

Rendcomb College Chronicle



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Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 13 No. 4

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COLLEGE OFFICERS
Spring Term, 1964

Senior Prefect—M. F. Ashe-Jones
Prefects and Group Leaders—S. Greenlaw, D. A. N. Hogarth,
C. B. Stillwell, D. J. Tovey.
Prefects—D. G. Griffiths, R. S. Lowe, R. B. Denny.
College Workman—R. B. Denny.
Public Workman—P. N. W. Osborne: *Assistant*—P. A. Trier.
Senior Music Librarian—D. G. Griffiths.
Choir Librarian—H. Greenlaw.
Picture Man—J. A. Dow.
Lamp Men—C. G. Jefferies, D. Little.
Church Ushers—C. B. Stillwell, D. Little.
Stage Men—D. G. Griffiths, S. H. Shellswell, J. A. Dow,
G. F. Smith, L. A. Webb.
Librarians—S. B. Greenlaw, C. B. Stillwell, D. Little, R. A. Sewell,
R. J. Verge, W. A. Thompson.
Manual Foremen—R. S. Lowe, S. H. Shellswell, G. F. Smith,
† *Furniture Committee*—R. P. Goodchild, J. F. Harris.
† General Meeting Appointment

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS
Spring 1964

Chairman—S. B. Greenlaw.
Games Captain—R. C. Jones.
Vice Captain—D. J. Tovey.
Games Committee—C. B. Stillwell, B. R. Ferguson.
Boys' Banker—A. D. Heppleston.
Meeting Banker—A. J. Cattermole.
Shop Banker—M. B. Ogilvie.
Senior Shopman—P. N. W. Osborne.
Chairman of Groundstaff—A. Richardson.
Breakages Man—A. E. Pocock.
Games Committee Treasurer—N. A. Dakin.
House Committee Treasurer—D. J. Maberley.
Record Committee Treasurer—H. Peterson.
Entertainments Committee Treasurer—F. R. Glennie.

Paperman—F. Bolton-King.
Secretary—S. H. Shellswell.
Senior Groundsman—G. C. Cattermole.
Junior Shopmen—R. J. Edy, W. A. Thompson.
Classical Records Committee—D. G. Griffiths, J. J. Schwarzmantel, R. B. N. Bryant.
Entertainments Committee—C. G. Jefferies, L. A. Webb, R. J. Verge, R. J. Edy, A. Pain.
Junior Groundsman—D. Burman.
Hockey Games Warden—M. Harrop, J. V. Hemming.
Junior Forms Committee—D. A. N. Hogarth, C. B. Stillwell, E. Taylor, P. A. Trier.
Out of Season Rugby Games Warden—J. C. Reason.
Out of Season Tennis Games Warden—P. V. Sage.
Out of Season Cricket Games Warden—R. Hunt.
Badminton Games Warden—S. J. Brisk.
Auditor—D. A. N. Hogarth.
Furniture Committee—R. P. Goodchild, J. F. Harris.
Drying Room Committee—J. A. Dow, B. Pullen, P. Taylor.
Financial Advisory Committee—M. E. Stubbs, E. Taylor.
Rugby Secretary—P. A. Trier.
Hockey Secretary—B. R. Ferguson.
Cricket Secretary—L. A. Webb.
Cycle Committee—N. S. Whatmough, J. Fonseca, P. N. C. Evans.
Film Committee—R. C. Jones, E. Taylor.
Running Captain—D. A. N. Hogarth.
Tennis Captain—R. C. Jones.
Sledge Committee—M. R. Grant, P. V. Rayner.
Amplifier Technicians—J. R. A. Rawlings, A. J. Cattermole.
Billiards Committee—R. A. Sewell, S. H. Shellswell, J. B. Marks.
Council—D. A. N. Hogarth, C. B. Stillwell, S. B. Greenlaw, M. F. Ashe-Jones, D. J. Tovey, R. S. Lowe, R. B. Denny.
Rule Committee—D. J. Tovey, A. D. Heppleston, D. Little.
Tennis Groundsman—A. E. Pocock.
Magazine Committee—C. B. Stillwell, J. J. Schwarzmantel, N. S. Whatmough.
Out of Season Cricket Groundsman—R. A. Sewell.
Nominations Committee—D. J. Tovey, M. F. Ashe-Jones, R. A. Sewell, S. B. Greenlaw, D. A. N. Hogarth.

MEETING NOTES

Autumn Term, 1963

The generally apathetic attitude of most members was shown by the lack of discussion in phenomenally short Meetings this term. However, there were signs of improvement towards the end of term.

The Meeting grew concerned over the state of the shop's finances and so a new system for the shop was devised by the Headmaster's secretary after reference to several Meeting financial officers. By this the shop was given its own bank account which was to be managed by a Shop Banker. It is also recommended that junior shopmen should come from more senior forms than in the past. This new system should, it is hoped, lead to a more efficiently run shop.

The Meeting decided that the use of the billiard table presented by Dr. Gladstone should be restricted to forms V and VI, and the smaller table could then be used by forms III and IV.

