

# **RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE**

**Vol. 9 No. 4**

**July, 1950**

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Reset in Times Roman typeface

THIS NUMBER OF THE MAGAZINE IS DEDICATED TO  
H. U. MOLINEAUX  
10th Oct., 1895—5th May, 1950.

"The only art that matters is the art of living." How often have I heard him say it in reply to some aesthetic or academic opinion I had expressed? It was not that he would belittle my point of view—for he was tolerance itself—but he was one of those whose aim was the desire and pursuit of the whole, and he could dispense with what to him were irrelevancies.

He held to his creed with a singular steadfastness. It was, indeed, the foil to his own quite Franciscan humility. The most unambitious of men, yet he was consumed with a desire for perfection. He found it partly in his craftsmanship—and he would far rather have been called a craftsman than an artist. We knew how meticulous that craftsmanship was—a sensitive portrait sketch in oils—a stage set for his marionette theatre, or some minuscule 'property' for the same, designed with all the skill and devotion "of a cunning workman in Pekin."

He found it too in his personal relationships. He could be at once intimate and reticent. I knew him well for many years, yet I am amazed to find how little I know of his family background. He never wore his heart on his sleeve. He never obtruded himself. Before the war, one remembered his Cotswold cottage at Chedworth, and his wife who had a delicate pre-Raphaelite air about her. She indeed mirror'd part of his fastidiousness. And she brought out a whimsical side of his nature—the Peter Pan, who in a really deep sense, never grew old. Though of course he **did** grow up. He had seen and experienced more of life, and of its dark places than he ever evinced. (The least military of persons, there was, however, something of the old soldier about him to the last.) It is sad to think that but for the legacy of a wound in the 1914-1918 war he might be with us still.

Such reflections, however, would be little to his taste. A lover of life, his zest for living showed itself in the quiet and busy happiness that filled his days. He had found his vocation at Rendcomb, and his mission was probably quite as much to the staff as to the boys. I have never met a more sensible natural philosopher. No one was ever less likely to be deceived by mere appearances or the fashionable labels of the hour. No one had a more salutary or even more impish sense of humour. It was the salt to his wisdom.

He did not suffer fools readily, though it sounds presumptuous for me to say it. And he had built up round himself a number of simple but incredibly impenetrable defences safeguarding a privacy that was one of the outward and visible signs of an inward integration. That is what makes it—in a sense—difficult to write about him, for he would not wish to have much written about him especially by a friend so deeply in his debt as I am. He was always one of those more ready to give than to receive.

R. N. D. W.

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Vol. 9. No. 4.

JULY, 1950

## SCHOOL NOTES. Spring Term, 1950.

Term began on Tuesday, January 17th, and ended on Wednesday, March 29th.

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The Lodges Races were held on Monday and Tuesday, March 6th and 7th.

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The Old Boys' Hockey match was played on Saturday, March 25th.

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The following plays were produced during the term: "Thread o' Scarlet" by J. J. Bell, "A Boy Comes Home" by A. A. Milne, "The Man Born to be Hanged" by Richard Hughes, "The Poacher" by J. O. Francis, and the puppet play "The Invisible Duke" by F. Sladen-Smith.

\* \* \* \*

Two students from St. Paul's Training College, Cheltenham, taught in the College for three weeks during the term.

\* \* \* \*

We congratulate G. J. Chagrin on winning an Open Scholarship in English at University College, Exeter, and R. J. Kendal on winning an Open Scholarship in History and English at Bristol University.

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In recent consultation with the Headmaster, the Governors felt that a more suitable title for this periodical would be the "Rendcomb College Chronicle," and as such it will be known hereafter.

\* \* \* \*

We are most grateful to Mrs. S. M. Astill for the gift of a piano. It will be of the greatest help to have another instrument for practice purposes.

We acknowledge with many thanks the gift of a quantity of technical magazines from Mr. C. S. Harris, of G. B. I. Ltd., Cirencester, and for a further supply which he has generously offered us in the future, as they are cleared out of the firm's files.

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We are most grateful to E. R. S. Gillham for the gift of two excellent metal javelins.

\* \* \* \*

Further decorations were carried out in the halls during the Easter holidays and the ground floor and first floor are now resplendent in cream paint. In some ways it was sad to see the last of the Victorian "marble halls," some of the inaccessible paint-work (and possibly the pillars) probably dating from the turn of the century or even earlier. But there is not the least doubt that the new decoration is in better keeping with the times, is a far better colour to live with and gives markedly more light, particularly between the Library and Music room.

