



# MITCHAMIAN



summer  
1966



MR. AND MRS. PERRY in their garden.

Photo by R. Harling

# *The Mitchamian*

MITCHAM COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

NUMBER 43

JULY, 1966

---

## Editorial

THIS year we find ourselves skirted by authorities in revolt against Mr. Crosland's policies. Our own situation is far from clear, except that almost all of the schemes being considered by Merton would involve the abolition of the school in its present form. Whether we regard this as "progress" or, with one member of staff, as symptomatic of the advent of a police state, we can but hope that, whatever changes are made, parents and staff will continue to be fully consulted and that we shall not be forced into an arbitrary amalgamation of existing buildings.

In this mood of uncertainty, the school continues on its accustomed way, dedicated to such "archaisms" as the G.C.E. examination. In the age of speed and automation, we still devote long hours to cricket. We held an Oxford Dinner in "Franks Week" and are exchanging visits with Eton, the other great bastion of tradition. Even the apparent delights of co-education were solidly rejected in a Junior House Debate.

Some changes we cannot resist, and most to be lamented is the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Perry, whose service to the school spans a period greater even than Mr. Marsh's. We wish them well and hope that they will visit us frequently.

Contributors change also. Some leave, others lose interest or find frustrating the restraint required by a school magazine. One or two boys produced slashing indictments of the school establishment, generally related to fact but entirely lacking in constructive ideas. Satire is welcome but must be deftly handled if it is not to be unjustifiably disruptive.

Fortunately, others were less affected by these restraints and the editor was able to choose from a good range of 'original' articles – not all of which could be traced to a known source. He is very grateful to all contributors, whether or not their articles have been used, and especially to R. H. Johnson, who has energetically gathered material, chivvied contributors and rejected shoddy work.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR

THREE new members of staff joined the School last July: Mr. Crawley to teach Music, Mr. Hawley to join Mr. Bateman in the History Department, and Mr. D'Abrera, recently arrived from Ceylon, to teach Mathematics. All three came to us for the year and will be leaving at the end of the present term, - indeed, Mr. D'Abrera moved on to a London school after only one term, but we were fortunately able to replace him with Mr. Callanan who, after taking an Honours degree in Mathematics at Leicester, was working for a higher degree in his subject at London University, and was temporarily with us as laboratory technician. After two years at the School Mr. Speller is to move to Louth to take up a Mathematics post at King Edward VI Grammar School in September, whilst Mr. Street, who has served the School well for some six years as Head of the German Department, is to go to teach in the United States, probably in California. His departure will be a great loss to the School and we wish him success in his new environment. Mlle. Einaudi and Herr Müller have been with us during the year as French and German Assistants, and both have shown a keen interest in the School's affairs, proving pleasant acquisitions to the Staff Room, and their efforts on behalf of the pupils have been much appreciated.

At the beginning of the school year there were 400 boys on roll with 120 in the Sixth form, but in the course of the Spring term the only remaining members of our last three-form entry left in the course of their third year in the Sixth, many having unconditionally ensured their places at the Universities. Accommodation has been improved by rebuilding completely the old store-shed behind Room 6 and adjoining the playground, and this, now equipped with central heating, will make an excellent Sixth form classroom next term. Two wash basins and a Towelmaster have been installed in the vestibule of the dining hall for the use of our waiters, and the whole dining block is to be redecorated during the summer recess. The extension of the Biology laboratory has been completed and these new facilities have given the Biology Department the extra space it has long required. Mr. Penegar has continued to provide us with well-tended wickets and well-marked Rugby pitches and running track, while maintaining the gardens about the School in very attractive style.

The outstanding games activities of the year have been the performances of the Athletics and Cross-country teams, fully reported elsewhere in the magazine, whilst Rugby had a disappointing season, fading away after a firm and promising start, in spite of a profusion of strong, even outstanding, individual players. Strangely enough, the School's traditional weakness, the pack, became its great strength due to determined leadership. It was inevitable that this year's senior tennis team should be still overshadowed by the remarkable record of the last two years' first pair, but the Under 16 team has done very well, giving a good augury for next year's First VI. Debating has flourished this year and we are particularly happy to see the resuscitation of our Sixth Form Society, which has been quite active and enterprising in the last half of the year.

At Speech Night on Friday, 29th October, Mr. R. Greenwood, Chief Education Officer for Merton, gave the address and his wife kindly distributed the prizes. The usual Christmas and Easter Carol Services were held in St. Mark's Church on the evening before the last day of term, but the Easter service was somewhat hampered by the removal of the choirstalls for Holy Week celebrations. We are to welcome the Reverend Alan Norton, Vicar of Addiscombe and a former member of staff, as our preacher at the Leavers' Service in St. Mark's Church on the last day of Summer term.

Nineteen boys left School to begin a University course and this year we congratulate the three boys who were successful in the Oxford University Scholarship examinations last December: G. H. Pollard, who won an Open Exhibition at New College; R. H. Johnson, who gained a place to read Modern Languages at Trinity College; and R. Davies on being given a place to read P.P.E. at Hertford College.

In the Autumn term Mrs. Hurring, the School Secretary, left to take up the post of private secretary to the Principal of Borough Road Technical College. Mrs. Hurring, who had served the School admirably for more than 20 years, did not care to be too precise about the exact number of years she had been with us, but she had seen the School develop since the war, and her wide experience and knowledge of County administrative procedure was both astounding and invaluable. The School expresses its gratitude to her for her loyal service and wishes her good fortune and happiness in her new post. We welcome Mrs. Swinstead, who came to take over the position of School Secretary, and Mrs. Gooch remains with us as Assistant Secretary.

At the end of the present term an even greater break with the past will be effected by the retirement of Mr. Perry after 38 years as Caretaker at the School. During its 44 years as a Grammar School there have been four Headmasters and Mr. Perry has served them all. Many generations of schoolboys think of Mr. and Mrs. Perry with affection, visiting them when they come back to Mitcham, often from abroad, and School House has always brought Mr. and Mrs. Perry to mind. Their work for the School and the Old Boys has been tireless, and if the whole space of these School Notes were devoted to recording their services and merits, the list would still be incomplete. The value of their efforts has been doubled by virtue of their warm-hearted personalities, and with their departure the School will be greatly impoverished. They have already achieved the fame of becoming a legend in the brief annals of the School and we wish them health and happiness in their well-earned retirement. May they gladden our hearts by visiting us often in the days to come.