During the term a large amount of thought was given by members to decide what new furniture the Meeting should buy to make the new common rooms more attractive. Suggestions were varied but table tennis tables seemed to be the most popular. The Meeting however decided to wait until the following term before deciding on what should be bought.

The following Classical records were purchased this term: Highlights from Swan Lake (Tchaikovsky); Piano Concerto in D major (Haydn); Piano Concerto in E major (Mozart); Concerto for 2 pianos and Concerto Champêtre (Poulenc); War Requiem (Britten); Petite Symphonie (Gounod); Organ recital (works of Bach, Hindemith, Mozart and Grigny).

SCHOOL NOTES

Autumn Term, 1963

We welcome Mr. R. E. Caves who comes from Campbell College, Belfast, to take charge of Chemistry which is now to be taught as a full subject throughout the school, and Mr. C. C. Burden, from Loughborough Training College to take Woodwork and Physical Education.

We are pleased also to have with us Miss M. Casey who joined the College at the beginning of the term as Health and Linen Room Matron.

Miss G. E. Runge, after teaching here for eight years since her retirement from Cheltenham Ladies College, has left in order to “retire properly” as she put it. We offer her our best wishes for the future and sincere thanks for all she has done for us. Mrs. Foster has taken over her pupils.

* * *

We bid farewell to O. Wheater who left College during the term.

* * *

We are most grateful to P. J. Callaghan for the gift of a silver bell for use in the Dining Hall.

* * *

We acknowledge receipt of *The Wycliffe Star*, *Frensham Heights* school magazine, *The Richian*, *The Cirencestrian*, *The Marlintonian*, *Kingham Hill Magazine* and the Oundle School Natural History Society *Report*.

* * *

A lecture entitled “Panorama of American Literature” was given on November 27th by Mr. Ronald Hallett of the British-American Associates.

* * *

The new studies, study-bedrooms and classrooms came into full use at the beginning of the term, and great benefit has been felt all round. As one important result it has been possible to provide Common Rooms for the four lower forms.

We also have a fine new Chemistry Laboratory constructed from the old stables beyond the General Laboratory. This came into full service shortly after the beginning of term. The Laboratory was designed by Mr. Fell in postal consultation with Mr. Caves who was at that time still in Belfast. Much preliminary work was carried out by the boys, and this included dismantling the old horse-boxes, removing the brick floor and digging the trenches for the drains. The benches for the laboratory were also made in the College.

* * *

The following films were shown during the term: “The Conquest of Everest”, “Movie’s Greatest Headlines”, “Romanoff and Juliette” and “The Inspector”.

A dance at which several ladies were present as our guests was held on November 30th.

* * *

Members of Forms IV to VI visited Bristol on October 24th to see the Sadler's Wells performance of "Carmen" by Bizet.

The Vth and VIth Forms paid a visit to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, on November 6th to see Julian Slade's "Nutmeg and Ginger," which is based on "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" by Beaumont and Fletcher. Members of Form IV also saw it on November 14th.

On November 7th a party from the College attended the performance of "Noye's Fludde" by Benjamin Britten.

A small party from Form IV visited the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, on December 11th.

More than forty members of the College went to see the Rugger match between Gloucestershire and Somerset at Gloucester on December 14th.

* * *

We congratulate the following on being selected to play hockey for Gloucestershire Schoolboys last holidays as follows:

- D. J. Tovey against Somerset (January 2nd),
- B. R. Ferguson against Wiltshire (January 3rd), and
- R. A. Sewell and R. C. Jones against Somerset and Wiltshire.

We also congratulate R. A. Sewell on being selected to play for the West of England Schoolboys against the South on January 6th.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION December, 1963

Passes were obtained at O-Level as follows:

- B. R. Ferguson—English Literature, History
- C. G. Jefferies—Latin
- J. R. A. Rawlings—Latin
- P. A. Trier—Mathematics
- M. J. Veasey—English Language, French
- L. A. Webb—English Language, Latin

H. ST. G. RAWLINS

Mr. Rawlins, whose firm Sewell Rawlins & Logie were Secretaries to the Governors, has resigned after service that stretches back over thirty years. Mr. Rawlins' wisdom and devotion to the school were of immense value both in the years when it was clearly on an experimental basis and in the later period when it became soundly established. The amount of work that Mr. Rawlins has done for the school is enormous; much of the detailed administration which in bigger schools is done within the school has been done by Mr. Rawlins and his firm; the College owes him a great debt of gratitude for the way he shouldered this burden. Very fortunately the College is not severing its connection with Mr. Rawlins as he has been appointed a Governor.

MAJOR M. W. V. MAUDE

Major Maude, who was the first Estate Bursar appointed here, has also resigned owing to a steady increase in his commitments elsewhere. The post of Estate Bursar came into being in 1959 when the College bought the land and buildings it has used since its foundation. Major Maude has taken during his period of office the first essential steps in the modernisation and organisation of this property for the best use of the school. In addition he took a leading part in the planning and carrying out of three major additions to the school — the new swimming pool, the Headmaster's house and the new wing. The success of these three projects owes much to Major Maude's careful work and the college was most fortunate to have his services during a period of such great activity.

