

# THE PEACOCK



1975

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No. 14

SUMMER 1975

## *Head of the School*

J. Tomlinson

## *School Prefects*

G. Manley

N. Middleton

K. Ching

J. Ling

R. Camilleri

J. Bodenham

## *Heads of Houses*

Dean Swift N. Middleton

Harcourt G. Manley

Queen Anne J. Tomlinson

## *School Officers*

*Captain of Cricket* J. Tomlinson

*Vice-Captain of Cricket* B. Jones

*Secretary of Cricket* A. Shutt

*Captain of Rugby* G. Manley

*Vice-Captain and Secretary of Rugby* B. Jones

*Captain of Boats* N. Middleton

*Secretary of Boats* J. Bodenham

*Master of Canoes* D. de Souza

*Captain of Cross-Country* D. de Souza

*Captain of Judo* J. Richards

*Head Librarian* R. Bartholomew

OLD BOYS, returning to Cokethorpe after an interval of years to revive the memories of their schooldays, sometimes recall their early struggles with exams; how they rose at 5.30 a.m. for three whole weeks before 'O' Level in a desperate attempt to defeat the examiners, or performed other astonishing feats of industry in the same good cause.

Such heroes of the old regime will learn with mixed feelings that no one can any longer pass or fail at 'O' Level! 'The pass/fail concept is abolished', says the official pronouncement—with the cheerful confidence of the bureaucrat that habits of thought matured for generations can be 'abolished' at the drop of a memorandum.

Instead, then, of five Pass grades, 1-6, succeeded by three Fail grades, 7-9, this year's candidate will receive a certificate recording five grades, A-E, none of which, mind, are passed—*that* word is forbidden. If his work is too bad for an E, then he is not failed, but 'unclassified'. No one will be surprised to hear that the new grade E equals the old grade 8—going down to 35%; the old pass mark at grade 6 was 45%. Further, the new grade A starts at only 60%. The certificate makes no distinction whatever between a sound candidate who scores 60% and a brilliant one who scores 95%.

The object of the exercise is clear; excellence is to be played down, and mediocrity given more scope. Whatever the Secretary of State may say, the new grades on the new certificate will in the popular mind be 'passes'; the pass-mark has simply been lowered by 10%. The common-sense of ordinary people will assert itself and say that the candidate whose marks fall beneath grade E has failed. And so he has.

Well, we are taking the line that the certificate worth having will contain grades A, B or C (the equivalent of the old 1-6), and boys are still being encouraged to get up as early as they wish in the altogether laudable desire to succeed, to achieve and to *pass*! Why not?

We are losing Mr. Carpenter at the end of this term, after five years at Cokethorpe, and few masters who have left in recent years will be missed so much. Practically nothing was outside the range of his interest, and his enthusiasms were catching; many boys must have seen a new meaning in politics, Europe, literature, the countryside—not to mention Bridge—because of something they learned, some spark of inspiration they caught, from Mr. Carpenter. To his main work in Geography he added the duties of Careers Master, and numerous other tasks willingly undertaken and most unselfishly carried out. Above all, he worked hard and unremittingly for the good of the boys he taught, and many of them will long remember him with gratitude.

Mr. Jamal has been with us for a shorter time, but has likewise made his mark in the life of the School. Physics masters tend to confine their activities to the Physics laboratory, but Mr. Jamal has always been ready to take part in everything, especially in Cricket, where he exercised a paternal sway over the Under 14 XI. He brought from India something distinctive, and his urbane presence has been extremely welcome in the Common Room and the School. We most heartily wish him well in the course of Higher Mathematical studies to which he is now going.

Mrs. Mary MacPherson, who died very suddenly on the first day of the Autumn term last year, had been my Secretary for only twelve months. 'Mrs. Mac' was a deeply charitable person, whose kind heart was governed by a perceptive judgement; she was both warm and shrewd, tireless in exerting herself to help others, but not often deceived. Her cheerful, outgoing nature attracted respect as well as affection, and though her time here was short, she made a deep impression.

P.M.S.A.



P. SMITH (3A)

### LEARNING TO GOLF

THE LAST TIME I made the pages of the School magazine was on the subject of 'Learning to Dance', an indoor recreation much favoured by those in authority and dreaded by the performers!

It is of course a most useful social asset and a very pleasant pastime. With the approach of spring our minds tend to turn to outdoor sport and I had the good fortune to meet two golfing enthusiasts on my Easter vacation in Scotland, the home of golf. The local course was near at hand

## THE NOMAD

HE IS A TALL, white-bearded man who is always under a peaked cap. He wears old, torn clothes smelling of dry rot. He has a wrinkled face under his mass of beard. He was badly shelled during the Second World War and never has entered, and never will enter, another building again.

So, he became a nomad. He bought an old farmer's cart and put a roof to it; then he bought two donkeys to tow it. From that day on he has travelled the country up and down many a time stopping on the grass verge for maybe a fortnight at a time, or longer until his donkeys have eaten the grass.

Since the time when he was shelled, he has been doing this, with the same grass-green cart with many sacks hanging out of the back and front. You may ask, 'Where does he get the money?' A few years ago he used to go to village fêtes, giving some of his profits to the charities running them and keeping the rest himself. He made the money at fêtes by doing little tricks with his scruffy little dogs, his donkeys, and his so-called dancing fleas, but now, in his old age, he cannot manage village fêtes so he waits for passing cars to stop, and for the people in them to talk to him. This is the time when he yet again performs another trick to earn a few pennies. Now, being well over sixty, he also has a pension. He is in fact in his seventies. You may also ask, 'How does he fetch his pension and do his shopping without entering any building?' Well, he stands outside and shops through the doorway and never puts even a foot inside.

He now says he is too old to travel the length of the country again, so he will most likely keep to one area. He has been on the Oxford-Banbury road for the last two and a half years. Moving five miles at a time up and down the road, he usually moves on a Sunday because this is the quietest day for traffic. In fact he moved last Sunday, May 25th. He will probably stay in this area for the rest of his days.

T. JENKINS (3B)



## A MEMORABLE MEAL

WE WERE ON HOLIDAY in Portugal at the time, and having spent all afternoon driving round the countryside looking for a Portuguese castle which probably did not exist anyway, we decided to go out for a meal. We were not staying in a hotel but in a villa, and the nearest town was Taveria, so we decided to go there. After looking around we found a small, isolated restaurant set on the corner of a street overlooking the harbour. Almost as soon as we entered I had that feeling that something was going to go wrong.

It was a rather small, slightly grimy, ill-lit restaurant with very high prices and not much choice of fare. Over in one corner sat two Portuguese soldiers who gazed at us with some amusement as we sat down.

We waited about ten or fifteen minutes before a small, dirty waiter stumbled out from behind some curtains, turned round, and said something rather short, sharp and to the point, before focusing his attentions on us. He put on a huge smile and said 'Youse likee to order now?' in appalling English. We ordered four chicken frangos (soup). That was one of the worst decisions I ever made.

While we waited and waited and waited they served us with wine and other such drinks probably in the hope of getting us drunk so that the food would not taste so bad.

When at last it did arrive it came in a casserole dish the shape of a rugby ball. The waiter stood back and very majestically removed the lid. As he did so several chicken claws rose to the surface. That was not so bad but the chickens' legs were still attached to them! Even worse, two flies were floating in and out of the various arches and pillars of chicken that were protruding out of the brown-coloured sauce that covered the whole ghastly mixture.

That was too much. We all stood up and marched out refusing to pay the bill. As we drove home along the dark moonlit road I thought of the sign in the restaurant window, 'Chicken frangos a speciality'.

P. SMITH (3A)

## 'LEARNING TO GOLF'

THE LAST TIME I made the pages of the School magazine was on the subject of 'Learning to Dance', an indoor recreation much favoured by those in authority and dreaded by the performers!

It is of course a most useful social asset and a very pleasant pastime. With the approach of spring our minds tend to turn to outdoor sport and I had the good fortune to meet two golfing enthusiasts on my Easter vacation in Scotland, the home of golf. The local course was near at hand

for the daily practice that is considered to be the best way of learning the game and getting a good style. I set off with three clubs, and a very battered old golf ball found in the rough ground.

My two companions had some experience, and were quite good as they practise regularly. They went into the club house to change their shoes, whilst I looked around, and watched other golfers. It seemed very easy to play. At the first green, they asked me if I wanted a tea, and I said 'It's a bit early yet for me', but it was a little peg that they were offering me, where the golf ball sits, waiting to be hit. They both had lovely drives right down the fairway. I swung my club, trying to remember all that I had been told, to hold the club right, to stand square to the ball, and to keep my eye on it. It was all very difficult but I hit the ball, not very far, it is true; this was fortunate, as I was facing in the wrong direction. It was a very hilly golf course and so it was easy for me, as a beginner, to get confused. I took eight shots to the first green, and another five to hole out. I had arrived, although at times I almost gave up. Then we walked a short distance, put our tees in the ground, and I had first drive. We were being watched by a man on a tractor, cutting the grass. I thought he was admiring our play, but he was not, as I soon found out. I took my first swing, and dug, or clipped a large piece of turf from the green. I said 'O dear!' and stamped the earth back. There was a bellow of rage and a broad Scotch accent said 'O dear-r-r, indeed; the next time you ruin that green, I'll box your ears'. I just looked at him and said 'Sorry' and turned to my two friends for help, or advice. They just pretended not to know me and looked the other way. Then came another question from the man, 'Hae ye a membership card?' I mumbled 'No'. Then he turned to my friends and said 'I suppose ye baith have yer tickets' and they replied 'Aye'. This seemed to satisfy him, and he rolled away in his tractor, shaking his fist at me. I was a bit upset, and said to my friends 'Whom do I have to pay?' and they said 'Him, but don't worry. He is not so bad. He came here years ago. He used to be an Englishman'. I would never have guessed by the accent.

At the third green an angry queue formed, getting very impatient, and one of my friends threw my battered old golf ball into the hole, without waiting for me to putt, as the situation was getting dangerous, and we did not want to draw the attention of the tractor driver again.

After that all went well, I found two brand new golf balls. (The locals play mostly with golf balls lost by wealthy English visitors.) And, best of all, when I went to pay my fee, my former ferocious critic, the tractor man, waved his hand and said 'Shush, never mind. We will see you back again'. This made my day, and now I am a dedicated golfer.