\* \* \*

It is with deep regret that we have heard, just before going to press, of the sudden death of Ralph Cole, a Prefect and member of Lower VI 2, whilst taking part in a Scout camp at Dorking with the troop from St. Barnabas' Church. He came to us two years ago from Gorringe, where he had been Head of Senior School. He was an excellent swimmer and last year won the new Victor Ludorum cup for swimming. He quickly settled down in the School and soon proved his worth by tireless efforts for his House and the School. As a member of the Sixth form Christian Fellowship he was engaged in their Social Service venture, ministering to the needs of the old people of Mitcham. As leader of the Swordfish Swimming Club of Gorringe, he still found time to serve them as well as the Scouts of St. Barnabas', and to maintain his long and close connection with that Church, where he was a server, and with the Old Boys' Association of his old School. He was an unusually mature personality and of a kindly nature, modest and ready to help wherever there was need. He hoped to enter teaching, where his generous spirit, his understanding and gentle humour would have served him well. He had worked with determination and marked academic success during the time he was at School, and had become well-liked and respected by both pupils and staff. Members of Staff and Prefects paid their respects to the memory of Ralph Cole at his funeral service at St. Barnabas' Church on Friday, 3rd June, and we convey to his parents and younger brother our heartfelt sympathy in this tragic bereavement.

C.R.B.

## MR. AND MRS. PERRY

EVEN the longest-serving member of the teaching staff can only say that when he came to the school Mr. Perry had already been the caretaker for several years. He has, during his service, seen the buildings increase from the original block containing rooms 1 to 8 to their present size, with all the additions to his labours and responsibilities that this expansion has caused.

He has met this extra work with his usual calm cheerfulness, though he probably regrets the passing of the days when he could replace a broken pane of glass himself, instead of having to put in an order for repairs and finding, when the job comes to be done, that there are now two broken panes in the classroom and only one mentioned on the order.

There have, of course, been improvements over the years, such as the replacement of gas lighting by electricity, but the basic age of much of the building means a great deal of extra work caused by leaking roofs and ill-fitting windows.

Despite all this, we have always been kept clean and comfortable. Writing this on a summer's day, one is apt to forget the question of heating — how few people know the number of boilers that have to be fired and stoked to keep our hot-water system going, not to mention the various other types of heating in our assorted "temporary" classrooms.

And yet, besides these many duties, Mr. Perry has for many years undertaken the sale of all the various delights which can be purchased at the tuck shop, and the responsibility of ordering stock.

We certainly owe him a great deal for his efforts to ensure that this school is a pleasant place to work in, and we must not forget to mention Mrs. Perry, who took her husband's place while he was serving during the war, and who has always helped in the task of keeping the school clean.

Although we cannot think how we shall manage without them, we wish them both a long and happy retirement.

R.J.M.

---

## SCHOOL MUSIC

*"Let the sound of music creep in our ears"*

At the press of a switch or the turn of a screw, music is uncanned and served whenever we want it. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that we take music and its performers so much for granted, especially when they are on record.

Our favourite artists may be the M.J.Q., The Stones, Bob Dylan or the New Philharmonia; but, whoever they are, the only way really to appreciate them is to prise ourselves away from the record player and go to hear them 'live'.

During the course of the year, groups of boys have been to a number of performances. These have included a piano recital by Denis Matthews, a visit arranged by Mr. Benfield to the Royal Opera House to hear Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", a concert by the Vienna Boys' Choir at the Albert Hall, and a production of Purcell's opera, "Dido and Aeneas".

In spite of Bernard Shaw's discouraging remark that "Hell is full of musical amateurs", there are many who are not content to sit back and just listen. The Folk Club successfully defies Shaw by combining listening with singing and playing, and "The Rim", a fourth and fifth form pop group, have caused a local sensation.

The Choir has practised hard, and at the Christmas and Easter Carol Services held at St. Mark's Church, it performed very successfully several pieces which are seldom attempted by schools.

On the occasion of the Parents' Musical Evening, the Choir was joined by the orchestra in performing a varied programme which ranged from a setting of "Waltzing Matilda", to Elizabethan madrigals and Purcell's "Trumpet Tune", in which the soloist was David Croxson. The orchestra was led by Martin Hughes.

I should like to thank the visiting music teachers and those members of staff who help with School music, particularly Mr. Male. There is room for more sounds of music and for boys who can produce them.

D.E.C.

---

### "BECKET"

RELIGIOUS fervour is often dramatic: Becket, St. Joan, Luther — all have formed impressive subjects for plays. In this play there is also the almost inevitable opposition of the State, the smouldering antipathy between Norman and Saxon, and the basic loneliness felt by both Becket and the King — with the result that the producer has ample, if not embarrassingly ample, material to put over. The many changes of scene in the play, ranging from the Vatican to the Saxon peasant's hut, necessitate simple, flexible scenery, such as the easily-movable arches representing wooden beams on one side and stylised trees on the other, which were effective enough in this production; the considerable cast, while providing plenty of variety, also provides a greater number of potential pitfalls; the women's parts are so essentially feminine that it is very difficult for an all-boy cast to make them credible — the less said, the more convincing the acting.

The producer was lucky, or well-advised, in a crudely lascivious Henry (A. W. Baker) and a Becket (P. W. Fellows), remote and withdrawn even in the scenes of gaiety early in the play. While the King and Becket necessarily carried the burden of the action, the four Barons (D. C. Croxson, W. S. Foster, M. T. Fain and P. M. Chapman) tossed it about drunkenly, growling in good Mitchamese as adequately as Shakespeare's Dukes swore in good Stratford-atte-Bow French. Theirs is almost a fool-proof part and they were more than adequate. The French King Louis (L. St.J. Jarrett), perhaps a French author's revenge for Shaw's Dauphin and Shakespeare's French King in "Henry V", is everything that Henry II is not. It is a telling contrast and was well acted.

The Little Monk, the symbol of Becket's temptation of martyrdom, suggests the obvious comparison between "Becket" and Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral", a much more closely-knit and perhaps, because of the unity of its theme, an easier play to produce than Anouilh's box of varieties. Anouilh's dialogue is clever enough but in its apparent pointlessness is difficult to put across — the conversation between Henry and Becket on the plain of La Ferté Bernard, well done as it was, is inconclusive in every way except that it means the final break between them. People, one

supposes, are always falling out with their friends, and life is inconclusive; and the great ones of history are no exceptions. The School has no reason to be ashamed of its presentation of these historic truths.

W.T.J.P.

\* \* \*

(The following review is reproduced from "School and Holiday News", which is printed every holiday by N. Rice and P. Jones, 3A).

THE real excitement of the term didn't begin until the rehearsing of "Becket" (our school play) was well under way. Those of you (and I hope all of you did) who went to see this play will realize it was by Jean Anouilh. The title rôle was played by P. W. Fellows, with A. W. Baker as Henry II of England.

There was a little excitement when, on the first night, a man who said he was from the Press, took two programmes without paying. Unfortunately he was never traced.

#### CANDLES

You were in for a big surprise if you went on the last night, for it didn't start until well past 8 o'clock because of a power failure. Just as Mr. Hallam, with Mr. Wilkie and some eager helpers, was putting up candles, the hall was filled with light, for the fault had been mended.

