

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 13 No. 1

March 1963

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	2
College Officers.. .. .	2
Meeting Officers	3
Meeting Notes.. .. .	4
School Notes	5
General Certificate of Education	7
Carol Service 1962.. .. .	7
Christmas Party 1962	8
Dr. F. C. Gladstone.. .. .	9
Rugby Football Report	11
Running Match.. .. .	16
The Conquering Worm	17
Frost.. .. .	20
Reflections of an Old Man	20
Room of Foreboding	21
Old Boys Notes	22
A Letter from Dr. Gladstone	24

EDITORIAL

It has been decided to change the format of the Rendcomb College Chronicle and to enlarge its scope. In order to do this we have invited a number of additional contributions from members of the College. Four of these are included in this issue, which is being produced as the first Number of Volume 13. We hope to increase the number of contributions of this kind during the coming terms and the policy of reporting events at the College will continue as before. We also hope that Old Boys will send us information about themselves.

The new cover has been designed by Mr. J. R. D. Salter and we are including photographs in this and forthcoming Numbers.

COLLEGE OFFICERS Easter Term, 1963

Senior Prefect—C. C. Richardson.

Prefects and Group Leaders—J. M. Webb, J. R. Marshall, K. H. Stimson,
L. de V. Wragg.

Prefects—T. C. Bass, K. A. Walker, R. A. D. B. Laws, M. C. Jones.

College Workman—T. G. W. Pettigrew,

† *Public Workman*—D. J. Thomasson.

Senior Music Librarian—D. G. Griffiths.

Choir Librarians—C. Mabberley, R. J. Wood.

Picture Man—J. R. Marshall.

Lamp Men—C. G. Jefferies, D. Little.

Church Ushers—C. B. Stillwell, M. F. Ashe-Jones.

Church Collections and Deckchairs—A. J. Cattermole.

Stage Men—D. G. Griffiths, C. J. Webb, G. F. Smith,
S. H. Shellswell, L. A. Webb, J. A. Dow.

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

Librarians—S. Greenlaw, T. C. Bass, C. B. Stillwell, D. Little.

Manual Foremen—K. H. Stimson, R. S. Lowe, S. H. Shellswell.

† *Furniture Committee*—M. A. Gooding, M. B. Ogilvie.

† Meeting appointment.

MEETING OFFICERS

Easter Term, 1963

Chairman—K. H. Stimson.
Games Captain—J. M. Webb.
Secretary—J. J. Schwarzmantel.
Vice-Captain—C. C. Richardson.
Games Committee—T. G. W. Pettigrew, D. J. Tovey.
Meeting Banker—R. B. Denny.
Boys' Banker—D. A. N. Hogarth.
Senior Shopman—J. Mitchison.
Auditors—C. J. Webb, J. R. A. Rawlings, K. H. Stimson.
Chairman of Groundstaff—D. G. Griffiths.
Games Committee Treasurer—J. A. Dow.
House Committee Treasurer—P. A. Trier.
Record Committee Treasurer—P. R. Chanin.
Finance Committee Treasurer—M. Harrop.
Breakages Man—J. B. Marks.
Paperman—R. J. Verge.
Junior Shopmen—G. F. Smith, W. Simpson.
Film Committee—J. R. Marshall, T. Tucker.
Entertainments Committee—M. C. Jones, K. A. Walker,
D. Little, M. McKeown, C. P. Stevens.
Classical Record Committee—S. Greenlaw, D. G. Griffiths, D. J. Tovey.
Light Record Committee—M. C. Jones, M. J. Bartlett.
Rugby Secretary—C. B. Stillwell.
Hockey Games Wardens—D. J. Maberley, P. V. Rayner.
Out of Season Rugby Games Warden—N. Green.
Out of Season Cricket Games Warden—R. W. Hole.
Out of Season Tennis Games Warden—M. Harrop.
Badminton Games Warden—C. P. Stevens.
Senior Groundsman—C. G. Jefferies.
Junior Groundsman—W. A. Thompson.
Out of Season Cricket Groundsman—R. P. Goodchild.
Out of Season Tennis Groundsman—M. B. Ogilvie.

Drying Room Committee—A. J. Cattermole, N. S. Whatmough, P. R. Milam.
Cycle Committee—P. Osborne, R. B. N. Bryant, A. E. Pocock.
Running Captain—D. A. N. Hogarth.
Billiards Committee—J. T. Wood, A. D. Heppleston, R. A. Sewell.
Sledge Committee—J. A. Dow, J. Hemming, G. F. Harris.
Rule Committee—J. M. Webb, R. J. Hayes, C. G. Jefferies.
Finance Committee—J. J. Fonseca, A. Pain.
Financial Advisory Committee—T. C. Bass, D. J. Tovey.
Amplifier Technicians—K. A. Walker, C. C. Richardson.
Magazine Committee—M. A. Gooding, R. C. Jones, E. Taylor.
Nominations Committee—D. J. Tovey, S. Greenlaw, T. C. Bass, C. C. Richardson, C. B. Stillwell.
The Council—J. M. Webb, M. C. Jones, T. C. Bass, C. C. Richardson, K. A. Walker, J. R. Marshall, D. A. N. Hogarth.

