



The Strathallian 2008-2009





France-Ireland ref gets last-minute instructions from Platini.



Hendo's summer transfer window signings reach "desperate" level.



Pay rise?? Hahahahahahahaha.



Due for release next Wednesday



I know one of these is definitely my elbow.



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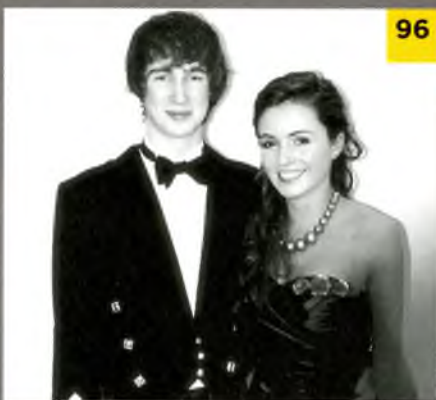
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School Captains



One of the things that sets Strathallan so high above other schools is the bridge that is built between staff and pupils...

Some say that school is the best time of your life. It's a cheesy line but the truth is when you look back over the years, you come to realise that there are many memories of your time at Strathallan which tell you that it really was a unique experience.

Throughout our final year at Strath you could hear many complaints of the tests and the challenges that we were faced with, whether they be academic, sporting, musical or dramatic. However, looking back now as ex-pupils, I am certain that many of us wish we could go back and do it all over again.

Strath is indeed the first stage of an epic journey, setting you up before embarking into the 'big bad world'.

Reflecting, I still find it outstanding that as such a small and compact community, every pupil has the chance to thrive, compete and achieve at such a high level in a variety of fields. A key part of this success is dependent on the work and effort that all of the staff so enthusiastically offer in and out of the classroom. One of the things that sets Strathallan so high above other schools is the bridge that is built between staff and pupils. I would just like to thank Mr Thompson and Mr Barnes for all of their support for Jamie and me over this past year, as well as the Flemings, Miss Sime, Mr Giles and, of course, Hendo.

Having the Strathallan experience behind us makes tasks all the easier and because of this we have all left with a strong feeling of satisfaction. School has been a long but rewarding process and we shall take the friends and the memories into the next stage of our lives.

I wish all the pupils at Strath the best of luck for the future years; grab every opportunity as it comes. I also wish every member of our year the utmost success in all of your endeavours.

Just remember....Labor Omnia Vincit

Jayne Carmichael UVI Thornbank
and **Jamie King** UVI Freeland

Headmaster's report

In my speech at Speech Day I stressed the value of the team. While this is significant in any context, as with so many other things, it becomes of greater importance in a boarding context. Whether pupils are boarders or day pupils in a boarding school all experiences are more intense and it really is the case that "together everyone achieves more".



In the all important academic work in many ways it is the individual who is tested and of course pupils' results are important in terms of their future destinations. This year, as has become typical, our Upper Sixth is departing to a very wide range of destinations and courses. This reflects the diversity which we encourage and we feel far more comfortable that we have this variety than schools that tend to channel everyone to a small number of universities which may be right for some but are unlikely to be right for all. Our A level results were particularly pleasing with 49% A, 76% A/B and 95% at A-C. Six subjects achieved 100% A/B and a further six were well over the 80% mark. Our GCSE results with 45% at A*-A being the highest which the school has achieved, give encouragement for the future. The value, and validity, of league tables are much debated and they can only tell part of the story. In the case of the Scotsman whose education correspondent managed to work out our figures incorrectly they did not tell a true story at all. A correction was published and we did everything we could to let people know that we achieved 49% at grade A rather than 19% which the paper had published. We were inevitably rather happier with the Financial Times which had us as the top A level school in Scotland. The FT's rankings tend to be the most respected (and I have said this in the past not just because we did well this year) partly because they list so much information which gives crucial indicators such as the number of subjects taken by each pupil and the numbers of pupils entered. While examination results are important, we continue to strive to encourage pupils to stretch themselves academically beyond the GCE syllabuses and it is great to hear of the success of two of our recent arrivals Otari Kakhidze and Denise Pacholska who have both been successful in national essay competitions in their home countries. It is also good to hear of the continuing success of former pupils and that recent graduates from Oxford and Cambridge have continued the impressive record of achieving firsts which Strathallians have established at those institutions.

The Team is clearly evident in many of the activities which take place outside the classroom and each of these is dealt with in separate sections in the heart of this magazine. The thing which I find particularly inspiring when I come to write my speech is to look at the overview of everything which has been achieved. For example, this year, we achieved district or national success in twenty three different sports, provided eighteen national champions and twelve national representatives.

We even have a Scottish national record holder in the pool and one or two pupils have their sights set firmly on future Olympic success. The Royal Marines won the Leadership Trophy at the Pringle Trophy. The Music Department continues to be hugely vibrant and successful under its new Director with over sixty different concerts and again high standards being achieved within a wide range of different disciplines. We have achieved national success in traditional Scottish disciplines such as piping, the Mod, folk groups and a member of the RSAMD Traditional Music programme, we have individuals in the National Youth Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra and there has been real development with ensembles including the Big Band and Wind Band. There has been a further boost in funding for the choir based at the Cathedral in Perth, St Ninian's. Pupils continue to be active in drama, dance and festivals which supplement the outstanding productions of *Charley's Aunt* and *Guys and Dolls* which we were privileged to enjoy this year.

We are also conscious of how fortunate we all are and the work of our Charities Committee continues to bring home to us the needs of others. This year we built a school in Malawi and a house for a teacher, equipped the library, and put on four other major fundraising events.

Of course, crucial to the team are the individual teachers. Behind every successful activity and department one finds a dedicated and inspirational teacher. This year we said farewell to two long serving members of staff. Carol Duncan's outstanding teaching and passionate leadership of the Modern Languages Department will be remembered and appreciated by so many. Carol's dedication, enthusiasm and sheer professionalism will be very hard to replace. Elizabeth Adam has made an individual and committed contribution to the English teaching in the School for the past twenty three years. Dominik Diamond, when he visited the School, highlighted Elizabeth's enthusiasm for one author which it is fair to say he did not share. He certainly remembered Elizabeth's passion and appreciated a love of literature which she passed on to him. The commitment and care which Andrew Gordon showed to his pupils in the Design Technology Department, Nicol House and Riley Sport were particularly marked; he was described as the 'all round good guy' by Captains of School and we wish him and his family every success in their adventure in Thailand. Jane White and Bee Cassimer in the Modern Languages Department and Andy Collins covering in

Chemistry and latterly Computing were only with us for a comparatively short time but each supported their pupils with real professionalism and we are grateful to them for their contribution. And we also thank Victor Popescu who was with us for one year helping with EAL and in Nicol House. Beyond the classroom John Newall tended the grounds and completely changed the look of the School over the past eight years; Jacqui Todd has not only been Lead Nurse in the Medical Centre but has also helped to coach the Athletics squad and Alix Doe made her own contribution particularly in organising events in the Marketing Department.

To replace leaving colleagues we are delighted to have secured such high calibre replacements. David and Donna Billing join us from Uppingham where David was Director of Sport and taught English, and Donna was in the History Department. David takes over Nicol House from David Giles who moves to be Registrar and Donna will also tutor in Glenbrae. David is a graduate of Loughborough and Donna of St Andrews. From a rather different location comes Nigel Gallier to the Physics Department. Nigel has completed thirty years in the Army after graduating from Cambridge. He took a teaching qualification a few years ago and has now changed his career to teaching Physics but also inevitably has been asked to run the Army section. Gillian McLean graduated from Strathclyde University in French and German and spent some time working in countries where those languages are spoken before deciding to become a teacher and joins us having completed her PGCE and probationary year in Glasgow. Ken Hutton is kindly covering for Andrew Gordon in the Design Technology Department while we source another permanent teacher and Ivanina Trifonova is this year's HMC teacher from Romania who will help pupils whose first language is not English and will also be residential tutor in Thornbank. During the year, we welcomed Lisa Leslie to Marketing where her experience is already having a real effect and Mike Bussey is continuing the development of the pitches and grounds which, as I write this in October, are looking beautiful and playing exceptionally well. Lara Young and Judith Glasgow join the Medical Team as Judith Gerrie steps up to be Lead Nurse. We welcome all of these colleagues and one hundred and fifty new pupils to our community. With the new Girls House Glenbrae in full operation from September, the School roll is currently at 535 a 9% rise which ensures that we are in a strong position for the future.

BKT



Salvete

Name+Inits	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Andrew A	Adam	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Hannah E	Adams	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Charlotte E D	Allingham	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Caitlin	Ball	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Angus	Balmaks	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Rosie C A	Beech	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Nicola L	Bell	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Caitlin E	Beveridge	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Phoebe	Blackley	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
James T	Boag	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Bonnie L	Brown	S1	Riley	21 04 2009
Robert W	Brown	P7	Riley	21 04 2009
Keith M	Buchan	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Jessica B K	Bussey	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Robert C J	Bussey	S4	Simpson	01 09 2009
Isla M E	Cameron	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Jose M	Camino	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Rhona	Campbell	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Chun K	Chan	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Yuen C	Chan	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Sarah G	Cheape	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Raimundo	Clar Oller	S3	Simpson	01 09 2009
Ruaridh J	Clark	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Phoebe C M	Clements	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Ailsa A	Clifford	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Hayden	Clinch	S4	Simpson	01 09 2009
Mark A	Cochrane	S2	Freeland	01 09 2009
James F	Cockburn	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Conor	Coleman	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Connor A J	Collins	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Kyle S J	Cooke	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Jamie W	Corbett	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Lucy D	Crabb	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Jocelynn I	Craw Harley	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Megan	Crawford	S1	Riley	21 04 2009
Sophie G	Curran	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Jordan A	Curtis	S2	Simpson	05 01 2009
Paul	Cuvillier	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Andrew J J	Darby	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Callum J	Davidson	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Lisa P	Davidson	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
John C	Dew	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Josephine R	Dibnah	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Grant R T	Doig	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Caitlin I H	Donald	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Nicole S	Drechsler	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Karl G	Drouven	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Lauren K	Dundee	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Justin M	Evans	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Christina E H	Farrar	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Callum	Fletcher	S3	Freeland	01 09 2009
Blair U	Forbes	S4	Freeland	01 09 2009
Benedikt	Fundulus	S5	Simpson	21 04 2009

Name+Inits	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Pablo	Garcia Bescansa	S3	Nicol	01 09 2009
Lisa F	Garrett	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Amber C	Garvie	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Scott M	Garvie	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Euan B	Gilburt	S3	Simpson	01 09 2009
India A	Gill	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Lea S	Gill	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Nick	Gilmore	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Fraser J C	Glasgow	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Antony I	Gloag	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Anastasia A	Gnatyuk	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Ivan	Goncharenko	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Isla	Gordon	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Amy A	Grant	S3	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Thimo	Grantz	S3	Freeland	01 09 2009
Cameron I M	Griffiths	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Katharine A	Griffiths	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Chloe	Grossi	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Jiayi	Guo	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Charlotte	Hartmann	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Nicholas B	Heaney	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Alexander R	Henderson	S5	Simpson	01 09 2009
Amar	Hodzic	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Derek J	Hoogerbrugge	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
George	Horne	S3	Simpson	01 09 2009
Fanfei	Hu	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Mengjie	Huang	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Frederick D L	Hunter	S5	Simpson	01 09 2009
Megan L	Inch	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Amelia L	Inglis	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Emily L	Irons-Young	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Morgan J	Irving	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Zoe	Jordan	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Otari	Kakhidze	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Philippa L	Kemp	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Findlay W	Kinloch	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Hannah	Kleinhanss	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Magdalena	Koch	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Chun H	Kong	S4	Simpson	16 02 2009
Cheuk N	Lau	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Charles R	Leslie	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Daniel P	McBride	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Joe	McColl	S6	Simpson	05 01 2009
Dylan	McDermott	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Robb J	MacDiarmid	S2	Freeland	21 04 2009
Calum R	Macdonald	S4	Ruthven	21 04 2009
Ross J	McDonald	S2	Simpson	01 09 2009
Murdo S	MacIver	S3	Nicol	01 09 2009
Holly A	McLean	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Alexandra K L	McLellan	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Max H H	Mahn	S5	Simpson	01 09 2009
Marise D	Mahos	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Hermes	Manos	S1	Riley	01 09 2009

Name+Inits	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Orpheas	Manos	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Enrique	Martinez	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Hannah C	Meikle	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Kirsty	Muir	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Rob	Muir	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Bethany J	Murphy	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Yuen Y	Ng	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Lucy J	Orr	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Connor A	Ovenstone	S2	Nicol	01 09 2009
Denisa	Pacholska	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Ewan M	Pirrie	S4	Freeland	05 01 2009
Hannah K J	Pitts	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Daisy M	Provan	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Alfonso	Ramos	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Ewan	Ramsay	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Moritz O B	Rechberg	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Gregor I W	Ritchie	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
James T	Ritchie	S2	Simpson	01 09 2009
Fabienne I	Robertson-Barnett	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Imogen A	Robertson-Barnett	P6	Riley	01 09 2009
Pablo	Sagnier	S2	Freeland	01 09 2009
Caroline F	Seaman	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Adam	Shakor	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Nadia A	Shakor	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Qian	Shen	S3	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Hao	Shi	S5	Simpson	01 09 2009
Sandie E T	Smillie	S2	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Constance S	Snowie	S1	Riley	01 09 2009
Henning V	Stange	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Penny J A	Stewart	P7	Riley	01 09 2009
Euan S	Sutherland	P5	Riley	01 09 2009
Maxim A D	Tabourel	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009
Gaydelia	Talipova	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Qianhe	Tang	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Konstantin F	Toffert	S4	Nicol	01 09 2009
Mairi P	Topham	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Kara G	Tripney	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Anastasiya	Veretennikova	S3	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Luke T	Walker	S3	Freeland	21 04 2009
Hope M	Whitelaw	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Annabel J E	Wilson	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Thomas	Wilson	S5	Nicol	01 09 2009
Lisa V	Winkler	S3	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Rory M T	Wood	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2009
Olivia D	Woodes Rogers	S4	Woodlands	01 09 2009
Xueting	Xiao	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Jiaru	Yang	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2009
Ho K	Yuen	S3	Freeland	01 09 2009
Yuling	Zeng	S5	Glenbrae	01 09 2009
Ren W	Zhu	S5	Freeland	01 09 2009

Speech Day

Strathallan School is a veritable hive of activity at the best of times, but during the run-up for the annual Speech Day in May, everyone has something to prepare for. Whether it's polishing your shoes in order to avoid the wrath of Matron, tearing yourself away from the post-Sports Day barbecue to attend the prize-giving rehearsal or helping to tidy up the art department, everybody is busy doing something to make the school appear at its best.



The pupils spend the first part of the morning getting ready whilst the House staff run around frantically trying to make sure everybody looks presentable (Mr Fleming told many a Thornbanker to run a comb through her hair, only to hear the disgruntled reply that "It's supposed to look messy!"). By ten o'clock the parents have started to arrive and everyone makes their way over to the emblematic white marquee in which the speeches are given.

The Chairman of Governors, Mr Gray, opened the ceremony, and was followed by the Headmaster's unapologetically lengthy speech which served to illustrate the continued successes and achievements enjoyed by the pupils in both academic and extra-curricular activities. Jamie and Jayne's School Captains' speech was eloquent and extremely funny (although it was probably only the pupils who could appreciate the in-jokes). Their speech was especially memorable for the members of the UVI, as they reminded the leavers of all the things they would miss about Strath (and just a few of the things they wouldn't) - a great send off. One small mention must be made, however, of the disappointment suffered by some pupils at the fact that Jayne failed to carry out a certain little promise she had made the year before, conditional upon her becoming Head Girl...

The guest speaker, Sir Allan Langlands, who handed out prizes to pupils, highlighted in his speech the important role that universities play in our everyday lives, whilst stressing the value of a university education.

After the conclusion of the speeches, visitors were free to explore the Art, Design and Technology, Divinity, Maths and Biology departments, where pupils' work was displayed, including some genetically modified, glow-in-the-dark bacteria! (*You sure that wasn't the Sixth Form Centre, Vicki? Ed*) At the same time, a concert was held in the chapel to showcase the impressive talent of the school's musicians, and at 12.30pm, the pipe band took to the lawn. Just before one o'clock there was the usual mad rush to the food tent, where the famous strawberry tarts were served.

As usual, throughout the day, flashbulbs were continually going off, as parents did their best to embarrass their children, and groups of pupils tried to take as many good photos as possible so that they could duly be posted on facebook as soon as the ceremony was over.

All in all, it was a memorable day - one of the few where the whole school community - pupils, parents and teachers - comes together to celebrate not only the achievements of individuals within the school, but of the school as a whole.

Vicki Gow UVI Thornbank



There was the usual mad rush to the food tent, where the famous strawberry tarts were served.



Houses Riley

The year began with our new children's and parents' tea on Wednesday 3rd September. This year we welcomed 36 new pupils which gave the House a total of 83 boys and girls for the autumn term. By the summer term our numbers had increased to 88 children. We also welcomed three new teachers - Dr Matt Gibson as a geography teacher and as the tutor in charge of Dupplin, Mrs Carol Sim Sayce joined the staff and was to be in charge of Riley music and Miss Louise Carroll was also a new staff addition with responsibilities for girls' games and P.E. in Riley.

For the second year we headed off to Carrbridge to the Forest Theme Park, Landmark for our bonding exercise on the first Saturday of the school year. Despite the rain great fun was had by all on the water slides, sky dives, the high wire courses and the ten metre climbing wall.

Over the first two or three weeks our new children adapted to their new school and routine and began to take advantage of the activities on offer. New activities included ceilidh and rock bands both run by Mrs Sim Sayce, and Miss McKay started a library club two afternoons a week which proved popular in the dark winter months. Table Tennis was also well supported and great success was had again in the Perth League on Tuesday evenings.

A new event for Riley was the introduction of an exeat weekend at the end of the fourth week of term. It coincided with our first informal concert of the year after which all boarders went away for a long weekend from the Friday evening with no Saturday school. It proved a great success and not just for the boarders! Next year we plan to have two exeats in the long autumn term.

The Halloween Party, with help from some Senior School prefects was great fun - a parade in fancy dress, the usual games and an indoor obstacle course! A number of the House also took part or supported the Headmaster's Music in the Perth Concert Hall. There was the kilt and rugby shirt day and a non-uniform day for charity which were both very well supported by Riley.



Riley also had their own charity day in the summer term all based on ideas from the children. An aquatic obstacle course was set up as a divisional competition on the Paddock and we had a cake and plant sale and also a raffle. Over £3000 pounds was raised for the three chosen charities in the afternoon.

At the end of the autumn term we said farewell and 'heaps of thanks' to Nick McArthur, our Australian Gap Student who returned home after three very successful terms with us. His replacements - Hamish Wise and Erin Smith, also from Australia, arrived in time for the spring term and soon proved popular with the House.

The divisional competition was very close in the autumn term. Glenearn won the 'Div Plays' but Balmanno were the overall leaders by just one point. The spring term saw Balmanno winning again despite Dron winning 'Div Music'. In the summer term Dron came back strongly winning six of the events and the termly competition but it was not quite enough to win the shield which went to Balmanno this year.

Other highlights during the year included a House outing to the Scotland A v Italy A rugby international in Perth, the Riley Boys' hockey team winning the 6-a-side plate competition, the summer term triathlon, the second form camp beside Loch Morlich, Strathallian and family fun day on the Paddock, an outing to the BBC children's concert in Glasgow, the Guitar Hero competition and, of course, the House production of Yanomamo performed to a packed theatre. This proved to be a most colourful and enjoyable musical. A most successful end to the year. Well done, Riley!

Judy Bush





>>Well done,
Riley!<<



The following were presented with prizes on Friday 3rd July at our Prize Giving :

Academic – Best Form Orders – Effort Totals

1JJ	Angus Gibson
1J	Nina Mearns
1st	Finlay Stewart Eliza Younger
2nd	Georgie Howell Anni Arthur Robyn Somerville Lewis Coutts

Most Progress

Distinctions

Rory Arthur	Archie Brown
Cameron Jenkins	Cameron Hirst
Ellie Hall	Jo Barrack
Finlay Kettles	

Music

Colin Gordon & Sarah Nicol

Drama

Ewan Campbell & Jo Barrack

Games

Charlie Mearns & Alison Ramsay

Art

Gareth Watt & Robyn Somerville

DT

Jordan Curtis & Georgie Howell

Reading Champion Finlay Stewart

Cups and Trophies

Div Plays	Glennearn
Chess Master	Matt Patterson

Div Music

Best soloist	Colin Gordon
Best Div	Dron

Piping/Drumming

Novice Chanter Charlie Mearns

Novice Drumming Alex Robertson

Junior Drumming Cammy Mack

Equestrian Awards

Gareth Watt	Robyn Somerville
Phoebe Arnot	Rosie Williams

Div Swimming: The Simpson Cup Dron

Football: World Cup Dron

Athletics

Senior Sports' Day

Boys' 100 metres

1st	Charlie Mearns
2nd	Gareth Watt
3rd	Josh Henderson

Girls' 100 metres

1st	Anni Arthur
2nd	Robyn Somerville
3rd	Emily Barnes

Mixed 800 metres

1st	Josh Anderson
2nd	Chris Van Dort
3rd	Connor Holborn

Riley Sports' Day

Victrix Ludorum	Robyn Somerville
Victor Ludorum	Charlie Mearns

Mixed Doubles Tennis: Dorward Cup

Mark McGuire & Nina Mearns

Hewson Cup

Charlie Mearns & Anni Arthur

Divisional Shield

1st	BALMANNO	66.5 pts
2nd	DRON	64.5 pts
3rd	GLENEARN	53.5 pts
4th	DUPPLIN	45.5 pts

At the end of our Prize Giving we said thank you, goodbye and made a presentation to Andrew Gordon who had taught D.T. and helped with Riley games for the past eight years and to Liz Duncan who had been a Riley tutor for four years and now moves to the new girls' house, Glenbrae.

Houses Freeland



**>>...it has been
a privilege to
captain and work
within such a
brilliant group of
people...<<**



Moving to Strathallan was somewhat of a strange and alien experience for me as I had previously attended a regular day school for five years. I found it easy to appreciate the differences Strath had to offer realising that the breadth of opportunities is something that few can afford to miss. Boarding in Freeland has re-emphasised how important my decision to move to Strath was as it is such a welcoming environment. Boys in the House are always up for a laugh and help pick you up when you're down which is why the House, and furthermore the school, functions so well. There is an unparalleled atmosphere that makes any newcomer instantly feel part of the team. A sense of place is created by the likes of Grant's 'Palace of Love', Cliff introducing us to Belga, tucking the Head Boy, Jamie, into bed and Maksym's cheeky but loveable sense of humour. These all culminate to make (to quote Jean Behets) "YOU!" part of Freeland, and he's right. The Upper Sixth in the House have led by example throughout the year and offered their support, not only by their formal duties but by taking the time to make sure the lower years are kept on the right track.

The House is full of memories which I'm sure every boy in it can appreciate. These include the numerous schemes of the dynamic duo that is Grant and MacKenzie, adventures conducted by Will and Adam, sending up the tutors at the Christmas party, Gavin's fascination with 'Yu-gi-oh' and even the scores of side-splitting laughs that come from the cleaners' staffroom – we can only guess what they laugh at...which is probably for the best! Thanks also goes to Mr Heaney for supplying us with fresh quotes for the year. "Got ya!"

It's funny how you get to know the House so well and how the strongest of friendships with your peers build up. Similarly, being able to approach the tutors whether it be for advice or simply for a chat in the foyer is an element of Freeland which makes it so welcoming. Even Mr Proctor's grumbles and growls can be deciphered to contain some form of encouragement. We are truly grateful for their support and guidance throughout the year which was rounded up with a memorable evening at The Klrkstyle Inn, in Dunning, with our annual Upper Sixth farewell meal.

This report would not be complete without mention of the Trojan workforce that is our cleaning staff. Rhona, Liz, Janette and Dianne do themselves credit everyday by leaving us with an immaculate House, despite our best efforts. We would like to wish Janette and Rhona all the best as they move on to new positions, in particular Janette after 12 years of loyal service to Freeland. Dianne is central to the House as she stops at nothing to ensure our wellbeing and by acting as a bridge between the Housemaster and the boys. We all know we can confide in her, even if it is concerning a certain underground tuck shop. Again we thank her for the love she shows towards us and to the House.

It is fair to say that Freeland, like all Houses, offer a healthy donation to school events (and prize winners) such as 'Charley's Aunt' and 'Guys and Dolls'. Watching Marcus Adams, Ollie Wale, Oli Beetschen, Jonny Keddie, Jamie Parker, Josiah Bircham and Andrew Glover lead the performances gives us all a sense of pride and a reason to hold our heads high. I will also have to mention Parker's one-man congregation which gives us all something to look forward to at chapel-keep up the good work, Parker. Leading in productions such as these reinforces the breadth and diversity of the House's character: where you have performers; you have national level pipers, where you have musicians; you have top class sportsmen and where you have artists; you have Sam, who does have his own unique art form(s). I have no fear in saying that the talent present in the younger years of the House will carry on this merit of Freeland.

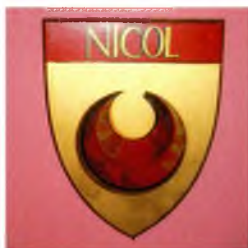
Freeland did well in maintaining the stocks in the trophy cabinet this year. A win in the House music ensemble with "Follow the Heron Home" beautifully arranged by William Campbell Gibson and featuring Joshua Cheung on Cello was a highlight while our performance of 'C'est La Vie' was enjoyed by all. Enthusiastic performances at the lectern by Andrew Glover, Jamie Parker, Surakat Kudehinbu and Sam Lipworth saw us win the senior House debating trophy. The year ended on a high note with wins in shooting and the junior House cricket competition.

Knowing that the end of term, and for upper sixth school, is closing in is a strange time as you can't help but reflect on your time in the House. Just walking down the corridor you can still hear the familiar voices of the fabulous Baino, the characteristic "HEULLLO!" of Simon and Rayko and Tournay's lively banter. You slowly but surely realise how good a life we have in Freeland, despite the minor annoyances we put up with, and that being part of such a group of people is something that few people experience and will be treasured for a long time to come.

Day to day life at Strath and in Freeland is not always easy, requiring a lot of effort and work input. My right-hand-man Jonny Dickson has shared this workload by arranging numerous House events and by stepping in when need be. And yes, he is a god. Nevertheless it has been a privilege to captain and work within such a brilliant group of people. I'm confident in saying that the House has been left in good hands with Oli Beetschen as captain and Surakat Kudehinbu as his deputy. They combine a focused work ethic and being in touch with the House and I'm sure they'll have a beneficial year for both themselves and the House. Writing this report has sparked many memories of my time in Freeland and I hope that reading it will do the same.

Roy Cameron

Houses Nicol



This time it was Andrew Whitelaw's turn to step up to the position of Head of House, along with Robbie and Hugh as Deputies. The group alone assured a strong start to the year but a good group to look up to. Nicol once again received an Aussie exchange, this time in the form of Henry L'Estrange, who brought with him not only 5 ½ feet of Australia, but a lot of laughs and some good times.

This year saw House rugby come around first, a competition that runs deep in Nicol's veins. After 2 successful matches against Ruthven and Freeland the team went into the final match with high expectations and hopes, but after 14 gruelling minutes we were on the wrong side of the scoreboard which saw the trophy passed on to



Simpson, but as always the Nicol boys left the pitch with their heads held high. The juniors still not living up to the seniors' standards once again coming third.

House music saw an uproar this year with our house choir singing 'Mountains' somehow managing to win first place, some believe that this was down to Ali Brown and his skimpy red jeans. The ensemble played a wonderful rendition of 'Imagine' by John Lennon the solo being performed by Tom Esparon.

Nicol once again retained House swimming, but unfortunately we had to share it with Ruthven due to the unfortunate disqualification of someone who will not be mentioned..... Derek!

This year once again led to another extremely successful Christmas party, with a large bouncy assault course which led to some insane jumps by our one and only Jo Morrison. There was also another successful House outing to see the infamous sequel to Casino Royal.

The spring term once again brought more success to Nicol in the form of senior indoor and outdoor hockey, House cross-country, in which we won all levels. This was not due to any individual but a whole team performance. This year saw the return of House football, in which after getting to the final we lost on penalties.

Finally into the last term, a much needed break from the long dark days of Winter into the sunny hot days of Summer and with that, unfortunately the pressure of exams for the seniors, though this usually means that there is not time left for inter-house competitions, though we still managed victories in cricket - without the help of Freddie Coleman - tennis, athletics, which came down to the final relay, and a final unforgettable celebration from Mr Giles.

From team success to personal success we have had a number of National appearances by some of the lads, some being, Jo Morrison who skied for Scotland and Great Britain. Freddie Coleman who continues to make the Scottish U19 cricket team as well as Joe Lipworth, who seems to be spending more time in the water than out of it.

