

SWIMMING CLUB

This year started with high hopes. In the Easter Term we had a large membership of seniors and juniors who swam in the Robinson Pool and despite severe attacks of "chlorine blues" we obtained to a moderate standard. However this was to prove in vain in our first match at the end of the term against the Modern School, who have always been a competent team due to their indoor pool. Neither our junior or senior teams won many races except for N. Culverwell who beat all comers.

This term we again returned to the Robinson Pool while our own pool was being painted and filled. We sampled the School a few times before half term but the cold water prevented any serious training. Our first match this term was a new fixture against St. Edwards, fortunately it was away in their indoor pool. On getting there we were confronted by a team who did as much training every day as we did in a fortnight. However it proved to be a close match. The crawl events went in their favour. The breaststroke events were very close both depending on a touch, these were both marginally in our favour. We took first place in both back crawl events, but here again we only got slightly more points. We comfortably took first and second in both the butterfly and the Individual Medley, we also won the medley relay. At this point the scores were exactly equal and it depended on the final crawl relay. In the third and final leg of this race we had a good three yards lead, unfortunately when coming to the turn Brown caught his arm on the rope and dislocated his arm. Despite their victory St. Edward's offered us the relay again. This time with a different team we were equal up to the last turn, but a faulty turn prevented a victory.

The three matches in the latter half of the term, two of which were to be triangulars had to be cancelled since our own pool was too cold. We have however put in a team for the Bedfordshire Schools' Gala where we will again be against the Modern School.

We would like to congratulate N. Culverwell on his fine achievement of coming second in the National Short Course Championships under 17 back crawl.

RORY SHAW.

SHOOTING

Easter Term

With wins against the County and Haileybury behind us, we were off to a good start. Our next match, a triangular fixture with Rugby and Uppingham, was a new venture for we were to shoot on outward scoring ten-bull targets. These are particularly fiendish targets because if your shot clips a line you lose a point instead of gaining one. The extra accuracy needed requires special rifles—which we haven't got—and special sights—which we couldn't afford. Thanks to the skill, ingenuity and patience of Mr. Hall and his department, we were presented with a set of passable foresights, whose accuracy belied their Heath Robinson appearance. Our opponents, with their beautiful Anschutz match rifles, were understandably amused to see our military weapons with their Dad's-Army-type sights. were astonished that we came last by so little and chagrined by the ease with which we won the Country Life style

shoot at the end on clay discs. It gave us great pleasure to be invited to Uppingham, whose facilities and equipment were an eye-opener to us. The visit has stimulated us into putting ring foresights on all our team rifles, and we are hoping to raise extra funds over the summer to buy quarter-minute rear-sights for the .22s.

The Oundle match, always one we look forward to, was an orthodox Country Life match with a high standard of shooting on both sides, encouraging us to square up to Cambridge University rather more confidently than we might have done. The Cambridge University fixture was R.A.E. Esq.'s inspiration, and gave us the best match of the year. Cambridge were able to bring five of the VIII which had just devastated Oxford with a record inter-varsity score, and, with R.A.E. Esq. and two 2nd VIII men, looked to be far beyond our standard. The broad basis of the competition weighted the scales rather less in Cambridge's favour, however, and in the event, we managed to win. The afternoon went so well that we are hoping to see this as a regular fixture. The only fly in the ointment was the wretched form of that chameleon, AN Other, back in his Cambridge hat, who achieved (?) bottom score. The B.M.S. match for the de Putron Cup was a sad little affair, squeezed in between this and the Old Bedfordians' visit. The O.B.s go from strength to strength, and, with the added interest of the Croker Cup depending on the last shoot of the term, we saw another tense afternoon's shooting. In the event S. L. Smith squeezed home ahead of a grim challenge from D. A. Lord, all of which eclipsed AN Other's possible at Country Life—the only one of the season.

In our last 17 inter-school .22 matches, we have won 16, losing only this year at Uppingham. The Club has very promising juniors, so that, although we will have seven colours back next year, there will be no sinecures for seniors, because we believe in doing our best to win, with our best team.

School: 1432/1600; Rugby 1465; Uppingham: 1481.

School: 795/840; Oundle: 738.

School: 1349/1440; Cambridge University: 1315.

School: 561/640; Bedford Modern School: 498.