#### SUCCESS

From what I have heard it was a great success and, apart from the fact that some scenery fell down on the first night, there were no emergencies. Oh yes, there was one — one of the barons got his sword stuck in his scabbard, and it took the united efforts of some of the members of the cast and others to release it.

N. RICE.



## THE TOUR TO GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND

ON 20th April, the party assembled, as is customary, outside the Golden Arrow Bar at Victoria Station, and took the train to Dover, where we boarded the boat. Fortunately, the crossing was fairly smooth but several people, including the writer and at least one member of staff, were glad when we reached Ostend. We still had a rather long coach-trip before us, but the coach was late in picking us up, giving our stomachs time to settle down. We travelled across Belgium to Maastricht in South-Eastern Holland, stopping briefly at the Atomium in Brussels.

The following morning we left Maastricht for Germany. Our first stop was at Cologne, where we visited the cathedral and saw the Rhine, whose course we were going to follow for most of the day. As the sides of the valley closed in on us, Mr. Hallam's interesting explanations became more detailed. Luckily the weather was very good for this picturesque journey. We passed the legendary Lorelei, and finally left the Rhine Gorge. Leaving Mainz away in the distance, we joined the autobahn to Würzburg. Once in the town, Mr. Marsh's incomparable navigation went haywire, but the Germans make excellent traffic-directors and we finally found our hotel.

The journey for the next day was through Germany to Ulm. But first we walked through the streets of Würzburg to the Residenz, with its elaborate gardens and ornate Baroque architecture. We then left by coach, stopping at Röthenburg, with mediaeval walls which some of the party walked round, and Dinkelsbühl, where the main attraction seemed to be the local supermarket. We continued to Ulm, where our hotel lay between the cathedral and the Danube.

The following morning we set out for Switzerland. We stopped at Weingarten to admire the Baroque church there and soon afterwards we got our first view of the Alps in the distance, an impressive sight. We followed the shore of Lake Constance out of Germany into Austria and stopped at Bregenz at the easternmost end of the lake for the customary packed lunch. After crossing the Rhine once more, we entered Switzerland and travelled South-West through St. Gallen to Rapperswil on Lake Zurich, where we made another stop. The final stage of our journey to Interlaken, our centre in Switzerland, took us through Lucerne and over the Brunig Pass to Lake Brienz.

From Interlaken, we made trips to various places of interest within easy striking distance, although we seemed to be spending a great deal of time walking. Our first full day there was spent walking to the south of the town and on a boat trip across Lake Thun to the St. Beatus Caves, which were, unfortunately, near the top of the cliff, making a long climb necessary. Lucerne was visited the next day.

After enjoying the transport museum, we took the funicular to a spot with a lovely view. But the clouds were so low that we could see very little. On Tuesday, after a morning in the Aare Gorge and a walk half-way up to the Reichenbach Falls — the funicular was not yet in service — we walked for two hours up to the Harderkulm, overlooking Interlaken. Very few people reached the top, not even Mr. Marsh, who intended to take the funicular as he had done in 1939 (or was it 1839?), for this railway was also out of service. After the gruelling descent, we realized that we were not only out of season but also out of condition. The next day was spent on a trip to Bern, with a stop at Thun on the way back. The following day, Thursday 28th, was our last in Switzerland. We spent it on a rather expensive trip to Kleine Scheidegg on the Jungfrau Railway. The view was once more obscured by cloud, but snow was soon flying about. Then we

took the train along the base of the Eiger to Grindelwald. With time to kill, some of us walked with our leader, Mr. "Where-does-he-get-the-energy?" Benfield, towards the Upper Glacier, though it was not possible to get onto the ice. We returned to the hotel and were told, to our disgust, that breakfast the following morning would be at 6.30 a.m.

Despite the early start, we left on time for France on our journey home. We passed through the Jura mountains, like sand-dunes after what we had just left, and crossed the border into France. We stopped for lunch at Ronchamp, where we visited the modern Church of Notre Dame du Haut, designed by Le Corbusier. Comments ranged from "hideous" to "magnificent", but we were all in agreement that it was worth a visit. Then it was on to Châlons-sur-Marne and the best meal of the tour. After a stay of one night, during which the quality of French driving became apparent several of us, including Mr. Kipps, were nearly run down by an old Citroën — we left for Belgium. Combining secular and spiritual, we visited a champagne cellar and Rheims Cathedral, which was even more covered in scaffolding than last year. Soon after lunch at St. Quentin, we crossed the border back into Belgium. In Bruges, where we were to stay, we saw preparations for the Festival of the Holy Blood, which was to take place the day after we left. There was also a fair here.

The next morning we did a coach tour of Bruges, visiting a lace shop, and took a boat-trip round the canals. Then, after a massive lunch, we left for Ostend where we boarded the boat for Dover. Luckily, the sea was like a mill-pond and the services of our M.O., Mr. Kipps, were not needed, even by himself. At Dover, we were whisked through the customs and caught the train to Victoria, where the party broke up. On the whole it was a very enjoyable holiday.

A. BAKER.

---

## SCARGILL

THERE was no doubt that most of the party were Londoners born and bred as we made our way through the morning rush-hour traffic on Wednesday, 13th April. From the whistles at passers-by, preferably young and female, and the signs made at following motorists, especially the one that hit us, the world outside gathered that these were normal exuberant sixth-formers going on holiday.

From the moment they set foot inside Scargill House it was obvious that our intrepid band was going to make the pace for the rest of the company during the four-day conference. Within two hours of our arrival they had donned their Carnaby outfits, and Philip was seen escorting Bernice to a seat, ready for the official welcome to the conference. Not bad going!

After dinner, those of us who were more circumspect or choosy, or shy, had a chance to circulate on the dance floor and eye the talent at closer quarters. This was merely a prelude to a night exercise in which we got rid of our inhibitions by racing all over the fells, being pelted with flour, in the process of searching for a man firing a Very pistol.

For most of the activities we were divided into groups which were awarded points for their performance in map-reading, cave rescue and orienteering. There were about eight in each group, usually more boys than girls; bad luck on some! Billy the Lid and Wilks the Bard formed a group of their own for orienteering and finished three hours after everyone else.



BECKET: Becket (P. W. Fellows), Henry II (A. W. Baker) and  
two Barons (W. S. Foster, D. C. Croxson)

Photo by R. Harling



SUMMIT PARTY — Harderkulm.

Photo by M. Kidds

There were two sessions for discussion. Each group talked about a topic separately, and then a spokesman for the group reported back to the whole assembly. "What is Happiness?" and "How can Happiness be Achieved?" were two problems which arose out of these sessions.

"Morning!" or "Mawneeng", as it was more often pronounced, became the watchword of the conference after it had been bandied about by Alan and Clive at every available opportunity. At mealtimes especially they were irrespressible, and they could often be seen juggling with bowls of cornflakes or eating mountains of foam rubber; you know, that stuff we have at school.

