

RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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Rendcomb College Chronicle

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July 1954

SCHOOL NOTES. Christmas Term, 1953.

Term began on Friday the 18th of September and ended on Friday the 18th of December, with half-term from Friday the 6th to Monday the 9th of November. It must have been one of the mildest Christmas Terms in the history of the College, and although the weather was rather bleak over half-term and the central heating was turned on so that we came back to a warm and inviting building, the cold spell soon gave way to the mild weather experienced all over the country, and we could, in fact, have broken our record- of doing without the heating for ten days after half-term, which we were able to do two years ago.

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There were various expeditions: to two concerts by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Cheltenham Town Hall, where, too, a small party from the senior school heard the late Chester Wilmot give a lecture on contemporary history, "Underneath the Archives"; and another to the Cheltenham Opera House for a performance of "Henry V."

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The Carol Service this year was on the 13th of December, and once again the collection was given to the Rendcomb Church Organ Fund. We were very glad to accept the invitation of the Vicar of Miserden to repeat the service in his church in the evening. An account appears on page 8.

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The Christmas Party, of which an account appears on page 6, was on Wednesday the 16th of December.

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We offer our good wishes to H. J. Greenhalf who left at the end of the term to take up his Articles with an Architect at Cheltenham, and we extend a welcome to Miss I. M. Cresswell, our new Health Matron,

We must also offer our good wishes to Miss Inge who left the Village during the Christmas Holidays to live in Cheltenham. We are most grateful to her for two gifts: a small bronze bust of Shakespeare which she has presented to the College in memory of her uncle, the late Reverend H. F. N. Inge, and which for many years has belonged to him and his family; and also for some music and books which will be very useful.

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Many of our readers will be interested to know that an old friend of the College, the Reverend L. G. Allum, has come to live in the village. He retired from his benefice at Sheepscombe rather more than a year ago and his arrival here almost coincided with the death of the late Rector. The parish is now in his charge pending the appointment of a new Incumbent.

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On Sunday the 29th of November, a large party from all forms attended Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral. Through the kindness of Dr. Sumsion special accommodation was reserved for us and: we were invited to make suggestions for the music to be sung and played. The Responses were those of William Byrd (which we sing ourselves), the Advent Music from Handel's "Messiah" was performed as an anthem, and Dr. Sumsion's organ Voluntary was Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, the "Dorian."

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The following passed in one or more subjects in the General Certificate of Education held in December, 1953 : D. J. B. Forster, J. M. Harrison, M. V. Harley, T. W. Rowley, A. G. B. Wallace.

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Our first at home Rugger Match was played, appropriately enough, on the new field, on the 28th of November, against Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XV. Details of the game are given in the Rugger Report on page 13.

HONOURS.

J. B. O'Brien, Major Scholarship (Natural Sciences), Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

F. S. G. Richards, Exhibition (Mathematics), Peterhouse, Cambridge.

D. G. Vaisey, Stapeldon Exhibition (History), Exeter College, Oxford.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1954.

Prefects—D. G. Vaisey, T. Gay, R. M. Sumsion.

Workman—F. S. G. Richards.

Pictureman—A. Harrison.

Music Warden—J. M. Harrison.

Senior Music Librarian—R. W. Alder.

Choir Librarians—R. A. Cockrell, T. L. H. Benbow.

Lampmen, —J. B. R. Browne, J. K. Walter.

†**P. W. Man**—M. D. Richards.

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—T. W. Rowley.

Stagemen—M. D. Richards, R. O. G. Hayter, G. H. Richards,
M. A. B. Forster, P. G. Auden, G. H. G. Herbert, D. T. Hart,
I. A. N. Campbell.

Manual Foremen—T. Gay, J. Gough, M. G. Richards,
D. J. B. Forster, J. R. Ellis, D. A. Godfrey.

Librarians—R. M. Sumsion, D. G. Vaisey, R. A. Powell,
M. V. Harley.

Poultry men—R. A. Powell, G. H. G. Herbert, C. H. Thomason,
H. A. Gough, D. T. Hart, S. D. Hicks, M. D. Naish.

†**Furniture Committee**—M. A. B. Forster, H. A. Gough,
B. R. Paish.