School: 1371/1440; Old Bedfordians: 1334.

The Croker Cup: 1st S. L. Smith, 1382/1450; 2nd D. A. Lord, 1378; 3rd J.R.G. Martin, 1370.

Club Colours were awarded to J. R. G. Martin.

Remove Form Trophy: I. M. Anderson.

IV Form Trophy: J. N. Simpson.

VIII: I. A. Clarke (Captain), D. A. Lord, R. J. Larman, A. P. Sykes, S. L. Smith, A. B. Keith, M. W. Eatly, J. R. G. Martin. *Reserve:* P. Dawes.

Summer Term

Small-bore Shooting

In the Easter term, the Club was invited to enter a team in the Army Youth Team local competition. To cut a long story short, after groping our way through a weird and wonderful set of conditions—I sometimes doubt whether the Army knows *anything* about shooting—we ended up by winning the National Final after a couple of shoot-offs in ever increasing areas. In a week from the time of writing this report, I and the team will be enjoying the flesh-pots of swinging London at

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The Lower School

Lower School Notes

These notes are written at the end of 10 days continuous bad weather and two days' continuous rain. I can only hope we shall have seen a bit of summer by the time you read our contributions. However, we were lucky to have some good weather in May and our sports finished just before rain settled in for the evening. The preparations and training for the Sports were held on some rather pleasant afternoons and once again the organisation and preparation for the standards were immaculately organised by Mr Whatley to the enjoyment of all those who took part.

We must record our pleasure at the most enjoyable production of 1066 *And All That*, another successful Hobbies exhibition, and then just after the Spring term ended there was an intensely exciting competition between Prep schools for the Seven-a-Side teams at Rosslyn Park. Before the final our team had only lost 3 points, and although we narrowly lost to Caldicott in a most exciting match, we could not have asked for better rugby or better performances from our team.

Last term it was the turn of IIIL and IIIM to sit their examinations; this term IIIT and IIIS were required to show their paces. The results all round in both terms have been most satisfactory. We had a large Scholarship entry of 20 boys and it is most pleasant to record that all the eventual winners were either past or present members of the Lower School. We warmly congratulate Maurice Cheng on having been awarded a Major Scholarship, Nicholas Illingworth and Andrew Currie on receiving Minor Scholarships and Stephen Blows and Mark Lloyd Williams on gaining Exhibitions.

There have been two interesting undertakings this term. The first concerned the terrible cholera outbreak in West Bengal, to which every single member of the Lower School subscribed something from his pocket money, and a cheque for £18 was despatched to Oxfam within three hours of the appeal opening. The Officer in charge of receipts wrote to the boys as follows:

"The tragic plight of these refugees is one of the most serious situations Oxfam has been involved in, and it is only through the generosity of such supporters as yourself that we are able to act on such a scale."

Our second enterprise is nearer home. The Lower School has been badly in need of a new pavilion for some time to replace the one originally put up before the war. We have been able to borrow the money to buy a new one, and have asked parents, friends, boys and Old Boys to help towards its cost of £400. Donations have been coming in on every side, and these together with the Fete in early July, should go a long way towards meeting the cost. We would like to thank everybody who has supported us and trust that the new pavilion, which we hope will be ready next term, will prove a boon to present and future generations of Lower School boys. It will have two dressing rooms and a central lobby provided with wide glass windows.

It is sad to think that we shall be losing three members of our Lower School staff this term. Mr. Jennings, who has been here since 1968 is going on to St. Faith's School, Cambridge, to be in charge of languages there. We shall no doubt be seeing him quite often—on the

other side—but would like to thank him for all his good efforts here especially with the swimming which has made abundant progress, and with the many activities and interests that he has organised for the boys in their spare time. Mr. Wits who has been in charge of French and Geography, and also out of School in charge of all our cricket and for the last three years producer with Mr. Jennings of our School plays is going on to Waterside School, Bishops Stortford, to take charge of French and cricket there. We shall all miss his lively participation in the life of the boys of the Lower School.