The rest of us needed an excuse before we would let ourselves go. This was supplied by the dance on Saturday night and by the drama in the chapel on the Sunday evening. Two nights previously we had seen the people that work at Scargill perform a mime of the Crucifixion and most of us were keen to have a go at mime ourselves. Gary soon had us prancing about to music, and eventually we acted the building of the ark and the loading of the animals. Our chief extrovert was given the part of Noah, and Joyce, appropriately, was his wife.

No mention yet of the food, the beds, the weather? This is some indication of how much else we had to think about. The weather was cold — snow every day — but the house was warm, the food was good and the beds comfortable. We usually managed to get to sleep before 1 a.m., after the elephants above us had stopped charging around.

We made several good friends during our visit — including Mavis, Bernice, Joyce, Lorraine, Barbara, Janet, Susan etc. — and they gave us a rousing send-off on Monday 18th. Despite the lack of direct religious teaching at this Church of England conference centre, our sense of values was changed. On the way home we looked at skirts 4" above the knee with amazement and distaste, instead of with excitement and lust as we had on our outward journey!

AESCULAPIUS.

---

## SEVERN ASIDES

ONCE again Mitcham invaded the beauty of the Shropshire countryside with its uncouth youth. Five members of the 2nd Year Sixth Geography Set — Chapman, Mephram, Dickson, Liddle and Croxson — and one from the 1st Year Sixth, Hills, we promised his mummy that we'd take good care of him — sallied forth in a vain attempt to see "geography in the field". That was the official reason for the trip — we planned to have a seven day, council-financed holiday. Oh, sad woe! We were mistaken — officialdom won again. Upon arrival at our centre we were all told we would "have to pull our weight" — Dickson, in his usual style, immediately commandeered two northern youths of lesser build to "pull his weight" for him. However, we wasted no time in making our presence felt at the Centre and the Warden made it clear to us that our task was not, as Hills put it, "to nick the local fauna and pull up the flora" but that we were here "to do some work". (I can still hear the cries of "Shame! Shame!" from the back row).

Perhaps, one paragraph late, I should mention our £3. 7s. 6d. train ride to Shrewsbury, worth every penny due to the delightful presence on the train of two girls from our forbidden neighbours, "The Girls' School". (Sorry, Headmaster, it just slipped out.)

On arriving at the Centre we found that we had been billeted in the nearby Hostel — Hostel? — whereas everyone else was in the fine old Georgian House (later discovered to have been an ex-Remand Home). The “welcome lecture” introduced everyone and also divided us up into workable groups of twenty or so. We gallant six remained undaunted as sixteen lusty females were forced upon our company. We decided not to object as we did not wish them to think that the “Boys in Green and Lilac” were unco-operative, unsociable or argumentative. I feel, for the sake of the school’s reputation at least, that I should mention that ten of these females were trainee teachers who, like us, had thought they were getting a free holiday. Still, they provided us with hours of pleasure, parading in their ski-pants, climbing over stiles, plucking up courage to jump raging torrents, facing perilously steep climbs with resolute faces and generally brightening the place up with their occasional cries of “Oh, don’t leave me, I’m stuck!” It must be noted here and now, that the six of us all acted the part of perfect gentlemen, not only aiding but also abetting.

Our party was led by the Assistant Warden, a northern neanderthal. We were so scared of him that we dared not even ask his name, and so the whole party, even the mumsy teacher-ladies, called him “Mr. Man”. He was obsessed with “the outdoor life” and looked thoroughly at home striding over the hilltops, ankle-deep in cowdung. He took delight in goading us about our suburban upbringing, doubting whether we even knew what a tree looked like in Mitcham — we in turn doubted if he even knew where Mitcham was. It is, however, only fair to say that he was extremely informative and, after he had persuaded us that “orientating ourselves” was not something indecent, we settled down to the task ahead. However, he did have us somewhat worried with the frequency with which he would say in the middle of each outing :- “Right, usual question, where are we now?” Our answer? you can well imagine!

We were expected to do group studies every day except Sunday — and what we did on Sunday is the bit that has been harshly, brutally and unfairly censored! On Monday and Tuesday — our last two days at the Centre — we did individual surveys, which had to be done properly as each person was threatened with the possibility of having to make a short speech on his or her findings at the end of the day, just to make sure that we had worked and not spent the whole day in the pub. It is perhaps significant that out of six people chosen to speak five came from Mitcham — suspicious, is it not?

Tuesday night was the last at the Field Centre as we were due to leave at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday. Parties were “strictly forbidden” — and the last of our guests left just about midnight.

Wednesday saw the sad departure of Mitcham from Shropshire and, to the Warden’s amazement, we left the fine old Georgian House in one piece — not for want of trying, let me add. On the train home we were all surprised to find that our notebooks actually contained a fair amount of work — but no-one could actually remember doing it. Perhaps we enjoyed ourselves so much.

If anyone else gets the chance of going to Preston Montford Field Centre I would strongly recommend him to take it.

D. C. CROXSON.

## THE 'G' FUND

I HAVE been asked to provide some information about the working of the General Account. The main sources of income are, of course, each term's subscription and the profits from the tuck shop. In some years a school play or opera will make a profit, but in others there may be a loss.

The main item of expenditure is always that on team fares. This has more than doubled in the last five years, partly because of rises in fares, but also because we have now far more teams representing the School in a bigger variety of games. The next largest item is always the cost of providing teas or refreshment after matches. We also meet each year the cost of subscriptions or affiliation fees to a number of organizations and the entry fees for various competitions.

Another large item is the cost of printing the school magazine. At one time this was paid for separately by boys, but the cost of a copy is now included in the subscription.

There is also a considerable expenditure each year on what can be generally classed as School Equipment. There are a number of desirable and necessary items which are not provided by the authority. The actual items bought vary from year to year, but, as an example, the largest purchase last year was rugby jerseys for the school team.

Finally, I should mention that a decision on all expenditure is taken by a committee consisting of the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster and myself, and that audited accounts are presented to the School Governors each year.

R.J.M.

---

## QUANTITATIVE GEOGRAPHY IN SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

*or "I don't know what it's all about but it should be very interesting"*

J.H.H.

THE Quantitative Geography Course at Orielton Field Centre, from 11th – 18th May, was described as "experimental", since it was the only one of its kind in the country and this was the first time it had been offered to 6th Form students.

Craning our necks from the crammed coach for our first glimpse of the "Georgian country house set in its own wooded estate", we were somewhat dismayed to find a tall, cream building swathed in scaffolding, its beauty hidden behind large yellow cranes. The interior, however, more than made up for the rebuilding. We were pleasantly shocked to find that, although there were only six people on our course, the other students were mostly female – 50 girls to 9 boys. The social life promised to be good. (Comment from the Warden at the end of the Course – "It has a night-life all of its own.") This, of course, resulted in several distressing scenes with weeping ladies on station platforms at the end of the week.