MEETING NOTES Autumn Term, 1963

The Meetings this term were generally very short, and the scarcity of business is marked by the fact that no emergency or continuation Meetings were called.

Two changes were made concerning the Meeting's finances. The first was the transfer of the money from the Savings Bank Account in Lloyds at 2 ½ % interest to a Deposit Account of variable interest. The second was the investment of £120 from the deposit account into 5% Defence Bonds. The Meeting banker and Chairman made extensive investigations on this matter, which proved altogether advantageous offering security and if necessary easy withdrawal.

The College undertook to mark out two of the three rugby pitches this term, a matter much appreciated by the Meeting. In the circumstances it was decided to retain only three of the six previously elected groundsmen.

Now that the College partook in running matches it was decided to elect a running captain. It would be a minor office and elected yearly.

It was agreed that too many major items were being purchased by means of the bank balance without being brought

to the notice of the Meeting. In view of this it was emphasized that the Meeting should be consulted before any major purchase was undertaken.

The Headmaster agreed to extend the billiards season from the end of Summer Time (instead of from after long leave) until the end of the Spring Term (as previously).

Deficits in the shop this term were unprecedented in their magnitude, but the Meeting accepted this as almost inevitable and suggested no expedient.

The Meeting combined with the Staff in buying Dr. Gladstone a retiring present. A proposal was passed that fixture cards should be given to members of the staff free on demand in future.

The Classical Record Committee rearranged the filing system of the record cabinet, and purchased the following records:— Images Pour Orchestre (Debussy); Symphony No. 2 in D minor (Dvorak); Piano Concerto in F (Gershwin); Piano Concerto No. 5 (Beethoven); Violin Concerto in E minor (Mendelssohn); Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor (Bruch); Horn Quintet in E flat (Mozart).

The Light Record Committee bought two L. P.'s, one of Dave Brubeck's Quartet entitled "Southern Scene," and another of Stan Getz entitled "Jazz Samba."

SCHOOL NOTES

We welcome the following new boys: P. N. W. Osborne, A. Richardson, J. J. Fonseca, N. A. Dakin, M. R. Grant, P. R. Milam, P. V. Sage, S. J. Brisk, P. N. Cutts, C. J. Gray, H. D. Greenlaw, S. H. Hook, K. J. Jordan, J. Kinnear, T. V. Liddle, A. A. Prins, J. C. Reason, A. J. Savery, P. W. Taylor, O. Wheeler, E. W. Yates.

We bid farewell and offer our good wishes to T. C. Brewis and S. D. Richards.

* * *

Dr. F. C. Gladstone, College doctor for so many years, has now retired and will shortly be moving to Chipping Campden where we hope that he and Mrs. Gladstone will be very happy. A tribute to Dr. Gladstone's services to the College will be found elsewhere in this number of the Chronicle.

We are glad to say that Dr. P. Coffey will continue as the College doctor and we are happy also to welcome Dr. M. C. Railings who comes as assistant to Dr. Coffey. Dr. and Mrs. Railings are living at the Old Post Office in Lower Rendcomb, and we wish them every happiness in their stay here.

* * *

We are grateful to Dr. Dakin (O. R.) for a most useful gift of books to the Library.

We acknowledge receipt of Frensham Heights magazine, The Richian, The Wycliffe Star and The Gresham.

* * *

On 21st September a lecture entitled "Computers and Aeronautics" was given at the College by J. M. Faulks (O. R.).

* * *

The following boys gained Bronze Medallions for Life Saving: S. Greenlaw, T. Tucker, M. Bartlett, A. J. Cattermole. J. Hiscox has gained his Intermediate Certificate for Life Saving.

We congratulate R. C. Jones who was invited to take part in the Gloucestershire Schoolboys' Rugger Trials.

* * *

Five films were shown at the College during the Autumn Term: "Henry Vth"; "The French Mistress"; "The Singer not the Song"; "Doctor at Sea"; "The League of Gentlemen."

* * *

Visits were paid during the Autumn Term as follows: —

On 1st October a party of senior boys saw a performance of "Macbeth" at Stratford-on-Avon.

Members of the VIth Form went to Bristol on 10th October to see the film "Westside Story."

The performance of Jean Anouilh's "Becket" at the Bristol Old Vic on 16th October was attended by members of the Upper VIth and VIA.

A small party from the VIth Form attended at Bristol University on 12th November to see "Le Barbier de Seville."

On 14th November the Vth and VIth Forms saw a performance of "The Rivals" by Sheridan at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham.

A party of boys from the middle school visited the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge on 9th December.

Dances were held on October 20th and November 24th, and we were pleased to welcome a number of ladies on each occasion.