David Langton, Housemaster of Howards, and at the Lower School for the last six years, has been appointed Headmaster of Holme Grange School, Berkshire, a well known boarding school and member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools. We warmly congratulate Mr. Langton on this appointment, but we are going to miss him sadly. In School he has been in charge of English, and has been a noted Form Master of IIIL, with whom he has done many things. Out of School his activities have ranged very wide; he has been in charge of tennis, now a most successful and much enjoyed sport, and in the winter in charge of chess. His teams have won the Bedfordshire Festival for two years running. Mr. Langton has also been in charge of all the activities for Howards for whose boys he has done so much. We are most grateful for the many services he has given to the School and the boys and staff wish him and Mrs. Langton every success in the future.

It will be time once again for 90 old boys of the Third Forms to move on to the Upper School, but apart from Jasper Neely, who is going on to Ampleforth, they will not be too far away and we hope they will remember their time at the Lower School with pleasure and affection.

Finally, to the Monitors under the able leadership of Mark Lloyd Williams go my grateful thanks for all that they have done.

M.T.

Rosslyn Park Seven-a-Side Competition

For the second year, the Lower School entered the Rosslyn Park Prep. Schools sevens which were held during the first week of the Easter holidays.

This year thirty two teams had entered and we were drawn in the same group as Danes Hill, Oxshott, St. John's, Northwood and Edinburgh House, Near Milton. To win through to the quarter finals, we had to come top of our group.

Our team seemed to be one of the larger sides in the competition and we really had no difficulty in accounting for Danes Hill 21-0, St. John's 32-0 and Edinburgh House 18-3 on the first day.

Standards improved a great deal on the second day. In the quarter finals, which were played on the Bank of England ground, we were drawn against Sherborne Prep. School who, over the years, had a fine reputation in the competition. After a slow start, we gradually got on top eventually winning by 17-0.

The semi-finals were to be played on the Rosslyn Park ground and in front of a very large crowd, our boys rose to the occasion and played some really fine rugby in defeating St. Dunstan's, Catford, by 19-0.

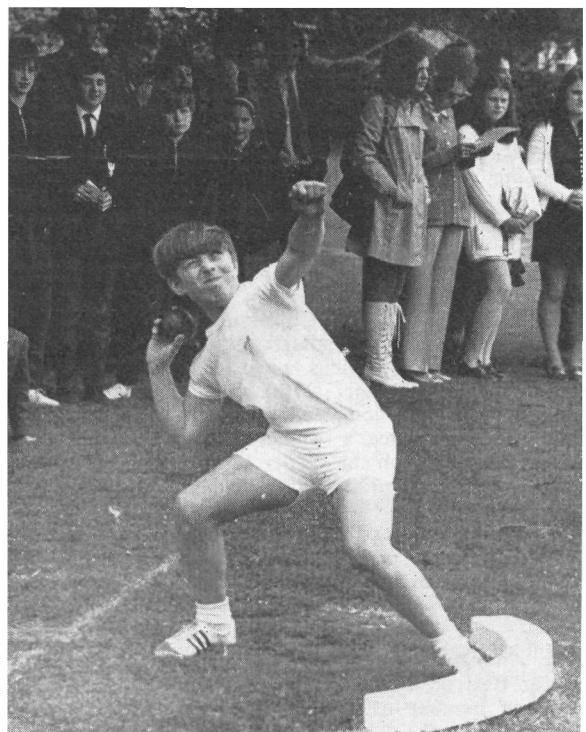
In the other semi-final, Caldecott School beat the Downs, Bristol in a close match. The final also proved to be very close with the scores being 10-10 with only a minute left. Unfortunately for us, Caldecott, who were only a few yards from their own line and under very heavy pressure at the time, won a very good heel and their winger ran the length of the field to score making the final score 13-10.

Congratulations to the whole team for a very good performance and especially to Ian Peck for his outstanding play, leadership and place kicking.

D.B.T.H

Lower School Athletics

Apart from a switch to metric distances for track events, the programme was the same as for the last few years, with concentration in the early stages on Standards. These produced a remarkably close competition, and, as a result, not only much desperate effort by all boys to obtain the few extra points that might put their house in the lead, but also much checking of mathematics by the authorities. The final account showed an average of 14.66 for Farrar's, 14.62 for Harper's and 14.41 for Howard's—a very close-run thing,



and a creditable effort by Farrar's, who this year were short of "stars".

Only one record was broken this year, but there was some of the most exciting competition that we have seen for a long time. There was a dead-heat in the 400m., the Senior High Jump had to be decided on the

number of previous failures, and in the Junior Long Jump one inch covered the three leading jumps.

