

The Court



Shiplake College
1995-1996





Contents

Court Circular

Here is the latest edition of *The Court*, the record of the eventful and busy activities of our College community through yet another year. On reviewing, the overall impression that emerges from the piles of print, manuscript and photographs that somehow become the magazine, I am constantly amazed at just what a lot seems to go on at Shiplake. In the classroom, on stage, in public, on the playing field, in the air, at home, abroad, on the river, in uniform, at the end of ropes, in concert and in Chapel - the list seems almost endless, the activity unceasing. The task of the magazine is to record all of this and maintain it for posterity as well as for the amusement of the readers, some of whom will find their words and faces reproduced between the covers.

Thanks are due to all contributors to this latest edition, the current editor's fourth. Particularly to be thanked are Sally Bryant and Elisabeth Ransom, both Shiplake parents and partners in Henley Publishing. Mrs Candy Jacklin fills the role of 'Court Photographer' as it were - many of the shots here are her work. It was also encouraging to see so much original writing come in from the boys this year - keep your pens poised, lads!

So, in bidding farewell to the year 1995-6 and thinking ahead to our next edition, it might be apposite to quote the late Ogden Nash:

*The clock is crouching, dark and small
Like a time bomb in the hall.
Hark it's midnight, children dear,
Duck! Here comes another year!*

JDF Carley

The Court

Editor: JDF Carley

Sub Editors: Piers Hopkins U6
James Lewin U6

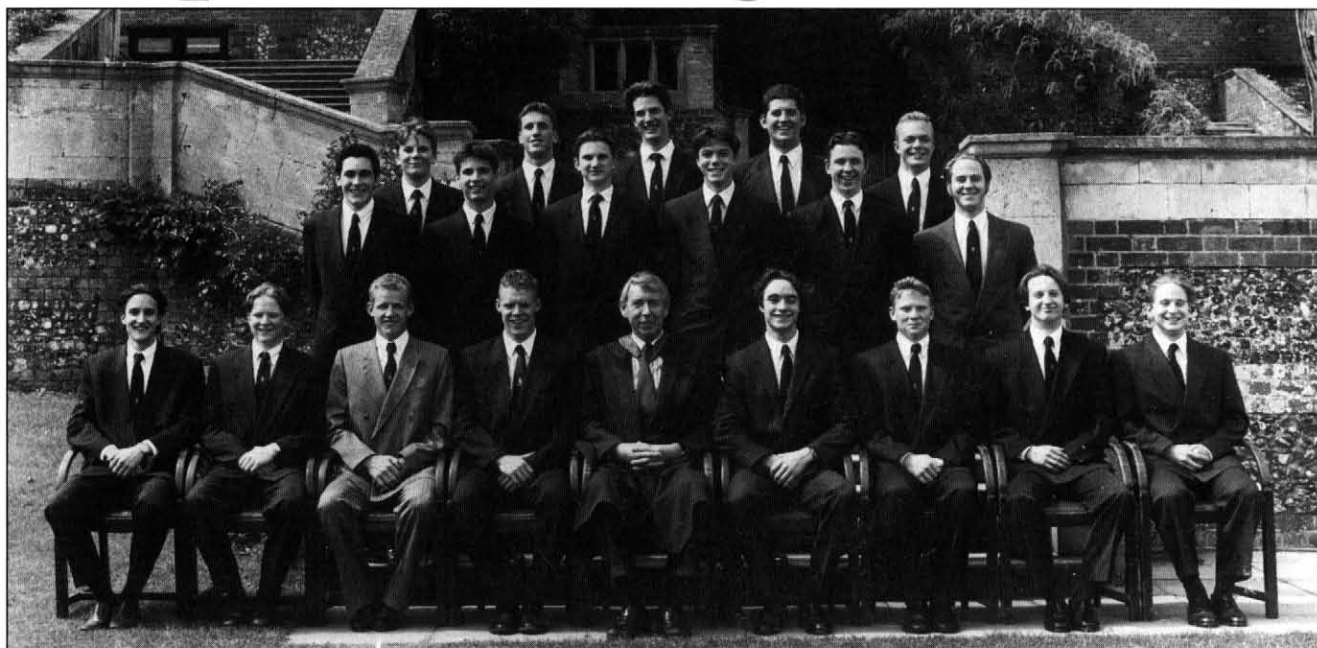
Front and back covers: *The College Ties*
Alan Greeley

Production / design: Henley Publishing
0118 9478411 or
01628 605720

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Shiplake College 1995-96



Headmaster and prefects

Governors and staff Sept 95/Sept 96

Governing Body:

Chairman: BN Gilson, CA (SA)

RA Alexander, RD, MA, FCIS, MBIM

JB Bowcock, MA, FICE, FEMechE, FASCE, FRSA

The Lady Camoys

NV Cook, BSc

K Dawson, MA

CWL Keen, MA

RC Lester

The Hon Sir William McAlpine, Bart.

RW Phillis, MA, FRSA

TN Rosser, OBE, DFC

The Right Rev'd Dr Anthony Russell, DPhil

JR Tovey, FCA

JP Turner, BSc, FCA

J Gayton, BA, BEd (Queensland)

PCJ Gould, BEd (Bulmershe)*

PG Hose, BA (Exeter)

DIS Jacklin, BSc (Witwatersrand), PGCE*

P Johnson, BA Ed (Sunderland)

JL Johnson, BA (London), ATC

DM Lauder, MA (Aberdeen)

GS Lawson, BSc (Swansea), MSc (Southampton)

ML Llewellyn, BSc Econ, MA (London)

RT Mannix, BSc (London), PGCE*

B McDonald, BA (Durham), MA (Reading)

Rev'd PV Parker, BSc (B'ham), BA (Oxon), PGCE

RS Seddon, MA (Cantab), Dip Ed

D Shenton, BEd (Crewe and Alsager)

DC Stoker, BA (Coventry), PGDip (B'ham), ATD

MA Smail, Cert Ed Worcester, AMBDA (Teaching)*

RC Snellgrove, BSc, DPhil (CNAA)

Mrs H Stewart-Clarke, BA (Birmingham), PGCE

Ms A Taris, BA (St Martins)

PJF Webb, BA (Open Univ), Cert Ed Borough Rd

DFK Welsh, MA (Cantab), Dip Ed

D Wilson, PGCE

ML Woodcock, Cert Ed, Director of Music*

Headmaster:

NV Bevan, MA (Balliol College, Oxon)

Deputy Head:

BP Edwards, MA (Cantab), PGCE

Director of Studies:

GS Vick, BSc (Nottingham), MSc (Reading)

Teaching staff:

MC Abberley, DPE

RA Ashby, B PE (Sydney)

Ms D Blease, BA (Oxon), PGCE

CT Campbell, BA (Laurentian), MA (Guelph)

JDF Carley, MA, MLitt, (Oxon), DBA (Harvard)

G Cassells, BEng (Bradford)

AR Cheadle, B Comm. (Witwatersrand)

Mrs CJ Cheadle, BSc (Natal), Dip Ed

TPJ Clarke, BSc (Exeter), PGCE

VE Daly, BA, BSc (NUI)

PM Davey, BEd (London)

DG Dovaston, BSc (Aston), PGCE

M Edwards, BA (Southampton), PGCE

Part-time:

Mrs C Burroughs, BSc Comb Hons (London)

Mrs JA Smail, BA (London), PGCE

Mrs MP White, BA (Reading)

Chaplain: Rev'd PV Parker

Bursar: TJ Mansergh, MA (Cantab), FICE

Registrar: Mrs E Meiklejohn

Medical Officer: Dr AJM Terris, MB, BS, MRCP

Sister: Mrs WJ Robinson

School Secretary: Mrs RS Jones

Music Secretary: Mrs F Burrell

Shop Manager: P Emerson

Domestic Bursar: Mrs E A Cooke

*Housemasters

House Photographs



Burr House



Everett House

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE 1995-96

College Officers 95 /96

Head of College: A Hambrook

Deputy Head of College: J Midwood

Captain of Rugby: S Newbury

Captain of Boats: N Anderson

Captain of Hockey: E King

Captain of Lawn Tennis: D Palmer

Captain of Squash: S King

Heads of Houses:

Burr: E Ingram

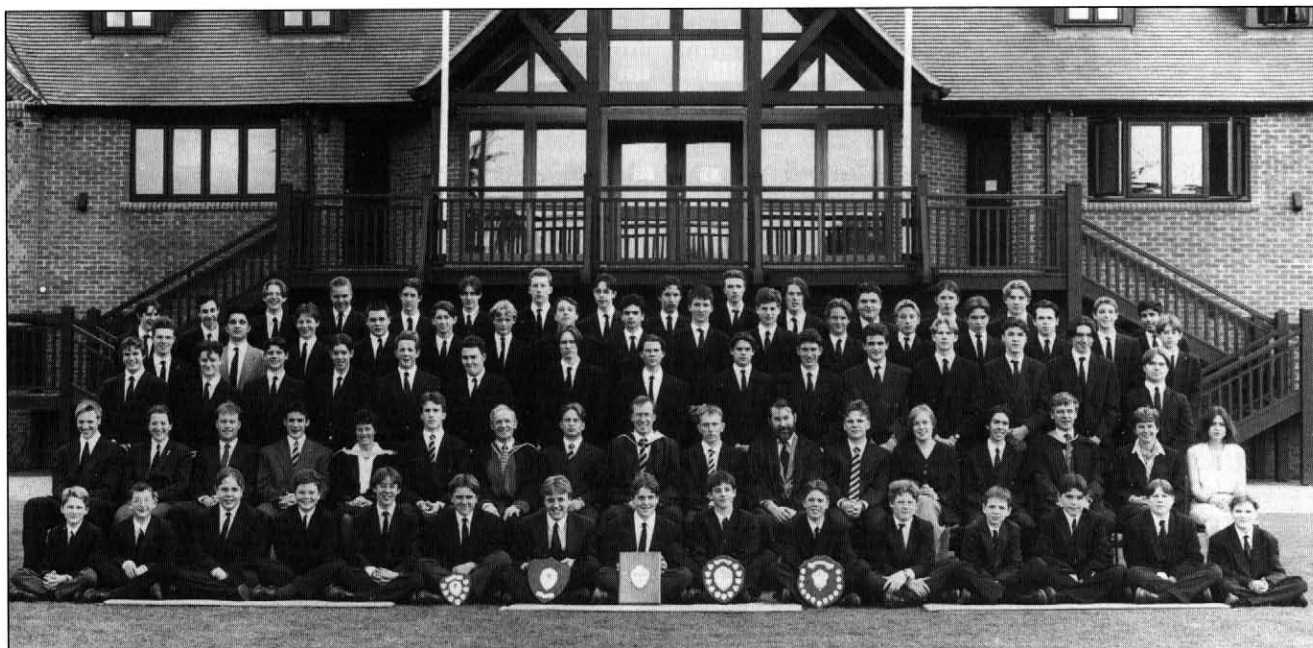
Everett: T and M King

Orchard: D Dobbin

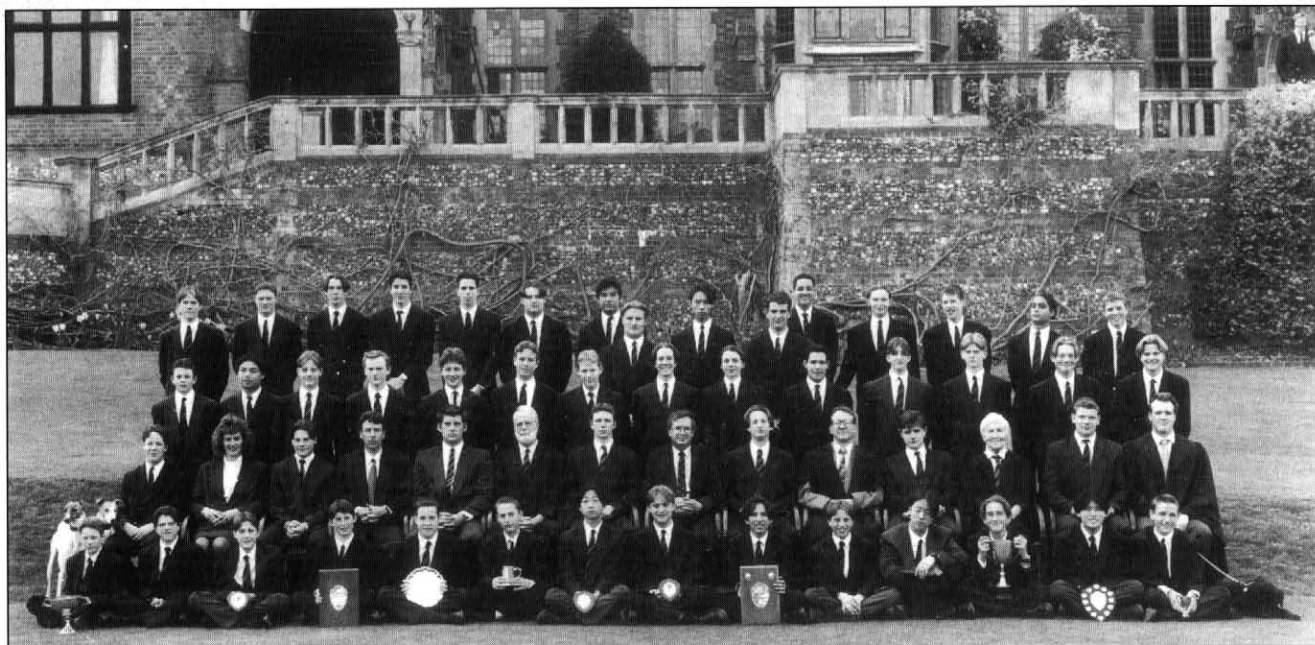
Skipwith: E King

Welsh: M Chatwin

School Prefects: T Baker, J Bruce, R Jones, H Mason, S McLaughlan, P Moore, J Saunders, A Tasker, A Vatanasombat, R Woodward, B Williams, J York



Orchard House



Above: Skipwith House. Below: Welsh House



Common Room Avete



Travelling companions: Caroline and Andrew Cheadle

Andrew Cheadle

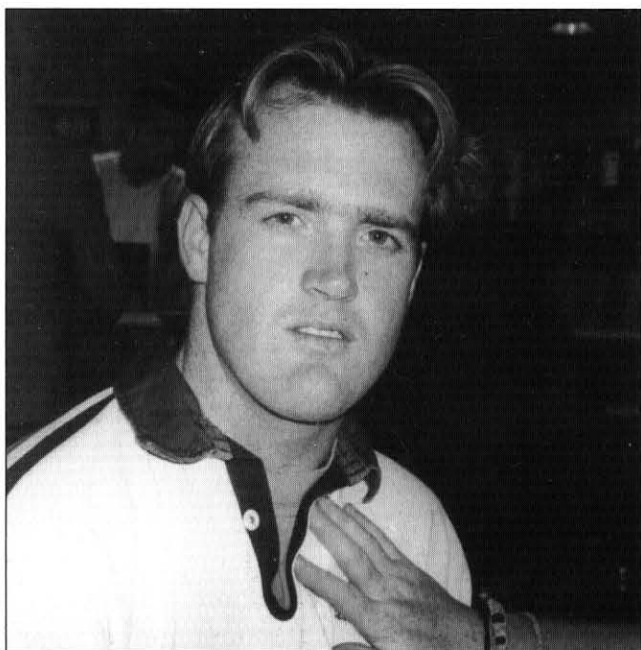
Andrew Cheadle comes to Shiplake College from Hill House School where he was Head of Information Technology and taught Mathematics.

Andrew attended St Stithians College and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. After university he was appointed as an officer in the army and at the same time taught at St Luke's College and was an assistant boarding master.

Needing a change of environment, he spent a year overseas working on a kibbutz and a moshav in Israel, teaching at Harrow School, Lucerne farming in Switzerland and travelling throughout Europe with a backpack.

He returned to take up a position with an accounting firm, KPMG, where he successfully completed his training as an accountant before moving into full time teaching. Andrew is a keen rugby and tennis player and enjoys the guitar, reading and windsurfing.

He is married to Caroline, who teaches Geography at the College and together they enjoy travelling and mountaineering.



Andrew Ashby

Andrew Ashby

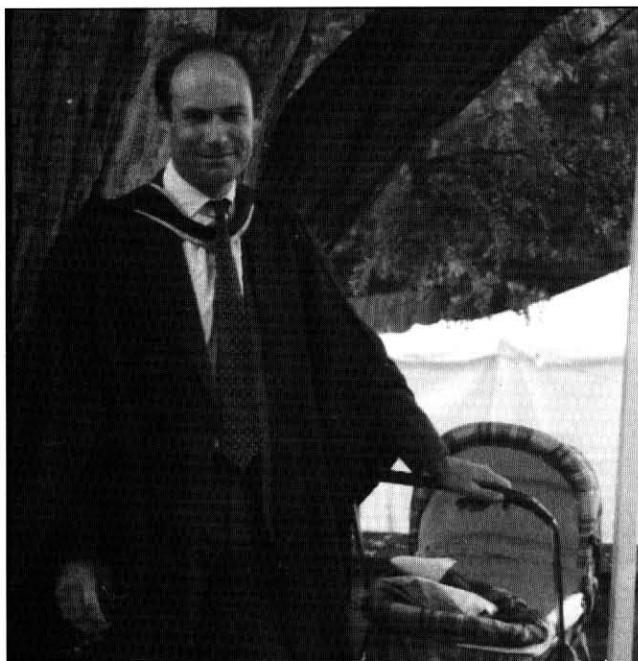
Andrew Ashby hails from sunny Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia and is the first Shiplake College Australian Sports Fellow.

He completed his Bachelor of Physical Education for the Australian College of Physical Education in the first 10 weeks of the spring term of 1996 and will use this to teach Sports Studies to the 3rd form and Upper Sixth A level students.

As a Sports Fellow his responsibilities include teaching Sports Studies and coaching the 2nd VIII rowing and U15 Bs in rugby. He also helps with CLAIT and International English. Pastoral responsibilities include being resident house tutor in Everett House.

Common Room Valete

Phil Parker



Parkers senior and junior

Phil arrived at Shiplake College as a dashing young bachelor and left as a husband and a father. We will miss his commitment not only to the spiritual life of the College, but on the river, games field, in CCF and in the classroom.

He brought to the College a special brand of "focused" Christianity. During his three years here Christian Forum was started and flourished. He was able to draw upon a wealth of friends to provide stimulating variation in his ministry. Under his guidance the Religious Studies department has expanded and strengthened.

He also started the famous Tree Climbing Society and shared his love of climbing with members of his Mountaineering Club. He coached both rugby and rowing and was Everett House tutor. The charity abseil down St Mary's Church in Henley was performed under his direction and was widely reported in the *Henley Standard*.

Phil and Isobel's stylish entertaining will be remembered by many, especially his tutees who were invited to 'breakfast'.

We wish Phil, Isobel and Oliver great happiness in their new life at Milton Abbey.

IS Jacklin

Diana Blease

Way back in September 1992, a cataclysmic event occurred: three young lady teachers joined the staff at Shiplake College - at once! All three settled down well and contributed a considerable amount to school life in the broadest sense. Diana left us as a very successful Head of Chemistry.

She read Biology and Chemistry at Oxford and when a vacancy occurred at Shiplake she was initially attracted to the College by our prowess in rowing. She was appointed to teach Chemistry at all levels and to coach junior rowing. She quickly established herself a strong teacher who was able to stretch the more gifted boys as well as being able to explain this difficult subject to those boys who were quite clearly not scientists.

Pass rates have increased both at A-level and GCSE in Chemistry, a subject regarded nationally as difficult. Diana led the department well, proving herself a good organiser and increasing the popularity of her subject.

On the sporting front she established a strong position with the junior rowers and her last season was especially successful and rewarding. She played a significant role in the Boat Club and was a great inspiration to many of our junior boys. Praise from Miss Blease was worth striving for!

In the Common Room, Diana was a strong character, lots of fun and always willing to stand up for equality for women in this still rather male dominated environment. She played an important



Diana Blease: played a significant role

part in the committee which reviewed our Sixth Form curriculum. She tutored in Orchard House, helping many of the boys to organise their work and achieve well in external examinations.

After five years at Shiplake, Diana felt it time to move on and is now Head of Chemistry at Channing School, a girls' day school in North London. We wish her well in her new post.

GS Vick

Chris Campbell

Chris Campbell came to Shiplake for one year - and stayed nearly three times longer! During his time here he became involved in a wide range of College activities: as an officer in the Corps (Army Section), as the guru of the growing pastime of basketball, as the doyen of endless 'game three' activities and, most of all, in the classroom.

Chris has a forthright attitude towards academic work, the result no doubt of his Scots-Canadian ancestry. Work is to be done on time and to the best possible standard and with no compromise. Those pupils who tried to take advantage of his outgoing approach soon found out the error of their ways - and rapidly reformed.

He worked his sets hard and they respected him for having their interests at heart in the run-up to GCSE. He certainly never stinted the time he spent with individual pupils in trouble with their vital coursework. And this was only one facet of his pride in the tasks he undertook.

Few of his students realised it but Chris was also undertaking further study himself - and it was no light task for him to fit the rigorous Open University PGCE course into his busy boarding school life. The requirements of the certificate were onerous: one file of his notes filled a large cardboard box at the time of his final assessment. Lesser men would have quailed and quit but Chris came through and passed strongly.

Married to Claire, the sister of old Viking, Andy Rouse, Chris has been reunited with his wife after many months of only meeting at weekends in Cheltenham where she has been teaching. He too gained a post at the College, teaching History.

JDF Carley

Richard Perkins

When Richard first came to Shiplake, he intended to look around the Physics department with a view to seeing if he was suited to teaching. It was my good fortune that, as they were busy with examination preparation, he came to look around our department instead (Design and Technology). His comment at the time was one of being more suited to Design and Technology than Physics and we started from there.

He began as a very willing and helpful pair of hands who was able to apply previous knowledge from his engineering (a degree at Warwick) and his naval background. He worked extremely hard at his preparation for teaching and as a result in his second year here he played a major part in this year's excellent departmental results.

I enjoyed his company very much and wish him well in his new career move. I feel sure that his overall contribution to the College in areas such as Maths, D & T, rugby and Christian Forum as well as with Welsh House will be greatly missed.

D Shenton



Mark Abberley

Mark Abberley spent two years at Shiplake as head of Physical Education at a time when the subject was developing from a pastime into a core curriculum necessity at both GCSE and A level. Mark taught at every level of the school and the boys have been grateful for his skill, patience and unfailing good humour. Running the sports hall and gymnasium was another part of his task which kept him fairly busy throughout his time at the College.

He was heavily involved in the coaching and playing of cricket, lending PMD an expert hand with the 1st XI, having been himself a junior counties player in his native Herefordshire. Mark was a cheery companion to the rest of the Common Room and will be remembered for his interest in sport, knowledge of trivia and generous bonhomie. We all wish him very well in the future.

JDF Carley



James Johnson

Can it really be that James Johnson is no longer with us, that we shall see no more the tall, crop-headed, bearded, eccentrically-dressed presence and hear the cry of the Antipodean artist?

The OVS newsletter described James as 'one of the most dedicated, innovative and successful Heads of Art that Shiplake has ever seen'. We might broaden that brushstroke by remarking that James was all of those things for certain, but in the context of probably *any* Art Department in *any* school anywhere. The results at GCSE and A level were truly remarkable - string after string of A grades, and the great leap forward in



Always interested in new art forms... retiring Head of Art, James Johnson

both expectations and confidence for his students that came of this annually-recurring miracle. Yet 'Johno' took it all in his stride. His love for his subject and enthusiasm that it should have its proper place in the limelight were paramount in the way he ran in his department. Heaven help any colleague misguided enough to cast aspersions on the academic rigour of Art. The deities were also called upon to assist the Bursar and other administrators around the College who had to cope with James' free-and-easy approach to such petty things as rules and paperwork, for which he had an airy disregard.

Few masters at Shiplake had (or have) the stamina to organise so many trips abroad involving huge numbers of aspiring artists in locations like

Barcelona, Paris and Amsterdam. Full sketchbooks and even fuller memories resulted from these trips.

Having been at Shiplake since 1981, James' absence will leave a gap; as well as being supremo of the Art Department, having had no fewer than five assistants in that time, he was also a Skipwith House tutor and the organiser of many events that kept the College in close touch with the local community, not least regular exhibitions of work and the organisation of HEDFAS on the premises.

He retires with our very best wishes for himself and Anna, his wife. His trip to Australia and all points east and west will, no doubt, bring its own crop of excellent photographs and amusing stories on his return to Henley.

'Leonardo'

Liz Cooke

Liz Cooke joined the College as Welsh House Matron in May 1969 when she quickly developed a long and lasting rapport with David and Jennie Welsh and successive generations of boys. For seven years while the College was bursting at the seams, she also looked after boys at *Tigoni*, her house in Binfield Heath. She was appointed Domestic Bursar during the time of John Eggar's headmastership, a job that she has carried out with her characteristic solid commitment and no fuss approach all these years. During eight summers and some Easters, she has administered holiday lettings at the College for some 5,000 visitors, providing much needed additional revenue. She has helped with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for 22 years, during which time she has fed countless starving boys on annual camps.

