

The STRATHALLIAN 1997-1998





Zoe Hall
Tempera
'Loch Morlich'

The STRATHALLIAN

1997-1998

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Editorial Captain of School

Writing this

having extremely recently acquired the position of a past pupil, it already seems impossibly hard to remember all the tribulations that made us look forward so readily to our conveniently placed day of independence. All the memories of working (God forbid, we were sent there to learn) have evolved into a genuine fear of exam results; the fact that our rule-bound society has now become nationwide has taken away the thrill (and hopefully in certain cases the lack of skill) at remaining undiscovered; and although there are some people who we would not place on a to-be-missed list, few will be forgotten, and we will dwell on the ones who, however long their stay was, made an impact on our lives. As much as this sounds like a cliché, it is true.

In a society as insular as Strathallan can sometimes seem, there develops a mutual recognition that the only beneficial policy within the pupils is democracy (... of course some would argue that the males in general take longer to overcome the instinctive philistine within them all.....) but everybody learns to recognise their own needs and talents in an atmosphere of opportunity and support. Whilst Strathallan will always remain a competitively academic school, the sport, music, drama and all the other renowned "activities" bring together a world-wide collection of teachers and pupils that although in any other setting, could appear unnatural, against the hectic hinterland of Forgandenny can be nothing but beneficial.

Clare Proctor

Clare Proctor with Duncan Edwards in a scene from 'Billy Liar'.



Alison Hunter - Captain of School 1997/98.

Looking back on my year as Captain of School, I can see what Alisdair Sutherland meant when he said that it was after you finished that you realise the benefits of the job.

So many people ask you what it is like to be Captain of School, and it is difficult to give them a direct answer. It is very hard, time-consuming, and a convenient excuse which is accepted by almost every member of staff. Back in February, I would have bemoaned that had I not been asked to take the job I could have had much more time to study and so do better, but now, looking back on the year I realise that I would have been wrong. I would get the same results even if I didn't have the position.

It is, however, very difficult to find the balance and prioritise the things that you do in a way that will make everyone happy - undoubtedly it is almost impossible. What I found hardest though was the fact that you could never escape. Every time someone saw me, pupil or master, I was 'The Captain of School' and that is both very tiring and undermining, as anything wrong became the immediate burden on me. Could I echo my predecessor's opinion and make a plea that staff and pupils alike remember that the Captain of School is a person, not just a position!

All of this aside, I owe a lot to the School. After the shock of the fact the Captain of School was a girl, things did run fairly smoothly. I want to thank you all for resisting the temptation to silent chapels and placing cars in strange places. For all of this I owe even more to the Prefects, both School and House. The loyalty that this year has had for each other has done a lot in making it run so well, and the way in which the Prefects have stuck by my decisions, and their responsibilities, whether they agreed with them or not, commands my greatest respect. I also wish to thank the staff, in particular Mr Proctor for his advice and support, and the ones who encouraged and helped me through the blacker moments.

Now that my year is over, I am looking forward to leaving and becoming my own person again. However, the friends that I have made, and the experiences that Strath has allowed will not be forgotten. In answer to the question that I was asked 'If you could go back a year, would you make the same decision?' I would say yes, I think it has been worth it.

Captain of School 1997/98



Staff Notes

The Government's concerns about levels of teacher recruitment

has led to the series of advertisements which have shared a common message, namely "You never forget a good teacher" and this adage certainly applies to the four members of the teaching staff who have left Strathallan in 1998.

JOHN BROADFOOT leaves to become Rector of Kelvinside Academy and I know he will enjoy the challenge. As Director of Studies he has had a central role in many of the important changes that have taken place in recent years, having overseen the development of Expressive Arts, the introduction of Staff Development and Appraisal and the drafting of School Development Plans. That he has done this while maintaining his commitment as a classroom teacher, house tutor and games coach is a measure of his talents. We will miss his energy, his gifts as a producer of some truly memorable productions and his sense of humour. To him and Cecilia we wish every happiness.

ANDREW MURRAY came to Strathallan for his first teaching job in 1990 and has proved to be an inspirational teacher and fine Head of English. He has accepted a post at Lord Wandsworth College and, after a busy summer involving a move and marriage, I am sure he will enjoy a new challenge in the south. The Occasionals' cricket side will not be the same without him and his talents as theatrical producer, in Ruthven as an outstanding tutor and on the games field will be much missed.

CHRIS MAYES, who has taught Economics and Business Studies for seven years, moves to the English School in Marbella. This has not been a snap decision in response to yet another dismal summer but should prove to be a stimulating opportunity for him. As resident and senior tutor in Freeland he has helped numerous boys and his approachability and concern have marked

him out as an outstanding teacher. How he will cope in a country with possibly one of the worst World Cup records in Europe I do not know but to him, Claire and the children we wish every happiness.

Last, but by no means least, MARK ASHMORE is leaving to study Singing at the Royal Northern College of Music and we will miss greatly his contributions on the games field, to School Music, Biology, the Navy section and Freeland House, where he was resident tutor. We will not, however, miss his growing collection of three-wheeled cars, one of which was skilfully parked in the Chapel in the Summer of 1997.

Six new members of staff join us for the academic year 1998-99.

JEFF GODDARD, who comes as Head of Biology, taught at Ewell Castle School in Surrey and brings with him an interest in wildlife and many sports and outdoor pursuits. JANE QUAN takes on the new post of Head of Drama, having studied theatre and dance at Leeds and Surrey universities. She comes from Moreton Hall School in Shropshire where she has been Head of Drama and been involved in Expressive Arts and Games. JIM SALISBURY, presently teaching at Perth Grammar School, becomes Head of English. He is completing a doctorate at Dundee having taken his first degree at St Andrews and has interests in a number of games and motorcycling.

This year will also see the arrival of a full-time School Librarian for the first time. VALERIE MCKAY joins Strathallan having had experience as community and academic librarian and could do much to strengthen the teaching resources of the School.

ANDREW WATT, educated at the University of Natal, replaces Chris Mayes and should add to our games coaching as well.

Finally, CLAUDIA PILLAR, comes as a part-time member of staff to join the Modern Languages Department and will teach both French and German.

We wish them all a warm welcome.

AWM

New staff of 1998.



Speech Day

A bright May morning greeted the by now familiar twin tents of Speech Day

which by 10.20 were both full - one of parents, pupils, governors and staff and the other of what the contents of the main tent would be full of two hours later.

The Chairman briefly espoused the virtues of independent education and quoted an ISCO report which maintains that boarding is holding its own as an educational option throughout the UK. ISCO went further - boarding was particularly recommended in the light of changes that have occurred with regard to parental access, both to staff and their children during term time and also the Welfare changes, league tables and pupil and parent rights. All of these are now well established and will continue to be updated and improved. Building on the benefits of independence the Chairman urged the audience to believe in ourselves and that by so doing others would too.

He then made mention of the new board members as bringing a youthful feel to proceedings, thanked everyone and expressed a pride in the heritage and institution of Strathallan.

The Headmaster's report focused on matters more particular to the school, welcoming the government's policy of putting education top of its priority list. After praise for departing staff and prefects, he recounted the success academic, sporting, cultural, dramatic and musical of the last year - international representation in curling, 90% of last year's leavers in university, the UK junior clay pigeon champion, five girls in the national Netball squad, the same time having won the Independent schools trophy five times, how the Pipe Band have nothing left to win and the success of overseas trip, music to York and geography to France.

