

# THE STRATHALLIAN 2004-2005





Well plaid, Liam.



Aboriginal garter-dance succeeds in summoning eclipse.



One for Caesar, one for me!



Job description for cheerleaders competition requires fine tuning.



P.K. fails audition for Magic Roundabout.



I'm sure they said Thursday...



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# SCHOOL CAPTAINS

I HOPE THAT THE PUPILS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE APPRECIATE WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE WHILE THEY ARE AT STRATHALLAN.

AFTER A LONG RELAXING SUMMER IT SEEMED STRANGE NOT TO BE RETURNING TO STRATHALLAN ONCE AGAIN TO ENDURE THE TRIALS OF PRE-SEASON HOCKEY WITH MISS SIME AND MR GILES.

In this sense it was mostly a relief, although it was also slightly sad as I knew I wouldn't be seeing all the wonderful people I have shared my time at school with. As I begin this new chapter of my life there are a whole host of special memories from Strath that I will be lucky enough to take with me to university and beyond. These memories have accumulated over the past eight years from every aspect of my school life and these recollections are indicative of the brilliant environment there is at Strath.

Enjoying my last year as Head Girl was not only an honour, but also as I had expected, a challenge that I was fortunate enough to have been appointed to take on. I was certainly very proud to take on the position and it provided an excellent opportunity to see the school from a different perspective. It enabled me to realise further how diversely talented the pupils are in all that they do, from the pupils as young as 1J to the members of the Upper Sixth and also to appreciate the hard work, support and commitment that is consistently made by the teachers both in and out of the classroom. The successful relationship between pupils and staff is definitely the key to why I personally enjoyed my time at Strath so much.

The vast number of opportunities and resources on offer also play a critical role in the achievement of pupils and the range and quality of their success illustrates how beneficial these facilities are in reaching such high standards but also most importantly in having fun. This past year has also helped me gain confidence certainly in public speaking from occasions such as Speech Day and Burns Night, and also when dealing and working with people in a variety of situations. These essential skills will I'm sure assist me in whatever I do in the near future.

The advice and wisdom received from both the Headmaster and Mr Barnes has definitely helped both Malcolm and me this year and we are both very thankful to them for all their support. Thanks must also be given to the Prefects who were always there to help and smile at any event as their work made our job so much easier. In retrospect, I don't think I could have enjoyed my time at Strathallan any more than I did and the combination of so many factors has made my time so memorable. I'm sure I will be back one day and I hope that the pupils now and in the future appreciate what they can achieve while they are at Strathallan.

**Ann-Louise Breden: Captain of School 2004-2005**



I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY TIME AT STRATH. THERE WAS ALWAYS SO MUCH TO DO AND ALL RIGHT THERE FOR YOU ON YOUR DOORSTEP, FROM ALL OF THE SPORTS TO JUST CHILLING WITH MATES THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING AND IN SUCH A GREAT ENVIRONMENT. I ALSO FOUND THAT THE STUDENT TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS WERE PARTICULARLY STRONG ESPECIALLY IN THE SIXTH FORM.

This not only helped academically but also contributed largely to the general atmosphere of the school which, in my experience, was always so positive and friendly. For that I would just like to thank all of the members of staff for all of the effort that they always put in to make all of that possible. To everybody still at Strath enjoy your time there and make the most of everything that the school has to offer. Strath is just one of those places where there is something for everyone and it really is possible for everybody to get a lot out of it. On behalf of everyone who was in my year I would just like to thank all of the people who made our time at Strath what it was. The school has given me and everyone else, I'm sure, a lot, and I hope that everyone who is still there and goes there in the future gets as much from it and enjoys it as much as I did.

**Malcolm Jack: Captain of School 2004-2005**

STRATH IS JUST ONE OF THOSE PLACES WHERE THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND IT REALLY IS POSSIBLE FOR EVERYBODY TO GET A LOT OUT OF IT.





# STAFF NOTES 3

## WE WELCOME THEM ALL TO THE STRATHALLAN COMMUNITY

**I START THIS YEAR BY PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLIN WALKER'S GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO STRATHALLAN AS HEAD OF BIOLOGY, DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AND OFFICER I/C THE CCF. HIS CALM CONTROL HAS ACHIEVED REAL SUCCESS AND WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT HE REMAINS WITH US AS EXAMINATIONS OFFICER.**

Other notable departures this year include Fiona Stirrat and Diane Balnaves who have both retired. Each has given service of considerable length to the Strathallan Community, Diane primarily in the Geography department but also in English and History specialising in teaching the Riley pupils and Fiona in the Mathematics department where again she worked largely with the younger pupils. Their patience and understanding have been appreciated by generations of the younger pupils and in Fiona's case her departure brought an end to many years of association with the School; her father was the Bursar when she was but a girl. Moving on to pastures new is Simon Shepherd who in his three years as Freeland Housemaster made a distinct impression not only on the House but the whole Strathallan Community. "Shep" was 100% behind his boys whether it was on the Rugby field or in Hockey, and all his pupils in the Geography classroom. His honesty and enthusiasm were refreshing and have been much appreciated. Simon returns to Australia with Susan and their young son, Daniel. Going south but not changing hemisphere is John McCann. His contribution has been similarly dynamic in a range of activities. He took over some five years ago as Head of the Computing department and has overseen the development of the subject within the School with the introduction of A level and all pupils taking the subject at Certificate level at sixteen. John was always fiercely loyal to his department and determined to get the best for it. His commitment in Simpson House where he was Senior Tutor and also to Hockey and sub aqua has had a similar effect. Alice Young who stepped in to the German department at short notice and has, to our benefit, continued for three years, also left the School shortly after the beginning of the Winter Term. Alice has been a very professional teacher whose classes have all achieved high standards and we have also appreciated her willing contribution to a number of social events in the evenings. Ion Politu was with us for a year on the teaching experience scheme from Eastern Europe and threw himself in to all aspects of the Community. His patient and supportive teaching of pupils whose first language is not English has been significant, and he has taken Basketball on to another level. His commitment to the boys in Simpson House has also been very much appreciated. After five years' outstanding service Sandra Cartwright,

Matron, leaves Riley House. All the pupils who have been in Riley House during this time have cause to thank her for her robust approach and care and attention to their welfare. Louise Nowell follows Keith Legge to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association; Louise joined us as Director of Development and Marketing introducing a number of initiatives and bringing a professional approach to her work in this area. The base is now in place very much to move forward and we thank Louise for her work in establishing the department. Anne-Marie Fourie has worked tirelessly as Housekeeper and in support of the Common Room and last, but by no means least, Anne Conoboy has left to make her home near Aberdeen. Her professional conduct and huge competence in juggling the myriad demands of the Headmaster's office and trying to keep tabs on an errant Headmaster has been appreciated not least by your scribe.

In trading in Simon Shepherd to Canberra Grammar School we received, not quite in return, Brian Heaney and Rob Hilliard. Brian was a Housemaster in Canberra for some ten years and brings not only extensive experience of pastoral work with boys, but also his Mathematics teaching and expertise in Sports coaching and in particular refereeing Rugby. He has experience at State level and also as Fourth Official for Super12. We welcome him, his wife Janine and Timothy, Andrew and Nicholas to Freeland House. Rob has taught Geography for three years and takes part in and coaches most sports known to Strathallians and a considerable number of others besides. He has particular interest in Rugby and Cricket and will bring his expertise as Resident Tutor to Simpson House. Glyn Gardiner is known to a number of Strathallan pupils as a top class Athletics Coach at Pittreavie AC where some of our stronger athletes go for winter training. We are delighted that Glyn has joined us as Head of the Computing department. He was previously Head of Department at Craigmount High School in Edinburgh. He brings significant experience to the department at an exciting time as the new computing centre begins to take shape. Our Geography department has also seen the arrival of Kate Wilkinson who has just finished her PGCE at Durham University. Kate will be a Resident Tutor in Thornbank. She has a degree in Earth Sciences and has achievements in Tennis, Swimming and more recently Rowing and Rugby, in the last of which she gained an international cap last year. Jane White, another recent PGCE student will be teaching German part-time during the year and Mihaela Ardeleanu who has several years experience of teaching in Romania joins us to teach English as an Additional Language and also to be a Resident Tutor in Woodlands. The pastoral team in Riley is completed with the arrival of Jill Ogilvie who has experience of Boarding Schools in Zimbabwe and will be Riley Matron. We welcome them all to the Strathallan Community.

**BKT**



# VALETE

## DIANE BALNAVES FIONA STIRRAT JOHN McCANN



Diane Balnaves



Fiona Stirrat



John McCann

### Diane Balnaves

About five years ago I had a IV Form LAMDA activity group, a number of whom were to be taking an exam in mime. To help prepare them for the exam I had invited a young actress to do a workshop with the group. One of the pupils (who had better remain nameless) asked about this. The conversation went as follows:

*Pupil: Who is the actress?*

*IMcF: Her name is Vicki Balnaves.*

*Pupil: Balnaves? Does she know our Mrs Balnaves?*

*IMcF: She's her daughter*

*Pupil: [confused] Her daughter? How old is she?*

*IMcF: I think Vicki is about 22*

*Pupil: [shocked] 22! I thought Mrs Balnaves was about 22!*

Well, that "looking about 22" (5 years ago) teacher has now retired. And they say it's policemen who look younger all the time!

Diane Balnaves has, in fact, been at Strathallan as a part-time teacher for 18 years. She taught geography up to Form III and English/History/Geography to IJ. Her main aim in teaching was to make learning fun for children and encourage them to feel enthusiastic about their subjects. Many a former IJ pupil will be able to vouch for her success in this, especially when remembering being transported to the fictional world of Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island.

She also expanded their horizons with numerous field trips and museum visits. She enjoyed assisting Riley House tutors and helped at social functions, such as reels nights.

We wish her a happy retirement. And bearing in mind she is only 27, it should be a long one!

IMcF

### Fiona Stirrat

Fiona had a much longer experience of Strathallan than most. Her father, Bob Cowie, was Bursar and Fiona was, to a large extent, brought up within the school. Although she was not educated at Strathallan, her father built the house now occupied by the McMorris and Fiona was very much part of the Forgandenny scene. From the University of St. Andrews Fiona graduated as a classicist before returning to Strathallan as a young mother to teach some Latin but mainly Mathematics for some twenty years.

As a teacher, Fiona's great strength was patience. A good academic herself, she had, nevertheless, the ability to understand the problems of the less able. Much of her time was, indeed, spent supporting those with learning difficulties. Many owe their GCSE success to her meticulous preparation and careful explanations. Many in Riley found not just a very good teacher of mathematical basics but a kind and sensitive individual, always ready to listen and with a genuine interest in their problems.

RJWP

### John McCann

I first met John at the beginning of March 1999 when he bounced into school for his interview, and then again when he joined the school staff after three years at Glasgow Academy. It was clear from the start that he would be an asset to the school and amply fulfill those elements of schoolmastering that require action, involvement and dedication, no matter the task. He took over an expanding department and inherited the daunting task of maintaining the school's computer network, both positions from which he guided the school for six years and successfully negotiated a major government inspection. John's senior pupils quickly learned the importance of having a copy of Ray Bradley's "A'Level Computing" beside the bed as night time reading!

Outwith the classroom McCann-ical continued to prove his value to the school. He involved himself in hockey, being an effective player himself, and took the 1st XI, as well as the Senior Colts cricket despite having no knowledge of the game. In addition to this he took an active interest in all other sports, and listened patiently to the staff and pupil gurus while more often than not putting in a commendable performance himself. His own love of scuba-diving brought great benefit to the school, and many pupils became proficient after endless sessions in the pool and at sea; those who went on the Red Sea trip will never forget their time.

The boys of Simpson House found him an effective tutor, mentor and friend, and as senior tutor he took an invaluable part in the running of the house, especially at weekends; he always stood firewatch at the numerous barbecues with a ferocious water cannon, or inveigled the unwary into one of his many electronic games. As a friend and colleague, Uncle John always took his place in supporting all school events, and often made significant contributions, so much so that the staff were unanimous in electing him President of the Strathallan Masters' Common Room. The fact that many pupils were able to take away recordings of the school play or house music pays tribute to his unending energy and commitment.

As someone who put so much energy into the school and pupils, it is hard to imagine how he had time for his family, but throughout his six years at Strathallan he was able to put their needs first. In moving to work in London, John has once again shown his commitment, and we wish him and Leanne the very best for the future. I, like so many staff and pupils in the school, have lost an irreplaceable friend and mourn the loss.

If only he had listened to our advice as he filled in the application form for his new post, "Gonnae no dae that, John? Just... gonnae no?"

GRMR



Sandra Cartwright



Simon W. Shepherd

### Sandra Cartwright

The job description for a new Riley matron asked for the thick skin of a sinner and the compassion of a saint, so we were not at all surprised when the field of candidates turned out to be quite thin. At some point however, the wind changed to the south-east and blew Sandra to our doorstep, along with a ruddy complexion, assorted suitcases and the determined demeanour of someone who knows a thing or two about children.

The interview was a tense affair and both Anne and I were more than a little nervous, but we must have answered her questions correctly because she agreed to join us and soon settled in for the start of the new academic year.

It became clear at an early stage that there were 'no flies on Sandra Cartwright' and it was not long before sniffles and coughs disappeared before turning into colds, and bruises faded before they could form. A raised eyebrow just before a cross-country match was all that was needed to 'cure' aching limbs and mysterious internal injuries, but when sympathy was needed, Sandra was always there with a reassuring arm and a bottomless mug of tea.

She wove her magic in all corners and corridors of Riley and to the Medical Centre and beyond. One of the first tasks she set herself was livening up the décor. Pupils, staff and even the Collees' collie were encouraged, one afternoon, to dip their hand (or paw) in paint and make their mark on the wall. Her calm efficiency transformed the surgery.

Monday afternoon's duty was never the same after Sandra decided that it would be a good idea to collect all the dirty rugby kit from the boys as they exited the changing-rooms. Woe betide any boy who dared to emerge without the requisite items! Perhaps the best-known of Sandra's skills, however, was packing. Over the Easter holidays before she was due to leave she began packing her own belongings. Such was her level of organisation that half-way through the term she was left with just exactly the right amount of crockery and cutlery to eat off and with and no more. The rest was already packed.

The common courtesies of a bygone age were all that was needed to secure her help, and she would bend over backwards to support a pupil or colleague through a difficult patch.

When the wind changed direction sometime this year, it picked up Sandra and took her back to the south, leaving a trail of happy memories and the gratitude of those who had the privilege of working with her.

We wish her well.

WAC and KS-J

# VALETE

## SANDRA CARTWRIGHT SIMON W. SHEPHERD

### Simon W. Shepherd

Simon 'Shep' Shepherd joined Strathallan as Housemaster of Freeland in 2002. Originally from Jamestown, South Australia, he had been sanitized by teaching in London and Edinburgh before joining Strathallan in the School of Geography. Standing at a (supposed) 6' 4" tall he was a big character, with a demeanour to match. He was passionate about all sports, from rugby and 'Aussie-rules' football to kayaking and canoeing, and was a keen practitioner as well as coach. As a committed DIY enthusiast, his garage would have been the envy of many a Design and Technology department. From this centre of operations he tackled a wide repertoire of 'building' projects, including the construction and welding of an iron bed frame and building a wooden canoe from scratch.

In his professional life, Simon was a respected and committed schoolmaster; he was responsible for the delivery of the Highers Geography curriculum, the coaching of 3rd XV Rugby and U15 'A's' Hockey, and he 'captained' the pastoral team in Freeland.

As Housemaster he stamped his own authority on the House in a short space of time. He introduced several innovations into the life of the House; the 'Father and Son' weekend, the termly newsletter, the Sunday morning barbie... He also introduced Strathallan's first Boxer puppy, Samson, to the residents of the school, both human and canine. In February of this year Simon and his wife, Susan, added to their list of firsts with the birth of their son, Daniel.

During his time at Strathallan Simon proved to be a caring Housemaster, keen sportsman, genuine colleague and good man. Strathallan will treasure many memories of him. We wish him, Susan, Daniel and Samson all the best back home in Canberra, and hope that they may equally treasure their memories of Strathallan.

RCAW

6' 4" TALL HE WAS A BIG  
CHARACTER, WITH A  
DEMEANOUR TO  
MATCH... SIMON WAS A  
RESPECTED AND  
COMMITTED  
SCHOOLMASTER



# 6 SPEECH DAY



**AS STRATHALLAN PUTS ON ITS BEST BIB AND TUCKER, AND SETS OUT TO CELEBRATE THE DIVERSE AND INTERESTING ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS STUDENT BODY, THERE IS A THIN LINE BETWEEN REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING THE GREAT EFFORTS, EXERTIONS AND ELATIONS OF THE PAST YEAR.**

With the curt, formality of the occasion in sharp contrast to the day-to-day atmosphere of the school, it is often difficult fully to convey Strathallan's strong but approachable ethos, and although for the parents there is a chance to witness the work of the school, particularly pertinent for boarders, and for the prize winners to accept the accolade of their peers, speech day is but one pixel in a whole screen of colour, and the lifestyle at Strathallan goes beyond the brief insight that the day provides.

The recurrent themes of inspiration leading to challenge and subsequent achievement through dedication and communal support were, however, appropriate to the occasion and provided a time for quiet contemplation and reflection, in addition to the recognition of excellence intrinsic to Speech Day proceedings. As the luscious, wholesome, rambling countryside surrounding Strathallan drooped under the drench Scots rain, kilned pupils and proud parents alike assembled faithfully under the marquee and the official ceremony commenced.

J B Gray CA, our new Chairman of Governors provided a proficient introduction to the day and treated the audience to a light-hearted account of his own time at Strathallan. We also enjoyed brief but charismatic speeches from the Heads of School, Ann-Louise Breden and Malcolm Jack, whose status as pupils offered an alternative perspective of the many-faceted life at Strathallan. Their memories, particularly poignant for those leaving the school, were a chance for pupils to collate their own recollections of the past year and they reminded us of the opportunities, social and cultural as well as academic which are plentiful at Strathallan. The underlying theme of change as the only constant evoked anticipation for the year to come at Strathallan and the future lives of those who are leaving us this summer.

The recurrent theme in the Headmaster's speech, which provided a positive and balanced sweep of the academic and extra-curricular year, was challenge, and his favourite phrase had a new and accentuated resonance, as the direct and attendant benefits of the instruction, 'Aim high', were made evident. This focus appropriately echoed the sentiment of the guest speaker, Sir John Shaw, CBE, who told us: 'Reach for the ceiling and you fall on the floor, but reach for the stars and you will reach the ceiling', a philosophy that no doubt contributed to his success as a Chartered and subsequently Management Accountant. His speech, however, was not merely an idealised dictum, pure gratification of achievement in itself, but an exploration of the journey inherent in every achievement, and the

potential that is innate in everyone: 'Opportunities for all to excel' is the foundation on which Strathallan's bricks are laid. His speech established a causal link between the achievement of the day and the challenges of the past, elaborating on the individual dedication and communal support that facilitate the realisation of set goals and the attainment of the unexpected alike. The importance of commitment was illustrated as he quoted the golfer, Gary Player, and indeed our very own mathematics teacher Mr. Kitson: 'the more I practise the luckier I get'. Strathallan would like to extend its warmest thanks to Sir John Shaw for a well constructed and thought-provoking discourse.

The high quality and diversity of the achievement was further illustrated by the various displays that succeeded the traditional ceremony. From the inclusive yet talented Chapel Choir singing a mixture of J S Bach and a pupil's own composition, to the flute and vocal solos of Strathallan's most gifted musicians, the concert presented an eclectic range of style, age and ability. Exhibitions in both the Art and Design Technology departments flaunted skilful paintings, chairs, tables, shelves, prints and sculptures; these mark the culmination of a year's work in these subjects. Further entertainment came from our Pipe Band, which, undaunted by the typically inconvenient Scottish weather, valiantly performed time-honoured tunes such as Will Ye No' Come Back Again and The Skye Boat Song, on the lawn, dressed in their familiar blue uniform. Also in uniform were the Royal Marines, who acted as ushers throughout the day's proceedings.

As the day drew to a close the triumph of Strathallan was apparent; the exceptionally high standards that have come to be expected of Strathallan and its pupils were perpetuated, and the day was enjoyed to the full by pupils, parents and teachers alike. Even the heavy rain could not put a damper on the festivities, and the congregation gathered to sample the sumptuous snacks provided by the professional catering team. Here, there was also the opportunity for parents to chat individually to teachers and Housemasters, while the pupils took a last opportunity to socialise before half term.

This Speech Day, from the charisma of the moon-walking prize winner, to the contemplative modesty of those observing from the back row, everyone's contribution was celebrated in a vast range of displays, and inspiration can be gained from the copious success of our pupils. Yet, sources of inspiration are as diverse as the ideas that they found, and Speech Day is but one event in what is indeed an awe-inspiringly crammed school calendar. This year's focus not only on the challenges and achievements themselves, but on the constant dedication of the pupils, and the support, academic and pastoral, of the teachers that accentuates the fruits of this dedication, shows that it is not Speech Day itself, but rather its symbolism that makes it so imperative.

**Mardi MacGregor**



HIS SPEECH... WAS NOT MERELY AN  
IDEALISED DICTUM OF PURE GRATIFICATION  
EXPLORATION OF ACHIEVEMENT IN ITSELF, BUT AN  
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IN EVERY ACHIEVEMENT, AND THE  
POTENTIAL THAT IS INNATE IN EVERYONE.





# RILEY HOUSE



THE YEAR PRODUCED SOME  
BRILLIANT DISPLAYS OF DRAMA  
AND MUSIC WITH THE HIGHLIGHT  
BEING THE ROCKY MONSTER  
SHOW PERFORMED ON OUR  
FINAL AFTERNOON OF THE YEAR  
BEFORE THE RILEY PRIZE GIVING.

THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR STARTED ON WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER WHEN FORTY NEW PUPILS AND PARENTS ARRIVED AT 4PM FOR TEA. BY 7PM THE NEW CHILDREN WERE JOINED BY THE 26 BOYS AND GIRLS WHO REMAINED FROM LAST YEAR.

The House seemed nicely balanced with 33 boys and 33 girls and we were also equal in boarding and day numbers. With the increase in pupils we welcomed an additional resident tutor, Mrs Liz Duncan, plus husband James and by the end of the year her two dogs, Brier and Cara.

Settling into the new year, a new school and getting used to the routine took the usual two to three weeks and a bit longer in some cases! The Valley and Scout Hill once again were most popular during free time and the Common Room and Games Room were busy places for indoor games, cards, jigsaws and eating tuck.

The photographic review of the year does not show much evidence of work in the classroom but it would be true to say that most of the Riley pupils were positive in their academic studies and performed very well in the new formal summer term examinations. 1J and 1st Form had new classroom bases and furniture created in two rooms which in the past have been Riley boys' dormitories and more recently a day boys' room and a television room. What the photographs do show is that the House enjoyed and experienced a variety of events –



The Leuchars Air Show, Go-Karting at Noah's Ark, The Wildlife Centre near Comrie, Falconry Display on the Paddock, Musical concerts in the Common Room, Halloween Party, Games' Night in the Sports' Hall, Scotland v. Japan rugby in Perth, Non-Uniform Day, Riley rugby v. Headfort School, Eire, Divisional Plays and this was just the Autumn Term pictures. The Spring and Summer term photographs included – Snow games on the Paddock, a Valentine's Party, Divisional music competition, the Charity Fund Raising Sunday, Cricket v. Ardvreck and the West Sands at St Andrews.

The year produced some brilliant displays of drama and music with the highlight being The Rocky Monster Show performed on our final afternoon of the year before the Riley Prize Giving.

In Sport we witnessed much improvement in swimming with the introduction of special Riley training times and the standard of swimming at the divisional competition in June was most encouraging. For the other team sports good progress was made and we had a number of talented sportspeople but results were a bit disappointing against other schools who are generally much more experienced and bigger than ourselves. Lathallan and New Park, though, always produce exciting and close matches where their pool of selection is similar to ours.

Sadly at the end of the Prize Giving we said goodbye to Sandra Cartwright, our matron for the past five years. We wish her well in her new employment in London and thank her for her dedication, efficiency and professionalism in Riley. With luck, there will be no need in her new role to put the children "off tuck", on early beds or on matron's order, but you never know!

PB







The following were awarded prizes on Friday 2nd July 2005:

**Academic – Best Effort in Form Orders**

1J	Ellie Campbell
1st Form	Sophie Howell, Heather Larson
2nd Form	Bronwyn Lear, Jamie Schofield
<b>Most Progress</b>	Justin Wong
<b>Most Distinctions</b>	Natasha Potts, Mark McAlister, Heather Larson, Kirsty Glasgow, Ellie Campbell
<b>Music</b>	Oliver Beetschen & Joanna MacLachlan
<b>Drama</b>	Natasha Porritt & Oliver Wale
<b>Games</b>	Paul Wigley & Kirstin Lamotte
<b>Art</b>	Jack Chartres
<b>DT</b>	Jamie Schofield

**Cups and Trophies**

<b>Divisional Music</b>	Best soloist	Tom Esparon
	Best Div	Dron
<b>World Cup (Football)</b>	Balmanno	

**Divisional Swimming**

<b>The Simpson Cup</b>	Dron
<b>Hewson Cup for all round contribution</b>	Oliver Beetschen
<b>Divisional Shield</b>	Balmanno





# FREELAND

## HOUSE

IN FREELAND WE TRY TO FOSTER THE GOOD FRIENDSHIPS THAT ALLOW FOR PERSONAL GROWTH, ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF REAL FRIENDSHIPS AND DISCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POOR QUALITY FRIENDSHIPS.



2005 FINDS FREELAND IN A STRONG POSITION WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. THE BOYS ARE UNITED AND KEEN TO SUCCEED IN ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE. THE SENIOR BOYS IN THE HOUSE MAKE A STRONG LEADERSHIP TEAM AND THE JUNIORS ARE WELL MOTIVATED.

As Susan, Daniel and I prepare to move back to Australia the opportunity for reflection arises and I begin to think about the sacrifices made in order to send children to a school like Strathallan and the advantages they gain from the experience. Arguably, friendship is one of the most important things they will leave the School with.

Friendship is an exceptional relationship and can be basically broken down into two main groups: high quality friendships based on mutual respect, care, empathy, congruence and likeness, and low quality friendships based upon demeaning acts and short term personal desires.

In a school both of these styles of friendship are apparent. The low quality friendships are based on 'fun' which often means having a laugh at someone else's expense, putting each other down or at its most extreme vandalism and assault. There is no care for each other or the community. These friendships are like weeds, often noxious. They drain the people involved of all their goodness and use up so much of it there is little left to nurture the early blooms of a positive good friendship.

**True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity.**

**George Washington**

High quality friendships stand the test of time. They survive hardships and endure. From these develop friends who care for, respect and like each other. The friendship revolves around building each other up and being honest with each other. The friends care enough to stop each other from getting into trouble and help when they are in trouble.

**It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us.**

**Epicurus**

In Freeland we try to foster the good friendships by creating an environment that allows for personal growth, encourages the growth of real friendships and discourages the development of poor quality friendships.

Boys who leave the House should leave knowing they have developed a network of friends that they will always be in touch with. Friends that they can meet after years and feel as though they saw them only yesterday, friends that they would like their families to meet and friends they trust with their innermost thoughts.

By living in a boarding situation boys are forced to develop friendships in a different manner. Friends are far more important and friendships are more durable. Boys should take the advice given by Benjamin Franklin and

**Be slow in choosing your friends; slower in changing.**

As an outgoing Housemaster it is nice to think that in some way I may have helped the boys of the House, as I have in my time at Strathallan, develop friendships that will last a lifetime and transcend national boundaries.

Successes this year by the House have included winning the Cross Country outright, and the Senior and Intermediate competition. David Burgess led the team by great example winning and Matej Janecek our Slovakian all rounder was a surprise package. Our success was by no means limited to running; our swimmers managed a very creditable second place. The Junior House team won Hockey, Cricket and Debating and they were runners up in the Sevens and the Indoor Hockey; an excellent year. The Senior Debating team defeated Houses with international debaters to win the Senior House Prize.

Sean Murray and Bruce Lerman were selected for Caledonia's Rugby team. Sadly, a nasty ankle injury ruined Bruce's season. Sean went on to play very well. A number of other boys were invited to trials and performed well. Greg Guthrie represented the region in football and played well, by all accounts. Adam Piper enjoyed international skiing success in various competitions. A vast array of activities and competitions have taken place over the year and one must view this article as somewhat of an iceberg, you are only seeing about one seventh of what has happened.

It has been a great year and I am sure that as another Antipodean comes into the House it will continue to excel. The boys in the House have the cohesion, confidence and ability to maintain their current standards and, under new management, look for ways to improve further.

**SWS**







# NICOL HOUSE

SOME MAY SAY THIS WAS DUE TO THE  
BRAVE AND SHAMELESS BEN EMERGING  
NAKED FROM A TRUNK ON STAGE

**I AM FINDING IT HARD TO DECIDE ON HOW I SHOULD BEGIN THIS. I THOUGHT ABOUT QUOTING A FAMOUS INTELLECTUAL IN THE HOPE THAT I WOULD FOOL THE READER INTO IMAGINING THAT I AM A KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUAL. HOWEVER, I DECIDED INSTEAD JUST TO BEGIN THIS PIECE OF WRITING BY SAYING THAT THIS IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO GIVE AN ACCURATE AND CHARISMATIC ACCOUNT OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR IN NICOL HOUSE.**

The year began with Charlie as our head of House, Benno his able deputy; and with a good set of leaders Nicol started the year on good form. Both were fully involved in the House (which had a busy year scheduled) displaying the merits of good leaders and greatly contributing to Nicol's achievements. The first item on our agenda was the House Music competition and preparation for it began early as usual. Michael Segaud played a large role in the organisation and had the House practising weeks before the competition was due to start. The House choir performed Can you feel the love tonight? The ensemble, headed by Michael and Andrew O'Donnell gave an unparalleled performance of Me and my Shadow and in the Solo section of the contest Michael yet again stepped up to provide the superb violin solo Storm. Nicol did not emerge victorious, since the competition was very tough, but we did show great vigour.

Inter-House drama is anticipated by all, especially in Nicol's case as our performance usually leans in the general direction of comedy. This year we didn't fail to deliver. Having decided to stage Eric the Viking Mark Walker and I set about producing the play. After hours of rehearsals and preparation we arrived at the day of the competition, quietly confident. The play went well in my eyes, no lines got forgotten and the audience seemed greatly to appreciate our performance. However, victory was not Nicol's that day. Some may say this was due to the brave and shameless Ben emerging naked from a trunk on stage but I can't see why it would be. Nicol's junior House drama was, this time, more restrained and although the performance was good once again Nicol triumphed not.

Inter-House rugby Sevens means to Nicol as much as the Manzil means to Fitz. With the pressure of having a reputation as one of the best rugby Houses, Nicol went into the junior competition slightly worried. Unfortunately for our next door neighbours it was time for them to pass on the trophy and fortunately they passed it on to us.

The senior pupils' main focus, however, was unbroken, and the senior House Sevens promised to be a physical and competitive event. Jamie Cachia and Craig Wallace were two of the strongest members of the squad, and after a hard fought battle we emerged triumphant and exhausted. However, it has been suggested that our Victory could not have been achievable were it not for the team's dedicated and efficient water boys, Iain Aitken and Andrew Fyfe.

Victory in the rugby was also matched by victory in the Inter-House swimming competition, where the two Dewar brothers cleaned up for us, and in Inter-House badminton, ably led by Vito Huang.

West Side Story saw Michael Segaud, Andrew O'Donnell and Iain Aitken all taking principal parts in the show. I was in charge of the sound, with my more-than-able assistant Nick Price. Hours of work and preparation went into this production and it was a terrific experience for all involved. I think that all who saw it were most

impressed by the quality of all the performances in the play and I saw no disappointed faces.

The Nicol boys have been exposed to a variety of trips, all great opportunities to bond as a House whilst having fun. All year groups have been on retreats to the water sports centre in Dunolly. The older boys have been paint-balling, an activity loved by all who went and as if this were not enough there have been barbecues by the beach, a team-building activity for Lower 6th and numerous trips to the Manzil with Mr Ross.

The academic challenge was a House competition which tested the most intellectual members of each House, pitting them against each other to face a series of taxing general knowledge questions. Nicol's team was no less intellectual than any other, but due to the fact that Craig and I were unable to answer any of the questions we scored a total of one point, placing us a commendable last. Congratulations go to Andrew Whitelaw who answered our only correct question. Continuing with the theme of academia, though this time on a more positive note, well done to Lawrie Quibell and Finlay Wallace who were both awarded the Arkwright Scholarship. This is a national scheme which provides sponsorship for the top Design and Technology students in the UK, so is clearly an excellent achievement.

During the summer term Nicol's population increased by a total of one. Archie, Mr Giles's new Border Collie, is a bundle of hyperactivity and has established a treasured position inside the House.

The number of sporting heroes that reside in Nicol always amazes me. Finlay Wallace went to compete in the British Snowboard championships taking place in Switzerland. He performed to a very high standard and was ranked 2nd in the U18 boys group also making it into the finals in the adult competition which, as this was a national competition, is a tremendous achievement. Craig Wallace accomplished great things on the rugby pitch and was made part of the Caledonia Integrated squad, his progress was disrupted by injuries but he still managed to show his potential on the field. Jamie Cachia made it into the U18 Scotland hockey squad as their first goal keeper and Ryan Matthews achieved an equally impressive feat by being selected for the Scottish U16 hockey Squad. Nick Lau was chosen for the Hong Kong U19 cricket team and travelled with them to Singapore for their tour in the Easter.

