But I knew I couldn't possibly break another rule of the Pentangle.

When the ordeal was over, the fair maiden was released, as promised. But I was only a naive creature then and the powers of the pearl and fountain had overcome me. For although the maiden was released, because of my greed, I could not see her great beauty.

Simon Purkis, Rem M

Survival

How through the cold and hunger,
The endless sea of mud,
How through the shocking indignities,
The sacrifice of young life,
How through the merciless shelling,
The fear of the sniper's eye,
How through the unending stench of death,
Disease and disfigurement,
How through the horror of choking gas,
Did these men have the will to carry on?

They survived because of a force,
A force overriding fear,
Because of a great friendship,
And understanding of each other,
Because of an endless bond between men,
An unquenchable courage,
Because of unending mutual support,
Undying trust,
Because of a force,
A force called comradeship.

Paul Mellor, UMR

White

Nothing hides behind the milky exterior.

Nothing hides behind the bland ineffectuality.

Nothing hides behind the placated mural.

Nothing hides behind the drugged ecstasy.

Nothing hides behind the mild inadequacy.

Nothing hides behind the velvet prodigy.

Nothing hides behind the senile plastic.

Nothing hides behind this jaded dizziness.

Nothing hides.

Jos Lavery, UML

Winner of the Parkes Prize for Poetry



Nick Williams
Tree Bark
(Ceramic)



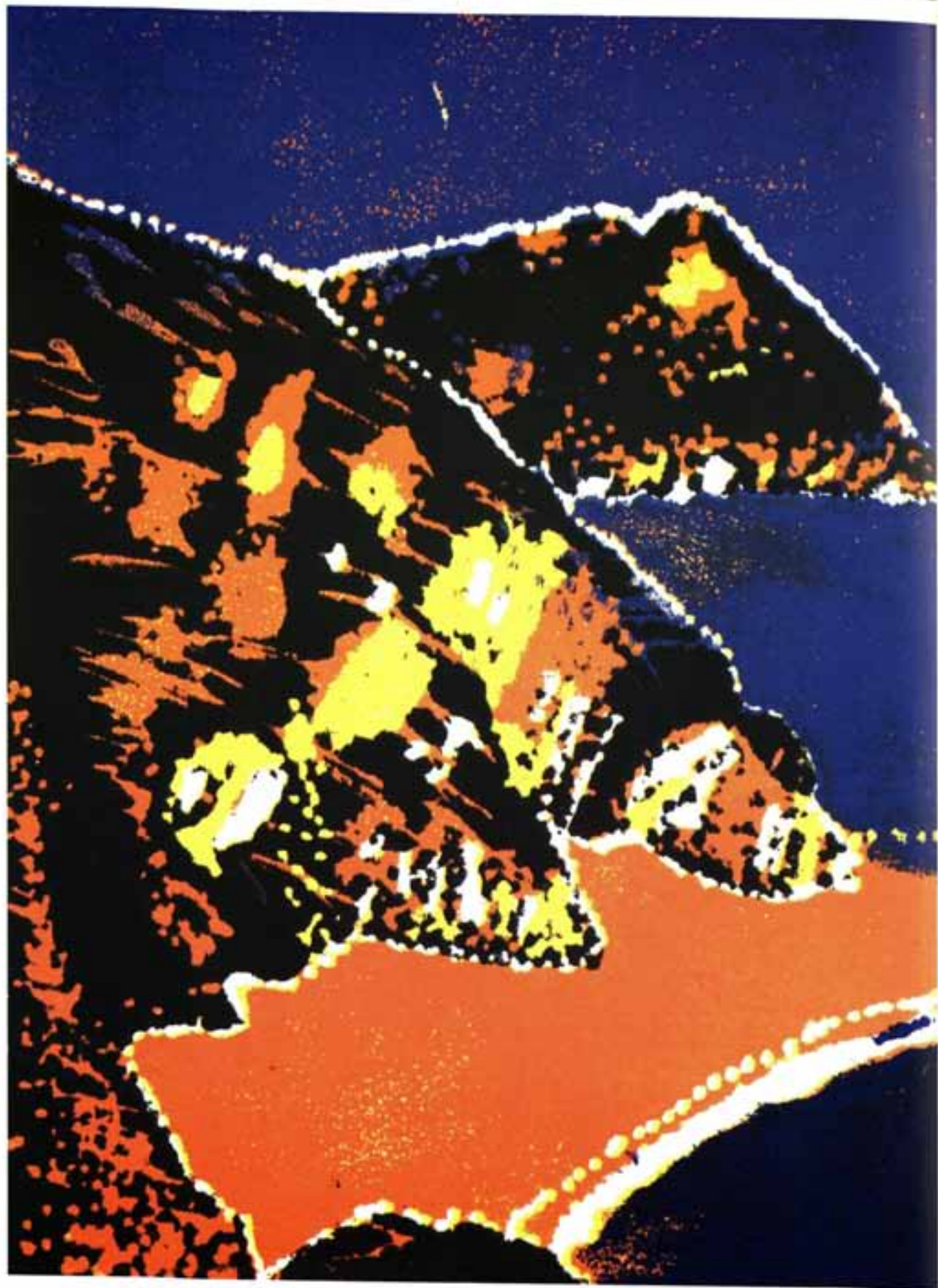
Alasdair Jubb
Clouds
(Etching)



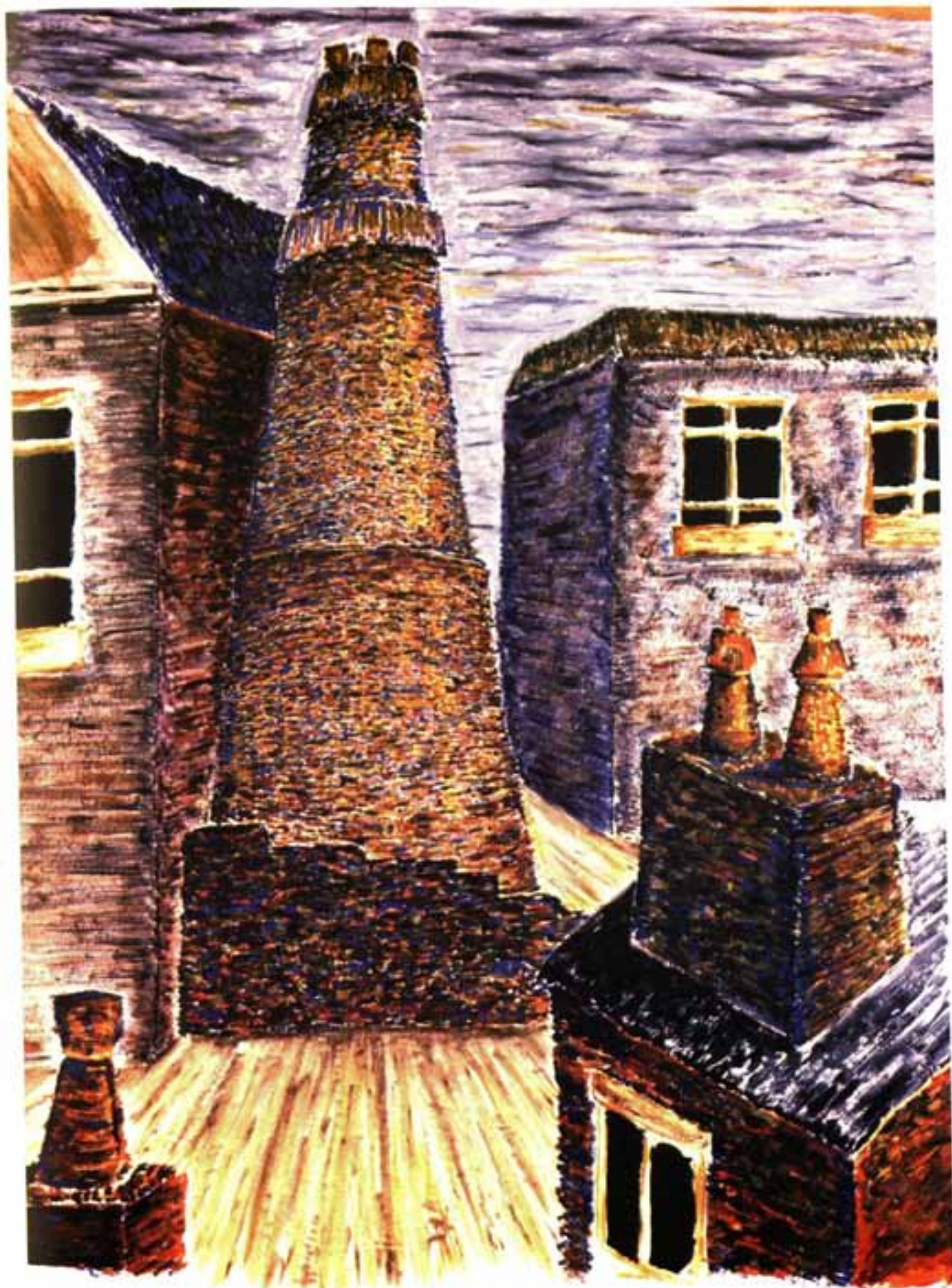
Kwesi Edman
Teaset
(Ceramic)



Alastair Treharne
Lock Gates
(Oil)



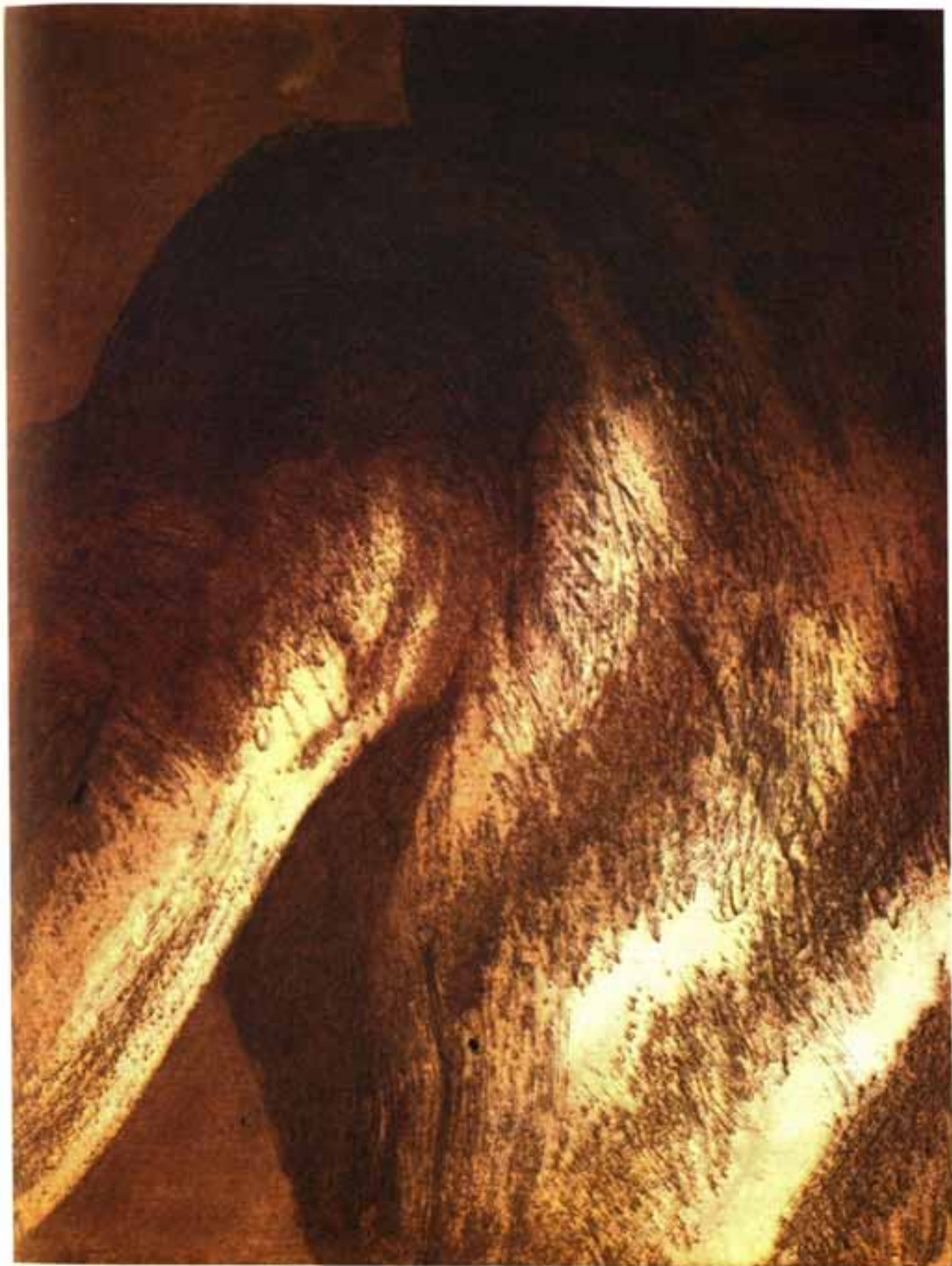
Royce Chan
Beach
(linoprint)



Tomek Naden
Chimney Stack
(Acrylic)



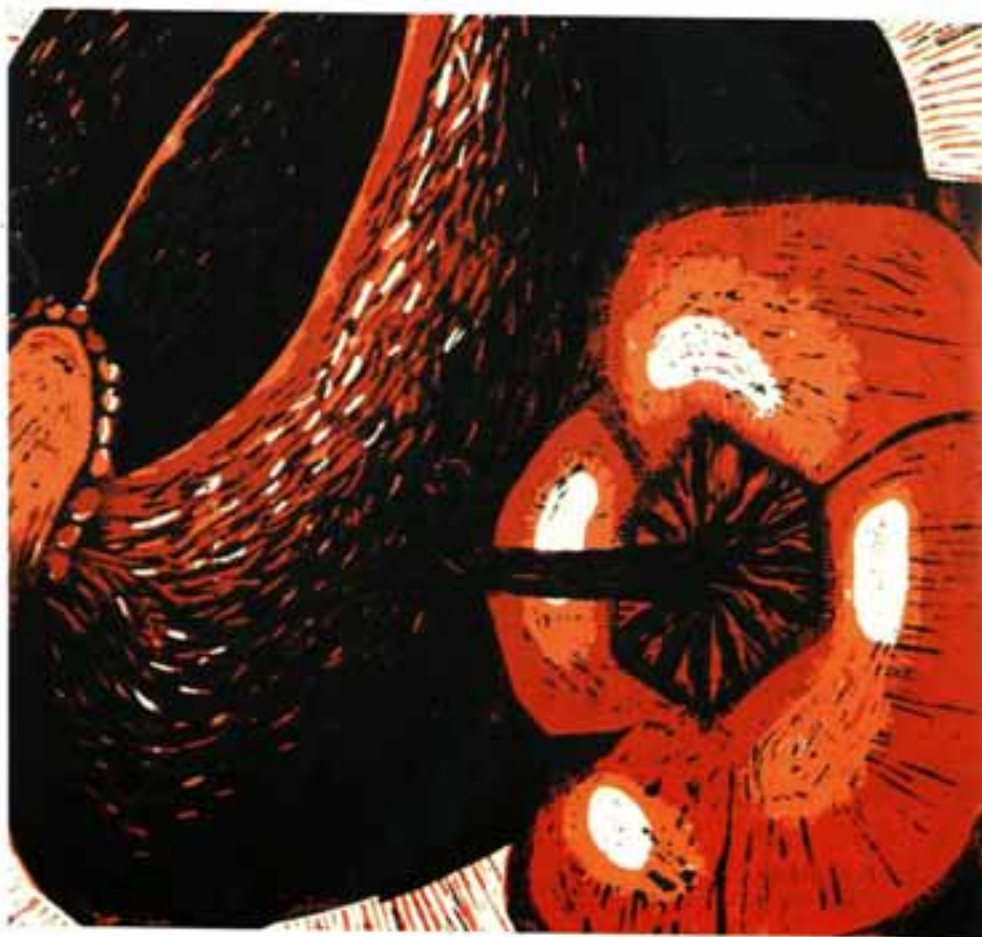
Henry Cumberlidge
Chains
(Oil)



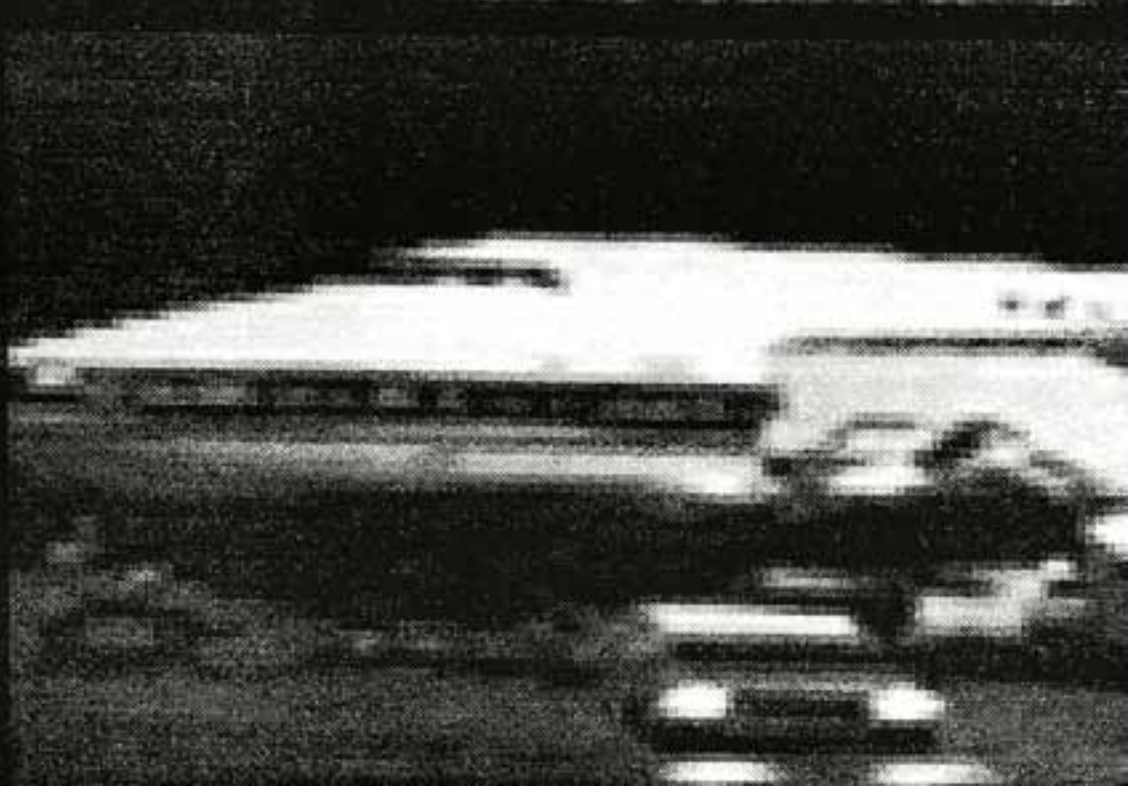
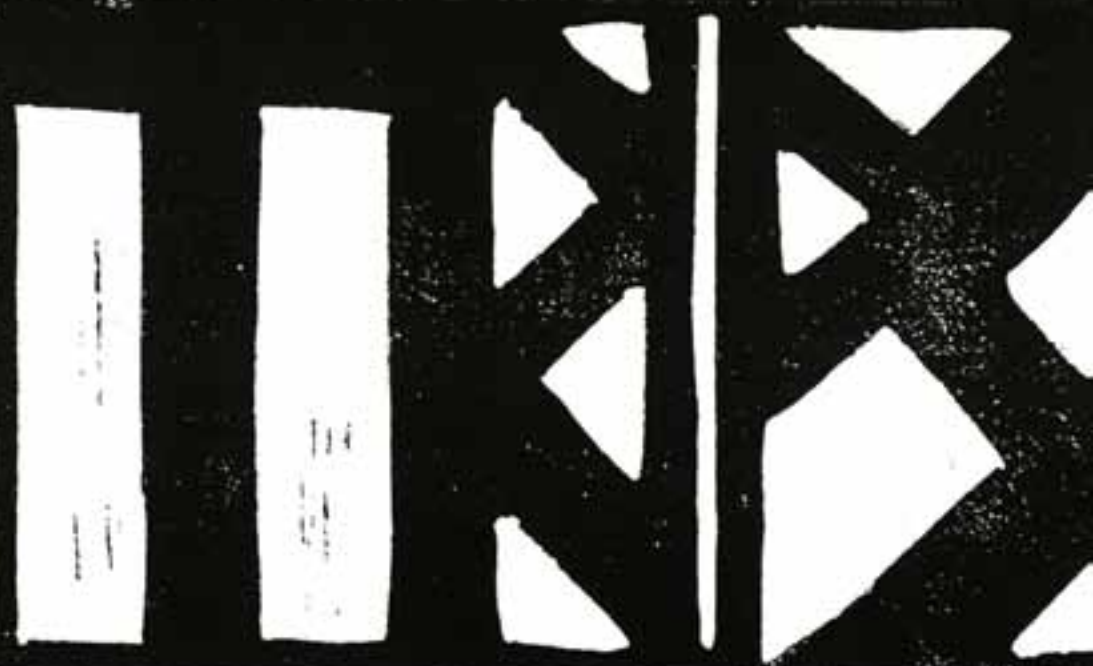
Tom Slater
Shoulder
(Etching)

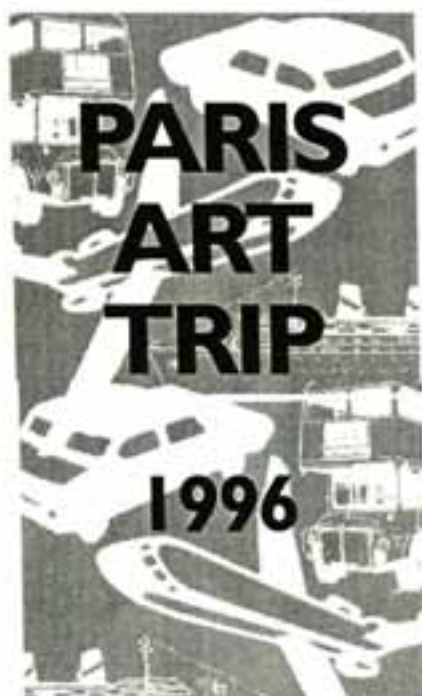


Andrew Wood
Doorways
(Oil Pastel)



John Hingley
Peppers
(Linoprint)





Thinker", and "The Gates of Hell").
Cafe Rating: 5/10 ('cos it was outside and surrounded by the sculptures which can put one off one's beverage).

The next day provided a feast of art for our souls to gorge upon, with visits to the Louvre, which contains some of the greatest classical art from the last few centuries (including the Mona Lisa, which you could just see through the crowds). *Cafe Rating: 0/10. It was too expensive.*

After that we strolled across Paris to the Picasso museum. These two galleries were undoubtedly the highlights of the trip, both containing some quite stunning art. The Picasso museum contains some of his greatest and most famous works, plus some lesser, yet equally visually stunning works. Nice.

Cafe Rating: 0/10. There wasn't one. Which was a shame for the whole group.

The next day dawned. We briefly frequented the Science Park for a bit of a laff, but it was naff, guv. So, we went to the Museum Marmottan which houses basically all of Monet's works, including "Impression Sunrise", the painting which gave the Impressionist Movement its name. Next was the Pompidou Centre, a gallery for modern art, with work from some great artists like Matisse and Duchamp, with his famous inverted urinal (we are not making this up).

No cafe: trip ruined!

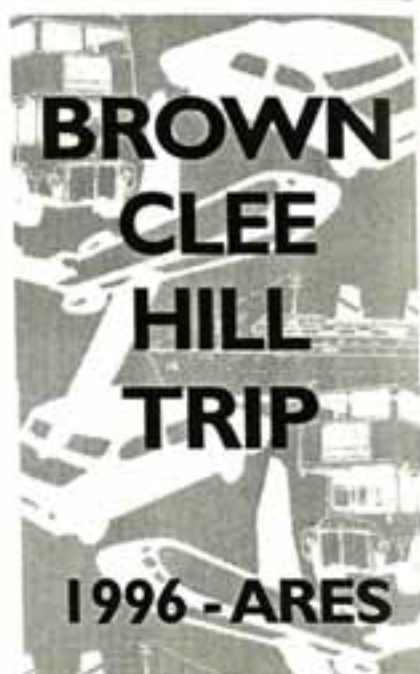
On the last day, we were very tired and glad to have a change of pace. We walked to the Sacre Coeur, and sat drawing it in the morning sunlight.