† General Meeting Elections.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1954.

Chairman—T. Gay.

Secretary—B. Glastonbury.

Games Captain—D. G. Vaisey.

Games Committee—R. A. Powell, J. M. Harrison.

Field Secretary—R. N. Horne.

Boys' Banker—P. B. Marwood.

Meeting Banker—T. W. Rowley.

Senior Shopman—J. Gough.

Games Committee Treasurer—M. J. Edwards.
House Committee Treasurer—T. D. A. Semple.
Finance Committee Treasurer—R. F. Stimson.
Finance Committee—D. T. Hart, R. W. Taylor.
Shopmen—J. A. Richards, M. A. B. Forster.
Auditors. —R. W. Alder, D. J. B. Forster.
Breakages Man—R. C. Pilkington.
Entertainments Committee—J. R. Gosden, R. A. Powell,
 C. H. Thomason, G. H. G. Herbert, P. F. Barter.
Record Committee—J. R. Gosden, M. D. Richards,
 A. G. B. Wallace, M. J. Edwards, T. Gay.
Magazine Committee—T. W. Rowley, C. Handoll, R. D. Comley.
Cycle Committee—R. O. G. Hayter, G. E. Page, C. H. Thomason.
Amplifier Technicians—M. G. Richards, M. V. Harley.
Paperman—H. A. Gough.
Hockey Games' Wardens—G. H. G. Herbert, J. D. R. Paine.
Drying Room Committee—J. M. Astill, R. J. Lawson, D. T. Hart.
Rugger Games Warden—M. G. Cooper.
Hockey Groundsmen—P. B. Marwood, J. A. Richards.
Junior Hockey Gtoundsman—J. F. W. Beard.
Rugger Secretary, 1954—A. G. B. Wallace.
Record Committee Treasurer—M. V. Harley.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We congratulate D. G. Knight on being first in the 1953 Hilary Bar Finals.

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J. D. Sinclair is Junior Sales Manager, Scottish Division, Dunlop Rubber Company. He is married and has a son.

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The following visited the College during the Autumn Term, 1953: Mr. and Mrs. C. H. C. Osborne, J. D. Sinclair, J. D. M. Smith, R. T. Wood, P. D. B. Levett, M. E. Knight, P. D. de Iongh, D. E. Barbour, F. H. Jones.

The London Dinner and Annual General Meeting of the Old Rendcombian Society were held at the Cock Tavern, Fleet Street, on Saturday, November the 14th, 1953. The occasion was notable on two counts. First that it was Mr. J. H. Simpson's 70th birthday, and second, the decision of the meeting that, as an experiment, wives and guests should be permitted at the next London dinner.

The number of old boys present indicated how many people from Mr. Simpson's time came to pay him their affectionate respects, Dick Field paid him a warm tribute in a carefully prepared speech and when Mr. Simpson himself replied to the toast of the Society we found that he had lost none of his skill in after-dinner speaking.

Jack Allen was chairman of the business meeting and Douglas Dakin, as President, conducted the dinner. It was a real pleasure to see so many old boys from the early years.

The following were present: J. F. Alder, J. E. Allen, A. E. A. Brain, B. J. Brooks, A. P. Browning, G. F. Bye, C. M. Carus-Wilson, D. Dakin, D. Field, F. H. Jones, D. W. Lee-Browne, M. H. C. Martin, J. C. Maslin, K. J. Morgan, E. J. Miller, F. Nevel, J. D. Painter, N. A. Perkins, B. Plenderleith, B. W. Plenderleith, F. C. Raggatt, J. H. Simpson, A. R. Tenty, D. C. Terrett, C. E. H. Tuck, D. C. Vaughan, L. B. White, C. W. Wells.

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R. J. Kendal plays in goal for the Bristol University 1st Hockey XI. C. J. Brisley plays at right wing for the 2nd XI and P. D. Quick is Captain of the 5th XI.

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R. J. Kendal, G. S. Davis and E. Davis were all in the South Somerset County Trials in November, 1953.

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Nicholas Dalton, who was practising dentistry in the United States, has now moved to New Zealand.

* * *

P. S. W. Beck is teaching at St. Peter's Court, Broadstairs. J. C. Beck is a Captain with the Army Education Corps in Singapore; he is married and has two children.