It has once again been a great year for Nicol, and thanks to the hard work of the boys the trophy cabinet appears to be bursting at the seams, but also thanks to all the staff for making this year go so smoothly, and a special thanks to Mr Giles, who having never given up on us so far, is now leaving Nicol, but what a year to go out on....

Andrew Whitelaw and Mark McAlister



>>...the trophy cabinet appears to be bursting at the seams...<<



Houses Ruthven



>>A House is often judged on its success in House Competitions...<<

Probably one of the most difficult tasks in the year is extracting a House Report from the Head of House prior to the end of an academic year, and this year was no different. Henry managed to slip out the door on the 4th of July having left me no report, and it was then down to Jamie and the new Upper 6th to put some thoughts to paper - this they did prior to half term, October 2009.

We had another good intake into Ruthven in September with twenty-one new boys to the House. The 3rd form settled well with Paul Vallot as their tutor and they all enjoyed a weekend away at Loch Morlich. As a House we still value the 3rd Form Retreat as a House trip allowing some senior boys to attend as well. It really does give the new youngsters a chance to get to know their prefects, tutor and Housemaster - an invaluable experience and one which I hope we will be able to keep as such.

The House performed well at the Annual House Music Competition and yet again we emerged without any meaningful prize. Winning is not everything but it would be nice to get something for the effort of all that goes into preparation for such an event. Our

Ensemble was, however, asked to perform at the Headmaster's Music at the Perth Concert Hall in November - well done, guys.

During the first term we not only welcomed new boys including two exchange students from Australia but we also said farewell to Iain Bonn. Iain had been with us since Riley, but after gaining his GCSEs he decided to follow an agricultural course at College. The exchange students, George and James, settled well and had a very good term with us. James was a guitarist in our Ensemble and the girls were saddened to see George leave in November. Our annual Christmas Dinner was very successful and the Seniors did well to organise "Ruthven Olympics" afterwards. The competition included a Pub Quiz, Pool, Table Football, Table Tennis and a round of Scattergories.

A House is often judged on its success in House Competitions. Once again both individuals and teams did well throughout the year with success in the following:



**>>Catherine
will be missed
when she moves
to Glenbrae -
traitor!...<<**

Golf, Junior Hockey, Senior Football, Swimming and we also managed the junior and senior Victor Ludorum prizes on Sports Day. Well done to Craig and Toby on these prizes.

Ruthven has seen some stability over the past few years with little change in staffing. This, I feel, is a good aspect of the House as the boys know exactly where they stand. However, with a new Girls' House opening in September 2009 we had to say a sad farewell to Catherine Howett. Catherine had joined us about 3 years ago after Charles Court retired. She was a popular member of the Team in Ruthven and will be missed when she moves to Glenbrae- traitor!

Over the course of the year a number of boys achieved representative honours in various sports. Ryan Hood was drafted into the Scotland U17 rugby training squad and spent 2 weeks training in Spain in July. Ali Wood and Craig Rintoul represented U15 Midlands Hockey team while Tori Douglas-Song had success in the Fencing arena. Nick Farrar continued to represent the U15 Scotland Cricket team while Toby "Daventry" Culham scored an impressive century against the MCC team in June. At the end of the year we said the usual farewell to the Upper 6th who were now ready to move on to the next stage of their lives. However, we also said farewell to some 5th Formers who were also moving on from Strathallan; Jason, Sam and Callem were moving on while Theo

had spent the year with us improving his English; he was returning to France.

Our Upper 6th did reasonably well in their public exams with most of them gaining a place at either university or college as they had planned. The 5th Form achieved some good GCSE results and no doubt some will say they could have done better; but we can all say that.

At the end of the year we not only said farewell to the leavers but also to Paul Marshall who had spent the Summer term in 4th Form. Paul was on exchange from Canberra Grammar School and played cricket in the 1st XI. He had a good time with us and I know he went back with fond memories. We also said farewell to Christine who had worked in Ruthven for some 18 years. She hasn't left Strathallan but decided that perhaps cleaning in the Main Building might be easier and less stressful. A Big Thank you to her for all her efforts in the House over the years. Likewise to Matron and her team, thank you for all your efforts.

To my Tutor team many thanks for all your time and efforts in and around the House; the boys really do appreciate it. Finally to my wife and family thank you for your patience and tolerance.

To Jamie C and the incoming Upper 6th good luck in the coming year.

AW



Houses Simpson



When writing a House report, I suppose it must be a good sign when you struggle to remember everything that the House has achieved in the past year. Thankfully, after a few prompts and reminders, the various successes of last year in Simpson returned to me in no short supply.

Senior House rugby, notoriously the most hotly contested of inter-House competitions, was first up in October. Big performances against Ruthven and Nicol, and simply turning up against Freeland, were enough to bring the trophy and the year's bragging rights back to Simpson.

Etienne Melville (Vice-captain), Steve Lyons, Magnus Olafsson and Dom Pitts all played regular 1st XV rugby during the term, as did Hendo's signings from the summer transfer window, Andy Hall and Joe McColl (who didn't join until January – visa problems. He is from Elgin after all). Etienne, Andy and Joe also played district rugby with Caledonia throughout the year. Later the following term, our juniors completed the rugby double, winning their inter-House matches convincingly with an aggregate score over three matches of 103-0. They were ably captained by Ruairidh Hunter competently backed-up by a skilful supporting cast.

Simpson unusually went in to the annual House Music competition as defending champions and, eager to retain our crown, chose a serious modern classic as our choir piece. Breaking Free from Disney's High School Musical demands a strong vocal and emotional performance that Simpson were more than equal to. Certain that Simon Cowell himself would have been impressed, we were surprised to hear that the judge on the day did not entirely agree. It may have been the sight of Cosmo in a mini skirt that so seriously affected the judge's hearing. We all had a lot of fun anyway and will be back stronger than ever next year. A rather more serious ensemble piece chosen and arranged by Martin Kwok was well received and Santiago García Serrano's acoustic guitar solo was very well done under a lot of pressure.

Each week throughout the Autumn term, both our senior and junior basketball team played inter-House league matches in the sports hall. By the end of the term, both our teams had finished top, bringing yet another senior/junior double to Simpson. We also managed a win in the Badminton competition, led by Isaac Tsang. The Christmas outing was a great reward for all the hard work of the term. The whole House enjoyed our (all you can eat) curries – especially James McAllister who ate enough to sink a small barge. Of course the double decker journey back from Dundee will undoubtedly stick in the minds (and nostrils) for many years to come.

While still carrying a little extra holiday weight, the House turned out for the cross country competition in January. A win in his category for Chris Rennison and strong performances from other individuals were not, however, quite enough to bring us the title. At the Scottish Schools Athletics Chris performed exceptionally well and earned himself a place in the Scotland Schools Athletics team competing on foreign soil. Etienne then upheld the Melville family honour (all three boys in the same musical), giving an excellent performance in 'Guys and Dolls'. Not so sure about the accent though, mate. (*The accent was superb. Ed*)

In March, three of Simpson's tennis players represented Strathallan at the British National Finals in Bolton. Alastair Hunt, Michael Wells and Ruairidh Watson all gave good performances and enjoyed the experience of playing with some excellent players from up and down the United Kingdom.

This year has definitely been another good one in Simpson, and I hope everyone is proud of the contributions they have made to the House. I want to wish Andrew and his prefects good luck for next year, I'm sure they will all work hard and do a great job – enjoy it guys. All that remains is to thank Linda, Ann, Michelle and Alison for all their help, and of course Mr and Mrs Batterham and all the tutors for their endless hard work for the House.

Ali Hunt UVI

>>It may have been the sight of Cosmo in a mini skirt that so seriously affected the judge's hearing...<<





Houses Thornbank



>>I don't think Ben was expected to appear with a real axe<<



In general people like excitement and adventure but they also crave routine and a familiar pattern of life that they feel comfortable with. Thornbank provides us with all of this.

There is always the excitement of starting a new year, meeting up with old friends, catching up on all the gossip and making friends with the new girls. The adventure of becoming a sixth Former has its own challenges; managing spares – that's a study period, by the way; Perth leave and Events. V Formers realise that GCSEs are finally here, IV Formers are wishing they were still in the III Form because now they have "so much prep", while III Formers are so busy having a good time they eventually forget to be worried about starting a new school.

As the school year starts in a haze of subject choices, uniform issues, games and activities the familiar pattern of life and traditions begin to emerge.

One of the best things is having our first prefects meeting with the new Upper VI. It's great to see them embark on the final leg of their journey, particularly when we have seen them sail sometimes quite close to the wind.

So with Finola and Vicky at the helm and Lizz in charge of the sport we are ready to start a new year. House Music had always been a concern for this year group, but they were fortunate to have been joined by Jennifer Young who brought hitherto unheard-of musical knowledge and talent, (sorry, girls but you know it's true!) She led the way to victory with the House music choir coaching the girls through Shania Twain's Man I feel Like a Woman She was very ably supported by Lizz Vine and Kirsty Scobie who took on the conducting and general organisation – no small feat for a House of 87 girls.

So, following tradition, the prefects organized their first buddy pizza night to get to know their III Form buddies. They prepared the annual Halloween party- flour, water, loo roll and wotsits were everywhere. In fact I think most of it was on Rachael! Ghost stories were shared in the cubbie before the girls were taken on "the scary walk". Somehow I don't think Ben was expected to appear with a real axe. The scary video provided hours of entertainment as it was watched many times over- and that was just the staff.

Another tradition that has developed over the years has been the annual celebrity switching-on of the Christmas tree lights. The prefects get to choose the 'celebrity' and this year they asked Dr Gibson, much to everyone's obvious delight.

The Christmas party always provides the best laughs of the year and this year was no different. The morning roll-call came in for its usual Sandra & John jokes but this time performed by an extraordinarily tall Elizabeth as Mrs F and a smaller than average Mr F played by Hannah on her knees. For this they won the prize as best act!

Sophie's portrayal of Miss Morrison on the Upper VI video took some beating for sheer daring and Jayne donned the purple fleece for the last time for her now infamous portrayal of her Housemaster and taxi driver.

Lizz took charge of the swim standards, the House turned out a swimmer for every event resulting in a resounding win.

Other competitions take place during the year, but why is the inter-House Badminton always on the day after the ball? Many thanks go to Abbey, Sophie, Ivy, Peng, Jennifer, Shirley and Sunny for competing despite it being the day after the night before.

Inter-House competitions provide wins and losses and usually some surprises. Nadia took charge of the debating competition; usually a challenge. So it was great to see girls prepared to put themselves



forward even if they had never done it before, Kirsty, Lizz, Nadia and Sarah acquitted themselves brilliantly in the seniors while Darryl, Flora, Charlotte and Francis did equally well in the junior debate.

This year's House outing took us to Edinburgh to see Mary Poppins and, spurred on by the musical theme and a realisation that this was their last chance to be in a school show, Jayne, Kirsty Lizzie and Ina put on their dancing shoes and joined the chorus of Guys and Dolls.

The girls enjoy what is on offer but they bring so much themselves. Some of the things that come to mind are Eugenia and Jemma playing knuckles with such ferocity that ice was required. (That's the first time I have ever had an injury at a pancake night.) Corridor hockey, blow up chairs, Steph's sunburn, Charlotte and Jemma's fake tans, Lindsay's coffee and gossiping after the prefects dinner.

Alice Perry came to us as an exchange student, staying as a day pupil with Sarah Hellewell. She challenged herself to a Scottish charity event, drinking Irn Bru, wearing a kilt and eating shortbread. She raised money for a charity back in her native New Zealand getting all of us involved.

Ina Eller came for two terms from Germany and brought an enormous amount of fun and laughter as well as some amazing hockey skills.

After the sad demise of "wonky tumour fish" Thornbank acquired two new goldfish Gold and Nuggetts. Abbey Kemp took on the role of animal welfare officer making sure that they were regularly fed and cleaned, although I think Morag did a fair bit of the cleaning.

Changes in the tutor team saw us say hello to Miss Toye who joined Thornbank as a IV Form tutor, and sadly say goodbye to Mme Duncan. Mme D will be greatly missed after many years of loyal service but we know that she will be enjoying her new-found freedom and not missing that late drive home every Thursday. We lose Linda from our cleaning team to become Glenbrae's sewing lady and we also say goodbye or should that be "au revoir" to some of our Thornbank girls as they move on to start a new adventure and begin some new traditions in Glenbrae. We wish them all the best and hope that they continue to have as much fun in their new House as they did in Thornbank. We will miss you.

With thanks to all the prefects particularly Finola who as head of House did a great job of supporting the girls and the staff. John and I will miss our chats and coffee mornings.

It's amazing how quickly all the new girls become part of the Thornbank family and it's only through the support of all the tutors, Morag, Ros and her team that this is possible.

Here's to next year's adventure.

SF/JRF

Houses Woodlands



>>...a formidably flexible 60 year old bending in ways scarcely imagined previously...<<





Gazing upon the trophy cabinet it is easy to see and remember a number of the highlights of the year. The Strathallan Music trophy testifies to the bevy of colourful Abba wannabees who left the House. Although the performance wasn't befitting the hours of practice that preceded it the girls had great fun and enlivened the occasion. Ciara Elwis wowed the audience with her flute solo winning the solo prize in the process and the ceilidh band again acquitted themselves admirably altogether combining to give us victory.

Another highlight; another trophy...the inter-House cross country saw girls (many corralled) on the start line in freezing rain and regulation House vest. Despite horrible conditions the senior girls ran bravely achieving a top three finish and other creditable positions to win their competition overall. Olwyn Jenkins deserves mention too for winning the Junior run. Never a popular event it is the determination of each and every runner which counts and therefore the celebratory treat tastes all the sweeter.

For all the victories whether in hockey, netball or tennis there were heroic defeats which revealed the character that runs deep in Woodlands. Girls turn out time and time again giving of their best and ensuring that a competitive encounter is always achieved.

What about those highlights of the year not recognised by silverware? Can we call our introduction to Beyonce's Single Ladies Dance a "highlight"? Of course although it was not quite the understanding of "courtship" we had hoped for Calum and Fionn. Katy and Alice led the school musical belting out show stealing tunes night after night. Sacha Taylor was "discovered" at the House music evening and the Brainiacs won the inaugural Woodlands Big Quiz night which saw the residents of Hogwarts taking on Einsteins and "Neds". Chocolate night - need I say more - lashings of gossip, tonnes of chocolate (as much worn on the face as consumed) and games and laughter- has become an established and much loved Woodlands VI Form tradition. The Christmas party and all the events of the year provide numerous opportunities for fun, laughter and interesting costumes generally created from articles others have thrown away. Our Woodlands



wombles (a reference probably lost on the "youth of today") were transformed into magical creatures, aliens and gothic cheerleaders. The buzz, the energy and the hilarity that accompanies this process is infectious and revitalises the House on a cold, damp winter's evening. This year's Top Shop party witnessed the temptation of many innocent VI Formers by the allures the sales assistants offered. During a night of bankruptcy high heels were tottered in (or was that just the untutored Housemistress); animal print skirts sashayed around and accessories aplenty were accrued. The evening was a great success for the novelty of the shop coming to you and shopping with all your friends even if Chess managed to make everything look fantastic. Bead-making evenings brought together different year groups and many girls got Christmas covered early through their craftsmanship. Yoga sessions prior to the exams presented the girls with a formidably flexible 60 year old bending in ways scarcely imagined previously. Whilst this spectacle proved a distraction from the books, many did vouch that they used the breathing exercises in the crucible of the exam room. As the headmaster often says the academic "underpins what we do" and in spite of all the fun, friendship, frivolity and competition of the year the girls didn't disappoint in the exams either. Results were impressive and reflected the hard work and determination that had characterised their approach throughout. The Upper VI set the tone in this regard and we were fortunate to have such a strong set of leaders this year.

A few of the girls offered a summary of Woodlands which consisted of fun, friendship, rest, work, support and Janet. It is true that Janet does a huge amount and Woodlands would not be the same without her but there are many who contribute to the success of the House from the tutors to the prefects to the domestic team. All of these people help preserve our sanity and for that we are daily grateful.

As another academic year draws to a close we look back in admiration of all that has been achieved and thank the girls for the humour and industry that makes Woodlands such a pleasant place in which to live.

Abi Tod

Chaplain's report

I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds...
Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never find him through human wisdom,
he has used our foolish preaching to save all who believe.

So St Paul wrote to the first Christians at Corinth nearly two thousand years ago. And this year in Chapel, as in the previous few years, there has been a good deal of *foolish preaching*.

One example was the response to a question, after some of our youngest pupils had studied creation myths from around the world: "Sir, what's our creation myth?" Couching the Big Bang in the traditional language of myth proved an interesting exercise:

...and as they slowed down, all the tiny particles had time to notice all the others around them; and some of them started to dance together until the whole universe was one massive mosh pit; even bigger and hotter than Tea in the Park.

And very very soon, just like at all the best parties, there started to be lots and lots of helium, which would have been really good for blowing up balloons and making your voice sound squeaky, if anyone had been around to do that sort of thing.

And so the party went on, for what felt like a million years, and probably was.

And then, as things began to chill out, lonely particles started to gravitate together. And as they paired off, more and more got together until there was a whole host of great big circle dances, all getting tighter and tighter packed.

And as they danced, naturally enough they got hotter and hotter, and more and more packed together until one day the whole crew was so solid they were just on fire! – burning like the sun itself – in fact, that's just what they'd become: millions and millions of stars burning and blazing and spinning and circling as far as the eye could see.

...And that's the Creation Myth that most people believe today. Not everyone, it's true. About 12% of Christians worldwide, and many Muslims for example, believe that the Bible's account is literally true. What may surprise you is that most scientists believe in a creator God: because most believe that the tiny particle that kicked off the Big Bang had to come from somewhere.

Having retold a new story in an old form, at the end of the year we reversed that process, and presented the old, old story of the Cross in a contemporary form.

Members of the third form had worked for some months in the Art Department, under the guidance of Len Whatley of Crieff Ceramics. They produced a series of panels inspired by their reaction to the Dupplin Cross, the wonderfully preserved Pictish high cross dating from around 800AD, which all pupils visit whilst in Form III.

The individual panels were then assembled into our own Strathallan Cross, mounted on the west wall of Chapel.

It was thus at our last service of the year that School processed outside for a service of dedication:

Lord God, King of High Heaven,
Who formed us from the dust
and clay,
Who entered into all creation
through the life of Jesus Christ
our Lord,
Who by the death of Him hung high
upon a Cross
Drew all time and space
into eternity;

We dedicate this image of that cross,

Lovingly and carefully made,
Skilfully and kindly wrought it is;
The creation of our hands, our spirit and
our minds.

Remembering our ancestors in flesh and
in the faith
Who dwelt in this our land,
In this sign we unite ourselves with them,
Who lifted high the cross twelve
Centuries ago;
A sign of death defeated and of Hope.
May their spirits now surround us as we rejoice
with them
In the presence and the hope of everlasting life.

So may this Holy Cross be now for us,
and for those who come after us in this place,
A sign of life, of love, of mystery and
of revelation,

And by its presence bless us, as we now bless
this cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit.



Headmaster's Music



Accommodated once more in the palatial surrounds of the Perth Concert Hall Headmaster's Music, now renamed the Strathallan Music Showcase, once more displayed the diverse and considerable musical talents of our pupils and staff. An audience of over seven hundred was entertained to traditional Scottish music, pieces from the high Classical period, Church Music, choral speaking from an enthusiastic band of Riley gnomes, arrangements by pupils, a rock band and assorted individual instrumentalists, in addition to the more usual orchestra, choirs and Big Band. It never ceases to amaze me how much music is going on in the School, and how much is owed to the tremendously diverse and hard-working instrumental teachers we are lucky to have. All, under the direction of Richard Walmsley in his first year as Director of Music, together with his assistants Neil Hamilton and Carol Sim-Sayce, both new to their respective responsibilities.

The concert got off to a rousing start with a medley of traditional Scottish tunes from the School's Pipe Band under Pipe Major, Adam Michie. Although many might have an aversion to pipes played indoors, the audience showed its appreciation with a lot of foot tapping and applause. The main focus of the rest of the first half of the concert was classical music, in particular music for soloist, both vocal and instrumental. James Pak, new to Strathallan, played a delightful sonata in F by Mozart with assured technique and not a little style. Martin Marshall delighted all with a sensitive performance on his harp. William Campbell-Gibson, the development of whose voice was especially unexpected to this reviewer, gave a passionate and deep performance of Robert Schumann's *Ich Grolle Nicht* from his *Dichterliebe*. Apparently he had been working on this song in preparation

for the evening with opera singer John Morgan who had taught a Masterclass earlier that week. William's tone was powerful and penetrating in the louder sections of the score, sweet and lilting in the more tender sections. For me, this was one of the defining performances of the evening.

The remainder of the first moiety was taken up with an enthusiastic rendition of Brahms' Academic Festival Overture from the School Orchestra, well led by Tom Esparon. And the Chamber Choir got in on the act with Stanford's *The Blue Bird*. This group, made up of Choral Scholars and friends, gave a delightful and musical account of their piece, proving a poignant counterpart to the Choral Scholars' rendition of Lennox Berkely's *The Lord is my Shepherd*. Although there was a large overlap of personnel between the two groups, the subtle vocal nuances and cores of each ensemble were different and striking. The final vocal group of the half was the full Chapel Choir, singing Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, an ambitious and technically demanding piece, which, in addition to being lengthy is punctuated with more contemplative sections. It is difficult to hold an audience of this size for long with this sort of music, the more so as it was unfamiliar to many, but the Choir is to be congratulated for engaging with the listeners.

The second half of the evening was an altogether different kettle of fish. Whereas the first moiety was full of 'serious' music, the second period saw many let their hair down somewhat. Mrs MacFarlane's verse speakers from Riley gave us the perfect start with Burns' *Scots Wha Hae* and Belloc's *Matilda*, who told lies and was burned to death! There was action, some asides, and not a little fun in this rendition which, it is believed, had a lot of success in Lamda examinations. There were also in attendance three of the ensembles from the successful House Music Competition. Freeland

performed *Follow the Heron Home*, arranged by William Campbell-Gibson, Simpson gave us *Un Día Llegará*, arranged by Martin Kwok who also provided the vocals, and Ruthven's rock band played their rendition of *Sweet Home Alabama*, with Chris Jaworski on vocals. All three ensembles proved that the standard of music-making in the boys' Houses is on the up after a relatively fallow period, and I think it would be fair to say that the Ruthven band probably shaded the shrieks, applause and general tumult from the audience.

Back to the serious music briefly. Alice Inglis, who has had great success at the National Mod gave a memorable rendition of a traditional song, *Jock o' Hazeldean*, accompanying herself on her clarsach. And Ciara Elwis soared to the heights and dove to the depths of Poulenc's *Cantilena Presto Giocoso* from his sonata for flute and piano.

The final two items of the evening were both built around the Wind and Big Bands. Both under the direction of Neil Hamilton, they provided a swinging and fitting end to such a great evening of music-making. The Wind Band got us in the mood with a medley of tunes from *Fiddler on the Roof*, the favourite probably being, 'If I were a rich man ...'. Then the Big Band topped this with *Basin Street Blues* and a toe-tapping *Ain't that a Kick in the Head*. Some wonderfully provocative vocals were supplied by Ollie Wale and Sara Chalmers, over the top of some pungent saxophones and brass.

Many people who attended the concert were heard to say they would happily have paid good money for such an evening's entertainment, and that all concerned with the evening should be rightly proud of the standard of their musicianship. Music is alive and well at Strathallan. Can 2009 beat that?

RHF

Music

Strathallan Music Department: Under new management!

And so it seemed that the department's mantra was out with the old; in with the new(ish) in 2008. Several new staff joined both the academic and instrumental teams; we welcomed anew Mrs Carole Sim Sayce alongside Neil Hamilton as the two new Assistant Directors of Music. We also welcomed David Dunsmuir to cover Laurie Hamilton's bass guitar teaching, and Patsy Reid to teach violin and viola alongside Scottish fiddle and folk music. Patsy's appointment was part of a new set of innovations in 2008; developing Scottish folk music, Music Technology and recording facilities, and developing our ensembles, including the creation of the now ubiquitous Big Band. Of course, the routine provision of over 65 performances from over 20 different ensembles was not altered; merely sustained and enhanced to produce over one hundred performances between September and June.

The first half of the Autumn term always begins with the Music staff concert, which produced some incredible performances designed to reassure parents and inspire pupils. The department was lucky enough to then host baritone John Morgan, of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, for a vocal master class and concert titled *Baritone in Love* with Robin Covill (piano). Sadly, due to John's commitments in London, the master class had to be postponed. However the concert, which featured the Chamber Choir performing *Banks of Inverurie* by Ken Johnston, was a tremendous success, with many parents, pupils and staff thoroughly enjoying and appreciating the performance.

Swiftly on to the next event; performing for HRH The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay at Crathie Kirk. This is one of the musical highlights of the year in which, owing to logistics, only 14 members of the Chamber Choir and Choral Scholars are hosted by the Queen's Chaplain, Rev Ken MacKenzie, and his family to perform for the Sunday morning services at Braemar and Crathie Kirks. In this unique event, the choristers are invited into the intimate surroundings of the Balmoral estate to take part in the worship enjoyed by members of the Royal family, Royal protection squad, and members of the estate's community. This is a truly memorable and unique experience for all of the choristers. However, since the Queen stopped to wave to the choristers outside the church, and the ensuing confusion on Royal protocol between William Campbell-Gibson and Sam Toodle-oo Lipworth, I fear that it may have been memorable for Her Majesty for slightly different reasons!

Back home to reality, and preparing for the Music Scholars' concert. This has always proven to be a wonderful evening, and this was no exception. The audience was treated to many wonderful performances including Tom Esparon's rendition of Rondo, from Concerto No 5 by Seitz, Martin Marshall's enchanting performance on Clarsach of Mhairi bhan 'og', Hannah Johnstone's authoritative version of Lloyd-Webber's Don't cry for me Argentina and William Campbell-Gibson's masterful execution of Schubert's lied Ich grolle nicht. It would seem at this stage that the department is in rude health.

Of course, whilst this is going on, the wider school community is preparing itself for the musical highlight of the year: the House music competition. Adjudicated by Mr Stuart Fyffe, this year Ruthven House choir set the

tone by opening with Robbie Williams' Let me entertain you. Thus the Houses did, with two hours of out-performing and verbal sparring. Woodlands House were the deserving overall winners.

Following half-term, attentions turn to preparation for Headmaster's Music. Owing to pupils' numerous extra-curricular demands, rehearsal time for Orchestra was incredibly limited. So, a mad-cap scheme was launched to have the orchestra rehearse for the full weekend before the concert, supported by members of the department. Initially met with disappointment at the prospect of no lie-in on the Sunday morning, members of the orchestra stayed after games on Saturday and all day on Sunday to rehearse their repertoire for Headmaster's Music. This was a tremendous success, and our thanks go to both the pupils and the music staff for giving up their weekend to make this possible.

And on to Headmaster's Music in Perth Concert Hall. This year's Musical Showcase looked to develop what had already been established, as well as break new ground in showing the breadth of Strathallan's musical talent whilst, simultaneously, reducing the length of concert! A full review is contained further in this report, but I'm delighted to report that the concert was an unqualified and unparalleled success in all areas, with too many wonderful performances to detail here. I am sure that, of the 1000-strong audience who attended, many would agree that a high bar has been set, and we look forward to the challenge of meeting it next year.

Although Headmaster's Music demands much of the focus of the department and pupils, it doesn't mean that musical momentum for other musical events stops. Throughout the second half of the winter term, through to the February half-term, a lunchtime concert series runs in the Music room for pupils to play solo or ensemble works that they are preparing for exams and competitions, or merely for fun. The Chapel Choir continue to learn a new anthem every week for Wednesday Chapel and, in December, Christmas carols for Carols in the City at St Ninian's Cathedral and the School Carol Services in the Chapel. The Choral Scholars continue to offer their skills to St Ninian's Cathedral by learning new repertoire every week for Mass, and for the monthly service of Evensong. In December, the Chapel Choir and Pipe Band were invited to perform Parry's full arrangement of Old Hundredth, the contest March Goldcrest and Highland Cathedral with the Kingdom Brass Band in a concert at St Ninian's Cathedral. In Riley, CASS and NH developed the Riley Informal concerts to feature every pupil in Riley either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble. As a result, attendance at these concerts was always over 100.

The end of term brings much-needed rest for pupils and staff alike. However, the department doesn't really stop after the end of term, as the Choral Scholars return to sing the Christmas services at the Cathedral. Starting with full Carol Service on 23rd December, and closely followed by Carol singing in St John's Shopping Centre on Christmas Eve, everyone gets into the Christmas spirit with great enthusiasm. Time is given over for some last





minute shopping, before culminating in Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass. This is a unique experience in the whole of Scotland, and I am immensely grateful to all the Scholars and their families for giving so freely of their time. I am particularly grateful to the Johnstone family for hosting us for a wonderful black-tie dinner.