I have only recounted some highlights of the year; a tiny percentage of all that has actually happened. As a member of the Sixth Form ball committee this year I can appreciate how much work went into it. The night was a great success. Michael Segaud was the organiser of the charity concert Strathaid which took place just before half term in Easter and congratulations go to him for producing an excellent show. The infamous Nicol Video did not fail to meet expectations; the annual charity run in which Iain Aitken won the Laundry Shop Trophy for most laps run; and Mark Walker's escapades on his 18th birthday.

Speculation had begun years ago but as the end of the academic year grew closer, new appointments of authority in the school became something very imminent. I would like to congratulate myself for becoming the new Captain of School [so modest, Ed.], Jamie Cachia our new head of House and Craig Wallace his talented deputy.





The triumvirate of authority looks forward to the forthcoming year and I am sure that it will be a very enjoyable one.

To conclude, this has been an outstanding year in Nicol, where the high morale and friendly atmosphere has kept Nicol's inhabitants in elevated spirits. I would like to thank Matron, Davina and our cleaners Caroline and Charlotte for all their hard work and patience. Also,

gratitude goes to all the Nicol tutors for their work and contribution. A special thanks to Mr Giles who has ensured the smooth running of the House, showing great fortitude and optimism, allowing for an excellent year. Finally recognition goes to all the boys in Nicol who have contributed excellently to another superb year in Nicol House.

**JJ Watters**





# RUTHVEN HOUSE

## WHAT HAS RUTHVEN HOUSE'S REPUTATION BEEN IN THE SCHOOL AND HOW HAVE THE BOYS OF RUTHVEN MEASURED UP TO IT?

**DOES A BOARDING HOUSE HAVE A CHARACTER, A PERSONALITY? DO ITS MEMBERS EVENTUALLY, OR EVEN FROM THE VERY OUTSET, CONFORM TO A NOTION OF THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE REST OF THE SCHOOL, AND INDEED THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THAT HAS BEEN IN SOME SENSE PREDETERMINED? IF THE ACCOUNTS OF OTHERS ARE TO BE CREDITED THEN THE ANSWER IS YES.**

House reports frequently maintain that the boys and girls of such and such a Boarding House, such and such a School have a reputation for... well, all manner of things. What is certainly true is that the Houses themselves attract a reputation which their members then perhaps make an effort to live up to. Give a dog a bad name...

Well, what has Ruthven House's reputation been in the school and how have the boys of Ruthven measured up to it? Are they caring, considerate, polite, hard-working, sportsmanlike? Do they embody the values that any self-respecting school tries to inculcate in its pupils? Or are they in fact a bunch of self-seeking, degenerate wasters who would sooner spend time sinking JDs in the Ring o' Bells than making anything that even faintly resembled a contribution to the life of Strathallan. The answer, of course is both... and neither. The boys of Ruthven, like the boys and girls, the young men and women of the other Boarding Houses and, indeed, like countless other loosely-affiliated groups on the face of the earth are just as deep, surprising, unpredictable, resourceful and occasionally shifty as anybody else. They get up to stuff, they get down to stuff and the combination seems to work pretty well. I'll let these edited highlights from the year, produced by the boys and by their Housemaster, speak for themselves:

the senior boys have put on an extract from 'Goldmember'

a rock band in the House that recently won the first round of a local band competition. 'Paradox' have also spent a day in a recording studio and have a 3 track CD cut.

Andrew has been playing for the 1st XV with Mauri in the 2nds. Nik and Andrew have also been playing in the U18 Hockey cup squad which recently won Silver at the Plate Final in Edinburgh.

Ollie was selected to go to England to compete for the Pringle Trophy as part of the CCF Marines detachment.

We have had a superb term. Many things have changed since 5th form (Lindsay's voice dropped). We have had two newcomers this term Silly Johann and Justin 'credible' (get it? Justincredible) both outsiders in one sense of the word but both have fitted in great and in many senses made the term more enjoyable and feel shorter.

Lindsay also directed the house drama which was also very successful along with his impressive commitment on the sports field (1 games session in the term, we think).

Ruthven have contributed to all the rugby teams, the 4ths have been supplied by a couple of beasts like Kit & Girv; unluckily Kit's first appearance for the 4ths was terminated due to a broken leg incurred during the game, preventing him from showing his skills and immense talent. Fergie had a few games for the 3rds supplying them with some much-needed maturity and extravagant goal-kicking. Camba has led the 2nds to some good victories and quality play, Duncan also did his bit on

the wing. Keith on occasions also provided some strength and power to the forwards helping them along. The 1sts had the delight of being captained by Jono!! supported by Digby and Cammy T in the forwards. Stuart's big hits really did entertain us.

West Side Story was a great success and our congratulations go to Justin for his fine performance in the show. Congratulations also to Malcolm Jack, Liam Carragher, Bradley Ward and Mark Brebner who represented Midlands District hockey and to Jono Becks who played Caledonian rugby this term.

As far as the house is concerned we won 3 out of a possible 4 Inter House Hockey trophies and we also won the Junior Basket Ball trophy

Duncs and Pender who both continued their impeccable run of A level results in January, with Pender finally getting academic colours

Paradox made it to the semi-finals of the battle of the bands competition. Both Girv and Max rocked out with the latter sporting his new Stratocaster.

Malcolm and Max were both regulars for the 1st XI hockey team, Malcolm being captain and Max doing the scoring – top scorer. Special mention to Max for his 'well sweet goal' against the Irish touring side. Andreas, Matty, Duns and Fergie all played for the 1st XI football team in quite a poor season, with the highlight being Andreas putting his yellow goalkeepers top on backwards, adding Mr Banana to the list of nicknames that now grows at an exponential rate.

The 6th form Ball was enjoyed by most of us except for Camba's right hand

Mark and Bradley both got into the Midlands hockey team;

a round of applause to Tim, Andrew and Bradley who were part of U16 hockey team winning the Chameleons tournament, with Bradley being Man of the Tournament.

Ben continues to amuse us with his cartoons on the computer

thanks to the powerful presences of Cameron and Matthew as security guards for the event, nobody was harmed

Liam and Euan D. represented the school Golf team throughout the term, with Liam captaining it and going on to win the regional championships, going on to captain that as well. Liam has also been appointed captain of hockey for the school. Though none of this compares to Liam's representation of the National rounders squad (for boys), which they won in the end.

Stuart's involvement in school athletics saw him exhausted throughout the term, which led him on to the Scottish Schools Championship, coming fourth in the 400m hurdles.

And where would we be without the constant entertainment of Andrew Peattie and his silly antics? (probably somewhere much quieter).

Digby has motivated the house all year and put together a very respectable House Music presentation. Jono led a young and inexperienced rugby team. The whole house pulled together to win athletics standards and would have won sports Day had it not been rained off twice





Camba managed to keep away from any scandalous incidents and was rewarded with the 2nd XV captaincy. Kit & Keith seemed to spend the whole year on geography and DT coursework and made up the House fishing team. The Golf trophy was returned to our cabinet as well.

As Mr Watt's first year group to go from 3rd form to U6th completely, we have seen Ruthven as a house to be proud of and to enjoy being in. Thank you.

TJ, our Australian mate, dominated in the 1st XI with his bowling becoming the top wicket taker

We have all grown up this term and year, especially Lanky, and Jack went down a treat with the St Leonard's girls at a recent Ceilidh

Ben was very happy with his prize in the raffle, and now keeps much of Strath awake.

**AW, EGK and the Boys of Ruthven House**



# 16 SIMPSON HOUSE



FOLLOWING IAIN KILPATRICK'S MASTERY OF DEATHLESS PROSE IS AN UNENVIABLE TASK. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY PLEASURES AND CHALLENGES OF TAKING OVER A VIBRANT HOUSE LIKE SIMPSON. OVER ALL THE BOYS HAVE PERFORMED AT AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL ACROSS THE BOARD IN BOTH ACADEMIC AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THIS REPORT IS INEVITABLY GOING TO BE AN EXERCISE IN EDITING.

THE BOYS HAVE PUT THEIR  
HEARTS INTO EVERYTHING  
THEY HAVE TURNED THEIR  
HAND TO AND SIMPSON  
HAS BEEN ADMIRABLY  
REPRESENTED IN ALL  
ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE.

If I were to describe the single most outstanding feature of the boys of Simpson House at all ages it would be that they really can run! In the junior cross-country Simpson had 6 boys in the first 10 with a 1, 2, 3 of Tom Fleming, Magnus Olafsson, and Stefan Pretty. Not to be outdone Richie Duncan came in an impressive 3rd overall in the senior event with J-C a creditable 6th. We were overall winners in the junior section of the athletics Standards with commanding performances from James Espie and Magnus Olafsson. Magnus also performed to a very high standard in the Scottish School Athletics with a 4th in the 400m and 8th in the long jump. We also put up a more than respectable showing in the Triathlon. The team of Richie Duncan, Steve Turnbull and Struan Dewar from Nicol were the over-all winners. Mr Parker came in a surprising 3rd in the individual event, and J-C and James Espie also performed creditably in their respective events. As if this were not enough glory, Richie Duncan's rowing time turned out to be the 5th best GB U-17 time! Richie also continues to ski well for Scotland and plays Rugby for Perth.

Even in the Charity 'Send-a-cow' run we have much to be proud of with Antonio Pellicci achieving the 2nd greatest number of laps in school, and Simpson raising the most sponsorship money. Keep on running, boys!

As always Simpson were enthusiastic participants in inter-House rugby. Both teams suffered from losing key players to injury during the matches leaving the Senior and Junior teams four and three players short respectively. Ably Captained by Toby Robertson, the Junior team had a very close game with Freeland losing 15-14, and Nicol winning overall. Honour was restored by the Senior team who, with Robby and Tom as Captains managed to defeat Freeland. In a further display of rugby brilliance Simpson's own Steve Turnbull was also selected to play for the Scotland A team U-18, and played in their 4-nations.





We made an excellent showing in the fishing competition. Captain Charles Harrison, caught three fish and Robert Cooke four, the most caught in the tournament, and the heaviest a rainbow trout of some 4½lbs.

Other displays of sporting prowess include a sweeping of the board in the senior basketball in which Captains Steve Turnbull and Harry Workman led our team to victory in all our matches in the round robin stages, and on to overall victory!

We performed well in both the junior and senior hockey. The Juniors did really well to force Freeland into a penalty flick situation and, despite its being his first time in goal, Scott Marshall only let one ball past. The senior team beat Freeland 3-1 but lost in the final to Ruthven. Toby Robertson, Captain, led the cricket team to a fabulous win against Nicol who we beat by 11 runs, man of the match: Scott Marshall who took 5 wickets. We won through to the final and were, unfortunately, beaten by Freeland. Our tennis team Captained by David Mather put up an excellent display and were narrowly beaten 5-4 by Nicol in the final.

Under Mr Kilpatrick's expert guiding hand the Senior House Drama production award went to Simpson for their superb portrayal of 'Pulp Fiction'. Roddy Walker's performance was outstanding but the vision of Richie Duncan in drag will stay with me for years to come. Simpson also scooped the 'Best Director' award which went to Robert Henneberg, Roddy and JJ Chalmers. Lights were operated by Andrew Bennet and Jordan Raitt and Alex Smith's assistance backstage was invaluable. Not to be out-done Etienne Melville won the 'Best Actor' award in the Junior drama for his role in 'Hunting of the Snark'.

I understand that previous theatrical productions here at Strathallan left the 'West Side Story' crew with a very hard act to follow. With Toni Pellicci playing the lead role of Toni, and Roddy Walker excellently cast as Riff they did an amazing job. Simpson dramatic skills really came to the fore as the boys, acted danced and sang us straight to the land of the Sharks and the Jets. Well done everyone.

The House Music saw more Simpson talents, the ensemble was made up of Roddy and JJ on vocals, Harry, Jack and Ed Lawther on guitar and Magnus on drums with a memorable rendition of Outside by Staind. Magnus also performed an excellent drum solo. The House Choir sang Father and Son by Cat Stevens. On a more traditional note Etienne Melville and Tom Fleming are both very competent pipers, competing in the Scottish Schools piping. Etienne put in a creditable performance and Tom came 3rd in the U-18 sections.

Finally, just to show we're not just pretty faces, Simpson won the Academic Challenge with a blinding display of intellect. Captained by Duncan Clarke the team of David Mather, Etienne Melville and Richard Parker, beat Thornbank in the final after knocking out Woodlands and Nicol in the 1st rounds.

So, all in all, a very full and enjoyable year in Simpson House. The boys have put their hearts into everything they have turned their hand to and Simpson has been admirably represented in all aspects of school life. Sadly this year we have had to say goodbye to John McCann, Senior House Tutor for the last six years, Ion Politu, House Tutor and the inimitable Kate, our sewing lady. All in their different ways have contributed greatly to the House atmosphere, and will be sorely missed. We wish them well for the future.

RP





# 18 THORNBANK HOUSE



IN 1997 THE FLEMING FAMILY MOVED TO STRATHALLAN SCHOOL TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE IN RILEY HOUSE (DON'T WORRY YOU ARE READING THE RIGHT PAGE). TWO OF THE FIRST GIRLS WE MET WERE BOTH VERY YOUNG AND VERY SMALL AND WENT BY THE NAMES OF ANN-LOUISE BREADEN AND SAM STARK. LITTLE DID WE KNOW THEN HOW MUCH THESE TWO LITTLE 11 GIRLS WOULD COME TO MEAN TO US.

As the girls came to the end of their time in Riley and moved on to their new lives in the senior school, John and I followed them into Thornbank House as their new Housemaster and Housemistress. There was to be no hiding place from Mr Fleming's jokes

Ann-Louise certainly did quite well for herself bagging the top job as Head of School and Sam was appointed as Head of House ably supported by Deputy Kirsty Hay .

Sam and Kirsty's first job was to instigate our new buddy system by matching up a prefect to buddy our new III Form and organise a social evening. Everyone had so much fun that Mr Fleming took all the buddies go-karting where Claire MacArthur could show off her newly acquired driving skills. Unfortunately she was out-driven by Finola as were the rest of the prefects, whilst Caitlin provided the real entertainment with her less than skilful antics.

The now annual III Form retreat at Aberfeldy is a perfect opportunity for all the new pupils to get to know each other whilst enjoying the thrill of White Water Rafting and climbing. Always a great weekend, and made particularly interesting this year as Mr Shepherd kept us all entertained with (strange but true) stories from his childhood. It's a bit much when the pupils are kept awake by the laughter of the staff

The inter-House music competition is another bonding activity in which all become involved . This year it was Catriona Martin and Vicky Drummond-Hay's turn to take charge. They decided "we needed a hero"-wasn't Mr Barnes enough?

It was also decided that Thornbank would compete in yellow t-shirts. Do you know how long it takes to dye 77 tops?? Well the sunshine tops did the trick and we picked up the prizes for best choir and ensemble as well as Vicky picking up the prize for best conductor. Either that or it could have been the sheer skill and professionalism of the girls.

When the prefects met to discuss the Christmas party it was decided to depart from our usual up-market food fest from M&S and go for the pizza, jelly and ice cream option .On the night of the party the delivery of the mountain of pizza was a sight to behold. The highlight of the party had to be the prefects' special tribute to Miss Morrison, their long suffering tutor, with an exceptional performance by our very own Head Girl caught forever on video

The spring term started with the ever-popular cross country competition, Katie Scobie leading Thornbank to victory and spurring us all on to begin our New Year fitness regime after the Christmas break. Eilidh Kennedy was doing her bit in the pool encouraging the girls to participate in the swimming standards.

Inter- sport and competitions provide an opportunity for all girls to take part in an area of school that life that they might otherwise not try. Thornbank debating team was ably led by an experienced and competent Harriet Page, but for most of the girls who took part; this was only their first or second attempt at debating

The junior House drama resulted in first prize for best direction by Emily Roy and Emily Beetschen for Cinderella and in the senior competition Cathy Rutherford won the best actress award for her role as Miss Prism in the Importance of Being Earnest.

After many years of House trips on noisy double-decker buses, bowling and skating, we decided that an evening of culture would be





a change. So we bought 85 tickets for 'Mama Mia' and on one dark January evening the whole House departed for an evening of fun. And what a great night it was. Abba tunes gripped the House for the rest of the term.

The triathlon was another great event for Thornbank girls. Isabell Mastall (who was the overall senior girl winner), Lizi Bush, Lucy Drummond-Hay and Rachel McLean all completed the individual competition and most of the girls who were in that weekend competed in some way, including yours truly-ok so it was the slowest team, but I did a PB in the swimming pool

Thornbank was still well represented on the International front with Melissa Piper skiing most of the year with the GB squad. She was joined by Lucy and Vicky Drummond Hay as medal winners at the British Schools Ski Competition. Alice Page continued to compete at National level for the u21 dressage team and Kirsty Hay was selected for the Scotland u18 Hockey team.

The summer term brought its usual diet of tennis, rounders and athletics and although Sports Day never happened, due to typical Scottish summer weather, we managed a good turn-out for the Athletics standards. The girls have a new Cricket competition which began last year under the leadership of Anna MacDonald. This year Lizi Bush hit the winning six to win the trophy for the second year running.

One of the highlights of the social calendar was the end of year Strathstock concert, organised by the pupils for the pupils. Thornbank girls put together the school's first ever girls' rock band. Wearing my pink wrist band in support of the band named 'Sentiment' I ventured into the concert hall-previously known at the school theatre. Once in there I was pleasantly surprised, actually very impressed, by the performance of Emily Roy, Emily Beetschen, Karina McLean and Rosanna Innes who performed a very slick and well rehearsed number (please don't ask me what it was called) A promising career option, girls-don't forget those who helped you on your way up!

As the year comes to an end, John and I have to say the inevitable goodbyes, but what a journey it has been. So as we say goodbye to those two little girls and all the friends they have made on the way and watch them head off in to adulthood it reminds us just what a great place this is. Thornbank really is like large family. We have our ups and downs, but we all grow and learn, especially about ourselves and our place in the world.

John and I could not do any of this without the support of the prefects, our tutors and Morag, the matron, and her staff. A real team effort reaps the rewards. You only get out of life what you put in.

SF



# WOODLANDS HOUSE

THE COLLECTIVE SPIRIT AND ENERGY OF THE HOUSE HAS LED TO A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND ENJOYABLE YEAR FOR ALL INVOLVED.

WOODLANDS BEGAN THE TERM WITH A SLIGHT REDRESSING OF THE MALE TO FEMALE RATIO IN THE HOUSE. THE FOYER BORE THE BRUNT OF THE CHANGE TO THE HOUSE. WHILST CRIES OF "HE'S SO CUTE" ABOUNDED, MANY A VISITING MALE SEEMED A LITTLE GREEN AT THE GAGGLE OF GIRLS SURROUNDING CALUM. JANET COPEL ADMIRABLY WITH THE LITTERING OF TOYS AND BOTH THE GIRLS AND CALUM ENJOYED RESPITES, FROM REVISION AND PARENTS RESPECTIVELY, IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY. THE SUPPORT, TOLERANCE AND GENEROSITY OF ALL INVOLVED EASED US THROUGH THE SEISMIC CHANGE TO OUR LIVES AND WE THANK EVERYONE FOR THAT.

Ultimately, there is too much to mention in a report such as this. The daily acts of tolerance, friendship and support that are part and parcel of life within a busy boarding house largely go unremarked. However, it is from this supportive foundation that the triumphs spring and fortunately this year we have certainly had a number of successes.

The House Music competition was a moment to make anyone proud of the standard of the Woodlands offering. The Ensemble was a Celtic Medley arranged by Rebecca Chalmers. The piece varied in tempo, pitch and in the blend of instruments. A fitting testimony was its reprise at Headmaster's Music. The solo by Rebecca Chalmers was of the top quality we have come to associate with her performances and was followed by an enthusiastic and energetic choir rendition of Don't

Stop Me Now which even another housemaster was forced to admit was the show-stealing contribution. Clearly the debt owed to Rebecca was enormous and her drive for perfection was evident in the number of practices called. However to maintain the humour and energy of such a large choir is a testament to the collective spirit and pride of all involved.

The Senior House Drama competition was undoubtedly remarkable for many reasons. The inauspicious beginnings of a doubtful Housemistress and one girl who, when told that she was to be a vegetable in the adaptation of Ken Kesey's One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, uttered the immortal line "Great! I've always wanted to be a tomato!" were rapidly overcome to produce a quite stunning piece. The balance of pathos and humour was effectively managed and the acting, particularly of Pamela Garratt's swaggering McMurphy and Dot Bowry's inhibited Billy Bibbit, was justifiably rewarded with commendations. Dot and Anna certainly chose the road less travelled in taking on such an ambitious and thought-provoking piece but the sense of achievement of all involved was palpable. The success of the Senior drama was followed later in the year by the Juniors winning their competition. Virtually every girl in the third and fourth form was involved in some way with the vast majority on stage in various guises







from tea ladies to scallywags to a formidably prim and proper Miss Jean Brodie character. This made the logistics of fitting in practices difficult but the enthusiasm and energy of the Lower Sixth organisers carried the day.

The end of the autumn term brought with it a welcome surprise for Woodlands. With the headmaster's address and prize-giving almost complete the announcement of the Swimming Standards result began. As the houses were called out in reverse order it became apparent that the House had acquitted themselves well. What no one had expected was that Woodlands had in fact won the competition. The sheer number of girls who dutifully traipsed over to the pool to swim and who gave of their best made this probably the most gratifying sporting win the House has achieved.

There are many other things which deserve more than a fleeting mention but in the interests of the Woodlands report not becoming a weighty tome in itself this will, unfortunately, have to be rather brief. West Side Story was undoubtedly a superb extravaganza. Emma Gordon led the cast singing beautifully; Claire Raeside was suitably sassy and a host of other girls showed their skills including Catriona MacKenzie who produced the artwork for the programme. Once again the Woodlands House Music Evening was a success for the depth of talent on display. Many who do not otherwise get a chance to star appear centre stage and the third form vie for space on the programme with the most accomplished the school has to offer. It would be unfair to make special mention of anyone in particular but it would be wrong to finish the musical element of the Woodlands report for this year without thanking Tasha Smith, Mary Shaw –Stewart and especially Emma Gordon for all the enjoyable performances they have given to us throughout their school careers.

This year we even have military success to report. Katie Potts and Olivia Streatfeild-James achieved their full Marines status. Not only ushering at Speech Day, marching in all climatic conditions but running over 32 miles for the charity run – they more than earned their berets.

The Academic inevitably underpins our existence. It is a striking testament that not only were the aforementioned successes achieved but the girls also managed to produce a strong set of results. Most of the Upper Sixth will read this report in the University of their choice; the Lower Sixth performed well including academic colours awarded to Mardi MacGregor, Pamela Garratt and Rebecca Chalmers and the Fifth Form gave themselves a solid foundation in their GCSEs. Katie Gibson reinforced our faith in her tremendous artistic talents by achieving a top ten national placing for her Art A level.

Whilst we have celebrated the achievements of the House it is equally important to acknowledge the help and support the girls receive. The girls in Woodlands certainly contribute much in each and every facet of school life but this would not be possible without the consistently dedicated efforts of the tutoring staff and the tirelessness of Janet and her patient team. This year we had to say goodbye to Zenka (our sewing champion) after a marathon stint of service in the school. We wish her a peaceful retirement free of nagging about tracksuit trousers or skirt hems.

The collective spirit and energy of the house has led to a very successful and enjoyable year for all involved. We wish those who have gone to pastures new all the best and look forward to hearing of their new adventures in life and promise to keep them posted of the achievements Woodlands will produce next!

AJT



# CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



IT IS WORTH REMARKING THAT THE SCHOOL NOW INCLUDES ADHERENTS OF FIVE OF THE SIX MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS, AS WELL AS CHRISTIANS FROM TRADITIONS AS DIVERSE AS CATHOLIC, ORTHODOX (GREEK, RUSSIAN AND ROMANIAN), PRESBYTERIAN, ANGLICAN, LUTHERAN, METHODIST, PENTECOSTAL, MORMON AND BAPTIST. THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE.

## "CRAZY ON EARTH RIGHT NOW - GOD, WE NEED YOU HERE RIGHT NOW!"

The poetry of Rap thus made its first appearance in Chapel for Advent. In addition, we have explored many translations of Scripture, one of which strikingly rendered *Forgive us our trespasses* into Créole as *Cut us some slack, man*. After this, it came as little surprise to learn that Inuit Christians read Psalm 23 as *The Lord is my seal-pup keeper*.

Traditionalists may be comforted to know that both the Collects of Cranmer and Coverdale's psalter feature regularly in our worship, and that the mediaeval antiphon *veni ad salvandum nos*, apostrophised above in its rap incarnation, also appeared in the more common allotrope *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

If all this sounds shockingly ecelectic, it is worth remarking that the school now includes adherents of five of the six major world religions, as well as Christians from traditions as diverse as Catholic, Orthodox (Greek, Russian and Romanian), Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Mormon and Baptist. This list is not exhaustive. Significantly, at least a third of our regular congregation in Chapel is agnostic or atheist.

Labels are not always helpful. Chapel enables us to consider together the questions which all too often outface us in adulthood: life and death, our place in the universe, the integrity of our relationships, how to use our resources, how to fulfil our potential, how to give as well as to get.

We explore these eternal themes through a variety of media. Words, music and silence all characterise our services: Chapel Choir has regularly numbered more than forty, providing music of a consistently high standard across a wide repertoire ranging from the sixteenth century to the contemporary African, as well as some fine compositions by our own pupils. It was not just choristers, however, who made chapel the place that it was, and things would have been very different without the unstinting efforts of Jenny Fraser and James Lawson.

The year ended with our Valedictory service: it had begun with a remembrance of Rev. Trevor Stevens, whom I had been privileged to know, since we both trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. This is part of the sermon I gave later in the term:

In our very first service of the school year, I told you that I wondered why it was that we had a frontal on the altar here in Chapel which was burnt, and hanging lopsidedly. What I learnt then was how it had come to be burnt: that on that profoundly tragic day when we learned that Trevor Stephens had died, many, many people came in here to pray, and to light a candle. And that in the end there were so many candles – such a blaze of sorrow and of love, that the altar itself caught fire.

After the service at the beginning of term, we took down the altar frontal, and all the time since then, the bare wood of the altar has been visible.

Now the frontal has been skillfully and beautifully repaired, and so here it is, hanging once again on the altar.

But now it has become something more charged with meaning for us than ever it was before; a sign of remembrance – but as something more than that – as something which has been made new – restored not just to what it was before, but to something more than it was.

It stands as a sign for us of the new life; the life of the world to come; a new and infinitely better life in which everything is made new, in which everything becomes at last what it was supposed to be, in which Trevor believed deeply and passionately. Because for those who believe it, this life is just a shadow of the real life.

We live our lives knowing that one day we will die; none of us knows when. We live our lives in the shadow of death: but that shadow is cast by the light of the Resurrection. It is the light of the Resurrection that casts the shadow of the Cross over the table of the Last Supper. And it was at this altar – our altar – that Trevor celebrated the mystery of that Last Supper; who did as Jesus commanded us, and remembered his death and glorious Resurrection by taking bread and wine in his name.

And so we remember him, as we pray for the coming of God's kingdom, as we work together to make the world a better place, until we come at last into the eternal kingdom about which he taught us, in the light of which our friend and Chaplain Trevor lived.

At the anniversary of Trevor's death, we planted in his memory a Honeysuckle, growing on the north-east wall of Chapel: the accompanying plaque reads:

**In memory of The Reverend Trevor Stevens, Chaplain 2005.  
Priest, Teacher, Friend.**

RAMTQ





# HEADMASTER'S SUMMER MUSIC 23



THIS WAS A VERY GOOD  
PERFORMANCE INDEED AND MORE  
THAN MADE UP FOR MICHAEL'S NOW  
TRADITIONAL TUNING WARM-UP



THE SUMMER MUSIC IS ALWAYS A LESS FORMAL OCCASION THAN ITS AUTUMN PRECURSOR. THE START COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE INFORMAL. A MOTLEY CREW OF PERCUSSIONISTS, SOME OF WHOM WERE MUSICIANS, PERFORMED UNDER THE NAME OF A SAMBA BAND AND, STARTING ON THE CHAPEL LAWN, ACTED AS A WELCOMING PARTY. A FINE WELCOME IT WAS TOO, CONSIDERING SOME OF THE STRANGE AND COSTUMED CHARACTERS INVOLVED.

The more formal proceedings began with *Al Shlosha D'Varim* from the Chapel Choir which, given its large size, managed a remarkably delicate sound on the legato phrases, growing in dynamic when demanded. This was followed by a Violin piece played by Tom Esparon, impressive in itself but particularly so for a 1st Former. The Clarinet Ensemble with *In the Mood* continued the contrasting styles of the evening and led into the technically assured piano performance we have grown to expect from Clement Ip, this time with Chopin's *Ballade in G minor*.

The Riley Band bounced along with great verve and fine rhythm to usher in a Dramatic Presentation in which Jonny McCashin, Ben Giles and Keith Wigley gave a disturbingly (for the writer) accurate picture of encroaching senility.

The Jazz Band never fails to give a sense of great enjoyment and their rendition of Oscar Brown's *Work Song* was no exception. There was a real feeling of involvement and oomph.

The mood changed once again with the Chamber Choir. The Tippett arrangement of *Steal Away* with solo performances from Emma Gordon and Toni Pellici was a fine blend of ethereal tone qualities contrasting with powerful walls of sound when required. The Choir followed with a delightfully childlike *Christopher Robin* which managed to convey both sensitivity and gentle humour.

The Wind Band produced a strong and purposeful *Star Wars* and then joined up with the rest of the Orchestra for Weill's *Mack the Knife*.

This was impressive indeed. School Orchestras usually suffer from the wide range of abilities. Here the performance was rhythmically tight with clear sound and firm control. It would not have disgraced much more experienced players.

Another dramatic interlude, this time provided by Jamie Parker, Jamie Schofield and Oliver Beetschen (plus friends – if you could call them that) showed the quality of Riley drama, before Megan Parkinson played the *Allegro* from Bach's *Concerto in A minor* with increasing confidence and certainty. A much more experienced pair, Emma Gordon and Catriona Martin, gave a superbly balanced rendition of James Horner's *If We Hold On Together*. Both have made great musical contributions over the years and this was a fitting farewell.

Vaughan Williams is a demanding composer and a particular favourite for some. It was therefore especially pleasing to hear Michael Segaud play the *Prelude* from the *Suite for Viola* with such beautiful style, bowing and phrasing combined with a real stage presence. This was a very good performance indeed and more than made up for Michael's now traditional tuning warm-up. A similar growth in confidence was demonstrated by Toni Pellici. His singing of *When You Say You Love Me* produced haunting tone but tight control and greatly-extended range.

The Chapel Choir finished the more formal part of the evening with the ubiquitous John Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*; beautifully performed and, once again, showing that delicacy so hard to achieve with a large group. Their singing this year has given enormous pleasure. Riley rounded it all off; Elvis Wale leading an energetic taster for the Rocky Monster Show. Great fun and cleverly choreographed.

This was an evening full of quality, enthusiasm and variety; a credit to all those involved.

RJWP



# MUSIC



THE PUPILS WHO MAKE MUSIC AT STRATHALLAN SUCH AN EXCITING AND NEVER-ENDING ROLLER-COASTER RIDE OF INITIATIVES AND SURPRISES STILL MANAGED TO PULL RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT IN A YEAR WHICH SAW OVER SIXTY PERFORMANCES IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL. LOOKING BACK, A STAGGERING AMOUNT OF MUSIC HAS BEEN REHEARSED, PERFORMED, COMPOSED AND EXAMINED OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

In **Riley House**, Mr Walmsley has kept all pupils busy with his Friday evening **Informal Concerts**. These have been held this year in Riley Common Room; the informal family atmosphere and welcome cups of steaming tea adding to the enjoyment of hearing many of our junior musicians show their talents. Items as diverse as Poulenc's *Sonata for Flute* (Ciara Elwis – Form 1) and Seitz's *Concerto in D for Violin* (Tom Esparon – Form 1) have sat comfortably beside Riley Choir's rendition of the Zulu song *Siyahamba*, the Riley Guitar Ensemble's performance of Whitworth's *Robin Hood Suite* and Riley Band's memorable *La Bamba*. These concerts continue to delight their audiences and give a platform for a formidable number of the 50-or-so Riley pupils who take music lessons to show their wares during the year. Particular congratulations go to Ciara Elwis (Form 1) for winning the cup for overall Best Flautist in the Perth Competitive Music Festival. Other Riley events during the year have included the Divisional Music Competition and the Musical Production *The Rocky Monster Show* (reviews elsewhere). With Mr Walmsley's efforts and support from Mr Morrice, Mr Hamilton and Mr Malcolm in various Riley Ensembles, music continues to flourish in the junior school auguring well for the years ahead.

In the **Senior School**, a particularly strong set of Sixth Form musicians have led from the front in encouraging and supporting new initiatives and providing that level of excellence to which we have become accustomed and to which many less experienced performers aspire. Emma Gordon, Catriona Martin, Vicky Drummond-Hay, Michael Segaud, Becky Chalmers and Antonio Pellicci, supported lower down the school by the likes of Alex Beetschen and William Campbell Gibson, Gemma Chance, Sam Burns (and others) have provided a solid backbone of musical expertise this year imbuing all around them with enthusiasm and a real drive to achieve of their very best.

Concerts given in school have included the ever popular **Form Concerts** throughout the year which have spawned, amongst others, groups such

as *The Beetschen Six* and that eponymous vocal trio who became known by their signature tune from *The Witches of Eastwick*.

Mr Walmsley's **Friday Lunchtime Concert Series** which focuses on a different instrumental family each week continues to provide an opportunity for some less experienced performers to play to an appreciative audience. Many have used this series to air pieces in preparation for practical examinations and it is particularly pleasing that performers from Grade 1 through to Grade 8 have played side-by-side here.

