

THE COURT

1974



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Editorial

At the time of writing, the country is faced with severe industrial troubles and everyone in the country is being exhorted by the Government to try to save fuel wherever they can. Naturally, we at Shiplake are doing our best to help. It is heartening to be able to report that every boy in the school is doing his best to economise by switching off unnecessary lighting. Since we are constantly being told that if everyone switched off one light bulb the entire output of one power station would be saved, we feel that we are making a sizeable contribution to the country's attempts to conserve fuel.

Many rooms are not as warm as we should like but morale remains high. The crisis is at least giving everyone in the school an opportunity to show that he can rally round to help in times of trouble, and the self-discipline which is so vital in a community is very definitely evident. Of course, everyone hopes that the present crisis will soon be resolved and that it will be possible to live once again in former comfort, but, until then, we feel certain that the Shiplake spirit will see us through.

The Editors acknowledge the help given in the production of the magazine
—to the writers, photographers, artists, and to the printers

C. J. GILES R. S. HALBERT P. R. MOON

College News

At the end of the Summer Term we said farewell to Sister Grayson, who has tended the sick and wounded at College for the past nine years. She will be sadly missed not only in her capacity of Nursing Sister but also in the pavilion supervising the cricketers' teas. Our best wishes go with her in her new post.

We also said farewell to our Director of Music, Mr. G. Watts, at the end of the Winter Term. He has been with us a very short time, unfortunately, but I am sure he will be remembered for a most memorable carol service held on his last day in office. We wish him all the best in his new position of Director of Music at the R.N. College, Dartmouth.

In September we welcomed three new members to the Common Room. Mr. J. W. Chaplin, from New Zealand via Loretto, teaches Arts subjects and is, amongst other things, a most enthusiastic motor mechanic; Mr. T. J. A. Bishop, an elite oarsman, teaches Science; and Sister Noble has taken over from Sister Grayson. We hope they will all settle down happily in their new environment. We also offer our congratulations to Mr. Bishop on his recent marriage.



At the moment two building projects are under way at College. Mr. J. W. Whittington is supervising a face-lift for the inside of the Tithe Barn, so as to improve the warmth of the building and, we hope, the acoustics. Sister's quarters are being extended so that at last she will have adequate living accommodation and her own private front door. Plans are also being drawn up for extensions to Welsh House and Everett House.

In July the Headmaster welcomed Mr. M. Hesseltine, M.P., Minister for Aerospace, as guest speaker on Speech Day.

College Officials

September, 1973

Head of School ... J. M. P. Clayton

BURR	WELSH	EVERETT	SKIPWITH
<i>Head of House:—</i>			
*P. D. M. Carson	*A. J. P. Clayton	*J. M. P. Clayton	*S. C. Mitchell
<i>House Prefects:—</i>			
*N. Jumat	*S. A. E. Wright	A. H. M. Burghes	J. A. N. Russell
P. R. Moon	W. Yeung	R. J. Douglas	M. D. A. Carmichael
D. G. H. Dunbar	M. Halcrow	T. W. Gore	J. K. Muir
C. C. Nixon	K. C. Cooke	P. M. Hullah	I. F. Zihni
P. T. Bradshaw		W. J. M. Hudson	C. J. Giles
			P. J. Jackson

*Denotes School Prefect

Sports Captains:—

<i>Rugby Football</i>	-	-	J. M. P. Clayton
<i>Rowing</i>	-	-	P. R. Moon
<i>Hockey</i>	-	-	S. C. Mitchell
<i>Squash</i>	-	-	G. J. Phillpotts
<i>Fencing</i>	-	-	N. J. St. Clair
<i>Shooting</i>	-	-	P. D. M. Carson
<i>Sailing</i>	-	-	S. A. E. Wright
<i>Association Football</i>	-	-	P. T. Bradshaw
<i>Basketball</i>	-	-	H. Alireza

Salvete

BURR	WELSH	EVERETT	SKIPWITH
<i>January:—</i>			
A. M. Aston	D. S. Beevers	N. Halit	M. B. Eccles-Williams
R. P. Middleton	R. M. Kingston	A. R. Osborn	A. M. B. Hobson
P. J. Samengo-Turner	A. J. Morton	D. A. Trevena	H. W. Raymond
	R. G. Simpson		J. le Q. Savage
			D. S. W. Wilkinson
<i>April:—</i>			
	M. E. Crowdy	M. J. C. Laughton	I. Jackson-Moore
	G. M. Davis		T. L. Wilkinson

September:—

T. R. O. Birt	M. Bartholomew	C. J. Allum	A. G. Bridgen
S. J. Bowmer	A. H. S. Baxter	J. R. J. M. Barnes	I. A. Bruce-Merrie
T. Day	D. R. Bertelli	J. G. Blyth	C. Chrisp
M. A. Eaton	P. E. Cotton	A. J. Bryan	R. S. Clarke
S. S. Eggar	S. N. Cronk	P. R. Budd	G. J. Corfield
C. R. Gordon	A. Clissold	A. J. Cameron	G. B. Davies
Brown	G. A. Jones	P. J. Cranstone	T. C. D. Frewer
M. L. Harvey	D. J. Lister	N. J. R. Frewer	G. Kent
R. F. B. Milligan-	I. C. Munday	S. A. Jaconelli	A. Khaleghi
Manby	A. J. Norman	C. N. Leede	A. C. J. Lear
C. Mordaunt	C. S. Rayburn	A. V. Porter	J. D. Lumsden
A. D. Nonoo	C. D. Turner	J. McC. Reynolds	M. S. H. Naylor
P. L. S. Norris		S. P. Storey	J. C. N. Schwerdt
E. J. Ritchie			A. G. Wallis
J. R. F. Samengo-			
Turner			
R. C. Ward			

Valete

BURR:

<i>March</i>	J. C. Stewart-Smith	3rd Form; to continue education
<i>July</i>	E. K-L. Thong	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); 'A' (3); Head of House; Captain of Hockey; 1st XV; 1st XI; D. of E. Gold Award; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Accountancy
	D. L. Gordon	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); House Prefect; D. of E. Silver Award; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to studying Ecology in Canada
	I. R. Fraser	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); 'A' (1); House Prefect; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Construction Management Course with John Laing
	M. A. Alireza	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); House Prefect; 1st XV; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Junior College in U.S.A.
	W. B. Henry	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; 1st XV; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.
	J. Acres	G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); House Prefect; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	A. D. Fergusson-Edgar	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	A. C. Clark-Kennedy	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Carlisle Technical College
	P. A. Lewis	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); A/B in C.C.F.; to Agricultural College
	G. R. Bond	5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	W. J. Brindley	5th Form; D. of E. Bronze Award; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Tettenhall College
	M. D. Hornsby	5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (1); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to South Oxfordshire Technical College
	J. Pongpanich	4th Form; D. of E. Bronze Award; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to U.S.A. for Military Training
	L. B. Reilly	3rd Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to continue Education;
<i>December</i>	A. C. D. Cochran	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	A. M. Leach	G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Redhill Technical College

WELSH:

March
July

—, Brandreth
D. T. Dalzell

G. F. Thomas

I. J. T. Cruickshank

J. C. Inglis

S. P. Varnals

E. M. Alireza

M. W. K. Havard
M. J. Holman

S. F. Scott-Cooper

J. J. Humphrey
B. J. Huntington
M. A. M. Osborn
December K. C. Cooke
D. A. Collett

4th Form
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); 'A' (3); Head of House; 1st VIII;
Cox'n in C.C.F.; to Bath University
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); School Prefect; 1st VIII; P/O in
C.C.F.; to Further Education
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (4); 'A' (1); House Prefect; 1st VIII;
Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Banking
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; A/B in C.C.F.;
to Further Education
G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; 1st VIII; A/B in
C.C.F.
G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Mitchell
College, U.S.A.
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); L/Sea in C.C.F.; to Farming
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (1); 1st XV; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Further
Education
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (1); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Jewellery
Industry
5th Form; A/B in C.C.F.
5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (7); Cdr. in C.C.F.
5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); House Prefect; A/B in C.C.F.
5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (1); Cdt. in C.C.F.

EVERETT:

March
July

S. Somani
A. D. Gordon

A. C. Packer

M. V. Patterson

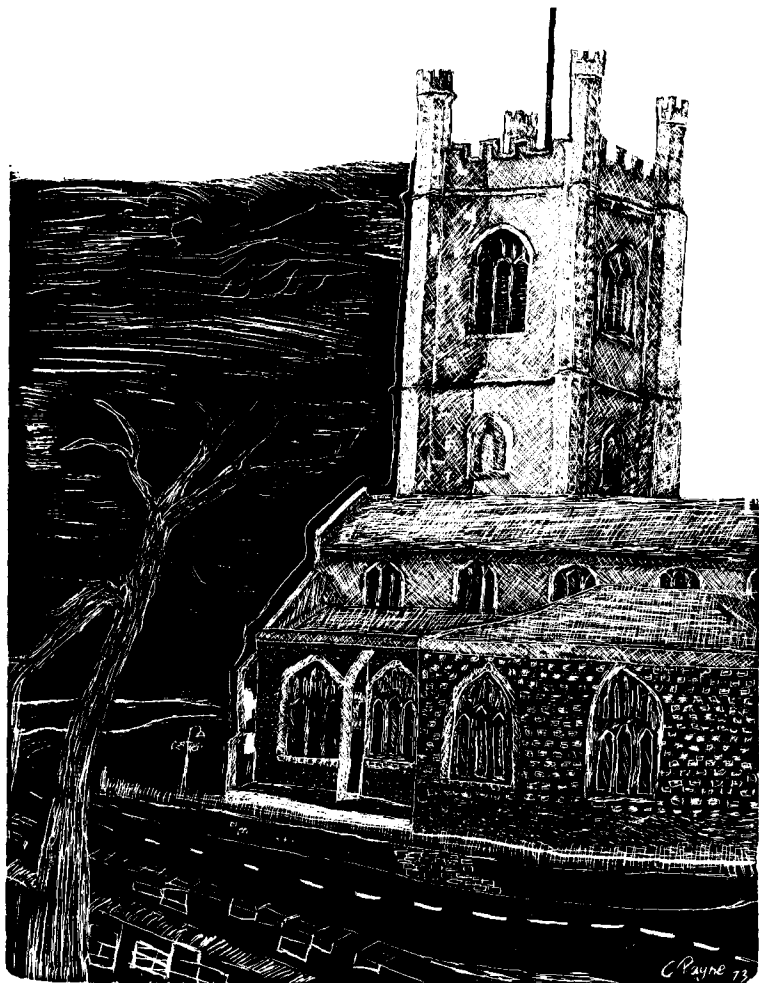
M. Guillaume

R. I. Parkinson

5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); 'A' (1); Head of School; 1st XV.
1st XI; Hockey XI; to Further Education
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); School Prefect; 1st XV; 1st XI;
Hockey XI
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); 'A' (1); School Prefect; 1st XV;
1st XI; Hockey XI; D. of E. Gold Award; Sgt. in
C.C.F.; to Brunel University
U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); 'A' (1); House Prefect; Hockey
XI; D. of E. Gold Award; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Aston
University
L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (1); House Prefect; 1st XI; Squash V;
Tennis VI; to further Education



	J. G. Skipper	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); House Prefect; 1st VIII; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	J. B. Cozens	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); L/Sea in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	A. K. Peters	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (3); Cdt. in C.C.F.
	N. R. Sargeant	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); Cdt. in C.C.F.
	J. P. M. Ferro	5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (2); Cdt. in C.C.F.
	M. J. M. Hodson	5th Form; Sgt. in C.C.F.
	P. A. Wilson	5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (1); A/B in C.C.F.
	R. J. Cowley	4th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to continue Education
	C. Truman	4th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	M. Laughton	3rd Form; to continue Education
December	R. J. Douglas	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; 1st XV; D. of E. Bronze Award; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Agricultural College
	P. M. Hullah	G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (4); House Prefect; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Further Education in Canada.
	M. T. Adams	G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	M. J. Barclay	G/VI; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Further Education
	D. N. Sharif	G/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (1); A/B in C.C.F.; to Further Education
March	N. B. Thomson	4th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to continue Education
	J. Le Q. Savage	3rd Form
	SKIPWITH:	
July	D. A. Youngs	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); 'A' (3); Head of House; 1st XI; Hockey XI; Sgt. in C.C.F.; to Bath University
	S. Akhavan	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (7); 'A' (1); School Prefect; 1st XV; to Further Education
	M. A. Anderson	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect
	D. Argenti	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); 'A' (1); House Prefect; 1st XV; Hockey XI; Tennis VI; to University of Miami, U.S.A.
	M. Hayes-Fisher	L/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); House Prefect; D. of E. Bronze Award; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Farming
	A. J. Rant	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (4); House Prefect; 1st VIII; A/B in C.C.F.; to High Wycombe College of Technology and Art
	C. S. Smith	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); 'A' (3); House Prefect
	D. K. Tchang	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (6); House Prefect; 1st VIII (cox); Cdt. in C.C.F.; to Harfield Polytechnic
	G. A. M. Welcrock-Smith	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (4); House Prefect; 1st XV; Hockey XI; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Family Business
	S. P. Weller	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); 'A' (1); House Prefect; 1st VIII; to Further Education
	M. C. N. Pike	L/VI; 1st VIII; Cpl. in C.C.F.
	J. A. H. Hale	5th Form; G.C.E. 'O' (5); Cdt. in C.C.F.
	P. F. Scatchard	5th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	R. G. Evans	4th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to continue Education
	J. D. Bell	3rd Form; to continue Education
	D. Wilson, Miss	U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (5); 'A' (1).
	L. Rendle-Mervill, Miss	
December	P. J. Jackson	L/VI; U/VI; G.C.E. 'O' (2); House Prefect; Hockey XI; Cpl. in C.C.F.; to Hotel Training
	D. W. Rant	G/VI; Cdt. in C.C.F.
	N. D. Cornell	4th Form; Cdt. in C.C.F.; to continue Education