For some time Harper's, with Millard and Snudden their most prolific scorers, clung on, but when Howard's, already victorious in the House Flats, also took the Hurdles, the issue was no longer in doubt. Holbrook, the Howard's captain, not only set a new record for the Hurdles, but also won five other events; Murray produced some powerful running, particularly in the longer events; Tagg and Lacey showed considerable promise and won a lot of points in the Junior events. As a result Howard's finally scored more points than the two other houses put together.

The weather, fine and warm throughout the heats, cracked during Sports Day itself, with a sudden acute drop in temperature. But at least it did not rain, and everyone restrained their chattering teeth and looked cheerful; not least Mrs. Lloyd Williams, to whom we are immensely grateful, not only for giving away the prizes, but also for her great interest and enthusiasm.

	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>
800 Metres, Senior ...	Murray	Millard
400 Metres, Senior ...	(Millard)	F. White 3rd
	(Murray)	
Hurdles, Senior ...	Holbrook	Millard
Long Jump, Senior ...	Holbrook	Goldsmith
Cricket Ball, Senior ...	Holbrook	Peck
800 Metres, Junior ...	Tagg	Pringle
400 Metres, Junior ...	Tagg	Autin
Hurdles, Junior ...	Lacey	Tagg
High Jump, Junior ...	Snudden	H. White
Cricket Ball, Junior ...	Lacey	Herbert
400 Metres, Junior, ...	P. Mason	Lacey
<i>Non-Finalists</i>		
90 Metres, Junior ...	Boodle	Snudden
90 Metres, Senior ...	Holbrook	Thurston
Sisters' Race ...	Judy Davison	J. Buckle & M. Bristow
High Jump, Senior ...	Holbrook	Butters
Long Jump, Junior ...	Snudden	Bullock
Shot Put, Senior ...	I. Williams	Holbrook
200 Metres, Senior ...	Murray	Millard
400 Metres, Senior ...	F. White	Chrystal
<i>Non-Finalists</i>		
Family Race ...	The Marshall Family	
800 Metres, Handicap	Bullock	Charlton
House Standards ...	Farrar's	Harper's
House Flats ...	Howard's	Harper's
House Hurdles ...	Howard's	Harper's
House Relay ...	Howard's	Harper's
House Championship	Howard's	Harper's

Triangular Athletics Match The Lower School: Bedford Modern School: Silver Jubilee School

It was good to welcome these two schools again to a match which provided a most exciting finale to the main Athletics season. In the end the result was a tie between us and B.M.S., with Silver Jubilee only a little behind. All had depended on the last event, the Relay, which we had had to win to draw level. Holbrook won the Hurdles, improving on his own record, and the Long Jump; Murray took the 400m.; and Tagg won an excellent 800m. in 2 min. 32 secs., a very fine performance for a Junior.

Colours were awarded to: Holbrook (Capt.), Murray, Millard, Goldsmith, Butters, Thurston and Tagg. Youngs, Scrivens, Farmer-Wright, F. White, H. King, ii, Peck, Neely and Snudden were also in the team and all performed creditably.

D.N.W.

Lower School Chess

The last match of the year, against Soham G.S. was an exciting, close contest, lost by the narrowest of margins; small comfort that Soham have a tremendous reputation for Chess, and that we were the only school to have beaten them previously. Thus ended a two-year run without defeat; sadder, too, in that one boy, Ashley Pinnington, lost a similar personal record on the same day. However, next year's teams have something more to aim for now.

In the *Sunday Times* Competition we were knocked out in the second round by R.G.S., High Wycombe, who were themselves then defeated by Bedford Modern, the ultimate winners of the zone. Once again, we were up against much older opposition; Briggs did well to beat a boy of fifteen, and Pinnington drew with a boy three years his senior. Without doubt, there is tremendous value to be gained from these seemingly unfairly matched contests, particularly in the lessons learned from friendlies played after the match games.

