

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 No. 9

July, 1947

Rendcomb College Magazine

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JULY, 1947

SCHOOL NOTES.

Lent Term, 1947.

We greatly regret to have to record the death of Mr. F. W. T. James, a member of the Governing Body since 1930. Previously a House-Master at Harrow School, where he also taught Physics, he had for the past few years been farming his own land at Sudgrove, near Stroud. Mr. James took a keen interest in the College and when the laboratories were being adapted from the stable buildings, his knowledge was of great value. He represented the Governors on the Governing Body Association. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. James and his family.

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Term began on Wednesday, January 15th. For the first few days we experienced comparatively mild weather, but by the second week-end of Term the ground already had a light covering of snow: the beginning of the most severe winter that the school has yet known. During the next seven weeks no outdoor sport was possible apart from the usual winter sports: tobogganing, skiing, and skating. Even the asphalt was unusable, for several attempts to clear it were immediately followed by fresh snowfalls. It was only after great effort that it was cleared in time to permit hockey games with the Old Boys on Saturday, March 15th.

On Friday, January 24th, a Ministry of Information Film Show was given in Big School at 5:30 p. m.

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Much acting was done during the Term and the following plays were produced (a record number for any term of recent years):

“The Crimson Coconut,” on Saturday, February 15th.

“Elegant Edward,” on Saturday, February 22nd.

“Emil and the Detective,” on Saturday, March 8th.

“The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus,” on Saturday, March 22nd. “The Man in the Bowler Hat,” on Tuesday, March 25th.

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Towards the end of Term it was decided to hold Gramophone Concerts in the Music Room during “Quiet Period” on Sunday evenings. These were so successful that it has been decided to continue them.

Owing to lack of fuel for the central heating system, no services were possible in Rendcomb Church for the greater part of the Term. Instead short Sunday morning services were held in College.

Term ended on Friday, March 28th.

We welcome P. M. Gerrard, who entered College at the beginning of Term.

Our good wishes go with the following boys who left College at the end of Term: D. G. Knight, J. W. Sumsion and J. A. Barclay.

We acknowledge with thanks the gift of a pair of spiked running shoes and a pair of cricket boots from A. R. Tenty.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Officers, Summer Term, 1947.

Chairman—S. H. Groves.

Council—S. H. Groves, M. R. F. Butlin, C. M. Carus-Wilson, M.

Butler, E. A. Jones, D. J. Payne, C. B. Lane.

Meeting Selection Committee—S. H. Groves, M. R. F. Butlin, M.

Butler, E. A. Jones, D. J. Payne.

House Committee—D. R. Page, P. H. S. Harris, M. W. Brain, E.

F. P. Topps, R. J. van den Driessche.

Games Committee—G. H. Bye, T. R. Morris, T. P. Denchy,

C. B. Lane, P. W. Sumsion, M. Butler.

Secretary—E. A. Jones.

Senior Shopman—R. J. Kendal.

Shopmen—C. J. Brisley, J. H. Shield.

Banker—D. G. Milligan.

Apprentice Banker—P. J. Ryman.

Breakages Man—R. Gready.

Auditors—P. D. Quick, P. J. Ryman.

Apprentice Auditors—M. E. Knight, P. D. de Iongh.

Finance Committee—C. D. Whittle, P. D. de Iongh.

Entertainments Committee—H. A. G. Hartley, M. W. Brain, E. Davis,
K. A. Statham.

Cycle Men—E. A. Jones, F. D. Humphris, A. J. Paish.

Meeting Almoner—K. M. Shephard.

Paperman—P. D. Quick.

Amplifier Technicians—J. C. Waterton, P. G. Cockell.

Apprentice Amplifier Technician—M. G. Petter.

Record Committee—I. S. Menzies, C. M. Carus-Wilson, G. H. Bye.