\* \* \* \*

During the holiday Peter Ryman, Peter Cockell and Peter Harris were responsible for distempering the north and east walls of the Gymnasium. Mr. Telling and the outdoor Staff cleaned down first and were followed by P. R., P. C., and P. H., with a sprayer and brushes. We are grateful to them for giving up the bulk of a holiday week, and to Mr. Ryman who lent the sprayer and provided transport for it and the gang every day.

## COLLEGE OFFICERS.

### Summer Term, 1950.

**Senior Prefect**—R. J. Kendal.

**Duty Group Leaders**—R. J. Kendal, C. J. Brisley, R. K. G. Bick.

**Other Prefects**—E. Davis, P. D. Quick, L. V. Crawford.

**Work Man**—P. H. S. Harris.

**Music Warden**—P. D. Quick.

**Librarians**—R. J. Kendal, P. D. Quick, P. W. Dutton, D. C. de Peyer.

**Senior Music Librarian**—K. A. Statham.

**Choir Librarians**—J. B. O'Brien, J. R. Ellis.

**Manual Foremen**—B. Plenderleith, R. Gready, A. J. Paish, J. R. Smith, P. de Iongh.

**Picture Man**—M. J. Miles.

**Stagemen**—P. J. Ryman, P. G. Cockell, B. Plenderleith, C. D. Whittle, A. J. Paish, R. M. Sumsion.

**Deck Chairs**—D. G. Vaisey.

**Lamp Men**—D. E. Barbour, P. J. Cresswell.

**Henmen**—R. K. G. Bick, H. J. G. Hayter, J. R. Smith, D. E. Barbour, P. J. Cresswell, R. W. Muchamore.

**P. W. Man (General Meeting Election)**—P. J. Ryman.

## **MEETING OFFICERS.**

### **Summer Term, 1950.**

**Chairman**—R. J. Kendal.

**Secretary**—M. Boase.

**Cricket Captain**—J. Gilchrist.

**Games Committee**—C. J. Brisley, E. Davis.

**Field Secretary**—M. W. Brain.

**Games Committee Treasurer**—P. W. Dutton.

**House Committee Treasurer**—P. M. Gerrard.

**Banker**—P. L. Waite.

**Finance Committee Treasurer**—R. M. Sumsion.

**Finance Committee**—M. R. Hancock, M. D. Richards.

**Auditors**—R. K. G. Bick, M. D. Rayner.

**Senior Shopman**—P. D. Quick.

**Shopmen**—D. G. Vaisey, H. J. G. Hayter.

**Almoner**—J. W. J. Reed.

**Entertainments Committee**—F. R. Herrmann, P. L. Waite, D. E. Barbour, R. M. Sumsion, M. V. Harley.

**Record Committee**—G. J. Chagrin, P. H. S. Harris, J. W. J. Reed, M. W. Brain, K. A. Statham.  
**Cycle Committee**)—J. Kitto, P. L. Waite, P. J. Cresswell.  
**Amplifier Technicians**—P. G. Cockell, P. J. Ryman.  
**Drying Room Committee**—M. D. Rayner, P. Rose, N. H. Walter.  
**Magazine Committee**—P. W. Dutton, F. R. Herrmann, P. L. Waite.  
**Furniture Committee**—J. H. Shield, J. Kitto, J. M. Harrison.  
**Paper Man**—R. M. Sumsion.  
**Breakages Man**—H. J. G. Hay ter.  
**Pound Man**—R. J. Bird.  
**Inspectors of Nuisances**—M. G. Richards, T. Gay.  
**Indoor Games Warden**—P. G. Auden.  
**Hockey Games Warden**—F. R. Herrmann.  
**Cricket Secretary**—K. A. Statham.  
**Football Secretary**—A. J. Paish.  
**Cricket Groundsman**—M. E. Knight.  
**Selection Committee**—E. Davis, P. G. Cockell, P. D. Quick, C. J. Brisley, R. J. Kendal.  
**Council**—R. J. Kendal, C. J. Brisley, L. V. Crawford, P. D. Quick, P. H. S. Harris, J. H. Shield, E. Davis.  
**Tennis Groundsman**—C. D. Whittle.  
**Public Workman;** —P. J. Ryman.  
**Tennis. Captain**—L. V. Crawford.  
**Tennis Games Wardens**—R. M. Sumsion, M. D. Rayner.  
**Cricket Games Wardens**—J. M. Harrison, D. G. Vaisey.  
**Junior Cricket Groundsman**—R. W. Alder.

### OLD BOYS NOTES.

We congratulate Peter L. Field on having a painting accepted for this year's Royal Academy Exhibition.

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P. H. Tuft has been appointed to a lectureship in Experimental Zoology at Edinburgh University.

