



THE PEACOCK

1978

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No. 17

Summer 1978

Head of School

S. M. C. MacLeod

School Prefects

M. B. Andrews

P. A. Baker

S. L. Ching

J. W. F. Crisp

W. J. Manley

P. Saunders

J. B. Vaughan-Fowler

Heads of Houses

Harcourt

J. W. F. Crisp

Queen Anne

M. B. Andrews

Dean Swift

P. Saunders

School Officers

Captain of Rugby Football

S. M. C. MacLeod

Vice-Captain

J. B. Vaughan-Fowler

and Secretary

P. M. W. Murphy

Captain of Boats

G. A. Jenkinson

Vice-Captain and Secretary of Boats

S. M. C. MacLeod

Captain of Cricket

Vice-Captain

S. H. Ashby

and Secretary

S. M. C. MacLeod

Captain of Football

Vice-Captain

V. Wong

Master of Canoes

P. M. W. Murphy

Cover design by Losuvalna

WE HAVE HAD the pleasure of welcoming a number of people to our community this year. Tim Jenner joined us as Bursar in September and with his wife Joan has already identified himself closely with our affairs. Tim Jolly joined us at the same time and soon afterwards became a proud father—and Mrs. Joan Barford became Sanatorium Sister. Mrs. Mary Whalley and Mr. Christopher Barrett are teaching on a part-time basis in English and Art. We offer each of them a warm welcome.

We were sorry in the course of the year to say farewell to two long-serving members of Common Room—Gordon Dennis and Anthony Baynes—but we shall see them from time to time since both live nearby. Ian Lewis leaves us at the end of this term to return north to Manchester and we shall miss him, particularly on the Rugby field where his teams have done so well.

It has been pleasant to see the Old Boys back in force at Cokethorpe. In addition to the Rugby Match in the Autumn Term we now have the Annual Dinner and Meeting at Cokethorpe on the Friday before the Summer Term begins and it was encouraging to see such a good turn-out this year. We are most grateful to the Society for its very generous offer to buy the Church and present it to the School and this will be a permanent reminder of the close link which exists between the School and the Society.

This seems to be the place to say something about the Church and its future. The Church Commissioners have accepted the Governing Body's offer to buy the Church and it is our intention to use it not only for worship but also for cultural purposes—in particular I should like to use it as an area for drama and music. The legal processes of acquiring the Church are inevitably lengthy but these are now nearly complete and it seems that we shall soon be in a position to go ahead with our planning.

It has been a year of useful improvements within the School and we have nearly completed a major programme of restoration and redecoration. The coming holiday will see major improvements in the Kitchen and Gymnasium and the completion of the hard tennis courts makes a useful addition to our facilities. On the academic side our major change has been the introduction of an ambitious General Studies scheme and a fuller account of this can be found in this issue.

J.E.T.

CHAPEL NOTES

CHURCH SERVICES have been held in the Corinthian Room on Sundays during term time throughout the year. On 8th October 1977 there was a Confirmation in Witney Parish Church conducted by the Right Reverend D. G. Loveday, M.A., when the following boys were confirmed: Bowles, Coles, Evers, Grundy I, Grundy II, Hughes, Meyer, Northcott, Penn-Gaskell, Robins I, Robins II, Simpson, Smith, Walker I, Walker II,

Walsh. We are very grateful to the Bishop for coming to take the Confirmation; to Fr. Campell S.S.J.E., and Bro. Phillips S.S.J.E., who made it possible for the candidates to have a Quiet Afternoon at The Mission House, Marston Street, Oxford, at very short notice; also to the Revd. J. M. Cook, the Rector of Witney, for allowing the School Confirmation to be held in St. Mary's church.

The School also received two visits from members of the Anglican Order of St. Francis.

The Catholics are most grateful indeed to Fr. Gill, S.J., for coming out from Campion Hall, Oxford, to celebrate Mass and to minister to the Catholic members of the School.

D.P.L.

PRIZES

The Headmaster's Prize	R. J. D. McKenzie
6th Form English	S. M. C. MacLeod
6th Form French	S. M. C. MacLeod
6th Form History	M. Pearce
6th Form Geography	M. Girling
6th Form Chemistry	W. Manley
6th Form Biology	W. Manley and M. Pearce
6th Form Physics	J. W. F. Crisp and P. A. L. Tolley
6th Form Mathematics	J. W. F. Crisp and P. A. L. Tolley
Open Art Prize	I. C. Cottrell
Martin Browne Memorial Prize	J. Bird
5th Form English Language	P. M. W. Murphy
5th Form English Literature	P. M. W. Murphy
5th Form History	J. M. S. Tamlyn
5th Form Geography	I. Baxter
5th Form British Constitution	I. Baxter
5th Form French	M. Shurbaji
5th Form Physics	J. Smith
5th Form Biology	C. Lesley
5th Form Chemistry	P. M. W. Murphy
5th Form Mathematics	J. Barrett
4A Form Prize	J. J. Keenlyside
4B Form Prize	M. Walker II
3A Form Prize	M. S. Kunzer
3B Form Prize	D. Clifton

DEAN SWIFT HOUSE REPORT

THE 1976/7 SCHOOL YEAR closed on a high note for Swift. In the Inter-House Rowing Competition we came second to Harcourt, missing the Cup by only six seconds. Credit must be given to Baker, Vlitos, Gee I and Clarabut who all received their colours. The limelight, however, falls upon the Cricket Team, who, after two entertaining matches, won the Inter-House Cricket Cup. Queen Anne were all out for 34, after H. Scott and Nathan had each taken three wickets. With fine batting from Ashby (28 not out) we won safely by eight wickets. Harcourt (95) provided stiffer opposition but could not withstand H. Scott who took a remarkable four wickets for five runs. Ashby (47) then led the way to a fine victory by five wickets.

In the summer we said farewell to the House Captain for two years, J. Pool—an invaluable sportsman—and to his able deputy H. Scott. Other leavers were Barrett, Barton, Baxter, Bird, Clarke, Flint, Hodgson, Lesley, McQueen, Whaley, and Emms. Nathan and Trotter left at Christmas. We wish them all the very best of luck.

The Autumn Term started badly, with defeat in the Inter-House Kicking and in the Chess competition. We were lifted by the success of the Rugby XV against Queen Anne. Tries by Murphy (2), M. White, R. Gee and Trotter produced a convincing 28-3 victory. The match against Harcourt had, unfortunately, to be abandoned, though in our favour. The whole team received colours.

In the Canoeing Competition Murphy, Davenport and Vlitos put up a good fight, but it was Queen Anne's day.

The Spring Term opened with the Cross Country Championship. In this the whole House takes part, and for the fourth year running Swift proved itself a cut above the rest. (Final scores: Swift 1,141, Harcourt 1,641, Queen Anne 1,710). Shortly afterwards we added the Road Relay Cup to our Cross Country trophy. Running colours were re-awarded to Murphy, S. Cook, Trotter, M. Walker, M. White, Baker and Clifton, and awarded to P. Saunders, N. White, N. Cook, Stewart and Ashby.

In the Rugby Sevens we played commendably and came second—colours went to P. Saunders, Trotter, R. Saunders, Davenport, Walsh and Martell. The Football Competition was less satisfactory, though the team played well against Harcourt.

Despite the fact that a number of talented seniors are leaving this term, Swift can surely look forward to an even more successful year next year.

P. SAUNDERS

HARCOURT HOUSE

HARCOURT STARTED this year where they left off last. However, despite not losing a single game we seem to be two cups short.

In the House Regatta, although we started off very much the underdogs, our crews, helped on by the encouragement of William Manley and 'Stan' Bowles, went on to win the cup comfortably, beating the favourites, Swift, by six seconds. Unfortunately, the Cricket did not go as planned and we had to forfeit the Cup to Swift.

By winning the House Kicking Cup, by a margin of over 30 points, mainly due to the faultless effort of the Junior team, we were now ready to undertake the task of retaining the House Rugby Cup.

We started off well by beating Queen Anne 22-14, although we did not find our true form until we played Swift. After our persistent pressure in the first half our efforts were duly rewarded by a lead 14-6 at half-time. The second half started off well with the scrum, led by W. Manley, continuing to dominate the field, but to no avail, as the game was abruptly abandoned in Swift's favour, even though we were leading at the time. We overcame this setback by winning convincingly the 7-a-side Competition without losing any of our four games.

Despite an enthusiastic effort by all in the House we failed to win the Cross Country Cup. The Football Competition went very much the same way as the Rugby in that we did not lose a game but were unable to retain the Cup.