* * *

On September 5th, 1962, Katharine James, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James was married at St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, to Robert H. B. Trotman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Trotman of Headington, Oxford. The marriage was solemnised by Canon R. T. Holtby of Carlisle Cathedral. Canon Holtby was formerly Chaplain of St. Edward's School, Oxford at the time when the bridegroom was head boy there. Both bride and bridegroom had just graduated at Oxford. At the wedding Mr. Tooze played the organ and at the reception at Conigre House Dr. Gladstone proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. After the service several Old Rendcombians joined in ringing a wedding peal on the Rendcomb bells.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION December, 1962

The following obtained passes as indicated at the Ordinary Level examination:

M. J. Bartlett—English Language.
R. A. D. B. Laws—English Language.
N. R. Meakin—English Language.
M. B. Ogilvie—French.
E. Taylor—Latin.
C. J. Webb—Chemistry.
T. Tucker—Mathematics.

CAROL SERVICE, 1962

This was the best Carol Service we have had for four or five years. Apart from the keenness and hard work of the choir in preparation, this was the first time during the period mentioned when the Christmas Party has not preceded the service by a few hours. The voice tires so quickly that you cannot sing well after "clearing up" till the small hours nor, in the case of trebles, after going to bed three hours later than usual.

The hymns were the usual hardy annuals but again, as last year there were several new carols. Of these the most popular, judging by the number of people whistling the tune, was "Torches" by John Joubert. Another good one was "A Boy was Born" by Benjamin Britten; this did not have the lilting rhythm or "catchy" tune of "Torches" but it is beautifully written for unaccompanied choir and shows Britten's genius for setting words to music. Then there was a new arrangement of "Away in a Manger" by David Wilcocks; we sang too another of his arrangements, "the Sussex Carol," perhaps better known by the opening of the first verse: "On Christmas night all Christians sing."

The choir deserved the congratulations it received at the time; to those we add ours and a suggestion. Could we have again a recital of seasonal music with an orchestra?

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The theme this year was most inapposite to the idea of Christmas; the halls became Hell, Saul became Satan, while the committee, dressed in sleek black apparel, disguised themselves as devils. Yet it is this very incongruity which gives the Rendcomb Christmas Party its appeal. Christmas gives us an excuse to give the college a fleeting but fascinating face-lift.

The decoration of the halls was most impressive and particularly striking were the two magnificent murals depicting hellish scenes. These, together with an assortment of statuesque "Little Devils" provided an atmosphere which was certainly hellish but never oppressive, while the subdued lighting did much to heighten the effect. Several new competitions appeared, and those such as guessing the volume of a Wellington and "Nailing the hole" showed commendable imagination and a realisation that a successful competition must depend on pure chance. Dancing, at first a little slow to start, later improved but the enthusiasm of previous years was lacking. The standard of fancy dress was high and there were several interesting essays in topicality. Outstanding was the VIA monster, which made periodical tours of Saul's Hall.

Our thanks are due to Miss Jenner and her staff for maintaining the high standard of food; the shortage of staff cannot have made the task of catering very easy. Tradition was broke

this year when the prefects brought in the puddings, and it stands to the credit of the food that the school was feeling sufficiently generous to applaud them upon their entrance!

The sketches are often considered the hallmark by which the party is judged, and this year we were not disappointed. The current satirical fashion had its influence and the humour although occasionally a little sharp, was well appreciated. The advent of such "home-made" sketches as "Sutcliffe's Inferno" and "Junk Box Jury" is to be welcomed, and the interesting technique employed in the latter was most commendable. An old sketch, "Waiting for the Train," was revived, and "Speak as you Read" and "A Rare Pretty Filly" received a well earned welcome to the Rendcomb stage.

The ever present problem of linking the sketches together was admirably solved by a front-of-curtain tour of the college in which Colin Richardson, as the Headmaster, showed some prospective parents some of the more recent features of Rendcomb life. "Floreat Rendcombia," a study in the inevitable class conflict between the establishment and the angrier of its subjects, provided a topical conclusion to a remarkable set of sketches. Our thanks are once again due to Mr. Sells and Mr. Tooze for what it is almost impertinent to call their "assistance."

This year's party was particularly memorable in that it was the time chosen for the presentation to Dr. Gladstone. At the end of the evening C. J. Brisley, representing the Old Rendcombians, presented Dr. Gladstone with a watch given by the staff, the boys and the Old Rendcombians, and he and the Headmaster spoke in appreciation of his long service to the college. Dr. Gladstone, in reply, said that his years at Rendcomb had given him a deep affection for the college and his suggestion that the term "College" might be used to describe a collection of angels was peculiarly apt in the infernal atmosphere of Saul's Hall. It was a fitting conclusion to what had been a most enjoyable evening.

Dr. F. C. GLADSTONE

Frederick Charles Gladstone was educated at Haileybury, Pembroke College, Oxford and St. Thomas Hospital. He graduated B. M. and B. Ch. in 1914 and in 1919 he obtained by thesis the degree of D. M. (Oxon.). During the 1914-18 war he was a temporary surgeon in the Royal Navy and was

present at the battle of Jutland. After a short period at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, he settled in Rendcomb in 1922 and shortly afterwards became medical officer at the College. Later he married, and Mrs. Gladstone became a familiar figure to us; their children Anne and David were born, brought up, and married here.