Cafe Rating: 10/10.

Smashing baguettes, faith in Paris restored.

We went on a boat trip on the last night, down the Seine, by the way. It was nice.

Chris Nayak
and Tom Slater



Every year, several intrepid members of ARES embark on a perilous quest to a barren land. The objective? To practise the art of radio communication in the most unfavourable circumstances, and to succeed in a nation-wide competition against other, like-minded parties.

And so it was that we found ourselves aboard a battered blue minibus in September, squeezed between aerials, radios, and Mr. Rigby's extensive alcohol supply. The party consisted of Mr. Rigby, Graham Brown, Andrew Hind, Richard Crabtree, the Biology Technician, Charles Banner, Matthew Carroll and, of course, me. The task ahead was perilous - we had to assemble an entire radio system, with aerials, and a small colony of tents. And eat Mr. Rigby's cooking. Then we had to take it all down again.

But we succeeded. After a weekend of crackling radios, hide and seek in the dark, and watching shooting stars, we staggered back home. Where did we come in the competition? I don't know. But the mere fact that we survived on that windswept hilltop says something, surely?

Edward Benwell

We left the Foundation Office at KES far too early to remember. After many hours on the road, we eventually reached Dover, and boarded one of the oldest ferries still in working service for Stenna Sealink; but we were reassured on boarding the ship by the intercom saying, "In the likely event of an emergency, the lifeboats are around somewhere". Everyone was sick. Oh dear.

There was unfortunately no time to visit a gallery that evening, so we relaxed in the hotel, then went to a "Flunch" restaurant (French for lunch). We sampled some exquisite French cuisine, before attempting to negotiate the French backstreets; but on the way we had the chance to see one of Paris's greatest architectural sites, the Parisian Balconies.

The next day, we went to the Museum D'Orangerie, which contains an extensive display of works by Degas, Seurat, Signac, and some other famous bloke. Most importantly, we stumbled across an elegant café, in which we could stay only briefly. However, we had time to sample some great coffee. It had a nice window.

Cafe Rating: 9/10.

That day, we also went to the Rodin museum, which contained work by the great sculptor (including "The

LEADERSHIP WEEKENDS

As is becoming customary at KES, twenty-four Divisions once again ventured into the unknown of a Mr. Roll Leadership Weekend. Groups of eight were taken on four Foundation weekends, led by staff from the participating schools. This year saw a location change, switching to an old people's home in Hereford. Thankfully, they didn't want to take part.

Anybody on the in-school Leadership Course will still be rewarded by the activities, as Mr. Roll (who is clearly disturbed) thinks up the most hideous problems he can. The tasks aren't particularly physical or mental, but are aimed at teamwork and co-operation. Working in a group with at least two people you've never met before means you have to be prepared to admit your weaknesses, but you come out better for it.

Fifty people in my year applied to go, and those who hadn't wished they had, when we got back. You'll end up tired, smelly, but not hungry-the food is great. Our thanks go to Mr. Roll for his organisational skills, and to all the other teachers who took part.

Kevin Garrington



Examining rocks on a Geography Field Trip

UMH's SHROPSHIRE FIELD TRIP (Geography)

Earlier this year, UMH, along with other UM groups, went on a day trip to Shropshire. UMH was in high spirits as it arrived in Bridgnorth to study its flood-plains and the middle course of

the River Severn. Whilst we were there, we managed to catch sight of a beautiful kingfisher. As we left, we passed briefly through Bridgnorth, observing the varied architecture of this old market town.

On the way to Church Stretton, our next stop, we passed one of the longest quarries in the area, at Wenlock Edge. We

had an interesting discussion on the coach about the pollution problems caused by extracting vast amounts of Wenlock Limestone from this site.

In Church Stretton, a small tourist town, the class wandered freely, answering questions from our pre-prepared questionnaire; we also had an opportunity to ask local townspeople questions about their community. We were given a chance to buy some sweets and eat our lunch.

Fully recharged with energy, we travelled over bumpy roads to Carding Mill Valley, an example of a five-hundred-and-ninety-million year old, 'V'-shaped valley. Here, surrounded by sheep, we carried out a geographical survey of the valley. This took up half an hour of our time, but was exhilarating, as we got to explore an area in the fresh country air.

Later, we climbed up the North-facing side of the valley and spent twenty minutes drawing the South-facing side. This gave us the chance to show off our drawing skills.

Tired with all the work we'd done, and the fun we'd had, we were finally forced to head for home. The class had an entertaining time, and had enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other really well.

Jack Hill



Leadership Weekend participants are dropped off at a secret location

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS EXCHANGE March 1997

As we, that is James Moriarty, Edward Benwell, Matthew Mahony, Marcus Haig, James Bucknall, Fahd Hakeem, Mr. Andronov, Mrs. Andronov, Mr. Benson and his fiancé Elaine, and Owain Thomas, arrived at Digbeth Coach Station at 5am on the 28th of March, few of us knew exactly what we were letting ourselves in for. Mr. Benson waved his Union Jack merrily as Mr. Andronov announced that everyone was present to catch the coach to Manchester Airport.

All went very smoothly until Matthew showed his passport to emigration at Manchester. "You haven't signed your passport," grumbled the tired-looking woman

behind the counter. She was trying not to smile which caused her moustache to twitch. "Oops," said Matthew as he scribbled down his name. How embarrassing.

Fourteen hours of travel later, we staggered off the New York to Dallas flight and were greeted by a room full of unerringly cheerful Americans. These were the people with whom we were going to spend the next fortnight. This was the point at which we were to find out who our people really were. We were all very lucky: all of the host families were friendly, generous, and rather unintelligible. Most of them were immensely rich too: this was apparent in the mansions in which they all seemed to live. I can't say that I have ever seen a barbecue with built-in deep freeze here, but then I haven't seen a 6ft television here either.

We were allowed most of the first weekend to fit in with our host families; the only time we all met was when we were invited to James Bucknall's host family's house for a barbecue (yes, the one with the deep freeze). I am afraid to consider how many cows were slaughtered to supply hamburgers for that evening. Judging by the amount of beef there, it is surprising that cows aren't an endangered species. It was here that we discovered that Americans

have a subtly different sense of humour to us. One friendly American chap called Ben was telling us about how he knew a girl who spoke French, "like a true Frenchman", when he was asked by someone whether her voice had broken. His reply was "no; why should it have done?"

On the Tuesday of the first week, our partners went back to school after their nine day Spring Break, so we went with them. St. Mark's School of Texas is to Dallas what KES is to Birmingham. Pupils are expected to produce high quality work, even though the standard of difficulty in some subjects (particularly Maths) is not quite as high there as it is here.

While the work is not wildly different to that done at KES, the teachers and uniform are. I was amazed in one English lesson when the teacher slopped into the classroom almost ten minutes late, which I was told was quite normal, wearing dirty jeans and a leather jacket, with his glasses almost falling off the end of his nose. I couldn't help noticing that there were bits of food caught in his stubble. "Who are y'all?" he said to the class: I think that was a joke. His analysis of Homer's Iliad was riveting.

It would be wrong to criticise their system, though. Continuous assessment meant that our partners generally worked harder at their homework than we do, perhaps resulting in a slightly better understanding of their work. I can now say with confidence that I am glad to be British.

During the two weeks of school we attended some lessons with our exchange partners. Mr. Andronov and Mr. Pickering (Mr. Andronov's opposite in America) arranged excursions for most of the days we were there - we were certainly not bored by too



The Hard Rock Cafe: Dallas, Texas

many lessons. It's surprising how easy it is to confuse the Basketball court, McDonald's, or even Downtown Dallas, with the Biology Lab.

One day we went "downtown" (to the city centre) in an all-American yellow school bus, equipped with a bodily fluids clean-up kit and vandalism alarm. We visited the book depository from which President Kennedy was shot. It was most interesting.

On another day, we went to Fort Worth Stockyards. This is the part of Fort Worth which is preserved: cattle used to be herded here for canning and distribution. This industry no longer exists, but it was interesting to see that Americans consider the cowboys who drove the Natives away to be heroes, and not money-grabbing, good-for-nothing thugs, only interested in themselves. We were walking along a gangway 10ft above the cattle pens, when we saw some nasty-looking men wearing orange overalls and digging holes in a yard nearby. The overalls had "Fort Worth County Jail" written on the back. The convicts growled and bared the rotting remains of their teeth at me as I photographed them.

One evening, we all went to a baseball game. After an hour and a half of sitting in the rain, the players finally strolled onto the pitch. Everyone except us roared with pleasure. Then it started raining again, so the game was cancelled. I'm told that Americans enjoy watching baseball, but the general consensus among us was that it was a waste of time and money. Its sole purpose seemed to be to attract people to the many hot-dog stands.

On the second Sunday, most of us went to Six Flags, an amusement park like Alton Towers.

Despite getting rather wet, it was splendid fun, and Fahd even thought he saw someone from 'Eastenders' there. That made his day. For some unknown reason, Marcus took his passport to Six Flags, and without noticing, dropped it under a seat in Matthew's exchange partner's car. There is a law in the USA which says you cannot leave the country without a passport, and Marcus spent four days thinking he had lost it. I'm sure he was very relieved when Matthew found it, even though he swore blind that he couldn't care less.

My favourite part of the trip was when we spent the night at a Ranch which belonged to one of the teachers. It wasn't so much a Ranch, as a couple of huts in the middle of nowhere, with a lake next to them. Some of us went swimming in the lake and slept outdoors. It was only afterwards that I found out that there are Tarantulas, Black Widow spiders and snakes which swim and bite, to be found in the area we were in.

Mr Seay, the teacher who owned the Ranch, was most entertaining. He found the greatest pleasure in throwing full boxes of fire crackers into the fire. 'Yipee!' he screamed. Sometime after we had all gone to bed in the middle of the field, we saw him walk to his

Jeep, wearing only his boxer shorts, and drive off at high speed. We must have been asleep when he came back, because he was present and attired in the morning. Nobody knows where he went.

It was a shame that during the last few hours of our stay at the Ranch, it started to rain torrentially. We went fishing in the lake and were all completely soaked. Three of us managed to catch fish: James' was the largest, but I preferred mine, which was a large-mouthed bass named Cedric.

When our stay in Dallas was almost over, hand shaking began. My hand was shaken by people at the school whom I am sure I had never even seen before.

On the morning of Saturday the 12th of April, we assembled at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, and were hugged, kissed, videoed, and telephoned goodbye. Marcus generously donated a rugby ball to Mr. Pickering, which we all signed. I'm sure he will treasure it forever.

Mr. and Mrs. Andronov should be thanked hugely for all their efforts, and I would certainly recommend future trips to everyone. Our trip two weeks well spent.

Owain Thomas



The Rodeo, Dallas

SAILING TRIP June 1997

Vomit, boredom and sleep are three words that could never be part of this report. On a very cold, wet and depressing Friday in June, James Wood, Neil Johnston, Steven Ball, Al Booth, The Vegetarian and I departed from KE, chauffeured by JAC, and equipped with everything from shorts and sunglasses, to silly caps and Wagon Wheels.

We arrived a mere three and a half hours later in Dartmouth (it's a good job the speed limit is 80mph, or JAC would have been speeding!). We immediately loaded our kit onto the 42ft, 17 tonne ketch, and fell asleep.

We awoke the next day obscenely early for a Saturday, listening to the

weather report on Radio 4, before deciding it was far too windy and unpredictable to risk sailing on the sea; so we promptly ate breakfast (a gorgeous fry-up), weighed anchor, and set off up river. We moored on a buoy after Andy, by a minor miracle, lassoed the rope around it, using the skill he'd acquired earlier in the morning.

Here we ate lunch (corned beef sandwiches), then listened to the forecast again and decided, in the words of our skipper, to 'suck it and see'. We cruised down the River Dart in the midday sun listening to the running commentary on the ships we passed by the skipper. Eventually the land parted and a vast mass of blue faced us.

The winds were high, but not as strong as we had expected, so we sailed on to Brixham where we dropped anchor for tea and biscuits. This, however, was not to be our mooring for the night, as we then sailed on into a secluded bay, just in time to see the sun drop below the cliffs on the longest day of the year.

The night was short but relaxing; however, the pleasure was short lived due to Al Booth's inability to

distinguish between half past six and half past seven in the morning. This mistake was probably induced by a lack of sleep.

Sunday was another early start, but the improved weather made it worthwhile; we headed for Teignmouth, passing some American cargo ships en route, and only narrowly avoiding the turn of the tide against us on our way back. After this fleeting visit we sailed back to Torquay, where we had some spaghetti bolognese... and a wash!

The whole experience sadly ended at nine that evening, when we returned to school, having eaten at a service station on the way. I have never experienced anything so calming yet exciting and thrilling as this trip, and I am not alone in thinking this. The whole crew would like to thank Mr. Cumberland for organising such an enjoyable and worthwhile trip; I know he is planning many more, if anyone's interested...

Philip Richardson



The hectic life of a School Sailing Trip

DIVISIONS BIOLOGY TRIP TO ABERGAVENNY

This year's Biology field trip was to the quiet Welsh town of Abergavenny. Due to the massive numbers of Biology students, two minibuses and a train were required. The journey for all parties took around two and a half hours.

We arrived slightly ahead of schedule, and were immediately assigned rooms, which were large enough to swing a cat in. That is, a very patient cat who doesn't mind banging its head a lot!

After picking up some vital equipment, like waterproofs and wellies, we set off on the first task of the week: a grid transect of a spoil tip. For the first three days, there was a variety of activities, centred around identification of species and environmental tests. Notable points of these days were the river pollution experiment, for having the second worst smelling area in the world; and the moorland transect, for making Matthew James into the worst smelling area in the world.

The final two days were spent on 'A'-Level projects, ranging from studies of leaf-eating insects, to counting the number of shrimp in a stretch of river. However, even though most of our

time was spent working, we did occasionally find time to sample the local chip shops and Chinese Take-aways.

Grateful thanks go out from all the lads to Messrs. Rigby, Lampard and Porter; and to Mrs. Matthews and Dr. Galloway, for organizing the trip, being great sources of inspiration, and for providing a very entertaining arm wrestling contest (Mr. Porter and Ben Bushell held each other off for a full five minutes before a draw was declared!). We thank you all!

Matthew Grady



Bali and Ethan looking clever

PORTHMADOG

We went to Porthmadog for part of our GCSE coursework for Geography, as the town has an important industrial history. We started by asking the locals to fill in questionnaires, and found out

later that most had been filled in by young attractive females! The first people our group interviewed were all over seventy, chosen because they couldn't run away.

Every morning we would catch the train to Port, as it is known by the locals, from Llanbedr train station, the nearest to our hostel. Despite showing our U-16 I.D. cards, we still got charged adult fare, much to the pleasure of our smaller colleague Richard Moynihan.

The people of Port were very friendly and kind, and the shopkeepers were as helpful as possible, a contrast to Birmingham shopkeepers. There were many tourist shops, but also specific craft shops and an impressive antique shop.

Porthmadog was a very welcome break from the hustle and bustle of school. Thanks to Mr. Cumberland, Mr. Barrable and Dr. Bridges who gave up their free time to take us on a fun and enjoyable trip.

*Richard Moynihan
and Prayag Rajpura*

THE ITALY TRIP

Easter 1997

The trip began on Saturday, 5th April at 12.30pm, when everyone turned up on time. After everybody had got on the coach and the sixth formers had removed various younger members of the party from the seats they wanted for themselves, the coach set off for Dover. These were to prove the first of many hours spent on the coach, singing along to music ranging from the Spice Girls, to various Sixties numbers, including an appalling rendition of Del Shannon's 'Runaway' by Paul Strudwicke.

By 6am, we were crossing the French/Swiss border, having driven through France during the night. After breakfast in a Swiss service station, we again set off through the impressive scenery, towards our destination of Lavorgo. After arriving and unpacking, the afternoon was spent on an Alpine walk, described by Mr. Lambie as being a 'moderate gradient', but evoking cries of, 'We're not going up that are we???' from several members of the group. But the walk rewarded us, eventually, with the sight of a picturesque church and stunning views down the Ticino Valley. Later, a game of football was organised, and Mr. Cumberland surprised everyone by showing a remarkable eye for goal, and kept his nerve for the penalty shoot out.

After an early start, we travelled to Paestum after brief visits to Pisa, Rome and an overnight stop in Aquasparta. It was here that the Sixth formers were

introduced to Peroni beer. Upon arrival at Paestum, everybody summoned their last reserves of energy and headed for the Hotel Disco, showing the Italian girls how to dance to 'Stayin' Alive'. They had obviously never seen 'Saturday Night Fever'. The next day was spent visiting the excellent Greek Temples at Paestum, which were unfortunately clad in scaffolding. The afternoon was spent on the beach and swimming in the sea.

After a visit to the impressively restored villa at Oplontis (built for the second wife of Nero), we travelled to Vesuvius. After a steep and dusty ascent, we were shown round the volcano by an Italian guide who spoke English in accents varying from Cockney to Black Country to absurd aristocratic dialect! Everyone, including the teachers, was trying not to laugh, so we missed the content of his speech.

Friday was spent visiting the city of Pompeii, buried by Vesuvius in AD 79. Memories of Caecilius, Grumio and Clemens came flooding back as we toured the city where all the Latin textbooks are set. The experience of walking through streets built 2000 years ago with buildings still intact, is truly memorable. Also memorable was the Fifth and Sixth formers having to sing the school song to a bunch of bemused Italians to prove how good the acoustics of Roman theatres are. After leaving Pompeii, we transferred to a hotel at Vico Equense.

The next morning was spent visiting the Pozzuoli amphitheatre, which although impressive, was not as imposing as the Colosseum or as much fun as

the pool at Averno. This was followed by the luxury of a restaurant lunch and, at last, chips.

On Sunday morning, most of the group visited the Museo Nazionale in Naples and marvelled at the treasures excavated from Pompeii and Herculaneum. Other members of the group went in search of 'proper food' and found a McDonalds occupied by KES staff who had had the same idea. The afternoon was spent in Herculaneum, a smaller but better preserved version of Pompeii.

Monday saw us begin our long journey back to England. We visited Solfatara, a semi-active crater which looked like something from a low budget Sci-Fi film. A break in the afternoon's journey allowed us to explore the palace of Hadrian at Tivoli, which was tranquil and attractive.

After an overnight stop in Aquasparta and a visit to Lucca, we again arrived at Lavorgo. Following a good night's sleep and a shorter Alpine walk, we set off back to Birmingham. After no sleep on the coach, and a full English breakfast at 3am, we arrived safely back at KES.

Thanks go to all the staff, especially Helen Lambie who acted as interpreter, and to Mr. Lambie, who planned the trip so meticulously.

Paul Bird



THE 1997 KES SKI TRIP TO OBERTAUERN, AUSTRIA



Ski Trip

The '97 Ski trip began on the Friday evening after the end of half term school. Our luxury (hmm) coach pulled up onto the forecourt at 5.15pm and the party began to load its bags. Half an hour later, the coach began the first leg of the journey, to Dover, the only incident being Mr. Connor stealing Richard Moynihan's McDonald's.

The non-stop journey to Dover was spent watching 'Independence Day' on video, and we ate dinner on the ferry to Calais. We then settled down for the 18 hour drive to Obertauern. We finally arrived at 8.30pm on the Saturday, having gone from Germany through to Austria, and then having one of the drivers perform a U-Turn back into Germany. The drivers also treated us to a spot of coach skiing, trying to drive up a steep mountain road without snow chains on. We were lucky to arrive at the luxury (I mean it this time!) hotel, the Felseralm, where we settled in

quickly amidst the softly falling snow.

Next morning we drove for 25 minutes to Obertauern, the big alpine resort where we would be skiing. We hired equipment and met our instructors, who were each to take one of the four groups: beginners, two

intermediates and the advanced group.

For most of the week the beginners stayed flat on their backs, convincing the Austrians that England would not be in contention for any medals at the Winter Olympics. The intermediate groups tackled the pistes with great endeavour, making up for any lack of skill with great determination, and the advanced skiers shamed the teachers into skiing on their own.

Each evening there was varied entertainment: football, basketball, a quiz, bowling, ice-skating and even skiing on a flood lit piste. Afterwards Judge Stead would carry out the day's punishments of fining two schillings for any misdemeanours of the day. The money went to presents for the instructors.


On the penultimate day of skiing, each group took part in a timed slalom race; Bill Critchlow won, and Michael Debney, a lowly intermediate shocked everyone with his surprising turn of pace. On the last day, we did some snow boarding and 'Big Footing'.

Thanks must go to our instructors, and all the teachers, especially Mr. Connor and Mr. Campbell. Thank you!

James Rose



The temple of Hera, Paestum



SHELL B TRIP TO STOKES BARN (Much Wenlock)

At last I was there! The coach had left school on the 16th May at around 2:15 p.m., and I was finally at Stokes Barn, Much Wenlock. Idly gazing around I noticed a large field and two buildings. All the food, equipment, and personal belongings were unloaded from the coach. We then put up our tents (in the big field), helped to carry food into the kitchen and still had enough time to look in the woods near to our campsite before cooking tea.

As part of the plan we all, in our tent groups, had to cook our tea on Friday and Saturday night, and if we wanted to we could cook our breakfast as well (although only one group did this). All tent groups had to plan their menus, bring the food and then wash up. After tea we started a fire, which gave us something to do in preparation for the night walk. We went to bed after a muddy night walk, tired, wet and happy.

Saturday was an eventful day. In the morning it was a halfway split between an orienteering competition, which was run in the grounds and the woods, and some activities which were designed to improve our teamwork and communication skills.

These activities consisted of herding blindfolded people into a certain area using only a whistle and, as a team, carrying a bucket full of water around the woods. We all got the distinct impression that these were much to the amusement of the teachers and the senior boy. The afternoon was spent

swimming, buying souvenirs, and doing a treasure hunt in the town.

We cooked our evening meal, on stoves again, as on Friday. Personally my cooking was a disaster; lots of food - it just took too long to cook. In the end I was the only one eating it! Another fire was started, but was considerably harder to start due to rain both on Friday night and in the early evening of Saturday. It was this rain that led to some people making a mud slide and getting themselves thoroughly caked with mud. Another person was "egged" [*this is a technical term, describing the act of throwing an uncooked egg at a person - Ed*] (much to our delight) by the teachers, and the night was spent singing campfire songs.

Sunday was the final day of the trip. We packed the remaining food and our equipment onto the coach. After a fell walk on the Wrekin (which left many people breathless) it was time to leave, after a very enjoyable trip.

Chris Hindley



WEEKEND CYCLING TRIP Saturday 22 June 1997

Day 1

We left school at about 9.15am, an hour earlier than we originally thought, because the route was going to take a bit longer. Greg, Sam and I were navigators; this was obviously going to be a problem as we started off with the map upside down. This was soon sorted out and we joined the M42 [*in a minibus/coach I hope! - Ed*].

We stopped at the services after about an hour and went in for a drink. We were told not to play on any

machines in the games area, so most of us went and played on the machines. We then started off on the motorway again.

We reached the Youth Hostel at about 11.30 after meeting Colin in the train station car park and convincing him we had been waiting 40 minutes longer than we had. We then unloaded the bikes, did some checks on brakes and gears and headed off on our course for that day. We did about 200 metres on the road and then went on to a small track for about a mile and a half. We then did some more road riding until we reached a small village. We stopped here for some lunch. We ate lunch in a park with an assault course which most of us completed. After lunch we continued on the road for about 500 metres before going on another muddy track. This track lasted much longer and was a lot bumpier. It led us through a field of sheep and down to a big, wet and very muddy puddle. Most of us got soaked and very dirty by riding through the puddle, doing wheelies into it and jumping into it on our bikes. We then continued riding. We came to a very steep downhill, not very far away from the Youth Hostel. I managed 37 mph down this hill and there were three people in front of me.

We got back to the Youth Hostel at about 5.00pm, got changed, had tea and played football at the local park until about 10.00pm.

Day 2

We all awoke at about 7:00am with saddle sores, but ready for another day's hard cycling. We dressed and packed our bags seeing as we were not going to come back before we went home. After packing the minibus with our belongings we headed for breakfast where there would be bacon, egg, sausage, beans and toast. After eating this rather large breakfast we all felt rather fat but knew we would work it off during the day. After checking the bikes and making sure we knew

where we were going, we were ready to start our 23 mile cycle.