\* \* \* \*

R. J. Powell is a pupil with J. Sainsbury & Co. Ltd. At the December examinations of the L. C. C. College for the Distributive Trades he was first of the Sainsbury pupils, and second in the whole group.

\* \* \* \*

John M. Murry has been playing hockey for the Oxford Occasional.

\* \* \* \*

D. D. Christie is a master at a preparatory school in Bournemouth. His address is 65, Surrey Road, Bournemouth.

\* \* \* \*

On Monday, March 13th, the Cambridge O. R. s held a dinner at 7p.m. at the Arts Theatre Restaurant. As last year, the occasion was both informal and a happy one. The following were present: J. F. Alder, M. R. F. Butlin, J. E. Carus-Wilson, S. J. Curry, J. M. Faulks, S. H. Groves, M. C. Harries, D. W. Lee Browne, J. M. Sime, J. W. Sumsion, M. McGregor Wood.

\* \* \* \*

We recently met Trevor Evans and learnt that during the war he was a Squadron-Leader in the R. A. F., flying medium bombers. He was ill for a long time after he left the Service, but has now recovered and is employed with a firm of radio engineers in Cirencester.

\* \* \* \*

W. P. Thomas, whose professional name is Powys Thomas, is a member of the Young Vic Company of actors, with whom he is doing well. While at Rendcomb he was known as Willie Thomas. His father's Christian name is Bryn. Misconstruing these facts, a number of people connected with the College have concluded that Powys has been taking part in a certain B.B.C. Welsh variety programme. This is not the case, and up to date Powys Thomas has done no broadcasting of any kind. It seems likely that the mistake has arisen only in the minds of people who knew him at school and we therefore insert this notice so that they may be clear on the matter and will not spread the confusion further afield.

The following O. R. s were present at the hockey match on Saturday, March 25th, 1950: J. E. Allen, P. Binks, R. Brain, J. R. Davies, G. S. Davis, P. J. Dodwell, P. J. Dyke, J. Eyles, D. M. Grant, D. H. Hill, N. P. Morris, T. R. Morris, J. H. Muirhead, J. J. North, B. W. Plenderleith, R. A. T. J. Skelton, J. W. Sumsion, P. W. Sumsion.

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The following also visited the College during the Easter Term: G. H. Bye, R. J. Powell, T. T. Walters, G. H. W. Bodman, M. A. Bullen, P. W. Sumsion, K. Shephard, E. A. Jones, R. Margetts, R. W. Smith, D. Henshaw, M. J. Morgan, D. J. Payne, C. Carus-Wilson, W. P. Thomas.

### ACTING.

It is interesting to look back through the College Magazines to see how acting, like many other school activities, has gone through phases of popularity and decline. On the whole it seems to be fairly vigorous just now, though for some time we have not had any large scale productions. During the spring term four one-act plays were done, which catered for a variety of tastes. The choice of short plays is becoming an increasingly difficult one if repetitions are to be avoided, and one always feels that it is preferable to put on something which has not been done before. Producers have to consult the often conflicting interests of actors and audience, striving to provide not merely entertainment but also varied acting experience for their casts.

There is always the demand for the thriller and "Thread o' Scarlet" was a popular choice. But most people would agree that "The Boy Comes Home" and "The Poacher" produced better acting and were enjoyed more. "The Man Born to be Hanged" made the greatest demands on the actors, since there was less action and the dialogue alone had to carry the play through; but it was an unsuitable play for school performance, not so much because of the sordidness of the plot, or the difficulties of the Irish brogue, but because as a play it is unconvincing. As far as short plays are concerned, the one-act farce or light comedy is clearly the best suited to school productions, but one can have too many of them and something different is always welcome, even if it is not a complete success.

It was noticeable that this term, there were not many newcomers to the stage, and that nearly all the actors were seniors. It is some time since we had a play done by juniors.



**“Thread o’ Scarlet,” by J. J. Bell.**

The production suffered a good deal from being too slow and the tension which should have increased through the play until the final climax was often lost. Nevertheless the right atmosphere was achieved and the parts were played with some feeling. We could have done with a little more uniformity in the matter of accents.

CAST:

Migsworth...	...	P. D. Quick
Smith	... ..	M. J. Miles
Butters .....		R. K. G. Bick
Landlord...	...	C. D. Whittle
Breen	... ..	J. Gilchrist
A Traveller...	...	M. G. Petter

**“A Boy Comes Home,” by A. A. Milne.**

Here was a light-hearted contrast to the preceding play. Philip has just returned from the war. Since he has been away he has grown up, a fact which has been overlooked by Uncle James. The latter, however, is warned by a dream of the dire consequences which might result if he attempted to treat his nephew still as a boy; he awakens, dreading the appointed interview, only to find Philip more amenable than he had feared.