N. STEWART (4A)

## AUTUMN 1

THE LEAVES FELL from the trees as the miserable cold wind plucked them from their branches in oranges, ambers, browns, yellows and emeralds, for there were still the conifers. The bushes were raw, as the trees would be, later. Flowers, on long stalks, hung their heads to the ground for the ants to nibble away. The winds blew hard until the houses could not hide themselves behind the trees any more. Autumn changes our blood from warm to cold. Winter approaches bringing snowmen to life. Arrows will be left in the snow pointing to where food has been put out. But only the birds know when it is coming. The birds and . . . the trees.

P. BAKER (4A)

## AUTUMN 2

THE LEAVES, which had been clutching onto the branches for a few last glorified hours of life, fluttered down like a division of paratroopers onto the ground where they formed a rolling contoured blanket which invited one to frolic around and be engulfed by these 'funny brown things', as my brother once called them, 'that look like over-cooked crisps'. The wind blew with a biting cold, causing the fir trees to lean over to each other and pass unkind remarks about the skeletons, on the other side of the river, who had lost their leaves. A thrush landed on an oak tree's branch, which reminded me vividly of a dead man's hand whose flesh was slowly rotting away. The bird began to sing a song; a cry for help at the thought of the approaching winter. I felt that bitterly cold wind, and I thanked God I was not a bird.

P. MOORES (4A)

## AUTUMN 3

AS I WANDERED through the garden one autumn day, I sniffed with delight at that deep, rich, decaying scent of dead leaves. This was my favourite time of the year; the time for bonfires, the time for the sweeping of leaves. Above all, I delighted in the atmosphere of the place. The great elms had doffed their red cloaks which now lay scrambled on the ground, leaving a sense of loss, of great sadness, but above all, peace. As the air grew crisp and frosty, the ground hardened to receive the heavy load of snow soon to engulf it. Towards the end of October, the dead leaves were swept up, to be lit by us on Hallowe'en night, when, round the fire, we told ghost stories. The bare skeletons of dead trees looming in the darkness seemed to whisper to each other in the rustling breezes, as if concealing some dread secret unknown to mankind. Then came Guy Fawkes' night when the fireworks shot up with a yell like that of an embattled army and burst into a thousand fragments before plunging to their ruin on the earth below.

R. BOURKE (4A)

#### AUTUMN 4

BOYS BUTTON UP their jackets to defeat the autumn cold. The beginning of winter. Leaves fall helplessly from the threadbare trees, smother the damp grass with a soft brown carpet, and, in deserted corners, pile up into a brown drift. The sun occasionally appears from behind a menacing grey cloud which later brings showers of hailstones to sting the exposed flesh. Some mornings bring a dense mist and a hard frost causing annoyance to farmers. Hedges droop in the morning dew showing up glistening cobwebs carefully woven by money spiders the previous night. The last of the house martins sit huddled together on the telegraph wires ready for their migration to Africa for the winter.

S. COOK (4A)

#### AUTUMN 5

PLOP! AN OVER-RIPE APPLE descends to the ground and the ageing gardener, who is waging a full-scale battle against all the leaves that are now piled up in his dead-looking strawberry patch, curses as his beloved Golden Delicious stock is reduced. All along the pavement is Nature's unwanted rubbish that she has thrown away at the end of the year. Children are running along the roadside throwing leaves at each other and stealing apples from the old man's tree. He comes running out of his house as fast as his fat legs can carry his pot belly. Skinny trees are jostled and rustled as the autumn breezes blow between their naked limbs. Crisp leaves that have turned brown fall to the ground. An old tractor rattles and chuffs across the brown stubble to collect the straw and take it back to the farm to be baled and stored. The milkman rattles his crates and climbs back into his float. Two children, who have been taking their dog for a walk and have stopped to play a game of conkers, rush home to breakfast. And just down the road a bonfire is being lighted.

J. DAVID (4A)

#### JUDAS AND I

To barren man return me,  
In ignorance preserve my sight,  
If total truth is to elude me,  
Then to nothingness divert my plight.

For what I saw has grieved me,  
And filled me with remorse.  
The way the world deceived me,  
And taught me what is false.

C. BURCHETT (LOWER 6)

## SUMMER LESSON

Crowded, cramped, drowsy,  
Thirsty; too hot to think hard;  
Waiting for the bell.

4A

## CHAPEL NOTES

SERVICES HAVE BEEN HELD regularly on Sundays and we are very grateful to Mr. W. E. Green for training the singing and playing for us. There have been visits to the School by Fr. Luke Smith, C.R., and Bro. Raphael and Bro. Hubert of the Anglican Order of St. Francis, the latter conducting a Quiet Afternoon for the Confirmation candidates at Freeland before the Confirmation.

On Ascension Day thirty boys were confirmed in Hardwick Church in the School grounds by the Right Rev. D. G. Loveday, and many of them made their First Communion the same evening.

The Roman Catholics are grateful to Fr. Gill, S.J., for saying Mass on Sundays, and to Fr. Murphy, S.J., for his visits—and also to Mrs. Vaughan-Fowler for so kindly taking care of Fr. Gill's transport on Sundays.

D.P.L.

## PRIZES

(Presented by Mr. A. B. Brown, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford  
on 6th October, 1974)

The Headmaster's Prize	Massey
5 Form English	Bartholomew
5 Form History	P. Vaughan-Fowler
5 Form Biology	Bartholomew
5 Form Chemistry	Hanby
5 Form Human Biology	Hanby
5 Form Geography	P. Vaughan-Fowler
5 Form British Constitution	Brennan
4A Form Prize	W. Manley
4B Form Prize	Kennaway
3A Form Prize	Moore
3B Form Prize	Drew
Music Prize	de Souza and Phillips
Art Prize	Ling
Cullen Debating Prize	J. Vaughan-Fowler
Martin Browne Memorial Prize	Robinow

## DEAN SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

SWIFT HAVE HAD a better year. We have carried off two important cups and, more than that, there has been greater bite in all that we have done.

We started the year (since the last *Peacock*, that is) with the House Cricket, which I, as a mere oarsman, am informed that we lost to Queen Anne. Colours went to Urquhart and Pohl. The Rowing Cup we also failed to win. It deservedly went to Harcourt. Our junior crew, in fact (all of whom won their House colours) had a faster time than our seniors; this suggests either that our seniors were 'resting' or that we have a bright future. I think it was a bit of both.

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to many of our outstanding seniors. Sandy Urquhart's departure was especially sad for he seemed to have represented the House in almost every conceivable event at some time or other: I believe that, after he left us, he went on to play club rugby very successfully in France last season. We also lost S. Samms who was the first member of the School ever to pass eleven 'O' levels at a sitting. Special mention should be made of P. Spencer (last year's Captain), G. Hodge, C. Hollis, G. Pohl and P. Halls who all helped greatly with the House sporting effort. N. Burrin, M. Agius, H. Bryant and S. Chown also left us last year, each having made his contribution to the House.

In the Kicking, Rugby and Road Relay events our juniors showed great promise and if they can keep their efforts and determination going we should be able to recapture some of the cups which eluded us this year. Many talented newcomers have joined us, but we must not forget the dogged senior veterans who have struggled bravely in leaner years (especially Shutt, Pool and Hugh Scott).

Rugby colours were awarded to: Pool, Scott II, Shutt, Middleton, Warren, Murphy and Clarke.

Now to our successes, gained in the two competitions which involve every member of the House. Thanks to the preliminary practices, House spirit became intense by the time the day of the Cross-Country arrived. We made a sustained effort. Many quite ordinary runners reached creditably high positions in the order, and we provided hardly any of the laggards. Running colours were given to Cook I, Crellin, de Pass, Scott II, Shutt, White II, and Russell.

An even better organised campaign won for us the Athletics Standards competition. Conditions were bad in a bitterly cold, wet spring, yet on average, each boy in Swift scored 6.5 points. House colours went to Ashby, Baxter and Scott II.

All that is left to say now is that, with these performances, the House can look forward with confidence to the future.

N. MIDDLETON (UPPER 6)

## HARCOURT HOUSE REPORT

HARCOURT HAVE HAD another excellent year, winning six of the nine cups for which we competed.

We finished last year on a triumphant note, gaining the House Rowing Cup in what was nearly a record-breaking time.

The new year began with our gaining the House Kicking Cup with superb displays from the seniors (Jones 28 points and Pearce 20) and juniors (Caines 15 points and Vaughan-Fowler II 14).

For the fifth year in succession we retained the House Rugby Cup. Against Queen Anne, appalling finishing led to our being 3-0 down at half-time. However, we recovered to win the match. Swift were disposed of much more easily, 40-0.

Next came the House Sevens Cup which resulted in what was our most deserved win simply because of the amount of training put in by both the senior and junior teams. House Rugger Colours were awarded to Manley I, Jones, Vaughan-Fowler I, Lambert, Scott I, Richards, Gleeson, Pearce, Vaughan-Fowler II, Manley II, and Carraher.

Harcourt went on to show that we are a House of brain as well as brawn by easily winning the Bridge Cup.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of the season was our losing of the Cross-Country Cup, despite fine runs by Pearce (1st), Cooke (2nd), Manley I (4th), Scott I (7th) and Manley II (10th). However, we gained revenge with a decisive victory in the Road Relay which we ran nearly four minutes faster than our winning time last year. Again in this race Pearce and Cooke excelled.

Another cup which we allowed to slip from us was that for the Athletics Standards competition. Our involvement in inter-school activities was largely responsible for this.

Last year's leavers were G. Cartwright, J. Vaughan-Fowler, M. Dempsey, C. Sillitoe, J. Gee, M. Phillips, C. Frearson and our much-missed Head of House, Russell Massey, who was a leader of outstanding quality.

I should like to end this report by sincerely thanking K. Ching, my deputy; J. Bodenham, the House's Captain of Boats; B. Jones, N. Lambert, P. Vaughan-Fowler, and R. Taylor who have helped the House tremendously throughout the year and without whom this report would not have been one of such success.

G. MANLEY (UPPER 6)



## QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT

QUEEN ANNE WENT DOWN heavily in a large number of competitions this year but remained supreme in cricket, winning the Cup two years running and hoping for a hat-trick this summer.