After cycling for a while one person in our group had a flat tyre. We stopped on a kind of dirt track opposite a field with a mad horse in it. We repaired the puncture and Mr. Boardman made a comment on how lucky we were because he thought we would have had more punctures. But he now regrets this because, yes, I got a puncture. We repaired this and were getting rather anxious to leave this field because the mad horse was running madly around and charging at a sheep. We had just set off again when my dad, who had accompanied us on the trip, had another puncture. We repaired this and after sitting around for an hour we were finally off and glad to leave the field with the mad horse in it. After carrying on cycling we stopped by what Mr. Boardman described as the muddiest part of the trip, which was quite frankly a very big understatement. The mud was about a foot thick. After taking an extremely long time to get down the track, we stopped for lunch and cleaned our bikes.

After a well-deserved break we headed off to look at some Roman Ruins which were very good, and then we headed for a river where we had planned to go for a swim and clean the bikes. And swim we did, with a massive water fight against Mr. Boardman which was great fun. After getting very wet, we dried and got ready to cycle back to the minibus to head home.

The cycle back was hard, and everybody was tired, but we all got back and packed up the bikes ready to leave for home.

On the way back we stopped for a break at a service station, then arrived back to school. We unpacked the minibus, cleaned it, and went home after a very active weekend, which was excellent, but extremely tiring.

Gregory Cooper



Our group, made up of Economists, Linguists and people just along for the Duty Free, met at New Street Station

on Thursday morning. Led by Mr. Mason and Mr. Gunning, our plan was to board the reserved coach on the 7.45 train to Euston. There was one small problem - the coach wasn't there, so we had to split up along the rest of the busy train. The journey was boring and passed quickly enough, and we arrived at Euston a couple of hours later, aching and tired. There was several hours of coach travel still ahead of us. Hooray.

When we boarded our coach in London, the two other groups, from Mount Carmel School and Manchester, were already on board and we left London fairly quickly. This journey, too, was pretty uneventful, except when someone's mobile phone rang, and there was a scramble



amongst the girls school to see who's it was. We realised the girls from Mount Carmel were slightly, er, posher than us when they started comparing holidays in the Bahamas and contemplating whether to phone their daddies (on mobile phones) to come and pick them up from Paris. In private jets. The ferry, which was virtually empty, was quick, with most people taking advantage of the cheap alcohol - for their parents - in the Duty Free shop. After another boring coach journey (Mark and Dom already testing their purchases from the Duty Free), we finally arrived in Hotel Ibis, Paris.

Once inside, we were pleasantly surprised; the only thing that seemed to be missing were the stairs (but we found them on Sunday), so we settled into our rooms, with their folding beds and unlockable bathroom doors. At least we had a TV. We then split into different groups and went out for a meal. Our group spent a long time wandering around aimlessly, until

Matthew told us we were in the middle of the Moroccan Quarter, and we walked a bit faster. We got the Metro, and soon found ourselves next to Notre Dame Cathedral. It being our first night in France, we decided to go to an Italian restaurant. It was nice, though.

Next day, Friday, we spent the morning on a guided coach tour and had the rest of the day to ourselves. But the highlight of the trip was, of course the Seminar at Palais Des Congres on Saturday.

At about 10am on Saturday at the seminar, we heard a talk by Peter Luff on the background to the EU, which lasted about fifty minutes. Mr. Luff was the general host/announcer/bad joke teller and did a very good job of it. Next we had a slightly less interesting talk on the Monetary Union by a Lord Cobbold, and then a coffee break at 11am.

Half an hour later, we had a talk by Anne-Marie Martin of the University of London on planning a European career, and were shown a video by

Kingsbury High School. But the Seminar got more interesting after lunch, when the speakers included MPs Simon Hughes, John Stevens and Gladys Kinnock in 'Question Time', and a talk by ex-Coca Cola President and Body Shop director, Penny Hughes. The audience's questions gradually became more and more threatening to the speakers, and it was a shame when the Seminar finished at half past four.

The next morning we made quick progress home, again on a virtually empty ferry, and arrived back in the late Sunday afternoon, having greatly enjoyed the trip. Thanks to Mr. Mason who organized and led the trip, and a special thank you to Mr. Gunning who stepped in at the last minute, and whose late night patrols around the hotel corridors and threats of eviction from the premises to the miscreants were a highlight of the trip and kept everyone in check. Yeah, right.

Simon Moriarty



WIESBADEN EXCHANGE 1997

Every year, a number of 4th Year boys from KES and girls from Edgbaston High School choose to spend ten days entertaining a German pupil, and ten days in Germany with the roles reversed.

This year, fourteen people decided to be involved. There are a number of reasons for this: one said he wanted to improve his German, a few said they wanted to escape their parents, but most went for the experience. Obviously, some people who decided not to go underestimated this last factor.

We had the easiest leg, the advantage of home turf when we met our partners, meaning that we would know someone when we went to Germany later in the year. Most people were at Birmingham Airport to meet their partners, but one Englishman was only half way over the Bay of Biscay when the Germans emerged into the Arrivals Hall.

The Germans spent an enjoyable ten days here in Birmingham and the surrounding area, and I've been asked to mention the visit to Oxford, and in particular, the 'Story of Oxford' museum which bears an uncanny resemblance to 'Cadabra' in Cadbury World, which we also visited.

So, on the penultimate Thursday of the 1996-97 academic year, the pupils of the two schools were waiting for their respective teachers to arrive at Eurohub. They were already late, and had all sixteen tickets between them. Many of us didn't know what to expect, and even for Mr. Booth this was a first. The plane trip was reasonable, even though it was in a rickety old Boeing 737 which rattled even whilst taxiing.

Having arrived at Frankfurt Airport, we were whisked away to our partners' houses. After unpacking, I was given strong, sweet tea and a piece of tangerine and egg cake. Then there was time to read, watch television or go to the pub (the most popular option), which was generally the plan every evening.

An outline of our timetable for the stay included visiting our partners' school, going around famous and obscure cities, and visiting very old printing presses. Every now and then, the German school went on

excursions, and one day we had the privilege of going with them to the river banks of the Rhine and a theme park. This was in most cases a very enjoyable day out. Weekends were left at the peril of our adopted families, and included doing nothing.

Most of the activities put on for us in Germany involved our partners. This meant that we had someone to run after us and translate, dramatically reducing the need to speak in German-in some cases to such an extent that we didn't.

Nevertheless, each of us enjoyed ourselves, and I believe some are considering repeating the exercise. And I hope that this brief description of our visit has left you waiting in anxiety until you get the opportunity to go. It is a very good experience, certainly one not to be missed.

Matthew Reeve

EUROPAISCHES JUGENDTREFFEN '97

It was the 18th of July and three ambassadors for Britain left for Hanover to discuss the future of Europe.

Discussions ranged from 'Europe - is it a home?' to the legalisation of drugs.

The night at Hanover before the transfer to Hamburg included fun games from Swedish girls, revealing that they wanted to see Phil in drag for a transvestite 'Blind Date'.

There were also 'getting to know you' games, which involved kissing parts of people you would rather leave alone. The two simulation games required great cunning and skill, so my team lost.

There were frequent opportunities to go out; James was out every night with his disco fever. But there was also the chance to see Hamburg by day, especially the port and brilliant boats.

The last night was great, with 'Stand By Me' and several Smiths' songs



Englishmen (and women) abroad

being covered, with Phil on bass, James reading the lyrics and Charlie riffing furiously.

Thanks to Mark and Ann, and especially Mrs. Hodgkin for arranging it all.

Phil Moorhouse

WATER SPORTS TRIP

A coach load of forty KES boys and staff sent the locals running amok, screaming as the coach rumbled out from the luxury (ahem) class ferry with a rousing rendition of 'Fred the Toad' echoing from behind the windows.

This was the beginning of what was to be one of the weirdest water sports weeks ever to wind its way into the KES memoirs. It was in fact, the second such trip, led by the ever-youthful, balding amalgamation of humour and art that is Bradley Spencer, accompanied by a toupé, sorry, troupe, of the bravest staff ever to emerge from the creature comforts of the common room.

We arrived a day later to a barrage of amusing abuse from the PGL loonies. These nutters at first seemed infuriating, but we soon realised where their true wit lay. We had barely entered the campsite when the resident weirdoes dragged us off to the chilly Mediterranean for a quick 'Baywatch' entrance. After a PGL group talk with the other two schools on site with us, it was straight into our first activity. The party split in two, with half wave canoeing to a pier, whilst the rest discovered the joys of the Ocean Warrior (a 10ft long rubber banana, dragged along by a motorboat driven by a psycho). Mr. Everest came off worst: a misplaced elbow from Ankur Gupta left him wearing a rather



Nice City .. shame about the shades

fetching pink swimming cap for the rest of the week, to cover the sizeable wound to his head.

The remainder of our hectic week was filled with wind-surfing, topper-sailing and a day trip to Paradise - a small island where snorkelling and sun-bathing ruled. On this day came the illumination of the whole week by the poor, but not so ineffective, attempts of Dave (one of our PGL groupies) to chat up some blonde beauty on the beach. Evening activities included bowling, shopping and go-karting (with the opportunity to chuckle at the pathetic granny driving of the KES staff).



Watersports Trip

The high points of the trip came near the end. The first was the requirement to go to the campsite disco as something beginning with the letter S. A bemused group of Dutch girls looked on as the resultant collection of snorkellars, sailors, staff, surfers and a very peculiar sleeping bag partied on.

The second was the talent show on the final night, where Fred the Toad made rather a squashed appearance in a solo rendition of his very own song. The greatest show was the KES version of TFI Friday, PGL Saturday. Talent was low, but 'Freak or Unique' was over subscribed: Hippo showed off his size, Woody wiggled his eyes, and some REMs sung a song about ice cream and a truncheon. It was just a shame that the host, acting the part of Chris Evans, had never seen the real show in his life.

So when the time came, we reluctantly boarded the coach, with screams of 'Get in!' from KES and PGL staff alike. We wearily returned home, as the campsite disappeared into the distance. Thanks to all the PGL staff, and to the KES teachers that came along: Messrs Stone, Lambie and Everest Jr. Not least, thanks to Mr. Spencer for doing such a fine job of organising and running the whole caboodle. So, when's the next one?

*Andrew Wood, Paul Rutter,
and Will Hylton*

STA SAILING REPORT GOTHENBURG TO DOVER August 1997

When I won the Sail Training Scholarship, all I could think of doing was going on a journey to remember around Europe. But as the trip came ever nearer, I became more and more nervous and unsure of what to expect.

On the 15th August, I left home for Heathrow. Having arrived early, I wondered what to do, but straight away, another chap introduced himself and said he was going on the sailing trip as well. He was to go on the sister ship, 'The Malcolm Miller', and I was to go on 'The Winston Churchill'.

When I got off the plane at Gothenburg, and two guys introduced themselves, little did I know that these two people were who I was to spend the most time with over the next two weeks. We boarded the ship in the early hours of the morning and were advised to get some sleep, as we would be up again soon. Somehow I managed to squeeze into my bunk, with about two inches above my face, and soon dropped off to sleep.

The next day I was woken up bright and early, and that morning we began to learn the basic techniques needed to sail the ship. The rest of the day was spent getting to know one another and getting used to the new environment.

We spent the day in the harbour at Gothenburg, and the next day we set off for Denmark. After spending just a few hours on the ship, I knew that this

was going to be the best experience of my life, and that I'd already made some brilliant new friends. It was as if we'd known each other for years!

We arrived in Denmark and went for a look round. By the time we reached Bruges, everybody ended up going out for the evening, and we all had an excellent time.

Whilst on the ship, we all had jobs to do, but although it was hard work, it was always enjoyable, and brought new surprises.

The plan was then to sail around to France, but a girl named Kate hurt her arm in the chain locker, so we sailed back to Dover one day early. I wasn't looking forward to going home, because of the big family that seemed to have been formed on the ship.

During those two weeks, I made some of the best friends I will ever make, and I will never forget the voyage. It has changed me for the better: I learnt a great deal about life, and improved my teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.

I am very glad that I took the chance when it was offered to me, and I greatly encourage other people to go. It is a real life adventure.

Thank you!

Gavin Hamer

ICELAND

For three weeks in July and August of 1997, we experienced the unique and varied country of Iceland. We had chosen to cycle around the country, and any fears we had vanished when we arrived to blue skies and sunshine. But how long would the good weather hold out?

Our route took us from Keflavik to the capital, Reykjavik, which was much larger than we expected. It is expanding rapidly, but this means it is losing its identity, taking on much American architecture. However, the central, old town had a warm and sociable atmosphere.

From Reykjavik, we cycled north to Akureyri, covering just under 500km in a week. It was a very picturesque town, with a lot of attractive Icelandic architecture, and situated on the edge of a fjord.

We then travelled south by bus through the Kjölur route, one of the few routes that pass through the barren interior, and it is only open for a couple of months in the year due to the harsh



Sail Training Scholarship

weather. The journey took us through the lunar landscape between two of Europe's largest ice caps, Hofsjokull and Langjokull. One of the best things about Iceland is how untouched it is by mankind, and one can really appreciate the power and scale of the landscape.

At the edge of the Kjolur was Gullfoss, 'the golden falls'. Our time here was limited, but we were able to take in the scale and power of this famous waterfall. Our destination for that day was Geysir, a unique geothermal area. It is the site of two large geysers, and Great Geysir, from which all other geysers world wide are named, no longer erupts, but nearby is the regularly spurting (at least every five minutes) Strokur geyser.

Our expedition to Iceland was a truly unforgettable experience. We would like to thank the Parents' Association for this wonderful opportunity.

*Martin Lloyd
and Oliver Mytton*



King Edwards' Geysers



Icelandic Geyser

CHANGE



Gifford

After a rollercoaster of a year, with much anxiety, sweat, close decisions and a seemingly hopeless position in the Cock House at both Christmas and Easter, Gifford gave its best performance in memory to come from behind and win the trophy for the third year in a row. We had done the hat-trick!

A remarkable Summer Term transformed the competition and allowed Matt Kahn (the nicest and hardest working of all House Captains, surely) to receive the Cock House Trophy from the Chief Master on the last day. Matt and his team had displayed great effort and determination throughout the year and fully deserved the plaudits and success.

The competition is at its most competitive for years, with new House masters inspiring greater efforts in some Houses, whilst more experienced ones try to break their losing streaks. Gifford were warned by Mr. Chamberlain at the beginning of the campaign that the other Houses would target us and that we were the House to beat in all competitions. So it was to be. During the year, some marginal decisions went against us and there was controversy more than once. Mr. C. advised the House to stay above the fray "and to just get on with the job".

The Autumn Term saw Gifford off to their now traditional slow start though it was worse than ever with disappointing results in Challenge and Hockey. Senior Squash and Badminton produced excellent results thanks to the stalwart efforts of Modi, Pittaway and Atefi amongst others. Nevertheless, at Christmas we were last, clearly to the amusement of all except us! Matt responded with stern words and, by this stage, was clearly more confident in his difficult role, demanding lots more effort and determination. Could there be a feeling that there was a "Gifford bandwagon" and success was automatic? Matt flayed such thoughts and, for good measure, repeated his words in January.

In the Spring Term, we found our feet once more and put together some

performances more like the Gifford of previous years. We won Gymnastics for possibly the first time and then won Rugby overall. The Rugby win was not without its controversies but showed Gifford spirit at its best with excellent performances all down the year groups. In Basketball, the Seniors were wonderfully led by Mike Sheldon, ably supported by a team of varied ability but much enthusiasm.

The Juniors had a good Spring Term with very solid performances across the board, though Fives and Badminton were a little disappointing. The achievements of this section of the House were reflected in the number of House Colours and half-House Colours awarded at the end of the year. We were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and determination in Rugby and Basketball where we over-performed. The Minors had a mixed time of it though the Rems seem to be a particularly talented group with a great deal of positive effort and ability.

By the end of the Spring Term, we had risen to third place - this was higher than expected and transformed the attitude of the increasingly forlorn hierarchy of Captain and Vice Captains. Even though we were a long way behind Levett and possibility of the hat-trick still seemed out of our reach, at least we could have a go. However, the Summer Term has been notoriously weak for Gifford and Matt and the crew realised that the odds were stacked against us.

Ultimately, the Summer was amongst the most remarkable in recent Gifford history. By winning Athletics, Swimming and Cricket overall and doing well in Tennis, we had the mother of all terms. We won Athletic Standards with a record number of points and by a record margin. We also won Senior and Minor Cricket and performed consistently well in Swimming. Robbie Newman, Neil Brandrick and Paul Reynolds are worthy of special praise in the Cricket, Paul Rai in the Tennis and James Skidmore, Chris Howells, Paul Atefi and Matt Kahn in the Swimming.

On the last day of the school year, the Gifford leadership sensed something was up when the School Recorder

delivered a series of silver cups to Room 57. It did not seem possible that we had won both Athletics and Swimming, even Cricket too. The House meeting in the Concert Hall was tense but excited. The Sixth Form processed to the front and Matt gave a bravura performance that took us all by surprise. His confidence and command of the House was impressive and all who saw his relaxed, cheerful manner that day would not begrudge him a victory. After the preliminaries, Matt handed over to Mr. C, though not before Mr. C. was presented with his honorary House Colours and a box of Boddingtons to thank him for all of his efforts. Matt reported to the House that it was rumoured that Mr. C. might not be our House master at this stage next year.

In Gifford, it is rare that any of the teachers address the House due to the devolution of power to the House Captain and his team. This "leadership in action" is one of the key reasons for our recent success, though Mr. C. maintains a vice like grip over the general matters of the House. However, it is traditional for Mr. C. to talk to the House at the beginning and end of Term and so it was in July 1997.

Mr. C. gave a speech in which he thanked the House tutors for their reliability and enthusiasm and then thanked the House for another year of hard work and esprit d'corps. He announced that in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the House, David Brunt, Amit Sharma and Robbie Newman were to be awarded Graham Dunn Prizes and for his tremendous leading of Gifford during the year, Matt was to receive a special award: the Sarah Coleman Award, never before awarded. House Colours were also awarded to a large number of deserving 4th, 5th and Divs.

Finally to the Cock House result. Mr. C. reminded the House that we were in uncharted waters in going for the hat-trick and that for much of the year, we seemed plagued by misfortune and near misses. The hierarchy had come to Terms with us not winning but he said that the Summer Term had been exceptional. To a hushed House, with many of the Sixth Form displaying their nerves and fears, Mr. C. started out on

the results. Tension mounted as fourth place was announced and then third. We couldn't have done it, surely? Mr. C. unfolded the results sheet to reveal to himself the top two places. Had we overtaken Levett? There was no expression on his face but time seemed slow. Mr. C's eyes lifted to the House and said simply "The winners are... Gifford". The Sixths were jubilant as the House roared its approval and relief: amongst the backslapping and smiles, Gifford celebrated another win.

The Gifford spirit had seen us through with performances of excellence and nerve. Mr. C. said that the mission was accomplished and, with obvious pride, dismissed the House. Will it be his last win?

In Big School later that morning, Matt's wish came true as he walked down towards the Chief Master and the Trophy. To applause, it was raised above Matt's head several times. The mission had been accomplished: Gifford had won, Matt could celebrate and we were all chuffed!

Thanks to the tutors, thanks to the great effort of all, thanks to Matt and his team and thanks to Mr. Chamberlain. Now we wait for the defence to start again.

Stuart Howard

Levett

Having finished a highly commendable fifth position in last year's Cock House, Levett's hopes for the latest campaign were boosted by the ascension of Mr. Roll to the role of House Master, following Mr Phillips' elevation to the position of Third Master. Immediately, the new supremo began his reforms, decreeing that no longer would the whole House meet for Full House meetings, but that the House would be split into two groups in order to allow the senior end of the school to have more meaningful discussions which were above the heads of the lower years (hmmm...). Further additions to the team were Messrs. Deeley and Campbell, the latter quickly stating his intention to start a Levett fitness session before House meetings!

First event was House Challenge. After losing in the first round to Jeune,



*Levett's not so triumphant
Captain, Andy Martin*

Patrick Finglass' team conquered Vardy to regain last year's fifth place. Next up was Chess, a competition in which Levett are traditionally clear champions. This year was no exception, with Patrick and the boys storming home ahead of Jeune and Vardy. The usual Levett mediocrity in Table Tennis prevailed, with the Seniors a comfortable eighth (although F-J claimed that this was "a creditable result"!) and the Juniors disqualified due to the failure of a certain boy to turn up. On the bright side, the Minors managed a creditable third place yet this was not enough to prevent Levett gaining our customary eighth place overall.

The Hockey team soon got Levett back to winning ways, defeating Cary Gilson 1-0 in the final to claim first place. This was enough to give Levett a five point lead at the top of the Cock House at the end of the Autumn Term, with hopes of a first win since prehistory riding high. These hopes were confirmed by third places in Badminton and Squash, plus the added bonus of fifth place in Fives - not bad for a House with, frankly, not a lot of Fives talent.

Peter Wigley's virtuoso performance helped secure second place in House Music, with a highly talented Gymnastics team achieving the same place days before.

Undaunted by the task of facing top athletes such as Ben Levine and Jolyon May in Cross Country, speed merchants Nick Hammon and Russell Tarver,

accompanied by Levett's athletic contingent, ran Levett all the way to a surprise first place in Cross Country, whilst the Basketball team finished a slightly disappointing fifth. In House Bridge, Levett was unable to build on last year's stunning fifth place, slipping back down to seventh.

The Senior Rugby team brushed aside Heath 44-22 in the first round before narrowly losing against the run of play to Cary Gilson, though Alisdair Jubb and Ben Forgiel-Jenkins did particularly well to injure James Hynes after ten minutes. Round three resulted in a comfortable win over Vardy, which earned the Seniors third place, an outstanding performance considering the number of non-Rugby players Levett were forced to play. The other years not only consolidated the Seniors' position, but propelled Levett into an overall position of second, which was crucial to the House's Cock House hopes due to the heavy weighting of Rugby in the final table. Indeed, at the end of the Easter Term, Levett had increased its lead in the Cock House to a huge twenty-five points, with Vardy and Gifford leading the chasing pack. As an increasingly triumphant Levett looked forward to the final push in the Summer Term, it bade a tearful farewell to Mr. Campbell, who was to leave the school to take up full-time Rugby coaching.

A mediocre performance in Athletics was compounded by nearest rivals Gifford's first place and the traditional eighth in Tennis meant Levett would have to take the Cricket and Swimming competitions by storm to secure the Cock House Championship.

Ominously, the Cricket team managed to get to the final, only to lose to Gifford, who were by now on a bit of a roll. Our own Roll was by now aware that his first year in charge was not to end in victory, and this fact was confirmed by the outcome of the Swimming competitions. Despite having a team weakened by injuries, Andy Page and Paul Strudwicke managed to get to the finals of their events as did the relay teams. However, the water polo team, described lovingly by Strudwicke as 'rubbish', lived up to expectations in the first two rounds,

losing 4-2 and 4-0 before against the laws of physics, winning 2-0 in the final match to secure seventh place.

The lower years and Standards pulled the overall Swimming placing up to third, but it was not enough to stop Gifford running away with the championship. Still, if you'd said two years ago that Levett would finish second in the Cock House, the men in the white coats would have come to take you away....

Charles Banner

Vardy

Last year, we stood on the mountain top. We looked into the distance and saw the Promised Land. However, 1996 was not to be the year of the mighty Team Vardy as Gifford's reign of dominance in the Cock House competition continued unblemished.

The 1997 campaign started with many of the younger, foolhardy members of the House questioning the traditional tactics of honesty and good sportsmanship in favour of the somewhat dubious policies of our illustrious rivals in the quest for the ultimate prize. The older members wisely steered the youngsters away from temptation and so began the 1997 campaign in a stoic manner which put us into sixth place by Christmas. This position was achieved due to courageous performances in House Chess from William Rumball and Stephen Stretton, amongst others, who managed to elevate the House from our seeded position of fourth to third. So fearsome was the Vardy machine that the School Chess captain, Patrick Finglass, was too scared to play his match! Good performances in House Challenge and Hockey meant that we had lulled the other Houses into a false sense of security, leaving them open to a fierce attack from behind in the New Year.