We had a delightful piece of acting by Brisley as Uncle James, de Iongh played the part of Philip with suitable nonchalance, and F. S. G. Richards as Mrs. Higgins made his brief appearance felt in no uncertain terms.

CAST:

Philip...	...	P. D. de Iongh
Uncle James...	...	C. J. Brisley
Aunt Emily...		M. R. Hancock
Mary...	...	D. G. Vaisey
Mrs. Higgins...		F. S. G. Richards

**“The Man Born to be Hanged,” by Richard Hughes.**

The scene is a ruined cottage on a November night. The play opens in complete darkness. The characters appear, all of them tramps. There is story-telling in the true Irish manner; more arrivals; a quarrel; a shot is fired. It looks like murder. The murderer tries to win the dead man’s wife. She goes off and knifes herself. Meanwhile the dead man revives, etc.

Here is human nature in the raw. Chagrin brought off the chief part successfully and Painter was good as the girl.

CAST:

Mr. Lenora...		P. H. S. Harris
Davey	...	J. W. J. Reed
Bill...	...	G. J. Chagrin
Mr. Spencer...		D. C. de Peyer
Nell	...	J. D. Painter

### **“The Poacher,” by J. O. Francis.**

Here the actors were on more familiar ground. The scene is a Welsh one. Twmas Shon has “Turned respectable,” joined the Chapel and given up poaching. His wife, who has to provide the meals, thinks he is overdoing it. We see the conflict in his mind when his old friend, Dicky Bach Dwl, comes to call for him. It is only when the dreaded Dafydd Hughes, the paragon of respectability, is shown to be an imposter, that Twmas is able to make up his mind.

The acting was good throughout and the actors clearly enjoyed their parts. We must add that there were some very realistic dog noises off-stage.

CAST:

Twmas Shön...	P. H. S. Harris
Marged Shön...	J. D. Painter
Dicky Bach Dwl...	E. Davis
Dafydd Hughes...	K. A. Statham

### **PUPPET SHOW.**

The play chosen was F. Sladen-Smith’s “The Invisible Duke” which lends itself admirably to puppet performance. The scene is set in an astrologer’s study, and when the curtain rises we see the astrologer at work with his two assistants, Nekko and Dekko. Soon he receives a visit from the Duke, who has reason to doubt the lady Amelia’s constancy to him and wishes to be made invisible in order to spy upon her and his supposed rival. A “trifling demonstration” of his skill in magic convinces the Duke that the astrologer will be able to comply with his request, but the astrologer himself is not so confident, and Nekko and Dekko are quite sceptical about his powers. However, the charm is mixed and the conditions under which it will work are explained

to the Duke, who is given to understand that if, after taking it, he neither sees nor hears anything, he will know that his suspicions are groundless. Lady Amelia and Count Francesco arrive and the Duke “withdraws to an adjacent apartment.” Some exciting moments follow when the lovers believe that the Duke is actually in the room invisible. They are terrified, and when the Duke finally reappears, having seen and heard nothing, he and the Lady Amelia are quite charming to each other and all ends happily.

This was a most successful production and it was good to have Mr. Molineaux back again and taking the chief part. Speakers and actors both played their parts well and the setting was excellent.

A variety show followed. We saw “Keyte” having trouble with his car, and Buster the disintegrating doll; then “Bimbo” gave a most popular rendering of the “Harry Lime” theme which had to be encored; and “Juggling Jerry” ended the show.

CAST:

**“The Invisible Duke.”**

Astrologer—Actor, R. A. Powell; Speaker, Mr. Molineaux.

Nekko—Actor, M. Harley; Speaker, M. Harley.

Dekko—Actor, M. Harley; Speaker, J. Bolton-King.

Duke—Actor and Speaker, J. R. Smith.

Lady Amelia—Actor, R. J. Bird; Speaker, D. J. Forster.

Count Francesco—

Actor, W. J. Prime; Speaker, R. O. G. Hayter.

Scullion—Actor, R. W. Alder.

**Variety.**

Keyte and The Car—J. R. Smith, M. Harley, R. A. Powell.

Buster—R. J. Bird, R. O. G. Hayter.

Bimbo—Mr. Molineaux, M. Harley.

Juggling Jerry—J. R. Smith.

## THE SEVERN WILDFOWL TRUST.

On Friday, 24th March, the Headmaster kindly took a small party of biologists to visit the site of the Severn Wildfowl Trust at New Grounds, Slimbridge. The weather was pleasant, and the journey was uneventful except for a certain amount of discomfort.