He then challenged the assembly firstly to look beyond the pragmatic in their education. Exams and other successes can be measured in results and prizes but the most important aspects of life at school cannot be measured but are of incalculable importance nevertheless.

His second challenge was one of balancing the needs and wishes of the individual with those of the wider community and complemented the government on its avowed intentions of encouraging closer links between schools and the community with the intentions of broadening everyone's awareness of other's needs and wishes as well as our own self centred ones.

Lady Linklater, founder of the New School at Butterstone for educationally fragile children, was then introduced to us as a lady with a background in prison welfare and child care in some of the more deprived areas of the UK. She opened by expressing her admiration of the school, the obvious pursuit of excellence, the admirable achievements of the prizewinners. But, and this was her main theme, there was a place for everyone and everyone mattered. It is difficult at school as you change from childhood into adulthood, where finding your place and realising your value as physical, emotional and social pressures are so great that it may become difficult to know what is expected of you. The turbulence of new experiences, rebellion against authority are all very well as long as a person knows there is a place for them in a happy family. A happy family will tell youngsters they are loved. Fitting in becomes important and being different in any way may mean being bullied and made miserable and instead of having a place with one's peer they find themselves out on a limb. A sense of belonging and having a place is crucial and as long as we all acknowledge the importance of having a place in life and through all the ups and downs, opportunities and disappointments make space for someone else not so fortunate, give them a place and the mutual rewards will be great.

Lady Linklater with Chairman of Governors, Headmaster and Prize Winners at Speech Day.



AJHW



Prizes

UPPER SIXTH

The Smith Cup for Captain of School
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit
The Scanlon Cup for Merit (girls)
Thomson Salver for Achievement
John Fulton Prize for Overall Contribution
Dux
The William Tattersall Art Prize

The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings
William Pasfield Salver for Music
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize
The David Bogie Prize for Economics
The Lord Kincaid Prize for English
The Robert Rankin Prize for Maths
CCF Prize
Elliott Trophy - Design & Technology
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing
The McMaster Quaich for Piping
The Choir Prize

The Campbell Awards
Best All Round Sportsman
Best All Round Sportswoman

A-LEVEL

Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
French
Geography
Physics

HIGHERS

Biology
Chemistry
Computing

Craft & Design
English
French
History
Management & Information Studies
Spanish

LOWER SIXTH

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Economics
Chemistry
Computing
Design & Technology
Economics

..... Alison Hunter
..... Jonathan Butler
..... Jennie Perry
..... Vicky McIntyre
..... David Russell
..... Alan Senior
..... Jaclyn Murdoch/
James Dinning
..... Ruth Sharp
..... Hamish Forbes
..... Ruth Mazur
..... Jonathan Butler
..... Leon Webb
..... Clare Proctor
..... Jennie Perry
..... Edward Phillips
..... Jennie Perry
..... Alexandra Lamb
..... Tim Elliot
..... Andrew Morris/
Emma Readman
..... Alex Blackstock
..... Alison Hunter

..... Alison Hunter
..... Jennifer Maxwell
..... Jennie Perry
..... Jennifer Maxwell
..... Jemma Hepworth
..... Sam Bateman

..... Vicky McIntyre
..... Andrew Morris
..... James Wright/
Alasdair Menzies
..... Ailsa Grant
..... Miller Nicolson
..... Eleanor Wiseman
..... Miller Nicolson
..... Stuart Watson
..... Joanne Buchanan

..... Tabitha Combe
..... Nicola Milne
..... Radovan Boba
..... Leon Webb
..... Nicola Milne
..... Neil Taylor
..... Duncan Edwards
..... Alex Lanni

English
French
German
Geography
History
Maths
Management & Information Studies
Music
Physics
Politics

FIFTH FORM

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computing
D & T
English
French
Geography
German
History
Latin
Maths
Music
Physics
Spanish

..... Lyn Gemmell
..... Ruth Sharp
..... Radovan Boba
..... Christina Breaden
..... Peter Wilkinson
..... Keith MacLennan
..... Richard Kennedy
..... Ruth Sharp
..... James Patterson
..... Adam Rackley

Simon King
Helen Stewart
Sarah Mazur
Douglas Forbes
Susie Malcom
Douglas Forbes
Catriona Smith
Catriona Smith
Charis Robertson
Elaine Johnston
Sarah Mazur
Kirsty Senior
John Coull
Alexandra Lamb
John Coull
Catriona Smith

FOURTH FORM

Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computing
D & T
English
French

Geography
German
History
Maths
Music
Physics
Spanish

Alexa Diana-Oliaro
Oliver Lane
Jennie Hayward
Mark Stringer
Mark Stringer
Lynsey Wallace
Colin Williamson
Claire McFarlane/
Laura Morley
Laura Morley
Sabrina Flatman
Russell Garden
Scott McKinlay
Claire McFarlane
Mark Stringer
Max Reynolds

THIRD FORM

Stuart Chapman
Louise Lamb



Some time ago, at the end of one of those long rambling nocturnal conversations that only students can have, a college friend turned to me and predicted that,

“One day life will be on video and you will be able to fast forward through the parts you don’t like” Although one or two commonly accepted assumptions about time and space might have to be modified, this did seem like quite a good idea at the time.

Steering the Riley ship (a recurring dream I had during that long summer before we took over from the Thomsons, began with voices saying, “And they said she was unsinkable”) through those first few days of the new academic year, brought home how beneficial such an invention might be. Pupils, parents and teachers would be able to sit with fingers pressed down on the ‘FF’ button, whizzing past the awfulness of home sickness, disorientation and confusion, until they reached a point at which everything had finally settled down and the icebergs had disappeared over the horizon.

In truth, much was achieved on the second weekend of term when our annual pilgrimage to the Leuchars Air Show spawned new friendships and a sense of fun that was to last the year (and beyond) . The occasional multi-million pound jet fighter was glimpsed overhead, performing complex, death-defying aerobatics but, as everyone knows, air shows are really about candy-floss, fairground rides and karaoke and the pilots must go home very depressed and unfulfilled. The singing from the top deck of the bus on the way back to school defied description but I can assure you that the sonic boom of a Harrier Jump Jet sounds delicate and melodious by comparison.

The new recruits were soon swamped by an endless stream of rugby, netball and hockey matches, mini-concerts, divisional plays and more, so that they finally emerged blinking at the end of the first term and with the last few notes of the carol service (or was it perhaps that wonderful disco?) still ringing in their ears.

After Christmas, the skiing season began and ended on the day before we were due to visit the slopes for the first time and attention turned instead to a full programme of hockey fixtures and some excellent cross-country running. The under 13 XI were difficult to beat again this season but their younger counterparts made it impossible and their remarkable season will be remembered as much for the stick skills and fine team play as for the unprecedented 100% record at the end. The trophy for the Sixes competition eluded both girls and boys teams this year but we will be back with a vengeance next time around.