Match Results 1970-71.

v B.M.S. (a) U/13 X Board	Won 7½:2½
v Hitchin G.S. (h) U/13 and U/12 VI	Won 8½:3½
<i>Bedfordshire Chess Festival "A" VI</i>	First
v Alleynes	Won 4:2
v Stewartsby	Won 5:1
v Cambridge High	Won 5:1
v Cedars (a) U/13 VI and U/12 IV	Won 10:0
v K.C.S. (a) U/13 VI	Won 6:0
v Pilgrim (a) U/13 VI and U/12 VI	Won 11½:½
v Kempston Upper U/12 X	Won 7:3
v B.M.S. (a) U/13 and U/12 VI	Won 9:3
v Soham (a) U/13 VI	Lost 2½-3½

Sunday Times Competition

v Cedars 1st VI (h)	Won 3½:2½
v R.G.S. High Wycombe (a)	Lost 1½:4½

It is a reflection of the strength of the Under 13 team that it was changed so little. We were fortunate to have Mark Lloyd-Williams on Board 1, playing competitively for his third year in the Lower School; as Captain, he was efficient, and a great help to me personally. Towards the end of the Easter Term he was asked to play for Bedfordshire at the Under 18 age level—no mean achievement!

Boards 2 and 3, Maurice Cheng and Ashley Pinnington, have both played twenty matches in their Lower School careers, the former winning 15, the latter 16. It was fitting that they should have drawn the final of the Knockout-Competition, Pinnington having earlier disposed of Lloyd-Williams in a semi-final.

Colours were awarded to Cheng, Amos and Youngs, the other members of the team having received theirs in the previous year.

Individual Match Performances

U/13: Lloyd-Williams 9/14, Cheng 11/14, Pinnington 11½/14, Briggs 8/13, Amos 9/12, Youngs 9½/14, Winslet 1/2.

U/12 (minimum 3 matches): Malek 8½/10, Crawford

5/9, Lloyd-Williams, ii 3/5, Twist 3/3, Schwarz 2/3
Mason 1½/3.

The House Competition was won (as always!) by Harper's. They beat Howard's in the final 5:1, after Howard's had earlier defeated Farrar's 4:2.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Mr. Sewell for his support and assistance with transport to away matches.

D.J.L.

Gymnastics

The Gymn. Club has had another busy and successful year and in addition to the usual programme some of the members have represented the School in matches with Radley and Mill Hill and have taken part in the Bedfordshire, Eastern Region and Public Schools Championships.

House Gymnastics

House Competition: 1st Howard's 181.4, 2nd Harper's 178.2, 3rd Farrar's 139.4.

Individual Competition: 1st B. Johnson 49.5, 2nd Peacock 49.4, 3rd Butters 47.6, 4th F. White, 46.9, 5th Holbrook 43.1, 6th Farmer-Wright 42.9.

These scores show how keen was the competition and as the first two were only separated by one tenth of a point both were presented with Whitelaw Silver Medals.

Our annual match with the Silver Jubilee School (our first ever away fixture) proved to be an interesting and enjoyable match. The Lower School won by 192.4 points to 184.1. Individual results and places were:—B. Johnson and Peacock equal 2nd, Butter 4th, D. Clark 7th, F. White 8th and Farmer-Wright 9th. F. White won the pommel horse event, Butters the horizontal bar and Peacock the floor exercises.

In the preliminary round of the Bedfordshire Championship Peacock was third and B. Johnson, although unable to participate in this, was selected with Peacock to be in the team. In the Eastern Region Championship Peacock was first in the Under 13 section and Johnson was fourth.

In the Public Schools Championship Bedford School finished second. Representatives from the Lower School and their final placings were:—B. Johnson (13th), Peacock (18th), Butters (17th) and D. Clark, our first reserve, who also competed was 14th. It is pleasing to note that last year's winner of the Silver Medal, Ganczakowski, won the Under 15 event which had been won by Dickey, another Silver Medallist, in the previous year.

Finally our thanks are offered to the gym. staff for all their work and skilful instruction, and also to E. J. R. Canvin, Esq., O.B., for his help in judging.

B.W.

The Lower School Concert

The Annual Lower School Concert took place in the Great Hall on Friday, 11th June, and was attended by a large number of parents and friends. The concert opened with the Lower School Orchestra playing two contrasting items—two movements of a Concerto Grosso by Vivaldi, and a Romance by Sibelius. In the Vivaldi, the solo parts were played by members of the Music staff, and there was a very good sequence of changeovers between soli and tutti sections. The 'cellos and basses gave a good solid ground for the higher strings, who blended well with each other, though there

were times when the semiquaver runs were rather indistinct and rushed. In the Sibelius, they were less at home to begin with, although their attack was good. It seemed a more difficult piece to understand, and I don't think that they quite comprehended what it was all about. However it sounded most pleasant.