The Spring term comes all too soon, and with it, the culmination of examination pupils' academic coursework. However, they also hurl themselves headlong into performance. From the first full week, the lunchtime concert series continued every Friday afternoon, with many wonderful performances given by the full spectrum of musicians, from Riley to VI Form, from Renaissance to Rock! The first Form concert of the year, for III and IV Form, was held in the spring term, and a full and supportive audience of family, friends and staff enjoyed listening to assured performances including Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 2 by Steven Segaud (viola) and James Pak (piano), Boyce's Tell me lovely shepherd by Ellie Kemp (soprano), and even Tom Alexander's *Le Manège* for accordion, played by Murdo Elwis.

This term also provided the formal launch for our Scottish Folk Musicians, under Miss Patsy Reid's direction, in an Evening of the Scottish Arts recital in the Music Room. The aim of this was to show the richness and breadth offered by Scottish folk music, particularly in this year of Homecoming, and the audience weren't disappointed. Performers included the Folk Group, the Riley Ceilidh Band, the Clarsach Quartet, the Fiddle Trio, as well as soloists and verse speakers. Particular highlights included hearing Callum's Road by the Clarsach quartet, the vocal duets of Tioram air tir and An cagar performed by National Mod winners Alice Inglis (W5) and her duet partner Miss Kim McDonald, and Patsy Reid's own compositions of Not from these parts and Five is better from her new album, performed by the Fiddle trio. This really was an excellent evening's entertainment and, following its success, the Folk

musicians were invited to repeat this concert as a Celebration for the Year of Homecoming in Kinross Parish Church the following term.

Of course, following half term, all efforts and attentions turn to the School Production, which, this year, was *Guys & Dolls*. This involves as many pupils who can fit on-stage, back-stage, in the wings, in the lighting box or even in make-up and costumes. However, in a new departure, it was decided that we didn't have enough pupils in the pit, and so musicians from the Big Band were tasked with providing the band for the show, under the direction of Mr Neil Hamilton. For any wind players who have ever played in a pit orchestra, this task is daunting enough, with very tricky syncopated rhythms and mid-music instrument changes to contend with, let alone for pupils who are still learning their craft. Needless to say, the Band rose to the challenge with great aplomb, as can be evinced by some audience-members' comments of surprise to learn that the accompaniment was not provided by a professional band!

In the Summer term, everything revolves around national exams, and the concert schedule is no different. In the first half of the term, Riley produce their last Informal concert, whilst the last of the Form concerts, for V and VI Form, take place. The V Form contains prodigious musical talent, and the audience was entertained by superb performances by musicians including Marcus Adams (piano), Tom Esparon (violin), Rosie Beetschen (cello) Josiah Bircham (trumpet) and Ciara Elwis (flute). Equally the V Form concert displays the pinnacle of musical talent within the school, and performances from Adam Michie and Sean Townsley on pipes, supported by Jonny Clifford on bass drum in his concert debut, Oli Beetschen on trumpet, as well as William Campbell-Gibson's recital of late 19th and 20th century English art song for his A2 Music coursework, did not disappoint.

Music in Riley House



Speech Day signals the beginning of the end for school leavers, exam candidates, and musicians alike. The Speech Day concert simply provides a snap-shot of work pupils have done over the year, and the audience was treated to samples from earlier concerts in Finzi's It was a lover and his lass by William Campbell-Gibson, Callum's Road by the Clarsach Quartet, as well as new repertoire in Sondheim's Send in the clowns by the Chamber Choir, Sacha Taylor's solo performance of Mark Ronson's arrangement of Valerie, before ending with Robbie Williams' arrangement of Weill's classic Mack the Knife by the Big Band featuring Ollie Wale.

In the second half of term, the department focuses on the final musical events; the Riley Show and Headmaster's Music. This year the Riley Show, Yanomamo, brought together different departments in giving pupils a holistic learning experience, and both pupils and parents thoroughly the outcome. The final Headmaster's music should have been impossible to organise, because of pupils' academic commitments. However, our pupils end the year as they begin it, at full pace. And so, for the last concert of the year, a mixture of soloists and ensembles including the Riley Ceilidh Band, Riley Choir, Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Choral Scholars, Strathallan Quartet, Wind Band, Guitar trio and Big Band treated the audience to a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Thanks must go to all of the pupils for their support and enthusiasm in producing these wonderful concerts, as well as all of the department staff for their hard work in preparing them. Particular thanks must also go to the UVI leavers, particularly William Campbell-Gibson, Sam Lipworth, Morag Elwis, Catriona MacKenzie and Jennifer Young for their tireless efforts in consistently producing music of the highest quality. They leave for pastures new, but leave the department's future in very promising hands.

RCAW

The emphasis in Music this year has been on making and enjoying music. In every lesson pupils have been developing instrumental, vocal, composing and appreciating skills. The Riley Informal Concerts provided a showcase for the results of these efforts and each class took turn throughout the year in performing a class ensemble. As the year turned from soft autumn to darkest winter so did an increasing array of musical equipment make its way to Riley Common room; initially a mere twelve glockenspiels to accompany Walking on Broken Glass but thereafter a full double rock band for performances of Eleanor Rigby, Teenage Dirtbag, Caledonia, Let It Be and Auld Lang Syne. In addition, every pupil took part in every Informal performing chants, rounds, campfire and community songs. These evenings were indeed very happy and relaxed occasions and the support given by Riley pupils to their peers performing solos was most encouraging and uplifting.

More formal occasions provided a platform for the range of extra curricular activities in Riley. Children opted for these activities at the very end of hard working days and it was indeed gratifying to present performances to the wider school audience. Riley Ceilidh Band and Riley Rocks learned folk and rock techniques. These were all-comer sessions combining a number of able instrumentalists with beginner enthusiasts and happily the result was a number of pupils seeking formal lessons and buying their own instruments to further their interest

beyond Riley. Riley Choir sang in two or three parts throughout the year (to accommodate a changing voice baritone section) and a highlight for the children was joining forces with the senior Chamber Choir for The Lion Sleeps Tonight.

The excited ethos and rolling wave of enthusiasm in the musical life of the House was crystallised in the Divisional Music Competition. Here the ingenuity of the pupils really shone with choices of choral piece, ensemble and solo to delight and entertain. From Bach to Take That, Disney to Leonard Cohen via Abba, 100% commitment and competitiveness was shown by all.

The great focus and finale to the musical year had to wait until the very last day of the summer term. The Riley show Yanomamo was an ecological musical based on issues concerning rainforests. Many departments came on board to support the challenging, profound and emotive issues arising. The whole House went to a climate-themed concert given by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Glasgow, adding another layer of poignancy and understanding to the project. The show was indeed terribly moving and a fitting finale to a marvellous year of music making and hard working enjoyment.

CASS

The Ecolo G Festival

On the 19th of June 2009, the Ecolo G Festival took place in the theatre, it was organised entirely by pupils and for pupils, when you hear what it is, you'll see why.

The festival was designed by the committee for all the pupils of the school, all the organisation was done by committee members, the only action of the adults was to give approval to the entire event (some were very sceptical). *(Ahem, I think you'll find some of the old codgers took part as well. Hmm?? Ed)*

The reason we chose to centre the event around the video game Guitar Hero was that it involves four people at once, each group taking on average 7 minutes and it is something that virtually every young person is familiar with so anyone can join in. Our reasoning was good since next to everyone who had not left school was there.

For a number of years 'Strathstock' (a battle of the bands) has been arranged and postponed because there is only ever one band in Strath at a time, this year was no exception. The Fentones were the only group capable of performing to the school, so we thought,

well if battle of the bands is out, how about battle of the virtual bands.

To most of you this probably isn't making any sense but hopefully some of you will know about Guitar Hero World Tour, and this event comprised an inter house Guitar Hero competition where houses would try and get the highest 'percentage of notes hit' on the hardest 'difficulty' they could. Along with this we had the Fentones playing some real music for us and finally the aspiring Disk Jockeys of Strath entertaining everyone who was left at 9.30.

More than 350 pupils attended, which was almost all of the school, considering most of UVI had already left. There were three events, one for Riley, one for 3rd and 4th form and one for 5th and 6th form, and we saw the theatre transformed into a festival stage where two bands from each house, and ten from Riley, next to The Fentones.

Not only were there student bands but a number of teachers also gave a performance. The teachers' band comprised Mr Kennedy (Spanish teacher), Mr Higginbottom (Classics teacher), Mr McBain (future Housemaster) and Hamish (Australian GAP year student) and they played Everlong by the Foo Fighters. In doing so, they gave a thoroughly enjoyable performance and beat most of the House bands.

The whole event was a great success and grossed over £2800 for the school Eco Committee, with which we intend to fund a variety of schemes to try and improve Strathallan's ecology, including a recycling centre and possibly a biodiesel power-plant.

Jamie Parker UVI Freeland



Speech and drama

Oliver Wale's years of successes in Speech and Drama Festivals were rewarded in September when he was invited as the only school-age reciter to perform in a concert at the British and International Federation of Festivals Annual conference which this year took place in Scotland. Ollie and Mrs McFarlane performed a programme of poetry in Scots dialect, including by Robert Burns and Perth poet, William Soutar.

Ollie continued his successes by winning the overall secondary age group trophy at the Perth Burns Club's Annual Festival for reciting Burns' Epistle to J Lapraik gaining a massive 98%. The Junior Secondary Trophy went jointly to Joanna Barrack and Charlie Mearns. Murdo Elwis won the accordion class and Eleanor Kemp, "The President's Trophy" for singing John Anderson, My Jo.

His success in that competition led to Ollie's being invited to perform poetry at the Burns Club's dinner in January to mark the 250th Anniversary of the poet's birth. Ollie's performance was praised by John Swinney and George Reid, politicians, who were speakers at the dinner.

The speech and drama classes at Perform in Perth and the Edinburgh Competition Festival brought the usual crop of successes for our pupils.

In Edinburgh, Alison Forsyth won two medals, one for reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible and the other for reading The Smokey Smirr o' Rain, a poem in Scots by George Campbell Hay – not bad for a girl from Washington State, USA! Joanna Barrack won the Junior Verse Medal for her recitation of The Gowk by William Soutar. 2 weeks later in Perth, Ollie Wale achieved 3 firsts, including being awarded "honours" (over 90%) for reciting both At Grass by Philip Larkin and a speech by Puck from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Frances Myatt came first in both the Bible reading and prepared reading classes in her age group. In the same disciplines in the 15 to 17 age group, both firsts went to Josiah Bircham. Sam Lipworth, with a speech entitled Clouds, won the Public Speaking

(age 15-17). Millie Galashan won the verse speaking (13-14) class and Henry Melville the Soutar class for that age group.

The LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams on October produced a number of distinctions. Form II set 2 achieved distinction for choral speaking, Hannah Grant and Ashlee Barnett for spoken English, David Cameron for Grade 8 reading for performance, the two Ollies (Wale and Beetschen) for Silver Medal acting and Morag Elwis for Gold Medal public speaking. Frances Myatt's distinctions for mime and spoken English, took to five her number of similar achievements in 2008.

To that number Frances added another four in May for reading for performance, spoken English, devising and the speaking of verse and prose.

As well as Frances, many other candidates performed extremely well in LAMDA exams in May, the majority achieving distinction (80% and over). Every single candidate choosing to do mime came into this category, the highest marks going to Elliot Clements, Callum Nicoll, Mark McGuire. Logan MacGregor, Ellie Hall, Euan Brown, Antonio Elias Castellón, Duncan Cook, Andrew Burns, Damir Khusyaynov and Cameron Jenkins. Cameron even exceeded his 85% for mime with 86% for spoken English. Devising exams are also proving popular and brought distinctions for Jamie Dinsmore, Joshua Morris, Robbie McDiarmid, Greg Meiklem, Ewan Campbell, Colin Gordon and Josh Martin.

A quartet of III Form girls (Jenny Summersgill, Frances Myatt, Andrina Dew and Eilidh Gibson) achieved 90% for devising.

Other extremely high marks for devising were achieved by Jo Barrack and Olivia Stephenson. In acting exams Henry Melville and Murdo Elwis gained 90% with high distinctions also going to Jonathan Blackburn (acting) and Alison Forsyth (reading for performance).

II McF



The Riley House Show

Strathallan's theatre year ended with an explosion of colour provided by the pupils of Riley House in their production of Yanomamo – an Ecological Musical (words by Peter Rose; music by Anne Conlan).

The idea of performing Yanomamo came from Mrs Sim-Sayce who directed it. She invited other departments to become involved in the lead-up to the production by making it a cross-curricular activity about the effects of the destruction of the rainforest in the Amazon Basin, on wildlife, plants and the indigenous tribes, particularly the Yanomamo. Art, English, RE, Modern Languages, Geography and the Library took their part in the project.

Yanomamo

(Song of the forest)

For example, the art department contributed colourful art work. Mrs Hunter describes how IJJ became utterly engrossed in creating an enormous snake which followed the route from the main door to the theatre.

Almost all of the pupils in Riley were involved, either in singing, dancing or in providing narrations. The lively, tuneful music carried the story from, at the start, the natural, abundant world of the forest, through man's interference and exploitation to the tragedy of destruction and devastation.

Particular highlights in the performance were provided by Eliza Younger as the Jaguar and Sam Steele as the Sloth, and by Gareth Watt and Charlie Mearns in "Burn Them Trees" but all participants were excellent and obviously thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The set and lighting prepared by Mr Hume and the stage crew and the costumes created by Mrs Streatfeild-James and Olivia Streatfeild-James contributed to the wonderfully colourful experience.

The audience, as well as the Riley pupils, cannot possibly have left the theatre that day without having been made aware of the tragedy of the situation facing life in the rainforest at the current time.

IIMcF



Mrs McFarlane Pulls it Off Again! a.k.a.

Charley's Aunt



A reprise of the 2003 Riley LAMDA exam success, with some of the same cast, this was another triumph from the McFarlane production duo. The slick, pacey performances pleased everyone: Riley pupils and their Primary School guests sat agog throughout the entire matinee and older audiences punctuated the evening shows with roars of laughter at the witty dialogue and slapstick antics on stage.

William Farmer (indistinguishable from the Real Thing!) played nineteenth-century Oxford-undergraduate-and-man-about-town, Jack Chesney. He and his co-conspirator, Oliver Beetschen as Charles Wykeham, seized upon racy fellow-student Lord Fancourt Babberley (Babbs for short!), played for laughs by Jamie Parker, to impersonate the aunt who had not arrived from Brazil in time to chaperone two delicious but demure young ladies (Sophie Arnot as Amy and Hannah Cox as Kitty) to whom they intended to propose.

Farcical scenes ensued, complicated by the arrival of Jack's sprightly but elderly father (Oliver Wale) and Amy and Kitty's angry uncle/guardian, Spettigue (Andrew Glover). To complete the confusion and dismay, Charley's real aunt (Catriona Mackenzie) accompanied by her adult ward, the orphaned Ella Delahay (Christina Stephenson), who turned out to be Babbs' beloved, also converged on St Olde's College.

The casting and production were superb: from Brasset the college 'scout' (Steven Segaud), who moved with such unruffled dignity, to the comic timing of the three undergraduates, to the arch amusement of (Aunt) Donna Lucia who yielded so graciously to the amorous advances of her old admirer, Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, father of Jack.

After many unexpected setbacks, Spettigue's tetchy objections were overcome and the four happy couples took their bows to thunderous applause. Superb! Well done each and every one, not forgetting the backstage team who provided sensitive lighting, appropriate costumes, convincing make-up and such an authentic set to add to the impact of the performances.

EMA





GUYS AND DOLLS

Musicals provide opportunities for a wide range of individual skills to be demonstrated. That is their main (perhaps their only) justification. Guys and Dolls provides a wealth of such opportunities and this year's production showed just how well these can be taken. Acting, singing, dancing and instrumental skills were all required and all those involved produced an enthusiastic and skilled response.

The leading parts produced excellent performances. Marcus Adams was worryingly natural as the seedy and fundamentally incompetent Nathan Detroit. Oliver Beetschen was suitably smooth as Sky Masterton. One could almost touch the pent-up frustration of the outstanding Katy Marshall as Adelaide and the missionary zeal of Alice Inglis as Sister Sarah was formidable. Oliver Wale, Jonathan Keddie, Jamie Schofield, Tom Esparon, Josiah Bircham, Etienne Melville, Johnny McCashin, Andrew Glover and Maggie Luck all made the most of their parts. The supporting cast was equally convincing as either Guys or Dolls.

The singing was first-rate. The main leads and Josiah Bircham (as Nicely Nicely) gave full value to the solo parts. The chorus







The missionary zeal of Alice Inglis as Sister Sarah was formidable...

numbers were consistently well-handled under the direction of Richard Walmsley. The dancing, choreographed and directed once again by Kimberley Stewart was energetic and, considering some of the characters taking part, surprisingly disciplined. The Swing Band, led by Neil Hamilton but consisting mainly of pupils, played with great skill and tremendous verve.

As always, a tremendous job was done behind the scenes. The set was brilliantly designed by David Hume and effectively realised. The stage crew operated efficiently and (almost) silently. Costumes and make-up were once again smoothly handled by Kate Streatfeild-James, Dorothy Hunter and their teams.

What was particularly pleasing about the production of this musical was the way in which it was tightly directed without losing the feeling of spontaneity and enthusiasm. Mary Robertson-Barnett and her production team deserve much credit (they even almost managed to carry off the Cuban café scene, surely one of the most ill-conceived in all musical theatre). This was a performance of the highest quality.

RJWP



National Youth Theatre

Technical Course 2009

We were lucky enough to go backstage at many West End theatres...

The 'National Youth Theatre' is the largest youth theatre company in Britain with thousands of members up and down the country. It puts on a number of productions throughout the year, including during the summer at 'The Soho Theatre' in London's West End. Former National Youth Theatre members include the likes of Orlando Bloom, Daniel Craig, Dame Helen Mirren, Matt Lucas, Catherine Tate and Sophie Ellis-Bextor to name a few. It is a registered charity and is based in London.

In April I was lucky enough to be accepted onto one of the National Youth Theatre's technical courses, after being interviewed earlier in the year. I travelled down to London a week after term finished not knowing what to expect from the "techies" I'd be on the course with. But as soon as I arrived at the Headquarters in Islington, I knew I was in for an interesting, but fun, fortnight.

I was on the stage management course with 24 other people, and 3 professional stage managers who were, or had been working on large-scale professional theatre and film productions throughout the UK. We were taught all the theory of being a stage manager, such as cueing, calling the show, props lists, rehearsal notes and etiquette in the profession.

We were also lucky enough to go backstage at many West End theatres to talk to the stage management teams and to see how they operated. We visited the National Theatre and saw all three of their theatres, including their painting wall, props store and armoury. We were taught by the stage manager who was on *The Lion King* for four years in the West End, and who also invited us to go backstage at the Piccadilly Theatre where *Sister Act* had just opened.

Throughout the two-week course they tried to get every member on the stage management course a placement at a West End Theatre. With the likes of *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Thriller* and *Billy Elliot* as possibilities I was thrilled when asked to go to *Oliver* at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane to shadow the deputy stage manager and the automation team in one of their evening performances. The automation operator

was only too pleased to share that he had only recently been on the 'Kylie' European tour as well as the 'Take That' UK tour operating all the automation in the shows.

In the last week of the course we started working towards putting on an extract from Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* which was due to be on at 'The Soho Theatre' in October, to finish their summer season. We worked on props, rehearsal notes, cues, and organising production meetings to aid the smooth running of the final production. We also had the other course members working on this production too, including costume, set construction, sound and lights.

The course came to an end on the day we put on the extract we had been working on with the National Youth Theatre actors. I was asked to call the show (meaning to cue every element of the show- light cues, sound cues, actor entrance cues, scene change cues etc.) and got through it...just.

We were presented with our certificates at the end of it all, and are now all members of the National Youth Theatre. This means we can be asked to take part in a number of activities and events across Britain, and can be asked to come and be a part of the technical crew on any one of their future productions.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time with The National Youth Theatre and would recommend it to all. Whether it is an acting or technical course you are interested in, you are guaranteed a fun, memorable fortnight, with professional tutors and loads of really great people.

Oli Beetschen LVI Freeland

Art



1: GCSE display; 2: Heather Mitchell, A2.
 Opposite page: 3: Catriona Mackenzie, A2; 4: Rosie Gibson GCSE;
 5: Christina Stewart A2; 6: Hannah Cox GCSE; 7: Sophie Howell GCSE;
 8: Hannah Stewart GCSE; 9: Ciara Elwis GCSE; 10: Rachael Stewart GCSE;
 11: Rosie Gibson GCSE



3



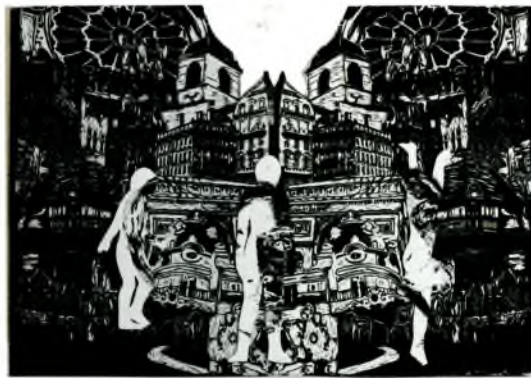
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8



9



10



11



1: Jessica Carson, A2;
2: Emma Howell, A2;
3: Lizzie Gordon, A2;
4: Heather Mitchell, A2;
5. Alison Lee A2



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1: Ross Dafereras AS; 2: Stefanie Harrison AS;
3: Mark McAlister AS; 4: Lizzie Gordon A2;
5: Sara Nicol; 6: 2nd Form Groupwork; 7: Crawford Niven.



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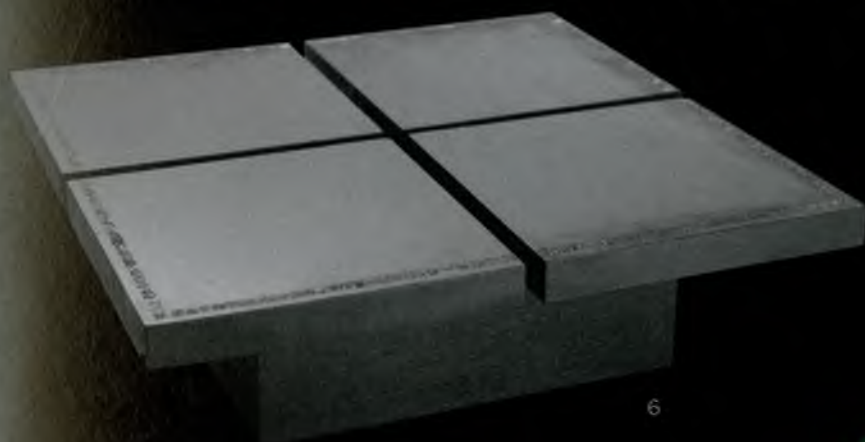


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Design & Technology



Opposite page: 1: Abbey Kemp AS Product Design; 2: Ilona McLaren AS Product Design;
3: Oli Luck AS Product Design; 4: Oliver Beetschen AS Product Design;
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SPORTS
REPORTS

Cricket

>>Andrew Whitelaw
made his start count with
a brutal 63...<<



1st XI

The 2009 season was one of the longest in recent years, although not entirely undisturbed by *Jupiter Pluvius*. It was also a season of ups and downs. Under the leadership of Freddie Coleman, aided and abetted during his absence by Robbie Cachia, the side managed to win six out of thirteen matches with five losses. We succeeded in beating Perth Northern, the XL Club after being given an award for the best Scottish School of 2008, Strathallians, the High School of Glasgow, Caledonian Academy U16 and Stewarts-Melville College. Defeats came at the hands of Fettes, Loretto, Pocklington, the Caledonian Academy and MCC. That we managed to play thirteen matches at all was due to the hard work of the ground staff, in particular Ian Philip who returned to produce pitches and to coach after a seven year absence. The quality of pitches was much improved and we are grateful to the Bursar and Headmaster for making his recruitment possible once more. The matches against Dollar Academy, Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond College fell prey to some very wet weather at either end of the term.

Perth Northern was to be the only match we played in the first three weeks of term, such was the poor weather, which meant the abandonment of the Dollar and



Edinburgh Academy fixtures. In the end it provided us with a comfortable victory to finish off a week of pre-season training. We scored 213 for 9 declared with Toby Culham, moved up to open, top-scoring on 49, and a number of useful scores from the middle order. In reply Northern had little answer to the spin of Robbie Cachia who destroyed their middle order with 6-20.

The only other match we played before half-term was against Fettes, in Edinburgh. Having put Fettes in we reduced them to 35-5 and eventually 73-8 before a lapse of concentration and some poor bowling

let them escape to an all out 108. In the final analysis, taking our foot off the gas here cost us dearly as we were bowled out ourselves for a paltry 98. No one covered themselves in glory with the bat, although Jonny Dickson nearly ground us home to victory with a dogged 18.

The second half of term saw altogether better weather, just in time for examinations, and some better results. We beat the Scottish XL Club comfortably after declaring at 240-6, with all the major batsmen getting into the late thirties, though only Andrew Whitelaw made his



start count with a brutal 63. In reply, the XL Club compiled 173 with the wickets shared amongst the bowlers. Of note here was young Nick Farrar who bowled with genuine pace and hostility. The less said about the loss to Loretto the better. No bowler seemed to be able to bowl a settled length to give the captain any control in the field, and when we batted only Toby Culham with 32 showed the required concentration and application. We, deservedly, lost by sixty runs.

Amends were made the following day when, put in by the Strathallians, our batsmen finally took advantage of a good pitch to score a mammoth 274-4. Here, Callum Donald smashed 80, Nick Farrar helping him add 104 for the third wicket, before Andrew Whitelaw again hammered an unbeaten 64 off the hapless bowlers. The Strathallians were dispatched for 107, bundled out by Duncan O'Reilly who humbled the top order and Robbie Cachia who removed the middle danger men, aided and abetted by some interesting umpiring. Nick Farrar again bowled with genuine venom and guile on a placid pitch, nearly removing the head of Robbie Stewart (N02). (*Hmm. Only nearly. Must have a word with Farrar. Ed*)

Nick continued this good form into the MCC match. MCC scored 225-1 declared which makes it look as if our bowlers did not do a good job, but the pitch was excellent for batting and our fielding effort was more than acceptable. Our innings was dominated by a maiden century from Toby Culham who finally made someone pay for the excellent form he had been showing all term. His 114 was all the more special as his parents were there to see him reach his landmark. Apart from that, only Jonny Dickson (40) really got going, although for a while we were in with a chance of overcoming the MCC score. In the end we were bowled out for 201 before the customary barbecue and socialising.

Our last home fixtures before the Festival in the last week of term provided some of the most consistent cricket we played all term, with two wins and a heart-stopping tie. We played the High School of Glasgow for the

first time and proceeded to bat like novices. Only Andrew Whitelaw (42) and Toby Culham (31) of the recognised batsmen got going, before Paul Marshall (32) and Jonny Bain (25) lifted us to a competitive 171. In reply, the guile of Robbie Cachia (4-26) and pace of Nick Farrar (2-8) were too much for our visitors who succumbed to an all out 73. The following day saw the biggest challenge of the term with the visit of Merchiston. Given our up-and-down form all term, no one could have predicted what eventually happened. Things started auspiciously as some inside knowledge from Freddie Coleman helped us 'strangle' their best player, the Merchiston captain, on the deep square leg boundary. But, Merchiston batted well to declare on 266-8. Nick Farrar was the pick of the bowlers with 3-40. In reply we were going well enough at 169-4 with plenty of time to spare when a collapse left us 87 short with only two wickets left. Toby Culham's 60, and thirties from Donald and Coleman had gotten us this far before a penultimate wicket partnership of 42 from Marshall (24) and O'Reilly (34 n.o.) got us to 243. To Merchiston's credit, twenty two overs were bowled in the last hour as they tried to bowl us out, and it was this that gave Robbie

Cachia and O'Reilly the chance to push us over the winning line. Some scampered singles left us eight to win off the last over. With two bails gone we needed seven more only for Cachia to saunter down the pitch and loft a ball to the scoreboard for four. Another single, and a dot, and it was two needed from the last ball. O'Reilly smacked the ball to a fielder and perished running a second. We were all out for 266 which, after so much early season disappointment, was testament to both sides' willingness to go for the victory in a superb game of cricket.