The Course entailed a study of huge quantities of pebbles from various beaches and rivers in Pembrokeshire. This was done as an introduction to an exciting new and sophisticated science christened pebble-ometry. By skilful use of a pebble-ometer (a pebble and a foot rule) and a basic formula, it is possible to determine the origin and mode of transportation for any sample of pebbles. Since each sample requires 100 pebbles, we soon amassed vast mounds, to the wrathful indignation of the handyman. Future pebbleologists please note — a bulldozer and wheelbarrow would be useful although heaps of used pebbles are to be found discreetly hidden on various parts of the estate. We soon contracted pebblemania but all reports of two pyjama-clad figures grubbing around in rock pools at 2 a.m. and of tormented shrieks of "Pebbles! Pebbles!" in the night are strongly denied. The idea soon caught on and by the end of the week everyone was holding all-night pebble-parties.

As a sideline to the pebble studies, we analysed the biological communities on various beaches as an indication of exposure to wave action. Although not biologists, we soon developed a facility for identifying *chthamalus stellatus*, *balanus balanoides* and *winkle vulgaris*. We ate seaweed in true Welsh barbaric style and tasted scurvy-grass (no reflection on the excellent food at the Centre). Another study was the daily analysis of the calcium carbonate content, acidity and flow of a local stream, using a Vee Notch Weir, and we also studied the human geography, geology, coastal features and agriculture of Pembrokeshire. On our day off we gained an understanding of the principles of marine erosion through the construction of sand castles. On the whole the course provided a fresh outlook on geographical field work and we learnt a great deal.

We would like to thank the Warden for providing the car and the drinks, and his wife for tucking us up in bed at night. We greatly appreciated their kindness and would strongly recommend the course for future students.

M. FAIN  
P. WIEGANDY.

---

## ETON

Slightly prematurely — in fact four days before the 4th of June — Mitcham visited Eton. Eight adults and fifteen boys, members of the Sixth Form Society, met outside the Science Lecture Theatre at 2.30 and were welcomed by Mr. Meredith (who had organized our visit), two other members of staff, and four Etonians. We were split into groups of four; each to be shown round by an Etonian, teacher or taught.

Such is the extent of the school that, in the next two hours, I saw only one Mitchamian. The layout is unfamiliar. A busy main road and several minor ones run *through* the school; most of the buildings seem to be Houses; the Fifteenth Century Chapel overlooks a new Music Room on concrete stilts. ("There'll be a big row about this at the next Staff Meeting".) And behind all this the River and Windsor Castle.

Eton has many "sights" and we saw some of them. There are fine (pre-Coventry) Piper windows, mediaeval brasses and murals, a library of First World War Books, almost all signed by their authors, and numerous manuscripts. One shaming story was told of an Etonian showing three Mitchamians the manuscript of a poem. He had been told that it was

famous but neither he nor his guests had heard of the poem, Gray's 'Elegy'! We inspected the carved names in the oldest classrooms — Shelley's was prominent — and wondered how Dr. Bingham would react. We noted a bust of 'Hallam', and a photo of a seventeen-years-old Alec Douglas-Home among the rows of Music Society Secretaries. We saw the Wall and the "ecclesiastical" Fives courts. The staff had a demonstration of the Language Lab. — how un-Etonian! — and found their timid French responses drowned by Mr. Hallam's confident guttural replies. "This is why the boys like these periods: something always goes wrong."

Tea was memorable. The Staff fed regally at a Trust House in Windsor while the "troops" roughed it with the "inmates", the groups being further split into ones and twos. By all accounts, social barriers were soon undermined, though the hosts included two Viscounts and an M.P.'s son. Food and talk were eccentric. One 'menu' contained melon, bread and marmalade, kippers and a breakfast cereal, while we heard tales of mad mothers, illicit tape-recorders (a challenge to the Hopton Press?) and divorced relations. Etonians, we were told, are discontented with their lot and want more freedom — a familiar cry. Some were envious of a Grammar School education, assuming that *they* were getting second best.

6.30 was scheduled as departure time but it was 7.15 before we left as at least two people planned to stay on until the 8 o'clock deadline for visitors. Messages flew backwards and forwards, Mitchamians grossly abusing the fagging system. (Even the most egalitarian Baker confessed to having enjoyed despatching a small boy with a message.) Finally our hosts went off to a Dinner-Party and a performance of "Twelfth Night" on one of the lawns, while we piled into our cars and onto our scooters.

On the way home we analysed our impressions of a highly enjoyable afternoon, except, of course, for Mr. Lidiard's passengers, who were too worried to talk. Perhaps the dominant impressions were of the splendour of the facilities and the friendliness and accessibility of the Etonians. Interesting to recall the reaction, last term, to the news that Etonians were to visit Mitcham — "Can we touch them, sir?" Attitudes change.

B.B.

---

## BILLY GRAHAM REVIEWED

We reached Earl's Court in good time, and were able to enjoy all the pleasures of arriving early for a show. There was time for some to buy lollipops and for others to eye the girls. With fifteen minutes to go there were still large blocks of empty seats, and I began to feel that it was over-optimistic to expect Earl's Court to be filled to capacity every night for a month.

By 7.30, however, most of the seats had been occupied and the proceedings began. It was here that the only note of emotionalism was struck. I could not help feeling a slight catch in the throat when I joined in singing a hymn with 20,000 other people — it must have been the contrast with Ravensbury House Assembly I think!



The first few items on the programme failed to grip the audience. Lollipops and conversation were finished while Italian guitarists and Negro singers did their stuff. It was rather like going to see Barbra Streisand, only to find that she would come to half-an-hour after the start of the show.

Playtime had obviously finished when Billy Graham appeared. From the first, "All eyes closed", we realized that he was a man of authority. He retold the story of the Prodigal Son in modern terms, and it was a good choice for a largely teenage audience. We could sympathize with the rebellion of the younger brother against life at home, the attractions of sex and Soho, the desertion by friends when the money had run out and a depression came. Most of us in the same situation would have decided to go home. And this, we were told, is all that conversion is -- a decision to go back to God.

Could you not get the same information from your local vicar? Possibly, but he might be less likely to commit himself! Because of his training his sermons would be academic, rather than entertaining, informative and inspiring. And you would have missed the vision of a whole country living "not by bread alone".

D.R.W.

# SPORT

---

## RUGBY

### 1st XV

This year's 1st XV was one of the youngest the School has had for many seasons, containing no less than 5 players who graduated straight from the Colts to the 1st team. As a result, it was rather an inexperienced side that started the '65-66 season. However, this was not a great disadvantage as the School won 8 of their first 12 games, several with a margin of more than 30 points.

The main strength of the side lay in its fast threequarter line, which produced some very exciting play. Dawson, in his first season, took advantage of even the smallest chance and Rowe, the leading try-scorer, was usually yards faster than his opposing wing. The tackling, however, was often weak and too many tries were given away by our inability to keep to the rule, "Always tackle your own man".