She has sung in Malcolm Woodcock's choir for 20 years and, for 25 years, has been responsible



Retiring from Shiplake - Liz Cooke

for the costumes and back stage management of the College Drama department, which has involved her in countless hours of unpaid work, yet another of Liz's labours of love. Befitting the

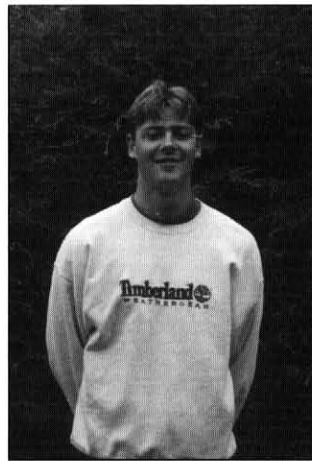
mother of a busy actor and member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, she has also trodden the boards with distinction in College productions: as Nancy in *Oliver*, Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* and Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*. It is impossible to mention all of the many facets of the major role that Liz has played in a long and distinguished career at Shiplake and we wish her well.

R A Esau

Gavin Fitchett and Phil Towse

Fitchett and Towse became a sporting partnership as likely to slide off the Shiplake tongue as often as Carling and Guscott or Redgrave and Pinsent. For many staff it almost became a prayer for help when they needed assistance with games coaching. The two Reading University students "helped out" with games in between studying Physical Education and providing their own lively commentary on any televised sport. Gavin also undertook some modelling for Media Studies, featuring in the poster for the Charlotte Starmer-Smith Memorial Match.

After successfully coaching rugby they tried their hand at hockey, soccer, tennis and cricket. Their efforts on the basketball court were greatly appreciated and the overseas boys were delighted to find a Welshman and an Englishman who actually understood the game. One of their greatest moments in Shiplake came when Phil



Gavin Fitchett and Phil Towse

bowled the last ball in a Wanderers match. The scores and wickets lost were tied. The ball beat the bat and wicket-keeper Gavin beat the scurrying batsman to the stumps. It is a story he will tell his grandchildren and anyone else who will listen.

M Edwards

Ave atque Vale

Mark Galpin



Mark Galpin came to Shiplake College in September 1995 for one year. He had recently completed his masters degree in Tropical Agriculture at Reading University. Mark taught in

three departments, Biology, Geography and Religious Education and he also made significant contributions to chapel services and Christian Forum meetings. Two things about Mark stand out: he rode to the College on his beloved motorbike in any weather, wrapped in a scarlet scarf and Biggles flying goggles. And as a novice skier on the red and black slopes of Avoriaz his speed, crash displays and ability to make diplomatic apologies in French were enormously impressive.

He grew up in Uganda and he has developed a keen sense of wanting to contribute to agricultural developments in Africa. He leaves us to join the Christian International Peace Service as a general secretary and to do some research in the Agricultural Department at Reading University.

AR Cheadle

Adam Guildford



The sudden outburst of anti-podeans in the College Common Room this year brought Adam Guildford into our midst. A rowing international for his native New Zealand, Adam came to help with

the Boat Club and to be an assistant in the College, both of which roles he fulfilled as well as being a highly sociable member of the Common Room.

Having come to us straight from his school, King's College, one of New Zealand's foremost educational establishments, Adam was still quite young and fitted in well in helping to bridge the age gap that exists between the Common Room and the students. He developed a fondness for the Henley area - and the products of the local brewing industry - and travelled around as much of the country as he could.

As one of the Boat Club coaches he was patient and helpful, bringing on the J15B VIII to a successful season. He returns to the southern hemisphere with our thanks and good wishes.

JDF Carley

VALETTE

Speech Day, 27th June 1996

Speech Day took place, as usual, on a hot summer's day. The chairman of governors, Mr B N Gilson, was 'detained in Singapore' and his role was ably filled by Mr T N Rosser who addressed the parents, staff, boys and guests before introducing the Headmaster. The guest speaker this year was Mr Trevor McDonald, the broadcaster and chairman of the Campaign for Better English. He presented the prizes and then spoke about the role of journalism and media in the modern world and told some amusing stories based on his experiences.

Prize Winners

Third Form

English	B J Tandy
French	A J W Cain
Geography	T E C Constable
History	A J Smith
Mathematics	S W Yuen
Science	M E Steege
Information Technology	A R Lewin
Technology	P W Ranger
Religious Studies	B J Tandy
Physical Education	C A T Peacock

Fourth Form

Biology	L R Brown
History	M G E Hamburger
Mathematics	J Y Kim
Chemistry	S M Stubbs
Religious Studies	J E D Burridge
French	A Crowley
English	C P Thomas
Geography	S J E Harcourt
Technology	R O R Smith
Physics	J Y Kim
Spanish	P N Scott

GCSE Prizes

R L Bennett
N Marett
G W Lunn
J D Skinner
P J C Hopkins

A level prizes

S J Jacklin
S R G Tate
G B Proctor

School Prizes

Business Studies	P E Hewer
Geography	J D Radford
English	R H Shenton
Mathematics	A B Cordingley
Physics	D J Lloyd
Biology	J A York
Technology	D Harrison
History	A P B Tasker
Senior Art	B S Barnes
Junior Art	S J E Harcourt

Senior Ceramics
Junior Ceramics
Senior Music
Junior Media Studies
Senior Media Studies
Bleackley Modern Langs
Margaret Wells-Furby
JR Kroth Mathematics
McAlpine

Custance Cup
Asclepian
Salmon Cup
Spiers Music Cup
Sen. General Knowledge
Jun. General Knowledge
Senior Public Speaking
Junior Public Speaking
Senior Reading
Junior Reading
Senior Poetry
Junior Poetry
Esau Essay
Barron Prize, Senior
Barron Prize, Junior
Army Leadership Prize
Viking Ship
Trotter Trophy
Rupert Mackay Prize

DoE Gold Award

M T A Chatwin
A B Cordingley
C E M Jewels
D J Lloyd
J D Midwood
P R Scade
A P B Tasker
R N F Vereker

Special prizes

Edinburgh Prize for Maths

Matthew Bevin Prize
Caston Memorial

Headmaster's Prizes

School Prefects

Heads of House

T M Baker
J D Bruce
R M Jones
H R G Mason
S P McLaughlan
P J Moore
J E A Saunders
A P B Tasker
A Vatanosombat
R B Woodward
B S Williams
J A York
E M Ingram
M J King
S J King
D S Dobbin
E O M King
M T A Chatwin
J D Midwood
A C Hambrook

Deputy Head of College
Head of College

J D Bruce
J E Crosse
J G Hitchen
M J Alfred
J D Burton
J D Radford
G W Lunn
W P T Neale
N J Cohen
T S A Douglas
C J Sandom
S P McLaughlan
B S Williams
L M Charleson
P R Scade
B J Tandy
E M Ingram
P N Scott
G W Carver
J E D Burridge
K Uras
C S J Spero
M E Steege
R L Bennett
S J E Harcourt
R B Woodward
S E Smith
N J Anderson
A P B Tasker

M T A Chatwin
A B Cordingley
C E M Jewels
D J Lloyd
J D Midwood
P R Scade
A P B Tasker
R N F Vereker

J Brown
L M Charleson
E Parroissien
M Gibson

T M Baker
J D Bruce
R M Jones
H R G Mason
S P McLaughlan
P J Moore
J E A Saunders
A P B Tasker
A Vatanosombat
R B Woodward
B S Williams
J A York
E M Ingram
M J King
S J King
D S Dobbin
E O M King
M T A Chatwin
J D Midwood
A C Hambrook

Extracts from The Headmaster's Speech, June 27th, 1996

This is one of the only two occasions - the other being the Carol Service - when the whole Shiplake College community comes together and it is a great pleasure to welcome governors, parents, boys, colleagues, friends and particularly a representative or two of last year's leavers.

There is a lot to report on and today should, of course, be a celebration of our year - my eighth at Shiplake - and while there is a great deal that has been truly memorable, as I said to the boys in assembly two weeks ago, those moments have been more than matched at times by some actions and events in which we can take no pride at all. For me, therefore, 1995-1996 has been a year of enormous contrasts.

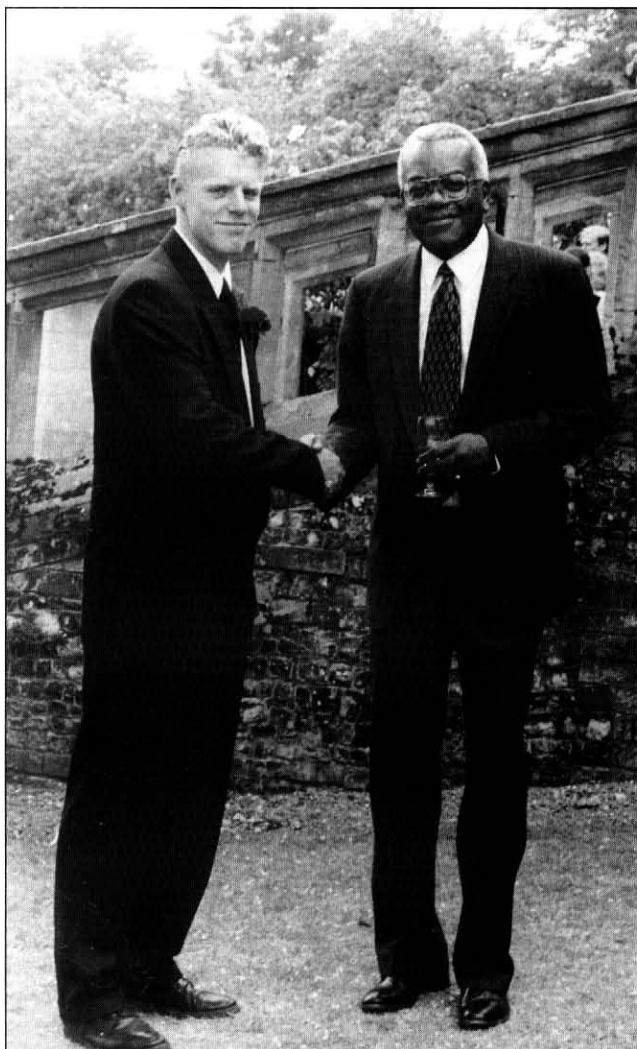
We could not have begun in finer style: four As at 'A' level for Giles Proctor led the way in another year of improving exam results. I honestly believe that in the classroom at Shiplake we have teachers as good as at any school in the land. There are strengths in every department - boys are well taught, pushed hard and in most cases achieve far more than their parents had ever dreamed was possible.

We have spent a lot of money this year on our academic budget and the extra classroom space in the pavilion has been a great help. A new timetable with earlier starts in the morning has kept us on our toes and allowed extra lessons to be included for the Sixth Form. All this is indicative of a lively approach to curriculum planning and development and increasingly dedicated teaching.

It was great fun, therefore, to find ourselves in *The Times*, no less, listed as one of the top ten most improved independent schools in the country. We know of the relatively meaningless nature of league tables, but it was still good to bask in a little glory. And I now much look forward to reading the results of those boys leaving today. All of them have contributed a great deal to Shiplake and I hope each one of them qualifies comfortably for the next stage of his education.

Outside the classroom I think I have seen two of the very best plays in my time here - certainly two of the liveliest concerts contrasting jazz and classical music in one evening and there are at present some excellent actors and musicians at the College. Also, ever improving standards of public speaking from quite surprising boys indicates that confidence building in these areas is still a great Shiplake skill. In every case however these performances are only as good as their producers and directors. David Welsh and Peter Hose in the theatre, Helen Stewart-Clarke in public speaking and Malcolm Woodcock with music and the summer pageant.

The variety of what goes on here is enormous and of course a few boys are being pulled in lots of different directions. That is no bad thing and a



Broadcaster Trevor McDonald meets Head of College, Alex Hambrook at Speech Day

very good educational experience. But not all boys get so involved, or take advantage of the opportunities we offer and although we push and shove rather more than is the case in some schools, I do wish a few more boys would be prepared to commit themselves to activities other than sport.

The Reverend Phil Parker, our Chaplain, leaves at the end of this term and he perhaps embodies that spirit of joining in and trying everything that I am talking about. Not only has the chaplaincy been revolutionised with Christian Forum gatherings, visiting preachers and a really positive approach to fund raising - who can forget the abseiling from Henley church during the regatta last year - but he has also coached rowing and rugby and founded a splendid small mountaineering society which has given a number of boys who would otherwise have little to take away from Shiplake a real taste for a sport not easily carried out in the Thames Valley. Indeed, how many other schools can boast a tree climbing society?

Chris Campbell made a similarly varied



Trevor McDonald signs the book he presented to John Skinner, L6

contribution - teaching in five different departments, taking a range of activities and developing from student to fully qualified teacher in two and a half years. He married the sister of an old boy and Claire works in Cheltenham so Chris will, at last, be joining her there next term and teaching at Cheltenham College. We thank him for his impressive, mature and sympathetic contribution.

On the sporting front we have enjoyed a much better year overall. It has been particularly pleasing to watch the successes of the junior squads in rugby, hockey, cricket, rowing and tennis. Although struggling a little in the rugby term, the juniors have more than made up for that with great success in the summer sports - emphasized of course by the marvellous silver medal for the under-fourteen octuple scull at the National Schools Regatta at half term. And rarely has an under-fourteen cricket team gone for so long without defeat and I have lost count of the number of fifties, centuries and excellent bowling figures at all levels in the cricket club.

The bronze medal of the 1st VIII at Nottingham was also very satisfactory - their defeat two weeks ago of the Eton 2nd VIII, who had won their event at Nottingham, puts them in a sound position for their event at Henley Royal Regatta.

The senior rugby, hockey and cricket teams,

while showing tremendous spirit, have struggled for victories although the cricketers recorded a splendid win over the Old Boys in the final match of the season last Saturday.

May I, in thanking parents for their support, also on behalf of all the parents, thank the tremendously determined, dedicated and above all enthusiastic staff that sit behind me on the stage today. From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to Community Services to music to drama to duty week to the Sunday evening bus ride from Reading station - through all sports and, most importantly, in the classroom, and as tutors, Shiplake's staff put in time and energy well above what is technically required of them and I am immensely grateful for this.

I suppose the particular relief I have as Headmaster after years of housemastering is that I no longer have that intensity of close responsibility which from the first to last day of term never lets up for the housemaster. I think most parents do appreciate that dedication because these men are parents to sixty boys for every moment of the day and night. For this year's long service and good conduct awards therefore, I would like to nominate Andrew Smail, Malcolm Woodcock, Richard Mannix, Peter Gould and Ivan Jacklin who throughout the term never have a real moment when they can relax as the pressures and problems they face grow and multiply.

If there is one subject at this school which has gone from strength to strength and led the way in every public examination in the last decade it is Art. Today we say farewell to James Johnson who has taken the Art School from its cramped premises in the Stable Yard to its splendid, new and inevitably still cramped (according to James because of the popularity of the subject) facilities specially created for them near the Science buildings.

James has led this department with style and incredible enthusiasm, with total confidence and also an almost complete disregard for the rules of the school. But where shall we be without him? We have all enjoyed the marvellous results and the wealth of art around the College. I will never forget James's anger when the *Telegraph* a couple of years ago reported a lack of art on the walls and around the College. The immediate result was the splendid display of ceramic livestock on the lawns and the snarling hippo which now guards my study. He leaves with our very grateful thanks and best wishes for the future.

Another leaver is Mrs Liz Cooke who does not teach in the school but has held as many positions on the domestic side as one can imagine. From Matron to Domestic Bursar, to chief cook in D of E camps and, particularly as far as the boys are concerned, Mistress of Wardrobe for all dramatic performances. As with James Johnson, we very much hope that, living as she does close by the school, she will remain in touch.

I have mentioned Phil Parker but closely associated with him and the chaplaincy are



The band of the Light Division sound the retreat at the College in June

Richard Perkins - with us for two years firstly as a trainee teacher and then in the CDT department and also a regular speaker in Chapel and a busy coach on the sports field, and Mark Galpin who has worked in much the same way in Biology and Geography. Both have contributed greatly to the Christian life of the College. Another leaver is Mark Abberley who has been at Shiplake for two years

in charge of P.E. He has been an inspirational coach on the sports field and a great source of encouragement to many boys, particularly some of the weaker ones in the athletics sense to whom he has given much time and patience. These young men have made an enormous contribution to our community and they, along with our student teachers, Adam Guildford, Philip Towse and Gavin Fitchett, go their several ways with our very best wishes and thanks for all they have done for us.

Finally of the leaving staff there is, of course, Miss Diana Blease who came here as assistant in the Chemistry Department, was promoted to Head of Department and has led it discreetly but most effectively. It has been noticeable how many very good boys have been attracted to Chemistry for A Level in the last couple of years. Diana has also developed into a very successful rowing coach and has worked wonders in converting fairly unpromising raw material into near champions. I suspect that in moving to her new and much larger school, as Head of Chemistry, it will be the river at Shiplake she misses most.

As I have already said, it has been a very busy year and I cannot remember the paperwork being so demanding as we prepare for a major inspection next term. I remember Kenneth Baker at the Department of Education being described as presiding over an empire in which the ink never dries. I feel much the same, tied as I am - far too much - to my desk.

But on an evening like last night when the atmosphere at our end-of-year dinner and prizegiving was as warm as I have ever known it or felt it - despite the countdown to the Euro '96 semi final; at those wonderful performances of Pirates last week, knowing the characters, seeing the fun they got out of it, the enthusiasm in which they approached it; at the Retreat Sounding ceremony a couple of weeks ago; when half the school is practising on the rugby field by the river on a sunny autumn day; when the prefects really

NICHOLS BROWN WEBBER

ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE PLANNERS



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get to grips with some tedious problem; when a walk around the school and a look through the windows reveals classes working away, quietly and effectively; when I read the pupils' reports of the genuine pleasure that so many Third Formers have gained from the teaching of the staff here and the Sixth Formers have gained from their new tutor system, or again only yesterday, a quiet look on my own at the truly marvellous work on display in the CDT and Arts Department.

On all these occasions and many more relating to the individual successes for special boys, then I feel that everything falls into place and I cannot imagine any more rewarding, exciting or creative way of earning a living. And it only works because of the teamwork and dedication, not only of the teaching staff but also of the bursar and his staff and, of course, of all the boys.

Here at Shiplake we take boys of vastly different levels of ability from a wide social spectrum and then we try to inspire them, to interest them, to give them something of which they can be proud. And, in the end, of course, we are proud of *them* and particularly proud of those who achieve straight A and B grades, but equally proud of those who have come through from humble academic origins. The very confident way in which boys show parents around the school and behave - so I am told - when away from Shiplake is evidence of our success.

We must remain uniquely Shiplake - confident, out on a limb if necessary, extolling all those virtues of modern, family-inspired boarding, as well as offering an extra dimension to the day pupils who join us here.

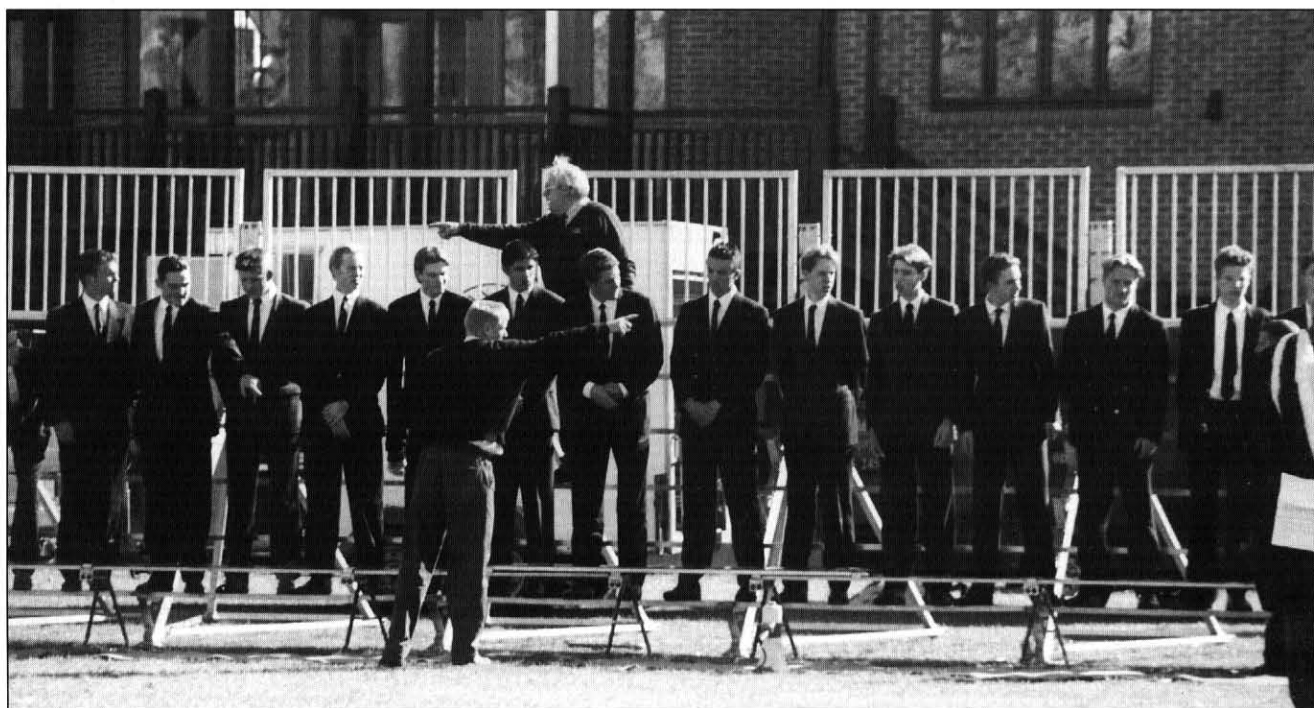
Shiplake and its staff is coping very well indeed with all the pressures but I suppose the truth is that we do not want to *cope* - we want to work from a position of strength where exciting new initiatives and opportunities do not always depend on numbers. To do that we must keep numbers at a constant level. Every single survey by the marketing people tells me that it is satisfied parents who are the best agents for any school and I do thank most sincerely those parents who have successfully introduced their friends to us and I would urge all others to do likewise.

May I finally thank the boys for all their support, their good humour, their efforts and, especially, the 230 or so who have not won prizes. Their time will come. There are no doubt many very successful Mums and Dads in the audience today who won few prizes when they were at school.

I wish those who are leaving the best of good fortune in the future. I hope that they and their parents will try to keep closely in touch as the boys make their way in the world.

NV Bevan
Headmaster

Take two...



An unfamiliar view of a familiar situation... through no fault of the College and to the huge amusement of the pupils, the official school photograph, normally taken once every three years, in 1995 occurred twice in just three weeks! Second time around, our photographer snapped the official one in action.

Drama and Music 95-96

A musical round-up of the year

The autumn term started with the Music Department returning to all the rooms 'lent' to Orchard House during the previous year while the new house was being built. The redecoration and improvements were greatly appreciated by all the staff - (did the boys notice the difference?!).

The first concert was given on Remembrance Sunday in the Great Hall. The programme included the *Requiem* by Fauré and an anthem by Purcell, commemorating his tercentenary. A new piano had been purchased for the Great Hall and this was the first time it had been used in a concert. It was a great relief not to have to ask Simon Brown to move one over from the Music Department, a process which had proved both time consuming and detrimental to the pianos, not to mention the wear and tear on the maintenance staff!

The choir and orchestra acquitted themselves well and Luke Charleson sang the baritone solo in the *Requiem* as well as playing a Haydn flute concerto. Parents were very enthusiastic about the performances and many expressed approval of the programme which needed less furniture moving between items, as was frequently the case in other concerts with varied choral and instrumental ensembles.

Three weeks later the Christmas Concert was also held in the Great Hall with the usual format of brass and wind ensembles, solo items and carols for the audience. The Big Band gave a very creditable performance under Nigel Somerville's enthusiastic direction.

Term ended with the Service of Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Church in Henley. Sadly, this was the last time that Colin Davis played the organ for this service as he died very suddenly and unexpectedly at Christmas. His contribution to choral concerts and services will be greatly missed.

During the first half of the spring term, the main musical event was the House Music Competition.

This was judged by Christopher Walker, Director of Music at Henley College, who awarded first place to Skipwith but gave both criticism and praise to every contribution. Again, each house was much happier choosing pop music for 'own choice' items but much thought and preparation had gone in to many of the performances with great enthusiasm from all the guitar and drum players in particular.

A group of singers and instrumentalists contributed to an afternoon of music at Swyncombe Church at the celebration of Snowdrop Sunday to raise money for the church funds. Later the spring concert took place in Shiplake Parish Church with a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* following Choral Evensong. The choir gave a good performance and Barry Edwards, Luke Charleson, Rupert Bridgman and James Hitchen were very competent soloists.