Drying Room Committee—R. Margetts, M. E. Knight, J. W. J. Reed.
Magazine Committee—G. J. Chagrin, P. J. Ryman, J. A. Johnson.
Salvage Committee—R. K. G. Bick, P. W. Dutton.
Public Work Man—D. Henshaw.
Meeting Trappers—F. D. Humphris, R. Gready.
Games Secretaries—Football, R. J. Kendal; Hockey, L. V. Crawford;
 Cricket, E. F. P. Topps.
Games Wardens—Tennis, M. B. Shephard, L. V. Crawford; Cricket, J.
 Gilchrist, E. Davis; Hockey, J. R. S. Powell; Football, J. W. J. Reed;
 Indoor, D. G. Vaisey.
Groundsmen—Cricket, D. J. Payne; Junior Cricket, J. Kitto; Tennis, D.
 H. Shield, P. W. Dutton.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1947.

Senior Prefect—S. H. Groves.
Duty Group Leaders—S. H. Groves, G. H. Bye, D. J. Payne. **Other**
Prefects—M. R. F. Butlin, M. Butler.
Work Man—I. S. Menzies.
Music Warden—M. R. F. Butlin.
Librarians—G. H. Bye, R. J. Kendal, K. M. Shephard.
Manual Foremen—C. B. Lane, R. Margetts, J. H. Shield, E.
 Davis, E. F. P. Topps, R. Gready.
Picture Man—M. B. Shephard.
Stagemen—T. T. Walters, C. B. Lane, P. H. S. Harris, P. G.
 Cockell, P. J. Ryman, B. Plenderleith, H. A. G. Hartley.
Deck Chairs—D. R. Page.
Lamp Man—J. C. Waterton, R. J. Kendal.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Since recording the death of A. F. Harrison, who was at Rendcomb from October, 1940, until March, 1943, we now learn that he was accidentally killed on January 8th, 1947, while on sentry duty in Palestine, where he was serving as a Lance-Corporal in the 15/19 King's Royal Hussars. A rifle was accidentally discharged and he was killed instantly, on the same day that he had gone up to Palestine with an advance party. He is buried in the cemetery at Ramleh.

J. E. Sterry is now demobilised from the R. A. F. and is back in chartered accountancy.

D. F. Gallop has resumed his studies at Reading University.

The following Old Rendcombians visited College for the Old Boys' Hockey match on March 15th: M. H. F. Fisher, E. R. Morris, R. A. T. J. Skelton, P. Binks (who all stayed for the night in College), and P. Jackson, J. E. Allen, A. R. Tenty, P. J. Dyke, A. E. A. Brain and R. Brain.

In addition to the above, the following Old Rendcombians visited College during the Term: J. E. Sterry, C. E. H. Tuck, M. C. Harries, J. M. Faulks, R. A. S. Primrose, P. S. W. Beck.

ACTING.

Emil and the Detective.

Produced on March 8th.

"Emil and the Detective," presented by members of Forms II, III and IV, is an ideal play for the Junior School, but it appealed almost equally to all present. It was very successful and showed that there is considerable acting ability among the juniors, a number of whom were appearing on the stage for the first time. We hope to see them all again frequently in future.

Emil	...	...	...	J. A. Johnson
The Man in the Bowler Hat...				P. D. De Longh
Mrs. Jacobs; Polly...			...	F. S. G. Richards
Gus...	...	...	...	J. W. J. Reed
The Professor...		...	...	M. J. Miles
Buster	...	...	...	S. P. Steed
Reporter...		...	...	M. G. Petter
Polly's Granny; Policeman...				R. J. Powell
Inspector; Mrs. Titchburn...			...	P. J. Ryman
Bow; Bank Cashier...			...	N. H. Walter
The Gang...	C. C. Morton,	R. W. Muckamore,		
				M. D. Rayner, J. R. Smith,
				D. G. Vaisey.

The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus.

Produced on March 22nd.

We were very pleased to see Marlowe's masterpiece once again presented on the Rendcomb stage. It was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience and was generally considered as one of the best productions for some time.

The standard of performance was good throughout, although one felt that Part I fell a little flat. But if true this was largely due to a weakness in the play itself, for Marlowe only lightly sketched in this part. Sublime beauty is attained only in the final scenes, culminating in the majestic, dramatic climax of Faustus' last hour on earth. The beauty of these scenes was well brought out and the climax effectively rendered.

