

RENDCOMB  
COLLEGE  
CHRONICLE

Vol. 12, No. 3.

July, 1961

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 12, No. 3.

July 1961

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## COLLEGE OFFICERS.

### Summer Term, 1961.

Senior Prefect—S. D. Hicks.

Group Leaders and Prefects—T. L. H. Benbow, S. D. Hicks, M. Whittering, J. Shaw.

Prefects—I. S. C. Airey, G. J. Taylor.

College Workman—D. M. Tucker.

†Public Workman—C. B. Stillwell.

Music Warden—D. G. Griffiths.

Choir Librarians—R. J. Edy, D. J. Maberley.

Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.

Pictureman—M. C. Jones.

Lamp Men—J. A. T. Goodborn, G. S. Bartlett.

Church Ushers—C. C. Richardson, J. R. Marshall.

Church Collections and Deckchairs—R. A. D. Laws

Stage Men—D. M. Tucker, J. H. Delefortrie, M. C. Jones, J. A. T. Goodborn, J. Mitchison, D. G. Griffiths, S. H. Shellswell.

†Furniture Committee—M. J. N. Bryant, T. G. W. Pettigrew, J. Rawlings.

Librarians—I. S. C. Airey, P. B. Heppleston, T. C. Bass, C. B. Stillwell, S. Greenlaw.

Manual Foremen—N. J. Price, C. C. Richardson, K. H. Stimson, J. A. T. Goodborn, D. A. N. Hogarth, J. Mitchison, R. S. Lowe.

Notices Men—K. H. Stimson, A. J. Cattermole.

† General Meeting Elections.

## GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

### Summer Term, 1961.

Chairman—J. Shaw.

Games Captain—G. J. Taylor.

Secretary—J. T. Wood.  
 Tennis Captain—M. C. Jones.  
 Vice-Captain—H. E. Gough.  
 Games Committee—R. P. S. Harrison, P. B. Heppleston.  
 Boys' Banker—N. J. Price.  
 Meeting Banker—C. C. Richardson.  
 Senior Shopman—K. A. Walker.  
 House Committee Treasurer—S. H. M. Creffield.  
 Record Committee Treasurer—M. E. Stubbs.  
 Finance Committee Treasurer—R. P. Goodchild.  
 Auditors—I. S. C. Airey, K. H. Stimson, L. de V. Wragg.  
 Entertainments Committee—G. C. Cattermole, A. D. Heppleston,  
     J. R. Marshall, J. J. Schwarzmantel, K. H. Stimson.  
 Cycle Committee—G. S. Bartlett, M. J. N. Bryant, D. Little.  
 Shopmen—D. J. Henderson, P. L. Hughes.  
 Classical Record Committee—T. C. Bass, P. B. Heppleston,  
     S. D. Hicks.  
 Amplifier Technicians—I. S. C. Airey, R. J. Parnell.  
 Financial Advisory Committee—R. P. S. Harrison, J. C. Malpass, R. J.  
     Parnell.  
 Games Committee Treasurer—A. J. Cattermole.  
 Light Record Committee—M. Whittering, J. T. Wood.  
 Hockey Games Warden—N. S. Whatmough.  
 Cricket Games Wardens—R. S. Lowe, J. Mitchison.  
 Rugby Games Warden—A. A. J. Raddon.  
 Tennis Games Wardens—A. D. Heppleston, C. G. Jefferies. Badminton  
 Games Warden—D. Little.  
 Finance Committee—F. R. Glennie, J. F. Harris.  
 Drying Room Committee—R. S. Lowe, A. A. J. Raddon. Hockey  
 Secretary—D. J. Thomasson.  
 Rugby Secretary—T. G. W. Pettigrew.  
 Cricket Secretary—C. B. Stillwell.  
 Paperman—C. J. Webb.  
 Magazine Committee, 1960-61—T. C. Bass, S. D. Hicks,  
     K. A. Walker.

Magazine Committee, 1961-62—H. E. Gough, J. C. Malpass, M. C. Jones.  
Breakages Man—M. B. Ogilvie.  
Council—I. S. C. Airey, T. L. H. Benbow, H. E. Gough, S. D. Hicks, J. Shaw, G. J. Taylor, M. Whittering.  
Rule Committee—C. C. Richardson, C. B. Stillwell, G. J. Taylor.  
Nominations Committee—H. E. Gough, R. P. S. Harrison, S. D. Hicks, M. C. Jones, J. Shaw.  
Chairman of Groundstaff—R. P. S. Harrison.  
Senior Groundstaff—T. C. Bass.  
Junior Groundstaff—N. C. Creffield.  
Tennis Groundsman—M. F. Ashe-Jones.  
Junior Tennis Groundsman—P. A. Trier.