Two victories remained; over the Caledonian Academy U16 side in which Jamie King came back to form with a very good 62 in a 3 wicket victory, chasing 221 in forty overs., and over Stewarts-Melville in the end of term Festival. We bowled and fielded very well here to contain them to 118 all out, losing only two wickets in return as Coleman finally hit his straps with an unbeaten 78. He had been striking the ball well all term only to find strange ways of getting out. He was relieved as he headed off to the U19 Europeans, some runs under his belt. Alas, we lost to Pocklington in a game there for the taking, and also in the return match against the Caledonian Academy. Both were games we should have

Batting Averages 2009

Batting	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Highest score	Average
T. P. D. Culham	12		453	114	37.75
F. R. J. Coleman*	7	1	207	78*	34.50
A. A. Whitelaw	11	1	253	64*	25.30
C. D. R. Donald	11	1	240	80	24.00
N. A. G. Farrar	12	1	233	44	21.18
J. D. King	10		197	62	19.70

Bowling Averages 2009

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Best bowling	Average
R. F. Cachia	115.4	14	392	26	6-20	15.07
N. A. G. Farrar	88.1	12	266	16	3-21	16.62
T. P. D. Culham	69.1	7	290	15	4-16	19.33
J. D. King	65	5	243	11	3-24	22.09
D. J. P. O'Reilly	85.1	11	353	10	3-32	35.30

Senior and Junior Colts



won, which would have been a fitting send off for some of the senior players.

As always, one accumulates debts in a long season such as this. Nick du Boulay, although unable to umpire, was sage in his advice, as was Robert Proctor who took out time from his own successful Senior Colts side to offer help. Ian Philip's coaching was invaluable, particularly for the younger players, and also for some old hands who suffered crises of confidence. One hopes he can return in 2010. To Sodexho go thanks for some great catering throughout the term, and to Earnside coaches for coping with last minute cancellations with their customary good grace.

A final word of thanks goes to the leavers, most of them in the XI for three full years. They were a close-knit bunch and it was a pleasure to coach them. Full colours were awarded to Jamie King, Andrew Whitelaw, Toby Culham, Robbie Cachia, Duncan O'Reilly and 2008's captain Jonny Dickson. Full colours were also awarded to Callum Donald who has one final year in the side. To all of them go my congratulations and my thanks.

RHF

Senior Colts Cricket – 2009

Results: Won 5, Lost 2, Drawn 1, (cancelled 4)

Infuriatingly shortened by the weather, this was, nevertheless, an enjoyable and rewarding season with a talented and enthusiastic group. There were two losses – a respectable one against a mature and effective Merchiston unit and a thoroughly disappointing display at Loretto. The latter was the only really low point. Five wins were achieved. The high points were exciting victories over Glenalmond and Fettes (two) in matches which could have gone either way and which brought out a really competitive spirit in the team.

There were several individual performances of note. In the batting captain Fraser Doig scored an excellent 73 against Fettes and was left stranded on 95* against Lathallan 1st XI. Jazz Gray produced an eccentric but stylish 88 against Fettes. Ruairidh Hunter made 64* against Lathallan and was the one batsman to perform at Loretto. Alex Vine, Charlie Beamish, and Chris King made major contributions at various times as did Hamish Mitchell in the early part of the season and Alex Murray and Ali Wood towards the end. The wickets were shared fairly equally. There was only one 5 wicket haul (Fraser Doig against Glenalmond) but Chris King, Charlie Beamish, Ewan Pirrie, Ruairidh Hunter and Alex Vine all had good days.

The fielding of the team was enthusiastic and on occasion excellent but one or two were apt to drift off their given positions. Some very good catches were taken. Torquil Curran was good enough in the field to justify his position

on that alone. The wicket-keeping of Lewis Watson was a bit inconsistent but at best extremely effective. Throughout the season Fraser Doig captained shrewdly and led by example.

Overall this was a very pleasing season for a side which combined a desire to win and a real enthusiasm for the game. Most of the side will be competing for First XI places, several in the near future.

RJWP

Junior Colts Cricket – 2009

Results: Played 3, Lost 3 (Cancelled 7)

This had to be one of the most weather affected seasons ever encountered with the Third Form A squad only managing three games in the whole season. This was very frustrating for all concerned and makes it difficult to throw any real light on how well we could have done over the season. Our first match was against Fettes in mid-May, bringing about a really creditable performance against a good side. Daniel Adams and Chris McCarthy applied themselves well with the bat as we got into the nineties. This was a total that could be defended if the bowling was to be of a high standard.

Again Adams and McCarthy produced some very accurate and testing spells with the ball and at one stage it looked as if an upset might have been on the cards. However the back-up bowling was not so testing and Fettes overcame our total.

The match against Merchiston was a cracking one. Chris McCarthy was again the pick of the side with the bat, but he was well supported as we set

a good target for Merchiston to chase. A great opening spell by Adams and McCarthy was then supported by the back-up bowling which sent a panic into the Merchiston batsmen and, with each over, came the distinct possibility of victory. Eventually, the Merchiston batting progressed slowly to finish ahead of our total. This was a great game of cricket, showing a real change in attitude demonstrating we could challenge teams with the ball and win matches.

The final match was against the touring King Edward's school from Stratford, a game played in a good spirit on the Lawn. King Edward's batted first and the dynamic duo of Adams and McCarthy went to work on the batting order. A few quick and very cheap wickets followed which added to the excitement of the game. Elwis had a reasonable spell with the ball and maintained the pressure. Dodd even managed to get something out of the wicket with his leg break spin and caused all sorts of problems for the batsmen. An achievable total was now set for the Strathallan batsmen. After a solid start the gremlins moved in and wickets fell to some very ordinary bowling. King Edward's worked hard in the field and shut down anything that looked like a run. Strathallan battled away with the bat but fell short of the target.

This was not a season laden with opportunities to develop skills and ideas through matches, however there are the makings of a good side who can compete with their counterparts and, as the saying goes, "there's always next season".

ADH



After a gruelling summer of relaxation this year the 'rugby lads' started their pre-season with one thing on their mind... Why are we back earlier than the girls? But it became visible when all the hard work started with the introduction of the early morning Pilgy runs followed by morning and afternoon sessions. With a few new faces, aka the imports, (Ryan Hood and Andy Hall) starting Strath it was obvious that it was going to be an eventful season filled with ups and downs and a lot of injuries.

As is a Strathallan tradition the season started with the formidable windy Madras tournament. This tournament is used as an 'experiment' to see who plays where. After battling through the group stages with comfortable wins, the 1st XV squad made it through to the final against the High School of Dundee. In what now seemed a regular affair the two teams appeared to be in deadlock, both producing some great rugby. Unfortunately, it was Dundee that walked away the winners by the smallest of margins.

And so the 'season proper' commenced with the match against Dollar. Along with the new faces of our imports the 1sts were joined by the annual Ozzy exchange boys. Harry 'Gremlin' L'Estrange and James 'Scottie' Scott; both guys stepping off the plane and pulling on that famous Strathallan jersey. Unbeknownst to Harry it was going to be thirty seconds before he was into the rough Scottish rugby. This was due to Toby Daventry 'God's gift to women' Culham pulling his hamstring whilst trying to clear the lines. After the gruelling match the 1sts started their season on the wrong side of the score board.

First home game arrived and it was Glasgow Academy. Hoping to turn around the defeat by Dollar the team pulled together and with aggressive forward play and expansive back running the game finished 22-10. The game seemed to be



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in the grasp of the 1sts but with a lack of concentration Glasgow started to claw their way back into the game but with desperate defending when it was needed we held out. Special mentions go to Magnus Olafsson for his general play and support; it was capped by a well deserved try. Also Duncan 'Guns' O'Reilly for his thumping tackle that sent the guy flying.

Next to throw their cards onto 'Big acre' was North Berwick. Running high from the victory in Glasgow, we knew that a repeat performance was needed. This game continued the wide running game that only the backs knew. Inspirational play from the skipper Andrew Whitelaw led to him touching down two tries and the job of the boot turned to Toby. Unfortunately, Andrew was sent off by Strath's very own Mr Heaney for a very controversial offence. Special mention for this game goes to Andy Lyons. After playing for the seconds, and casually standing on the touch line he was asked to pull on a jersey and get stuck in. Credit to him he did not hesitate and to this day it must remain as the shortest debut in 1sts history. He was taken off the pitch after 30 seconds with a blood injury.

Dundee High came for their regular fixture at Strath, but this time Strath was looking for revenge after the defeat earlier on at the Madras Tournament. Again with great play from both forwards and backs, both teams again proved that they were both after the win. A great break from Freddie 'Forearms' Coleman set up a two-on-one with Andrew Whitelaw allowing him to run and touch down underneath the sticks. L'Estrange became the next on the injury list and up stepped Jonny 'Sponge Bob' Bain to slot into the 10 spot for the remaining 15 minutes. Jonny held his nerve and, despite only being in 5th Form, showed that he was able to play at this level. The final score finished 12-12. Special mention has to go to Ryan Hood who with the help of Hendo managed to make the wedding...JUST! (*Would that be Ryan 'Men in Tights' Hood? Ed*)

Fettes away is never the best combination, and this was the next fixture on our list. On one of the windiest days of the year so far, the boys performed well and despite a few questionable decisions by the ref (but we won't go there) led to Strath being on the wrong side of the score board. 19-5. The special mention for this game goes to Marcus Adam who delivered something

special when he used his pace to collect his own chip through and score in the corner.

And so it comes the point in the season where the ever-anticipated rival derby match against Glenalmond had finally arrived. After intense preparations all week and with a few positional changes in the backs we felt ready. On this occasion we were totally out-classed by the better team on the day. Beaten by pace, power and raw fight the game ended 44-10.

At the mid point of the season we were hoping that things would change and the score board would start ticking over in our favour. But with two of the biggest games of the season to come and nine of the starting 1sts out to injuries varying from head to toes, things couldn't have been much worse. So it's at this point that Hendo goes into invention mode and sees what he can come up with; and this year it was something special. Missing both Duncan and Andrew from the centres, moves had to be made. So up steps our very agile prop Ryan to pull on the already tight '12' jersey.

His first test was against Merchiston. And credit to him, with his hard running and quick lines he drove over the line and scored. Another couple of mentions in this game, firstly Ross Alexander. For the shortest return to 1st XV rugby. After having a year out and with some desperation and pleading by the skipper, Ross came back to play in the No.8 slot. Unfortunately the excitement got to him and he ended up receiving a card and a ban as well. Next to Etienne; another one of our front row who thinks they have what it takes to be a back, he managed to find himself in the full-back slot a couple of times and coped with the situations like he was a natural. Finally, to Toby Culham and in his very own fashion (and words) he "saved it". He performed a great defensive display and prevented even more tries being scored against us.

Next on the fixture card was Edinburgh Academy. It has been described as one of our best performances of the season even though we still lost. Still battling the injury list the same tactical position changes



that were used against Merchiston were used again. Special mention goes to Harry L'Estrange for returning from injury and putting his name on the score sheet twice.

Winding down the season now, with what has become a regular fixture against the club side Howe of Fife. This was a game of two halves. The skipper Andrew, returning from concussion, led the way by scoring two tries in quick succession and at half time we thought the game was in the bag. We took the foot off the gas and Howe came back with everything they had and turned round the score board around. A very disappointing end to what seemed an assured victory, but that's rugby and its not over until the final whistle goes.

Loretto came up next and it was now time that we tried to restore some pride to our season. It was now or never even though it was too late. A great and gutsy performance finally led to a victory. The decision on running from your own 22 is very risky. But it paid off with Andrew finding a gap and offloading it to speedster Andy Hall who ran half the field and scored underneath the posts. Another moment by Andy as he charged down a conversion attempt allowed us to win by the slimmest of margins.

And so came to the end of the season with our last two matches getting cancelled to the weather. Its been an up and down season with some highs and lows and great performances along the way. A few special mentions have to be made. Firstly to Dr. Melville who was always there on the touch line and always willing to lend a hand when any player needed medical attention. Next, Mr Marshall. Even though his son Andrew had left the year before, Mr Marshall was never absent from the sidelines to help drive us on. To Mr Brown who was there whenever he could be, and to his sponsorship for which we are very grateful. And finally to Jonny Dickson, whatever the weather he would be there with his trusty video camera. Thanks.

Andrew Whitelaw UVI Nicol

Football

On a sliding scale of coolness it was second only to Tommy Cargill's newly-acquired mullet...

The first challenge of the New Season was to select the training squad. You would be forgiven for thinking that is a simple process of having trials and then reducing the numbers until you are left with the "elite". However, once again the Scottish Weather leading up to end of the Winter term proved to be the controlling factor, with four successive trials cancelled. So we started the Easter term with lots of prospective footballers and the task of whittling the numbers down to a twenty-two man squad. Training was put on hold. However, with a week to go before the first game Mr B and Dr Cooper had managed to mould a team out of the keen and gifted players (*you are too modest, Toby. Ed.*) It was unfortunate that some apparent Star Players, including Jonny "Fox in the Box" Clifford, had to be left out. Would this prove to be a terrible mistake?

All fears about the team selection were 'kicked into touch' following the first game of the season against Dollar Academy. There were a few new faces in the side but the general feeling amongst the seasoned players was that the team could be as strong as the previous year. Hopes were especially optimistic after hearing that the team would be visited for the first match by last year's Coach Extraordinaire, Mr Weir. Last season's players were keen to impress. Mr Weir had moved on to pastures new that year, and word was he didn't think much of the new side's hopes. We got off to a shaky start going down two early goals. Could we put this down to playing on an astro turf that was new to many of our players or was it just the usual early season rustiness? We went into the break 3-1 down and with the half time talk still ringing in our ears we did much better in the Second Half and eventually ran out comfortable 5-3 winners. This was aided by the late addition of Bradley Rizza who, as he did for most of the season, made an influential impact coming off the bench. After this game all nerves were settled and we were looking forward to our next game with eager anticipation.

The next week we made the long trip up to Robert Gordon's College with Dr Cooper, only to be beaten by a resounding 5 goals to nil. RGC were a very strong side who never really allowed us to get into the game. Poor Robbie Cachia, who was often left exposed at the back couldn't manage to keep up with the speed of the game (his

lack of pace has always been an issue for the poor boy, on and off the field.)

It was pleasing to see the team show "bouncebackability" with a solid 8-1 victory against St Leonard's; we only wonder how we managed to concede a goal against them (it was shoddy defending, Toby... Mr B). They were not a strong side but Strathallan played some excellent football on a difficult, half-frozen, pitch. There were some superb individual performances and from the team as a whole. The ball was sprayed around the pitch with speed and elegance. It would appear that things were picking up for us again. (This may be a slight exaggeration Toby. Speed? Elegance?...Mr B)

The matches were now coming thick and fast with another away trip to play Glenalmond College. They were above us in the league but having played many more games we knew that a victory for Strathallan would effectively stop them from qualifying for the knockout stages. As the team approached the pitch our confidence was given a knock. We noticed that the surface we were to be playing on looked more like a vegetable plot than a football pitch. This would not suit our brand of "total football". Our worries were proved to be correct. In the end we had to revert to a route one approach and with the score at 2-2 and full time approaching we were beginning to panic. A draw would not really suit either team. However with five minutes to go a thump up the park allowed Andy Hall (Top Scorer 2008-09) to cross for Mike Wells who coolly finished off the move, and our rivals, with a faint touch into the bottom corner. On a sliding scale of coolness it was second only to Tommy Cargill's newly-acquired mullet. (Tom, I told you I would get your hair mentioned in the Strathallian).

Next up were Gordonstoun. We went into the game knowing that if we won this game we would definitely progress through to the quarter finals of the Scottish Independent Schools Cup for the fourth year running. Anybody that had played against or seen Gordonstoun play knew that the team had to produce one of their best performances if Strathallan were to get a result. In windy conditions (and, gasp...shock...horror, playing on Big Acre for the first time) we ended up losing 2-1, having squandered many chances in the second half. We finished the stronger side, but it still wasn't enough to overcome their better first half>>



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FOOTBALL>> performance. Despite this defeat Strathallan secured a place in the quarter finals with a convincing 5-1 win over Queen Victoria School.

The game was played just days after our return from the Easter holidays and with only one quick training session we made the trip to Glasgow University to play St Aloysius. We took an early 1-0 lead but it seemed that the holidays had taken their toll on both fitness and sharpness. Too often we found ourselves stretched at the back and at the mercy of their strikers. Hugh Lungmuss was moved to make a five man midfield and the tide was stemmed. At half time were still thinking we were in with a shout. On our day we could have perhaps beaten them but the final score ended up 6-2. Two late goals made the score a little unfair, and we were knocked out at the quarter final stage just as we had been the previous year.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Batterham and Dr Cooper for all of their hard work this year (I would also like to say a big thank you to Toby and the rest of the team - Mr B). To the rest of the Boys who I have spent the previous two seasons playing alongside; it has been a pleasure. Good luck to all of the boys who find themselves impressing Mr B and Dr Cooper making their way to the dizzying heights of Strathallan 1st XI football (and of course receiving the 'best tracksuit' in the school; not the most important thing, but good).

Toby Culham UVI Ruthven



Badminton



This year has to go down as the nearly year as you will come to understand later, but for all that, it has been a good season. Isaac Tsang caught the eye as soon as he arrived and had obviously been coached to a high standard - the most natural ability I have seen in 22 years at Strathallan. Angel Yau looked promising for the girls and will be very good as she grows and gets stronger.

We started the season by beating Fettes narrowly 12-9 mainly thanks to the girls, who were too strong for their opponents. In the Perth & Kinross Schools Championships we reached five finals but

couldn't win one. Isaac came up against the 4th ranked Scottish U18 boy and lost in the U19 singles final. He and Enoch Mak lost in the U19 boys' doubles final whilst Enoch lost in the U16 boys' singles final. Alison Duncan lost in the girls' U19 final and she and Anastasyia Musiyachenko lost in the U19 girls' doubles final. It was the same story at the Ramada Jarvis tournament where we made four finals going down in each one - Isaac & Angel in the U19 mixed, Enoch & Isaac in the U19 doubles, Enoch in the U16 singles and Hannah Grant & Alison in the U19 girls' doubles. Isaac went on to the Scottish Schools Championships and reached the knockout stages

where he was beaten by the eventual winner in the last 16.

In the Inter-house Championships Simpson took the boys' trophy, Isaac & Kony Chen and Hercules Yeung & Justin Wong being too strong for the rest but it was Hercules & Justin who proved to be the telling factor. In the girls' event Woodlands stopped the rot finishing 6-3 winners for the first time in four years. Alison, Hannah, Fina Muhamad, Angel, Manuela Schoberl and Manuela Ayee proved too strong for Thornbank in a close-run contest. We again entered the Perth Senior Division 2 league gaining valuable experience and managing to win one or two games.

My thanks go to Isaac for organising and leading the team along with Sunny Sun and Angel Yau and to Dr Cooper and Mr Cowper for their input into the games afternoons and activities evenings. It would certainly not be easy to cope without their support. I am looking forward to next season and have high hopes for the squad. They will all be back apart from Sunny so we can maybe turn some of those silvers into golds!

GCK

Netball

1st VII

Throughout last year's season, we had a very good team, getting into the final of the Independent Schools' Competition, and then only losing by one goal. We also reached the semi-final of the Scottish Schools' Cup Competition.

Every Wednesday evening we played other teams in the Perth Ladies' League at Bells' Sports Centre in Perth. This opportunity helped us practise as a team against experienced players throughout the year.

Sophie Beamish and Sally Lungmuss were considered to be the best players in the team by other teams in the League as they were voted "Player of the Match" the most. Well done!!

At the end of the season, the netball crew hit Pacos on a Thursday night to celebrate the end of a successful year and to say our final goodbyes to our beloved Captains, Heather Mitchell and Lizz Vine. We hope that this year can be even more of a success, but just as fun as last year.

Vicky McLellan LVI Thornbank
Sophie Beamish LVI Woodlands

Sailing

Twice a week, or three times for those hardcore sailors, Mr Streatfeild-James or Mrs MacBain drove a group of about five of us down to Port Edgar in South Queensferry.

Battling through some intense winds (and some nonexistent winds as well), the sailing team, captained by Sam Lipworth, rigged up and set sail for the Firth of Forth. In the team, there were enthusiastic beginners, and some less-enthusiastic pros. The half of the crew that had not already completed their Stage 3s did so in the last week while the rest of the team sat back and laughed as Michael completed his capsizing part. Tim, Sam, Martin and Alex mainly preferred Lasers or RS Fevas whilst Toppers were the principal boat for Kate, Michael Jo and me. Try as he might, Mr S-J still could not convince me to skipper any boats other than Toppers, although on the final session I did dare to crew a Dart 16 (Catamaran)

with Kate and Zoey, one of our instructors. Port Edgar was not all hard work though. Once in a while the minibus would detour round MacDonald's and we would grab a sugary reward for an exhausting sail. After two and a half hours of intense sheeting in and hiking out, and occasionally getting stuck in the mud for some time as well, a McFlurry never tasted so good. I would like to give a warm thank you to Mr Streatfeild-James and Mrs MacBain for faithfully driving us every games day, whether there was a full minibus or only one person. I am also grateful to the staff at Port Edgar, and although I was sprayed with a pump from the back of an instructor's rib once or twice, I greatly appreciated all the hard work they contributed to our sailing programme to make it one of the best experiences I've had at Strathallan.

Alison Forsyth
IV Form Woodlands



Basketball



The 2008-9 season was one of our most successful on record. A very strong team under the leadership of Jackie Wong won the pre-season tournament at Merchiston followed by wins against all of our traditional rivals.

We started the Scottish Cup strongly with a 59 to 33 win against St Aloysius from Glasgow before going down convincingly to competition heavyweights Queen Anne's, Dunfermline.

The season saw significant skill development as Jackie brought back training drills and tactics from his involvement with the Perth Phoenix senior team. The season saw the emergence of the Simpson boys as basketball power-houses with Steve and Andy Lyons and Michael Wells playing significant roles in our

success. The season also saw two girls, Abbey Kemp and Eugenia Ramos playing in the top side for the first time. From this emerged an enthusiastic girls' team keen to develop their skills. Jackie provided plenty of encouragement but proved himself a tough task master when it came to coaching the team.

Three players were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the team during their time at Strathallan. Half Colours were awarded to Jayco Sun and Kony Chen while full colours were bestowed upon Jackie. Our best wishes go to other departing loyal team members William Chan and Martin Kwok who have played with skill and commitment throughout.

BAH

Athletics and Cross Country

Athletics and Cross Country continue to thrive at Strathallan. The body-conditioning programme over the winter months is having an increasingly noticeable effect on our summer performances, and we are finally beginning to fill some of the gaps in our field events.

The Cross country season was our most successful for many years, despite missing out on many of the fixtures during the term. The open girls team ran very well at Fettes to win their relay, with the under 17 boys coming second.

At the Schools' Championship all seven of the teams we entered finished in the top five, the senior girls won a silver medal, and the under 14 girls, under 17 girls and senior boys won bronze medals. Individually, Ellie

Hall's 19th place in the under 14s and Chris Rennison's 17th place in the under 17s were particularly noteworthy.

In Athletics we had close matches with Fettes, winning and narrowly losing the Senior boys' and girls' respectively, but being too far adrift with the middle age groups. The boys performed well against Merchiston and Edinburgh Academy, and beat Glenalmond, but lacked consistency across all the events. Ultimately this was the story of the Athletics season: we won enough events to win matches, but we are going to have to work hard on areas where we struggle to score points.

At the Scottish Schools the senior girls won a gold medal at the 4x100m relay, and Emily MacLachlan and Robynne Smith won gold and silver medals in the under 15

and over 17 girls' pole vault. Chris Rennison ran bravely to win a well deserved bronze medal in the under 17 boys 3000m. Toby Culham missed out on a medal in the senior javelin by 18cm. For our other competitors this competition was most useful as an indicator of how hard they will need to work for success next year.

As ever, it has been a pleasure to work with all the squads this year, and their good humour and work ethic has been impressive. Thank you also to the staff and the pupils who do so much to help events run smoothly in often trying climatic conditions, and especially to JRF and his unstinting devotion to the success of the sport at Strathallan.

DMH



Golf

A little piece of golfing history was created at Strathallan this year when, for the first time in memory, a girl was chosen to captain the golf team. This was a thoroughly deserved appointment given Annabel Niven's experience at County and International level over recent years and the fact that she had already established herself as the no.1 golfer in the school the previous year.

The season began with a trip to St. Andrews for a match, on the Old Course, against the R and A for the Scottish Wayfarers. Both Annabel and Michael McKenzie performed well in their matches which were closely fought. Annabel retained her trophy at the PKSGA Championships which were held at King James VI Golf Club this year, making it the third time she has won the girls' event.

Despite the play of Annabel and Michael we really struggled to compete in our team matches as we clearly did not have the strength in depth to trouble most of our opponents. Indeed, once the examination season kicked in we often struggled to raise enough players for the matches and had to rely on younger and more inexperienced golfers like James Wordie and Charlie Hall to make up the numbers on a lot of occasions. They did their level best but inevitably found the level of competition challenging. Hopefully though, they will have learned from this experience and will come back next year stronger and wiser about how to compete at this level. Until the exam season started we were able to use Danny Anderson, Joe Corlett and Tom Cargill in the team, all of whom contributed in their respective ways. Danny had a particularly good season. For a player who had previously struggled to make the golf team, he made a telling contribution and was deservedly rewarded with the trophy for the most improved golfer of the year. Victories were rare this year, although we did manage to see off Fettes College and Merchiston Castle School on our home patch at Auchterarder. We lost all our games



against local sides for the first time since I have been running the golf at Strathallan.

Michael McKenzie had a fine run of form in the middle of the season which enabled him to retain the School Golf Championship and the Pitlochry Cup Competition. He was certainly the most consistent performer this year and has a real opportunity to develop his game in the coming years and bring his handicap down.

As ever I am indebted to Mr Kitson for his unstinting efforts in helping run the golf section. His willingness to take the team to wherever is required meant that we could fulfil a very full fixture list and his coaching tips at the "Golf Academy" were well received by our novice golfers and more experienced ones too. We were joined by Dr Cooper this year who also contributed significantly to the golf experience at Strathallan, enabling us to have a match or competition two times a week over the course of the season. I am very grateful for their enthusiastic assistance during the golfing season. I would also like to thank John Newall, the previous Head Groundsman at the school for his efforts in developing the school course to the level it is at today. This has become a real asset for the school and would not have happened without John's interest, dedication and hard work.

NS

Karate

This year with the addition of Karate pupils from outwith the school; the Karate Club has increased to well over 20 pupils over the year. Most of the pupils are from Riley House and a few are from the senior Houses but there are now students from Forgandenny that have started attending this year which has increased the diversity of the students.

There was great success in the gradings last year and at the last grading:

- > a brown and white striped belt (one level below black) was achieved by Sarah Hellewell
- > brown belts achieved by Sam and Will Steele
- > Purple and white for Grace Cochran-Patrick, Rosalind Couttes and Robbie Brown
- > Orange belts for Pauric Batterham, Ellie Hall, Rory Arthur and Sophie Lightbody

Also as well the new beginners, two more experienced Karate students have joined the school with John Dew (brown and white) and Connor Collin (brown) which has helped the less experienced students to improve along with Mike Clifford (our sensei).

In the Spring, Sensei Masao Kawasoe came to Perth from Korea so some of the Karate students went along to the Perth Karate Club to train with him. For all who attended it was an interesting experience and helped everyone to improve their techniques immensely. I thought that it was interesting to see the techniques performed by a Japanese Sensei.

Sarah Hellewell V Form Thornbank



Boys' Hockey



Reading through this year's edition of the Strathallian, it is clear that there has been much success in all areas throughout the year. However, I can say with complete confidence that the 1st XI boys' hockey team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in recent history and I would immediately like to highlight how much of a pleasure, and honour, it was to captain the team to all its glory.

With many of last year's 1st XI returning to the side and with several new additions to the squad, there seemed to be the perfect blend of youth and experience. It was a team which I held high hopes for, and they certainly didn't disappoint. 7 school games, 7 victories, semi-finalists in the National indoor finals (a Strathallian first) and finalists of the Scottish U-18 cup; by any standard, an impressive set of achievements. But it must be pointed out that such accomplishments were no coincidence. I would like to commend the team on the commitment they put in week in week out on the training pitch. There was a great desire to improve and learn, and it was to this that we owe much of our success.

The regular school season started off what would appear to be the biggest game of our season; Glenalmond at home.

Perhaps not an ideal opponent so early on in the season, but I felt that our preparation had been good and I had a no doubts that the team would step up to such a big challenge, and that they did. We played some great counter-attacking hockey which led to an early 3-0 lead. Although our opponents staged a second half come back to make it 3-2, the team held their nerve and we came out 4-2 victors, a perfect way to kick start our season. This was only the second time I had ever beaten Glenalmond, making the win all the sweeter.

Next was a visit from Fettes, normally one of the strongest teams on the circuit, and one I have never beaten in a regular school fixture, and it looked like the game was going to go in a similar fashion after they grabbed an early lead. However, when super-sub Jonny Bain entered the field of play, the

game swung in our favour. He grabbed a well taken hat-trick which handed us a 3-1 lead. The team went out in an immense defensive effort, withstanding multiple Fettes attacks. We eventually ran out 3-1 winners, and already I was beginning to feel that this season had the potential to be something special.

