

Other Activities of a Sporting Nature

1961-62

1st VII NETBALL

AFTER a poor start the team settled down well and played some intelligent and entertaining netball towards the end of the season.

The team was unfortunate to lose its first match against Mitcham Grammar School for Girls, mainly because the opposition scored more points, a factor which we found considerably to our disadvantage. The referee refused to award any points, in spite of a loud appeal, when a brilliant passing movement resulted in Dailly going over for a try under the net. The game finished in a 13-10 victory for the girls.

After this defeat the team underwent extensive training and a set of rules was purchased.

To the strains of "Sweet Georgia Brown" the School team took the field for its final match, this time against Mitcham Grammar School for Girls. Intricate passing movements finished by consistent shooting allowed us to keep ahead throughout, although the girls were very fast, too. Result, a win by 18 points to 14.

Team from: G. G. Studd (Capt.), D. J. Farr, T. A. Sage, R. E. Dailly, O. A. Moore, C. R. Charlton, S. W. Hipperson, I. G. D. Hellard, D. A. Baker and K. Wiseman.

Netball Skirt was awarded to G. G. Studd for his outstanding play as captain of the team.

We are pleased to announce that O. A. Moore has fully recovered from the serious injury sustained during the final game when in collision with one of the opponents and is now convalescing on a building site in South London.

In sincerity we should like to thank the Girls' School for their sporting challenges and for their kind hospitality.

T. A. SAGE and D. J. FARR VI 3

1st XI HOCKEY

WE were met at the gate by two muscular females, hockey sticks at the ready. Those who had come for the social occasion were forcibly restrained from going home. "Met" is a euphemism; almost before we were in hailing distance the committee turned and stomped up the drive; perhaps they were dazzled by our shirts, all different, or the sartorial elegance of our bow ties. After a trot round the field, the game almost commenced, before someone asked for weapons. Our performance with the sticks suggested that we could have done no worse without them. Whistles seemed to blow at ten-second intervals for incomprehensible reasons. Between infringements the pattern was swipe and dash, and gratifyingly we noticed that the girls seemed to play the same way. One opponent was hurt and retired; a complete accident without a suggestion of dangerous play. Goalkeeper Blök let two goals through in the first half before he discovered one may handle the ball. In the second half, however, one of our movements was rewarded with a goal by Couzens; but soon the girls scored again, and later only a brilliant, diving save by Stamper, covering, kept the score to 3-1.

We received and accepted a second challenge from the Girls' School in the Spring term. We were strengthened by the inclusion of two second-rate rugby players and our determination, expressed in our uniformity of dress (School jerseys and bowler hats), spurred us on to a great victory by 2 goals to nil. The scorers were Blök and Hosking. Thanks to the hospitality of the girls and the mistresses concerned, both match and nosh-up were enjoyed by all on both occasions, and we hope we have started another pleasant tradition.

Team from: A. R. Carpenter (Capt.), D. J. Couzens (Vice-Capt.), Anslow, Baker, Blök, Brown, Charlton, Davidge, Glover, Hosking, Johnson, Searle, Shrubbsall, Stamper. Manager: P. H. Mackey, Esq. Trainer: M. W. Walder, Esq.

Positively nothing was awarded to anybody.

A. R. CARPENTER VI 3



A R Carpenter 'Paddy' Dave Hosking 'Tub' John Johnson 'Johnny' Terry Blôk Michael Brown 'Brew'
 Jim Anslow Dave Couzens Alan Glover 'Tich' Martin Stamper Roger Davage Chris Shrubsall 'Urnie'



Paddy Carpenter 'Willy' Walder Tony Perrin 'Tub' Hosking Roger Davidge Terry Blôk
 Pete Mackie Jonny Johnson Jim Anslow 'Tich' Glover Martin Stamper
 Dave Couzens

1962-63

1ST VII NETBALL

It has become traditional after only one season of these activities for the cavaliers and clowns to monopolise the hockey field whilst a devout and dignified few prefer the mysterious complexities of a game of netball. Given this serious approach and not too many fixtures (two in fact) one could be forgiven for expecting such a team to win its matches. Perhaps it was because only two members survived last year's campaign; more probably it was the lack of an efficient "shooter", a gap hard to fill after Sage's departure: yet a third reason could be our continued use of one sheet of foolscap paper on to which all the rules of the game have been condensed. These had been handed down from the previous year and couldn't be found in time for the first match.