Spring term ended with the usual enjoyment of the annual Music Society Dinner, with Malcolm Woodcock's challenging quiz stretching everyone's musical knowledge and abilities to the utmost!

A summer concert followed in May with the traditional mix of items from the choir and solos by instrumentalists. Luke deftly played a solo flute piece by Mozart to great applause and was joined in a trio sonata by Corelli by James Ransom on 'cello and Emily Jacklin on violin. With Vo Kim on the piano the group also played Pachelbel's famous *Canon*. Sam Lacey's trumpet solo was excellent and the exuberance of the Big Band ended the evening on a high note!

Highlight of the summer term was the production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in which music and drama came together to make a show which was as entertaining for the cast as it was for the audiences.

F Burrows

College performers at the concerts included:

Flute
Cello
Clarinet

Piano

Trumpet

Baritone Horn
Violin

Luke Charleson
James Ransom
James Hitchen
Ian Hayden
Andrew Hayes
Vo Kim
Christopher Cant
Sam Lacey
James Burrridge
Emily Jacklin

Choir:

J Brown, M Bryant, R Shenton, R Bridgman, J Burnett, W Carver, L Charleson, J Clarke, A Cordingley, S Farrow, O Haines, A Harris, A Hayes, J Hitchen, P Hopkins, R Jones, D Leopard, J Lewin, J McCurrach, E Paroissien, J Raikes, N Riddell, B Salveson, W Spratt, W Temple, D Vanrenen, R Vereker.

Kenton Drama Festival

Shiplake College entered the Kenton Theatre Drama Festival for one-act plays in May and were rewarded with a highly complimentary adjudication.

The drama group performed *The Cop and the Anthem*, by O. Henry, an unusual piece which is in essence a series of simple, set pieces.

Since the audience was not expected to believe a word of the play, the actors were able to let their imaginations run riot as they created an ensemble of bizarre characters which were paraded before the audience. The play aimed to be fun for the audience and actors alike as the narrative smoothly depicted the central character's dilemma.

The judges felt that the stage setting was simple and economic, with small sections of scenery instantly recognised by the audience and setting the scene with great immediacy. The sound effects worked well and the costumes were declared by the adjudicators 'a delight'. The small parts were

David Welsh, long serving director of plays at Shiplake College, and organiser of the Tithe Barn Events, at the Kenton Theatre in May



exploited well and the actors were able to develop their characters within the slightly exaggerated style which the cast had adopted.

Overall, the judges commented: "It was a most entertaining production. We enjoyed the performances, felt Thwackbusher's frustration and willed him to succeed. It was a delight. Thank you."

The Cast

Lemuel	Ben Williams
Head Waitress	Ollie Haines
Sales Lady	Iain Stirling
Street Cleaner/Tough Boy	Jasper van der Hurd
Man with Umbrella	James Hitchen
Mother	Paul Scade
Woman	Jamie Bruce
Little Girl	Hugo Lowry
Florabelle	Robert Common
Old Lady	Sam McLaughlan
Cop	John Skinner
Jack Frost	Ian Wilson
Sound/lights	James Raikes
Stage manager	Liz Cooke
Director	David Welsh

Tithe Barn Events

A wide ranging programme of music took place in the Tithe Barn during the autumn and spring terms, enjoyed by boys, staff and friends of the College.

A Portrait of Beethoven in which Roger Nichols read from a wide range of contemporary letters and played some of his most characteristic pieces.

Soprano Recital with Ruth Gomme singing works from Purcell and Mozart through to Gershwin and Flanders and Swann.

A Guitar Concert featuring Gary Ryan, who won the Julian Bream prize and played a wide programme of the guitar's repertoire.

Travelling by Tuba - Gavin Woods and Stewart Death gave a humorous insight into the life of a tuba player, performing some famous pieces as they are not usually heard!

Simply Vocal - three girls and a piano player brought back the nostalgic sound of the 40s.

Drum Masterclass. Jeff Rich of Status Quo spoke about the history of drums through to the modern drum kit. He demonstrated various early percussion instruments.

The Berkshire Brass Quintet, headed by Kevin Ransom, demonstrated brass instruments and performed pieces ranging from the classics to jazz.

Capital Clarinets featured the whole range of the clarinet family from the contrabass to the miniature A-flat.

The Pity of War in which Peter Florence celebrated the centenary of Wilfred Owen in an adaptation of his letters and poems.



They were the very models of a modern gang of hoodlums...

The Pirates of Penzance

The skull and cross bones fluttered over the Languages department, the Major General's bedroom was located somewhere in the vicinity of Mr Seddon's classroom and the History department was obscured by a cave. Somehow, the maintenance team and the Art department had transformed the stableyard into the Cornish coast. *Blue Peter* presenters would have gasped in awe at a ship constructed from plywood, bakers' trays and polystyrene!

Although the pirates, led vocally by Luke Charleson, William Spratt and Rupert Bridgman appeared a motley crew it was soon apparent that they were more intent on tuneful choreography than criminal plunder.

A Gilbert and Sullivan operetta is an unfamiliar stage for Jamie Bruce but time spent as front man for his more raucous band provided good experience for the energetic and youthful role of Frederick. He seemed able to cope with the adulation of the Major General's daughters, although puzzled by the hilarious falsetto voices of James Burridge, Oliver Cole and Chris Fox. Sophie Malcolm Green's fine performance as the spirited Mabel showed them how a young lady should sing and she received excellent support from her real life sister, Bonnie, Emily Bevan and the Ransom twins, Kate and Anna.

Sheltered from the worst of the chilly sea-breezes suffered by the audience and cast, Malcolm Woodcock's musicians sailed through a demanding score. All credit to Chris Cant and Sam Lacey (trumpeters) for keeping company with the professionals.

It was apparent that survivors of previous outdoor productions had abandoned summer blazers or dresses for overcoats, rugs and winter

boots! Co-director Marjorie White kept the chaperones warm by leading them through some exuberant dance routines.

The operetta's greatest challenge must be when the cast parts, the Major General takes the stage for the first time and his diction is immediately tested by the multi-syllabic complexities of his solo. Needless to say, James Hitchen was the definitive model of a modern Major General.

Not only are the policemen getting younger, but some of them seem to be getting shorter too. The audience howled with laughter as tiny Ben Beach tried to parade with those who meet the minimum height requirement with inches to spare. Reports of the Sergeant of Police's death were premature despite his having his name inscribed on one of the gravestones. Ollie Haines and his outsize moustache led the constabulary admirably.

The audience departed with just one question in their minds: which musical would get the Woodcock treatment in 1997?

M Edwards

The Cast

Major General	James Hitchen
Pirate King	Luke Charleson
Samuel	William Spratt
Jonas	Rupert Bridgman
Ruth	Jane Edwards
Frederick	Jamie Bruce
Mabel	Sophie Malcolm Green
Edith	Bonnie Malcolm Green
Kate	Emily Bevan
Isobel	Anna Ransom
	Kate Ransom

Other daughters	James Burridge Oliver Cole Christopher Fox	Thomas, L Skagerlind, W McMullan, W Midlane, K Nozaki, O Smith, D Stockdale, D Munt, R Jones, M Lauder.	
Chaperones	Jane Burt Patsy Lacey Marjorie White	Set/Props Painting	Simon Brown and team James Johnson and the Art department
Sergeant of Police Policemen	Oliver Haines J Case, E Dadak, N Quirke, F Temple, P Scott, B Beach, S Kent, A Hayes, J Clarke, I Wilson, H Lowry	Make up Costumes Sound Lighting	Wendy Robinson, June Shelton, Sue Browning, Judy Smail, Jo Brown Liz Cooke, Claire Harris, Judy Smail Chris Braclik Chris Bowman
Pirates: J Lewin, P Hopkins, N Riddell, J Ransom, G Arkell, M Bryant, A Hambrook, A Cordingley, R Common, E Paroissien, D Leopard, T Douglas, I Hayden, N Lay, B Radford, N Srivastava, J Van de Hurd, A Abdolwahabi, O Davison, W Neale, R Oliver, T Ostroumoff, C Peacock, T Wood, M Wongsuphachartkun, W Yuen, J Woodman, P Bonney, B Tandy, J Burnett, J Crosse, D Crouch, E Fletcher, E Moore, T Pratt, R Quarrelle, A Quirke, M Rainton, J Richmond, B Salvesen, C Spero, S Sturges, A Tucker, J Carter, B Honour, C Hyde, C	Assistants Stage Crew Musicians Rehearsal pianist Front of house Directors	Paul Scade, James Raikes Sam McLaughlan, Hugo de Chair, George Pickard Christopher Cant, Sam Lacey Felicity Burrell Mike Llewellyn Helen Stewart Clarke Malcolm Woodcock Marjorie White	

Three Junior Productions

The 3rd and 4th forms presented three short entertainments this year, involving almost all the Junior School in some capacity. This was a great experience in group theatre and tested the three directors in the management of large numbers on the very small Tithe Barn stage.

Jabberwocky, by Lewis Carroll, was a re-working of the well-known poem, to bring it in line with the concerns of today's youth. A most original concept by Christine Hughes, developed with ideas from her cast, suggested the relevance of *Jabberwocky* to drugs, sex and violence.

Nick Lay narrated, Toby Douglas was the Jabberwock in custom-made mask and Mark Hamilton the Jubjub bird, but the strength of the piece was in the concept and the group playing. The finale was a clear rendering of the whole poem.

The principal item of the evening was *Pullman Car Hiawatha*, loosely based on a short play by Thornton Wilder. An assorted group of people are on a train from New York to Chicago, and we hear their thoughts, problems and sometimes dramas.

The words were far from easy but it was to the credit of all the cast that they were always clearly audible, kept up very passable American accents and appeared to understand their lines!

Again, this was a team effort but mention should be made of Ben Tandy, as the insane woman (an affecting performance), James Burrige as the

woman who died and Toby Douglas as the nurse.

Interesting contributions were made by Peter Scott as a narrator and Ian Wilson as the attendant. Peter Hose's direction showed his usual professionalism. The passing scenery was interestingly suggested by actors passing on a raised platform. Perhaps a criticism might be that there was not much sense of the train's movement, though this would not have been easy to achieve unobtrusively.

The evening finished with a musical romp, *Swinging Samson*, by Michael Hurd, directed by Malcolm Woodcock. This was a Skipwith special, and was basically a continuous chorus. It was quite well choreographed with mimes from a rather limp-wristed Samson (Jonathan Clarke) and an eerily realistic Delilah (Chris Fox on Thursday and Oliver Cole on Friday).

Barry Edwards was an incongruously old looking narrator and the action jogged along merrily. It was surprising that such a large chorus could not produce more volume but I don't think they were necessarily chosen for their ability to sing!

Liz Cooke as usual took the brunt of the back stage jobs and James Raikes headed the lighting team.

DFK Welsh

Journey's End



Scene from the dug-out ... some of the cast of *Journey's End*

This production of R C Sherriff's play was so authentic that even co-producer Peter Hose seemed to be limping from trench foot. In reality it was a recurrence of a wound appropriately received on CCF operations in Germany.

Co-producer Liz Cooke, ensured that the setting was authentic. Candles flickered, gas lamps glowed and the Tithe Barn took on the sombre browns, greys and khakis of a doomed First World War dugout.

"It'll be over by Christmas," the cast reassured themselves as they trudged off like footsore infantry for yet another evening rehearsal. Lines were embedded into their minds like shrapnel into timber.

James Hitchen's Stanhope exhibited the volatile traits of a man struggling with personal and professional dilemmas. His nerves frayed as the guns blazed and whisky ran out. Initially Rob Common's Raleigh was full of boyish optimism. Soon, embarrassing silences and awkward posture revealed that he was finding it difficult to adapt to his new surroundings. The changed relationship with Stanhope troubled him as he struggled to understand this new underground world.

Oliver Haines, as the working class cook Mason, dropped his 'h's with a relish which could gain him an *Eastenders*' part. Somehow he was obsequious whilst remaining his own man. When he offered to accompany Hibbert to the front line, the shirker, played with nervous hysteria by Sam McLaughlan, could not refuse.

The avuncular Osborne is a key role. Rick Jones greyed and aged superbly in the role. He gave the second in command a maturity and calmness beyond the other young officers in the dug-out.

The part of the Colonel could have been written

for Ben Williams. The upper-crust Colonel uttered the words expected of a leader with bluster and a total lack of conviction. Although he tried, he could not hide the realities of war either from himself or from his men. Equally, the plain-speaking, constantly-eating, Trotter was well suited to John Skinner. "He acts just like Michael Caine" his housemaster commented at the interval. "He's just playing himself." Luke Barton, as the captured German soldier, had an opportunity to rehearse his German and Jamie Bruce took on a Scottish accent, presumably in preparation for Hogmanay.

As sixth formers in the audience departed, scarcely any younger than the victim of this war, Raleigh, their praise took on echoes of another era: "I say, what a jolly fine show" ... "How absolutely topping!"

M Edwards

The cast

Stanhope	James Hitchen
Osborne	Rick Jones
Trotter	John Skinner
Hibbert	Sam McLaughlan
Raleigh	Rob Common
Colonel	Ben Williams
Sergeant Major	Jamie Bruce
Mason	Ollie Haines
German Soldier	Luke Barton
Production	P G Hose
Lighting/sound	Mrs E Cooke
	Paul Scade
	James Raikes

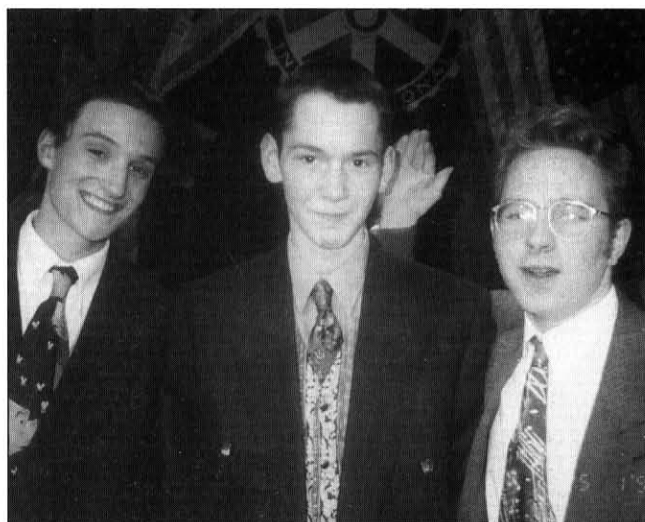
Debating

Shiplake wins 'Youth Speaks' contest fourth year running

Shiplake College was the winner of the Henley Rotary Youth Speaks Competition for the fourth year running.

It was another successful year for the college at this event. The representatives of the junior section stole the show with their theme - *The New Bronze Age*. Not, as one might expect, a scholarly dissertation researched in the archives of the local library but rather, as chairman Peter Lankar had hoped, a fresh approach to the topic. Indeed, for Robert Common, the main speaker, the real Bronze Age refers to the 1960s and 70s, "when the bronzed body beautiful became the rage". He detailed a whole range of high-tech potions, packed with anti-ageing goodies, vitamin E and liposomes which allow us "to indulge in hours of top-to-toe sun-filled pleasure whilst promising to preserve us, Peter Pan style, at the same time". The safest tan of all, he maintained, is a fake one. So convinced was the pale-skinned proposer of the vote of thanks, Andrew Hayes, that he vowed to apply a self-tanning preparation that very evening!

In the senior section, chairman Ben Williams pondered over the main speaker's topic, *Life Without...?* Life without hair gel for Edward Ingram perhaps? As we approach the 21st century, life without death even? However, Paul Scade, the main speaker, invited the audience to consider life without banana holders in the kitchen or lawn aerator sandals in the garden or even without gentlemen's eyebrow canopy trimmers! Edward Ingram, in his vote of thanks, applauded Paul's catalogue of life's useless knick-knackeries and himself questioned the value of cocktail umbrellas!



Winning speakers at Henley Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition, January 1996. Left to right, Edward Ingram, Paul Scade, Benedict Williams

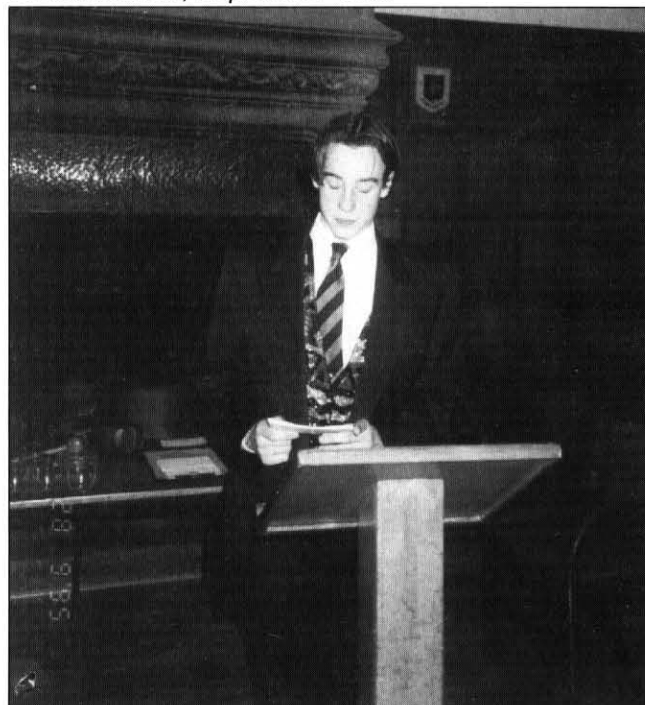
Senior Inter-House Debate

This was, as always, topical, lively and entertaining and it was also very pleasing to see a member of the fairer sex, Rebecca Shenton, representing a house for the first time. Burr House won the event with Paul Scade convincing us that the disadvantages of smoking tobacco outweigh the advantages.

His partner, Ben Williams, argued plausibly that Prince William should have come to Shiplake College. Bertie Bollom, Skipwith, upheld the virtues of the National Lottery and won the prize for individual best speaker.

H Stewart-Clarke

Bertie Bollom, voted best speaker at the Senior Inter-House Debate, September 1995



The last three years' victories

1993 *Snacking*, Winners in Senior Section

Chairman: William Ingram

Speaker: Edward Horner

Thanks: Matthew Jones

1994 *Mercenaries*, Winners in Senior Section

Chairman: James Hammond

Speaker: Richard Cole

Thanks: Seymour Jacklin

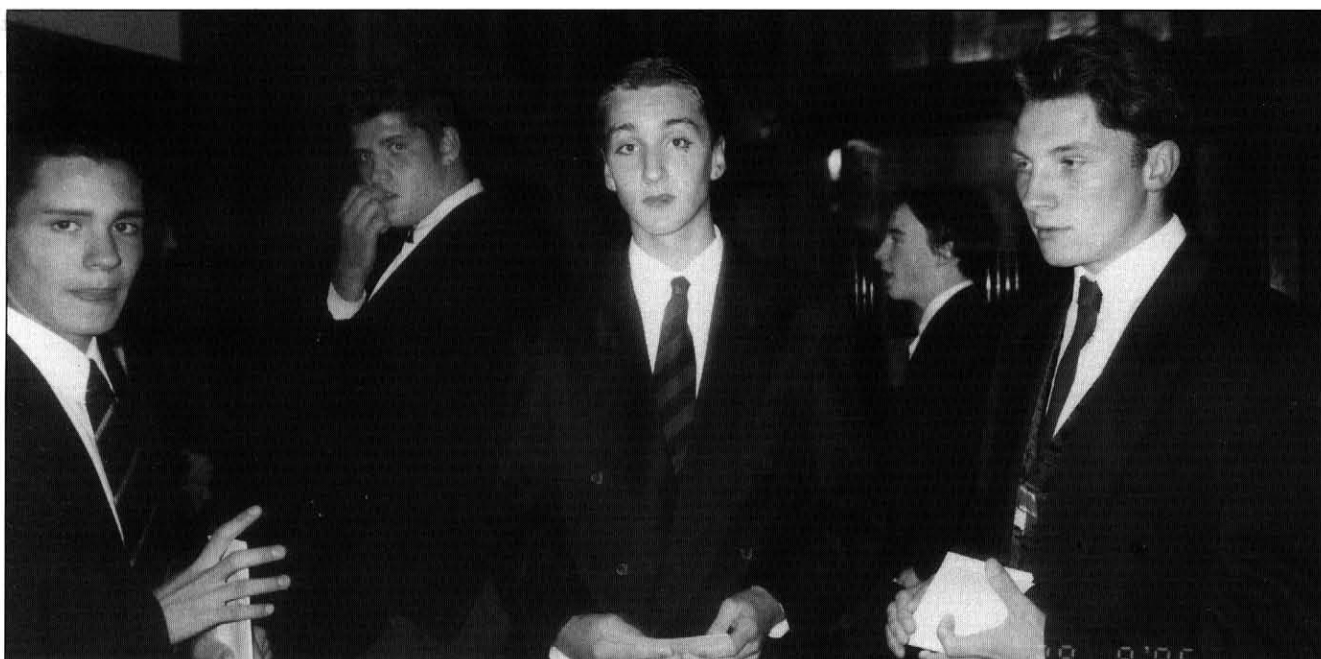
1995 *Hot Air*, Winners in Junior Section

Chairman: Rob Common

Speaker: Bertie Bollom

Thanks: James Hitchen.

1995 Best Senior Speaker: Seymour Jacklin



Nerves before the big event: a gaggle of anxious boys before the Senior Public Speaking competition. Left to right, James Nickalls, Jamie Bruce, James Donigan, Bernie Bollom and Luke Charleson

Inter-House Public Speaking Competitions

Senior

Alec Hambrook of Everett, the winning house, spoke to the audience on the theme of 'The Millennium' - where would we be on 31st December 1999 at midnight and who will we be with? "Whatever you are doing," he warned, "You'll remember it for the rest of your life." Andrew Hayes, the second Everett representative, delighted us with his images of 'Paradise' - ivory beaches, palm trees and alluring women offering an endless supply of *Bounty* bars! Skipwith House came second with Richard Jones 'Surfing the Internet' and Jamie Bruce sharing some of his 'Guilty Secrets' with us.

Junior

This was a most enjoyable evening which saw ten new juniors join the public-speaking circuit. Burr House won with the first speaker, Robin Quarrelle, delivering a beautifully clear and informative speech on 'The Year of the Rat'.

Second speaker, Christopher Spero, amused us with some of his artful ideas on 'Beating the System'. Welsh House came second with Ben Tandy's well-researched speech chronicling 'A Golden Age'. Second representative, Rory Smith, prepared an excellent speech in just three hours on being 'One of the Family'. Peter Scott of Everett was the winner of the best individual junior public speaker prize with his theme of rest and relaxation in his speech entitled 'Take it Easy'.

Debate at St George's School, Ascot

A group of 25 sixth formers accompanied by Christine Hughes, Chris Campbell and both Phil and Isobel Parker took part in a debate at St George's School, Ascot. Having been asked if we would oppose the motion 'This house believes that men are an unnecessary, frivolous accessory', nothing would prevent us from going to Ascot!

The girls certainly found they had met their match when James Hitchen and John Skinner picked up the gauntlet. The debate was a great success, with the girls putting forward an entertaining and vigorous argument. There was much support for the excellent debate and a multitude of questions. We nearly lost it but in the end the girls were just defeated by the persuasiveness of James and John, whose equally clever argument and masculine charm clinched the vote in our favour.

An International Affair

The Shiplake College library was the setting for a celebratory gathering of international pupils from both Shiplake and Queen Anne's School, Caversham. As a multitude of religions and countries were represented, the blanket celebration was *New Year* and the real celebration, as far as the boys at least were concerned, was the opportunity to meet young ladies in similar circumstances to their own.

Bill Brownlow and his staff did a wonderful job with a delicious light supper which reflected the cuisines of several nationalities.

The evening ended after a lively quiz about international affairs.

C M Hughes

Original Work

On to Stanley

*(Dedicated to the men of the Parachute Regiment,
1982, the Falklands Campaign)*

Moving on, over the island to the port;
Tramping over hills, down roads, through mud,
To fight the battles already fought,
And rebaptise the land in blood.

Onwards they march, stops to smoke, eat and
battle,
Then face down in a shell scrape, praying
insincerely,
Hearing 'the machine guns' rapid rattle'
Ringing through the cold dawn air so clearly.

On and on they go, death in hand, peace in mind.
Some die, others struggle with wounds and lag
Behind the column, trying to stay in line
And reaching Stanley first, and for some short time,
Again raise their flag.

Paul Scade, U6

The clown forgotten

He wanders down round Blackpool
Selling withered yellow balloons.
He's got no real next of kin
Except his pet baboon.

At dawn he paints his face white
With blood-red cheeks and lips,
And then goes down to breakfast
Through the bins for fish and chips.

But soon he knows it's over
As a phantom he will fly
And spread a million smiles
'Entertainment in the skies'.