Our first away match of the season was at Loretto, a ground at which Strath have always struggled to play good hockey, and this year it was no different. We slumped to an early 2-0 deficit due to some sloppy defending giving ourselves an uphill task for the match. However, this match epitomised the spirit which the team took with them and showed on numerous occasions throughout the season. We never felt that victory was out of reach and we managed to claw out a 4-2 victory. Good teams are capable of not playing especially well yet still winning; this is exactly what we did.

We then hosted Gordonstoun, a fixture in which Strath teams had often enjoyed success;

but the team approached the game in the same manner as every other, 100% focused on winning. Our first half performance wasn't the best half of hockey we played all season; we gave possession away cheaply and missed a handful of fantastic chances. But come second half, our play transformed completely, going up a few gears in all aspects of our game. We played some exhilarating hockey and managed to score 5 second half goals allowing us to maintain our 100% record.

We then travelled to Fettes for the return fixture, knowing that this was one of, if not the most challenging game in our season, as Strathallian victories at Fettes, have been very hard to come by in recent seasons. Again, a slow start saw us concede an early goal but fortunately we were able to get back on level terms just before half time. The second half was fiercely competed, with tempers flaring at every umpire decision made. Neither team wanted to make a mistake and both were trying all they could to get that all-important second goal. Fortunately, we managed to 'nick' a second half goal and as the final whistle blew we all felt a great deal of relief. This was probably the first time in the season that we had really been tested, however, we certainly showed immense grit and determination and because of this we were able to secure the win, keeping our hopes of an unbeaten season alive.

The penultimate school game of the season was the quality outfit of Watson's who, normally, are very well drilled and a very difficult team to beat. Unfortunately, they got off to a flier, keeping possession of the ball with ease and keeping us camped in our own half. Once again, we conceded a goal, but as we realised, a one



goal deficit is easily overturned as we had shown in previous matches. We kept our mistakes to a minimum and equalised just before half time. In the second half, our cool heads and immaculate discipline saw us come out as victors with a 3-1 result in our favour.

Our final game of the regular season came at home against Loretto. We knew we needed this victory to ensure that we were the first team in several years to have a complete 100% record and we knew such prestige was within touching distance. We were much the better team throughout and controlled the game completely; we scored some exquisite goals and ran out comfortably 4-1. At this point I would like to mention Marcus Adams' stunning half volley strike; the best individual goal I have ever seen and one which truly epitomised the quality of hockey we had produced week in week out throughout the season.

It was not only during our regular season that the squad thrived. The cup competitions also brought considerable success. Despite being knocked out of the Scottish schools U-18 cup, we managed to qualify for the national indoor finals, a Strathallan first, and were able to make it to the semi finals.

Although we did not win the competition, to get that far and put in great performances against full time indoor hockey players was unquestionably an achievement in itself.

In the under 18 youth cup competition, albeit due to a lack of organisation and fortunate weather conditions, we reached the final against an excellent Inverleith side who boasted numerous internationals at several age groups; but of course, opponents in a cup final are never going to be easy. In the first half, it felt like we were chasing shadows as they moved the ball around the pitch with ease. We have to thank our keeper, Douglas Britton, who made countless spectacular saves, and some resilient defending that we only went into half time 1-0 down. As the second half wore on, we started to get more and more into the match, keeping possession and creating chances. We managed to equalise, and with the scores level both teams were really going for it. With two minutes to go, debutant Murdo Elwis grabbed what we had thought was the winner, however a moment of class from the opposition captain saw the game head to extra time. It was a gruelling 20 minutes, but with no-one breaking the stalemate the game headed towards penalty strokes. Unfortunately,

we were on the losing end, and feeling defeat for the first time was extremely bitter. However, the team gave an incredible performance and such disappointment should not take away the brilliance in what we had achieved throughout the season.

The hockey tour to Ireland saw the team play two schools, Monkstown and Wesley College. We didn't know much about our opposition but it was clear from the way they played that they were both very good outfits. Against Monkstown, we managed to overturn a 3-1 deficit to come out 5-3 winners after some great counter-attacking hockey and a well taken hat-trick from Andrew Whitelaw. Wesley College, too, proved to be a difficult game. However, playing 2 games in 2 days caught up with us. We appeared all too sluggish and not playing our usual sharp hockey. We threw away the lead on two occasions and could only manage a 4-4 draw.

The tour to Ireland was a fantastic success and enjoyed by all members on the tour. I would like to thank Mr Giles for organising it and Mr Vallot, Miss Carroll and Mr Robertson for giving up their holiday time to be there with us.

The hockey team accomplished some outstanding achievements this year and, inevitably, such success will be very hard to emulate in future seasons. I personally would like to thank each member of the squad for the commitment they put in on and off the pitch. Your desire for success, willingness to learn and improve and flawless discipline made my job as captain far easier.

I would also like to thank Mr Giles for guiding us through the season. We owe a lot of our success to his terrific knowledge of the game and

his ability to get the best out of his players and it has been an absolute pleasure working with him over the past two years. I'd also like to thank Fitz for his impeccable umpiring and finally Miss Sime and Miss Carroll for always being on hand to offer their expertise at any time.

And now for my final duty as captain, it is time for me to pass on the baton to next year's captain. I'd like to congratulate Freddie Coleman in being my successor. His talent on the pitch, his commitment in training and his desire for high standards make him the ideal candidate for the job. It was a pleasure working with him as my vice-captain and I wish him and the team all the best for next year, thank you.

Jamie King UVI Freeland
1st XI Captain

District Hockey

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected to play for Midland District throughout the season

U18 Iain McKenzie and Douglas Britton

U16 Michael McKenzie, Patrick Morris-Eyton and Murdo Elwis

U15 Alistair Wood (Captain), Craig Rintoul, Alex Murray, Daniel Adams & Henry Melville

Scotland Selection

Very well done to Iain McKenzie who was selected into the U18 National training squad and Murdo Elwis who made the U16 training squad. Murdo got his first Scotland U16 cap when he played for the team in Ireland and managed to score a goal in his first game.

Girls' Hockey



1st XI

After the relaxation of a long summer holidays, it came as a big shock to everyone to be running 'doggies' at pre-season hockey. As ever, the school was filled with the moans and groans of 40 girls as they attempted to play hockey on legs which refused to work.

Once all the stiff muscles had vanished, we set out to Madras for our first tournament of the season. We sailed through the group stages winning all three of our games and setting up a final against Dundee High School. The tense match ended with a 1-1 draw so it went to penalties where we managed to seal victory on the grass for the first time in 5 years.

Two weeks later we were faced with the Midlands 1st XI Tournament, held at home for the first time, and we continued our success by finishing second in the group stage meaning we played Perthshire in the semi-final. Although the game was quite one-sided our strikers decided to leave it to the last few minutes before putting two quick goals past the keeper to secure our place in the final. Here we met Dundee High School once again, this time with no score in either normal or extra time. However, thanks to some excellent saves by Elizabeth and a

stunning penalty by Ina we won in sudden death bringing the trophy home for another successive year.

Our success continued with an 8-0 home win over Gordonstoun but unfortunately we couldn't produce the same triumph the following day where we exited the Independent Schools Tournament after a close fought semi-final which we lost 2-3 on penalties.

We then had our first Scottish Cup match against Robert Gordon's which again tested our penalty flick skills, after a 1-1 full time draw, this time coming out on top with a 3-2 win. Continuing our winning streak we beat Fettes 4-0, Kilgraston 8-0 and St. George's 6-0.

At the inter district tournament in November Strathallan had 12 players in Edinburgh to compete and this turned out to be a highly enjoyable two days.

Once the team was back together we continued our success with an 8-0 victory over QVS and a 2-0 win over Dollar. Following this we had our first two Midland Knock-out Cup matches against Morrisons and Dundee High which we won 2-0 and 1-0 respectively. In the Scottish Cup quarter final we beat Bonagrass Grove 7-1 with Ina scoring an incredible 4 goals.

The end of term came with the start of the Indoor season in the form of the Midland Senior Indoor Tournament. Here we beat Morrisons 1-0, Bell Baxter 2-1 and Perthshire 3-1. However we were beaten by Dundee High 0-1 meaning we finished second but still qualifying for the National Indoor Finals.

After a much needed Christmas break we returned ready for our Scottish Cup semi-final, Midland Cup final and National Indoor Finals. We started with the Indoor Finals not long after the start of term and finished 3rd in our section with wins over Aberdeen Grammar School and Peebles High.

In the Scottish Cup semi final we were beaten 1 - 3 but we put this behind us and sealed a 3 - 1 win over Dollar in the Midland Cup final, and therefore qualified for the National Outdoor Schools Finals.

The Outdoor Finals proved slightly more successful than the indoor where we came 2nd in our section. We beat Selkirk HS 3 - 0 and Aberdeen GS 3 - 0 but lost to High School of Glasgow 0 - 1. This meant we were to face George Watson's in the semi-final. This was an extremely well-fought match where unfortunately the ball managed to trickle over the line succeeding in knocking us out of the tournament. It wasn't all doom and gloom though as Elizabeth Cachia was awarded

goalkeeper of the tournament; an incredible achievement!

On the weekend of the Ball five of us set off for Glasgow for the Inter-District Indoor Tournament. Due to the Ball many of the older players were not available which gave the younger ones the chance of gaining the experience. Heading there with a very young team, expectations were not high. This soon changed as we beat West 3-1. We continued by drawing with East 0-0 and beating North 2-1. This meant that we only needed to draw with South to win overall. And that is exactly what we did. After a tough 14 minutes the score was 2-2 meaning Midland District had won for the first time in at least 30 years!

The season ended with a couple of 7's tournaments. At Hutcheson's tournament we were 2nd in our section but with 4 sections we didn't make it to the semi-finals. The Heriots 7s didn't go entirely as planned, with me needing a trip to A&E and 8 stitches. The team played on with 1-0 wins against both St. Georges and Dollar but finished 4th the section due to 2 loses and a draw.

All in all, I think the team did incredibly well especially being quite young and you should all be proud of what you achieved. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading a group who were so enthusiastic and dedicated. I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Sime and Mr Giles for all the time and effort you put into coaching us and keeping the standard so high throughout the school. Also to the ground staff for keeping the pitch playable and of course, to Fitz for all your umpiring.

Good luck for next year and enjoy yourselves!

Robynne Smith
1st XI Captain

Representative Hockey

Well done to the following girls who were selected to represent Midland District throughout the season.

Midland U15

Laura Glasgow

Eugenia Ramos

Midland U16

Nicky Cochrane

Hannah Cox

Ciara Elwis

Philippa Orr

Midland U18

Robynne Smith, Captain

Elizabeth Cachia

Jayne Carmichael

Ina Eller

Alice Farrar

Lynsey Knowles

Kirstin Lamotte

Jenny Wood

Midland Indoor

Robynne Smith, Captain

Nicky Cochrane

Hannah Cox

Ciara Elwis

Philippa Orr

Congratulations to two young goal keepers who caught the eye of the National Coaches.

Scotland U16 Training Squad

Nicky Cochrane

Laura Glasgow

Nicky went on to play for the Scotland U16 development squad in matches against Ulster in Ireland



4th Form Hockey

Personally I would say that we had a successful hockey term this year. We started off with the addition of a new GK, Nicki, who is currently in the Scotland Development squad. Even though our results maybe do not clearly reflect the improvement the team made this year, I can assure you that there has been great improvement. Overall we won 9 out of 20 of our games, (including tournament matches). Many of the games could have gone either way, but we did also get beaten by better teams like for example George Watson's, though we managed to keep the score down, they only beat us by one goal. However, we also had a couple of matches which we won 6-0 (against Gordonstoun and Albyn).

We had 2 great Midlands tournaments, indoor and outdoor. We reached the final of the outdoor tournament, coming runners up in our section winning two (1-0 v QVS,

and 1-0 v Morrisons), drawing one (0-0 v Bell Baxter), and losing one (0-1 v Glenalmond). In the semi final, we played the High School of Dundee, the game ended 0-0 and then went on to golden goal extra time. At the end of the extra time the score was still 0-0 and so the game went to penalty flicks... we won, with Nicki saving all of the HSD flicks, and Kirsty Glasgow scoring to win. Sadly we then went on to lose to Glenalmond in the final, 0-1 in golden goal extra time.

Later on in the season, we won the first 3 games at the indoor tournament, which meant that the last match was the final, because HSD had also won their games. Unfortunately we lost 0-2, but we all played well throughout the tournament.

Two members of our team got into Midlands, Eugenia got into Midlands U15, and Nicki got into Midlands U16.

Mhairi Bannerman

4th Form Captain

3rd Form Hockey

The 3rd form A's have had a very rewarding season. Out of the 9 matches we played we only lost one game. We have been very lucky to have so many talented players on the team, especially our goal keeper, Laura Glasgow, who has been selected for the U16 Scotland Training Squad. I must pull out a few games in which I thought the team played extremely well. Our first game on grass against Kilgraston, we won 5-1 with Rachael Campbell scoring an amazing penalty flick and the team's top goal scorer, Ella Coleman, scoring two goals. The vice- captain, Linda Gordon, and myself, would like to thank the team for all their effort into the team. On behalf of the team we would like to thank Mr Robertson and Dr Gibson for their time, dedication and skills they have put into the team. We hope to carry on our success next year.

Claire Mendelson

3rd Form Captain

Boys' Tennis



Tennis at Strathallan continues to go from strength to strength. With a regular coaching programme operating throughout the year, the teams are fully prepared for when the season starts in the Summer term.

During the course of the year we competed in various tournaments, local and national.

Early on in September Ruairidh Watson won the Perth and District U16 Singles title with Michael Wells runner-up, while Mark McGuire was a semi finalist in the U12 Section. Callum Thomson won the U14 Boys title. Christian Kolb started his tennis career at Strathallan as a semi finalist in the U18 Section. This was an excellent start to the new season and things were only to get better as the year progressed.

In the Senior Boys National Competition we were drawn against St Leonard's and Belmont House School. In both these matches we played away from Strathallan and the team won both the matches convincingly. We were then drawn against The

Lakes School in Cumbria, and again had to travel to play. The team, made up of Michael Wells, Ruairidh Watson, Alastair Hunt and Christian Kolb played extremely well against determined opposition. After the Singles matches we were 2-2 and we went into the doubles sets needing to win both, and this the boys did. With this win it meant we were off to the National finals in Bolton for a second year in succession. With coach Tommy Ogilvie on court they played very well at Bolton against the other seven finalist schools.

During the traditional school tennis season of the summer term we had mixed fortunes against our opposition. We were winning some very good matches yet we also suffered an unexpected defeat or two. We also lost a few matches to the weather which was most unfortunate.

In the annual mixed doubles tournament we were runners-up in each of the three sections and thus finished runners-up over all.

Results 2009 Schools Fixtures

Gordonstoun	W	5 - 4 8 - 1
Fettes College	W	6 - 3
Dollar Academy	L	4 - 5
Stewart's Melville	W	7 - 2
Merchiston Castle School (The Tennis Academy)	W	5 - 4
Glenalmond College	L	3 - 6
Loretto School	W	6 - 3
Staff v Pupils	Pupils won 6 - 3	
House Competition	Nicol House won	

Mixed Doubles Tournament - runners-up in three sections

Nicol House managed to snatch the House Tennis Competition from Simpson in a closely fought final while William Lyburn won the Singles Title. William had been runner-up in the first two years of the tournament so it was a case of third time lucky; well done, Will.

Regular 1st team players included Michael Wells, Alastair Hunt - captain, Ruairidh Watson, William Lyburn, Christian Kolb, Steven Watson and Oli Bain. We were also able to field a 2nd team on a few occasions with the team facing mixed fortunes.

With the Tennis Academy Programme now well entrenched at Strathallan we are starting to see progress. Tommy Ogilvie is out coaching all year round and spends much time during the Summer

term with both teams. We regularly had up to 35 boys out playing tennis which is most encouraging to see.

For the first time we had two players complete their level 1 coaching qualification, and both Michael and Alastair are looking to further this qualification in the year ahead. As they now move on from Strathallan we see younger players moving up through the School and the Academy programme.

Well done to the Boys Team this year and good luck to Ruairidh Watson who is to captain the team in the year ahead. Colours were awarded to Michael Wells and Alastair Hunt with Half Colours being awarded to Ruairidh Watson.

Ali Hunt UVI Simpson



Girls' Tennis



The girls returned full of energy and enthusiasm for pre-season tennis and it was obvious from the beginning that getting a place in the senior teams was going to be a competitive business. It was great to see so many girls opting to play tennis and this has definitely helped lift the standard of play. Eight girls featured in the tennis academy this year and we could see the benefits of all their winter training when it came to playing in the summer.

The 1st VI had an excellent season and played a number of schools' fixtures along with tournaments and national competitions. Some of the highlights were good wins against Fettes (6 - 3), Kilgraston (9 - 0), Morrison's (7 - 2) and Gordonstoun (7 - 2). The juniors continue to develop but a special mention must go



to 3rd Form 1st Couple Jayne Thoms and Rachel Campbell who have had a particularly strong season and have helped the 3F 1st VI to good victories against Fettes (7 - 2), Kilgraston (7 - 2) and Glenalmond (7 - 2)

In the Strathallan girls singles championships congratulations to Sara Chalmers who defeated Hannah Mather in the senior final and Eugenia Ramos who defeated Rachel Campbell in the final of the Junior Competition.

Tournaments

Quite a few of the girls took part in the Perth & District Singles Tournament at the start of the year and we were all delighted when Ina Eller won the U16 girls final (6 - 7, 6 - 0, 10 - 4) and brought the trophy back to Strathallan.

The senior girls took part in the Aberdare Cup, British Schools and the Scottish Schools tournaments this year. In the Aberdare Cup the first round match v Glenalmond was a convincing 5 - 1 victory. However the girls came up against strong opposition from St George's in the next round and lost by a similar margin. In the British Schools it was great to play against completely



unknown opposition. We played Newcastle Central and Durham Johnstone Schools and although we lost both the girls gained valuable experience.

In the Scottish Schools cup the 1st IV defeated Madras College and Grove Academy but eventually went out of the competition to a strong Dunblane side. Three of our senior players played in the mixed doubles competition at Glenalmond - Ailie, Sophie Lyburn and Sophie Beamish. All our couples played extremely well in the round robin competition, winning 11 out of 15 matches. In each of the sections we finished runners up and, overall we finished in 2nd place in the tournament. Well done to all the players.

Kilgraston Tournament

This was a real highlight to the season for the girls and it certainly produced good performances across all the age groups. In the U12 section Eliza Younger and Phoebe Arnot played extremely well defeating both Craigclowan and Kilgraston to go to the quarter-finals losing out to a stronger couple from Craigclowan.

In the U14 group Jayne Thoms & Rachel Campbell, Lucy Coleman & Christy Knowles finished 2nd in their sections and just missed out on qualification. Eleanor Kemp and Clare Sterritt were the outstanding couple in the U16 section. They defeated couples from Kilgraston, Glenalmond and Fettes. They then won the quarter-final match v Kilgraston but unfortunately lost to the eventual winners in the semi-final.

In the senior group Captain Ailie MacGeoch and Sara Chalmers finished top of the group defeating Glenalmond 3rd Couple, Fettes and Kilgraston. In the quarter final it was 6 - 0 against Fettes and 6 - 3 in the semi final v Glenalmond 2nd Couple. Ailie was in the final for the 4th year in a row - Ailie and Sara both played extremely well to beat Glenalmond 1st Couple 6 - 2. Strathallan winning this particular trophy for the 2nd year in a row. A special mention must go to Ailie who has won at this tournament for four years in a row - quite a record.

Colours

Congratulations to Sophie Lyburn who achieved her full colours award and to Sara Chalmers who was presented with her half colours.

Finally, many thanks to all the girls who have worked hard over the Summer term to improve their tennis and also for all their hard work in the matches. To the staff who have put in the time to lift the standard of play and finally a special thanks to Tommy Ogilvie our Tennis Academy coach, who does a great job with the 1st and 2nd girls throughout the term.

AS



...a collection
of amazing
results across
the board...

Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships 2009

Strathallan Teams have gone from strength to strength at these championships in recent years, and this year was no exception. In fact, we had a collection of amazing results across the board.

The day started off successfully with the **Junior Team** performing really well in both Dressage and Show jumping. They finished with a 3rd place (out of 16 teams) in the Team Dressage (beaten by only 0.5 mark.), a 3rd place overall (Dressage and Show jumping combined), and Rosie Williams took the sash for the best individual in Dressage and Show jumping. Well done to:

Rosie Williams (Captain)
Robyn Somerville
Gareth Watt
Phoebe Arnot

The **Intermediate Team** had a fantastic day, greatly improving on their results from last year. Flora Hay took 2 sashes herself for individual Dressage, and Combined Dressage and Show



jumping. Every member of the team performed well and all were delighted with their results: 3rd in the Team Show jumping (out of 11 teams), 2nd in the Team Dressage and 2nd over all. Many congratulations go to:

Flora Hay (Captain)
Emily MacLachlan
Jemma Battison
Emma Cheape

The **Senior Team** had a hard act to follow as last year's results of 6 out of 8 titles was a formidable record to beat. It is therefore with great pleasure that I can report that 7 out of 8 titles were won this year. This is certainly our best performance in Strathallan's

history at these championships. The only title not taken was for "Individual Show jumping", last won for Strathallan by Helen Summersgill in 2007. However, Heather Larson put in an excellent effort with a fast double clear and I will look forward to watching her make a serious challenge for this title next year (no pressure, Heather.)

Fergus Baird and Andrew Glover repeated their outstanding performances of last year to win 2 sashes each for Best Dressage and Best Combined Dressage/Show jumping. They were supported brilliantly by Heather Larson and Bronya Woodes Rogers and the team eventually came





away with first places in Team Dressage, Team Show jumping and the Overall Championship. Many, many congratulations go to:

Fergus Baird (Captain)

Andrew Glover

Heather Larson

Bronya Woodes Rogers

Other news and results

Andrew Glover is a member of the Scottish U25A Dressage squad. He has qualified for the adult British Dressage Scottish Winter Regional Finals at both elementary and medium level, and he has been selected to compete in 3 Internationals on the Scottish team. At Marlton U21 championships he won the Junior U18 competition and helped the Scottish team to finish second.

Heather Larson has achieved two top ten placings in British Eventing pony trials at both Novice and Intermediate height. She won the "Jumping and Style" event at Hartbury College, beating 54 other riders, and she was 4th at the Central Scotland (Scone) championships in the Junior Regional Novice.

Rosie Williams won the Open Individual Dressage

competition at the Pony Club Regional championships representing Strathearn Pony Club. Her score helped Strathearn to win the team event and to qualify for the Nationals. She has gained success in Eventing as well, achieving two second places in British Eventing Intro competitions this year. At Turnberry she had a most successful time beating many other riders including adults to win the Regional Finals of the "British Eventing 90" championships and, as a result, she has qualified for the final at "Badminton Horse Trials".

Jenny Summersgill has completed a successful year Show jumping in BSJA competitions. She beat a strong field of over 70 riders to win the 1.05m Open at the Scottish Home Pony International, and she came first in the 1m Open at the "Champions of Scotland" show. She finished second in the "1m National League", and she qualified for the Scope Festival and the Royal Highland Show.

Bronya Woodes Rogers has qualified for the National Tetrathlon championships and she was selected for the

Open Regional Tetrathlon team. She competed in the British Youth Pentathlon championships and is currently ranked 11th in Great Britain.

Corrie Stewart has achieved success in both Showing and Show jumping competitions this year. She qualified for the BSJA's Scope Festival and Trailblazers Show jumping championships, and she has qualified for several major Working Hunter Pony championships.

Flora Hay was Champion of the Pony class at Perth Show and she won the Working Hunter Championship Cup at Balbeggie Show. Flora has also competed successfully in Hunter trials and she came second at Brechin Castle in the Intro section.

Emma Cheape has performed very well in Hunter trials achieving high places at both Auchlishie and Hallyburton. She has also competed successfully in several Dressage competitions, gaining selection for Fife Hunt Pony Club's Regional Novice Dressage Team.

Sarah Cheape was chosen to trial for the Scottish Games team, and she was a member

of the Fife Hunt Games team which qualified for the National championships in Derby. She was also a member of Fife Hunt's Novice Show jumping, Dressage and Eventing teams and was placed 4th individually in Eventing at the Regional championships.

Gareth Watt has turned his hand to Showing this year and was successful at Blair Castle gaining two high places in Working Hunter Pony classes. He has continued to compete regularly in Dressage and he took part in a Dressage Festival in which he came 6th out of fifty competitors.

JAS



I think I speak for both myself and the girls' captain, Vicki Gow, when I say that leading Strathallan's Swim Team instilled a sense of pride as the year progressed. Attending galas and other competitions knowing that we have put in the work and knowing that we have the ability to beat almost any team on the school circuit is something that the whole team should be proud of.

As in years gone by, the Swim Team has not failed to produce some excellent results against rival schools. Having not conceded a victory all year is a testament to the gruelling hours of training we put ourselves through, and furthermore, to our coach Elaine Johnston. Without her devotion, commitment and enthusiasm swimming at Strath may still be in its infancy, and would certainly not have progressed to the standard that we enjoy today. The quality of coaching is also shown by the range of abilities accommodated on a day-to-day basis. At any given training session you can have developing swimmers to international competitors with Commonwealth and Olympic aspirations swimming side by side, not to mention the sessions available for Riley. There are few coaches in the profession that cater for this spread in ability and therefore we thank Elaine again for her involvement throughout the year.

Unlike years gone by, we hosted a new member from an unlikely area of the school... that being the staff. The Riley gap year student, Hamish Wise regularly attended training giving us a reliable training partner. With him he brought a colourful/'questionable' range of swimwear which funnily enough compliments the fruitful year the Swim Team has had. He is also very

very funny... we also thank him for helping at various events throughout the year whilst pursuing his ambition of ranking in Australia's top twenty. Also central to the Swim Team this year is the Director of Sport, Miss Sime who shows equal enthusiasm towards swimming as she does with all sports within Strath. She is largely responsible for organising our competitions and galas - we are always very happy to host swim teams at Strathallan.

Over the summer holiday our swimming pool underwent quite an extraordinary facelift: on our return we were greeted with a newly lined pool, 'wet wall' panels, a pool cover, new lighting and sound-proofed ceiling. The only notable thing that was missing roughly 300 litres of water! Over the next 2 weeks we travelled to Stirling University who gave us pool time while our pool was completed. The swimming pool is now a much more pleasant training environment and continues to enjoy regular use throughout the year.

On that note, I would like to reiterate how valuable a resource the pool is at Strath. Being used for an array of events throughout the year it is suitable for anybody and I would encourage anyone at Strath to make use of it at one time or another. This year coming, 2009-2010, will be captained by Sarah Maclachlan and Oli Luck who both have

a strong background in the pool and the skills necessary to motivate the team over the next year which will hopefully have the desired affect.

In the meantime, I can only trust that the team continues to

work as I've seen them do over the last two years with same determination which produces the results we see.

Roy Cameron UVI Freeland
Swim Team Captain 2008-2009

Strathallan Swimming Results 2008 – 2009

The start of the school year for Strathallan begins with the Midland District Schools swimming championships in Dundee where we were represented by Joe Lipworth, Jayne Thoms, Rhuairidh Watson and Craig Rintoul. Joe brought home the Willie Milne trophy for the boys U16 100 freestyle competition

The Tayside Schools Swimming Championships in November takes place over 2 evenings in Dundee. The swimmers had an outstanding competition and were successful in bringing home **37 medals in total** which by far exceeded the number won by any other school in Tayside.

TAYSIDE SCHOOLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

GOLD MEDALS

15/16 BOYS RELAY

Joe Lipworth
James Pak
Rhuairidh Watson
Nick Walker

12 & UNDER BOYS RELAY

Duncan Scott
Mark McGuire
Angus Gibson
Cameron Hirst

17-19 BOYS RELAY

Derek Hui
Julius Schulte
Ken Seeska
Roy Camerson

12 & UNDER BOYS 50 FLY -

Duncan Scott

12 & UNDER BOYS 50 F/C -

Duncan Scott

15/16 GIRLS 200 IM -

Maggie Luck (PB)

15/16 BOYS 200 IM -

Joe Lipworth (PB)

15/16 BOYS 100 BACK -

Joe Lipworth (PB)

SILVER MEDALS

15/16 GIRLS RELAY

Maggie Luck (PB)
Yasmine Forbes
Emily Maclachlan
Tasha Jaworski

15/16 GIRLS 100 F/C -

Maggie Luck

17/19 BOYS 200IM -

Roy Cameron

BRONZE MEDALS

13/14 GIRLS RELAY

Jayne Thoms
Eilidh Gibson
Siobhain Forbes
Emma Cheape

12 & UNDER 50 BR -

Mark McGuire (PB)

13/14 GIRLS 200 BACK -

Eilidh Gibson (PB)

13/14 BOYS 100 BR -

Craig Rintoul

13/14 BOYS 100 F/C -

Craig Rintoul

15/16 BOYS 100 F/C -

Nick Walker (PB)

15/16 BOYS 100 BACK -

James Pak (PB)

17/19 GIRLS 200 IM -

Vicki Gow (PB)

17/19 GIRLS 100 BR -

Sarah Maclachlan (PB)

17/19 BOYS 100 BR -

Ken Seeska

17/19 BOYS 100 FLY -

Roy Cameron

...we have the ability to beat almost any team on the school circuit...