## **GENERAL MEETING NOTES.**

### **Easter Term, 1961.**

It was pleasing to note the detailed discussion which existed during the meetings this term. Fortunately, the “laissez faire” policy, which has tended to prevail in previous terms, was abandoned. This detailed discussion caused many continuation and emergency meetings, whose regularity necessitated the institution of a set time for them. Once again the Rule Committee did valuable work, e. g. the revised duty sheets were typed out. Three members of the Meeting erected three hockey-stick racks for the storage of sticks during the Easter Term. These were very useful after the previous inadequate system of storage. The purchase of “The Guardian” was continued after its one-term trial. Thus we now purchase four daily newspapers: “Guardian,” “Times,” “Daily Mail” and “Telegraph.”

After various complaints about the state of the amplifier, the Meeting decided to purchase some new equipment. An amplifier committee did much valuable and extensive research on the types of motor, pick-up arm and pick-up head suitable for our requirements. Eventually a Garrard 301 motor and a T. P. A. 12 pick-up arm, with a G. C. B. crystal pick-up head, were purchased. This new equipment cost £30, to be taken from the Meeting Reserve.

During the term it was decided to change the firm from whom we normally hire coaches for transport to matches, namely Kearsley's, of Cheltenham, to Alexcars, of Cirencester. The change, operating from next term, will be financially beneficial.

In the middle of the term, Mr. James said he thought the Lodges Race ought to be abandoned as part of the course is on the increasingly dangerous main road, and a change in land tenure also affects part of it. A new but similar run was therefore devised and substituted for the abandoned Lodge Race. A new course was also arranged in place of the old North Cerney run, which was similarly affected.

The Classical Records purchased this term were as follows: Britten's "Sinfonia da Requiem," played by the Danish State Radio Symphony Orchestra under Britten; a record of Julius Katchen on the piano with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Britten, playing "Divisions for piano and orchestra, Op. 21"; and a guitar recital by Julian Bream, music by Sor, Turina and Falla.

There were no light records purchased this term as the Light Record Committee could not find anything it wanted in the record shops visited in Cheltenham. The Committee will probably send away for some records, as does the Classical Record Committee.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

We bid farewell and offer our good wishes to D. A. Hodges, who left the College at the end of the term. He has been awarded a Scholarship in Modern History at Clare College, Cambridge, and we are glad to congratulate him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our grateful acknowledgments are due for *Frensham Heights* magazine, *The Gresham*, *The Decanian* and *The Wycliffe Star*.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some members of the VIth Form visited Bristol on January 25th to hear a Jazz Concert given by Dave Brubeck.

On February 7th a party from the VIth Form visited Bristol University to see a performance of *Britannicus*, by Racine. Form II visited the Arboretum at Westonbirt on March 5th, and on the 15th members of Form V saw a performance of *Iolanthe*,

by Gilbert and Sullivan, given by the Cirencester Operatic Society at the Bingham Hall, Cirencester.

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For the Service in Rendcomb Church on Palm Sunday there was a special anthem sung by the Choir, with instrumental *obligato*.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Grand Dance was held at the College on March 18th, and we were pleased to welcome several ladies for the evening.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations go to J. M. Webb, H. E. Gough and N. J. Price who played for the Gloucestershire Schoolboys' Hockey Team at the Western Counties Schoolboys' Tournament at Taunton in April.

### THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING.

Christopher Fry

Characters in order of their appearance:

Richard, an orphaned clerk .....	Colin Stillwell
Thomas Mendip, a discharged soldier .....	Simon Hicks
Alizon Eliot .....	John Malpass
Nicholas Devize .....	John Marshall
Margaret Devize, mother of Nicholas .....	Lawrence Wragg
Humphrey Devize, brother of Nicholas .....	Mark Whittering
Hebble Tyson, the Mayor	Kenneth Walker
Jennet Jourdemayne .....	David Griffiths
The Chaplain .....	Colin Richardson
Edward Tappercoom, a Justice .....	Tom Bass
Matthew Skipps .....	John Goodborn

Prompter: Tom Pettigrew.