Later in the term, Mr Dutton organised yet another highly successful divisional music competition, at the end of which it became clear that Ewan O'Donnell's low slung guitar was more the result of a broken strap than a conscious effort to emulate Elvis. He picked up the 'Gnome Award for Bravery' but the other prize winners were less easy to identify. If standards continue to rise in the way they have been doing in recent years, we shall have to resort to penalty shoot-outs or golden goals.

Our clay pigeon team did so well in the Scottish Prep Schools Championships that they won the cup. However, it would have been a lot more fun with an opposition to beat. The cross-country runners also did us proud in their first season of serious competition, with notable performances from the girls' team in particular and our pipers, under the expert tuition of Miss Hutcheon, rarely returning without silverware.

One of the outstanding efforts of the term was Samara's performance on stage as a bad tempered and volatile Housemaster in the class plays. Credit to her for such originality in forming and playing such an unreal character of fiction. Genuine creativity is alive, well and flourishing in Riley. Unless, of course, Samara had modelled her character on someone she knew.

It all seems such a long time ago now, but I do recall an evening in the Zap Zone and some 10-pin bowling, and a pillow-fight that made recent riots in Malaysia look tame by comparison and an occasion when Drumfinn dorm looked tidy (or perhaps that was part of the dream).

And so on to summer time when the living became even more hectic than it was before. The cricketers carried on where the hockey players left off and completed another highly successful season under the stewardship of Messrs Tod, Murray, Thomson and Cole. Indeed Mr Murray produced some fine displays of batting, bowling, fielding and momentary histrionics in his final season with the U 12 's and left us with priceless memories of balls being driven, cut, hooked, chipped, chopped and even finessed around the ground. A great performance, but the call from Lords never did quite get through.

Our athletes jumped, ran and threw at more or less the right times and impressed the senior teams with their youthful enthusiasm and endeavour, whilst the Aberlour expedition secured second place in the main competition with a splendid eyesome reel at the end.

Tennis matches were keenly fought and although the girls worked hard to match their success on the rounders field, they still managed to move up a gear when facing our own boys in the main competition. It was Blair Chalmers, however, who emerged as the Riley Tennis Champion, after some crisp ground strokes and more wily strategic play, helped him to defeat a very strong field of rivals.

High-kicking Hoofers!





Outdoor Improv. with 11.

As the term drew to a close, so the demands on pupil time and energy grew and grew. The result of the Divisional Shield was in doubt until the cricket, swimming and athletics competitions were finally resolved and even then, Dron only scraped past Glenearn by the smallest margin (four points) in the history of the competition. After the drama of the sport; the drama of the drama.

David Chalmers, who joined us midway through that final term, was gently 'eased' into the Riley life by being given the lead role in our production of Joseph and performed, along with a cast of 50 pupils, to much acclaim on the final day of term. Those who witnessed the performance will be aware of just how central music and drama is to the 'Riley experience'. It was moving to see pupils, drained of all energy by their long final nights around the bonfire and barbecue, squeeze everything they had into producing such a memorable and entertaining performance right at the very end.

So as I try desperately to meet the editor's final deadline for copy, I can allow myself only a moment to pause and reflect on a year filled with high achievement in the classroom, on stage and on the games fields. A pupil who exemplified this being Jenny Hay, who was awarded the Hewson Cup as the person who had made the most of their time in Riley.

That year in Riley is over and another has just begun. Our thoughts turn from the successes of the past, to the challenges of the present and to a new generation of Riley pupils for whom it has all only just begun. That Riley does not always resemble the well-oiled machine that we would sometimes like it to be and can appear at times to be more like a twenty-year-old Austin Allegro, is not something over which we should be unduly concerned. From the experience of one year at the helm, I can say with some sincerity that, if they do manage to put Life on video, then I hope it is supplied on machines with a rewind button.

SNAKES

I love snakes,
They are smooth, elegant and colourful,
Some of them are dangerous,
And here are just a few.

Slithering around in ankle deep water,
the dreaded sea snake stirs,
But when you're bitten you feel but one,
the fangs of the dreaded sea snake, RUN!

The king cobra slithers around,
Long, thin and deadly,
Wait until the cobra strikes,
And you will be no more.

The great python squeezes its prey,
And when the victim's dead,
It opens its mouth,
And the gateway to eternity is open.

Michael Woodrow (1st Form)

WAC



Freeland

For two weeks in the summer I go to Camasunary (Skye) - a remote house just at the foot of Bla Bheinn in the heart of the Cuillins.

Part of the reason I go there is the fact that I can get in touch with myself. By that, I mean man becomes the measure of things: there is no transport and 'near' and 'far' is measured by muscle; going out on the sea depends on the tide and wind; the run of fish coincides with the silvery glitter of water coming off the black hillsides.

Most importantly, the house has neither telephone nor electricity and the world of communications has almost vanished. I say 'almost', because one can still talk to one's children and friends and I take with me the luxury of a transistor radio.

Early one grey morning I lay listening to the rain tick-tacking on the corrugated iron and a programme on Radio 4 which talked of the wonder of the Inter-Net: how many people one could be linked to, how many facts, how much information one could have displayed on an illuminated (electronically, that is) screen. I felt a little cold and useless and pulled-up the covers. I was a stranger to that complex world of facts and information (though it was in the air all round me) and somehow lost - as lost as the stoats playing in puddles outside my window or Loch Coruisk, silent and secret, in the recesses of Scavaig. Later, on the radio, came the news - and with that an item on a pronouncement by some professional educational body that teachers were encouraged not to put sun block (hardly a necessity

that morning for me - but perhaps for somebody else on the Inter-Net or the World Web) on children lest they be accused of molesting an innocent. Warm rage got me out of bed and indignation made me feel less useless. So that was where the world dissected into faceless facts and colourless information in all its inspiring randomness had led us. The caring action of protecting a child - I often in the past had helped my boys applying midge repellent - was somehow grotesquely construed to be only a rubbing of skin against skin. And that, in turn, more grotesquely yet - might 'factually' be something that I cannot even bring myself to write of. Somehow the nature of man's interaction with others had become inhuman by virtue of the channels through which it is recorded or observed. And thus came mistrust of the natural - the milk we drink, the eggs or meat we might eat, the feelings we live by, the ordinary senses that might guide us. And where there is mistrust of man we put instead the institutional, the professional, the qualified and disinfected, the facts and procedures we all feel so confident about. Not only does it patently not work, it's all a bit frightening. For me, at least.

It took a long time to start writing about Freeland but I know I will miss 'Maysey'. Chris Mayes and I started out together as new Housemaster and Residential Tutor in 1991 and it is difficult to put a price or label on the value of the direct human warmth he engendered. When he was angry storms raged around the corridors and studies were battered down; when he was happy the spring in his step was infectious; when he was mischievous boys could be seen dragging themselves from the sea of bins in which they had been placed. He was unpredictable in the things he did but entirely constant in the nature of his dedication to the well-being of the boys. He would take trips to the club scene in Glasgow, orchestrate passionate watchings of football, hold

"Definitely Lola" Freeland's house play steals the shield.





Three wise monkeys.

water-fights in the brew room, engage in B-B gun battles with the Housemaster, hold boxing bouts in the foyer, put an arm around the proud shoulder or give an encouraging squeeze to the disappointed. He would give of his time unstintingly and did all he did with a spontaneous engagement and energy. If he were to put sun-block on a boy one could be sure the sun was too bright and if there were tears then one knew that a small fall had prevented something much harder and crueller. He is the kind of man who will engage the affection and trust of pupils wherever he goes and I know how many in Freeland will miss him.