* * *

Mr. I. N. Mitchell and his firm, Rylands & Co. are succeeding both as Secretaries to the Governors and as Estate Bursar. In future the financial side of the College Administration will be handled by Messrs. Curtis Jenkins Cornwell & Co., Chartered Accountants.

MUSIC

Recital by the Choir and Instrumental Consort of Cirencester Grammar School November 13th, 1963

This must have been one of the best concerts ever to have been given in Rendcomb. The reputation of this choir had preceded it; we had heard several of their broadcasts for the BBC and their public concerts at the Bath Festival and elsewhere, as well as those in Cirencester itself, are always highly praised.

Their contribution to the programme was Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, by no means easy to perform, yet their singing was accurate in intonation, round in tone and their enunciation excellent. Perhaps the most striking were "Wolcum Yole" sung with vitality and enthusiasm and, in complete contrast, "There is no rose" where the long flowing phrases were sung with excellent control and the two parts were admirably balanced.

Miss Marjery Davidson played the very important harp part, which is both solo and accompaniment of virtuoso difficulty, with that apparent facility which masks prodigious technique and musicianship. The other soloists were two sopranos, Miss Elizabeth Baker and Miss Betty Howes both of whom were making their second appearance here and whom we were very glad to have with us again.

The conductor was Mr. Mark Foster who, of course, directed the whole programme which began and ended with two suites for the Instrumental Consort.

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was held on Sunday, December 15th, 1963, when the Order of Service was as follows. The organist was Mr. John Turner from Cheltenham College, and Mr. Tooze conducted. Those items marked † were for the choir and congregation.

†Once in Royal David City

†The First Noel

Up good Christian folk!

.. Trad. arr. *Wilcocks*

Three Kings

.. *Peter Cornelius*, arr. *Wilcocks*

(Soloists: Richard Bryant and Peter Trier)

†Unto us is born a Son

The Sussex Carol arr. *Wilcocks*
While shepherds watched..

(Congregation only)

†As with gladness men of old

What cheer? Good cheer! .. *Sir William Walton*

†Hark! the Herald Angels sing

The readers were: Mark Collins; Anthony Pain; Peter Little;
Robert Edy; Sebastian Greenlaw; the Senior Prefect; Mr.
Tooze and the Headmaster.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The theme for this year's Christmas Party was taken from the "House at Pooh Corner" with the characters Christopher Robin, Pooh, Piglet, Kanga and Eeyore represented by the Christmas Party Committee. Probably for the first time in Rendcomb's history, Saul's Hall could not be used because of the new and larger billiards table which is not easily moved. Clock Hall was decorated with two large murals depicting scenes and characters from the book. The large paper sculpture of Owl further emphasised that the Christmas Party Committee had worked many hours before the party for everyone's enjoyment.

The catering staff must again be thanked for the excellent meal. This surely must be what every Rendcombian looks forward to throughout the term.

The sketches, although missing the presence of an actor who was unfortunately taken ill for the day of the Christmas Party, as always contributed greatly to the Party atmosphere. This was especially so in the sketch "Hole in the Road" which concluded with the stage being filled with smoke to imitate a gas explosion. Rendcomb was reminded of the 1963 inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors in the song, "The Inspector". We must again thank Mr. Tooze and Mr. Sells for the time they spent in making the sketches the highlight of the party.

The obstruction caused by the pillars in Clock Hall may explain the lack of enthusiasm for dancing in the early part of the evening. It did not really begin until the dancing was moved to the Assembly Hall after the sketches. It is to be hoped that dancing will not die out in the Rendcomb Party and we look forward to a speedy revival.

Rabbit', should be commended. In the senior section prizes were won by D. J. Maberley as Medusa, C. G. Jefferies as Garibaldi and D. G. Griffiths from the Spanish Main. D. F. R. Black as Marley's Ghost, C. P. Maberley as a Welsh Woman and T. V. Liddle as Noddy collected the junior prizes. The prizes for the most colourful were given to R. K. H. Hunt as a Turk and P. W. Taylor as a matador. The prize for the most original fancy dress was given to R. J. Wood who claimed to be a *Scarabeus Corinii* and this has certainly never been seen at Rendcomb before.

The Christmas Party again proved to be an excellent conclusion to the Christmas term and the final thanks must go to the Christmas Party Committee for the large part they played in it.

RUGGER REPORT

With only five players remaining who had played consistently for the 1st XV last year and also a large leave throughout the VIth form it was obvious that this was not going to be a strong season. Forced to rely on the more senior and experienced players for the early matches, the side lacked cohesion and attack. By the end of the season however the introduction of younger players provided the beginnings of an attack. The defence, never reliable throughout the season, could still have disastrous lapses, as in the return match with Cirencester Grammar School. The real trouble throughout the term however, was not actual play but the attitude to it. There was a lack of determination if not to win, at least to prevent the other side winning. Everyone, with few exceptions, was too willing to rely on the next player to do the tackle, to take on the loose ball. This apathy occurred especially towards the end of a match and is best shown in our 27-3 defeat at Cirencester Grammar School. Having held them to a well-fought 6—3 at half-time, Cirencester were then allowed to score 16 points in the last quarter of an hour. Finally, since we are trying to extend our fixture list and play schools where more time is devoted to rugger, everyone must make the best possible use of games, practices and circuits if we are to field a reasonable 1st XV.