Other Cups that we gained were the Chess and Bridge which were won by the intellectual athletes of the House.

It only remains to thank Roderick McKenzie, whom the House and the School miss very much; also Mark Scott and Mark Pearce; and to wish them the best of luck in the future. I also must express my gratitude to John Vaughan-Fowler for his great support during the year.

J. W. F. CRISP

QUEEN ANNE HOUSE REPORT

AT LAST Queen Anne have something concrete to show for the tremendously improved House spirit which has been steadily building up over the last couple of years. This year we have had several notable successes, both individual and team, and our general standard of competition has improved.

Last year closed badly for Queen Anne in both House Cricket and Regatta Competitions. In the Cricket we had a very young side with only two First XI players but we still managed to run Harcourt close, and the stronger Swift team. However we can look forward to some degree of success in the Cricket this year as we face the 1978 Competition with

practically the same side as last year. In the House Regatta, beginning as strong favourites, we were unfortunately weakened due to M. B. Andrews' absence at an academic course, plus several injuries and a bad day. Also, at the end of last Summer Term, we sadly said goodbye to D. Smit, who led the House very ably, also to C. Cooper and A. East who always took a strong interest in House affairs, and S. Joyce, G. Cartwright, B. Marks and D. Randall, all of whom served the House consistently well.

The 77-78 year began disappointingly with the House Kicking Competition, when we finished second to Harcourt; all our seniors kicked well, with MacLeod the individual winner. House colours were also awarded to D. McHugh, M. Grundy and N. Holland. We also came close to winning the Chess Competition, but in the crucial game against Harcourt we lost our number two seed and consequently lost 4-2.

From the library we moved to the rugby pitch, where we began as underdogs, containing only three of the First XV. In our first match against Harcourt we surprised everybody (except ourselves!) with a tremendously competitive and extraordinary performance. However, we lost 22-14, and went on to face Swift to whom we lost 26-3 when we sadly did not play anywhere near as well as we did against Harcourt. Our part finished in this competition, we looked forward to watching an entertaining play-off between Harcourt and Swift, but unfortunately were spectators at a match which was detrimental to the Cokethorpe Rugby tradition, and which the referee abandoned in favour of Swift, when Harcourt were winning 14-10.

After the surprises and traumas of the Rugby we moved to the calmer waters of the Windrush for the Canoe Slalom Competition which was at the end of the Winter Term. In this we scored our first team success of the year; furthermore N. Taylor finished first, R. Cooke second and R. Newton fourth—all three received House colours and colours were awarded to S. MacLeod, M. B. Andrews, P. Dawe, N. Holland and M. Grundy for their efforts in the House Rugby.

The Spring Term began with the School Cross Country in which we finished third. Despite this disappointing performance we had the individual winner in S. MacLeod; good runs were also turned in by M. B. Andrews, P. Dawe, J. Smith, R. Palmer and R. Grundy; all these also turned in good performances for the Road Relay Competition where we improved our position to second place and for their efforts the above received House colours. The next House Competition was 7-a-side Rugby, which was a disappointing competition all round.

The only other competition which has been completed to date is the House Football in which we triumphed (it is now two years since we lost a match in this Cup). In the first match against Swift we won convincingly 3-1 with a fine all-round team performance. In the second match we also performed very well against a Harcourt side which put up much stronger resistance and which stole a goal in the last couple of minutes to force a

2-2 draw. House colours were awarded to the whole side, but particular mention must be made of S. MacLeod, N. Holland, M. Grundy and D. McHugh (who played on bravely with an injured ankle)—this epitomises the new spirit which can be seen by all in the House today.

My thanks go to S. MacLeod and S. Ching who have greatly helped in the running of the House this year, and also to P. Dawe and D. McHugh who were at the centre of many of the House sides. It only remains for me to thank the House as a whole for their renewed support and enthusiasm in House affairs.

M. B. ANDREWS

GENERAL STUDIES

THE SIXTH FORMER of today is expected to know a great deal more than the content of the academic subjects which form the basis of his A level options. The part played by General Studies in the curricula of most schools in the 1970s has become increasingly apparent, and most educational theorists and writers predict that it will play an even more significant role by the early 1980s.

The feasibility, as well as the desirability, of a General Studies Course in the Sixth Form at Cokethorpe was discussed at length by a committee of interested masters last Summer Term. The outcome of their report was announced by the Headmaster at Speech Day last year. In the first instance General Studies was begun on an experimental basis only with the Upper Sixth; the success of the work done in this trial period during the Michaelmas Term of 1977 led to some adjustments in the master-plan, and to the involvement of the Lower Sixth from January 1978. The course functions on the basis of three periods a week for the Upper Sixth, and two for the Lower Sixth. Six masters are involved in the teaching; it should perhaps be added that for all of them this is a commitment over and above their existing time-tables. It was agreed at an early stage that the weekly time-tabled periods should be supplemented by evening talks by visiting speakers, about every three weeks.

The aim of any such course, as its name applies, is straightforward enough: it is to broaden the cultural awareness and thinking of our Sixth Forms by providing a forum in which boys on the Arts and Science sides can meet and discuss a variety of academic and contemporary topics, breaking down the barriers so often erected between them by A level specialisation. It is not always so easy to realise this aim in practice. The departmentalised (and frequently warring) prejudices of the A level specialist die hard; and any General Studies class places a high premium upon the ability of its participants to appreciate and discuss in a civilised, adult manner what is not always necessarily immediately congenial to them. The problem of direction—and the related problems of coordination and overlapping—also arise. General Studies cannot (or should not) be taught as

other subjects can, within the confines of a rigid syllabus. Nevertheless, it is necessary to tabulate the general content of such a course, and our unofficial *schema* (in no particular order) is designed to embrace the following areas:

- i. The origin of man, and Genetic Engineering.
- ii. Economic theory and practice.
- iii. The under-developed world.
- iv. Political thought and structures.
- v. Current affairs and aspects of modern society.
- vi. Literature in the social context, and as a social document.

Two books, of a general sociological nature, have been supplied to boys on the course so far—Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock*, and Gordon Rattray Taylor's *Re-Think*. Others, like Houston Smith's *The Religions of Man*, and Keith Dawkins' *The Selfish Gene* (which has already been widely referred to), will be supplied this autumn. The former will add a further dimension to the course. The use of the Video Cassette Recorder, which was purchased last year from the profits of the Tuck Shop, has become an integral part of the teaching on the course. A wide variety of programmes has been recorded: they include, among others, *The Anglo-Saxons*, *The Neo-Nazis*, *Faces of Communism*, *Film as Evidence—The Suez Crisis*, and Sir Isaiah Berlin's *Introduction to Philosophy* in the BBC 2 'Men of Ideas' series. In order to preserve these recordings for future use, and to build up an archive of such material, we are buying more tapes this summer to add to the existing stock of twelve. (The VCR is used for recreational, as well as other, academic, purposes.)

The evening talks programme has proved to be a most successful ingredient of General Studies. Indeed, it is probably fair to say that these talks have in many ways made the course the success it has so far been, and given General Studies an appeal within the Sixth Form which it might otherwise have lacked. They have certainly brought a good deal of extra intellectual stimulus and enjoyment into the School—and the interest which they arouse is by no means confined to the Upper School. It is good to know of the curiosity of the 4th and 5th Forms, on a day when a talk is about to take place, wondering what goes on in the inner sanctum of the Corinthian Room during the course of such a session; and to hear them asking whether General Studies will still exist when they are in the Sixth. For various reasons it was decided that there should be no talks during the Summer Term, when there are so many other activities, and when the threat of approaching examinations takes precedence over everything else. We resume the talks again, therefore, this coming September, continuing through to the end of the Lent Term, with, among others, such distinguished speakers as Count Nikolai Tolstoy and Dame Janet Vaughan. A short report of the ten talks we have had so far follows this article.

From this beginning—from, that is, an enthusiastic but admittedly half-

fledged project last Christmas—General Studies has now grown over the last year into an established Department, and a recognised part of the Cokethorpe curriculum. It was decided that no boys from the present Upper Sixth should be entered this year for the joint Oxford & Cambridge General Paper. It is planned to do this in the future—at least with specific individuals from the present Lower Sixth—with the aim of giving them an additional paper qualification in their bids for university entrance. Whether or not they will achieve one of the *alpha*, *beta* or *gamma* classifications remains, of course, to be seen. Yet, at the same time, this is a speculation which is in many ways immaterial. A pupil (not at Cokethorpe) once said to me, quite seriously: ‘Even if I don’t pass my A levels, I shall still have benefitted.’ It is hard not to feel, in an age dominated by the tyranny of competition for O and A levels, that there is some sanity in such a remark. And it is in this spirit, bearing in mind that it was *not* a casual or flippant remark, that one would like most senior boys at Cokethorpe to think of the General Studies course. If the experience of this course enables its participants to display an increased general knowledge, and something of the wider awareness without which one cannot truly take a place in adult society—a transition which is, in itself, far more significant than merely ‘going up to univesty’—then it will have achieved its purpose.