Chapel Notes

Most of us, whether we are completely committed Christians or not, are used to the familiar sight of the English village and its Parish Church; we do in fact take it for granted. However, it may not be long before this familiar scene changes drastically. The church at present is encountering difficulties which may in the end prove overwhelming. Not only is there a shortage of money but also a continued falling off in the numbers of people offering themselves for ordination; this last year numbers were down by nearly a hundred. This is resulting in a universal practice of forming team or group ministries. When a living falls vacant, it is no longer filled; the Parish is joined to another and one man is left to cope with three or four parishes. There may well come a

time when even this will be no longer possible, and not only churches, but schools and other institutions, will have to do without a full-time priest.

On the brighter side, however, it is interesting to note that the numbers of committed Christians are steadily rising; perhaps it is not too much to hope that before long the plight of the Church will be more universally recognised and positive steps will be taken to avoid the crisis before it is too late.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. J. W. Whittington, the Tithe Barn has a different and better appearance each term and is now a much easier place in which to worship. There has indeed been a tremendous improvement in the singing this year and this greater participation in chapel services has been welcomed by everyone.

I should like to thank the various houses for their generous response to chapel collections. As some of you know, the objects of your charity are chosen very carefully and as a school we have done well in giving—not that we could not do better. However, I should like to quote a few recent collections to prove the point:—

St. Katharines Convent	...	...	£80
Dr. Barnardo's Holiday	...	...	£240
The Famine in Ethiopia	...	...	£70
Borocourt Hospital	...	...	£50
			<hr/>
			£440
			<hr/>

All this was collected in two or three years. As you know, we are now out to buy a guide dog and it remains to be seen how quickly this can be done.

The Voluntary Services continue to be well attended. Important as it is to give well to charity we must never forget that in the Eucharist we are giving ourselves to the service of God and His world.

St. Mary's, Henley, was, as usual, packed for our Carol Service. Personally I feel that this was a really wonderful service.

The following were confirmed by the Lord Bishop of Oxford on December 8th:—

Beevers, David Spencer	Morpuess, Peter
Bown, Simon David	Newman, Alistair Nigel Winkworth
Brazier, Russell Lawrence	Nops, Michael Jonathan
Carey, Doyle Philip	Pipe, John William Robert
Causton, Peter Justin	Richards, Gavin John
Chick, Robert Olaf	Sampson, Mark Philip
Drew Smythe, Barnaby Mark	Shaw, Simon Durrant
Gilbert Scott, Andrew Michael	Simpson, Robert
Hobson, Andrew Melville Bayliss	Smee, Anthony Robert William
Hopkinson, John Munro	Warren, James Richard
Kingston, Roger Myles	Woodward, Philip Anthony
Middleton, Ranulf Peter	Younghusband, Christopher Leigh
Morton, Alan John	

I will end by thanking all who contribute in so many ways to the running of the School Chapel and a special "thank you" to Miss Tomalin, who has so willingly taken on Sister Grayson's difficult job of Sacristan and general supervisor.

Burr House

The year 1973 will go down in College's history as being the year that Burr House became completely and totally independent as far as living quarters are concerned. This time last year the new block and changing room were waiting for completion. In January the new occupants moved in and an overnight change in morale became apparent as can be seen by our comparative transformation on the Sports field. In the Spring Term the Senior Hockey XI won a marathon David and Goliath match against Skipwith, and the Junior XI showed prospects for the future. In the Summer Term we carried off the Standards, Junior Tennis and Shooting shields and were in the finals of the Senior Cricket and Tennis. Finally, during the Winter Term we won the Junior House Rugger League, and reached the finals in both the Senior and Junior House Rugger competitions. In addition to this, W. B. Henry won the individual Fencing Cup, and the Debating team put up our best show ever by losing to Welsh House by one quarter of a point.

Although our achievements may not seem much on paper, to us they are indicative of what it means to be one unit under one roof, and much of the credit must go to the team of prefects led so wisely and understandingly by E. K-L. Thong.

At the end of the Summer Term we said goodbye to no fewer than thirteen leavers—Thong, D. L. Gordon, I. R. Fraser, Henry, M. A. Alireza, A. D. Fergusson-Edgar, J. Acres, A. C. Clark-Kennedy, P. A. Lewis, G. R. Bond, M. D. Hornsby, J. Pongpanich and L. B. Reilly, with all of whom go our best wishes.

The old prefectorial brigade has been replaced by P. D. M. Carson, Head of House, N. Jumat, P. R. Moon, D. G. H. Dunbar, C. C. Nixon and P. T. Bradshaw. Looking ahead, we wish Moon and Nixon good luck in their forthcoming season on the river, where they will be competing at national level, we hope, in their own boat in the coxless pair division.

At the end of 1973 we said farewell to Mr. G. Watts, House Tutor, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking him and the other house tutors, Mr. R. M. Lee, Mr. D. S. Partridge and Mr. K. O. Thomson, for all the hard work they have put in on the house's behalf during the past year. Our combined thanks go, too, to Mrs. Dinnage, without whom, I am sure, the house would come apart at its seams.

Finally, but by no means least, a word on our academic progress. The results of our 'O' and 'A' level candidates were rather disappointing and I sincerely feel that there are too many who still do not know how to use their study periods and free time to the best advantage. On the other hand, judging by reports both during and at the end of the Winter Term, it would appear that much work of good quality has been done latterly. Let us hope that it will last right up to June and beyond.

Everett House

The high spot of the year was a victory in the Athletics finals. This was especially welcome after some narrow defeats in recent years and was even more heartening because of the big contribution to final success made by younger members of the House. Our success was a team effort. Several other shields were won during the year.

A. D. Gordon combined the posts of Head of House and Head of School until July and J. M. P. Clayton has followed him in holding both positions. Clayton is to be congratulated on being a popular and firm leader and is maintaining the efficiency which was such a feature of Gordon's year in office.

During his years in Everett, A. C. Packer appeared in every inter-House competition except Rowing finals. A. D. Gordon was almost as versatile. During the preparations for Athletics, H. Alireza obtained every standard at both levels. This was a fine all-round performance.

The September entry of new boys has already made its mark. Everyone has proved enthusiastic and remarkably willing.

On the material side the new prefects' studies have proved very popular and there are plans to provide more single rooms. The loft studies have been reconstructed and are now much more convenient. At the rear of the house are two new fire escapes, which former members of the house are quick to comment upon. We very much hope they will not be used—except in practices.

Our Matron, Mrs. Simmonds, has now been with us three years. Mrs. Langham and Mr. Plummer are equally old friends and the more untidy among us are very grateful for their energy and patience. Mr. T. J. A. Bishop—a distinguished oarsman—has become a House Tutor and his interest in our affairs, together with that of Mr. E. L. Kilty and Mr. T. H. Jones, is much appreciated. Less appreciated, we feel, but most valuable, is the capacity of our Housemaster to rise early every day. Too early for most of us!

Skipwith House

The year 1972/73 has seen major changes in Skipwith House. Although our new Housemaster, Mr. M. J. H. Charles, was met with some apprehension by the 'old hands', his paternal nature and 'towering dominance' have won us over. In September 1973 we welcomed Mr. J. W. Chaplin, from New Zealand, as House Tutor, to join Mr. N. A. Randall and Mr. J. W. Whittington. Our thanks are due to all three for the many ways in which they help in the House. At the end of the Summer Term we regretfully said farewell to Mr. S. C. Oxlade who contributed so much as House Tutor; we wish him and his wife all the best for the future. Before that we had received another blow when, half way through the Summer Term, Mrs. Cairns had to give up her job as House Matron owing to ill-health.

We are all very grateful for what she did for the House; her place has been taken by Miss Tomalin who has approached her new job with her usual zeal. Finally, S. C. Mitchell replaced D. A. Youngs as Head of House in September.

On the sports field, Skipwith has had a good year. It is true to say that not only have we had many of the 'stars' of the various School teams, but we have also had players of average ability who tipped the balance between winning and losing. At the end of the year, Skipwith held the following shields: Senior Rugby, Cross-Country, Rowing, Football and Chess; Junior Cricket and Hockey.

The Junior Hockey team, captained by R. S. Halbert, just won the Junior Shield, but the seniors were over-confident in the final against Burr after eventually beating Everett after a re-play in the first round. We had a decisive win in the Senior Cross-Country when S. Weller came first, M. D. A. Carmichael fourth, and Mitchell sixth. In the Summer Term we lost resoundingly to Everett in the Senior Tennis and Cricket, but won the Junior Cricket with exciting victories over Everett and Welsh. A. Horne (Captain) and N. Cornell played a large part in both victories. In the final of the football competition, it was fitting that G. A. M. Welbrock Smith, who has done so much to start and maintain a serious interest in the game at Shiplake, should lead the House team to victory over Everett, helped by the remarkable goal-scoring record of D. Argenti. We did not shine in the Athletics Standards competition but went very close to winning the Athletics Shield without our two best long-distance runners, Weller and Carmichael, who were about to represent the School at Henley. We did, however, retain the Senior Rowing shield as befitted our five representatives in the School VIII: Weller, Carmichael, A. Rant, M. Pike and D. Tchang (cox). The Chess shield was wrested from Burr through the efforts of C. J. Giles and R. Collier. Finally, in the Christmas Term, we retained the Senior Rugby shield with convincing victories over Everett and Burr.

'O' Level results have been disappointing during the year, but mention must be made of the following 'A' Level successes: Youngs, two passes at Grade A and Grade B; C. S. Smith, three passes; Argenti, Grade 'A' in Italian.

At the end of the Christmas Term, Skipwith put on its first House Party, to which members of the Staff and their wives were invited. A series of sketches, songs and solo performances were well received by the audience and these were followed by a polished performance of G. B. Shaw's short play "Passion, Poison and Putrefaction" by the House juniors. A buffet supper was then served to boys and their guests. It is hoped to make this a regular event in the School year.

Finally, an extract from a letter written by Mrs. Cairns to thank members of the House for their gift to her. It shows something of the feelings of those who have been members of Skipwith since the School began. "... shows what a happy community Skipwith has been over the years and I hope that Skipwith House will always be—as it was to me—the best ..."

Welsh House

HOUSE OFFICIALS

	1972/73	1973/74
<i>Head of House:</i>	D. T. Dalzell	A. J. B. Clayton
<i>School Prefect:</i>		S. A. E. Wright
<i>House Prefects:</i>	I. J. T. Cruickshank	W. Yeung
	S. P. Varnals	M. Halcrow
	G. F. Thomas	K. C. Cooke
	S. A. E. Wright	
	J. Inglis	

I usually start these notes with a mention of some project and this year is no exception. Due almost entirely to the initiative of Mr. John, and a most generous gift by Mr. Barnes, the former boot-room has been extended into the yard, lined with wood panelling and fitted out as a kitchen. The transformation took rather longer than anticipated as Mr. John was ill at a crucial period, but our deepest thanks go to him, Mr. Barnes, and numerous manual helpers not only from among boys in Welsh House. The old cooker room has been converted into a treble study, enabling us to take three extra boarders in the House.