**SCOTTISH SCHOOLS
SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009,
TOLLCROSS, GLASGOW**

As a result of swimming at Regional level, the top 20 swimmers from all Scottish Regions in each event are then selected to compete in the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships in Glasgow on Saturday 31st January 2009. Strathallan School were represented by 9 swimmers over the course of the finals which resulted in 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal.

Joe Lipworth followed his success earlier in the month with an outstanding win by over 5 seconds in the boys 15/16 200IM. Joe recorded a time of 2:14.96 a personal best time. Later in the day Joe swam in the boys 15/16 100 backstroke where he finished in Silver position with another personal best time of 1:03.11.

One of Strathallans youngest swimmers Duncan Scott was fastest qualifier for the final of the boys 12 & under 50 butterfly and carried on to win Gold in a personal best time of 33.14. Duncan also competed with Andrew Young, Angus Gibson and Mark McGuire in the boys 12 & under 4 x 50 frontcrawl relay where they finished a credible 7th with all swimmers recording personal best times.

Also swimming for Strathallan were Roy Cameron, 17-19 200IM finished 6th, Maggie Luck 15/16 200IM finished 14th, 15/16 100 freestyle finished 14th and Craig Rintoul, 13/14 100 breaststroke finished 13th - all three swimmers had excellent swims.

**WISE INTERNATIONAL
SWIMMING EVENT**

As a result of his success at Scottish Schools Championships Joe gained his 1st Scottish Schools Cap when he was selected to represent Scotland in the WISE International in March this year in Cardiff. Joe was a great credit to the school at this event where he swam 100 back, 200 IM and the medley relay.

**UK SCHOOLS GAMES
SWIMMING TEAM -**

Swansea, September 2009

Joe was also picked to represent Scotland as part of the UK Schools Games Swimming Team in Swansea. Joe swam in the 200 breaststroke and won this event in an outstanding time of 2:24.76 which was a UK Schools Games Record. Well done Joe on this fantastic achievement

INTER-SCHOOL MATCHES

Throughout 2008 - 2009 Strathallan had a number inter-School matches against Glenalmond, Fettes, Merchiston and all of which Strathallan won convincingly.

**INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING
STANDARDS 2008-09**

The inter-house swimming standards this year was one of the closest fought battles with all 6 houses making a superb effort to field a full team in all events. The overall winners were Thornbank with 380 points.

1st	Thornbank	380
2nd	Ruthven	354
3rd	Woodlands	349
4th	Freeland	303
5th	Nicol	299
6th	Simpson	271



Intermediate Girls

Maggie Luck,
Yasmine Forbes,
Emily MacLachlan
and Azlyn Edens



**Junior Boys - Bronze
Medal Winners**

Angus Watson,
Jordan Curtis, Charlie
Mearns and Cameron
Hirst

SPORTS
REPORTS

Swimming

continued

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

On the 6th March 2009, the swimming pool was full with swimmers and supporters from all of the 6 houses. This turned out to be the closest inter-house match that I had certainly witnessed. A total of 16 new records were set on the night which again shows the improvement in swimming standards at Strathallan over the last 12 months.

The Girls competition came down the last race in order to decide the eventual winner.

1st Thornbank 123.5 pts

2nd Woodlands 120.5 pts

The boys competition was also extremely intense throughout and with an unfortunate disqualification for Nicol in the final relay it meant that for the 1st time ever there was a tie for 1st place between Nicol and Ruthven.

1st = Nicol and Ruthven 72 pts

3rd Simpson 59 pts

4th Freeland 43 pts

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS RELAY
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

This event took place in Glasgow in June 2009 which unfortunately clashes every year with A level exams so our entries were slightly depleted. However, our 2nd form boys team which consisted of Charlie Mearns, Angus Watson, Jordan Curtis and Cameron Hirst came home with a bronze medal. Despite no other medals the swimmers recorded a number of personal best times throughout the competition and a good day was had by all.

**...37 medals
in total.**

RILEY INTER-DIV SWIMMING
COMPETITION

The Riley Inter-div competition in June is always one of the noisiest, well supported events on the school calendar. This year was no exception. There was a number of outstanding record breaking swims and very closely fought races. The eventual winners in 2009 were Dron.

1st Dron

2nd Glenearn

3rd Balmanno

4th Dupplin

Over the past 12 months Strathallan were also represented at UK, Scottish and District level under the banner of various swimming clubs across Scotland by Duncan Scott, Eilidh Gibson, Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck, Jayne Thoms, Roy Cameron, Joe Lipworth and Hamish Wise. The swimmers have won medals at national level and district level on a number of occasions and produced vast numbers of personal best times in the process. The swimmers continue to be a credit to Strathallan in the wider swimming community.

Thanks must go to Vicki Gow and Roy Cameron for their outstanding roles as Captains over the past year and we wish them well as they move on from Strathallan.

Elaine Johnston
Strathallan Swim Team Coach

Fencing



Each Tuesday and Thursday, we have met and a familiar rhythm has developed: a warm-up game, followed by stretching, footwork, bladework and then free play and individual lessons. For Form V and up, it is a Games commitment, and the Thursday session is on at normal Games times. On Tuesdays, it is on a bit later, and pupils in other years have come along and taken part in fencing as an Activity.

We've gone along to a number of competitions as a group: the Scottish Schools individuals, schools teams, the British Youth Championships, some of the Youth Development Series competitions and the Dundee Duel (a one-hit epee competition.) We've usually come back with some medals, and we have certainly had a

good time. As well as organised school trips to competitions, several pupils have gone to competitions either with parents or with friends. Sarah Hellewell, Torii Douglas-Song, Niclas Rehmann, Dominik Durig, Jonathan and Connor Blackburn all travelled to compete at age group or Open competitions, and still managed to bring back medals from most of these events.

Competition highlights include: the girls' team coming second in the Scottish Schools girls epee; Sarah coming 3rd in both the U16 girls' foil and sabre at the Scottish Schools Individual Championships, as well as coming 2nd at the Cumberland Open later in the year, and Connor winning the overall Youth Development Series over-16 Boys sabre.

SF

Rounders



With only four senior schools playing competitive rounders all matches are eagerly anticipated. Unfortunately inclement weather played havoc with our already small fixture list. Riley play schools on the prep school circuit culminating in the annual Kilgraston Tournament.

This year Scotland Rounders were invited to play at two International Tournaments. One at Manchester on 16th May and one in Newcastle on 13th June.

We decided to select four teams this year.

Trials were held on Thorneyshades on Friday evenings and girls came along from Fettes, Kilgraston, Glenalmond, and Craigclowan as well as from Strathallan.

For the Manchester tournament we took u13, u14 and u15 teams play to against England and the Isle of Man. We didn't win any matches but after 4 matches of 2 innings each we had certainly played a lot of Rounders, learned a lot and made some new friends. We also managed to watch 6 DVD's! Special mentions go to Lucy Coleman for being top scorer in the u14 team and Hannah Johnstone for captaining the u15 team and also to Abbey Kemp, Robynne Smith and Jay Whitelaw for helping with the coaching.

At the Newcastle tournament we took our 3 junior teams plus a senior team made up of mainly Strathallan girls. With

the experience of Manchester behind us we bravely faced the England teams and the England umpires. Our scores were much closer this time, the u15s finally winning a match against a mixed Newcastle team by half a rounder- very exciting!

These competitions are great fun, the girls love playing rounders whether they win or not, they love the bus journeys and the endless DVDs (not forgetting the food stops) but most of all they love singing "Oh Flower of Scotland" louder than anyone else can sing their own national anthem.

Congratulations to the following Strathallan girls who represented their country this year.

Emily Barnes, Sacha Taylor, Christy Knowles, Rachael Campbell, Clare Mendelsson, Mariam Kudehinbu, Hannah Johnstone, Lucy Garvie, Nicki Cochrane, Lucy Coleman, Ella Coleman, Anna Younger, Sophie Arnott, Yasmine Forbes, Lucy Garvie, Rachael Stewart, Stephanie Harrison, Gina Taylor, Robbyne Smith, Abbey Kemp, Sam Gray, Jay Whitelaw, Jemma Bryson, Fiona Johnston and Rachel Terrill.

Many thanks to Miss Laurie, Señorita de Celis and Miss Grant for coaching the teams and for all the staff and parents who brought the girls to practices and early morning pick ups.

Sandra Fleming

Ski Season



Partly due to the cancellation of several events, the Ski Team does not have a tremendous amount to boast about this season. The snow certainly did fall, but often at the wrong time!

This year again, the Scottish Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships took place on the last day of our half-term break. For the Senior race, we were unable to field a full girls' team (some of them were in high demand for other significant sporting contests) but our boys were available, and as dedication dictates, Adam PIPER, Andrew WHITELAW, Ross ALEXANDER and Alasdair WOOD were prepared to face the notoriously challenging slope of the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. They finished 9th over all, ahead of a further eight teams. In the Minors Girls' Race (Under 14), Séverine THOMPSON, Eilidh GIBSON, Robyn SOMERVILLE and Claire MENDELSON represented Strathallan for the first time and finished a respectable 7th.

As a result, our boys gained a selection for the British Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships which, to our delight, also took place at Hillend. GB youth team member Jo MORRISON

completed the team but a series of misfortunes amongst our boys meant that the gold medal on which they had set their hearts was not to be.

The winter term was a roller-coaster of great hopes and despair as the snow came suddenly and in vast amount, only to disappear just as quickly. Races were scheduled and re-scheduled several times but the right conditions never coincided in order to allow a Schools' race to take place in safety.

Luckily, Jo MORRISON did find some snow abroad and excelled on numerous occasions. He achieved the fastest qualifying run for the European Youth Olympics trials. He was chosen to represent Great Britain in Poland for the European Youth Olympics. He also became the fastest Junior 1 (under 18) athlete in the Giant Slalom as well as in the Super-G discipline at the British Land National Championships in Méribel, France.

Let's hope that this is enough to inspire our racers and whoever is in charge of distributing snow in Scotland, so that we have an active season next year.

Fabienne Thompson

...Jo Morrison did find some snow and excelled...He was chosen to represent Great Britain for the European Youth Olympics...

SPORTS
REPORTS

Clays

·22
Rifle
Club

Shooting has been mixed this year with some good weeks and some not so good. Shooting is a great skill to learn; it teaches you concentration and control, you have to take your time and keep a steady hand and try to hit the target as close to the 'Bull' as you can. The regular shooters are : Torii Douglas-Song, Chris Thompson, Molly Barnes, Anna Younger and Eleanor Allingham. Occasional shooters are Charlie Rutherford and Callum McDonald. There have always been quite a few from Riley House and the III Form coming along.

Our results are usually high with only a few glitches here and there. We are getting scores in the 80s and 90s – the target is 100 – Chris Thompson and I won prizes at the Perth Shooting competition.

The school rifles are well made, easy-to-handle .22s, they are made of wood and metal and we learn how to be very careful when we handle them. We always stick to the safety rules.

We all have a good relationship with our coach, Captain Kilmartin. Unfortunately, he is leaving at the end of the summer term, we are very sorry to see him go and hope that the club will still be in existence when we come back after the summer holidays.

Torii Douglas-Song
IV Form Ruthven

The year started with preparations for the Scottish National Clay Championships – always a big event for the Strath shooting team. The first four (G Murdoch, I McKenzie, S McBride, P Morris-Eyton) came through to triumph with great aplomb despite the intense pressure. The Bs and Cs also shot well and showed good potential for next year. The girls were also successful in winning the championship against a field of great depth.

With the Scottish championships already in the bag, Mr Vallot called for a celebratory shooting meal... Anyway, focus now had to turn to the British nationals. Weeks of training under Ben Kass and the odd classic session with Ian D McGregor primed us for the competition. We had a practice fixture against Mr I D McGregor's St Andrews University side

– winning comfortably. For a while however it looked like there would be no competition since it was moved to High Wycombe – making the bus journey that little bit longer and even when we were on the bus it looked like there would be no competition – even half an hour before we arrived. When we did shoot the competition, however, the team did reasonably well enduring an 8-hour bus journey to come fourth out of twenty-five. There was, nonetheless, a twinge of frustration as, had the organisers actually told us the right date, we felt we could have been more competitive with a night's quality sleep under our belts. The last event of the season is traditionally the inter-House competition and this year Freeland secured yet another victory – well done, fellows. This was followed by a fantastic end-of-season meal in the Tartan room prepared by Finola and Kirsty.

The season was extremely enjoyable and for this our thanks must go to Mr Vallot for, as always, giving up so much time every Wednesday and Friday as well as dedication behind the scenes in making sure that events happen. Thanks are also due Ben Kass for his shooting knowledge and general banter. We also had the pleasure of being joined by Mr MacBain and Mr Hamilton. We thank them both for their time and enthusiasm. The School beat the Strathallians on Strathallian Day to regain the John Lascelles Shield. Lastly, thanks also to Ian McKenzie for his inspiring leadership and for getting us "Back on Form!" to Will Fraser for his bureaucratic talent, essential for the deputy's position.

**Grant J Murdoch and
Sam I W Lipworth**
U6 Freeland

Angling Club

The economic news may have been bad all year but, for the anglers of Strathallan, the 2008/09 session was an excellent one. Flies were cast and many fish were caught by the able group of pupils who accompanied the Bursar to various venues in the local area.

Golden Loch, by Lindores, became a particularly popular venue as the trout proved eager and hard-fighting. The nature of the loch changed throughout the season, giving our anglers a different challenge on each visit, as well as the marvellous sight of the fishing technique of the local osprey. Buzzer fishing proved very effective early

season and accounted for some terrific baskets of fish but a more traditional approach was also to the trout's liking (*Are you sure there's a lot of liking going on here, Anthony? Ed*).

The use of traditional wet flies was to be practised to great effect all season by Charles Gifford and he invariably took fish on each outing. As the season progressed tactics changed and who will forget the evening session when dry sedge patterns brought the feisty finned residents to the hook? Or perhaps etched on the memory was the sight of the Bursar crawling on that same night to the water's edge to drop a small nymph in front

of a fish? Certainly memorable was the 'craic' between Toby, Ian and Grant as they hooked – and sometimes lost – fish.

Thanks must go to John Nicol, the proprietor for his support of the Club and for offering concessionary tickets.

Frandy, in Glendevon, also proved a challenging but successful venue with Giff and the Bursar picking up fish on traditional patterns even in testing conditions. As ever, Frandy proved to be a venue for the hardy as chill winds helped keep most fish off the feed and the anglers shivering.

Toby Culham, Grant Murdoch, Ian McKenzie, Charles Gifford

and Simon McBride were regular anglers and all improved their fishing technique during the season although Grant's unwarranted lack of confidence seemed to be transmitted down his line to the fish who were not to oblige him.

In addition to the fishing trips of the seniors, the Riley pupils once again spent many constructive hours in the winter term tying flies under the Bursar's tutelage and in perfecting their fly casting on the paddock in the Spring. If their enthusiasm and inventiveness continues, the future of the Club will be in good hands.

A.C. Glasgow



>>...dry sedge patterns brought the feisty finned residents to the hook...<<





This year's Sports Day was held in beautiful evening sunshine on the 22nd May. This was quite remarkable as we had some of the worst May weather for some time right up until the evening itself.

We were delighted to welcome the parents of this season's girls and boys athletics captains, Mrs Judith Carmichael and Mr Juraj Sabol to present the awards.

During this year's championships there were a number of close field events and particular highlights were Toby Culham (R) beating Andrew Lyons (S) by 30cm in the Senior Boys' Javelin, Ruairidh Hunter (S) edging out Dan Cowe (R) in the Middle Boys' Discus and Heather Mitchell (W) throwing 10cm more than Lizz Vine (T) in the Senior Girls' Shot Putt to win that event.

On the track, the lead changed several times during the Junior Boys' 4x400m relay before Simpson prevailed against Freeland and Nicol. Whilst in the battle between two of our top middle distance runners, Chris Rennison (S) again beat Jamie Addison Scott (N) in the Middle Boys' 800m. There were 'doubles' at senior level for Ciara Elwis (W) and Juraj Sabol (R) over 800m and 1500m with the talented Olwyn Jenkins (W) doing the same in the Junior events.

In the sprints, Craig Rintoul (R), Marcus Adams (F) and Andy Hall (S) were comfortable winners of their respective 100m races and in the girls events there was a good '1-2' for the Junior Woodlands pairing of Jenny Summersgill and Lucy Coleman. Although Kirstin Lamotte won the Senior Girls 100m race and Patricia Moyo achieved a double in the Junior 200m and 300m, it was apparent that any hope that Thornbank had of defeating Woodlands was fast disappearing. On the other hand the Boys competition had never been closer with only 2 points separating all 4 houses with Freeland marginally leading as we came to the final event, the Senior Boys 4x100m Relay.

In a dramatic finish, Nicol, with a well balanced quartet, held off the fast closing Andy Hall of Simpson for victory. At that point Mr Giles, in his final year as Housemaster, could no longer contain his emotion and was seen jumping around with his team as they celebrated their overall success.

JRF

Mr Giles, in his final year as Housemaster, could no longer contain his emotion and was seen jumping around with his team...

Boys House Championship

Nicol	108
Ruthven	105
Freeland	103
Simpson	103

Girls House Championship

Woodlands	133
Thornbank	91

Victor / Victrix Ludorum

Junior Girl: Lucy Coleman

Junior Boy: Craig Rintoul

Middle Boy: Marcus Adams

Senior Girl: Robynne Smith

Senior Boy: Toby Culham

Invitation Riley House Races

Riley Boys 100m

1	Charlie Mearns
2	Gareth Watt
3	Josh Henderson
4	Cammy Mack
5	Josh Anderson
6	Duncan Scott

Riley Girls 100m

1	Anni Arthur
2	Robyn Somerville
3	Emily Barnes
4	Sophie Lightbody
5	Sarah Nicol

Riley Open 800m

1	Josh Anderson
2	Chris van Dort
3	Conor Holborn
4	Ellie Hall
5	Jack Bruce
6	Robyn Somerville
7	Euan Gray
8	Ross MacGarvie
9	Jo Barrack
10	Lilly Thompson

Navy Sailing Trip summer 2009



Our trip started with a wet and windy journey from Strath, but with the joy of Mrs MacBain's road rage this didn't dampen our spirits. When we reached Oban, the large ferry that we were expecting turned out to be a fisherman's boat, which took us across to a little island named Kerrera. As we approached the 70 foot ketch that was to be our home for the next week we all realised what we'd let ourselves in for. After the initial bunk fight we were briefed and immediately set off for Loch Aline which was just around the corner.

The next morning we set our sights on the Outer Hebrides which we worked out would take around 10 hours to reach. Unfortunately, our plan didn't work out as the winds around the Sound of Mull meant that the team got very good at tacking but it also took us a lot longer than planned. Then as we past Ardnamurchan Point the weather turned for the worse and the swell meant that some of the crew's stomachs didn't quite hold out. As the weather was rocky, we saw the true colours of our skipper as the cruise we'd put our names down for turned into a hardcore sailing experience and it was all hands on deck.

After the commotion and drama we decided that heading for Barra would mean we would be sailing late into the night so we made the choice of anchoring in the Borrowdale Islands in a place called Loch Nan Uamh. The whole crew was determined to see some sort of wildlife as we had been told that the previous week, three killer whales had been sighted. Sadly, the most we saw was one seal the entire week! On the long sail to Castlebay, Barra we had some good constant sailing with speeds of around 6 knots. We were also lucky enough to hear the tale of how Mr and Mrs MacBain met on the seas and many other stories from various different people.

On the journey back from Castlebay the wind was behind the sails so it was a flat ride. As it was a smooth sail some of us took it upon ourselves to make a cake. Unfortunately, we didn't have any caster sugar so we ended up with a granulated cake with an extra crunch. We anchored up in Loch Drumbuie and from here made our way to a beach in Oban. Unlike typical Scottish weather it felt like a Caribbean climate, some people were even brave enough to go for a dip. Unfortunately our week was coming to an end and we had to head back to Kerrera, but this time round

the back in a place called Otter Bay. By this time the crew smelt, our hair was greasy from no showers and we were all knackered after a jam-packed week of fun and excitement. This was a great opportunity for the skipper to break the news that we were cleaning the entire boat, inside and out the following morning. Something that some members of the crew were not too pleased about.....Sally! On the last evening we finished with a game of Jenga and enjoyed drawing on each other's faces; this didn't exactly aid us for the energetic clean up that was expected of us the next day. Eventually we got down to work and the boat was shipshape and Bristol fashion by midday after which we headed back to port to end our voyage.

The sailing trip was an amazing experience and we would very much recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs MacBain, who parted with Nell for the first time just to accompany us. Also thanks to the crew, who added to the awesomeness that was the sailing journey!

**Sally Lungmuss and
Lucy Murdoch** V Form Thornbank

CCF

...no more ten minute delays to deal with jammed weapons, just point and shoot!

Contingent Commander's report

The Autumn Term was a team effort from a number of directions since S/Lt MacBain was away on maternity leave – the RN section is a large one to run single-handed and it was only with the help of Captain Walker, Mr Barnett and a lot of first-class input from the Senior Cadets that the term was possible.

Captain Walker yielded to persuasion (not too reluctantly, I hope), and kindly agreed to take the helm of the Royal Navy Section for the Autumn Term. In a change to the normal programme, the IV Form were introduced to rowing in the swimming pool and the whole Section went out for an afternoon of leadership training at HMS Caledonia. Mr Barnett was able to drive the Seniors to Port Edgar for the first half of term, so that they could finish off their powerboat and dinghy courses. William Campbell-Gibson and Robynne Smith ensured that the year went smoothly, and their contribution – both in their A Level year and with a heavy programme of other commitments – was extremely valuable. William was also appointed as the Senior Cadet of the Contingent, a role which he filled with the utmost aplomb.

Taking over from Robynne and William are Abbey Kemp, Joanna MacLachlan and Oliver Beetschen: all had a big role to play in supporting Robynne and William and, I am glad to say, all have volunteered to stay on and make their mark on the Section.

Major milestones of the RN year were the inaugural RN Dinner – following the now well-established pattern of the Royal Marines and the Army, and the yachting expedition from Oban

on the Ocean Youth Trust's Alba Venturer.

Central Camp was held at Warcop for the second year running – we had so much fun in 2008 that we just had to go back. This year we had a similar programme, but with enough change to make the whole experience very worthwhile – and the addition of the new Cadet Rifle made the military elements very exciting: no more ten minute delays to deal with jammed weapons, just point and shoot! The Directing Staff were excellent and many had good words for our cadets (I won't record in print what they said about Jenny Wood's performance as Platoon Sergeant). Our budding Senior Cadets had a good week, gaining experience of leading and organising, and we had strong support from the V Form Marines in Nick Walker, Ben Giles, Keith Wigley, Callum Reid and Callem McWilliams.

As usual we ran a number of outings over the year, starting with a training weekend at Barry Buddon for the Military Skills and Pringle Trophy teams: JJ Chalmers (RM, OS) turned out to help with this, and indeed gave a great deal of his time over the Autumn Term to help train the Royal Marines. At the start of the Summer Term we were back at Barry for the Recruits' Exercise, which conflicted this year with the Royal Marines Dinner – but that gave the Army Section NCOs the chance to take charge and hone their own skills – and they rose very well to the challenge.

The Army Section has been building up in size and experience over the last few years, and for the first time in a while we have a good corps of UV1 and LV1 NCOs with motivation and enthusiasm. Jenny Wood has been appointed to the post



of Senior Cadet; Jenny Wood, Ruairidh Clark and Murray Hall all worked to pass their Methods of Instruction cadre (Jamie Dodd is still refining his personal drill before re-sitting the test). We also welcome Katie Vallot and Olivia Quick as LVI NCOs (both appointed on a strong performance on Central Camp).

The Army Section sent a team to the 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition, held (unusually) at Dregghorn, and despite being short on training and experience they were making a fair showing until Sean Mendelson was obliged to return to School due to illness.

Adventurous Training is a key part of the CCF, sometimes happening on Wednesday afternoons – then Mr Higginbottom spent a lot of time in the Spring conveying the majority of the Contingent to A Vertical World in Dundee for indoor climbing, and a

good deal of the Summer Term taking the Recruits climbing outdoors. Those who were keen also had the opportunity to attend the Aviemore AT Camp at the end of the Spring holidays – a five day camp based at Rothiemurchus Lodge, from where there were hillwalking, climbing, canoeing and mountain biking trips. This is always a good event and this year we had superb weather!

A bit of nostalgia to end with: twenty one years ago when I joined the Contingent (Mr Court was i/c Army, CCF was compulsory for boys in Forms IV and V, girls were not allowed to join...), we had an armoury full of .303 No 4 rifles – the sort of thing you see in black and white films. These were replaced, about a year later, by the L98A1 Cadet GP Rifle. This was not much of a step forwards, since although the weapon looked (from one side at least) like the one the Armed

Forces use, it was singularly difficult to use, jammed every other shot and rattled like a well, like a rattle. This is all leading up to the day this year when the Cadets in Scotland – and we were the first part of the UK to receive these – were issued with the weapon which we should have had twenty years ago. It is, more or less, the real thing – and experience of it at Central Camp shows that it is, as the Regulars always like to say, a “good bit of kit”.

And the thanks: all we do is done with volunteers, staff

and cadets alike. We could achieve nothing at all without Mr Lindsay, but all the Officers have worked unstintingly over the year to lay on weekly training, exercises, camps and expeditions. So thank you to Captain Walmsley, S/Lt MacBain, Lt de Celis Lucas and Captain Higginbottom for all their support and enthusiasm – and to Marine Chalmers for spending his Wednesday afternoons back in his old playground.

ACWS-J



Debating

That's right, we're back (although technically we never left). Thought to be dead by some, debating is, in fact, alive and kicking (albeit quietly) in the fiction library. The society has faced numerous problems over the past few years mainly due to a lack of time occasioned by increased workloads among the Sixth Form and that well known malady, 'peer pressure'. Many would-be debaters have succumbed to this over the years and this academic year was no different with ranks of potential speakers stomping off too embarrassed or fearful to speak their minds. Debating at Strathallan is not solely about winning the argument but overcoming the fear of speaking in public, one which all of us in the society have felt at one time or another.

Despite record low attendance we had great successes in debating competitions as the former debating captains Sam Lipworth and Morag Elwis reached the St. Andrews Debating Competition final in a superb performance that did them and the society proud. The same pair reached the regional final (Scotland) of the Cambridge Union competition. We said goodbye to a number of brilliant debaters at the end of last year, we are also sorry to see the Reverend Quick retire from the post of 'staff member in charge of debating'. The Rev spent four years in this station co-ordinating our often disjointed ideas and did a great job of it; we wish him God speed in his continuing role as chaplain at Strathallan. In his place Mrs Billing, who joins us as a new member of staff this year, steps up to the plate to steer the debating tiller to more sheltered waters (*are you sure about this metaphor, Daddy? Ed*).

Competitions abound as the new committee, fresh-faced and slightly too enthusiastic, step into the shoes of the previous Upper Sixth, ready to make our mark on the society. We are aiming to nurture the skills of the younger years in Riley and plan to launch an Inter-Schools debating competition.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Jamie Dodd LVI Nicol



Thought to be dead by some, debating is, in fact, alive and kicking...

Chess

Matthew Patterson and Jordan Curtis (both Riley) qualified for the "mega-final" of the UK Chess Challenge 2009 which took place in Edinburgh on 10th May 2009. This was a huge event with over 145 players in various age groups.

Both Matthew and Jordan played really well, Matthew achieving qualification for the semi-finals which were in Oldham, Lancashire on 19th July.

Matthew performed successfully in the semi-finals winning 3 of his 6 matches. This is the first year a Strathallan pupil has qualified for this prestigious event and he must be congratulated on achieving this excellent result.

JAS



Wildlife Photography Day



In March, pupils from Riley through to Upper Sixth Form took part in a Wildlife Photography Workshop run by former pupil Philip Price (Ruthven 98).

Philip now runs a successful business called 'Loch Visions' that introduces wildlife photography to small groups whilst also taking excellent images himself. Philip was extremely enthusiastic and helpful whilst covering the basics of digital photography, setting up the cameras, finding suitable subjects out in the field and introducing Photoshop back in the classroom. A very enjoyable day and I hope Philip will pay us a visit again some time in the future.