The Wind Band performed next. Some of the harmonies were a trifle astray and wavering, but they made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in technique.

Julian Brandon and John Stebbings played Liszt's 2nd Hungarian Rhapsody as a piano duet. Rhythmically and technically they were very exact, but I thought that they were rather too stiff and formal to get down to the real feeling of such a piece. The next item was a String Quartet, technically a difficult form, since one is required to split oneself into two—to play solo as it were, and at the same time to listen and blend in with three other players. The players kept together well and generally they blended to give a pleasing total effect in a piece which is in the repertoire of professional quartets. Simon Fitzmaurice played a short excerpt from a piece by Weber for clarinet, in which he demonstrated a clear tone and note production.

The Lower School Recorder Ensemble showed in their two pieces the wide range of notes which can be played from sopranino to bass, and the versatility of effects which can be produced. The strains of Vivaldi were heard again when Nicholas Illingworth played a movement from Vivaldi Violin Concerto. He played clearly and accurately with a good mellow tone, but he seemed to treat the whole movement at one dynamic level, with little variation, so that while the notes were clear and accurate, there was a monotony of sound level which rather spoiled the subtleties inherent in the work.

The winner and the runner-up in the Kenneth Pickering Memorial Trophy for Mozart Piano Music played next, and it was not difficult to see why Christopher Gillies was the winner again this year. He showed a most mature approach to his piece, and an artistry which is rare in boys of his age. He was followed by John Stenson on the cello; his note production was inclined to be rather scratchy, and I would have said that the piece was played too disjointedly had I not suddenly looked at the title—"Les Marionettes"—a well interpreted performance.

Last year the Lower School Opera Group under J. S. Rees, Esq., presented "The Golden Vanity". This year they had been hard at work rehearsing "Trial by Jury". The singers clearly showed that they were enjoying themselves, though the chorus words were often difficult to hear. The soloists were very competent, especially Dominic Bullock whose every word could be heard.

Before the concert closed with Vaughan Williams' "Te Deum", sung by the whole school, the various cups and music certificates were presented by Mrs. P. G. Jennings.

This was a concert of very high standards in all departments, and we should be very indebted to the Music staff who teach these boys. I doubt if many schools of this size could produce such a large group of 11 and 12-year-olds who could play as accurately and pleasingly as the Lower School did.

P.G.J.

1066 & All That

1066 And All That was a shrewd choice in that its substance of deliberately naive irreverence for a thousand years of British History combines with its tone of clownish fun to present young boys with a play they can master because its clear-cut characterisation lies so firmly within their experience. No young actor has to grope blindly and hopelessly to find the part: it is either in himself, in someone next to him in the class or in the ogre on the dais in front of him day in day out. Whether or not the writers of the play had at some time done time as teachers they would have been good ones; for the play is an antidote to History taught straight, cerebral, with fact chasing fact through chronological time. The scenes reflect the ability to interest, simplify, familiarise, entertain and so inform; and many of the comments of the comperè show much more than a passing knowledge of the period they introduce, his voice being continually one of frivolous erudition. For the writers it would seem that familiarity had led not to contempt but to deflation in order that they might re-



mould and inflate their material anew. Their characters are caricatures who nonetheless combine to capture the essential attitude we popularly associate with a particular period, and they are funny because so obvious: the sublime aristocratic assurance of Raleigh as he jokes about the dropping of a cloak before Good Queen

Bess ('my fool of a man dropped my cloak and she walked all over it—absolutely ruined it'); Drake's deadpan panache as he finishes bowls before sorting out his little local difficulty; or the Indian Civil Servant Colonel Bygadsby the loony traditionalist saved by the inherent conviction of himself as one of the choice sons of Adam among the 'lesser breeds without the law'.