Music-makers: Michael Bryant (leader), Nicholas Price, Colin Richardson, Andrew Heppleston, Christopher Jefferies, Bill Griffiths.

Cool Clary may not have existed in the Cotswolds before 1400 (more or less or exactly), but it does now; theatrical stonework and local genius put it there at the end of last term. Thomas Mendip, in deep disgust with life, seeks to end it by

posing as a murderer. Jennet Jourdemayne, for whom life is too short, is condemned to die for witchcraft. Two brothers squabble, while the bride one of them is to possess comes to her senses and elopes with the Mayor's clerk. The Mayor squawks, the Justice booms and the arrival of the supposed corpse causes one glorious uproar before everyone goes back to living happily (or unhappily) ever after. And who better to bust rural Gloucestershire wide open than Rendcomb College? In and behind each of the actors was a continuous and natural Glo'ster character which any professional company would like to enjoy.

To start, then, with that most natural outcrop of Cotswold rock, Tom Bass; Justice Tappercoom, the one sane man. A lifetime of tolerance and ale has taught him that the more wickedly people fret, the sooner they wear down, and the sooner his radiant rudeness can do its essential work—restoring the Peace. And this was exactly Tom Bass's performance. Nearest him in this earthy hierarchy is Matthew Skipp, the failed corpse, presumably failed rag-and-bone man, but nevertheless accomplished drunkard. The Church may never recover from the damage he did to the Prayer Book.

Goodborn was the Tappercoom spirit, fortissimo this time, and all the meanness around him faded. What wonders might the two ugly brothers, Nicholas and Humphrey, have achieved in their own line—the one on the bottle, the other with the flesh more generally—in different circumstances? They quarrelled with the venom of idle young men; but was there real warmth underneath or were theirs the meanest characters in the play? Despite his stiff upper lip and bluster, Humphrey is perhaps the more honest; under his fine feathers, Nicholas may be the more vacuous. Perhaps this contrast could have been made a little clearer. Lawrence Wragg made a fine piece of Victoriana as Margaret and usually made good use of the half-dozen or so all-flattering lines with which the part is endowed. It was clear to the audience, from her glazed look, that she no longer expected the younger generation to retain any dignity, but she was not yet in full retreat; she could still give good sharp knocks when she ventured a sortie.

With Hebble Tyson, the jittery Mayor, we are dragged into the heart of the play. His was the tragedy of being alive at all on a day in Spring, when his tiny standard soul would have been happier burrowing in the dust of a tiny standard statute book. How could the orphan Alizon escape his net; how could he possibly allow his clerk Richard to grow from calf-love for

her into a proper man? Death, to him, was such a tidy means of keeping the witch Jennet in her place. But Thomas Mendip was a problem of another order: Death alone was as big and promiscuous and adventurous as himself. Respectable decay, thought Tyson, would have been far easier. If Walker did not suggest the complete ineffectualness of simply sending Mendip away, it is I think well balanced by his success in the task, very difficult for a schoolboy, of presenting premature senile decay. For senility, Colin Richardson's Chaplain would have been hard to beat. But under the white hairs there was the old clown's mixture of comedy and pathos, though perhaps a little overdone, and, as well, a knowledge of what was really wrong with Thomas —although the Chaplain was the last person to be able to make it clear to others.

From the start, Fry makes Alizon perfectly clear-sighted about the prospect of marrying one or other of the Devize brothers. And yet one senses that the play *needs* a creature who is at first crushed and grows at length to be independent, save in her affection for Richard, the clerk. Apart from a little restraint in the closing scene, Malpass conveyed well the self-possessed innocence which Fry demands. Colin Stillwell's Richard, a very sensitive performance, was poignant precisely because he could not see clear at the start, and even more when, as a mere floor-scrubber (and not a very good one either), he seemed to take Jennet's misery on himself.

Above all these souls are the huge characterisations of Thomas Mendip and Jennet Jourdemayne. For well over two hours, with hardly a break, these were both consistent and fluent performances—perhaps (and this is the only criticism of them which can be made) a little too consistent and even, granted the total change from death to life which they endure. Simon Hicks's Mendip had a brain stuffed with argument, pictures, prophecies, which a spark from the coldest star was enough to detonate—he chose death because life could not live up to him. The meditative Jennet is his complement, not perpetually pricked by a thousand visions but, rather, weaving her own slow world of alchemical gold, peacocks, night and melancholy, wiser because less voluble. Fry makes exorbitant demands in tempo and expression; Thomas and Jennet sensitively followed his beat.