Of ten matches only two were won—against the Old Boys and against Marlborough College 3rd XV. The fact that these came at the end of the season, and were only divided by an

unlucky defeat at the hands of Clifton College 3rd XV shows the improvement which the introduction of younger players, notably, J. B. Marks, S. H. Shellswell and B. Pullen, made to the side.

The opening match of the term, against Bloxham School ended in heavy defeat, mainly due to the inexperience of most of the players, especially in the pack, against fast determined opposition. The defence was in no way disgraced but of the three-quarters only R. C. Jones in the centre could make any head-way. D. J. Tovey did well to score an opportunist try which he converted.

The next match, against Dean Close, should have been an easy victory for us, but with Jones absent only Trier took advantage in the three-quarters of the considerable possession the pack gained from Dean Close. D. G. Griffiths scored the try in our 6—3 defeat.

Against Hereford Cathedral School, the 1st XV had to be reshuffled due to injuries to Jones, Trier and A. J. Cattermole. With the three-quarters, except for M. F. Ashe-Jones and on occasions R. A. Sewell, almost pedestrian in their movements and erratic with their passing and the pack slow to cover, we deserved to lose against a keen and well-drilled side. A. D. Heppleston, introduced at full-back, and A. A. J. Raddon, at scrum-half, played extremely well.

Half-term seemed to infuse new spirit into the side and against Cirencester Grammar School the 1st XV, though eventually losing 27—3, gave a competent display marred only by the last fifteen minutes in which Cirencester were allowed to score 16 points. C. G. Jefferies and P. N. W. Osborne were prominent in the pack and the return of Jones to the wing added thrust to the three-quarter line. Tovey playing for the first time at full-back, had an outstanding game. Rendcomb's points, a try, were scored by C. B. Stillwell.

With Stillwell injured, Jones captained the side against Marling. The introduction of Shellswell at fly-half speeded up the three-quarter line but only Jones showed sufficient determination to break through the Marling defence. A poor display by the pack enabled Marling to gain the ascendancy in the second half and eventually the match.

Knowing the usual strength of Belmont Abbey, and with Jones and R. S. Lowe injured we did not expect to win this

match. Rendcomb did not help themselves, however, with poor covering and tackling. Tovey scored Rendcomb's only points with a fine dropped goal.

The return match against Cirencester Grammar School was the worst of the season. Resistance was spasmodic and tackling, except in the case of Tovey, was appalling.

With the return of D. A. N. Hogarth and the introduction of Marks in the centre, the side showed a vast improvement against a weak Old Boys team, and after a shaky start provided an exciting match. In the pack E. Taylor and Lowe were prominent, and in the three-quarters Shellswell and Trier. It was essentially a team victory however, and handling especially was more carefree and confident. Marks, Lowe and Tovey scored tries, the latter converting one of them.

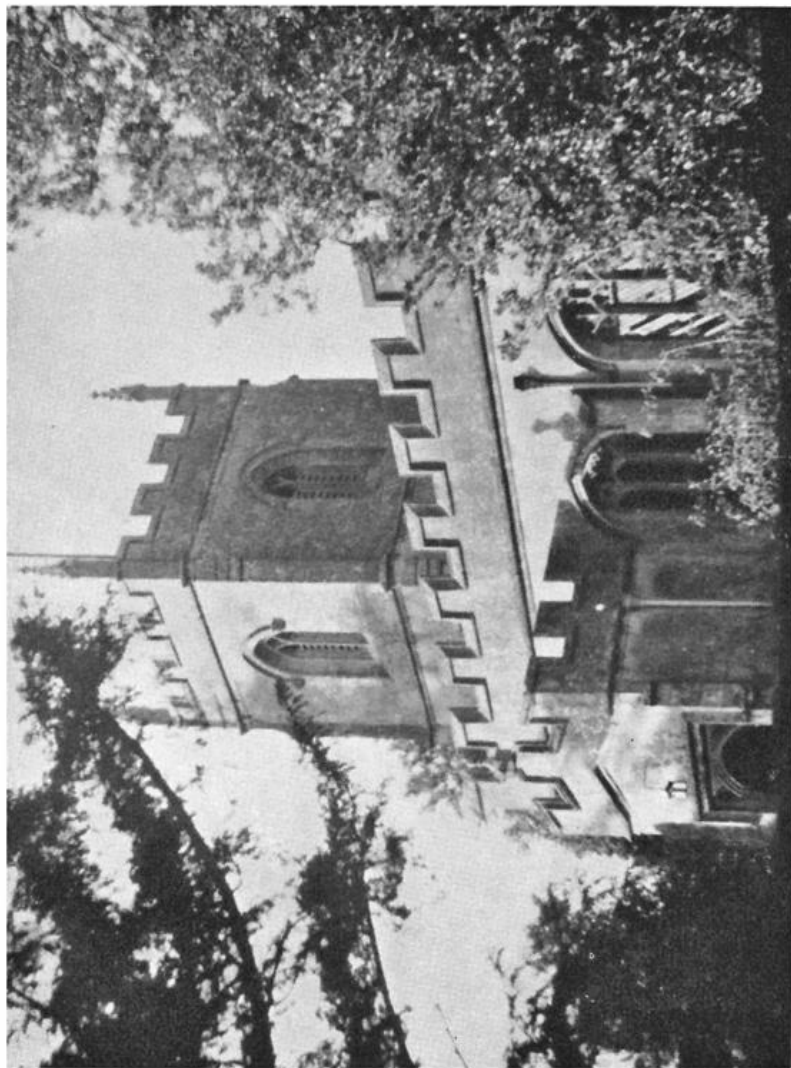
Despite the scoring of a couple of early tries by Clifton College 3rd XV, Rendcomb dominated the first half, with Marks in the centre and Ashe-Jones on the wing running particularly well. In the second half failure to fall on the loose ball, and to gain possession from the tight led to further tries by Clifton. J. J. Schwarzmantel, introduced at blind-side wing forward, had an encouraging first game.