PJC

THE GENERAL STUDIES TALKS

THE TALKS commenced in the Michaelmas Term with three art lectures by Mr. Anthony Baines. He covered a wide range of topics including the Impressionists, Renaissance Painters and Modern Art. Perhaps the most impressive was that which dealt with the various phases of the Renaissance. All the talks were well illustrated by slides. Our first outside speaker was Professor K. A. Stacey, an authority in the field of Molecular Biology from the University of Kent. He spoke on ‘Genetic Manipulation’. Important issues were raised, relating not only to the technicalities of genetics, but also to the political and moral implications of current research. The Professor argued his case most convincingly and conveyed something of the flavour of first-hand research.

The following talk, entitled ‘Why Britain is Declining’ was given by Mr. Peter Tinniswood, an economist from the Business Studies Department, Marlborough College, at the beginning of the Lent Term. He discussed his ideas in a witty and instructive manner, and the humour and content of his talk commanded our attention throughout.

On the next occasion a jovial atmosphere prevailed, for we had assembled for a ‘Musical Bon-Bons Evening’, introduced by the Rev. A. E. Perry and Mr. S. C. Phillipson from Westminster College, Oxford. They had come to play records of their favourite pieces—a wide variety, their

object being to entertain. A subtle combination of Common Room sherry and excellent stereo equipment culminated in a Victorian duet 'Excelsior' performed by Mr. Perry and Mr. Phillipson, accompanied by Mr. Dennis at the piano. The result was a glorious success.

At the next function we were plunged into Nazi propaganda. Leni Riefenstahl's film *The Triumph of the Will*, introduced by Dr. K. R. M. Short, also from Westminster College, depicted exactly the mentality of the Third Reich, giving a very vivid impression of Hitler's grim régime. Shortly afterwards, we attended a lecture delivered by Dr. Margaret Marshall: 'India, the Land of the Richly Poor'. Dr. Marshall and her husband were both out in India for an extended stay on the Fulbright Scholarships from 1957-1959, working at Calcutta University. Her talk was both fascinating and entertaining, but it seemed that her slides were concentrated too heavily on architectural features to the exclusion of others which might have conveyed a broader impression of the country.

The lectures during the Lent Term reached their peak in the talk on 'Science and Religion', delivered by the distinguished nuclear physicist, Sergei Tarassenko. Born in a Russian emigré enclave in France, he was educated at the Sorbonne and is currently working at the Culham Research Laboratory near Abingdon, with other members of an international team on the JET project. During his address he demonstrated that the acceptance of Religion and Science are not incompatible, combining his obvious learning with genuine faith. With the aid of diagrams he pointed out the reasons for his belief in God. As usual, members of the audience raised some important questions, but the evening was memorable for Mr. Tarassenko's charismatic personality. We were privileged to have listened to him.

The final lecture took place at the end of term with the visit of Professor Patrick Collinson. His talk, entitled 'Elizabeth I and the Elizabethans', provoked many interesting questions from the audience, although some of his replies were guarded. His basic theme was the over-idealisation of Elizabeth and the age to which she gave her name. He pointed out that the keynote of the epoch was survival—and that, in spite of many beliefs to the contrary, Elizabethan society was not one organised for survival although it did so in a remarkable way, Professor Collinson's research interests lie in the religious, political and social history of the sixteenth century. He is the author of *The Elizabethan Puritan Movement*, and will be giving the Ford Lectures at Oxford next Hilary Term.

R. A. C. BOURKE, UVI

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

DEBATING AT COKETHORPE has been resuscitated. Formerly active under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ellis, it subsequently lay dormant for some years, and has now been revived largely owing to the sincere interest of members of the Upper School who are prepared to participate, and by the efforts

of Mr. Cranham. Debating is now an important extra-curricular intellectual activity. One debate, on the motion 'That this House believes that attendance at School debates should not be compulsory', was defeated by thirty-six votes.

The debates take place in the Corinthian Room, in front of the whole School, usually on a Monday evening. On a number of occasions the behaviour of the House has left something to be desired. Restlessness, and the insertion of puerile ballot papers, can inevitably be discouraging to the speakers. Such behaviour is unfortunate, the more so since there is probably no real lack of interest on the part of those concerned. However, many questions have been asked from the floor (admittedly sometimes twice), and a number of passionate statements made. Whether a more involved attitude became apparent as the season progressed is, of course, debatable.

The debates themselves have often been good. The season's debut was entitled 'Does God Exist?' In this debate an effective combination of instinct and intellect was created by David McHugh and Rory Bourke who carried the motion by forty-four votes against Paul Dawe and Neil Stewart, their opposers. As might have been expected with what was basically a question of Faith, the House appeared somewhat biased.

The second debate, on the motion 'This House believes that abortion is justified', was calmer in tone than the rest. The proposers, Brendan Mee and Simon Ashby, carried the motion by fifteen votes against Mohammed Shurbaji and Michael White. The subject is perhaps an overworked one, but several contributions from the floor proved that the issue is still lively and controversial.

The debate about whether immigration controls should stay as they are was probably the best prepared debate before the Cullen Prize. Both sides presented organised arguments, but Stewart MacLeod and Simon Cook defeated Rory Bourke and Paul Murphy, the proposers, by eighteen votes. By contrast, a Balloon Debate towards the end of the Michaelmas Term was intended to be a comedy, and achieved that effect. Julian Keenlyside, defending the merits of John Cleese, clearly produced the most popular character and won the debate by a handsome majority. The other characters were Brigitte Bardot (Philip Davenport), Patrick Moore (Jason Evers), and Nicki Lauda (Jonathan Jackson).

The highlight of the debating season was the Cullen Prize Debate, held at the beginning of the summer term, on the famous Oxford Union motion 'That this House would in no circumstances fight for its Queen and Country'. The original debate received world-wide notice out of all proportion to its importance, and was taken as a sign of Britain's pacifism and decadence which was an encouragement to the Fascist dictators in Europe: in Germany Hitler had come to power only ten days before. In February 1933 the motion was passed by a majority of 122. On this occasion it was carried by a majority of eight. However, the purpose of the Cullen Debate

was to find the best individual speaker. Everyone presented moving arguments, but, in the opinion of most hearers, as well as the panel of judges, Rory Bourke's speech was undoubtedly the best. The Chairman of the panel of judges was Mr. Dennis: his appraisal of the debate is printed below.

BRENDAN MEE IV

THE JUDGES' VERDICT ON THE CULLEN DEBATE

DEBATERS ARE MADE, not born; and they are made in public. Their success, or failure, is as evident as the dramatists': but debaters have neither script nor actors, and must themselves be both. In looking for speeches that had substance and good construction, that were eloquent and audible, and that were delivered with authority—the judges were asking a lot. The broadcasts of Parliament would not be marked highly, on three of these counts at least.

In opening, Mee attempted to forestall the Opposers' arguments; and his speech had erudition, passion and style. But it was the style of written, not spoken, English; and his passion—which convinced the desk beneath his notes rather than the audience—ended in assertion rather than argument. His seconder, McHugh, radiated the outrage he felt at war and pleaded for peace to be given a chance; but his scrutable concern, numinous almost, wasn't matched by his persuasion. Leading for the Opposition (the legal phrasing is apt), Bourke was cool, agreeable, conciliatory; and, when putting his own views, telling, cumulative and indeed lethal. If he was in difficulty, he re-defined the area of debate. Consummate rhetoric well-directed, economical, controlled. Murphy, seconding him, used an easy rapport with the audience—at which he, of all the speakers, looked most—and a sincere, unambitious, reasonable style of conversational reassurance.

We marked individually: 165 out of 200 for Bourke. But it was impossible not to notice that those who opposed the motion both debated and teamed better than those who proposed it; and that the overall standard of debate, and of performance, was such that the participants and Coker should be proud.

G.W.D.

NIGHTS AT THE OPERA

FOR A SMALL BAND of enthusiasts, led by Colin Craig, there has been plenty to see: *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Gondoliers* and *The Mikado* at the Sadler's Wells theatre; *Carmen*, *Madam Butterfly*, *Don Giovanni* and *La Traviata* at the London Coliseum; Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and (for a dietary change) three short ballets performed by the Sadler's Wells Company on tour in Oxford. Mention of diet reminds me that a

meal was an added (possibly the chief) attraction on more than one occasion. My notes show too that these visits proved very popular with members of staff.