The time and care spent by Mr. Salter with David Tucker and the stagemen produced set and lighting which at first sight impressed by their boldness but then offered detail, so that one

first saw the great sweep of the curtain and door, the angular shadows, the cold gleam of the night, and then the rainy April garden. A nice detail was the Chaplain's viol, made by John Goodborn. The minstrels' gallery was a natural extension of this 15th century stage. Stratford is not alone in having a wind band, and ours under Mr. Tooze's direction made a musical contribution which was both atmospheric and piquant.

Costumes and make-up, always great sources of confidence to amateur actors and aids to suspension of disbelief by audiences, were an invaluable support to the production. Mr. Salter produced some excellent faces, ranging from the innocence of Alizon and the sophistication of Jennet, through the lascivious pomposity of Humphrey and the catarrh-ridden dyspepsia of Tyson, to the ghoulish "outre-tombe" of Skippis.

The costumes were carefully chosen in relation to characters and set, and once again there was a considerable range to cover, from the girls' dresses to Margaret's imposing armour, from the Mayor's important robes to Skippis' evil-smelling sackcloth. How Mrs. James contrived to do all this, run the English department and be the wife of the Acting Headmaster, we shall never know. But she did it, and our gratitude is hard to express in words.

"The Lady's Not For Burning" was written as an entertainment, and an entertainment is what it was made by the insight of Mr. Sells, the share taken by everyone in the production and not least by the enjoyment of the audience.

D. W.

### **HOCKEY REPORT, 1961.**

To replace last year's leavers it was necessary to bring in four new players and these, combined with a slight interchange of positions, produced the following team: P. B. Heppleston was brought in on the left wing; T. G. W. Pettigrew to inside left; J. M. Webb and H. E. Gough played in their old positions of centre forward and inside right respectively; J. Shaw moved to the right wing, replacing S. D. Hicks who was moved back to right half; N. J. Price played at centre half; D. J. Tovey was brought in at left half and G. S. Bartlett at right back; G. J. Taylor and R. P. S. Harrison played in their old positions of left back and goal keeper respectively.

THURSDAY, 9th FEBRUARY.

**1st XI v. Cheltenham College. Away. Drawn 3-3.**

As last season, this was a very encouraging first match. Cheltenham were obviously out to avenge last year's defeat, and we did quite well to hold them to a draw. The team on the whole played well, managing to swing the ball about on a rather sticky pitch. Bartlett, however, was slow at right back and Hicks had obviously not settled into his new position. Webb at centre forward played an extremely good game, conquering his old tendency to keep the ball too long and proving an invaluable asset in the circle with his newly developed powerful shot. He scored all three goals.

SATURDAY, 18th FEBRUARY.

**1st XI v. Marlborough College 2nd XI. Away. Lost 1-2.**

For this match C. C. Richardson replaced Hicks at right half; otherwise the team was unchanged.

This match, our only loss of the season, was a disappointing one for us, and it showed us clearly where our main weaknesses lay. The team did not fit together as well as it had against Cheltenham and, although the game was generally open, passes tended to be either too weak or mis-directed. Both backs were too slow, often attempting to dribble the ball past an opponent before clearing.

Richardson, in his first match, played hard but was occasionally overwhelmed by the speed of play. Webb, who in the previous practice game had strained his back, was unable to hit the ball with any real power and consequently held on to it too long, often slowing down the speed of our forward play. Gough scored our only goal.

SATURDAY, 4th MARCH.

**1st XI v. Monkton Combe 2nd XI. Away. Won 9-1.**

The only change in the team for this match was that J. R. Marshall replaced Bartlett at right back.

Our performance in this match was a considerable improvement on the previous one, although the standard of play achieved was not as high as the score might suggest. It was in general a faster game than the previous ones, but the backs were still

sometimes slow in clearing and the halves sometimes took too long to get back in defence. The forwards also were at times slow in following up shots at goal. It was perhaps unfortunate that such an easy victory came at this point in the season, for it tended to obscure the weakness of our defence.