Headmaster's Music is always a major event in autumn and summer terms, and this year was no exception. Although they are reviewed elsewhere, I must add my own thanks to all those who direct ensembles in school – some 28 in number – for their efforts in bringing so many young musicians out of the woodwork to play in these concerts. From Orchestra to Choirs, Brass Group to Jazz Ensemble, String Quartets to Samba Band and so many others, your efforts enabled over 200 pupils to take part in these performances. Other 'big' concerts of the year (which are again reviewed elsewhere) were the **House Music Competition**, **Strathaid**, **West Side Story** and **Strathstock**. These were truly memorable events, stretching to the limit some of our best performers and giving all-comers an opportunity to indulge their interests and passions for things musical in a wide variety of different genres; once again reassuring us in the department that there is surely something for everyone here at Strathallan.

Another area of growth this year has been in **Musical Theatre**.

A programme of Musical Theatre Workshops led by Ms Baker – aided and abetted by Miss Boyd and Mr Jenkins – have provided a solid base for us to build a relationship with the London College of Music's programme of examinations in Musical Theatre, besides giving plenty of material for many concerts. Over a dozen pupils took examinations during the year, and our particular congratulations go to Emma Gordon and Catriona Martin in gaining their ALCM (Associate of the London College of Music) diplomas.

Visitors to the school during the year included Mr Robin Colvill – a regular in our midst – who this year gave an evening piano recital and followed the next day by adjudicating a **Mozart Competition** for us. This competition elicited some delightful performances from a number of pupils with repertoire as diverse as operatic duets, piano sonatas, flute





**Pupil compositions** have played an increasingly important role in concerts this year, with three quite outstanding settings for the chapel choir being particularly noteworthy; Philip Ross's setting of the

concerti and a violin concerto, and was won convincingly by flautist Rebecca Chalmers (L6). During the Autumn Term we also hosted a gospel choir from the high school in Blankenburg (Germany), who gave us a very entertaining evening of a *cappella* music.

Concerts given by pupils outside school in the **local community** continue to be a major feature of the department's work. We began the Autumn Term with a visit to St Mary's Episcopal Church, Broughty Ferry, where the Chapel Choir (this year numbering over 50 voices) gave a concert *in memoriam* Revd Trevor Stevens. This was a wonderful celebration of Trevor's love of music given for members of his own former congregation of St Salvador's, Dundee, at the invitation of Revd Robert Breadon (Vicar of St Mary's and father of Ann-Louise – this year's Head of School). Later in the year invitations from two local Music Clubs were gratefully accepted and these enabled pupils to give concerts firstly for *Birnam and Dunkeld Music Club* in the Duchess Anne Hall in Dunkeld, followed by a recital given by an octet of our singers in Perth for the *Perth Chamber Music Society*. The Summer Term saw three invitations which the Chamber Choir was able to accept: Stirling University invited us to give a lunchtime concert in their *Principal's Music* series in which we performed repertoire from a wide variety of periods (Vivaldi through to Howard Goodall, with a bit of Freddie Mercury thrown in). This was followed later in the same day with a masterclass with the *Swingle Singers* and a concert performance in which we were able to sing alongside them in Crieff Parish Church – a definite highlight for many of our number. We were also able to open Dunblane Cathedral's *Saturday Lunchtime Concert Series* in June with a recital of choral music. Two other highlights of this concert were Michael Segaud's flawless performance of Bruch's *Romanze for Viola* and Alex Beetschen's first outing as an organist – performing JG Walter's chorale prelude on *Liebster Jesu* on the cathedral's mighty Flentropp organ, under the watchful gaze of the Cathedral Organist – one Mr Matthew Beetschen.

Two more concerts which provided an opportunity for pupils to make music alongside local musicians came firstly in the guise of our own Strathallan Choral Society's concert - given in the school chapel – of Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*. Conducted by Mr Walmsley, this concert brought together pupils, staff, friends and local singers in a wonderful performance accompanied by the Strathearn Sinfonia with Revd Roger Quick on the solo organ part. Special mention must be made of Emma Gordon's beautiful performance of the solo *Benedictus*, surely the highlight of this performance. The other performance was the joint venture between ourselves and Pitlochry & District Choral Society, in which Rebecca Chalmers (solo Flute & Piccolo), Emma Gordon (soprano), Sam Burns (alto), Jake Streatfeild-James (tenor) and Michael Segaud (bass) gave fine performances of solo parts in Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man; A Mass for Peace*. This sell-out performance at Pitlochry Festival Theatre was certainly a night to remember.

*Magnificat*, Andrew O'Donnell's setting of *Psalm 150*, and Chris Maguire's *The Lord At First Did Adam Make* have tested the mettle of our choristers and inspired many pupils with their own compositional efforts. (Perhaps we can look forward to a Carol Service of music composed entirely by our own pupils.). Michael Segaud's arrangements for 20-piece band for the *Strathaid* concert also deserve mention – showing a real understanding, as they did, of scoring for this genre.

Aside from those activities mentioned above, the usual round of practical and theoretical examinations, Informal concerts, Ensemble and Orchestral concerts, Staff concerts, Speech day and Strathallian Day recitals, House concerts, A-Level/GCSE and Higher recitals and Ceilidh performances go on. Pupils' activities outside the confines of Strathallan continue to bring excellence and expertise to us, with links to the *Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama* (Junior Academy), *Scottish Schools' Orchestra*, *National Youth Orchestra of Scotland*, *National Youth Choir of Scotland*, *National Children's Orchestra*, *National Boys' Choir*, *Sylvia Young School of Drama*, and others enhancing the work done here at school. This, alongside visits to *Scottish Opera*, the *Royal Scottish National Orchestra*, *Scottish Chamber Orchestra* and *Scottish Ballet* throughout the year, makes for an invigorating and musically fulfilling experience for us all.

So, all-in-all, another busy year in the life of the music department. The day-to-day work of all our team of visiting music staff provides constant inspiration and expertise to draw upon, without which, none of these activities and achievements would be possible. Final thanks, however, goes to you – Strathallians – for your constant enthusiasm, dedication and sheer determination to achieve all that you do. Well done.

**NM and RCAW**





# HEADMASTER'S AUTUMN MUSIC

AS ALWAYS, THE STRATHALLAN MUSIC DEPARTMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MESSRS METCALFE AND WALMSLEY, AIDED BY A NUMBER OF THE INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS, GAVE US A DELIGHTFUL EVENING OF HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC-MAKING.

Items ranged from the Rutter-like setting of Psalm 150 by one of our own pupils, Andrew O'Donnell, to the High Baroque of Vivaldi and Handel, a range of vocal music and instrumental, duets and ensembles, all displaying the rich vein of talent presently at Strathallan's disposal.

The Chapel Choir began with a rousing *Domine Filii* from Vivaldi's perennial favourite, the *Gloria in D*, and the aforementioned setting of Psalm 150 by our own Andrew O'Donnell, conducted by another pupil Michael Segaud. In both works the top two parts, augmented by some trebles from Riley House, floated their notes hauntingly, and the gentlemen of the lower parts could be heard pungent and clear. Overall the balance was very pleasing and set the right tone for the evening.

Indeed, vocal contributions from all ages were to be the mainstay of the night's entertainment, and all were notable for the obvious enjoyment of the performers communicated to a packed audience. Riley Choir regaled us with the traditional melody *Loch Lomond*, and the Senior School Chamber Choir's rendition of Karl Jenkin's *Adiemus* was both haunting and plaintive.

We also had a number of individual vocal items in the programme. Antonio Pelicci, who had never previously sung before an audience delivered a passionately felt *Why, God, Why?* from *Miss Saigon*. His is a light lyric voice with a subtle change of gear and impeccable control at the top and, clearly one to look out for in the School Musical reviewed elsewhere in this magazine. Two old stagers – Catriona Martin and Emma Gordon – entranced us with their contrasting vocal qualities in two songs from Broadway shows – *Always a Bridesmaid* by Jimmy Roberts and John Kander's *Funny Honey*. Both displayed all the strengths we have come to expect – Catriona's pungent almost fruity lower register, and Emma's silky seductive and sultry coquette-like coyness. Their contributions will be missed as they move on to University at the end of the year.

Let us also remember that there were a number of instrumental and ensemble performances to enjoy. A small guitar ensemble, led by Head Boy Malcolm Jack and Natasha Smith, delighted the audience with a jaunty *Andantino* by Mauro Giuliani. Ciara Elwis from Riley House played the *Dance of the Blessed Furies* from Gluck's opera



*Orphée* on her flute. This was an astonishing performance from one so young and clearly marks her out as a player to watch for the future. Sara Chalmers, an altogether more experienced woodwind player, played a jaunty short *Fudge Fandango* by Paul Harris before both flautists joined the Wind Band in a suitably inebriated version of Chuck Rio's perennial favourite *Tequila*. Not to be out-done, the Jazz Band under Jim Morrice got us tapping our feet with Herbie Hancock's *Watermelon Man*, and the Brass Ensemble made us feel positively rebellious with their rendition of Smetana's *Chorus of the Peasants* from *The Bartered Bride*.

Finishing off this eclectic evening of music was the School Orchestra, under Richard Walmsley's direction. Handel's prelude from the *Water Music* set the scene and was rounded off by a rousing intermezzo from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

That a school the size of Strathallan can put together a programme of such varied periods and genres of music is testament to the hard work of both staff and pupils. But it is also a fact that there were over seventy performers on view. This was not an evening put together by a limited number of artists, though such evidence of the Music Department's vitality and expertise gave us an evening of high quality music-making that any comparable school would be hard-pressed to match, still less surpass.

RHF



ALL WERE NOTABLE FOR THE OBVIOUS  
ENJOYMENT OF THE PERFORMERS  
COMMUNICATED TO A PACKED AUDIENCE 27





# HOUSE MUSIC

## 2004.

EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH HOUSE MUSIC SHOULD BE PROUD OF AN EVENT WHICH SHOWED TO THE ASSEMBLED SCHOOL COMMUNITY JUST HOW DIVERSE, CONFIDENT AND WONDERFULLY TALENTED SO MANY OF OUR PUPILS ARE



IT SEEMED THAT TERM HAD BARELY BEGUN; NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORMED AND OLD ALLIANCES REKINDLED THROUGHOUT SCHOOL, WHEN THE FIRST HINTS OF INTER-HOUSE RIVALRY BEGAN TO APPEAR. THE GLADIATORIAL COMBAT OF HOUSE MUSIC WAS UPON US BEFORE WE KNEW IT AND THE CULMINATION OF WEEKS OF PREPARATION ENDED THE FIRST HALF-TERM OF THE YEAR IN FINE STYLE.

Freeland's choir opened the proceedings with a prize-winning rendition of *I'm a Believer*. Their performance, more Shrek than The Monkees, particularly when Felix Keene started to appeal shamelessly to the adjudicator, quickly set the standard for entertainment value. Musical excellence also prevailed from Freeland as William Campbell-Gibson gave us a wonderful Solo Performance on the trumpet.

The tenor of the morning quickly changed as Thornbank took centre stage. Fragrant as ever, they took full advantage of their in-House vocal excellence to produce a prize-winningly beautiful rendition of *May It Be*, originally performed by Enya for the Lord Of The Rings trilogy. Catriona Martin's extraordinary voice further captivated the audience in her Solo Performance, but it was when the House Choir changed tempo for a theatrical performance of *Holding Out For A Hero* that Thornbank took their second trophy of the morning.

Nicol took full advantage of their own musical stars, particularly Michael Segaud and Andrew O'Donnell for their contributions. Michael's solo violin performance of *Storm* from *The Four Seasons* was gloriously up-tempo. As he conjured up magic for the audience there was heart stopping moment as the lights dipped in time with his music – memories of the previous year's power failure were still fresh enough to produce a collective intake of breath. Professionalism reigned however and a terrific Ensemble performance of *Me and My Shadow* followed.

Nicol had raised a laugh by standing their conductor Jamie Noakes on a box. Not to be outdone, Ruthven flexed their competitive muscles by bringing their conductor, Tom Cargill, on stage on Digby Legge's shoulders. Dreadful up-staging aside, the influence of key musicians such as Lindsay Whitelaw and Robbie Girvan produced a much 'rockier' set than that of the other houses and the Ruthven rhythm section took the Strathallan House Music Quaich for best accompanist.

Finally, Woodlands took centre stage and simply overwhelmed us with a performance which won the Strathallan House Music Trophy. Their Ensemble performance of *Celtic Medley* was initially lilting and haunting, ending on a lively note. Becky Chalmers' arrangement took full advantage of both instrumental, and in Emma Gordon, vocal beauty. When Becky took centre stage for her Solo Flute performance, producing a seemingly impossible myriad of shimmering, dancing sounds the best overall performance seemed assured, and the House Choir's lively rendition of Queen's *Don't Stop Me Now* justifiably confirmed this.

Strathallan was delighted to welcome internationally renowned singer Sam Brown as adjudicator for the morning, but her job was far from easy and the eventual winners were decided after what seemed like an interminable wait for those eager for the holidays to begin. Yet, as Ms Brown stressed, everyone involved with House Music should be proud of an event which showed to the assembled school community just how diverse, confident and wonderfully talented so many of our pupils are.

CH





# SPEECH & DRAMA

THE JUNE EXAMINER DESCRIBED THE WORK DONE BY OUR PUPILS AS "OUTSTANDING".

**"A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION HITS PERTH CITY HALL," WAS THE COMMENT OF A TEACHER FROM ONE OF THE OTHER LOCAL SCHOOLS WHO WERE DEPRIVED OF THE CHANCE OF WINNING IN A SINGLE ONE OF THE FOUR (11-12 AGE GROUP) CLASSES OF SPEECH AND DRAMA AT PERFORM IN PERTH IN WHICH OLIVER WALE WON.**

He also achieved triple honours (over 90%) and the "William Soutar Tassie". Among the other successful candidates were Amyce Smith-Bannister who won the bible reading trophy with other firsts and double honours. Firsts with honours also went to Alex Beetschen and Lucy Grieve. And coming top in their respective classes were Sara Chalmers, Katie Marshall (twice), Sam Burns, Duncan Clark and Cathy Rutherford.

Perform in Perth (previously the Perthshire Competition Festival) also brought musical successes. Joanna Maclachlan won the intermediate piano solo class. At the prizewinners' concert on the final night three of our pupils were presented with overall awards. Ciara Elwis received the trophy for the highest mark in the advanced and open flute classes. Claire Price, after winning the medal for Scots unaccompanied folk songs gained the trophy for the best overall performance in the under 18 vocal classes. Gemma Chance won the vocal solo cup for 14/15 year old girls and the trophy for the best vocal performance in the whole festival.

Perform in Perth will, sadly, not be taking place again in the City Hall as the building is experiencing a change of use. What could have been an unpleasant final memory for Strath pupils at the City Hall was fortunately avoided when the broom we had borrowed from our cleaners at school for the Pucks to use as a prop went missing, causing a mad scurry around. It was eventually unearthed, having been placed by an assiduous City Hall cleaner in their broom cupboard!

That was in March, but the festival year begins earlier, in November, with the annual Burns Festival in the Salutation Hotel. Ben Giles, following in the footsteps of his older sister, Lauren, won the primary age group recitation class, with Souter's "The Drunken Fugie Todler" Chloé Lindsay was runner-up with Robert Garioch's "Fi'baw in the Street". There were two other seconds for Rosanna Innes in the fiddle class and Oliver Wale who recited "John and Tibbie's Dispute".

The Edinburgh Competition Festival speech and drama day in May brought further accolades for Amyce Smith-Bannister who won all four of her classes including being judged "outstanding" in the prepared reading of prose and the bible. Oliver Wale won the festival medal with a speech by Puck from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Other firsts went to Ian Bonn (bible) and Jamie Schofield who repeated last year's success in story telling. Yasmine Forbes and Ellie Campbell were first equal in the class where competitors recited poems they had written themselves.

Every pupil in Riley took part in the choral speaking class which was won jointly by Forms I and II set 1. Many pupils also took part in the dramatic scenes class which was non-competitive and was followed by a useful workshop where each group was given advice on how to improve their scene. This was invaluable preparation for the LAMDA

exams two weeks later. And just to show that the cultural life does not end when one leaves Strath, Ishbel McFarlane, who left last summer competed in the adult section and was pronounced "outstanding" in the recital and sonnet classes.

The year with LAMDA exams (The London Academic of Music and Dramatic Art) brought our best ever results. The Headmaster had the "happy" task of handing out no fewer than 117 distinction (over 80%) certificates following the exam sessions in October and June.

The June examiner described the work done by our pupils in acting, speaking of verse and prose, spoken English and devised performance as "outstanding". Particularly successful were the group classes. All of the Riley pupils achieved very high marks in choral speaking which takes a lot of preparation but is invaluable for developing an appreciation of poetry and in learning the skills of co-operative work and listening.

The highest group marks went to two trios of Riley boys, Jamie Schofield, Oliver Beetschen and Jamie Parker who gained top marks last year, as well, obtained 90% with a period scene by Molière from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. The other trio comprised Keith Wigley, Jonny McCashin and Ben Giles who performed an hilarious short sketch entitled Gents about three old men having a chat on a park bench. These boys showed that method acting is alive and well at Strathallan by spending at least an hour before each performance of the piece – exam, Riley concert, whole-school Friday assembly and Headmaster's Music – hobbling around the school wearing their old man bonnets and leaning on their sticks. Also, after being given the result at the end of the exam, they did at least 10 laps of honour around the Sixth Formers attempting to study for their exams in the saloon.

In group devising the top marks went to the fourth form "Buskers", Sam Burns, Alex Beetschen, Megan Parkinson, Eila Legge, Phoebe Shaw Stewart and Naomi Miller. In solo and duo classes distinction results were abundant as well, many candidates adding these to fine results in group classes. The highest overall marks were obtained by Amyce Smith-Bannister in Grade 5 acting and spoken English and to Alex Beetschen (grade 5) speaking of verse and prose and acting. Oliver Wale also achieved double distinction in acting and verse and prose (grade 4). High distinctions in a single subject in the solo and duo classes went to Kirsty Niven, Naomi Miller, Gemma Chance, Sam Burns, Lauren Murray, Lucy Garven, Ciara Elwis, Henry Jones, Joe Corlett, William Campbell-Givson, Natasha Porritt, Phoebe Shaw-Stewart, Megan Parkinson, Sam Lipworth, Chloé Lindsay, Ben Giles, Heather Larson and Tom Esparon.

Finally, it was wonderful to see Upper Sixth girls who have been steadily working their way through LAMDA grades since Riley days achieving the final goal of gold medal in acting – Mary Shaw-Stewart, Olivia Halvorsen, Mhairi Gillanders and Nicola Boyd. Under the new syllabus it is possible that if you do grade 1 in IJ, then one exam a year, you will reach gold medal before leaving school.

IIMcF



# PIPE BAND "THE PIPE BAND HAS HAD ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR, WINNING A TOTAL OF 22 PRIZES AND AWARDS." 2004-2005

THE PIPE BAND HAS HAD ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR, WINNING A TOTAL OF 22 PRIZES AND AWARDS. THE AWARD-WINNING BEGAN DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH ADAM MICHIE WHO WON THREE PRIZES AT THE HALKIRK HIGHLAND GAMES, INCLUDING THE HALKIRK HIGHLAND GAMES TROPHY FOR FIRST PRIZE IN THE JIG SECTION.

Adam then took part in the Scottish Junior Piping Championships at Carnoustie where he won the Ian D. Millar Cup as second prize in the Intermediate March, Strathspey and Reel section, he also walked off with a medal, a voucher and a leather wallet for his efforts.

Kirsty Hay did her bit for Thornbank House when she played the small pipes in the ensemble for them at the House Music Competition.

The band then won third prize in the Scottish Schools' Trio Piping Championships, held this year at Fettes College.

Pipe Major Duncan Lawson made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day.

The band then took off for Kuala Lumpur to play at a St Andrews Night Ball, a separate report on the trip has been reported elsewhere in the magazine.

The Craigmount High School Solo Piping Championship came next; two prizes followed. Adam Michie won The King's Own Scottish Borderers' Shield for Dress and Deportment in the 13 - 15 years Piping classes. Not to be outdone, Ian Tourney won The British Gas (Scotland) Shield for Dress and Deportment in the 13 - 15 years Drumming classes.

In January, eleven prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Adam Michie was fifth in the Junior March and sixth in the Junior Piobaireachd. Etienne Melville was placed second in both the chanter and the Novice Piping. Our drum corps decided not to let the pipers take all the glory on the day.

Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming won The Fishers' Hotel Shield as first prize in the Junior Solo Drumming and then, having been invited to play in the senior event; he won that as well, his prize being The Erhard Penker Cup. Nick Millar, following Tom's example, took second prize in the junior event. Ian Tourney won The Gillie McNab Shield as first prize in the Drumming on a pad section and second prize in the Novice Drumming. Oliver Stevenson, not to be outdone, took prizes in the Tenor Drumming, winning The Bonneathill Salver as first prize in the senior section and also won sixth prize in the Novice section. The pipers had better "watch their backs." Another good day's work.

February saw us take a trio of pipers to the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society schools' evening in Edinburgh. Everyone plays a number of tunes together with the hosts then each school in turn plays a selection of music. The performance by Duncan Lawson, Adam Michie and

Etienne Melville was well received by the society's members and the other schools involved.

Adam then won first prize in the Junior section of the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships keeping Strathallan's name to the fore. The event was held at Strathallan this year.

At the competition organized by George Watson's College, Adam won third prize in the junior solo piping event.

Adam then supplied some Scottish flavour to the sixth form ball by playing as his seniors arrived for the evening. They all seemed to appreciate his efforts.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year, we were not in a position to put the band into the competition due to a lack of experienced pipers. We did have some soloists, though, who kept our name "in the frame". Adam again played very well to win fourth prize in the Junior March.

Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn. A group of new pipers marched on to show off their new skills, with a spirited rendition of The Piper's Prayer, The Skye Boat Song and Loch Rannoch. Our new drummers joined in to play some marches. With lots of practice, we hope most of them will be able to play the whole display next year.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships held, this year, at Dollar Academy. Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming took third prize in the Senior Drumming event. He won The Junior Championship two years ago, the Intermediate Championship last year so had to play against much older competitors this year. Congratulations, Tom.

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming event. The major winners were as follows: Most Improved Drummer - Mark Brebner; Novice Drumming - Mark Brebner; Junior Drumming - Tom Fleming;

Bass and Tenor Drumming - Oliver Stevenson; Most Improved Piper - Etienne Melville; Most Improved Chanter Player - Justin Wong; Chanter - Angus Stephenson; Novice Piping - Etienne Melville; Junior Piping - Adam Michie; Senior Piping and Hornpipe & Jig - Duncan Lawson; Piobaireachd - Adam Michie; Best Contribution to the band - Duncan Lawson.

The solo contest finished with our saying goodbye to Duncan Lawson who has been loyal to the band throughout his time at Strathallan. We wish him every success in the future.

JSRH





# PIPE BAND VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR

## PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA CELEBRATION



**THE PIPE BAND RECEIVED A VERY GENEROUS INVITATION, BY THE SELANGOR ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY, TO PLAY AT THEIR ST ANDREW'S DINNER IN NOVEMBER 2004.**

The Strathallian chieftain of the society, Mr Patrick Russell, wanted to have the Strathallian School Pipe Band "do the honours" for him. This saw a mini – band of three pipers and three drummers, accompanied by Pipe Major Jennifer Hutcheon and Mr Bruce Thompson, the Headmaster, set off for Kuala Lumpur.

Emirates Airlines had very generously sponsored the flights for the band and three families provided accommodation. So a school minibus set off fully loaded with pipers, drummers, headmaster, pipes, drums and uniforms for Glasgow Airport on the 24th of November 2004.

After the obligatory stop-off for a burger at the airport and a long walk, we boarded the flight for Kuala Lumpur via Dakar in Bangladesh and on to Malaysia.

A drive through the centre of Kuala Lumpur took us to the homes of Patrick and Ilona Russell, Graeme and Shirley King and Peter and Carol Vermuelen who had very kindly offered to host us for the visit.

Breakfast next day was on the patio from where we watched the monkeys on the neighbours' roof and chasing each other up and down trees (the monkeys that is, not the band members) and we got ready for our first performance.

Our first outing was to play at the Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur. Before we could begin though we had to put a new skin on one of the drums, it had burst during the journey. As this was being changed, a good number of the rods which provide the tension to the skin also burst. We had to take some of the rods from the bottom skin of each drum to replace the broken top rods in order to try to get enough tension to have it sound like a drum, rather than a biscuit tin. We were to play in an air conditioned hall, but last minute events had us play out of doors. We now know what it feels like to play in a sauna.

Later, the band had a little time to relax and swim then were taken to a typical Malaysian restaurant for our evening meal. From there we were accompanied to the Petaling Street Market to get a feel of the

atmosphere and buy some presents to take home. Watches, football tops and other goodies were purchased with great gusto by our boys, to find out which of the watches actually went backwards..

Saturday saw us head off for the Shangri-La Hotel to rehearse for the evening ahead. After a try through of our various performances and liaising with the "Haggis" party. We then spent a bit more time on the rogue drum to improve its sound. We played for the guests arriving, played the guests into the ballroom, played the haggis ceremony and then gave our first band performance without stopping to catch our collective breaths.

Adam Michie then displayed his versatility by performing the Highland Fling. The band members then went off for a meal in the upstairs restaurant while Jennifer Hutcheon played the Piobaireachd, The Battle of Auldearn, as the Lament for the evening. This was slightly tricky as they put all the lights out and put a spotlight on, so as well as trying to concentrate on the tune, which lasts 15 minutes and has to be played from memory, the piper had to try not to fall off the edge of the ballroom dance floor.

Once the Piobaireachd was complete, Mr Thompson gave his talk. As we then thought that we had some time to relax, we were just unwinding when we were told that we had been invited to play for the Prime Minister of Malaysia who was having his birthday celebration in the next function room at the hotel. A great honour for us.

Sunday had us all at Patrick's house for a curry lunch and some presentations from the St Andrews Society.

We started Monday by visiting the American School for primary aged children where we again gave a performance and tried to answer their many questions. Back at base, it was time to do our packing and get ready for the journey home. We were due to fly from Kuala Lumpur at midnight, so once the packing was done we all joined up again for another traditional Malaysian meal before heading for the airport.

The journey back seemed longer than the outward flights, but passed off without mishap, with more shopping at Dubai Airport. A very tired but happy group arrived back at Strathallian after lunch on Wednesday.

JSRH



# THE ROCKY MONSTER SHOW

WE WERE LUCKY IN THE 2004-2005 SESSION TO BE BLESSED WITH SUCH A TALENTED CAST...



## BANG! MY BRIEF WAS TO START THIS REPORT WITH A "BANG" – SO I HAVE.

And there were certainly plenty of bangs and other loud noises in the Riley House's musical production back in June. The Rocky Monster Show was opened with style by Jonny McCashin and narrated by Katie Marshall and Stephanie Harrison. It tells the story of two young scientists by the name of Daniel Stoker (Ben Giles) and Rebecca Shelley (Sara Chalmers) who arrive at Arkham Station, eager to begin their first job for ex-rockstar-cum-scientist Rocky Fenton (Jamie Parker) at Fenton Labs. But all is not as it seems at the Castle where Mrs Danvers (played frighteningly convincingly by Bronwyn Lear) is the housekeeper and the local villagers who, according to Aunt Ada (Natasha Porritt) are all "doomed", send in ace detective Inspector Baskerville (Iain Bonn) to find out what is what... Many songs and cheesy laughs later, our story sadly ends with a devastating fire which neatly solves all the villagers' problems!

But let's go back to the beginning... Rehearsals began in the summer term under the supervision of the (extremely) brave Mrs Robertson-Barnett and Dr Salisbury, helped by Mrs Howett and several seniors. Meanwhile, poor Mr Walmsley was faced with the task of teaching the WHOLE of Riley House to sing "Evolution", the first (and last!) song.

We were lucky in the 2004-2005 session to be blessed with such a talented cast, consisting of the very able actors/actresses mentioned above and also a host of unforgettable characters: Rocky's daughter, Gloria (the very sophisticated Natasha Potts); the lovable monsters of our show, Mungo and Elsa (Mark McAlister and Elizabeth Cachia); the "charming" Igor (Oliver Beetschen); and the distinctly odd Station master (Jack Chartres). And of course we can't forget the "stars" created for your entertainment by Rocky Fenton: the very sparkly Superbs (Chloe and Kizzy Lindsay, Heather Larson, Joanna MacLachlan and Ciara Elwis) plus the one, the only, "The King" (acted to perfection by Oliver Wale).

Of course to make the show such a resounding success took absolutely everyone involved: Castle people, Villagers, Ghouls and all the other characters, plus music, make-up, sound, wardrobe, lighting, set-builders and back-stage – not to mention the "magnificent, wonderful, breath-taking" programme designers!

But the question on everyone's lips is: where is Mrs Danvers now? (mwahaha.....)

Ciara Elwis,  
Riley House



# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

– FROM  
COMBATS  
TO KILTS



IN A SURREAL MOMENT OF STRATHALLAN THEATRE MAGIC, THE SENIOR PLAY TRANSPORTED ITS AUDIENCE TO EDINBURGH FOR AN AMBITIOUS PRODUCTION OF SHAKESPEARE'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

The set was a triumph with the Academy Art Gallery artfully represented by beautifully lit doric columns whilst the idyllic Forest of Arden became Princes Street Gardens.

The nobles cast an air of dignity over the proceedings with strong performances from Lucy Grieve and Justin Javier as Hippolyta and Theseus respectively. Mark Bonington was a convincingly aged Egeus whilst the characters of Hermia, Demetrius, Helena and Lysander were steered masterfully through their various intrigues by Cathy Rutherford, Duncan Clark, Vicky Drummond-Hay and Duncan Clark.

Our rude mechanicals, cunningly costumed as twentyfirst century workmen, were led by Jamie Morrison providing us with engaging moments of humour. Malcolm Fraser, William Campbell-Gibson, Andrew Fyfe, Rachel Scott and Greg Guthrie are to be congratulated for their deftness of touch.

Titania and Oberon: Rosanna Innes and Derek Elder, were spellbinding, as were the exquisite dancing fairies: Sam Lipworth, Ailsa Turnbull, Ann Alnor and Gemma Chance, whilst Alex Beetschen gave an edginess to Puck which made him a compelling presence on stage.

Special mention should surely be made of Adam Michie and the Rev for their fine musical interludes and, of course, Irene McFarlane for her sensitive directing.

MRB





# WEST SIDE STORY

EMMA GORDON CAUGHT, SUPERBLY, MOMENTS OF INNOCENCE, LONGING, RAGE AND GRIEF, USING A VOICE OF LYRICAL POWER WITH HEART-STOPPING ASSURANCE



INCANDESCENT WAS THE WORD USED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES WHEN WEST SIDE STORY FIRST APPEARED IN 1957. IT COULD EQUALLY BE USED OF JIM SALISBURY'S PRODUCTION AT STRATHALLAN WHICH WAS BY TURNS INCANDESCENT, SPARKLING, VISCERAL, VIOLENT AND CONVINCINGLY EDGY.

All this was achieved by a cast whose energy and vitality were irrepressible, from the opening dance sequences to the ambitious and effective curtain-call.

The scenes between Tony and Maria held the rapt attention of the audience from the first. Emma Gordon caught, superbly, moments of innocence, longing, rage and grief, using a voice of lyrical power with heart-stopping assurance; this was a performance of remarkable depth and maturity. It was matched by that of Antonio Pellicci, who showed an exceptional natural talent presented with a innate sensitivity and control, both as a soloist and in ensemble; the quartet *Tonight*, beautifully balanced, developed an extraordinary lyrical energy.

Roddy Walker as leader of the Jets possessed a swagger and gravitas which pervaded the performance; he was well assisted by Sean Murray, whose dancing especially was at times frighteningly electric. *Gee*, *Officer Krupke* was a notable delight which by relentless energy never flagged into mere patter.

The dance episodes throughout, choreographed by Lisa Bibby, were finely conceived for the cast, and tightly executed. The fight scenes

too showed an authentic *machismo*: especially striking was the moment where Tony was borne away by his comrades.

Olivia Gerrie's Anita was superb; Paul Brown as 'Doc' was an entirely credible geriatric; Malcolm Fraser excellently characterized Glad Hand; Derek Elder was congratulated by at least one member of the audience on the authenticity of his accent, and Mark Bonington's Officer Krupke was simply remarkable.

For me, the single most impressive aspect of the production was the extraordinary sense of focused vitality which the whole company maintained throughout, not least in negotiating a score notable for its rhythmic and metrical complexity.

Neil Metcalfe directed - with panache and zest - a band whose excellence may be judged in that at least one of them had played under the composer himself - and as Bernstein said of artistic endeavour:

*...the measure of its success is the extent to which it makes you an inhabitant of that world.*

And since Strathallan 2005 most assuredly became the West Side circa 1957, it's nice to know that the great Lenny himself would have approved.

RAMTQ







# JUNIOR HOUSE DRAMA

IT CAN BE REPORTED THAT THE THESPIAN TRADITIONS OF THE SCHOOL ARE IN GOOD HANDS. NEW TO THE SCHOOL AND HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE 'HONOUR' OF JUDGING THE JUNIOR HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION OF 2005, IT WAS WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TREPIDATION THAT I SAT WITH CLIP-BOARD ON LAP IN PREPARATION FOR THE SIX HOUSE PERFORMANCES.

Two and a half hours later I found myself huddled with Mrs Robertson-Barnett in the Staff Common Room trying to select the best of the night's actors, the best directed performance and ultimately the best production of the night. The problem was not in finding worthy performances, it was having to make a decision given the number of mature, accomplished and 'energetic' actors on display.

From the very first raising of the curtain it became clear that our Juniors have no problem in performing. Each production (save one!) was well-rehearsed, well-directed and certainly kept the audience in mirth and suspense. Woodlands and Thornbank houses, in particular, produced well-choreographed pieces which involved the majority of the House juniors.

