

RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
CHRONICLE

Vol. 11, No. 12.

July, 1960

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 11, No. 12.

July 1960

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COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1960.

Senior Prefect—P. G. S. Airey.

Prefect—R. F. Stebbing.

Group Leaders and Prefects—R. A. Cockrell, J. B. Gooch,
M. van den Driessche, J. R. Windsor.

College Workman—M. D. Naish.

†Public Workman—F. A. G. Ferguson.

Music Warden—G. Harrison.

Choir Librarians—G. C. Cattermole, R. J. Edy.

Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.

Pictureman—M. C. Jones.

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

Church Ushers—G. J. Taylor, J. Shaw,

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—P. K. Dale,

†Furniture Committee—D. M. Tucker, D. A. N. Hogarth,
R. A. D. B. Laws.

Stagemen—J. Shaw, F. A. G. Ferguson, P. K. Dale, M. A. Gooding,
D. M. Tucker, J. H. Delefortrie.

Librarians—M. van den Driessche, J. R. Windsor, D. R. Poole,
I. S. C. Airey, P. B. Heppleston.

Manual Foremen—H. E. Gough, J. C. Malpass, N. J. Price,
C. C. Richardson, K. H. Stimson, D. A. N. Hogarth,

† General Meeting Elections.

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1960.

Chairman—G. Harrison.

Secretary—J. C. Malpass.

Games Captain—R. A. Cockrell.

Field Secretary—M. van den Driessche.

Games Committee—R. F. Stebbing, H. E. Gough.

Tennis Captain—M. D. Naish.
Boys' Banker—T. L. H. Benbow.
Meeting Banker—N. J. Price.
Games Committee Treasurer—C. B. Stillwell.
House Committee Treasurer—G. E. Chapman.
Record Committee Treasurer—J. H. Delefortrie.
Finance Committee Treasurer—D. G. Griffiths.
Auditors—J. B. Gooch, G. Harrison, R. P. S. Harrison.
Senior Shopman—P. B. Heppleston.
Shopmen—N. R. Meakin, R. A. Sewell.
Entertainments Committee—R. A. Cockrell, M. D. Naish, T. Tucker,
R. P. Goodchild, P. K. Dale.
Cycle Committee—J. M. Webb, R. C. Jones, M. F. Ashe-Jones.
Breakages Man—D. A. N. Hogarth.
Classical Record Committee—G. E. Chapman, R. A. Dauncey,
M. J. N. Bryant.
Light Record Committee—T. L. H. Benbow, J. T. Wood.
Amplifier Technicians—G. J. Taylor, R. J. Parnell.
Paperman—R. B. Denny.
Drying Room Committee—D. J. Tovey, M. J. Bartlett.
Financial Advisory Committee—I. S. C. Airey, R. F. Stebbing,
J. R. Windsor.
Cricket Groundsman—H. E. Gough.
Assistant Cricket Groundsman—T. G. W. Pettigrew.
Junior Cricket Groundsman—A. D. Heppleston.
Finance Committee—N. S. Whatmough, R. B. N. Bryant.
Tennis Groundsman—K. A. Walker.
Junior Tennis Groundsman—S. Greenlaw.
Cricket Games Wardens—S. H. M. Greffield, P. J. Callaghan.
Tennis Games Wardens—M. C. Jones, M. F. Ashe-Jones.
Hockey Secretary, 1960-61—P. K. Dale.
Cricket Secretary, 1960—R. P. S. Harrison.
Rugby Secretary, 1960—J. M. Webb.
Magazine Committee, 1960—61—G. J. Taylor, S. D. Hicks,
T. C. Bass.

Hockey Games Warden—J. R. Rawlings.
Rugby Games Warden—R. A. Sewell.
Magazine Committee, 1959-60—M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch,
D. A. Hodges.
Selection Committee—S. D. Hicks, P. G. S. Airey, J. R. Windsor,
G. Harrison, M. van den Driessche.
Rule Committee—T. L. H. Benbow, D. R. Poole, D. A. Hodges.
Nominations Committee—S. D. Hicks, D. R. Poole, D. A. Hodges,
M. D. Naish, R. A. Cockrell.
The Council—J. Shaw, M. D. Naish, G. Harrison, P. G. S. Airey,
J. R. Windsor, R. F. Stebbing, M. van den Driessche.

GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

Easter Term, 1960.

This term we felt increasingly the influence and enthusiasm of our younger members. The standard of debate is rising and there is a refreshingly free atmosphere in the meeting.

A searching investigation into the possibilities of improving conditions in the Shop was conducted. A decrease in permissible amounts of stock had dealt largely with the problem. More auditors and closer checking of accounts will do much to remedy the situation.

The classical records purchased this term were Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe," "Belshazzar's Feast" and "Partita for Orchestra" by Walton, and Stravinsky's "The Firebird Suite."

The urgent necessity to purchase a far greater number of hockey sticks than is usual, and rising prices elsewhere, emphasised the increasing strain on the Meeting's monetary resources, and a financial investigation carried out by a special committee showed considerable rises in expenditure throughout various Meeting departments over the last ten years. We are passing through a lean period at the moment but newly won experience should prove valuable in the future. The findings of the committee were tendered to the Headmaster for consideration and presentation to the Governors next term.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Easter Term, 1960.

We welcome Mr. K. J. Knapp, who joins the Staff from West Buckland School, Devonshire, to take charge of Mathematics.

* * * * *

We are grateful to Major David Wills for a consignment of useful pieces of holly wood for the Workshop.

Our thanks go also to E. Webster (O. R.) for his gift to the Library, which has enabled us to purchase "A Short History Of France To The Present Day," by J. Hampden Jackson (C. U. P.).

Miss Mabel Carnell, formerly Music Mistress at the College, has sent two large parcels of miscellaneous music. It will all be useful and we are indeed grateful.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of "The Decanian," "The Richian," "Frensham Heights Magazine," "The Gresham," and "The Cirencestrian."

* * * * *

A Grand Dance was held at the College on Saturday, March 12th, and we were glad to welcome a number of ladies for the evening.

* * * * *

On Wednesday, March 16th, Mr. Philip Mason visited the College and gave a talk to the Vth and VIth Forms on "Some aspects of race relations, with particular reference to West Indian immigration."

* * * * *

A group of VIth Form boys visited Bristol University on February 9th to see a performance of "Le Cid," by Pierre Corneille.

The concert given by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on February 18th, was attended by a small party from the VIth Form.

Members of the VIth Form also attended a recital from the stories of Dylan Thomas, given by Emlyn Williams, in the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on February 25th.

Several boys from VIa visited the Old Vic, Bristol, on March 21st to see a performance of "Mary Stuart," by Schiller, in a translation by Stephen Spender.

THE TAUNTING OF MALVOLIO

An excerpt from "Twelfth Night," by William Shakespeare.

Cast:

Sir Toby Belch	T. C. Bass
Sir Andrew Aguecheek	K. A. Walker
Maria	T. G. W. Pettigrew
Feste, the jester	J. T. Wood
Malvolio	J. R. Marshall
Fabian	G. S. Bartlett
Olivia	R. J. Hayes
Servant	R. B. Denny
Viola	C. C. Richardson
Antonio	L. de V. Wragg
First Officer	G. E. Chapman
Second Officer	D. A. N. Hogarth

Make-up: M. C. Jones and J. C. Malpass.

Prompters: R. B. Denny and D. A. N. Hogarth

Producer: P. K. Dale.

The three scenes which made up this performance provided an enjoyable evening for the College. The whole project, from the initial idea to the final performance, was the work of members of the Vth Form, with practically no outside help. The boys concerned, and perhaps especially the producer, are to be complimented on giving an entertainment both pleasant and amusing.

THE COLLEGE BELL.

This was presented to the College by Dr. F. C. Gladstone in 1954. It had for many years been the property of his family in Yorkshire. In transit from there to Rendcomb it sustained a slight crack, damage that is almost impossible to repair because in a bell of this size neither brazing nor welding is strong enough to stand the blows of the clapper. Brazing is quite often successful with a hand bell. In the course of time the crack lengthened and the bell became almost unusable. After obtaining estimates, it was decided to have the instrument recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel, London, a firm that was founded in 1590 and which is today one of the two most important

surviving bell foundries in the country. The bell was delivered to them in April and was safely re-installed about two months later. The re-cast bell carries the following inscription:

The Grosmont Iron Company, Yorkshire,
1862.

Presented to Rendcomb College
by
Dr. F. C. Gladstone
1954.

Recast 1960, Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel.