Although overshadowed as a House, members of Queen Anne gave a good account of themselves individually. Macleod was the only person to receive colours in the Inter-House Kicking competition whereas in the Inter-House Rugger, Brennan, Camilleri, Marshall, Webster, de Souza, Macleod, Ching II and Tomlinson all received or were re-awarded colours. Although losing 14-6 to Harcourt, Webster and Cartwright gave a splendid account of themselves in the centre, tackling very hard, with Marshall doing overtime at full back. De Souza unhappily was never given a run (in much the same way as England use Duckham). Macleod worked hard at scrum-half and Brennan and Camilleri were the nucleus of the pack. Harcourt were under pressure, though much the better side, and it was a memorable effort of ours to be leading 3-0 at half-time. In the second half, however, we were overwhelmed.

Although the House came last in the cross-country, an outstanding run was made by Bodenham II, who had never showed signs of any running ability before. In coming 5th he also beat his elder brother, who is still doing his best to live it down. As well as Bodenham, Webster, Marshall and Macleod received colours for this event.

We were last too in the Rowing Cup, an event which, when I talk to Nick Middleton, I pretend to think of no importance.

Our supremacy on the cricket field remained, and although all players gave a creditable performance, the contributions of Davis, Marshall, van de Steene and Macleod were memorable.

This year we had seven leavers from the House. Our Captain, Christopher Davis, left behind him a very good record on all games fields. Indeed, his place, as an all-round sportsman, has not yet been filled. David Boston (1 'A' level and 8 'O' levels) has also been hard to replace. Richard Morel's wit and humour are also missed. Jamie Shepheard left with a distinguished academic record (3 'A' levels and 5 'O' levels). Eric van de Steene will be remembered for the numerous times he was awarded House colours for outstanding sporting achievements, Christopher Webb for his whole-hearted efforts in House activities and for his academic achievements (2 'A' levels and 10 'O' levels). We also lost Christopher Wyatt.

My thanks go to Brennan, de Souza, Macleod, Camilleri, and Marshall for their great efforts in making another Queen Anne year, if not successful, at least a happy one.

J. TOMLINSON (UPPER 6)

## BOAT CLUB

THE CLUB ENTERED CREWS for regattas at Wallingford, Stratford, Hereford and Reading and were successful in more heats than ever before but failed to win any classes outright. We are at a great disadvantage because our training on the river is limited to the Summer term and the Regattas come in the early weeks because of exams, which means that we compete against crews which have been training throughout the year and are at their peak. There seems to be no way round this problem. Our small numbers cannot support a first-class rowing effort at the same time as rugger and athletics.

We were lucky in our efficient and enthusiastic Captain, Russell Massey, who persuaded two other sixth formers to row in their last year, Chris Webb and Stephen Samms. This was unusual—'A' level boys seeming to prefer to concentrate on work—but it gave the club a really good senior crew to lead it, and this was a terrific encouragement to younger crews.

Towards the end of the summer term, hush-hush dealing got us two clinker fours and 16 oars from an Oxford school at a very low price, and this was an encouragement.

Harcourt won the House Regatta from Swift by 18.9 secs., but the match was very hard fought amongst the junior crews, Swift II and Harcourt II returning the same time of 2 mins. 42 secs.

Canoeing really established itself during the year under review, and developed into an all-the-year-round sport because it overcame the competition of rugger and athletics by using weekends and evenings for most of its activities. Apart from the weather, which favours summer canoeing, fishermen on the Windrush and 'O' level preparation seem to make winter canoeing far easier for us. Members attended Efficiency Courses in Oxford, Elementary Courses at the Boat House and Rolling Courses in the Baths at Blackbird Leys in Oxford as well as embarking on an ambitious camping weekend, which came to a sudden halt after only one day and was a great disappointment. The major effort, however, was a sponsored long-distance paddle which raised £190 and enabled us to purchase four canoes and the equipment necessary to start the club off.

The credit for the great success of the Canoe section of the Boat Club must go to our Paddle Master, Derek de Souza, whose tireless work has established this new and very welcome outlet for young energies. He is now a fully qualified Assistant Instructor and is supported by ten fully qualified Proficient Canoeists, all examined and approved by the independent British Canoe Union.

## RUGBY RETROSPECT 1974/5

AFTER A 'VINTAGE' YEAR in 1973/4 and with the departure of so many mature and seasoned campaigners, 1974/5 has necessarily been devoted to building for the future. The youngest XV in memory at Cokethorpe (the best part of a year per head younger on average than the vintage side, with only four regular members of that XV and captained by G. Manley, himself barely sixteen), performed wonders against the older, larger and more experienced sides they regularly played. With only ordinary luck, at least ten of this year's XV should be back in September, so another good season is in prospect. To produce two outstanding Captains in two successive seasons is bound to be of great benefit to any school's rugby. It may have appeared an unenviable task for anyone to succeed Urquhart as Captain of the XV, but Manley brought to the position a sustained and disciplined enthusiasm far ahead of his years, and, with Jones as his loyal Vice-Captain, was able to create a team which technically was as good as, if not better, than its precursor. Without superb leadership the results of this youthful XV would probably have made very sad

reading. As it turned out, the very best was extracted from the majority of our youngsters who began to grow in confidence as the season progressed.

Our main problem throughout the season was the relative lack of weight in the pack and the consequent scarcity of 'good ball' from the tight. Brennan and Lambert developed as a sound pair of props and it was largely thanks to this dash of 'Irish' that Manley and his stand-in, Girling, were able to win the amount of ball that they did. In the second row Middleton improved out of all recognition as the season progressed, while Girling, when not hooking, did his best to emulate Hodge. M. Scott found a new home at Number 8, playing with growing authority as the season progressed, perplexing defences with some clever footwork and doing well in the line-out. On the flanks, Richards, first with H. Scott, until his move into the three-quarters, then with Pearce, showed his strength in ruck and maul, although lacking the sprinting ability needed to disrupt the opposition's backs.

At scrum-half Gleeson came on by leaps and bounds, although he never quite lost his unfortunate habit of running a couple of steps before dispatching his pass to Jones.

At outside-half Jones played with great guts and determination, 'carrying' a suspect defence in the first few matches of the season before a more stable side emerged. He did extremely well to be chosen, at sixteen and a half, to play (half a match) for the County Under Nineteen Side against the Teachers' XV, and next season he could be a permanent fixture—our first since Peter Bulmer in 1966. In the centre, P. Vaughan-Fowler played with increasing confidence and authority, but a second centre was hard to find. During the season we were forced, by injury or lack of form, to try four partners for Vaughan-Fowler, H. Scott being the most satisfactory and really showing his worth in the Sevens when he left a County winger standing to score against Abingdon.

On the wings de Souza's natural talent was hobbled by a knee injury, but he played on bravely from match to match, never fully fit after half-term, while Pool showed enough jinking ability to make the half break but not enough pace to out-strip the defence.

Marshall at full-back made up for his lack of speed by his brave tackling, and this gave Jones and Vaughan-Fowler more confidence and freedom to concentrate on attack.

As usual there were highlights and disappointments in the season. The Invitation XV contained a 'hooker' who turned out to be the Oxford Triple Blue winger, Ian Dunbar, and his speed in broken play accounted for half the points scored. John Mason were held to a narrower margin than in 1973, while at Bloxham and Rendcomb the XV were unlucky to lose evenly contested matches. The Old Boys were even stronger than last year and Richard Adeniyi-Jones's drop goal from the touch-line 45 yards out will long remain as the outstanding individual contribution to a memorable match.

Inspired by this high-class rugby the XV beat Peers in their best performance of the term. Redrice unfortunately proved to be too strong, although the team learnt from its mistakes. Abingdon were beaten in the mud, but an equally close game against Oratory was lost after a last-minute penalty goal attempt failed. To complete this trio of close matches Magdalen were held to a draw and the home crowd was 'booked' for 'enthusiasm'.

At Kingham Hill everything went wrong, but one of their breakaway tries, which left our full back stranded, brought a touch of slapstick to an otherwise unpleasant afternoon. The least said about this match the better!

After the débâcle on the 'hill', the XV finished the season with some useful results. A very strong Burford XV won by less than ten points, and at Stowe only a rather fortunate penalty goal divided the teams. Whitefriars were beaten more

conclusively than the final score suggests, for Jones was injured and taking little part in the game. This injury proved fateful in our final match against Thame. After leading 6—0 until mid-way through the second half, the XV was put under heavy pressure and conceded two tries. The moment of destiny in fact arrived when M. Gleeson, who had been almost knocked out while scoring our try, was asked to kick a fairly straightforward penalty goal. Surprisingly he missed and it was not until after the game, when he said 'I hear I missed a penalty', that we understood why.

It only remains for me to thank Gerard Manley once more for his superb efforts and to express our gratitude to Sister and the Matrons for their untiring and enthusiastic team work behind the scenes. Thanks are also due to the continued support of Messrs. Lyle, Thompson, Witter and Hipkin, not forgetting, of course, the cheerful ladies of the kitchen under the helpful direction of Mr. Bunn.

### STATISTICS

	Played 15	Won 3	Lost 11	Drawn 1	Points for 119	Against 257			
v. Invitation XV	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	0—25	
v. John Mason	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	9—20	
v. Bloxham 2nd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	4—14	
v. Rendcomb	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	16—19	
v. Old Boys	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	0—43	
v. Peers School, Littlemore	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Won	25—3	
v. Redrice	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	3—20	
v. Abingdon 3rd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Won	10—9	
v. Oratory 'A' XV	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	12—15	
v. Magdalen 2nd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Drawn	4—4	
v. Kingham Hill	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	7—45	
v. Burford	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	3—12	
v. Stowe 3rd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	10—13	
v. Whitefriars 2nd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Won	10—7	
v. Lord Williams', Thame 2nd XV	...	...	...	...	...	Home	Lost	6—8	

*100% Appearance:* G. A. Manley, B. M. Jones, P. C. Brennan, P. G. Vaughan-Fowler, M. I. Scott, M. Gleeson.

*1st XV Full Colours:* G. A. Manley, B. M. Jones, P. C. Brennan, P. G. Vaughan-Fowler, M. I. Scott, T. D. Richards, N. D. Middleton, N. P. Lambert.

*Half Colours:* D. L. de Souza, M. Gleeson, J. H. M. Pool, E. M. Pearce, C. A. H. Marshall, H. C. Scott, M. C. Girling, R. Camilleri.

*Others who represented the side:* J. A. Tomlinson, J. B. Vaughan-Fowler, A. S. Howard.