The final match against Marlborough showed what Rendcomb was capable of with a little effort. Backing-up and covering were both good, and our tackling showed a welcome improvement. Jones and Ashe-Jones on the wings took advantage of quick handling by the three-quarters to score tries, the former two, the latter one. Stillwell added the fourth try. Pullen, replacing the injured Hogarth at lock, easily deserved his place.

Players who played in at least six matches:

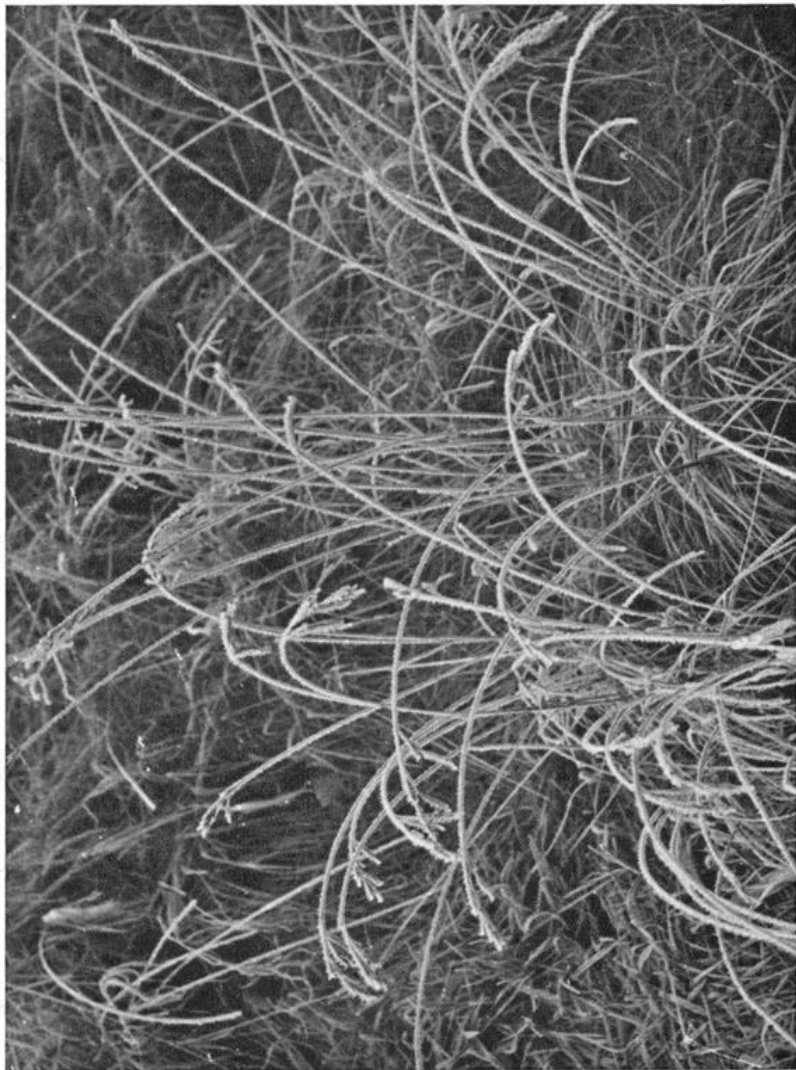
Defensive in outlook, D. J. Tovey failed to make a three-quarter but when moved to full back his defensive tackling and kicking were invaluable. He chose the moment to enter the three-quarter line intelligently, and all round showed a vast improvement on last year's form.

M. F. Ashe-Jones on the right wing built up a fine burst of speed during the season and was often able to break his way through the opposing defence. Unfortunately, he was too inclined to die with the ball.



Rendcomb Church.

Photo: D. J. Maberley



Frosted grass.

Photo: P. V. Rayner

R. A. Sewell, playing either on the wing or in the centre was a sad disappointment. Mainly because of unfitness he failed to become the attacking player he had been last year and his defence also deteriorated.

D. Little, moved from wing forward to inside centre, made up for lack of speed with a determined run and considerable pluck. His receiving and passing on of the ball were often erratic but this improved during the season.

P. A. Trier, playing on either wing was extremely fast and improved with every match. Should he cultivate the outside break which he used so well against the Old Boys he will be invaluable next year. His defence was shaky however.