Dr. Gladstone worked alone on the large practice centred on Rendcomb until he was joined in 1950 by Dr. P. E. Coffey. In June 1962, he retired, having completed 40 years work in Rendcomb.

To generations of Rendcomb boys he has been an institution. Not only this—he was the trusted family medical adviser of the staff bringing many staff children into the world, watching over them, advising and reassuring. A long succession of College health matrons has relied implicitly on Dr. Gladstone. His imperturbability in crisis has been a source of confidence to all of them. Looking back on his time here we can pick out certain characteristics; firstly perhaps his deep interest in medicine, then his method and attention to detail. Was there, I wonder, a more methodically arranged surgery in England? He never forgot to send a prescription or carry out any task he had undertaken.

An apparently curt answer on the telephone—he could be quite fierce on the telephone—might dismay the caller, but the dismay would be momentary for almost at once the doctor's car was at the door. He was always a firm friend of the College not only in his service to it but in his public contacts, and never more than in the difficult period of the late Headmaster's illness. It was then that his most remarkable quality—a combination of sheer common sense and medical wisdom—was most in evidence. But it would be wrong to think of Dr. Gladstone's qualities purely in connection with his profession. He is a man of wide culture with a deep interest in literature and history and his library is an indication of this.

It was characteristic of their interest in the school that Mrs. Gladstone and the doctor hardly ever missed a Christmas Party at the College. It was fitting therefore that at the 1962 party the Headmaster should present Dr. Gladstone with a gold wrist watch, the gift of present boys, some old boys, and staff. The Governing body has already made a present of an inscribed silver salver.

It is a sorrow to all that Dr. and Mrs. Gladstone (always as firm a friend of the College as he was) have reluctantly decided that their present house is too big for them and have bought a more convenient property in Chipping Campden—but this is not so far away as to preclude visits — even frequent visits.

RUGBY FOOTBALL REPORT, 1962

This season saw a continuation of the policy of playing fast, open rugby with touch-kicking reduced to the minimum. This was done because such rugby is more enjoyable to play and better to watch than the interminable touch-kicking which characterises much of the rugby played today. If this type of game is going to be successful, however, a sound defence is vital, and our defence was not always as good as it could have been.

There was considerable competition for First Game this season, which helped to keep up the standard. There were many injuries in this game during the season, and these did sabotage the teams, but they also gave several young players a chance to show their mettle in the senior game. The play was in the main fairly spirited, although the spirit flagged somewhat: both at half-term and towards the end of term. The standard of fitness was, on the whole, high because of the type of game played and the fact that at least one physical training period per week was given over to cross-country running.

The performance of the 1st XV this year was variable; this was caused to some extent by injuries and the ensuing team changes. The pack was substantially the same as last year, and at its best produced some fine, virile rugby. The covering play and handling were a little variable in quality, but the falling on the loose ball was better. In the line-outs the forwards were less effective, but this improved through the season. The backs were changed more, due both to injuries and the fact that there was a shortage of adequate centres. The handling, running and defence were fairly good throughout the season, although the defence crumbled under pressure on occasions.

This year's fifteen promised to do very well; most of the last season's players were still here. They did not fulfil this promise and the main reason is to be found in their attitude to the game collectively. The essence of this game is attack—

attack by the whole team at once: the exploitation of a slight advantage by concentrating decisive power at the right place at the right time. It is never enough merely to handle the ball successfully into an attacking position against a side whose defensive covering is more determined than is your own backing-up.

Without the sense of urgency which is necessary for this power in attack, a team will never be better than mediocre, however good its handling of the ball and however sound its tactics. It must be our aim next year, when, unfortunately, few of this season's team will return, to cure this basic fault.

R. A. D. B. Laws played at prop throughout the season, and also led the pack for a large part of it. He did both well, being a sound player with a lot of courage and determination. This was his third season in the first XV and his experience was of great value. Another player whose experience and spirit were of great value was C. C. Richardson, who led the pack for the second half of the season. He was very strong defensively, and in attack he was a hard, straight runner. He spent much of the season at lock but ended it at prop.

The hooker was K. H. Stimson, his hooking improved steadily throughout the season, as did his loose play. He was reliable in defence, his falling being his strongest point.

S. Greenlaw played at prop for most of the season but ended it in the second row. His play was steady, and, although rarely outstanding, he was a most useful forward and should do well next year.

R. S. Lowe played in the second row throughout the season. He is an excellent forward especially in attack, showing great drive at all times. His play improved continuously through the season and he should be one of the mainstays of next year's team. For the first three matches M. J. Bartlett played beside him; a strong, vigorous forward, he was noticeable both in attack and defence. In the third match this enthusiastic player had the misfortune to break his nose, and was off games for the rest of the season. This injury gave R. B. Denny a chance; he was picked for four matches during the season. He was a much improved player this year, his loose play was vigorous, but he should use his weight better in the tight. His line-out work and defensive play were good.

C. B. Stillwell played at open side wing forward. He has a good tackle, but he tended to go for the scrum half too much, thereby giving the opposing fly half the chance to start a movement. His loose play was generally good, and his strong, attacking run would have been very effective had he not held on to the ball too long on many occasions.