The Trust property was first seen as the car crossed the hump bridge over the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal. When we arrived a few cars were standing in the car park but there was a distinct absence of people, either visitors or staff. It was soon evident that we were expected to take ourselves around, and so, armed with copies of a "Key to the Wildfowl of the World," we set out to explore for ourselves.

We first visited an ex-army pill-box, erected on the sea-wall, that is now used as a hide. The privilege of using this hide is extended only to members of the Trust—the College is a corporate member—and their guests. From the hide we viewed, through a very fine binocular telescope, a mile or so of rough and marshy ground leading down to the Severn. On this stretch of marsh geese have gathered for the winter from time immemorial. Of the two thousand geese which had congregated here at the peak of the season, we saw only two ducks and one other bird!

After our disappointment that the geese had all migrated, we returned to the paddocks near the entrance, and spent an hour identifying some of the numerous wildfowl collected from all corners of the globe. Some of us ascended the Gazebo, a hide on stilts constructed of wood and sacking, from which it is possible to look down on the famous duck decoy round which the Trust has been built up. The decoy consists of a pond with "pipes" leading out from the four corners. These "pipes" are constructed of wire netting on a rigid framework and gradually diminish in size until they lead into a trap. Wild ducks are decoyed up the pipes by tame ducks which have been trained to go up for food. The original purpose of the decoy was to provide the owner with duck for his Sunday dinner, but now, after ringing, the birds are released. In the gazebo talking in a voice louder than a whisper is discouraged since it disturbs the ducks on decoy.

The visit provided an enjoyable break from normal school activities but, owing to the fact that there was no means of obtaining any information about the set-up and working of the station, it was scarcely to be regarded as a serious scientific expedition.

M. E. K.

### PIANO RECITAL.

We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Thackray again when she gave a recital on March 21st. Her programme included the B flat Partita by Bach, Beethoven's Sonata in D Op. 10, No. 3, and two Spanish pieces, "The Lover and the Nightingale" by Granados and "Seguidillas" by Albeniz.

Of these three groups consisting, as they do, of two examples of the classical school and one of the romantic (on which Beethoven himself was to set the seal of approval) perhaps the most pleasing was the Spanish—though it was difficult to pick out any particular item for giving special pleasure.

The playing of Bach—how and how not to—is a subject the best of friends can disagree over, but Mrs. Thackray steered a happy middle course which could offend no one with strong views in that she did not try to reproduce the brilliance of a harpsichord but treated the music pianistically, an interpretation which occasionally allowed flexibility of structure. This flexibility was quite proper in the last movement of the sonata, however, where the humour and spirit of the music was just right, and delightfully played.

Our appreciation was expressed after the concert by P. D. Quick and, too, by the warm reception given by the audience.

J. T.

### ENTERTAINMENTS, EASTER TERM, 1950.

Once again it has been very difficult to devise original entertainments, and the term mostly consisted of the old favourites. The most popular "ents" was again dancing on Saturday evenings. On a few occasions the Music Room was decorated with coloured lampshades, streamers, candles, and flowers. Although the floor was often crowded, it was noticeable that few members of the lower forms danced; we hope in future they will join in more. The slow foxtrot is going through a bad patch at the moment: few couples attempted it, and two dancing practices were devoted to it alone. About a month from the end of term "Music, Music, Music," a quickstep, was played for the first time. It was so popular that it was played three times in the one evening. The last dance of term was on the day of the Old Boys' hockey match. There were four prize dances, and we must thank Miss Babington for providing some welcome refreshment. We are also grateful to the people who lent us private records for use in dancing.

Other entertainments with a large following were release, played with gusto every Monday evening, and a drawing game, usually held in the small classroom. Players are divided into two

teams, and a member of each, being told to draw a certain thing or subject by the M. C., draws it as well and as quickly as possible so that the rest of the team can recognise it. The first person to identify it correctly lets the M. C. know, and in turn draws an object, and so on, until one team has completed the list of objects, thus winning the game.

Fires in the Library were always popular for non-choir people on Friday evenings, and on one occasion stories were read by one of the "Ents Co." There were a couple of scavenger hunts, and games, musical and otherwise, were played two or three times. A whist drive was held on March 4th. Less popular were table-tennis, a game which goes through "crazes" at Rendcomb, but is at present under eclipse, and football in the gym. Some enthusiasts played this nearly every evening, and the fact that it sometimes constituted official "Ents" made little difference to the number of players.