The story of the bell is that in the late 1850's two brothers. Charles and Thomas Bagnall, Staffordshire ironmasters, thought they saw possibilities of profit in setting up blast furnaces in the small village of Grosmont, much to the annoyance of the local inhabitants of this beautiful spot. In the early stages the Company made a handsome profit, but later on, due to mismanagement, shortages and strikes, both in their own industry and in the coal mines, the firm went bankrupt. Grosmont was the home of the Gladstone family. After there were no bidders for the works, Dr. Gladstone's father bought the derelict property and with the help of railway engines pulled down the blast furnaces, dismantled the works, restored the site to some semblance of its original form, and more than cleared his expenses by the sale of the scrap. He kept the works' bell as a souvenir.

HOCKEY REPORT, 1959.

At the outset, this year's team differed little from last years', only the centre-half and left wing positions being vacant. J. Shaw was moved from right wing to left wing; S. D. Hicks came in to right wing; M. van den Driessche moved to centre half and P. G. S. Airey took his place at right back.

Saturday, 30th January

1st XI v. Cheltenham College. Away. Won 8-3.

This match was an encouraging start to our season. From the beginning our game was faster and more open than Cheltenham's, although the pitch was very wet. The Cheltenham side had great difficulty in settling down, and at half-time the score

was 7-0 in our favour. In the second half, however, we lost some of our drive; our backs were slow and uncertain, especially the full-backs who, although they tackled well, were often out of position and slow to cover. This may have been partly due to J. R. Marshall's straining his back. R. P. S. Harrison in goal had a great deal to do in the second half and showed a considerable improvement on his last year's form. The forwards combined quite well for a first match; R. A. Cockrell found his form straight away, scoring four of the goals. Hicks also scored in what was his first match.

Wednesday, 3rd February

1st XI v. Bristol University 2nd XI. Home. Lost 2-3.

As Marshall was unfit to play, van den Driessche moved to left back, R. F. Stebbing to centre half, and J. G. Taylor came in to play left-half. This match was a sobering experience after our early success. Bristol had a mature team, one which had not lost a match since the previous October. Their age and experience told, and it was soon clear that we had our hands full to avoid a severe defeat. Stebbing did not really settle down at centre half. Van den Dressche played well at full back, supporting the halves and Airey untiringly. The forwards lost their ability to combine in the face of a strong defence; our two goals were scored by J. M. Webb in the solo moves which are his great weakness. This match showed us our faults as a team and dispelled the heady fumes of success; on the whole we did well to hold Bristol to a 2-3 victory.

Saturday, 6th February

1st XI v. Prince Henry's Grammar School. Home. Won 2-1.

Van den Driessche returned to centre half. Taylor moved to right half and N. J. Price to left back. This was not a good match. Our opponents did not play an open game and, except for a short while at the beginning of the second half, we failed to force our style upon them. Price tried hard at full back and seemed to be getting the feel of the position. Taylor, his speed and reliability obviously improved by his experience in the previous match, played well in attack and defence. The forwards did not distinguish themselves. H. E. Gough was clearly off form and failed to tackle back or to combine with the other forwards. Webb also persisted in trying to win single-handed. Cockrell alone showed the tireless efficiency in attack and defence which characterised his play during the season. Harrison played excellently in goal.

Saturday, 20th February

1st XI v. Marlborough College 2nd XI. Away. Won 2-1.

The team was unchanged. On our way to Marlborough we passed through a minor cloudburst, which tended to lower our spirits. On arrival we found that our hosts, rather than send us away without a game, were prepared to risk three of their junior pitches, all of which were virtually under water. It was very sporting of them to do so. Unfortunately the ground was so wet that it was difficult to play anything recognisable as hockey. Possibly the conditions favoured us rather than our opponents; we definitely showed ourselves more at home with them.

Saturday, 5th March

1st XI v. Monkton Combe 2nd XI. Home. Won 3-1.

For this match we fielded a much altered side. M. D. Naish, the 2nd XI centre half and captain, came in to take the place of van den Dressche who was away taking an examination. Price was absent with a damaged thumb, and Taylor took his place at left back. He in turn was replaced by F. A. G. Ferguson at right half. P. K. Dale replaced Gough at inside right.

The prospect of playing one of our more formidable opponents with this apparently weakened side was stimulating. The side combined to an extent not yet seen this season, and the newcomers made up for their lack of experience with hard play. The goals were shared between the three inside forwards.