T. Tucker started the season at full-back where he did very well; it was necessary however to move him to blindside wing forward for much of the season. He was a good forward in all ways and a scrum-half needed to be fast to avoid being caught by him.

J. Mitchison did good service for the team this season, playing both in the centre and in the pack. He was happier in the pack and played better there. Although he gave all that he had in matches, he rather underestimated the importance of practice games.

T. G. Pettigrew played at scrum half. He was, in matches, a very energetic player, giving continual support to his forwards. His defence was sound and his attack determined.

R. A. Sewell made a considerable success of his move from the pack to the wing; his size and speed made him a dangerous player. His defence however could be strengthened.

J. M. Webb played in a variety of positions in the back division, being most effective as an attacking full back. He was the side's place kicker and also vice-captain, and in this latter capacity lead the team for the first two matches of the season. His attack was exceptional, and he scored a lot of points for the team.

R. C. Jones played at wing three-quarter. He was very good both in attack and defence. His acceleration and incisive run were a great asset to the side. He has been chosen to play for the North Gloucestershire Schools XV.

N. R. Meakin played at fly-half for the first half of the season, his passing and running were good, but his kicking and defence were weak and because of this he lost his place in the side.

M. F. Ashe-Jones, D. A. N. Hogarth, J. T. Wood, M. C. Jones and K. A. Walker also made appearances for the team and were all leading members of the 2nd XV.

J. R. Marshall was captain and centre three-quarter. Early in the season he injured his ankle and although the injury

recovered rapidly he never really regained form with his own game. In the middle of the 1962 season he was a powerful attacking runner, but this year his attack was seldom more than tentative and his crashing tackle was a shadow of what it used to be. Towards the end of the season, however, there were signs that his form was returning and we hope that he will go on playing when he leaves us.

His lost form naturally undermined some of his confidence in leadership but he worked with continuing enthusiasm on many occasions to rally a defeated and dispirited team.

1st XV Matches

v. KINGHAM HILL. (Home) Won 41—3.

J. M. Webb captained the side which played rather lethargically in the first half, but woke up in the second half scoring 29 points in that half. J. M. Webb scored three tries himself and made four conversions. R. C. Jones had two very good runs which resulted in tries. Other try scorers were R. A. Sewell, T. G. W. Pettigrew, M. J. Bartlett, C. B. Stillwell, C. C. Richardson and J. Mitchison.

v. DEAN CLOSE 2nd XV. (Away). Won 19—3.

J. M. Webb again captained the side and scored three tries and made two conversions, but the team failed to work as a unit and many scoring chances were neglected. T. Tucker played in the team for the first time this season, his sprained wrist having mended. The other try scorers were M. C. Jones and Pettigrew.

v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL. (Away). Lost 5—17.

Marshall led the team for the first time this season. The game was a fast, open one with the forwards playing as well as they did at any time during the season. Webb scored the goal for Rendcomb. The game was played in very good spirit, and although marred by the loss of M. J. Bartlett very early in the game, the match was enjoyed by all.

v. MARLING SCHOOL "A" XV. (Away). Won 22—6.

This was one of the best performances of the season. We won this game on superior fitness and more incisive running in our backs. Webb in addition to scoring two of the tries

converted two of them. The other tries were scored by R. C. Jones and R. A. Sewell. All the tries came from three-quarter movements and both Webb and Jones had scoring runs of over 50 yards.

v. **CLIFTON COLLEGE 3RD XV.** (Away). Lost 16—17.

In appalling conditions we were beaten by a goal, a try and three penalty goals to two goals and two tries. Webb scored all the points, three tries from three-quarter movements and one try finishing off a good break by C. C. Richardson in the dying seconds of the game, but unfortunately this last kick of his rebounded from the post. We lost this match due to bad falling and giving unnecessary penalties.

v. **HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL.** (Home). *Cancelled.*

v. **BELMONT ABBEY.** (Away). Lost 33—8.

An excellent Belmont team beat us comfortably. Webb scored one of our tries and then converted it, the other came when T. Tucker and C. B. Stillwell broke away with the ball at their feet, Stillwell touching it down. D. A. N. Hogarth had to leave the field in the 2nd half with concussion.

v. **MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE 3RD XV.** (Away). Won 14—6.

This match was played in the bitter cold and in a strong wind. Again all our score came from the backs, but the forwards also had a very good game. Try scorers were J. R. Marshall, R. C. Jones, R. A. Sewell and J. M. Webb, the latter making one conversion.

The Second XV

The 2nd XV played four matches this season, and one was cancelled. In general, the team played well together, but a few criticisms should perhaps be mentioned.

The main fault of the team was a general lack of ruggery sense, which showed itself primarily in the poor covering and fielding of the loose ball. The scrum, which was very heavy, often tended to play a slow game, especially in defence, and, in keeping with the rest of the team, failed to adapt its style to suit the conditions and opponents. The backs were rather the stronger part of the team and their defence was generally sound, although they were insufficiently penetrating.