During exams., a week of miserable weather, a more elaborate set of "Ents" was arranged. Mr. Graty kindly supervised "Pirates" in the gym, on Monday afternoon, and in the evening most of the school turned up for a sing-song in Saul's Hall, for which Mr. Tooze kindly played the piano. There was a billiards competition on Tuesday and a quiz the next night. This was divided into two sections; in the first, competitors had to guess certain classical and dance records and various domestic noises, and the second consisted of general knowledge questions. A paper airplane competition in the gym on Thursday afternoon was followed in the evening by "dumb crambo" in Saul's Hall. There were musical games the next night and bicycle games in the gym on Saturday evening. The gym was full of bikes and the scene was reminiscent of a speedway meeting.

### **HOCKEY, 1950.**

The situation regarding pitches was the same as last term, three being available. On most games days three games were played on Top, but an additional late game was arranged when possible.

Mr. Lee-Browne did most of the umpiring and coaching of the Seniors but spent several afternoons with the other games. We should like to thank him and also Mr. Thackray, Mr. Hull, Mr. Graty, Mr. Loveless and Mr. Austin for their help. Several senior boys also did some umpiring and our thanks are in addition due to them.

The weather during the term was mostly mild, there being only one cold spell. It was therefore disappointing that we should lose almost a month of hockey, including seven matches, near the beginning of term, due to alternate freezing and thawing followed by rain just when the pitches looked as if they would soon be playable. However, a very full fixture list still left us with eleven matches for the various XI.s.

The 1st XI did not lose a game during the season and drew only one.

The first match was with Dean Close School "A" XI and was won 3—1. This was an enjoyable occasion from every point of view and the team played well together. Harris at centre-half was outstanding.

The game with Cheltenham College was played during quarantine, so that the team travelled in games clothes and returned immediately after the match. This was the first time Rendcomb has won this fixture so that the absence of two of the Cheltenham halves was disappointing.

The match with the Grammar School at Lydney was most enjoyable in spite of a hot day and an unrolled ground with longer grass than there would have been but for the illness of their groundsman. This was the third game since the post-war revival of the fixture and their team was strong. The draw 2—2 was probably the best result in the circumstances. The shooting of our forwards was not up to their usual standard and several chances were missed. The Lydney goalkeeper was undoubtedly the outstanding player of a good side, saving many good shots and breaking up attacks.

The match with Bristol Grammar School was played at Bristol. A light rain just before the match increased the mud and slipperiness of a worn pitch. This and rather young opponents produced a game that was disappointing after such a long journey. Only a small proportion of the boys play hockey and a score of 5—0 in our favour was in the circumstances not out of the way.

The last 1st XI match of the season was with the Old Rendcombians. Much work by the groundsmen and others had made the pitch look very nice and play well. The match was like last year's, played in brilliant sunshine, with the lemons at half-time very welcome. The Old Rendcombians fielded a strong side and soon went into the lead with a goal due to a misunderstanding among the school defence. The O.R.'s held this lead until after half time when we equalised. But soon afterward D. Hill again put them in the lead with a beautiful goal. After that most of the play was in the Old Rendcombian's half, much of it in their circle, and we eventually equalised and went into the lead which we held to the end. This was in many ways the most enjoyable match of term.

The "A" XI match with R.A.C. 2nd XI, our first home fixture, was lost. The "A" XI allowed the older R. A. C. XI to unsettle them and to bustle their way through. Had the team retained its usual steadiness the score would have been closer.

Two 2nd XI matches were arranged at the last moment when other teams were going to Cheltenham College. Both of these were won versus Cheltenham College 3rd XI. We are grateful to Mr. Elliott for suggesting them.

The Under 16½ XI v. Cheltenham College resulted in our losing 4—6.

The Average 15 XI lost 0—2 to Lydney, but several of our players showed promise and both teams enjoyed the match.

The Under 15 XI lost 1—2 to Bristol Grammar School mainly because the forwards lacked finish and shooting power.

R. J. Kendal in goal had very little to do but saved some accurate shots especially at Cheltenham College and Lydney. He used his hands well and cleared safely and powerfully on occasion. His experience made him steadier than last year, but this was definitely not a goalkeeper's season!

J. H. Shield at right back was competent throughout the term with moments approaching brilliance in some games. His good eye, powerful clearance and steadiness were very valuable. Both he and J. Gilchrist at left back showed their experience by accurate positioning and good backing up. They contributed largely to Kendal's lack of activity. They tackled well but they should guard against too much "first-time" hitting when there is time to do otherwise.

R. Gready at left-half improved during the season but tended to be too slow when in possession of the ball although fast when running to intercept. When taking free hits he lost much of the advantage by failure to take the hit quickly and accurately. His defensive play was good, but he could have used his hands to more advantage and should pass more often to his own wing instead of to or across the centre.