I hope that Freelanders will continue to seek to emulate his sense of purpose, his gusto, his unselfish and unguarded giving of himself for we are the smallest House and have to work hard for success. Sheer determination saw us winning the Cricket Sixes against various stars - imported or otherwise. The Badminton Cup was won under the captaincy and dedication of John Cameron and the Junior Play achieved the success they deserved with a genuinely entertaining, inventive and thoughtful piece of drama. Jamie Partridge and Adam Wallace did an excellent job with *Definitely Lola* and Jamie went on to play the very taxing lead in *Billy Liar* with real flair. It was a pleasure to see juniors and seniors so thoroughly yoked together in pursuit of excellence. Similarly, in the Junior Debating Competition, teams comprising Jamie Laux, Peter Constable, Alex Broadfoot, Stuart Chapman and Giles Seddon achieved success with well-prepared speeches and touches of nice humour and telling phrase. Most importantly, I am sorry to see the last of an Upper Sixth who, in the likes of Ray Duffy and William Constable, pursued unfashionable, taxing and labour-intensive roles to keep invaluable interests, such as the Army Section and the Film Club going. The House, too, had its 1st XV and 1st XI players such as James Donald (tutoring for a 'year out' at Brisbane Boys' College), Jon Butler and Duncan McCredie. Mike Butler competed in Athletics at Scottish Schools level and won the Senior Victor Ludorum. Whilst this was going on at School in Scotland Colin Eadie (already playing for Caley Reds and Midland U18s) took a term in Australia where he was a fine ambassador for Strathallan and also played Brisbane Boys' College 1st XV.



Reaching for the stars.

I finish this report on the up-beat note of looking forward to the things that the House will achieve in the coming year and my doubt-tinged resolve to get a computer and a link with the Inter-Net. I hope that I will resist the temptation to let the medium become the message and guard against allowing a useful tool and convenience to become rather more than that. Who knows, I may even be able to get in touch with 'Maysey'.

CNC

Goodbye to Three

The permanent grin on John Broadfoot's face signified his great enthusiasm for his role at Strathallan, particularly in the halls of Freeland. His significant contributions within the House simply came from a genuine enjoyment of the job, where he formed a very effective partnership with Mr Shields! Glasgow welcomes an optimism, in a new Headmaster, which Strathallan will certainly miss, something clearly evident in his energetic musicals and other achievements as Head of Drama.

We also say goodbye to the 'booming Brummy Biologist', Mark Ashmore, who will certainly not be missed for his tenor 'rehearsals' in the tutor's house. However, his huge presence undoubtedly will be. It is still hard to believe that he was only here for three years, such was the impact he made on Strath and on us Freelanders. His appearance and organisation was rarely matched for slickness outside the House but those who had the experience of visiting his Freeland abode were given a taste of the bachelor's life (that certainly would have had Jessie write a few post-it-notes!) His galvanisation and cheery 'humour' is likened with the character of Mr Wightman who now resides in the much tidier flat. Mr Ashmore's voice has been snapped up by a Manchester music college where he will surely set the place echoing.

Every time Man U win, most of us breathe a sigh of relief that Spain is too far away to hear the smug Mancunian laugh of Chris Mayes. (Maysey? Mayzey? Mazy? - spelling always in doubt) was unorthodox. Maysey had seen every film, bought every album, watched every game on SKY Sports. But Maysey still found time for everyone.

Freeland will certainly not be the same without these three.

Jamie Partridge (Lower Sixth)





Nicol Athletes 1998.

As a Housemaster, it is sometimes difficult to focus on the important things in life.

When one sees other Houses winning trophy after trophy and when one reflects on the missed opportunities you do tend to stop and take stock. I remember one thing that Mr Ford said to me when, as a young tutor, I questioned him about Nicol's inability to fill the vacant spaces in the trophy cabinet: "... it is nice to win these trophies but at the end of the day are the boys happy and are they working hard academically?" Now, older and wiser, I think this is true but sporting success and happiness are not mutually exclusive. In the past one could have commented on the lack of success in House Competitions as being due to lack of a real 'killer instinct' or a lack of a 'real desire to win', this could not be said of this year's Nicolites. The effort that the boys put into everything was excellent and, especially at the junior level, the desire for success was not at the expense of academic achievement. We won the Junior Indoor Hockey Competition and a 7-a-side Football Competition and came very close in other areas. In academic terms the House continues to make positive strides and this coming Upper Sixth have more than their fair share of the academic elite, while further down the House

academic work was not sacrificed in the pursuit of sporting excellence. The number of distinctions that were sent to me and the number of prizes picked up on Speech Day reflect the endeavour of the House as a whole.

This year saw Dave Russell, when he was not asleep, lead the House with a positive, friendly and caring hand on the tiller. He was supported by three very caring School Prefects in Andrew Morris, Chris Bradley and Ross Maddox. The House Prefects backed the aims of the Dave et al and the first term saw a very relaxed and cheerful House come to terms with their new responsibilities and goals. UCAS forms punctuated the term for the Upper Sixth and although some left them to the very last minute (not a very good idea) they all seemed to start the term well. Barry Corbett captained the 1st XV through a difficult season and James Dinning held down the stand-off berth. In the House Music Competition, Chris Bradley worked very hard and although we were pipped into second place on the day, the effort of all was excellent. Chris and Derrick produced an album of Chris's work for the Young Enterprise Group and Jim used his art skills to produce the CD cover. Andrew Bishop continued to help lead the Army Section, when he wasn't watching Spurs or going out with Shuna. Alasdair Menzies set about designing a School Web Site that showed up some of the professionals. The Lower Sixth were joined by Keith MacLennan, who captained the School Curling Team to the Scottish Championship; Radovan and Damian who showed a work ethic second to none.



The latter two introduced a study regime called the "Tea till Ten" slot, whereby they went up to the library after tea (about 6.30 pm) and worked till 10pm, I really hope it catches on!!

The Easter Term saw the now normal lack of snow and thus Hockey and Soccer were the order of the day. Barry captained the 1st XI Soccer while Ross plied his trade as sweeper for the 1st XI Hockey Team, both gaining full colours for their efforts. The Annual Ball stories again left a few Nicol Lower Sixth with red faces; Ben, Chris and Pob, enough said! Gary Hutton deservedly gained promotion to the 1st Soccer XI and our resident cyclists (Ben and Charlie) continued to perform in the 'Tour de Strath', when they remembered how to get on to their bikes! Ali Turner and Pob continued to perform admirably in the Royal Marines section, while Tom Booth and William Bowry excelled in their cricket, both trialling for the Scotland U16s and Tom for the Chameleons Hockey Team. Neil Hutton kept goal enthusiastically for the 2nd XI, which was captained by CJJ and Jim, with Dave at Sweeper. The Cross-country saw some exceptional performances from the juniors, while some of the seniors enjoyed a quiet afternoon stroll! I hope for more of the former next year and less of the latter.