D. J. Tovey, D. J. Thomasson, D. G. Griffiths and A. J. Cattermole gave valuable assistance to the side, and mention should also be made of R. B. Denny, M. F. Ashe-Jones and D. J. Tovey.

RESULTS: —

Saturday, October 6th:

v. KINGHAM HILL 2ND XV. Won 15—3

Saturday, October 13th:

v. DEAN CLOSE UNDER-16 XV Lost 3—12

Saturday, November 17th:

v. COKETHORPE SCHOOL Lost 9—15

Saturday, November 24th:

v. BELMONT ABBEY 2ND XV Lost 3—25

Scorers: *Tries*—G. E. Chapman (four), D. J. Thomasson (two), J. T. Wood, M. F. Ashe-Jones, D. J. Tovey. *Penalties*— D. J. Tovey.

The Under Fifteen XV

The Under Fifteen team of the season was a young side, approximately half being eligible for an under 13½ side. This meant that most matches were played at a disadvantage in so far as weight and size were concerned. Even so, it was a disappointing season for we lost all matches and scored no try.

The main fault lay in the team play, in particular in the basic routine skills such as packing tight and quickly into a loose scrum, or backing up in open play. Several opportunities were lost by the lack of support for a break through.

John Schwarzmantel, Captain, played hard and well in all matches and by example showed the way for better results. Peter Little and Richard Hole, scrum half and full-back respectively, deserve particular mention for their spirited play in two difficult positions.

RUNNING MATCH

Hard training was put in by this year's running team for the one fixture of the season, a return match at Dean Close. The course of about five miles was entirely flat, a new experience for us, and falling snow turned the already muddy countryside into a continuous quagmire although several stretches of road made conditions somewhat more congenial.

Some good running was produced by our senior team, D. A. N. Hogarth (Captain—2nd), C. C. Richardson (5th) and D. Taylor (8th) deserving special mention. Although we could claim neither a win nor a first place, the margin of last years' defeat was narrowed: 42 points to 34. We hope the improvement will continue.

The Juniors unfortunately were less successful, but some good running by S. H. Shellswell in 4th place, followed by G. Cattermole and P. Little in 6th and 7th places respectively, prevented a complete failure. In the light of increased experience we hope that next time we may improve the position of 52 points to 28.

Mention must be made of D. A. N. Hogarth, the College's first Captain of Running, for the example he set and his organisation of training.

The teams were as follows (listed in order of finishing): —

Senior:

D. A. N. Hogarth (Capt.); C. C. Richardson; E. Taylor; D. J. Tovey; C. B. Stillwell; N. S. Whatmough; R. A. D. B. Laws; D. Little.

Junior:

S. H. Shellswell (Capt.); G. Cattermole; P. Little; D. Burman; J. S. Godden; P. Milam; W. T. Griffiths; J. J. Fonseca.

“THE CONQUERING WORM”

In a sheltered English valley undefiled by human hand stood a forest. And in this forest there grew a gigantic oak, christened *Quercus robur*, who was older than all the world, at least, that was what everyone thought except wise old Mother Earth who had nursed him and his ancestors and who knew better. The oak, brought up in true oak logic to regard himself as one of the pillars of the world, could recall his sapling in the days when the world had barely begun, about 1700.

The oak puffed himself out, with explicable pride, crushing a few trees about him; he looked at his sturdy massive trunk, gnarled and tortured by the fickle seasons, yet firm as a rock; the rounded outline of his head caused by the graceful down-wards sweeping extremities of his wide-spreading lower limbs;

the wavy outline of his outer foliage; his lobed leaves (he was always the leader in fashion); and above all those signs of maturity, the acorns—there was no doubting the fact, he was a true aristocrat. The oak glanced about and thought, in his thick and woody mind, how wonderful it was to be an oak, to be therefore so greatly superior to all other trees.

Glancing down at his bole, a well-fed twenty feet in girth, he remembered it was time to eat and, stretching out his roots, he grasped the earth and sucked the moisture from the shrieking particles. The neighbouring trees quivered in terror, retracting their roots and cowing beneath the shadow of their mighty Lord. All stood trunk-still, afraid lest any movement should single them out for the affectionate embrace of the oak, an action which generally results in suffocation. Further afield the rustlings and murmurings of rebellion sounded amongst the leaves and branches, but none dared raise their branches against the son of the Saviour of Trees himself, *Quercus cerris*. Feeling well-sapped, and relaxing his foliage he vaunted his leafy branches allowing his vast bulk to be caressed by the sun and warm the lower reaches of his trunk.

Then out of the clear, summer sky flew a stag-beetle, a brightly-coloured creature, similarly proud of his race and heritage; but to the oak a mere speck upon his growth lines. The oak lazily flicked his branches at the insect as it tried to land on the trunk; the leaves gaily playing with it, like an indolent rabble enjoying the spectacle of the hunted aristocrat in the French Revolution. The beetle, not to be deterred by such frivolity however, fought his way through the leafy barricade and alighted upon the tree. “It is time I settled down,” he mused and though daunted initially by such a mountainous display of wood he recalled his English Literature lessons and the line drilled into all beetle minds—‘Tall oaks from little acorns grow.’ And there and then began to chew his way into the bark.