Saturday, 12th March

1st XI. v. King Edward's School, Bath. Away. Won 5-1.

Although we had van den Driessche back at centre half, Price was still unable to play and Ferguson remained at right half. This match, a re-arranged fixture after a cancellation owing to weather, was played on a very wet pitch; once again we were indebted to our hosts for risking their turf. We started badly, having apparently lost the skill in combination shown against Monkton Combe. Our full-backs were often out of position, causing many an anxious moment and making us feel lucky to have had only one goal scored against us at half-time. Our forwards made nothing of their opportunities. The second half, however, showed a complete change of form. The forwards played a fast, imaginative and co-operative game. They were well supported by the halves, and some of the movements carried out were a pleasure to watch. Shaw scored a good goal from the not very favourable left wing position.

Saturday, 19th March

1st XI v. Old Rendcombians. Home. Lost 6-0.

The Old Boys fielded a side greatly our superior in skill and experience. They quickly settled down as a team, and from then on we were fighting a rearguard action. They achieved a superiority which prevented our approaching our usual form, reducing us to a series of hasty, and for the most part ineffective, improvisations. For all that, we played a hard and spirited game and had an excellent lesson in how to play hockey. It was perhaps a pity that the spectators, neglecting the British tradition of siding with the under-dog, were vociferous in support of our opponents; we stood in far greater need of their encouragement.

Thursday, 24th March

1st XI v. Bristol Grammar School. Home. Lost 4-2.

We did not play well. Potentially and on our past showing, we were the better side. The first half did not go too badly, but we were obviously taking things too easily. The half-time score was 2-1 in our favour. In the second half we continued our easygoing methods. In the last ten minutes Bristol scored three goals. Stung to activity, we then began pressing them; it was too late. Our opponents, less skilful, played consistently hard throughout the match and deserved their victory.

Saturday, 26th March

1st XI v. Marlborough College. Away. Lost 4-2.

This was an extra fixture kindly offered by Marlborough to compensate for the earlier mud-bath. It was clear that Marlborough intended to win this time, and from the start they played a fast and determined game. We started well and scored the first goal within a few minutes. Marlborough equalised shortly afterwards. Some of our side had doubts as to whether this was a valid goal; we allowed these doubts to demoralise our play for the next fifteen minutes; this was utterly pointless behaviour, against the traditions of the game and resulting in three more goals to our opponents. In the second half we recovered our dignity and common sense and pressed Marlborough really hard. Most of the play was within their twenty-five yard line, and we were on the whole unlucky to score only once more. In this second half Cockrell played a really inspired game and seemed more like three forwards than one. It was a most exciting and enjoyable second half and did much to efface the memory of our lamentable display of temperament in the first half.

On the whole, this was a good season. Last year as our main faults we noted: slowness and lack of anticipation in defence, lack of cohesion between halves and forwards, and lack of spirit and energy by forwards in the circle. This year we did much to eliminate the last two and something to eliminate the first. Throughout the season there was keenness and the desire to improve. At times the standard achieved was high; at others it fell well below expectation—this was nearly always due to a failure to subordinate personal interests to those of the game.

Hicks and Shaw, as wing forwards, played consistently throughout the season. Neither of them is a fast mover, but they both played doggedly and refused to be put off by the opposing defence. Both could well show more anticipation in positioning themselves; both produced some good, powerful centres.

Dale at inside right was a definite asset to the side. He combined well with the other forwards and at the end of the season was beginning to mark back well in defence. He must develop his speed if he is to fill this exacting position really adequately. He is a keen player, who gives of his best throughout the game.

Cockrell at inside left had a very good season. He was untiring in attack and defence. His stick work and general confidence had greatly improved since last season, and he filled many an unforeseen gap. His shooting and follow-up in the circle were good. During the Easter holidays he played and scored for the Gloucestershire Schoolboys against the Wiltshire Schoolboys.

Webb at centre forward showed distinct promise but tended to persist in his cardinal error of last year, that of over-estimating his considerable skill with his stick. Repeatedly he lost opportunities for the side by keeping the ball to himself for too long. When he remembers to combine with the other forwards he is a most useful player. He still has to develop his hitting power.