The Summer Term saw the pressures of exams finally arrive and the vast majority of the boys in the relevant year groups got down to work quickly. Highers candidates had little time to catch their breath and they seemed to be a little shell-shocked when the exams jumped out at them from behind the School Calendar! The House was well represented on the shooting front, with Ben Kass and Richard Bickerton competing in the National Clay Shooting Competition in England. Ben won the overall High Gun prize for the best shot by a competitor using a side-by-side shotgun. William Bowry captained the Third Form A Cricket team with the help of Tom, Scott and Nick. Tom also joined Rowan Marshall in the LAMDA exams and gained merit grades. Tom also won the Junior Victor Ludorum on Sports Day. Brad, Andrew, Pete, Gareth, George, Oliver, Alasdair and James performed in the Headmaster's Music

again and/or on Speech Day, some also sang for the Choral Society.

The Fourth Form remained a cheerful bunch and between ragging with each other in their studies, the majority played cricket for the B XI. Alasdair Gardner won his group in an Inter-School Judo Competition and scored unflinchingly for various cricket teams, well done Alasdair and thank you from all the Coaches.

The Fifth form was more or less focused on the GCSEs and all involved themselves in sport of some sort! (George, Charlie and Rory??) The end of exams saw them go onto work experience; thanks again go to Mr Wands for his efforts on this front. The shock to the system for some was most amusing. The sight of Charlie and Rory trying to out-do each other with stories of 'long hours and hard work' was only one example. Greg and Gary were a big hit at the nursing home that they visited for their week; Greg was so popular that he went back after his week was up to see the many people whose lives he made that bit happier, well done both. Others sold double-glazing or worked in various offices, but most of all they did gain experience and most enjoyed the week.

The Lower Sixth had a relatively relaxed term, with a few modules and coursework to contend with. Andrew Wilson ran the House Athletics with great efficiency and along with Derrick and Pob performed well for the School. Andrew also went on to the National Championships. Okki played 1st XI Cricket and was a star in the High Jump, while Peter captained the 3rd XI. James and Ben played tennis with Radovan, Chris and Derrick, while Gareth swam. The less said about our performance in the House Golf the better, although Keith did play well for the School. Keith, James and Peter, along with Andrew Morris, did win the inaugural inter-house academic challenge. Andrew Turner gained promotion to Corporal in the RM section - well done to him. Musically, Pete, Carrick and Gareth took part in Headmaster's Music and performed at the Perth Festival.

As always, I would like to thank Bess, Davina and Jean for their hard work and good humour. They keep Nicol and its occupants tidy and presentable, and do so

with smiles on their faces. The tutors also deserve my thanks for all their help and work; Messrs Wands, Fitzsimmons, Ross, Tod, Ford, Sneddon and Glimm along with Mrs Ross who joined us voluntarily this year. Thank you all for your time and effort with all the boys in Nicol. Finally, thanks to Katie and Becky for their perseverance in not having Daddy all to themselves.

PMV



R & R with Nicol IV Form.



Ruthven

A thoroughly enjoyable time drew to a close with two emotional chapel services and a tremendous lunch for leavers, their parents and staff.

This year's Upper Sixth had seen more changes than most within their ranks over their five year stay but those who stuck it out were a fine, if not academically brilliant vintage. Richard Jones, as House Captain, did a wonderful job in balancing the demands everyone was making of him with the demands he was making of himself. His ability to create time for others and willingness to guide the younger brethren in the right direction went a considerable way to creating the happy, purposeful atmosphere which pervaded the House. Alex Blackstock, our other School Prefect, provided a role model difficult to fault. His enthusiasm for life, idiosyncratic brilliance on the games field (he made the Scottish Schools U18 Rugby squad) and determined effort to achieve his academic potential was as refreshing as it was entertaining. Chris Howarth and Yul Thomson completed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards and Yul, along with Ed Phillips, will be spending 18 days of the summer break on RAF flying scholarships. Jamie Walker and Robbie Gemmill head out to spend time camping in the heat of the Syrian desert, Blair Girvan to the British F1 Grand Prix. Graham Bird goes to his final CCF Army Camp (followed by the Cayman Islands!), Duncan Crosthwaite to a holiday job (can there be such a thing?) with his Dad (and to pine for Rangers' coming season!) and David Corrie to plan his "European" scale summer house party! To all the leavers, thanks for your tremendous contribution to all aspects of life in the House and may your future be bright, fulfilling and healthy.

Grub up at the Loch Laggan Retreat.



*"Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past."
George Eliot (1819 - 1880)*

A measure of the health of the community is its performance when collective effort, co-operation and tolerance are required. A superb Junior House play, written by Lawrence Court and directed by John Matthew Court and Nick Coaton was followed by the latter two gentlemen featuring in the winning Senior House Drama production in a competition of the highest standards. The House Music saw Ruthvenites make the most of their more limited resources, the Choir proving to be both enjoyable and critically acclaimed! The fact that Ruthven boys won the Swimming and Athletics Standards, the Inter-House Athletics Cup and the Cross Country Championship was as much a reflection on their willingness to put themselves out for each other as it was of their athletic prowess. In particular, the senior members of the House could be counted on to play their

part right to the end. We won the Junior Rugby, Cricket and Outdoor Hockey and the Senior Indoor Hockey. Neil Walker secured the U17 Victor Ludorum on Sports Day and Alex Blackstock produced a superb batting cameo in the senior cricket "sixes". The by now "traditional"

House Christmas Party saw a tremendous atmosphere created in the common room, as did the summer House Barbecue where, despite rainfall of Biblical proportions, the amount of food cooked and consumed has quickly become legend! The, by now, not so new Third Form proved to be a characterful and diversely talented group of

Mr Barnes with Molly.





Ready for the ball!

individuals and the two “Loch Laggan Retreats” rated amongst the highlights of the year.

Another such measure of health is the response when things are not going so well. As is always the case when living in a community of nearly seventy emerging adults, there are moments when tolerance, values and sanity are stretched to the limit! Individual pupils, Parents, Prefects, Year Reps, Tutorial Staff and Domestic Staff all played their roles in tackling such situations in a sensible and realistic manner.

In particular, thanks must go to the Ruthven Tutors for their unselfish and dedicated attitude. Mr. Tod, Artist, Scientist, Chef and erstwhile M15 agent is now firmly established as resident tutor and I cannot thank him enough for his support this year. We say goodbye to Mr. Murray after an eight-year association with the House. An outstanding colleague, whose academic excellence and ability to communicate enjoyment of life to those with whom he came into contact will be sorely missed. We wish him every success in his new ventures - both academic and matrimonial! Thinking of the latter, Mrs. B, you are on the very edge of sainthood!

There have been many memorable happenings this past twelve months and apologies go to all whose moments of fame have been overlooked. Quite obviously (to those who were there), two such moments spring to mind. Ian Stewart's

remarkable performance in the 800m on Sports Day and Liam Ferry's stunning solo singing at the Third Form Concert. At times like these, you know you are in a special place!

We look forward in time, to keeping in touch with the leavers and to the challenges that await over the course of a new academic year.

DJB

Fifth Form - staying alive!



Simpson



"Hey, hey, we're the Monkeys!"