Benjamin Tandy, 3rds



The Bell Book Shop

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Under a shadow

My life drains away,
As each tear drop flows
Peacefully, down my corrupted face.
Each tear burns the truth
Into my soft, silky skin.
My heart freezes into a ball of fire,
As my eyes turn into a thick cloud of smoke
To hide the love that scars my heart.

You live in a world
Controlled by money.
Where pain comes with pleasure
And pleasure doesn't come with pain.
I'm under a shadow of sorrow
Because nobody knows me.
Then, when you start to see me
You scream innocently in your head.
Ashamed, you turn away,
And go back to sleep.
But when you sleep
You don't hear me cry.

Kerim Uras, L6

Winner of the Senior Poetry prize, 1996

The day after tomorrow

The river ran smoothly, sliding down to the
screaming ocean. Gently, the warm wind caressed
the grass hair, like a silk cat. The bright sun, poured
its white, blinding beams in to our world, piercing
it with its streamline blaze.

Down on my knees, I played with the soil,
making unnatural shapes and objects with my dark,
secret hands.

The soil suddenly turned to ice, scorching my
skin. Turning brown, the trees shrivelled up into a
ball and turned to stone. Failing time. The river
burned with a frozen fire, melting to dust.

The cold mountains gasped as they turned into
a thick cloud of smoke as the hail fell from the sky
turning to icicles. Dust, turned into thousands of
memories of people, flickering past like lightning.
The scared, cold earth trembled and the sky turned
to a sullen purple. Lightning froze to a standstill
because of the freezing frost.

A tear rolled down my soft face. It burned with
fire as it froze with hate. Soundlessly I screamed,
innocently fearing everything, including myself.

Everything had become unnatural, our deepest
fears became true. Our possessions and dreams
had become our nightmare. It was the day after
tomorrow.

Kerim Uras

Sacred ground

High above the mountains
That make up the world
A bird with an ivory beak
Lurks in silent purple shadows
Waiting in the tall thick trees
For a friend.
Its black eyes search the
Hollow air while down
Below in the steep slating
Meadows, a man starts a fire,
Polluting the Alpine air
With his discovery.
A glowing fire that warms the heart
A fire that kills shadows and burns
Woods, raging, red, stinging fire sending
Sparks high, high to the Alpine sky.

Listen to the earth breathe,
As the sun plays on the trees;
While a resting, rageless cool
Fire that lets shadows grow free
On sun softened snowfields
Shares the earth with flowers.

Christopher Spero, 4ths
Winner of the Junior Poetry prize, 1996

The rabbit

There's a scurry in the undergrowth
Then a flash, a grey misty blur.
Startled, stepping back, the rabbit halts.
Both are left staring towards each other,
Silence is broken as both brains tick...

Lunch - this is my chance to eat!
Lunging forward, both hands are clamped.
The tiny little body is pinned down.
Its bloodshot eyes, glazed, stare.
Let me go, its expression pleads.

The body is tense and ready to spring,
Its legs and feet scrabble frantically.
It can't be killed,
Such a helpless creature.
The hands slowly release their grip.

Immediately it flings into the air,
Lands on its feet and races off.
The dead leaves fly up behind it
Its back legs frantically feel for the ground
Whilst it disappears into its world of danger.

Leon Brown, 4ths

On and on

Is dry ginger
really
that very dry?
Does a book worm
eat
that many books?
Does tonic water
truly
make you feel better?
Is a game keeper
the man
who knows the rules?
Is a garden centre
exactly
in the middle?

Hugo Lowry, 3rds

The stranger

Walking home from your destination,
Happy, smiling, intrigued in nothingness,
Staggering after your last pint
You take your usual route home.
Unexpectedly, you are not alone.
An eagle eye is watching over you,
Lurking in the shadows, you see
Him not; yet he sees you clearly.
The eagle is ready to pounce on his prey;
Suddenly he swoops, his prey is captured,
Your wallet lost.
You sit wondering what went wrong.
You're lost in disbelief;
But strangers do these things.

Peter Scott, 4ths

The wall

The child grows
and leaves.
Leaving behind deep
shadows of the past
as the wall grows.
His eyes are glowing,
his mind is electric,
he does not fit in
this place, the hole
Is too small, he needs
more space but there's
a wall in his place.
He does not know how to fit in.
He's cast his own mould
more complex than the simple minds
of those who bore him.

Christopher Spero

Combined Cadet Force

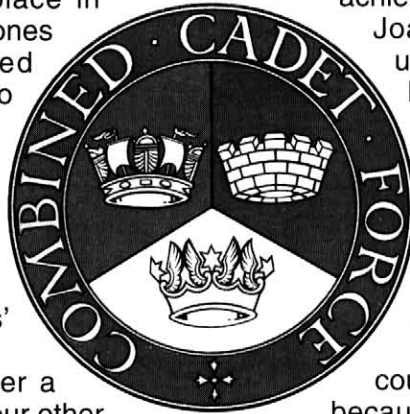
Biennial Inspection

Our Biennial Inspection took place in March with Group Captain D M Jones RAF, ADC, as the appointed Reviewing Officer. He happens to be the father of Richard Jones of Skipwith House who was the Senior Cadet in the RAF Section and the Parade Commander. The inspection took place at noon and the Reviewing Officer was complimentary about the cadets' turn-out and their march past.

He met the senior cadets over a drink in the JCR and then joined our other guests in the Art Studio before lunch. Parents of cadets were invited to the occasion and over thirty attended. My sincere thanks to them because it adds an important ingredient to the day, that of showing an interest in the activities of the Corps.

The competitions were won by Orchard House (drill and turn-out) and Welsh House (competition shield).

The Adventurous Training course we formerly ran for 4th formers is now run for the L6th. The climbing was taken by Mrs Cheadle, the survival course by Mr Clarke and the canoeing by Rev Parker. Unfortunately, we said goodbye to the Rev Parker in June but we hope we will have someone to replace him by the autumn. Three cadets



achieved particular success this year. Sgt Joanna Brown gained a prestigious university cadetship into the Royal Navy to become an engineer. JUO Paul Scade gained a scholarship into the Army, WO Richard Jones was one of five cadets in the RAF to be interviewed as a finalist for the Sir John Thompson Memorial Sword for best RAF cadet in the country.

The number of cadets attending courses during the holidays is pleasing because it proves there are cadets who have a genuine interest in the Corps.

This year, too, we said goodbye to Chris Campbell who was in the Corps for two years and to Flying Officer Rosemary Jones who had been in the RAF Section since 1988. We also paid a special tribute to Liz Cooke for her involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's Adventurous Training scheme over a period of three decades. All were presented with a silver salver at our Mess Dining Out in May.

My sincere thanks to all the officers and instructors who strive to make the Corps a success.

Major P J F Webb O/C

Inspection Day: W O Jones gives the salute to Group Captain Jones - his father!



Royal Naval Section Report

The section was stronger than ever in terms of numbers (55 cadets and two officers on the complement) and in terms of equipment, enabling us to have a very 'hands-on' approach to the naval syllabus. A great deal of water-based training took place on the river, with everyone getting afloat regularly in canoes, the sixteen-foot whaler and the two ASCs (Admiralty Sailing Craft) whose prolonged restoration had been the 'winter project' of the long dark afternoons.

These craft are sturdy, wide and heavy (three-quarters of a ton each!) and can be used either for sailing or for 'pulling' (which is what HM's Royal Navy terms fixed-seat rowing in the old style). Both were in an advanced state of decay, but a generous grant from Commander Pollard's department in Portsmouth, the expertise of Old Viking, Adam Shorrock and a great deal of willing labour from the cadets created a remarkable transformation. Rotten wood was stripped off, keels were rubbed down and layer upon layer of battleship grey paint was applied. The result was impressive and it has been very enjoyable to be able to race crews from the section against each other in eight-oar pulling.

Thanks are due, as ever, to Sub Lt Simon Brown whose ability to turn sheet metal and lumps of wood into boat parts is, perhaps, unrivalled in the entire CCF. Simon's naval connections have been strengthened by his daughter Joanna winning a Royal Naval Cadetship at Dartmouth. While at Shiplake, Jo was the only girl in the CCF and, one fears, a member of the Army Section!

Other cadets to distinguish themselves were the two senior NCOs, Mark Chatwin and Rolf



Inspection Day at Shiplake College: Lt Cdr Kinsella (PELO), S/Lt Brown, Lt Carley, CPO Longhurst (AI)

Woodward, both of whom served four rewarding years in the section, attaining the senior rank of Coxswain. Their presence was a real help to the officers, while Mark's bubbling enthusiasm and Rolf's handiness with anything mechanical set new standards for cadet participation on drill days.

It was a full and eventful year in terms of visits away and attendance at camps with nearly every cadet, even at fourth form level, going off to spend time in uniform and gaining experience of sailing, helicopters, naval weapons and even submarines.

After two years at the helm of the section it is pleasing to be able to report such willing participation in the many and varied activities open to the members of the Senior Service section.

Lt JDF Carley RNR

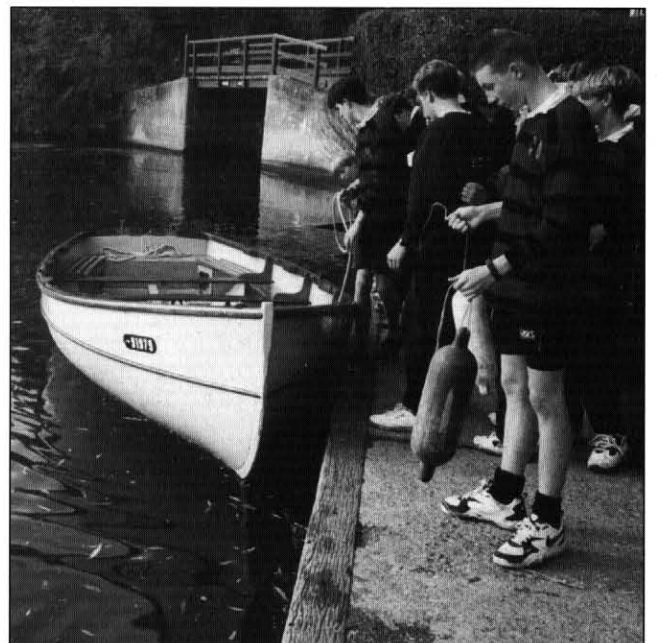
A view from below decks

There are some great opportunities of which one can take advantage in the CCF, especially in the RN Section. One such opportunity was a visit to HMS Osprey, one of the leading helicopter bases in the UK. The tour included an inside look at new technology in avionics as well as a close look at Lynx helicopters and the state of the weaponry systems. Then followed by a flight in a Sea King Mark 2 troop carrier.

There was not just interest in away trips. The restoration of boats and canoeing took up a lot of time during the term. The diesel launch was one of my main activities, along with most of my year group and frequent trips up and down the river, learning to handle and pilot the craft.

I think the CCF has been highly successful this year and has contributed a lot to the pupils of Shiplake College. I have certainly enjoyed it to the full. Many a smile of content has spread across my face whilst looking out into a rainy night, knowing other sections are dripping under canvas!

Will Jubert, 5ths



Naval section cadets launch their refurbished craft

Army Section Report

Another successful year ended with 39 cadets (mainly 4th formers) attending Central Camp at Folkestone. Everybody appeared to enjoy their time away. The training was excellent as was the educational trip to the battlefields of Ypres.

The cadets tried hard throughout the camp and although Shiplake did not win any of the competitions, we performed well in all of them (assault course and shoot, orienteering etc).

Choosing the best cadet was not any easy task and ultimately a joint award was made to 4th form cadets Fletcher and Hyde. At the end of the camp we had to say goodbye to JUO Scade who has served the Army Section so well for a number of years - he is off to join the Royal Engineers and we wish him all the best in the future.

We also had to say goodbye at the end of the summer term to 2nd Lt. Chris Campbell. He was such a help to me and to the other officers and will be sorely missed. He has not yet been replaced, increasing the pressure on those few remaining to keep up the standards achieved recently.

Partly as a result of their attendance at camp, the majority of the 4th form intake were fully proficient by the end of the year. It was hoped that 31 out of a total of 50 would commence Cadre Training in the autumn term.

Total passes obtained during the year were:

Drill, turnout and military knowledge	50
Map and compass	54
Skill at arms, shooting and safety	45
Fieldcraft	52
Self reliance	51
Full Proficiency passes	39

Three field days were held during the year: October's Classification Shoot on Ash ranges and Fieldcraft on an Aldershot Training area; in March a Biennial Inspection by Group Captain D M Jones (the parent of one of the RAF Section cadets) and the Inter-house competitions day; and the overnight self-reliance exercise and fieldcraft on an Aldershot training area and Classification Shoot on Ash ranges which took place in April.

As a result of the range days the following results were achieved:

Marksman:	2 (Sgts Tasker, Midwood)
First class:	7
Second class:	11
Pass:	35

Adventurous Training continued as usual with many cadets undertaking their Gold and Silver D of E expeditions in Wales and the Tuesday afternoon L6th programme running very smoothly supervised by colleagues Caroline Cheadle, Phil Parker and Tim Clarke - many thanks for their time and effort. There was also a very pleasant Corps Dinner which allowed us to thank many of those who assisted in all sections during the year.

I must also thank my fellow Army Section officers, Captain David Shenton and Lt Peter Hose for all the hard work they have put in throughout the year and finally Contingent Commander Major Peter Webb and SSI Captain Graham Sale for ensuring that all Corps activities took place and ran smoothly.

Captain G Cassells

Paul Scade practises 'sapping'



TO BE THE BEST, START EARLY

The Army wants to attract only the best people. So every year we offer some powerful incentives to consider an Army career. As an Officer you'll be trained in a wide variety of skills – some technical, some management – but all requiring team leadership which will be invaluable whether you decide to stay in the Army or eventually follow a civilian career. Now have a look at what the Army can do for you – if you start early.

AT 15-16 (BEFORE THE 6TH FORM)

Compete for an Army Scholarship and earn £350 per term while studying for your 'A' levels and guarantee yourself a great career.

AT 17-18 (BEFORE UNIVERSITY)

Apply for an Army Cadetship or Bursary to finance you through University, and guarantee yourself a challenging career. Every year, 30 Cadets are awarded sponsorship which totals up to £25,000 each during their degree course. Bursars are awarded £1,500 per year.

OR

Find out how exciting an Army Career can really be by joining us for your Gap Year before University with no commitment. We'll pay you while you travel and face challenges both mental and physical. You'll learn as much about yourself as you do about us.

RAF Section Report

This has been the most difficult year for the section since it was founded in the early 80s. We missed Mrs Rosemary Jones as the 2nd Officer and because we were reduced to JWW as the only officer we could not accept any new recruits. We therefore had a very small section of only 24 cadets to begin the year, reducing to about 21 by the start of 1996.

This necessarily curtailed our activities and for the first time in about 10 years we had no cadets going on camp.

So far then, a gloomy picture with every expectation that, through lack of officers, the section might close down in June. However, the situation changed.

Firstly, Mr Scott started to lend assistance and was so effective in teaching the Part 2 Proficiency

that all the cadets in his class were successful. Indeed, J/CPL Wu achieved the highest mark ever reached by a Shiplake College cadet.

Another extremely important factor was the quality of the two senior cadets W/O R Jones and Fl Sgt A Cordingley. Both were absolutely reliable, enthusiastic and showed a good deal of initiative in the organisation of the training programme. And they were also very effective in the recruiting programme last term.

We were also very well served by our liaison Flt Sgt S Dunbar who was a tower of strength at all times, particularly in the field day trips in the autumn and summer terms. Both Jones and Cordingley attended a Germany cadet camp during the Easter holidays. The report of their performance was excellent.

The overall picture, then, became ever brighter by the end of the summer term, with Mrs D Bennett taking a very enthusiastic interest in the section and with the addition of 29 new and keen 4th year recruits.

So, as we now look forward to building up the section again and extending its range of activities as much as possible, let me finish with two statements. Firstly, a heartfelt note of thanks to Mrs Jones, who performed an invaluable service in helping with all the administrative matters. Secondly, I would very much like to welcome John Scott - his experience as a former RAF pilot will be immensely useful and also to Mrs Daphne Bennett. May they both get as much enjoyment from the CCF as I have!

Fl Lt J W Whittington

RAF cadets on station



The height of fashion? Two RAF cadets prepare for take-off



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Gold group visited Brecon at the beginning of March over the exeat weekend. Fortunately, the weather was reasonable which enabled us to cover a considerable amount of ground. The group was sound and kept to its routes and timings.

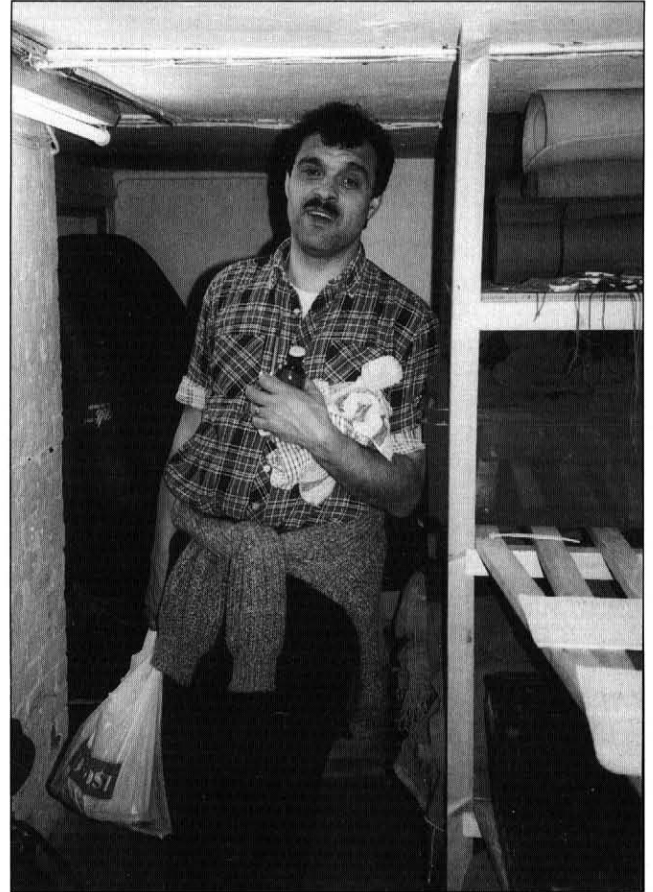
At the end of the Easter term, 24 Silvers and the Gold group attended the D of E Adventurous Training Camp. Unfortunately for Silvers this was a baptism by fire because the weather was foul. However, the boys were tightly monitored and they learned from their experiences. All of the boys went caving, climbing and abseiling. The former were run by Kevin Walker who heads the Brecon Caving Rescue Team and the latter by the 15 Cadet Training Team who visit the College on Corps Days.

The expeditions for both Gold and Silver groups will take place in September. By having the expeditions then, we hope that the weather will be kinder to us and the participants will gain more from their experience.

My thanks to colleagues who kept a close eye on the groups and spent time working with them. Thank you to Liz Cooke who provided not only our meals but an extra pair of hands fulfilling all manner of roles.

The following boys have passed their Gold Award: M Chatwin, A Cordingley, E Jewels, D Lloyd, J Midwood, P Scade, A Tasker, R Vereker.

PJF Webb



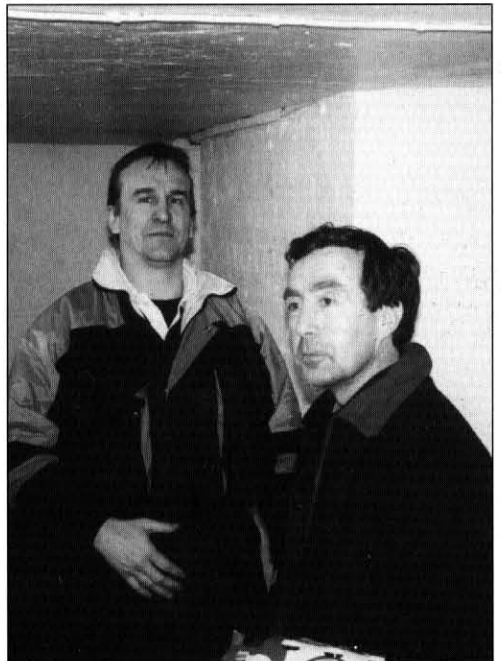
Hands on: Major Webb at the D of E camp

D of E

Stuck in the mud: D of E expedition boys push the College van out of trouble in Brecon, Wales. Another successful activity!



George Cassells and David Shenton, exhausted after their day's exertions



An Endless Walking Hell...

- a student's tale of a D of E expedition -

D of E

I took up the Duke of Edinburgh Award for a challenge and it certainly was! To prepare, we spent a year on preliminary groundwork in a classroom with the Silver D of E teacher, Mr Hose. During these classes we learned the ins and outs of surviving in the Brecon Beacons. This was all very well until we actually got to Wales for our pre-expedition, where not one of us had a clue how to put up a tent, cook or carry out any other important functions needed to survive in the wild with only the bare necessities.

My fellow team-mates had mixed feelings about the adventure ahead of us. Most of the people who were with us had done this before (as they were doing Gold). They already knew about the primitive conditions that we would be living in. The route we would be taking was basically the same as last year. Nobody in my group had even been to the Brecon Beacons and in our ignorance we were all very excited about the whole idea of walking in the hills of Wales with no supervision.

The drive up to Wales was fantastic, the beautiful rolling hills were covered with half a foot of snow which had fallen just the day before. The presence of snow intensified my excitement and eagerness to get walking in the wilderness. The excitement soon drained out of me however when I tried to put up my tent in these harsh conditions. This was a practical impossibility because the ground was as solid as asphalt and as cold as Antarctica.

We awoke in the morning in Polar conditions. I was wrapped up in my cocoon-like sleeping bag. It might have appeared warm but my bag was saturated with condensation which made the whole night uncomfortable. We were told that the ground temperature was about minus seven and it felt considerably colder. I decided that the best thing to do was to get up and brave the Arctic conditions. Before long we had packed away and were waiting for the remainder of the group who had been delayed to arrive.

They turned up half an hour later in full spirits and enthusiastic, looking forward to getting out and freezing in the wintry barren wasteland of Wales. It was a gorgeous day as the sun rose over the hill and reflected off the snow in an array of beautiful colours, making each crystal of snow show up individually as it began to melt slightly. As we climbed the hill, conditions became increasingly cold. The snow was not melting at the top of the hill and was covered with half of foot of powder snow.

When we reached the top of the path we came across a place called Windy Gap. This lived up to its name, with the wind eddying through the gap in the rock. It made an overwhelming whistling noise, so loud that we could not hear each other

talking. Up here, the path was getting incredibly icy. We all found this out when we heard a loud screeching sound as Rob, one of our team-mates, fell with a large thud and slid to the bottom. We learned from Rob's mistake and the rest of us got up in one piece. This did not affect our rate of progress and we soon reached our destination with no real problems.

Whilst returning to the camp site, sleet and snow began to fall ominously. Finally we arrived at the camp site with the weather worsening. We heard the clash of thunder and lightning and we soon realised that we would be in for an unforgettable night. We could hear the pitter patter of the rain crashing against the soil. A loud flash of lightning and we all began to count. It was still many miles away and we thought that we could be in bed by the time the worst of the storm hit us.

This was not to be. We scrambled for our tents and grabbed our waterproof trousers and jackets. My waterproofs did not do their job and only deflected a small amount of rain. The heavy precipitation slowed us down quite considerably. After battling with monsoon conditions for about an hour we began to feel really cold. We asked the teachers if we could skip eating and just go to bed but they insisted that we ate a proper meal so we would have the energy for the next day's walking. We forced a minute amount of the disgusting slop they called food down us and they finally allowed us to retire to our beds. I leaped into bed and looked over at Will, with whom I was sharing a tent. He look pale and extremely ill. I asked him if he was going to be alright and he said he was but I was not so sure. He was shivering uncontrollably and finding it difficult to speak - the first signs of hypothermia. We were finally in our beds, cold and wet, but a bit warmer and compared with outside the tent were as dry as desert rats.

Morning came after another sleepless night and I was exhausted. I emerged from my waterlogged tent and to my disappointment but to no great surprise, all the snow had been washed away in the previous night's rain. It was a dismal day with the last few drops of rain falling from the sky. Fortunately we did not have to walk very far that day as we were only doing map reading skills. This was just as well because we were all tired, wet and ready to get a good night's sleep.

That night we returned to Shiplake. There was an incredible contrast between the trip on the way up to Wales and the one coming back. On the way there spirits had been high, but coming back the atmosphere was rather morbid and the enthusiasm for the actual expedition had almost died away.