1997 was met by a Vardy House acting with the precision of a skilled assassin, shooting down the cream of the opposition with reckless abandon. Although first place is gained annually by Vardy in Fives, we should not become numbed to this excellence and

Oliver Kinbrum must be commended for helping to continue this dynasty. Vardy won House Basketball for the first time in 12 years as a result of clearly being better than the opposition in all age groups. This secured us second place going into the Easter break. The task presented to us was clear: good performances in the Summer sports and victory could well be ours. Then, we too could savour the sweet taste of success, instead of smelling it upon the breath of others.

The House casually swaggered into the Summer Term with the hard won confidence that can only be obtained by being victors of some of the most glorious campaigns in Cock House history. This self assurance rubbed off on all of the members of the teams competing in the Summer as Vardy gave the opposition a well deserved thrashing on numerous occasions, notably Swimming. An all-star line up of school swimmers assured us of a top two position. Unfortunately, this was as far as we got in Swimming and we came second overall. Cricket, which has always been something of an Achilles heel to Vardy, was taped up once again and was set to undergo the annual testing. Fortunately, the injury did not plague us this year as we ranked highly in the final Cricket standings. Excellent third and fourth placings in Tennis and Athletics respectively stood us in great stead for the final tally at the end of the Cock House competition. Judgement Day came and went, leaving Vardy in a stalwart position of third place. It is at this point that I implore the members of my House to abandon the 'Rope a Dope' tactics, come through in my final round of the fight and deliver the knockout blow to the George Foreman of the Competition. Viva Vardy!

Hamza Kuraishi

Heath

For the first time in my history at the school, Heath have come below third in the Cock House competition. This isn't the disaster it would appear as the loss of our longest serving tutor, Mr. Nightingale, and Miss Tudor's temporary absence left us with two new

tutors with very little time to learn the job. The efforts of Messrs. Stacey and Simpson throughout the year were nothing short of Herculean to get such good results from a rather mixed up House.

The Autumn Term wasn't one of the best as our excellent results of first in Table Tennis, thanks to the stirring efforts of Martin Lloyd, and second in Squash were dragged down by a fabulous eighth in both Chess and Bridge where our invisible team of experts was sadly disqualified. In Hockey we came sixth thanks to the inspired leadership of Venura Samarasinghe; George Simms' effort in House Challenge was enough to achieve third; Gymnastics fourth; Justin Kai ensured that we were able to put up a good fight in Basketball and we did well to finish fourth. We came sixth in Cross Country (usually a strong event for Heath!) which proved to be quite a disappointment.

For the Spring Term, we had a lot to do to get back into the running for the Cock House. Third in Rugby was a good start thanks to the wonderful leadership of Andy Kent and things were starting to look better. Shooting was also a good result (third) under the expert direction of Dave Clark, a true assassin if ever there was one. We came second in Fives with thanks to the splendid guidance of the well known Heath Fives captain (who I don't actually know!). All in all, the Spring Term was a very successful one and we finished it with everything to play for.

This left it all hanging in the balance for the Summer Term, which traditionally was our strongest. We finished first on Sports Day which was the same result as last year but was let down by a terrible performance in the Standards to end up third in Athletics overall. In Swimming, we came third thanks to some awesome Swimming from that well know fishy fellow, Ben Stinton. We finished fourth in Cricket which was a mild disappointment, though first in Tennis, once again thanks to the efforts of Martin Lloyd.

All that remains is to remind everyone that we can win and if we consistently try hard, we will do it!

John Walton



*Evans' Ben Levine, hotly pursued
by James Wood*

Evans

At the start of the year, everyone in Evans had two questions on their minds: Would we be able to maintain the previous year's splendid challenge in coming fourth? With the school at its biggest ever, would we really be able to fit everyone into LR1? Adam Johnson was the new House captain and the organisation of the senior end of the House was impeccable. Robin French, the vice-captain, made his mark with witty oratory in House meetings, slandering all and sundry and never allowing the truth to influence his observations. Andrew MacLachlan as House Recorder computerised the House points system and hopefully people will get House Colours on time in future.

There were, over the year, some superb performances and the Upper Middles occasionally took part. Basketball, that we had so dominated the previous year, did not go quite as well: joint second overall was reasonable though disappointing. Our final position of second in Athletics was an excellent achievement, mainly due to a fantastic effort by the Divisions. If we had coerced more people into doing Standards, we might have been first but it is beneath Evans to use Gifford's subtle tactics. Rugby was mediocre overall but much credit must go to the Mark Davis and Kevin Chung inspired 4ths who won Fourth year Rugby after

an impressive team effort. The disaster area was Cricket where bad seeding and bad luck was ended with us losing the Minors and the Seniors off the last ball in the first round when we had every chance of doing extremely well. The following boys particularly have to be congratulated: Ben Levine who is a great athlete; Chris Lawrenson whose all round performance was awesome; Michael Purdon, an Evans sporting giant and a deserved choice as House captain; Ian Anderson who is a sport organiser and 100% committed competitor; Mark Davis and Kevin Chung who set a great example to all.

In naming a few people, we must not forget the efforts of the many. We came fifth overall with Alastair Treharne being awarded the Evans Senior Cup and Kevin Chung the Junior Cup.

SJT

Cary Gilson

With James Hynes at the helm, Gilsonites had a real feeling that this was our year and that we could relive those glory days of Mike Ellis bringing the Cock House Trophy back to Geography Room A. We had an array of multi-talented Sixth Formers who promised much: Hynes was 1st XV Rugby Captain; Ross a 1st XI Cricketer; and Brindley a 1st XI Hockey centre forward. By Christmas, however, it was the smaller competitions with fewer points that let us down: sixth in Challenge and fifth in Chess meant we were a meagre fifth at Christmas.

The Easter Term proved equally unsuccessful with a joint last in Basketball and a poor performance in Squash and Rugby. We ended the Term in sixth place and quite a way off fifth. The end of Term House meeting was a crucial one: the Captain had to rally his troops and impress upon them our trump card - Standards. "If we get the Standards in, we're still in with a chance," shouted Mr. Russell. But it was not to be. We tried and tried but came a disappointing fifth in Cricket despite great performances from Jamie Child and Jon Ross. Athletics went quite well: second in the Shells with good achievements from Robinson and

Ferner as well as a good performance from Pope in the Fifts. Maybe the future's bright for Cary Gilson. Maybe.

Thanks must go to Mr. Russell, as ever, for another seamless year, organisation wise, and to the other House Tutors for all their effort. A special thanks must also go to James Hynes who proved to be an inspirational Captain.

Ravi Thukral

Prince Lee

After the legacy of eighth place for, well, as far back as anyone can possibly remember, the arrival of Mr. Connor finally made a difference in 1996 as we finished a somewhat creditable seventh. In his final year as our boss, everyone was hoping that perhaps he could make us rocket even further away from the base of the Cock House Table which we had become so used to propping up.

After the Christmas Term, the spirit that was making Prince Lee look like a contender for the title (!) was flowing superfluously and we managed the supreme position of joint second, thanks largely to the efforts of Charlie Webb, Jon Goldman and Sandeep Sunkaraneni in winning Senior Fives.

Any hope that this Term had given us was soon quashed due to some very ordinary performances in the Easter Term. Rugby, the major points scorer for most Houses, again let us down and all that could be mustered was a horrible last position. Perhaps, yet again, the question should be raised as to why it



Prince Lee's Andrew Gee

is that Rugby should take so much precedence in the points availability as compared to all of the other events. How is it possible that the winner of this event collects more points than the House that came first after the combined events of the Autumn Term? As I am not the person that runs or made up the system, I cannot give an answer but I can say that the general consensus of all the people in Prince Lee is that it is completely ridiculous.

It must be said, however, that at least this year we did manage to put out a full team for most of the matches and the "well done boys" issued by IJC should not be sniggered at for, although we did badly, we finally tried not to. Even Cross Country, a sport in which we usually excel, turned out to be disappointing. Congratulations must go to James Wood for again showing that he is the Prince Lee fitness guru with his string of first places. The exploits of Kieron Quirke were on show in his annual display of brilliance as he cleaned up in Music. This gave the term's competition a modicum of respectability but again we were doomed to propping up the Cock House Table.

Summer brought with it new spirit, the major competition being Cricket. A great performance from the Webb brothers lifted us onto new highs as an

unbelievable second place was attained. Tennis followed suit as Prince Lee managed to come second, leaving us in the ultimate position of seventh again (though only 3 points from sixth).

Hopefully, next year we can carry on improving and our aim should realistically be mid-table. What is in store for us depends on the commitment given by all the House members. Thanks must go to IJC for his will to install some motivation in a House in which few believed it possible and also to Tom Manners for his everlasting keen spirit and organisational skills. This leaves me only to wish the new House Master, Mr. Burns, the very best of luck in the mammoth task that lies ahead of him.

Bali Muralidhar

Jeune

This year's Jeune House report could easily have followed the format of the previous four years - "The House once again failed to live up to its potential!" For a fuller description one should simply cast one's eyes over last year's report, with similar results having been achieved and similar excuses possible. One difference, however is that this year Jeune won Bridge convincingly,

showing some of the old Jeune panache in obliterating all the competition from the table to storm through victorious, as the champions of the pre-1992 era did so often. This lone trophy, epitomising in its singularity Jeune's plight in this year's Cock House Competition, casts a lonely figure in the House cabinet which the senior Jeunites will remember as once brimming full.

With my appointment to Jeune House Captain, I had grandiose plans of reinvigorating the House as Tom Tipper and Billy Butler had tried so earnestly to do before me. Oh how deep the hurt to finish my time at this school having failed in my endeavour and whilst the blame cannot be saddled entirely by myself (for my butt-kicking failed to arouse some people's desire to achieve), I ultimately accept the responsibility for my House. The greatest shame is that the ostensibly consistent failure which characterises Jeune is actually a mixture of great effort on some parts and great lethargy on others. Lower down the House the likes of Gavin Sterry, Joe Tipper, and Oliver Watkins (to name but a few who deserve to be mentioned) put to shame the apathetic members of the House such as those who failed to turn up to the final round of Senior Squash.

For those of you who wished to read a list of results I apologise, as indeed I do to those members of the House who have participated in events and whom I have neglected to mention. I felt, however, that such an unemotive description would have been fruitless and even more boring than my own personalised drivel above. What I wish to say however is that Jeune is still the greatest House, whether it can be proven by trophies or not, and its former glory shall soon be regained after its renaissance under a Captain more capable than I of inspiring the troops to victory. My parting sentiments to Jeune are fond but sincerely vigorous, "Win, Jeune win!!!"

Alistair Shepard

*The Jeune
Shell Tutor
Group manage
to keep a brave
face in defeat*



THE 1996-7 COCK HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL PLACINGS

	GIFFORD	LEVETT	VARDY	HEATH	EVANS	CARY GILSON	PRINCE LEE	JEUNE
CHALLENGE	1	4	2	6	5	3	8	7
CHESS	4	16	12	2	10	8	6	14
TABLE TENNIS	2 1/2	1	4 1/2	8	7	4 1/2	6	2 1/2
HOCKEY	2	16	6	4	10	14	12	8
GYMNASTICS	8	7	1	5	6	4	2	3
BASKETBALL	19 1/2	12	24	15	19 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	9
BRIDGE	3	2	7	1	5	6	4	8
SQUASH	16	12	8	14	4	6	10	2
MUSIC	3/4	3 1/2	1 3/4	3	3/4	1 3/4	4	2 1/2
BADMINTON	4	10	8	12	15	15	6	2
FIVES	2	8	16	14	10	4	12	6
RUGBY	48	42	24	36	24	24	6	12
CROSS COUNTRY	21	24	18	7 1/2	13 1/2	3	7 1/2	13 1/2
SHOOTING	3	4	5	6	2	0	8	7
ATHLETICS	48	24	30	36	42	6	12	18
SWIMMING	32	24	28	20	8	16	4	12
CRICKET	48	42	24	24	12	24	36	6
TENNIS	10	2	12	16	4	14	6	8
TOTAL	272 3/4	253 1/2	231 1/4	229 1/2	197 3/4	157 3/4	154	140 1/2
POSITION	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th



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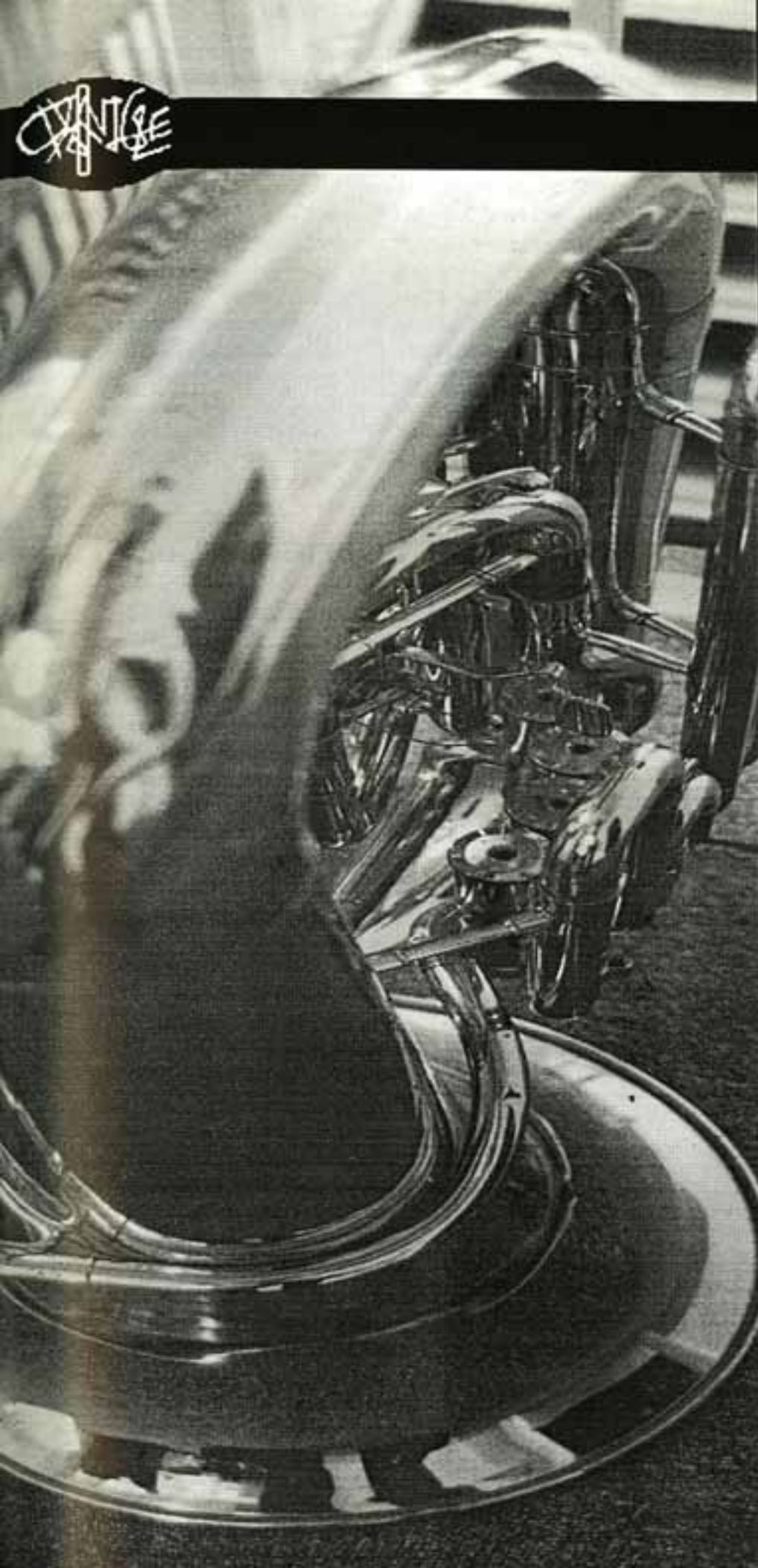
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Lunch time Recitals

There were seven Lunchtime recitals this year. The three featured in the Autumn term were of outstanding quality. From Sixths Andrew Wolfe, Chris Gibbs and Chris Downham to the (relatively) young Simon Meredith in the IVths, and from the electronic organ to the trombone, the appetising range of music and musical instruments available was obviously appreciated.

The Spring Term brought three more unforgettable lunchtimes of good music. Kieron Quirke and David Clarke showed their talents with amazing performances in the first, while KEHS supplied violinist Gemma Parker, and Katie Lambert playing the clarinet for our second recital of the term. Finally, Juliet Otto and Jenny Graham displayed musicianship of the highest quality which we would see later in the year in the first Summer Concert in the last solo lunchtime recital of the year, shortly before the Choral and Orchestral Concert.

The summer term, with its very full concert program provided only one opportunity for us to hear free music as various chamber music groups performed for our pleasure, and gave us a taste of the versatility afforded by a group of three or more musicians. On reflection, a very good year for the humble recital. It is a shame that we do not have more occasion to witness the talent showcased in this year's series of recitals, but on the other hand, it leaves the impression of equal and possibly greater pleasures to come next year.

Andrew Clayton



Jenny Graham looking slightly stressed, as she is about to perform in a Lunchtime Recital

Christmas Concerts

This year's Christmas Concert came in two parts. Not, as usual separated by an interval of 20 minutes, but in two separate parts on consecutive days. This was, however, not a problem as the audience and musicians were permitted to return home between concerts.

The first concert, advertised under the striking title of "Christmas Concert 1", contained many fine performances from Concert and Wind Bands, and the KES choir, although as usual Symphony Orchestra's performance was the highlight of the afternoon.

The second concert, under the imaginative but not entirely subtle title of "Christmas Concert 2", was the opportunity for Concert Orchestra, Swing Band and the KEHS choir to show their talents. Yet again the Symphony Orchestra's performance shone through, bringing the evening to an enjoyable close. Those who were present at either concert could not have failed to be impressed by the music of Symphony Orchestra. There were performances of "Prelude to Hansel and Gretel", "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso for Violin and Orchestra" with star soloist Jenny Graham (playing the violin, I think) and Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty Suite", which is a favourite piece of mine. Thus I enjoyed the entire concert, and was, I believe, not alone in my appreciation of fine music.

Andrew Clayton

1995 KES/KEHS ORCHESTRA PETER BRIDLE



RACHMANINOV SYMPHONY NO 2

CD One

Unashamed Advert: The KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra has produced at great cost, Compact Discs of their performances. Those who appreciate fine music, or the very fine orchestra, will enjoy these CD's as a gift, and at only £11 for either CD, they would

make a perfect Christmas gift, Birthday present, Frisbee, etc... CD One contains material from their 1995 Summer repertoire, a full presentation of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. CD Two was recorded this summer at Summer Concert One, and has both

the Shostakovich and Saint Saëns work which is reviewed in the Summer Concert Report. Shostakovich's fifth symphony and the Carnival of Animals by Saint-Saëns make an interesting pair, and this CD is an invaluable addition to

the music collection of any self respecting Old Edwardian or parent. Seriously, though, the recordings are good, and I recommend the CD's as good value. They have to be heard to be believed.

CD Two



Syndicate Concert 1997

A sell-out crowd embarked on a utopic musical journey kicked off by the rousing fanfares of the Brass Ensemble, in the small, yet capable hands of Ellie Searley.

Two moving Chopin Nocturnes were then played beautifully by Chris Hooper, followed by the Larsson Concertino for Trombone, expertly performed by the buzzing lips of Chris Downham.

The interval crowd were dazzled by the emotional and moody jazz of Andy Wolfe and Simon Meredith, who are, without doubt, available for parties and weddings at a very reasonable rate. Masterful conducting of Patrick Finglass and stunning violin work from David Clark combined with a tight orchestra to produce an excellent rendition of Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre. The already excited crowd

were whipped up into a musical frenzy by the mellow tones of the newly formed KES Barbershop Quartet (KQ, Ben Mc, JGFH, AndyW). Their sheer comic genius and deft musical nuances left the audience somewhat tearful, before the showstopping Swing Band, as usual full of smiles,

concluded a spectacular evening. Special mention must go to Ellie's sunglasses for being very pink. However I must ask myself, where all the left over wine went....

Swing Band, purveyors of fine music which involves... um... swinging



Summer Concerts

The Summer concerts this year were divided, with the first two before the A-level and GCSE exam leave started, and the third at the end of term at the more traditional time.

Concert One

The first concert was a huge success, as the Symphony Orchestra performed Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Praise must be awarded to certain musicians who made the concert very enjoyable. Ellie Searley and her lively timpani playing caused some amusement among the younger members of the orchestra. But it was the orchestra members from years gone by that gave the concert a special feel. With the likes of Abigail Parker returning to play cello, and extra members of the brass section having been recruited in order to help produce the necessary *tour-de-force*, the Symphony Orchestra sounded amazing.

A smaller group performed "The Carnival of Animals" by Saint-Saëns with both Chris Gibbs and Juliet Otto playing piano (one of the few occasions where one requires two perfectly tuned, full sized, concert grand pianos). This piece, better known by most as a source of cheap music for television advertising, was performed with style and accuracy, with outstanding contributions by all of the musicians. The entire concert was recorded, and a CD of the performance will soon be available. It promises to be a good recording.

Concert Two

After the delights of the first summer concert, the second was going to have to be something special. Concert Band opened the proceedings with a rousing rendition of Gregson's "Prelude for an Occasion" played with style. This was followed by "Elizabethan Lyrics", a lively collection of pieces from the brilliant KEHS Senior Choir. Three English Folk songs followed, with two very good solos. The first half was closed with a delightful suite from Holst, performed by the Concert Band.

The highlight of the evening was, however, Fauré's Requiem. This choral masterpiece featured fabulous solos from Samir Faroqui and the guest performer, James Bloyney-Wright. The small orchestra accompanied well, but the choir stole the show, performing as well as any can remember.

Concert Three

This year's third summer concert belongs in a class of its own. Having witnessed the individual sensitivities and the sum force of the musicians of the upper school, it was time for those less advanced to show off. The concert was almost entirely devoted to the junior ensembles, with Wind Band, Junior Choir, Junior Brass and Junior Swing Band giving examples of how the less experienced or skilful player can still produce an excellent quality of sound. They were also (nearly) always in agreement with the conductor.

This was, however, not just an opportunity to see junior musicians. Simon Meredith and Tanya Houghton joined the seasoned conductors (Messrs. Argust, Bridle and Monks) to show that they were just as capable, if not always as calm.

With the first half over, copious quantities of liquid refreshment consumed and (most) of Concert Orchestra tuned, the second half began. Swing Band, scene stealers as usual, opened with music of their usual standard (that is, very musical). As they were the only truly senior band playing in the concert, it was not surprising that they were excellent. Simon Meredith (showing off again!) had solos in every piece, and as usual the trumpet section of six had a field day.

At this point, I should like to admit that Samir Faroqui didn't look too impressive as he walked on stage, and I was going to give him a mention here for sympathy. Thirty seconds later, I sat back in total surprise as the Remove who had apparently appeared from nowhere played the most amazing piece. To say that Samir shows promise would be arrogant and patronising. Talent such as his is rare. Suffice to say, the performance was stunning.

Concert Orchestra rounded off the evening with a suitably well performed set of pieces, culminating in a sharp and impressive military march. Applause was loud, but no encore was given. The evening was over, and it was time to depart with memories of good music, loud brass sections and one amazing harpist.

Stephen Ball
and Andrew Clayton

House Music

House Music. Hmm. A scene of musical excellence combined with healthy and friendly competition? Or rather eight teams of witty musicians fighting for the ultimate accolade of first place? Well actually, House Music was neither of these this year. Gone was the traditional (and infamous) Round Two - the "serious" musicians had prevailed. The surviving event was Round One, which was fortunate, as "House Music Round Two" would have looked a little silly on its own. There were eight House teams and one panel of judges. The range of music was surprising and the standard of music was very impressive.

The audience, (a qualifying factor for each House, based on number of House members present) was presented with piece after piece of music, and as the judges scribbled notes on each, the tension grew. At last the winner was declared. The most important and, in fact, only House prize awarded for artistic flair was presented and lunchtimes were once again safe.

House Music Round Two will (happily) be back next year. I sincerely hope that the Houses put as much effort into this event as in years gone by and that the place of more contemporary (and preferably LOUD) music should be acknowledged. No doubt the inquisition, having read this, will be waiting for me, but c'est la vie!

*Matthew Carroll
and Andrew Clayton*



And as for the rest...

Nearly every year, several important events are missed from the music calendar, and never make it to the Chronicle. I refer of course to the McNaughton Masterclass, which usually receives some form of recognition, and the Christmas Carol Services which despite being underrated by some, still provide the willing caroller with an opportunity to sample the fine music produced here at KES.