P. H. S. Harris at centre-half played well throughout the season, but was at his best early on. His almost infallible stopping was due, in part, to the fact that he used his hands more than anyone else in the team. He has a powerful hit and a good flick that he used to great advantage. In some matches, especially the "A" XI v. R.A.C. 2nd XI, he should have passed more to the wings but in general his distribution of passes was well judged.



C. J. Brisley on the left wing was rather erratic at the beginning of term but developed later on. When on form he collects and controls the ball well, and has a good centre. He worked well with J. W. Reed at inside-left, and when shooting, although a little slow preparing, put in some hard accurate shots.

This was Reed's first season in the XI and early on he was rather erratic and inclined to hold the ball. But as he gained experience he became a valuable forward, using his speed, judgement, ball control and accurate shooting to good effect. The following up of the forwards was weak at one stage but later this was remedied and several goals were scored in this way.

E. Davis at centre-forward was disappointing at the beginning of the season. This was due to his failure to get the ball moving forward and to his passing as soon as he received the ball, instead of drawing a man first. He never really found last year's form until the O. R. match in which he played a fine game.

M. W. Brain at inside-right played competently from the start. He worked well with the other forwards and gave power to the line by forceful tackling, good following up and accurate shooting. He would have scored more goals if his flicks had been more accurate.

Both R. K. G. Bick and K. A. Statham played on the right wing. Statham played promisingly early on but the inaccuracy of his passes, lack of a good tackle and one-handed play more than off-set his speed and dribbling. Bick was speedy and collected the ball well although sometimes not starting quickly enough. To begin with he seemed to lack energy and did not tackle back enough but towards the end of term he improved greatly, becoming more forceful and centring well. He got few chances at goal but on these occasions he shot well and was unlucky not to score on several occasions.

L. V. Crawford made a good job of his captaincy on the field and was a tireless and excellent right-half. With an outstanding 'eye,' good ball control and a clean hit, he had the virtue of quickly getting back to his own place after helping his centre and the backs out of many a tight corner. He was one of the two or three best players in the strongest side the college has had in fifteen years.

The groundsmen, Driessche and Sumsion, deserve our gratitude for their work throughout the term, especially when rain washed out all of a day's work and they had the disheartening job of doing it again.

We congratulate the Secretary on his fine fixture list and the Field Secretary on the smoothness of the organisation throughout the term.

## RESULTS.

### 1st XI.

- Feb. 15. v. Dean Close "A" XI. Away. Won 3—1.  
Feb. 18. v. Cheltenham College. Away. Won 4—0.  
Mar. 15. v. Lydney Grammar School. Away. Drawn 2—2.  
Mar. 18. v. Bristol Grammar School. Away. Won 5—0.  
Mar. 25. v. Old Rendcombians. Home. Won 3—2.

### "A" XI.

- Mar. 11. v. Agricultural College 2nd XI. Home. Lost 1—3.

### 2nd XI.

- Feb. 18. v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI. Away. Won 2—1.  
Mar. 4. v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI. Away. Won 7—1.

### Under 16½ XI.

- Mar. 4. v. Cheltenham College. Away. Lost 6—4.

### Average 15 XI.

- Mar. 15. v. Lydney Grammar School. Away. Lost 2—0.

### Under 15 XI.

- Mar. 18. v. Bristol Grammar School. Away. Lost 2—1.

## RUNNING.

There was not so much serious training done for the Lodges Races this year owing largely to the weather, and the times recorded were rather below last year's. There were eight runners in each event and the weather on the days of the events was more suitable for cricket than for cross-country running.

In the senior race run on Tuesday, March 7th, de Peyer again won by 10 seconds. There were two exciting finishes in which Miles just beat Herrmann for second place, and Driessche beat Gilchrist by inches to finish fourth.

Result:

1. D. C. de Peyer—14 min. 7 secs.
2. M. J. Miles—14 min. 17 secs.
3. F. R. Herrmann—14 min. 17 1/5th secs.
4. R. J. van den Driessche—14 mins. 33 secs,

The result of the junior event was as follows: —

1. A. G. B. Wallace—15 min. 17. 5 secs.
2. R. N. Horne—15mm. 36 secs.
3. D. A. Godfrey—16 min. 12 secs.
4. H. A. Gough—16 min. 25 secs.