**SATURDAY, 11th MARCH.**

**1st XI v. King Edwards, Bath. Home. Won 3-1.**

The team for this match was unchanged. Again we failed to show our full potential. There was a general inability to stop the ball which could only partly be blamed on the unevenness of the pitch; passes were often wild and lacking thought. The forwards co-ordinated properly only during the first few minutes of the second half, when two of the three goals were scored; for the rest of the time their play was too individualistic and there was not enough inter-forward passing. The defence were again slow at anticipating attacks, and took too long in getting back after these attacks had developed. Most of the play was in our half, and we were fortunate in having only one goal scored against us. For this we are indebted to Harrison, who played a very good game in goal. Webb, who had a better game than in the previous matches, scored two of the goals and Gough scored the other.

**SATURDAY, 18th MARCH.**

**1st XI v. Prince Henry's Grammar School. Away. Drawn 2-2.**

Again our play was rather scrappy and did not reach the standard we were capable of producing, the faults of the last match showing again in this one. Vain attempts at first time hitting were numerous, and clearing out of the circle was slow and not hard enough. Both the two goals scored against us were the result of elementary mistakes made by the defence, and neither should have been scored. Taylor, at left back, had quickened up considerably and played a reliable game, averting many dangerous attacks. Also the two inside forwards, Gough and Pettigrew, played a commendable game, working constantly hard in both attack and defence. Our two goals were scored by Pettigrew and Webb.

**THURSDAY, 23rd MARCH.**

**1st XI v. Bristol Grammar School. Away. Won 4-2.**

For this match the team was changed considerably. It

had been becoming increasingly obvious as the season progressed that the defence needed strengthening, and although there was no practice game before this match the following radical changes were made: Price was moved to right back; Gough replaced Price at centre half, and Richardson took Gough's place at inside right; Hicks returned to the team at right half.

Any fears of this team's not fitting together had disappeared soon after the game started, for we worked together as one unit probably better than we had at any time earlier in the season. Both Gough and Price played a good game, fulfilling their purpose well, although naturally enough both had their troubles. Price sometimes found himself out of position when an attack was developing, and Gough occasionally had difficulty in clearing the ball quickly and hard when under pressure. Richardson, who had played at inside right earlier in the season before coming into the team, fitted quickly into his new position and worked tirelessly in both attack and defence. We came away from this match with the feeling that at last we had found the correct combination for producing an evenly balanced team which was able to realise its full potential. Webb and Heppleston each scored two of the goals. One of Heppleston's goals was a really remarkable shot, a hard oblique drive into the net with reversed stick.

**SATURDAY, 25th MARCH.**

**1st XI v. Old Rendcombians. Home. Won 4-3.**

There was much speculation before this match as to whether we had at last a strong enough team to beat the Old Boys. It would be the first time for several years. It was generally realised that if we were going to beat them we would have to gain a lead early in the game, before they settled down as a team. However, we were unable to manage this, and it was they who scored the first goal about half-way through the first half. We managed to equalise shortly afterwards, but at halftime the score was 2-1 in their favour. The game, in spite of the dry and uneven pitch, was on the whole open and fast, and it was this fact that ultimately gave us victory, for we were fitter than the Old Boys and were able to maintain the pace until the end of the game. Shortly after half-time they increased their lead by another goal, but it was their last and the action of the game began to move from our half into theirs. Our forwards showed a determination not often seen in recent years and gave

the Old Boys' defence little respite. As a result of this combined resolve three more goals were scored in the last quarter of an hour by Webb, who also scored our first goal. This was another successful and highly enjoyable game for the team and gave much entertainment to the spectators.

MONDAY, 27th MARCH.

**1st XI v. Nürnberg-Wuppertal XI. Home. Won 2-1.**

This was an extra fixture, kindly offered to us by Prince Henry's Grammar School, who had invited the German team over and were arranging its fixtures. The Germans played a very fast and enterprising game; much of their stickwork, though skilful, was rather wild by our standards. Their tactics were broadly speaking the same as ours, the main difference being that when they were attacking our goal their goalkeeper was often the only man left to defend their half. We were somewhat put off our stride by the speed and violence of their attack and seemed unable to take advantage of this characteristic. Once again the pitch was hard and uneven, and we did not settle down on it as well as we had against the Old Rendcombians; our play was scrappy and not open enough and there was some remarkably wild passing. This was a very close match and, combined with the tokens of goodwill exchanged by both teams, made a very pleasing end to the season. Our goals were scored by Shaw and Pettigrew.