Thornbank house gave us their version of the classic, 'Cinderella', and in doing so gave us the best direction of the night and also two ugly sisters that could have graced any professional panto.

The Ruthven house performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' was truly 'Pythonesque' – enough said.

'Hansel and Gretel' will never be the same after Freeland's treatment, with Alex Beetschen in his usual superb form (as the wicked – oh so wicked, witch), and I doubt Mr Sheperd's barbecue will be either, having had to roast Alex. Their programme also deserves special mention given that their own critical reviews told us how good they were.

Simpson house then had us 'Hunting the Snark', a much more serious and difficult production that they carried off admirably against a bomb-site backdrop. The serious and challenging plot gave platform to the best individual performance of the night with Etienne Melville handling his stuttering, nervous character with great maturity and depth. He was also one of the few actors who kept totally in character throughout the performance whether he was delivering lines or not.

Nicol 'The Granny Project' brought us back to humour and Iain Lyburn produced an hilarious performance as the daughter to top a very accomplished cast who revelled in their group interplay.

Woodlands House may have been last on stage, but they topped the bill with their 'Macbeth on the Loose'. This was a real 'whole cast performance', with lively and well-choreographed singing and dancing, and Gemma Chance stood out in her rather camp handling of her character. The girls really played to the audience and clearly enjoyed themselves and in so doing produced (what I believed anyway) the best overall production of the night.

Well done, everybody – I'm certainly looking forward to next year when I can just sit back and enjoy the show.

A C Glasgow

# STAGE CREW REPORT



ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR AND ANOTHER THREE PRODUCTIONS FOR STAGE CREW. WE BEGAN WITH SHAKESPEARE'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. WITHIN A FEW WEEKS THE THEATRE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A MAGIC WOODLAND COMPLETE WITH REAL TREES, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IMAGINE THE LOOKS FROM STAFF AND PUPILS AS WE CARRIED THEM FROM THE DINING HALL IN THE MIDDLE OF LUNCH.

Surprisingly there were no real mishaps during performances, only me getting carried away watering the trees which resulted in them flooding their pots and one of the fake trees refusing to clip into place so that we had to stand behind it and hold it. It was just a shame that the set had to be dismantled the day after the last performance.

After Christmas we began on the set for West Side Story. For four nights the theatre became 1950s New York. Everyone enjoyed creating this set. However, Dr Salisbury, the paint used for creating the brick effect leaves one, shall we say, a little light-headed! The most excitement however was generated by the graffiti, suddenly despite avoiding doing any painting all year the guys suddenly wanted to get involved. Once again Plywood made a guest appearance next to our bright red fire hydrant. You have no idea how many websites there are devoted to them! Everyone loved West Side Story and it was no exception with the stage crew. It was hard work but fun, even our set-striking rehearsals. Finally, JJ and Smith, you have to leave the builders' hats behind!

Our final creation was the Riley musical The Rocky Monster Show and once again Dave dazzled us with another fantastic set design. This was one of the most fun sets to do. For example we spent two and a half hours painting the floor in a cracked stone slab effect, which led to numerous crack related jokes. I would give you a sample but none are fit for publication. I think our favourite piece though was the coffins, yes you did read it correctly. Upon entering the workshop a number of staff got a bit of a shock.

So another year gone. I would like to thank Dave, Mr T and Dr Salisbury on stage crew's behalf for their skill and dedication. JJ, Sarah, Smith, Jo, Bennet, Dougie, Chris, Harriet, Tia, Josie, Mardi, Martin and Jamie, you were all great and made it a really enjoyable experience for everyone. One last thing, don't forget to feed Plywood in my absence!!

Alison Drane



Name+Inits	Surname	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Daniel T	Adams	Riley	1/9/05	
Marcus S	Adams	Riley	1/9/05	
James Munro	Addison-Scott	Riley	1/9/05	
James	Aitcheson	Riley	31/10/05	
Molly R	Barnes	Riley	1/9/05	
Rosie L	Beetschen	Riley	7/9/05	
Josiah J F	Bircham	Riley	1/9/05	
Charlotte H	Brown	Riley	1/9/05	
Lauren M	Burns	Riley	5/10/05	
Emma C	Cheape	Riley	1/9/05	
Lisa K	Crossan	Riley	7/9/05	
Christopher	Dove	Riley	1/9/05	
Charles P M	Gifford	Riley	7/9/05	
Kerry	Gillespie	Riley	7/9/05	
Stuart	Gillespie	Riley	7/9/05	
Laura S A	Glasgow	Riley	1/9/05	
George James	Gray	Riley	1/9/05	
Timothy G	Heaney	Riley	1/9/05	
Sarah M E	Hellewell	Riley	1/9/05	
Matthew	Hunter	Riley	7/9/05	
Ruairidh	Hunter	Riley	7/9/05	
Ben T	Lewis	Riley	7/9/05	
Bethany	Lindsay	Riley	1/9/05	
Joseph Lester Robert	Lipworth	Riley	7/9/05	
Ruairidh I L	MacKenzie	Riley	1/9/05	
Ka Nam	Man	Riley	7/9/05	
Michael P K	Milford	Riley	7/9/05	
Ian	Mitchell	Riley	31/10/05	
Joshua Benedict	Morris	Riley	1/9/05	
Lucy J	Murdoch	Riley	7/9/05	
Eleanor G	Parkinson	Riley	1/9/05	
Alison M	Ramsay	Riley	7/9/05	
Toby N	Schofield	Riley	7/9/05	
Jack I	Somerville	Riley	7/9/05	
Corrie G I	Stewart	Riley	1/9/05	
Jennifer Anne	Summersgill	Riley	1/9/05	
Daisy I	Thomson	Riley	3/10/05	
Alexander John	Vine	Riley	1/9/05	
Steven M	Watson	Riley	7/9/05	
Tsun Fei	Yeung	Riley	7/9/05	
Pang Yue	Chan	Freeland	1/9/05	
Greig W	Dempster	Freeland	7/9/05	
Marcus H	Freeman	Freeland	7/9/05	
Sean J B	Garrett	Freeland	1/9/05	
Mohammad Hafiz	Hj Jaidi	Freeland	1/9/05	
Grant J	Murdoch	Freeland	7/9/05	
Andrew D B	Pyle	Freeland	1/9/05	
Malcolm G	Smith	Freeland	8/11/04	
Jannik	Stuhlmann	Freeland	18/9/05	
Gordon D	Tweedie	Freeland	1/9/05	
Evan L	Williams	Freeland	7/9/05	
Walter Ross	Alexander	Nicol	1/9/05	
Domagoj	Baresic	Nicol	7/9/05	
Alistair J	Brown	Nicol	1/9/05	
Frederick Robert Joh	Coleman	Nicol	7/9/05	
James Andrew Leslie	Dodd	Nicol	1/9/05	
Harry M	Iroegbu	Nicol	1/9/05	
Shen Shan	Liu	Nicol	7/9/05	Has not yet arrived
Nick	McArthur	Nicol	1/9/05	Visitor - one term only

Name+Inits	Surname	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Brendon J	Neill	Nicol	19/4/05	
Chuiming	Yao	Nicol	7/9/05	
Gordon T	Abercrombie	Riley	1/9/05	
Khairul	Abdullah	Ruthven	1/9/05	
Jamie S T	Carragher	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Christopher David	Charles	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Callum D R	Donald	Ruthven	7/9/05	
William Peter John	Farquhar	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Declan J	Ferry	Ruthven	1/9/05	
Andrew J	Heaney	Ruthven	1/9/05	
Christopher L	Jaworski	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Thies	Teegen	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Harry B	Williamson	Ruthven	7/9/05	
Christopher J	Wilson	Ruthven	1/9/05	Visitor - one term only
Daniel J	Anderson	Simpson	7/9/05	
Seth	Barnum	Simpson	7/9/05	
Zi Lung Sanny	Choo	Simpson	1/9/05	
Ruairidh C	Clark	Simpson	1/9/05	
Michele Giovanni	Delippio	Simpson	1/9/05	
Murray R A	Hall	Simpson	1/9/05	
Kenn A	Lau	Simpson	7/9/05	
Julius	Luttge	Simpson	7/9/05	
Andrew P	Lyons	Simpson	7/9/05	
Stefan J	McLean Toremor	Simpson	7/9/05	
Thomas N	Mawtus	Simpson	7/9/05	
Gains K	Murdoch	Simpson	6/6/05	
Dominic B	Pitts	Simpson	1/9/05	
Jack A	Thomson	Simpson	7/9/05	
Alan G	Young	Simpson	7/9/05	
Rebekah K	Brine	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Katherine Grace	Cockburn	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Carla M	Crossan	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Rachael J M	Duncan	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Siti Aishah	Hj Md Anas	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Abbey O	Kemp	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Gemma-Rose R P	Lansdown	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Sarah E	MacLachlan	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Victoria Catherine E	McLellan	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Elizabeth A	McMorrine	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Hannah J	Mather	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Mazveen Kaur	Saggu	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Margarita Yurievna	Shevchenko	Thornbank	7/9/05	
Christina	Weinrich	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Jennifer Louise	Wood	Thornbank	1/9/05	
Sophie E	Beamish	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Carina L	Buchanan	Woodlands	7/9/05	
Rebecca M	Clephan	Woodlands	7/9/05	
Morag A	Elwis	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Alice O N	Farrar	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Isobel L	Hale	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Syazana N	Hassan	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Kirsten J	Henderson	Woodlands	7/9/05	
Amalina D	Hj Mohd Daud	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Lynsey M	Knowles	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Ilona C M	McLaren	Woodlands	7/9/05	
Victoria G	MacLellan	Woodlands	1/9/05	
Kirsty	MacDonald	Woodlands	31/10/05	
Victoria MacGregor	Watson	Woodlands	19/4/05	

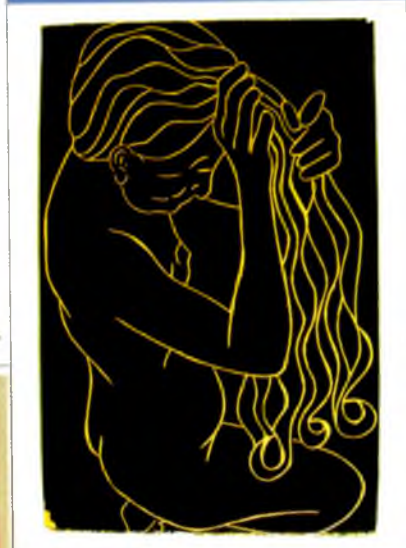


# ART & DESIGN

JESSICA STEWART, V Form, Woodcut, GCSE Underneath & Overhead



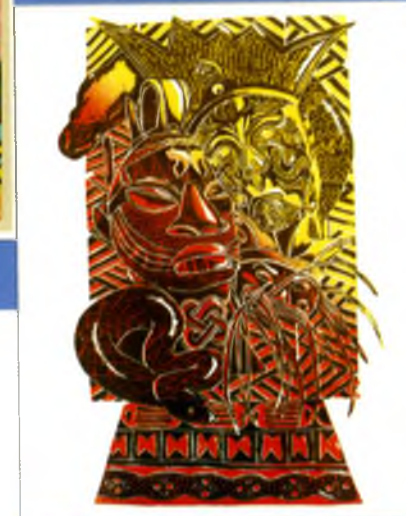
KATIE GIBSON, UVI Form, Woodcut, A2 Concealed & Revealed



Gael WELSTEAD, LVI Form, Woodcut, A2 Life



SUZY BRAITHEWAITE, Celtic painting



ANNABEL GORDON, UVI Form, Woodcut, AS Concealed & Revealed

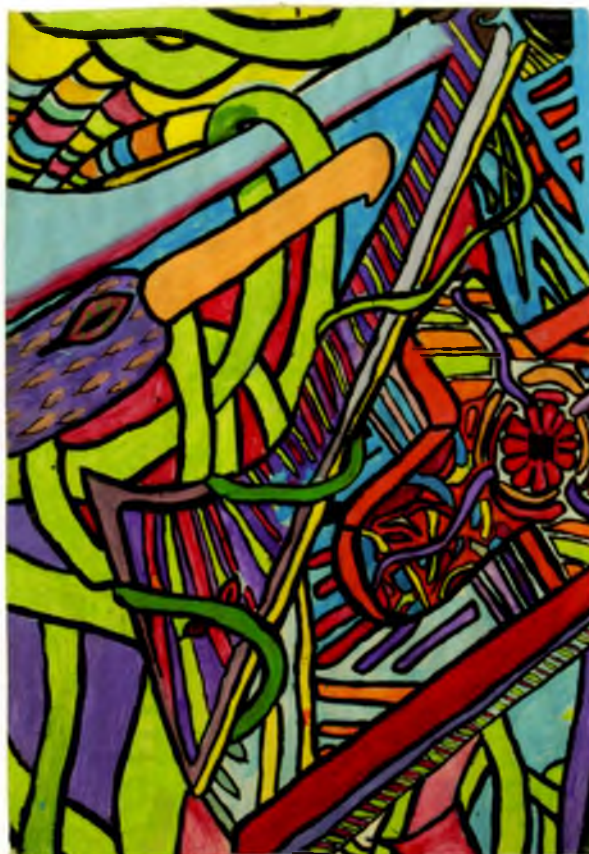




JULIA KUPFER, III Form,  
Celtic etching



ANNA DOVE, III Form,  
Celtic etching



KATIE BATTINSON, III Form, Celtic painting



GAEL WELSTEAD, LVI Form, Multi-Media,  
AS Natural Forms



OLIVIA STREATFEILD-JAMES,  
IV Form, Woodcut,  
GCSE Underneath & Overhead



DOUGLAS BRITTON, Riley,  
Totem woodcut



HARRY WORKMAN, UVI Form,  
Woodcut, AS Viewpoint



KIRSTY HAY, UVI Form, Multi-Media,  
A2



MARC ZWETSLOOT, IV Form,  
Woodcut, GCSE Sea & Shore



MAIRI MACKENZIE, IV Form, Woodcut,  
GCSE Sea & Shore

#### GCSE Natural/Man-made forms, V Form, Ceramics



OLIVER CORLETT



SUZANNE MORRISON



JOSS BEHARRELL



JESSICA STEWART



OLIVIA GERRIE, UVI Form, Multi-Media,  
A2 Prague Modern



ALISON DRANE, UVI Form, Multi-Media,  
A2 Prague Gothic



JACK CHARTRES, Riley,  
Totem woodcut



OLIVIA HALVORSEN, UVI Form,  
Multi-Media, A2 Concealed & Revealed

# GCSE Natural/Man-made forms, V Form, Ceramics



JAMES FAIRLIE



MALCOLM FRASER



MISHA PALEDI



ROBERT McMORRINE



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ROBERT McMORRINE, V Form,  
Woodcut, GCSE Underneath & Overhead



ANN-LOUISE BREADEN, UVI, Multi-Media,  
A2 Concealed & Revealed



CARA DUNCAN, IV Form,  
Multi-Media,  
GCSE Sea & Shore



JOE CORLETT, III Form, Celtic  
etching



SARAH LUNDGREN, III Form,  
Celtic etching



IAN TOURNEY, Riley, Totem woodcut



# DESIGN & <sup>43</sup> TECHNOLOGY



MATTHEW BREBNER, Drinks cabinet  
A2 Product Design



BENNO RAWLINSON, Contemporary coffee table  
A2 Product Design



CLAIRE McARTHUR, Snooker cabinet  
A2 Product Design



ANDREW CARMICHAEL, Storage system  
AS Product Design



EUAN ALLARDYCE, Japanese style table  
AS Product Design



LIAM CARRAGHER, Coffee table  
AS Product Design



ALEXANDER FERGUSON, Contemporary sideboard  
A2 Product Design



ROBERT McMORRINE, Fly tying box  
GCSE Resistant Materials





LISA SANGSTER, Mirror  
GCSE Resistant Materials



BEN BRAITHWAITE, Bar stool  
GCSE Resistant Materials



PETER WATSON, CD Storage unit  
GCSE Resistant Materials



GAEI WELSTEAD, Contemporary chair  
AS Product Design





**SET AGAINST THE SUCCESSES OF THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE 2005 FIRST XI'S RECORD OF TWO WINS AND SEVEN LOSSES FROM TWELVE COMPLETED MATCHES DOES NOT MAKE FOR PRETTY READING. HOWEVER, DESPITE MAKING MANY MISTAKES OVER THE TERM, BY THE TIME OF THE FESTIVAL AT TAUNTON THE SIDE WAS BEGINNING TO PLAY SOME DECENT COMPETITIVE CRICKET.**

There had been glimpses of their potential in matches against Gordonstoun, Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond College, but the school matches had begun with a shock loss against Dollar Academy and defeat to Fettes College for the first time in four years. A very young side, with half the players in the Fifth Form, had to gain experience quickly under Michael Cachia's leadership. Having a Fifth Former in charge was a gamble, but one worth taking. I am sure Nick du Boulay would agree with me that Michael was an assured and intelligent leader. His handling of the older players was exemplary, and he set a good example with his own play, bringing the younger players into the fold and beginning to mould a team.

The season began, as always, with a friendly 40 overs a side warm-up match against Perth Northern. We bowled them out for a low score of 111 with all the main bowlers getting an eight over spell in, as preparation for the format we knew Dollar would play the following week. Travers Johnston, our Canberra Grammar exchange pupil bowled steadily in unfamiliar conditions, taking 3-24. In our reply Jamie Cachia and Joss Beharrell put on 74 for the first wicket as we coasted home to a nine wicket victory. Cachia scored a first half-century of the season and Beharrell a solid 30 in his first innings as opener.

Buoyed by this easy win, but missing opener Cachia on Scottish Hockey duty, we found our preparation disrupted by heavy rain in the week prior to playing Dollar Academy. In a forty over per side match we bowled and fielded shoddily letting Dollar recover from 109-7 to total 156-7 in their allotted overs. Travers Johnston bowled his eight over spell for eight runs, but no one else really bowled to their normal standard on the day. We should have reached the Dollar total, despite beginning our innings with five fielders on the boundary, and losing Beharrell LBW to the first ball. Andrew Robb batted very responsibly on his debut, scoring 47 and he, along with Jono Becks (31) took us to 112 for 4 with plenty of time to spare. However a crash of wickets, as we lost focus in the chase, left us thirteen short with three wickets intact. Lack of experience under pressure cost us dear and not for the last time in the season.

Against Fettes College, the following weekend, we again played a limited overs format, this time 50 overs, and totalled a disappointing 136-8 on a tricky batting pitch. Captain Michael Cachia scored an unbeaten 51 and, while he and Nick Lau were together, we looked like getting a reasonable score to bowl at. However, injudicious shots and a lack of urgency proved costly. We did reduce Fettes to 15-2 thanks to Jono Becks' hostility, but the change bowlers were savaged by the Fettes U19 batsman and captain Scott MacLennan who scored a run-a-ball 64. Had one of our bowlers not over-stepped the line on his first ball, the course of the innings could have been less inevitable. On such small margins as these can a game turn.

The truncated first half of term was completed with contrasting games against Gordonstoun and the Scottish XL Club. The first ever match with Gordonstoun was a strange affair. We put them in on a green-top pitch, on a sultry and steamy May morning, and then bowled a heap of 4-balls. They lunched on 112-2, but within forty minutes of the resumption Jono Becks had taken a remarkable 6-4 in six overs, ripping out the middle order and bowling Gordonstoun out for 135. In contrast our innings started abysmally in the hour or so before tea. By this stage we had collapsed to 27-4 with some 'millionaire' shots from the top order on a pitch freshened up by some heavy showers. The biggest partnership of 67 came between the Captain and Jono Becks – the latter in particular playing some excellent attacking shots in a vital innings of 49. Michael Cachia batted through the rest of the innings for an unbeaten 32 whilst debutant Craig Wallace finished the match with a flurry of boundaries in his unbeaten 21, registering our only win over a school.

In the XL Club match, which started after lunch on account of some wet weather, the support bowlers, not for the only time in the season, failed to build upon the openers' reduction of the XL club to 25-2. We bowled badly, letting the XL Club total a formidable 220-7 declared, with Jono Becks again the mainstay of the bowling effort with 3-63. In reply, the only batsman who played to his potential was Jamie Cachia who scored a fluent 64 before being run out. We finished up on a disappointing 139-7 when time ran out.

The second half of term gave us a chance to start afresh after the disappointments of the first five matches, but alas the losses kept mounting as too few players put it all together when it really mattered. They needed to start building on their mistakes and realising that the first step along the road to notching victories was to make us difficult for opponents to beat. The matches against The



**HAVING A FIFTH FORMER IN CHARGE WAS A GAMBLE, BUT ONE WORTH TAKING. I AM SURE NICK DU BOULAY WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT MICHAEL WAS AN ASSURED AND INTELLIGENT LEADER.** 47



Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond were both drawn in different circumstances. The Academy scored 215-8 in just over four hours, perhaps batting on too long, keeping the memory of last year's side's demolition of their bowling attack in mind. Travers Johnston took his first five wicket haul (5-56) and Charlie Leadbetter came to the party at last with 2-39. In reply Andrew Robb played well for his 51, but again no one else was able to get out of the 20s and we safely drew the match on 145-6.

The Glenalmond match, as always, needs no hyping-up and here we finally started to play some aggressive and purposeful cricket. Put in to bat by the Glenalmond captain on a green bowler-friendly pitch, we totalled 165 all out with most of the main batsmen making solid contributions, but no one going on to make a large score. Nick Lau top-scored with 31, ably assisted by Jono Becks (25) and Jamie Cachia (23). After a good opening partnership of 47, Glenalmond then subsided to 97-6 in the face of some hostile seam bowling from Jamie Cachia (4-34) and Travers Johnston (3-28), before hanging on at 142-9 to draw. This was a match we should have won, but our support bowlers generally let us down once more. The game was also a lesson in cricketing strategy. When a side is put into bat by the opposition captain, it is the responsibility of the fielding team to bowl them out, the more so on a pitch conducive to bowling. It is then incumbent on the batting side to score as many runs as possible to make a game of it. In the final analysis we played the smarter cricket on the day.

Two further losses, against the MCC (39 runs) and Merchiston (150 runs), rounded up the domestic season. In both matches there were some decent signs that players were finally beginning to learn from their mistakes, and several younger players made their debuts, replacing unavailable seniors. Travers Johnston bowled well on both occasions, Andrew Robb (46) and Michael Cachia (38 not out) batted well against the MCC. The less said about our batting against Merchiston the better.

Our season finished off with three matches against English opposition, based at Taunton School. We were royally hosted by Taunton and were grateful for the chance to learn some hard cricketing lessons at the hands of more talented players in a limited overs format. We played our first 20-20 match (against the Hosts) when rain interrupted the second day, and we had the satisfaction of a major recovery with the bat against Ampleforth and of bowling out Dulwich College on the last day. Predictably, and despite being

bolstered with three of last year's players (Tom Hine, Ross Anders and Danny Hoffman), we lost all three matches, but there were some positives to take out of the tour. Our fielding against Taunton and Dulwich was superb with Craig Wallace a stand-out player, and our catching flawless. It was pleasing to see Charlie Leadbetter bowl so well against Dulwich (4-42), and to watch Danny Hoffman score a brace of half-centuries. Nick Lau scored an excellent 64 against Ampleforth, whilst Jamie Cachia and Andrew Robb both scored 34 against Dulwich's international pace attack. For the younger players this was a rude awakening to the standards required of 1st XI players. The usefulness of the exercise will be seen in how they respond to the challenges of next season, and how they set about both improving their application and learning from their mistakes. With nine of this season's side back in 2006, we should begin to produce better results under Michael Cachia's leadership.

**RHF**

#### **Senior Colts**

The unpredictability of the team was infuriating. It contained a lot of ability but also a tendency to self-destruct. Nevertheless, a season that included more wins than losses, a (very) narrow win over Merchiston and a fine final victory over Glenalmond cannot be altogether bad. Very often it was the support players rather than the stars to whom success was due, but there were good performances with the bat from Ashley Paledi, Rory Gibson, Toby Robertson and Nik Giesse, whilst the bowling of Toby Robertson, Nik Giesse, Bradley Ward, Felix Keene and James Balfour always presented problems. Rory McLellan was outstanding in the field, and at the batting tail. Michael Niven provided enthusiasm and improving skills behind the stumps. All in all this was an improving season.

**RJWP**

#### **Junior Colts**

Johnny Dickson captained the side admirably, always leading by example and ensuring that he contributed to the team's effort. That he was the leading wicket-taker, with 15 wickets, in the season and contributed with over a hundred runs throughout the season – as well as captaining the side – was testament to his effort for the team. He was ably supported by vice-captain Jamie King, who shouldered the responsibility of batting at number three, a place for which there were few volunteers. Although he showed great signs of talent, too often the very good ball which one hopes to receive as few times as possible followed Jamie from one innings to another. To his credit,





Jamie never appeared despondent about his misfortune and poor run of luck, but instead could often be heard shouting encouragement to his team mates and supporting Johnny in the art of Captaincy.

The bowling department, accompanied by some fine exhibitions of fielding, proved to be our strongest discipline, and on only two occasions did our opponents amass scores of greater than 140 runs. Duncan O'Reilly and Johnny Dickson spearheaded the attack, the former picking up 12 wickets in the season. Indeed both openers bowled better than their tally of wickets would appear to give them credit for, and more often than not could quite reasonably consider themselves unlucky. Magnus Olafsson supported his opening bowlers well, claiming 12 wickets during the season but, more importantly, bowling with a good economy rate. Robbie Cachia with only 5 wickets to his name should not feel disappointed as, often whilst bowling in tandem, wickets would fall at the other end due in main to the pressure applied by his leg-spin. The skill of leg-spin is an art requiring both practice and hard work, and Robbie should feel humbled by the lengths a certain Australian went to in order to master the skill. Other contributors to our wicket-taking tally included Iain McKenzie – the partnership breaker – Jamie King and Ollie Bain who, through hard work in the B team, cemented his place in the team latterly with his off-spin and batting. The batting too often let us down, only twice producing scores greater than 180. On each of these

occasions, when we had posted a sizeable total, our attacking style of bowling ensured a resounding victory over Loretto and an Edinburgh Academy side that was hanging on for the draw. Henry Jones, batting in the middle order, was the one man to show any degree of consistency, scoring 200 runs at an average of 33. Cameos of innings were more the order of the day than good knocks, with Andrew Whitelaw showing signs of sublime timing coupled with a propensity to be too attacking too often.

Those of you who have not been mentioned by name but played in the team, I thank you for your efforts and enthusiasm throughout the season. Results are often the yardstick by which your efforts are measured and these do not reflect the application you brought to both training and playing. Continue to listen and learn from your coaches, always put in that extra effort, aim high and set yourself achievable targets but, most importantly, continue to enjoy playing the sport and representing your School.

My final thanks are to my colleagues – Richard Fitzsimmons for supporting Junior cricket; Jeff Goddard and Richard Parker for running the B team, and especially to Greg Ross who has again proved himself a worthy right hand man in all aspects of running the Junior Colts.

**GSR**



In the end of season awards, the following players were honoured:

Leading Batsman: Andrew Robb  
 Leading Bowler: Travers Johnston  
 Full Colours: Jamie Cachia, Jono Becks (re-awarded)  
 Half-Colours: Michael Cachia, Malcolm Jack, Travers Johnston, Charles Leadbetter

#### Batting

Initials/surname	Inns	Not Outs	Runs	Highest	Score	100s	Average
M. G. Cachia*	10	5	194	51 n.o.	-	38.80	
J. D. Cachia	6	1	186	64	-	37.20	
A. F. Robb	10	-	218	51	-	21.80	
Y. F. Lau	11	-	215	64	-	19.54	
J. F. Becks	10	1	174	49	-	19.33	

\*captain

#### Bowling

Initials/surname	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
T. F. Johnston	126	15	472	24	5-56	19.67
J. F. Becks	114	17	427	21	7-27	20.33
C. R. Leadbetter	72	5	396	12	4-42	33.00





# RUGBY IMPRESSIVE

## STEVEN TURNBULL CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY TO SENIOR RUGBY WITH FULL CAPS AT U18 FOR SCOTLAND

**WHILST TOTALLING UP THE WIN/LOSS TABLE FOR THIS SEASON'S 1ST XV ONE COULD NOT HELP BUT FEEL THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED MORE THAN THE 6-5 WINS RECORDED. AFTER THE FINAL WHISTLE SOUNDED ON THE WHOLE TEAM'S SEASON SEVERAL OF THE SQUAD CONTINUED WITH THEIR RUGBY AT DISTRICT LEVEL THROUGH INTO THE SPRING TERM AND WATCHING FOUR OF THEM PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE INTEGRATED U18 CHAMPIONSHIP WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASING.**

At times they played some impressive rugby but they just lacked a touch of the killer instinct. This was never going to be an easy season since this was a squad in transition but several of the Lower 6th boys stepped up and performed well at this level. With Steven Turnbull joining us we had a player of recognised talent and his involvement in the Caledonia Academy provided several pupils with the opportunity to experience some high quality coaching from the Academy Manager Colin Robertson during his visits to Strathallan. The squad were always engaged at training and capable of incisive thinking on aspects thereof that would aid performance. The main stumbling block to improvement was the number of injuries at key times to influential players. Bruce Lerman had demonstrated his talent in both set piece and open play and it was a cruel blow to see his season come to a very early end. His desire to return to the game was admirable but time was his greatest enemy.

After a useful pre-season the team headed for Glasgow to play the High School but injuries in the opening exchanges showed our inexperience in certain areas and following a scrappy 70 minutes of rugby the home team edged the result. It can often take a reality check like this to clarify and readdress the expectations of all involved but the boys bounced back well in training and the preparation for the visit of the High School of North Berwick was carried out in a positive vein. North Berwick had several district players in their ranks and it took the Strathallan team time to work out the best way to turn the game to their advantage. A far better performance from all involved ensured a solid win and with players gaining their first cap for the team they had much to be pleased with.

The first Saturday morning fixture often comes as a surprise to those used to playing in the afternoon but the team prepared well for the visit of Glasgow Academy and whilst they were never able to really dominate this match they played well enough to record a 19 – 7 win. With only one training session before the journey south to play Loretto there were still areas to address and with niggling injuries it was difficult to achieve continuity within the squad. Loretto were certainly up for this game and the Strathallan backs struggled to produce much in the way of go-forward ball. It took a change of tactics to turn this game around and both Jamie Cachia and Andrew Robb produced some telling positional kicks to maintain the pressure that the forwards were starting to exert. Steven Turnbull scored a well-worked try and the team were pleased with a 17 – 5 win.

The U18 Scottish Cup then presented us with a home draw against Perth Academy and after a rather mixed start to the game it was only in the second half that the pressure started to tell and we ran in several tries to post a 46 – 12 win against a spirited Academy team.

With both the High School of Dundee and Fettes College matches cancelled the coaching staff were hopeful that those with bumps and bruises would have time to recover before the trip to Glenalmond but worse was to follow with other members of the squad picking up a mixture of short and long term injuries in training. In the end we had to field a 1st/2nd composite and they were up against it from the start. You could not fault the team's courageous defence but a full strength home team in front of a vociferous crowd proved to be too much. We often say that this is a tough circuit to play on and the forthcoming visit of Merchiston Castle on the back of this fixture clarified the boys' mind over the half term break. They returned ready to work and training once again proved to be an enjoyable and rewarding time. In blustery and wet conditions the Strathallan pack matched the Merchiston forwards tackle for tackle and with some excellent defence off both set piece and subsequent phase play the team thwarted the Merchiston attack. With the scores tied at 0-0 going into the last quarter Andrew Robb tried a long range drop kick







which the wind just pulled wide. Not to be outdone the visiting stand-off attempted the same trick with greater success and a further penalty placed the Merchiston team ahead. There was no lack of urgency from the Strathallan team and they were held up over the line on two occasions. A final penalty in the last minutes gave the Colinton boys a 9 – 0 win but there was a great deal of pride in the level of performance exhibited.

The next round of the Cup presented us with an away match at High School of Dundee and whilst this was a competitive game against the eventual finalists we never got going and as a result our involvement in this competition for this year drew to a close.

The following weekend saw the squad travel to Edinburgh to play the Academy and although on paper this was a match that should have been “in the bag” we had not won away to this team for several years. Overall this was a disappointing match and both teams struggled to play much in the way of entertaining rugby. In the end we took a narrow win back home but it could have gone either way. Once again injuries hampered our preparations for the forthcoming match against Dollar Academy and on a wet afternoon the boys came out second best against a well-organised and effective Dollar side that punished some of our early mistakes. The boys felt that they had underperformed and training stepped up another gear as many of the team had their last game for the school in their sights. The visit of Hutcheson Grammar saw the Strathallan team raise their game and some of the pick and drive work was excellent. Sadly, the backs were not able to obtain much in the way of go-forward ball due to a steady stream of penalties against the visitors but overall this was a very pleasing finish to the season. All in all there were many encouraging performances and with several of the boys back next season there will, I hope, be much to build from. Throughout the term Jono Becks played to a high level and his dedication to the role of Captain was most welcome. As always the coaches hope that the leaving players will continue to gain much from this sport and it is good to read that many of them are involved in Scottish premier rugby during a time of falling player numbers.

As mentioned at the top of this article several of the boys had the privilege of playing representative rugby, Steven Turnbull, Jono Becks(Webb), Craig Wallace, Sean Murray and Jamie Cachia playing

for the U18s and Michael Cachia, Struan Dewar, Ryan Mathews and Alan King all involved at U16 level. Steven Turnbull continued his impressive journey to senior rugby with full caps at U18 level for Scotland and over the course of the holiday he became a part time apprentice with professional team, the Edinburgh Gunners.

**MRAJBT**

## 2nd XV Rugby 2005

The 2nd XV had an excellent season winning all bar one match. The side was one that worked well as a team, despite changes to personnel due to injury and other factors.