## **THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COLLEGE PLAYING FIELD.**

Every school has its Cinderella, and it is probably true to say that at Rendcomb our Cinderella for many years has been the playing field. When therefore the news became known that Mr. David Wills was going to extend and improve the field, our gratitude to him for his generosity was mingled with a very pleasurable sense of excitement and curiosity. The first problem was to fell the trees in the new area, and this was done in the late summer of 1948. The work on the stumps was so badly handled at the time of the felling that at one time it was feared that the expense of getting them out might jeopardise the whole scheme. In the Spring of 1949 however, work was begun on the area by Messrs. Bomford Brothers, of Pitchill, near Evesham. They tackled the stumps with great vigour and for days on end the surrounding country echoed with explosions and pieces of debris were blown a considerable distance. By the time the term started in May all stumps and roots had been removed, making a pile that one observer stated would be big enough "to fill the Village Hut" The pile was in fact, a good deal bigger than the Village Hut.

The next stage was the arrival of an enormous gyro-tiller which ploughed the ground to a depth of 2ft. without altering the position of the soil layers. When this machine departed pulling two great trailers behind it, it skidded, on the village hill and the road was blocked for some hours. Later on came an even vaster instrument requiring over 30 yards in which to turn. This was the grader and its work was to level the top soil. At this stage gangs of boys came in as stone pickers and scores of tons of stones were picked into buckets and carried off by lorries. While this was going on the row of trees along the wall was being lopped of overhanging branches which might prevent the growth of grass seed or interfere with play on the touch lines. This work was done by the Rendcomb Estate staff under the direction of Mr. Holmes. As it was now mid-May it was decided not to sow the grass seed, a decision which in view of the subsequent dry summer, proved

very fortunate indeed. Grading therefore stopped and the field lay fallow for nearly a year. In April, 1950, work was restarted and the greatest cavalcade of all arrived in Rendcomb! This time the graders were accompanied by bulldozers in order to dig out certain areas where the rock was lying too near the surface. The bad areas were dug out by the bulldozer and then filled with top soil by the grader. The whole area was then regraded, and over 10 cwt. of seed was sown on the six acres that had been prepared. The area intended for a cricket square received a heavy dressing of the famous Sutton's "County Wicket" grass seed mixture. When term began there was more stone picking, everyone equipped with gym shoes, treading gently on the grass, now  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. —1in. high. Meanwhile a fine new fence was being erected round the new area by Mr. Holmes and the Estate Staff. On the whole the grass has grown fairly well, though there are some thin places which may require a little patching work with further seed.

It may be of interest to those unable to visit the school, to describe the lay-out of the area that has been sown. The reader may imagine himself standing on the old cricket square with his back to the pavilion and the wall that lines the Shawswell Road on his right. Before him will stretch for 300 yards the new area—the old 3rd game pitch has been ploughed and sown, and the first hockey or football pitch will run crosswise with one goal by the wall and the other placed just before the land begins to fall towards the valley. This will be roughly on the site of the old 3rd game pitch. Then follows a large cricket square. Next comes another hockey or football field running crosswise as the previous one did. Lastly comes a large size football pitch running in the opposite direction, i.e. parallel with the wall. At this point the field narrows somewhat. This change of direction was rendered necessary by the fact that the level area of land from the wall to the valley is much narrower here and is sufficient for the width but not for the length of the football field.

It is hoped that it will be possible to use the new area for play (though of necessity in a very careful way) by Christmas time, though of course any such estimate must depend on the progress of the turf. When the new area can be fully used it is hoped that the old area stretching back to the pavilion will be renovated and partly levelled, the big dip from the cricket square to the valley being partly filled and the bottom fence brought in about 20 yards. If this can be done the school will at last have a playing field worthy of its teams and one on which good visiting teams can be invited to play. Only those who have known the difficulties and frustration attaching to the school games on the old field will realise to the full what this will mean to the place.

Naturally the feeling uppermost in the minds of those who see these changes going on, is one of gratitude to Mr. David Wills, without whose generosity and interest the work could never have been undertaken. Mention must be made however of others who have given much of their thought and time to the task. We have had the advice and assistance throughout of Mr. G. E. Arthurs, a member of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Committee, and Mr. Telling has been unceasing in his efforts and has given most freely of his own time and has frequently been assisted by others of the college outside staff. As the reader will have gathered, Mr. Holmes and the Rendcomb Estate staff have co-operated throughout. Nor must we forget the boys (often led by Mr. Fell), who performed the monotonous and seemingly never ending task of picking the millions of stones that kept appearing as if by magic after every shower of rain.

This has been a fine piece of co-operation. To Mr. James, the mainspring of the movement, both present and future generations will owe much. He has been tireless. The broad conception of the lay-out is his, he has been in on every detail of the development and at each stage of the work his keen enthusiasm and expert knowledge have been decisive factors in the success of the scheme. No-one but he can know exactly how much time he has managed to find for this job, both in term and during the holidays, but it must be a prodigious amount and we are all grateful to him.