In sport we seem as usual to do best at the fringe activities. Mention must be made of the Junior Cross-Country shield which we won, thanks principally to S. A. E. Wright's lead, the Swimming shield, in which we put out an extremely strong team headed by S. P. Varnals, and broke several records during the events, and the Squash shield, in which we had three of the School 1st V and so won comfortably. I leave till last the greatest disappointment, and the most dramatic event. The first was our failure to gain the Rowing shield. With nearly all our talented sportsmen doing rowing, this perhaps needs some explanation; it was due to a change in the regulations governing the competition, which excluded all boys who row in School VIII's. As we had by far the most representatives of School VIII's, we found ourselves the most penalised House, and were unable to use, among others D. T. Dalzell, I. J. T. Cruickshank, S. P. Varnals, G. F. Thomas and S. Beak. The most dramatic event for us was the Debating shield. With every year the tension increases, and this year's team led by Dalzell and Thomas included two Juniors: S. Barnes and R. Williamson. They put a great deal of research into their speeches, and this was apparently the deciding factor which gained us the shield for the ninth time.

Academically we had a less good year, but I must congratulate Dalzell on getting his three 'A' Levels and his university place. My thanks and best wishes go also to the other leavers over the year. No changes have been made in House Tutors or Matron's Staff, and again I take this opportunity to offer them our sincerest thanks and affection.

3rd and 4th Form Play

“The Farce of Pierre Pathelin”

It would be hard to imagine a greater contrast to “Oh What a Lovely War” than this year’s junior play: “The Farce of Pierre Pathelin.” French farce of the period 1450-1550 is little known in this country; this is regrettable because the simple plots and comic characters, although firmly rooted in the late Middle Ages, have easily recognisable counterparts in the Twentieth Century.

The cast in this production of ‘Pathelin’ were greatly helped by an excellent new translation of the play which Mr. K. O. Thomson had written for them. Nevertheless, M. B. Eccles-Williams, as *Pathelin*, gave the impression that the struggle to remember his lines was preventing him from doing himself justice as an actor. Too often, the pace at which he took his speeches prevented him from building any convincing picture of the character; this was an unfortunate weakness as he appeared to have considerable potential as an actor. T. Brunsdon, as his wife, spoke clearly and attacked the part sensibly; C. A. Payne, another promising actor, made a convincingly baffled draper; H. W. Raymond obviously enjoyed the humour of *Lambkin* and B. L. Brandreth made an unusually solemn *Judge*. The assorted *Townsfolk* and *Dancers* were well handled on this small stage; their dancing was particularly effective, being much more natural than schoolboys usually achieve in similar circumstances. Finally, both music and lighting played their part in the total effect while the costumes, both in style and colour, were delightfully medieval.

The producers, K. O. T. Thomson and G. Watts, kept the play going at an excellent pace and the production was meticulously planned. Farce, whether medieval or modern, is notoriously difficult for inexperienced actors to play; the success of this production lay in the attempt to achieve something which was well worth doing for its own sake, and which the actors obviously enjoyed performing. The standard for the Junior Forms, set last year, was well maintained by ‘Pathelin.’

THE PERFORMERS:

<i>Pathelin (a lawyer)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M. B. Eccles-Williams
<i>Guillemette (his wife)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	T. Brunsdon
<i>Joceaulme (a draper)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C. C. A. Payne
<i>Lambkin (a shepherd)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H. W. Raymond
<i>The Judge</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	B. L. Brandreth

Townsfolk: A. H. C. Barkman, S. D. Bown, D. P. Carey, R. S. Collier, A. D. S. Horne, D. W. Thurlbeck.

Dancers: R. L. Brazier, R. O. Chick, P. J. Causton, R. P. Middleton, A. J. Morton, S. J. Robinson, R. G. Simpson, J. N. Weston.

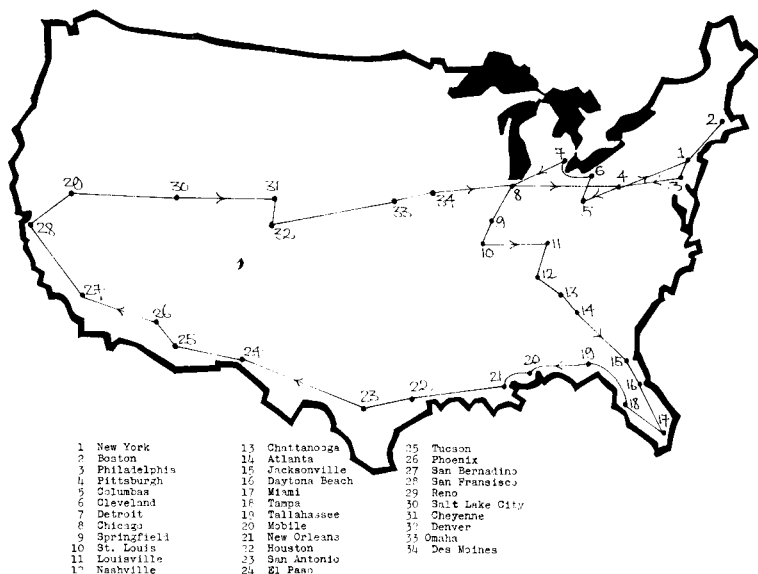
Lighting: M. J. Trueman, C. R. Duesbury.

Music: W. G. H. Hudson, R. L. M. Hudson, G. S. Forrester, J. H. Malby.

Stage Management: A. B. M. Hobson.

Make-up: P. C. M. Aylwin.

Production: Mr. Kenneth Thomson, Mr. Graham Watts.



Journey Round America

On my journey round America I covered over ten thousand miles and went through twenty-eight States. In the route I took I tried to see as many different aspects of the States as I could and so get a good cross-section of all the different types of climate, terrain and customs that exist in the United States.

Starting from New York I went North to the New England states of Connecticut and Massachusetts, staying at New Haven and Boston respectively. From there I returned to New York, and then travelled West through New Jersey to Pennsylvania, where I stayed in Pittsburgh. The journey to Pittsburgh took me through the northern part of the Appalachian Mountains.

Going further West to Chicago, Illinois, I passed through the States of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

After a brief visit to Milwaukee in Wisconsin, I headed South to St. Louis, Missouri. From there I travelled South-East to the sun and beaches of Florida, going through Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia.

From Southern Florida, I followed the curve of the coast-line round the Gulf of Mexico, through the States of Alabama and Mississippi to New Orleans in Louisiana. From there I made the long journey West to California, going through the deserts and scrubland of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, before arriving in San Francisco.

Then having reached the far West, I headed back to the East Coast. I went through the great gambling state of Nevada to Salt Lake City, Utah, the home of the Mormons. Leaving Salt Lake City, I travelled over

the Rockies to Cheyenne in the Old West State of Wyoming. Then I took a short journey South to Denver, Colorado, before continuing East through Nebraska and Iowa, back to Chicago in Illinois.

From Chicago I travelled back along my previous route to New York.

Incident in New York

After a slight delay, the Pan-Am Jumbo jet took off at 11.30 a.m. and by 1.30 p.m. American Eastern Standard Time I was landing at Kennedy Airport near New York. When I had gone through Customs and Immigration, which took a long two hours, I caught the airport bus which took me to Grand Central Station, New York. There I had my first impression of America, which I am glad to say was the only unpleasant incident I experienced.

When I got off the bus, I looked for a taxi to take me to the Greyhound Bus Station, only a few blocks away. At this point a man came up to me and said he was from the Port Authority and it was his job to take tourists where they wanted to go. He was wearing a suit which I presumed was his uniform, so I told him I wanted to get to the Greyhound Station. He said he would take me because if I went by taxi, it would be very expensive.

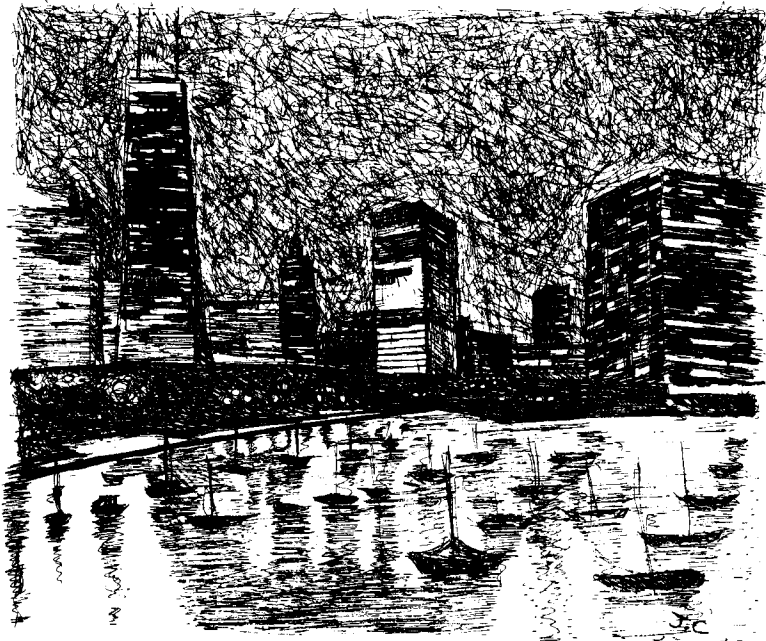
So I followed him down to the subway. He said he would pay for the tickets since he could get them reduced. We went a couple of stops on the subway, and then I followed him back to the street. We walked another block before he pointed to a large building and told me that was the bus station. I was just about to give him a small tip when he started telling me how much it would cost me. He said the Port Authority charged two-thirds of what a taxi cost, plus tax, and that came to forty-two dollars; anything I decided to give him over that would be considered a tip. I thought, what a cheek to ask for \$42 which is about £16 or £17, and then expect me to give him a tip. I wasn't going to give him forty-two dollars just like that, so I asked him if he had a form of identification to show that he was from the Port Authority. He then became angry when I said that I thought that \$42 was a bit much just to be taken a few blocks, when he said it was a very reasonable price since taxis cost around \$60. My suspicions were aroused when I told him I did not have \$42, whereupon he told me to give him all the money I had. He was getting very angry now that I was arguing with him, and I had visions of myself being mugged and beaten over. So I wanted to leave him in a hurry. I gave him a dollar and went quickly. He did not follow me because there were a lot of people around and also a few policemen.

After that experience I was quite glad to leave New York, which I planned to see properly on my way home. As I left the big city, the sun setting over the skyscrapers made a very picturesque scene. In the streets below, people were sitting on the pavements, and the streets looked empty and depressing. The part of New York through which I was travelling was Harlem.

Chicago, Illinois

The 'bus route from Pittsburgh to Chicago took me to Columbus, Cleveland and Detroit before finally arriving in Chicago. I spent four days actually in Chicago, and another night staying with a friend in a small town called Woodstock near Chicago.

During my stay in Chicago I visited all the sights and went to several museums, and on one day we left Chicago and went to a pop concert in Milwaukee. The thing that makes Chicago different from other big cities is its fantastic number of skyscrapers interlaced with canals from Lake Michigan. Some of the larger and more interesting skyscrapers are the U.S. Sears Building, the John Hancock Building and the Marina Towers. The U.S. Sears Building (Sears Roebuck Mail Order), which is still under construction, when completed will be the tallest building in the world. The John Hancock Building, which is 100 storeys high, has become the new symbol of Chicago with its distinctive, angled sides. In this building there are some 405 apartments, five restaurants, a swimming pool, a skating rink, a department store, various shops, and a sky-high observatory, which is open even on Christmas Day.



Chicago at night

Marina City is composed of twin towers, underneath which is a dock for small pleasure craft. To rent an apartment in the Towers costs around \$1000 a month, but for this you have access to twenty floors of Auto-Parking, 600 boat parks, ten storeys of office buildings, a large theatre, shops, restaurants, a swimming pool and a skating rink. So, if someone lives in one of these apartments, he can go to work in the office building, park his car in the park, and then after work he can enjoy the many entertainment facilities or take the elevator down to the dock and go out in his boat.

All these buildings are in what is called 'The Loop'. This name is given to the city centre because of the 'El,' the elevated trainway, which encircles it.

Other places of interest I went to were The Museum of Science and Industry and the Art Institute. The Museum of Science and Industry is so vast that it would take days to see all the exhibits. The Art Institute has one of the best collections of Impressionist paintings in the world. While I was touring round Chicago, I saw other artistic and architectural features such as the famous Picasso sculpture, 'The Spirit of Chicago,' and some of Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings. The Spirit of Chicago is situated in the Civic Center Plaza and is made of steel. Nobody knows exactly what it is meant to represent, because Picasso intended people to interpret it as they pleased. There are more examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's work in Chicago than in any other city. I saw a number of them, including the well-known Midway Gardens.

The day we went to the Pop Festival we left Chicago early and drove up to Milwaukee. The pop concert was sponsored by various brands of beer, and for an entry fee of \$2.50 there were a number of stages with rock, folk, jazz and country music. As well as these there was a play being performed and some sports activities. There was also a fair where we managed to spend quite a bit of money.