It is not often that I would pick out one match as being more important than any other, nor do I normally pick out individuals for special mention, but this year I will make an exception. Tom Sproat lead the team by example and deservedly represented the 1st XV on occasion as a result, while Tom Reid and Ryan Matthews both ploughed the road between the 1st XV & 2nd XV. Duncan Brown made the No.8 spot his own and Liam Carragher was ever-present at scrum half.

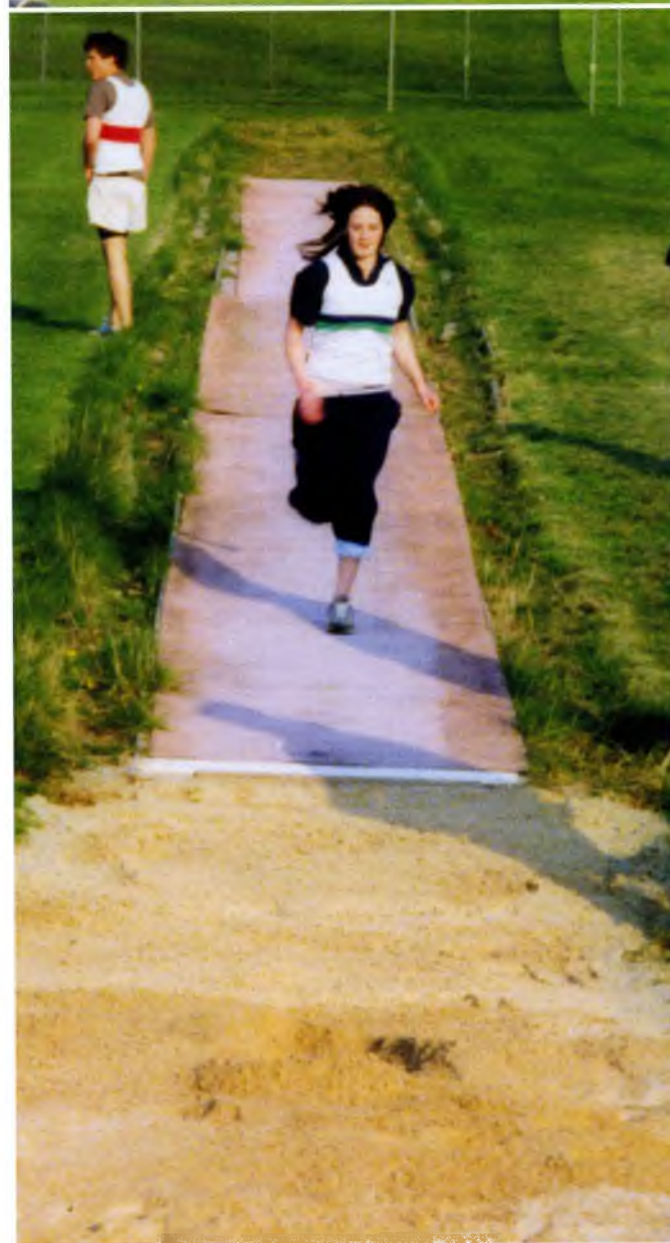
However, in addition to these individuals I wish to praise the whole team for their efforts in one match. The game against Dollar in the 2003 season had seen us win narrowly, and I was worried that a Dollar backlash might ensue as we ventured down Dollar Glen at the end of November. As the match unfolded I could hear Bill McLaren summing up in my head during a radio commentary; “.. you had to be here, but today at Dollar, rugby was the winner.” The final score was a 0-0 draw that was more exciting than many a high scoring game. Both sides played exciting open rugby, both sides made errors and both sides tackled till they dropped. Dollar had a tricky penalty in the final minute and even some of the home support were wishing the kick not to go over. This was a game about giving one's all, about team work and camaraderie, about all that is good in school sport. These teams were not super-fit, nor were they the most skilful at times, but they were like the Scotland teams of old who never, ever gave up; instead, both teams enjoyed themselves, respected each other and at no time did we witness any “handbags”. Both teams deserve praise for their efforts and long may they continue to enjoy their rugby. Thank you!

**PMV**



# ATHLETICS AND CROSS-COUNTRY

WE MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD MUCH IN THE WAY OF RACING, BUT WE CERTAINLY ACHIEVED OUR AIM: TO ENJOY RUNNING.



**BAD WEATHER AND TERM DATES MEANT THAT WE WERE SHORT OF CROSS-COUNTRY RACES IN THE SPRING TERM; THE TRAINING DIARY, HOWEVER, RECORDS A TERM OF ENJOYABLE TRAINING, AND SOME EXCELLENT DAYS OUT IN THE LOCAL HILLS AND FORESTS WITH AN AMIABLE GROUP WHO, WHILE NOT ELITE BY ATHLETIC STANDARDS, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER COMPANY, AND WHOSE RUNNING ABILITY INCREASED ENORMOUSLY, MUCH TO THEIR SURPRISE.**

We might not have had much in the way of racing, but we certainly achieved our aim: to enjoy running.

The athletics term was very much busier, although anybody who had been present at the Merchiston match would have recognised the torrential weather of the term before. Although throughout the season our first strings performed well, we lacked depth across the events, and surprised bean-stalk middle distance runners found themselves trying to throw the shot, while exhausted 400m sprinters would drag themselves around 1500m to salvage a point. The efforts of the team cannot be faulted, but success was not often forthcoming. This was especially the case away at Edinburgh Academy and Merchiston, where a cricket-loving sixth form and fixture clashes left us very short-staffed, and scrambling for points.

When we did have a full team, inevitably at home, we performed extremely well, and although we were beaten by Fettes, this was an excellent afternoon of athletics, with competitive events across the board, and a tempting taste of what might have been.

Sports day was, sadly, cancelled after more rain. We were getting used to it by then.

At Scottish Schools, the Over 17 girls won a bronze medal in the 4x100m, and the Over 17 boys were 4th. Stuart McDonald and Magnus Olafsson were both 4th in their respective 400m hurdle races, and Jayne Carmichael was 6th in both the 200m and 100m.

Throughout the season, David Burgess and Kirsty Hay were excellent captains, and their training over the last few years, and steady and consistent improvement should be an example to all.

DMH



# BOYS' HOCKEY 53

A BIG THANK YOU TO MALCOLM JACK WHO CAPTAINED THE TEAM THROUGHOUT THE SEASON AND LED BY EXAMPLE.



## Boys' Hockey 1st XI 2005

The boys had another very successful season with a number of very satisfying results against some of the big schools. We started off the year in the winter term as we competed in the Scottish cup and although we were knocked out of the main competition by a strong club team we played well and won two more games to get to the plate final. This we narrowly lost 3-2 but the manner in which we played left the team feeling really optimistic for the coming season.

Although there are only four teams that we play we had home and away games against three and a couple of touring teams arrived to challenge us. Unfortunately, we lost in the Scottish schools cup to Glenalmond in a tight match where neither team played particularly well, but, much to our delight, we completed the double over them in the season winning 2-0 and 3-1. We went on to beat Gordonstoun in a hard-fought 5-2 victory but in the return match lost 2-0 in an evenly-contested game where we just couldn't put the ball in the net. We then drew a close 4-4 draw against Loretto in which we thoroughly deserved a victory but, unfortunately, made mistakes of which they took full advantage. The best team on our circuit, Fettes, produced two closely-fought matches, in the first of which a team weakened due to injury struggled to keep up with the skills and pace of the opposition, lost 3-1 but fought hard. However, at home a full strength squad played above themselves to earn a hard-fought draw in which, again, we felt we deserved victory. Our final match was against a touring Irish side that played a far more physical type of hockey. Despite this we maintained our discipline and teamwork to win 3-2.

At the latter end of the season into the holidays we went on a four-day hockey tour of Ireland. We travelled to Dublin on the school buses and had planned to play three teams. On arrival we stayed in a very nice hostel on St Patrick's Day (so how come the staff didn't get any partying done??). Not only did the staff get bad news but the girls also found out that the teams that they had planned to play against could not turn out for a variety of reasons. The first team we played was under-18 district champions, Monkstown. We played a great game and due to teamwork we came through to win 2-1. The girls then played this team of boys and we would like to congratulate them on a spirited performance. We went onto play a men's team called Aer Lingus. We played an encouraging game for the next season managing a 4-4 draw. Then it was bye-bye to Charlie and Max who had been amazing in the strikers' role, but a big thank you to Malcolm Jack who captained the team throughout the season and led by example to the whole team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Giles and Mr McCann for coaching us throughout the season and Mr Fitzsimmons for being an excellent umpire. Also well done to the whole team for a excellent season but particular mention has to go to the defence with Cammy, Bunny, Milo and Sheep performing well all season and I would like to wish Cac and Ryan good luck with their national selection and Malcolm with his future hockey career.

Finally, on behalf of all the team we would like to congratulate Liam for being chosen as captain for the coming season and we know that he will shine in his new role!

**Liam (Pug) and Cac (Tubby) Vice-Captains 2005**

## 4th Form Boys' Hockey

"Under New Management" the 4th Form A team got the season off to a good start with the first match cancelled due to snow. However that was never going to dampen the enthusiasm of coach or team and in the next few games we managed to score 12 goals.

Over the course of the Spring term the team scored a total of 19 goals in outdoor matches, was placed 3rd at the Fettes Indoor Tournament and convincingly beat Loretto in the deciding game of the Chameleons' U16 Tournament. In that particular tournament 15 goals the team scored and Bradley Ward was voted player of the tournament by the umpires.

Over the course of the season in all games, Andrew Marshall was to score a total of 12 goals, followed by Michael Niven on 8.

Captained by Felix Keene, the team only lost to Fettes College in the Outdoor season and Bradley Ward was awarded "Most Promising Junior". With the team heading to the senior ranks in the next season, they will be able to look forward with a certain amount of confidence to a challenging time.

AW

## 2nd XI Hockey 2005

A young and inexperienced side that was lacking an old head in the striking department ensured that the 2nd XI had an up and down season. The back four were held together by Euan Davey, and the mid-field was organised by Jono Becks & Tom Reid who returned to the team from last year.

We played well to beat Gordonstoun away, but were bolstered by the return of some footballers. Our overall record of played 9, lost 5 won 4 is not outstanding, but if we had not diluted the team from the start by having hockey and football matches on the same day, both sports would have been better served.

PMV



# GIRLS' HOCKEY



**"I'M SURE IT WILL BE FANTASTIC!"**

**THIS YEAR WE STARTED THE HOCKEY SEASON AFTER AN AMAZING TOUR IN SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA WITH VERY SUCCESSFUL RESULTS FROM BOTH OUR 1ST XI AND 2ND XI TEAMS, AND A TRULY MEMORABLE FOUR WEEKS FOR ALL WHO PARTICIPATED. AS WE RETURNED TO SCHOOL STILL HAPPILY THINKING ABOUT ALL THE MEMORIES FROM TOUR, WE SOON REALISED THAT FOR FIVE OF US THIS WOULD, SADLY, BE OUR LAST SEASON FOR THE 1ST XI.**

Pre-season training wasn't quite as gruelling for the players who had been on tour as we only had to come back for a few days. Like the others, we were just as motivated for the start of a new hockey season. Sadly, Melanie hadn't washed her kit since the summer so she wasn't quite in the same good mood as the rest of us. Having lost four of our 1st XI players from last year, a number of younger members had their first taste of playing for the 1st XI and throughout the season they developed extremely well with the team. In the first half of the season we had wins against Aberdeen MBC, Gordonstoun and Glenalmond and we were close runners-up in the Madras Tournament, the Independent Schools Tournament and the Midlands knockout Cup. In the Midlands 1st XI tournament, after a very tense match we came head to head in the final against Dollar. The game went to sudden death penalty strokes and unfortunately, in the end, we lost. Nonetheless, throughout the tournament we had played some particularly good hockey. We went on to have good wins against St. George's, QVS and the High School of Dundee through the rest of the season and in the Robert Gordon's Tournament we came fourth overall and Melanie Kotseroglou won the award for goal keeper of the tournament.

Once again our Midlands District representation has proved very strong in all age categories. At U18 level we had six players including Mel Kotseroglou, Claire McArthur, Ann-Louise Breaden, Lizi Bush, Annabelle Gordon and Kirsty Hay who captained the side. This was actually around half of the full district team. The competition was tight as ever although in the end we managed to come runners up in the tournament and we received silver medals. At U16 level we had two of our new 1st XI players, Helen Summersgill and Jennifer Whitelaw playing and Helen also played in the U15 team alongside Kirsty Niven and Rachel McLean. The tournaments I'm sure will have given them a great amount of experience for the future.

In our shorter Indoor season we also proved to be a difficult team to beat and we came runners up to Dundee Wanderers in the Midlands Senior Indoor tournament. This unfortunately restricted us in going through to the Scottish Indoor Championships. The Midlands Indoor team also had a number of representatives from Strathallan who played very well: Jennifer Whitelaw, Lauren Giles, Jane Cargill, Lizi Bush and Sarah Fleming who captained the side.

One of the highlights of our season had to be the first ever 'British Schools Tournament' that we travelled to at Kirkham Grammar School

in England. In addition to four top English schools, Glasgow Academy had been invited since they were winners in the Scottish Schools Finals, and our 1st XI because we were runners up last season in the same tournament. After a tiring bus journey we played particularly well against teams of such a high standard. We managed to draw two of the matches, and to lose two. We did, however, manage to beat our Scottish rivals Glasgow Academy which was extremely pleasing as our matches against them have always been very close. The whole tournament was a lot of fun and the team certainly showed the development that they had made from the start of the season. The English enjoyed it too, the more so as they were lucky enough to sample some of Kirsty's renowned bagpipe playing.

The remainder of the season we played in Sevens tournaments, namely the High School of Glasgow tournament, the Hutcheson's tournament and in the Heriot Sevens. We made it to the final after beating Dollar in the semi-final with some close penalty flicks, but unfortunately lost in the final to George Watson's.

Our 2nd XI have also had a successful season with five wins and two losses although on many occasions they were actually playing against 1st XI sides and they even played in a 1st XI tournament. Particular recognition has to be given to Sam Stark, the Captain, as she not only played all the 2nd XI matches but many of the 1st XI matches and tournaments also. The younger teams again show great promise for the future with their great commitment and enthusiasm towards hockey. The Riley teams had good seasons as did the 3rd Form, and the 4th Form did very well as they reached both the finals of the Midlands Indoor and Outdoor Junior Tournaments. The U16 team have also reached the final in the first ever Midlands knock out Cup although the final against Morrison's has yet to be played.

The season was very hectic for all the teams although we still managed to fit in a match against the teachers and the 1st XI and 2nd XI enjoyed well-deserved hockey dinners where Claire McArthur won 'Outdoor player of the year' and Annabelle Gordon won 'Indoor player of the year'. On behalf of the players I would like to thank all the hockey coaches particularly Miss Sime, Mr Giles and Mr Watt for the continuing support that proved vital throughout a season that has been somewhat frustrating at times. I would also like to thank them for all their effort and perseverance in improving and developing the team, particularly for their work throughout some of the leavers' long hockey careers at Strathallan. We will miss their friendship and I hope they realise how important their commitment has been to all of us. I would also like to say good luck to all the teams in their hockey for the future, and particularly to the 1st XI which will continue to develop over the next year. All I can say really is (as Miss Sime would say) "I'm sure it will be fantastic!"

**Ann-Louise Breaden**

1st XI Captain 2005



# SWIM TEAM 55

THE PURCHASE OF NEW ANTI-TURBULENCE LANE ROPES, STARTING BLOCKS AND BENCH SEATING HAS MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO THE SWIMMING TRAINING. STRATHALLAN NOW HAS A SWIMMING FACILITY TO BE PROUD OF.



THE SCHOOL CONTINUED THEIR COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THIS YEAR. STRATHALLAN SWIM COACH, ELAINE JOHNSTON, DOUBLE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FINALIST, HAS ENSURED A STRUCTURED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF SWIMMING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS

The purchase of new anti-turbulence lane ropes, starting blocks and bench seating has made a huge difference to the swimming training. Strathallan now has a swimming facility to be proud of.

## FIXTURES

The Swim Team regularly has fixtures against other schools most of which are very closely fought contests. The first fixture was against Morrison's where after a very competitive match Strathallan won 165 points to Morrison's 161. The match against Glenalmond in March was a fantastic event for Strathallan in which we convincingly beat the opposition winning 24 races out of 30.

In February 2005 the Junior Strathallan Swim team was created and their first match against Craigclowan was a fantastic experience for all those involved. Unfortunately, Craigclowan did beat Riley by 154 points to 132, but the experience for the swimmers was invaluable.

## TAYSIDE SCHOOLS SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

Last year also saw a large number of entries going to the Midlands and Tayside schools competitions from Strathallan. The team improved their performance significantly with a total of 32 Personal Best times. We also won some medals:

<b>Girls 15/16 freestyle relay -</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>Boys 17/19 freestyle relay -</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Girls 15/16 100 Breaststroke - Kirsty MacGeogh -</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>Boys 17/19 100 Freestyle - Rory Dewar -</b>	<b>Bronze</b>

Rory Dewar also qualified to swim at the Scottish Schools Swimming finals in Glasgow where he finished in the top 10 in his age-group.

## INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

As well as competitions outwith the school there are also two inter-House swimming events. The House Standards event took place in November 2004. This involved each house entering 3 swimmers in each event and points are awarded on a sliding scale for fastest times recorded.

The results were as follows:

<b>Woodlands</b>	<b>346</b>
<b>Simpson</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>Ruthven</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Freeland</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Thornbank</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>Nicol</b>	<b>231</b>

With a slightly changed programme the inter-House gala took place in March this year. Many of the races were extremely close and this meant that it was an exciting event with 22 new records being set. For the first time the Inter-House Gala was run as a Girls' Championship and a Boys' Championship. The results were as follows:

<b>Boys Championship</b>		<b>Girls Championship</b>	
Nicol	115	Woodlands	178
Freeland	96	Thornbank	150
Simpson	90	Ruthven	68

In addition there was also a special event for the young swimmers from Riley House which again provided great excitement. Yasmine Forbes won the Girls' Sprint and the Boys' Sprint was won by Hamish Mitchell. Well done to them both and all the others who took part.

**Eilidh Kennedy**

Girls' Team Captain 2004-2005



# 56 BADMINTON

## GIVE US MORE COURTS!

Our Far Eastern students continue to lead the way on the badminton courts. Not only do we seem to be coaching half of China but we now have seven Bruneian pupils who also show an aptitude for the game. Add to this a resurgence in home grown enthusiasm and it's easy to see why the courts are overflowing.

The Perthshire league again proved a tough challenge but we continue to become more competitive year by year. In the Perth & Kinross Schools championships there were several encouraging performances. Shaun Ng made the semi-finals of the U18 singles and Clement Ip and Nick Lau made the semi-finals of the U18 boys doubles. Maybe we can go one better next year. In our annual inter-school games the boys beat Edinburgh Academy 12-4 and the girls beat St George's twice, 9-7 and 10-6.

In the inter-house championships we tried a different format this year with the girls' Houses just playing each other instead of playing all the boys houses as well. Thornbank prevailed 6-3 with Elly Chen and Wendy Luo winning all their games. In the boys competition Nicol came home convincing winners with Nick Lau and Clement Ip and Nick Price and Michael Boyd remaining undefeated throughout the afternoon – a commendable achievement. My thanks to Vito and Bibi for captaining their respective teams and my congratulations to Shaun Ng and Min Ou who have been chosen to captain the sides in 2005-2006. Many thanks also to Mme. Duncan, Mlle. Balent and Tao for helping to run proceedings – without them, it just wouldn't happen.

Finally, the 2005-2006 has already started as I write this and early signs are that we are in for an excellent season if enthusiasm is anything to go by.

GCK

THE 2005-2006 HAS  
ALREADY STARTED AND  
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WE ARE IN FOR AN  
EXCELLENT SEASON

# JUDO



The Strathallan Judo Club has gone from strength to strength this year under the guidance of coach Mr Andy McInroy. The club meet and train every Friday and for the first time we entered two junior competitions. The Riley pupils were extremely successful in both

## Galashiels U16 Judo Championships

Gold	Jazz Gray
Gold	Iain Bonn
Silver	Henry Li
Silver	Aaron Purvis
Bronze	Ben Giles

## Success was also achieved at the Lochgelly U16 Judo Championships

Silver	Aaron Purvis
Silver	Calum Reid
Bronze	Jazz Gray
Bronze	Henry Li

Robert McCulloch 6F has also gained valuable experience in competitions and is making great progress.

AS





**THE SEASON STARTED BRIGHTLY WITH THE SIX-PLAYER TEAM FINISHING A CREDITABLE SECOND IN THE PKSGA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS PLAYED ON THE BLUE COURSE AT KINROSS. CONDITIONS PROVED DIFFICULT WITH A STRONG BREEZE AND GREENS WHICH WERE A LITTLE DRY AND BUMPY WITH THE RESULT THAT ALL THE PLAYERS FOUND SCORING DIFFICULT.**

However, our new captain, Liam Carragher, playing on his home course, managed to come home in fewer strokes than anyone else to win the Individual Competition. As a result he was selected to represent the County Schools Team at the SSGA National Championships which, this year, were played at St. Andrews Bay. Liam was also asked to captain the 3-man team, the first time, as far as I can recall, that this honour has been given to a Strathallan pupil.

Liam returned to St. Andrews along with Matt Brebner to represent the Scottish Wayfarers against the R & A at the Old Course for the biennial match between the two teams. This a real highlight for any golfer as it includes lunch in that famous clubhouse as well as the chance to play on what is probably the most famous golf course in the world. Playing together, Liam and Matt halved their particular match, whilst overall the Wayfarers enjoyed an emphatic win.

These early season highlights soon dimmed when we started our round of league fixtures. This year the PKSGA league was split into two groups, the top two going forward to the semi-final stages. Playing against some strong opponents we finished a disappointing third in our group and so failed to qualify for the final stages. The same four players were selected for all three games but could only manage a total of three and a half points although they all made a contribution to the points total.

The six man team managed to maintain this losing streak in our matches against other independent schools which included a 5-1 defeat to Fettes at Bruntsfield Links, the first time in my experience that we have ever lost this fixture. A similar result was forthcoming against Merchiston, although we only narrowly lost to Loretto thanks to their generously agreeing to play the match off handicap. The team matches concluded with a 2-2 draw at home to Morrison's Academy which, on a brighter note was the first time that we had not lost to them for several years. Overall, the team results were disappointing on paper. It is to be hoped that the players learned from their experiences and will be better prepared for the rigours of match-play golf in the future. Top points scorers were Liam, Matt and Alasdair Cameron who each scored two points overall.

## PLAYING RECORDS

	P	W	D	L	Pts
L.Carragher	7	2	0	5	2
M.Brebner	6	1	2	3	2
A.Cameron	5	2	0	3	2
C.Harrison	2	1	0	1	1
A.Carmichael	2	1	0	1	1
A.Ferguson	2	1	0	1	1
E.Davey	7	0	1	6	?
D.Mather	1	0	1	0	?
S.Murray	1	0	0	1	0
T.Dickson	1	0	0	1	0

The Inter-House Competition was won convincingly by Ruthven with a three man score of 243. They were ably led by Captain Carragher who produced the best score of the day; a 74 which was 7 strokes better than the second place (also going to a Ruthvenite). Chris Dickson retained the 36 hole competition, the St.Columba's Trophy at Auchterarder with rounds of 73 and 85 with Liam in second place and Tim Dickson in third. In the twelve years or so that we have run this competition this is the first time that we have retained the trophy. With Chris leaving Strathallan this year a new name will be engraved on the cup, although it is always possible that with two more Dicksons on the school roll that we may not have seen the end of their recent domination of this event. Alex Ferguson's second round included an eagle two at the par 4 third hole, closely followed by a 10 at the par 5 sixth! Tim Dickson also produced the best round from a Strathallan golfer at the Blairgowrie Juniors Invitation Day with a net 72 over the demanding Lansdowne Course, the team finishing in fifth place overall.

The second playing of the Pitlochry Cup had an overseas winner this year, J-C Hashagen taking the spoils. He scored 39 points using the Stableford method to win by 1 from James Fairlie and William Gibson. From the pupils' perspective, probably their best and most determined performance came in their 2-1 win over the staff side (their only victory of the season!)

My grateful thanks go to Mr Weir for his sterling work in supervising the golf academy which enabled so many fixtures to be undertaken and, as ever, to Mr Kitson for his all-round contribution to golf at Strathallan. Without his unstinting and willing efforts, the golf section would be a lot worse off. My thanks also must go to our groundsman Mr Newell whose work continues to improve the quality of the school golf course.

NS

**THE SEASON STARTED BRIGHTLY WITH THE SIX-PLAYER TEAM FINISHING A CREDITABLE SECOND IN THE PKSGA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**





CREDIT MUST GO TO  
MONKEY WHO  
SHOWED HIS TRUE  
ACROBATIC  
POTENTIAL IN THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
MATCH OF THE  
SEASON

HAVING ONLY THIS YEAR DISCOVERED THAT OUR FOUNDER HARRY RILEY HAD A SPELL AT BRADFORD CITY, I WAS STILL PUZZLED AS TO WHY FOOTBALL IS NOT CONSIDERED A MAJOR SPORT AT STRATHALLAN (THE MAIN SPORT IN 1913 WAS INDEED FOOTBALL). HOWEVER WE MADE TRIPS TO CERTAIN FOOTBALLING EVENTS SUCH AS SCOTLAND'S 2-0 WIN OVER MOLDOVA (AT WHICH ONE OF OUR TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND COACHES MR. POLITU, A MOLDOVAN, WAS NOT TOO CHUFFED) SHOWING THAT THE INTEREST IS THERE BOTH WITH THE PUPILS AND THE STAFF.

After having had a disappointing season with a competent and promising team, we were further frustrated when the staff would not accept our challenge on the pitch. The original fixture was mysteriously postponed due to bad weather (torrential rain). Persistent "gentle" persuasion eventually got the game everyone had been waiting for all season. Mr. Fitzsimmons made a well-received comeback to football as referee, showing all who was in charge by immediately warning Mr. Shepherd and then later yellow-carding Mr Batterham. The staff scored an early goal to give themselves a glimmer of hope, but the pupils soon squashed any chances they had of winning by scoring some sensational goals (and a dodgy penalty) to win this physical game 5-2.

With Mr. Bolton stepping down, Mr. Batterham took charge with a stricter training régime; youthful and Senior players alike wanting to prove themselves worthy of the honour of representing Strathallan 1st XI. We thought we may have had a chance of going all the way but, alas as in previous seasons we were unable to get past the group stage. Although we didn't actually play badly, we lost to more confident teams, lacking that killer instinct needed to put teams away. (Apart from the 9-0 friendly victory over Fettes, to which the Headmaster was witness.)

We did improve on last season, however, by not being goal shy. A few goals may even have made it into a goal of the season competition (Struan and Matty scoring with what Thierry Henry describes as "Va Va Voom"). Unfortunately, no one will see them again, as the Sky cameras were not there to capture them. The positive note is that at least the team is going in the right direction.

Our last game of the season was against a strong Glenalmond team (who made the semi-finals of the tournament), in which we gave them a tough test. The game was very close (unlike previous seasons of one-sided misery) Strathallan showing a high level of determination and team spirit against our closest rivals. We scored the opening goal, but they went on to dominate the game. We managed to give them most of the possession and they should have really given themselves an unattainable lead. Credit must go to Monkey who showed his true acrobatic potential in the most important match of the season, ensuring a goal against us was a goal of considerable class. We were lucky also, as they missed an undeserved penalty (you only say that because you conceded it, Bobby) as well as countless shots on target. Their equalizing goal finally came just before half time.

After a blunt, "to the point", talking-to by Mr Batterham we got stuck in and tried to regain the lead we had briefly held. The second half was more evenly balanced but they eventually grasped the lead. In the

last ten minutes we piled on the pressure, but no matter how hard we tried we couldn't get past their whole team to get this all important equalizing goal. This game was played at the same high level of intensity as previous matches, but again we just missed out on the prize.

For the game against the Strathallians we had a weakened team as the Higher exams had just finished the Friday before and some of the guys were out celebrating. The game as a whole was pretty poor, with the long ball tactic being employed. It was a contest of the Strathallians' size and muscle versus our speed and agility. The end of the first half showed that the defence of both teams were intent on keeping a clean sheet. Half time score line was 0-0. The second half produced some better football but some debatable refereeing, eventually both teams managed to get on the score sheet. Fergie kept his nerve from the spot to put us in the lead. Then two goals from Sean helped the cause. Although the Strathallians did put pressure on us they could never quite give themselves enough space to get back in the game. Special mention to our replacement keeper Pendi who came out of retirement to pull off a number of outstanding saves. Even the opposition were amazed. The end of the game brought a sense of self-belief that we had lacked during the football season and a 4-3 victory in what is usually an annual disappointment.

Congratulations are in order for Geoff Melloy and Greg Guthrie for not only playing well for the school team, but for also being selected for the Independent Schools Select Northern Scotland team. They played against the East and West of Scotland.

Good luck to Geoff as he takes over as captain for the forthcoming season (try to cut down on the own goals) and also to the rest of the team. I'm sure all of the guys leaving will be back to show you how to play "real men's" football (unless Old Man needs another hip replacement) Again, many thanks to the grounds staff who provided us with an immaculate although rarely-used playing surface. Many thanks also to Mr. Batterham, Mr. Weir, Mr. Smith (referee extraordinaire), Mr. Goddard, and of course our very own ex-professional (?) Moldovan goalkeeper, Mr. Politu. Thanks must also be given to the fans who gave us all something to laugh about whenever Sean had the ball.

**Bobby Henneberg**

## Girls' First XI football

For the first time ever, as far as we know, girls' football came to Strathallan School. We had weekly training sessions in the build-up to our only fixture of the season and went into the game with enthusiasm and our new blue strip. We had no difficulty seeing our opponents, Glenalmond Girls' First XI, even through the mist that shrouded the pitch, and we succeeded in allowing them to see only enough of the ball for us to come away with a fairly convincing victory.

**Jane Cargill**





# SKI SEASON 2005

MELISSA PIPER FINISHED THE SEASON IN GLORY. SHE IS OFFICIALLY THE MOST IMPROVED BRITISH GIRL SKIER

## THE AUTUMN AND WINTER SEASONS HAVE BROUGHT STRATHALLAN SUCCESS FOR BOTH BOYS' AND GIRLS' TEAMS.

Back in September the Scottish Dry Slopes Ski Championships took place at the Mid Lothian Ski Centre, Hillend during our autumn break. Our girls gave up a day's holiday in order to compete and Melissa Piper returned with a silver medal, whilst the decent positions of Vicky Drummond-Hay, Sophie Workman and Lucy Drummond-Hay ensured our team was placed 5th, thus being selected for the British Dry Slopes Ski Championships.

The highlight for our girls' team was undoubtedly the British Schoolgirls' Races in Flaine, France, which attracts fifty clubs and schools with a total of 150 racers from Great-Britain. Melissa Piper, Vicky Drummond-Hay and Lucy Drummond-Hay excelled in the two day event. They were awarded individual medals for being placed third school in the Giant Slalom (with Melissa placed first in the Junior 2 category), third school in the Slalom and third school in the Combined events. Melissa Piper won the Gold in the Slalom, finishing over three seconds ahead of her main rival. She also won a Silver medal in the Combined events. Strathallan finished first Scottish School in the Giant Slalom and the Combined events: in a nutshell, the team came home with 1 trophy and 11 medals.

The snow magicians were nowhere to be seen in Scotland in January but were very active in March, when the Scottish Schools Championships took place at the Lecht. Snow was abundant and the wind was so fierce that the event had to be interrupted, racers, spectators and organisers retreating to the new continental style café, so that a decision could be made as to whether it was wise to continue under such harsh conditions. By then, the Strathallan boys were confident that the blizzard was not going to get in the way of success and after racing was resumed, the fearsome foursome was victorious in front of 19 other schools, taking away, for the first time in history, a magnificent shield over which Scottish schools have been fighting for more than forty years. With Richie Duncan winning the overall event, Adam Piper placed third and an excellent performance respectively by Harry Workman and Andrew Workman, there was no argument as to which school was shining on that day.

At the same event, our girls' team (Lucy Drummond-Hay, Jennifer Whitelaw, Sophie Workman and Lucy Drummond-Hay) placed 8th out of 21 teams.

Beyond the school circuit, many excellent results have been achieved at home and abroad, the following deserve a mention:

Melissa Piper, a member of the Scottish full time Team, has been training with the British Team on a regular basis in Austria. She was placed second in the Slalom at the Scottish Championships in Courchevel, France; and second behind national hero Chemmy Alcott, in the Giant Slalom at the British Senior Championships in Méribel, France. She finished the season in glory, being the British under 18 combined Champion and first overall amongst non-British Team racers. She is officially the most improved British girl skier.

Adam Piper was the only Scot to be selected for the British Children's team. He placed 3rd in Giant Slalom at the British Children's Championships in Méribel, France; and 3rd in Super G at the British Children's Championships. By the end of the season, Adam had reached his goal which was to be selected for the Scottish part-time team.

Last but not least, Richie Duncan, member of the Scottish Team, found himself on the podium five times at F.I.S. (international) events, excelling in both disciplines, Slalom and Giant Slalom, achieving Personal Bests throughout the season in the process.

The decent winter on the Continent and the short but very alpine winter that Scotland has enjoyed this year, combined with the quality and dedication of our athletes give us reasons to believe that Strathallan will continue to thrive next season. We are grateful to our Ski Captain Melissa Piper who has been an inspiration to us all. We shall miss her expertise and example of fitness and we will continue to follow her success as she progresses in her ski-racing career.