The McNaughton Masterclass was, as usual, a very interesting affair. The prospect of an afternoon away from the horrors of a double period of pure maths obviously appealed to me. Unfortunately, the prospect also appealed to the maths teacher in question, so my escape was not complete. However, I can honestly say that I found the masterclass very interesting. For a brass player to enjoy a violin masterclass may seem a little odd, but the principles expounded upon by Richard Deakin were sometimes of wider general application than the violin or even the string section. As with last year, an enjoyable masterclass was followed by an excellent concert in the evening. Our thanks must once more go to the McNaughton family who have provided for this annual event.

The Christmas Carol Services which are given annually in St. George's Church, Edgbaston and in Edgbaston Church were, as usual a delight to attend, (or so I am told) and the music was again of the best seasonal fayre available.

This praise is not given lightly. In order to cover events which I could not attend, I recruited scouts and informants so that I might be kept in touch with life in Music School as it happened. This was in some degree successful, although I know that those I asked to do the hard work for me are probably desperately wanting to be mentioned.

Here then, are the people whom I coerced, threatened and bribed into helping me: Matthew Carroll, Stephen Ball, Simon Meredith, Patrick Finglass (our "illustrious" editor), Andrew Wolfe and many others are to be thanked for even bothering to give me material without which I could not even have begun to write these articles. Finally, I must mention the young bassoonist who has made it his life's task to get a mention in my section. For pure stubbornness and the ability to distract me just when I am about locate one of the elusive music staff, a slightly sarcastic vote of thanks to Kai-Biu Shiu.

Andrew Clayton

STOP PRESS!

It appears that due to the campaigning of certain people in the school, including SORTED and the House music teams of years gone by, Round Two may yet return! Watch



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ANAGNOSTICS

Last year's report heralded a new era - one which commenced with attempts to attract those whose natural domain is not the G corridor. The strategy involved use of more widespread advertising, and the reintroduction of wine. However, the Friday after-school slot and plays that are somewhat unappreciated by those who do not have to translate extracts of them every week meant that the "hoi polloi" were not wooed into coming. It was their loss as the faithful few experienced the delights of a wide range of classical drama.

There were giggles aplenty throughout "Lysistrata", full of Aristophanes' sexual innuendo. Plautus' "Three Dollar Day" provided another hour and a half of humour, (though this comedy did not seem humorous "par se"). Nor was Sophocles' "Electra" meant to provide laughs, but the rather irreverent treatment of this tragedy amused most. The tense build up climaxing in matricide in Aeschylus' "Choephoroi" was read far more passionately by the few (8) who were present. The year's final play was Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex", and the high spirits on this celebratory occasion were tempered by the impact of this famous tale.

Irrespective of numbers, the standard of reading was always excellent, and it would be pointless to mention individuals, as everyone brought their own interpretations to their characters. I must thank Mr. Owen for his invaluable help in supervising the society, Dr. Hosty, who readily provided the Cartland Room, and the Dining Hall staff for their dependable supply of goodies. Hopefully, Charlie and Nathaniel will be able to maintain and strengthen the society next year.

David Saunders

A.R.E.S.

It has been a quiet year for ARES. Yet again, Mr. Rigby led a Friday afternoon option with a handful of senior boys including myself, teaching the licence course to some UM's.

We have indulged in "Fox Hunting"

(Radio direction finding games) and enjoyed some distant contacts. These have included Eastern Europe via the larger radio transceiver in the Communications Room.

On balance, it has been a relatively calm and inactive year, although there is great promise for next year. Next year will see some new amateurs to carry on where we have left off...

Andrew Clayton



Some of the A.R.E.S. team unmasked

DEBATING CLUB

The Debating Club was an initiative developed by Mr. Stacey. It differed from the debating society in that it was not mixed with KEHS, (girls are such a distraction!) and focused on refining technique at a more specialised level. In this way, members of the club could progress to perform better in debating society meetings and external competitions representing the school.

Most meetings occurred during the spring term. The highlights included Mr. Milton and Dr. Hosty arguing that "rock and roll" was not dead, and

Martin Lloyd and Alex Garnier debating the merits of assassinating a dictator.

The format of the debates conformed to that of the Oxford Union contest. Therefore, points of information were a feature of club meetings, with speeches being interrupted at regular intervals. This was particularly relevant for James Murphy, Ravi Thukral and Stephen Spence. These orators had to represent the school in the Midland Schools and Oxford Union contests. Though there were no points of information in the Midland Schools contest, the practice proved useful in developing



The Debating Club rehearse rhetorical techniques

summation techniques. James Murphy and Ravi Thukral won their first debate ("This house believes that clothes maketh the man but not the woman..."), opposing the motion. However, they lost the second debate, proposing that "This house believes that fox hunting should be banned".

In the Oxford Union contest, Stephen Spence and James Murphy reached the second round, (earning a day at Oxford), but failed to reach the final round. They were able to apply and respond to points of information in each of their debates, though. While they were stunned by Scottish rhetoric in the second rounds, they came back in their final debate of the competition ("This house would talk to terrorists", facing KEHS, among others) and were generally complimented on their performance.

What was learned most from the day (and emphasised most strongly by Mr. Stacey) was that, in Oxford Union format debates, speakers must be constantly alert. You must not only defend your own points, but also dissect those of your opponents both quickly and articulately.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Stacey and Dr. Hosty for all their help in the running of the club and the coaching of the teams. I would also like to congratulate and thank all those who attended the club and made

such creative contributions to the debates, or accompanied the team to the contests.

James Murphy

DEBATING SOCIETY

This year's meetings were focused on motions relevant to all members, rather than on abstract or philosophical ones. This gave an added immediacy to the speeches, often heightening the frisson of tension between the boys and girls. However, the subject matters were as challenging as ever, the attendance and enthusiasm at the meetings were both huge and all debates were extremely entertaining.

The year began with the motion "To spare the rod is to spoil the child", an old theme given new resonance, especially with the (then) recent political debate on corporal punishment. Despite valiant attempts by Ravi Thukral and Alex Wharton to argue for the motion on the grounds of traditional discipline and instilling values, the motion was defeated. This could be attributed to the compassionate pleas from the girls, or even to the reasoned arguments from the floor by Dr. Hosty and Miss Frazier.

A more humorous, yet equally relevant debate followed in "The male sex is redundant". While Kieron Quirke argued that only female sensitivity could create art, James Murphy cited examples of recent film makers like Francis Ford Coppola as "artists", who'd been dismissed by the other side as merely "macho". Also, while Harriet Gladwell claimed that the era of the predatory female had dawned, Emily Andrews countered this by saying that women still required males as sex symbols at least. After a particularly lively floor discussion, the motion was defeated.

Other debates during the year included ones on Tony Bullimore and Europe, as well as a motion on the merits of hedonism to conclude the debating year. Though the timeless paradox of December's balloon debate initially seemed like an antidote to topicality, it ultimately confirmed its presence further. While immortals like James Bond and Machiavelli conveyed clever arguments to justify their existence, it was a figure in the current public eye who won. Ronan Keating (Theresa-Marie Timmons) won the votes and hearts of boys and girls, demonstrating further that the icons and issues of the present are inescapable in debating technique.

James Murphy

BURO-DRAMA

The society had another productive year, though to the untrained eye, we have maintained a relatively low profile. The success of the society has been rather limited, however, mainly due to its pitifully small number of regular participants.

However, those who have been interested in the society have attended the ten or so meetings during the year to read authors such as Moliere,



Eurodrama "pour-quoi?" over water! Despite these minor diversions the walk was

Beaumarchais and Voltaire. Mr. Tomlinson and Berangere (the assistant) have played instrumental roles in providing these language lovers with massive quantities of coffee and chocolate cake which is much appreciated.

Under a new secretary for the next academic year, the society hopes to attract a much larger audience with the promise of a selection of cakes and decaffeinated coffee(if preferred) for all.

We also aim to introduce some Spanish and German plays to lure the ever-increasing number of minor linguists to the hot bed of thought and reflection that is Room 136.

Thanks must go to Mr. Tomlinson and Mrs. Crossley (from KEHS) for their constant encouragement and guidance.

Ravi Thukral

FELLWALKING

The society has this year, once more provided its members with the opportunity to escape from the rat race and head for the hills. An additional benefit has been the innovative use of a hired coach for transport, allowing more people to participate. In fact all the trips have contained both senior and junior groups.

The first outing was to Edale and Kinder Scout, famous for its barren, peat landscape. The party followed the start of the Pennine Way, up a steep climb onto the Kinder plateau. We then faced the interesting task of navigating across a featureless expanse of moorland, continually scarred by stream channels. The glutinous peat lived up to its reputation, impeding movement so much in some places that detours were

sometimes necessary. Having mastered the art of bog-hopping, however, progress was relatively easy. We reached Kinder Gate, with its spectacular waterfall, and then followed the plateau edge back round to Edale and the coach.

The Christmas trip, with its now traditional festive headgear and carol singing, was the first of two walks following Offa's Dyke Path. This one was in Powys, starting from the hamlet of Newcastle and following the dyke along a low range of hills. Something in the air must have affected certain group members, who participated in stranger and stranger games! They started with climbing under a stile and culminated with one person climbing fully clothed into a cattle trough of iced

water! Despite these minor diversions the walk was completed easily, allowing plenty of time in Knighton for cream teas, last minute present shopping and messing around on the superb adventure playground.

Our second excursion to the dyke path consisted of traversing a series of 'mountains' between Butchgwyn and Llangollen. The damp conditions made the ground slippery underfoot and some people even found standing upright a difficulty. The route went through a variety of scenery from thick forest to bleak hilltops, which afforded stunning views of the surrounding area. After a tricky descent in Llangollen there was the opportunity to explore the town before returning once more to KES.

Credit for these trips goes to Mr Cumberland and I would like to thank him, Mr Boardman and all the other teachers who came along for enabling such good trips to take place.

James Birch

FENCING CLUB

As Fencing years go this was particularly active, with the trip to the National Public Schools' Competition, and the many successes in the Birmingham Schools' Championships. Most notably, we attained the positions of first, third and fourth, thanks to Michael Pandazis (Captain), Daniel Bramich, and David Thomas respectively.

Unfortunately this success was not repeated in either the National Qualifiers, for the National U19 competition; or the Public Schools' Competition, where the best results were obtained by Michael Pandazis, who went through to the last 32 in both foil and Epee, and came third in the Sabre.

The school championship was won, (predictably!) by Michael, but the rankings thereafter were hotly contested, with Daniel, David and Myself coming second third and fourth respectively.

The more Junior members of the club improved greatly over the year, with many of them showing an unprecedented interest in Epee. Meanwhile, the new members in the first year showed a great deal of encouraging talent, most notably Rupert and Simon who came first and second in the Novice cup respectively.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Prof. P. Northam for the colossal amount of effort he has put into the club, effort without which the trip to London for the Schools' Championships would not have been possible, and to our Captain Michael. He has given us ample inspiration on which to build and we wish him every success at University. Next year, on every Wednesday and Thursday, the club is open for those who are interested, - maybe you'll join us?!

Philip Richardson



Professor Northam coaches the Michael Pandazises of tomorrow

GEOGRAPHICAL

There are three events which particularly stick in my mind regarding my Chairmanship of the Geographical Society. These are memorable for two reasons. Firstly, they were exceedingly successful and were greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm by both teachers and pupils. Secondly, they were the only events which took place.

This does not mean that there was little energy channelled into the Geog. Soc. (as members like to call it), but that the energy was expanded on other regular activities like "Remote Country Of The Month" board organised by Mr. Cumberland and Miss McCarthy.

The first event was a talk by Dr. Stuart Lane, a Cambridge Don, on rivers (though the subject was changed from volcanoes). The turnout was brilliant, with Mr. Cumberland's room almost filled completely. Credit for this event must go to Mr. Everest (Jnr.), who contacted Dr. Lane on the society's behalf.

This left me with the simple tasks of advertising, chair arranging and a brief thank you speech at the end, which was brief, witty and eloquently given.

The second event, ostensibly a conspiracy between Mr. Everest and Mr. Cumberland to stimulate our intellects, was a slide show entitled the Magic Lantern Show. This changed my opinion of slide shows forever.

The impressive turnout was bombarded by a fantastic array of Technicolor dream slides, ranging from Miss McCarthy's pigeons in Birmingham city centre to Naz Khan's slides of himself amidst beautiful Afghan scenery, and who could forget Mr. Cumberland's personal selection? Other contributors included Mr. Everest Jnr's University shots, Miss McCarthy, Mr. McMullan and Mr. Barrable's "holiday snaps" and Mr. Lambie's bonfire. Seasonal refreshments were served to all that came!

The third and final event (my only brainchild) was the Shells and Rems Christmas Quiz. With a great deal of help from the Divisions, the quiz ran smoothly and seemed to be a great deal of fun for the many Shells and Rems who turned up.

Rounds ranged from general knowledge questions to an alternative "national music" round. Chocolate bars were given to all participants, and more chocolate to the winners. This created a further incentive for next year's prospective entrants.

The Geography Society provided a great deal of fun, whilst enriching the minds of its members. It also gave me a worthwhile diversion from my often nefarious activities (as I suspect it did for many others, too).

A great deal of effort was expended by the staff, including Miss McCarthy, Mr. Cumberland, Mr. Chamberlain and especially Mr. Everest, Jr. He took on the society for his last year, making it more enjoyable and constructive.

James Hynes

HISTORY SOCIETY 1996-7 AND 'CLUB 1832'

This year saw a doubling of the number of meetings of the History Society in 1995-6, an increase achieved despite the competition of a newcomer to the Cartland Club, Club 1832. The new society is a small and select affair which enables pupils to prepare and present papers of their own choice: topics under discussion this year were as wide-ranging and varied as Mussolini and History Through the Ages or The Communist Manifesto and Staffordshire Figures. Meeting on Thursday evenings it was one of the few societies that enjoyed a relatively consistent and full audience, no doubt a sign of a healthy interest in matters intellectual, though the fact that tea and cakes were served at each meeting may have had something to do with it.

The History Society, meanwhile, was open to members of both schools and offered on its agenda a demonstration of archery and a small-scale reconstruction of the Battle of Bosworth, proving, once and for all, that experiments outside science lessons are far more fun and do not require a stale and tedious write-up afterwards. Invitations were made to external speakers but sadly, the inconvenient timing of meetings in the

lunch-hour and a sound knowledge on our part of the numbers who would be prepared to turn up after school prevented their coming.

Combined, the two societies provide something of a renaissance in the History Department since meetings are actually now being held. Our thanks to Mr Davies whose help and advice was vital to all the meetings - especially since he was the speaker at most of them - and who was kind enough to allow us to meet in the armoury that the History Common Room has become. With any luck and dedication, both societies will continue next year and the current sixth-formers leave hoping that the fledgling Club 1832 will not be ousted from the next by its somewhat lazier elder brother.

Sam Jones

CHRISTIAN UNION

What a year! We have seen more people attending C.U. and have shared many good meetings together. From the Chapel, the Vestry and Lab 7 in KEHS, we have set up a healthy support base for Christians in the school.

We held outreach/information week in the Spring term, and enjoyed several days away during the holidays. Unfortunately, we must say good-bye to Angela, Andy, "The Other Andy With The Funky Guitar", Damien and David. We also say good-bye to the other sixth formers who leave to go to University or to start an interesting gap year - their support and input will be missed.

Looking forward, Matt Button and Joy Miller take over the running of the Union next year. I must give up my spotty tie, and step out into the general horde.

Finally, thanks must go to Mirrilee,

Joy, Isobel, Angela and to all the girls. Also, they should go to the two Andies, Damien, David, James, Tim and all the boys.
God bless..

Andrew Clayton

INTERFAITH

It was a mixed year for the religious societies in KES. The ailing *Vedic Society*, a branch of Interfaith, held two meetings this year, but neither were very well attended and represented the recent demise of this newly formed society. The Vedic Society was set up by a group of pupils from KES, by consensus, rather than by one individual. The aim of the society was to give the Hindu community of KES a voice and combat the misrepresentation of Hinduism. Unfortunately, towards the end of its existence the society continued to have low attendance. A remedy to this recent fall in numbers would be for the society to revamp its image, in a similar style to that of *Christian Union*.

Interfaith was to have only one meeting this year. This was a debate where I spoke for arranged marriages. Anujeet Panaser and Neil Austin spoke for marriages formed from love. The aim of this meeting was to dispel the misrepresentation of arranged marriages. The debate was passionately argued. The arguments were given in a structured and coherent fashion. The final vote was indecisive as no side came out with a clear victory. The talk was attended by over seventy people.

The meeting was very encouraging, and the future looks bright, with several interesting talks by outside speakers lined up.

Munish Chopra

JEWISH

This year has seen the Jewish Society restart after many years. The main event of the year was the visit in March by Mr. Paul Oppenheimer, MBE, a holocaust survivor. His talk included references to his background and birth in Berlin. However, it focused mainly on the moving and graphic account of his time in the Bergen - Belsen concentration camp. He spoke to an audience of 80 people about how he was lucky enough to be present. He also included slides that he had taken himself, and the yellow star he had worn during the anti semetic Nazi rule. It was a very moving talk, and many people told me afterwards how interesting they had found it.

Assemblies for Jewish boys have also taken place this year every Wednesday morning, and discussion themes have ranged from Israeli politics to various Jewish festivals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Reverend Raynor and all who helped in the running of the society.

Daniel Clarke

LITERARY

This year has been an extremely busy one for the Literary Society, with script writing work shops, from an 'Archers' script writer, a talk on 'Othello' from the ex-head of English at KES, Mr Trott, and a talk on 'Dracula' from Miss Sherringham. The 'Othello' talk was particularly useful for the U.6. 'A' level students, and Miss Sherringham's talk explored most academic angles on the gothic tale (including its psycho - sexual implications).

In addition, the society staged a

literary version of 'Call My Bluff', (was Harriet Gladwell really reading D.H. Lawrence, or her own work?!) and a talk about Irvine Welsh's works from Chris Nayak and Tim Howles. Dr. Hosty kindly showcased some short stories, and the poet Terry Sweetman gave a talk on the reading of love poems. The amount of people coming increased as well, and fewer of them said "Well, it's something to put on your U.C.A.S. form", when asked why they came. This has undoubtedly been due to brilliant organization and enthusiasm from Mr. Stacey, Miss Frasier, Ben McIlldowie and Robin French. This collection of literary geniuses deftly guided us through last year, and resurrected an almost dormant society, despite their modest claims to the contrary.

James Murphy

MODERN LANGUAGES

Recruited in September 1996, I was responsible for maintaining the high standards that have become synonymous with the Modern Languages Society.

Fortunately, through a series of sophisticated and persuasive posters,

and through close guidance from Mr. Tomlinson, I was able to sustain the élan of the popular society.

The 1996 - 1997 period saw a number of talks given to the school. The highlights of the year must be Robin French getting "Candide On Voltaire" and the thought provoking discussion on the French non - scene by Berangere Dehame.

Special thanks must also be given to Martin Stribblehill whose account of his visit to Saxony was fascinating from both linguistic and cultural perspectives.

The year also saw an unprecedented level of co-operation between societies. This culminated in the Geographical society joining us with William James' and Adam Johnson's account of their adventures in the Baltic States.

During 1997, we also witnessed a marked increase in attendance, (most pleasing in the *lower* years of the school).

Unfortunately, the Modern Languages Society is reaching the end of an era with the retirement of Mr. Tomlinson in September 1997.

On behalf of the society, I would like to thank him for all the effort he has put in over the last 32 years; hopefully he may still continue to guide it when he returns on a part time basis later in the year.



Modern Languages



Patrick Finglass - before



Patrick Finglass - after

PARLIAMENTARY

To get one MP to speak to the school looks like good fortune; to get four seems like carelessness. Yet this year, through our August charm offensive of polite letters, over 0.5% of the members of the House of Commons came to speak to Parliamentary Society this year, each with very different things to say and very different ways of saying them. Those who came to the meetings may well have actually learnt something.

First to enter the fray was Jim Cunningham, Labour MP for Coventry South West and a former engineer. A very amiable man who referred to me as "the next Tony Blair" (I think it was meant to be a compliment!), his soft spoken yet clear speech to an audience of around sixty was an interesting exposition of how he progressed from worker, to councillor, to MP. He proved capable of answering some of the tough questions put to him from the floor, ranging from the mistakes Mr. Blair had made since becoming Leader of

her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, to what preparations he normally made before making a major speech.

The most famous of the quartet, Nicholas Budgen, came to the school a few weeks after he did. The inheritor of Enoch Powell's then (alas) Conservative seat in Wolverhampton South West, Mr. Budgen will be familiar to some as a prominent Euro-sceptic who regularly appeared in the media until falling in the carnage of May 1st. Quite different from the previous speaker, he was a friendly yet fiery man whose argumentative and oratorical skills soon became clear to those who verbally crossed swords with him.

The audience for Mr. Budgen had increased slightly; however, other activities and an inevitable MP fatigue soon set in, with the result that only about forty came to the talk by the MP for Warley West, John Spellar, who is now a Minister of State in the MoD. This was a shame, as Mr. Spellar was able to discuss global political ideas such as the expansion of NATO with considerable skill, and proved an engaging man to listen to.

Finally, in March there came Dame Jill Knight, the then (alas) MP for Edgbaston - a delightful lady. A packed Concert Hall heard her reminiscences about her life as a Member of Parliament. These included such occasions as when she smashed a crystal glass deep in the (then) USSR to avoid drinking yet another vodka toast to the glorious Russian army, and when a woman came to her complaining that she had not received her dead husband's pension - only for it to transpire that she had actually killed him....An entertaining and charming person, the House is a duller place without her, and I hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

A last event was organised a week after the General Slaughter of May 1st - a scholastic edition of "Question Time", in which Messrs Mason, Milton, McMullan and Stacey battled it out with each other. A surprisingly crowded room saw Mr. Stacey's efforts to pick holes in the Labour manifesto overcome by Mr. Milton's impassioned support for the dynamism of our new Great Leader.

An entertaining lunch time was had by all.

Aidan and I leave the newly invigorated Parliamentary Society in the capable hands of Joshua Goodman and Munish Chopra, who will undoubtedly use their youth and enthusiasm to good effect. My thanks go to all the MPs who have come to speak to us; to all the teachers who took part in "Question Time", and to Mr. Buttress, master in charge of Parliamentary Society for so many years. His experience and good nature has proven invaluable not only to us, but to Parliamentary Society secretaries in the past and it is with sadness that we see him go. All our best wishes go to him in his retirement.

Patrick Finglass

SAILING

There are two parts to the school's sailing programme: team racing and a more social element. Sailing and windsurfing is run as an option on both Friday afternoons and in Senior Games. No experience is required to come down and join in, though a basic qualification is needed in order to windsurf. The school has excellent facilities for both sports with a range of boats and boards available to suit all abilities. So anyone with an interest is urged to get down and use them. These are run by Mr. McIlwaine, who also has responsibility for the team, with the valuable assistance of both Mr. J. Everest and Mr. D.C. Everest. Many thanks are due to all three for the hours which they put in to sustain the activities.

The Team races in several matches each season, including a Midlands Regional Event in Oxford, at which we were certainly not disgraced in 1997. Regular fixtures include Solihull, Uppingham and Cheltenham against whom in our final match of '97 we were denied a victory only by a



Sailing

cruel twist of fate. The Team always adopt a Stoically philosophical attitude to such mishaps, and this is very much characteristic of the relaxed atmosphere we strive to maintain.