There are few plays in which the central character is of such importance and the part of Dr. Faustus was admirably played by D. G. Knight, who showed real understanding and feeling. The other members of the cast may not have reached quite such a high standard—several of them were too stiff and appeared rather self-conscious—but no one failed to give adequate support.

The setting was simple but effective, the presence of green candles striking the only jarring note. The costumes and makeup were all appropriate, with Helen of Troy perhaps outstanding in this respect. Tastefully chosen music was played in the intervals, but a little more care might have been taken to avoid the inharmonious screeches which occurred whenever the gramophone needle was applied or removed.

It is a pleasure to record that the stage men did their work excellently, a factor which contributed greatly to the smooth running of the performance.

CAST.

Dr. Faustus	...	...	...	D. G. Knight.
Valdes...	...	...	...	G. H. Bye.
Cornelius...	...	...	...	P. W. Sumsion.
Wagner...	...	...	...	C. B. Lane.
First Scholar...	...	...	...	E. A. Jones.
Second Scholar	...	...	...	D. J. Payne.
Third Scholar...	...	...	...	G. H. Bye.
An Old Man	...	...	...	J. A. Barclay.
Mephistopheles, Minister to Lucifer...	...	...	...	T. P. Denehy.
Good Angel	...	...	...	J. W. Sumsion.
Bad Angel...	...	...	...	D. J. Payne.
A Devil...	...	...	...	F. D. Humphris.
Another Devil	...	...	...	C. J. Brisley.
Spirit of Helen of Troy...	...	...	...	R. J. van den Driessche.
Chorus...	...	...	...	K. M. Shephard.
First Page...	...	...	...	J. K. Comrie.
Second Page	...	...	...	M. D. Richards.

One Act Plays.

Three short one act plays were also produced during the term: “The Crimson Coconut” on February 15th, “Elegant Edward” on February 22nd, and “The Man in the Bowler Hat” on March 25th.

Of these the second was perhaps the most successful, though none of them attained a very high standard. The choice of plays probably contributed largely to this, for they are not sufficiently good to draw the best out of performers. However, they obviously gave considerable enjoyment both to the audience and to those

taking part in them. A particularly welcome feature was the appearance of a number of newcomers to the stage and we look forward to seeing them again on future occasions.

The Casts were as follows: —

The Crimson Coconut.

Waiter...	...	...	...	H. A. G. Hartley.
Mme. Nitro Glycerinsky...				C. M. Carus-Wilson.
Nitro Glycerinsky...		...		M. R. F. Butlin.
Nancy Jabstick	...	...	...	J. C. Waterton.
Mr. Jabstick...		...	...	M. J. Morgan.
Detective...	...	...	...	J. W. Sumsion.

Elegant Edward.

Mrs. Treherne	...	...	...	R. K. G. Bick.
Elegant Edward...		...	...	E. A. Jones.
Burglar Bill	...	...	...	D. Henshaw.
Police Sergeant	...	...	...	G. J. Chagrin.
Policeman...	...	...	...	K. M. Shephard.

The Man in the Bowler Hat.

John				G. H. Bye.
Mary...	...	...	...	K. M. Shephard.
Hero...	...	...	...	T. P. Denehy.
Heroine...	...	...	...	L. V. Crawford.
Chief Villain	...	...	...	P. W. Sumsion.
Bad Man...	...	...	...	P. G. Cockell.
The Man in the Bowler Hat...				J. W. Sumsion.

HOCKEY.

Though one expects to lose two or three weeks of hockey through seasonal snow, ice, and flood, this year the elements were in a record-breaking mood and only just failed to stop hockey for the whole term. Most people thoroughly enjoyed their winter sports—at any rate for the first few weeks! Not for many years has there been so prolonged an opportunity for tobogganing, and the runs on Kennel Bottom and opposite the Cheltenham Lodge were both popular without causing any serious accidents. Despite the wood shortage there are still enough toboggans to give everybody a chance. There was little skating, and skiing became popular among a small group of enthusiasts who had skis. One or two people became quite expert.

After the forecourt had been cleared of snow and ice we enjoyed some good six-a-side hockey. Walls of hard snow along the side-line by reducing the number of throw-ons helped to speed up the game, which reached a high standard. We played two matches

of forecourt hockey against the Old Boys' Teams, both in a heavy snowstorm, but were unable to come to terms with our more experienced and clever opponents and lost by 8—2 and 10—6.