In all it was quite a tiring day and, as we sat in the car eating hamburgers, we saw a sight which I never believed could happen until I saw it. We saw a man who had just been arrested surrounded by about five policemen who were questioning him. After a while a police van drove up, and they threw him into it. As they did so he yelled something at them, whereupon they dragged him out of the van and began beating him up. These five policemen were kicking him, pulling his hair and beating him with their truncheons. Until then I had thought that stories of police brutality were exaggerated, but now I saw it with my own eyes.

Before I left Illinois, I went up to Woodstock to see a friend. We went on the one-and-a-half hour journey by train. The American trains are double-storied, that is, there are seats as in a normal carriage, and then there are steps leading to an upper layer of seats. The double storeys make the trains very large.

After my one-night stay in Woodstock, it was time for me to move on from Chicago, the Windy City, to St. Louis, Missouri.

Springfield, Kentucky

It was not a long journey, so I soon arrived in Springfield, which is a small town in the middle of Kentucky. The first thing I noticed was the heavy southern accent; I also noticed that people there were very friendly. The few days I was in Kentucky I not only saw Fort Knox, but I did plenty of other interesting things.

I was staying with Bess Grider and her family. When I told Mrs. Grider that I was waiting for the results of my art exam, she said that, since I must be good at art, would I help her to paint a fire hydrant. She told me that she had painted the hydrant in the front garden so that it looked just like a marching soldier. When the Mayor of Springfield saw it, he appointed her Official Fire Hydrant Painter. So now she was about to paint all the fire hydrants in the town.

So one afternoon I went downtown with paint and brushes in hand, and painted one of the fire hydrants to look like Abraham Lincoln. Now there is a permanent monument to show that I was in Springfield.

One evening while we were watching a swimming contest against a neighbouring town I met Mr. Robertson, who belonged to the Springfield Rotary Club. He invited me to the meeting the next evening. I had a very interesting evening and met lots of people. As well as myself, there were students from Germany, Sweden and Belgium. During the evening various people made speeches, and I told the members that I was doing a tour of the United States during my vacation.

During my visit to Fort Knox I also visited the Patton Museum. I did not get to see any gold at Fort Knox; in fact, you could not get within 400 yards of the Fort. The Patton Museum had many war relics, and also contained many of General Patton's personal possessions.

I found the people of Kentucky very friendly and always willing to help. In fact, what they say about Southern hospitality is very true.

My next stay was to be at Miami, Florida. The journey down there was very interesting because it took me through Nashville, Tennessee; Chattanooga; Atlanta, Georgia; Jacksonville and Daytona Beach before finally reaching Miami. Apart from these cities, at which I stopped, there was a great difference of country and vegetation. It varied from the fairly hilly country covered with cornfields and tobacco plants to the flat country of Florida, where there are palm trees and swamps.

Conclusion

Even though I had seen a large part of the United States, I did not get to see nearly all I had wanted to, and there are places where I would have liked to stay longer. I hope I will be able to return there in a few years' time, because I had a really fantastic time seeing new things, meeting new people and having new experiences.

August, 1973.

J. M. P. CLAYTON.

*"Along the wind-swept platform, pinched and white, the travellers stand in pools of wintry light offering themselves to morn's long slanting arrows.
—Siegfried Sarson.*

They stood there, forgotten and lost to reality, waiting for the train they hoped would never come, to take them back to the hell they had left not five days before. The stink and stench of dead bodies, the continuous reek of urine and ill-equipped trenches, the mud everywhere on clothes and food, if any food remained. Every tree a skeleton, a gravestone to what was once a beautiful creation of nature.

In these trenches there was no sleep in the mud, among the dead bodies and the screaming wounded in 'No Man's Land,' a constant reminder of the wrongs and suffering of the war. With no sleep the soldiers marched in a stupor, neither awake nor asleep. Occasionally a shell would land and a man would fall screaming to the ground. No one would help, but would march on as if they were unemotional beings, for in the back of every soldier's mind was, "If that were me, if that were me." They realized that if they stopped to help they would also die.

Gas bombs would drop and those who were too slow would die before they could get their masks on. What a penalty to pay for fumbling a strap. The man would choke, cough as if drowning in a sea, but this was gas drowning a man who did not know why he should fight, why he should die, or what he was fighting for. He might scream for help, but what help can you give a drowning man when you cannot remove the substance from his face? All you can do is pray that the stupidity and the suffering should stop before another person dies, but the dying goes on, to unanswered prayer, so all you can do is cry in your heart, for every person that dies, until your heart becomes numb with tears. Then you feel furious, but who is there to blame? What stupidity, what waste of men, young men, the cream of the next generation.

And if you live to leave the killing and suffering, to get away from two armies who do not know why they are fighting, you return to a heaven, and to an ignorance of what is happening in these trenches. People tell you it is glorious and courageous, brave and heroic. Your heart, which was numb, pricks at every mention of bravery.

Is bravery watching someone die of a bullet in his head? To watch him screaming and shouting for help when no help can be given? Is bravery seeing someone drowned in gas, watching him coughing up blood, watching him run around as if he were in a darkened room, with screams that pierce the brain, waking up to the fact that it is your comrade who is dying, dying, and you can do nothing but watch, watch helplessly? Is bravery shooting the enemy, killing a man who is human just like you, with a wife and children? You are killing those children's father. Is that a brave and courageous thing to do?

Now you must all return to the killing; back to the hell and futile suffering; back to die. For you must die. There is no escape. Either you die or lose a limb and live the life of a cripple for the rest of your days, and haunting you for the rest of your lives will be the thoughts of all your friends, dead. The thought of seeing them dying. You must wait for the train to take you back so that you may die forgotten, or return to be a burden to humanity.

N. J. WOOLF.

Contrasts 2

At the time of writing, the position of Contrasts 2 is as follows:— the printer's fee of £450 has been paid and all costs of correspondence and publicity have been met. We are still waiting for payment for sales of the magazine outside of the school and, ultimately, we should be able to send in excess of the £200 raised last year for the National Library for the Blind, to the MIND campaign.

The 1973 edition of Contrasts saw an increase in sale of copies from the 2,000 of 1972 to 3,000, an increase effected mainly to offset escalating production costs.

With outstanding contributions by Laurence Lerner and Spike Milligan and many other professional writers and artists, we hope that Contrasts 2 afforded an improvement in quality on the first edition, and that it will prove a serviceable bridge to next year's publication, which will be in aid of the Samaritans.

Once again our sincere thanks go to all boys, parents, Old Boys and members of staff who have helped to make the venture a success.

Chess Club

This year the inter-House Chess shield could hardly have been more closely and keenly fought. Skipwith appeared to be in a winning position after victories against Burr and Welsh, but then surprisingly lost to Everett. Therefore a play-off between the Captains of Burr and Skipwith was necessary since both Houses had scored two wins and a loss. Eventually C. J. Giles beat N. Jumat to give Skipwith the shield.

The Chess Ladder competition (for Junior players) was won last year in most convincing style by A. Newman. However, this year R. Collier appears the strongest player and looks set to win the competition.

We are most grateful to Mr. P. Bleackley for the donation of the book "Deux Cents Parties d'Eclcs par A. Alekhine." There are at the moment quite a number of books available to members of the Chess Club at Shiplake and all of these would improve the reader's play.

Every attempt is being made at the moment to arrange matches against other Schools. We have at least six players (enough for a team) of good standard and so there is every possibility of success.

The Historical Society

The Society was re-formed at the beginning of the Christmas Term, 1972. It has been decided that a particular topic would be chosen each year for study: the topic for 1972-73 was World War I. A visit to the Imperial War Museum proved popular and informative; Mr. Wells-Furby gave two talks, illustrated by slides, photographs, and records; an exhibition, centred round the visit to the French battlefields, was staged for Speech Day. 1973-74 sees the Society engaged with American history, and a group of members have visited the American Museum at Bath to see a Civil War "skirmish" enacted in the grounds.

Easter History Tour, 1973

"Seven coffees, three cokes and a beer" rapidly became the standard order during our morning and afternoon stops on our week long motor tour of Northern France. While the pleasantness of French wayside cafés was one of the many ways in which we had a good deal of sun, our trip had a basically serious purpose: to visit the chief battlefields on the 1914-18 Western Front from Ypres in Belgium as far east as Verdun.

At the last minute the school mini-bus was not available and we had the use of two roomy French cars on our round trip from Bologne to Dieppe. With 850 miles of travel recorded during six days (as a result of using two cars) we did have the disadvantage of the party not being together but we did find it much easier to keep to our planned schedule. Looking back the slowness of the mini-bus might have forced us to omit some of our visits.

At the start Arras was our base, which we reached after a visit to Agincourt—the open area between two woods remains much as it was in 1415. Our trip north to Ypres was very full. The day was clear though cold and every one was most impressed by the size and frequency of the war cemeteries, the sombre beauty of the many monuments, and the small area in which so much savage fighting took place. Everyone we met was most friendly and one should not omit that we began appropriately at Neuve Chappelle, by visiting the memorial to Major C. E. Harrison of Shiplake Court.

Like the Canadians in 1917, we encountered driving snow on Vimy Ridge and there began our collections of shrapnel, duds and barbed wire that winter rain and spring ploughing still lay bare each year. On the Somme front the villagers in the café were most interested in the many official photos of their area that we had brought with us. The visit to Beaumont Hamel, with its notorious 'Y' Ravine and attractive Newfoundland Park was one of the high spots of the tour. The remains of vast craters were also very memorable and the once deeply dug German trenches showed clearly almost everywhere as white lines across ploughed fields.

From this point on, the sunny weather deserted us and very heavy rain made our third day's exploration difficult. It was in the pouring rain that we observed, in the cemetery at Delville Wood, the most moving sight of all—the gravestone of a sixteen-year-old volunteer near to that of a regular army V.C.

The second part of our tour was along the French front. In these regions, generally speaking, reclamation of war-devastated areas is far from complete—especially along the Chemin des Dames and east of Reims. Few of us will forget the remains of the village of Nauroy and the pitiful vestiges of its Church left much as the war left it in 1918.

Just a day in the Verdun area was not enough to grasp fully the extent and scale of the destruction that two thousand million shells wrought. A new museum helped to bring this home to us and this museum along with the ruined forts that we visited made this both the busiest and the quietest day we had. We all had fairly sombre thoughts as we turned westward on the first leg of our return trip.

Our evenings were spent relaxing—at the fair in Arras—dining out in style at Amiens—after a visit to the cathedral. Indeed after the enormous meals we had at Reims we could do little except relax.

After a week packed full of events the party dispersed somewhat sadly at Newhaven but looking forward to the possibility of a similar trip in the near future.

Library Notes

During the Summer Term C. J. Giles took over from I. R. Fraser as Head Librarian. During his term of office Fraser applied himself to the job with quiet enthusiasm and great efficiency. My thanks go to him for all he did during that time.

At the start of the academic year we managed to recruit some young Librarians so that now we are in the happy position of having more than enough for our purposes. In addition we have gained our first volunteer to do Librarianship for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

It is sad to have to record, however, that although the library is being used quite well, there are still idle fingers at work mutilating and defacing magazines which belong not to an individual but to a community.

During this year we received the following presentation copy, for which we are most grateful:—

“Lloyd's of London” given by J. Mabbitt, Esq.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all the librarians for what they do and, I hope, will continue to do, during the coming year.

Mechanics Club

Despite oil shortages, internal crises and cries of pollution, the internal combustion engine continues to thrive, and an increasing number of small boys have been introduced to the intricacies, mysteries, and horrors of shattered 'big-ends,' bent 'con-rods,' slipping clutches and engines that 'just won't start, sir, sorry.'

Our attempts this year have been a little more constructive than in the past, although the innards of Mr. K. O. Thomson's first car, an elderly Ford, still occupy rather embarrassingly more room than the bonnet permits. Perhaps the greatest achievement to date is the rather intangible one that an increasing number of staff members are tending to entrust us with routine maintenance and servicing. (Fiat brakes did prove to be beyond our scope).

During the year the club has increased its stock of tools substantially, and we now possess a gantry and hoist, so if anyone wants a 24-hour heart transplant in 1974 . . . ?

1973 saw several trips to places of mechanical interest, including the annual pilgrimage to the Earls Court Motor Show. In the coming year it is hoped that the Beaulieu Motor Museum will be visited and that the two vehicles the club possesses will be restored to their former glory.

Sailing Club

This, once again, has been a successful year, blessed by variable winds and boats in good condition. For a change all the boats had a complete refit, which made them all look new, and this needs to happen every winter.

With the hard work of the refit behind us, we started the Summer Term anxious for some good and exciting sailing. We did not have to wait long before strong winds allowed us all to have a great many enjoyable hours sailing.

At the end of the Summer Term the club had its annual expedition up the river to Reading and beyond. This supplied all those who went with a lot of amusement. At one point cows walked through the camp at four in the morning removing one tent en route and setting the captain adrift, so that he floated in his boat down the river while he was still asleep. Everyone enjoyed himself immensely and a record number of boys went, eighteen, in all.