The oak waved his lofty reaches in a gesture of scornful despair. Poor demented creature, still, better occupied doing nothing here than damaging our weaker brethren. All taunts about his size, large mouth and sloppy way of eating failed to move the beetle, who, persistent, took no notice and continued.

Time passed and the oak did begin to feel more than a little irked when stiffness set in around his lower regions and one

of his sap-lines was severed. After all, he was the Lord of the Forest, brought up in the Quercian doctrine of the elect of all oaks and here was this insect mistakenly attempting to undo the work of ages. He tried bluff: "I am afraid you'll find it rather tough going, for as you must realise my wood has seen some pretty shocking treatment during my growth-time and yet survived. But don't let me deter you." The beetle, persistent, took no notice and continued.

A little later, with signs of winter approaching, the oak was definitely beginning to feel anxious and a little cool about his lower limbs. He sensed a lack of bark and wood—the beetle (how crude!) was exposing him to the despicable gaze of his inferiors; he would never live it down. His higher branches waved in anger and frustration; the forest trembled at the wrath of its Lord, unaware of the latter's impending doom. Persuasion was all that was left to the oak. "Look," he sighed, "as it's getting near winter and I am really a benevolent old trunk I will provide you with a home in one of my relatives, if you will just repair the slight mess you have made." The beetle, persistent, took no notice and continued.

Winter settled upon the forest. The oak shook in anger and terror. "Curse your despicable race and its interfering habits; think of my pride, or at least the reverence due to my old age," cried the oak. Tears of leaves fell from the mighty leafy head. The beetle, persistent, took no notice, and continued.

He settled down in his mighty mansion, with its oak panelling and running sap. His wife had not long joined him and together they raised a family in the warmth of the oak. The following Spring, the oak was in the throes of a terrible fever. The bitter cold had frozen its digestive system; starvation had attacked the upper branches, and whilst all the other trees were beginning to live again and don their brightest leafage the oak could only manage a green smile on his branches and a few stunted leaves. He bowed his head in shame. He could no longer feed properly, his stomach felt dry and rotten and all around him the other trees laughed and twittered at his misfortune. By summer death had made him a gaunt and bowed monarch, despised by his subjects. Meanwhile the beetle, prosperous and happy extended his home (and his family) persistent, and ignorant of the tree's downfall.

C. B. S.

FROST

The creeping frost disfigures the window panes
Mercilessly holds them in its clasp
It moves with caution like a prowling cat
Its claws a silent sullen heavy rasp,
I see a looking-glass in the lane,
My clumsy foot shatters the leering face,
Careless boots go several different ways,
A silvery worm that once was merely lace.

A crystal canvas suddenly emerged,
From drab suburbia that was there before
The dainty strokes of hedges brooks and fields
The pointillist of berries white and raw,
The grey landscape and bold vermilion pink,
Rich green, a viridian white.
The earth was cold and stiff, just like a corpse,
The gentle air a swift and ravenous bite.

The sun come out, a humid angry god,
The frost is cornered; submission is near;
Misty perplex runs like rivers of light.
A melting world is full of flight and fear.
The jagged edge of nature's flesh is cleared
Golden hands are very soon withdrawn
The quarry's trapped, at last the kill achieved
Slinking spectra greet the punctual morn.

M. C. J.

REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD MAN

Now have I experience, sophistication, a discerning sense of values.
And yet have I not lost my greatest gift... appreciation?
I remember my first visit to the sea,
The gold of the sand, the blue of the sea,
The white of the surf, the white of the gulls.
These were real—reality was the world of the picture-postcard.
The scent and verdure of the meadow,
The limpid, crystal purity of the spring,
My fascination for the ocean.
The last day at primary school,
The parting from the little red-haired girl.

What has become of her?
 Perhaps she now graces the town with stylish sophistication
 Dressed in a mature appeal which has everything but sweetness.
 I have not seen her since.
 We must both laugh at this occasion—
 A melancholy exchange of hearts on the threshold of youth.
 But all is now resolved to its components.
 The sea is tinged with sewage, the sand is smeared with tar;
 The grey gulls dive for filth under the muddy surf.
 The meadow now less green, the river not so clear.
 I have learnt to scorn the immediate experience,
 The superficiality of what is tangible,
 To seek for pleasure in profundity.
 Nothing now is clear or pure.
 Gone are the days of naive delight, the uncritical acceptance of
simple beauty.
 Gone is the red-haired girl with her sympathetic understanding,
 Her affections yet untinged by deeper lusts.
 Yet am I not returning to these early days?
 Can I not now appreciate the pleasures of my senses
 After the perplexities of youth?
 Is not my mind becoming more accepting?
 Childhood pleasures now return, stripped only of this
 Naive halo which engulfs every childish thought.
 The storm of adolescence is the only barrier
 To appreciation.
 Now may profundity and simplicity go hand in hand,
 At last unhampered by a youthful cynicism.