*Leading Scorers:* B. M. Jones (2 tries, 11 penalties, 5 conversions) 51; D. L. de Souza (3 tries) 12, J. B. Vaughan-Fowler (3 tries) 12.

### 'B' XV

v. Burford Boarding House	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Won	10—3
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### SEVENS

At Peers, Littlemore:

v. Abingdon	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Won	10—4
v. Magdalen C.S.	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	0—32

At Burford School:

v. Chipping Norton	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Won	15—0
v. Burford 'A'	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	4—6
v. Whitefriars 'B'	...	...	...	...	...	Away	Lost	4—6

HOUSE MATCHES

Inter House Sevens—Harcourt

Inter House Rugby—Harcourt

Inter House Kicking—Harcourt

COLTS RUGBY 1974-75

Played 9 Won 3 Drawn 1 Lost 5 For 74 Against 208

ALTHOUGH, LOOKING AT THE POINTS for and against, one might be forgiven for thinking that the Colts had had a disastrous season, this would in fact be far from the case. Admittedly they suffered three heavy defeats against Bloxham, Redrice and Burford, but in each case it was a question of good 'big 'uns' playing against good 'little 'uns' and, unfortunately in Rugby Football it is always the 'little 'uns' who come off worst. Furthermore, no fewer than five Colts (Pearce, Girling, Marshall, H. Scott and J. Vaughan-Fowler) played fairly regularly for the 1st XV, and when matches coincided, as they usually did, this meant a serious weakening of the U/15 team. However, when it was possible to field a full side, they showed themselves a force to be reckoned with: the wins against Abingdon, Stowe and Whitefriars were convincing and well deserved, and, had they played up to their capabilities, they would have got into the Finals of the Burford Sevens. Macleod showed himself an intelligent and hard-working Captain who led by example, J. Vaughan-Fowler was an inspiration to the side at fly-half in the two matches he was able to play in, and Shutt, W. Manley, Buchanan-Brown and Dawe caught the eye among the forwards. Murphy, Baxter and Nathan were very promising recruits from the U/14 group. Of the weaknesses that are bound to appear in this kind of age group, tackling (with some notable exceptions) was the most obvious, but all in all there is considerable promise for the future and, perhaps most important of all, an excellent spirit which refused to give up even when things were going badly. Grateful thanks go to masters and senior boys who helped with the coaching.

Try scorers: Macleod 2, W. Manley 1, Baxter 2, Mackenzie 1, Shutt 2, S. McHugh 1, Cartwright 1, J. Vaughan-Fowler 2, Webster 1, Pearce 1.

Conversions: Macleod 9.

*The following also played:* Crellin, Hanby, Carraher, S. Ching, S. Cook, Cottrell, Drew, Joyce, Tolley.

Results:

v. Bloxham	...	...	...	Away	Lost	0—42
v. Rendcomb	...	...	...	Away	Lost	0—14
v. Redrice	...	...	...	Home	Lost	0—62
v. Abingdon 'B'	...	...	...	Away	Won	30—3
v. Oratory 'B'	...	...	...	Home	Drawn	6—6
v. Kingham Hill	...	...	...	Away	Lost	0—15
v. Burford	...	...	...	Away	Lost	0—60
v. Stowe 'B'	...	...	...	Away	Won	24—6
v. Whitefriars	...	...	...	Away	Won	14—0



HUGH SCOTT HELPING HIS TEAM TO WIN THE BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER RELAYS  
(reproduced by permission of the *Oxford Mail and Times*)



THE SCHOOL SEVEN

H. Scott	J. Pool	N. Lambert	T. Richards
B. Jones	G. Manley (capt.)	P. Vaughan-Fowler	



CANOE CLUB



'A CHING THING'

S. CHING (4A)

## COKETHORPE CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1974

Captain: A. Urquhart; Vice-Captain and Secretary: J. Tomlinson

IN 1947 THE SUPPORTERS of Middlesex County Cricket Club revelled in the performances of their 'terrible twins' W. J. Edrich and D. C. S. Compton as they put county after county to the sword.

In our modest way at Cokethorpe, 1974 was the summer of the 'Dynamic Duo', A. Urquhart and J. Tomlinson. Any account of last season is bound to be dominated by the repetition of the feats of these two, and as far as it is possible to have such a thing in cricket, they must be recognised as a two-man team. Statistics tend to back up this seemingly wild assertion.

For 83.8% of the time when the XI were batting either Tomlinson or Urquhart (or both) were occupying the crease. They scored 70.2% of the runs off the bat; they took 79.1% of the wickets that fell to bowlers, and bowled 82% of the overs sent down.

Tomlinson's 409 runs in a season beat Urquhart's year-old record while Urquhart with 761 runs beat O'Reilly's overall career record. Tomlinson's 36 wickets in a season was a new record; Urquhart finished one short of O'Reilly's career total of 79. Finally, their second wicket stand of 161 against Magdalen is a new record for any wicket at Cokethorpe, beating their own record established last year.

The season opened with the traditional freezing match on the hill against Kingham. Kingham batted first and struggled against good bowling and fielding. The XI split four pairs of trousers in the first two hours—obviously every fibre was being strained—but the match ended in a draw even with M. de W. fielding on the boundary to save time. To make matters worse the Colts had eaten our tea.

Shiplake were massacred by the 'Duo', the XI winning by 9 wickets with storm clouds gathering, but at St. Edward's the XI was not so lucky—and the match was abandoned after one and a half hour's play with the XI in a commanding position. At Thame the condition of the wicket left something to be desired, especially as the effect of the roller wore off, but the XI were unable to force a victory in spite of scoring 111-6 declared, and reducing the opposition to 33-7 with three-quarters of an hour left. In the end fitness, or rather the lack of it, told, and the match was drawn by nudge, push and squirt!

The weather now improved and so did the wickets. Against Bloxham, Urquhart's 82 in 105 minutes was a fine Captain's innings. Tomlinson scored 54 and Jones showed his power with a brisk 15 not out. However, what little pace there had been in the wicket had now gone and Tomlinson could not summon a bouncer from the lifeless turf. It was refreshing to observe our opening field placing, however—four slips, gully, silly mid-off, two short legs and a fine leg on the fence (only one fielder more than twelve yards from the wicket)—bristling with aggression.

At Dean Close our run of over thirty matches without defeat was ended—but not without a gallant fight from the greatly improved G. Pohl and the spirited Colt, C. Marshall, who was out to the last ball of the twenty overs in a do-or-die attempt to win the match. The performance of these two was the more creditable as earlier batsmen had been too interested in the score box or the high jump pit and had rolled straight in and out like the tide.

Oratory were conclusively beaten. Tomlinson scored 73, Urquhart and Van de Steene wove spells with their spinners and our only casualty was C. Davis, who ended up looking like 'our 'enery' with ten stitches in his left eyebrow from one of Urquhart's slower balls. Luckily for the XI, M. Gleeson took over behind the stumps and kept wicket soundly for the rest of the season.

The XI lost to P.J.G.'s XI by four wickets after putting up a good fight, Brennan and de Souza showing that they were not to be intimidated by a pair of impressive

Club quickies, Messrs. Chatterton and Bourne. In fact P.J.G.'s XI was one of the strongest ever, which in itself was a mark of the Manager's respect for this year's XI. Magdalen found that Tomlinson, fully fit, was hard to handle for he scored 90 not out and went on to take 6-13 in fifteen overs, chasing peacocks away at the end of his long run just for good measure. Unfortunately he was the only wicket-taker and the match was drawn.

After a break for examinations, Abingdon were beaten by 7 wickets, the matches against Redrice and Malvern were rained out, and Pangbourne were beaten by 59 runs. In the two matches that were played Pohl's progress continued and Jones and Brennan suggested latent power that should be tapped in 1975. Van de Steene bowled well against Abingdon but the Captain and Vice-Captain had it all their own way in their last match as 1st XI partners.

Finally, our sincere thanks are due to the Bursar and the splendid ground staff, led by Eric Ellery, whose retirement at the end of the year, along with the departure of M. de W., marked the end of an era in the history of Cokethorpe cricket.

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: Won 4, drawn 5, lost 2.

Wed. 8th May v. Kingham Hill (Away). Kingham Hill 107-7 dec., XI 98-1 (Tomlinson 49\*, Urquhart 44\*).

Thur. 9th May v. Shiplake (Away). Shiplake 39 (Tomlinson 6-12, Urquhart 4-19), XI 40-1 (Tomlinson 26\*).

Sat. 11th May v. St. Edward's 3rd XI (away). St. Edward's 66-7 (Van de Steene 3-13). Match abandoned as a draw after heavy rain.

Wed. 15th May v. Lord Williams' G.S., Thame (Away). XI 111-6 dec. (Tomlinson 51\*, Urquhart 33). Thame 70-8 (Urquhart 4-30, Tomlinson 3-9).

Sat. 18th May v. Bloxham 2nd XI (Away). XI 166-4 dec. (Urquhart 82, Tomlinson 54), Bloxham 105-7 (Urquhart 4-50, Tomlinson 3-29).

Tues. 21st May v. Dean Close 2nd XI (Away). Dean Close 129 (Tomlinson 5-56, Jones 3-10), XI 126 (Pohl 40).

Wed. 22nd May v. Oratory Senior Colts (Away). XI 115-4 dec. (Tomlinson 73, Urquhart 37, Davis 26), Oratory 44 (Urquhart 4-22, Van de Steene 3-5).

Sat. 25th May v. P.J.G.'s XI (Home). XI 77 (Tomlinson 20), P.J.G.'s XI 79-6 (Tomlinson 3-28).

Wed. 29th May v. Magdalen 2nd XI (Home). XI 171-3 dec. (Tomlinson 90\*, Urquhart 66), Magdalen 74-6 (Tomlinson 6-13).

Sat. 15th June v. Abingdon 3rd XI (Home). Abingdon 92 (Van de Steene 3-25, Urquhart 3-35), XI 95-3 (Tomlinson 26, Urquhart 24\*, Pohl 21).

Wed. 3rd July v. Pangbourne (Away). XI 117-8 dec. (Urquhart 28, Pohl 22), Pangbourne 58 (Urquhart 6-31, Tomlinson 4-9).

The matches against Malvern and Redrice were rained off.

## NOMADS 'HOME' MATCH

Sun. 26th May v. 'F' Division, West Midlands Police (Birmingham City). Nomads 131-8 dec. (Tomlinson 64\*), 'F' Division 66 (Urquhart 7-41, Tomlinson 3-11).