All too soon the Winter Term arrived and the laborious task of refitting the boats started again. The number of sailing dinghies has now been increased from five to nine, and the standard of sailing has risen a lot, due to the keenness of members, who now number fifty, and the new scheme of coaching carried out by the officers of the club, who all worked very hard.

Finally we would like to thank the school, which has started to build up our fleet so that next year we may race other schools on our home stretch of water.

Commodore: R. M. Lee, Esq.
Captain: S. A. E. Wright
Boatswain/Secretary: P. M. Beevers
Boatswain/Treasurer: R. A. Williamson

S. A. E. WRIGHT.

Sixth Form Society

OFFICERS:

President: D. F. K. Welsh, Esq.
Vice-President: D. A. Youngs (1972/73), J. M. P. Clayton (1973/74)
Secretary: M. A. Anderson (1972/73), J. K. Muir (1973/74)

The meeting which promoted the greatest interest in the first half of the year was a talk given by D. Inwood, Esq., once art master here, on the Samaritans. The value of their work was most convincingly expressed in Mr. Inwood's informal but professional manner; several members were prompted to look more deeply into the activities of the organisation; and the Society decided to devote its Speech Day Exhibition to a review of the services given by the Samaritans and similar organisations dealing with Social Welfare in this area. The Exhibition was serious in tone and perhaps too factual. It proved rather difficult to display the material in an exciting manner; but the mere fact of doing the research gave the members a worthwhile experience.

The expeditions on the other hand were both more light-hearted. We went to "Behind the Fridge", a review with Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, and "Absurd Person Singular," a social comedy with Richard Briers and Sheila Hancock. An expedition was also proposed to go to "The Farm" by David Storey. For various reasons this had to be postponed, and may be the object of our expedition next term.

Other speakers in the Spring Term included D. T. Dalzell on the development of Hi-Fi systems, backed up with much electronic equipment, and S. P. Varnals speaking on the related subject of the development of records. I. R. Fraser led a discussion on "The Value of Christianity Today," and other discussions were held on "Violence in the Cinema," and "Censorship."

As usual the climax of the Summer Term was the Society Dinner. Our guest this year was Dennis Moriarty, Esq., Labour candidate elect for Abingdon. Members much appreciated the commonsense and realism of Mr. Moriarty's views, which seemed to make more sense of some of the Labour Party's policies than was sometimes apparent. He addressed the Society with a combination of humour and seriousness, mainly keeping off current political topics, and his talk was very well received.

P. E. L. Hunting, Esq., a life-member of the Society, revisited us twice during the year, first to talk about his experiences among the head-hunters of Sarawak, and then to describe a voice phenomenon, which some experts think to be voices from the dead, in which he is interested. Both talks were fascinating and it was rewarding to witness the diversity of interests of a life-member who had left the School only a year ago. Two other outside speakers visited us in the Autumn, Mrs. Rogers, second mistress of Oxford High School, who had spoken on Russia to us before and was again very interesting, and T. Blanch, Esq., an Oxford undergraduate, describing his work in a Kibbutz. This talk has apparently prompted the Secretary to visit one without delay. J. M. P. Clayton spoke on his recent tour of America, C. Petit on Modern Art, followed the next week by a discussion on this topic, and R. J. Douglas on Farming. The talks this year have without exception been of a higher quality than previously. This is due mainly to the choice of subjects, as boys have picked things they are more intimately acquainted with, but also lectures have been better prepared, and the use of slides and other aids has been made more intelligently.

The Stamp Club

The College Stamp Club have had an interesting season, with visits to Henley, Reading and London.

Reading had a "Great Britain" evening, which appealed to us all and in October the senior members went to a stamp auction, which they much enjoyed and where they did very well.

Henley Stamp Club's "Pot Pourri of Postal History" gave us many new ideas for stamp collecting.

We also went in the school bus to the Seymour Hall Exhibition in October and saw some of the best stamps in the world.

Quite a few members are taking philately for their pursuit in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, from Bronze to Gold level, and progress in this direction is very satisfactory.

I must add how welcome we are at both Reading and Henley Stamp Clubs.

Young Farmers' Club

The Club has had a fairly active year but it has been increasingly difficult to find new things to do. However, with an influx of new young members and a new committee we hope to re-visit many of our old haunts.

Among the popular activities has been clay-pigeon shooting and the

Smithfield Show. We have also visited a cement works, Henley Brewery, A.B.M. Maltings (Wallingford) and many other interesting places.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Hudson for their hospitality during a very hot but pleasant weekend in Essex when we visited Ransomes Ltd. and Fisons Ltd.

The Club would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the retiring committee, T. W. Gore, R. J. Douglas and A. J. B. Clayton for the marvellous job they have done over the past few years.

C.C.F. Notes

Army Section

During the course of the year we welcomed two officers into the contingent, Mr. J. A. Corbett, who has taken command of the Naval Section, and Mr. T. H. Jones, who has joined the Army Section.

We were inspected by the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral J. G. Jungius, who came to the College in an R.A.F. helicopter, which added greatly to the spectacle and, in addition, provided flights over Ship-lake for quite a large number of cadets in the afternoon. Rear Admiral Jungius quite rightly did not think we should have won a prize for our drill during the march past, but was impressed by our other activities, in particular the conduct of the miniature range and the preparation for adventurous training in the Lake District under the aegis of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The Rear Admiral also enjoyed the battle-craft exercise.

The Annual Camp at Nesscliff was again a success, the camp, training areas, and River Severn providing good facilities for a varied programme.

In October 40 cadets visited the Rifle Depot in Winchester. This was our first visit to the Royal Green Jackets since we became affiliated to them. The cadets were taken over the assault course at Chilcomb in the morning and after lunch fired the G.P.M.G., S.L.R. and S.M.G. on Moody Down range.

Best recruit in February was P. M. Beevers and in October N. J. St. Clair.

P. Black attended the Bulford P.T. Leaders course in January and Cpl. D. G. H. Dunbar, now C.S.M., attended the Cadet Training Centre Leadership course at Frimley Park.

Naval Section

This year has been my first association with a Combined Cadet Force, and I must admit after twenty-one years' regular service in the Royal Navy I was a little bit apprehensive about being appointed Officer in Charge of the R.N. Section, particularly as it is a compulsory body. However, were it not compulsory I should hope that many of these cadets would be volunteers for the Naval Section.

In March we had our annual inspection by Rear Admiral Jungius. He landed by helicopter which was exciting for the whole school. It was a beautiful day and some of the cadets were able to have a ten minute joy ride. The inspection report was satisfactory, but the Admiral did emphasise again that the Naval Section must have its own seamanship headquarters. A plan has been put to the Ministry for consideration. The present economic situation permitting, I hope approval will soon be forthcoming. It would be a tremendous boost to morale in the Naval Section.

During the Summer our Field Day was once again spent at *H.M.S. Royal Arthur*, which has always been a popular visit and it was reported in the previous issue of *The Court*. Again we were blessed with excellent weather and despite some very hard work on the obstacle course, everybody thoroughly enjoyed their day.

In October we were extremely lucky to be able to arrange almost a full day at sea in one of the Royal Navy Auxiliary Mine Sweepers *Isis* and in glorious sunshine sailed down the Solent into Southampton harbour and on passage passed various interesting ships including one of the biggest Japanese Oil Tankers. Most cadets were able to take the helm for a short spell and all in all thoroughly enjoyed their day at sea. In the morning we visited the Armament museum at the Royal Navy Armament depot at Gosport. This is a comparatively new venture in the Royal Navy and has only been open for a few years.

During the Summer the *H.M.S. Vernon* Touring Diving team visited the College again and gave an excellent demonstration in the pool. Unfortunately, time did not permit any of the cadets to have a dip in a diving suit.

In July 1973 Coxswain Dalzell left the school, and Coxswain Halcrow took over as the senior naval cadet and is still continuing to do a good job. He completed two courses during 1973, namely diving and rifle range. The following cadets were also able to attend Royal Navy courses:— G. F. Thomas, Diving; C. P. Hayman, Diving; Inglis, Air *aquaint*; S. A. E. Wright and A. J. B. Clayton, Boat Work; C. J. Guinness, Sea Training.

Athletics

Again this year the inter-House Standards and shield were run on the same basis. Burr House won the Standards' Shield in comfort but the inter-House Shield proved a very close finish.

We have now started the A.A.A. 5-Star Award Scheme in which a competitor can gain a certificate and badge for points gained in his age group for three events (two track or one field or vice-versa). There is also a decathlon award for points in all 10 events.

RESULTS:

INTER-HOUSE STANDARDS

1st	Burr	378 pts.	ave. 6.87
2nd	Skipwith	355 pts.	ave. 5.72
3rd	Welsh	312 pts.	ave. 5.50
4th	Everett	302 pts.	ave. 5.11

INTER-HOUSE SHIELD

1st	Everett	210½ pts.
2nd	Skipwith	291½ pts.
3rd	Burr	179 pts.
4th	Welsh	174 pts.

A.A.A. DECATHLON AWARD

Everett -	Alireza, H.	4 Star	U-16
Skipwith -	Mitchell, S. C.	3 Star	U-17
	Shove, M.	4 Star	U-17
	Halbert, R. S.	4 Star	U-17
	Horne, A. D. S.	4 Star	U-15
Burr- -	Duckering, R. R.	4 Star	U-16
	Gilbert-Scott, A. M.	3 Star	U-16
	Marsh, T. J. B.	4 Star	U-15
Welsh -	Beak, S. R.	4 Star	U-16

Basket Ball

Quite a number of boys have always been interested in Basketball, and over the past years we have often played the odd friendly games against other schools, but this year we have joined the Under-16 Oxfordshire Schools' Basketball League and to date have played two games:

Shiplake v. Ickfield School	Won 22—16
Shiplake v. Chiltern Edge	Won 25—12.

Next term we also hope to have an Under-14 team, and the Summer Term will see the start of an Inter-House Basketball Competition, which will be played out of doors, on the main Tennis Court.



Boat Club

This year four eights and several fours, both senior and junior, boated regularly, and it proved to be the most notable year of success for the Club and crews involved.

In the Spring Term the 1st VIII won the Gloucester Youth Head and the Reading University Head of River. The 2nd VIII won the Reading Schools' Head of the River. The Under-15's came first in their class at the Reading School's mini Head of River. The 1st IV won the School's Pennant at Henley fours Head.

In the Summer Term all the crews took part in many regattas around the country and the standard of rowing in the school has greatly improved as a result.

The 1st VIII unfortunately were beaten by Hampton G.S. in the finals at their first regatta at Wallingford. At Reading Amateur Regatta they beat Isis B.C. in the finals to win Senior 'C'. At Marlow Regatta they were beaten in the semi-finals by Bedford School. In the Senior 'B' section they beat Twickenham in the finals.

The 2nd VIII were successful at Chiswick and were the first 2nd VIII to win in the school's history. At other regattas there were some very exciting finishes for the Colts and Junior crews but unfortunately no clear wins.

The highlight of the season came at Henley Royal Regatta in the Princess Elizabeth Cup for which our 1st VIII was entered, and where they had a bye through to the second round. In this they beat Hampton Grammar School by two-thirds of a length, with almost the whole of Shiplake cheering them on. In the quarter-finals, on a day memorable for its wetness, they lost to T.C. Williams' High School from America.

Five pairs were entered at Reading Town Regatta of which two got through to the final. The sculling event at the regatta was won by M. D. A. Carmichael. The first two crews were as follows:—

1st VIII		2nd VIII	
Bow	A. Rant	Bow	A. J. B. Clayton
2	I. Cruickshank	2	D. N. V. Barnes
3	S. P. Varnals	3	P. R. Moon
4	M. Pike	4	J. G. Skipper
5	S. Weller	5	R. L. Cole
6	M. D. A. Carmichael	6	C. C. Nixon
7	G. F. Thomas	7	A. H. M. Burghes
Str.	D. T. Dalzell	Str.	J. J. Humphrey
Cox	D. Tchang	Cox	G. Forrester
Coach	S. C. Oxlade, Esq.	Coach	T. H. Jones, Esq.

Cricket Club

We have reached a stage when several senior boys are leaving after providing the backbone of the senior teams for the past two or three years. It seems, therefore, to be an appropriate moment to ruminate about the fortunes and prospects of Cricket at Shiplake.

The untimely efflux of so many senior cricketers will obviously impose a strain on the younger members next season. However, this is a cyclical problem, which has always been overcome in the past. The 1st and 2nd XI's next season will be young, but will form the nucleus of a strong senior squad in the following season. The most encouraging aspect of Shiplake Cricket at the moment is the number of cricketers in the lower part of the school, and there are indications that the quality and enthusiasm of those players will provide some good senior players in the future. The overall increase in numbers in the school may well mean that we shall not suffer from a drop in numbers of senior players every three or four years.