On the whole, the First XI had a good season and eliminated most of last year's faults, the most heartening feature of this year's play being the achievement of a spirited and effective attack in the circle. Although we were forced by weakness in defence to draw back our more experienced players, this proved effective without any marked deterioration in attacking power. The team played a fast, open game which at its best was a pleasure to watch. Against undoubted disappointments and instances of unexploited potential we must offset the fact that we were a young team and that we shall still have many of the players next year. For the future, we must try to develop our ability to anticipate events, and above all we must increase our flexibility and accuracy in passing, probably making more use of the scoop shot than hitherto.

P. Heppleston had a good season on the left wing, going far towards overcoming the difficulties inherent in that position.

His centres and shots at goal could be relied upon to be powerful and his anticipation of passes was good. He did occasionally have difficulty in controlling the ball when passed out to him, but the mastering of this is only a matter of practice and he should make an excellent winger in the future.

T. G. W. Pettigrew played consistently hard at inside left, working well in both defence and attack. His stickwork had improved considerably since last year, and he combined well with the other two inside forwards in attack. He still has to develop his hitting power.

J. M. Webb, at centre forward, was the spearhead of the attack throughout the season, and his excellent stickwork and powerful shot made him our main goal scorer. It was unfortunate that he strained his back shortly after the beginning of the term, for this tended to make him revert to his old bad habit of holding on to the ball too long. However he got rid of this fault again later in the season and was of immense value to the side.

H. E. Gough played hard and competently at inside right, working especially well in the defence where the extra player was often needed. He adapted himself quickly to the centre half position, where he was able to use his games sense to the full, although he occasionally had difficulty in clearing the ball hard.

J. Shaw on the right wing showed early in the season a lack of speed in attack and a slow reaction which often left him ill-positioned. Both these faults were to a certain extent overcome during the season, though even at the end he did not always use all the speed of which he is capable. As captain, once he had settled down, he gave sound and well emphasised direction to his side. He was a steady, thoughtful and competent captain who made an unobtrusive but considerable contribution to the success of the season.

C. C. Richardson, both at right half and inside right, played with seemingly limitless energy. He marked well and, with a little more control of his powerful clearing shot and some improvement in his stickwork, he will be a most useful player.

S. D. Hicks, who replaced Richardson at right half for the last three matches, played a keen, determined game. His clearing shots were on the whole hard, but he must conquer his tendency to try and clear the ball before stopping it.

N. J. Price, at centre half, was off form for one or two matches in the season, but generally he played with speed and skill and was often to be seen in any part of the field filling a gap in defence. Once he had settled down in the full back position he played reliably there and gave some strong, intelligent passes out of the circle. As vice-captain he was responsible for much of the routine organisation of games. He took considerable pains over this work and did it most thoroughly and efficiently. Details of organisation are often overlooked, and by taking his task seriously Price contributed appreciably to making the season's hockey enjoyable.

D. J. Tovey, at left half, produced some accurate passes and his stickwork was good. His main weakness lay in his slowness in getting back in defence. It was unfortunate that on several occasions; he had to mark a really fast wing forward, but even so, to be a really effective half he must accelerate his play.

G. I. Taylor on the whole had a good season at left back. He started with a certain degree of over-confidence, which made his play sometimes slow and casual, but he soon realised this and became the mainstay of the defence, often turning retreat into attack.

R. P. S. Harrison did not show quite as well in goal this year as he had last. He made some very good saves during the season, but he was obviously worried about his play and had lost some of his confidence owing to one or two devastating practice games when many goals were scored against him. Next year he might do well to play rather more on the offensive.

## THE SECOND ELEVEN.

Played 4 matches. Lost 3. Won 1.

This was in general a season of unfulfilled promise. In each match the team would start well with long passing movements and successful tackling, but it was very seldom that the forwards pressed home the attack in and about the circle. Slowness on the wings and keeping possession for too long amongst the inside forwards were decisive factors in our attacks' petering out.

The backs were often too slow to prevent penetration by opposing forwards, and it was good work by R. J. Parnell in goal

and by S. D. Hicks and M. C. Jones as half backs which helped to contain the opposition score.

### THE UNDER FIFTEEN ELEVEN

The steady improvement in the team play throughout the season was pleasing to see and was confirmed by the results: two defeats, followed by a draw, with a creditable win to finish.

In Marlborough Junior Colts our team had an unusually accomplished opposition, who were a joy to watch. Any team would have done exceptionally well to have mastered them and, by not being dismayed up to the final whistle, we gave good account of ourselves. The full backs were stalwart in defence, but the forwards lacked constructive play and finished poorly.