## XI AVERAGES

### Batting (Qualification 4 innings)

	<i>I</i>	<i>N.O.</i>	<i>H.S.</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>A</i>
Tomlinson	10	4	90*	409	68.17
Urquhart	10	3	82	327	46.71
Pohl	8	3	40	91	18.20
Brennan	4	0	15	45	11.25
Davis	8	0	26	68	8.50

### BOWLING (Qualification 4 wickets)

	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>A</i>
Tomlinson	132.2	53	36	213	5.92
Jones	16	7	4	28	7.00
Van de Steene	30	3	12	94	7.83
Urquhart	138.2	30	32	366	11.44

### COLOURS

XI	XXII
A. Urquhart	E. Van de Steene
J. Tomlinson	B. Jones
C. Davis	P. Brennan
G. Pohl	D. De Souza
	M. Gleeson

### CRICKET CUPS

All-rounders Cup	A. Urquhart and J. Tomlinson
Fielding Cup	A. Urquhart
Batting Cup	J. Tomlinson
House Cricket Cup	Queen Anne

### HOUSE MATCHES

1st Match: Swift 91 (Urquhart 45, Van de Steene 7-22), Queen Anne 92-6 (Tomlinson 40\*, Urquhart 3-19).

2nd Match: Harcourt 74 (Tomlinson 3-3, Van de Steene 3-16, Macleod 3-33), Queen Anne 75-3 (Tomlinson 36\*).

No third match needed.

### NOMADS TOUR 1974

ON THE MONDAY after the end of term, the Nomads set out for their third visit to the industrial jewel of the Midlands. After being delayed by a thatch fire in Long Hanborough and a quest for some 'G. Boycott' batting gloves, we lunched on sandwiches and ale at the 'Swan Inn', Henley-in-Arden, and established our base at the Norfolk Hotel, Birmingham. The tour party consisted of Messrs. Green, de Weymarn, Jamal, C. de Pass and Adeniyi-Jones, with Brennan, Davis, Morel, Pohl, Shutt, Tomlinson and Urquhart. P. Scully played in one match.

After checking in, the party split up to follow its several interests; some watched test cricket on the hotel colour TV, others went putting on the lawn, while others

simply wandered away. We were briefly reunited at 'The Duck' in the evening for a team talk before the two oldest masters went off to cut a lawn, leaving the younger bloods to go on to 'Barbarella's' for eats and drinks, and to learn that barmaids rarely dance with their customers! On Tuesday the serious part of the tour began against the Police at Tally Ho! Tomlinson had been getting his eye in as early as 8 a.m. on the hotel putting green (before being told to desist by the Under-Manager) and de Pass had broken wing mirrors as the result of an enthusiastic Birmingham car wash, so these two were sent in first when the Nomads batted. In fact de Pass was bowled by a straight one without scoring and Tomlinson touched one to the wicket-keeper in the second over, so the logic behind the batting order may be questioned. In fact Tomlinson was given not out, and went on to score 39 in an hour. de Weymarn scored 55 in two hours and when he departed at 129-4, a big total could be expected. Six runs and six wickets later the Nomads were in the field! A good catch by de Pass sent back the Police opener, and Urquhart claimed the other opener with his first ball—2-37. Unexpectedly the Captain now put himself on to bowl and removed the next three to everyone's amazement, and would have had a fourth if A. Jones had held a catch at mid-off. This miss proved expensive, for the batsman concerned scored another 53 runs and was only removed by a princely catch by Shutt in the last over. With this menace removed we had three balls to snatch victory, but in the end were unable to complete the 'double' over our friendly neighbourhood policemen. As it was, we were royally entertained and only late in the evening was an abortive visit paid to 'Rebecca's'.

On Wednesday it rained and our tall pine, P. Chatterton, stayed in Witney thinking it unlikely that there would be any cricket. P. Scully did turn up, as did Mr. Ellis, our Hon. Scorer. The weather cleared and play began on time, with Harborne batting first. Davis held a good catch at leg slip; Shutt held a brilliant catch at short mid-off—being knocked over by the impact—and our tormentor (and good friend) of 1973, Paul Knowles, was out without scoring, to our general relief. Harborne declared at 162-7, and the hunt was on. Scully was unlucky to be adjudged l.b.w. for 18, Tomlinson was run out for 46 when playing well, and Urquhart finished with 40\* in our score of 147-5—a draw, but a good game, evenly contested. After a stay at the Clubhouse some ancients went to buy fish and chips while the younger element tried 'The Opposite Lock' and 'Polly Anna's' thanks to our good friends the Police. Against Moseley Ashfield we struggled for the second year running. Thanks to a fine innings from Urquhart, who scored 54 out of the last 76 runs, we were able to declare at 142-9. However, the Warwickshire County Colt who opened the innings for Ashfield batted superbly, scoring 79 not out and the Nomads were defeated. On the way to this score he hit M. de W. on the nose, while he was fielding in the gully, and the substitute fielder dropped a catch—just to rub it in.

On Friday we were due to play a day game against the Signals at Norton Barracks, Worcester, so we paid our bills and said goodbye to the Norfolk Hotel. M. de W's bill arrived misspelt interestingly, viz. Mr. Deniyharm—the best yet! Having tasted defeat we were in no mood to be trifled with by the Army, won the toss and elected to bat on a lively pitch. Tomlinson and Green opened and at lunch the score was 63-0 in even time, and a big total seemed on the cards. However, the Army feed their soldiers (and visitors) very well and this time lunch cost us three wickets for a further 9 runs. Now it was up to Pohl and de Weymarn to steady the ship, which they did to some effect. Pohl left at 119-4 but de Weymarn, first with A. Jones, then Davis, and finally Morel, ended his permanent Vice-Captaincy and Co-Managership with a splendid undefeated knock of 73, and we were able to declare forty minutes before tea at a record 209-9. The Army were put on the rack immediately, and with Tomlinson bowling flat out from one end

and Urquhart spinning the ball both ways from the other, 3 wickets were down for 29 in half an hour. After tea Tomlinson did the hat-trick and the rest of the innings crumbled. The Nomads ended their tour with a 130-run victory and arrived at School, tired but happy, at nine o'clock, looking forward to another adventure in 1975.

#### DETAILS

v. 'F' Division, West Midlands Police (Birmingham City): Nomads 135 (de Weymarn 55, Tomlinson 39, Urquhart 23), Police 130-9 (Urquhart 4-44, Green 3-17).

v. Harborne C.C.: Harborne 162-7 dec. (Tomlinson 4-32, Adeniyi-Jones 3-60), Nomads 147-5 (Tomlinson 46, Urquhart 40\*).

v. Moseley Ashfield C.C.: Nomads 142-9 dec. (Urquhart 54\*, de Weymarn 24, Tomlinson 22), Ashfield 143-2.

v. 14th Signals Regiment: Nomads 209-9 dec. (de Weymarn 73\*, Tomlinson 32, Green 31, Pohl 27), Signals 79 (Tomlinson 7-28).

#### COLTS CRICKET 1974

Played 9, Won 3, Lost 3, Drawn 3.

ONCE AGAIN 1st XI calls depleted the side—this was sad in many ways, for on the two occasions when the side was at full strength, Brennan amply demonstrated his usefulness as a hard-hitting late middle-order batsman, and we were rewarded with two convincing victories. It would have been interesting to see how a permanent full side would have altered the performance throughout the season.

Nevertheless, all credit to the Under 15s who made the 1st XI, two of whom were eventually to attain Nomad status as well. Last year's captain, Brennan, was always available to the senior game, and Marshall's departure was also a loss. However, we had a small group of promising Under 14s, including Macleod, Crisp and Vaughan Fowler III. The latter took seven good catches, and, while fielding no more than six yards from the bat against Kingham Hill, took one of the most exciting catches I have ever seen.

Shutt deservedly topped the batting averages. As an opening bat he always had his 'critical period' at the start of the innings, but, once set, he proved to be one who was prepared to play his shots and run the short singles, though on occasions these proved to be completely unjustified.

The bowling did not live up to its early promise, Scott II in particular never finding the length and line which his gathering pace needed. Kennaway also had his problems at times, but with commendable spirit he practised and experimented hard, increased in speed and in general held the attack together in times of crisis. Apart from Shutt's, it was his batting that improved most, although he was not always completely sound against the new ball.

Macleod, promoted from No. 11 to No. 2, reminded one of T. E. Bailey, presenting a broad bat and collecting his runs with pushes and prods mainly on the leg side. Unfortunately, he was, of necessity, underbowled, Colts half-day games being hardly the training ground for young off-spinners.

Vaughan-Fowler, on Marshall's departure, became the third seamer. Capable, at times, of producing devastating bowling, he has nevertheless much to do to improve.

Of the rest of the side, Pool (who achieved the distinction of participating in both matches against the Oratory on the same day) played a vital role, his power on the leg side and his fielding from the deep being a joy to watch. Much the same

could be said of Scott II. Carraher, in time, could make runs, while Scott I is sure to do well.

With Crisp (leader of this season's split trousers brigade, though his catch at Stowe was worth it), Girling and McKenzie, this was a team of promise. Yet it would hardly have been a team without its captain, Pearce. With a quiet, sensitive authority, he did much to produce the best from the side. Captaincy of cricket is a full-time job; at Colts level it is even harder when combined with wicket-keeping, and yet Pearce, once his confidence grew, managed it. In time, he became most knowledgeable about the game. It was a pleasure to have a captain who, almost unnoticed, could be relied up to run a net efficiently.

The highlights were many: Shutt leading a long rearguard action against Ship-lake, and then steering the side to victory against Abingdon; Pool and Scott I's stubborn resistance against Bloxham, and Scott II's superb fielding against Pangbourne. This is only a selection, and thanks to Saunders, who became faultless at the end, it's all in the book for posterity to peruse.