The quality of fixtures has also improved in recent year. The 1st XI already plays the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, and hopes to play the Berkshire Gentlemen in addition next season. The addition of more club sides to our fixture list will partially overcome one of the major problems that have been facing us. Generally speaking, we have produced teams that have been too strong for schools of comparable size, and yet we are obviously not strong enough to meet schools like Abingdon and Radley on equal terms. Matches against 2nd or "A" XI's are not always satisfactory tests. This is mainly a problem at 1st XI level, whereas the Junior teams are able to do more than hold their own.

So much for fixtures. The development of the Cricket Club may be seen in other directions. The increased numbers have led to the laying of new Junior Nets and the building of a new Junior Scorebox, and next season will see the addition of a new Senior Scorebox to the Main Field. The seniors now have good sight-screens and the Junior field will also have improved sight-screens for next season. Mr. Graham Wiltshire, the Gloucestershire County coach, paid us a visit and spent two days coaching seniors and juniors. He then brought a junior county side to play against a Shiplake Past and Present XI. It is to be hoped that he will return next year for a weekend of coaching.

The improved quality of the younger players augurs well for the future, but that potential must be exploited not only by experience in a large number of inter-school matches, but also by good and systematic coaching throughout the school. We are fortunate in having several members of staff who, despite other commitments, have given much of their time to coaching. However, it is vital that the Cricket Club should have full-time coaches, who can ensure the proper development of skills and talent, because only in that way will it be possible for the standard of cricket at Shiplake to develop as it has done in recent years.

1st XI

Played: 10 Won 4 Lost: 5 Drawn 1

I said that last season was "a season of contrasts;" the contrasts in this season followed much the same pattern as last. Batting was again a major weakness, with only two players averaging over 20. Once again there was a failure to deal with the bad ball and too many wickets were thrown away by a moment's indecision or carelessness. The loss of early batsmen seemed to convince the remainder that runs were impossible to acquire. Too many times a promising beginning did not develop into a sound innings. However, the figures do not tell the whole story. They hide superb fielding performances, occasional sound innings and spells of consistent and often penetrative bowling. The figures do show that the side scored more than a hundred on only two occasions, and it is a great disappointment when a potentially able team fails to fulfil its true potential.

It would perhaps be undesirable to analyse too closely the reasons behind the failures. All sides need an element of luck, but application, concentration and ability have a more important part to play. These latter qualities were not lacking, but they were not always apparent. A careless stroke, a dropped catch, a loose over—all of these may lead to defeat and this year's team contributed to its own downfall by such lapses at critical moments.

In recalling the events of a season it is best not to dwell on the poor aspects and this is especially true of this season when the good points did in fact outweigh the bad. Three hundred and fifty eight runs were scored in the match with the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, the school losing

by only ten runs. At one point the S.O.A. were 133 for 2, but keen fielding and continuous pressure reduced them to 184 all out. Good innings by A. D. Gordon and A. C. Packer brought the school within sight of victory, only to have it snatched from their hands by an unnecessary run-out. Other highlights included Packer's bowling against Bearwood and J. D. Eggar's XI, and A. D. Gordon's innings against the O.V.S. (Why he waited until his last match for the school before scoring his first fifty I shall never know!)

The senior players lacked consistency with the bat and the failure of our opening pair led to a reshuffle in the batting order with J. M. P. Clayton and M. V. Patterson opening for the last few matches. Neither would pretend to be an opening batsman, but both played carefully and smote the bad ball with relish on occasions. Packer allowed his impetuosity to get the better of him and he never really produced an innings worthy of his ability. Gordon was perhaps the most improved player in the side, producing several controlled innings when they were most needed and also proving to be a useful asset as an off-break bowler. It is rumoured that he even caught a ball in the slips. Of the other senior players, E. K. L. Thong played well on occasions, although several seasons in the senior side seemed to have lessened his ability to maintain line and length for over after over. The averages at the end of this report show how valuable he was when someone was needed to keep the runs down.

S. C. Mitchell and D. A. Youngs, sadly, failed to produce good innings, but the former has another season in which to score the runs which have so far eluded him and his fielding is always sound. Three players who will also be here next season are J. B. Hutton, S. J. Low and H. Alireza, and they will be useful assets.

If batting was the weakness of the side, then the bowling was certainly the strength, and it was also matched by the fielding. For once this was a side that put the pressure on incoming batsmen and rarely allowed them to feel that that pressure had been relaxed. Few catches were dropped and there was a noticeable improvement in the throwing as the season progressed. Packer and Patterson were once again a strong opening pair, and they were ably supported by Thong and Gordon. Of the three hundred and seventy or so overs that were bowled, these four bowled all but fifteen. They always did what was required of them, but since all four are leaving, it means that next year's team will have only one player who has bowled for the 1st XI and that only for six overs.

Packer was a captain who had the respect of the side and was determined to win. This determination conveyed itself to the rest of the team and was especially valuable when they were up against it. It was only on occasions that he allowed lack of success to dampen his enthusiasm. Once again he was an outstanding fielder in a side outstanding for its fielding, and he again represented the Berkshire Schools XI at the end of term. Although most of the senior players will not be with us next season, there will be seven players who have had experience of 1st XI cricket and much will be expected of them. They will be joined by some members of this year's Junior Colts who have shown that they have some potential.

The following were re-awarded their Full Colours:—A. C. Packer, M. V. Patterson, E. K. L. Thong and A. D. Gordon.

The following were awarded their Full Colours:—J. M. P. Clayton and S. C. Mitchell.

The following were awarded their Half Colours:—S. J. Low and R. Parkinson.

The Todd Trophy for all-round contribution to the Cricket Club was awarded to A. C. Packer.

The regular members of the XI were:—A. C. Packer, A. D. Gordon, E. K. L. Thong, S. C. Mitchell, M. V. Patterson, S. J. Low, R. Parkinson, J. M. P. Clayton and D. A. Youngs.

Also played:—H. Alireza, J. Malby, A. Hopkin and J. B. Hutton.

RESULTS:

- May 9th. v. Reading School. Home. Match drawn.
Reading 123 for 7 dec. (Gordon 4 for 46).
Shiplake 66 for 9.
- May 12th. v. J. D. Eggar's XI. Home. Lost by 2 wickets.
Shiplake 69 all out.
J. D. Eggar's XI 70 for 8.
- May 19th. v. Bearwood College. Home. Won by 5 wickets.
Bearwood 52 all out. (Packer 4 for 19).
Shiplake 56 for 5.
- May 30th. v. Redrice School. Away. Lost by 10 runs.
Redrice 73 all out. (Patterson 4 for 20).
Shiplake 63 all out.
- June 3rd. v. South Oxfordshire Amateurs. Home. Lost by 10 runs.
S.O.A.'s 184 all out. (Packer 5 for 68, Thong 4 for 54).
Shiplake 174 all out. (Gordon 45, Packer 53).
- June 16th. v. Abingdon School 2nd XI. Home. Wom by 9 wickets.
Abingdon 74 all out. (Packer 6 for 17).
Shiplake 78 for 1. (Clayton 44 not out)
- June 26th. v. Lcrrd Wandsworth College. Away. Won by 69 runs.
Shiplake 127 for 7 dec. (Gordon 36, Packer 25).
Lord Wandsworth College 58 all out. (Packer 5 for 16).
- June 29th. v. Ridley College, Canada. Home. Lost by 129 runs.
Ridley College 181 for 9 dec.
Shiplake 52 all out.
- July 4th. v. Olympia Viborg, Denmark. Home. Won by 8 wickets.
Olympia 68 all out. (Packer 5 for 21).
Shiplake 72 for 2.
- July 8th. v. Old Vikings Society. Home. Lost by 27 runs.
O.V.S. 111 all out. (Packer 5 for 25).
Shiplake 84. (Gordon 50 not out).

1st XI AVERAGES:

BATTING

	No. of Inns.	Not out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
A. D. Gordon	9	2	192	50*	23.14
A. C. Packer	9	1	173	53	21.62
J. M. P. Clayton	9	3	91	44*	15.16

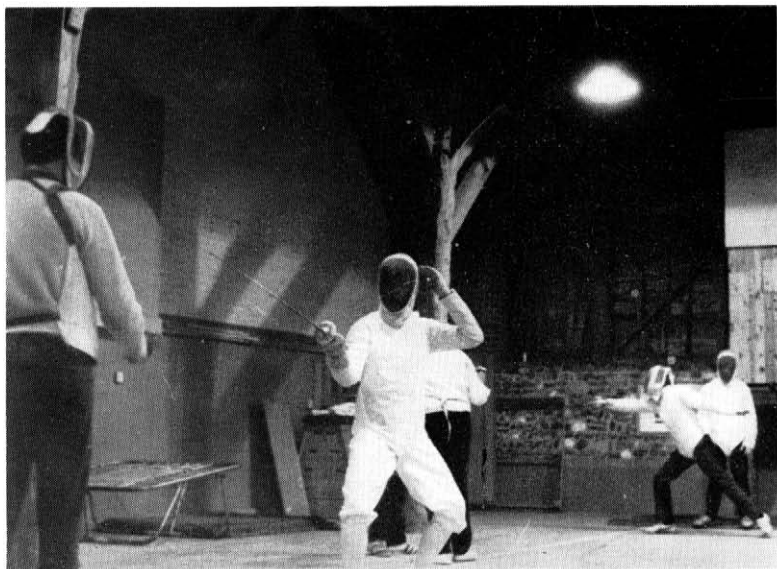
BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
A. C. Packer	143.4	41	295	41	7.2
E. K. L. Thong	106.3	42	197	23	8.56
A. D. Gordon	31.0	6	99	9	11.0
M. V. Patterson	83.5	24	203	14	14.5
Also Bowled:—					
R. Parkinson	9.0	0	31	0	
S. J. Low	6.0	0	45	0	

Under-15 and Under-14 XIs

The Under-15 side, captained by H. Alireza, had a disappointing season. Reinforced by several Under-14 players, notably A. D. S. Horne and N. D. Cornell, they never achieved the results of which they were capable. The batting should have been strong, but there were no consistent scores from last year's players, who should have produced totals which would have given the bowlers a real chance. Cornell bowled well on occasions and N. J. St. Clair and J. N. Weston were inexperienced spinners who looked dangerous at moments. The fielding was an improvement on that of last year, and R. P. Middleton was a safe wicket-keeper.

The Under-14 side, captained by Horne, was greatly heartened by its success in the first round of the Knock-Out Competition; apart from that, the results were mediocre. Horne batted with some power and Cornell played sensibly in support, but too few runs came from the others. The bowling was respectable, but needed better fielding to produce results.



Fencing Club

This time last year the club had sixteen members but this total has slumped to six. This is a great pity because the fees are only £3 per term for a two hours' session each Tuesday.

Awards gained—

A.F.A. Silver: W. Harvey, N. J. St. Clair.

A.F.A. Bronze: R. G. Simpson

Next term will see a new Captain of Fencing, St. Clair. The Club would like to thank D. G. H. Dunbar, who has carried out the duties of captain for the past year, for all the very hard work he has put in and hope he will sometimes look in on his way to the river.

Football Club

The Winter Term is always an uneventful term for the football club. In particular the club has suffered from the absence of G. Welbrock-Smith and D. Argenti, who previously had a very positive influence on the club. Mr. E. L. Kilty, however, has greatly contributed in helping us through this period and has acted as a very competent liaison man in expressing the club's views to the headmaster and selected members of staff.

Although we regret having lost so many influential and skilful players last year, we are very pleased to welcome the many new members we have gained this term. It is a pleasure to see young talented boys like M. J. Peaty, P. L. S. Norris, C. Allum, A. Porter and G. Blyth already making their presence felt.

The test for them, however, and all the other members of the club lies in the Spring Term. It is in the Spring Term that the club plans a further expansion. Previously the club had only a senior team and two matches in the space of a year for juniors. Now there are three teams, under-14, under-16 and 1st, all with a similar number of fixtures. The under-14 team has been established because of the enthusiasm of a large number of 3rd Formers and the will of the club to respond justly.

The Spring Term also sees the return of the Inter-House Competition. This year the competition takes the form of a league and although in the past two years Skipwith have had rather easy victories, I think this year all four houses are in with a serious chance of success. To mark the occasion and because of an increased number of matches, we are having new goal-posts and goal-netting.

The final new ordeal which we are to tackle is a five-a-side match so that some of us will have the experience of this and to put forward opinions as to whether it is worthwhile pursuing this type of football any further in the near future.