S. H. Shellswell became the final choice for fly half and though inexperienced, tried with success to make the most of his position. If he improves his defence and varies his attack more he should prove a powerful combination with Raddon.

A. A. J. Raddon had a natural flair for scrum-half and showed great courage for his size. The slow heeling of the pack brought him in for considerable punishment and caused him to become slower and to lose interest in the game, and eventually his position for the last match. Should he improve his defence, especially his falling, he will however be a great asset next year.

P. N. W. Osborne, at loose head prop was an invaluable player, especially in line-outs, and he developed a useful aggressiveness in his play. Lack of determination, especially to corner flag and tackle was his prime fault.

C. G. Jefferies, at hooker, showed a vast improvement on last year's form and was unbeatable when given a good supporting push, as against Marlborough. His general play and outlook were an example to all.

E. Taylor, at tight head prop or second row, had a turn of speed which he used intelligently in open play, especially against the Old Boys. His defence and covering were poor however.

S. Greenlaw, in the second row, made up for lack of speed with rugged and determined play in the loose and a fine diving tackle.

R. B. Denny, alternating between front and second rows, failed to come up to last year's form, mainly through misuse of his energy. His aggressive play was useful in the loose however and the improvement in his tackling was welcome.

R. S. Lowe became the side's utility player, though his best position was at blind side wing forward. Wherever he played however, he played with energy, determination and intelligence and was invaluable to a weak 1st XV.

Players who played in less than six matches:

R. C. Jones on the left wing was our best player but a leg injury unfortunately prevented him from playing in all but four matches. His value to the team was shown in our final match where he scored twice and made the third try. He was the only reliable tackler among the three-quarters.

At outside centre for the last three matches, J. B. Marks combined well with his wings and used the inside break intelligently. Concentration on faster and more determined running and a better defence is needed.

A. J. Cattermole could easily have assured himself of a 1st XV place with more effort, for his weight and energy, when he cared to use them as he did against Marlborough, were welcome in the pack.

D. A. N. Hogarth was another player to miss matches because of injury. His stamina was his main asset and he used it well from the back-row in covering and breaking up the three-quarters. His tackling, good at the start of the season, unfortunately deteriorated.

B. Pullen, though only in Form IV, thoroughly deserved his place in the final match for his keen and determined play both as leader of the Under-15 XV and as a member of the 2nd XV.

J. J. Schwarzmantel has yet to realise the meaning of fitness, but should he do so, and develop a touch of aggressiveness in his play he will be a very useful member of the pack next year.

A strong, powerful run made B. R. Ferguson a fine attacking centre, but poor tackling and covering lost him his place.

D. G. Griffiths was essentially an opportunist player and thus was valuable in attack. Unfortunately, he lacked interest and failed to improve his poor defence.

A. D. Heppleston was one of our best defensive players and it was unfortunate for him that Tovey proved so successful at full back. His touch-kicking, tackling and falling were almost without fault.

C. B. Stillwell captained the side and led the pack from the position of wing-forward. It was not until towards the end of the season that his own play reached the high standard that he has shown in past years.

As captain, apart from obvious administrative weaknesses, he displayed enormous enthusiasm and should not carry all the blame for a disastrous season. He failed to galvanise a team whose confidence and determination crumpled in the face of any determined attack. In practices, the team was well drilled and frequently looked quite powerful, but under match conditions was collectively so timid and unconfident that this potential was seldom used. There was a revival at the end of the term for which Stillwell was largely responsible and had he shown this more determined leadership earlier in the season it is possible that it might have produced a better result.

The Second XV

With such a weak and changing 1st XV, the 2nd XV could not be expected to be very strong. It suffered from the same faults as the 1st XV, especially lack of determination, though against Belmont Abbey the team, well led by Schwarzmantel gave a good account of itself. The 2nd XV did provide however a testing ground for the better members of the Under-15 XV and N. A. Dakin, N. J. Green and B. Pullen especially made the most of this chance despite their youth. Among other players P. W. Hughes was unlucky not to play for the 1st XV.

Under-15 XV

The actual record of this side was five games played, five games lost. This rather conceals the true story, as several matches were very closely contested and one was lost due to a missed conversion (in front of the posts!)

The strongest asset of the side was its enthusiasm and this was due to a very large extent to the captaining of B. Pullen who led his team by dogged example rather than by exhortation. The average age of the team was in fact less than 14, which meant that it was usually out-weighted. The pack did in fact gain a fair measure of possession of the ball against superior tonnage, but too often this was squandered by the backs. In this

department there was a tendency to hang on to the ball too long with the result that centres were caught in possession and promising movements died before the wings had a chance. This failing is common with junior players, and it is to be hoped that it will disappear when more experience is gained.

This was a side of high potential and it is hoped that they will be an asset to the senior ranks in the near future. It would indeed be unfair to single out individuals from a side in which everyone pulled his weight so well.