Stebbing at left half, after taking a week or two to find his form, played a very hard and consistent game. As captain he led the team well on the field, once he got rid of a tendency to nurse them along with his voice. He kept a good spirit in the team. Perhaps his weakest point as captain was a tendency to under-estimate the importance of minor administrative details.

Van den Driessche played an energetic and skilful game at centre half. As the season progressed he learnt more thoroughly to position himself and developed a good eye for an emergency, often turning a tense moment in defence into an attacking movement.

Price, at right half, started the season rather scrappily. After recovering from his injured thumb, however, he improved greatly, getting his stick to the ball and sending strong, intelligent passes. He is a fast and promising player.

Airey, at right back, was hampered by his lack of speed and by his inability to anticipate events and to position himself correctly. When in position he proved a formidable defence, reliable at stopping and possessing a very powerful clearing shot.

Taylor adjusted himself quickly to the left back position. He showed great keenness and a good hockey sense. Although he lacked Airey's strong clearing shot, he positioned himself well, passed intelligently and supported his fellow back well. With more experience he should become a very useful player.

Harrison had a very good season in goal. But for a couple of matches towards the end of the season, when he seemed rather off form, he was always reliable and sometimes inspired. Cool in crisis, he had the confidence of the whole team.

The Second Eleven

This was an uneven season. The side changed a great deal and seldom had a chance to play as a team in practice games. It was therefore usually half-time in a match before they became effective. However, they never disgraced themselves and finished the season with a stoutly contested and well deserved victory.

The main weakness lay with the forwards and, while they were sometimes rather starved of the ball, they missed countless chances. This weakness was largely overcome by the final match, when the three goals scored brought the season's total up to four.

G. Harrison was always competent and sometimes almost miraculous in goal. M. D. Naish captained well when he was not required by the 1st XI. G. S. Bartlett, F. A. G. Ferguson and C. C. Richardson should all be mentioned. Richardson's game in particular developed enormously during the season.

The Under Fifteen Eleven

The under fifteen team had a good season, winning two matches, drawing one and losing the fourth. The side played well together in the first match, against King Edward's School, Bath, but they were outclassed by Monkton Combe. There was strong competition for the places available, and keenness and vigour on the field. Later in the season the defence was well organised within itself, but failed to combine with the attack.

J. T. Wood proved a thoughtful captain and a skilful, if somewhat impetuous player. D. J. Tovey was a powerful, sharp-shooting forward and T. G. W. Pettigrew an industrious inside. R. S. Lowe was a very promising half-back, strong and forceful, and M. J. Bartlett was outstanding at full back.

THE LODGES RACE.

The atmosphere of this year's race was good natured. There was no excess of training, as there has sometimes been, but the lack of individual enthusiasm was compensated for by a large entry.

The Senior race, for which twenty-three people entered, was run easily, the last finishing some five minutes after the first, who was himself fifty seconds outside the record. The Junior race was slower than in recent years since Price, who used to set its pace, has graduated to the Senior race. Nine finished the Junior Lodges race and four the Half Lodges race.

The weather of the day, the 14th of March, 1960, was not ideal, it being rather close after a morning rainstorm. Times:

Senior Race.—1st, R. A. Cockrell, 13mins. 57secs.; 2nd, S. D. Hicks, 14mins. 22secs.; 3rd, N. J. Price, 14mins. 37secs.

Junior Race.—1st, D. J. Tovey, 16mins. 25secs.; 2nd, D. Little, 16mins. 29secs.; 3rd, N. S. Whatmough, 16mins. 43secs.

Half Lodges Race.—1st, S. H. Shellswell, 12mins. 13secs.; 2nd, G. C. Cattermole, 12mins. 28secs.; 3rd, F. R. Glennie, 12mins. 43secs.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We congratulate Roger Brain on his appointment as Principal of the College of Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria.

We send our good wishes to John Kitto on his appointment as a 'cellist in the Scottish National Orchestra.

After spending some time in the Bulk Flour Department of Messrs. Spillers, Michael Brain has now joined the Animal Foods Department of that firm. Since he joined them he has gained a wide experience of the Company's business.

Out of two hundred and fifty candidates who took the Preliminary Examination for P. P. E. at Oxford seven were awarded Distinction; David W. Brown is to be congratulated as one of these.