This fixture was against the Grammar School for Girls, Mitcham. The School played some intelligent netball in the middle of the court but this was offset by some poor finishing. The result was a defeat by 13 goals to 10. The team now had plenty of time to ruminate upon its failure. The rules were found and showed that a player could make a movement without incurring a sharp blast on the referee's whistle (a fact not at all obvious during the game). They also dispelled the idea that the game was merely basketball played in skirts.

The team emerged on court for the one and only time during the Spring term. Once again the School played Mitcham Girls' Grammar School away from home. In spite of detailed planning and a better knowledge of the rules, the team foundered against a determined opposition. Mesmerised by such artistry, the score quickly mounted, the outcome being a 15-14 defeat.

No injuries were either inflicted or sustained, and, off the court at least, our opponents proved very pleasant and only human after all.

Finally, we should sincerely like to thank the Girls' School for their kindness and sporting spirit in receiving us. Team from: I. G. D. Hellard (Capt.), D. A. Baker, A. S. Austin, B. Hendley, F. J. Baker, H. V. Matthews, C. Tyler, D. A. Brushett and M. J. Boylett.

D. A. BAKER

1ST XI HOCKEY

THIS season, owing to poor weather and the leniency of our feminine foe, we were only once called upon to defend our honour.

The battle, as on previous occasions, was fielded on the enemy's soil (there being very little grass), and, as before, developed for the most part into a battle of wits between ourselves and two fearsome-looking females who spent much of their time blowing their whistles to our disadvantage. However, we managed to survive this encounter with what is, after all, a larger school than ours.

The team was about the strongest side to date, with five veterans in the ranks, we had both experience and youth. The goal which decided the match (the only one scored) came from a fine solo effort on the part of our right-inner, fifteen stone of muscle and flab, who tore through the defences and crashed the ball into the net. An excellent shot, which by no means disgraced the goalkeeper, who was cringing behind the goal.

Perhaps the opposition had much of the territorial advantage but they failed to take their chances, whereas our forwards fell many times victims to the offside trap. We did, however, admire the cohesion between the girls and the whistling ladies. I can still remember the bewildered enthusiasm with which the team accepted a free hit that somehow strayed to our advantage. But too much criticism of the referees would not be fair; they did a grand job and we are grateful to them for giving their time to these strange proceedings.

Team from: J. W. A. Anslow (Capt.), M. Brown, M. H. Stamper, D. W. Hosking, M. W. Walder, M. H. Walton, A. S. Austin, D. M. Stracey, K. R. Lavey, J. Ahern and M. J. Boylett.

J. W. A. ANSLOW

1963-64

1ST VII NETBALL

NETBALL is, according to the book, a highly skilled game involving a large number of rules and played at a fast speed. Such a hypothesis was admirably disproved in our little *débacle* against the Girl's School. In a match during the Christmas Term we were well and truly beaten, mainly because every time we managed to lay our hands on the ball, the referee would promptly whistle and then proceed to give the girls the ball. Such discrimination, though possibly deserved, was frustrating and we felt that we had been cheated. As of course the Girl's School provided the referees we could in no way argue as we ourselves did not even know the rules.

During the Spring Term we were determined to win by fair means or foul. The latter approach seemed the more expedient as our ignorance of the rules had already proved too great a handicap. This involved their complete abandonment, with of course firm approval from the girls. When they tried to shoot we moved the post, which had the desired effect of stopping them scoring. However, we had under-estimated the fighting spirit of our opponents who, no sooner had we effected this, repeated the experiment on us, which meant in the long run that neither of us got very far.

The referee by this time was looking decidedly embarrassed by the whole affair as the game of netball was very quickly developing into a game of rugby. Our simple and effective methods of sabotage and guile paid off however, and the match finished with us leading by 8 points to 7.