* * *

K. J. Hanney is married and his address is [REDACTED] Horfield, Bristol. After leaving school he worked with Messrs. E. S. and A. Robinson, but has joined the staff of the Bristol Office of the Regent Oil Company, where Ronald Boyland is also employed.

We congratulate Brian Plenderleith on his marriage to Miss Peggy Barker on September the 26th, 1953. Their address is: Flight-Lieutenant and Mrs. Brian Plenderleith, Royal Air Force, Oakington, Cambridge.

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Peter Draper has a pottery at Brixham, Devon.

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C. C. Richardson is running a wholesale fruit and vegetable service in Devonshire.

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We offer our good wishes to John Carus-Wilson who was married on October 3rd in British Columbia, to Grete Bogh of Nysum, Denmark.

* * *

The West of England Old Rendcombian Dinner was held at Horts Restaurant, Bristol, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, the 10th of October when the following were present: P. Alder, J. E. Allen, F. J. Batten, G. H. W. Bodman, C. J. Brisley, M. A. Bullen, J. R. V. Davies, P. J. Dyke, J. B. Fell (staff), L. W. H. Hull (staff), R. J. Kendal, D. W. Lee-Browne, A. C. Magor, H. G. T. Price, J. H. Quick, P. D. Quick, R. Richings (staff), A. E. Shield, C. G. V. Taylor, R. Townsend, M. W. Tugwell. The evening was a resounding success and it was a particular pleasure to see Mr. Richings (1923-1927) after so many years. J. E. Allen is very greatly to be congratulated on his efforts.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Memories of parties, as of many other things have, of course, a natural tendency to merge and to blur so that, in later life, we can never be quite sure which was the occasion on which the Christmas tree caught fire and had to be extinguished with the lemonade we would otherwise have drunk, and which that other occasion when little Willy swallowed the sixpence and had to be held upside down.

But our own Party, last year, had more than one memorable feature; the really superlative decorations: the statue of Eros temporarily supplanting Saul in his own Hall: and the really wonderful taxi which, as we write, is still very much in our midst. This taxi, indeed, was the hit of the evening, and rightly so, since it

represented many hours of patient and skilled work. Its early appearance gave the Party the best possible start and it was used at the end to carry the many prizes to their recipients.

There was, of course, plenty of dancing in which more people than ever seemed to take part, and with obvious enjoyment. And there was the usual display of rather amateur theatricals in which any shortcomings were readily overlooked by an audience which enthusiastically abetted the various attempts at humour on the stage. Party games held sway, as usual, in the library and were well patronised by the few who did not dance and by dancers who were resting from their labours.

Over all there prevailed a spirit of pleasant excitement, benevolence and repletion: a Dickensian spirit which reminds one and all that Christmas, coming as it does but once a year, brings us good cheer without fail. And when all is said and done this spirit owes a great deal to the gastronomic stimuli administered with such success by Miss Babington and her staff. To them we extend, once again, our admiring congratulations.

THE 200th Q. P. CONCERT.

The Two Hundredth Quiet-Period Concert was given by the School Orchestra in (Big School, on Sunday the 25th of October, 1953. Many of our readers will know, either from attending these concerts or from the article which appeared in our last issue, that they are normally recitals of gramophone records from private collections or from the now fairly extensive and growing libraries of the College and the General Meeting. Centenaries are worthy of a special celebration; for the first, Dr. Sumsion very kindly came over and gave a piano recital, and to celebrate the second, it was decided that the School Concert (Christmas Term) should be given on this day.

Although the orchestra only had a few days more than a month to prepare the somewhat ambitious programme which contained all but one movement of Haydn's 104th Symphony, (the last of the "London" Symphonies) and Herbert Murrill's "Suite of English Country Dances" containing a great deal of string writing in the modern idiom to tax the players' skill, they had a firm grasp of the style of the eighteenth century and their performance of the symphony showed how much care had been given to intonation. Herbert Murrill's Suite presents a real challenge to the players over intonation—right notes are essential even in modern music

—and this was particularly evident in “The Queen’s Delight,” played with a mellifluous quality which could only have come from the players’ own delight and appreciation of the piece.