Against Monkton Coombe the forwards had their scoring chances but shot either wildly or weakly. Territorially Rendcomb held the initiative, being well served again by both halves and backs. A. D. Heppleston, playing for the first time at half instead of centre forward, settled quickly and added strength to the line.

In a drawn game against King Edward's, Bath, the attack was more organised and our team, playing the better hockey, were unlucky not to have won.

The match against Bristol Grammar School was played on a fast, true pitch, and a hard-fought, even game brought the team's first win, and a deserved one. The forwards at last developed worthy finishing shots and combined better in their approach play.

M. J. Bartlett, at full back, now curbing the occasional unnecessary "first-timer," was consistently sound in defence. R. A. Sewell, at centre half, playing always intelligently and starting movements on both wings, and R. S. Lowe playing hard and tackling backs, were a reliable link between forwards and backs. B. R. Ferguson, at inside, showed some useful stickwork, but was inclined to stay out on his wing rather than combine with the other inside forwards.

### UNDER FOURTEEN ELEVEN

Our under fourteen team had only one fixture, against

King's School, Gloucester under fifteen eleven. They did well to win this 2-1.

### OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We are sorry to report the death in March of J. R. Windsor.

\* \* \* \*

C. E. H. Tuck visited the College during the term, and the following were spectators at the Old Boys' hockey match on March 25th: A. C. Magor, M. van den Driessche, E. Davis, R. D. Comley, A. N. Hill, R. A. Cockrell, P. G. S. Airey, B. Glastonbury. The Old Boys' team was as follows: R. H. Jones, J. W. J. Reed, H. A. Gough, J. Gough, R. A. Dauncey, K. A. Statham, J. R. Ellis, P. Binks, R. Powell, R. J. Lawson, P. M. Gerrard. The umpire was A. E. A. Brain.

\* \* \* \*

We congratulate John Sumsion who is to be married in August to Miss Annette Wilson, of Kendal.

### NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

July 1961.

#### Miscellaneous Notes, January 1st to April 30th, 1961.

The only snowfall of the winter came on January 3rd, when about an inch fell over the district. It thawed within a few hours, however, and the winter has been a mild one. January brought some frosty nights, but there was a good deal of sunshine by day. February was in the main mild, and a warm sunny spell during the first half of March hastened on already advanced Spring.

Spring flowers on the Cotswold hills are always later in opening than in sheltered localities such as Cheltenham. Nevertheless, the first Crocus blooms opened at Rendcomb during the last few days of January, Daffodils in the third week of February, Windflowers (*Anemone nemorosa*) before the end of the month, the Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) and Wood Violets (*Viola riviniana* and *V. reichenbachiana*) in the early days of March. Hawthorn hedges in sheltered spots were breaking into leaf in late February and Sycamores and Horse Chestnut trees in the first week; of March.

Frogspawn, already several days old, was found in the temporary pond beside the Cirencester drive on February 21st and there was much fresh toadspawn and many paired-up toads in the Aycote reservoir on March 10th. Crested and Palmated Newts were also found early in the latter month.

In spite of the mild winter and early spring migrant birds were not particularly quick to arrive. Chiff-chaffs appeared on the hills in small numbers after March 20th, but neither Willow Warblers nor Swallows appeared in any quantity in this district until mid-April. Cuckoos were heard daily from April 23rd. House Martins did not appear in the village and round the College until the very end of April. A Spotted Flycatcher was here on May 3rd and several were about by the 6th, but Garden Warblers seem to be very scarce this year. The first Swifts also turned up on May 3rd.

Among mammals we may record a Pigmy Shrew in Kennel Bottom on March 6th. A Grey Squirrel's drey in an ivy-covered tree by the College back drive contained blind young on March 7th, and another was found on March 19th in a hole in the bole of an enormous beech which had recently been felled in Conigre Wood. The young disappeared from the nest next day, perhaps removed by their mother. The hole was later taken over by a pair of Nuthatches.

Felling and clearing operations in Conigre Wood and the Slippery Path Wood have proceeded rapidly. The former is scarcely recognisable for what it was. Counts of the annual rings of some of the felled trees were made during March, giving the following results:

**In Conigre Wood:**

Beeches: 116, 135, 140, 170, 186, 250 and 267 rings.

Black Poplar: The largest, only 18 inches in diameter at 6 feet above ground, gave a count of 47 rings.

**In The Slippery Path Wood:**

Beeches: 138, 155 and 180 rings.

Ash: 190 rings.

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