SENIOR DRAMATIC

This year saw the society take an experimental direction. It began with numerous ideas from all members of the group as to what plays could be performed. The general consensus was that any performance should convey a kind of dramatic intimacy, with a "work shop" feel, so that

both the actors and audience could learn more about the art of stage craft during the performance, from each other. The only point of disagreement was the format that this should take. James Murphy suggested a "Theatre Of The Absurd", a production of "Tis Pity She's A Whore", and a sketchy celebration of Cinema's centenary. However, all these ideas encountered opposition, especially from the girls! Katie Leighfield was keen to perform a Greek play, and even "A Streetcar Named Desire" was considered (inspiration being provided by Jessica Lange's recent performance of Blanche Dubois, no doubt!). However, Mrs. Herbert

eventually took charge of the artistic chaos and clash of ideas. The society was divided into two groups. One performed extracts from plays in a work shop format, while the other staged a more traditional production of "The Bed - Witchery", which still managed to have an experimental feel. "Bed - Witchery" was a comic social commentary, with elements of farce and tributes to the supernatural. Katie Davies and Alex Garnier took the leads and performed with immaculate comic timing, with excellent support from their co-stars. Every character stereotype was accounted for, yet each was given a fresh perspective by the treatment of the play. This is a credit not only to the performers, but to the directors. Charlotte Crabtree and Katie Leighfield must be congratulated on their efforts. The other group firstly performed scenes from "Othello", (an "A" level text for the upper sixth) with immense passion and conviction. Jenny Fellows and Lucy

Johnson helped to direct the proceedings and portrayed the female roles. Robin French's impression of Othello dwelled on the darker, more menacing side, and Adam Johnson even argued afterwards that Iago can be played more sympathetically than Othello. This provoked debate between the actors and the audience, and largely created the "work shop" atmosphere which the society had desired. Comic relief was provided mostly by Ben McIlldowie, reading from a selection of Liverpoolian plays, assisted by Jenny Fellows. The presentation concluded with James Murphy reciting speeches from "National Health" and "A Life In The Death Of Joe Egg". Guidance was provided by Mrs. Herbert and suggestions were made by the audience as to how to develop his vocal and movement techniques in the roles. The proceedings concluded with an "Academy Awards" equivalent for the group, in the shape of Cadbury's cream

eggs. The year was one of artistic variety and daring departures, and it will be interesting to see if the initiative is developed next year in the society with similar success.

James Murphy

SHAKESPEARE

"To be or not to be" was a question the Shakespeare society found itself asking at the start of the year. There was a prevailing feeling of apathy towards the society, even from committee members! There were requests for Cinema outings to Shakespeare films, video showings and theatre visits to "broaden" the society's scope. Some people even suggested making the Shakespeare society just a more specialist version of the literary society!

Dr. Hosty's reply was to defend the society's identity over its forty year history as a *reading* society, and questioned whether this was



Some Senior Dramatic Society members debate what play to stage ..

anachronistic, even. However, nobody wished to see the society die. From November to March, the society's popularity was at its zenith rather than nadir.

Concessions were made, though. The plays selected were often thematically connected to the previous reading or to its successor.

Connections between the play being read and the "A" level texts being studied by the English student members became more obvious, unravelling a Shakes-pearean "formula".

In addition, the meetings were "hyped up" more, and a greater emphasis was placed on performance within the readings. Though this was sometimes at the expense of Shakespeare's poetry (distressing purists!), the sense of drama and comedy became more obvious.

Patrick Finglass' reading of Richard III injected the required menace into the role. Interestingly, he avoided Olivier's definitive camp and unsympathetic portrayal, and Ian McKellan's recent misleading, modern militarism.

James Murphy's reading of "Hamlet", however, relied too heavily on the character's comic side, reducing listeners to laughter even in the most tragic moments (unintentionally, of course!)

"Hamlet" was probably the best attended meeting, though there were some missed opportunities in the casting department. For example, Harriet Gladwell was *born* to read Gertrude's part in her inimitable libidinous baritone, but didn't. However, Theresa Marie Timmons read Ophelia in an inventive manner.

As for "King Lear", (appropriately one of the last meetings), it was difficult for anyone to read and perform the complex roles simultaneously, but the meeting prompted further study of the text.

This also applied to "Pericles", (which can be studied in connection



Shakespeare Society

with "The Tempest" and "The Winter's Tale"), and to "Henry IV" (part one, which can be studied alongside "Richard II").

Hopefully, the society will prove as immortal as Shakespeare's work. As long as his work is appreciated, studied, (and made into films with the latest heart - throbs!), the society *should* continue...

WALKING OPTION

This year has been one in which members of the walking option have truly broadened their horizons.

All members are now veterans who have mastered the basic one foot - in - front - of - the - other walk, and have moved on to specialist disciplines such as sauntering, strolling, speed walking, strolling, and many other things beginning with "s".

However, it was made clear very early on that the "silly" walk, as exemplified by Mr. John Cleese (himself a black belt walker), was not to be practised.

The walking option takes itself seriously, indeed, and to introduce silly walking to the syllabus could only diminish the great reputation of this option.

Variety was introduced this year by introducing many different types of walk.

A particular highlight of the year was the Autumn nature walk, in the fields near Halesowen.

Walkers especially enjoyed comparing the coatings of mud on their clothing, which, on some individuals, reached several inches of thickness.

Duck walks were popular in sunny weather, involving trips to nearby lakes, to view the local aquatic bird life.

But, as ever, the "Find Your Own Way Back" walk proved favourite, allowing the creative walking talents of each member to be expressed individually.

The members of the option continue to grow in skill and ability and will give next year's new recruits a high walking standard which they can aspire to.

Rayner Lucas

METEOROLOGICAL

This year has seen mixed fortunes for the Society. It was a year where we have predicted the weather with more accuracy than the Met. Office (margin of error: lots) and the year in which yet more of our equipment went missing. (Who would want an old, barely working maximum temperature thermometer is beyond this Society's comprehension.)

Congratulations must go, yet again, to Owain Thomas who, despite his commitment to the Library (being Deputy Librarian), managed to keep running the society through thick and thin.

Owain's superbly engineered spreadsheet allowed the society (for the first time), to make accurate predictions based on data collected every morning by the two members (more of that later) of the society. The spreadsheet allows instant access to records from average rain fall to humidity and cloud cover.

One of this year's new initiatives (to make the society more approachable to the public) was to publish daily weather reports at 8:50 each morning and weekly reports outlining changes of temperature over the last week.

This is normally the point where the society would look to next year and prepare to revel in the new and innovative technologies that would become available to us; sadly that will not be the case this time. This coming year there will be no head of the society, indeed there will be no society, due to a less than pleasing uptake from the lower years (0). This despite the fact, that for someone planning to take a Geography or other similar degree at University, it is something that is looked upon very highly.

I hope someone revives the society to its former glory (!) in the not too distant future.

GRAPHIC UNIVERSE

For those unaware (ha!) the Graphic Universe is a society in KES devoted to the finer things in life - comics, science fiction and occasionally something else (but for it to qualify it usually has to have some connection to a fair young maiden or two). We run more events than the Klingon Grunting Committee, and if you think I'm not going to put in more Star Trek jokes, you're very wrong. As the Vulcan said to the Shapeshifter.

Perhaps I should tell you what us Graphic Universers do. On Friday afternoons, 160 is filled with an eerie silence as a White Star's worth of comic enthusiasts read the latest exploits of one Jesse Custer - an ex-priest who swears a lot, and wonder what new form of paranoia Batman's discovered this month. In a recent poll, Garth Ennis was voted Top Comic Author.

Every other Tuesday, our private army of Rems is in there, watching a new Star Trek episode. Since Mr Milton likes Voyager, it's usually that. This year we hope to use this session up with talks, discussions and existential conversations. We also enjoy going to movies. Last year we 'enjoyed' Batman and Robin, sampled First Contact, loved Mars Attacks, amongst others.

The 96/97 year was a bit like talking to Janeway - it's hard to get through. There are people around the school who would contend that ninety minutes of mind-expanding comics on a Friday afternoon is not fitting to the academic atmosphere at a school. To them I say this: Graphic Universe is full of dedicated people who are interested in a subject. If they are unhappy with the comics genre as a whole, then I say this: there is not a literary genre that deals with social issues in the way comics do. Comics are occasionally about weirdos in Lycra, agreed, but to say all comics

are like that is to say all television is about four ecstatic, incoherent, psychedelic aliens with television screens on their stomachs. I also say this: Your father was a Pakled. Hm.

We also had to begrudgingly sacrifice our High Priest and Emissary Nick Bradley to Swansea University, where he's doing something American. We have all felt his presence (at least I hope that's what it was) and he is poorly missed. Excuse the spoonerism. Good old Nick. Reliable Nick. Nick Bradley. As Ardra to a Ventaxian, so Nick to us.

This sad loss of Nick's passing has been replaced with a huge replacement whom we stole from the tuck shop named Matt Grady. Matt has proven himself to be knowledgeable in the ways of the force (not Star Trek, I know), in his quick wit and unseemly shaving. We wish Matthew all the best as he leads the troupe that bit closer to the future.

It only remains for me to thank our bearded mentor (Great, he is, hm?). So, until next year; it's life Jim but not as we know it, I am your father, Luke, a hey nonny nonny and a live long and prosper.

Jos Lavery

CHANGE

SPORTS

ATHLETICS

Like all sport around the country this summer, the athletics season has been a victim of the bad weather. A number of matches were called off and most were played in poor conditions. Despite this some rays of sunshine penetrated the gloom in the form of both individual and team performances. Arguably the most impressive achievement of the season belongs to Jonathan Cockerton, who not only set a new school record in the U15 triple jump of 12.32 metres, but also won the West Midlands Championships and is now going to the England Schools Finals. The best team performance was undoubtedly the U16 team, who achieved an unbeaten record for the whole season, with consistently high points scored by Barry Bahar, Jonathan Pitt, Mark Davies and Joe Tipper. Barry Bahar broke the school records at both U16 discus (34.09 metres) and shot (11.30 metres). Lower down the school Adrian Tipper broke the U14 100 metres record with a scorching run of 11.90 seconds.

Even before the start of the season the KES team was dealt a significant blow as our outstanding captain Tom Manners suffered an injury in training. After the promise of many come-backs, it kept him out of competition for the whole season. However, the team remained determined to do well. The first match of the year, the Foundation Match, was as always very important. Unfortunately even a superb performance by the senior team could not secure the school a win as the Inters were convincingly beaten by a strong Aston squad, handing the honours to Aston overall.

A disappointing start to the season, leaving our hopes with the younger members of the school in their Foundation match. Unfortunately it was not to be. They were beaten, along with Camp Hill and Five Ways, by another strong Aston team. But still we kept our heads up and waited patiently for the next chance. This came against Bromsgrove, Warwick and Furtherwick Park, when the senior boys

led the way for the junior members of the team with a resolute performance, beating very strong Bromsgrove and Warwick sides. In the senior match Michael Sheldon, Darreul Sewell, James Hines, Ben Levine, Jolyon May and James Wood all won their events.

The victory set the KES ball rolling and the momentum carried the team to a further four consecutive victories, including comprehensive defeats of Aston, Oakham, Trent, Uppingham, Rugby, Five Ways, Warwick, RGS Worcester and Wycliffe. These victories were a result of team spirit and a determination not to allow the weather to deter the KES spirit. After a further three matches in which we lost to Baverstock by one point, beat Solihull and the Heart of England School by a clear margin, but finished a disappointing fourth in the Loughborough Grammar School Invitation Match, the season was cut abruptly short as the last two matches were cancelled. The second of these brought an unprecedented event. Mr Birch, after much deliberation, was finally forced to cancel a home match, the first for 23 years and the end of a proud record.

At the forefront of my memories for this season will be Hamza Kuraishi winning the hurdles race with a storming final 50 metres, Ben 'Pudding' Bushell for his gallant running of the 200 metres and the repeated head to head confrontation over 400 and 800 metres between Jolyon 'Anabolic Steroids' May and Ben 'Bergh' Levine (who needs Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey?).

Everyone involved with athletics this year deserves congratulations for braving the elements and securing another successful season to follow from those of the past few years. An overall tally for the school shows six wins from ten matches including some important scalps.

Thanks must go to Matthew Reeve for his aid in scoring the matches, the many masters who have given up their Saturdays in order to help with the home fixtures and to Mr and Mrs Knight for the excellent upkeep of our track and the post match food that is always in high demand. Also thanks must of course go to Mr Birch.

Jonathan Goldman

BASKETBALL

Under 19's

The U19 season was a year of varying emotions. There was a large amount of success to enjoy, but also a disappointing share of disheartening results. The season will be remembered by the team and Mr. Birch as a good, if unspectacular, campaign in terms of achievement but a time to look back on with fondness because of the brilliant team spirit and friendships that the squad produced.

The season started with the usual run of formality games, which K.E.S. easily won, thanks largely to the prolific scoring of Mike Sheldon and Jamie Child. Good performances were also given by Hamza Kuraishi and Richard Thomas. The first real test came from Solihull Sixth Form College. This was to be the first of four encounters with this strong side, and on this occasion, K.E.S. managed to overcome their rivals, despite a 3-17 opening seven minutes. This type of resilience was a theme of the year and a testament to the team's courage and determination. The major games of the year unfortunately produced poor results.

We lost to a touring Australian team, Solihull in the Birmingham League Final and Worcester Sixth Form in the West Midlands Cup Final. However, we did succeed in reaching the last 16 of the National Cup, by overcoming Solihull 60-57, with a strong performance by Amir Ali.

Despite an extremely strong effort in the next round, K.E.S. lost in a heart-wrenching 1 point game to Kingsland Community College, thanks to a ridiculously lucky three point shot with seconds left. Captain Mike Sheldon, Jamie Child and Alasdair Treharne will be sorely missed in the coming year, but with a large number of the squad returning, there is still much hope for the future. If this team's attitude of unselfish teamwork can be maintained, then perhaps next year will produce more to celebrate.

Won :15 Lost :4

Michael Purdon



U19

Under 16's

This year has been one of the most successful for K.E.S. on the basketball court, and proved to be our team's most successful. A long and tough pre-season training schedule paved the way for this year's exploits. The signs were there from the beginning. Playing a strong North Bromsgrove side, who the year before had beaten us convincingly by forty points, we managed to reverse this deficit and cruise to a forty point victory ourselves. Our winning ways continued in the West Midlands Cup, brushing aside Ninestiles, King Edward's Aston and Wednesfield to progress to the final, which we later won with an impressive team performance.

In previous years this team has done poorly in the Nationals, however this year was different. Facing North Bromsgrove yet again we proved our earlier win was not a fluke. Soon we found ourselves in the last 16 of the National Cup and looked forward to the trip to Hackney, London and the challenge of playing the favourites and defending champions. Although we went to half time leading, the more experienced home team, Homerton School, eventually won an intense and hard fought match.

This year we received visits from both Australian (The King's School Parramatta) and American (New Hampshire Colonials) teams touring Europe. Both

teams made for a great contest with both matches being tight all the way through. Beating the Australians in over time and losing narrowly in the final seconds against the strong American team, we made sure that their long trip was one worth making.

The credit for this year's achievements must go to our coach Mr. Pete Mintoff: his knowledge, experience and enthusiasm have guided us through a most enjoyable and rewarding season.

Richard Thomas

Under 15's

Pre-season training brought together a selection of players, some veterans, some rookies, all with high aspirations on the season to come. With our previous captain, James Cadogan, emigrated to the U.S in search of a more challenging game, I assumed the role of inspiring our rather dis-jointed team to a more successful year's play, under the guidance of coach Herman Wilson. He proceeded to set about revealing the potential lurking beneath our apparently talent less side. Times were bad, even the imperious rugby players were leaving ship, claiming their focus had to be maintained on their 'Daily Mail' season ahead. However all hopes were fulfilled and a gelled side put together a run of fine wins and no losses in the early stages of the season. But the euphoria of this unanticipated string of victories ended when a side reminiscent of the Rugby A team in their complacency encountered Queensbridge, a local side, who were soon to fell the mammoth confidence of our team. Perhaps unsettled by a somewhat compact away gym, we suffered our first away defeat, by one point in a controversial match. After this minor upset, the team dropped back to earth, but it wasn't long before the defeat was blamed on corrupt Queensbridge time officials and we bounced back with another run seeing a progression into the regional finals of the ESBB Cup (and Birmingham Cup, round 2) and a domination of the league. However, the invisible team fell at the feet of Trinity College, in the regional finals, a powerful, yet beatable team harbouring two England players. Phased by their fast backs and



U16



U15

roaring support we found ourselves down 20 by the first quarter and conceded a decisive blow to our morale. But we clawed our way back to within 2 points when a timeout was called and our increasing momentum halted. The result - a defeat by 30 points. All was not lost, however, as we still had the Birmingham play-offs to look forward to, a chance to indicate ourselves. It went rather well, until the final, where we sustained a heavy defeat. Looking back at the season, it was a story of success, only three defeats, runners up in the regional and Birmingham play-off finals, and a team that from unlikely beginnings had achieved against expectation. Prospects

looked good for success in the season to come and the team would like to thank coach Wilson, without whom we'd never have reached such dizzy heights. Mr. Birch is set to take the mantle of coach Wilson and lead us into the next basketball season. K.E.S is a school now also renowned for its basketball, one of this country's growing sporting activities.

Alex Francis

Under 14's

After going undefeated in the previous season, both the players and the coach knew that this team had the potential to do extremely well this year. Our season opener was against Twycross, a solid team that housed several players of high calibre.

We won the game 101-49. It would set the tone for the season. As the season rolled on we were winning game after game, however something was wrong. The coach felt that we were relying too much on the talent of our two Midland players. He knew that when it came to big games that we would need consistent play from the whole team. Sure enough everyone stepped up and played to the best of their abilities and we could now expect consistent scoring from a handful of players including David Wood, James Martin, Arthur Dyer and David van Marle. After watching our captain, Dan Jackson score a season high of 45 points against Trinity in the regional semi-finals, we proceeded into the finals to face our first real test in the form of Great Barr. We did extremely well to bring back a three point lead from Great Barr but we still needed a good performance at K.E.... Gene Aw scored 39 points but we lost by one point in overtime. We had lost our first game, but that feeling was bittersweet because we had made it to the National Finals. 12 out of a squad of 18 went down to Northampton for the round robin tournament. Our first game was against Hackney House; huge and athletic. We came out intimidated and found ourselves in a 20 point hole, but there was to be an escape. Once we got our heads together we were able to claw ourselves back into the game and managed to win the game by 3 points.

After the euphoria of this win we were able to beat Great Barrow school pretty easily despite our captain fouling out at half-time. Having already qualified for the final-four we were able to rest many of our players against Eskdale whom we beat 77-31. Returning the following day, we were put up against Anthony Gell for a place in the finals.

We shouldn't have ever been in the situation we were in, but with a few seconds remaining in the game, we were down by one point. If it hadn't been for a lay-up that should've gone in and a tip that went in but didn't (!?) we would've been in the finals, flushed with confidence. The way things worked out, we ended up



U14



U13

playing Hackney for third and fourth place. Very disheartened we lost by over 15 points, yet we had placed ourselves fourth in the whole of England. The season however was not over, as before the tournament we had earned ourselves a place in the West Midlands and we faced our old friends Great Barr who suddenly didn't seem so scary anymore. We won quite comfortably behind a balanced attack including 18 points from David Wood. We had won that title if nothing else. Even after the season we were having success. David van Marle would impress the coaches in Birmingham so much that he would be able to stroll into a Midlands practice one day and secure a place. Dan Jackson would win a trip to Los Angeles with his skills en route to representing England in the Under 15 European championships in Barcelona. We would like to thank Mr. Birch for giving up so much of his free time in order to coach us and drive us to away games.

Gene Aw

Under 13's

At the selection trials about 35 Rems turned up hoping for selection! It took Mr. James quite a while to whittle the squad down to 22. Training was held on Tuesday evenings and Friday lunch-times, with most matches being played on Mondays. Our first match was against King's Norton at home. We got off to a good start, and won the match

convincingly 72-19. This gave us great confidence, and as the season progressed, there were several good wins over Bourneville, Camp Hill, Alvechurch and Lordswood. Our only disappointment of the season was against Baverstock away when we lost 52-45, after some very dubious scoring! There were some very good performances from Matthew Alcock, Andrew Gillespie, Matthew Sandison and Ranjan Chopra. Following the excellent results, Mr. James arranged further matches against Catshill, St. Thomas Aquinas and Wheelers Lane, all of whom we beat comfortably. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mr. James for all his efforts in coaching us to become such a formidable team with only one defeat all season! Trophies were given for best performances throughout the season.



School Bridge is one of those sports that, as a rule, never seems to be taken quite seriously enough. Although we have one entry in the Blue Book for Bridge Captain, in practice it never gets filled (so take note that for 97/98 it's Charles Ward).

There is one delightful exception to the above rule, however - that of House

Bridge, with its x1 Cock House rating, which was won this year by Jeune's team, captained by Charlie Ward.

What many people fail to realise is that aside from this event Bridge carries on. Not only has it an extremely popular Friday afternoon slot, but more recently a Thursday after-school coaching session has started up.

This year the team have played numerous matches, including a National Schools' simultaneous pairs contest, in which Charles Ward and Jason Chan did extremely well.

So here's to next year, when we'll be playing even more matches, encouraging even more people to learn, and waiting for Jeune to win House Bridge again.

Philip Wheatley



Chess at KES has had a good year - a statement which does not, I can assure you, rely upon the somewhat strong correlation between the person occupying the position of School Chess Captain and the person writing this article. In the First Division, we actually came second, and would have won but for a single mistake in the match against Arden. For a team which only played home matches, the Second Division side came a creditable fourth, while outright victories in both the Third and Fourth Divisions were extremely impressive.

Andrew Huang in Division Three should especially be commended for a string of wins against players much older than he, and the commitment, enthusiasm and good nature of the Benwell brothers receive my thanks. Overall, the record of the younger years shows promise for the future, although the fourth place of the Shell team was disappointing. Several players who had been exceedingly eager to join the team in the Autumn soon found that they had other commitments, with the result that inexperienced boys had to be constantly put in their places. On the other hand, both Don Le and Alex Jackson have

displayed considerable skill, and I fully expect that they will, in time, become strong players.

Although an oversight by Mr. Goodlad last year led to our not being entered for "The Times" national competition, in other tournaments I have been pleasantly surprised by our success. Wins in the Birmingham U-14 and Closed tournaments were peculiarly satisfying, and Brendan Finglass deserves thanks for captaining both of these sides. Second place in the Lightning tournament and good performances in both the U-18 and First Form competitions rounded off the *res gestae* for the year.

Winning six trophies in a single season is an impressive record, and I am extremely proud of the many committed players who have succeeded with such flair. My thanks go to all those who have helped the season run as smoothly as it has, and especially to Mr. Simpson, an expert master-in-charge, who has employed all his nautical knowledge to ensure that the good ship School Chess, instead of heading off into stormy waters, has found itself on a calm and pleasant sea.

Patrick Finglass



Chess Team



The XI

Cricket

The XI

Played 19 Won 7 Drawn 10
Lost 2 Cancelled 6

This season the XI, captained by Andrew Martin, achieved seven wins with eight draws and only two losses, a successful total especially when one takes into account that eight matches were abandoned due to the terrible weather that plagued us up until cricket week and that three more were heavily rain affected.

All our wins followed the same formula with a good bowling performance limiting the opposition to below 200, and often below 150, followed by a tight run chase, which we successfully completed with less than five overs (and on four occasions less than five balls) left.

The pick of the bowlers were Alastair Treharne, who took the many wickets that his unerringly accurate bowling deserved, and Jonathan Ross, who, by contrast, deserved more success for his efforts. Later on in the season Goutham Bhadri made very good progress with five wicket hauls against Aston and Old Eds. C.C.

The batting was of a variable quality with some very successful run chases combined with some poor performances such as against Solihull and the XL Club, where the targets set were eminently attainable but slow starts left too much to catch up at the end. Richard McGuire battled well all season providing a strong foundation for the innings and scoring over 500 runs in the shortened season.

Nasir Khan also batted well and entertainingly, as his record of hitting eight of the team's nine sixes this season stands testimony to. As next year's captain he should have a great season and, if he can slightly refine his temperament, he is capable of very big totals. Additional scores came from Treharne, Brindley and Child, who batted very well at times, but would have hoped to have finished with more runs.

Later in the season, Andrew Martin, who had had a poor season with the bat, found his niche at number seven, seeing us through tense final overs against Wolverhampton, Aston and the Old Eds Association, in the last of which his thirty not out rescued a game which seemed to have slipped through our grasp.