The following played:— J. A. Hiscox, D. F. R. Black, G. F. Smith, A. E. Hillier, R. Thompson, J. J. Fonseca, R. W. Hole, P. Little, M. W. Harrop, N. A. Dakin, R. J. Edy, N. J. Green, D. P. Kyle, R. K. H. Hunt, P. R. Milam, W. A. Thompson, B. Pullen (capt.), N. R. Parker.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

A considerable 'leave' meant that the Society could muster only five members—C. B. Stillwell, M. F. Ashe-Jones, S. Greenlaw, D. J. Tovey, and E. Taylor—at the beginning of term. D. A. N. Hogarth, R. A. Sewell, M. E. Stubbs, R. J. Verge, J. J. Schwarzmantel and J. A. Dow were rapidly made new members however.

The first and third meetings were devoted to play readings—John Arden's "Sergeant Musgrave's Dance" and Henrik Ibsen's "Enemy of the People". Both plays concerned the attempt by men to alter the attitude of society—in the former to war, in the latter to the dissenting individual. The intervening meeting listened to a recording of Samuel Becket's "Waiting for Godot".

The final meeting, as is customary, was given to 'original' compositions. There was however, unfortunately, a large number of empty seats, as four of the more intellectually inclined of the members were taking exams. Most of the other members provided original compositions. Sewell's fine short story concerned the attraction that birth place and upbringing hold over a fisherman who seeks the luxury and pleasure of society. Verge amusingly related the history of the lavatory in England. There was, he lamented, a considerable lack of literature on this subject. Schwarzmantel's contribution was an attack on the 'Establishment'—England's not Rendcomb's—in which he decried the rigidity of the classes within society, and the artificiality of its ideals and outlook. Everyone, he felt, had a lesson to learn from the individualist. Stubbs, basing his material on two recent events in Rendcomb which had aroused considerable feeling, contributed a number of letters—imaginary—between the head of a factory and his chief assistant, describing the actions and feelings of authority over these incidents. The final contribution was Taylor's short poem. 'L'Entrefaire', an alliterative composition in which the conflict in a suicide's mind is translated in Nature's chaos. Death and peace for the suicide brings peace for Nature. C. B. S.

**PARIS IN THE SPRINGTIME
OR
FRENCH IN A FORTNIGHT**

For those whose ability precludes a second attempt at 'A' level French this article will have no interest. But for those people who dislike hockey, find the Easter term too long anyway, and would be glad to get out of yet another 'College Search', we can offer the rather blighted fruits of our experiences. Likewise this will appeal to those people who enjoy eating a light snack in lieu of breakfast while the moon is still at its zenith—about 7-30 a.m.

Such was our appalling ignorance of the French language that even our application forms for the course had to be written in English. At this time however the Common Market controversy was at its height and the government, whose ignorance in other directions was equally appalling, grasped the opportunity to send over two skilled negotiators. Accordingly we were sent over under the guise of participants on a French course organised by the British Institute in Paris.

April Fools' Day, 1963 saw two more mad English en route for Paris in company with 348 boys and girls drawn from a wide variety of educational traditions.

Swiftly we were initiated into the strange French habit of eating all courses off the same plate. 'Ordinaire', when applied to wine, was found to mean two-thirds water, one third colouring. The food was, mercifully, unnamed, although the extensive knowledge of our biologically-minded brethren soon dispelled the ignorance.

The First morning: the fact that most people sat down to breakfast with lacerated and patchy faces was due to the French custom of providing foreign visitors with cold water only, even for shaving. Nor were Anglo-French relations improved by the long vigil conducted by a few stalwarts who insisted that rolls and coffee were merely the first course, It was a disillusioned body of people who made their way to classes at 9 o'clock, including half the Rendcomb contingent who attended the wrong class. The morning was devoted to "conversation" classes in which the class remained silent whilst the teacher conversed. After two hours and a change of teacher at half-time we made our way to the Lecture Rooms to have yet more French instilled

into our overloaded brains in the form of "Conferences". Yet again this was somewhat one sided. These "Conferences" were on the subject of various set books. However, it was painfully obvious that even those who knew their set books had doubts as to whether they were listening to the right lecture. At last 12 o'clock struck and to a few feeble handclaps the lecturer bowed his way out of the room.

After a short pause, which included lunch, we were led out into the streets of Paris, to various Places of Interest. This meant that a few people, whose thirst for knowledge was greater than their thirst for alcohol, would arrive at a given rendezvous and wait for half an hour until an ancient French lady would arrive to lead us either through the more squalid sections of Montmartre or through the more erudite parts of the Louvre, speaking totally incomprehensible French which seemed to mean very much the same in either case. After two hours the guide was generally left speaking to the English teacher who was accompanying the group, the other members having left to study Paris on a less cultural basis.

This form of activity helped to pass almost a fortnight, enlivened by such incidents as brief periods of imitating sardines in the "Metro" during the rush hour; being accosted by drunken patriotic Frenchmen who wished to know our limited views on France's political condition, and being stifled by sheer temperature and lack of fresh air at the crumbling and wooden seated summit of the Opéra Comique from where we had a splendid view of the whole audience, the ceiling and a small part of the stage. These, needless to say, were the cheapest seats, but if we hoped to get one of the cheaper usherettes we were to be disappointed. The only economy was in the amount she did—a mere wave towards the seats in general.