For the last item the audience was coaxed into joining the orchestra in a special arrangement which Mr. Tooze had made of the Cornish folk-song “The Mermaid.” This was not community singing in the ordinary sense of the term for, while many knew the tune, the audience had to learn their special part. We noticed too, that the orchestra did not have an easy time, the violins, particularly in the last chorus, were kept very busy.

The programme began with three of Handel’s pieces: the March from the “Occasional Oratorio,” the Minuet from the “Music for the Royal Fireworks,” and finally another March, this time from “Judas Maccabaeus.”

Once again we were more than grateful to those friends who came to play in the orchestra. Those taking part were: Miss W. Keil, Mr. G. F. Graty, M. D. Richards, T. D. Rowley (first violins); Miss M. Banks, Mrs. N. Mackworth-Young, B. Glastonbury, T. D. A. Semple, M. V. Hailey, H. A. Gough (second violins); Miss K. Crampton and Mrs. B. Wilkinson (violas); Mrs. B. Bendixson, Mr. C. M. Swaine (cellos); Miss K. Gosden (double bass); G. H. Richards (oboe); P. S. Rose (clarinet).

THE CAROL SERVICE.

The Service followed the usual pattern of seven lessons interspersed with Carols and Christmas Hymns. There is, we must admit, a great deal to be said for the criticism that Carol Services tend to be repetitive, and ours is no exception. But this after all celebrates an Annual Event and congregations are notoriously conservative in their tastes, as any Vicar who tries to introduce a new hymn book can testify. They want the old carols and almost insist on having them, and at Rendcomb the use of more complicated settings and arrangements of the familiar tunes makes a second hearing not only pleasant to listen to but desirable for a fuller appreciation of the music. Anyway, Christmas would not be Christmas without “Adeste Fidelis.”

The Choir’s choices were not by any means easy to perform in the main, and their interpretation of a complex arrangement of “In dulci júbilo” (the one sung at the Kings College, Cambridge, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols) was highly commendable since in places it broadens into nine separate vocal parts; the balance was clear and the intonation confident. We were glad to

hear a second performance of Keith Statham's "As Joseph was a-walking"; these well-known words have inspired many composers and Statham's composition is worthy of consideration among those already published—in our opinion it is, in fact, better than some. A new item was a macaronic carol (combining Latin and English words) "'Twas in a cave on Christmas morn" and the singers' obvious enjoyment of this carol was quickly conveyed to the congregation.

The congregation was, as usual, asked to join in several hymns, but again "as usual" (and we must bluntly say so) their singing was anything but forceful. It is the business of choirs to lead, but they can quite properly expect more lusty support from congregations who know these Christmas hymns almost by heart.

The opinion has often been expressed that since so much work goes into the preparation of these services, it was a pity that they were only sung once; we were therefore very pleased when the suggestion was made last year that a repeat performance should be given at Chedworth, and this year, an invitation to sing again at Miserden in the evening was readily accepted. At Miserden, incidentally, owing to the vagaries of the acoustics, the choir is heard to greater advantage than at Rendcomb.

We should like to offer our congratulations to the Headmaster for having thought of taking the Senior Ringers to ring handbells at the lychgate at Miserden. It was really a brilliant idea and the effect was altogether charming.

"UNDERNEATH THE ARCHIVES."

A small party from the VIth Form was privileged to hear a lecture by the late Chester Wilmot in Cheltenham Town Hall in October, which he called "Underneath the Archives".

This lecture was a masterly account of the function of the contemporary Historian. Mr. Wilmot filled in some of the background against which he wrote his book "The Struggle for Europe". He showed his audience that, though judgments on men and events must wait until time has removed all hint of bias and cooled all passions, yet the man on the spot, who has access to the documents and who is acquainted with all the protagonists has an essential part to play in directing the light of truth on contemporary events. It is to this zeal for truth and to this spirit of historical pioneering that we owe Mr. Wilmot's great book.

Mr. Wilmot spoke for well over an hour with scarcely a glance at his notes, and he held his audience from first to last. One felt at the time that this was an experience, and a man, quite out of the ordinary. Here was, in the best sense of the word, an intellectual who was also a man of action—journalist, explorer, historian, strategist and raconteur. It came thus as a special shock to those who had seen and listened to him to hear over the wireless in early January that Chester Wilmot had been killed in the Comet disaster. Men like him are not born often, and he will be sorely missed.