Following in the footsteps of both Alan Ball and Robert Proctor

seemed a straightforward task at the outset but it quickly became apparent that both, in their disparate ways, had left legacies that were not easy to sustain. Alan had been a strong and charismatic Housemaster whilst an inimitable combination of humour, astute psychology and discipline characterised the Proctor period. Twelve months on, it feels as if I am yet to do anything more than attempt to maintain the standards and practices put in place by my predecessors. Still, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" is a worthy maxim!

Although inevitably somewhat daunted by the prospect of their third Housemaster in as many terms the boys were extremely positive and supportive. Thankfully the same was true of the redoubtable House Tutors: Messrs Giles, Lunan, Wightman, Higginbottom, Du Boulay and Summersgill. Grateful thanks must be extended to both groups by this fledgling Housemaster as their guidance and tolerance were essential components of my survival. It would be remiss of me not to mention the sterling efforts of Grace Davison, our Matron and her band of cleaners led by Ella. I extend both my thanks and those of the inmates!

It seemed I had barely learnt which face belonged to which name before the spectre of House Music loomed large over me. Fortuitously the House had developed an enthusiasm for rock bands albeit not a tradition supported by significant success. With assistance from Harry Crump and Mr Wightman a creditable effort was made. At the time we vowed and declared that we would be better prepared for next year, but like most

such resolutions it has been honoured in the breach rather than the observance. It is inevitable that the robust and ever more tuneful contributions to singing in Chapel will lead to a formidable performance by the choir and serious musicians are becoming quite familiar to Simpson - watch this space...

From this rather inauspicious beginning, Simpson went on to win the House Squash Competition that term due to sterling efforts from Stuart Watson, Harry Crump, Neil Whiting and Andrew Mack. This prowess in racquet sports was again demonstrated when the same crew, ably assisted by Head of House Robin Dicke and the composed and talented Tim Macdonald carried off the House Tennis trophy. Our only other significant team sporting success came in convincing style in the Golf Competition which Hamish Mason, Miller Nicholson, Robin Wallace and Grant Davidson won by some 40 strokes. On an individual level Andrew Reed was a fixture in the English Curling team that took part in several competitions overseas, including the Junior World Cup where they performed at a level beyond their own expectations. Grant Davidson once more excelled with his Clay Pigeon shooting, winning the Scottish Schools' competition and the Junior title at the British All Round Championship. During this summer he was selected as a member of the Scottish team for the International Competition with England and was successful once again.

On the cultural front, Andrew Mack produced a typically solid and robust performance in the junior house debating competition while his partner, Fraser Niven, plumbed previously unsuspected reserves of oratorical excellence to win a place in the final. Although the weight of Freeland numbers defeated them, they proved themselves to be excellent wordsmiths. Our senior teams of Harry Crump, Adam Rackley, Alex Sheal and Miller Nicholson enjoyed mixed success with Alex and Miller reaching the final as well.

Drama was also amongst our repertoire with a rousing gangster piece gaining audience approval and a best actor award for David Stewart in the Junior House Competition. On the senior front two of our number, Harry Crump and Duncan Edwards were in the cast of the excellent school production of Billy Liar whilst a huge cast performed a pivotal scene from Twelve Angry Men for the House Competition. One or two technical glitches snatched defeat from the jaws of victory but not before Duncan Edwards in particular had revealed an extraordinary talent.

It was a credit to the boys that they competed in excellent spirit and with good effect in every competition; this attitude brought us second place in the badminton, the six-a-side cricket, senior house hockey, swimming competition and athletics. It was particularly pleasing from a Housemaster's perspective that we fielded more competitors than any other House in the swimming and the turn out for the cross country was impressive. Although winning such competitions is the immediate aim, it is undoubtedly more important in the long term that the lessons of loyalty, team work, diligence and commitment are learned. As a newcomer to Strathallan I was generally impressed by the displays of all Houses and the partisan attitude that comes with the job was particularly easy to maintain in the light of Team Simpson's performance on the field of competition both sporting and cultural.



Academically our results at GCSE were pleasing to say the least with Douglas Forbes gaining a full set of A*s, and John Coull missing just one. Unfortunately, A level results were a little disappointing, although I am pleased to report that all of our leavers have either accepted a place at University or undertaken a gap year with a view to further study in a year's time. Speech Day was something of a Simpson Gala with a vast array of prizes, too numerous to mention, being carried off. It is all too easy to lose sight of the importance of academic achievement amidst the melee of extra-curricular and social events and the maturity and balance of many of the boys was a pleasure to see.

On a lighter note we were blessed with a rather eccentric group of individuals. Andrew Mack ruled the Third Form in regal and benevolent style. Messrs Webb, Whiting, Pringle, Stewart and Co. ensured there was never a dull moment in the Fourth Form corridor. A usually diligent and industrious Fifth Form livened the place up with indoor hockey and rugby as well as the bizarre 'washing line in the rain incident. Harry Crump and Richard Kennedy's soirees became popular with the L6 and the U6 who kept us all constantly on our toes. The sight of a nocturnal Nicholson peering blearily around the door at roll call became almost ritualistic. Bob's woolly boots and eclectic clothing were often talking points (who could forget the sight of the entrepreneurial promoter at House Music) as were the marginally more conventional offerings from Lil and Leon. Photos before events and even before the Ball have an air of the surreal but the memories are overwhelmingly positive. Although, at times the Simpson U6 were not general staff favourites they earned the affection of the House and the gratitude of a new Housemaster for their loyalty and (almost) unfailing good humour. Grace is not sorry that she no longer has to do battle with Bob and Miller over the toxic waste dumps in their studies but on the whole they will be sorely missed.

We also said farewell to Duncan Broadfoot (5), Hamish Mason (L6), Tim Macdonald (3) and Andrew Reed (L6). All four were tremendous contributors to the House and School in a myriad of ways and particularly on the Sports Field. Although their reasons for leaving were entirely sensible we were, nonetheless sorry to see them go. I am certain the current



"Please Sir, can I have some more!"

inmates will join me in sending all our leavers the very best wishes for the future and a warm invitation to drop in and see us as often as possible.

Chronicling the achievements of some sixty-five people over the course of a year is a rather intimidating task and I am sure to have been inadequate. To those whose worthy achievements have not been mentioned I extend humble apologies (and an invitation to blame this years House Prefects who went through the material with me!). I would like to close with hearty thanks to all those who contributed to the life of Simpson over the year; it has been a hectic but thoroughly enjoyable experience for me. I hope the same can be said be all of the boys.

WDAW

Head of House to be gets a loving hug from Grace.



Mr. Weigall surfs the net.



Thornbank



Some U6 – ready for the outside world!

There were some changes to Thornbank over the past year:

- * We started to re-vamp the foyer areas and began a serious collection of sofas (we now have a business account at a certain Swedish store in Newcastle)
- * We plugged in a piano in the common room
- * The day girls moved 'into' the boarding house and we saw more of them socially
- * The 'link' became the U6 common room and at times looked very cosy
- * We became more microwave friendly and the aroma of popcorn mingled with that of the super noodle
- * The junior kitchens doubled as dance studios
- * We took athletics seriously (more about that later)
- * The removal of stereo leads became a hobby of the staff on duty

As for the inter-house competitions ...

I shan't embarrass Woodlands by giving the tennis scores and we tried not to look smug. We won the Athletics Standards and although we did not win the Sports Day Competition the team impressed many with their attitude and skill. Karen McArthur won the Junior Victrix Ludorum and Kirsten Cameron's arrival this year was also an asset in distance events. Many of the House made a superb effort in the cross-country and victory was well-deserved.