P. J. BRADSHAW, *Hon. Secretary.*

Hockey Club

1st XI

This was a mixed season, although the standard of hockey played was generally high. After a slow start the team was undefeated in the second half of the season, until the climax of the match against the Masters' Common Room XI, when 80 per cent of the pressure yielded only one goal against the Masters' two. After an initial victory against a strong Reading side, we came up against a good R.G.S. High Wycombe side, who had the advantage of two terms' hockey and far more boys to choose from. The game against Radley College 2nd XI was exciting and also gave food

for thought. Once again an attempt to play 4-2-4 had resulted in the defence giving away several goals. We reverted to our usual method of play for the next match, which was a new fixture against a Hockey Association XI. I feel that the final score of 0—6 flattered the opposition and the 1st XI played some very attractive hockey. Of the other matches, perhaps the best performance was against Reeds School when the team again played good hockey and were far faster to the ball than the opponents.

Although hockey is, perhaps more than most other sports, a team sport, it would not be amiss to mention several players individually, because all produced fine individual performances on occasions. M. A. Anderson in goal improved noticeably as the season progressed and produced some fine saves in the latter half of the season. The backs, M. Guillaume and G. Welbrock-Smith, were both sound when coming forward and both initiated attacks by good distribution. Their weakness was revealed when they had to turn and chase opponents, when one felt that they became more interested in the man than the ball.

For the second season running the strength of the side lay in the halves, all of whom were good enough to play for the Berkshire Schools' side. As it was, only the captain, E. K. L. Thong, was able to play, but it is to be hoped that next season's captain, S. C. Mitchell, will be available, because he must be one of the best schoolboy players in the area. With M. V. Patterson, the other half, they were usually sound in defence and were quick to turn defence into attack. Only against the Hockey Association and R.G.S. High Wycombe did they surrender control of the mid-field and then not without a struggle.

The two wingers, D. Argenti and D. J. Nops, were both fast and their control had developed from the previous season. It is a pity that their final crosses were not as accurate as they could have been. Once again we used our inside-forwards as the main links between the forwards and the backs. This meant that they had to get through a good deal of work and both A. D. Gordon and D. A. Youngs did just this. Finally, J. M. P. Clayton, at centre-forward, scored some vital goals, especially against Radley, and his determination was a factor that was instrumental in leading to other goals.

Regular members of the XI were:—M. A. Anderson, G. Welbrock-Smith, M. Guillaume, E. K. L. Thong (Capt.), S. C. Mitchell, M. V. Patterson, D. Argenti, A. D. Gordon, J. M. P. Clayton, D. A. Youngs, and D. J. Nops.

Also played:—A. C. Packer and J. Cozens.

Full Colours were re-awarded to:—E. K. L. Thong, M. V. Patterson, M. Guillaume, A. D. Gordon and S. C. Mitchell.

Full Colours were awarded to:—J. M. P. Clayton, D. A. Youngs, D. Argenti and G. Welbrock-Smith.

Half Colours were awarded to:—D. J. Nops and M. A. Anderson.

RESULTS:

Jan. 24th	v.	Reading School	Home	Won	1—0
Jan. 27th	v.	R.G.S. High Wycombe	Home	Lost	0—5
Feb. 3rd	v.	Radley College 2nd XI	Away	Drew	4—4
Feb. 21st	v.	Hockey Association XI	Home	Lost	0—6
Feb. 22nd	v.	Lord Wandsworth's College	Home	Won	2—0
Feb. 24th	v.	Reed's School 2nd XI	Away	Won	6—0
Mar. 1st	v.	St. Edward's School 2nd XI	Home	Drew	2—2
Mar. 11th	v.	Old Vikings' Society XI	Home	Won	2—0
Mar. 15th	v.	Masters' Common Room	Home	Lost	1—2

2nd XI

This was a team that set out to enjoy its hockey and try to play good hockey as well. They were largely successful in achieving both these aims. Only on one occasion were they heavily defeated, but they more than made up for this as the final results show, with five victories, four defeats and one match drawn, and replying to eighteen goals by scoring twenty-six. It was the emphasis on attacking hockey that was most pleasing, since goals seem to be missing from the modern game. The forwards made up in speed what they lacked in skill, although the latter was increasing noticeably towards the end of the season. The defence was a little slow in turning defence to attack, and it was lack of control over the mid-field that led to the defeats. However, the team contained some young players who will be useful assets in next season's senior teams.

The team was selected from the following: A. C. Packer (capt.), N. Jumat, M. A. Alireza, P. J. Jackson, C. Petit, J. Cozens, S. J. Low, J. B. Hutton, S. Akhavan, R. S. Halbert, H. Alireza, M. Shove, A. Hopkin and C. Dean.

Half Colours were awarded to:—A. C. Packer.

2nd XI Colours were awarded to:—J. Cozens, N. Jumat and M. A. Alireza.

RESULTS:

Jan. 18th	v.	'A' XI v. Crookham Court 1st XI	Home	Won.	5—1
Jan. 24th	v.	Reading School	Home	Lost	2—3
Feb. 3rd	v.	Radley College 3rd XI	Away	Lost	2—3
Feb. 21st	v.	Reading Bluecoats 1st XI	Home	Drew	1—1
Feb. 22nd	v.	Lord Wandsworth's College	Away	Won	2—0
Feb. 24th	v.	Reed's School 3rd XI	Away	Won	2—0
Feb. 28th	v.	'A' XI v. High Wycombe College of Tech. & Art	Home	Lost	1—3
Mar. 1st	v.	St. Edward's School 3rd XI	Home	Lost	1—5
Mar. 11th	v.	Old Vikings' Society XI	Home	Won	3—1
Mar. 21st	v.	The Oratory School 1st XI	Home	Won	7—1

Junior Colts XI

An unbeaten record was maintained against some strong opposition. The defence was sound under pressure, although slow, at times, to react to an obvious threat. P. Carter was very sound in goal; the remainder all did their bit, but often found difficulty in linking with the forwards to turn defence to attack. The forwards could mount dangerous attacks,

with H. Alireza outstanding in his ball control, but their finishing was often uncertain.

The team was:—S. S. Barnes (Capt.), H. Alireza, P. C. M. Aylwin, J. B. Hutton, J. H. Malby, C. R. Duesbury, P. Carter, N. J. Woolf, P. M. Beevers, R. R. Duckering and B. Brandreth.

RESULTS:

v. Crookham Court	Home	Won 8—0
v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Home	Won 2—0
v. Lord Wandsworth's College	Away	Won 2—1
v. Reading School	Home	Won 2—0
v. Pangbourne College	Away	Drew 2—2

Under-14 XI

The Under-14 XI developed steadily throughout the term to counter indifferent and unlucky performances with two resounding victories. Spasmodic individual play gradually gave way to the integrated drills and discipline of the whole team and, ultimately, the team deserved success.

D. S. Beevers played a prominent part as Captain and centre-half and N. Halit demonstrated much courage and technical ability in goal; indeed he continually thwarted the most resourceful forwards. J. N. Weston's talent was also conspicuous on the wing and A. D. S. Horne proved himself an effective, thrusting forward.

I enjoyed coaching the side immensely and success at the end of the term compensated for the rather diffident performances early on.

RESULTS:

v. St. Piran's	Away	Lost 0—2
v. Lord Wandsworth's College	Away	Drew 1—1
v. Reed's School	Away	Lost 0—9
v. Reading School	Home	Lost 0—2
v. Pangbourne College	Home	Lost 0—1
v. Gillott's School	Home	Won 5—0
v. R.G.S. High Wycombe	Home	Won 3—0

Lawn Tennis Club

The Lawn Tennis Club had 64 full-time players on its lists this season, and many other part-time players, but even so the more talented ball-game players seem to make their way into the Cricket XI, and can find little time to improve their tennis. We were lucky therefore to have our secretary, R. J. Douglas, free from rowing but in general our 1st VI did not look very promising on paper. We felt it wise to arrange only four fixtures, omitting previous fixtures against very much stronger schools. That the 1st VI won three and lost only one was far from disappointing.

The following represented the School: A. C. Packer (Capt.), R. J. Douglas (Secretary), C. Petit, D. Argenti, M. H. M. Hodson, R. Hancock. 1st Colours were awarded to Douglas, Petit and Argenti.

Results were as follows:—

v. Pangbourne College	Lost 2—7
v. Reading School	Won 5—4
v. Lord Wandsworth's College	Won 6—3
v. Bearwood	Won 5—4

We had similar trouble with the Juniors as most members of the tennis team were also cricketers. When we had a full team it had a great deal of potential but only Hancock and Barkman represented us with any degree of regularity. The Under-16 won two and lost two of their matches.

The Senior House Matches were won by Everett, whose two singles players, Packer and Douglas, were superior to any opposition that any other House could raise. M. V. Patterson and I. R. Parkinson completed the team. The runners-up were Burr, with M. A. Alireza, N. Jumat, W. B. Henry and G. R. G. Cooper. The Junior House matches were won by Burr, with S. J. Low, J. B. Hutton, P. T. Bradshaw and D. S. Hall. Runners-up were Everett, with H. Alireza, R. Hopper, H. Roszel and Y. Fujii.

There was again a staff and boys partnership tournament, which attracted many faces not usually seen on the courts, but did not I think reveal much latent talent among the staff. The winners were one of the few all-boy pairs, M. Shove and R. S. Halbert.

The School again entered the Boys' Schools Tournament played at Wimbledon. Packer and Douglas got through the first round, but in the second round met Colts School and Packer was beaten by a boy in the England team and Douglas was also outclassed.

This year the Old Vikings sent a team of four to play on Speech Day morning. To the strains of the Blue Danube, the OV first pair, A. G. Dean and S. J. Wellby beat the School 1st pair, but A. G. Ridell and M. D. Lloyd capitulated on the other court.

Rugby Club

This has been a good season for Shiplake Rugby with notable performances by the various teams; in particular, the 1st XV has achieved its best record for five years and the Under-15 XV has even improved upon last year's admirable success.

The Varsity Match outing on December 11th was enjoyed by the majority of the ninety present, and an ostensibly unimaginative evaluation of their opponents' strength by both sides eventually exploded into a memorable crescendo.

Old Vikings' Rugby goes from strength to strength as the results prove, and on December 9th Shiplake Past and Present outplayed a few veterans and others with a magnificent display of running rugby.

I am pleased to be able to report once more that Shiplake boys have been selected for the Oxfordshire Under-19 Group, for on December 17th S. C. Mitchell and T. W. Gore represented the County v. Berkshire. I hope that this representation will become an annual feature of the Club,

particularly now that Ian Baldry, a former 1st XV captain and county player, has presented a magnificent Viking Ship to be awarded to boys who achieve this distinction.

SPECIAL RESULTS:

Home	Old Vikings 22, Bearwood Old Royals 10.
Away	Old Vikings 11, Bearwood Old Royals 16.
Home	Old Vikings 9, Henley R.F.C. 'A' XV 4
Home	Shiplake Past & Present 38, R. A. Esau's XV 18

1st XV

Intensive coaching in the fundamentals did not prevent a poor start to the season and the 18—0 defeat by an efficient but unimaginative Pangbourne 2nd XV was desperately disappointing.

This match was followed by a scrappy, experimental affair against Radley, which at least introduced the striking power of M. Shove on the left wing.

The third match gave us our first victory over Redrice for four years. Shove scored two tries this day and secured his place for the term.

The team had no chance of winning the encounter against Abingdon 2nd XV owing to the referee's interpretation of the laws, which differed from that of our 1st XV, who also looked to have scored two sound tries, only to have them disallowed.

It had by now become very difficult to defeat the Old Vikings and indeed an enthralling struggle culminated in a narrow victory to them.

In the build-up to the match v. Lord Wandsworth's College, J. M. P. Clayton wrenched his knee in training. On account of this injury, he missed two matches and hobbled off in three others; gone also was his chance of an England schoolboys' trial on December 27th.

The only bright side of this sorrow was that a place was created for the fast-improving N. J. S. Brown at flank-forward. Brown played with such resolution and growing skill when called upon that he eventually stole the place of R. S. Halbert, who did not maintain the sharpness of his early season performances.

There was also a change at full-back where C. Petit had proved himself rugged but erratic in the early matches and his place was now taken by D. J. Nops, who played the game of his life, kicking two magnificent conversions.

With Clayton on the touch-line at Lord Wandsworth's and eight points against us in five minutes, I was beginning to shuffle with embarrassment when the three-quarters twice combined with consummate skill to even the score. In the second half, the team matched its opponents try for try with S. C. Mitchell in particular, and T. W. Gore, A. H. M. Burghes, W. Yeung and N. Jumat playing heroically. H. Alireza scored a try of sheer brilliance from his own twenty-five yard line and Gore plunged over for his one score of the season.