**Fabienne Thompson**



# 60 TENNIS

## Boy's Tennis 2004/05

The year was always going to be one of re-building, many of the team having left the previous year. We started the season off with the customary Captain of Girls versus Captain of Boys Mixed doubles match. Harry and his team led from the start and edged out Olivia 5 sets to 4 once all nine matches had been played; a close finish, and that is very much how the rest of the season went for the boys. Once again we entered the Glanvil Cup Competition in Scotland but were beaten by a stronger St Leonard's team on the day.

Once the school matches had started we were reasonably well prepared with Tommy Ogilvie in on a Tuesday and Thursday for regular team sessions. His coaching sessions are much enjoyed by the boys and they appear to be benefiting from his expertise. Matches against Glanlmond, Morisson's, Fettes, Gordonstoun were won at various levels but we were second against a number of the other teams. We were fortunate to be able to secure second team matches against a few schools which enabled more boys to play in matches.

We travelled to the Annual Glanlmond Mixed Doubles tournament in May where we competed against 8 other schools. The day was enjoyed by all who participated and one couple even came away with a bronze medal. The House competition was again closely contested with Ruthven knocking out Freeland and Simpson going down to Nicol in

the semi finals. Ruthven were eventual winners 6-3 against Nicol, their eighth successive win in this particular competition.

The final match for the team was against the 'might' of the Common Room. Once again there were girls in the pupil team yet alas that did them no favours with the final score being 5-4 to the Staff Common Room.

Regular team members included the following:

**Andreas Corbett**

**David Mather**

**Harry Workman**

**Alasdair Cameron**

**Jamie Morisson**

**Andrew Carmichael**

**Steve Turnbull**

**James Balfour**

We said good bye to three Upper Sixth boys in the team. I thank them for their contributions to the team over the year and wish them well in their future studies. To those returning in 2005 we will have our work cut out to build a successful team. To the coaching team of Tommy Ogilvie and Peter Derbyshire I say thanks and thank you to Gavin Batterham for his help and support during the term. We hope to keep tennis alive during the autumn term playing at Kinnoul Tennis Club and thus look forward to a good season in 2005/06.

**AW**







**FIRSTLY, LET ME SAY THAT IT WAS AN HONOUR TO BE APPOINTED CAPTAIN OF THE SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM FOR THE YEAR 2004 -2005.**

In the main, the team played to a high standard and in competitions, locally and further afield, gained many victories. Especially worthwhile was our participation in the Perth League every Wednesday against mainly adult opponents and from which we gained much experience.

Strathallan continued its unbeaten run in the Independent Schools Cup and entered the Scottish Schools Cup Championship for the first time. We won a few games and we saw many scenic views of various parts of Scotland, but the Firsts didn't manage to get to the Quarter Finals.

Three players were selected for the Perth & Kinross Under 18 District Squad this season and were involved in several tournaments, winning several medallions. Jean Jardine and Erin Morison were awarded full colours and Caroline Melloy half colours and we all felt a great deal of pride

The Seconds put in an excellent performance, also enjoying a successful year playing in the Scottish Schools Cup. The team has great potential and this was most apparent when they reached the semi-finals, losing to St Margaret's in Aberdeen the first day back after the long, Easter break. They showed great enthusiasm, spirit and determination this season.

I am also happy to report that the younger players showed a high level of commitment to the game with several gaining District recognition. They have talent in abundance and are to be congratulated on the year's achievements.

As I write this, the First and Second team are looking forward to an exciting tour of Barbados, where matches are expected to be of a high standard. We hope to acquit ourselves well and to keep up the good name of the school, whilst at the same time enjoying the sun, sand and shopping [just like Perth on a Saturday afternoon!]

I would also like to thank Mrs Ingram-Forde who has worked tremendously hard on behalf of the team since taking over from Mrs Tod with the extra task of organising the tour to Barbados. She has been an outstanding coach and a good friend to everyone in the team and we have really appreciated her efforts.

Miss Laurie also deserves credit for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Seconds and we look forward to her company during the Barbados adventure.

I am leaving the Strathallan Netball team in good hands and I am confident that they will enjoy continued success in the years ahead. I wish everyone associated with the sport all the best.

**Erin Morison**

Captain 2004 - 2005

# NETBALL REPORT

## 2004 - 2005







# EQUESTRIANISM

## KILGRASTON SCOTTISH SCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

On 24th April Strathallan entered two teams in this annual event held at the Gleneagles Equestrian Centre. All the team members performed really well and these results are the best yet for Strathallan.

Both classes had 13 teams and 50 competitors. The results were as follows:

### Class 1 : Senior (Open) Team.

Our riders were :

**Alice Page** riding *Purple Oscar*

**Harriet Page** riding *Gissings Gordon*

**Olivia Streatfeild-James** riding *Morning Star*

**Helen Summersgill** riding *Robin's Quest*

All the riders had a great day with memorable performances from everyone. Alice got the best dressage result, coming 2nd in her arena and 5th overall. Helen got the best showjumping result by completing a fast double clear round which placed her 5th. Harriet and Olivia gained commendable results in both dressage and showjumping, and all the riders' scores contributed to the final placings which were :

<b>Dressage</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Overall</b> (Dressage and Showjumping combined)	<b>4th</b>

### Class 2 : Intermediate Team

Our riders were :

**Steph Lyon** riding *Fionn Star*

**Fergus Baird** riding *Waffle*

**Heather Larson** riding *Kiltinane Henry*

**Katie Battison** riding *Danny*

The intermediate team performed well and all the riders should feel pleased with the results they achieved. Steph was the first rider to

compete in the whole of the showjumping section and she completed a fantastic double clear round which placed her in the lead. Unfortunately her fast time was beaten by only fractions of a second by two other riders right at the end of the competition. This was a cruel blow, but her 3rd place score is a great achievement – well done!

Fergus rode very well in the dressage phase to get the best dressage score for the team. Katie and Heather performed successfully in the dressage phase and completed lovely clear rounds in the showjumping. The results were :

<b>Dressage</b>	<b>8th</b>
<b>Overall</b> (Dressage and Showjumping combined)	<b>8th</b>

## General news and results

The Strathallan Teams have some talented riders who have achieved a number of notable successes in competitions all over the U.K. this year.

### Dressage

Alice has completed another excellent year in dressage. She has ridden regularly for Scotland and achieved tremendous results in top class competitions. She was part of the Scotland U21 team that competed in an International in Ireland in which Scotland won team silver. Alice was reserve Elementary Champion at the same event. She has also competed for Scotland in the British Dressage National U21 Championships, where Scotland won the silver medal again. In the Scottish Championships she was Reserve Best of Scotland Champion, and she has also qualified for the British Dressage Winter National Championships and the Regional Championships.

### Cross-country

Congratulations go to Steph who qualified for the 1m ( 3'3") class of the B.H.S. championships held in Derbyshire. Steph, Olivia, Katie and Helen were all placed in cross-country events this year. Cara Duncan has completed a successful season and been placed at several Hunter Trials this year.



**ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS PERFORMED REALLY WELL AND THESE RESULTS ARE THE BEST YET FOR STRATHALLAN.**



### Showjumping

Helen had a great start to the year by clearing 1.5m (4'11") in a puissance at Dabbs Equestrian Centre to win the class she narrowly lost last year. She has performed well over B.S.J.A. courses and has achieved several first placings, including beating a field of 45 riders to win the Newcomers class at the Scottish Home Pony International. She qualified for the Pony Club British Championships held in Sansaw, both as an individual and as a team member for Fife Hunt Pony Club, and she qualified for the B.S.J.A. Scope Festival of Showjumping in Staffordshire. The two long trips South were an exciting experience, and the highlight was achieving 7th place, out of 150, in a class at the Scope Festival.

### Eventing

Steph and Heather have gained commendable results in eventing at Pony Club "Interbranch" level. They both achieved 3rd places in the One Day Event at Area 1 Interbranch held at Burgie, and Steph has successfully completed her first British Eventing O.D.E. course. Katie competed at Burgie too as a member of the Argyll Pony Club team.

### Showing

Heather must be congratulated for a superb set of results in showing classes this year. She qualified for the Horse Of The Year Show, and The Royal International Show at Hickstead in which she was 4th. She was 1st and Champion at the Ponies UK Championships at Newark, and 1st in the Working Hunter Pony at the B.S.P.S. Championships at Peterborough. She gained a 3rd place out of 30 in the Desert Orchid Nursery Stakes at Peterborough – a real achievement since only 8 ponies got round the course. Heather is one of Strathallan's youngest riders and her performances throughout the year, particularly in the Scottish Schools competition, have been fantastic.

Olivia has achieved success in the showing arena too, by gaining two second places at classes in the Perth Show.

JAS.

### Horse riding

**STRATHALLAN RIDING GROUPS HAVE BEEN ATTENDING GLENEAGLES EQUESTRIAN CENTRE THIS YEAR. WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED LESSONS IN GENERAL HORSEMANSHIP, DRESSAGE AND JUMPING. WITH GROUPS RANGING FROM BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED LEVEL, THIS PROVED TO BE A CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN ALL LEVELS WERE PRESENT IN EACH GROUP.**

Our instructors gave varied lessons each week to help our riders improve at their own rate. The main topic of conversation each week was "what did Guinness try to do"?

Guinness is a very clever highland pony with a good memory and a devious nature. If he was "in that frame of mind", he would either do nothing at all or try all sorts of tricks to avoid doing what was asked of him. One favourite trick is to canter on the wrong leg because he knows that he will be pulled back to trot. If the rider knows this trick, she will keep him cantering, which he doesn't like. He will then store this information, work well for the next few minutes, then when he thinks the rider has relaxed, will slam on the brakes when least expected and deposit said rider on the ground. I am sure he feels that this is a good game.

One or two riders have taken the quick way off his back while others have managed to stay on. This really annoys him.

Guinness apart there have been very few mishaps, with those which did happen, resulting more in damaged pride than anything else.

JSRH

**GUINNESS IS A VERY CLEVER HIGHLAND PONY WITH A GOOD MEMORY AND A DEVOUS NATURE.**





# 64 CLAY PIGEON REPORT

## CLA Game Fair at Blenheim Palace

Having finished fourth in the British Schools Competition in May, Strathallan had been invited to the "Champions of Champions" shoot-off where the top four school teams in the country were going to shoot against each other over a compact sporting event designed by the famous John Bidwell. The other schools involved were Kimbolton, Rugby & Millfield.

We set off early to try and beat the traffic, finally arriving at about 9am for a 10am start. Determined to put the poor shooting of the day before behind us, we headed for the compact stand and all shot well, Alan Garratt our first reserve shooting particularly well! We then waited nervously for our names to be called. The team were focused and most were deep in thought, thinking about all that Iain had said to them in the training sessions at Cluny Clays. At 10:15 we headed for the grandstand to find that the Rugby team were short on numbers and thus failed to make it through the initial round. Strathallan won through to the final against Millfield, having edged Kimbolton in the early knock-out round.

The final shoot-off (the format of which was changed at the last minute due to time constraints and waiting celebrities. Would you keep Vinnie Jones waiting?! Well, would you?) finished with only one sequence of the stand for each team. Going into the final set of targets the teams were all square but Millfield just held their nerve and edged us out by a mere two clays. The team, resplendent in their kilts and specially-commissioned shooting vests, sponsored by Victor Chandler and Cluny Clays certainly won the style contest and were watched by a stand full of parents, visitors and celebrities (including the aforementioned Mr. Jones, George Digweed and Carl Bloxam).

The boys had acquitted themselves very well and although slightly disappointed by not achieving first place the team can be very proud of themselves, especially as all the boys are back next year and two of

the team, Fraser and Rory, were only 13 years old. As they had been shooting against boys aged 17 or 18 who were leaving school this year it is doubly impressive!

## Scottish Schools' & Young Shots Championship 26th Sept 2004

The winter term started with the now annual scramble to prepare the teams for the Scottish Schools' Championship at Cluny Clays. Benno Rawlinson returned, in his case as captain, as did many of the team who had performed so well at both the British Championships and the CLA invitation shoot, the school having finished 4th in the former and 2nd in the latter.

The event was originally the brainchild of Donnie Allan when he was at Castlandhills near Rosyth, but when he departed for Stirlingshire he handed the reins to Paul Vallot. The event was somewhat nomadic for 3 years before settling at Cluny Clays near Kirkcaldy, where Robin and Drew Sheddon agreed to host. Over the last four years Cluny have given their full support with Stephen and Lucy setting testing and well-balanced targets for all levels of shooter.

Over the years the competition has attracted schools, clubs and individuals from all around Scotland, including Kimbolton and Millfield schools from England, who enter as guests.

Despite the lack of sunshine and a strong, blustery wind that kept all competitors on their toes, this year's Scottish Schools' & Young Shots Championship attracted the biggest field ever. Cluny Clays along with the SCTA (Scottish Clay Target Association) have agreed to take on the running of the event and it is to be held on the last weekend in September each year.



## WOULD YOU KEEP VINNIE JONES WAITING?! WELL, WOULD YOU?



The eventual selection of the senior teams was disrupted by the injuries sustained in the previous two rugby fixtures, our captain Benno Rawlinson was out with a broken collar bone and Ashley Paledi had a fracture of the knuckle bones. We also almost lost Fraser Rawlinson with an eye injury.

In Benno's absence Keith Brown captained, Alan Garratt and Matthew Smith making up the 'A' team. They were experienced and on the day this proved to be the deciding factor, as they won the overall competition scoring 105/150, Keith scoring 38/50. The fact that this turned the tables on Millfield who had beaten us by two clays in the CLA gamefair was especially gratifying.

Our 'B' (Moritz Dapprich, Struan Gordon, Nick Millar) and our 'C' team (Rory Gibson, Fraser Rawlinson, Robert Jardine). All shot well and both teams tied with Loretto 'A' for tied place behind Merchiston 'A'.

The Riley team, Jamie Schofield, Johnny McCashin and Hamish Mitchell had real competition this year with 4 teams from Ardreck and one from Lathallan and Heriots. They were a young and inexperienced team and thus their finishing place of 4th was all the more creditable.

For the first time we entered a girls' team into the tournament. As Millfield had brought an experienced girls' team all the way north it was the least we could do.

Danina Ferry, Daniela Velásquez, Cara Duncan and Becky Taylor had only started shooting this term and were very inexperienced. Their shooting improved throughout the day and ended with their all scoring well on the last stand, Becky getting a creditable 5/6! As a result they more than deserved their runners-up medals.

The British National Championship held in Bedfordshire again was always going to be a steep learning curve for the young team, but the A team (Benno, Fraser, Keith, Matthew, Allan, and Rory) acquitted themselves reasonably well finishing 5th overall out of over 30 senior

school entries. Keith Brown shot very well with 43/50 and finished runner-up in the High Gun Competition. The B team too finished well up the table at 6th out of over 40 entries.

As we continue to develop the sport all the club members sat and passed a SCTA Safety Officers' Course run by Iain McGregor of the SCTA.

The House Match proved to be a close fought affair, with the Nicol team of Benno, Fraser (Rawlinson) and Alan Garratt coming out on top pipping Ruthven by six clays.

Benno won the "Grant Davidson Skeet Challenge Trophy" for the best score in skeet by a pupil of 24/25, while the OS team beat the school for the first time in many attempts during the Strathallian Day shoot. The OS team of Laurie Court (R), Ben Kass(N) and Nick Schneeberger won the match by only a couple of clays, so well done the OS team.

Would you keep Vinnie Jones waiting?! Well, would you?  
PMV

### .22 shooting

The .22 Shooting Club had an excellent season last year under the guidance of new coach, Mr Bill Long. The Strathallian team of Suzy Braithwaite, Kirsty Glasgow, Sara Lundgren, Jamie Schofield, Sam Lipworth and Francesca Fraser won Division 4 of the U14 League. They were presented with the Spicer Bowl in May for their achievements. Suzy and Sara were joint winners of the Individual aggregate competition, both recording scores of 289/300.

The senior team of Tom Gordon, Keith Brown, Suzy Braithwaite, Alistair Melville and Malcolm MacDonald were also medal winners in the British Schools League. The Shooting Club is definitely going from strength to strength and it is encouraging to see so many of the Junior School attending the training on a weekly basis.

AS



# 66 FLY FISHING

INSTRUCTION DOES NOT COME FROM A VOICE FROM WITHOUT BUT FROM WITHIN



WE HAD AN EVENING'S FISHING ON HEATHERYFORD IN SEPTEMBER. IT WAS A VERY WILD NIGHT; A NIGHT DURING WHICH FOUR INCHES OF RAIN FELL ON THE ISLAND OF SKYE. IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT WITH THAT KIND OF LOW SYSTEM AROUND, NOT A FISH WAS SEEN TO RISE, LET ALONE BE CAUGHT. AS WE RETURNED IN THE BUS, I MUTTERED SOMETHING ABOUT BEING SORRY THAT THE EXPEDITION HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. FROM THE BACK OF THE BUS A VOICE CHIMED OUT, WITH THE WORDS, "WELL, THAT'S FISHING, ISN'T IT?".

That statement suggested that an important lesson had been learned – that a fishing expedition was not to be reckoned in terms of fish caught. In fact it is far better measured in terms of lessons learned and experiences undergone. These lessons have



nothing to do with teachers or classrooms and the instruction does not come from a voice from without but from within. The setting for most of our fishing trips was Frandy, high on moorland in Glen Devon and closer to the noise of sheep and curlews than the racket of motors and motorways. It was on Frandy that the last heat of this year's inter-House competition was fished and, before a line had hit the water, Ruthven and Simpson were joint leaders. Kit Hayward, Keith Brown and Jono Becks had fished hard and had managed a good basket or two even on the night when we had tackled a very dour Loch Glow. The Simpson team of Charles Harrison, Robert McMorris and Robert Cooke had kept pace – largely thanks to Charlie's efforts. When I saw Charlie with a blank late on during that final evening, I felt sure that Ruthven would win. I hadn't, though, counted on the dark horse of the Simpson team – the mad Irishman. Somehow, somewhere, he had tied on a Leprechaun lure (an all-green monstrosity that had been popular in the 1970s) and had cleaned up. Having caught his limit – including a good fish of 4½lbs – he had lent the lure to McMorris who had also managed a limit. Simpson had won hands down and Leprechauns triumphant.

Another team had also made an impression upon me. Although only Cara Duncan and Pamela Garrett had fished for Woodlands, they had succeeded in coming third. Determination typified their efforts as they often spent the entire 4-5 hours of an evening's fishing waist-deep in their tracksuits on the edge of Frandy's drop-offs and ledges.

To prepare for these competition evenings we had spent many Friday evenings in English 4 tying a variety of patterns. What made the whole thing so pleasing was that Robert had tied his Leprechaun himself and it had been one of the first patterns he had tied. Well, I guess that's what being Irish does for you!

**Many thanks to:**

**The Bursar** – who ties flies with us, breaks Hardy rods for a hobby and teaches us how to fish a damsel on an 18 foot leader.

**Jeff Goddard** – who comes to help on our competition nights.

**Frandy Fisheries** – who give our pupils such really good value for their fishing.

**Graeme Robertson** – our apprentice wizard.  
CNC





# SAILING <sup>67</sup> REPORT 2005



**THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SPEND GAMES  
AFTERNOONS IN THE SUMMER TERM**

After the full complement of sailors in last year's season, the bus felt a little roomier this time around with nine aboard. We retained the diehards – JC “Kan I have my Kolours, Sir? Hashagen, Peter Watson, Piers Ranger, Lawrie Quibell, and we welcomed Rachel Scott, Felix Luttge and Kirsty Niven along with – briefly – Rachel Ennis and the inimitable Sarah McCusker. Some things do not change, however: last year the Forth Road Bridge was being re-surfaced at weekends, this year they have decided to inspect the main cables. The result was an ever-present threat of serious delays on Saturdays, never much fun given the amount of travelling time involved even when there is a clear run.

With almost all of the participants taking public exams at some point in the term, it was relatively rare to have everyone at a session, and there was a certain lack of momentum at times. On the other hand, the weather was kind to the sun-lovers – often to the detriment of the wind. Weekdays saw the “serious” sailing instruction, with the majority of sailors either learning to race or improving on their existing skills, whereas the weekends brought a more relaxed approach and allowed the catamaran enthusiasts free rein, and JC to capsize his

favourite boat, the Topper Buzz. Rachel Scott, our only beginner, studied hard and was rewarded with her Level 2 Dinghy certificate in the last session of term.

The Scottish CCF regatta did not take place this year – I am still not entirely sure why not – but we did send a team to Portsmouth as usual to compete in the National event, something which achieved the unlikely feat of coaxing JC into the uniform of an RN cadet. The stories he tells of his experiences on HMS Bristol are hair-raising. Also competing were Peter Watson and Oliver Corlett. They had an interesting competition, JC and Peter sailing in the Bosun class with some verve.

I hope that there are some more potential sailors around; this is a great way to spend games afternoons in the summer term and for what is on offer, the price is extremely competitive. (apologies for advertising). We could do with some new faces. Thanks to the Port Edgar Sailing School instructors for their input and their inimitable good humour, and also to Jan-Christian for his help as Captain of Sailing.

AS-J





# SQUASH



## Squash feat: Andrew Marshall

Squash has been a growing sport at Strathallan this year. More and more pupils and staff have been using the courts in the evenings and there has been a request for an inter-House competition which will, I hope, be introduced next year.

A group of Riley pupils have been coached throughout the year by Mrs Marshall and are making excellent progress.

Andrew Marshall (Ruthven IV Form) continues to excel in the sport and in August 2004, he was ranked the 7th best player in Scotland in the Under 15 Boys age group.

Andrew played in a number of domestic tournaments: East of Scotland, West of Scotland, Grampian, Central, Newlands and the Scottish National Championship at the Centre for Squash at Heriot Watt University. He managed consistently to beat the three players ranked above him and he finished the U15 age group ranked No. 4 in Scotland. He also played in the Scottish Open competition, which included competitors from Thailand, Pakistan, New Zealand, Australia amongst others, and went down to Manchester (during Easter half term) to play in the British Closed competition in which he reached the 2nd round. When Andrew moved up to the U17 age group he finished 9th in the Tayside Open, 4th in the Heriot Watt Junior Open and in April he won the East of Scotland Boys U17 and was 2nd in the U19 event. He is currently ranked the 6th best player in Scotland in U17 boys. Andrew also represented the Scottish Midlands region in the Scottish inter-regional event and is currently the No.1 ranked player in the Tayside U17 Boys. He is also gaining valuable experience playing for Kinross Squash Club (Adults) in the Fife leagues on Thursday evenings. Andrew began playing for Kinross at No. 5 and now plays at No.1.

Alan Marshall

**SQUASH HAS BEEN A GROWING SPORT AT STRATHALLAN THIS YEAR.**

# ROUNDERS



**THE ANTICIPATION OF A SOMMER TERM GAMES AFTERNOONS SPENT PLAYING A GENTLE GAME OF ROUNDERS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT KEEPS US GOING THROUGH THE ICY BLASTS OF THE WINTER TERM.**

All the girls from 1J to 4th Form play Rounders at least one afternoon a week and the sport can be taken as a games option from 5th Form onwards.

Riley has a busy fixture list competing with the local prep schools but in the senior school we are one of only four schools who compete at this level.

Such is the popularity of Rounders that under the co-ordination of Mrs Sandra Fleming, (Housemistress of Thornbank House) all the participating schools have got together and formed Scottish Rounders. In the previous six years Strathallan has hosted an international competition fielding up to eight Scottish teams, including a boys' team, to play against England and Wales.

In 2004 we took a Scottish U14 Rounders team to compete in an international tournament held at Clifton College Bristol where they found themselves sharing accommodation with the team from the Isle of Man.

This year Strathallan is hosting the International Tournament on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June.

SF

**SUCH IS THE POPULARITY OF ROUNDERS THAT ALL THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS HAVE GOT TOGETHER AND FORMED SCOTTISH ROUNDERS.**





# FREELAND HOUSE

THE PLACE IS IN EVERY  
RESPECT SUITED FOR  
THE RESIDENCE OF A  
FAMILY OF WEALTH  
AND DISTINCTION

## Freeland House

The first reference to a Freeland in Forgandenny was made in 1500, and suggests that part of the land had been granted a suspension of teinds in lieu of payment to a local official. Freeland was synonymous with the lands of Bercleysheuch, site of the original homestead of the Barclays of Forgandenny who settled in the late twelfth century, and a fortalice was built later on the lands of Coventry, which were contiguous with Bercleysheuch. Thomas Oliphant took a 19 year lease of the lands in 1544, and was probably the builder of the first fortalice named Freeland on a site just south east of the present building. In 1563, Alexander Ruthven, the younger son of William 2nd Lord Ruthven, received a longer lease of the lands of Coventrie with houses, tower, orchard, fortalice and manor place of Freeland. It is not known exactly when the later tower house and wing with a turnpike stairway was built to the north west of the old fortalice, but it served as home for six generations of Ruthvens through the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It would be likely that rebuilding and alteration over that time, ordered by the third Lord Ruthven prior to his marriage to Janet Nisbett, created the building mentioned in 1733 by the architect John Douglas.

### 1733 Contract James Ruthven and John Douglas, Architect.

*To pull down the old wing on the middle of the north side of the House of Freeland and to double the said house to the north side where the wing is to be taken away the full length of the present House of Freeland and 18' wide within the walls and three storys high - The first story to sink underground for offices, the second to be of the same level as floor within the first story of the present house of Freeland where the drawing room and Dining room presently are and of the same height. The third uppermost story to be a foot and a half higher walls than the uppermost story of the present house of Freeland if the walls will allow and to put a good and sufficient roof upon the said new building and a little flatter than the roof of the present house s as the two roofs be level at the top notwithstanding of the ods of the height of the walls.*

*To be good stone work with plain hewn doors, windows and corners and chimney heads with 5 pairs of concave jams and hearths finely polished and the make good and sufficient vents so as not to smoke and to make said roof of good and sufficient redwood sawn out of logs and well sarkt and slated with slate from Drummahoun quarry and the old roof and new to be joined with a lead gutter and to divide the same in offices, rooms, closets and stairs, etc.*

*The sunk story to be plaistered. 2nd story the Dining room to have fine doubled flooring and to be all boxed with fine redwood quarter round and raised panelling. The stairs of stone well polished and the nursery to be floored as the uppermost story of good common flooring and boxed all round.*

*2 new doors on the passages from the new building to the old and all the windows of the second and third storys to be made of two inch thick wanscoat and crown glass, the first story to be of inch and half wanscoat and good common glass and to alter the positions of the old house.*

*100 pounds sterling betwixt the 1st July next to come and the like sum of one hundred pounds at the term of martinmas thereafter and the sum of £125 17/- at the term of Whitsunday - and to furnish John Douglas with the horses to carry the stone, lime, timber and slates and to quarry the stone. To furnish workmen upon Lord Ruthven's charge. To rid the ground for the sunk story of the new building.*

*The Drawing room to be in the old house where the dining room is at present - both to be boxed the same. Lord R's dressing room and his Lady's woman's room in the uppermost story of the new building remain unfinished at his option.*

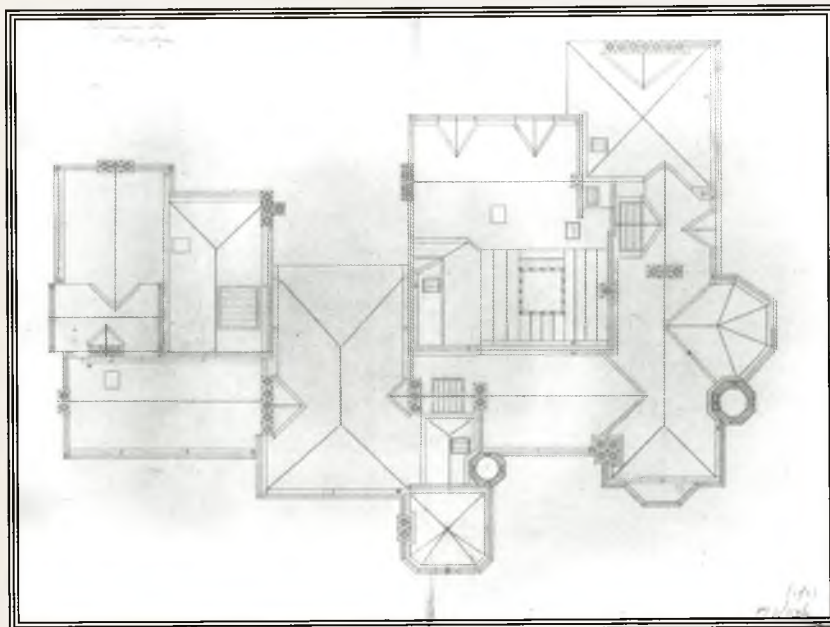
witnesses

Henry Balfour Esq of Dunbog

Tomas Morison, servant to Lord R

On 14th March 1750, a fire destroyed a major part of the house, and burned essential belongings including all the estate papers and family patents. How much of the fabric was destroyed is not really known, but the property became habitable soon afterwards as Lord Ruthven was there organising the payment of bills, associated with the linen manufacture and bleaching at Brigend in Forteviot, and the number of servants had increased - a matter that caused considerable distress to the session. In 1753, Edward Rutherford paid out one thousand and eighty pounds for repairs to Freeland House out of the balance of the rents of the estate, so we know that the initial fire did not completely destroy the original house. An incident between servants, which came before the session in March 1756, indicates that the kitchens of Freeland House were back in operation, and Lord and Lady Ruthven were in residence. From later reports that one of the wings was never rebuilt, we can deduce that an older part of the house was destroyed, which included an east wing. The house was not completely rebuilt until after the enclosure of the estate, which occurred from 1760. The survey map survey of 1774 shows three buildings at the Freeland





Collingwood Lindsay Wood 1830 – 1906

mansion. One was the old mansion running east-west, and the second was a wing to the south on the west end of the building; both these structures were later incorporated into the present mansion. The third building was another wing on the east end which was shown unattached to the main building, and may be part of the wing that was reported as being still incomplete when it was demolished in the 1820s.

Construction on the estate must have continued for some time as John Fisher was still the building foreman in 1779; Patrick Robertson was still resident at Freeland as mason to Lord Ruthven in 1777, and Laurence Oliphant, the mason at Clerkhill, was paid in 1784 for laying a pavement round the house so far as completed. A sum of about five hundred pounds was paid out in 1770 for the stables built by the West Belling Park, and occupied by Lord Ruthven's stable manager, James Young, and the coachman, William Archibald from early 1769. An inventory of the stables made in 1790 indicated a modest structure:

2 coach horses	£20
2 mares at Freeland	£21
1 foal	£7/7
1 Quoy - three years old	£3/13
a cow	£3
a stack of hay	£2/2
a chaise and harness	£16
Arms	£14
Apparel	£20
2 watches and seals	£8/8
2 saddle horses	£25
horse furniture	£6/6

The 1774 survey map also shows the existence of a steading on Freeland at the end of the village road north of the gardens and west of the new beech avenue, which may actually be the porter's lodge known as Westgate, or Freeland West Lodge, formed from the old Mid-Mains of Freeland. 'Though the existence of the roadways to the house is known from the maps, the other porter's lodge, named Eastgate, which stood at the point where the estate road met the new Dunbarney road, is only known about through the occupant. In February 1783, John Kettle, a Yorkshire estate worker who was

brought north eight years earlier with his son, John, by Lord Ruthven to administrate the estate forestry improvements, had completed the eight year residency qualification for application to the poor roll. It was mentioned that John Kettle had been at the Freeland East Lodge since its construction, and had got married, for a second time, to a local girl, Jean Ritchie. This information would imply that the lodge had been built after the survey for Stobie's map and before February 1783.

A description written in 1787 states

*The house of Freeland consists of a body and one wing, the other being not yet built. Its architecture is simple but elegant. Immediately behind the house is a piece of ground somewhat like a crescent, which receives the house into its bosom, and shelters it from the north with a sort of copse consisting of fruit trees, tall yews, variegated hollies, and flowering shrubs. The middle of this spot is an orchard resembling the section of a circle, and divided into four parts by grass walks, which run from the back of the house as their center, and are a sort of radii to the crescent. Each of these divisions is forced with a hedge of beech or thorn mixed with sweet briar, and flowering shrubs and entwined with honeysuckle.*

Lord Ruthven had every intention of completing the mansion house at Freeland, and employed the architect Edward Blore to draw up designs. Blore's notions, like those of a Tudor mansion for Sir David Moncrieffe by his contemporary William Burn, were never implemented. There is no evidence that Blore ever saw any of his ideas in practice at Freeland, but at least William Burn had the pleasure of erecting the southeast lodge at Moncrieffe in Tudor Gothic style, while some small changes were made to the mansion house. William Burn's association with the area began with his father Robert whose architectural plan for the Belsches of Invermay was, similarly, never implemented. William had been a pupil of Robert Smirke who was in the process of completing Kinfauns Castle at this time. In 1823, William was asked to design the Palace Block for the new Main Street at Bridge of Earn, which had been designated the new turnpike road in April when twenty three plots on the west side and thirty six plots on the junction between the old road and the Kilgraston road were allocated for sale from the Moncrieffe estate. The sale was at Seaton's Inn in May, and that winter Sir David Moncrieffe bought the old bridge for twenty-five shillings. William Burn's greatest feat at this time was the design for a new church at Kinnoul for Lord Kinnoul which was exhibited in Perth in September 1824, spectacularly





Freeland House

coinciding with the lighting of the Perth gaslights for the first time. This must have attracted considerable interest as he became the sole architect for Lord Kinnoul, extended Pitfour Castle for the Richardsons, and was the architect for the new Murray Royal Hospital. While this was being built, he created designs and directed the construction of the extension of old Duncrub House for Lord Rollo, built Pitcairns House at Dunning for John Pitcairn, completed the reconstruction of Fettercairn House for Lord Ruthven's cousin Sir William Forbes, and build a new mansion at Dupplin following the devastating fire on 20th September 1827; building work at Dupplin started on 2nd November 1827. Burn's pupil Andrew Heiton continued working in the area for many years with his son, Andrew.