Thanks must go to Mr. Thomson for the provision of transport (almost invariably of the right size!).

AND THE THEATRE

For the second time we were unable to obtain tickets for one of the Stratford productions, despite the early booking to which our Associate Membership entitles us. However, we caught up with *Macbeth* in London (at the Young Vic) and it was worth the wait: stunning performances from Judi Dench and Ian McKeuan, and a wonderfully lucid, concentrated (but inventive) production.

Sensing that this would be hard to follow, we had already visited the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, to see *Hamlet* and Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. The links between the two were reinforced by having the actors play the same rôles in both plays. Watching *Hamlet*, one felt that the actors never quite struggled free from the burden of the play—though they strove admirably with it. In *Rosencrantz* they seemed entirely confident and gave a first-class performance.

Latterly (before the unwelcome intervention of exams) we returned to Stratford, after a long absence, to see Michael Hordern's Prospero conjuring a fine *Tempest*; full of interest, for both eye and ear, and delightfully spoken, as you would expect, by Hordern; but the suspicion rests that he was not at ease—that this was not quite the production for his Prospero.

One batch of tickets is still in the safe for this year: next month we re-visit Stratford to see *Measure for Measure*.

THE BOAT CLUB

THE PROBLEM of lack of equipment referred to in the last report has been partly rectified. At the beginning of the Summer Term another boat in the form of a sectionalised shell built by Simms was purchased from Belmont Abbey. Two sets of spade blades were also bought a little later in the term. In addition to these purchases, Mr. Rhodes was employed as a part time boatman during the Spring Term in order to carry out much needed repairs on our two clinker fours, one of which had sunk during training in the previous season. Leaks were repaired and several coats of high gloss polyurethane were applied.

At the beginning of the Spring Term Andrews was appointed Captain of Boats with Baker as Secretary. Towards the end of the Spring Term, the boathouse was twice flooded to a depth of several inches. This brought the repair work to a complete halt and consequently delayed the boating of crews. The Summer Term began with fierce winds, high water and

strong currents. It was on occasion quite impossible even to attempt to get through Newbridge to the straight stretch of water where most of the training is carried out. These treacherous conditions made the selection and coaching of the crews extremely difficult and meant that some of the new members of the Club, who had actually begun training in January in the indoor centre, scarcely got afloat on the river until May. It is hardly surprising that, in spite of the improved facilities, the 1977 season was not an especially successful one for the Boat Club.

The crews were as follows:

	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Under 16 'A'</i>	<i>Under 16 'B'</i>	<i>Under 15</i>	<i>Under 14</i>
Bow	Joyce	Jenkins	Trotter	Clarabut	Clifton
2	Andrews	Lesley	Newton	Vlitos	Smith III
3	Dawe	Flint	King	Keenlyside	Fitzgerald
Stroke	Baker	Murphy	Jenkinson	Dodd	Drowley
Cox	Smith I	Tamlyn	Northcott	Bowles	Northcott

The first regatta we attended was at Wallingford where the Seniors and the Under Sixteen 'A' crews were entered. The Seniors were awarded their first race when it was discovered shortly after the start that their opponents were rowing with a lady crew member at bow. They were defeated in their second round race and the Under Sixteens lost their first round race.

In contrast to the wild weather of the previous year, it was calm and pleasant at the Gloucester Junior Regatta on 14th May. The Seniors did not row particularly well here and lost both their races. The Under Sixteens were equally unsuccessful. It was the Under Fifteens who managed to raise our spirits by winning their first race against Kings Glos. by 1½ lengths after being down at the 500 metres mark. They finally went down to Crypt School in the quarter final. The Under Fourteen crew were actually leading in their race with Crypt School until stroke's slide jammed completely. Despite this disaster, they kept going valiantly, but with ever-decreasing effectiveness and their opponents were able to overtake them.

It was fine weather, too, for the Carmel Invitation Regatta although a fresh headwind made it hard going on the short upstream course. The three crews entered went down on their first races of the day.

Three crews were also entered for the Avon County Regatta which is held near Bristol. Once again the spirited Under Fifteens, with Gee I rowing at bow in place of the absent Clarabut, provided the one bright spot in the day. Rowing in a clinker themselves, they lost by only a half-length to a crew rowing in a shell in a very exciting race.

After the gloom resulting from our efforts earlier in the season, it was really pleasing to see the crews winning some races in the Ball Cup Competition which was held at Gloucester. The Senior crew beat King's Peterborough easily in their first round. The Juniors had a win also. Both crews went down to superior Notts High School crews in their second

round races. We were, however, able to return to Cokethorpe in a happier mood.

The House Regatta was held at the end of the Summer Term on a dry, warm afternoon. Each House managed to enter two crews. It was a keenly contested competition with Swift as the favourites. But Harcourt won. The Harcourt Seniors returned the fastest time of the day with 2 minutes and 30 seconds, giving their crews a combined total of 5 minutes and 8 seconds, which was all of 6 seconds faster than the combined Swift times.

CANOEING

A Canoe surfing trip in Woolacombe, N. Devon

'QUICK, GET UP, the camp rent man's coming!' What a way to end a luxurious doze inside a warm sun-covered tent, and at 8 a.m. too! Anyway, it looks as if it's going to be as good as yesterday again. The sun is already blazing down on us, and there's hardly any wind.

Six Cokethorpe canoeists dragged themselves out of three tents in various stages of downfall, and the mad rush for the limited number of showers and toilets began. The site was littered with drying lifejackets, spray decks, canoes, wet-suits, and all the other necessary (and unnecessary) items on a canoeist's camping list.

After getting things in a reasonable shape for our return in the evening, the canoe-trailer was loaded up and attached to a car, while, amid various agonised yelps and screams, salty wet-suits were pulled over sun-burned skins. A few minutes later, after a brief journey down the hill in the car, Cokethorpe Canoe Club had once again hit Woolacombe Bay. The first stop was at a café for breakfast (far easier than bringing all our food with us and loading up the cars even more), and then on to the car park which was conveniently situated about a mile away from the beach, over continuous sand dunes. Well, a bit of exercise didn't do anybody any harm! The trek began with six familiar tracks being ploughed across the dunes as the canoes and equipment were dragged towards the appetisingly cool-looking sea with fresh white surf, and quite a swell behind it. As this became much closer, the pace slowed down somewhat; the waves which seemed so gentle and welcoming had suddenly become enormous and rather alarming! Well, it's more of a challenge I suppose!

Before long all were kitted up for canoeing, having first cooled off after the journey, and putting the prospect of lugging the canoes back to the cars firmly at the back of our minds. Like tanks in formation we charged out into the surf, but unlike tanks in formation, we were charged back again, backwards, by the pounding waves. Yes, they certainly were bigger than yesterday!

Soon, after regaining his 'sea legs', everybody was enjoying himself, be it upright or upside down (whether so desired or not!) or, for those who could Eskimo Roll, a mixture of the two. After a while, some



Queen Anne Junior Crew



Twenty-first Ball



'Three Men in a Boat'



Canoe Slalom



Fifth Form Revision

photo M. Hughes



The Old Berks Hunt

were able deliberately to perform a 'loop' in their canoe, but by far the most spectacular scenes were experienced when a large wave unexpectedly hit a canoeist, cowering beneath its ferocity, when both canoeist and canoe were blasted into the air and usually separated in the process. This was evidently most entertaining for several onlookers on the beach, but at the time if you yourself happened to be the unfortunate canoeist, it was far from amusing!

After several hours of riding the waves and thoroughly enjoying ourselves, we rested and had lunch (of the traditional 'spam and coke') before continuing in the afternoon. When everyone was exhausted, the canoes were again dragged across the dunes, and the trailer again loaded up, with a little less enthusiasm than that of the morning's efforts. Then leaving the rolling sea behind us we would gratefully head off back to the café for supper.

PAUL MURPHY

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1977/8

ONCE AGAIN, the XV have enjoyed an enormously successful season, winning eight out of the eleven games played. After last year's incredible successes, it was feared that this year's XV would suffer due to the shadow hanging over it, and the large number of young, inexperienced players which had to be introduced from the very start of the season; but this was not to be. The more experienced Macleod, Vaughan-Fowler, Manley, Saunders and Murphy, had to be heavily relied upon at the beginning of the season, but many of the younger players soon showed ability beyond their experience and took some of the weight off these 'old' masters.