We are always hoping that the girls will take up our challenge to play us at rugby but until that time comes I am sure that our little encounters will prove very enjoyable and amusing.

The team was selected from : B. G. Hendley, M. J. Boylett, A. S. Austin, T. V. Jennings, A. Scott, D. A. Brushett and F. J. Barker.

A. S. AUSTIN.

1ST XI HOCKEY

SOMETHING seems to happen to the fair and gentle sex on the hockey field. They become transformed from sweet and lovely creatures into fast-moving deadly weapons. I still bear the scars of one miniature Minerva's attempt at my assassination.

Despite the homicidal tendencies of our female foe, we enjoyed some fast, lively hockey. Wilde displayed unforeseen talent with a stick, leaving most of his team-mates standing, and waving aside hurt shins and feelings (I heard one of the opposition describe us as "hulking great bullies"), we established male supremacy by winning both our fixtures, the first 1-0 and the second 2-1. The girls established theirs by making us wash up after the tea they gave us.

The ladies as usual supplied the numerous referees which seem to be necessary, and we thank them for giving up their time to supervise our antics. If these matches have done nothing else, they have at least given us courtesy on the field of sport. A large male, after barging some poor little girl into the mud, was heard to say, "Sorry, love," whereas if the same incident had occurred on the rugby field, the remark might have been of a different nature.

Teams from : Ahern, Barker (Capt.), Bishop (Capt.), Beames, England, Harrison, Reece, Holland, Jenkin, Wilde, Worrall, Walton.

V. A. C. REECE.

1964-65

1ST VII NETBALL

TWICE did our 'Magnificent Seven' make the long trek to Cranmer Road, with the noble aim of maintaining a tradition which has been upheld by previous generations, since as long ago as 1961.

For our first encounter, in the Christmas term, we arrived determined to give a reasonable account of ourselves and, indeed, ten minutes from time were comfortably in the lead; but we reckoned without the guile of our foes. With each assuming her rôle as temptress with hardened efficiency, according to a predetermined plan, we were gently coaxed into following their lead, and committed the unforgiveable sin — we cheated. Such was our delight at this new-found style of play that one bite at the apple was found insufficient. The trap sprung, our opponents resumed their original ladylike demeanour and we were left to the mercies of their accomplice on the touchline, who, with whistle at the ready, welcomed her chance to assert female authority. Thereafter, we could not touch the ball without some hypothetical foul being committed, and the ball being returned to the opposition. With numerous free throws, they were able to score frequently and the final result was declared a draw.

The return match was played during the Easter term, in exhausting heat. This indeed was a day to remember. Absolute masculine supremacy was established with a classic display of copybook netball, resulting in a 20-6 victory. For once, we resisted the temptations of our charming opponents and proceeded to frustrate the vain attempts of the referee to find fault with our play, by following the unprecedented policy, foreign to all previous sevens, of playing to the rules.

Finally, it must be appreciated that it required the wholehearted support of both teams to make the matches as enjoyable as indeed they were, and we are sincerely grateful for the good sportsmanship and hospitality of the Girls' School, both on and off the court.

The team was chosen from: Marsden, Bradford J., Worrall, Rowe, Woodley, Scott, Duffield, Lewis.

R. E. WORRALL.

1ST XI HOCKEY

IN contrast to previous occasions, the first encounter between the two sixth-forms was a little unusual, to say the least. The last place in the world that one would expect to find Henry IV is on the hockey-field, but, heralded by the banners and shields of a past production, Head of School, wearing the royal regalia (one tea-pot cosy) led the troops into battle.

Having suffered four defeats in a row, our feminine opposition supposed that, if their opponents were encumbered by fancy dress, they would stand more than a sporting chance. Nevertheless, tradition was upheld, and the rules of hockey were successfully defeated, as were the girls, by an all-time record score, 6-0.

The second meeting was more orthodox, despite our lack of a goal-keeper, and it would be true to say that past experience enabled the boys to produce some attractive hockey, Snell scoring 2 goals in the team's 4-0 victory, despite one member of the team being penalized for fouling his own side.