#### RESULTS

- v. Kingham Hill (Away). Kingham Hill 53 (Kennaway 4-13, Scott II 3-11), Colts 31.
- v. Shiplake (Away). Colts 111-8 dec. (Shutt 34, Kennaway 16, Carraher 20), Ship-lake 103-6 (Marshall 3-20).
- v. Lord Williams', Thame (Home). Colts 58-9 dec. (Marshall 32), Thame 19-3. Rain.
- v. Stowe (Away). Colts 112 (Macleod 21, Marshall 19, Brennan 19, Kennaway 29\*), Stowe 47 (Scott II 3-8, Marshall 3-7).
- v. Bloxham (Away). Bloxham 177-7 dec. (Kennaway 3-55, Marshall 3-49), Colts 87-8 (Pool 26).
- v. Oratory (Away). Oratory 73 (Kennaway 5-27, Scott II 3-17), Colts 74-2 (Shutt 49,\* Macleod 21).
- v. Magdalen Coll. School (Home). Colts 31, M.C.S. 32-2.
- v. Abingdon (Away). Abingdon 128-8 dec. (Kennaway 5-48), Colts 129-5 (Shutt 58,\* Pool 25, Brennan 21).
- v. Pangbourne (Away). Pangbourne 126-7 dec., Colts 45.

#### LEADING AVERAGES

	BATTING			
	I	N.O.	R	A
Shutt	9	2	165	23.57
Kennaway	7	2	53	10.60
Macleod	8	2	62	10.33

  

	BOWLING				
	O	M	R	W	A
Kennaway	87.4	24	199	23	8.65
Marshall	32	1	107	9	11.89
Scott II	70	11	246	16	15.37

*Those who played:* Pearce (Captain), Scott II, Marshall, Kennaway, Shutt, Pool, Brennan, Scott I, Macleod, Carraher, Vaughan-Fowler III, Crisp, Girling, Mackenzie.

## CROSS-COUNTRY 1975

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING during this unusually wet weather has been a hard slog in the mud, but, in inter-school events, Cokethorpe have emerged through the mire showing our heels to all comers.

After training on a maliciously serpentine course through the soggy areas of the School grounds, a group of fifteen took part in the North Oxons Championships at Wood Green. In the senior class, de Souza (6th) and de Pass (7th) qualified to represent North Oxfordshire in the County Championship. Bodenham I came in at number 9 and was thus first reserve, and it was in fact Bodenham and not the injured de Souza who represented the district. The intermediates—Pearce, Scott II, Cooke II, Russell, Scott I, White II, Cook I and Crellin—took first place in the team event, while in the individual competition Mark Pearce (1st) and Hugh Scott (6th) gained places in the County Competition along with Alistair Cooke (12th) who went to Banbury as a reserve. In the keenly fought junior event, Murphy, Cartwright and Baxter were in touch with the leaders throughout. Other members of this game team were McQueen, Barton, Trotter, Palmer and Clarke.

In spite of attempts to send everyone in the wrong direction at the County Championships, Pearce finished 5th in his age group, and later received an invitation to compete for Oxfordshire in the All England event. Tragically, a fractured wrist meant that he had to decline this honour.

In February, we overwhelmed junior and intermediate Bloxham teams in a home match, Cokethorpe returning four out of the first five at both levels—Pearce (1st), Cooke II (2nd), Scott II (4th) and Bodenham II (5th) in the Under 17s, while the first four juniors were Murphy, White, Cartwright and McQueen. In the same month, the intermediates defeated a Witney and District team, containing some familiar faces. Pearce strode in ahead of the field with Bodenham II, Scott II and Cooke II behind him. The juniors beat Wood Green's Under 15 representatives with Michael White obtaining first place.

The highlight of the season was our success in the Blessed George Napier relays. Cokethorpe 'A' finished first in an exciting Under 17 competition, and won a large and magnificently vulgar trophy for so doing. We were given a fine lead on the first lap by Hugh Scott (see the accompanying photograph), and this was built upon first by Francis Bodenham then by the ubiquitous Mark Pearce, and finally Alistair Cooke crossed the line 29 seconds ahead of a Gosford Hill rival who had still hardly negotiated the final corner. In the same age group, Cokethorpe 'C' (Russell, Cook I, Webster and Richards) were delighted to finish 4th ahead of 5th-placed Cokethorpe 'B' (Aires, Crellin, Manley II and Scott I), albeit by two yards. The Under 15s (Murphy, Cartwright, McQueen and White II) gained a creditable 9th place in a field of 16.

Upon the domestic front, the running leagues provoked much interest and prepared the 'rank and file' for the School Cross Country, which was won by Pearce in a time of 29 minutes 36.3 seconds. The next dozen finishers (in order) were Cooke II, Scott II, Manley I, Bodenham II, Russell, Scott I, Cook I, de Pass, Manley II, Crellin, Webster and Hodgson. The team event was most convincingly won by Swift with 1,677 points, to Harcourt's 2,188 points and Queen Anne's 2,360 points. Swift's victory was a real House effort with the less athletic taking great pains to see that they supported those of more considerable prowess. Indeed, true to their name, Swift had only four boys in the last 40 finishers. The Road Relay was won by Harcourt, who beat a slightly weakened Swift into second place after a close and exciting struggle.

In all it has been a highly satisfactory season. The seniors have proved their worth again, and the talent and determination of the juniors promise much.

## ATHLETICS

AN UNUSUALLY DAMP SPRING produced treacherous conditions underfoot. Nevertheless all manner of boys could be seen throwing curious implements, leaping into sand and trotting a strange circular course, far longer than the obvious straight line of least resistance. The object of these activities, sometimes inelegantly performed on mud, was the Inter-House Athletics Standards Competition, designed to test the physical prowess of the boys and the measuring and timing abilities of the masters. The competition progressed through rain, hail, sleet, snow and occasionally sunshine until a green and pleasant day in March when Swift were declared to be the winners with Harcourt taking second place.

There were several outstanding performances including those by J. Vaughan-Fowler (seven top standards), Baxter (four top standards) and Ashby, Cartwright, MacLeod and Scott II (three top standards each). But perhaps it is unfair to judge success by volume, for equally as rewarding is the achievement of the odd standard or two gained by the boy who by reason of build or constitution is not one of Nature's athletes. I recall the face of a short fourth-former flushed with pride at the final achievement of his single standard. The effort and determination spent in gaining this was far greater than that shown by some individuals who scored many more points.

As Mr. Green safely tucked away the Standards trophy, the news was broken that Sports Day had been cancelled owing to the exceedingly poor condition of the weather-sodden track. Sadly we were thus denied the opportunity of seeing an aspirant Swift tackling the might of Harcourt, long-term holders of the Championship.

During the Summer Term, the A.A.A. 5-star award scheme attracted much attention. There was considerable enthusiasm in attaining the official certificates, and among the most notable achievements were those of J. Vaughan-Fowler (5-star award), M. Cartwright, S. Cook, I Cottrell, N. Lambert, W. Marks and D. Wallace.

On May 23rd, a team represented the School at the North Oxfordshire Schools meeting, held at Horspath in Oxford. John Vaughan-Fowler won the intermediate triple jump and came second in the intermediate 200 metres. Ian Baxter came second in a closely fought junior 100 metres final, while 'George' Cartwright took second place in the junior 400 metres, and Ian Cottrell gained third place in the same event at intermediate level. There were good performances from the other members of the team, David Wallace (intermediate 100 metres), Stuart MacLeod (intermediate high jump) and Nicholas Lambert (senior high jump).

At the time of writing, John Vaughan-Fowler has broken two school records—the junior 200 metres, which event he ran in 24.7 seconds, thus beating M. Scott's time set last year, and the junior triple jump (his speciality). The old triple jump record was 11.05 metres, set by G. Cartwright in 1971; the new record is 12.37 metres!

Finally, thanks are due to the Bursar and his men for the preparation of the grounds and to all members of staff who shivered clutching their stop watches. Particular thanks must go to Mr. Bourke without whose devoted work the summer athletics would not have been possible.

## SOCCKER 1974-75

ONCE MORE this season enthusiasm was evident among the members of the Soccer Club. Cokethorpe School F.C. played two matches, the first against Wood Green, Witney, which Cokethorpe won 3-1. A frustrating goal-less first half was followed by a Pearce goal soon after the interval. Wood Green equalised, but Vaughan-Fowler

and Pool made useful runs down the flanks. Finally the break came. Vaughan-Fowler scored from a retaken penalty and Pool cut inside from the left to head a goal which he had started in mid-field. Special mention must go to Shutt, whose handling in goal was immaculate, and to Scott and MacLeod for their defensive contribution.

Team selection was made difficult for the second match owing to Pearce's breaking his wrist, G. Manley deputising. In appalling conditions Cokethorpe took the lead against Burford with McKenzie scoring from a corner and Scott bursting through to make it 2—0 to Cokethorpe. Burford fought back well and scored six times before Tomlinson came on for Clarke. Wallace, Vaughan-Fowler and Tomlinson combined well and Vaughan-Fowler scored a few minutes from time.

Special mention must go to Mr. Green and the McKenzies, who supplied refreshments and transport, and to Manley and Tomlinson for help with coaching and tactics.

Those who played were: Shutt, Manley I, Manley II, Pearce, Pool, Scott II, McKenzie, Wallace, Clarke, White II, MacLeod, Smit, Tomlinson and Vaughan-Fowler.

R. MCKENZIE (5A)

### BASKETBALL

THIS YEAR BASKETBALL experienced a revival, not having been played seriously for a couple of years. Fifteen boys joined the club with such enthusiasm that a match against Burford House was arranged. The team was chosen after a lot of hard practice during free time. The game was both exhausting and close, ending in a 14-14 draw. Another game, against a select group under Tomlinson, was won convincingly by the School team, 39-24. Credit must be given to Mr. Bourke who organised and refereed in the practice matches and also to the other members of the club, without whom the School team would not have been able to practise.

An Under 15 match against St. Edward's has been arranged with the help of Mr. Luxmore, the new master in charge, and at the time of going to press we can proudly boast of being one of the two unbeaten teams at Cokethorpe. The team was: P. Vaughan-Fowler (Captain), S. McHugh (Vice-Captain), G. Cartwright, J. Vaughan-Fowler, M. Scott, J. Tomlinson. Subs: D. Webster, M. Girling (Secretary), J. Crellin. Others in the Club: F. Bodenham, K. Miller, J. Buchanan-Brown, M. Andrews, D. Randoll, F. McQueen.