JG

Aside from the typically Baltic Scottish weather, the wildlife photography Workshop was an enjoyable and overall successful experience for all that attended.

Capturing action shots of birds, searching for insects and learning how to use the camera was extremely challenging. But, needless to say, when the perfect shot was achieved, it was unbelievably rewarding. Thanks to Mr Goddard and Philip Price – legends!

Titi Finlay U6 Woodlands

Concert by Argentine Schools



One dark evening in the winter was lightened by a lively concert in the chapel provided by the pupils of two schools from Buenos Aires in Argentina. The schools, St Gregory's College and Brick Towers College, had formed a combined Senior Band which was touring the British Isles with a delightful programme of Latin American and other popular jazz music.

This group of 40 young people with accompanying staff had already performed in Dublin and Belfast. After Strathallan they went on to perform in Edinburgh, Manchester, York and London.

Dra. Gabriella Seisdedos, Directora General of St Gregory's said, "The students are having a chance to immerse themselves in different cultures and create bonds of friendship with youngsters from these countries."

As well as the music from the Argentine Band, the audience in the chapel were entertained by Scottish traditional music on fiddle, ciarsach and bagpipes, played by Anna Olafsson, Alice Inglis, Adam Michie and Sean Townsley. The Argentine pupils also had the "pleasure" of attending a concert in the music room where the performers were teachers who are not on the music staff, namely Richard Fitzsimmons, Gerry Kennedy, Irene McFarlane and Roger Quick.

IIMcF

Our tour guide warned us several times "keep your fingers to yourself"...



A group of twenty-six VI Form pupils accompanied by Miss Wilkinson, Mr Barnes, and Mrs Thompson left on a geography field-trip headed for Iceland at the end of the Easter holidays. After departing at 7 in the morning from Strathallan and spending seven hours in Stansted airport, Ian experienced his first plane journey. We arrived at Reykjavik late that night and although it was dark on our bus trip to the hotel, we were overcome by how flat and cold the country was.

We woke up and saw for the first time what Iceland had to offer; flat land and the North Sea. After showers and breakfast we returned to our room to be hit by the smell of eggs. After blaming the smell on each other we later discovered it was the sulphur produced by the geothermal heat that is used in the shower water.

We hopped on to the Icelandic express coach and drove to the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station bombarded on the way with facts from our chatterbox guide. We were extremely lucky to have such a clear and sunny day yet there was still a lot of snow. At the power station we were given a talk by one of their workers and we were shown how Iceland harnesses the geothermal energy to their advantage.

We then visited the famous Strokur Geysirs. Before leaving the bus our tour guide warned us several times "keep your fingers to yourself" because of the boiling water heated by the earth. We went on to visit Thingvellir the only place on Earth where you can see the crust pulling apart at the mid Atlantic ridge. Here we stood in the gap between the North American and Eurasian plates; a strange and very interesting experience. That day we also visited a cathedral where our tour guide suddenly burst into song and Harry blessed himself with holy water. After dinner we all went to the local swimming pool and discovered Icelandic communal showers.

Day two was Mr Barnes' birthday. After singing happy birthday to him our guide gave us another singing rendition: happy birthday in Icelandic. In the morning we visited Skogar waterfall and climbed the 314 steps (counted by Jordan) to stand at the top of the cataract. We also visited Seljalandsfoss waterfall where you can usually walk behind but on this occasion it was far too icy to even reach the steps. We then went to the Soheimajokull glacier which had retreated 10m in the past year. After climbing half way to the top, avoiding the crevasses, we stopped on the iciest patch possible to take in the view and did a bit of sliding on the way back down.

The most memorable moment of the trip (maybe our life) was our near-death FREEZING experience. We turned up to a shack in a deserted area of the country wearing ski jackets and jeans but without hats or gloves. We had no idea of what was to come. Benedict drove us up to the icecap on his homemade orange lorry/bus which we all expected to stay in..... but no. We stopped and were transported in an open top giant sledge attached to the back of a Pistie-Basher that travelled up onto the Myrdalsjokull ice cap. Benedict warned "do not stand up, do not bend over, do not put your hands out and hold on tight." None of his instructions were possible as it was too cold to move. We were all frozen but surprisingly Jordan survived in his shopping jacket, James bond glasses, jeans and trainers. At the top of the icecap the view was breathtaking, well worth the journey and the singing on the way back kept everyone in good spirits until we reached the warm coach. We spent the third night in a deserted hotel on the South coast, near Vik, where we celebrated Mr Barnes' birthday and spent a good three hours in the geothermal hot-tubs.

Day 3 was not quite as eventful – the previous one being hard to beat. We travelled along the road to the basalt columns and volcanic sand beach. Here the geographical features included stacks, stumps, caves, arches and more. We walked to the top of the cliff edges to look across the black beach which was kilometres wide as the tide had gone out so far. The structure of rocks and features of this beach were nothing like we had ever seen in Scotland; quite bizarre in fact. After our beach adventures we headed back towards Reykjavik, stopped to look at pseudo-craters and went to a pond to sit by for lunch. We also visited the Prime Minister's house which we were surprised to find was totally unprotected – we even walked in his garden. We spent the rest of the afternoon in Reykjavik, for rest and relaxation, exploring what the capital had to offer. Considering it contains 80% of the country's population it did not seem very busy. We had a lovely meal out, to finish off our last night in Iceland.

On the Last day of our trip, we headed to the Blue Lagoon, a popular spa. The water here was heated naturally by the volcanic rock below. Certain areas were so hot some people even had to get out. It was so relaxing and a perfect way to finish of our trip. We covered ourselves in white mud, which was apparently good for your skin. We then had lunch and headed back to the airport to go home.

On behalf of the VI Form group we want to thank Miss Wilkinson, Mr Barnes and Mrs Thompson for taking us on an amazing trip and making it as enjoyable as it was... even with the permanent egg smell, and deserted countryside, we all loved it. For anyone considering going on this geography trip or to Iceland on holiday we would thoroughly recommend it as it was a great experience.

Sarah MacLachlan and Kirstin Lamotte
LVI Thornbank

the Geography of Iceland





Pipe Band

The pipe band has had another busy and successful year, winning a total of 10 prizes and awards.

The Award winning began with Jamie Parker taking fourth prize in the Novice Piping Section of the Scottish Junior Piping Championships at Arbroath. At the Scottish Schools' Quartet Piping Championship where our senior team of Pipe Major Adam Michie, Pipe Sergeant Sean Townsley, Pipe Sergeant Etienne Melville and Piper Will Frazer played very well to win third prize. Our junior trio played well but was unplaced; they gained lots of experience from taking part.

Adam made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day.

At the school concert in November, Adam, Sean, Etienne, Will, Jamie and JSRH played a mixed selection including hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, reels and a slow air which was very well received. The pipers then played Highland Cathedral with the School Choir and Kingdom Brass at a concert in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, a great experience for our players.

At the Craigmount High School Solo Piping and Drumming Championships, in December, Adam won third prize in the Piobaireachd section while Sean took sixth prize in the March, Strathspey and Reel section. This is one of the top competitions for junior pipers in the country.

In January, the band was invited to play at Balmacraig School where they put on a very good performance. Our younger members did very well to represent the school with a good performance for the pupils and guests. Etienne then played at the Rannoch Day Centre for their Burns Celebration where his playing was very much enjoyed by the assembled company.

Adam finished second in the senior solo piping event at the George Watson's College competition.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year the band members excelled themselves to win fifth prize in the band competition. Our soloists also kept our name "in the frame", Adam again played very well to take second prize in the Senior Piping Championship, Sean took third prize in the Senior Piping event.

The band also took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle this year, the young pipers in



the band soon got into the swing and performed very well in their first try at the event. All of them appeared to enjoy the experience and are looking forward to next year.

Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn. A group of new drummers marched on with the band to show off their new skills.

Our contribution to Headmaster's Music in the summer term was Adam and Sean playing a piece written for their Higher music exam.

The band then turned out at Perth Racecourse where they played a number of times in various locations to entertain the public. They also played as a massed band along with Morrison's Academy who were also there.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships held this year at Strathallan. The band were unplaced in the band competition, but took third place in drill and turnout. Adam took third prize in the Senior Piping. Congratulations to all!

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming event. The major winners were as follows:

Most Improved Drummer – Gavin Keddie;
Novice Drumming – Alex Robertson;
Junior Drumming – Cameron Mack;
Senior Drumming – Jonny Bain;

Bass and Tenor Drumming – Jonny Clifford;
Most Improved Piper – Will Frazer;

Most Improved Chanter Player – Charlie Mearns;
Chanter – Justin Tsang;
Novice Piping – Sam Gray;
Junior Piping – Jamie Parker;
Hornpipe & Jig – Adam Michie;
Senior Piping – Adam Michie;
Piobaireachd – Adam Michie;
Best Contribution to the band – Adam Michie.

Piping Certificates were awarded to Crawford Niven, Cameron Hirst, Charlie Mearns and Finlay Wilson. Drumming Certificates were awarded to Alex Robertson, James Barrack and Logan MacGregor. Will Frazer and Etienne Melville were awarded half colours for piping.

The solo contest finished with us saying goodbye to Adam, Etienne, Sean and Will who are off to further their careers. We wish them every success in the future.

We look forward to the challenges of next year.

J.S.R.H.

a mixed selection including hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, reels and a slow air which was very well received...

Valete

Name+Inits	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Horriya A	Abdo	S3	T	01 09 2008	16 12 2008
Callum L	Airey	S3	N	01 09 2008	06 02 2009
Walter R	Alexander	S6	N	01 09 2005	04 07 2009
Daniel J	Anderson	S6	S	07 09 2005	04 07 2009
Jamie G	Arnot	S4	F	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Oliver	Bain	S6	N	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Fergus I W	Baird	S6	S	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Jill A	Bardon	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Emily K	Battison	S6	T	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Iain D W	Bonn	S5	R	01 09 2004	20 09 2008
Alistair J	Brown	S6	N	01 09 2005	04 07 2009
George	Burbury	S5	R	01 09 2008	03 11 2008
Lauren M	Burns	S4	W	05 10 2005	04 07 2009
Cathryn R	Bush	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Robert F	Cachia	S6	N	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Andrew R	Caldwell	S4	S	29 10 2006	04 07 2009
David R	Cameron	S6	R	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Roy S	Cameron	S6	F	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
William B N	Campbell-Gibson	S6	F	04 09 2002	04 07 2009
Tom	Cargill	S6	R	04 09 2002	04 07 2009
Jayne	Carmichael	S6	T	04 09 2002	04 07 2009
Jessica G M	Carson	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Man C	Chan	S6	N	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Shi K	Chen	S5	R	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Zi H	Chen	S5	S	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Jonathan K	Clifford	S6	F	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Joseph	Corlett	S6	R	05 09 2001	04 07 2009
Lindsay A N	Crowe	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Bradley J	Cruse	S1	RI	01 09 2006	23 05 2009
Toby P D	Culham	S6	R	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Daniel C F	de Haer	S6	S	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Philippe S L	de Haer	S6	R	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Bianca	Dembke	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Jonathan D F	Dickson	S6	F	05 02 2001	04 07 2009
Anna E	Dove	S6	W	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Dominik	Durig	S5	N	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Antonio	Elias Castellon	S2	S	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Katharina J	Eller	S5	T	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Morag A	Elwis	S6	W	01 09 2005	04 07 2009
William H	Farmer	S6	S	05 01 2004	04 07 2009
Christina J	Finlay	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Yan C	Fong	S4	S	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Alison H	Forsyth	S3	W	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Francesca C	Fraser	S6	W	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
William D	Frazer	S6	N	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Lucy M	Garven	S4	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Maksym	Goncharov	S4	F	07 01 2008	04 07 2009
Elizabeth F	Gordon	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Rory G	Gordon	S2	F	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Victoria M	Gow	S6	T	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Momme	Grandt	S5	R	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Aleksandra	Guz	S6	W	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Katarzyna A	Guz	S6	T	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Clemens	Haidinger	S5	F	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
John S	Harrison	S6	R	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Jonathon	Healey	S5	S	21 04 2009	04 07 2009
Andrew J	Heaney	S6	R	01 09 2005	04 07 2009
Nicolas R	Heger	S5	S	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Emma L	Howell	S6	W	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Alastair J	Hunt	S6	S	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Rory A	Jevon	S3	F	05 01 2009	21 04 2009
Stuart A	Johnson	S3	F	01 09 2007	14 01 2009
Henry	Jones	S6	R	05 09 2001	04 07 2009
Sally A	Keir	GUEST		11 12 2007	12 09 2008
Steven	Kennett	S5	N	01 09 2008	16 12 2008
Jamie D	King	S6	F	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Simon	Kremer	S5	N	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Julia	Kupfer	S6	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009

Name+Inits	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Kar C	Kwok	S6	S	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Alison Y P	Lee	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Harry	L'Estrange	S5	N	01 09 2008	16 12 2008
Ben T	Lewis	S3	F	07 09 2005	05 01 2009
Samuel I W	Lipworth	S6	F	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Chun K	Lo	S6	R	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Finola D	Lundgren	S6	T	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Sara E	Lundgren	S6	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Hugh D	Lungmuss	S6	N	23 11 2005	04 07 2009
Sophie P	Lyburn	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Stephanie A	Lyon	S6	T	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Caitlin E	Lyons	S6	T	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Stephen J	Lyons	S6	S	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Kirsty F	Macdonald	S6	W	30 10 2005	04 07 2009
Ailie J	MacGeoch	S6	W	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Catriona M	MacKenzie	S6	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Ian R	McKenzie	S6	F	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Callem R	McWilliams	S4	R	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Melissa M	Magumba	S4	W	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Hamish C	Malcolm-Watts	S5	R	01 09 2008	17 11 2008
Paul	Marshall	S3	R	21 04 2009	04 07 2009
Etienne P	Melville	S6	S	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Sean G	Mendelson	S6	N	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Theophile A R	Meunier	S4	R	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Adam D	Michie	S6	F	01 09 2001	04 07 2009
Heather J	Mitchell	S6	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Jo M A	Morrison	S5	N	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Grant J	Murdoch	S6	F	07 09 2005	04 07 2009
Anastasiya E	Musiyachenko	S6	T	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Samuel B C	Nicholson	S4	R	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Magnus E	Olafsson	S6	S	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Duncan J P	O'Reilly	S6	N	04 09 2002	04 07 2009
Eleanor G	Parkinson	S4	W	01 09 2005	04 07 2009
Alice	Perry	S5	T	21 04 2009	04 07 2009
Adam D K	Piper	S6	F	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Ben D T	Quick	S6	R	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Niclas	Rehmann	S5	R	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Neil M	Ronald	S5	N	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Juraj	Sabol	S6	R	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Anita S	Schoberl	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Julius	Schulte	S5	S	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Kirsty M M	Scobie	S6	T	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
James W	Scott	S5	R	01 09 2008	16 12 2008
Ken	Seeska	S5	S	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Claire J	Simpson	S4	W	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Elizabeth L	Sinclair	S6	T	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Robynne E	Smith	S6	W	04 09 2002	04 07 2009
Rayko I	Stanev	S5	F	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Liam	Stelzer	S6	S	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Undi	Stelzer	S4	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Katy A	Stevenson	S6	W	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Alistair N S	Stewart	S6	S	01 09 2003	26 09 2008
Jiakang	Sun	S6	R	01 09 2006	26 03 2009
Yu	Sun	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Lauren	Sutherland	S6	W	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Callum J	Thomson	S3	R	01 09 2008	06 02 2009
Sean M	Townsley	S6	F	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Elizabeth S R	Vine	S6	T	01 09 2003	04 07 2009
Moritz	Weisbrodt	S5	S	01 09 2008	26 03 2009
Michael D	Wells	S6	S	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Tim J U	Welp	S5	F	01 09 2008	04 07 2009
Andrew A	Whitelaw	S6	N	01 09 2004	04 07 2009
Evan L	Williams	S6	F	07 09 2005	14 11 2008
Chun H	Wong	S6	F	01 09 2007	04 07 2009
Sarah J	Wordie	S2	W	01 09 2008	16 12 2008
Melissa	Yerdelen	GUEST		11 12 2007	20 04 2009
Yiu-Hang	Yeung	S4	R	01 09 2006	04 07 2009
Jennifer A M	Young	S6	T	01 09 2007	04 07 2009

Prizewinners 2009

<p>The Smith Cup for Head Boy Jamie King</p> <p>The Morley Quaich for Head Girl Jayne Carmichael</p> <p>The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Boy Alastair Hunt</p> <p>The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Girl Robynne Smith</p> <p>The Houston Prize for All Round Merit Roy Cameron</p> <p>The Scanlan Cup for Merit Robynne Smith</p> <p>The Thomson Salver for Achievement Sara Lundgren</p>	<p>The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution Morag Elwis</p> <p>The Hayward Award for Citizenship Christina Stephenson</p> <p>The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman Andrew Whitelaw</p> <p>The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman Heather Mitchell</p> <p>Dux Helen Summersgill</p> <p>The William Tattersall Art Prize Catriona MacKenzie</p>	<p>The David Bogie Prize for Economics Juraj Sabol</p> <p>The Lord Kincaig Prize for English Victoria Gow</p> <p>The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize Cyrus Ng</p> <p>The Richard Moffat Prize for History Morag Elwis</p> <p>The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics David Cameron</p> <p>The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize Morag Elwis</p>	<p>The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing Anna Olafsson</p> <p>The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings Morag Elwis</p> <p>The William Pasfield Salver for Music Joanna Maclachlan</p> <p>The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music Sam Lipworth</p> <p>The Choir Prize William Campbell- Gibson</p> <p>The McMaster Quaich for Piping Adam Michie</p>	<p>Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Music) Murdo Elwis</p> <p>Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Modern Languages) Ben Melville</p> <p>The Haviston Broadsword Prize William Campbell- Gibson</p> <p>Quaich CCF Prize Joe Corlett</p> <p>Royal Navy Section Prize Oliver Beetschen</p> <p>The Rick Trophy Army Prize Jenny Wood</p>	
<p>UVI Form Prizes</p> <p>UVI A Level Biology Catriona MacKenzie</p> <p>UVI A Level Business Studies Katy Stevenson</p> <p>UVI A Level Chemistry Juraj Sabol</p> <p>UVI A Level Classics Robbie Cachia</p>	<p>UVI A Level Computing Sara Lundgren</p> <p>UVI A Level French Alastair Hunt</p> <p>UVI A Level Geography Jamie King</p> <p>UVI A Level German Juraj Sabol</p> <p>UVI A Level Music William Campbell- Gibson</p>	<p>UVI A Level Physics Robynne Smith</p> <p>UVI A Level Product Design Finola Lundgren</p> <p>UVI A Level Spanish Alastair Hunt</p> <p>UVI Higher Business Management Elizabeth Vine</p> <p>UVI Higher Biology Julia Kupfer</p>	<p>UVI Higher Product Design Oliver Bain</p> <p>UVI Higher English Jayne Carmichael</p> <p>UVI Higher French Jayne Carmichael</p> <p>UVI Higher Geography Jayne Carmichael</p> <p>UVI Higher German Jonathan Clifford</p>	<p>UVI Higher History Alastair Brown</p> <p>UVI Higher Mathematics Michael Wells</p> <p>UVI Higher Physical Education Elizabeth Vine</p> <p>UVI Higher Philosophy Anastasiya Musiyachenko</p>	
<p>Lower Sixth Prizes</p> <p>LVI Art Ruairidh Clark</p> <p>LVI Biology Chwei Peng Tieng</p>	<p>LVI Business Studies Christopher Rennison</p> <p>LVI Chemistry Chwei Peng Tieng</p> <p>LVI Latin Christian Kolb</p> <p>LVI Classical Civilisation Jamie Parker</p>	<p>LVI Computing Annabel Niven</p> <p>LVI Product Design Kirstin Lamotte</p> <p>LVI Economics Christian Kolb</p> <p>LVI English Rayko Stanev</p>	<p>LVI French Joanna Maclachlan</p> <p>LVI Geography Jamie Carragher</p> <p>LVI History Rayko Stanev</p> <p>LVI Mathematics Kuo Hong Wong</p>	<p>LVI Music Oliver Beetschen</p> <p>LVI Physical Education Ryan Hood</p> <p>LVI Physics Andrew Glover</p> <p>LVI Spanish Jack Chartres</p>	
<p>Fifth Form Prizes</p> <p>Vth Form Art Anna Olafsson</p> <p>Vth Form Biology Keith Wigley</p>	<p>Vth Form Business Studies Patrick Morris-Eyton</p> <p>Vth Form Chemistry Timothy Heaney</p> <p>Vth Form Computing Timothy Heaney</p>	<p>Vth Form Design Technology Fiona Johnston</p> <p>Vth Form English Josiah Bircham</p> <p>Vth Form French Michael McKenzie</p>	<p>Vth Form Geography Josiah Bircham</p> <p>Vth Form German Claire Simpson</p> <p>Vth Form History Timothy Heaney</p> <p>Vth Form Latin Ben Melville</p>	<p>Vth Form Mathematics Timothy Heaney</p> <p>Vth Form Music Marcus Adams</p> <p>Vth Form Physics Timothy Heaney</p> <p>Vth Form Spanish Michael McKenzie</p>	
<p>Fourth Form Prizes</p> <p>IVth Form Art Anna McNeill</p> <p>IVth Form Biology Mhairi Bannerman</p>	<p>IVth Form Business Studies Lewis Watson</p> <p>IVth Form Chemistry Adeeb Naasan</p> <p>IVth Form Computing Adeeb Naasan</p>	<p>IVth Form Design & Technology Justin Tsang</p> <p>IVth Form English Justin Tsang</p> <p>IVth Form French Adeeb Naasan</p>	<p>IVth Form Geography James Gray</p> <p>IVth Form German Adeeb Naasan</p> <p>IVth Form History Alexander Falconer</p> <p>IVth Form Latin James Gray</p>	<p>IVth Form Mathematics Justin Tsang</p> <p>IVth Form Music Santiago Garcia Serrano</p> <p>IVth Form Physics Justin Tsang</p> <p>IVth Form Spanish Mhairi Bannerman</p>	
<p>Third Form</p>	Frances Myatt	Olwyn Jenkins	Sophie Burdett	Millie Galashan	Harriet Smith

>>Ben Giles (Ruthven)
finished 4th Junior in his first
attempt at this event.<<



Charity Race

On May 17th at 7pm, over eighty athletes lined up in front of the Art School for the 10th edition of the 5-mile road race.

The previous days had been showery and thundery but the clear blue sky returned with many family members, friends and pupils cheering. Chris Rennison (Simpson) placed 6th overall behind a handful of much-respected Scottish club runners. Ben Giles (Ruthven) finished 4th Junior in his first attempt at this event. Maths teacher Jacqui Higginbottom, finished 2nd Lady, placing 14th over all whilst Riley Matron Tracey Mansfield, now familiar with this event, completed the course looking strong, slightly ahead of Strathallan parent Jane Gibson. The race was won by Carnegie Harriers' Tommy Laurence.

Everyone enjoyed a generous post-race buffet of baking and sandwiches provided by Carnegie Harriers. All went smoothly thanks to timing experts John Fleming and Audrey Sime, helped by a strong back-up team. This year again, the pupils who marshalled the race did a grand job. Donations and entry fees generated a total of £870. Cancer Research, C.H.A.S. and Get Kids Going! have each been presented with a £290 cheque.

History

**“Welcome to Strathallan School.
I hope you and Florence will be very happy.”**

So spoke the Headmaster, David Pighills, to one of the new teachers at the beginning of September 1979. “By the way, you will be having a couple of girls as lodgers. I hope that will be alright with you.” Canterbury wasn’t like this. In fact, that ‘couple of girls’ turned out to be a delightful addition to the Proctor household despite early apprehensions. Sally Rutherford and Gail Fitzpatrick were just two of thirteen girls welcomed to the school that September to begin A-level classes as part of a two year experiment organised by the Governors; David Pighills was not one to bow to superstition in the knowledge that a fourteenth member, Christine Lee, would arrive in January. A further 21 girls would arrive a year later.



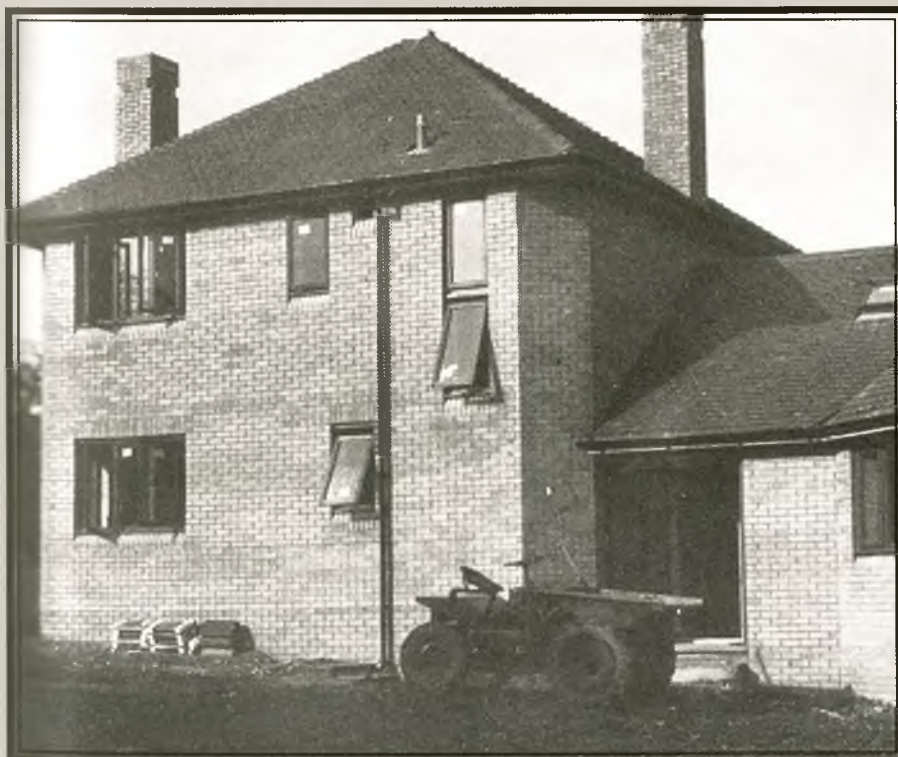
However, they were not the first girls to attend classes. There was one forerunner, Margaret, the daughter of the Second Master, Bobby Burnet, who had passed her exams the previous summer with flying colours. The boys at Strathallan had also met with the girls of Kilgraston at official dance lessons organised by Miss Le Mesurier, and one of the new girls, Caroline Wilson, had appeared in the last Strathallan play. Nor were Sally and Gail the only lodgers. Other girls were settling into the staff houses of Alan Pearson, Alan Reid, Trevor Goody, David Williams, Cosmo Fairbairn and Bobby Burnet.



The preparation for the girls had extended to the building of three bungalows at the top of the old Thorny Shades Park. The top bungalow was to hold the study rooms and those girls who were there will remember - four in the lounge, two in each bedroom and three in the dining room. The next bungalow was to be the tutor studies and changing rooms, while the third was accommodation for the tutor. And what better name for the new girls' House than Thorny Shades. David Pighills had already visited Repton School which had just started taking girls, especially for the sciences, and had seen the need for a broader education than that provided by the large number of ladies academies.

A full day was prepared as the girls attended chapel each morning; yes, each and every morning, worked in lessons until lunch, then games; prep in the evening and to their houses by nine. So, on Tuesday 11th September, Susan Douglas, Lorna Frame, Morag McMinn, Karina McTeague, Wendy Rogers and Clarissa





Rowe began their one year Post Highers studies at Strathallan. Into the Lower Sixth two year post O-level courses came Gail Fitzpatrick, Carla Gilmour, Barbara McLaurin, Lindsay Naylor, Sally Rutherford, Caroline Wilson and Gail Wishart.

David Pighills, reflecting at half term, felt that 'What appeared a brave innovation, had become so much accepted as part of normal life of the School that it scarcely seems to warrant now as news'. Certainly, matters had settled comfortably in the school with a refurbished Sixth Form social lounge and Jan Carratt's games program. Jan was also new to the school and worked in the French Department but she had made excellent inroads into setting up the first sports and activities programs for the girls. The Strathallian reported that 'without tempting fate, their arrival at Strathallan appears to have passed uneventfully'. Interestingly 'the appearance and manners of several gentlemen improved over the term' and budding Casanovas appeared everywhere. A couple of dinner parties went down well

And the girls, what did they think? A male chauvinist pig tie worn by one member of staff was not really appreciated and being called as 'You boys' on several occasions made life interesting. The coffee lounge had practised apartheid for a while and the frequent number of visitors to the bungalows necessitated several girls to rush for towels. The girls also had to do their own washing and wear pink and blue aertex shirts for games when they would have preferred white ones. All in all, the practical side of settling down went slowly but they also felt 'already a part of the large family that is called Strath'. Thorny Shades had arrived under the auspices of the Housemaster and Housemistress, Cosmo and Annabel Fairbairn, and their tutors, Jan Carratt and John Brown and his wife Jenny. It was deliberate that none of the girls had prefect duties in this the first year, or joined the school authority. Instead Susan Douglas became the senior girl of the House.