BATTING (qualification - 100 runs)

	M	I	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	Av.
R McGuire	19	18	1	81	527	31.00
A Treharne	19	18	2	84*	431	26.94
A Brindley	12	10	2	40	193	24.13
N Khan	19	17	2	51	325	21.67
J Child	18	17	2	59	231	15.40
W Webb	17	12	4	31	102	12.75
R Newman	18	15	2	37	152	11.69
A Martin	18	15	4	30	122	11.09

ALSO PLAYED

J Ross	17	9	5	19	34	8.50
D Payne	17	3	2	2	2	2.00
G Bhadri	17	3	2	18	23	23.00
A Nakiel	9	8	3	15	48	9.60
R Bera	9	5	4	18	51	51.00
B Muralidhar	3	0	0	0	0	0
D Cauldwell	1	1	0	38	38	38.00
K Khara	1	1	0	33	33	33.00
T Owen	1	1	0	23	23	23.00

BOWLING (qualification - 10 wickets)

	O	M	R.H.S.	W	Best	Av.
G Bhadri	84	8	263	16	6-39	16.44
A Treharne	224.4	45	660	31	5-22	21.29
J Ross	172	29	480	18	3-26	26.67
W Webb	98.5	14	387	12	4-12	32.25
D Payne	90.5	5	403	11	3-24	36.64

ALSO BOWLED

R Bera	65	6	257	7	2-28	36.71
R McGuire	22	1	96	5	3-15	18.40
B Muralidhar	12	2	44	1	1-17	44.00

KES v KE VI COLLEGE,
STOURBRIDGEWednesday 23rd April at
Stourbridge

KE Stourbridge 136-9

Treharne 5-22

KES 140-8

KES won by 2 wickets

KES v DENSTONE

COLLEGE

Saturday 26th April at

Eastern Rd

Match abandoned

KES v KING HENRY VIII,

COVENTRY

Wednesday 30th April at

Coventry

Coventry 148-9

Ross 3-36

Payne 3-24

KES 152-5

Treharne 31

Child 59

KES won by 5 wickets

KES v SOLIHULL

SCHOOL

Saturday 3rd May at

Eastern Rd

SOLIHULL 143 all out

Treharne 5-27

KES 112-7

McGuire 34

Match drawn

KES v MALVERN

COLLEGE

Wednesday 7th May at

Eastern Rd

Match abandoned

KES v SHREWSBURY

SCHOOL

Saturday 10th May at

Shrewsbury

KES 135-8

Treharne 32

Khan 30 not out

SHREWSBURY 106-8

Ross 3-35

Treharne 4-36

Match drawn

KES v BROMSGROVE

SCHOOL

KES 144-7

McGuire 81

BROMSGROVE 148-6

Bromsgrove won by 4 wickets

KES v BABLAKE SCHOOL

Saturday 17th May at Bablake

BABLAKE 184-3

KES 149-6

Child 32

Khan 38

Treharne 36

Match drawn

KES v RGS WORCESTER

Saturday 24th May at RGS

KES 125 all out

RGS 128-2

RGS won by 8 wickets

KES v ETON COLLEGE

Saturday 7th June at Eastern Rd

ETON 190-5

Treharne 3-78

KES 69-5

Match drawn

KES v WARWICK SCHOOL

Saturday 14th June at Eastern

Rd

KES 167-4

Rain stopped play

Match abandoned

KES v ABBOTSHOLME

SCHOOL

Wednesday 18th June at Eastern

Rd

ABBOTSHOLME 106-6

KES 108-6

McGuire 46

KES won by 4 wickets

KES v KING'S SCHOOL,

WORCESTER

Saturday 21st June at Worcester

Match abandoned

KES v POCKLINGTON

SCHOOL

Saturday 22nd June at Eastern

Rd

Match abandoned

KES v REPTON

Wednesday 25th June at Eastern

Rd

Match abandoned

KES v TRENT COLLEGE

Saturday 28th June at Trent

Match abandoned

KES v MARYLEBONE

CRICKET CLUB

Thursday 3rd July at Eastern Rd

MCC 15-0

Rain stopped play

Match abandoned

KES v WOLVERHAMPTON

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Friday 4th July at Eastern Road

WOLVERHAMPTON 129 all out

Treharne 3-40

Bhadri 3-22

KES 132-8

Brindley 40

KES won by 2 wickets

KES v KING EDWARD'S

ASTON

Saturday 5th July at Eastern

Rd

KE Aston 181 all out

Bhadri 6-37

KES 182-4

McGuire 44

Khan 51

KES won by 6 wickets

KES v HEREFORD

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Wednesday 9th July at

Eastern Rd

HEREFORD 252-4

KES 215-7

McGuire 68

Treharne 38

Brindley 32

Khan 32

Match drawn

KES v XL Club

Thursday 10th July at

Eastern Rd

XL CLUB 196-8

Webb 3-52

Treharne 4-31

KES 154-9

Newman 37

Webb 31

Match drawn

KES v GENTLEMEN OF

WORCESTER

Friday 11th July at Eastern

Rd

GENTS 179-8

Ross 3-26

KES 140-6

McGuire 62 not out

Match drawn

KES v OLD

EDWARDIANS'

ASSOCIATION

Saturday 12th July at

Eastern Rd

OLD EDWARDIANS

145 all out

Webb 4-12

KES 146-7

Cauldwell 38

Khara 33

Martin 30 not out

KES won by 3 wickets

KES v KESTRELS

Sunday 13th July at Eastern

Rd

Kestrels 161-4

KES 162-2

Treharne 84 not out

KES won by 8 wickets

KES v OLD

EDWARDIANS CRICKET

CLUB

Monday 14th July at

Eastern Rd

OLD EDS 202-7

Bhadri 5-52

KES 169-9

Treharne 74

Match drawn

Unfortunately most of the regulars leave this year meaning that next summer the XI will contain only one full and four half colours, but there is still a lot of talent contained in the school that has yet to come to the forefront in first team cricket but, that given time, undoubtedly will.

Thanks go to Mr Stead and Mr Huband for their organisation and coaching of the team throughout the season. This year Mr Huband leaves the school after four years for another post in Wales. The team's best wishes go with him.

2nd XI Th 3rd XI

The season got off to a great start with the team beating Stourbridge by putting up a fine batting display. After an opening stand of 75 (Mehrali 39), Christopher capitalised on the opportunity and went on to reach a superb and well deserved 67, brilliantly supported by Modi (48 n.o.) Subsequent matches had their ups and downs - the downs being mainly downpours of rain resulting in the cancellation of many games. The whole team batted well with Christopher easily topping the averages with his consistent form and attacking style, backed up by noteworthy performances from the rest of the team, especially Modi, Pollock and Katyal. Our bowling complimented the batting well and the seam bowling of Kapur, Modi, Christopher, Button and Pollock was influential along with the spin of Ford and Mehrali. Bhadauria also made a memorable comeback to the cricket scene. The bowling was excellently supported by some outstanding fielding. Forgiel-Jenkins (and Sharma when required) kept well behind the stumps all season. My thanks go to Mr Evans for his commitment to the team throughout the season. Well done to everyone for a very good season.

Tauseef Mehrali

U15

The season was badly affected by the weather. Out of the nine scheduled matches only five were played. The

matches against Denstone, Shrewsbury, Warwick and King's School Worcester were all abandoned. Our first match was against Solihull and the opposition batted first and were bowled out for 126. Both Omar Tawfik and Edward Treacy bowled well and took 3 wickets each. KES easily scored the runs and won by 7 wickets. Two weeks later, we played Bablake at home. Again the opposition batted first and scored 136. Again KES won, this time by 9 wickets with Edward Treacy (64*) and Richard Cauldwell (54*) both batting outstandingly.

The next two matches against RGS Worcester and Wolverhampton Grammar School were both drawn. The highlights of this period were excellent batting performances from Richard Kay, who scored 64, and Edward Treacy, who scored 55, both against Wolverhampton.

Our last match was against KE Aston at home. KES batted first and scored a good 182 with Edward Treacy, who batted extremely well, scoring 80. However, our bowling performance was not as good and Aston managed to win off the last ball in the match. Edward Treacy, again, had a superb season with the bat scoring 246 runs at an average of 82! Both the new ball bowlers, Richard Cauldwell and Omar Tawfik bowled well, with Cauldwell bowling fast and generally accurately throughout.

We would like to thank Mr Phillips for his management of the team and Mr Huband for his excellent coaching and advice.

Gurjit Bhoyal

U14

The '97 season was effectively destroyed by the weather. Of ten scheduled matches, only five were started. One of these was abandoned because of rain, and two were affected by rain, leaving only two matches played in dry conditions. Solihull and Warwick were beaten in rain affected games; the match against Bablake was abandoned when we were in a winning position. RGS Worcester looked a close match, and in the last game of the season an appallingly poor batting performance led to a defeat by Aston. We were then

knocked out of the Lords Taverners Club in a first round game against Handsworth Grammar School. With so little cricket there were few notable performances. Gregg, Brandrick and Moss scored the bulk of the runs with useful contributions by Pareson, Vamadevan and Sharpe. Ras was the most penetrating bowler, supported by Ghorris and Brandrick. Fauber bowled wrist spin to good effect. The side was captained by Moss, who also kept wicket.

I. Moss

U13

In a season that has been greatly shortened by rain our team performed well in all the games bar one. This one was against Rushcliffe School in the Calypso Cup which we really needed to win but unfortunately didn't. Probably our best performance was in the last match against KE Aston, where after choosing to bat on a sun baked day we scored 162 for 5 and then subsequently bowled out Aston for 33 in 9.1 overs.

There were good performances from Chopra 76*, Singh 40, Thind 4 wickets and B Patel 5 wickets. Throughout the season I thought we fielded well, bowled well and batted well and I also found it encouraging to see new faces pushing through into the side.

A. Singh

U13 'B'

The team played five matches out of six, thus avoiding the weather more successfully than any other school team. The captain, Ben Reaney, also avoided winning the toss in any match, which meant the team ended up batting first in every game, so a playing record of won 3, lost 2 is better than it sounds.

All the games were of the limited overs variety - 20 overs per side - so it was important to ensure that as many players as possible were fully involved in each match. For that reason the batting order and bowlers were regularly changed, so that a total of 13 different players got a bowl and 15 were given the opportunity to score runs.

In general, the team's batting was sounder than their opponents, but their bowling was not quite as good although it had a good deal of variety. Najib's left

arm round and Virk's leg-breaks gave the opposition some problems. Reaney bowled a mixture of off-breaks, off-cutters, out-swingers and high lob, and his signals to indicate which he was going to bowl confused everyone but the batsman. Anyanwu and Dewar terrorised opposing batsmen with their pace but could not bowl straight enough to take wickets. Siddique used a different technique, luring the opposition into a false sense of security - they all believed he was too small to reach the other end, and by the time he had knocked their stumps over it was too late. Several others took wickets with a mixture of guile and incompetence - at B team level the good ball is too good for the batsman and it is often the bad ball that takes the wicket. The team's batting was quite solid. Purkis' 46* was the highest score of the season, compiled against some very useful bowling, and he also scored most runs (77 in total). Andrews backed him up well, making 60 runs in a very lively and positive manner at an average of exactly 29 per match. Shastri and Reaney also scored more than 20 in a match, but the figure that catches the eye is the season average of 42 from Middleton, cleverly compiled by means of three not-out innings out of four. Mr Tinley, eat your heart out! Overall, then, a successful season, with a high number of players making a contribution and enjoying their cricket.

GAW

U12

We started the season off against Old Swinford on the First of May in the Calypso Cup, a competition comprising 20 overs a side. We bowled adequately and kept them down to 69 runs with Ben Wright taking 3 wickets for 12 runs. We then proceeded to knock off the runs in 17.2 overs with Ben Wright scoring 19* and claiming man of the match. The next game was against Solihull in a 40 over game. We batted first and scored 115 with Ravi Tiwari scoring 27. They batted and convincingly beat us with 8 overs to spare, however this was the only game we lost during the season.

The next game was again in the



U12

Calypso Cup against Lordswood. Neither team batted well but we won with 5 overs and three wickets to spare. The game against Bablake was a one sided affair with some defensive batting by them making a weak total of 75 in 40 overs. We easily knocked off the runs with almost ten overs to spare with Paul Reynolds scoring 36. The third round tie against Five Ways looked to be going to the wire with them only making 53 and us in trouble with 3 wickets down for hardly any runs on the board, when Joe

Huxley scored 34 to win us the match.

The 40 over match against Warwick was on a truly horrible day, as was proved later on; we didn't start well with them scoring 146 for 3 with Paul Reynolds taking 3 for 31. We batted terribly being 24 for 4 off 21 overs when the heavens opened and the game was abandoned.

The quarter-final game in the Calypso Cup was a very easy affair which we won by ten wickets with Paul Reynolds scoring 35 not out. The next game, the



U12B

semi-final turned out quite easy with us winning by 6 wickets where Ravi Tiwari scored 21 not out and took 3 wickets for 16 runs, Neal Desai also bowled well taking 3 for 16. The final was held at the Colts ground against Counden Court from Coventry in a thirty over game. They batted first and scored a pretty dismal score of 65. We batted well through out our innings where Paul Reynolds scored 21, Edward Holmes 17 not out and Joe Huxley a quick 13 not out. We had won the regional competition of the Calypso Cup and would enter a national one next year in the Removes.

Under 12 'B'

Played: 4, Won: 1, Lost: 2

In a summer punctuated by poor weather and oppositions calling off games at the last minute, less cricket was possible than was desirable. The Solihull game which was rained off half way through the match epitomised the season. As usual, the team was enthusiastic and bowled and fielded well. The batting, however, was a little brittle with double figure scores something of a rarity.

We won our first match against King's Heath by 10 wickets with Mohit Mandirata bowling very well indeed. We then collapsed, chasing a modest total against Ninestiles and lost by 35 runs. Our final match against Yardley's was a close encounter, with Yardley's winning with a 6 with only a couple of balls remaining.

The players who performed particularly well over the season were Jamie "Hit Wicket" Vatsish, Ricki Paul, Tom Forrest and Andrew "Straight Bat" Ferguson.

SJT

Fives

Fives is a sport requiring blood, sweat and tears from its participants - in fact, a game this season had to be halted to allow one of our players to stem the flow of blood from a head wound. This kind of dedication, coupled with more matches and increased participation at all levels has resulted in a successful year. Results have

been wide ranging, from an ignominious 8-0 drubbing by Harrow, to an impressive 7-0 victory over Repton. All the matches were hard fought and well contested, including a 3-5 loss against St. Olave's which was notable for the success of the senior team drawing against such powerful opponents. The seniors also revived a fixture against the Cambridge University Penguins, losing 2-0 against a side including two Old Eds.

Out of 15 matches played, 4 were won, 4 drawn and 7 lost, a respectable achievement considering the standard of opposition faced at all age groups. The juniors did very well winning 2, losing 3 and drawing 3, including an excellent 4-1 win over Shrewsbury. The seniors continued to show considerable commitment winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 4.

The season culminated with the Public Schools' Championship in Eton which was enjoyed considerably by all who took part, with some pairs performing very well. From 53 sets played, 20 were won and 33 lost. At senior level three pairs reached the second round, with the first pair losing in the plate final and the second pair losing in the first round plate final. The U13 team also performed well with the first pair reaching the third round and the second pair the second round.

Coaching provision improved once more with the arrival of a new coach,

Jeremy, and the seniors have had the great benefit of being able to play with the Old Eds' side. This has been in both training and matches where the pressure of playing with and against some of the best fives players in the country has had noticeable results. This season has hopefully taught everyone something, whether it be that metal poles do not give way no matter how many times you attack them, how to tie a bow-tie or that eating too much really does give you a stitch. All the players are thankful to Mr. Tinley and Mr. Worthington for giving up so much of their time and are looking forward to the new season.

James Birch



The golf year began with a convincing 4-0 win over the Old Edwardians, avenging the defeat last year. The team then went on to beat Bromsgrove and Malvern, both by a single point, with more matches being arranged at the time of this article being written.

The core of the team this year has been the sixth form, with the first pair of William Cutler and Adrian Brindley remaining unbeaten since 1994. Calum Gray, Chris Thomas and Jamie Child have all made valuable contributions to school golf over the years, and all played



Fives

important parts in the victory over the Old Edwardians. A special mention must go to Yusuf Abedin, who captained the team to a victory over the Foundation Schools in the absence of the experienced players (who were on duty for the school in other sports).

The most encouraging element of the season has been the varied number of people who have played for the team - ranging from the 6th form to the 3rd year. Our victory over the Foundation Schools seemed to emphasize this, the team consisting of Yusuf Abedin (6th form), Russell Downing (Divisions) and Alistair Downes (5th form). Despite the varying team from game to game, we remain unbeaten - a promising sign for years to come.

Ravi Thukral, William Barker and Richard Barker all performed well under pressure, with Richard remaining unbeaten throughout the season. The game against Malvern marked the debut of Richard Thomson (3rd form), who won his game with Richard Barker and saw us to a 2-1 victory.

Although many of the team leave this year, a strong squad is left behind, and one I'm sure will fulfil its potential in the years to come.

My heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Andranov for accompanying the team to matches and his hours of organisation, without which school golf would not be as successful as it is.



Golf



1st XI

Hockey

1st XI

With a new astro turf and a virtually unchanged side the 1st XI were looking forward to an exciting and successful season. The new members of the squad were Calum Gray, Chris Thomas and Martin Lloyd. The early season Buttle tournament saw us in dominating form, scoring nine goals on the way to the final. This saw us play local rivals Five Ways. An initially nervous performance saw us come through strongly to win 4-1.

From then on the hockey flowed; there were some impressive scores, Malvern, 6-

0, Bishop Vesey, 7-0, Loughborough 8-0, Evesham 6-0. It was early November when our first cup match was played against Bishop Vesey. Vesey packed the defence, preventing our open expansive game from taking hold. After much frustration the goals came, giving us a 2-0 win.

The first match after the Christmas recess saw us pitted against a touring Australian side, the Antipodeans. It proved a fast and exciting match, finishing 4-4. A couple of weeks later we faced Stratford

Hockey club where a 5-1 win set up an encounter with Rugby in the final. Despite early pressure we failed to establish a lead, then Rugby scored against the run of play. The second half saw a renewed assault on the Rugby defence. Despite much frustration the side kept probing whilst McGuire and Lloyd snuffed out any Rugby attacks with Mytton providing a strong escape route for the defence; De Costa was launching many penetrating attacks. The goal came late in the second half, from Jonathan Ross; morale grew



2nd XI

and, sensing a victory, the team pushed forward. The winning goal, scored by Ross, soon followed, leaving just a couple of minutes to be played out at the end.

Winning the Warwickshire cup placed us in round one of the Midlands U18 hockey cup for the first time. Our opponents were to be Uppingham, winners of the Northamptonshire cup. They were a disciplined and well drilled side. They played the game at a fierce pace, applying pressure throughout the first half. The combination of pressure and sloppy defending allowed them to race to a 4-0 lead. The team never lost heart and slowly the goals were pulled back in the second half. Everybody pulled together and demonstrated great spirit. There were some inspired performances, particularly from Jay Khan, moved to centre midfield, and Chris Lawrenson who provided most of the opportunities, with Tom Manners using his pace down the right wing effectively. Adrian Brindley kept his nerve to score the four goals from short corners. Emery, McGuire, De Costa and Pal were superb in defence. Unfortunately, after such a dramatic match there had to be an England style shoot-out, and so it was our cup run ended. Despite this failure it was a tremendous season. Particular credit must be given to the departing players for the continual team spirit and determination

to win. On behalf of all the players I would like to thank Mr Lye and Mr Roll who built the foundation for success.

Oliver Mytton

2nd XI

This was a relatively sound season for the 2nd XI with a good all-round team successfully captained under the Wolfe/Philips regime. At the heart of the defence were Birch and Webb (senior), who both provided the basis of a strong and resolute defence; Webb in particular was able to come up with some match-winning tackles throughout the season. Behind the duo stood the imposing figure of Flacks whose quick feet and agility stopped many goals. Dave and Mehrali provided the attacking options in defence with Tauseef linking well with Bali, (who had the difficult position of left-wing to contend with), and Bhadri. This was supported well in the middle by Wolfe and Lloyd during various parts of the season. The inner positions taken up by Bhadri and Christopher were filled with enthusiastic play. Goutham provided the build-up play on the left, whilst Christopher's 'silky' dribbling and his accurate hitting along with Bali provided a plethora of goals. Thukral too provided a lethal attacking force even though he was erratic at times. After a disastrous start to the season, with

hefty losses in the Buttle tournament the team played consistently throughout the two terms, even though we never quite peaked. Good wins against Warwick, Bishop Vesey and Queen Mary's was followed by an unfortunate loss inflicted upon us by Aston 1st XI. A mixture of wins and draws turned up in the second term. Thanks must go to Mr Roll and Mr Lye for combining their skills in coaching the team and for organising and giving up their time for matches.

Chirag Dave

U16

This season was a highly successful one, seeing us win 19 of our 20 games, score over 100 goals and concede under 10. Highlights of the regular season included wins over the bane of our previous seasons, Newcastle (4-2 and 3-1) and a 10-0 thrashing of Loughborough. However, the most interesting and exciting part of our season was undoubtedly our highly successful run in the National Youth Hockey Cup which ran from early December to a tense climax in late March.

Our first two matches in the competition were both won against comparatively weak sides (GPS Coventry and Rugby School), and we came to play Warwick School for the title of Warwickshire Champions. For the past two years we had lost to this side, and with half their team having played 1st team hockey, the prospects did not seem good. However, on the morning of the match we gave our all and in the first twenty minutes we played superbly to shoot into a 4-0 lead, a gap we held onto for the rest of the game. The final score, 6-2, saw us crowned as Warwickshire Champions, the first ever KES team to gain this achievement (albeit beating the 1st XI by only two hours).

In the next round we brushed aside St. Peter's School, the Northamptonshire Champions, by 10 goals to 0, and then came up against Bromsgrove in the regional semi-final. The first half was dominated by the opposition as all our attempts to make an impression on the game failed. By the break, we were 2-0 down with little hope in sight. However, the second half saw a comeback of epic proportions as we hammered 5 past the

bewildered Bromsgrove defence in 20 minutes of madness and then held on for a final score of 5-2.

Next came the Midlands final against Painsley High School, the Staffordshire Champions, which was held at the neutral ground of Cannock HC. The match started well as we quickly slotted home 2 goals, but then Painsley's England representative captain started to take over and, with the intelligence and selfishness rarely to pass, single-handedly ensured that the sides went into half time level at 2 apiece. The second half was a very tense affair with the England player putting us under constant pressure, but, after seemingly an eternity, the signal was given that only 5 minutes remained and it seemed that the match would be decided on flicks. Sadly, the only flick taken was the one that it was deemed should be awarded to Painsley with little more than a minute left on the clock. Thus it was, that our photo was taken behind a Midland Runners-up pennant rather than a champion's shield.

All things considered though, our season was a tremendous success shown by our duo of pennants and 100% record in non-competition matches. This success, however, was down to no one individual, rather the whole squad of M Carroll, R Stuckey, J Raine, D Payne, R Newman, W Barker, A Middleton, W Webb, A Gee, R Barker, M Button, J Hebblethwaite and E Postlethwaite who played together all season, leading to a great understanding developing that saw us through our toughest matches. Thanks for the season go to Mr. Lye and Mr. Chamberlain for coaching and organisation, the posse of parents whose perpetual support from the sidelines saw us through many a match and, of course, the whole squad for giving all those involved a highly memorable season.

William Webb

U15

A very demanding season did not bring the best out of many of our players. A somewhat unenthusiastic and physically tired side turned out on many occasions towards the end of the season and were totally out classed by some very professional teams. No excuses can be



U16 Runners-up in Midlands Final of National Youth Cup

made, but it was just a shame that we did not show much of the great play we had shown earlier in the season.

The early part of the season was very successful. The team linked well with Hakeem and Ubhi starting the season promisingly. The confrontations with Warwick proved to be our most successful, managing to beat them twice with healthy score lines (2-0 and 3-2). From my point of view I was particularly pleased with our performances against Newcastle-under-Lyme. Undoubtedly the best side we played the previous season, this year was no different. Outclassed at home, but still a good performance, we lost 3-1. Away though was a different story, the midfield of Kay, Roberts and Shah passed very well and we put them under pressure for most

of the game. The 1-1 draw was the best result in terms of effort and commitment of the season. The very end of the season unfortunately let us down record wise. Losing our last three games to opposition that did not play particularly well was very disappointing. The team looks forward to playing, hopefully, a higher standard of hockey next year.

The most notable performers, on occasions that suited them, were Kay and Rahman. Together they brought 10 of the side's 15 goals. Thanks to Mr Lye, who thorough hard work and dedication helped us to play some very good hockey.

Jonathan Roberts

U14

Trials were held to enter the hockey option on Tuesday afternoon games, and





Sailing

the attendance of these was impressive, with tough competition. The squad was chosen after a second trial and consisted of 25.