The season began brightly with a narrow, but comfortable, victory over the local rivals, Burford, 22-18. Although it was a satisfactory result, problems were already beginning to show themselves in the pack where we conceded two push-over tries; and it was evident that a great deal of scrum practice would be necessary if we were to have any sort of base from which the backs could build their attacks.

Four days later, when we faced Henry Box, we had a new second row, and had had to reshuffle the backs due to an injury to M. White. Sadly, we never really got going and lost 17-16 to a Henry Box side, which, in the words of their coach, 'played better than any side I've coached here in five years!'

After this very disappointing result, we reshuffled the scrum almost completely and welcomed M. White back; this time, we seemed to have got everything right as we coasted to a 24-0 victory against John Mason. This result was all the more pleasing as J. Vaughan-Fowler was injured early on and the backs were largely redundant on a narrow pitch from that moment on; however, the experienced back row combined well with

their captain and scrum half, MacLeod, to produce three tries, all of which were converted. MacLeod added two penalty goals as well.

The side then hit a useful patch when they defeated Peers 65-7 and Bloxham 39-14; in both these games the hard work in practice on technique showed as our forwards held their own against two much heavier packs, and provided the three-quarters with good clean ball which they used sensibly.

After half-term, the XV faced a very stern test in the formidable shape of the Old Boys' XV; this year, as a mark of respect for the School XV, and still smarting from their defeat of the year before, the Old Boy's captain, Mark Scott, picked possibly the strongest side ever; a very fine game ended in a win for the Old Boys, 14-6, but I'm sure that they will be the first to admit that all credit must be given to the XV, who never gave up hope and tackled bravely throughout.

The XV then went on to face Oratory and Magdalen, both of whom were beaten convincingly due to very fine all round performances; in the Oratory match, victory was clinched by some very integrated and enthralling three-quarter play, whereas against Magdalen, good defensive work was combined with a sterling exhibition of stamina from the pack, when they proved just how fit they were in the last ten minutes.

Against Woodgreen School, the XV had a field day and won by the very convincing margin of 42-3; here Vaughan-Fowler once again proved his worth and ran in with three tries, and also proved himself an invaluable deputy captain and kicker. Unfortunately, the season ended on a sad note when we were defeated by Lord William's, Thame, 12-0, and this without doubt the most disappointing team performance of the year.

However, there were some very memorable and enjoyable moments during the season; perhaps the most striking was in the John Mason match—while the XV toiled against the wind, rain and John Mason side, we had the pleasure of watching several attractive young ladies attempting to distract our coach, Mr. Lewis, from the match. However, he stuck bravely to the task in hand, and refused to be led.

Finally, as retiring captain, it only remains for me to thank Mr. Lewis for all his encouragement, Sister for looking after our injuries so diligently (and in some cases, there were many!), and the matrons for ensuring that we were always presentably turned out; and to wish next year's side luck in continuing this winning spree which Cokethorpe Rugby has experienced in the past three seasons.

Full colours: S. M. C. MacLeod, J. Vaughan-Fowler, W. J. Manley, P. C. Dawe.

Half colours: W. Crisp, C. M. Ashby, M. J. White, A. A. Nathan, P. M. W. Murphy, R. P. Robins, M. A. J. Vlitos, P. Saunders, C. Kirby, M. Shurbaji.

Also played: S. Cook, P. Davenport, H. Radi, G. Jenkinson, D. McHugh, M. P. Fitzgerald, J. H. M. Pool, T. J. Simpson.

Leading scorers: S. MacLeod 114 pts. (7 tries, 12 P.G., 25 conversions), J. Vaughan-Fowler 72 pts. (17 tries, 2 conversions), S. Ashby 24 pts. (6 tries), D. Murphy, A. Nathan 20 pts. (5 tries), M. White 12 pts. (3 tries).

COLTS RUGBY REPORT

THIS YEAR the Colts have enjoyed a moderately successful season, winning four matches and losing four.

The season started disastrously with defeat at Burford by 28 points to nil. Success still eluded us against our Witney rivals Henry Box. Even with a stronger team. We were beaten 20-12, though M. Vlitos (2 tries) and M. Fitzgerald (1 try) both scored.

In our next match, a very physical encounter against Woodgreen, Cokethorpe ran out victors with fine tries from N. Holland and D. Thompson. With spirits high a specially strengthened side finished easy winners against Radley, winning 42-3 with tries from Radi, Nathan (2 tries), Robins, White and N. Holland (3 tries).

Our luck deserted us against Bloxham, despite fine performances by T. Simpson and M. Grundy and tries from McHugh and Fitzgerald, when we lost 8-14. This did not affect the team's rhythm and we easily defeated Oratory 18-4, with P. Trotter scoring twice and Everett and N. Holland once each.

In our next match we faced a very powerful Magdalen side who finished comfortable winners despite a try from Koocheck.

Fortunately, our final match of the season against Lord William's, Thame, ended with success on a pitch which resembled a World War 1 battlefield. The team gave a tremendous performance, winning 12-6, with tries from Everett and M. Grundy, who also converted both tries.

It only remains for me to thank Mr. James for his hard work and dedication throughout the season which gave us tremendous encouragement, even when the odds were heavily against us.

M. GRUNDY

COKETHORPE SCHOOL CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1977

Captain: R. McKenzie; Vice-Captain: J. Pool; Secretary: S. MacLeod

ONCE AGAIN the English climate very nearly outplayed us. After the drought of 1976, it rained for most of the winter and at the start of the Summer Term the water-table was so high that the School seemed in imminent danger of sinking. Indeed, on Friday 13th May, an ominous date, the Met. Office declared 1976-7 the wettest winter and spring on record in the last hundred years. June was really no better for rain fell on seventeen days and locally this was the second wettest month of the first six.

Other forces were obviously at work adding to the general misery. Dutch Elm disease ravaged the Park mercilessly. The drive trees were

felled onto the outfield and the firm that eventually removed the trunks churned the ground into a latter-day Somme. Both the green and white cricket sheds sprang leaks during the winter monsoons and at the start of term the heavy roller was out of action and the gangmowers were blunt. Our cup really overflowed when Rebanks drove the tractor up a tree!

The XI made an inauspicious start to the season losing to St. Edward's and Bloxham. Against St. Edward's in a 'home' match played on the Church Leys, Witney, penetrative bowling from H. Scott and M. White was wasted when the XI collapsed to 13-6 in reply to 107 all out. J. Pool and S. Ashby staged a late rally, putting on 33 for the seventh wicket, but they had been left with far too much to do by the earlier batsmen and St. Edward's won by 36 runs. Another disaster overtook the XI at Bloxham. Under the blue and lilac clouds the fifth wicket fell at 16 and the match looked as good as over. The strip itself was a little wet and the ball had deviated to start with, but not enough to account for this rout. Once again Pool and Ashby steadied the innings, Pearce and M. White added useful runs and the tail wagged. However, 94 on what was by now a fairly docile pitch did not present a great challenge and although H. Scott bowled very tightly, conceding only 28 runs in 17 overs the XI lost with ten balls of the last twenty overs remaining.

After a Nomads fixture, in which Age and Infirmity sparkled, the bowling and fielding were sharper, although the batting still lacked stability. Summer at last began to filter in but against Oratory the XI lost three wickets for 4 runs and a total of 77 was far from healthy. Fortunately H. Scott was in fine form and his figures of 11.2-6-5-11 speak for themselves. Shiplake beat the XI by seven wickets in spite of stout resistance from Pearce and the tailenders D. Smit, M. Scott and M. White, while H. Scott troubled each of the Shiplake batsmen in turn and was unfortunate not to capture more wickets. Against Magdalen, Pool once again carried the batting with a fine innings of 42, following this up by taking 4-6 with his leg breaks. H. Scott was as economical as ever but a game that should have been won ended in a draw despite a loud (and very tempting) l.b.w. appeal in the final over. This was Pool's last match before 'Camp America' and although he would have liked to have ended his XI career with a victory he was rewarded later that night when Liverpool F.C. became champions of Europe—a cause very near to his heart.