The attacking power of the threes was somewhat thwarted by the inability to get "good ball" and often, when wanting possession from a maul near our opponents' line, we would be sent back to the half-way line by an accurate touch kick. As a result it was often left to the forwards to score points, which well suited a light, intelligent pack, who made up for their lack of weight by their mobility and speed about the pitch. Sanders, in particular, chased everything and never seemed to tire.

The pack worked well as a unit and were well led by J. Bradford, whose determination and sheer strength seemed to spur on the rest of the forwards. He was well supported by Crouch and K. Bradford in the line-out, where both worked very hard and showed great promise for next season, and Duffield, Mott and Charise in the loose. Perhaps the pack's only weakness was not being able to find that "little bit extra" which was often needed near the opponents' line.

There were some very fine wins during the course of the season, probably the most exciting being a 13-12 victory over our local rivals. Bec, during which Duffield caught the ball from the kick-off and ran the length of the field to score one of the best tries of the season — some say his speed was due to the rather large prop chasing him.

The team as a whole played well throughout the season, winning 11 and losing 12 of their 24 matches. However, more games could have been won if there had been more of a will to win from the first whistle and a little more determination near the try line.

The team was chosen from :- Marsden (Capt.), Bellamy, Snell, Wilson, Rowe, Dawson, Reed, Franklin, Bradford K., Forster, Mott, Bradford J., Crouch, Duffield, Chaplin, Sanders, Charise, Gregory, Rayner, Marsom, Shafee, Stembridge.

J. R. BELLAMY.

## THE WARLINGHAM SEVENS

THE School entered two teams in the Warlingham competition. The 2nd VII were knocked out in the first round after they had lost Chaplin with concussion but the 1st VII reached the semi-finals of the main competition.

The first game was against Reed's, whom we beat very narrowly, 3-0, after Marsden had scored the only try. Having gained a little more confidence in ourselves, we went on to play good sevens and beat Sevenoaks and Worth easily, by 13 points and 12 points to nil. Our main striking force in these matches was Rowe, who was the leading try scorer and usually the fastest man on the field.

Unfortunately, in the Semi-Final we drew William Ellis, whose XV had recently defeated us quite easily. It was a close match, William Ellis winning 6-3. The team was to some extent unlucky as we continually made the overlap, but it was being created for the wrong people.

The 1st VII was :- Marsden, Rowe, Bellamy, Reed, Bradford J., Duffield and Sanders.

J. R. BELLAMY.

## 2nd XV

INEVITABLY the 2nd XV is often treated as a reserve team for the "glory boys" - the firsts. However, this year, except for a few occasions when the captain could be heard muttering doubtful phrases as his best players sorrowfully deserted for the top team, we managed to stem the "brawn drain". Indeed, talent so abounded that we even thought of starting a rota for some positions. Thus, this season the 2nds were a team in their own right, and that we benefited from this can be seen from our results.

The pack played well throughout the season, especially when roused. Perhaps our weak point, if there was one, was in the line-outs, where we tended to lose possession. This was remedied, however, by the generally tough play in the loose and by our winning most of the set scrums, even against sides heavier than ourselves. Cozens and Macleod, our wing forwards, deserve mention here for their play, which many an opposing scrum-half had cause to rue.

Beckham at scrum-half played a good game which improved markedly as the season wore on. Among the three-quarters the speed of Bance, Lewis and Crowley, and the latter's determined tackling provided the highlights of many games. Shafce, our fly-half, played well throughout.

Chaplin began the season as full-back, playing, as usual, a reliable game, but was carried off to the "other team" quite soon. Reeves subsequently filled this vital gap in our ranks and settled down remarkably quickly in his new position, realizing the latent potential he possessed.

Looking back proudly over this season, we will remember the hard, yet rewarding, games, like that which we won 9-5 against Harrow; the crushing defeats that our might inflicted - 55-0 against Wimbledon County; and ingrained on our memories, if not our skins, the squelching mire through which we wallowed to beat the Old Boys 12-0.

Matches played 21, won 13, drawn 1, lost 7.

Points for 313, against 103.

The team was chosen from : Armstrong, Aitken, Bance, Baker (Capt.), Beckham, Chaplin, Cozens, Crowley, Gay, Gregory, Grillith, Lewis, Macleod, Marsom, Mott, Pascall, Phillips, Rayner, Reeves, Shafce, Winsor.

A.W. BARER.

## THE COLTS XV

PLAYED 18, won 7, lost 11.

The Colts XV played fairly well throughout the season, but we had some bad lapses which may, in part, be put down to injuries to key players. The team's main faults were that we lost our rhythm too easily, especially the threequarters, and that we lacked a good goalkicker. Our biggest triumph was against Wimbledon, whom we thrashed, 44 5.

The team was selected from the following players : Richards, Treleven, Ward, Cluer, Chester, Frost, Armstrong, Summers, Jones, Fossett, Reece, Goodson, Godfrey, Arnold, Currie, Grant (Capt.), Aitken, Anderson, Jessup, Pond, Honeyball, Carter, Miller.

In the Surrey Sevens, we were unluckily knocked out in extra-time against Rivermead in the first round. The team was :- Grant (Capt.), Godfrey, Currie, Reece, Fossett, Jones, Miller.

G. B. Jones must be congratulated on being chosen to represent Surrey on several occasions.

R. GRANT.

## UNDER 14 XV

THIS year's season was more successful than last year's, the team's improved standard of play being the reason for success. Spence, the pack-leader, played his part by getting the forwards moving and backing-up well. The threequarters would have been greatly weakened without Elliot and Dear, whose running ability and team play were invaluable. Elliot has moved in to inside centre from wing since he played for the Under 13s, while Dear was only a reserve for the Under 12s! These changes have greatly improved the team. One boy's name that should definitely be noted is that of Rix, the full-back, who played excellently this year and stopped many near tries.

There are still a few boys who could do better by playing as Rix does, but I think they will improve in the coming season and that the team will be even more successful as the Colts.

D. MILLER.

## UNDER 13 XV

LAST season was not a very successful one for the Under 13s, who won only two of their games. Towards the end of the season Green was introduced as full-back and the team began to achieve greater unity. As a result, they beat Reigate 18-0.

The threequarters were fast and powerful and they were responsible for many points being scored. The forwards were rather weaker and some were afraid to tackle hard and low.

G. C. JOHNSTON.

## CRICKET

### 1st XI

LAST season: Played 11, Won 4, Lost 5, Drawn 2.

Although retaining 6 of the previous year's players, the team had only a moderate season. After three victories, the optimistic hopes of a very fine season soon dwindled. It rapidly became evident that the batting was to blame for the disappointments we endured. We suffered defeats at the hands of Wandsworth, Shene, Heath Clark and Purley. After this run of losses, the fielding and batting were tightened considerably and the last two school matches, against Dorking and Beckenham, were drawn.