We won the Hockey (of course : we are Thornbank) and not the Netball (same reason). The House made a splash (a delicate one!) at the Swimming Standards and our many debaters were well prepared and well supported.

We were proud of our many academic successes. Jo Buchanan proved that determination is rewarded with fine results. Louise Lamb picked up 4 distinctions and the Third Form Prize. The Lower Sixth aimed high and are seeing the benefit of their hard work as the excellent A level module results start to accumulate. Leila Arakji and Charis Robertson sailed through GCSEs (plus some extra exams) never dropping below an A band.

On a musical note, Ruth Sharp was awarded distinctions for both Grade 8 piano and Grade 8 clarinet. Julia Rogers passed her Grade 8 violin, was the youngest member of the NYOS and toured Europe with them. Lindsey-Gail Broadfoot auditioned successfully for the RSAMD. At least a dozen others should be mentioned here and it's a measure of the depth of musical talent in the House that I can't mention all the results and performances of the girls.

Vicki McIntyre, Tara Laing and Christina Breaden were superb in the production of Billy Liar as were Vicky Robertson, Lindsay-Gail Broadfoot and Mimi Bush in Flavio's Disgrace. Vicky also wrote the Junior House play with parts for nineteen and won the Best Junior Actress Award. The seniors chose an extract of Steel Magnolias and were very entertaining. Christina won a well-deserved Best Senior Actress.

As with music, the outstanding results in the LAMDA exams, the awards, trophies and successes at the Festivals are simply too numerous to mention, but serve to emphasise that the Expressive Arts are thriving in Thornbank.

The CCF had an enthusiastic and committed group of Thornbankers. Lesley Crow, Ailsa Grant and Alex Lanni got involved and worked hard and Nicola Milne well deserved her Army Scholarship award. Anna Watson will be the School's next Stage Manager.



Prefects' meetings around our kitchen table proved hugely entertaining, sometimes resembling some kind of expat social occasion. I was impressed at how much they cared about the well-being of those in the House and made sure they were well represented. Lesley and Ailsa led a good team and I am grateful for the thorough way in which they carried out their many important duties.

Morag's hours changed to make her available in the afternoons and we were delighted that Dianne joined our domestic team (where would we be without them!)

I, personally, feel that we have a remarkable tutor team who are good-humoured, patient and work well together to bring out the best in the girls.

My thanks to Julia Morrison and to George for, well - everything.

DLR

More ups than downs, more highs than lows, more smiles than tears and more good food in the tuck shop than ever before.

Yes, 97/98 was a right humdinger in Thornbank! Out of all that happened it's unfortunate that I can only pick on a few people and events, but hopefully I have chosen the favourites. (Bear in mind this gets edited!)

House Music was definitely one of the highlights in Thornbank this year. After hours of singing, dancing and laughing (yes, usually at my expense), the Choir pulled off a superb version of I will follow Him which, to all who were involved, will not be forgotten in a hurry. The full orchestra playing Star Wars was something to be admired (or was that 'left something to be desired'?!), and one can't forget Jo Cairds efforts at playing the trombone without a mouthpiece. All was not lost though as Ruth Sharp gave an absolutely outstanding performance on the piano to win 'Best Solo'.

House meetings!



Thornbank Hula Girls.

Within the House we had many events, noticeably our Christmas Quiz Night. It proved to be a great success thanks to Gill Green's superb organisational skills and Miss Morrison's confusion between the Virgin Mary and Rab's Mary Doll.

Miranda continued with her practical jokes (and no doubt there will be no escape next year) but fortunately there were no kippers involved this time. However, Lynsey returned from class on her birthday to find her bed (complete with teddies and underwear) in public view on the path. Her Gran's photos would be much appreciated! After this, most of Thornbank enthusiastically put money towards Miranda being thrown from a plane. This proved to be a huge success (except that the parachute worked) and she raised much money for charity. We done, Maz.

The House's thanks must go to: Jo B for being the residential hairdresser; Porker for giving us someone to laugh at; Mrs Higginbottom for doing all Thornbankers' Maths prep on Monday and Friday nights (yes we do appreciate it); Third Form for being so keen; Dr Carr for our luxury tuck shop; Mrs Raeside for teaching us how to use the washing machines; Georgia for her superb line-dancing; Lesley for giving me a hard act to follow; Lucy for being asked to be Head of School and putting an end to our drought; the Bushes for constantly confusing us and Woodlands for winning the tug of war!

Christina Breden (Lower Sixth)



Woodlands



The 60s and 70s relived.

As I was off work, effectively deaf, for the first three weeks of term, the year started badly for me at least. I suppose it was not too auspicious for the 3rd Former who asked for a chit and was told to mind her language, or the new 6th Formers whose options I was organising. I expect that some of them are still doing the wrong subjects, but they have been good enough not to mention it. Still, I can vouch for deafness as a delaying tactic ("Can we have an extension to watch X-Files, Sir?" - "What?" or "Phone? What Phone?") if not as anything else.

Woodlanders have been active and successful in the past year and it is pleasing to see a large and healthily varied community pulling together in moments of challenge and competition as energetically as they quite rightly pursue their own individual ends and interests at other moments. The first major success of the year was the House Music Competition: this had produced much lively debate over the choice of items, but involved large numbers of all year groups and was (despite Ruth Mazur's occasional black moods after rehearsals) ultimately Woodlands' best effort yet. Clare Proctor's solo in the Choir item was a revelation, and with Hazel Whyte collecting the Best Conductor award, the Choir winning their section and the Ensemble theirs, the beginning of half term was a happy time. Many thanks to all who took part and particularly to Emma and Shuna for their crucial part in things - not forgetting Laura Morley, who featured in all three sections, and to Shyamala Arumugam for her solo.

Sports news in brief: the Netball trophy came our way again, which was not entirely expected this year - the Juniors played far better than had been predicted - and the Hockey trophy went to Thornbank, despite two good games. Katie Mitchell's Junior XI won 4-2, and the Senior game (after Christmas) was a thrilling match, even if it did go against us. Perhaps next year? It is certain that the House teams in both sports are becoming more evenly balanced, and this can only be good for the competitions. The same applies to Sports Day: if I remember rightly, the Thornbank and Woodlands Juniors ended up with the same number of points, competition was intense and the result was kept hanging until the last race. Outstanding sporting

performances of the year? Alison Hunter was awarded the All-Rounders' Cup last term, Amy Little had a good season with the 1st XI and an excellent one on the Athletics track, including the Senior Victrix Cup on Sports Day. Susan Balfour turned out to win the Individual 1st in the X-Country and Hazel Whyte went straight into the 1st XI. However, there were many more which meant a great deal to individuals and were a crucial part of team performances. The swimming team were in good form again - no gala this year, but the introduction of House Standards for swimming was a good substitute. Looking at the final results, if only everyone eligible to swim had done so, I think we would have come out second rather than fifth. More of swimming later. The prize for the quirkiest achievement should probably go to our Clay Pigeon Team, who bravely took up the challenge of the first inter-house shoot (without any prior experience, it has to be said) and came back with a splendid plastic decoy pigeon.