SYMPHONY CONCERT.

It is certain that Brahms' Second is one of the finest piano concerti ever written. Together with Dvorak's "New World" Symphony it formed the major part of a concert played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on October the 15th. Differing, as it does, from the classical concerto in having four movements, and a very short cadenza, it is written throughout in symphonic form. In this performance Gina Bachauer was the soloist. A brilliant executant, she fully captured the intense emotional beauty of the first movement. The second movement (a "Scherzo") finds a fire which is, perhaps, a little lacking in the first. The opening theme is gloriously poignant and here its handling was perfection. The slow third movement is ushered in by a quiet gently lilting melody. The whole motive is peace and restfulness, and the lyrical theme is in the Wordsworthian tradition of "emotion recollected in tranquillity". The "finale" combines the moods of all the preceding movements. It opens with the fire and colour of the second, brings in a new, rhapsodically romantic theme in a vein reminiscent of the first and third, and weaves its many themes into a complex harmonic fabric.

The Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has a new-found delicacy of touch and smoothness of execution, contrasting favourably with their earlier efforts. This is due both to their conductor, Rudolf Schwarz, and to the present security of their position: with their future assured better musicians have been engaged, and, since they have less work to do than formerly, they have a more thorough preparation of the works which they perform.

The programme opened with Benjamin's "Overture to an Italian Comedy". The sub-title "Perdona se ti inganno" (Sorry you've been troubled) indicates the light and delicately amusing mood of the piece. The brass at times, was just a little overpowering, but this did not spoil the pleasant inconsequentiality of the subject, and made a pronounced contrast with the ethereality of the rest.

The overture was followed by Vaughan Williams' well known "Fantasia on Greensleeves," providing a graceful interlude between it and the more solid matter of Brahms' piano concerto which followed.

The interval was succeeded by a performance of Dvorak's Fifth Symphony, "From the New World," which is probably the most popular of all his nine symphonies. (Here one must mention that the programme notes, for which this orchestra is justly celebrated, were somewhat inaccurate.) Although the brass was rather ragged and lacking in precision, this was a vigorous and effective performance of a work which cannot be said to achieve much brilliance. (Indeed, the last movement is widely held to be the weakest in all Dvorak's symphonies.)

The first movement rapidly brought out the faults in the brass, but these were redeemed as the theme opened. The famous "Swing low, sweet chariot" melody of the second movement, (bearing little resemblance to the negro spiritual of that name) was, annoyingly, taken a trifle too fast by the cor anglais, but on the whole this passage showed far better finish and quality, and there was more colour and richness than had hitherto been noted. After a rather ragged "scherzo" (the cor anglais still too fast) the finale opened with a full-blooded statement of the first theme on the brass, followed by the strings in a mighty rush. In this movement one regained the magic which had thus far been lacking.

Although the B. S. O. have not yet achieved the final polish distinguishing a great orchestra (such as the Hallé) from a very good one, they are capable of much that is in the top flight of orchestral music, and this concert provided, at the least, a worthy evening's entertainment, and on the journey home left some of the audience in the dream one does not wish to lose.

J. R. G.

“HENRY V.”

“It is hoped that the play will be presented in an original and entertaining light, as a hotch-potch of minor incident and major rhetoric.” Such was the sentiment behind the production of “Henry V”, which a part of Forms IV, V and VI saw at The Opera House, Cheltenham, on October the 5th.

This is a difficult play to produce, fluctuating in emotional content, as it does, from the astral heights of the opening chorus, to the bathetic depths of the Bardolph-Pistol-Nym scenes. It continually apologises for its very existence, and masochistically revels in its limitations.