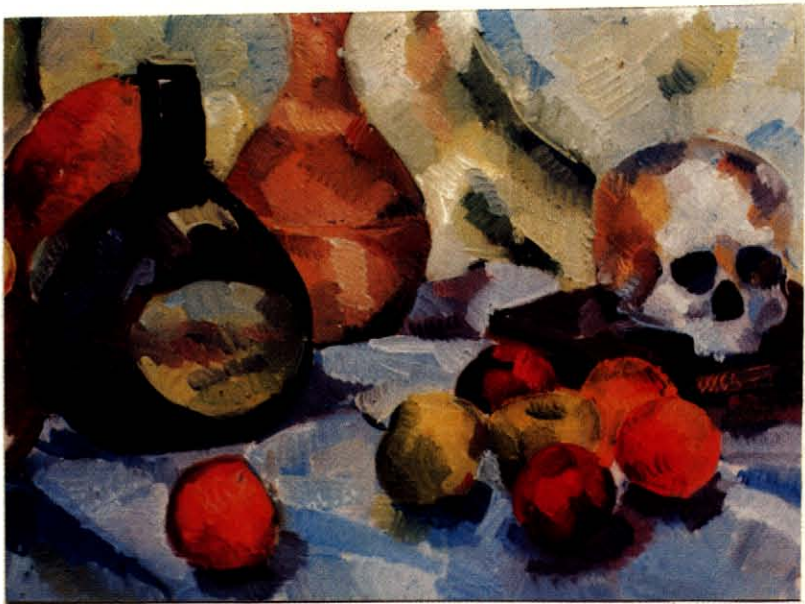
Paul Burden, 5ths



B Barnes



E Jewels



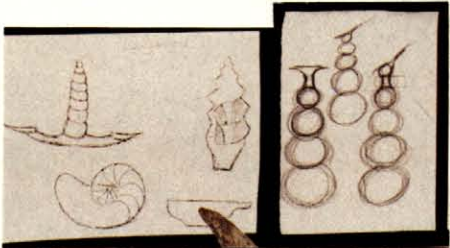
R Surtees



S McLaughlan



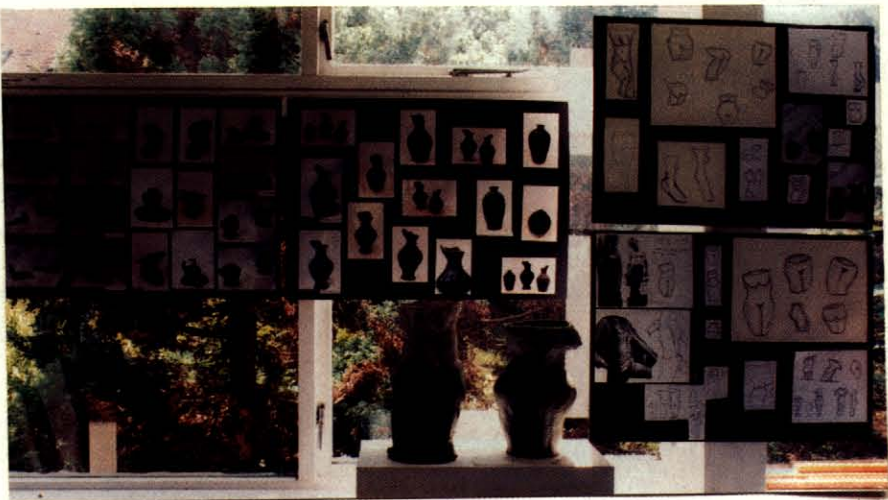
J Midwood



E King



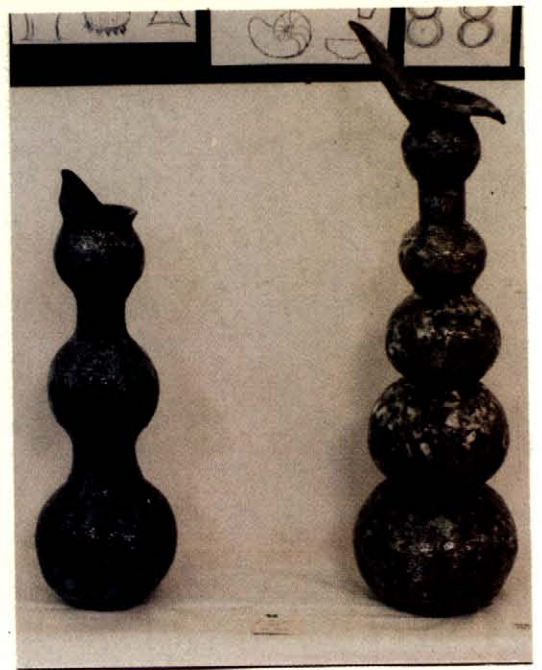
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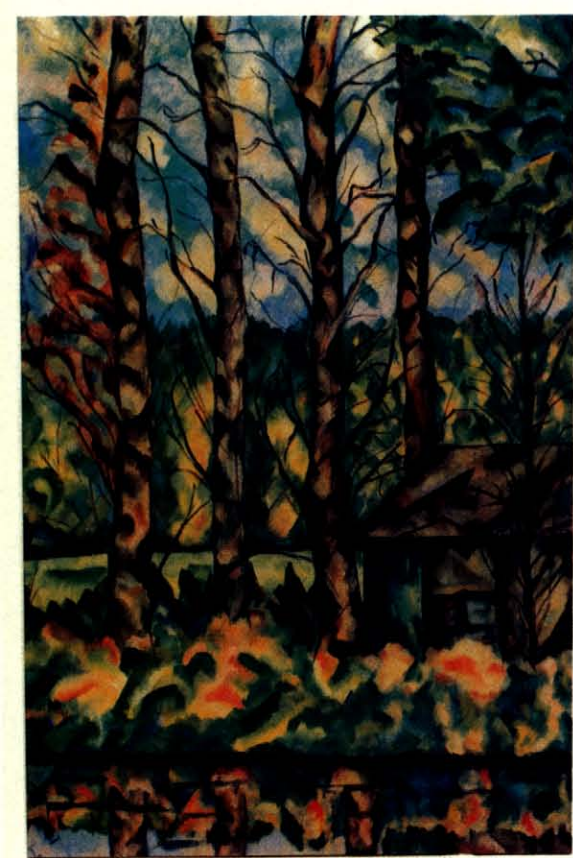
J Orgee



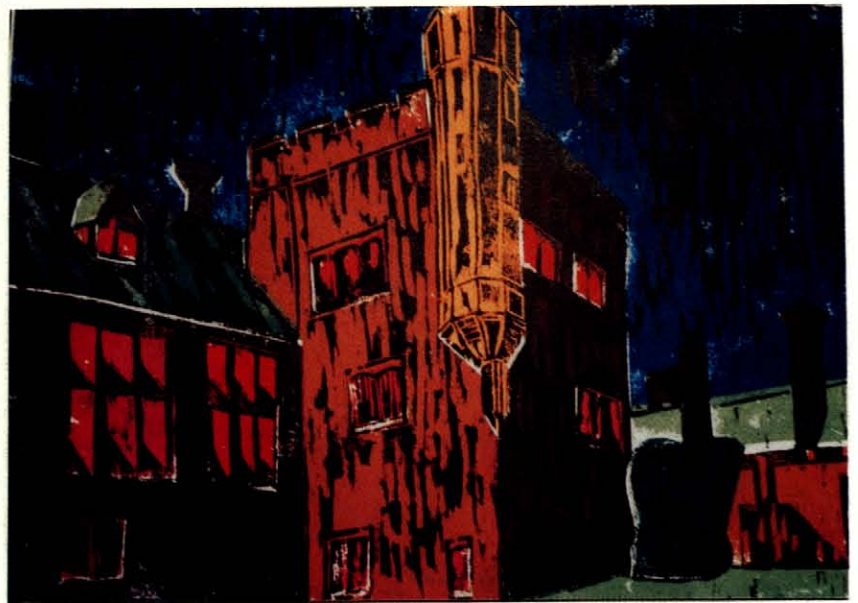
C Rowley-Conwy



E King



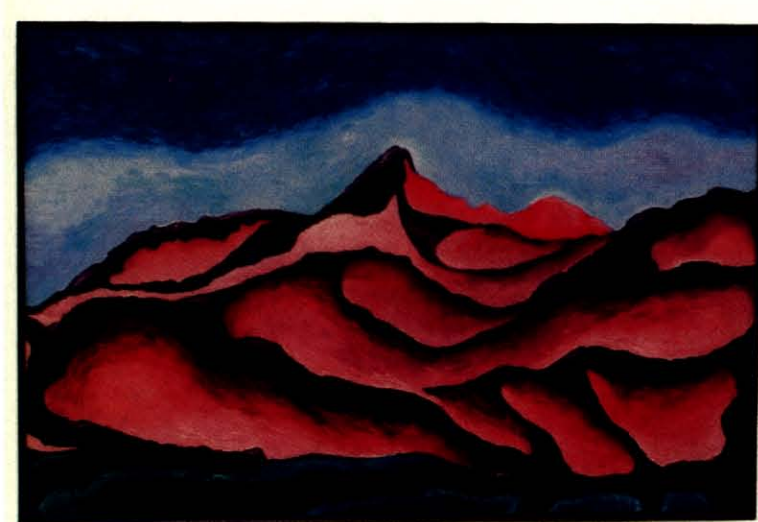
J Radford



A Hambrook



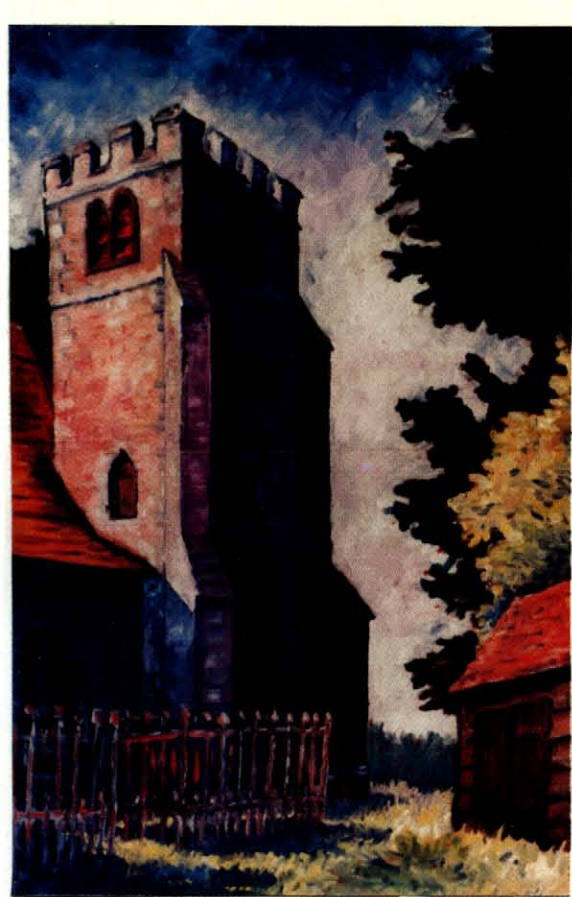
M Sneed



D Harrison



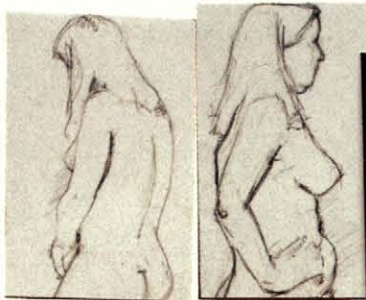
J Lauder



S McLaughlan



J Howman



B Barnes



J Midwood



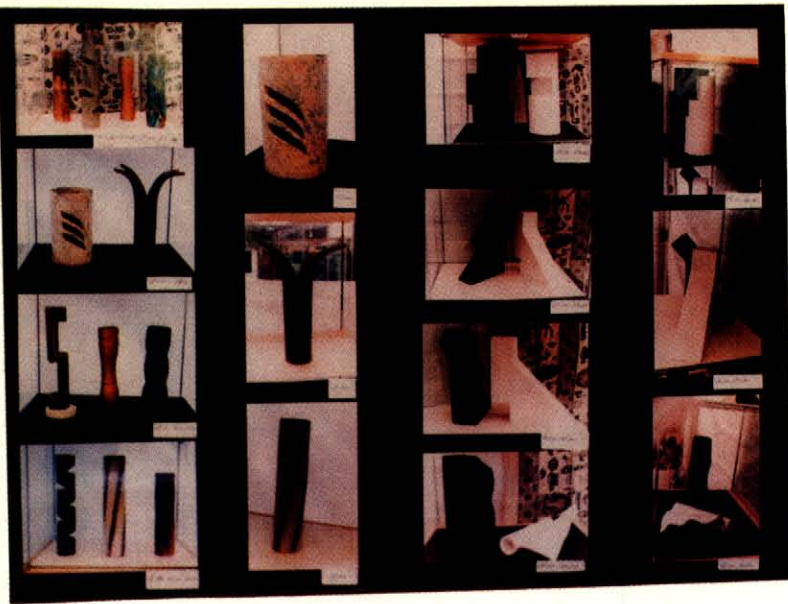
B Barnes



M Snead



M Sinclair



J Bruce



S McLaughlan



J Lauder



D Harrison



R Surtees



J Howman



E Jewels



J Radford



A Hambrook

The Art School

An exceptional year

It is with some sadness that I write my last Art department report, after fifteen years at Shiplake College.

During these fifteen years, we have seen the move from the old art studios (really art rooms) in the stable yard area to the roomier and much more suitable Art School with our fine patio, exhibition area and extensive studios and dark room.

I leave in a state of euphoria as this last year has been exceptional. All boys have tried to do the impossible in their work and often succeeded. The A level group has made phenomenal progress over the two years, as was evidenced at their exhibition and will be seen also in their examination results.

There were three major Art exhibitions in the Art School this year.

Prep School Art Exhibition, 29 Feb - 3 March

This featured a large entry from many of our main feeder prep schools, with very exciting work in many different media. This is the second year of the exhibition and it promises to be a regular successful event on the art calendar. A group of visitors from St. Pirans distinguished themselves by eating masses of cakes and crisps in record time!

The GCSE Art Exhibition 5 - 27 June

A total of 34 boys exhibited drawings, paintings, sculpture and pottery to make a very exciting exhibition.

A Level Art Exhibition 21 - 27 June

This proved to be the largest ever A level Art and Design set with 20 boys submitting work at the exhibition in drawing, painting, print-making, photography, sculpture and pottery. From a very wide range of starting points, they made what can only be described as a brilliant exhibition.

OVS Art Exhibition 24 - 27 June

Old boys were invited to send in work for an exhibition in the new Cricket Pavilion. Simon Menzies (1985) displayed some beautiful renaissance inspired paintings in Dutch Gold. Roger Howie (1988) had several architectural drawings and paintings, while William Rounce (1989) showed works in the medium of etching. Patrick Gubbins (1990), although working as a chef, managed to show a recent painting of a horse race and several prints, while James Deakin (1994) showed recent designs for jewellery.

It was good to see so much talent and to know that the old boys are still carrying on with their art. Simon Menzies is at the moment in the USA organising an exhibition for his recent water colour work. I hope we will see more of their work on

exhibition during the next few years in the more prestigious galleries. There is great talent there.

During this academic year, the Art department made trips to Amsterdam and Barcelona. I leave it to the boys to write accounts of the trips without prejudice! From my own viewpoint they were both highly successful and some excellent work resulted from them, as well as much fun.

These last fifteen years have been very pleasurable and I have made some lasting friends among both staff and pupils. It has, I feel, been an honour and privilege to have been Head of Art at Shiplake College.

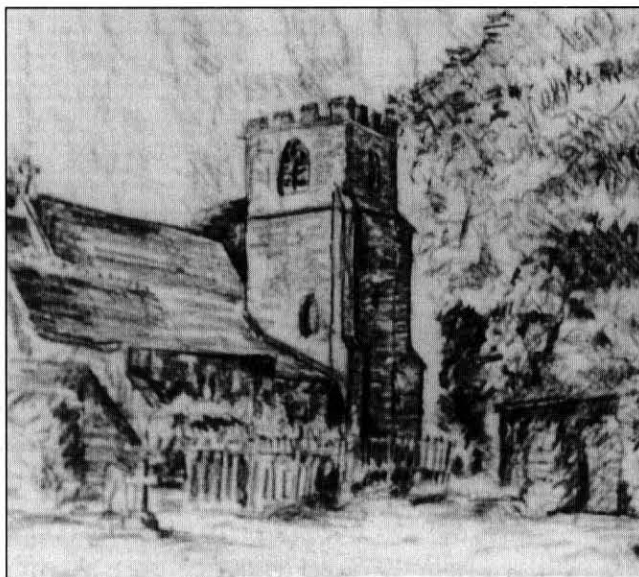
I have been fortunate in having had five wonderful ceramics assistants during those years and will leave the teaching of ceramics in the capable hands of Angharad Taris who has inspired her pupils to extend themselves in some brilliant work. I have enjoyed the support and friendship of all of my assistants over the years, as indeed have the pupils.

I wish the new head, David Stoker, as happy a time as I have had and know that Angharad's and David's new pupils will help him to settle in, in the much renowned friendly way of Shiplake College.

I return to Australia in September, where I will spend some weeks working as a visiting art teacher at my old school, Shore, in Sydney. I also intend to give a series of slide talks on Shiplake College's art and sport, Henley and Henley Regatta. Then several weeks will be spent travelling in the outback, Ayers Rock, up to Darwin and the Barrier Reef, before returning to Henley via Thailand by Christmas.

To all pupils, past and present, my thanks for making me feel so at home. I look forward to hearing from many of you in the future.

JL Johnson



Shiplake Church by Sam McLaughlan

Art trip to Amsterdam: a student's view!



Setting off for Amsterdam

ART In his address at this year's Speech Day, the Headmaster heralded the retiring art master, one Mr Johnson, as a man who was never afraid to bend the occasional rule in his pursuit of artistic fulfilment. Indeed, nobody would have been more aware than he, that in taking a mob of some 16 sixth formers to the archetypal 'city of sin' that is Amsterdam, a rule or two might be broken during the week!

However, that he collected such good sketchbooks from an unresentful group at the end of the week is surely a tribute to Mr Johnson, his understanding of the late teenage psyche and his organisational skills.

To ensure that the group's productivity levels were constantly high, the days were divided into cultural working activities, regularly interspersed with opportunities to enjoy the many leisure facilities on offer in this bustling city. The fact that we had plenty of time to ourselves helped to increase our willingness to visit the many museums.

The modern art in the Stedelijk Museum was often as lost to the students as the Classical Renaissance art that could be seen in the Rijksmuseum, however, one would be hard pushed to find a member of the group who was not touched by the Van Gogh museum. Indeed it proved so popular with the young artists that many remained behind to sketch after their mentor had departed for his lunch. The historical side to the city was well demonstrated to those who took the boat ride around the canals and the Rembrandthaus provided further opportunities to sketch and soak

up the atmosphere.

However, as one could quote from a well known TV advertisement and in keeping with Mr Johnson's general philosophy, the trip was not 'work, work, work'. Who indeed could forget Mr Johnson's willingness to introduce the group to the wonders of the Heineken brewery? There, following an informative tour of the old brewery, visitors were escorted to an ominously titled 'drinking room' where as much of the golden liquid itself could be consumed within the allotted thirty minutes as we wanted. For the minimal sum of two guilders, every group member readily suspended their principles of not drinking before lunch time! Indeed, so much did one particular art teacher enjoy this tour that he partook of it again two days later!

For some, the allure of the red-light district proved overwhelming and Mr Johnson demonstrated his familiarity with the area by leading more than one night-sketching exercise around the canals!

In conclusion, I feel that this art trip not only served to broaden our cultural and artistic horizons but also gave us an insight into the workings of such a colourful city. Undeniable also is the fact that, once one has learned to decipher the intricacies of the Amsterdam tram system, one will never again have to face a more complicated public transport system worldwide.

I am sure that the whole group would wish to thank Mr and Mrs. Johnson for taking the time to work and holiday alongside us.

John Radford, U6

Art trip to Barcelona: Homage to 'Johno'!

'Dynamic' best describes Barcelona! The team arrived at the Hotel Espana, just off the Ramblas in the early evening of 22 March. This was the start of a fascinating, exhausting and highly enjoyable art trip to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Our hotel was very decorative and faced the building site of the old Opera House. It is particularly known for its ornate mantelpiece in the bar which, Sir, we did not get to see!

Barcelona is a mixture of the old city - a maze of narrow streets twisting and turning over the hillside - and a modern town laid out in a grid system with wide boulevards lined with blocks of flats. This part looks as if it had been taken straight off an architect's drawing board as the design for an ideal contemporary city. The blocks of flats are in mellow pinks and ochres, each with its own large balcony hung with creeper.

Barcelona is a city of late-nighters. You seldom eat dinner before 9.30pm and the night is still young at midnight. There is never a time when the Ramblas is not busy, with shops and restaurants, cafés and street stalls. At one end of the Ramblas is the Plaza Cataluna with its mosaic in the form of a star, the centre of which marks the exact centre of the city. At the other end stands the towering 200 foot statue of Christopher Columbus which was built for the 1888 World Fair - an event which put the city into debt for ten years.

Barcelona was the home of the Surrealist movement - Dali and Miro lived there - and perhaps the most surreal of all - Antonio Gaudi. Gaudi's buildings belong to the Art Nouveau period but, where Art Nouveau was applied mostly to furniture, ornaments and decorative motifs, Gaudi used sinuous, writhing shapes in his buildings.

Casa Mila, a block of flats on the main street has a façade which seems to undulate round a corner. There are no straight lines anywhere. The roof lines could be those of a moving snake. Another block of flats, the Casa Battio, is designed to be like a dragon, with the interior wall tiles the shape and colour of scales, getting increasingly smaller as the levels rise, until they turn into the dragon's back on the roof. His Park Guell seems to have grown out of the side of the hill with walkways apparently formed from the tree roots.

Whilst one might dismiss the curving lines of the houses and flats as the gimmickry of the Art Nouveau style, I do not think anyone can be indifferent to the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's design for a Roman Catholic Cathedral. You may calculate your entrance ticket in sterling, dollars or yen but you cannot fail to be impressed by two things.

Firstly, the sheer colossal size of the project. Only the towers of the transept are complete despite the fact that building work has been going on for a hundred years. If this work is only to be funded by tourist pilgrimages to the site then it will take longer than St Peter's in Rome to finish and

the architectural style will change every decade.

Secondly, it is simply stunning. The towers have a serenity and power about them because of their height and also because they are so visually spectacular. It is as though these are the stalagmites rising from the early floor, formed from the drips from the heavens. The lines remind us of the growing organic forms of the earth. The textures and the colours change wherever you look. They are ornamented by colossal stone conches, by seaweed fronds and, it seems, by anything else that Gaudi could think of! His crowning vision, it is an architectural extravaganza.

We also visited the Joan Miro Exhibition and the Picasso Exhibition. Joan Miro is renowned as the best pure painter among the Surrealists. Another Catalan artist, he has a park all to himself full of sculptures in his unmistakable style, colourful, fantastic, though curiously childlike.

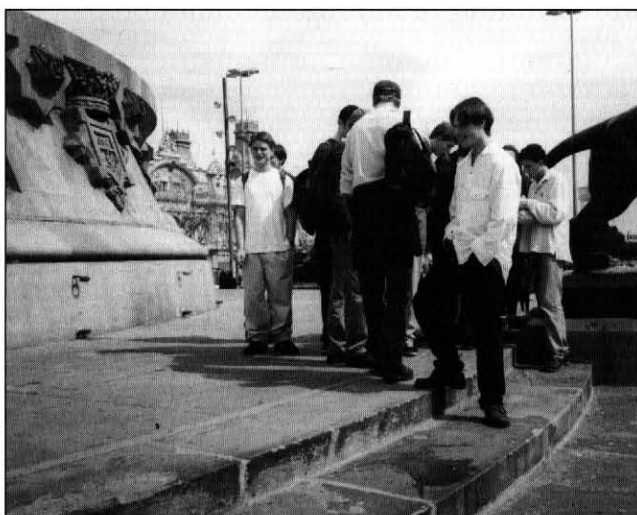
The Picasso Museum is set in a fifteenth century palace and contains 3000 of his earlier works. Picasso's work is thrilling to see and conveys a mood or emotion even if the subject matter is not immediately obvious. I was interested to see his changes in style. His Cubist pictures reminded me of the work of some of the First World War artists where the canvas is disrupted, the lines are disjointed, the world is coming apart. For Picasso, Catalonia was coming apart in the Spanish Civil War. The anguish of the experience is reflected in the paintings.

In contrast to the art appreciation tour, we went to see the Olympic Stadium built for the 1992 Olympic Games. The complex on San Juic Hill, a permanent legacy, is awesome and thrilling to see.

Our trip was organised by Mr Johnson and we were accompanied by Mrs Johnson and Miss Taris. The rest of the team join me in thanking them for an enjoyable and memorable trip: it was great to have seen 'Johno' doing what he likes best!

Iain Stirling, L6

Part of the group visiting Barcelona



The College Community

Christian Forum

This year has seen the Christian Forum take off in a big way with many new faces coming to find out more about the Christian faith.

To give you a flavour of the Forum's activities, the overall title for the summer term was *'Too Hot to Handle?'* The topics covered included *'Girls - Friendship or Fantasy?'* and *'Gold - Use it or Abuse it'*. Most of the issues covered were very up to date, touching on subjects that members of the College could relate to. Each meeting saw a different outside speaker give a Christian perspective on the issue.