With so few practice games it was impossible to select a team with much certainty. The match against Cheltenham College was again very much enjoyed. Neither team had had much practice so control was difficult, but the teams were even and the game keenly contested. We led by 2—1 at half time but our defence weakened momentarily to let through three quick goals. In general the weak points of the team were poor stickwork (which can be attributed to lack of practice) and inaccurate and delayed passing.

H. A. G. Hartley played well in goal, and, but for a few rash excursions away from his "hole," provided a sound last line of defence. I. S. Menzies and T. R. Morris both played left back, both played quite well, and both deserved a place in the team. G. H. Bye changed from forward to right back and proved a great success in his new position. He played well up the field and with more experience should be very good indeed.

E. A. Jones, right half, has an effective tackle that makes him a most valuable defensive player; in attack he is too inclined to get mixed up with the forwards. S. H. Groves' work at centre-half— good as regards interception and tackling—was spoilt by failure to pass soon enough. He plays a keen, vigorous game and his dribbling is outstandingly good—too good for a half. He might try playing centre-forward. T. P. Denehy used his speed to great advantage on the left wing and made some delightful close angle shots at goal. But wings should be careful to limit these to occasions when they themselves are isolated and cannot pass back to some better placed forward. P. W. Sumsion, left inside, showed great improvement on his last year's play, has a good sense of position and a particularly useful talent for scoring from melees in the goalmouth. C. B. Lane's speed at centre forward gave a sharp edge to a rather slow attack. He seemed to find his form more easily than last year. Some really first class dashes down the centre of the field were often marred by weak shooting. M. W. Brain showed promise; playing inside right he combined well with the rest of the forward line and passed and positioned himself with fine judgment. Later on he will be able to do more on his own. P. H. S. Harris is not a wing-player by nature or by choice and did not make a good right wing. But his play in general is good; whether clearing or shooting he hits the ball hard and true. J. W. Sumsion, as captain, made the best of a bad season and brought keenness and intelligence to bear on a difficult period.

In the "Under 16" XI there were some promising players. The halves and forwards passed the ball around in beautifully executed combined movements, though the defence was too unsound.

Team R. Gready, J. H. Shield, R. J. Kendal, E. Davis, L. V. Crawford, J. C. Waterton (Capt.), C. J. Brisley, J. W. J. Reed, R. K. G. Bick, M. W. Brain, R. Margetts.

First XI Results.

March 20th. —Cheltenham College (Away). Lost 3—4.

March 26th. —Hanley Castle (Away). Won 6—0.

“Under 16” XI.

March 22nd. —Cheltenham College (Away). Won 4—3.

RUNNING.

Normal training for the races was impossible owing to the snow which only cleared in the preceding week. Weather conditions were bad for both races, the juniors running in a snowstorm. These factors may partly account for the disappointing times recorded.

Senior Lodges. Run in P. T. on Friday, March 21st.

The runners soon settled down in the order of finishing. Payne overtook Humphris by the Cheltenham Lodge and ran close to Sumsion all along the main road without being able to overtake. Sumsion increased his lead on the Cirencester drive to win comfortably. Both Humphris and D. J. Harris, who finished a close fourth, ran well against older competitors.

Result: —

1. J. W. Sumsion, 14 mins. 15. 5 secs.
2. D. J. Payne, 15 mins. 18. 5 secs.
3. F. D. Humphris, 15 mins. 41 secs.

Junior Lodges. Run in P. T. on Monday, March 24th.

As the times indicate this was a much closer race than the Senior Lodges, and, though there were no exciting finishes, the runners were more closely bunched than usual. Reed and Paish, running well and steadily, stayed in first and second place throughout. Powell and Morton, running together along the main road, overtook Walter on the Cirencester drive, who had until then been running well in third place.

Result: —

1. J. W. J. Reed, 15 mins. 47. 5 secs.
2. A. J. Paish, 16 mins. 3 secs.
3. R. A. Powell, 16 mins. 18. 5 secs.