After the exams the weather and the standard of cricket improved. Malvern included six First XI players in a very strong side, but under clear blue skies and with the hills for a backcloth, S. Macleod batted wisely to record the first half-century of the season. A draw was a very good result against high-class opposition. On the other hand P.J.G.'s XI was weaker than usual and the 'demon' H. Scott took 6-18 just to emphasise the point. One ball in particular lingers in the memory! R. McKenzie at last got going with the bat, and, with firm support from the apparently tireless H. Scott and Ashby, steered the XI to a seven

wicket victory. Mrs. Green provided festival food in the library after the match while the Clan McKenzie kindly produced liquid refreshment. Against Pangbourne MacLeod bowled with guile and accuracy to take 7-29 in a total of 121. In reply the XI quickly lost two wickets but H. Scott (18) helped Pearce add 48 for the third wicket, and when Ashby and Pearce took the score past 100 with seven wickets still in hand, a famous victory over the full Pangbourne First XI seemed assured. However, there is a great deal of truth in the time-honoured saying 'cricket is a very funny game' and an unfortunate run-out was followed by a series of disasters as the lower order batsmen panicked and threw away their wickets in their eagerness to score the required runs too quickly, leaving A. Carruthers and N. White (on his debut) to hold out for a draw.

The final match against Rendcomb also ended in a draw, very much in favour of the XI. MacLeod and Pearce put on 52 for the first wicket before McKenzie took command scoring 58 in 65 minutes. M. White chipped in with a brisk 13 and the XI finished with 144. H. Scott attacked remorselessly, bowling 16 overs for 22 runs, while MacLeod's figures of 11-7-3-7 indicate some tidy off-spin bowling and some lack-lustre batting from the visitors. *Daily Mail* cameras recorded the scene as nine Cokethorpe fielders crowded around the bat giving the lie to the popular conception of cricket as a leisurely Victorian formality.

In conclusion, sincere thanks must yet again go to the Bursar, to Sister and the Matrons respectively for preparing pitches, keeping members of the XI fully fit and well turned-out against all odds, and to the myriad cheerful ladies of the kitchen for all those extra meals at unusual times.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

XI: Won 2, Drawn 4, Lost 3

Sat. 7th May. v. St. Edward's Third XI (Church Leys, Witney). St. Edward's 107 (H. Scott 4-29, M. White 3-10), XI 71 (Pool 37).

Sat. 14th May. v. Bloxham Second XI (Away). XI 94 (Pool 39), Bloxham 95-5 (M. White 4-60).

Weds. 18th May. v. Oratory Senior Colts (Away). XI 77 (H. Scott 22, Pool 21), Oratory 33 (H. Scott 5-11, M. White 3-17).

Thur. 19th May. v. Shiplake First XI (Away). XI 90, Shiplake 91-3 (H. Scott 3-19).

Weds. 25th May. v. Magdalen Second XI (Away). XI 85 (Pool 42). Magdalen 78-9, (Pool 4-6, M. Scott 3-17).

Thur. 23rd June. v. Malvern 'A' XI (Away). Malvern 140-5 dec. (H. Scott 3-52), XI 85-6 (MacLeod 53*).

Sat. 25th June. v. P.J.G.'s XI (Home). P.J.G.'s XI 75-9 dec. (H. Scott 6-18), XI 77-3 (McKenzie 27*).

Wed. 29th June. v. Pangbourne First XI (Away). Pangbourne 121 (MacLeod 7-29), XI 111-9 (Pearce 43, Ashby 25).

Sat. 2nd July. *v.* Rendcomb First XI (Home). XI 144 (McKenzie 58, CacLeod 37), Rendcomb 51-4 (MacLeod 3-7).
 (Matches cancelled: Stowe Third XI, Dean Close Second XI, Lord William's, Thame, Abingdon Third XI.)

NOMAD'S 'TERM' MATCHES

Sun. 15th May. *v.* Queen's Division Depot, Bassingbourn (Church Leys, Witney). Nomads 127 (Green 35, Pool 26, Luxmoore 20), Queen's Division 118 (Nightingale 6-13, Luxmoore 3-36).

XI AVERAGES

BATTING (Qualification 5 innings)

	<i>Inns.</i>	<i>N.O.</i>	<i>N.S.</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Av.</i>
Pool	5	0	42	146	29.20
MacLeod	9	1	53*	112	14.00
McKenzie	9	1	58	110	13.75
Pearce	9	0	43	99	11.00
Ashby	9	1	25	83	10.37

*Not out.

BOWLING (Qualification 6 wickets)

	<i>Overs</i>	<i>Mdns.</i>	<i>Wkts.</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Av.</i>
Pool	17	4	6	34	5.67
H. Scott	132.3	47	26	222	8.54
MacLeod	46.1	11	14	126	9.00
M White	56.5	9	12	170	14.17

COLOURS

XI: R. McKenzie, J. Pool. H. Scott, S. MacLeod, M. Pearce.
 XXII: M. Scott, D. Smit, S. Ashby, M. White, A. Nathan.

CRICKET CUPS

All-rounders Cup	H. Scott
Batting Cup	J. Pool
Fielding Cup	R. McKenzie
Inter-House Cricket Cup	Swift

HOUSE MATCHES

1st March: Queen Anne 34 (Nathan 3-4, H. Scott 3-6), Swift 35-2 (Ashby 28*).

2nd March: Harcourt 95 (McKenzie 52, H. Scott 4-5), Swift 99-5 (Ashby 47, Pearce 3-34).

3rd March: Queen Anne 71-6 innings closed, (Smit 28, Pearce 3-13), Harcourt 75-4 (Crisp 36*).

COLTS CRICKET

Played 7, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 5

THE SEASON started promisingly but unfortunately towards the end the inevitable demand for the promotion of players to the senior side became too great a handicap and against powerful opposition resulted in some crushing defeats.

Against Bloxham good bowling by Davenport and Holland kept the opposition in check and a sound innings by Carruthers ensured an honourable draw. Again, good bowling particularly by Barrett and Davenport restricted Oratory, though from a position of victory a dramatic collapse resulted in defeat. Our next game against Shiplake resulted in a tense, nail-biting (especially the umpire) finish. Excellent bowling by Holland (6-30) restricted Shiplake to 91; later, with cries from the scorebox of 'only three more wanted!' Anwar Ali struck the mighty blow.

These proved to be the highlights; the rest of the season can only be regarded as disappointing, particularly on the batting side.

We shall be sorry to see the loss of our scorer Ralph Baars on his promotion but trust he will still make his money (dropping catches is an expensive business you know).

COLTS RESULTS

- v.* Bloxham (Away). Bloxham 111-9 dec. (Holland 5-28) Colts 74-8.
- v.* Oratory (Away). Oratory 90 (Davenport 4-25, Barrett 3-23), Colts 75.
- v.* Shiplake (Away). Shiplake 91-7 dec. (Holland 6-30), Colts 92-8.
- v.* Magdalen (Away). Colts 10, Magdalen 11-0.
- v.* Abingdon (Home). Abingdon 130-4 dec. Colts 44.
- v.* Pangbourne (Away). Colts 25, Pangbourne 29-0.
- v.* Rendcomb (Home). Colts 54, Rendcomb 55-5 (Holland 3-21).

JUNIOR COLTS RESULTS

- v.* Magdalen (Home). Junior Colts 35, Magdalen 39-1.
- v.* Cothill House (Away). Cothill 132-3 dec., Junior Colts 116-6 (N. White 40, Ali 24).
- v.* Millbrook (Away). Millbrook 51 (N. White 6-12, Ali 4-20), Junior Colts 39.
- v.* Josca's (Home). Junior Colts 'B' 32, Josca's 33-5.

NOMADS TOUR 1977

THE SIXTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to the 'Heart of the Industrial Midlands' was without doubt the most successful and enjoyable Nomads Tour to date. The party consisted of Messrs. Green and Lewis with de Pass, Marshall, Morel, Ashby, MacLeod (minus boots!), McKenzie, Pearce, H. Scott, Smit

and M White. Mr. Nightingale came up to play in the final match with the itinerant supporting McKenzies

The tour began in a cloud of dust as the convoy swept down the drive on the Monday following the end of term. We lunched, traditionally, at the White Swan, Henley-in-Arden, arriving at our base, The Norfolk Hotel, Birmingham, in time to watch the closing stages of the Old Trafford Test match on television. Unfortunately the colour was variable—orange figures on a brilliant blue pitch—and we seemed to be watching cricket from another planet. In the evening we met at The Duck for a team talk, were impressed by the skills of the 'gunfighters' Scott, Pearce and Marshall, then moved on to a Chinese restaurant where 'Ned' de Pass did his best to give us all Antipodean indigestion. The two old hands went on to Barbarella's (one of them was later said to have been found asleep against a wall), but the majority of the party were all safely tucked in before Captain's round at 11.30 p.m.