M. GIRLING (5A)

### COKETHORPE PARK RIFLE CLUB

THE HOUSE SHOOTING competition was narrowly won by Queen Anne with a score of 375 out of 400. Second came Swift with 372 points and way behind Harcourt with 345. The winning team comprised Camilleri (96 out of 100), Wallace (95), Taylor II (91) and Bodenham II (93). We entered an Under 15 and an Under 18 team in the N.S.A.A. Junior Winter competition. The Under 15's did quite well, scoring 712 out of 800, whereas the Under 18's did disastrously, only managing to obtain 629. Those representing the School were:

#### *Under-15 team*

Murphy  
Davenport  
Ashby  
Crisp

#### *Under-18 team*

Camilleri  
Wallace  
Crewe  
Mullen

The Davies Cup Handicap competition was won by Groves, who chose a handicap of 17 and scored 83, giving him 100 points.

The keenest shooters of the year have been Ford, Crewe, Mullen, Taylor II and Alford, all of whom have steadily improved.

### COKETHORPE CANOE CLUB

THE CLUB BEGAN LIFE two years ago. Since then enough funds have been raised (by means of a sponsored paddle) to allow it to reach the flourishing condition it is in today. There are now sixteen canoes (four of which are owned by the School), and more are on the way.

Because someone had to teach, I joined a coaching scheme and in due course became a qualified assistant instructor. The sport is not a major one in the School and therefore has to give way to others, yet every day, when rowing, cricket or rugby do not crowd it out, there is instruction, leading eventually to weekend trips and to examinations organised by the British Canoe Union. Ten boys (Warren, Marshall, Betts, Buchanan-Brown, McLeod, Taylor II, Richards, Fanthorpe, Russell and I passed their proficiency exam, while a further seven (all Third Formers) have passed an elementary one.

So, the sport has grown rapidly as has our sense of freedom. We learn from each other and, with an increasing sense of responsibility, we are working as a safe and efficient unit. Mr. Clayton, who is constantly harassed and pestered for advice and guidance, must take all the credit, for without him the Club would never have prospered.

Just how enjoyable and liberating are our experiences may be gathered from the following account of a typical canoeing expedition.

There was a resounding splash as we 'seal-launched' into the water; we made off at full speed up the Windrush river to the noisy white water of the first weir. One by one we plunged headlong into the sparkling foam; one by one we emerged upside-down before righting ourselves as we had been taught.

This was a Sunday all-day sortie and it was not long before a novice cried, 'I'm hungry!', so everything stopped for lunch. The meat sandwiches tasted unusually good and everyone agreed that the Windrush tasted better than ever. Once again the canoes were launched but Philip Warren decided on another 'seal-launch', from the vertical bank this time, only to forget about the depth of the river. The result was that he was pushed down into the bow of his canoe like ice-cream in a cornet. . . .

As we gently paddled upstream to our next objective it was very peaceful but, when one is canoeing, lasting peace cannot be guaranteed. A terrified yell made our ears ring, and this was followed by the most feared word in the canoeist's vocabulary, a word to make our hearts thump and our adrenalin run. The dreaded thing was in mid-stream hissing violently. Everyone was ordered to the bank as the creature took off with one intent. The chosen victim immediately but deliberately capsized himself and his craft, forcing the outwitted swan to slither along the length of the upturned canoe's hull before, realising its mistake, it hung its head and made off up the Thames. The victim, who was by now running out of breath, thankfully rolled his canoe back into position.

'Blueflash' next looms up in the distance, a weir with a five-foot vertical drop and notorious for having once seized one boy's canoe in the 'stopper' at its bottom. The unusually silent boys wait 'rafted' to the bank until word is passed that it is safe to jump. The leader paddles swiftly towards the drop, watched by bulging eyes. There is a moment of suspense as he capsizes in the turbulence at the bottom but

after a quick roll and a struggle, has enabled him to escape the clutches of the 'stopper' the tension is relieved. The other boys now follow. The first novice plunges over and lets out a sigh of relief as he emerges the right way up after a few seconds of fear.

As we glide back towards the boat-house another problem is encountered. An angler sits patiently on the bank with his line blocking our path. It is a time for diplomacy (and a bribe). A float, or some such item of angling equipment, which has been picked up farther upstream and kept for just such an emergency, is offered, and the angler willingly lets us pass.

We cycle back to School with the setting sun casting our shadows on the road beside us.

D. DE SOUZA (LOWER 6)

#### RAMBLING 1974

EQUIPPED WITH MAPS, brollies, Spam sandwiches, prefects and other impedimenta, our noble band of intrepid explorers, including Mr. Hogg, once more followed Ridge-way, tow-path and footpath, and, if truth be told, we left behind us at least one right-of-way where none existed before. We discovered that it is easy to operate canal locks, though much to Chris Cooper's disgust no grateful boating-folk offered remuneration, and to lose C.V.C. in disused railway cuttings. Other more difficult tasks were obtaining stagnant water, rumoured to possess remarkable properties, from a Holy Well and losing Gerard Manley (and there were those who tried). A highlight of the term was the visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, and few will forget the sight of two distinguished Lower Sixth scientists solemnly enjoying the facilities afforded by a children's swing. Our final excursion was a day-trip to the Wye Valley including the trek up the 'North Face' of Symond's Yat, an event still described by Richard Camilleri with much feeling.

#### CHESS 1974-75

NO, WE HAVEN'T PRODUCED any budding Boris Spaskys nor have we proved any serious threat to Bobby Fisher; in fact it has been quite a peaceful year. The bleakness of Thursday's winter afternoons are forgotten as about twenty young chess players are absorbed in thought for the duration of an hour's intellectual battle. The toll of dead pieces rises and he who is getting the better of the game adopts a confident smile while the less fortunate one gradually loses interest, beginning to wonder more about what will be the sandwich-filling at tea. Dawe and Whelan have both proved to all and sundry their undoubted skills at this ancient game, for they have both won the chess championship for their age groups, and very hard battles they both fought, with the clock ticking ominously towards six o'clock and the nails of spectators growing unusually short.

P. MOORES (4A)

#### BRIDGE

THIS YEAR TWICE AS MANY PEOPLE have been playing bridge. The old hands have turned up trumps and an encouraging number of newcomers have begun to learn the rudiments of the king of card games. Now that boys are teaching other boys to play bridge, its future at Cokethorpe is sure.

In the Easter term the House Competition, which was eventually won by a gifted Harcourt team, attracted much interest. The previous holders of the trophy, Queen Anne, were unlucky to face Harcourt with the destination of the trophy already decided owing to some highly unorthodox and irresponsible bidding from Swift, who retained their wooden spoon. The teams were: Harcourt: S. Fanthorpe

(Captain), M. Pearce, D. Kennaway and A. Esland. Queen Anne: D. Webster (Captain), P. Brennan, S. MacLeod and C. Burchett. Swift: J. Robinow (Captain), A. L. White, S. Ashby and P. Crewe.

### MECHANICS CLUB

ONCE A WEEK a quantity of sawdust has been smuggled from the closely guarded Biology lab. supplies and sprinkled furtively onto the Physics lab. floor. This strange ritual has continued ever since a kind parent donated to the School an engine and gearbox unit from a derelict car.

Week by week a group of about a dozen boys has participated in a methodical dissection of each part of the car's anatomy, and entered into detailed discussion of the design, maintenance and repair of each component.

Emphasis during these sessions has been on practical maintenance of the average motor car and once the group had gained a firm understanding of all the basic working of the engine, gearbox, steering and braking systems the rest of the term was spent in carrying out the systematic services on a number of staff cars. During these services a number of probable breakdowns and one potential accident were avoided and not a few extra miles per gallon eked from engines by returning them to their correct settings.

Thus the boys involved were able to see the ease with which normal servicing can be undertaken by a car owner and the benefits of this can yield in the form of increased safety, convenience and economy.

### NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY 1974-75

THE AUTUMN TERM saw much interest being shown in ornithological activity, ten boys squeezing into the cars of Mr. Thomson and Mr. Clayton to visit fresh fields. We found the Autumn migration rather disappointing, especially with the drainage of the previously rewarding pits at Farmoor, which however now contain large numbers of hares, and moreover still yield fossils, predominantly bivalves and ammonites. Birds of interest seen were: black tern, little gull, curlew and hen harrier. Several lectures were attended, the most interesting being 'The Birds of Grassholm' and 'The Return of Wildlife to the Middle Thames'.

In the Spring a fox was viewed on a number of days crossing a field near the School, which it sometimes approached to within 100 yards. On a trip to Slimbridge in February, only six of the usual several hundreds of Bewick swans were present. However, the trip was rewarding, especially the sight of so many ducks and geese. Further trips were made to Wytham and Tring, where some boys met the naturalist Seton Gordon, and in a visit to Cokethorpe, the Headmaster's son, Mark Allen, gave a fine lecture on 'Hawking'.

In the Summer term we are undertaking a grebe survey, which continues at the time of writing.

A. HANBY (L6)

### THE POND

EARLY IN 1974, just after the 'O' levels, there was little (or so it seemed) for some fifth formers to do except wilt under the black cloud which had just passed.

Of course there was in fact much to do—an assault on the magical pond that wasn't a pond and that lay somewhere near the market garden. If you could find it, it presented itself as a small round bowl, which was, in summer, full of black stinking mud, and various artefacts of a waste-paper bin. Soon ambition raised its

head; why not renovate the pond and restore it to its former glories, or give it those glories it never had before, such as an increased size?

Very soon numbers of fifth formers and 'volunteers' from the lower forms were stripped to the waist and digging the black mud out of this pit. The scene resembled something out of the film 'Bridge Over the River Kwai'. The task was not easy, as can be imagined, the black mud on the bottom of the pond being held together by a matting of dead vegetation and masonry. The pond also had a nip of its own in the shape of broken glass which caused some nasty cuts and Sister temporarily to retire some of us.

Eventually the pond was cleared of all obstruction and deepened, even widened a bit, but when we returned, most of us fledgling sixth formers, were we satisfied? No!

We now decided to widen the pond to an even greater extent. This was hard, perhaps harder than the toil of pond clearance, owing to the difficulties of removing clay from below the water line. In the end, however, it took a J.C.B. to make any impression on the pond and to deepen it to any great extent.

Now all that is left is the stocking of the pond and the fox-proofing of the area, possibly for the procurement of ornamental duck. Never has so much mud been moved by so few.

A. HANBY (LOWER 6)

### THEATRE REPORT

THEATRE-GOERS THIS YEAR have been fascinated, confused and entertained by a great variety of plays. Faced with plays ranging from those by a selection of modern playwrights to those by Shakespeare, the theatre enthusiasts amongst us have, we hope, all enjoyed ourselves.