In the annual match against the parents the school won comfortably, but lost disastrously to the staff, who relied heavily upon guest players.

Worrall should be commended on some very fine batting performances. He scored 47 against Shene, had excellent scores against Bec and Heath Clark, and was the only recognized batsman who was consistent. Both Child and Wilde bowled well, and good fielding by the whole team produced the early wins.

The team was chosen from: Lord (Capt.), Franklin, Snell, Jennings, Child, Wilde, Lewis, Bellamy, Worrall, Winfield, Reeves, Medler and Pamment.

At the time of writing, the team has only played one match this year, when a close game against Bec was won in the closing minutes. It is hoped that the batting will be of a higher standard than in recent years, whilst the good fielding is maintained. We look forward to the season with enthusiasm and high hopes.

The whole of the team would like to take this opportunity of thanking the ladies who prepare cricket teas for our home matches, and to Mr. Bateman for his invaluable guidance.

The 1966 team was chosen from: Snell (Capt.), Bellamy, Lewis, Reeves, Pamment, Leverick P., Pooley, Pitts, White G, Reed, Beckham, Bance and Gregory.

R. L. SNELL.

### 2nd XI

The 2nd XI had an exceptionally good season last year and, after only two matches this year, already seem to have the qualities of a successful side.

We opened the season with an encouraging home win over Bec in torrential rain. Thanks to good batting by Hill, Gregory and Porter, we managed to reach a total of 80. Bec started with 20 0 but crashed to 30 7, after having turned down a plea by the umpires to abandon the match. They eventually lost by 26 runs.

After a disappointing start of 8 3 against Sutton, the team rallied well and ran up a total of 91 8 dec. Sutton also started badly but did not recover so well and only made 54, thanks to our good bowling and keen fielding.

If the team continues to play in this fashion, I think it will win many more matches and can look forward to a very good season.

The team was chosen from :- Bance, Berry, Dawson, Green, Gregory, Hill, Isted, Leverick R., Marshall, Mepham, Porter, Sanders, Sullivan, Thompsett.

R. K. LEVERICK.

## TENNIS

School Tennis has been suffering rather badly lately owing to lack of practice. This is not through laziness on anyone's part, but because most players are often concerned in other teams.

Last season, however, two players, Rider and Armstrong, did exceptionally well. In School matches they were seldom beaten, and went on to win the Open Championship at the Surrey Schools L.T.A. Festival. At the All-England Schools Championships at Wimbledon, they won their first match, but were beaten in the Second Round. Under 16 players Reed and Leverick reached the semi-final of their section at the Surrey Festival.

This season does not look good for the 1st VI, for there are only two players in the team with previous experience. We have already been knocked out of the Rootham Shield by DeBurgh, although the score was a close 3-2, and lost to Battersea in the League. We defeated Rullish in a friendly match, but this was a combined 1st and Under 16 VI, and Under 16 players cannot be used in league matches.

The Under 16's have the same team as last year and should do well in their league.

Mr. Benfield has managed to keep Tennis going all through the year and our thanks go to him for his active interest in the team.

The 1st team was chosen from: Snell (Capt.), Porter, Smith, Turner, Macleod, Rush, Reed, Ash, Beckham.

The Under 16 team was: Rush, Reed, Leverick, Crouch, Beckham, Pamment.

C. P. ASH  
R. L. SNELL.

---

## BASKETBALL

This season was not as successful as last year's and there was little will to win in the team. Despite strenuous coaching and encouragement from Mr. Thomas, we tended to be rather static in attack, going to our positions and remaining there, instead of moving around to work the ball in under the basket. This inability forced us to take long shots, a tactic which met with little success.

Our most consistent and valuable player, both in attack and defence, was, without doubt, Flanagan, immeasurably improved since last year. New addition White also produced some very good performances and Pitts, the most reliable and loyal member of the team, must also be mentioned. Certainly there was potential in the team when we beat Purley. However, this was hardly ever realized. We managed to lose to Raynes Park at home when we had gained a convincing victory away, and also succumbed to the bulldozing tactics of Reigate.

Of course you cannot expect a team to show much energy or drive when nobody except those directly involved, cares if you win or lose. There remain some very proficient players to make up next year's team; let us hope they will have a little more support and recognition.

Team from :- Charise (Capt.), Flanagan, Crouch, Pitts, White G., Reed, Bellamy, Shafce, Reeves, Child, Dawson.

K. G. CHARISE.

## BADMINTON

THIS year the club has maintained its popularity, so that last season's idea of having two badminton evenings has been continued. The fifth and lower sixth forms have provided most of the members this season, but we hope that next year the club will become popular with the whole sixth form.

At the beginning of the year enthusiasm ran high, but the team was not strong. As many of our most experienced players had left, the lower sixth form provided four of the first team. We also formed a second team who, in their only fixture, against Purley, proved themselves more competent than the first team, losing 6-3, whereas the first team lost 8½-½. Altogether the 1st VI played four matches, winning only against a Staff team. As the team for next year should only have a few changes, they should have better fortune.

Once again, we are indebted to Mr. Benfield and Mr. Street for their help and encouragement.

The team was chosen from :- Lewis (Capt.), Ash, Rush, Beckham, Turner, Reeves, Cole and Isted.

R. LEWIS.

---

## ATHLETICS

ALTHOUGH only mild success was achieved last year in matches against other schools, the high standard attained by a few individuals promised us a better season this year. We are all, of course, one year older, but some of our best athletes have remained in their respective age groups, and as a result, 1st and 2nd places have often been gained this year instead of last year's 3rds and 4ths.

We owe a great deal of our success to Mr. Thomas, who has been trying since Easter to get the teams to support his organized training sessions each week. Fitness has played a great part, both in the winning of matches and in the breaking of many School records.

We beat Wallington and Sutton Grammar Schools in our first match of the season, part of which was abandoned because of rain. The second triangular match, against Heath Clark and Bromley, we won handsomely, with the aid of 17 first places, and the third, v. Wimbledon County and William Penn Schools, completed a hat-trick in which each match was won by a margin of over 50 points.

The week before Whitsun was hectic for all. Monday saw the completion of the School Sports field events, while Wednesday afternoon should have taken care of the track events. These were in fact postponed to the Friday because of rain. The school teams competed in the Surrey Grammar Schools Sports, at Motspur Park, on the Tuesday, and turned out at the same venue in the Merton District Sports on the Thursday.

Witford won the Athletics Trophy, beating Ravensbury by 1 point. The finals produced many new records and some fine individual performances. The "Victor Ludorum" cup was won by Flanagan for the second year in succession, the runner-up being Coles. The best B and C class athletes were Goodson (4a) and Watne (2a).