On behalf of the rest of the Forum, I would like to thank all our speakers over the year, for the time and effort that they have put in to be with us week by week. I would also like to thank Mr Parker for his support of the Forum, which has grown due to his efforts.

Hopefully, the Christian Forum has helped to answer many people's questions. It would be excellent to see it continue to thrive next year.

Committee 95/96: Matthew Bryant, Hugo de Chair, Max Fane, Chris Kemp, Ollie Skagerlind, Ollie Wood.

Ollie Skagerlind, L6

Confirmation 24 hours away

The '24 Hours Away' for this year's confirmation candidates was based at a centre half an hour's drive away, near Eton. The purpose was to enjoy ourselves, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of Christianity and why we were getting confirmed.

On arrival we got straight into a serious game of football (or was it touch rugby?) during which Will Midlane was nearly decapitated by an intruding volleyball net! Then followed the first of a series of talks given by Jonathan Gould. His talks were clear and very well explained, which I'm sure helped us all a great deal.

The highlight of the next day was our visit to

the leisure pool in Slough and its water slides. This gave us a break from the talks and discussions and presented us with a new challenge - to break Mr Perkins' much boasted about record from last year. However, he had lost his form and the record was smashed by Rory Smith, with Mr Parker not even in the running!

The '24 Hours Away' gave us all a great deal to think about as well as being hugely enjoyable. We would like to thank Mr Parker and Mr Perkins for the time they gave up to help us and to wish them well as they leave the College.

Joe O'Gorman, 5ths

College JCR

The Junior Common Room had another financially rewarding year with a suitably increased bank account and a complete refurbishment of the decor and fittings. Led by Edward Ingram, the committee followed the usual pattern of purchasing canned beer and re-selling it (suitably chilled in the new refrigerator) at a good profit to the members of the JCR.

The profits were then used to improve the facilities of the room. Maintenance provided the paint and tools and the Committee set about a re-paint of the walls and scrub down and varnish of the paintwork, while the College bought a new carpet, much improved on the old.

With these renovations in mind, it is good to see the usage that the JCR is given, where a civilised and controlled social environment allows the senior boys of the College the chance to relax a little on the premises.

JDF Carley / MA Smail

A jogger's thank-you

Head of Geography, Brian Macdonald, would like to pass on a public thank-you to all those students, colleagues, parents and friends who sponsored him for his run in the London Marathon.

To make his first attempt at the event even more memorable, Brian was running to aid the funds of the British Heart Foundation and specifically in memory of his father-in-law, who died of heart failure in January.

After a gruelling run - and walk - in hot conditions the finishing line was eventually reached. Brian would like you to know that thanks to your wonderful support the British Heart Foundation is now £500 better off. We believe there are imminent plans for a repeat performance!

College Activities

Mountaineering Club

Having always had a slight fear of heights, I decided that the best way of overcoming this was to tackle it straight on. So at the beginning of the year I joined the Mountaineering Club. Each Friday afternoon the senior minor activity climbing group - Rolf Woodward, Rick Jones, Benji Barnes and Mr Parker would set out to a local climbing wall or learn some new skills here on site. Although the two walls in Reading were not the hardest in the area they were very good for learning on and allowed me to gain confidence quickly.

With time on Fridays fairly limited Mr Parker organised trips in the evenings and at weekends to more ambitious climbing walls open to any member of the College - to Wellington College, Brunel University and Oxford Brookes University - the latter being my favourite.

The climbing area there is divided into two parts, one half has short sandstone-like walls with safety mats below that could be climbed on without ropes. The other consists of five higher walls, varying in difficulty from hard to impossible. On these walls ropes have to be used, which means putting a large amount of faith in the person controlling the other end of it, as well as the equipment itself. However, my fears were quickly dispelled when Rolf Woodward (a 1st VIII oarsman) fell from 30 feet up and was stopped by Daniel Munt (a cox and about half Rolf's size!).

Although there were no Friday activities in the summer term, the Mountaineering Club still managed to go out a number of times to the usual walls as well as two visits to the Avon Gorge. This

gave the seven or eight keen climbers in the Sixth form some experience of a real rock face.

The morning was spent on two fairly hard yet short climbs with ropes already in place as on a climbing wall. These seemed to present no real problems although, because of their steep angle, they were quite demanding. In the afternoon we moved onto a longer climb of about 300 feet which had to be done in three stages. The group split into two teams - Rolf Woodward and Mrs Cheadle were in the first and Rick Jones, Mr Parker and I followed in the second.

The first team experienced few problems on their route and completed it in good time. However, my team took far longer. Having gained plenty of experience on indoor walls, I felt that this climb would be pretty straightforward, especially as it was technically easier than many I had climbed before. Despite this, the sheer size and exposure of the route were overwhelming and I found myself shaking like a leaf, clinging to the rock, glad of the safety equipment that protected me. Pale faced and drained of adrenaline I finally reached the top. At last I could relax and take in the impressive view and feel that sense of achievement that makes it all worthwhile.

I would like to thank Mr Parker and Mrs Cheadle who have done a superb job running the Mountaineering Club and I am sure that despite Mr Parker leaving, the club will continue to thrive under Mrs Cheadle's direction.

Anthony Tasker, U6

Saturday Night Club

The purpose of the Saturday Night Club has been to provide some form of entertainment for boys at the younger end of the school on Saturday nights. On many evenings there have been big-screen video shows in the Tithe Barn. However, most of the fun has been had listening to the stream of eccentric speakers attempting to share their experiences with us.

The year started with old boy Simon Ekin telling us about his bike ride from the Cotswolds to Cape Town. Later there was Eton schoolmaster Cathal McCosker with very amusing tales of his record breaking canoe trip around Ireland.

To follow this, David Hamilton came to show us his extraordinary slides of a professional mountaineering expedition to the Titz Mir mountain in Pakistan. These talks were all presented in the

spirit of the great British adventurers of the past - heroic deeds done with a rather enchanting element of understatement. In the latter stages of the school year the ageing cowboy, arms dealer and parachutist Ric Pearson came to talk, this time about sky diving.

The most interactive talk of the year was presented by Mr Cheadle, whose experiences in the South African bush had given him some rather creative ways of helping to turn boys into men. The idea was to stalk in darkness through the undergrowth without being spotted. This turned out to be serious fun. The year has been enjoyable, and it seems that there are enough eccentrics still out there ready to entertain us over the next year.

TPJ Clarke

The Computer Room

There have been many new and exciting developments in Information Technology during the course of the year and the Computer Room has been a busy and vibrant place, attracting boys from all years and with many varied reasons for wishing to become computer literate.

To get technical for a minute, there has been a lot of investment in hardware in the last few months, we have acquired a CD-Rom tower which has been connected to the network so anyone on the network can access one of seven CD-Roms. A digital camera has been purchased and five new pentiums have been added to the network in the computer room.

New pentiums and printers have also been installed in the Business Studies and Technology Departments. Also, of particular interest to the Technology students, has been the new 3D X-Cad software which has been put on the network. As well as this, the CD-Rom library has been expanding and recent additions include the 'Body in CD' and a cartoon-making program. Plans are now being made to extend the existing novell network to each of the boarding houses and to the day house.

During the autumn term of 1996 the College

will go on the Internet and World Wide Web and will have its own website and to ensure the comfort of all these computer enthusiasts, 22 new swivel chairs have been bought especially for the computer room.

The Geography Department can now boast a College Weather Station which is attached to a computer in the department, this gathers meteorological data on a daily basis and is used by both GCSE and A level students for project work, and is a focus of interest and attention for all the Geography students.

A number of senior boys have sat the Computer Literacy and Information Technology exams this year and the third form have regular IT lessons throughout their first year at the College. From September 1996 Information Technology will be offered as a GCSE option.

It has been a very exciting year, with huge advances made in this very important subject and I should like to thank Paul Moore for all the help he has given us in the Computer Room, he has been an excellent Network Manager and we wish him well at Durham.

A R Cheadle

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L6th History Trip to Bruges



Rupert Bridgman and Bob Parker investigate the tomb of Burgundian Duke Charles the Bold (d.1477) in Bruges

Bruges to the modern historian is like Amsterdam to the hippy; it's a perfectly preserved snapshot of life in 15th century Burgundy (Belgium). This is an area central to our studies and we were looking forward to seeing it even if it meant crossing the North Sea in March, leaving a few delicate historians to land in Belgium.

Bruges' unique inland waterways as well as its accessibility to merchant ships during medieval times created a rich, cultural, beautifully preserved town which is, as yet, unspoilt by tourism. Even to my untravelled eye Bruges is a fantastic place. The streets in Bruges are spotless as well as being cobbled everywhere, and the people are the most polite and friendly in Europe.

As in nearly all countries in the rest of Europe, English is spoken well and it is easy to communicate, even though we had our own interpreter in Mr Carley as well as Bob Parker to make the occasional necessary grunt.

Amazingly Bruges, for such a small town, has a cathedral and a church just as big. This suited the theologian amongst us, Rupert Bridgman, down to the ground and he is now planning to spend his annual retreat down there. These buildings were, like everything else, impressive and vastly awe inspiring, showing again the wealth of the area in medieval times.

There were, for me, three highlights to the trip. The first was the massive merchant palace and tower, all 277 feet of it, located in the centre of Bruges. Once past the 366 steps to the top, the tower offered the best view of Bruges possible. It was not long before the crowds at the top of the tower realised that they were in a more precarious position than they had at first calculated. The first

note from the immense range of bells in the tower alerted both myself and my esteemed colleague Jason Berry to the fact that the largest bell I had ever seen was not more than four feet above us. The Gerry Adams look-a-like playing the bells on a huge wooden keyboard below was blissfully unaware of the pain for which he was responsible. Needless to say the orchestra of bells sounded better from the square below.

The second highlight of the trip, in my opinion, was the Church of Our Lady with the tombs of Charles the Bold (last of the true Burgundian dukes) and Mary of Burgundy, his daughter and the last of the Burgundian line who died in 1482. This being the main reason for the trip to Bruges, the tombs (relating directly to our studies) provided a vital link to the modern history syllabus and added a sense of reality to our personal knowledge of the area.

The third striking highlight from the trip to Bruges was the food and drink which was to the best of standards whatever the order, whatever the place. It may have been over-indulgence on mussels that led to Iain Stirling's reluctance to leave his bed the next day. Equally, other Belgian culinary delights left John Skinner in need of restraint (no easy task) and the mysterious re-alignment of a red Citroen 2cv.

Bruges is the most beautiful undiscovered town in Europe, which left a lasting impression on the entire group as well as providing a valuable cultural experience for the one member who had the mentality and sheer guts to order a milk-shake in a Belgian bar, William King Esq.

Ryan Bennett, L6

The 1995 Rugby Season

This season proved to be as difficult as last year which is reflected in the results throughout the club. However, the results do not show the excellent spirit and determination shown by all concerned whether it be boys, staff or supporters and although the statistics may not make good reading, the overall feeling from those directly involved was that we had a good season.

As always our policy has been to play as many XVs as possible and not just to concentrate on the first teams in each age group. The 14C and 15C XVs were only able to play occasionally, but for these particular boys it was a matter of pride and privilege for them to be able to say that they had represented the College.

Many schools ignore these boys and this is to their detriment for many a boy at Shiplake, having been introduced to the delights of competitive rugby at the lower end of the scale, has in future years gone on to represent the College at the very highest levels. A credit in many respects to the hard-working, diligent staff who put fun, enjoyment and an understanding of the basics before the desire to win at all costs. Undoubtedly, the Rugby Club is about competing against many rival schools, but not at the risk of losing the enjoyment factor - winning is important but not the be-all and end-all.

The 1st XV again played with spirit on a very difficult circuit, but lack of size and maturity meant that they were always going to struggle - which they did in many encounters, but once again the character of the Shiplake boy shone through and never did they become disenchanted or downhearted. They showed tremendous team spirit throughout, gained many friends along the

way and will become much better rugby players and citizens in their own rights for having survived their ordeals and experiences in the rugby field.

We regularly played 2nd, 3rd and 4th XVs at the senior level - although there was a major problem in finding suitable fixtures for the 3rd and 4th XVs as many schools have abandoned these boys. The 15 age group are talented throughout at A, B and C level, but didn't really fulfil their early promise, more through lack of mental preparation than physical. When the A team prepared mentally they were a force to be reckoned with and the future looks bright for this age group. The 14 age group had a number of talented individuals but lacked any real size and often found themselves beaten not by technically stronger opposition but by individual players who had size and strength on their side. They must not become downhearted - they will grow and the basic foundations learned at this level will see them compete against the best in years to come.

Next season will not be easy, but there is optimism in the club - fixtures are being looked at positively and a more balanced list of opponents is being actively sought. We are hoping to run a 16 age group and coaches are being encouraged to seek further qualifications in coaching and refereeing.

The club will be losing a number of coaches this year, all of whom have contributed tremendously to the enjoyment and spirit traditionally found in Shiplake boys. New coaches will be starting next season and I'm sure their contribution will be just as great and rewarding. Many thanks to all the staff, on and off the field.

P Emerson

SPECIAL FIXTURES

St Andrew's School, Dublin, Ireland

We were contacted by St Andrew's School in Dublin because they wished to play us whilst on their tour of England. We accepted the fixture and it proved to be an enjoyable experience and the players gained a tremendous amount both on and off the field. They fielded one junior Irish international and a number of talented players. However, we were able to play our natural game and it proved to be a great occasion providing the spectators with a spectacle of running rugby. Our thanks to Paul Emerson for arranging the fixture and to the St Andrew's coaches, one of whom was Tony Ward who played for Ireland at fly half.

Charlotte Starmer-Smith Memorial Match *vs Christ's College, Brecon, Wales*

We were uncertain about the game being played until thirty minutes before kick-off. The ground was very hard and rumours abounded as to whether the fixture would be played and the final decision to go ahead was made with Ashley Rowden, one of England's top referees. There was a big cheer from the players and minds switched on to the task ahead. It was a lively game despite the fog which meant that visibility was reduced to a maximum of a third of the pitch at any given time. My thanks to all who made it such a resounding success.

PJF Webb



1st XV rugby team

1st XV

The season opened with what was felt to be our hardest fixture, Radley. However, we had an opportunity to score a try and we shaved the upright with a penalty and hit the cross bar with another. Radley scored one try and at half-time we were 0-5 down, this they followed up by scoring two further tries in the second half. We tackled well and our performance was both spirited and organised.

Douai were as lively as we had been in our first game and we were taken by surprise. They spoiled and disrupted our pattern of play and we could not combat it. However, against Stowe we were competitive and strove to maintain the lead which we had built in the first half. We led until the closing minutes when Stowe suddenly seemed to go 'up a gear'. Our tackling was direct and we stood our ground but succumbed to an unforced error, a penalty was awarded which was converted, to be followed shortly afterwards by a try.

Spurred on by our defeat we were 0-10 up in as many minutes against Reading Blue Coat School, only to relax. They sensed the situation and replied with two tries making it 10-10 at half-time. After persistent pressure in the second half we scored a try. Again we relaxed and found ourselves under immense pressure but they did not breach our defences and we gained our first victory.

We were without James Constable and Jamie Bruce for the Reading School fixture, but we played with conviction and our kicking 'out of hand' was much improved. On one occasion we were encamped on their five metre line for seven minutes without a score for our labours. Perhaps, on reflection, a draw was a fair result.

It is not often at any standard of rugby one witnesses a player dropping two goals in one game, but the Abingdon fly-half did against us and, in addition, he converted a penalty and orchestrated the only try of the game. We suffered numerous injuries which meant that the preparation for our next fixture against Lord Wandsworth was disrupted and we took the field without three players. During the first half we lost Ed King at scrum half (he was to be out for the rest of the season) and also Jamie Bruce. In the second half we played with great determination and stemmed the tide by winning that half.

At Magdalen College School we played a 'game to remember'. We took the lead with a converted penalty only to succumb to the continuous pressure of the opposition. Consequently we were 15-3 down at half-time. The second half saw the Shiplake pack dominate the opposition and a try ensued which was converted. Only minutes before the final whistle, by moving the ball wide after the forwards had worked their way up the pitch, we scored in the corner making the final score 15-15. It was an exciting match to watch and the spirit in which the game was played is to be commended.

When Shiplake travelled to Bloxham the players took a long time to settle into their stride and we were 3-0 down in as many minutes. After twenty-five minutes of play we began to put the pieces together and steadily pulled back the points, scoring a penalty and a try to seal the game.

Our next fixture was against Pangbourne who played with tremendous zeal in the first half, unsettling our forwards and moving the ball wide to their pace men. In the second half we played a less expansive game and moved the ball when it

was safe to do so. This stifled Pangbourne of possession and we not only halted their score-line, but won the second half by a goal to nil.

We travelled again for our fixture against Reeds School. We were down very early on in the game, this time by 13-0, however we scored two tries before half-time. Three more tries followed in the second half, all coming from good possession supplied by the forwards and then passed out wide. It was very enjoyable to see that the players understood what they were expected to do when situations arose which gave them space to move in. Their lines of running were excellent with 'hands to match'. We sustained this standard against Leighton Park but against Oratory we struggled because we were rather too ponderous in the loose and too pedestrian around the field for the majority of the game.

My congratulations to Simon Smith on being selected for the Oxfordshire U18 squad; to Ed King for opening the season as captain and to Sam Newbury for being captain for the majority of the season. Sam proved to be an uncompromising player and to lead by example. Farewell to James

Constable who scored six tries during the season at centre, his tackling was superb. Jamie Bruce's contribution in the pack was very good. Nick Clarke and Ewan McGriskin played with enthusiasm and commitment and I thank Ewan for being Secretary of the Rugby Club. I hope all the players who are leaving will continue to play and that those who are returning to College will encourage the new players and spur them on to build on what was a very enjoyable season.

My thanks also to Richard Perkins for his contribution to the coaching of the 1st and 2nd XVs and to Andrew Cheadle whose 2nd team selections seemed to be disrupted due to injuries to 1st XV players more times than I care to recall. Colours were awarded to: S Newbury, J Constable, J Bruce, E King, E Ingram, R Jones, D Dobbin, N Anderson, D Vanrenen, E McGriskin, N Clarke, S Smith, R Parker.

Half Colours were awarded to: A Sargeant, N Marett, T Pontin, R Common, S Raupov, D Lloyd.

PJF Webb



2nd XV rugby team

2nd XV

The hardest part of the season was the humiliating defeat that we suffered at the hands of a very good Radley side. No team enjoys losing, particularly by a large margin at the start of the season. Gradually we learned, as the season progressed, that if you want to succeed and enjoy rugby "you have to play with heart," a comment often made by our coach, Mr Cheadle.

Highlights of our season must include the excellent winning try that Harry Mason scored in

the last minute against Reading School, the superb interception at the halfway mark and finishing sprint to beneath the posts by Oliver Wood and the leadership of our 'captain of captains', Ben Williams. Ben led by example throughout the season and the team, Mr Cheadle and I thank him for a wonderful term of rugby.

James Howman at outside half and Marcus Snead at inside centre proved to be an effective

continued over...

pair helping to get the ball out wide to Martin Fairlie, Oliver Wood and James Ransom. The forwards consisted of a combination of James Hitchen, Ben Williams, Harry Mason, James Midwood, Tim Vos, Ed Fairweather, George Pickard, Ativat Vatansombat, David Sardell, Surob Raupov and Brad Bagherian. Ed Sandall had an excellent season at scrumhalf and William Spratt a busy season at fullback. We would like to thank the members of the 3rd XV who were called upon when we had injuries.

Lastly, thank you Mr Cheadle and Mr Perkins for all the coaching and help that you gave us

throughout the season and the "keep the ball alive" and the "play with heart".

Oliver Wood, L6

The squad: B Williams, A Jones, S. Raupov, D Sardell, J Midwood, H Mason, M Chatwin, B Bahgerian, E Fairweather, N Marrett, T Vos, O Wood, M Snead, N Anderson, J Howman, R Jones, E Sandal, J Hitchen, J Ransom, L Charleson, A Vatansobat, J O' Gorman, W Spratt, M Fairlie, M Kim.



3rd XV rugby team

3rd XV

Unbeaten against the 2nds - and not only because the one consistent element in their coach's refereeing style is to give the ball to the ones in black - they were nevertheless a little disappointing in terms of results against other schools. A habit of playing well in games they had virtually no hope in, then dipping disastrously against the easier meat, was not broken until the end of the season.

Still, there were some outstanding performances and some excellent moments. James Jones, the star of 1994, rejoined us for the tour to Wales and broke his shoulder after three minutes of the first game. Tom Baker, a sound performer throughout the season and an asset to the team in every way, had a nightmare half hour against The Oratory at full-back, doing wonderful

impressions of a blind penguin trying to catch a bar of wet soap in a snowstorm - and could still see the funny side of it at the time. And Brad Bagherian, feeding our front row on curried fried shrimps to overpower the opposition with the stench, succeeded only in making them all sick! Many thanks to the whole team, and above all to excellent skippers Sam McLaughlan and Brad Bagherian.

M L Llewellyn

Squad: M Fairlie, A Caridia, M Kim, S McLaughlan, J Hitchen, J Donigan, J Nickalls, M Chan, B Bagherian, O Skagerlind, S Jalil, J O'Gorman, O Haines, R Bridgman, M Day, A Khan, T Baker, J Quick, C Rowley-Conwy.

4th XV

Although the playing record may suggest otherwise, this was a successful season. The 4th XV was very much a young side and played with much enthusiasm and although they were usually overwhelmed by larger opposition, all members of the team tried very hard and never gave up. Defence was a strong point but too few points were

scored in all matches - something to work on next year.

The team was well led by S Sian and several players improved during the term - many will represent the 1st and 2nd teams over the next two years. All of the games were 'close', often closer than the final scores suggested. There were two

credible losses to Radley College (0-17 away, 0-12 at home), a very well contested match against Stowe School (5-10 at home), a win against Lord Wandsworth College (10-3 at home) and further losses in well fought games against Abingdon, Bloxham and Pangbourne. The fixture against The Oratory was cancelled due to illness.

Point scoring, especially by kicking, was not a strong point, but good tries were scored by M Chan, M Fairlie and S Sian.

Overall a good season, and much to look forward to for 1996.

G Cassells

The squad: Caridia, Young, Harding, Coomber, Gun-Munro, Hannan, Quick, O Khan, A Khan, Jalil, Francis, Emery, Charlson, Munt, Sian, Baker, T Al Faisal, M Al Faisal, Kemp, Anthony, Farrow, Hill, Chan, Nicholls, Kamiya, Barton, Passmore, Fairlie.

U15 A

A frustrating season for the U15 A team - talented, committed, determined to do well, but let down by mental 'hardness' when they offered so much, but never really produced the results they deserved. The two matches against Reading Blue Coat and Reading epitomised it all - trailing 26-0 and 20-0 respectively at half time, to eventually lose 26-22 and 22-19! If only they would believe in themselves and not be distracted by surroundings, size, coach journeys, changing facilities, food and in fact anything unrelated to rugby and the match to be played!

Although the 15 group had showed promise from the opening days of the rugby term with talented, strong and powerful individuals, they did lack an all-round balance and very rarely did they all perform well on the same day. Individuals stood out, but to compete and win against some of the stronger schools on our very competitive circuit, they do need to perform well together as a team if they are to consistently beat other schools. At no time however could it be said that they had been roundly beaten, and on a number of occasions they could have let their heads drop. They did not - they kept trying their best and nobody could ask more. At the end of the day they all performed well and hopefully and, most importantly, enjoyed themselves - probably not all the time as some of the training sessions were hard - but at least the majority of the time! My sincere thanks to the coaching staff who did all the hard work and to the referees and to all involved.

P.Emerson

The squad: Lane*(capt.), Skagerlind, Clark, Sandom, Murray*, Anderson*, Alfred, Smith, King*, Pitts, Thomas*, Armstrong, Moore*, Fletcher*, Midlane, Hamburger*, Scott. (*Colours awarded)

U15 B

The group of boys who formed the U15B team was essentially unchanged from 1994 and this allowed the tremendous team spirit which had developed in the U14s to be translated into the U15B team almost at once. Enthusiastic and determined, the boys improved upon their 50 per cent match record from 1994 marking up five wins, three losses and one draw.

Early defeats against Lord Wandsworth (0-12) and Abingdon (0-18) were hard fought matches in which the Shiplake defence pushed the skills of their physically larger opponents to the limit. The confidence gained by the team in their tackling, rucking and mauling led to a 37-0 win against Bloxham, a 50-0 win against The Oratory and a stunning 17-0 win against a rated Pangbourne team who had defeated the Shiplake boys the previous year.

Performances by James Burrridge (captain), Jim Richmond and Kento Nozaki deserve special mention in the backs, and Alun Roselaar, Peter Scott, James Burnett, Rory Smith and Ben Beach provided the power and determination in our rucks. Mauls were frequently won single-handedly by George Hamburger, whose terrier-like qualities were finally recognised by the master in charge and he was promoted to the A-side.