The first was George Bernard Shaw's 'St. Joan', at the New Theatre, Oxford. An effervescent performance from Julia Foster in the title role was elegantly and suavely supported by James Villiers as a quietly ruthless Earl of Warwick.

Stratford was very impressive, producing an excellent variety of Shakespeare's works. Nicol Williamson starred in the opening play, 'Twelfth Night', and his stork-like, morose Malvolio, who almost brought the house down, was followed by his magnificently haunted performance as Macbeth. The seductive Helen Mirren starred also in this production as his suitably iniquitous and murderous spouse. We next visited Stratford to see 'King Henry IV, Part I', which was a somewhat long-drawn-out affair, yet nevertheless appeared to leave the actors short of breath at the end. Emrys James played an effusive King Henry, alongside an introspective Prince Hal portrayed by Alan Howard, and a bluff Falstaff played by Brewster Mason. The next play was 'King Henry V'. Following his performance as Prince Hal, Alan Howard was a magnificent King Harry, and, indeed, the whole production was spectacular and rewarding. It is hoped that we will be able to see 'King Henry IV, Part 2' later in the season.

Two schools this year also provided entertainment for the Theatre Society. Following in the steps of Stratford, Henry Box School, Witney, gave the Immortal Bard the treatment as well, with an interesting performance of 'Antony and Cleopatra'. The laurels go, however, to Marlborough College, who demonstrated, with a performance of Ionesco's 'Aunt Sally', the heights which a school play can attain. Offering wide scope for a large number of actors, it was a powerful performance, depicting, in a general fashion, the futile way in which people lead their lives, and never face up to reality until it is too late. The play culminated in a breathtaking, 'choreographed holocaust' (to use the producer's own words), and, as a whole, the play impressed, confused, and certainly amused a good many theatre-goers. Marlborough followed this performance with Tom Stoppard's 'Alter Margritte' at the

181st Penny Reading. If anyone was confused unduly by this example of Ionesco's 'Theatre of the Absurd', the heroine's petticoated and panting progress on hands and knees around the auditorium in this production must have raised even more doubts in a few minds.

A double helping of Harold Pinter was also forthcoming this year, beginning with 'The Birthday Party' at the Shaw Theatre, London, starring John Alderton and Sydney Tafler. This was followed by a laudable performance of 'The Caretaker' at Swindon.

All in all, the variety and quality of plays this year has been excellent, and, especially as breaks from our monastic existence, the trips have been welcomed and enjoyed by all. Here's to the next one.

R. BARTHOLOMEW (LOWER 6)

#### ART

THERE WERE TWO 'O' level entries this year. Last term's candidate, Ching II, passed brilliantly, and the result of this term's candidate, Fanthorpe, will be known later in the year.

Some students will, I hope, be sufficiently advanced to take the examination next year. The comparative ease with which Art 'O' level may be obtained is encouraging to certain painters, but also gives a false sense of achievement to others.

When we look back over the year's work a varied and delightful collection of paintings is evident. And I hope that by the time this is published a real 'chinoiserie' panel will be finished and in place over the fireplace in the Masters' common room.

#### WOODWORK

AS USUAL, THE VARIETY of things made or started has been great, ranging from the coffin-like radio cabinet of Alistair Cooke to the cigarette box of Guy Bourne-May. As far as is known there is no connection between the two items. There has also been the mail box of Jeremy Smith and the saddle stand of Norman Wyatt. Paul Jewson had fun putting chair legs into a plank and calling it a hat rack. William Marks is concentrating on a gun rack, Ross Palmer on a table and Francis Winstone-Partridge completed yet another bookcase. He must be running out of relatives willing to accept one!

#### SELF-SUFFICIENCY

CHOCOLATE CREAM CAKE appears to be the staple diet of self-sufficient boys, closely followed by sweet buns of any variety. Pairs of trousers have been fashionably lengthened, and the basic arts of sewing and mending applied to stuffed dolphins and crocodiles. Knitted hats have been much in evidence, and although Stewart's orange and purple striped sweater has turned into a football scarf, it will doubtless be equally useful.

By these means, it is hoped that boys will leave school able to rely on themselves for the everyday necessities of life, instead of on wives/girl-friends/sisters/mothers (only in emergencies, of course; one cannot hope that the female sex will stop volunteering to do such chores!).

#### LIBRARY NOTES

NEW CHAIRS, and, of course, new books (some kindly presented by G. Dennis, Esq., and J. Hogg, Esq.) have appeared in the Library; we have been measured for new shelves, but meanwhile, pruning is a constant process. Even so an acute ear can hear the shelves we do have creaking and groaning in agony at the burden they are forced to sustain.

The Library is seldom empty, for the lure of books is strong. (Even if it were not so, the bright fire that burns in the grate for two out of three terms would

bring its devoted worshippers.) It is a source of much pleasure, even inspiration. When chess, bridge, debating or polling are in progress, or when the staff has one of its merry-makings, it is even busier than ever.

Bartholomew has continued as Librarian, supported by his assistants: Murphy, Bourke, Mullen, Moores and, now, Barton. All of us owe them a debt of gratitude for their ministrations. Bourke's typing, too, has been indispensable.

## DEBATING

IN OCTOBER, THE COUNTRY was faced with its second general election of the year. And so were we. In February the Tories at Cokethorpe won handsomely. This time Moores led the Liberals to a narrow victory by securing 49 votes to the Conservatives' (Girling) 47. Labour (Burchett) got 26 votes, and the National Front (Bartholomew) 14. Some stout Tories feared, on that Thursday afternoon after the declaration, that these figures foreshadowed a serious erosion of the national Tory vote. However, the country's verdict was, in this respect, quite at variance with ours. Can it be that our proximity to Oxford—that home of lost causes—influenced the result?

In the spring, a panel of junior speakers discussed the identity of 'the greatest man alive today'. Jenkins (Lord Mountbatten) scored 30 votes, McHugh II (Jack Ashley, M.P.) 9, Bourke (Laurence Olivier) 5, and Weaver (Barry John) 1. The claims of Henry Kissinger, President Ford, King Feisal (then alive), Mother Theresa and Barnes Wallace were voiced only from the floor.

With the 'mock' examinations safely behind them, the seniors debated the thorny problem of whether or not 'The woman's place is in the home'. Those male chauvinists, Burchett and Lambert, were defeated by Kennaway and Fanthorpe by a single vote.

The Cullen Debating Prize was competed for by five speakers who were united only in their wish to abolish something. The Reverend David Lane was the judge and, despite his personal commitment, was able to view the whole affair objectively enough to award the prize to Lambert, who spoke persuasively in favour of eliminating all Christians. The other abolitionists were Moores (Motor Cars), Bartholomew (Mrs. Whitehouse and Co.), Burchett (Educational Injustices) and Girling (The House of Lords).

## COKETHORPE SOCIETY

THIS YEAR'S RUGGER MATCH was won by the Old Boys 46-0. However, the match was a much closer-fought contest than the result indicated and the School played very well indeed. Our thanks are due to Russell Massey for getting the team together.

The Dinner Dance which had been arranged for the evening had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. This raises the whole question of the support which the Old Boys are prepared to give to the social events arranged by the Committee. At present there are only two events to which we invite attendance, namely, the Rugger Match combined with the Dinner Dance, and the A.G.M. It would be unfortunate if the only social occasion affording opportunity for an annual get-together was to cease for lack of interest.

There is little to report from the A.G.M. except that the hope was expressed that support will be forthcoming for any future functions that may be arranged by the Society.

As always we are most interested to hear news of Old Boys, and even more to see them. Here are some scraps of news which have reached us:

Peter Ingerslev, having completed the one-year course at Bible College, has now returned to finish his architectural training at Plymouth where he has already completed four of the seven years of the course.

Jim Goodall is married with three children and works for Turnbull Scot & Co., shipowners and managers, as their Assistant Company Secretary.

C. Marsden, after doing the N.D.A., spent two years doing V.S.O. in Guyana, spent six months travelling from one end of the Amazon to the other and then later returned to South America, where for the past three years he has been ranch manager at one of the 'Union Internationals' Ranches' in Venezuela. He has also got married.

Melvyn Scase has recently taken up a position of Company Secretary/Chief Accountant for S.M.T. Pullmax (G.B.) Ltd., a subsidiary of a state-owned company in Sweden.

Christopher Elworthy is still in printing at Bristol. As well as a daughter he now has a son.

Simon Thomson has now been made Publicity Manager at Britten Norman—as he puts it, 'Britain's No. 1 Aircraft Manufacturer'.

Nicholas Dobinson now works for Cornhill Insurance Co. Ltd. as a building insurance underwriter and is in the process of taking his professional qualifications.

Justin Sayer has recently got married and for the past three years has been working in the theatre.

Mike Davis is now in his final year at the British School of Osteopathy in London—much to the surprise of his whole family, he also managed to win the Physiology prize.

John Bally popped back to this country to make what was then the record for 'hang gliding' flight of 2½ hrs. He is now back in the Med. as skipper of a 123-ft. luxury motor yacht—larger than last year's! He has also recently had a son.

Anthony Carraher is now working for his family firm as a representative.

Aubrey Harfoot is working for South Wales (E) Monmouthshire Trustee Savings Bank and recently was sent by them on a computer course.

Martin Goss has just taken some promotion examinations for the Police force and soon is due to be moved to Norfolk.

Jonathan Hicks is in Australia but is coming back some time in '75.

David Simon has qualified as a Chartered Accountant and practices on his own account with the assistance of his wife; they also run an insurance brokerage. They have recently had a son, as have Tony Baker and Viv Williams.

All paid-up members will in due course be receiving an up-to-date address list of all Old Boys which I have recently managed to have typed. I trust that all Old Boys reading this will support any future functions organised by the Society.

Do not forget that I shall be very pleased to hear any news that can be included in the next news letter. All correspondence should be addressed to: Trevor W. Key, 104 Maidenhead Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

TREVOR W. KEY

## STOP PRESS

DATELINE JULY 4

A duck has been seen on the pond. . . . Mr. Green has cordially agreed that during the Yetties' Concert the cricket square should be used as a car park. . . . The day boys have come out of the 'phone box. . . . Messrs. Bourke and Carpenter are to demonstrate the 800 metres. . . . The Masters' Common Room has run out of sherry. . . . Gerard has not broken anything today. . . .

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