On Tuesday everyone was down to breakfast by 9.15, setting a fast pace. Mr. Lewis was accosted by a young lady in the city, who, he claimed was trying to sell him a credit card; MacLeod received a love letter from an unknown 'admirer' (?) and we were all struck by rather a nice blonde who served us lunch in The Duck. After this busy morning we had to go and play some cricket against the Police on the ground of Lucas Limited, in Sutton. It appeared to the uncharitable that some people did not have their minds fully on the task in hand for both Lewis and MacLeod were caught at the wicket dabbling. Scott and Green took the score from 39 to 114 in a stand which included some quick singles and a pulled hamstring before Scott was out for 29. De Pass then joined in an unbroken fifty partnership (more quick singles, but slow two's) before the declaration at 164-4. The Police held on for a draw as misty rain began to fall, however their innings was not without incident. McKenzie demonstrated his own version of the highland fling while trying for a run out, the sixteen stone Morel disappeared down a goal post hole, Scott took a splendid catch and bowled superbly throughout and Marshall was hit, nuttily, on the head at short extra cover. In the evening the Police asked us to accompany them to their H.Q. at Bourneville, after which the older lads went to punk rock at Barbarella's where de Pass fell for the barmaid and Morel was intrigued by complicated tangles.

On Wednesday there was great merriment at breakfast as the tales of the night were related and White expressed the view that it was lucky there were four mirrors in the bedroom as some people were taking a long time to do their hair. Later Morel, Marshall and MacLeod established a new record as the first Nomads to be stuck in a lift and de Pass dropped his lunch in The Duck. The match against Harborne was also full of incident. Ashby showed promise as an opener and Lewis batted well for his 47. The Captain ruptured the damaged hamstring going for a single first ball and had to bat with a runner. Harborne were beaten by 76 runs,

thanks to more fine bowling from Scott (6-39) backed up by some fine catching and fielding from the whole team. After one tumbling effort by MacLeod a young coloured opponent was heard to remark 'Jesus, are dese guys acrobats—it's dere fielding dat's won dem de game'. The day's fun and games continued in the clubhouse. Many new tricks were demonstrated by 'Hot Rod' Newman, an old friend, including the three-man lift which Marshall learnt the hard way! The main party went on to The Opposite Lock with the Harborne captain, leaving the elderly and infirm to retire to their beds.

Once again the Thursday of the tour saw the party in varying stages of distress. McKenzie was suffering from the high pollen count, de Pass was tinkering with his sick engine and the Captain followed Glen Turner (Worcs. and N.Z.) onto the treatment table. Some athletic souls putted, the rest simply sat. Mr. Lewis, a slighter version of Fred Rumsey, captained the team in the field against Blossomfield C.C. and took a splendid catch off the bowling of Scott, although several other chances were put down. Despite these lapses Blossomfield were at one point reduced to 98-8, but sensible cricket, and a little good fortune, enabled them to reach 168. In reply the Nomads stuttered to 85-7 and were relieved when the match ended in a draw. In the evening tricks learnt at Harborne were tried out on the unsuspecting and the Blossomfield Captain was caught by Morel with the one-shoe trick. After an hour or so the lads moved on to Barbarella's while the older tourists ate fish and chips in Harborne—gloriously undignified—before retiring.

We left the Hotel on Friday morning after paying our bills and saying our goodbyes, at a final lunch at The Duck and had a team photograph taken by an obliging redhead. We then headed down the M5 to Droitwich, had some fun in finding the ground, missing the turning twice, and in this confused state were put in to bat. The ploy almost worked for after 45 minutes we were 14-4! Scott was then joined by Green (with Pearce as a runner) and the total was advanced to 45 before Scott was bowled. McKenzie left at 70-6 (at which point Scott took over as runner and 'Zaheer' Pearce batted). The game now swung back to the Nomads and in an hour, against hostile bowling, 80 runs were added. When Pearce was out Scott was at last allowed to go and rest and Pearce took his place—unfortunately for the Captain, Marshall must have thought that he was running with Arkle! During the tea interval Mr. McKenzie kindly called out the local photographer for a team photograph—a splendid demonstration of the power of the Press. After the break four Droitwich men were removed for 40 but the Captain was dropped twice in two balls by capable fielders and once again we had to settle for a draw. The tireless Scott bowled with fire throughout, and Mr. Nightingale took two wickets and might have had five with a bit of luck.

After a pleasant hour in the Clubhouse the team split up to go their separate ways, several of them vowing to make the pilgrimage again in

1978, and agreeing that cricket is essentially a timeless game . . . it goes on far too long if you don't love it, never long enough if you do.

SUMMARY OF TOUR MATCHES

- v. 'F' Division, West Midlands Police: Nomads 164-4 dec. (Green 71,* H. Scott 29). 'F' Division 84-6 (H. Scott 3-29, MacLeod 3-52).
- v. Harborne C.C.: Nomads 161-9 dec. (Lewis 47, Green 29), Harborne 85 (H. Scott 6-39).
- v. Blossomfield C.C.: (Blossomfield 168 (H. Scott 4-47, Lewis 3-28). Nomads 85-7 (Lewis 23, Green 22).
- v. Droitwich C.C.: Nomads 161-8 dec. (Green 52, Pearce 43, H. Scott 29). Droitwich 111-5 (H. Scott 3-52).

CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY RACING, which originated as a winter pursuit for oarsmen among the Thames Rowing Club in 1867, still dominates the first three weeks of the Spring Term at Cokethorpe. Once again the Divisions went through the usual stages of preparation, pattering muddily around House and grounds along the various coloured routes, before the annual School Cross-Country race. When the day finally dawned,, to the relief of some but to the evident chagrin of others, Swift, with 1,141 points won the Cup for the fourth year in succession, beating Harcourt (1,641 points) and Queen Anne (1,710 points) quite comfortably. The individual winner was MacLeod, who led from start to finish, in a time of 28 minutes, followed home by Murphy, M. White, S. Cook, Baker, Ibrahim, Everett and Palmer.

The Road Relay was also won by Swift, who established a lead on the opening leg of the first lap and steadily increased it throughout the race. All runners should be congratulated on their determined efforts.

<i>Lap</i>	<i>Swift</i>	<i>Queen Anne</i>	<i>Harcourt</i>
One	37 min. 00 sec	39 min. 10 sec.	37 min. 35 sec.
Two	38 min. 04 sec.	37 min. 43 sec.	37 min. 18 sec.
Three	36 min. 36 sec.	38 min. 24 sec.	43 min. 03 sec.
Totals	111 min. 40 sec.	116 min. 17 sec.	118 min. 54 sec.

Once again we entered boys in the North Oxfordshire Championships where P. Saunders, Dodd and Ibrahim distinguished themselves. Unfortunately, an attack of 'flu prevented Dodd from running in the County Championships later in the term. 'Flu also prevented any serious training for the Wood Green relays and it seemed prudent to withdraw this year.

FOOTBALL FOCUS 1978

THIS SEASON was not as successful as the 1977 season; the reason for this is quite simple and has been recognised as a drawback for any side since time immemorial—inexperience. This, coupled with the fact that we are such a small school anyway and could not get any satisfactory match practice, meant that we were never really prepared to face the much larger and stronger schools and colleges. However, in the four matches that we did play, the team showed themselves willing and able to learn from their mistakes.

In the first match against Burford, it was very quickly evident that we were always going to struggle, but we won the match 2-1 due to the fact that we always had the competitive edge over a much larger Burford side; it was very pleasing to note how few 50-50 balls were lost, and even if the distribution was a little wayward to say the least at times, we felt confident that this would come in time. The goal-scorers were Vaughan-Fowler and MacLeod.

We then had a period of three weeks before our next match, but due to a combination of 'flu epidemics and water-logged pitches, we only succeeded in having one full-scale practice; this distinct lack of practice was soon exposed against Wood Green School, where for the first half we could hardly string a pass together or time a tackle properly. Finding ourselves 5-0 down at half-time, it looked as if Wood Green might end up with a cricket score, but the XI, superbly rallied by their captain, MacLeod, with skilful and inspired performances by Wong and Radi, fought back strongly in the second-half, and but for some very poor finishing by the front-runners, would have salvaged something from this dismal performance. As it was, we came away with nothing to show for our efforts, but at least we managed to gain a little self-respect.

In the next match, against Christ Church, Oxford, possibly our strongest fixture, we were without Vaughan-Fowler, a key player in the balance of the side, and many were not too optimistic of our chances before the game began. To begin with, this showed, as we very quickly found ourselves two goals down due to some sloppy marking; however, Pearce put us back in the game just before half-time with a well-worked move with Radi and after half-time, further goals were added by Holland and MacLeod.

The final game of the season against University of Buckingham was a cliff-hanger which we eventually lost 5-3 after goals from Holland, MacLeod and Wong; but we were by no means disgraced, and at times we showed the older side up with some very skilful football.