The Old Rendcombian hockey team for the O. R. match against the College was as follows: R. H. Jones, J. Gough, P. Binks, R. N. Home, J. R. Ellis, P. M. Gerrard, M. G. Richards, R. W. Alder, R. A. Powell, J. W. J. Reed, A. C. Lucker. We were indeed grateful to Arnold Brain, himself a distinguished player, for coming all the way from Cardiff to umpire. It was also a pleasure to have both the Secretary, A. C. Magor, and the Vice-President, C. J. Brisley, with us, and also H. A. Gough, M. G. Cooper and C. H. Thomason as spectators. John Gough is to be congratulated on raising such a strong side.

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We are glad to record a visit to the College during the Easter holidays of Mr. K. A. C. Gross, formerly a member of the teaching Staff.

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We learn that Peter Draper is script and play writing for Independent Television in South Wales, and that John Draper is working for the Bristol Aircraft Company.

Martin Boase is employed in advertising, and works at the London Press Exchange.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

July 1960.

Miscellaneous Notes, January 1st to April 30th, 1960. Winter Weather and Spring Flowers:

On the whole this was a fairly mild winter. There were three falls of snow, of about three and a half inches each, on January 12th—13th, 20th-21st, and on February 12th-13th, and about half an inch fell on March 9th, but none of these persisted for more than a very few days. Cold winds, however, blew through much of February, and delayed the opening of well-developed flower-buds on Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hiemalis*) and Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*). The flowers on Yellow Crocus plants all opened suddenly on February 28th, due to a sharp rise in temperature.

Considerable flooding occurred in late January and early February, the Chum overflowing in many places.

March was, in general, a pleasant month, and by the 23rd Wood Anemones (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Lesser Celandines (*Ranunculus ficaria*) were well in flower, and Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) was showing among the dead leaves of the Slippery Path Wood.

A Rare Fungus

In mid-April Captain and Mrs. P. H. Gibbs reported finding a large patch of the Yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Gagea luted*) in a wood near Coombe End. This species is itself far from common and this particular patch contained several hundred plants in full flower.

It was later found to be parasitised by the rust-fungus *Uromyces gageae*, a rare fungus which, so far as we have been able to ascertain, has not previously been recorded from Gloucestershire (*vide* W. B. Groves: *The British Rust Fungi*; and *Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club* for 1952, pp. 86-100). The fungus produces greyish or purplish-grey pustules on the leaves of the host, and sometimes pale creamy spots, but causes little distortion.

Birds:

A Lesser Redpoll was seen near the College on January 27th. Duck, apart from Mallard, are not commonly seen on the Cotswolds so that the presence of two drake and a duck Teal on Colesbourne Lake on March 20th is worth reporting.

There are signs that Lapwings, after some years of comparative scarcity on the Cotswold Hills, are on the increase again. They have been seen more frequently in many places and several pairs bred this spring along the Whiteway and round Calmsden at no great distance from the College.

Insects:

Brimstone butterflies were active in some numbers throughout March and April. The first was reported from the village hill on February 28th. A much less usual record is of a Comma Butterfly in Conigre Wood on April 9th. Commas are migrants and are believed rarely to hibernate throughout the British winter, but one so early in the year as this must surely be an overwintered insect, or possibly from a local pupa.

Conigre Wood:

The trees in Conigre Wood have been marked for felling for some considerable time, and thinning and felling operations

at last began during this term. There must be many who will be sorry to see this old wood decimated, not least because of the probable ill effect on its badgers. Conigre Wood is known in name far beyond the bounds of Rendcomb on account of the New Naturalist Book, *The Badger*, by Ernest Neal, who was formerly on the Staff of the College. Much of his research on Badgers was carried out in Conigre with the help of boys from the College.

Summer Visiting Birds:

Owing to absence of observers during much of April systematic notes on bird arrivals could not be kept for the Rendcomb district. Chiffchaffs arrived early in the lower-lying parts of Gloucestershire and had been seen in many places by March 18th, but they were slow to come up on to the Cotswolds and the first report near Rendcomb was not until the 23rd.

Northerly and north-easterly winds through most of April delayed many species and it seems that Swallows, Blackcaps, Tree Pipits, Redstarts and Whitethroats were all slow to arrive. Lesser Whitethroats, however, turned up in numbers greater than usual and were not noticeably late. Two or three Swifts arrived at Rendcomb on May 6th; Garden Warblers were first heard on the 8th, and Spotted Flycatchers on the 9th.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.