Yet the very real richness of the play and its obvious suitability for young children can just as obviously prove deceptive for production; for it is a work moulded out of independent scenes and thus an attempt must be made to make all of the scenes as vital as each other and this can only be achieved through the communication by the actors of their relish for their parts and the situation they find themselves in. Although when working with boys of any age it would prove perhaps impossible to achieve a symmetry of enthusiasm throughout, it was a fact that some of the scenes of this production were markedly better than others. This year less was made of a play offering much more. It is no doubt churlish to find faults with a production into which boys and producers put a great deal of time and effort but there was one major fault and one minor which I will mention since they found themselves contrasted with where the play was successful. The major fault was that often the actors were far too conscious of playing to an audience with the result that their efforts were not concentrated, hence miscues and lack of pace at times. The minor fault was that some of the groupings were too clustered and so they buckled the look of the scene.

However by the end of the evening the successes predominated. The singing of individuals and of the choruses were always good. Yet it was the contributions of individual players which dominated the final impressions. If the palm had to be awarded to anyone, James Mellor would have a good claim to it. He had two roles in two scenes and in both cases made them. Comment has already been made on both his Raleigh (where he was supported by some very able actors in Douglas Dawes as Drake and Justin Foster as Essex) and in his Colonel Bygadsby. Mellor had timing, verve, a thorough understanding and relish for the parts and the ability to draw other actors up to his level. Nicholas Hamer Harries found first the essence of a voluptuous wench in Constance, a Crusader's wife, in the provocative encouragement of a Troubadour through a lethal combination of swinging hips and suggestive repartee, and secondly he found the unflinching nobility of Mary Tudor. Rory Macleod managed to squeeze a good deal of talent into a small part and emerged as a brash, gum-chewing Americanised Christopher Columbus as felt through the Gary Cooper curt line of conversation—yep and nope to everything. Raymond Jones as the sergeant caught the sardonic pessimism of an old campaigner in the Hundred Years War. Simon Fitzmaurice captured the crude bumptiousness of an arrogantly, egotistical Baron at the court of King John. Lastly, Mark Andrew as guide and compère was a very subtle link-man, an urbane sophisticate polishing his patter with beautifully delivered frivolity.

If some of this review seems harsh in places on young boys who were all doing their obvious best, it must be stressed that the review is based on the first night. On the second night the performance really caught fire

apparently and someone said that the difference between the two nights was marked. In any case, to bring one criterion to bear in judging this production in the case of someone such as myself who was seeing a production of this play for the first time: would I see this play again? Definitely.

D.J.R.

School Societies

Bridge Club

Membership has increased steadily throughout the year and this can be partly accounted for by extending membership to juniors. The Club has met regularly, but the standard of bridge has seen little improvement.

Mr. Vogel has given much encouragement to the Club, and his work with the Junior Society's Bridge Club has produced some good players amongst the fourth group.

Entry to the National *Daily Mail* Bridge Competition was prevented by the postal strike. Attempts have been made to contact the B.M.S. Bridge Club but these have yielded nothing to date.

Next term it is hoped to start a House Bridge Competition, and it is hoped that boys who do not belong to the Club yet play bridge will take the opportunity to show their capabilities. (*Secretary*: Richard Bromilow.)

Golfing Society

The Golfing Society has seen the revival of the House Golf Competition this year, after the cup has stood for many years amongst the trophies of St. Peter's. However, there it was to return and deservedly so. The competition was staged during the Easter term in consistently fine weather. Dicks and Thompson (St. Peter's) produced some excellent golf and finally defeated Murdie and Purfold (Bromham) after quite a battle.

The activities of the Summer term have been hindered by a change in the form of membership at Clapham and play has temporarily been restricted to full-time players. Thus competitions have been played only on a limited scale. The Snow Cup for Scratch Singles was won by Bromilow and the O.B.s foursomes was won by Bromilow and Thompson in a great final against Hindle and Murdie.

Despite the difficulties at Clapham, the authorities have now offered favourable conditions for membership, and the School hopes to start matches against other schools once the position at Clapham has been remedied. (*Secretary*: Richard Bromilow.)

Music Club

The first concert of the revived Music Club took place on the 23rd of May. All the members took an active part in the production and performance and the individual enthusiasm of each member helped the Club to give a successful concert.

The programme consisted of a flute trio by Teleman, a Chopin nocturne, two Schumann Romances for oboe and two piano duets. Then the whole Club joined to give a performance of Haydn's Divertimento in Bb (arr. Perry). The Music Club now hopes to follow up with a concert at Charter House on 4th July. (*President*: Andrew Simmonds; *Secretary*: Jonathan Pinnock).

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