The Elizabethan Theatre Company took as the incentive for their production the passages from the Prologue “Into a thousand parts divide one man”, and particularly “Suppose”

Thus we had a small company of seventeen actors, in a play with over twenty major parts and more than that number of minor ones. Tony Robertson playing the chorus, in particular intrigued us; besides this already important character, he took the parts of the Bishop of Ely, Nym, Captain Gower, York and Burgundy—in many cases necessitating a rapid change of voice, attitude and costume (with the help of stage hands in semi-Elizabethan attire) on the stage. On the first occurrence, the transformation from a young and enthusiastic Chorus to an aged, bent and rather peevish Bishop, took the audience by surprise; however, as with many other parts of the play, the actors soon had the onlookers falling in with their mood.

The plot of the play itself needs no recapitulation. In so far as it exists it has already been made famous in film and radio productions. The play is, in the truest sense, impressionist. There is only a very simple story upon which a succession of moods is built up: dramatic, humourous, war-like, stately and farcical.

Upon this production it is possible to spend a great deal of time. Straight away, one may say that as entertainment it was good second class. As a semi-serious treatment of an historical theme that some of the audience may have expected, it was not a success—but that was not its intention. Even so, one might accuse the producer of disobeying Shakespeare’s own injunction to the players: “Let those that play your clowns speak no more than is set down for them: for there be of them that will themselves laugh, to set on some quantity of barren spectators to laugh too; though in the meantime, some necessary question of the play be to be considered.” Again and again, owing to the overacting of the humour scenes, a large part of the atmosphere, and

speech, of the following serious scene was lost. For instance, the “quasi” duel scene between Nym and Pistol was so over-played that one could hear none of the Council scene following, until the trumpets drowned the laughter with the entrance of the King.

As to the trumpets themselves, it is necessary one fears to pass over them with a sigh, and a regretted memory of the orchestra in the screen production.

J. R. G.

RUGGER REPORT, 1953.

Our second season of Rugby Football lived up to the promising beginning of last year. By the end of the term a very capable and by now much more experienced XV was able to beat Kingham Hill, who provided the strongest opposition we have so far met. We are very grateful to Mr. Bird and Mr. Hayward who with untiring energy coached and refereed throughout the season.

The forwards who started as a collection of individuals and paid the penalty in at least three of the matches became transformed into a team working together. We had some difficulty in finding a good arrangement of the four obvious candidates for the three-quarter positions; although all four showed much individual ability, their passing and handling, except in the case of D. A. Godfrey, were bad, and too often a breakaway by one of them was spoiled when it came to the giving and taking of the important pass.

We started the season with two halves who had not previously played in the positions. Thomason, the scrum-half, started with little else but a long pass and a sound defence. By the end of the term, with increasing skill and confidence, he developed into a most useful player; his pass was now accurate as well as long, his breaks from the scrum adequately diverted attention from the fly-half, and his positioning in defence saved many an awkward situation. If next year he can speed up his service from the scrum and can improve his kicking he will reduce the burden of his fly-half considerably. J. M. Harrison, the fly-half and captain, improved with every match. At first he was still considerably worried by his new position, but by the end of the season his break-through and diagonal kicking were causing opposing defences a great deal of trouble. His kicking in defence was long

and sure and, particularly in the Cheltenham match, was of great value. As a captain, his handling of the side improved with experience, and his tactics in the last match were undoubtedly the deciding factor in a hard-fought game in which a policy of attack was insisted on, and well directed.

At full-back three people were tried and eventually M. V. Harley proved the most reliable. Although his kicking was short, it was usually accurate, and his tackling could not be faulted. G. H. Richards is a powerful runner, somewhat lacking in speed and skill but not in determination. On the other wing D. A. Godfrey was elusive and intelligent in anticipation but lacked the necessary speed to be fully effective. His passing was extremely good and if he can acquire more speed by next year he will become a useful centre. T. Gay, after one match as a wing was moved into the centre in order that his speed might provide some of the thrust which we needed, but this did not prove the success it might have been owing to his weak passing and handling. His defence was excellent and his crash-tackling of his opposite number had much to do with the fact that no three-quarter scored a try against us. R. N. Horne, the other centre, was always quick to see an opening; but his effectiveness in attack was lessened by faulty giving and taking of passes. He too was a strong tackler.