Once again we must thank the ladies for the provision of equipment, officials and, of course, the refreshments in their common-room — even if the victor's crown was a dish-cloth.

Teams were chosen from: Andrews, Beckham, Beck, Conroy, Franklin, French, Frost, Harrison, Holland, Jenkin, Jennings (Capt.), Rowe, Snell, Wilde (Capt.), Woodley, Williams.

T. V. JENNINGS.

1965-66

HOCKEY

ONCE again a selection of gentlemen from the sixth-form ventured onto the battleground at the Girls' Grammar School. Not basking in the glory of previous victories over experienced players, we proceeded with great caution and, after much argument, elected a goal-minder. He was woken up at half-time to be replaced by one of the others, who had been swept off his feet by one of the gentler sex.

Most of us found it impossible to adhere to the rules, which favoured the girls as they had practice in using their sticks as weapons without raising them above the shoulder. Nevertheless, the encounter resulted in our seventh consecutive victory - though we did concede a goal between scoring our third and fourth. The ball in fact entered their net a fifth time but the referee would not allow a goal scored from the attackers' own goal area.

One thing we always look forward to is tea in the lavishly-furnished Senior Common-Room. Several of our team were informally presented with tea-towels which proved useful on the conducted tour of one of the kitchens.

The team was :- Andrews, Chaplin, Franklin, French, Goodson, Mott, Pollard, Singer, Snell (Capt.), Thompsett, Vagg.

C. J. ANDREWS.

1966-67

HOCKEY

HAVING already, during practice, adopted the style of play of an American Football team, we decided we would do well to adopt one of their fancy 'Yankee' team names. A name which would spread fear and spell disaster to 'The Girls of Cranmer Green'. A name that would lend itself to the vibrant chanting of our hordes of female followers. A name that would show that we really meant business. Hence it was The Combined Mitcham Grammar School for Boys All Male Prefectorial Temperance Hockey XI which proudly marched onto the green turf of the Cranmer College for the Conservation of Young Ladies, glistening with dew in the bright sunlight (the turf, that is — we at Mitcham are taught never to glisten in on other people's conservations).

As the convoy of scooters and cars descended upon Cranmer Academy, the sleepy little village of Mitcham was treated to a colourful if not slightly awesome spectacle. Anything by way of adornment was permissible as long as it was both colourful and different. However, the mother of one team member would appear to have been lacking in certain articles of underclothing on the afternoon of the match as her son was proudly parading around the pitch, revealing to all how he had finally brought his midriff bulge under control.

Once the two teams were arrayed in the field in some semblance of order, the referee — one of the sweetest, gentlest, most fair-minded players on their side — blew her whistle and the tournament began. We boys soon got the hang of the game and became quite adept at guessing when the referee would next change the rules. All members of the team are worthy of a mention — or so they tell me — but our goalkeeper must, I feel, get special notice. Mr. Ross Harling (Britain's Tamara Press) covered the goal brilliantly throughout the match. Indeed, there was very little he didn't cover — he's that sort of shape.

Thanks must also go to our two coaches, Mr. Bird — who only appeared at the field in time for tea — and Mr. Chicken, who, although having given us the benefit of his two years in the 1911-1913 Combined Forces 2nd Hockey XI, failed to show up on the day. (A foul pair of coaches, you'll agree !)

Little report has been given so far of the game itself but, as was only to be expected, we at Mitcham were yet again victorious — indeed it seems we never lose. The girls were valiant but they just could not concentrate on the game with us in our skin-tight jerseys and mini-shorts — it seems they lacked that certain something. However, the girls must be congratulated on preparing for us a first-class tea — no expense spared — offering us also the warm hospitality of their Upper Sixth Common Room, in whose luxurious armchairs we rested our weary and broken frames, whilst the girls ran round, serving us with tea and cream cakes.

As always the match was great fun and the lady referee must be congratulated on the amount of decorum she managed to instil into the game.

D. C. CROXSON.