In a letter from Perth to his sister dated May 31st 1827, Lord Ruthven laid out his intention *to make alterations and additions to the manor house by inclosing, planting, draining, erecting farm houses and offices in outbuildings for the estate, and also building new offices and stables and other necessary erections suitable to the mansion house.* The architect William Burn had just completed the new house at Fettercairn for Lord Ruthven's cousin, Sir William Forbes. The clerk of works appointed by William Burn was William Buchanan, who started work on the site at the end of the summer,

but a Mr. Richardson was in charge of the main stonework under the supervision of William Brown before then, and they were finishing the stairs at the beginning of August – the stone all came from *Jacksteers Quarry*. William Buchanan supervised a very large labour force, costing around a hundred and fifty pounds a month, from the start of September to the beginning of December when the two-storey west wing with the bedrooms was completed. On 2nd October 1827, Lord Ruthven wrote from Tunbridge Wells to William Buchanan about the plans for the windows of the new building and those that were being put into the drawing and dining rooms of the old building on the north side. He mentioned that *he has agreed with William Burn to put a skylight in the roof to light the lobby.* William Burn was supervising at the site himself from late in December, when he reported that *most of the internal flooring has been completed*, until the end of January 1828. The new construction was on the south side of the building and folded round the old house on three sides. The ground floor remained as servants' quarters and offices, and a new south entrance and stairway opened onto the lobby on the first floor. A photograph, taken before the later additions around 1880, shows the final effect as a sprawl of buildings with high chimneys and towers flanked by two extensions to the south, while the west wing was an extension to the old house nestling in the middle.





All the glazing was completed at Freeland on 19th May 1828 after two days again under the supervision of William Burn. Lord Ruthven wrote from London on the 19th May that *William Burn had agreed to oversee the work at Freeland and look over the estimates*. There had been some dispute about Buchanan's supervision at Freeland, as he was also working at Dupplin, and there were problems with raising the water height for the new building following the start of the plumbing. Most slating had been completed by 31st May, although some work by James Laurence continued until January 1829. Bell-hanging was finished by 23rd September and the plumbing completed during October. Lord Ruthven visited the site on the 12th December 1828 and agreed that his own man, Peter Morrison, should be overseer with the co-operation of James Nicol who had to come from building work at Hamilton to replace William Buchanan while he was occupied at Dupplin. The next two years were spent in plastering and painting: each room had an extravagant ceiling and the lobby was given special favour. It wasn't until the autumn of 1829 that John Fraser painted the skylight and the front and west windows, while James Annan completed the plastering in the dining room, drawing room and a new library in the south-east extension. It wasn't until the 14th of November 1831 that William Burn considered the work complete and passed control to Robert Murray. Murray supervised the completion all the internal wood panelling, and iron work such as fire grates and door locks. The balcony on the east end was completed by January 4th 1832, some five years after work had begun, but the covers and pavements around the house were only completed by James Cairns in 1835. The stable, courtyard and offices at Freeland were completed according to the designs by July 3rd 1830. William Burn may have designed the buildings, but left the supervision and changes to William Mackenzie, the Perth city architect, who used Peter Morrison

to supervise the whole project and James Thomson of Pitfour to do the masonry work. This was because the plans were changed a lot during construction to concentrate on the new stables, while the proposed pig houses, slaughterhouse and byre court were removed. New houses were built for the coachman, the groom and the shepherd, but the laundry and dairy were adapted from the former washhouses with specific instructions *not to use ashlar from the old gate pillars*. However, further changes followed in October 1831 so it wasn't until March 29th 1832 that Robert Murray finished the necessary woodworking for the creation of Freeland New Stables. An icehouse was built, on the slope to the north of the mansion, and provisioned by Alexander Gow, the innkeeper in the village; filling the icehouse took four men just one day.

The parishioners were finally made aware that the Freeland estate was for sale when the advertisement appeared in the Scotsman on 3rd September 1873, *subject to the sanction of the court if a suitable offer be made*. The two and a half thousand acre estate was advertised with a Mansion House *rebuilt about forty five years ago on plans by the late Mr. Burn. It is in the Elizabethan style, and of peculiarly pleasing design; it is beautifully situated on the banks of the Earn, surrounded by extensive policies and Woods. The Gardens are extensive, the Offices large and commodious, and the place is in every respect suited for the Residence of a family of wealth and distinction. It is not often that an estate in so eligible a neighbourhood, so conveniently situated, and with so many residential attractions, is offered for sale. In terms of the statute under which it is proposed to sell the Estate, it can be disposed of by Private Bargain only*. The sale was in the hands of Messrs Lindsay, Jamieson and Haldane, Accountants, while the estate could be viewed by appointment with Messrs Mackenzie and Dickson, Solicitors, Perth.





The estate was sold in its entirety by Walter Lord Ruthven to Collingwood Lindsay Wood of Hawlish Hall, Durham, who had taken a temporary lease of Urrard House. The deed of disposition was made on 15th May 1874. By April 1876, the mansion house had been extended with a new bedroom wing, a north entrance and a chapel. The loan to cover the improvements on the Ruthven estate was given sasine in 1882 on security of £10,000 by Collingwood Lindsay Wood of Hawlish Hall, Durham, to the Standard Life Assurance Company.

The Freeland estate was purchased by Edwin Martin Stewart of the Carntyne Steel works in 1917, who may have intended living at the mansion later, but was broken up for sale soon after and the policies, including the mansion house were purchased in 1920 by Harry Riley of Strathallan School, Bridge of Allan, as new premises for his expanding school.

**GRMR**

<sup>1</sup> Edward Blore was one of the best known architects of the time. He designed many churches and mansions in England, as well as major buildings in Ireland, Russia and Australia. In 1830 he became the royal architect for William IV and continued in the position for Queen Victoria. His best known constructions were at Buckingham Palace, when he replaced John Nash; Stowe, for the Duke of Buckingham, and Lambeth Palace. In 1851, after the completion of Buckingham Palace, Marble Arch was moved by Edward Blore to the northeast corner of Hyde Park at the end of Oxford Street. The only Scottish house that I can find designed by Blore is Corehouse, for the advocate George Cranstoun, in the Elizabethan style, and completed in 1827, but Blore did work with William Burn, who designed the interiors, on Harlaxton Manor, Lincolnshire, in 1838.



James Lord Ruthven 1777 – 1853



# PUPILS DOWN UNDER

**I NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE AND  
CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK AGAIN.**

**OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS I SPENT SEVEN WEEKS IN NEW ZEALAND ON A STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME. I ATTENDED ST ANDREWS COLLEGE IN CHRISTCHURCH AND STAYED WITH A FAMILY WHO MADE ME FEEL REALLY WELCOME.**

Although I was at school for most of my trip I did get to see a lot of New Zealand. I went snowboarding up at Mount Hutt, visited Hanmer Hot springs up in the mountains and got to spend a week in Akaroa, a small but beautiful town just south of Christchurch on the coast with scenery that just took your breath away. The shopping malls in New Zealand were a bonus; they were huge, and I spent far too much money in them!

St Andrews College is an independent school. There I got to try out a wide range of subjects and played a lot of sport including hockey. The pupils and teachers made me feel so welcome; I managed to fit in right away.

At the end of my trip I was lucky enough to travel to Nelson with the 1st XI Girls' hockey team for tournament week. It was a great experience getting the chance to play against people from all over New Zealand.

I would recommend the exchange to anyone as it's the opportunity of a lifetime. New Zealand is an amazing country; I met some brilliant people and made many friends who I will never forget. I never wanted to leave and can't wait to go back again.

**Lauren Giles**

V Form Thornbank

**THIS YEAR I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE PICKED FOR THE EXCHANGE TO ST ANDREWS COLLEGE, CHRISTCHURCH. I LEFT SCOTLAND ON THE 17TH OF JULY AND ARRIVED AT NOON TWO DAYS LATER IN NEW ZEALAND.**

I had a week of holidays before school started which I used to look round Christchurch. It is an incredible city with many things to do day and night. A week later and I started school a little nervous as it had three times as many people as Strath and I only knew three of them. The school was, however, much smaller than Strath grounds and was right in the middle of town which meant we had the freedom to go into Christchurch in our free time. I used this privilege to go to NPC matches, for shopping and seeing some of the sights. I stayed in the boarding house and had many strange and fascinating experiences and would like to thank all the boys in Rutherford house and especially the Housemaster, Mr White. Unfortunately, I also had to attend lessons. Mind you, they did have some less serious subjects, like Media, that I could actually enjoy. One of the reasons I took the exchange was to play rugby and this I did for the Seconds. The standard was fairly high and very physical which resulted in my ending up in hospital with a huge cut above my eye. I collected many more bumps and bruises and eventually had the opportunity to play in the league final which we lost. The weekends were always a highlight and I will hold some great memories from the parties I attended. I also went skiing; another sore but memorable activity. Finally, I would like to recommend this exchange to everyone in the earlier years as it has been an amazing experience and would like to thank Mr Barnes and Mr Giles for setting it up. I'd also like to thank Mr Kennedy for his immense patience in waiting for what has turned out to be a fascinating article and one well worth waiting for.

**Michael Cachia**

Nicol V Form



# ST. ANDREW'S NIGHT 2004

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO SPEND A COLD WINTER'S EVENING THAN GETTING ALL DRESSED UP FOR A LIVELY CEILIDH WITH ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS. THIS YEAR'S ST. ANDREW'S NIGHT WAS YET AGAIN A GREAT SUCCESS AND WENT DOWN A STORM WITH ALL THE UPPER SIXTH.

We spun the night away aided by Mrs. Hamilton's expertise and a band that had everyone's feet tapping all night. The highlight of the evening as usual was a long-wise set for Strip the Willow that ended the evening in style and only bruised a few arms in the process.

Well done to all the boys for managing to scrub up so well. Girls – we always manage to look good! The dinner was yummy and fuelled the night's dancing – thanks go to Mr. Kilpatrick for his free-flowing waitering skills and also to Mme. Balent for her Eightsome Reel antics.

A big "Thank You" to Mrs. Hamilton for organising such a fun night and best of luck for next year!

Tasha Smith and Sam Stark

WE SPUN THE NIGHT AWAY  
AIDED BY MRS. HAMILTON'S  
EXPERTISE AND A BAND  
THAT HAD EVERYONE'S FEET  
TAPPING ALL NIGHT.

## FILM CLUB

EUAN ALLARDYCE  
PRODUCED AN EXCELLENT  
MUSIC VIDEO FOR HIS BAND



RECORDING AND EDITING VIDEO THESE DAYS IS MUCH EASIER AND CHEAPER THAN IT USED TO BE.

Most amateurs now use digital video cameras and transfer the results to computer. It is then a relatively simple matter to trim the various bits of film, rearrange them to suit and, if needed, add various special effects and titles.

This past year, a few pupils in Fifth and Sixth form have been doing just this.

We started with the House Music in October 2004 and finished with the excellent Strathaid concert in the spring of 2005. In between, Stephen Howarth directed and produced an extraordinary film entitled 'Pete' and Euan Allardyce produced an excellent music video for his band. Struan Gordon also directed a film about Moritz Dapprich and the Harris Hawk he kept in the Headmasters garden.

We look forward to another busy year of recording and editing and would welcome any pupils with a similar interest to come and join us. Contact Mr. Goddard, Euan Allardyce (U6) or Struan Gordon (L6) in the first instance. We would especially welcome any new ideas for films that could be made in and around the school.

JG







## RN Section

The Section was saved by the appointment of Mrs. Fiona MacBain to the staff of the Chemistry Department – the now Sub-Lt. MacBain is an experienced yachtswoman, and well qualified to lead the RN Cadets. The Section has benefited from her input this year, and from the support given by Leading Hand Malcolm Fraser, the senior RN Cadet. Training is rich and varied – seamanship, navigation, VHF radio, diesel engine maintenance and First Aid figure as does a good deal of power boating in the summer term. The Section chartered a yacht for Field Day in October 2004, and continues to benefit from the added help and expertise of Captain Walker. The School's 34' motor launch Strathallan has over the course of the year been overhauled and fitted with a reconditioned engine at the Navy's expense, and has relocated from Oban, where it was a well known sight, to Helensburgh – the intention being to make it more accessible for training. The RN Section offers a splendid opportunity for any pupil with an interest in the sea, and is always on the lookout for new recruits.

## Army and RM Recruits Section

We welcomed forty Recruits in September – evenly divided between girls and boys, and representing over half of the year group. The Recruits Section has been an enthusiastic and hard working group, and it is pleasing to report that by the end of the year all members had qualified as Cadets by passing the APC. The Recruits' Exercise in late April showed that they had not only achieved a good level of competence in their military skills, but that their fortitude in the cold and wet is quite exceptional!

## The Royal Marines Troop

The first engagement on the RM Troop's calendar is always the Pringle Trophy competition. This involves a marathon journey to Lympstone in Devon on the first Friday in October, and two days of demanding competition before the return to school after midnight on the Sunday. This year we fielded a good team – Roddy Walker, Sean Murray, Chris Maguire, Digby Legge, Peter Burgess, Robert McCulloch, JJ Chalmers and Oliver Corlett. Thanks are also due to Angus Stephenson who joined the team as Piper. The team achieved good marks in the majority of the different elements of the competition, including the first place in Camouflage and Concealment, and only due to an administrative error were they placed 7th out of 18 (the real placing, given our actual time for the run on Sunday, was 5th).

In September we took in a dozen aspiring ex-Recruits of whom ten have over the course of the year achieved full status as members of the Troop. They include the first girls to achieve this distinction, Katie Potts and Olivia Streatfeild-James.

Training this year has been marked by great enthusiasm (not least from Lieutenant Walmsley); the emphasis as usual has been on military skills and on fitness, which are the bread and butter of this group, and they certainly do work hard. It has been particularly satisfying to see some of the more chaotic members of the Fifth Form shape up and become good Royal Marine cadets – their turn out on Speech Day was a credit to the Troop and almost reduced one proud mother to tears.

The social highlight of the year was again the Royal Marines' Mess Dinner, ably organised by Lt. Walmsley. The guests of honour were Captain and Mrs. Walker, marking Captain Walker's retirement this year as Commanding Officer of the Contingent: Lt. Walmsley spoke at length of Captain Walker's distinguished record of service with the Royal Naval Reserve. Captain Walker replied with his reminiscences of the past glories of the Royal Marines Troop, speaking of amphibious dawn attacks with armed cadets marauding across the Tay, and other such exploits which might not be entirely in keeping with today's climate of risk assessment and safe training, and challenged the present members to equal this.

The outgoing senior members of the Troop deserve special mention: these are cadets who have each completed four years of service in the CCF, and whose contribution has been first class. Roddy Walker, Digby Legge, Sean Murray, Chris Maguire and JJ Chalmers have all gained much from their effort and commitment over the years, and it was fitting to be able to award them each, on behalf of the Royal Marines Youth Training Team, a Certificate of Meritorious Service.

As the year drew to a close, three RM cadets attended the challenging RM Camp at Garelochhead. Rob McCulloch had been dreaming of this for as long as most of us can remember (he was too young last year), and his hard work during the two weeks was amply rewarded when he was given the "Best Cadet" trophy. This accolade was echoed by the young female population of Luss during the second week of the camp. Greg Guthrie also performed well despite suffering from blisters (get some better socks, Greg!). It will not surprise those who know him, that JJ Chalmers' good humour under pressure brought him the prestigious "Commando Spirit" award, last won by a Strathallian (Hugh Mackay) in 2002. These three cadets did a great deal for the



# ROB MCCULLOCH'S HARD WORK DURING THE TWO WEEKS WAS AMPLY REWARDED WHEN HE WAS GIVEN THE "BEST CADET" TROPHY. AN ACCOLADE ECHOED BY THE YOUNG FEMALE POPULATION OF LUSS DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF THE CAMP.



reputation of the School, impressing the directing staff and those from other schools. Royal Marine cadets have also attended a number of special courses this year, ranging from a diving expedition in Malta to amphibious warfare and navigation skills.

We have three recent former pupils actively involved in the Corps: Iain Penrose, formerly of Simpson House, has passed out from CTC Lympstone as a Royal Marine and the Chalmers brothers, David and JJ, have both joined the Royal Marines Reserve in Edinburgh.

## Army Section

The Army Section started the year with a healthy increase in numbers, taking them up to over twenty in total, and Alex Smith and James Lawson, abetted by Stuart Moulds, continued the high level of leadership which prevailed last year. Many thanks to them for their work over their four years apiece; their commitment to the Section has been impressive and I think that they have all gained a great deal from their experience as Cadets.

The Section have again been without an officer to call their own, sadly for the second year in succession, but (as I wrote a year ago!) this situation should be remedied in September when Mr. Rob Hilliard joins us. The senior end of the Section has some strong potential, as shown on last year's Annual Camp, and with our team for the Highland Cadets Tactical Competition very highly rated by the Training Team, it was a bitter disappointment that they were in the end unable to attend owing to injuries. They should have a competitive team for this year, and a good performance would underline the progress made by the Section over the last couple of years.

The Army Section has always been a mixture of those who are really interested in the military side of training, and those who are keen cadets but are more peaceful souls: we should be able to cater for both, since the CCF syllabus offers a wide range of opportunities. This year we were for the first time able to vary the training offered to the Army by including a full First Aid course to the Fifth Form. This was delivered by Mrs. Young of the Red Cross, who bravely took on a dozen of our finest and even managed to coach Tom Coutts to completing the course. In the meanwhile, Sgt. Templeton took the Rambo element to proficiency on the Light Support Weapon, which was perhaps not as constructive but was certainly noisier.

The Fifth Form girls were uncertain at the end of last year, but they not only approached their First Aid course with real enthusiasm, they also showed willing in the military side of their training – those who had been very diffident about their first exercise as Recruits turned out to be seasoned campaigners on Field Day, and all went on to qualify as Cadets over the course of this year.

Field Day was held at Barry Buddon in October, and a successful night exercise for the Army and RM combined was conducted – without the support of any professionals from the respective Training Teams, unfortunately, which meant that the Recruits were sold a bit short, missing their run on the excellent obstacle course which normally forms the highlight of their day out.

The BTEC award is common to all three sections of the Contingent, and has continued to develop slowly: James Lawson and David Burgess have achieved the full award this year, with Digby Legge and Chris Watson gaining partial certification. Peter Burgess is well on the way to his certificate, and there is a healthy take-up for the new session.

October also saw our Biennial Inspection, conducted this time by a Cavalry officer. He was impressed by what he saw of us on a normal afternoon's training, and commented very positively in his report.

The year ended with the Contingent's attendance at CCF Central Camp. A break with tradition was enforced this year: Cultybraggan Training Camp was closed shortly after our last visit, a great loss to cadets all over the country. As a footnote, Cultybraggan was built during WW2 to house German prisoners of war, and retained its grim reputation for many generations of cadets. However, in the last ten years or so the accommodation had been much improved and the training was always excellent. This year the show has moved to Barry Buddon (hurray!), and Strathallan attended with forty one cadets, making us one of the largest contingents in the first week of the camp. The training was good – the ranges in particular were an improvement on previous years – though we had to travel up to Ballater for the outdoor activities. Our cadets, the majority of the Recruits but with a good number of seniors as well, worked and played hard – they gave every impression of enjoying themselves, and rose well to the challenges posed by the week.

Lastly, the thanks. Running the CCF for our cadets takes much time and commitment from our staff as well as considerable input from outside agencies, without which the show would not even start. I would like to thank the Officers – Lt. Walmsley, Lt. Higginbottom, 2nd Lt. de Celis Lucas, Lt. Legge and Sub Lieutenant MacBain, for their hard work and enthusiasm. Particular thanks must be offered to the man who keeps us all on the right tracks, and without whom nothing would happen: Mr. Lindsay. Farewells too: Captain Walker, who has been CO of the Contingent since 1988 and an officer in the RN Section for considerably longer, has kept the Contingent running through thick and thin, and to him go the thanks of all officers and cadets. There are also departures from the two Training Teams: Captain Ian Waddell RD RMR is handing over the RM Youth Team in October and is posted as the Executive Officer to the British Forces in Diego Garcia. He has had a tremendous influence on our RM Troop over the past four years, and has been a continual source of support and good advice. Sergeant Stevie Templeton of 21 Cadet Training Team has also moved on, in his case back to regular duties with his unit at RM Condor: he showed a great interest in both Army and RM parts of our Contingent, and will be much missed.

We look forward to an enjoyable and successful year, again with increased overall numbers.

AS-J



# REELS NIGHTS

WE ALL ENJOY REELS NIGHTS, EVEN IF WE DO ACHE AFTERWARDS.



## III and IV Form

**TIP: IF YOU EVER SEE A GROUP OF PEOPLE LIMPING AROUND STRATH OR COMPARING BRUISES, THE CHANCES ARE THAT THEY HAVE HAD A REELS NIGHT.**

Reels are great fun and they provide us with so many fond memories. We all love comparing bruises and blisters the next day (Yes Cara, we have all seen your huge blister, now put it away.) and laughing at anyone stupid enough to wear a ridiculously long kilt. Warning to future pupils: get shorter kilts and wear sensible shoes.

We are lucky to get these fun nights – thank you Mrs. Hamilton and also a big thank you to the band.

This year's end of term III and IV Form Reels – III Form's first ever – saw many happy (if slightly sweaty) people having a great time and gladly gulping down any drinks.

We are all surprised at how many dances we know. However, I do pity Mrs. Hamilton for having to watch our dancing – utter chaos, at times, is a more accurate expression. There are too many dances to describe in detail, so I have highlighted that great favourite, Strip the Willow. Body armour should be worn for this dance. For many, it is the closest they will ever come to flying. This is the high point of the evening, with any VI form boys, who have come along to help, thoroughly enjoying dancing the III and IV form girls off their feet.

We all enjoy reels nights, even if we do ache afterwards.

**Amyce Smith – Bannister**

IV Form Woodlands

## IV and V Form Reels

This was one of the best parties we had. When the music started up, no-one hesitated to begin dancing and we were all on our feet, partnered-up and raring to go. The first dance was the Dashing White Sergeant which was appropriate as the lads were looking dashing (and the girls weren't bad either.)

The dances flew by, all of us changing partners and giving it our all for every dance. When the break came it was much needed, as we were all getting tired but once we were fed and watered, we wanted to get back on the dance floor. The second half seemed to pass by even quicker than the first with faster dances and even more enthusiasm. When the evening was over, the excitement carried on and even putting the tables back into the dining room had an element of fun. Much appreciation goes to the band for creating a great atmosphere and to Mrs Hamilton for organising the evening. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

**Ailsa Turnbull**

IV Form Thornbank





**STRATHAID**

**MANY TRY TO SAY NOWADAYS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE NO CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD... WHAT WE HAVE SEEN TONIGHT SHOWS THAT THIS IS FAR FROM BEING THE CASE.**



**AN EVENING OF SPARKLING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT WAS PROVIDED BY PUPILS AND STAFF IN STRATHAID 2005 WHICH RAISED A MASSIVE £3,800 FOR THE CHARITIES AFRICA HOPE AND LIVE AID.**

A packed audience in the school's sports hall were entertained for more than two hours of music ranging from classical to Disney with an emphasis on musical theatre, including a wide variety of items sung by Catriona Martin, Vicky Drummond-Hay, Emma Gordon, Philip Ross, Samantha Burns, Toni Pellicci and Andrew O'Donnell and singing teacher Heather Boyd. Michael Segaud's versatility was displayed in performances of a classical piece by Bruch, Me and My Shadow, the Circle of Life and also in dancing a tango in Roxanne (choreographed by Sandy Hutchison).

Highlights of the evening included a guest appearance by professional singer, Catherine Baker. An ensemble of teachers sang One Day More from Les Misérables, Strathallan's outstanding musical success of 2004. Alex Beetschen (piano and voice) and William Campbell-Gibson (voice) did a wonderful impersonation of Flanders and Swan.

There were two mystery acts, the first being a hilarious display of versatility on the piano by the school's chaplain, Roger Quick, of any nursery rhyme called out by the audience which he improvised in the

style of any composer named, whether it be Three Blind Mice in the style of Beethoven or Baa Baa Black Sheep to Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The second mystery act which brought the house down, especially where the pupils were concerned, was Three Little Maids from School sung in falsetto by teachers, Richard Fitzsimmons, Richard Walmsley and Paul Vallot – dressed in cheerleader costumes!

Said Catriona Martin and Michael Segaud (organisers), "We are delighted by the success of this venture. We want to thank everyone who contributed, particularly our sponsors and those Perth businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes."

Mr Gordon McNally, President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland spoke on behalf of Rotary who are particular supporters of Africa Hope, said at the end of the show, "Many try to say nowadays that young people have no concern for the problems of poverty throughout the world. Well, what we have seen tonight shows that this is far from being the case. I'd like to thank the young people of Strathallan, on behalf of Africa Hope and Live Aid, for their tremendous effort and, on behalf of all of us here, for providing us with such a tremendous evening's entertainment."

**IIMcF**



# EXAMINATION RESULTS

## 2005

OF PARTICULAR NOTE  
IS THE SUCCESS OF  
THREE PUPILS WHO  
CAME IN THE TOP TEN  
IN THE COUNTRY

THIS YEAR'S A LEVEL RESULTS AGAIN PROVED TO BE VERY STRONG. THE A/B PASS LEVEL WAS 73% WITH OVER 40% OF CANDIDATES GAINING A GRADES. THE PASS RATE WAS 99.6% (WHICH MEANS THAT ONE CANDIDATE FAILED ONE SUBJECT).

Of particular note is the success of three pupils who came in the top ten in the country in their individual subjects: Katie Gibson our Art Scholar in Art and Design, Xiaodan Wu and Bryan Tsang in Chinese (Bryan was taking the subject a year early and is not a native Chinese speaker). Outstanding results were achieved by the Art department with almost 95% of candidates gaining A or B, Business Studies with 90%, English Literature with 85%, Geography at over 90%, German at 100%, Further Maths at 83%. At GCSE we gained our best ever GCSE passes at A\*/A with 43% where the pass rate was again over 93%. Particularly high standards were achieved by Design Technology with 57% at A\*/A, French with 61% and Geography with 59%. Individual success was also achieved by Anne Alnor who came in the top five in the country in German out of over 53,000 candidates.

The A level results are of course important in themselves but are also the key to candidates gaining places at their universities of choice. There can be tendencies at some schools for pupils to go in groups to preferred locations and it is a source of pride and pleasure that Strathallan students achieve places at such a wide variety of Higher Education establishments. The range, with no more than six going to any one university amongst 34 institutions at which our pupils were given places, is indicative of the individuality which we aim to foster and which lead to greater success and fulfilment for students when they go to the next stage of their education.

We have been delighted to receive news of significant success about a number of former pupils which reflects the truth of this contention. Of particular note are the fact that Louise Lamb at Oxford and Laura Kotseroglou, Christopher Wright, Mark Stringer at Cambridge all took firsts. What happens at school is important in itself but is also a preparation for the future.

BKT

## PRIZES 2005

### Speech Day 2005 Prizes

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	Malcolm Jack
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl	Ann-Louise Breden
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	Malcolm Jack
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	Natasha Smith
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	Emma Gordon/Digby Legge
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	Sean Murray
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	Jono Becks
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	Ann-Louise Breden
Dux	Sebastian Schulz
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Olivia Halvorsen
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	Eilidh Kennedy
The Lord Kincraig Prize for English	Jamie Wisbey
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	Natasha Smith
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	Phoebe Deng
The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize	Toni Li
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	Catrina Martin
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	Emma Gordon
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	Michael Segaud
The Choir Prize	Emma Gordon
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Duncan Lawson
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	Vicky Drummond-Hay
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	Camilla Rhodes
Strathallan Travelling Scholarships	Megan Parkinson, Rebecca Chalmers
The Haviston Broadsword Prize	Roddy Walker
Quaich CCF Prize	Alex Smith
The Rick Trophy Army Prize	Iain Aitken

### Upper Sixth – A Level Prizes

Biology	Duncan Lawson, Caty Connell
Business Studies	Jamie Wisbey
Chemistry	Duncan Lawson
Classics	Hariett Page
Computing	Sean McRobbie
Design & Technology	Kit Hayward



French	Annabelle Gordon
Geography	Annabelle Gordon, Kit Hayward
German	Robert Henneberg
Law	Alison Drane
Music	Emma Gordon
Philosophy	Sarah McCusker
Physics	David Burgess
Spanish	Emma Gordon

#### Upper Sixth – Highers Prizes

Biology	Michael McGregor
Business Management	Robbie Girvan
Computing	James Lawson
Craft & Design	JJ Chalmers
English	Colin Skinner
French	Melanie Kotseroglou
Geography	Katie Gibson
Spanish	Claire McArthur
Young Enterprise	Junwei Tan

#### Lower Sixth Prizes

Art	Gael Welstead
Biology	Matej Janecek
Business Studies	Stuart McDonald
Chemistry	Matej Janecek
Classics	Pamela Garratt
Computing	Min Ou
Design Technology	JJ Watters
Economics	Mardi MacGregor
English	Mardi MacGregor
French	Pamela Garratt
Geography	Jamie Pugh
German	Jamie Morrison, Peter Burgess
Mathematics	Matej Janecek
Music	Emily Beetschen, Toni Pellicci
Philosophy	Stephen Howarth
Physics	Bryan Tsang
Spanish	Pamela Garratt

#### Fifth Form Prizes

Art	Joss Beharell, Robert McMorris
Biology	Michael Boyd
Business Studies	Laura McDonald
Chemistry	Michael Boyd
Computing	Malcolm Fraser
Design Technology	Robert McMorris
English	Robert McMorris
French	Thomas Gordon
Geography	Sam Smith
German	Michael Cachia
History	Michael Cachia
Latin	Sam Smith
Mathematics	Sam Smith
Physics	Michael Boyd
Spanish	Zoe Hayward

#### Fourth Form Prizes

Art	Cara Duncan
Biology	Amyce Smith-Bannister, Helen Summersgill
Business Studies	Hannah Cockburn
Chemistry	Helen Summersgill
Computing	Robert Jardine
Design & Technology	Amyce Smith-Bannister
English	Helen Summersgill
French	Mark Garratt
Geography	Emma McNeill
German	Mark Garratt
History	Helen Summersgill
Latin	James Balfour
Mathematics	Helen Summersgill
Music	Alex Beetschen
Physics	Helen Summersgill
Spanish	Ailsa Turnbull

#### Third Form

Jamie King, Robynne Smith, Ailie MacGeoch, Etienne Melville

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# THE ICE PALACE

LAST YEAR CIARA ELWIS, AT THAT TIME IN RILEY, ENTERED A LITERARY COMPETITION AIMED AT ENCOURAGING YOUNG WRITERS. HER STORY, THE ICE PALACE, WON THE 9-11-YEARS-OLD CATEGORY. CIARA WON A CASH PRIZE AND A TRIP TO HARROGATE TO BE PRESENTED WITH THE YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD. WE REPRODUCE HER STORY BELOW.

ILLUSTRATION BY CATRIONA MACKENZIE

"So it has become legend in Sweden that when people are close to death, they will visit the Ice Palace and decide whether to stay there or live on Earth a little longer..."

"Really, morfar? Is it true?"

Grandpa smiled, his blue eyes twinkling.

"Of course it is," he whispered, "You go to sleep now."

I closed my eyes and pictured a perfect palace, sculpted from ice, each glassy spire sparkling in the sunlight. Its windows were diamonds and the lawns stretching out in front of it reflected the blue sky like mirrors.

I was torn from my trance by a panicked voice saying something I couldn't understand. As the message travelled towards my brain, mum shouted again and this time I could hear her.

"Helena, wake up! Morfar is really ill. We have to take him to hospital!"

I scrambled out of bed and put on the first clothes that came to hand. Grandpa was sitting in the backseat of the 4x4, his once rosy face a ghostly grey. As soon as I clambered into the front seat, mum took off at speed.

"The ambulance couldn't get through to us because of the snow," she explained, swerving to the left to avoid a hen pheasant. Grandpa slumped weakly against the window, shivering. The journey seemed to go on forever, but we made it.

"I'm afraid Mr. Lindstrom has suffered a severe heart attack and because he did not receive medical attention for at least an hour, his condition has become worse," stated the doctor, "a lot worse."

The room became silent once more and the doctor left. Grandpa was lying in bed surrounded by screens and monitors. He was still grey and although he was now safer, if anything he looked worse.

"Get better, morfar," I sobbed, "please get better."

"I was going to send you to your father's, but he's on holiday in Tenerife, so you'll have to stay in the hospital with me," mum announced. I sighed with relief, I'd have rather eaten an elephant whole than stay with my dad, especially when morfar was this ill. I wanted to be with him, and maybe I could even help.

That night I slid into my pyjamas and climbed into the rickety camp bed that had been set up earlier that day. I stared into the

darkness as tidal waves of emotion washed over me. I felt so helpless. Everyone was rushing around doing what they could, but I was just a kid; there was nothing I could do. Or was there?

When I awoke the next morning, the snow was even deeper. It was then that the idea struck me: I would build an ice palace! Not a full-sized one, of course, but the best I could manage. Having put on my warmest clothes, I set off to the hospital gardens.

By midday I had completed the base, a square with rounded corners, about 25cm tall. I then collected as much snow as I could and began to work on the main structure. As darkness fell I went and visited grandpa. He showed no sign of change, so I slumped into the chair next to his bed and listened to the radio that was on low in the corner.

"There's warmth in the air. There'll be a thaw soon."

I said a silent prayer that it would wait until morfar had seen my palace.

Early next morning, I went straight outside. By nine o'clock I had completed the first spire and by lunchtime I was putting on the finishing touches. I stood back and admired my work. There were four spires, one at each corner. I had broken ice into diamond shapes for windows and the whole structure reached around a metre-and-a-half in height. Hurrying through to grandpa's ward, I found mum waiting outside with a worried expression on her face.

"What's wrong, mum?" I asked

"It's morfar...he's getting worse. They're going to have to restart his heart." I was too shocked to cry, or even move.