An absolutely thrilling contest ended in a Shiplake triumph by 20—18 and we had won our first ever victory over Lord Wandsworth's College at senior level.

The match against Bearwood, which followed half-term, provided one of the highlights of the season. By half-time, Bearwood were leading 10—4, a lead established completely against the run of play with two breakaway tries. In the second half, Nops kicked a penalty and Shove combined with Mitchell to score a good try. With four minutes to play, we were leading by 11—10 when Bearwood were awarded a penalty, and the goal which followed its successful conversion was a flattering gratuity to lucky opponents.

Two hard-earned victories over Ranelagh School and Newbury R.F.C. Schools' XV followed this match, and with the younger players, S. S. Barnes, R. R. Duckering, M. Barclay, Shove, Alireza and Brown, developing daily under the wing of their seniors, success against the unbeaten Henley Grammar School XV should have been possible. Moreover by this stage of term, J. A. N. Russell had developed his game at scrum-half and Jumat and Douglas had won their colours; so too had Yeung, whose scrummaging and foraging were excellent.

But at Henley everything went wrong. Within minutes, two tries had been given away because of unforced errors in defence, and the absence of Burghes precluded a supply of ball in the set pieces.

After a week of reappraisal and intensive reconditioning, fifty points were scored against Theale, lifting morale for the important encounter with Reed's.

We have suffered peremptory defeats at the hands of Reed's for several years and it is a pity, therefore, that our spectators could not share my excitement as I watched Shiplake leading them by 6—4 with five minutes to go until half-time, and, moreover, beating them in every phase of the game.

J. B. Hutton made a highly promising debut at full-back in this match and I think it is also appropriate to mention that Mitchell scored our points in a manner which epitomised his vast contribution to Shiplake rugby, both courageous and skilful.

Fortune eventually swayed against us at Reed's, but remembering what Eugene Kilty has taught me, that winning isn't everything, I felt immensely proud of the 1st XV and their fine captain, for in my five years of Shiplake 1st XV rugby never has a team played better.

RESULTS:

Home	v.	Pangbourne College 2nd XV	Lost	0—18
Home		'A' XV v. Radley College 3rd XV	Won	14—13
Home	v.	Redrice School 1st XV	Won	23—6
Away	v.	Abingdon School 2nd XV	Lost	8—27
Home	v.	Old Viking's XV	Lost	12—15
Away	v.	Lord Wandsworth's College 'A' XV	Won	20—18
Home	v.	Bearwood College 1st XV	Lost	11—19
Away	v.	Ranelagh School 1st XV	Won	15—0
Home	v.	Newbury R.F.C. Schools' XV	Won	25—6
Away	v.	Henley Grammar School 1st XV	Lost	10—36
Home	v.	Theale Green School 1st XV	Won	50—3
Away	v.	Reed's School, Cobham, 1st XV	Lost	6—22

Played: 12 Won: 6 Lost: 6 Points for: 194 Against: 183

2nd XV

"A team is as good as its reserves" to quote Don Revie and R. A. Esau. The second fifteen have been required to provide fit and match-practised substitutes for the 1st XV throughout the season. In this they have succeeded.

They have also been worthy sparring partners for regular members of the 1st XV in many a memorable struggle. This, I would like to feel, also contributed to the 1st XV's successful season.

Their own results were a little disappointing but their one victory is not a fair reflection of the effort made. Their captain, J. K. Muir, never tired in his encouragement and example, always giving a solid performance, as did the rest of the front row—J. P. Dudgeon and R. D. Lear—who fared well against often much heavier opposition. G. R. G. Cooper and F. G. A. Lambert were the regular second row and developed as the term progressed. The back row of P. Carter, P. C. M. Aylwin, M. T. Adams and later the promising C. R. Duesbury were always spirited and keen. N. J. S. Brown began the season as scrum-half but soon filled that position in the 1st XV and Adams deputised very well. S. J. Low looked very promising early on, but was dogged with injury and P. T. Bradshaw stepped in for most of the season. C. Dean and I. F. Zihni proved to be a good combination in the centre and C. Petit tackled ferociously on the wing as did P. K. T. Armstrong until injured mid-way through the season. J. B. Hutton was a very capable full-back and always gave a sound performance, finishing the season with a well-earned game for the 1st XV. D. H. Davies, who played in the last two matches, looked a very promising player for the future.

Finally, the 2nd XV have enjoyed their rugby, which, after all, is the object of the exercise.

Colts XV

The Colts game as always was a useful training ground for the two senior school teams in 1973. This function, while being one of its most important, was somewhat exacting when the remainder were required to field a side against schools with a larger section of eligible boys from which to choose one or more Colts sides. However, the full Under-16 side was fielded on occasions and our opponents were usually outclassed by the play of experienced colts from the School's senior games.

An advantage of the system may be that people who might otherwise not have a chance to play for the school do get an opportunity to shine. This would be even more of an advantage if this side would believe in themselves as much as the full Under-16 side does.

Those who played for School:—R. M. Hopper, J. W. Trenchard, M. R. T. Bogren, Y. Fujii, C. P. Hayman, C. R. Duesbury, D. W. Thurlbeck, A. H. H. T. Drummond, W. R. C. Watson, P. S. R. Adams, G. J. Richards, D. H. Davies, S. Launchbury, S. P. Minchin, P. Carter, N. T. S. Brown, H. Alireza, S. S. Barnes, R. R. Duckierng, J. B. Hutton, P. T. Bradshaw, J. H. Malby and W. J. R. Pipe.

Junior Colts XV

Once again it is pleasing to be able to report that this was a very successful season and in almost all respects it was more successful than last season. This year's team lost the first match mainly because of lack of preparation, and of the other two defeats suffice it to say that one was beyond the control of the players and the other was a creditable performance against the best Under-15 players of two schools combined.

This was a team that wanted to play rugby and, when it came up against schools with similar intentions, the standard of play was very high for a junior level. The ball was run in almost every conceivable situation, often to the obvious dismay of the coach. The pack played together as a unit, both in attack and in defence. Some have said that the team's success was directly attributable to the strength of the pack, but a team that concedes only 58 points must have had good three-quarters. Although not a large pack, their improved technique in the tight meant that ball was won against far heavier packs, and their rucking and mauling improved as the season progressed. It was good to see them look for the ball when entering the ruck and to see them remain on their feet. This gave the three-quarters good second-phase possession in attacking positions. A. Newman was a tower of strength in the loose, although he had a tendency to hold on to the ball too long in the belief that he could make it alone. The other prop, N. J. St. Clair, was good in the tight and was often to be seen covering well in defence. S. D. Bown at hooker was a little slow in striking, but he improved during the season and his loose play was invaluable. The second row of N. Halit and D. S. Hall were a useful combination in the tight and both covered well in defence. The back row was a young one, with A. V. Porter and S. Jaconelli still under 14, and they not only countered opponents' moves quickly and effectively, but also set up good counter-attacks. A. D. S. Horne, at flanker, was especially useful in the latter respect.

A good pack is fortunate if it has a good scrum-half behind it, and this year's scrum-half, I. Mainwaring, would have been a useful asset in any side. He seemed to know instinctively when to hold and when to give the ball, and his breaks from the base of the scrum resulted in several tries either by him or by the back row support. He also kicked intelligently when the need arose. R. M. Kingston played at fly-half and developed as a player very quickly. He has a good pair of hands and tackled well in defence. If he had one fault, it was to delay his pass for a little too long. The centres, R. T. Simpson and D. Carey, both played well on occasions, although the former seemed to have lost some of his acceleration when he returned after injury. The wingers, chosen from J. R. Hardy, R. J. Neville, B. D. Hawkins and J. R. D. Middleton-Stewart, were rarely able to show their pace, but it was pleasing to be able to choose players who were able to complete a three-quarter line, all of whom tackled. Middleton-Stewart was full-back for the first part of the season and he tackled well when the need arose. I. Jackson-Moore took over his role at the end of the season

and despite his lack of inches he managed to stop almost anyone who came his way.

A successful side is not always a good side, but this was the best Junior side I have coached in five years at Shiplake, and it was also the most enjoyable side to coach. Almost without exception, they responded well to training and they mastered a complicated set of planned moves from different positions. It was good to see everyone tackling and the pack handling the ball like three-quarters. There were inevitable weaknesses, but most of these were overcome. There was still a lack of control of the ball in the line-outs at the end of the season, and the pack as a whole had a tendency to keep the ball to themselves, thereby denying the three-quarters adequate chances to develop as they might have done.

Finally, a word about training. We have never had big players and so we have always had to concentrate on fitness and technique.

If we are to produce winning teams and good team players in the future, it is essential that we continue to train and practise hard, whilst still having due regard for the youth of the players. Any side that practises as hard and trains as willingly as this one will be well on its way to achieving success and, perhaps as important, to obtaining greater satisfaction from the rugby.

Junior Colts' Colours were awarded to:—D. Hall, A. Newman, N. St. Clair, S. D. Bown, A. Horne, I. Mainwaring, R. M. Kingston, R. Simpson and D. Carey.

The team was selected from: R. J. Neville, I. Jackson Moore, D. P. Carey, R. T. Simpson, B. D. Hawkins, R. M. Kingston, I. Mainwaring, N. J. St. Clair, S. D. Bown, A. Newman, D. S. Hall (Capt.), N. Halit, A. V. Porter, S. Jaconelli, A. D. S. Horne and J. R. Hardy.

Also played:—A. J. Langguth, T. J. V. Marsh, P. J. Causton and J. D. Nonoo.

RESULTS:

Sat.	Sept. 22nd	v.	Pangbourne College	Away	Lost	15—24					
Tues.	Sept. 25th	v.	Reading School 2nd XV	Home	Won	42—0					
Sat.	Oct. 6th		'B' XV v. Cokethorpe School	Home	Won	42—0					
Tues.	Oct. 23rd	v.	Lord Wandsworth's College	Home	Won	9—0					
Sat.	Nov. 10th	v.	Bearwood College	Away	Lost	8—14					
Sat.	Nov. 17th	v.	Reading Blue Coat School	Away	Won	20—0					
Tues.	Nov. 20th	v.	Wellington College	Home	Won	20—0					
Thurs.	Nov. 29th	v.	Henley Grammar School	Home	Lost	6—14					
Sat.	Dec. 8th	v.	Reed's School	Away	Won	26—6					
Played	9	Won:	6	Lost:	3	Drawn:	0	Points for:	188	Points against:	58

Squash Club

Though on paper the School 1st V seemed more promising in the Spring Term, we found we relied too much on the captain, A. C. Packer, whose game was much improved, and I. R. Parkinson at second string. A. D. Gordon did not really improve since last year due to lack of practice, and a promising newcomer G. Phillpotts lacked size. Among numerous players for the Juniors, R. Hancock and N. Cornell were the most promising. In the event the Seniors lost all their matches, but the Juniors won three of their four.

The House Matches for 1972/73 were won by Everett House, 4—1.

The teams were:—

Everett: Packer, Parkinson, Gordon, M. V. Patterson, Newman.
Welsh: D. T. Dalzell, W. Yeung, Phillpotts, D. Fazan, Hancock.
Burr: M. A. Alireza, S. J. Low, I. R. Fraser, D. L. Gordon, N. Jumat.
Skipwith: M. Hayes-Fisher, Cornell, S. C. Mitchell, J. A. N. Russell, Horne.

In the Autumn Term the Seniors had a young team, and included a new boy P. L. S. Norris, who is by far the most promising player the school has had. He won eight of his nine matches. The team as a whole played much better than expected: Phillpotts and Hancock improved slowly: Fazan's game was transformed over the term to become very reasonable at first string, and N. Cornell was strong at fifth string. As the Junior team so much overlapped the Seniors, we only arranged four fixtures of which one had to be cancelled. However, they won all three.

The team consisted of Phillpotts*, Norris*, Cornell*, A. Barkman, R. Williamson (* signifies Junior Colours).

Winter Term results:—

1st V:—

v. Reading Blue Coat School	Won 4—1
v. Carmel College	Lost 1—4
v. Leighton Park	Lost 1—4
v. Oratory	Won 3—2
v. Pangbourne College	Lost 1—4
v. Reading School	Lost 2—3

Juniors:—

v. Pangbourne College	Won 3—2
v. Oratory	Won 3—2
v. Reading Blue Coats School	Won 5—0

The House Matches for 1973/74 were won convincingly by Welsh House defeating Skipwith House in the finals.

The House teams were:—

Welsh: Fazan, Phillpotts, Hancock, Yeung, Hopkin
Skipwith: Cornell, Barkman, Shove, Russell, P. C. M. Aylwin, Youngusband, Lear.
Burr: Norris, Low, Jumat, M. H. H. McFall, T. R. O. Birt.
Everett: Douglas, Hopper, Seewer, Newman, Roszel.



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