In the Surrey Grammar Schools Sports the school teams came 4th of the nine two-stream schools. The best performances were given by Flanagan, 2nd in the Open 880 yds; Crouch, 2nd in the U.17 Triple Jump; Dear, 2nd in the U.15 220 yds.; and the U.15 Relay team, 2nd in their final.

The teams were very successful in the first Merton District Sports Meeting to be held. The U.15 team won their section and, with it, a large shield. A rather smaller shield went to our U.17 team, and the seniors came 4th in their section. Miller won the cup for the U.15 best performance of the day, having won the 440 yds. and shot, and been a member of our winning relay team.

Up to Whitsun our athletes had enjoyed their best season ever.

J. REEVES.

---

## CROSS-COUNTRY

THE 1965-66 season was easily the brightest in the history of the School Cross-Country teams. Despite the addition to the fixture list of stronger teams like Wallington, Kingston, Tiffins and Wandsworth, the senior team managed to win 10 of its 14 two-school matches, and the match against Kingston was the only one lost by more than 1 or 2 points. The senior team was able to avenge heavy defeats by Glyn and Selhurst two years ago. In the match against Glyn we had the first eight runners home and, against Selhurst, there was only one opponent in the first eight. However, the team still lacks a runner able to win most of the races. We are dependent on having strength in depth and are able to win matches by filling most of the higher positions, from 2nd place downwards. The senior team was strengthened by two new members of the school - G. White and K. Pitts both of whom proved worthy members of the team, especially as the season progressed. D. Hill and T. Goodson were chosen to represent the Merton District Senior Team in the Surrey Championships.

The Intermediates won 9 out of 15 matches and drew 1. Bardell was easily the best runner, winning nearly all the races, but he was well supported by Hale, Freleaven, A. Goodson and Miller. The team's record could have been even better had not a certain amount of apathy crept in at the end of the season. Because of school examinations, no members of this team were able to enter the District Cross-Country Championships, but, on the strength of his record, Bardell was selected to represent the district.

The Junior Team lost only 4 of its 15 matches. King and Warne could always be relied upon to do well, as they had plenty of experience last season, but Heath, Ford and Smith, all 1st formers, also ran particularly well. Heath came 2nd in the District Championships for 1st Formers.

The success of the teams can be accredited to the willingness of most team-members to attend the twice-weekly training sessions, including weight-training, which greatly added to the general strength of our running, especially over the longer courses.

T. M. GOODSON.



## 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.

# HOUSE AFFAIRS

---

## CANONS

ONCE again Canons have had a rather lean year. We got off to a bad start by allowing the Cross-Country cup to be lost somewhere between 'B' and 'C' Course. This may have been attributable to our small team — a result of chronic asthma and the multifarious other ailments which descended upon the lower part of the House.

Nobody expected anything really outstanding from our Rugby teams, although we did give some entertaining displays, particularly the Senior VII's reserve team.

In the Arts Trophy we did very well in sections of the music, boasting a massive choir, and the debates saw Canons' morale soar as Todd — with his brilliant opening speech and summary — hoisted us to a close second place in what was claimed to be the School's best debate.

It will require an all-out effort from the middle and upper House if we are to retain the Athletics Trophy; more effort from the juniors could have put us once again in an unassailable position on Sports Day. In cricket, too, we are in with a good chance and, as with swimming, enthusiasm and effort could decide our fate.

Perhaps our strongest potential lies in the Minor Games competition which we approach with confidence — a confidence which, if combined with a little skill and plenty of enthusiasm, could once more make Canons the Cock House.

C. J. ANDREWS.

---

## LODGE

IN recent years Lodge House has declined considerably and this year, I am afraid, has been no exception. Again most of the blame must fall upon the middle school for not producing enough effort when it was really needed. The juniors are keen, but not experienced, and so they must be guided by older boys, which at present is not happening.

We started the year badly by coming last in the Cross-Country, although we had an individual winner in the senior section. The rugby results were depressing but again, with more effort and with teams at full strength, we could have improved upon them.

In the Arts Trophy we were consistent in taking third position in many of the sections, and third overall. The debating was a little disappointing, for, although Trickey and Quinton produced good speeches, the floor speakers were not proficient enough to raise our position — third. In the music competition we won the junior instrumental, but took last position in the other sections.

With the Cricket, Athletics and Swimming Cups still to be contested, hope of some kind of revival exists amongst the seniors, but the House will only be successful if every member contributes a little of his time to help in some way.

R. L. SNELL.

## RAVENSBURY

This year has, so far, been a highly successful one. Although hotly pursued by the dogs of Witford, we managed to keep out of their clutches long enough to gain first place in most sections of the Arts Trophy. Our Rugby teams shared first place with Witford in the XV's and made sure of the Rugby Cup by winning the VII's, although these were hotly contested, success or failure depending on the last game of the afternoon, which, fortunately, we won!

The more agile members of the House then turned their attention to the Athletics, and once more the men in red were snapping at our heels. This time we were forced to concede equal place in the Standards. It is a sobering thought that, if just one more member of Ravensbury had gained just one more point, the red menace could have been held at bay. As it is, responsibility for success in the Athletics Cup (and possibly, too, the position of Cock House), rests upon those taking part in the School Sports. With competition as keen as this, rumours of dope tests for the winners may not be totally unfounded.

Encouraged by our success in the House Music, Mr. Wilkie has introduced a new form of House Assembly. We are now either singing old hymns to Lennon and McCartney tunes, or Lennon and McCartney songs to old hymn tunes — nobody seems quite sure which.

The remainder of this term will be occupied by the Swimming and Minor Games competitions. An almost complete lack of enthusiasm throughout the House has made the Swimming Captain's task a gargantuan one. Despite this, however, we are still twenty points in the lead — perhaps because the other houses do not like getting down to Mitcham Baths at eight in the morning, either. Minor Games will, as always, be organized in a flurry of frenzied activity some ten days before they are due to take place — we can only hope that our activity will be more frenzied than our opponents'.

R. H. JOHNSON.

---

## WITFORD

SEVERAL years ago an eminent Head of Witford remarked that "the House remains a living advertisement for intellectual famine relief". How true this was! However, last year, rival houses were amazed to witness a magnificent revival. Striving mightily, we swept all before us to win virtually every cup and become Cock House.

This year, although not quite so successful, has been a good one. The Rugby proved to be a desperately close affair, the cup finally being lost by a margin of one point. In the Cross-Country we did well in all three classes, only to see the cup snatched from our grasp by another narrow margin. Even closer was the final result of the Arts Trophy, which was decided only by a fantastic piece of mathematical wizardry designed by Mr. Marsh; again the verdict went against us. Mention here, however, must be made of the brilliant debating of Wiegand and company, who helped to produce the best debate in many years. The magazine, organized by Covington, was also worthy of special mention for its excellent production and content.

We have attained first position in the Athletics Standards and, with great hopes of victories in the School Sports, Cricket and Swimming, we feel sure that this year will be another vintage one for Witford.

J. BRADFORD.