"We have to wait out here," she finished.

An hour passed and nothing happened, then finally a doctor came and told us we could see him.

"He's weak. We're still not sure he'll make it."

I hurried to his bedside and held his hand. Suddenly his eyes flickered.

"I saw the Ice Palace," he whispered, "but I decided to stay with you a little longer."

Ciara Elvis





THE PUPILS' WORK WAS PRESENTED  
ALONGSIDE THAT OF PROFESSIONAL  
MAKERS, AND GENERATED A GREAT  
DEAL OF INTEREST AND POSITIVE  
COMMENT.

# FALLS OF SHINN 83



STRATHALLAN'S ART AND DESIGN  
TECHNOLOGY PUPILS HAVE HAD THE  
CHANCE TO EXHIBIT THEIR WORK TO A  
WIDER AUDIENCE THIS TERM, WITH AN  
EXHIBITION AT THE BUY DESIGN GALLERY  
IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS.

The exhibition was opened by  
Michael Moore MP, a former pupil  
of Strathallan, and ran for two  
weeks. Pieces by pupils sat well  
alongside those by the  
professional designers, artists  
and furniture-makers.

For the third year, our pupils were  
also invited to exhibit at the  
Scottish Woodfair in Perth.  
Once again, the pupils' work was  
presented alongside that of  
professional makers, and  
generated a great deal of interest  
and positive comment.





# SIXTH FORM BALL 2005

HEY, BOYS

HEY, GIRLS

SUPERSTAR DJs

HERE WE GO!

This year the Sixth Form Ball was rocked by **DJ Dr D** and **MC 900-foot Sandy**. The twin groovers kept us on the floor with a selection of totally

bangin' sounds that stretched all the way from Manchester to Ibiza via that field just off the M4 in Herefordshire where the bouncers still have mobile phones the size of bricks and know how to use them.

The dinner was fantastic and, as ever, the young chaps and lasses looked just as gorgeous as it's possible to be. Romance (and quite a bit of dry ice) was in the air in the traditional Strath Sixth Form Ball style. Thanks go to Mr Walmsley for coming up with the goods in spectacular style once again. Thanks also to everyone who helped out.





TOTALLY BANGIN' SOUNDS THAT STRETCHED ALL THE WAY 85  
FROM MANCHESTER TO IBIZA VIA THAT FIELD JUST OFF  
THE M4 IN HEREFORDSHIRE





# SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM

2005





Name+Inits	Surname	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Dunstan B	Brook	Riley	1/9/03	19/4/05
Lawrence D	Elliott	Riley	8/3/04	14/12/04
Victoria Rose	Evans	Riley	1/9/04	2/7/05
Eren	Baykal	Freeland	3/9/97	2/7/05
Paul J H	Brown	Freeland	1/9/03	2/7/05
J David	Burgess	Freeland	3/9/97	2/7/05
Kai Moritz	Dapprich	Freeland	1/9/03	2/7/05
Dick J	Hartgerink	Freeland	1/9/04	2/7/05
James E	Lawson	Freeland	3/9/97	2/7/05
Bruce R	Lerman	Freeland	4/9/02	2/7/05
Yuan Yuan	Li	Freeland	4/9/02	2/7/05
Michael	McGregor	Freeland	18/4/02	2/7/05
Sean	McRobbie	Freeland	1/9/99	2/7/05
Christopher	Maguire	Freeland	4/9/02	2/7/05
Sean M	Murray	Freeland	5/9/01	2/7/05
Ashley L	Paledi	Freeland	5/9/01	2/7/05
Thomas Derek Robert	Sproat	Freeland	1/9/00	2/7/05
Junwei	Tan	Freeland	4/9/02	2/7/05
Yinji	Wu	Freeland	4/9/02	2/7/05
Rory A	Dewar	Nicol	1/9/01	2/7/05
Christopher J	Dickson	Nicol	1/9/00	2/7/05
Alan J R	Garratt	Nicol	1/9/00	2/7/05
Iain	Greig	Nicol	1/9/01	2/7/05
Xingqiu	Huang	Nicol	4/9/02	2/7/05
Charles R	Leadbetter	Nicol	3/9/97	2/7/05
Ruoyan	Liu	Nicol	1/9/03	2/7/05
Felix	Luttge	Nicol	1/9/04	2/7/05
William H H	McLean	Nicol	1/9/04	2/7/05
Jamie C	Noakes	Nicol	1/9/04	24/4/05
Andrew J	O'Donnell	Nicol	3/9/97	2/7/05
Benno	Rawlinson	Nicol	5/5/97	2/7/05
Philip L	Ross	Nicol	2/9/98	2/7/05
Zhou	Sun	Nicol	1/9/03	2/7/05
Paul M	Bilan	Ruthven	9/5/04	2/7/05
Matthew S	Brebner	Ruthven	19/4/01	2/7/05
Keith A	Brown	Ruthven	1/9/00	2/7/05
Andrew	Campbell	Ruthven	1/9/99	2/7/05
Andreas M J	Corbett	Ruthven	4/9/02	2/7/05
Alexander	Ferguson	Ruthven	3/9/97	2/7/05
Robbie J M	Girvan	Ruthven	1/9/03	2/7/05
Johann F C	Harms	Ruthven	1/9/04	24/3/05
Christopher S	Hayward	Ruthven	2/9/98	2/7/05
Malcolm W	Jack	Ruthven	5/1/99	2/7/05
Duncan R C	Lawson	Ruthven	1/9/00	2/7/05
Digby H P	Legge	Ruthven	2/9/98	2/7/05
Maximillian Alexandre	Stewart	Ruthven	1/9/99	2/7/05
Jonathan Frank	Webb	Ruthven	1/8/01	2/7/05
Jamie P	Wisbey	Ruthven	1/9/00	2/7/05
Matias A	Bacarreza	Simpson	5/9/01	7/2/05
Andrew I M	Bennet	Simpson	2/9/98	2/7/05
John-James	Chalmers	Simpson	1/9/99	2/7/05
Tom L	Coutts	Simpson	1/9/03	2/7/05
Jan-Christian M	Hashagen	Simpson	1/9/03	2/7/05
Robert A	Hashneberg	Simpson	2/9/98	2/7/05
Brendan Patrick O'Co	Jennings	Simpson	1/9/04	19/1/05
Edward J	Lawther	Simpson	1/9/99	2/7/05
Stewart J	Moulds	Simpson	2/9/98	2/7/05
Darren F S	Raitt	Simpson	1/9/03	2/7/05

Name+Inits	Surname	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Thomas Andrew	Reid	Simpson	1/9/00	2/7/05
Colin D	Skinner	Simpson	3/9/97	2/7/05
Donald J	Skinner	Simpson	3/9/97	2/7/05
Alexander H	Smith	Simpson	2/9/98	2/7/05
David J	Taylor	Simpson	1/9/04	26/2/05
Steven Richard	Turnbull	Simpson	1/9/04	2/7/05
Roderick James Craw	Walker	Simpson	1/9/00	2/7/05
Harry J	Workman	Simpson	1/9/00	2/7/05
Anne	Alnor	Thornbank	1/9/04	2/7/05
Victoria Louise	Bell	Thornbank	1/9/04	2/7/05
Ann-Louise M	Breaden	Thornbank	3/9/97	2/7/05
Emma C	Campbell	Thornbank	22/4/04	2/7/05
Wei Jia	Deng	Thornbank	1/9/03	2/7/05
Victoria A	Drummond-Hay	Thornbank	2/9/98	2/7/05
Alexandra	Ferry	Thornbank	1/9/00	2/7/05
Olivia J C	Gerrie	Thornbank	1/9/00	2/7/05
Kirsty I	Hay	Thornbank	2/9/98	2/7/05
Eilidh A	Kennedy	Thornbank	18/4/02	2/7/05
Amelia J	Lawther	Thornbank	1/9/00	2/7/05
Claire M	McArthur	Thornbank	1/9/99	2/7/05
Katie A	McDonald-Meyer	Thornbank	1/9/03	15/4/05
Rudi T	McKay	Thornbank	4/9/02	31/1/05
Catriona E	Martin	Thornbank	8/1/98	2/7/05
Danielle Martha	O'Sullivan	Thornbank	1/9/03	2/7/05
Harriet J	Page	Thornbank	1/9/03	2/7/05
Mica K	Paledi	Thornbank	1/9/00	2/7/05
Melissa J A	Piper	Thornbank	1/9/00	2/7/05
Samantha	Stark	Thornbank	3/9/97	2/7/05
Xiaodan	Wu	Thornbank	4/9/02	2/7/05
Lihua	Zhou	Thornbank	4/9/02	2/7/05
Zhiyan	Bi	Woodlands	1/9/01	2/7/05
Charlotte H	Bowry	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Nicola D C	Boyd	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Linsie S	Carthy	Woodlands	6/1/03	2/7/05
Ruoduan	Chen	Woodlands	4/9/02	2/7/05
Catriona Margaret	Connell	Woodlands	1/9/01	2/7/05
Alison F	Drane	Woodlands	2/9/98	2/7/05
Eugenia	Esipova	Woodlands	4/9/02	2/7/05
Jennifer C	Fraser	Woodlands	2/9/98	2/7/05
Katharine Elizabeth	Gibson	Woodlands	1/9/03	2/7/05
Mhairi C	Gillanders	Woodlands	2/9/98	2/7/05
Annabelle J M	Gordon	Woodlands	8/1/01	2/7/05
Emma A	Gordon	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Olivia L	Halvorsen	Woodlands	2/9/98	2/7/05
Rosie C	Hunt	Woodlands	5/9/01	2/7/05
Melanie	Kotseroglou	Woodlands	12/4/99	2/7/05
Karen A	Leitch	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Lorna J	Lunney	Woodlands	1/9/04	2/7/05
Sarah	McCusker	Woodlands	5/9/01	2/7/05
Dannielle Diana Krys	Menzies	Woodlands	24/11/03	2/7/05
Erin F	Morison	Woodlands	1/9/03	2/7/05
Claire L	Raeseide	Woodlands	2/9/98	2/7/05
Rachael Anna	Rawlinson	Woodlands	4/9/02	2/7/05
Abby	Riley	Woodlands	1/9/00	2/7/05
Fatou	Samba	Woodlands	1/9/00	2/7/05
Mary A	Shaw Stewart	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Natasha Louise	Smith	Woodlands	1/9/99	2/7/05
Xixi	Wang	Woodlands	1/9/04	2/7/05



# 88 CHARITY

**THE CHARITIES COMMITTEE WAS SET UP, IN ITS PRESENT FORMAT, TWO YEARS AGO. THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES THREE MEMBERS OF STAFF AND AT LEAST TWO PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SENIOR HOUSE. THE AIM OF THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TO OVERSEE THE FUNDRAISING DONE BY THE SCHOOL AND TRY TO ORGANISE IT CENTRALLY. SEAN MURRAY ACTED AS PUPIL CHAIRPERSON FOR THE YEAR AND BECKY CHALMERS AS SECRETARY.**

One of the first decisions taken by the pupil members of the committee was that there should be collection boxes in House tuck shops. The money collected would form part of the Chapel Collection on Sundays. This has been hugely successful. The amount given in Chapel collections has doubled.

In November the Headmaster agreed to the holding of a Fancy Dress Non-Uniform Day on behalf of UNICEF and the Forgandenny Village Hall Restoration Fund. Each house was given a theme for their costume and charged £3 for the privilege of wearing it! Despite staff concerns about pupil willingness to participate the day was a huge success. Woodlands girls dressed as cowboys, Thornbank had a Disney theme, Simpson boys appeared as Superheroes and Riley, after much disagreement, chose a letter for each year group as their 'theme'. Many staff also joined in the fun. In all £1334.15 was raised.

In the New Year all the HMC schools were asked to support the Disaster Emergency Committee in raising money for those caught up in the Tsunami. Along with many other schools we held a non-uniform day and raised over £900 for the DEC.

In February a group of sixth form pupils got together to organise Strathaid. This was a hugely successful event organised outwith the Charity Committee and about which you can read elsewhere in this magazine.

The main event of the year was the Fun Run which took place on Sunday 22nd May to raise money for the charity Send-a-Cow. The Send-a-Cow charity was founded in 1988. The charity works with seven African countries: Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Zambia and Tanzania. The aims of the charity are simple; to give African farmers the means to work their way out of poverty by providing livestock such as cows, goats, chickens and pigs. Surplus produce is sold, droppings are used to make manure which in turn enables the farmers to grow vegetables. Farmers receive training in caring for their livestock and in growing vegetables. For more information on this charity visit the website at [www.sendacow.org](http://www.sendacow.org)



At 6.30am on Sunday morning it was, naturally enough, pouring with rain. Thinking determinedly of the saying "Rain before seven, fine before eleven." I went to have breakfast. By 10.30 am, in a light drizzle, runners and supporters began to appear. Mrs Thompson took a warm up routine and then ran round the course with the enthusiastic first lappers. Amongst these were Kirsty Glasgow on her crutches and Ettiene Melville dressed as a Mad Cow. By lunch time the rain had eased off and it was possible to see patches of blue sky. A steady trickle of runners appeared and the lap counters were kept busy. Some pupils came down to see what was going on and ended up walking a lap after some gentle persuasion. Others ran several laps after some less gentle persuasion. Several Riley pupils ran and walked laps in wellies or tied together to run three legged. Iain Aitken and Felix Luttge began the day determined to complete as many laps as possible, as did Katie Potts, Olivia Streatfeild-James, Robynne Smith and Toni Pellicci. Toni completed 15 laps and still had breath to argue that we must be cheating on the lap counting as he hadn't seen any of the others as he was running round. Iain checked in, looked as if he'd decided enough was enough, then set off to run one more. Katie and Olivia ran together, keeping each other going, only stopping briefly for food and water. Robynne had Toni for company and probably didn't manage to get a word in edgewise! Of the Riley pupils Graham Ramsey and Torii Douglas-Song put in a fantastic effort. Graham just kept running and didn't look tired until he had completed his 15th and final lap. Torii had come along with his parents to run one lap. After a break and then a couple more laps he announced he was going to run 12 laps – his parents' faces were a picture! Torii in fact completed 10 laps, no mean feat for a 10 year old. It must also be added that Torii raised the fantastic total of £160 in sponsorships, well done! Ben Quick, who bought 110 raffle tickets in a determined effort to win the bantams, appeared with Alfie to walk a lap. Several discussions ensued as to Alfie's breeding, some of which were less than polite. Alfie was confined to a retractable lead and spent the day tirelessly trying to rid himself of it. In the process he completed 5 laps for Ruthven with various humans for company. Iain finally called it a day after 16 laps, Olivia and Katie also after 16 laps, Felix and Toni after 15 and Robynne after 14 laps. Others who should be commended for the number of laps they completed are: Pamela Garratt, Lorna Lunney, Etienne Melville, Derek Elder, Brian Tsang and Struan Gordon. After the last runners had returned the raffle was drawn in fine style by the Chaplain. Some fantastic raffle prizes had been donated by individuals and companies. The most sought-after being the colour flat screen monitor and the digital



# THE SCHOOL HAS RAISED OVER £9000 THIS YEAR IN A VARIETY OF WAYS AND FOR MANY DIFFERENT CHARITIES.



camera. After tea, Brendon Neill played for the entertainment of all and collected more donations for the charity.

A day like this does not run smoothly without help, I am very grateful to committee members Becky Chalmers and Sean Murray who helped on the day and to Mrs Ailinger, Miss Hutcheon, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Fleming, Sister Cameron, Mr Proctor, Mr du Boulay, Mr Gordon, Mr Politou, Mr Streatfeild-James, Mr Barnes and Mr and Mrs Bush. I would especially like to thank Roger Quick and Fabienne Thompson, fellow committee members, without whose unstinting support the event would not have happened. In all about 100 pupils, friends and staff ran and walked laps. Those who took part really entered into the spirit of the day and had an enjoyable time. In total the day's events raised £3700.

Best Senior Boy	Ian Aitken
Best Riley Boy	Graham Ramsey
Best Senior Girl	Katie Potts & Olivia Streatfeild-James
Best Riley Girl	Rachel Terrell
Best Girls' House	Woodlands
Best Boys' House	Simpson

The School has raised over £9000 this year in a variety of ways and for many different charities.

KS-J





# MY YEAR AT STRATH

MR. KITSON'S RELAXING LESSONS  
AND PERSONAL ATTENTION  
PROVIDED ME WITH A POSITIVE  
ENVIRONMENT

MR. COURT AND MR. THOMPSON  
WERE THE MEAN OLD UNCLES I  
ALWAYS WANTED

I NEVER IMAGINED MY FIRST TERM  
AT A NEW SCHOOL I WOULD BE ON  
A STAGE BEING A VEGETABLE, BUT  
I WAS



My year at Strath was an experience that is almost too hard to explain in words. Strath didn't change me; instead it turned me into everything I wanted to be. From the first day I stepped onto campus, I was myself in every way. I am the type of person to jump at opportunities; it seems like this year has flown by, and there are so many memories I have, I could talk about it for days and days. I have spent this summer reflecting on my year in Scotland. Even when I was showing Gael and Josie around the city of San Diego, we had countless car rides to discuss all our Strath stories and memories. As hard as I try to move on, I invested so much of my heart in Strath I sometimes feel lost and helpless in my own hometown! So here I am, trying to bring together a collection of my memories from this year and putting them on paper. There are good times and hard times which taught me to stand on my own and be myself.

I remember the move-in day like it was yesterday. I slept all the way to school from our rented house in Anstruther. I tried to keep my nervousness and excitement inside when my parents bombarded me with "Are you ready, Lorna?" I had read every single article in the Strathallian and the brochures for the school, but I still had no idea what to expect. It was somewhat of a comfort to hear there were several other new girls moving in as well. I met Xixi, Mardi, and Josie on the first day. I was too excited and overwhelmed to make judgments. I was shy, really shy. To this day the girls have no idea how the Lorna they know now came from that little shy "preppy American" girl. Caroline remembers my first day outfit with exactness, "Jeans, red polo shirt, navy sweater, and a red bow." The bow was a real hit. Little did they know I had a few more bows to tie in my hair for almost every day of the year. The first night, it seemed like the whole Lower Sixth year gathered outside the dining hall.

My academic work at Strath was hardly a hill to get over, more like a mountain! But with help and guidance from others and several late night breakdowns, I somehow made it. I got the hang of things. I knew that every time I left my room during prep it was a little less sleep I was going to get that night. But I was somehow so fascinated with meeting everyone and getting involved, sleeping seemed a waste of time. Consequently, I spent a few weeks slightly under the weather with a good Scottish cold. Mrs. Tod would hunt me down and make sure I was taking it easy. Thank you. Without that extra little, "Lorna, go to bed." or "Lorna, you need to rest." I would have been out and about ignoring my hurting immune-system completely.

The Spanish class was interestingly split with 3 students (including me) speaking South American Spanish, and the others speaking European Spanish. Mr. Kennedy and Señorita de Celis spent countless lessons trying to explain the difficulty and actuality of our exams approaching in the summer. I think by the end of the year it finally hit us, especially with our oral exam being earlier in the term. I had never experienced an oral exam before so consequently my palms were extremely sweaty and my voice cracked as I began to speak. The twenty minutes in the room with the friendly old examiner flew by and I was left thinking, "Is that it?" Overall, my Spanish class was not only a class, but it was a strong bond built between us students. We worked together, laughed together, and complained together (more than we should have probably!)

The first day I arrived in Proc's history class, I felt like I had entered a boy's world. I sat there, quietly observing the door swinging open, each time admitting another boy. Finally, four minutes late to lesson, Cathy came rushing in with her first excuse of the year. Cathy and I kept to ourselves and let the boys have their jokes at first, but by the end of the year we became a part of the history "crew". The curriculum in this class was intense: lots of reading and "facts, facts, facts" as Proc would say. The countless essay tests and date quizzes got the best of me sometimes, but it became a mission and a challenge to prove myself a true historian, at least in Proc's eyes.

Math was my comfort zone. Mr. Kitson's relaxing lessons and personal attention provided me with a positive environment where I realized my math potential. "Maths" at Strath was a combination of easier review work in fundamentals, and more difficult new aspects of calculus and statistics. I am now in an advanced Statistics class where I am learning all the same things I did last year, but now finding all the shortcuts with the calculator. I love it!

Chemistry was my challenge. It ended up being my biggest challenge at Strath. I worked night after night on the homework, and yet things would just get slightly less complicated for a bit and then return to extremely difficult. Often I would refuse myself the comfort of sleep at night until I got through the chemistry homework, but if I did succeed in finishing something or surviving a lab, it was the best feeling and made it worth it.

My English class was my second home. Mr. Court and Mr. Thompson were the mean old uncles I always wanted. I've never had a teacher like Mr. Court who would blankly look at my paper and then me and say, "This is just bad. I know you. I know your writing, and this isn't it."



It was obvious to him that I had crammed this paper in the night before because either I was studying for that History test and getting through the chemistry homework. But second best wasn't good enough, and the last person I wanted to let down was Mr. Court.

The first term flew by. My highlight has to be the house drama. Some call it my "coming out party". I'm not sure I made the most attractive impression on people but it sure was fun. Rehearsals were the highlights of my week. Karen and I would show up, act like weirdos, laugh hysterically, and then calmly resort to our somewhat normal personalities. I have to admit, though, our timing in the final production was priceless. The Simpson boys to this day still complain about not seeing our stellar performance. I laugh...and thank the gods. I don't think Proc ever saw me in the same light. First scene was a nervous warm-up, second scene I put a little more into it, and third scene...there was no turning back. I never imagined my first term at a new school I would be on a stage being a vegetable, but I was. Strath taught me to go for things, not to hold back, no regrets.

When it came time to choose a sport at the beginning of the year, I looked at my options. My mom had suggested hockey because it was similar to soccer and would keep me fit. Naturally, in my first act of defiance with my new-found freedom, I chose Netball. I knew nothing about Netball. Over the year I came to love it. Erin extended a warm welcome to me the first day of netball, and my friendships with Caroline, Jean, Kirsty, and Pamela naturally grew stronger with being a part of the team.

"Football" at Strath was another fond memory. When I first interviewed we asked the headmaster if there was a girls' football team, "No, but you could always start one.", he responded. When I came to Strath, people always knew me as the California girl who plays football. During the first term I kicked the ball around with some of the girls and then eventually got dragged down to play with the boys. I remember getting knocked (pushed) down after the first minute on the field, I laughed and continued to play. The boys finally got used to me being there and I was accepted after proving myself. The girls would often come down with me on a Monday night to play on the astro, some of them even ventured onto the field to play. Eventually, Danni and I decided to put together a girls' team. The Strathallan Girls Football/Soccer team was one of my favorite things I ever did at Strath. Our first and only game was at Glenny. Basically, it was the best day ever. Pouring rain with a muddy field we got a win, and returned to school to get even MORE muddy before going into tea. That night at tea we pulled together a few tables and had a Girls Football Table in the dining hall. Everyone was excited and pumped up for the rest of the week. As Danni and I sat down to write our Chapel speech for Friday we included some jokes. I only made it through the first joke in my speech when I started laughing, turned bright red, and forgot to breathe.

Socially, I had my ups and my downs. I skipped the first barbecue and the first event because I didn't feel quite ready. My parents were still in the country and I have no problem admitting I had a bit of trouble letting go. My first event was the rock event. I just remember being in a social place I had never been before. After that event there was no turning back. I was hooked on it. I made a goal to myself to put myself out there and make the effort. I'm glad I did that. Putting myself out there was a big step for me, because I have never felt that free and vulnerable

I went home in December with a huge smile and so much excitement. I was home again. However, after a week, I was ready to go back. Coming home for the holidays was so hard because I was coming

home to a family of three, whereas at Strath I had a whole community. The friendships and relationships have made me grow up and mature. I see my world differently now. Whenever I bring this subject up Josie pops into my head. When I was first getting to know Josie I saw a person who was so different from me and from a completely different background. She was vintage; I was preppy. She liked rock; I liked pop. She hates every cheesy movie ever made in America and I can't get enough cheesiness. It wasn't until I got to know her better that I realized we were more alike in a lot of ways. We also had similar tastes in gentlemen, but never stepped on each other's toes, luckily. Josie was my go-to girl. There is nothing I could say to her that would really shock her. She wanted to be by my side every step of the way, and I wanted to be right there with her when she needed me. In the end, the strange girl I thought was so different from me became my best friend who I seemingly can't live without.

Gael was an example of someone who I clicked with right away. We had our crazy laughing attacks to begin with, but I realized how close we were when I went home over the Christmas holidays. Gael was my sister at Strath, she was there for me in every way. Our families were similar and we got stressed, sad, mad, and happy about the same things. We fell together, we laughed together, and we definitely cried together. I never knew I could get so close to someone so quickly. Gael is a person who always always always followed through for me in every way. When I invited Gael to California, it was not a month or two later when she was ready to buy her tickets. We became so close through our own experiences at Strath. We both had our hard terms, and we both survived them thanks to each other. I admire Josie and Gael for so many different reasons, but most of all, our friendship.

The value of friendship at Strath meant the world to me. Second term was a term of clarity for my friendships because I was like a closed book to many. Everyone could see me smiling, sometimes quieter, but mostly I was my up-beat and happy self. However, I have never had so many people actually see right through me. I would have thought I could have fooled so many more people with my act. My true friends saw through my smiles and craziness. Second term was filled with exhaustion and heartbreak, but I also found my best friends that term. I knew who was there for me and who I could depend on. I counted on Woodlands as a whole to keep me going and stay strong.

First term was an exciting breeze, second term hit me with a storm, and the last term was just too short!

My favorite part of third term has to be my Dad's surprise visit. It was the first time that my Dad has done something like that for me. I was able to show him how I spent my days and what Strath was really like. My Dad is not one to impose on me; instead he lets me do my thing, and hopes to be included. It was a time in my life I will probably remember forever because we shared so much happiness.

Leaving Strath was the hardest thing I have ever had to do. Josie and Gael's two-week California adventure was amazing because they got to see what my home life is really like. When they left, I felt like I was losing two of my sisters. I am closer to many people at Strath than I am to people I have known for years. I've learned so much from everyone at school. I hope that I have left some sort of mark at Strath and people will remember me because there will always be a place for you in my life. I could fill pages and pages about my year at Strath, but instead I will keep it in my heart. I just want to say thank you for taking me in and allowing me to be myself, I will truly never forget this experience.

Lots of Love,  
Lorna

**WHEN JOSIE AND GAEL LEFT, I FELT LIKE  
I WAS LOSING TWO OF MY SISTERS**



THE GIRLS (NOT THE BOYS)  
WERE THE ONLY ONES BRAVE  
ENOUGH TO FACE ALL THE  
STAIRS TO THE VERY TOP

## SPANISH TRIP

**IT WAS A COLD AND DREARY MORNING AT STRATHALLAN SCHOOL; ALL THE PUPILS WERE HEADING OFF TO CLASSES, EXCEPT FOR A SELECT GROUP OF 14, WHO HAD WAITED ALL YEAR FOR THIS DAY. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE...SPANISH TRIP YAAAAAAAAY**

So, yeah We got on the bus and headed off to Edinburgh airport and that evening we were finally checking into our hotel (complete with swimming pool and private beach, ahem). There were a few minor dilemmas with the room mates and who will be on each floor, but finally it was agreed the boys should be on the floor with the teachers and the responsible 3rd form should have to best rooms out of everyone (though who thought that one up we don't know) It was pretty late by this time so we all hit the hay.

On the first day we went to Barcelona, we were staying in Calella which is about 40 minutes away from Barcelona by train. We visited Gaudi's Sagrada de Familia and the girls (NOT THE BOYS) were the only ones brave enough to face all the stairs to the very top. It was pretty high, being over 100m from the ground and understandable that Katherine and Emma couldn't face walking across the narrow bridge between the two towers, so they crawled across instead

Being our first day we had our first traditional Spanish meal, we tried cold tomato soup, Spanish omelette, and other delicious Spanish dishes. Señorita de Celis and Mr K. taught us the art of ordering our meals, which we can't remember now but at the time it seemed to work. Later on after our dinner, which was interesting, we went out to a local German bar. In the bar we had a drink or two (not alcoholic of course). We all really enjoyed our first full day

At 10 in the morning we awoke to the beautiful sound of Señorita's voice. We decided that we were going to go to Barcelona again by

train. It was all going well until we got close to Barcelona and then, suddenly we slowed down. A man had jumped in front of the train which meant we were stuck in a stuffy, little carriage for over an hour, then we had to get onto another train and by the time we got to Barcelona it was lunch time and we were all starving

There wasn't much time for us to do anything of importance in Barcelona so we all decided to head back to Calella and hit the beach, it was all going smoothly until one of the members of our group realised his wallet had been skilfully taken in one of the busiest parts of town. It was the perfect end to the day and we all started to go brown, (excluding Ashely who became even darker than he was before) apart from poor Steph who lay in the sun too long and at the wrong angle and only half of her face went tomato, the other half was still milk bottle white

On the third day we went to Monserrat, a beautiful monastery carved into the mountains high above Barcelona. We took a coach up the winding trail to the funicular railway tracks which is where we caught a train to the top of the mountain. Our tour guide told us lots of information about the monastery and we all wanted to see the choir singing, but when we got into the service we were informed the choir were on holiday so we all got to find out the pleasures of a Spanish mass, an interesting experience which for most people is definitely only once in a lifetime.

During the free time we had at Monserrat a few of the group decided to go the very top of the mountain. They had to catch a train which went vertically up and down, we have the feeling Felix was a bit frightened, he was a bit sheepish for the rest of the day. Other members of the group walked the trail of the crucifixion, it was interesting to see different statues and original parts of the cathedral.



The rest of the group decided the best way to see everything was to let everything come to them, people- watching is definitely the best way to get a view of the Spanish culture, so the café was an obvious choice for them.

On our final full day we went back to Barcelona and went up Las Ramblas, the famous place to go shopping, and after that some people tried to claim they, like Nick McKee, had had their wallets/ purses stolen but of course, they had just got a tad carried away in the shops.

Some people decided to go on the cheaper option of a boat ride through Barcelona's famous docks and see all the massive (and I mean massive) cruisers. We returned to the hotel in the afternoon and had the rest of the day off (i.e. shopping, sunbathing and swimming). I think just about everyone polished off their money that day and all the girls admitted they had had enough retail therapy for this trip, although Felix became very popular because his inner haggling skills

started to shine. Thanks to him we managed to get only slightly ripped off, instead of completely. This was, I think, almost everyone's favourite day, by far. Robynne found us a great crêpe shop that contained every kind of crêpe under the sun I think that we all decided to go for the chocolate crêpe anyway and spent the next half an hour trying to clean ourselves of all the chocolate on our faces and clothes

The next day everyone felt ready to go home (well almost everyone). We were upset that we had to leave the amazing food that our hotel provided for our breakfast and dinner, but surprisingly, we were over it quite fast. Also by this time I think everyone had had their fair share of laughs. We all had so much fun and I don't think that any of us regret going on the trip, and big thank yous need to go Mr. K and Señorita for taking us (and also for letting me (Jasmine) and Emma come on such short notice). We both really enjoyed ourselves and would do it again any day.

**Gemma Chance and Jasmine Morris**





# SALVETE & VALETE

## R.S.Johnson, Lord Kincaig. 1918-2005

Bobby Johnson was a formidable lawyer. As both advocate and judge he combined a fine knowledge and practice of the law with a dislike of both time-wasting and pomposity. Although possessed of a fine intellect, he disliked pretension and had both the wit and the incisiveness to wield the legal knife when necessary. After a distinguished academic career at St.John's, Cambridge and Glasgow University he embarked on a legal career as advocate, becoming Dean of the Faculty of Advocates from 1970-1972. In 1972 he was elevated to the Bench as a Senator of the College of Justice, a post he held until 1987 before chairing a committee on the parole system. The Kincaig Report which resulted was a model of clarity and good sense.

Such was the public man but the purpose of this obituary is more to portray the family man and Strathallian. Educated at Strathallan in the 1930s under the watchful eye of the founder, Bobby was a natural for boarding school life. The academic side posed no problems for someone of his intelligence but he developed a real love of literature which remained with him for the rest of his life. Strathallan was to benefit from this in the form of the Kincaig Prize for English; so typical of him in his Will to provide for its continuation. He loved the sports field, being a major team sport participant whilst honing his golfing skills. Authority and commitment came naturally to him and his loyalty to the school was shown in his continued interest, serving as President of the Strathallian Society and for many years as a Governor, being Chairman from 1960 to 1962. He continued to visit and take an interest in the school right up to the end. He was intensely loyal to Strathallan but never blind to the need for change and development. A wise counsellor, he never blurred the margin between necessary advice and unhelpful interference.

As husband, father and grandfather Bobby could have given no more. A long, fruitful and happy marriage to Joan was ended only by her premature death. In later years he found peace and contentment with Margaret, who survives him. So too do son Graham and daughter Barbara. Anyone witnessing their double act at Bobby's funeral would have gained a true picture of the joy which he brought to family life. This too benefited Strathallan. Son Graham and grandchildren Robin, Paul, Andrew, Kirsty and Cameron have all passed through the school and done him credit. His final years of gardening and golf were made even more contented by his continuing interest in all that the family did. Rarely can a life have been led to such good purpose.

RJWP

Name+Inits	Surname	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Mathilde	Mace	Riley	1/6/05	2/7/05
Artem S	Rybushkin	Riley	1/6/05	2/7/05
Alexander	Tombak	Riley	1/6/05	2/7/05
Tariel	Khadzhysvili	Freeland	10/1/05	24/3/05
Shahid	Khalfan	Nicol	10/10/04	14/12/04
Travers F	Johnston	Ruthven	19/4/05	2/7/05
Victoire	Le Touze	Thornbank	8/6/05	2/7/05
Daria	Sysonova	Woodlands	19/4/05	2/7/05

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