T. C. B.

ROOM OF FOREBODING

It is evening and the greying window sheds scant light
 On the scene inside. An old lady in
 Black, style of years long past, sits huddled
 In the wicker chair, weeping
 Over her husband's lingering presence.
 The oak table worn but faithfully solid
 Easily bears his frail weight as he lies
 Along the lidless coffin—grey hair carefully combed
 Eyelids closed, relaxed, younger,
 But always still.

There are no candles—only the dirty yellow of a crescent
Moon casts any shadow. On the wall the usual
Family group recalls the days of memory.

The mantle piece, dusty now, carries several
Figurines in brass, some spills, pipe-cleaners, and
An old clock. Beneath lies the empty fireplace.
The room is indeed dingy—curtains hang limply
From their runners and here and there
The stone floor is covered by a ragged rug.

Suddenly the old lady is no longer weeping
She looks nervously round and satisfied, she leans
Back, to lose herself in reminiscence.
Memories flood in, one upon another
And gradually sleep takes possession.
Dreams, fantasies, nightmares all have
Their place in the narrow room of her mind.

Morning again: light streams in through the large
French windows in the lavishly furnished drawing room.
And on the balcony a young woman and her husband
Are enjoying their breakfast.

T. G. W. P.

* * *

OLD BOYS NOTES

Information about O. R.'s since our last edition is scant, but what we have
calls for congratulations and good wishes.

John Kitto was married in December and R. A. Powell last summer. We hope
they will both be extremely happy. Kitto is still with the Scottish National
Orchestra and living in Glasgow, and Powell, who is about to sit for his final
Accountancy Examinations, is living in Clifton, Bristol.

* * *

We were delighted to hear that twins were born to Mrs. Michael Morgan on
the 13th of October 1962; (brothers for Hugh now three years old) and that Mr.
and Mrs. John Sumsion have a daughter Bridget Jane—she was born on
January 26th, 1963.

Old Boys are reminded that we are always glad to hear from them and that we wish to improve our news service of their affairs. Letters should be sent to Mr. Tooze; lack of immediate acknowledgement will not mean anything more than that he has not got round to replying, but they will be answered—probably during the following holidays.

* * *

The Old Rendcombian's London Dinner was held in the Duke of York, Jermyn Street, on Saturday the 13th October. There was an unexpectedly large turnout as most members of the Society only notified the Secretary within the last few days of their wish to attend. This made us a little cramped but all the more convivial.

The toast of 'The Queen' was proposed by the Chairman, Mr. Terrett; Mr. Brisley in a light-hearted speech then proposed the toast of 'The College and Masters' to which the Headmaster replied. Then the 'Health of the Ladies' was proposed by Dr. Dakin now a parent as well as an Old Boy. To this Mrs. Osborne—who with her husband were half of the original staff when the first boys came in 1920—responded.

The party then broke up into informal groups in the bar below.

Present:

R. H. Jones, J. B. O'Brien, J. F. and Mrs. Alden, R. Betterton, Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, M. J. Bedwell, Dr. and Mrs. Dakin, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. G. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. B. Plenderlieth, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Richards, C. J. Brisley, Mr. and Mrs. Statham, Mr. and Mrs. Terrett, Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Roper, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins, R. J. Parnell, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Maslin, Mr. and Mrs. Raggatt.

* * *

The Bristol Dinner was held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on November 24th.

Present:

C. J. Brisley, R. H. Jones, C. D. Whittle, C. Flandoll, R. Betterton, A. C. Lucker, A. E. A. Brain, T. T. Walters, N. Slade, J. R. Ellis, W. Smallwood, A. C. Magor, F. J. Batten, P. M. Gerrard, J. D. Draper, Mr. Sells, Mr. Tooze and the Headmaster.

A LETTER FROM DR. GLADSTONE

“At the Christmas Party I was presented with a gold wrist watch on the back of which is the following inscription:

F. C. GLADSTONE
from
Rendcomb College Friends
1922—1962

The presentation was made by the Headmaster in a short speech. C. J. Brisley, who had very kindly come all the way from Bristol especially for the occasion, said a few words on behalf of the Old Boys, many of whom had contributed to the gift.

I was able to thank all present for their truly magnificent gift, but the problem remained how to convey my thanks to the Old Boys. This I now endeavour to do through the medium of the magazine.

After forty years as M. O. to the College the time has come for me to retire and make way for a younger man. My partner, Dr. P. Coffey has taken over. He has leased the old post office (Worster's Farm) which has been altered and made into a very nice residence. It has been named Churn Valley Farm. Here Dr. Coffey has his surgery and the rest of the house is occupied by his assistant, Dr. Railings and his family. My house will no longer be the doctor's house, rather a sad thought as it has been the doctor's house for over one hundred years. I am moving to a small house on the outskirts of Chipping Campden as this house is far too big now that I have retired.

Forty years is a long time and I have seen a great many boys pass through the College; some are now middle-aged men and I am very touched that they should remember me in my old age.”

* * *

© Old Rendcombian Society
oldrendcombian.org.uk March 2016 NSP
Reset in Century 12 point. Standard margins.