The final term; the examination term, was part of along, hot summer. It was left to Karina McTeague, already part of the Strathallian editorial team, to look back over the year. Despite the small number, the girls had

History continued

formed several teams to represent Strathallan at skiing and cross country as well as joining the shooting team and other activities, especially social services. Typing classes had been enthusiastically joined by everyone. But even with a small number, Morag McMinn and Clarissa Rowe managed an appearance on the stage at Speech Day; a feat to be repeated the following year by Lindsay Naylor, Sally Rutherford, Barbie McLaurin and Irene Mason. The girls were under no illusion as to their 'guinea pig' role; now seen as successful and enjoyable. As some way of celebration, Thorny Shades House staged a final party, courtesy of the Headmaster, though not probably aware of the theme. The girls decked themselves out for a 'Tarts and Tramps Do', each inviting one boy. The report was that Messrs Pighills and Fairbairn, in particular, made the effort.

It was inevitable that plans would be made for expansion of the House but this would take another year before finalising the plan to include younger girls. Meanwhile a new Sixth Form intake arrived for the second year. In September arrived Alison Anderson, Jennifer Aston, Carolyn Belch, Charlotte Cantley, Jocelyn Christie, Sandra Crabb, Rona Kite, Jennifer Locke, Irene Mason, Carolyn Mouat, Lesley Murton and Lindsay Rhodes. Again, the staff provided accommodation, now for twenty one girls as Thorny Shades House began its first growth spurt. Everyone could now witness the clearing of the grounds for the first phase of the new girls' House to be ready in a year. Meanwhile, it was back to the bungalows. In January, Riley House received its first girl, Lara Clayton, to be joined a year later by Ghillian Lawson and Julia Nicholls

Cosmo and Annabel's one year had turned into two but at least this year they had a head girl, Clarissa Roe, who went up to Balliol and was replaced by Barbie McLaurin at Christmas. There was further news which may have calmed their nerves. Thorny Shades would be taken over for three years by David and Kay Williams who were just retiring from an extended tenure at Ruthven House. David visited his old Housemaster at Repton for advice on his new role.

"How do you treat girls?" enquired David.

"Just treat them like boys" came the reply.

"So how do you treat boys?"

"Just like children."

David had a hand in constructing the new House which would be used for holiday lets – hence every room has a shaver point, and matching carpets and curtains. The new accommodation was to get a new name as well. From this time it would be Woodlands House,

devised as a tribute to the Woods family who formerly owned the Freeland estate. And there was to be a new uniform designed by Kay Williams. Up 'til now, girls were allowed the privilege of wearing their smart casual clothes; a distinction lost on a later headmaster. Gone were the pink trousers; replaced by a grey A-line skirt and blazer. The effect was to be smart and happy, and individual enough not to be a uniform until several girls were together.

Some thirty one girls across the age range joined the former Lower Sixth girls in September but had to wait a whole term before the new accommodation was ready. The new tutor, Jane Atkinson, actually lived at the Whins with six of the girls for that period. Woodlands House finally opened its doors for the start of the spring term, 1982. By the next morning, someone had placed a poster on the front door – AA 5 Stars; contrary to belief, there was no reception desk and no room service. Jenny Aston was made the first head girl with Jill Bridges her deputy, and the rest of the Upper Sixth became official prefects, or nannies as they are known. Jenny was actually parted from the camouflage jacket that she had worn throughout the previous year.

The second wing was already under construction that winter. (The west wing now forms the east wing of Thornbank House). This was to give accommodation for up to seventy girls. Meanwhile, the House-warming returned everyone to the colour pink. David allowed each girl to provide two names of potential beaux and then selected his own list which made the evening a roaring success. His own performance in full dinner jacket will be remembered for many years. David and Kays' three years became five during which time a third wing was added to provide a full House for some 120 girls.

I suppose we could say the rest was history which many will have tucked away as there own memories – the way the new House provided the incentive for new boys' accommodation; the building of second House to be named Thornbank and well, you know the rest. One thing that may be unknown to but a few is that the House crest was designed by Aimi Macdonald during her year as head of House and remains the emblem to this day.

David and Kay left the House with a prayer which can still be seen in the entrance hall. Philippians IV, VIII was to encapsulate their feelings at such a time and carry their best wishes for the future that they had worked so hard to secure for all the girls. The new order was also left with some advice – Get a microwave oven; get a video recorder and join Dunning Golf Club.

GRMR





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

There are five sections to the D of E Gold Award: Physical, Skill, Volunteering, Expedition and Residential. However, it is for the Expedition section that D of E is famous, and four groups set out at Easter to complete a four day expedition around the southern Cairngorms.

Three of the groups were taking part in their first practice expedition, while the fourth included two girls who were undertaking their third and final expedition. Each group had to carry all of its own equipment: stoves, pans, food, tents, sleeping bags and spare clothing. The first day saw the groups walk in from departure points along the Dee to the forest north of Derry Lodge, with a fantastic view of Derry Cairngorm. The next day the groups all crossed through Clais Fhearnaig, and down to the footbridge at Linn of Quoich, then upstream to a wonderful wild camp in the Caledonian pine forest by Quoich water. The third day was the longest, starting with a bit of 'heather bashing' to find a path to the north of the Quoich, which then cut south east towards Invercauld House, and then took a sharp turn and headed due North, giving the groups a long slow pull to climb over the flanks of Culardoch hill (which gave a fantastic view for miles in all directions) then drop down to spend a frosty final night beside Loch Builig, before walking out on the last day in stunning sunshine to the farm at Braenaloin.

The good weather continued for the expedition that went out in the last week of the summer term: this time to Glen Doll and Balmoral. Two groups walked from the Doll towards Broad Cairn, and over to Loch Muick, then onto Balmoral, while another two groups walked in the opposite direction; one following a similar route in reverse, while a group of boys took to the tops and bagged a few Munros.

Along the way, the groups navigated their way through wild country, cooked their own food, pitched camp each night and struck camp each morning.

Their next trip will be an expedition to Lochaber in September, where these skills will be put to the final test.

SF



Staff valete

Elizabeth Adam

When broadcaster Dominik Diamond, spoke this year to the VI Form, he inevitably reminisced about his days as a pupil at Strathallan in the 1980s. One of his best and favourite teachers, he said, was Elizabeth Adam.

It is the case that, when interviewed about their lives and influences, most people who are renowned in whatever field they have chosen will almost invariably dwell on the inspiration provided by a particular school teacher who recognised some gift in them and encouraged them to develop it. I am sure that for a considerable number of Strathallians, that teacher will be Mrs Adam.

Over her 23 years at Strathallan, Elizabeth Adam inspired young people with her love of English language and literature, and

transmitted it to them in a thorough and idiosyncratic way. Her opinions about great literature were absolutely firm. William Campbell-Gibson, who has also just completed his final year at Strathallan, recalls her saying, "There's far too much sex in the A-level syllabus! Why are you reading Fitzgerald and Proulx? You should be studying Keats and Wordsworth."

For Will, also, Mrs Adam was his favourite teacher. Classes with her were, "the best lessons of the week. In her room it was like being in a different time zone. She was such a good teacher – a "proper teacher.""

It is not just the quality of her teaching which impressed Will, but also his memories of some of her slightly more eccentric traits. "I'll never forget her black and pink stripy tights", he said. "And then there was that time when

we were sitting working while she was marking, when suddenly she burst out singing "Jerusalem". She finished a verse, and then continued with her marking."

A keen theatregoer herself, Mrs Adam organised theatre trips for pupils. For a number of years in the 80s and 90s she was editor of the Strathallian where she ruled her contributors with an iron rod in terms of content and accuracy.

Knowing Mrs Adam, there will be no such thing as retirement. The hours spent at Strathallan will be filled with many other activities to join those which she already enjoys – art appreciation, architecture, travel, rearing her animals, being only a few. We wish her every happiness.

**I IMc F and
William Campbell-Gibson**
UVI Freeland



Carol Duncan

Time flies when you are having fun, they say, and it only seems yesterday that Carol joined Strathallan. It was longer ago than it seems, for Carol has been with us since 1990.

In the intervening nineteen years a generation of Strathallians has passed through the School and many of them through Modern Languages Room 1. They have prospered under Carol's expert tutelage. It has to be said that we are not all keen linguists, but under the guidance of Madame D

pupils of all abilities have achieved confidence and success in French. What marks her out as special, and is probably the key to her success as a teacher, is her deep emotional involvement in her pupils' progress and welfare.

Carol has led the languages department for over ten years now, taking over from Janet Watson and matching her commitment to languages for all pupils and high standards of achievement. She has kept alive the glimmer of Russian wherever possible – Carol has for many years played the key role in

setting the Higher exam in Russian, and has guided a number of pupils to success both at Higher and at A Level – but by far her greatest success has been in French.

Her commitment to the School would be hard to equal – beyond the classroom Carol has been the heart and soul of the Common Room, a dedicated Thornbank Tutor, mother of two of the most successful Strathallians of past years and the valued friend of all. We wish her and Ian the very best for a long and happy retirement.

ACWS-J



Andrew Gordon

Andrew Gordon joined Strathallan in September 2001 and in his eight years with us there is no doubt that he became one of the most respected and highly thought-of members of staff by the entire Strathallan Community.

His tireless work in the DT department saw many a pupil expand their horizons and achieve results far above their expectations. It was absolutely clear that his

highly informed passion for the subject was passed on to his pupils. Away from the Department, Andrew threw himself into the extra-curricular activities of the School, and his work as a Riley games master, in which his natural enthusiasm was there for all to see, cannot pass without mention. As Senior Tutor in Nicol House, Andrew excelled. He would leave no stone unturned to ensure that the pupils in his charge got the best deal.

Compassionate, fair but firm he showed a natural understanding of what was required. I will greatly miss his counsel, both as a colleague and a friend.

Strathallan have lost a true School Master, but we all wish Andrew, Claire, Seren, Inez and Maggie the very best of luck as they forge their new life together in Thailand.

DRG



Obituaries

IAIN H H FRASER
1926-2009

Iain H. H. Fraser who died on the 18th of November 2008 of aged 83 was at Strathallan in the years 1938/42 and was very proud of his association with the School and kept himself fully apprised of its progress and development.

Upon leaving school Iain joined the RAF and qualified as a bomber pilot in Rhodesia. After the war he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve and did most of his flying from Scone in Perthshire. He qualified for a civil licence and obtained an instrument rating which was to prove significant in being selected for his eventual career. At about this time he acquired a part share in a Tiger Moth aircraft and took great pleasure in flying it.

His first civilian occupation was that of trainee accountant but his heart was never in it and he carried out a complete career change by applying for a job in Air Traffic Control. He was picked from a large number of applicants and served at several airfields around the UK, which involved lengthy periods of time at RAF Uxbridge and Prestwick in senior positions. He retired from this very demanding and responsible role in 1985.

Iain was a talented person with a wide range of interests and had great charm and personality and possessed humour in abundance. He was a very kind and generous man. His sparkle and sense of fun were infectious and one felt the better for having shared his company. He is survived by his wife Pam and their children Simon, Hamish and Alexandra.

Watson Linton

PATRICK LEE
1961-2009

I am sad to report the untimely death, in May of this year, of Strathallian Patrick Lee.

Patrick joined Strathallan in 1979 as a Sixth Former in order to study A-levels and was a member of Simpson House until he left in 1981.

Patrick had left Malaysia to come to Strathallan in 1979 to complete his education. He had never been out of the country before, never seen snow or worn a kilt. He quickly adapted to school life and made lasting friendships. He had a real affection for school which lasted all his life. He played a full part in the life of the school, enjoying rugby and cricket and, already an accomplished violinist on his arrival at school, will be remembered most for his exquisite musical ability demonstrated by his regular performances Headmaster's music.

Patrick went on to Strathclyde University where he studied Pharmacy, graduating in 1985. He worked initially in hospital pharmacy in Stracathro Hospital and then moved to community pharmacy. He was much in demand as a locum in the west of Scotland and beyond, where he was well known as a hard and diligent worker. He was known to be able to run single handed a shop that usually required two pharmacists!

Patrick was proud of his connection with Strathallan and, as an active member of the committee, regularly attended the summer 'Old Boys', latterly Strathallian, Days and annual dinners.

Patrick married Diane in 1987 and they have three children, Graham, now a student at St Andrews university, Mei Lin and Jamie, both secondary school pupils. They settled in Paisley. Patrick worked hard to provide a safe and secure life for his family. He lived his own life simply, and was very generous with his time and talents. He was also a very tolerant person who would judge others by what was in their heart and not by race, religion or class. He was at his happiest at home, pottering around doing DIY or playing his beloved violins. He pursued his music again as the children grew older, and passed exams to become an Associate of Trinity College, London where he was later awarded their Licentiate Diploma in violin performance, an achievement of which he was immensely proud.

Patrick became ill suddenly in December 2007 and was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. He endured aggressive radiotherapy and chemotherapy with much bravery and fortitude but sadly the tumour recurred and no further treatment was possible. He passed away peacefully at home with his family around him.

Patrick is survived by his wife Diane, three children, his parents in Klang, Malaysia, and his sister Christine, now of Australia, who had joined him at Strathallan in 1980 as one of the first intake of female pupils.

Diane Lee



Patrick Lee



Ian Turnbull



John Buchan Ross

EWEN MACCRIMMON
1925-2009

An appreciation

Ewen was at Strathallan in the early years of the 39/45 war. He was a member of Nicol House leaving in 1942. His parents were in India and I recall Ewen's saying how kind Mr Harry Riley was towards him during summer holidays; Mr Riley took the few boys with parents overseas to holiday destinations.

During the war Ewen's mother took the risk of sailing from India to Britain and afterwards wrote a most interesting book detailing her experiences. I have read the book, and conclude those on board the ship were fortunate not to have been torpedoed en route.

After Strathallan, Ewen joined the Royal Navy, and I recall his telling me of service in a Corvette, hunting German 'U' boats between the Azores and the naval base at Gibraltar. After the war Ewen studied and became a Chartered Accountant. He was on the staff of Findlay's Gilmour Smith, C.A., in Glasgow.

Ewen became an active member of Williamwood Golf Club, on the south side of Glasgow, and qualified for a low handicap.

During his final year at Strathallan, Ewen was a House Prefect, known as "Ginger", who exercised his authority with common sense; and was well-liked. After school he remained a bachelor. One slightly unusual record which I believe to be still held by Ewen was for the distance he could throw a cricket ball on the lawn. I am in no doubt that he will be greatly missed by his friends.

Stuart Mitchell

JOHN BUCHAN ROSS
Air Commodore (Retd)
RAF, QHS, MB, ChB, DTM&H

3 July 1912 - 24 January 2009

John Buchan Ross was born on the 3rd of July 1912 in Tayport, Fife, just north of St. Andrews, the son of a doctor who had worked in South Africa and West Africa.

As with many children of pioneering parents who were working in the colonies, John was sent to Strathallan School as a boarder from an early age and entered Freeland House in the 1920s. He rose to become Captain of the House and a respected member of the First XV Rugby Team. His passion for sport and fitness, which the School instilled, was to remain with him all his long life. At the same time, he became interested in his father's work as a doctor and so, after leaving in 1930, followed in his footsteps to Edinburgh University whence he graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1935.

He then joined the Royal Air Force, and before the outbreak of the Second World War was sent to the Middle East where he served as a Squadron Medical Officer in Iraq. On May 11th 1938, John married Myra, a girl from Edinburgh. When war broke out, he was then posted to the Far East where over the next five years he was engaged on active service, specialising particularly in tropical medicine and the treatment of malaria.

Between his unaccompanied overseas tours, he fathered Jennifer and Iain - the latter following him to Strathallan School (Riley and Ruthven 1958 - 64) - and later another daughter, Sue.

After a successful career spanning a further 30 years, he took early retirement from the RAF as an Air Commodore having also risen to become Honorary Surgeon to the Queen and a Commander of the Order of St. John and been twice mentioned in Dispatches.

He retired to Portugal in the late 60s where he spent a very happy and active retirement until his death earlier this year at the age of 96 years. Right up until this time, he never lost his love of Scotland and the School that had given him so many opportunities in his life.

Iain Ross

IAN TURNBULL
1932-2008

Former pupil Ian Turnbull, a prominent East Neuk of Fife farmer died aged 76 on December 20th 2008.

Born at Sandyhill, Kingsbarns in 1932, he attended Strathallan School, where he was head boy in 1949/50. He was the first of three generations of the family to attend the school. During his year as head boy he was very proud to unveil the War Memorial that is still on display in the entrance hall of the main building. On leaving Strathallan Mr Turnbull gained a BSc in agriculture at Edinburgh, before returning home to join his father and uncle on Boghall Farm, also at Kingsbarns.

He married Ann Scott in 1959 with whom he had three sons Mark, Scott and James all of Nicol house. Over the years Mr Turnbull and his sons steadily expanded the farm business and currently keep suckler cows, finish large numbers of lambs and grow a full range of arable crops and potatoes.

Mr Turnbull served the farming community locally and nationally as a Scottish director of insurance company NFU Mutual until 1997. He was past president of Anstruther branch of NFU Scotland and a board member and vice chairman of the Leven based co-operative, Central Farmers Ltd. He was also President of Fife Show in 1974.

Mr Turnbull was a passionate curler and it was this enthusiasm that put him on the national and international stage. He was president of Cambo Curling Club and East Fife Province before becoming a council member for Area Seven. He then served as president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1983-84 and captained the Scottish tour to eastern Canada that season. He was a long serving convener of the Grand Match committee and took quiet pride in having played in three of these rarely held events in 1959, 1963 and 1979.

He also had a lifelong dedication to the works of Robert Burns and was noted for his skills as a speaker on the subject and for his recitations of the works of the Bard.

Contributed by loving granddaughter
Nicola Turnbull (Thornbank 2001 - 2006)

Charities

In July 2008 Miss Sime went out to Malawi to visit and teach in several schools. She was taken to these schools by contacts at St Andrew's Church in Mzuzu. In September Miss Sime spoke to the Charities Committee and showed them pictures and videos of her time in Malawi. These pictures and videos were then shown to the whole school in Chapel. Two schools in particular stood out for our pupils as needing support: Trust Academy and Mosanto School.

Mosanto School (for children aged 4-12) had one building and was in desperate need of more so that pupils could be taught inside. Parents had been making bricks but needed financial support to get the building work started. They needed £2500 to build the school of their dreams. To raise money for this school the committee decided to hold a Non-uniform Day in December with a neon theme. To raise more funds collections were made at the House Music Competition and at the Headmaster's Music in Perth Concert Hall. In total we were able to send £3000 to the school through St Andrew's Church.

This is an email Miss Sime received from Levi Nyondo about Mosanto School after the money had been used:

DEAR AUDREY,

THANKS FOR YOUR EMAIL.

YES, I RECEIVED THE MONEY 3000 POUNDS FOR MOSANTO AND WE HAVE MANAGED TO BUILD ONE SCHOOL BLOCK WITH THE SAME MONEY AND ABLE TO COMPLETE ONE TEACHER'S HOUSE. I WILL BE SENDING TO YOU SOME PICTURES FOR THE NEW MOSANTO SCHOOL BLOCK AND TEACHERS HOUSE.

I WILL ALSO SEND YOU A DETAILED REPORT OF HOW THE MONEY WAS USED AND WHICH MATERIALS WERE BOUGHT.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL. LEVI.

The Trust Academy were desperate for books for their library. To provide a library for pupils and staff our pupils were asked to donate unwanted books suitable for children aged 3 to 12. By the end of term Miss Sime's classroom was overwhelmed with books, such was the response to the plea. In June we were able to send the books out to Malawi through the auspices of The Raven Trust who regularly send a container of donated items out. The money and the books will be sent to St Andrew's Church to pass on to the two schools.

In November the Kilt and Rugby shirt day raised funds for The Sandpiper Trust, Capability Scotland and CHAS.

In the summer term, with no major charity event planned by the senior school Riley decided to have their own fund raising event. A committee was drawn up of Riley pupils. The first meeting explored some wild and fantastic ideas for fundraising. Eventually it was decided to have a Water Obstacle Course with pupils being sponsored to carry containers of water over various obstacles. The pupils also decided on the charities to raise money for. A long list was eventually whittled down to three: Help for Heroes, Young Carers and Rachel House. A group of girls took charge

of the raffle and with the help of Marketing wrote letters to businesses in the Perth area. A competition was held to design a poster for the event, the winner, Jo Barrack, decided by the Marketing Team. The course itself was designed by pupils and then parents were approached for some of the items not available in school. Thanks go to Mrs Curtis for supplying tyres and Mr Purvis for the barrels. Thanks too to the many cooks who baked cakes for the baking stall and to Mrs Younger who brought in plants for the pupils to sell. The weather on the day could not have been better. The children enjoyed themselves hugely, got very wet and raised a wonderful total of over £3000. This was divided between the three charities as the children had asked on their sponsor forms.

KS-J



Glenbrae



Over the past couple of years I have watched Glenbrae appear from the groundsman's yard. The huts and boatshed seem a distant memory effaced by the clearing of the site and the slow taking-shape of the structure.

Much debate took place as to whether the large glass windows would withstand a direct hit from a cricket ball; rumours spread that all the rooms were en-suite; requests for rooms with a view of the lawn were put forward. While there was a flurry of activity during the summer term it was still hard to believe that this would be a new home for me and sixty-plus girls.

A summer spent planning, writing handbooks, creating forms, arranging furniture and assigning rooms was

scant preparation for the arrival of the new residents. An empty Boarding House feels as if there is something lacking and, at the start of September, Glenbrae became complete as the members of the House moved their many trunks and suitcases in. What had been a very quiet empty space became filled with noise and people and very soon ceased being the 'New House' and started to develop its identity as 'Glenbrae'.

Nothing can prepare a new Housemistress for taking over a House but the whole process has been made significantly easier thanks to the girls of Glenbrae and I am looking forward to working with them over the next few years.

FMB

Strathallan – an EcoSchool

Strathallan has been a Scottish eco school for some years now, and in only the past year we have done a great deal not only to raise awareness about damage to the environment but to raise money and directly combat climate change within our own school.

The motto of the Strathallan Eco Committee is 'mind your carbon footprint' and this is a very ambitious goal considering that a very large proportion of our pupils come from places as far as China and America, and with students from five continents the Committee does its best to reduce everyone's impact.

We hope that by half way through next year we will have a fully functioning recycling centre and our status as a green flag eco school, a long term aim is also to try and build a biodiesel production plant within the

school to process chip oil and have a more sustainable way of fuelling our minibuses.

Although we are always trying to improve we already make significant effort to reduce our waste and impact on our environment, for example the school runs a minibus service to get children to and from home more efficiently and a former pupil wrote a program to turn off all the school computers at 11 p.m to save energy.

There have been a number of events held this academic year by the committee to help our cause, on Saturday the 6th of June, The Age of Stupid was given a premiere showing in Strathallan's theatre and this gripping and, frankly terrifying film really grabbed the imagination of the audience as to what exactly the world could be like 50 years from now; a scary thought. The film

featured Pete Postlethwaite and focused on how we can but don't combat climate change, and we also had a guest speaker, Dr. Richard Dixon, head of WWF (World Wildlife Fund) Scotland who answered questions in great detail for the viewers.

Furthermore, on Friday the 19th of June we had a thoroughly memorable charity event about which you can read a report in this magazine.

In short the Eco Committee has had a very successful year and hopefully this success will continue into next year and we will achieve green flag status in the winter term, being one of the first Scottish independent schools to achieve this.

Jamie Parker LVI Freeland

Reels

The two sides line up. Tensions are high. The tartan-clad individuals stand, with sweat on their brows, waiting with excitement for the signal to begin. The beat starts up. The two sides charge upon each other, and piercing cries resonate around. Kilts sweep and the pace is fast. Exhausted and exhilarated, they carry on – well, at least until the half time food.

No, this is not in fact an ancient Scottish battle, but the 4th and 5th form reels – which was especially good this year, and I very much enjoyed. The splendid soundtrack provided by the Neil Copland Ceilidh Band really made the evening, along with all the work put in by the staff. After the infamous Orcadian Strip The Willow everyone made their way back to house (in one piece) tired but satisfied. This was, as always, a highly successful and extremely fun Reels evening.

Josiah Bircham V Form Freeland



VI Form Common Room

Well, here we are finally basking in the glory of the revamped, all-singing, all-hyperactivity and OMG just-too-many-goodies-to-think-of Sixth Form Common Room.

Take a look at those super-wide screens. Have a listen to those mega-buck Bose sound systems. Relax. Enjoy.

(I feel there may have been enough thanking of the Bursar for one edition of the magazine, so I'm cutting that bit. Ed)



VI Form Burns Supper

The 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns was celebrated by the VI Form and staff at the annual Burns Supper in the music room. A change to the normal pattern saw the Immortal Memory being proposed by a pupil, Morag Elwis. And as all great traditions have to begin somewhere, we intend this to be the practice in years to come.

Mrs Irene McFarlane chaired the evening and introduced Adam Michie who piped in the haggis, which was addressed by Mr Anthony Glasgow. The chaplain delivered the Selkirk Grace. The toast to the lassies was proposed by Henry Jones; Vicki Gow replied. The toast to Strathallian was proposed by William Farmer; Mr David Barnes replied. Songs and traditional music were provided by Natasha Potts, William Campbell-Gibson, Sam Lipworth and Morag Elwis. Ollie Wale and David Cameron gave recitations and Jayne Carmichael delivered the vote of thanks.

II McF



Hypnotist Night

With the winter term drawing to a close, and the snow falling on a gloomy Saturday afternoon, a lazy night-in seemed to be the most attractive proposition for the majority of the VI Form. But little did we know, the hypnotist was on his way to Strathallian School. Rumour, that savage beast, pricked her ears and cleaved her way through the VI Form, like a hot knife through butter. Soon, everyone's plans had changed...

At 7 O'clock, we left the sanctuary of our warm Houses, trudged by the icy expanse of the lawn and entered the gloomy darkness of the main building. Entering the music room, no one quite knew what to expect, and when the hypnotist, walked in, a silence fell over the audience. He introduced himself to us and asked for volunteers, and slowly but surely, the bravest heroes of the VI Form stepped forward.

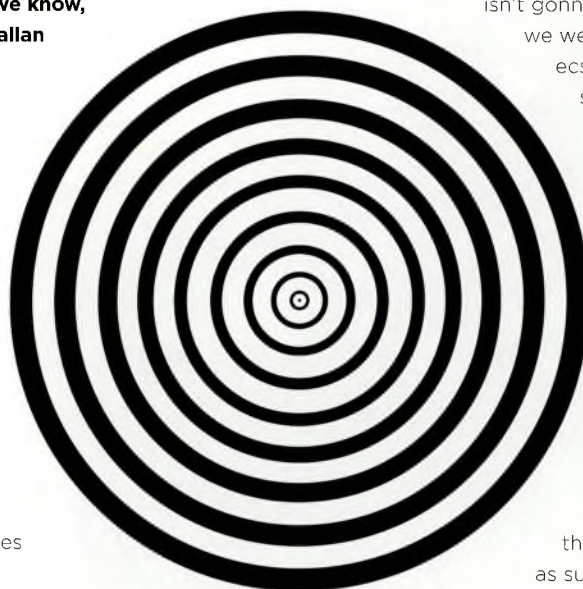
We were subjected to a series of tasks designed to test whether we were susceptible to mental

subversion. Soon the large number of volunteers had dwindled down to a select few. With comments being bandied among the audience such as "This isn't gonna work!" and "This guy's a mentalist!", we were all flabbergasted and frankly

ecstatic to be proved wrong as we were subjected to such visions as; Will C-G's uncontrollable laughter, Jenny Wood and Steph Lyons' frisky antics with the male portion of the audience, Oli Beetschen's frightened reaction to seeing an "Elephant" (although some say it was only Fitz sneaking in at the back) and of course Jamie Parker, the hero of the night scratching, yes, scratching places few dare to go.

Overall it was an evening of hilarity, joy, amazement, and sheer delight for all who attended. We hope that next year's hypnotist night will be as successful and empowering as this year's!

OB, OW, JP, JD



The Ball



Ball

Winter

warm amidst the kind lights and gaudy costumes

spinning, spinning





I'm sure there must be an easier way of worming the mutt.



Fitz finally catches up with the Golden Snitch.



Oh well, I can always have a lie-in in the morning. I don't think I'm going in to work.



What was that, Freddie?
Didn't quite catch it.



I reckon it's the way you tell 'em, Headmaster.



Ceramics, clockwise from top left:
 Sophie Howell, Charlotte Brown,
 Lucy Murdoch, Anna Olafsson
 and Hannah Stewart

Cover art:
 Heather Mitchell UVI Woodlands