The practices began to build up to our first game against Nunnery Wood, away from home. Unfortunately, due to inexperience we lost narrowly. This however did not discourage us and the U14 A team, led by Joseph Millington, began a successful run against other schools. During our campaign Duncan Law moved from the position of left wing to centre forward and became our leading scorer. Sam Sharpe, in goal, was steady and produced many match winning saves. He was helped through by his strong defence, led by Ben Green. The team kept on improving though, as did many of the individuals. Edward Hebblethwaite made the Worcestershire County Squad.

It was a relatively successful season and we are all looking forward to next year when we can improve further and compete in some small tournaments.

Joseph Millington

U14 'B'

This season was mixed for the U14 'B' team. We seemed to progress better after each match and results improved greatly. The season started with a bang, with Vamdevan bagging a hat trick against Nunnery Wood. The next match was a slightly more difficult affair, deprived of the 'A' team contingent which graced our last match. We were beaten harshly by a very strong Newcastle-under-Lyme U13 XI, 4-0 being the final score. It could have been more but for excellent keeping by Gary Brandrick. Thankfully we got our revenge in the return leg. Home advantage may have been a deciding factor, but our back line saved the day: with David Ghoris at the helm it was unbreakable. A cracker from Edward Nicholas tied the game up just after half time. We then had a hard fought game against Nunnery Wood with Tariq Arafa blasting a spectacular goal. We wrapped up the season with a win against Loughborough, the team waltzing through their defence to grab the all important goals. Cian Barry, Tariq Arafa, David Andrews and Edward Nicholas all scoring. Thanks must go to Mr. Roll, Mr. Lye and Mr. Rees for umpiring and giving us coaching of the first degree. Roll on the new season!

Edward Nicholas

School Sailing

There are two parts to the school's sailing programme: the team racing and the more social element. Sailing and windsurfing is run as an option on both Friday afternoons and Senior Games, no experience is required to come down and join in the sailing though a basic qualification is needed in order to windsurf. The school has excellent facilities for both sports with a range of boats and boards available to suit all abilities, so anyone with an interest is urged to get down and use them. These are run by Mr. McIlwaine, who also has responsibility for the team, with the valuable assistance of both Mr. J. Everest and Mr. D.C. Everest. Many thanks are due to all three for the hours which they put in to sustain the activities.

The Team races in several matches each season, including a Midlands Regional Event in Oxford at which we were certainly not disgraced in 1997. Regular fixtures include Solihull, Uppingham and Cheltenham against whom in our final match of '97 we were denied a victory by only a cruel twist of fate. The Team always adopt a stoically philosophical attitude to such mishaps, and this is very much characteristic of the relaxed atmosphere we strive to maintain.

Jacob Mackenzie

Shooting

Shooting this year has seen a marked rise in its status. The school team has now risen from our old rifles to target rifles, which are far more accurate. Not many competitions have been shot, although in those that have, KES is about halfway down our league. The annual competition against the girls turned into a farce, with only two people turning up for the boys [*Excuses excuses! - Ed*]. Then, the shooting was poor all round. Thanks must go to Mr. Davies, who has given valuable

help to the team, not to mention his organisation of everything. With the target rifles now seeing use, next year promises much.

Tom Bond

Swimming

Swimming at the school is as strong as ever. We have won most head to head fixtures and have done extremely well in the annual invitation events.

The strongest team, without question, is the U15 team of Jonathan Pitt, Mark Davis, Oliver Newcombe, James Skidmore and James Rees, a team which is likely to make the national finals in both the medley and freestyle relays. They won the local qualifying event with ease and we are now awaiting the results off the national computer.

JCH

Tennis

The senior team squad completed an immensely successful season again by qualifying for all three of the major national competition finals for the first time and by being unbeaten in all of the other 'friendly' fixtures.

The 1st VI comprising William Cutler (captain), Richard and William Barker, Richard Stuckey, Bali Muralidhar and Martin Lloyd had an excellent run in the Midland Bank U19 competition eventually finishing third after an impressive win over Repton in the 3rd/4th play off. The team were only narrowly beaten by Millfield - the same team that would later beat us in the semi finals of the Glazvill cup.

Along the way were memorable victories over the more than competent teams of Culestone, University College School and Campion. Here the undeniable talent and unrelenting resilience of the Barker twins conspired to bring the team through what would otherwise have been certain defeat. This competitiveness and team spirit was obvious in that they relished the challenge of playing the



Swimming

stronger teams. In the Glazvill cup, we beat the John F. Kennedy School, Hemel Hempstead (on sets) and the Peter Symonds Sixth Form College, Winchester (4-2). Our good run was finally ended by Cheam High School who have their own tennis centre and scholarship. Realistically, we went as far as we could in the competition and all members of the squad played really well together.

This is a feature that is certain to remain with the team in the future as well, with five of the six players still here next year. They will form the nucleus of a team that is equally likely to repeat this year's success, especially when combined with the rising talent of Andrew Gee and Edward Postlethwaite.

All in all a highly enjoyable and successful year with plenty to look forward to in the future.

William Cutler

U15

Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1

The U15 team's 97 season got off to an inauspicious start as the first match, against Repton School, was rained off. Fortunately, only one other match, against Bromsgrove School, had to be abandoned for this reason in what was an extremely wet introduction to the main tennis season.

The team, consisting of J Rose, A. Plotnek, D. Van Marle, A. Dyer, A. Francis and M Burford, (and substitutes P. Martin, P. Wilson and H. Morris) did finally play its opening game against Nottingham High School. This match was lost quite heavily, with only No. 2 Plotnek really finding form, but it is to the rest of the team's credit that it showed a marked improvement in standard during the rest of the season and comfortably won its next two 'friendlies' against Malvern College and Shrewsbury School.



Senior Tennis

The only matches which remained to be played after Shrewsbury were those in the national Midland Bank competition. By the end of the summer term the team, now reduced to the top four players, had defeated our own 'B' team, Camp Hill School and in a close final match, Handsworth School, to progress to the next round of the competition. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mr. Booth and Mr. Swayby for coaching us and Mr. Beard for organising our matches.

James Rose

U13 Tennis

Again there was a great number of boys who showed interest in tennis at Under 13 level. The Shells Tennis Club on Thursday lunchtimes ran most successfully throughout the first two terms, and the Removes tennis option was popular in the Summer Term. Once again, due to the wide interest shown, three teams were entered into the Midland Bank Contest. Unfortunately competition was tough (King Edward's Camp Hill had a particularly strong team) and so none of the teams progressed beyond the first round, but at all times players put up a valiant fight. Paul Rai (captain of the 'B' team) is a particularly promising player with his impressive ground shots, consistently strong serve, and unfazed approach. Once more the commitment and enthusiasm of all members of the squad is to be commended.

JES



1st XV

The 1996-97 season promised much from a committed and experienced 1st XV who ultimately delivered after a tough year. We began with a trial game against Monmouth and initial indications were bright with a "possible" 1st XV winning one and drawing one of their two twenty minute quarters. From there we progressed to our opening match versus RGS Worcester. Our first incursion into the RGS half produced a try with scrum half Jamie Child darting over from a five metre scrum. Despite this early score, followed by a James Pittaway try we failed

to build on our early lead and by midway through the second half the score was 12-12. From there however we began to take control of the game running in three tries in the last fifteen minutes to emerge victorious 33-19. Solihull provided the next opposition in a tight match that was evenly balanced at 3-3 at half-time with no side really dominating. Solihull then kicked two penalties to lead 9-3 on the hour before captain James Hynes went over from a lineout only to find the try disallowed for a "dangerous jump".

Despite a brave effort by us Solihull eventually ran out 16-3 winners in a game we considered ourselves unlucky to lose. Denstone and Uppingham provided our next opposition and both were beaten in tight matches, 18-13 and 22-10 respectively before we met Five Ways in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup, a competition we believed we could do well in. Despite the absence of captain James Hynes we won a sometimes scrappy game 36-7 with No. 8 Mike Sheldon and fly half Tom Marchant amongst the tries. King's Worcester were next and in a very close match we narrowly lost 18-20 to a well drilled side, despite Rich Flynn's last minute try. Solihull sixth form were beaten 15-7 before we prepared to face Warwick. Two tries from Jamie Child set us on the way to victory and despite a Warwick onslaught in the last fifteen minutes we managed to hold on for a hard earned victory.

Loughborough were comprehensively beaten 16-3 before we then faced Arnold

Hill School from Nottingham in the second round of the Daily Mail Cup. They were unknown to us and despite an early try by Matt James from a well worked move off the base of the scrum we continued to play a tight game and eventually the breakthroughs came resulting in a pleasing 38-0 victory with three tries for Mike Sheldon. KE Aston were next and as usual it was a fiercely contested game and despite an early Aston try we managed to come through 10-7 with a gutsy performance.

After a two week break we came to the game everyone had been waiting for, Bromsgrove. With Eastern Road filled with a huge crowd the traditional rivalry was renewed with the game starting at frenetic pace although neither side had a clear advantage. The first score went to KES with centre Richard Cooper going over before Bromsgrove pulled back three points with a penalty to make the score 5-3 at half-time. From there however things went downhill as poor tackling allowed Bromsgrove to score two quick tries. Despite a brave fightback led by the forwards, Bromsgrove ended up 24-12 winners.

Ellesmere provided tough opposition but a solid forward performance saw us through 17-7 before facing Oldswinford in the third round of the Daily Mail cup where a shaky performance saw us 6-3 down with about 15 minutes to play and seemingly unable to get out of our own half. Then a superb rolling maul saw Rich Flynn go over and score the first of four



1st XV

tries in a superb final 15 minutes with backs and forwards interlinking well in a period of play that left Oldswinford stunned. With other tries coming from James Hynes, Jamie Child and Nasser Ahmed as we ran out 29-6 winners and earned ourselves a rematch in the next round against King's Worcester.

Our first fixture after Christmas saw us play Oldswinford again and this time we played well from the start and a powerful display led to us winning 36-12. Newcastle-under-Lyme were also beaten convincingly as we continued our run of big points totals with a 38-7 victory. On the Saturday before playing King's Worcester we faced a good Bablake side and in perhaps our worst performance of the season we ended up 8-7 winners due more to the opposition's seeming inability to put away simple chances rather than us playing well.

King's Worcester was the game we had been looking forward to for some time and had planned well for: we aimed particularly to stifle their fly half whose kicking had caused so many problems in the previous encounter. The opening exchanges saw KES have the better of the play and led at half time through a Michael Sheldon try. From the kick off Worcester equalised with an unconverted try before an exchange of penalties made the score 8-8. The forwards continued to dominate with James Hynes having a superb match before a period of KES pressure saw Nasser Ahmad go over in the corner.

A Tom Marchant penalty sealed the victory despite a late surge from Worcester. The victory took us into the quarter finals which was a superb achievement but made even more special by the fact that we were only the second KES 1st XV to do so. Durham College were to provide the next opposition; they were much fancied by the national press to win the whole tournament and we knew we would have a tough game on our hands. For the weeks before the match we trained hard and planned well as we did before the Worcester game. However, four days before the match we were dealt a huge blow when our captain, James Hynes was injured playing for the Midlands and would miss the game. However, we were still confident that we could win if we played well enough. In atrocious conditions with strong wind and torrential rain things started well as in front of a large crowd Michael Sheldon scored from a pick up within the first minute.

Other chances were created but not taken in a good opening fifteen minutes. Durham equalised midway through the first half and at half time it was 5-5. In the second half Durham began to play the sort of rugby that led them to becoming favourites for the competition and we became pegged down in our own half as they attacked us in wave after wave. Our defence was superb with tackle after tackle going in and Durham struggling to find a way through: as everything they tried we managed to stop until they picked up three

points from a penalty and a try at the death to seal their victory.

Although disappointed at losing, our performance was probably the best of the season as we battled to the death against the toughest side we had met all season and the performance of some of the younger players in the side gave plenty to look forward to next year.

The team's strength lay in the forwards where the power of Pittaway and Hynes broke many tackles and the hard work of others such as the front row of Matthew Hall, Richard Flynn, James Parker and James Thomas made scoring opportunities for others and allied with the mobility of the rest of the forwards and the back row of Michael Sheldon, Alastair Sheppard and Ben Forgiel-Jenkins this led to the forwards dominating on many occasions. The line out was our greatest strength with James Hynes winning everything jumping at two. The half back combination of Jamie Child and Tom Marchant worked well together and both were good kickers, Tom Marchant also taking the role as penalty kicker where he scored some valuable points.

The centres of Rich Cooper and John Goldman were very quick and strong in the tackle whilst on the wings Matthew James and Nasser Ahmad showed plenty of strength to finish off moves; whilst at full-back Arif Kahn was secure and came into the line well. Many thanks must also go to Mr James and Mr Campbell for the many hours they spent coaching the team both on the touchline and the training field.

Ben Forgiel-Jenkins

2nd XV

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Despite a shaky start against RGS Worcester, to whom we lost 5-12, the 2nd XV's season soon gathered momentum. Our second game was against old rivals Solihull, which we won 11-3 with a superb performance from the forwards, notably Ben Stinton. Unfortunately, he sustained a shoulder injury in the following match (a comfortable 62-0 win over a quickly demoralised Denstone, which included 4 tries from Dan Clark), and was sorely missed for his period of absence.

The following 5 games included wins



2nd XV

against Uppingham, Solihull 6th form College and Loughborough and a draw with King's Worcester and we tasted defeat from a fired up Warwick side.

When one talks about lenient refereeing, one envisages the backs being allowed to be a yard or two off-side, or the forwards given time to play the ball on the floor after a tackle. Freedom to break off the scrum before the ball has even entered the tunnel, pass the ball forwards, stamp in the rucks, punch and kick would generally be classed as beyond lenient and well into the dodgy. Such was the nature of our match against KE Aston which consisted of about 15 minutes of rugby, followed by a 45 minute brawl. Nevertheless it was a well conducted brawl, which saw Nazeer Kahn in particular coming into his element. He broke tackles (whether they were rugby tackles or sliding football tackles) superbly, and was always a powerful possession winning force in the "rucks and mauls" (fights for the ball). Disappointingly, and with a certain random element playing its part, we lost this game 7-12.

The next match was a very tight affair against an excellent Bromsgrove side, which we won 15-14 with an excellent performance from all the forwards. Afterwards, the traditional post-Bromsgrove match festivities got underway... The winter term concluded with a superb, disciplined 57-0 win over Ellesmere. As always, a visit to Ellesmere means freakish weather. This year, the fog was so thick that you literally could not see from one side of the pitch to the opposite touch line. Those who were close enough to him at the time saw Rob Colledge score 3 tries. In my opinion, the start of the spring term saw the 2nd XV finally getting itself into perfect order: Owen Bryan-Williams, whose kicking had been masterful all season, quickly added confidence to his list of assets, and settled in excellently to the role of full-back; Matt Kahn, who had struggled at full-back due mainly to being unable to see the ball from any great distance, certainly found his perfect position in the centres to exploit his pace, handling ability and eye for the game. Perhaps the

3rd XV

revelation of the term was Kevin Garrington moving from centre to winger – when given the time and space to gather momentum, he found the strength to break and agility to slip tackles in attack.

This new-look side played its first game against Old Swinford, winning 22-0. This saw the return to form of Ben Stinton and a rare but impressive performance from all the backs. We remained unbeaten for the rest of the term with wins over Newcastle-Under-Lyme 42-0, Bablake 43-0, Wolverhampton 61-0 and Camp Hill 5-0. Andy Sinclair should be commended for an excellent season. His consistent defending, pace down the blind side and amazing eye for the right pass at the right time led to him deservedly being given the player of the season award.

Mike Purdon and Alec Tang should also be mentioned for their excellent contributions (when they weren't off playing for the nancy boys 1st team).

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Phillips on behalf of the whole team for giving us the benefit of his unique coaching style.

Towards the end of the season, he was a top class referee, and throughout the season he was a top class coach. Cheers, Mr. Phillips.

Andy Kent

3rd XV

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The season kicked off with a 3rd XV team that was arguably the strongest the school had seen for many years. Due to this, expectations for a spectacular season

were high, from both players and coaches. These claims of fortitude were soon confirmed when the team actually managed to prove its worth on the field. Crushing victories were achieved over our old nemeses Ellesmere, Warwick, and perhaps sweetest of all, Bromsgrove. However, as the season progressed, injuries, promotions, absences, tropical intestinal diseases (or rather, Geography projects, Mr Colledge) unfortunately prevented us from compiling our deserved record. Praise should go to all of the team for always managing to maintain a good sense of humour and playing every game with a great level of desire and intensity. Special mention must go to Bob Colledge for being the heart and soul of the team, Gav Hamer for playing/refereeing exceptionally and Ben 'beaver' Bushell who always played the game in the true spirit that it was intended and also for his consistently amusing line-out calls, usually involving the words 'Alexander', 'sheep' and 'Booth' somewhere.

Thanks must go to the coaching staff of Mr. Evans, Mr. James, and Mr. Campbell who ensured we were always fit and ready for our matches. In conclusion, we had an enjoyable season with occasional flashes of brilliance, and the opposition learned that when playing 3rds rugby, in the words of the immortal Mr. Campbell, 'YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE, AYYY!!!' (come back TC all is forgiven).

Hamza Kuraishi

U15 'A'

With superb wins and an excellent team spirit, the U15 team of 1996/7 got off to a flying start. Several positional changes over the season added a new dimension to our game crushing all traditional school rivals including our great rivals Camp Hill in the semi-final of the Birmingham Schools cup. A riveting performance saw the team strive towards victory with a greater determination than anything seen in previous years, followed by a comfortable win in the final to secure our first major trophy.

Now through to the national competition, the Daily Mail Cup, our target for many previous years and goal for the season. With our first round opponents having pulled out, and the pressures of achievement on our shoulders, we narrowly lost to a strong John Cleveland team, away, in the second round. On the whole, the season has been one of learning and improvement in all areas of our game, ready for a fresh season of success at U16. All thanks must go to Mr Porter for his help and commitment to our side.

Joe Tipper

Under 15 'B'

The under 15 B team had a successful season playing 8 matches and winning five. We scored 228 points and only conceded 146. The first match of the season was against R.G.S. Worcester. We were expecting a hard game like the year before when we lost narrowly, but it turned out to be a fairly easy match which we won by 29 points to 12. Our second match was against Solihull, another side to whom we lost narrowly last year. There was an immense battle between the two sets of forwards and it was a very close game due to a great defensive performance by the entire team. With two minutes to go Solihull were leading 12-0 but then the ball was passed out to Matthew Reeve who ran 30m and scored in the corner.

The final score was 15-12. Next up was Uppingham away and with 6 key players missing we knew that it would be a tough match. The team played quite well but took a little time to settle with the new



U15 'A'

balance of players and some interesting refereeing decisions. The score did not truly reflect the match and we lost 62-25. The next match was a lot easier. We had beaten King's Worcester for the last two years and this year was no exception. We won convincingly, 58-0. A week later we played Warwick. We scored in the first minute and from then it was an easy ride in and the match finished 41-5 in our favour. Loughborough were our next opponents and the match was evenly poised until a quick Tim Scarth hat-trick sealed the match. Unfortunately our last two games ended in defeat. We lost 28-7 to Bromsgrove and then 20-17 against Bablake. This was a very even game and could have gone either way right up to the end. During the season we had several long-term injuries and we regularly lost players to the 'A' team. Several players came into the team and performed very well, in particular Omar Tawfik. Mohammed Ali had an excellent season as did Matthew Reeve who scored 19 tries, an incredible performance. Congratulations to the team on a good season and thanks must go to Mr. Beard and Mr. James.

Matthew Smith

U14

The 96/97 season opened with a narrow defeat against R.G.S Worcester, despite scoring 4 tries to their 3.

A close-match with Solihull was won and was followed by victories against Denstone college and King's Wors. In the early games the forwards tended to be outweighed by the opposition but managed to secure possession to enable the backs to score freely. Missing the regular outside-half and goalkicker Dyer, who was injured playing basketball(!!!), the side went to Warwick. We made a fine start with a try by the full-back Martin, but then gave away 2 incredibly soft tries. We went into half time 17-5 down; this was a game we desperately wanted to win and for a short time after the break it looked as if we might. The side came back to 17-17 through tries by Moss and Ferdinand, but eventually the bigger, heavier Warwick pack held sway to give their side a 31-17 victory. A change of captaincy with scrum-half Moss taking over from No.8 Watkins saw a return to winning ways with a 24-5 victory over Loughborough. A closely fought duel with Aston ended in a tie as twice the Aston centre audaciously dropped a goal in the dying seconds!

The fixture against Nottingham H.S was a casualty of the weather.

The match against Bromsgrove was marked by some idiosyncratic refereeing and a second half which was, for no good reason, considerably longer than the first. The referee was concerned at the risk of hepatitis posed by 'Bagfha's expectations: luckily both sides avoided infection.

Bromsgrove snatched a winning try (or was it?) just before the final whistle!!

The final match of the Michaelmas term saw a comfortable victory over Ellesmere by 34-0.

The spring term opened with a cancellation of the fixture against King Henry VIII. High scoring wins were registered against Fairfax and Old Swinford. Bablake provided the most exciting contest of the season with an eventual victory by a single point 22-21. As the term moved to its climax we beat Camp Hill in the semi-final of the Greater B'Ham Schools Cup giving us a place in the final against Aston. We could now prove that we are the best team in Birmingham. The final was played on the 17th of March at the Reddings under floodlights. This was our best team performance of the year. It was a close match with another curiously long second half but tries by Anderton and Moss and some outstanding goalkicking by Dyer sealed the victory by 19-17 to provide Mr. Milton with his first silverware as U14 coach. It was a fitting end to the season.

Leading try scorers were right wing Ferdinand and scrum-half Moss. The outside-half Dyer is developing as a reliable placekicker, the efforts of Rees, Watkins and Wood being outstanding.

Russell Anderton moved up from the B team and made it into the county squad. County honours also went to Rees, Moss, Dyer, Watkins and Alden. Thanks are due

to Mr. Milton for his unstinting support and enthusiasm as manager, coach and referee, and to Mr. Powell who has given us a useful insight into the life of a student. Sympathetic commiserations are extended to P.J.E Pears who suffered a fractured clavicle at the hands of (allegedly) Fawcett of the B team. Fawcett (allegedly) possesses a muscular physique of some 4 1/4 stones.

U14 'B'

The U14 B team had a very exciting season, winning all 8 of its matches, most memorable of which was that against King's Worcester, which we won 66-0. This unrelenting and uncompromising winning streak was mainly due to the superior leadership qualities of William Wood and James Grigg. The first class leadership was reinforced by the new-found skill within the backs and the awesome power of the forwards including Paul Tutt, Jack Hill and Ali Mowahed. Noticeable performances in the backs were made by Anderton (who was later promoted and selected for the county side), Geraint Tudor-Jones, Jasper Sender and Nimit Jain. I felt that throughout the season the team members, by playing well, continuously improved their skills and understanding of the game and congratulations must go to the whole team on the season's outstanding record:

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Thanks must of course go to Mr. Powell and Mr. Milton, for without their excellent

coaching and enthusiasm this first rate season would never have been.

Jack Hill

Under 13 'A'

The U13 'A' team has improved tremendously since our 52-0 thrashing by Loughborough. By the end of the season we had beaten the likes of Fiveways, Aston, Old Swinford and had reached the final of the Greater Birmingham Cup. Several players shone throughout the season. The backs were influenced mainly by Adrian Tipper, who again showed his strength and speed. Gregory Cooper, Matthew Alcock and Richard Folsom all played exceptionally well throughout the season. James Forrest's kicking was invaluable and Amit Sharma's and Antony Mullra's vicious tackling and hard ball play were also very influential in the forwards. Finally, I would also like to thank Mr. James and Mr. Stead for coaching us into a highly successful team.

Andrew Gillespie

Water Polo

U16 and U14 teams have made excellent progress over the last twelve months, under the guidance of Andrew Norris. We are now truly able to compete with the long established water polo schools such as King's Grantham, Bedford Modern and Bolton School. The highlight was undoubtedly the U16 victory at Bedford earlier on this academic year.

We have been far superior to all the Midlands Schools and we are now playing against local club sides on a regular basis and winning most games. Oliver Newcombe, Jonathan Pitt and Mark Davis narrowly missed selection for the Midland and District U16 team and more recently Oliver Newcombe and Oliver Goodwin were selected for the Worcestershire team, which Newcombe was made captain of.

The U14 team finished 3rd in the Northern Schools finals, a competition that was won by King's Grantham.

JCH



U13 A





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