A good season, some terrific matches, some valuable lessons learned and, above all, good fun. Once again the formula for the best percentage record of any Shiplake team! Well done, lads!

D.M.Lauder.

The squad: Miller, Sullivan, Nozaki, Richmond, Stubbs, Kim, Burrridge (capt.), Skagerlind, Bailey, Roselaar, Beach, Scott, R Smith, Crouch, Lindsay, Hamburger, O Smith, Burnett.

Shiplake: Fast and furious!



Possibly the most remarkable aspect of the season was that a C team even existed. Added to the fact that several victories were achieved and this became a truly memorable season. The highlight was the defeat of local rivals Pangbourne after a free flowing, exciting game of 'Southern Hemisphere' style rugby. Nathan Watt captained the side ably from full-back but was hampered by injury. Sam Harcourt and Sam Edington controlled our games from their half-back positions, with Yo Kim, Alex Tucker and Chris Fox running in some memorable tries.

George Salmon's jinking runs also proved to be a lethal weapon in our armoury. The pack was headed by the fearsome Charlie Hyde, James Cross and Tom Pratt in the front row. The combination of Ben Salvesen and Alex Crowley at second row proved powerful in the set scrums

and their height was an asset in the lineout. A mobile back row, though lacking in weight, consisted of James Carter, Ollie Cole and Damian Crouch, who had an excellent season. Other participants who made an important contribution were John Cook, Myron Sztripszky, James Raikes, Robin Quarrelle and Rupert Sturges.

All in all it was a fun and enjoyable season with some good rugby played which bodes well for next season.

Oliver Cole, 4ths and M Galpin

The squad: N Watt, A Tucker, Y Kim, R Quarrelle, E Fox, C Fox, S Edington, S Harcourt, O Cole, J Carter, D Crouch, A Crowley, B Salvesen, C Hyde, J Raikes, J Cross, T Pratt, R Sturges, M Sztripszky J Cooke, G Salmon.

U14 Squads

What an encouraging year! The whole of the U14 year took to rugby so enthusiastically that the long, cold coaching sessions 'down by the riverside' were such a pleasure we felt that the saints really had 'come marching in'.

The U14A team, at times playing with a vision and creativity which overcame their lack of size, improved steadily throughout the term and demonstrated such efficiency in basic rugby skills that I feel many of them will go on to play in the 1st XV. The forwards worked relentlessly, inspired by the never-ending efforts of the outstanding Toby Douglas whilst in the backs, Aslin, Gradden and

Bates showed great potential. It was indeed fitting that against both Magdalen College School and Sibford we scored tries reminiscent of the great Gareth Edwards!

Talking of Welshmen, the U14Bs were led and coached for the majority of the season by Reading University's very own Barry John in the guise of Shiplake's Gavin Fitchett. Gavin, with us for a year, did a quite excellent job with his side and experienced a great deal of success. Special mention must go to Alex Smith who led the side quite excellently whilst talking incessantly, Mark Hamilton who was exceptional at scrum-half and the outstanding Nicholas Quirke who did, finally, put the ball down over the try line.

The U14Cs were a good crowd for boys generally lacking in confidence to experience rugby firsthand. Ian Wilson and Alex Lambert were excellent with Alex forcing his way into the U14A team. Success stories such as Alex's are what rugby should mean to boys at this level and long may they continue to enjoy it. Hugo Jackson and Nico Pratt were both outstanding and special thanks must go to Mr Clarke who coached, refereed and assisted in so many areas and with an enthusiasm which cannot be faulted. Overall an excellent year.

M Abberley

The squads:

U14 A: Douglas, Hickey, Dadak, Jacob, Scoffham, Nommensen, Brown, Laurie, Constable, Aslin, Leers, Gradden (capt), Peacock, Wood, Bates.

U14B: Quirke, Neale, Lay, Humphries, Lowry, Smith, Vanrenen, Cheung, De Lloyd, Radford, Temple, Ostromoff, Hamilton (capt), Srivastava, Hayden, Case.

U14C: Cain, Lambert, Wilson, Taverner, Cohen, Coldrey, Vandenbosch, Tandy, Oliver, Smart, Ranger, Parsons, Lewin, Wells, Deakin, Jackson, Pratt.

Rugby coaching class '95

The 1st XV attended a five-day coaching course run by 'Rugby Class' at Culford School in Suffolk. There I was able to observe players in different positions and decide where they might play during the forthcoming season. The course was an enlightening experience and the boys had to work hard with very little time to themselves as specialised coaching clinics were run in the evening. They received first-rate coaching from Steve Peters (Waterloo and the North) and Andrew Gemersall (Wasps and England A). The boys were also coached for one session each by Steve Bainbridge (Northampton and England) and Jason Leonard (Harlequins and England). Alex Hambrook was awarded 'Player of the Week' and Paul Burden 'Most Improved Player'. All the boys gained their RFU 4 star award.

PJF Webb

Hockey at Shiplake 1996

During any season there is usually the hope that matches will be won or lost on an approximate 50/50 basis with more won than lost. On paper the overall results could be more impressive, but out of 61 games played by eight teams against twelve schools (an incredibly busy season) 31 games were lost, 19 games were drawn and 11 games were won. Shiplake hockey can be proud of a commendable ratio of results particularly against bigger schools such as Magdalen College School, Stowe, Abingdon and Berkhamsted.

However the game is not about numbers but about teamwork, individual improvement and enthusiasm. The determination and commitment of both players and coaches on some bitterly cold, windy and sleety afternoons cannot fail to bring a smile to many faces when recollected in the balmy days of summer, but at the time...?

This season we were fortunate in having the availability of the new Henley Astroturf as well as our traditional hire of the Reading cricket and hockey astro. On most major games afternoons this allowed four teams to practise and play matches on astro, an absolute necessity in the game of hockey today if we are to remain competitive.

At times this extra demand on minibuses must have caused some tricky situations for the master

i/c transport and on behalf of the club our thanks go to Mr Hose for looking after our needs so efficiently. With the use of the astros there must have been less pressure on the grass pitches but during the February feast of foul weather, the club was most grateful to Mr Hobbs and his team for the top quality pitches maintained under extreme conditions.

At the annual end of season Hockey Club dinner we were fortunate to have as guest speaker Mr Richard Dodds who captained the England side to win gold at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. He spoke about the changing game of hockey, not only the surfaces but also the greater support which the school could enjoy if the 1st XI were able to play at home rather than on the Reading Astoturf.

Next season will see the elimination of the off-side rule, something which should encourage more goals and therefore improve the game as a spectator sport.

At Shiplake there is a strong sense of camaraderie and support and the school club simply would not be effective without the commitment and enthusiasm of the coaches and the players - my thanks to all of you for all your hard work and good humour! Onwards and upwards to the 1997 season!

C Cheadle



1st XI hockey team

1st XI

It is with a wry smile that I read last year's report, written by the captain, which closed with 'such a young talented team, the prospects for future seasons look very bright'. In fact, we managed just one victory and two draws, the rest were defeats! To be fair, just two players from the '95 XI returned, so experience was very thin. Enthusiasm and spirit,

when combined with a youth policy, are not usually enough to win matches at this level, and this proved to be true. The key positions of goalkeeper and central midfield were given to two fifth formers, D Sardell and R Common, who made marvellous progress throughout the season. Oliver Wood,

continued over

continued from previous page

when fit, showed talent enough to unsettle most defences from his right wing position. With serious injuries occurring throughout the season, the players never enjoyed a settled period and this made their season even harder.

My major disappointment was that not all the boys competed at all times during the game, either by not working hard enough or being ill-disciplined in their approach. I have not seen this phenomenon in a Shiplake 1st XI before, and I hope that

important lessons have been learnt. The morale of the boys remained intact and there is already a genuine interest and sense of expectation for next season. The good results achieved at U15 level are not easily turned into successes in the 1st XI; determination from everyone involved is essential.

P Gould

The squad: M Robertson, R Common, W D'Costa, S Smith, M Ward, C Kemp, R Surtees, O Wood, E King, S Newbury, E Ingram, D Sardell.



2nd XI hockey team

2nd XI

The season got off to a good start with a fine performance against Pangbourne. This was one of the best first game displays I have seen against the old enemy and to draw 2-2 with them on astroturf was encouraging. It was a pity that the team was weakened by the absence of a few key players for the second match against Stowe, a match played in freezing conditions on a less than perfect grass surface. We eventually succumbed to them by a margin of 3-0.

The next few matches were all cancelled for various reasons and so, lacking match practice, it was greatly to their credit that the team managed to come away from Lord Wandsworth with a 0-0 draw. By this stage the back three defenders, Armstrong, Williams and Francis were beginning to look more comfortable with their roles and were making life difficult for the opposing forwards. The Merchant Taylor's match was played in a mud bath with standing water lying in the goal mouths. The sides were evenly matched but we missed out on any luck that was going and lost 2-0.

Our toughest challenge was Magdalen College School and somewhat predictably we were outclassed on astro and thoroughly beaten 6-1. It was very heartening however to see that we kept fighting hard all the way to the final whistle. We were rewarded for all our efforts against Reading

School when Luke Charleson crashed in two good goals (some might say about time!) to chalk up our first win of the season 2-1.

Away games against Bloxham are never easy and it was very disappointing to go down 1-0 to them having had more than our fair share of the play. However the season ended on a relatively high note by holding Reading Blue Coat to a 2-2 draw.

Notable performances throughout the term were those by Richard Vereker who never stopped running all over the field for sixty minutes each game and Ben Francis who matured a great deal from being a raw recruit in defence to a reliable left back who could time tackles well and also contribute a great deal when pushing forward.

The season was extremely enjoyable and played with a good team spirit thanks largely to the influence of the captain Ben Williams. Half colours were awarded to Richard Vereker, Luke Charleson and Ben Williams for their contribution to the club in their final year.

R Snellgrove

The squad: Sian, Armstrong, Williams, Francis, McCurrach, Vereker, Lloyd, Bridgman, Orgee, Jones, Charleson, Harris, Nickalls, Quick.

3rd XI

The season was a thoroughly enjoyable affair with a very keen side playing some enthusiastic hockey. Tom Baker led the side with commitment and a flair which was mirrored by many of this young team. The defence was ably led by the mobile Gibson and the excellent Riddell, the latter achieving a 2nd XI place by the end of the season.

The midfield and attack played some attractive hockey without really penetrating and scoring as many goals as we promised. Bagherian ran relentlessly as did the midfield and wide men but often the finishing touch, like Lord Lucan, was missing. At the close of the season hockey was the winner!

M Abberley

The squad: D Leopard, K Uras, R Harding, M Harris, N Hine, M Gibson, N Clarke, N Riddell, B Bagherian, A Geddes, R Vereker, W Spratt, O Haines, R Kennedy, F Kendon, N Davis, A Khan, E Dunnett, J Nickalls, J Quick, D Laybourn, C Donnelly, L Barton, J Hill, T Baker.

4th XI

Played six - lost six. On a purely statistical basis it would be hard to put together a case for a successful season. Excuses abound: unfamiliar playing surfaces, an unsettled side, inconsistent selection, five away games and poor crowds.

However, in our defence, we were a young side, a development XI looking to build into the third team of tomorrow. The likes of Barton, Donnelly, Chan, Geddes, Harris, Khan and Dunnett are likely to play a significant part in furthering Shiplake hockey. They gave their all, competed with honour and maintained dignity in defeat. To conclude, on paper we were one of the strongest sides in the country - sadly hockey is not played on paper!

R Perkins



Richard Mannix and the unbeaten U15A hockey team

U 15A

This season the Under15A team made a big impression on the success of the hockey at Shiplake. The players worked very much as a team and this, together with many outstanding individual performances, lead to an unbeaten season.

We played nine matches, won four and drew five. The wins such as those against Pangbourne College, Bloxham and Leighton Park were very satisfying but many of the draws, such as those against Stowe and Magdalen College School were equally rewarding with a high standard of play.

All the matches were played with determination, in good spirit and with a strong belief in our ability to win. Will Midlane, Rupert Miller and Will McMullen in the centre of our attack all did an excellent job. The defence with Tom Greenham (voted Players' Player), Nathan Watt and Leo

Skagerlind in goal played a vital part.

Some good tackling and high work rate from players such as John Clarke and Tim Bailey also helped to keep the team working together. There were many exciting goals scored, often building up from our defence and finished in excellent style by Will Midlane and Rupert Miller

It was good to see the report of our success in the *Henley Standard* and colours were awarded to the whole team as a reward for all their efforts.

Andrew Lane, 4ths

The squad: A. Lane (capt), W Midlane, W McMullen, R Miller, T Greenham, N Watt, L Skagerlind, T Bailey, J Clarke, J Burridge, A Tucker, O Cole, C Fox.

U 15B

Our team made an excellent start to the season by beating Pangbourne 9-0. We had some anxious moments against Lord Wandsworth and Bloxham, but in nail biting finishes we managed to win them both. Three of our matches were a 2-2 draw. The toughest match of the season was undoubtedly against Magdalen College School, but it has to be said that the team never gave up hope and they played one of their best games of the season.

Our defence was extremely sound in Christopher Sandom, Christopher Fox and Big Hitting Jim Richmond. The tackling and determination of our halves, noticeably Ed Fox and Matt Alfred often drew the attention of onlookers (and umpires) and gained the respect (and caution) of their opposite numbers.

Sam Edington proved to be an excellent captain throughout the season, dealing with various administrative matters, encouraging the team during half time and never failing to meet our opposition as they got off the coach. Sam together with Ed Harrison on the left wing made impressive attacking runs down the left.

Marcus Sullivan and Scott Don't-Get-in-my-Way

Kent played with enthusiasm and commitment throughout the season. Alex Tucker and later Oliver Cole, made impressive runs down the right wing often crossing the ball to Scott, Marcus and Sam who formed our main attack.

Possibly our greatest strength during the season was our exceptionally good goalkeeping from Oliver Smith and Ben Beach. They often played half each and their many fine saves gave the team encouragement.

Lastly, well done to David Stockdale, Nick Bisset and James Burrige who played in some of the hardest games and contributed to the team's overall success in what was an enjoyable and successful season for the U15 B team.

My sincere thanks to Richard Mannix for all his help and support throughout the season.

A R Cheadle

The squad: D Stockdale, E Fox, B Beach, O Cole, M Sullivan, S Edington, S Kent, C Sandom, M Alfred, J Burrige, A Tucker, N Bisset, E Harrison.

U 14 A

What would a characteristic match show to an interested spectator...? Nick Bates as captain, leading by example as he used his skill to weave his way through countless opposing players? The two wingers, both with pace and skill, Tom Constable using a deft reverse stick pull back and Oliver Gradden with his torpedo passes across the circle? No one could fail to be impressed at the speed of James Case as he overtook all players in pursuit of the ball, reaching it in the nick of time at the 'boundary' back line and laying it back to the attack. Mark Hamilton had perfected his direct strike from the edge of the D by the end of the season and any onlooker would be impressed by three overhead shots into the back of the net.

At the back, tight control was kept by Tom Wood in goal who dived, jumped and made some solid saves. Hits from the back were easily dispatched by Tim Scoffham and hard tackling from Edward Dadak, Paul Hickey and Richard Jacob completed a solid defence. In the centre Ben Radford kept the game under control with good distribution to the left and right.

The results were mixed, but from a coaching point of view, the players were constant in their enthusiasm and determination. Each one improved enormously in terms of individual talent and more importantly, they supported each other. Perhaps with a longer season there may have been more goals scored, more wins, but they will all look forward to their second year together next season and build on a strong base. Good Luck!

CJ Cheadle

U 14 B

The season started well with a convincing home win over Pangbourne, after sixty minutes of end-to-end play. However the away matches that followed were disappointing in their results although the team spirit never faltered under Toby Douglas's inspiring leadership. Nick Lay played very ably at centre half all season with good back up from Michael Harris and Ian Wilson at the back, and Henry de Lloyd and James Cheung on the left and right halves.

The forward line changed frequently but regular performers included Hugo Jackson, Andrew Lewin, Ian Harsden and Richard Oliver. The goalkeeper seemed to change every week. Alistair Coldrey started off but was playing on the right wing by the end of the season. Alex Smith took over only to be superseded by Alex Lambert who proved to be the best of the lot. A crucial management decision in the final fixture versus Reading School enabled Ian Wilson to slot a superb shot away from the top of the D, ending the season, as it had begun, with a victory.

M Galpin

The squads:

U14A B Radford*, E Dadak, T Scoffham*, J Case, R Jacob, M Hamilton*, P Hickey, O Gradden* (vice capt), N Bates* (capt), T. Wood*, T Constable*. (*Colours awarded)

U14B R Oliver, A Lewin, T Douglas, I Harsden, H Jackson, H de Lloyd, J Cheung, N Lay, M Harris, A Smith, I Wilson, A Lambert, A Coldrey.

Cricket season 1996



1st XI cricket team

1st XI

The 1st XI, under the captaincy of Chris Kemp appeared a better balanced side than we had had for some years, resulting in the team winning three, drawing five and losing two matches. There was depth and variety in the bowling and a mixture of experience and promise in the batting. One serious shortcoming however was the lack of an experienced wicket keeper and a deficiency in such a key area resulted in games which could have been won ending in draws. Fielding is a vital element of the game and all too often the tireless efforts of the bowlers were negated by the generosity of our fielders.

The opening games of the season proved how fragile our batting was, with the exception of Kemp. Fortunately, contributions often came from unexpected quarters which at least gave our bowlers some chance of threatening the opposition. A heavy defeat against Oratory in the second game after just holding on for a draw against Windsor Boys was an ominous start but it says a great deal for the team and for Kemp's leadership that there was only one further loss throughout the term, despite the frequent absence of key players at regular intervals. Two early casualties were Tom Holmes, a useful all-rounder and Andrew Jones, who showed considerable potential as a bowler.

Despite some good batting performances from Tom Holmes, Fraiser Kendon, Matthew Ward and

Simon Smith, it was the bowling which enabled us to compete on equal if not superior terms with the opposition. Matt Ward, the outstanding bowler of the year, combined aggression with guile. Oais Khan was capable of bowling some unplayable deliveries. The find of the season however was Sam Newbury who transformed himself from the rather benign net bowler into a tireless first-change bowler.

In previous years, performances have tended to fall off as the season has progressed and exams began but the preponderance of Lower Sixth in this year's side and a pool of U15s meant that we were able to finish the season on a high note. That the season was as successful as it was owed much to the captaincy of Chris Kemp: his maturity, enthusiasm and level-headedness were a feature of the season. Lane, Midlane, Richmond and Miller gained valuable 1st XI experience and will be ready to step into key roles next season. Having previously mocked the idea of reaping the seeds of time, I would now suggest that signs are most promising for next year.

PM Davey

Team: C Kemp (capt), M Ward*, S Newbury*, F Kendon*, J York, L Charleson, O Khan, S Smith, B Bagherian, T Holmes, A Jones, J Richmond, W Midlane, R Miller. **Also played:** C Bartlett, A Lane. **Scorer:** M Gibson. ***Full Colours**



2nd XI cricket team

2nd XI

This was not a memorable year for the 2nd XI cricket team as, for the majority of the season, we struggled to score above fifty runs. As a consequence our totals were very difficult to defend and we were soundly beaten by Oratory, Douai and Magdalen College School. The games against Leighton Park (McMicking 20, Barton 18), St Bartholomews (Sian 21), Windsor Boys (Hill 16) were slightly more competitive although we were never in the driving seat. Our moment of glory came towards the end of the season when we

managed to beat Henley College thanks largely to the services of Kendon (79 n.o.) and York (28 n.o. and 5 for 13).

R C Snellgrove

The squad: Sian, McMicking, Graham-Taylor, James, Laybourn, Barton, Khan, Bartlett, Hill, Gun-Munroe, Gisson, Armstrong, Bruce, Kaminja, Scade, Sardell, Renwick, Hine, Kendon, York, Charleson.

U15 A

The U15As had a season of mixed fortunes but ended with a nicely balanced set of results - three wins, three losses and a draw. There is no doubt that there is an abundance of talent in the squad and plenty of potential for senior teams in the coming years. Jim Richmond, Will Midlane, Andrew Lane and Rupert Miller all had some games for the 1st XI, performing encouragingly well.

Individual ability and skill of course count for a great deal, but attitude and state of mind - patience, perseverance and determination are vital ingredients in the recipe for success. In several games the team was in a position from which it should not have lost and might even have won, but the tendency just to play and see what happens rather than really try and make something happen allowed the initiative to go firmly to the opposition.

Nevertheless, 'mental skills' will come with time and there were some encouraging signs: Edward Harrison's quiet and unruffled approach to his bowling earning him by far the best figures, and the bowling cup; Will Midlane's refusal to give up, resulting in one opening spell of 16 overs; Rupert Miller's determination to take the opposition bowlers by the scruff of the neck and ensure that

when he was batting Shiplake had the upper hand (his unforgettable century against Reading School bore witness to that).

For me, and I am sure for the boys, the most significant moment in the term was when Ian Bishop (yes, that incredibly tall, incredibly fast West Indian bowler) paid us a visit and gave some advice to the bowlers. If the boys had bowled in every match as well as they bowled under his practiced eye (particularly our leg spinner Matthew Alfred whose performance that afternoon would have impressed Shane Warne!) then we would have won every match with ease. If the boys learned one thing from that experience, I hope it was that if they really try and really concentrate, they can raise their game by an enormous amount, increasing, their success, their confidence and enjoyment.

Unfortunately the weather interfered with a steady build-up in what at best is a short cricket season, but nevertheless all the players made good progress and will undoubtedly be significant contributors to the senior teams they will represent next season.

MA Smail



U15A XI cricket team

U14 A

Mark Hamilton took the batting honours with five half centuries but there was always support available. When Leighton Park had reduced Shiplake to 30 for 6 everyone thought it was all over except Nick Bates and Ollie Gradden who plundered an 87 run partnership. Ben Radford, playing commendably straight, often saw off the opening bowlers. Alex Lambert's 46 against Douai was one of the most aggressive innings of the season and reserve opener Paul Hickey twice scored thirties. In all, seven batsmen achieved scores of over 30.

The bowling was more of a problem with umpires initially experiencing shoulder soreness from signalling wides and no-balls. Richard Jacob bowled consistently well throughout the season, Tim Scoffham improved remarkably, Alex Nommensen produced some hostile balls and "Stumped Gradden, Bowled Hamilton" appeared eight times on score cards. Even when the bowlers did stray off line and length Nick Bates was always likely to sprint 50 yards to save the boundary.

The elation of becoming the first Shiplake side to reach the final of the Oxfordshire Lords Taverners' trophy was almost matched by the disappointment of the final. Magdalen's hesitant innings demonstrated that the ball was swinging considerably and their nervous coach commented, "I'm just glad we're not chasing 80".

M Edwards

The squad: M Hamilton, N Bates, O Gradden, B Radford, A Lambert, P Hickey, R Jacob, T Scoffham, J Case, A Nommensen, T Douglas, T Constable.

U14 B

It always seems a shame that, when a team has been training conscientiously on an almost daily basis for a whole season, there is nothing, in terms of results, to show for it in the end. This was, sadly, the case for the Under 14Bs in 1996.

All out in each of our five games for scores ranging from 62 to 84, we could at least have been said to be consistent, but it was never quite enough against opposition from Radley, Oratory and the like, who have presumably, far more boys to choose from. While one batsman usually made a few runs in each game, we really needed about three to do so: as it was, Harris, Lay, Wilson and Ranger displayed the ability, both to score runs and to get themselves out when we least wanted them to!

The bowling likewise was like the proverbial curate's egg - good in parts. Parsons, Coldrey and Smith had their moments, but it was revealing that Arai, a late arrival from Japan, developed within a month into the fastest and most dangerous of our strike force despite never having bowled in his life!

Such was the season experienced by this team of cheerful and friendly players who, I hope, will continue to play the game and will reap greater rewards. All the matches, except against Radley, were close: losing to Carmel by ten runs and to Leighton Park in the last over were particularly irksome. But I forecast better luck for these lads if they stick at it in 1997.

BP Edwards

The squad: P Bonney, R Oliver, P Reddington, A Parsons, C Smith, M Harris, T Arai, A Smith, P Ranger, N Lay, A Coldrey, I Wilson.

The College Boat Club

Master in Charge: JDF Carley
Boatman: WLS Wallace
Captain of Boats: N Anderson

This was another busy, highly successful year for the Boat Club, with competitive crews and strength in depth at three of the four levels in the club. DML's 1st VIII were technically outstanding, but lacked a little in bulk against some huge opposition. There were also very determined 2nd and 3rd Vllls with the 2nd VIII only failing to qualify for Henley by one second. The J16s became a four and struggled but some good potential was laid down for the future. This applied also to the strong J15

squad, the A VIII of which was rated second or third in the country, a feat matched (and at Nottingham, bettered) by the J14 octuple. With many boys rowing and a great deal spent upon equipment and organisation the future of the SCBC seems assured. Thanks are due to all supporters, parents and friends of the club, especially the SCBC Supporters Club who provided our clubroom. Bill Wallace, our apparently tireless boatman and Bill Brownbridge our unflappable catering manager are also due a round of applause. Thank you also to the long suffering coaches - none of this would be possible without them - and to all the oarsmen.