My thanks must go to all the team for making my season as captain most enjoyable—if not successful—and to Mr. Lewis for all his help.

S. MACLEOD

ART

DURING THE PAST YEAR there has been increasing interest in this subject due to the work of Mr. Anthony Baynes, and the Art Department is determined to continue the momentum he created.

The interest in oil painting is continuing and the possibility of printing, by the introduction of a screw-down printing press into the Art room, has further increased the range of media available.

Boys who have shown individual interest have done well, while the general standard of work shows variety and promise.

C.B.

RAMBLING

EVERY WEEK during the past year a party of boys has escaped from the confines of Cokethorpe for an afternoon to take part in a variety of activities all of which have gone under the heading of rambling. On the whole these outings have been much enjoyed, though the first excursion of the new school year did produce its drama as well as an angry Master-in-Charge! The party was larger than usual, about forty boys, and on the walk, after visiting the fascinating Roman Villa at Chedworth, a long 'crocodile' soon arose, which parted company at a certain road junction! It was about two hours before the disgruntled master and coach driver found the missing party, most of the time being spent in taking the coach up and down impossibly narrow country lanes!

However, things have usually gone smoothly, though from time to time, the O.S. map has seemed to be wrong! Our rambles have taken us north, south, east and west. The Chilterns, the Cotswolds and the Berkshire Downs have all been visited. At Bourton-on-the-Hill we were studied carefully but coolly by a large fox. At Broadway Towers we were caught in a snow storm, much to everyone's delight. Some walks have been leisurely, such as one along the Thames at Sandford; whereas others have been quite gruelling, for instance an eight mile hike along the Icknield Way at Goring.

Sometimes history has been in the forefront of our minds when visiting such places as the Rollright Stones, the Roman Villa at Northleigh, the White Horse at Uffington, or the stone circle at Avebury.

At other times Natural History has occupied our thoughts—when studying the trout at Bibury, the birds and butterflies at Bourton-on-the-Water, the trees at Westonbirt, or the hawks at Newent.

Architecture also has not escaped our attention, along with works of art. The Rothschild house, Waddesdon Manor, was overwhelmingly beautiful. Lady Saye and Sele kindly showed us round her home, Broughton Castle. Chastleton House was interesting with its secret room. Finally some will not be surprised to hear that quite a number of ancient churches have been visited!

CHESS

1977 WAS THE YEAR in which Chess was reborn at Cokethorpe. We kicked off with a splendid row of House Matches, under the gaze of many a silent spectator. Queen Anne was captained by MacLeod, Harcourt by Robins I and Swift by Jackson (in only his second term at Cokethorpe). It was, however, the six-man Harcourt team who clinched the Cup, winning 11 out of 12 games, while Queen Anne just beat Swift. Mention must be made of the excellent play of Thompson and Mee for Queen Anne, Dawe and Gee I for Swift and Keenlyside and Radi for Harcourt.

The School Chess Championship took place this spring. There were upwards of forty entrants and it took some three weeks to reach the semi-finals. They were played on Friday afternoon in the Library: Keenlyside against Robins I and Berg against Meyer. The victors, Robins and Meyer, met in the final on 8th March. After two hours and a half Meyer forced Robins to resign, and thus emerged as School Champion. In the Junior Championship Everett beat Jackson in a closely-matched final.

Finally our thanks to Mr. Hudson, without whose help and guidance none of this would have been possible.

COKETHORPE SOCIETY

A VERY SUCCESSFUL DINNER and A.G.M. was held at the School on Friday 14th April with the Headmaster and some members of staff sitting down with twenty-one of our members. We are very grateful to Mr. Trevis for granting the use of the School facilities to the Society and we hope for still greater support from Old Boys as they get to know of this function.

The Annual Rugger Match resulted in a win for the Old Boys. Please note that the date for the 1978 match has been fixed for 21st October to avoid clashing with Bonfire Night.

The Summer Ball to mark the Schools Twenty-first Birthday was held at the School on 3rd June. This was a most enjoyable occasion with superb weather conditions. It was good to see a large number of Old Boys and we hope this may be the first of other such events.

At the A.G.M., the Chairman proposed that the Society should mark the Twenty-first Birthday by giving a present to the School. The Church, which stands in the grounds, and which has been out of use for some time owing to damage from the gales of 1976, has been offered for sale at a figure of £3,000 and it was agreed that this would be a very suitable gift for the Society to purchase and present. To this end the Society are running a Hundred Club in order to raise the funds. Each person will subscribe £1 per month for thirty-six months with a proportion of the proceeds being distributed as prizes to be drawn twice a year, once at the rugby match and once at the A.G.M. We hope that as many Old Boys as possible and anyone else interested will support this.

The following news has been received from members :

Jeremy Hitchcock is Assistant Solicitor with Thomas Horton & Sons of Bromsgrove, Worcs., dealing mainly with Conveyancing and Matrimonial matters. Marrying a fellow lawyer 8th July 1978.

Adrian East at Southampton College of Technology doing a course in Estate Management.

C. T. Marsden (Kit). We heard from his address in Valencia saying he would be in the U.K. May/June so some Old Boys may have met up with him.

Mark Girling. Has passed a management course with MacDonalds and is at present in their new store in Shepherds Bush.

Russel Massey. Taking finals for Hotel Management and moves on shortly to Paris and then to Zurich for further experience.

Christopher Notley. Married Christine Ash 5th November 1977 and currently living in Hong Kong until December 1978 or March 1979 prior to return to the U.K. He is in charge of a company of Gurkhas and finds the pace tremendous and Hong Kong absolutely fascinating.

David A. Clark has moved to Japonica House, Main Street, Flintham, Notts. Any messages to Newark 5038.

Michael Lam has completed his course of study at the City University, London, and gained a B.Sc. pass degree in Civil Engineering.

David G. Simon. Partner in a two-partner firm of Chartered Accountants, Simon Spenser and Co. of Rayners Lane, Harrow. Married with two children, boy of three and a half and a girl of one and a half. Would welcome hearing from Old Boys 1960-63 era.

Peter Osborne. We have received a letter from Peter's wife, Kate, on his behalf, who tells us that he is managing director of the Leamington Box Company. They have been married nine years and have two children, Matthew 4½ and Sophie 3. They are enjoying renovating an older house in Leamington Spa. Would welcome meeting up with Old Boys.

Alan J. A. Wilson. Living at Guildford and works at Gatwick Airport for Tradewinds Airways, a cargo airline, in capacity of Operations Officer.

R. A. Colebrook. Visited the School in October 1977 with his wife. Now farming near Sleaford, Lincs.

M. R. Pateman. Manager Sales & Development with Oyez Services Ltd.

J. Allmond. New address: Casa Cumnor, Las Cuevas 76, La Drot Ava, Tenerife.

Michael Davis. Partner in Osteopathic practice in Cheltenham.

Peter Davis. Completing final year in Architecture at Hull University.

Colin Davis has own Landscape Architecture business in Oxford area.

Nicholas Sargeantson. Director of Topsport, a sports shop in Abingdon—discount and coffee to Old Boys!

Nick Lauder has own business in Oxford—'House of Tweed'.

Julian Wilson. With an Estate Agent.

Simon Thomson's new address is 105 Marlborough Road, Elmfield, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

James Tomlinson, now working at a Hospital in France and living at Aix en Provence.

Gerard Manley and *John Bodenham*. They left in January for a trip to Australia and Gerard recently sent Twenty-first Birthday greetings to the School from Albany, Western Australia, after what he describes as a 'tremendous experience'. He hopes to be back in time for the Old Boys' Match.

Kevin Ching has just completed B.A. Hons. degree course in Law at Bristol Polytechnic

Jason Ling has just completed his B.Sc. Hons. in Civil Eng. at the Central London Polytechnic. He is returning to Hong Kong where a job awaits him.

Mark Pateman, now with C.P.E Ltd., Woodford Green. New address Nova 4, Imperial Avenue, Maylandsea, Essex.

Timothy Weaver. We were very sorry to hear that Timothy passed away in May at the early age of seventeen. Our sympathy goes out to his brother and family

Please continue to send news of yourself or any other Old Boys and I am always happy to put you in touch with old friends (we try to keep the address list up to date). After a spell at Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury, I am back at Stoke Mandeville administering Patient Services but it is easier if correspondence goes to my home address or c/o of the School. Any ideas for future events will be most welcome.

I look forward to seeing a large number at the Rugger Match in October. With best wishes to you all.

CHRISTOPHER J. WEBB