The signal for our departure from France was given unwittingly by a hypochondriac who, had he been born two hundred years earlier, might well have been the inspiration for 'Le Malade Imaginaire', who decided to get up at the same time as we did, having spent the entire fortnight in bed with one complaint or another.

The journey home was without incident, except for a meeting with a French waiter who was under the impression that Chaucerian English was still in use, and a cross channel trip in one of

the few vessels not occupying a proud place in a maritime museum; needless to say it belonged to British Railways, who also tried to provide us with a connection at Newhaven. Here we parted company, the one returning to Gloucestershire, the other to Sussex. And as to whether we learnt anything? — that unfortunately must be left to the decision of the examiners.

C. B. S.; L. de V. W.

MEETINGS

A tiny fishing village stood on the thickly wooded coast. It was old, and had changed little with the centuries. The great march of industry had swept through it leaving little trace; constantly changing administrations had not succeeded in altering it at all. The houses, built from the wood of the forest, were rough and strong, the streets were dusty and pitted with ruts. On the beach were drawn up the fishing boats on which the livelihood of the village depended. The fishermen sat by them, smoking, talking, leisurely mending their nets. Their faces were thin and hard, their clothes old and ragged. Many of them had never left the village, except to take the catch to the nearest station a few miles up the narrow road which served as the only means of communication with the outside world. Along this road a cloud of dust was approaching.

The cloud of dust was a motor car. Every year, in late June, a wealthy businessman left his sumptuous offices in the big city a hundred miles away, and drove to the village. He would spend a week there, and then drive back to his work. It was he whose car was approaching.

The businessman stayed near the beach in the house of an old couple, his parents. Many years ago, he had rebelled at the idea of spending the rest of his life as a fisherman in the isolated village, removed from the pleasures and rewards of society. He had gone away to the big city, and determinedly struggled up to success. Now he had the luxuries which for many years he had dreamed of and many men were quick to carry out his orders, yet he was a humble man and he still came back.

He came back to gain rest and release from people and responsibility. His success in the world had given him great experience of human character, and he was not attracted by

many of the people with whom he associated. He recognised that urban life was a mad clawing rush; people were greedy and selfish, with no community feeling, charity, or courtesy; the pace was colossal, the purpose uncertain. He had come to hate the endless babble of voices; the smoke, traffic, and crowds; the pointless formalities of meals and dress; and the need to keep up an appearance. He knew he had chosen his own life, but he needed the company and comfort of his own people to restore his faith in human sanity. The nest of his youth contained no hypocrisy or affectation, no pomposity or deceit. For the first time in a whole year he would feel completely relaxed, knowing that all he did would be accepted at its face value. Thus he made his pilgrimage.

He slipped back into his former life easily. For hours he would talk with the fishermen who had been his boyhood companions; talk to them about the fishing conditions or their families for they knew little outside their own narrow sphere of life. He would go with them on their dawn fishing trips, admiring the facile care with which they handled their nets, or he would get up when it was still dark, and see the sun rise over the forests. He loved the fragrant smell of the pines, and the vivid hues of the wild flowers—he felt a unity with nature which was forever denied him in the bustle of urbanity.

When his week was over he felt a great reluctance to return. Every year it was harder to tear himself away from the tranquility of the village. In a short time, he knew, he would return to the village for good.

R.A.S.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

David Vaisey is now an Assistant in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. He took up his appointment in September. By a curious coincidence one of his first tasks was to issue a ticket to Tom Bass.

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Powys Thomas is on the Board of Professors of the Canadian National Theatre School. He is Artistic Director of the English Section.

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The Old Rendcombians XV played the School on the 23rd November (details in the Games Report elsewhere in this issue). The team was:—

Backs—Robert Comley, Martin Jones, Paul Heppleston, John Marshall (Captain), Kenneth Walker.

Halves:—Geoffrey Taylor, Hugh Gough.

Forwards:—Colin Richardson, George Wood, Tom Bass, Michael Morris, Marcus Bartlett, Richard Taylor, Guy Bartlett, Tom Pettigrew.

Among the spectators were: John Mitchison, R. A. Burns, and R. H. Jones.

We heartily congratulate J. M. Webb on winning his Blue for Hockey, having played for Cambridge University throughout this season.

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We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Richards on the birth of their daughter.

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Michael Richards has been appointed an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Sussex.

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Here are some new addresses:

G. J. TAYLOR, [REDACTED], London
W.14.

R. A. POWELL, [REDACTED] Bristol 1.

The Old Rendcombiains' Dinner and Annual Meeting of the Society were held in London on the 2nd of November, 1963, at the Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate High Street.

Those present were: D. Field (*President*), A. C. Magor (*Chairman*), R. H. Jones (*Vice-Chairman*), C. J. Brisley (*Hon. Secretary*), M. C. Thompson (*Hon. Treasurer*), R. M. Sumsion (*Hon. Auditor*), D. Dakin, R. G. Betterton, J. F. Alder, A. E. Shield, A. E. A. Brain, R. J. Kendal, P. D. Quick, P. W. Sumsion, E. J. Miller, M. J. Bedwell. K. A. Statham was re-elected Hon. Assistant Secretary.