JDF Carley



The 1st VIII with coach, DM Lauder

1st VIII

As early as September, goals were set by those eligible for the 1st VIII by their responses to a questionnaire. These allowed the boys to think about and contribute towards how these goals might be achieved. Then, as the rugby term progressed, the evening gym work and systematic testing of both strength and aerobic fitness began. By the end of term this had produced a top group of around 12 from which to choose a 1st VIII.

Good weather allowed the formation of two eights for selection outings and after some tough seat-racing in January, two matched Vllls were raced against Bedford on the Henley reach. A 1st VIII was chosen which was to remain the same for the rest of the year. Final crew order: Bow - Nick Anderson (captain), 2 - Alex Hambrook, 3 - Dan Vanrenen, 4 - James Saunders, 5 - Rolf Woodward,

6 - Ryan Bennett, 7 - Jamie Lauder (vice-captain), stroke - Mark Chatwin, cox - Dhani Harrison.

This eight went on to demolish The Oratory, Westminster, Pangbourne and Winchester 1st Vllls at Henley Fours and Eights Head in February. In coxless fours, four of the crew beat St Paul's and The Oratory and finished almost 2 minutes ahead of the Shiplake 2nd VIII four, confirming the selection decisions. Further evidence came at the Reading University Head in March when the crew finished 20th overall and third in the Junior class behind Eton and Radley, the latter only pipping Shiplake by 3 seconds over a 15 minute course.

The first main goal of the season that counted was the Schools' Head. In the race, the crew rowed strongly to Hammersmith and from then on rowed magnificently, achieving better rhythm, flow and

bladework than any crew around them. They finished 14th overall and were disappointed not to have achieved a top ten place as they had set out to do. No-one was more disappointed, however, than Dhani Harrison, the cox, who had been too ill to cox. Ed Fairweather, in an act which showed real generosity of character, gave up his seat in the 3rd VIII of which he was captain to return to his old job of 1st VIII cox. At 12 stone, he was the heaviest cox of the day and when one considered that the crew missed their top ten slot by just 7 seconds, we were left to contemplate what might have been achieved had Dhani been on board.

The crew trained during the Easter holidays for the Eights Head. They had their usual fixture against Oxford University Lightweight on the Henley stretch and recorded a gutsy win over a four-minute side-by-side piece. At the Eights Head, the crew finished 110th, climbing 250 places and only missing the top 100 by 4 seconds - only three crews climbed more places than Shiplake from the new entry positions at the bottom of the field.

The regatta season began at Wallingford, where, after losing in J18s to Eton 2nd VIII, the crew responded by beating Reading University to win senior 3. Bedford Regatta came next and after dispatching Bedford Modern to reach the final, the crew lost by two seconds to Bedford having been almost two lengths down.

In the heats at Nat. Schools, Shiplake rowed to win and win they did - it was important to establish in their minds as in the minds of the opposition that they were fast. In the final, the plan paid off. Shiplake fell to fourth place after settling, but they remained in contact with the leaders and, after rowing down Monmouth, they pushed hard over the third 500m. Their storming finish would not have caught Eton that day but nearly caught Bedford. In the end, Shiplake won the bronze medal but again, over a relatively short time, significant improvement had been made.

In what was perhaps the highlight of the year, Shiplake raced out of their skins at Docklands and won the bronze in both senior 2 and 3 events. Over 1750m, in a time of 5.35, Shiplake came third in senior 2 behind TRC and Cambridge 99. In senior 3, Shiplake put in a time of 5.27, losing silver to Neptune of Ireland by 0.03 seconds and gold to St Paul's (winner of the Schools' Head) by 2.5 seconds. These facts, although impressive, were almost irrelevant: the crew, having been a length down to Eton's 2nd VIII, rowed through them in spectacular style to beat them by half a length. Two weeks before, the same Eton crew had won gold over Shiplake.

Henley was to be an extraordinary regatta for reasons other than the normal ones. Having drawn Westminster in the first round, the crew boated, fully psyched-up for the race. Five minutes later, they were back at the landing stage, reporting a series of faults with the set-up of the rig, footstretchers, slide beds, pitches and heights. When the rudder strings also snapped, foul play was suspected and this was vindicated when the

boat was taken off the water and thoroughly checked. The heights, pitches etc. had all been tampered with. The Stewards were informed and the race was rescheduled. A very shaken Shiplake crew steadied its nerves and when it finally left the stakeboat, the verdict was never in doubt - an angry crew had a point to prove and prove it they did.

Teddies were next and, with the upset out of their system, the crew was able to focus on the nature of the race ahead. Teddies, a selected crew, outweighed Shiplake by far, and this was to be the decisive factor in the strong headwind that continued on the second day's racing. Controlled aggression, precise bladework, and a strong rhythm were what was needed if they were to have any chance of winning. In the race, they produced the best they were capable of, but the wind alone which hit them after the island gave Teddies a length in a matter of strokes. That the verdict was a length and a half at the finish is a mark of the determination and the quality of the Shiplake eight. As the Umpire's race report said, Shiplake were "aggressive and technically superior - they simply lacked the horsepower".

The disappointment felt after losing to Teddies was tempered by a realisation that the performance had been the best they could have produced on the day, something which, to my mind, is the hallmark of mature oarsmen. That they developed a sense of understanding of the sport they took part in as well as an appreciation of the level they had achieved as part of a crew is the most rewarding part for me to look back on. I was helped in the coaching process towards these ends by many others: Chris Jones of LRC, Russ Thatcher of Leander Club and the Headmaster all coached and gave their advice; JDFC arranged everything for us and around us; Bill Wallace kept us afloat in first class shape; Housemasters and Wendy Robertson supported us through a busy term; the Harrisons redefined the word 'hospitality' and finally, the Captain of Boats, Nick Anderson, excelled - his pre-race talks became an indispensable part of the pre-race warm up and his captaincy helped to raise the crew's standards.

In 1996, the Shiplake College 1st VIII achieved two distinctions; it was a crew which met the highly competitive demands of schoolboy rowing and, win or lose, it took responsibility for its performances. Seven of the 1st VIII left this year with their blazer badges, as did Benji Barnes who was too old to row with the crew this year but who pursued U23 rowing at Leander. That all of them are now members of either LRC or Leander actively pursuing their rowing after school is an indication of how well the 1996 crew represents the finest traditions of rowing at Shiplake College. The boys won my respect and admiration for their attitude, determination and sheer guts but I hope they will have helped to set the rule rather than to have been the exception to it. This is the challenge which awaits their successors.

D M Lauder



The 2nd VIII with coach, R A Ashby

2nd VIII

Not only did the senior squad have to put up with last year's addition to the coaching staff but also this year's, with an even less well understood accent and methods! Strange terms such as the infamous 'hydro brake' came into force.

The beginning of the season saw mixed Vllls competing against each other and also a match against Bedford on the Henley course. The results of this gave the crews an indication of the intensity of training to follow.

In the Head season, the 2nd VIII managed a place in the top 30 crews at the Schools' Head on the Tideway. At the Reading Schools' Head the VIII split into IVs and raced two Heads on one day. The IVs were placed first and second.

The regatta season was unfortunately a little stale with some disappointing results. The crew

The 2nd VIII at Henley



lost to Oratory at the Wallingford Regatta and then lost to Bedford by half a length at Bedford. National Schools' saw us come fourth in the heat which meant that we didn't make the final. This last result encouraged some crew changes. Harry Mason decided to concentrate on his A levels and ceased to row. Bob Parker gladly took his position. Jason Berry had shown great improvement at stroke in the 3rd VIII and was promoted to bow in the 2nd VIII.

Our next regatta was Twickenham which placed us first in the Senior 3 event and first in Junior/School Vllls. Two pots to boost morale and step up a gear in training. Our last regatta of the season was at Thames Valley Park which saw the 2nd VIII come first in the Senior 3 and second in the Schools' Vllls. Winning Senior 3 placed us above our 1st VIII on the points table!

The 2nd VIII decided they would have a crack at the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley. Unfortunately we missed a place by just one second.

Although we did not make it to Henley, the season was a success. This was solely due to the dedication and commitment of all members of the crew, who put in a little extra every time they were on the water.

A Ashby

The crew: Cox: H de Chair, stroke: E McGriskin, D Dobbin, E Jewels, N Marret, W King, H Mason / B Parker, G Lunn, bow: J Ransom / J Berry.

3rd VIII

The 1996 3rd VIII enjoyed two triumphant moments during its season. First was in winning the local Reading Schools' Head of the River and in terrific style by a considerable margin, and secondly at Nottingham where, in their first round heat, they defeated the eventual winners from St Edward's.

The Reading race was held in freezing conditions and heavy rain and was, in fact, the first occasion the ageing coach can remember not being able to keep up on his bicycle. But, after a very disrupted and frustrating spring term, it was a most rewarding and encouraging victory giving real hope for the summer term.

Third eights don't seem as keen on hard training during the Easter holidays as their seniors so there was a mountain of fitness to climb when they met up again for the summer season. We did, however, have a settled crew and indications of potential were shown at the Avon County Schools Regatta. It is a marvellous event because at least three races are guaranteed. The 3rd VIII reached the final of the Open Eights and a very confident Jason Berry at stroke raised the rate at just the right moment to row through Eton's 3rd VIII which had, earlier in the race, come through us. There were many deficiencies of technique but at least the spirit and enthusiasm was there.

With Eton's scalps under our belts and some good races against the 1sts, 2nds and J15s in training, a confident crew left for the National School's Regatta at Nottingham for the fiftieth running of the West Cup for Third Eights. The crew could not have rowed a more perfect race in the first round. Starting well, sitting comfortably in the

pack and rowing level for the middle part of the race, and then pulling away at a thousand metres to beat St Edward's, Bedford and Hampton in great style. Sadly, inexperience told in the final and the crew was unable to produce the goods again. While still beating Hampton, they failed to compete with the others.

Throughout the season, the crew had been splendidly led by Edward Fairweather as captain and Anthony Tasker, the other member of the Upper Sixth, at bow. They retired after Nottingham to study, and the two J-16s returned to their squad while Jason Berry was rightly promoted to the 2nd VIII. A quad scull was therefore formed to include the two full-time scullers, Tom Greig and Matthew Bryant. Those who know the relative sizes of these boys will realise what a coach's nightmare this crew proved to be. But it was great fun, they showed a considerable turn of speed and enjoyed a couple of good races at local regattas.

Rowing should be fun and above all the 3rd VIII squad enjoyed their season, competing very strongly at their own level. They were a pleasure to coach and special mention should be made of Jonathan Creevy, a loyal and competent cox who was, however, getting on the large side by the end of the season!

The crew: A Tasker, E Fairweather, C Thomas, J O'Gorman, J Ransom, M Day, J Hitchen, J Berry, J Creevy.

The quad: M Bryant, J Hitchen, T Greig, J Ransom.

NV Bevan

J16 Squad



The J16 four with coach, PV Parker

As a squad, this season's J16s had yet to experience recording the fastest time in a Head race or crossing the line first in a Regatta, despite having rowed together for the two previous years.

Sadly for the squad, the majority lost confidence in their ability to succeed. However, a small group formed a very useful coxed IV which rowed together for much of the season.

In the spring term, three Head races were entered, the Henley Schools, the Schools Head and the Reading Schools Head. On our local reach, the crew performed well, finishing fifth out of a field of eight. On the Tideway, the crew again did well, once more finishing fifth out of eight entries. The Tideway was approached with hesitant confidence. The crew entered the J16B Category and produced an excellent row, passing several other boats to miss the top position by three seconds! At Reading the competition was less demanding and they were rewarded with a convincing win - at last!

The Regatta season began uncertainly at Wallingford, losing to some very strong competition from Abingdon and Eton. At this early stage in the

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term, two crew members, Joe O'Gorman and Chris Thomas were called up to fill 3rd VIII seats in preparation for National Schools' Regatta - (the first time a 4th former has rowed in a senior crew?) This put the J16 IV's activities on hold but it was a significant experience for the two concerned as well as strengthening an already promising 3rd VIII.

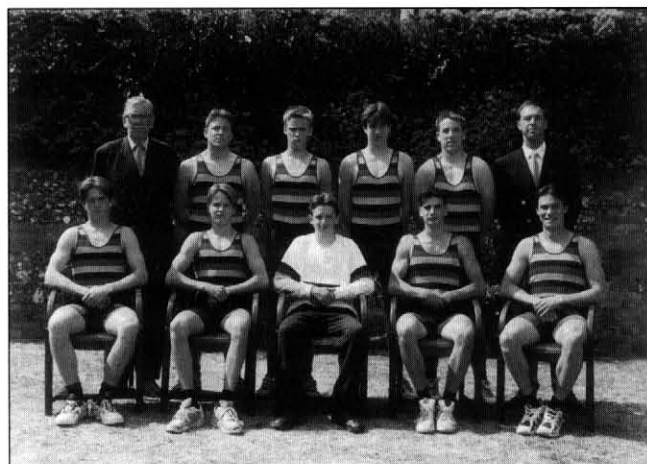
After half term, the IV re-grouped and raced at Twickenham, only to lose in the final to a crew they had beaten comfortably earlier in the season. Overall, the crew never really rose to the challenge of sustained training and therefore their full potential, but did gain useful experience for their involvement in the following year's senior crews.

PV Parker

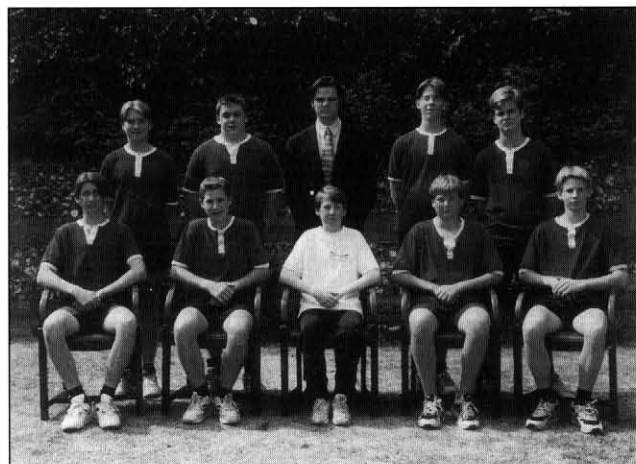
The Squad: A Caridia, A Hayes, J O'Gorman, E Paroissien, C Thomas.



J15 A at Leander Club at Easter



J15 A VIII with coach JDF Carley and Boatman, WLS Wallace



J15 B VIII with coach A Guildford

ROWING

J15 Squads

This was a squad that had done well at J14 level and so they were very keen to get on and compete. When January and the Head season came around it looked as if there would be two eights to compete. Sadly a spate of illnesses and injuries prevented this for much of the time, a pity for the B squad coach, Adam Guildford, a young New Zealand international keen to see what his men could do.

As the season progressed it became necessary to select an A VIII rather earlier than desirable, due to injury. However, the crew worked hard, learned rapidly and proved itself aggressive (if rather less than calm) at Henley Head (twice) and at Reading where they came in close behind Teddies and a much-favoured Hampton crew. By the end of the term crews were selected for the Schools' Head at which the A crew came in fifth of 42 competitors, with the Bs some way behind. However, at the Reading Schools' Head, both crews won their categories very handsomely to complete a successful, if disrupted, Head season.

The Regatta season saw the B squad compete as both an eight and a four, depending upon the availability of oarsmen. At Bedford they lost as an eight by only a few feet and they did so again at Reading and remained a force all season, though the best result was for the selected four who raced at Nottingham and came in fifth in the final of the Open Category - a fine result for Adam's men. This four went on to win easily at Reading, completing a sound B squad season.

The A crew faced very tough competition - and usually the same crews each regatta! They rowed ferociously and with increasing control, but lost three successive finals (two by a canvas or less) to St Edward's. The biggest disappointment of the season was the illness of two crew members that prevented the A VIII taking part in the National Schools' Regatta. Subsequent performances against the finalists at Nottingham suggest that

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they should have been in for a medal. At Reading Town in one day the crew crushed Eton, Radley, Bedford and Hampton, to win, in effect, a final re-run, a feat they repeated at Thames Valley Park, proving they were among the top two or three crews nationally. It was a good year (NSR excepted) and the crew learned a great deal, growing more controlled, aggressive and strong. With further development in their coaching they

should remain a force to be reckoned with. Many thanks to Adam Guildford, Bill Wallace, the 1st VIII and our supporters.

JDF Carley

A Squad: M Rainton, C King, C Anderson, E Fletcher, A Roselaar, O Murray, S Armstrong, L Brown, J Carter.

B Squad: S Stubbs, G Salmond, J Crosse, B Pitts, R Smith, B Salvesen, G Hamburger, T Oustramoff, R Quarelle.



J14 A Octuple with their trophies

J14: Coach leaves in a Blease of Glory!

I wanted to use this line, not because the play on words is particularly clever but to ensure that Diana Blease's contribution to junior rowing - or rather sculling - at Shiplake is not overlooked. It would be difficult to find a more organised, patient and talented coach and Diana gave five very committed years to Shiplake College Boat Club. It is fitting, then, that she was able to mastermind the winning of a silver medal at the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham last May.

As always, a huge squad began the year in cold but surprisingly calm conditions. Compared to the previous year, hardly any days were lost to unfavourable water and thanks to a good number having learned the basics in the autumn term, an A Octuple was quickly formed. By the end of the spring term the crew had gained a very creditable third place in the Schools' Head race in London. Perhaps more encouraging still was the tenth place of the B crew and the depth of the squad was something to gladden the heart through the year.

During the summer term the A crew won events at Wallingford and Avon County Schools' Regattas before travelling to the NSR, held annually at the

National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. In the final there they pushed a superb outfit from Kings College School Wimbledon - winners for the two previous years - very close indeed.

After the summer half term, the A crew continued its winning ways at Twickenham (where the B quad also won and gained just reward for all their patient support work) and Thames Valley Park. Altogether, 34 boys sculled in the squad at some time or other and 30 actually competed in regattas in one sized boat or another. To close, all the boys involved, I know, would like to thank Diana and boatman Bill Wallace for their time and expertise.

B McDonald

A squad: Nico Pratt (cox), Hamish Brown, Neil Srivastava, Jeremy Woodman, Oliver Davison, Nick Quirke, Charlie Peacock, Alex Cain and Sam Laurie, with 9th man Robert Aslin.

B squad: T Leers, T Smart, H Lowry, O Bunker, A Irving, J Neale, J Van der Hurd, M Steege, J Taverner, R Aslin, J Vanrenen, N Cohen.

The College Tennis Club

This year the Tennis Club involved a record number of 56 boys and, of these, three teams represented the College. The 1st VI, 2nd VI and Junior VI played 28 matches between them on a variety of surfaces and credit must go to the junior squad who won all but two of their matches.

At first team level, we struggled a bit against the larger schools but nonetheless had an enjoyable season. The first team was partly sponsored by Mizuno which came as a welcome surprise. The second team had a particularly successful season as they beat Abingdon, Pangbourne and Magdalen College School.

The mixed doubles with Queen Anne's, the Family Tennis Day and the staff match were all great fun and extremely social occasions. It was encouraging to have parents coming to watch and support at many of our matches.

One area which was particularly successful this year were the leagues, a round robin tournament played by non-team players throughout the term. Thank you to Caroline Cheadle for all she has done in this area, to Richard Mannix for his efforts with the junior squad and to Peter Gould for his help with the 2nd VI.

This year we have had the welcome use of extra courts at Caversham Lawn Tennis Club. This has allowed at least two teams to leave the campus and practise quite intensively as well as having the opportunity of extra coaching. We hope to continue the arrangement next year. The junior match against Elstree Prep was a great success and we hope to include it in next year's calendar. The tennis tour to West Buckland School in Devon

had to be cancelled as nearly the entire first team were busy writing exams which was a disappointment. A similar tour will be arranged next year a bit earlier in the term. Next year we can look forward to quite strong teams. Although four of the six First team members were upper sixth, lower sixth as well as some very strong fifth formers will provide extra strength in depth as they move forward from second and junior teams. With a large number of boys in the fifth form a Colts team may be possible next year.

1st VI

The 1st VI had an enjoyable but not particularly easy season against some tough new fixtures such as Magdalen College School, St Edward's and Radley. Christopher Cant and Dominic Palmer had a good season as first pair, Max Andrews and James Aslin teamed up to provide stability and at times 'controlled aggression', and the players selected for third pair were usually Stephen King and Peter Hower and, earlier in the season, Jack Burton. The match which I will remember was against Magdalen College School on their excellent grass courts where we came up against county opposition, lost the match but nonetheless fought tirelessly with two of our pairs taking a set off the opposition. The season ended with a number of more relaxing and fun matches such as the mixed doubles with Queen Anne's, the family tennis day and the boys v staff match. Thank you to Peter Gould, the members of the 2nd VI and everyone else who contributed to such an enjoyable season.

AR Cheadle

TENNIS

1st tennis squad pictured with A R Cheadle





Junior tennis squad

Junior Tennis

With some new third formers in our side this year we were looking forward to a new, challenging season.

Will McMullen and I were together as first pair again and we carried on from where we left off, trying and succeeding in dominating our opponents at any given chance. We had an all-new third form pair of Tom Leers and Ed Dadak as our second pair. After learning the ropes they settled well and pulled out some worthy victories against other schools. Unfortunately, Tom was affected by a back injury during the season and so we brought up our ever reliable and consistent third pair of Tom Greenham and Sam Edington to second pair. Ed Dadak then went down to third pair with either Bryce Lindsay or Fred Temple. Mark Hamilton was brought in for the odd match and hopefully he can stay with the tennis team next year.

We started our season against Bradfield College. In a great match we narrowly beat them coming from behind to win 5-4.

Overall, our results were very good, only losing twice. We gained some great victories over schools such as Abingdon, Lord Wandsworth, St Edward's, Pangbourne and Magdalen College. Well done to all the junior squad. Unfortunately for the junior squad most of this season's team are moving into the senior squads next year, but hopefully some of the new third formers can come and build up the team again next season.

James Burridge, 4ths

Team: J Burridge*, W McMullen*, T Greenham*, S Edington*, T Leers, E Dadak, B Lindsay, F Temple.
(*Colours awarded)

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Squash

There were two names on every 1st V player's mind, St Edward's and Chipping Norton - the only two opponents to defeat the College 94/95 team, both 5-0. New coach Luke Gojnic bought a renewed emphasis on fitness. Inter-squad games on Wednesday afternoons were followed by an hour of indoor soccer and consequently when a match went into a fifth game, it was always won by a Shiplake player.

St Edward's School were, surprisingly, beaten 5-0 but Chipping Norton, also known as Oxfordshire U18, were another matter. On the long retreat from the snowy Cotswolds, the 1st V reflected on the mere 21 points they had won.

The spring term saw a greater variety of tactics. Volleys were taken earlier, drop shots and boasts found the nick while serves clung to the wall. Radley College, 1-4 losers, were the only opponents to escape a whitewash and training matches against Caversham Squash Club and the Berkshire Junior Squad provided invaluable experience for the 1996/7 season.

A wonderful year with the 1st V winning eleven of their twelve matches, the 2nd V were undefeated at the end of the season after eight matches and the U15 ended with three wins and three losses.



1st V squash team

The squad: S King, M King, D Palmer, J McMicking, O Skagerlind, J York, P Hwer.

M Edwards

SQUASH



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Regulated by IMRO

Autumn 1996: new staff

We welcome the following new members of staff who have joined us since the end of the last academic year, which this edition of *The Court* records. Fuller details of these masters will be published in the 96/97 magazine.

David Stoker joins as Head of Art, after running his own painting school in France for a few years. Before that, he was Head of Art at King Edward's School, Birmingham.

Edward Tildesley is the new Chaplain. Formerly Head of Religious Studies at Norwich School and a housemaster, he then became the lay chaplain of Pangbourne College. He has spent the last year training for ordination and was in fact ordained on the third Sunday of term.

John Gayton will take over the running of the rugby at the end of the Autumn term. He is an

historian and also has considerable management experience. He comes from Brisbane Boys College in Queensland, Australia where he has been teaching for 20 years.

David Wilson is the new Head of Chemistry, replacing Miss Blease. This is his second appointment, having taught for two years in the Cotswolds after leaving Oxford University.

Paul Johnson has just completed his Certificate Education in the North East. He is a Geordie with previous experience in industry. This will be his first teaching post and he will be working alongside Mr Shenton in the CDT Department.

Grant Lawson has a distinguished academic career in Oceanography based on Southampton University and joins us to teach Biology and Geography. He will also be coaching rugby and rowing.



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Designed and typeset by Henley Publishing, repro by Right Image, Reading and printed by Keith Day, Henley.