Of the forwards, B. Glastonbury, the hooker, ably demonstrated by his marauding activities in the loose that he was not just a specialist in hooking. After the first match, P. B. Marwood was moved up from the second to the front row, where he proved a most useful scrummager and a hard-working forward with a useful turn of speed. M. D. Richards, the other prop forward, improved throughout the season and was always one of the first on to the ball. T. D. A. Semple made every use of his weight; he got through an enormous amount of work, and on the occasions when he got the ball into his hands and ran, he was extremely difficult to stop. J. M. Astill worked very hard and his anticipation was a great asset. D. G. Vaisey led the scrum from number 8; both in attack and defence he managed to be in the right place and on several occasions turned defence into attack by leading a rush. R. A. Powell and R. J. Lawson were the break-away forwards. Although they were very quick on to the opposing halves and gave them little scope, it is worth mentioning that neither of them was ever given off-side. Furthermore they were essentially attacking players and were always ready to carry on any attack. P. S. Rose, who played in four of the five matches in three different positions, was an extremely useful utility player.

Those members of the first game who were not members of the first XV, but who always played extremely hard and with the greatest keenness, made possible a much stronger first game than last year. M. J. Edwards, M. G. Cooper, G. E. Page and A. G. B. Wallace all played in one match.

Second game also showed much improvement and by the end of the term the standard of play was most encouraging. Those who should make their mark in first game next season include T. W. Rowley, H. A. Gough, J. R. Ellis, B. R. Paish and R. D. White.

Our first match was against Dean Close Colts, and it ended in a draw. Although our backs were superior to their opposite numbers, the forwards were outplayed in the loose. Tries were scored by P. B. Marwood and G. H. Richards. The next match against Cheltenham College 3rd XV saw a reorganised pack do very much better against heavier opposition. Lack of experience cost us one try when a defender made a wrong decision on his own line. The Cheltenham outsiders were on the whole faster and gave our defence plenty to do. After about a month of hard games a team that was now beginning to combine well had little difficulty in beating Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XV. Tries were scored by R. A. Powell, after a good run by D. A. Godfrey, and G. H. Richards, who ran round a somewhat dispirited defence. D. G. Vaisey converted both these tries and kicked two penalty goals.

The next week Sir Thomas Rich's were able to strengthen their side and this produced a much closer match. It cannot be said that we played well except in the last quarter of an hour when it was only some resolute defence by the opposing full-back which kept us out. Eventually C. H. Thomason broke away from a scrum and scored a good try.

The best match of the season was that against Kingham Hill which, after a dour struggle, we just won. For the first time the forwards worked really well together as a pack, and had it not been for too many dropped passes among the backs we should have scored more tries; too often the break-through was made and wasted. At the end it was only a very well organised but tired defence which kept our opponents out. The only try was scored by G. H. Richards after a good run down the wing.

RESULTS.

1st XV v. Dean Close Colts. Away. Drawn 6—6 (two tries each).

1st XV v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV. Away. Lost 0—6 (two tries).

1st XV v. Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XV. Home. Won 16—0 (2 goals and 2 penalty goals).

1st XV v. Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XV. Away. Lost 3—6. (1 try —2 tries).

1st XV v. Kingham Hill. Away. Won 3—0 (1 try).

JUNIOR SOCCER.

Christmas Term, 1953.

The results of the Junior Soccer Matches were disappointing. Too many goals were scored against our team, chiefly on account of poor marking by our defence. Towards the end of the season, however, tackling improved considerably and we had a promising line of half-backs in R. Bolton-King, R. D. Comley and P. C. R. Burns, until Comley sustained an injury. Earlier in the season he had been playing good energetic football in the key position of centre-forward. The forwards played well together, a good partnership developing between P. Mew (captain) in the centre, A. T. Brooks at left-inside and R. F. Stebbing on the left wing. The full-backs tended to be rather slow, but I. A. N. Campbell partly made up for this by the efficient way in which he was able to take the ball through all opposition.

RESULTS.

Sat. Oct. 24. v. King's School, Gloucester. Lost 4—0. Away.

Sat. Nov. 14. v. Ullenwood School. Lost 3—2. Home.

Sat. Nov. 28. v. Ullenwood School. Drew 3—3. Away.

Thu. Dec. 3. v. Cirencester Secondary Modern. Lost 11—2. Home.

Sat. Dec. 5. v. King's School, Gloucester. Cancelled.