Christmas saw the vast majority of the House going to Edinburgh to see "Grease" - we picked a quiet evening - a Monday, I think - but with the noise made by the 4th Form, the cast could have been forgiven for thinking that they had a full house. This year, traditionally, should have been party year, but the trouble is that without the constant practice, the way of running Woodlands Christmas parties does not get passed down from Lower 6th to Lower 6th. Last time we had one, we started at 7.30 (right) and had the usual games (blindfold chocolate eating and so on - also right), the food (excessive amounts of sugars, fats, chocolate etc. - again, right) but the Lower 6th, led by Jennie Perry, I think, sent the juniors to bed at the usual time (wrong) and the whole thing was over at 10 (disastrously wrong). If any of the present Lower 6th want to know how things should be run, I expect that Miss England can remember.

Anyway, the year progressed quietly through the Spring term (with no snow, of course) and the Upper 6th began to do some work (or to do some more work, or complain about why they were not able to do enough work - many threatening notices were posted on kitchen doors, such as "If you are out of your room in prep you will be given 100 lines and if you complain they will be doubled", which was quite a blow for Ksenia, Hazel, Zoe, Katie and probably others too), into the Summer term (without any sun, naturally - what didn't we have in the Autumn? It certainly wasn't rain). This brought along the ambitiously named Channel Swim - Miss Vass' idea, I have to say - and a great deal of relief on my part, a) because it went smoothly, b) because most people had remembered to get lots of sponsors over the holidays, and c) because it was actually great fun. In the planning stage, we were not at all sure how far it would be possible to swim in one day (we were not even sure how far it is across the channel, for that matter), but we thought the target of 1500 lengths of the pool (21 miles, the distance Jennie Perry found listed on Microsoft Encarta) would be OK. Previews of the sponsorship and distances promised were encouraging, panning out at around 2,000 lengths and £1,200, with 50 swimmers. As it turned out, the early swimmers (those who were willing to forego Chapel) did 1,500 lengths by 11a.m, and the final total was 3,087 lengths by 4p.m. The barbecue wasn't bad, too! It was more work getting the money in after the event, but on 19th of June, a group of volunteers, led by Laura Dover (shame we don't have a Calais in the house as well), presented a cheque for £1,500 to



Angela Wares, the local representative of the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. The roll of honour in the swim included Amy Little (distance prize, 216 lengths in around 1 hr 30; Jennie Perry (weirdest costume); Vicky Reid (most sponsorship), but special mention to Fiona Crosthwaite and Katy Smith for their turn-out. Many thanks to all the tutors who helped, and to Mr Glimm for his help.

Our first year in Woodlands, now well beyond the memory of even the present Upper Sixth, saw us with over 80 girls: three Fifth Formers living in what is now Miss Vass's flat, four Third Formers in the U6 Common Room, and not only five Day girls in the Tutors' Office but three in the (admittedly larger) phone booth. The last Bursar had plans to put two more into the other phone booth! However, in the intervening years things have changed, but as of the start of this term the new building at the end of East Wing has given the Day Pupils a space of their own.

The report would not be complete without some special reference to the leavers, and I was very glad to be able to surprise most of them and embarrass others by presenting them with prizes commemorating their years in the School. My most vivid memory of them (apart from the entire year group plus Miss England, Miss Mason and Miss Vass, skipping on one rope in the middle of the drive on the last evening of term), will now be Catriona Pringle's face when she opened her framed A4 size photograph - one which Clare Proctor had left in her room at the end of the previous year, and which had been carefully preserved for the occasion. As I write, most of them have been successful in their university applications, and Alison and Jennie have their grades for Medicine.

We also said goodbye to Ella Bird and to Shona Macdonald, Susie Malcolm and Inez Manson, all from Fifth Form and curiously, all from Shona to Inez in succession on the alphabetical list of their year group. Ella is off to Bath, Inez to Atlantic College, Susie to St George's and Shona to Watson's. Goodbye too, to Miss England who is moving to Riley, thus ending nearly ten years of association with Woodlands. Many thanks to her for putting up with us and

the House for so long. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Finally, my thanks to pretty well everyone for their help and support in a year in which I could only hear about 1/5th of what they were saying to me. Assuming that the other 4/5ths were not muttered curses and expressions of exasperation, I hope that my wife, all the Woodlands Tutors, RJWP, Janet Auchterlonie, Zenka, Mary, Aileen, the Upper Sixth and the rest of the House, my colleagues and the Headmaster will accept my acknowledgement of the debt I owe them. I would single out for special thanks Eleanor Wiseman for her energetic direction of many aspects of the house which would otherwise have fallen to me.

ACWS-J



Gilz and Juls meet face to face.

Quotes of the year:

"I thought teachers were so stupid!"
(Ruth Mazur)

"I lost track of time, Sir"
(Ella Bird)

"My Tech / Art / Geography project is going really well, honest"
(Could be a number of people)



Woodlands - flying the flag.

Presentations to U6 Leavers:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Jemma Hepworth | Griffin Goblet, Clapton Music Cup |
| Alison Hunter | Kleenex Kup |
| Nicky Malcolm | Teetotallers' Tankard |
| Jenny Maxwell | Madonna Medallion |
| Ruth Mazur | CCF Prize (Combe Cadet Force) |
| Jaclyn Murdoch | Cherry Blossom Shoe Cleaning Cup, McMullan Art Prize |
| Jennie Perry | The T Shirt (Been there.....) |
| Catriona Pringle | Walker Biology Award |
| Clare Proctor | 1st XI Colours (Like her sister before her) |
| Elise Rankin | Marie Celeste Cup, (Golden) Dux |
| Emma Readman | Wiseman Dairies Drinking Prize |
| Eleanor Wiseman | Strongbow Bowl, Head of House's Whip |

Head of House - preparing for role-call!



Chaplaincy Report

People haven't changed much in the past 2,000 years.

We are still caught up in our drive to achieve, our commitment to ourselves, our fear of the unknown, our struggle for understanding. The words of Jesus can still speak to us today, and call us out of our self-made world, our petty concerns, our short-sighted vision. The message of Jesus can set people free.

There are always some who aren't interested in what he says. His words don't make sense to them. They are devoted to the idea that, given time, they can figure out the mysteries of life on their own. Or they are such convinced humanists, believing that humankind itself holds the answer to all of humankind's problems, that they cannot see any other way. Or they are simply too proud to accept the fact that they are needy, rebellious creatures who could make good use of the kind of help that only God can give. They cannot bring themselves to confess any inadequacy, or admit any wrongdoing, any sin.

Week by week in Chapel, the visiting ministers seek to alert pupils to the fact that to solve their own problems, looking to themselves for the answers to life's questions, will be one miserable failure after another. Fragile theories continually shatter in the wake of new experiences and new evidence. They hope to make pupils suspect that there is more to life than money, relationships, self-indulgence and self-actualization.

Above all, in Chapel, they and I want pupils to respond to the love of God that was perfectly expressed when Jesus came to live on this earth and to appreciate the sacrifice that Jesus made when he - Creator of the universe came and lived here as a human being, just as we are required to do.

TGL

Scripture Union

Another year has come and gone, so quickly it seems, that it's hard to believe we covered so many different issues ranging from the ten commandments right through to relationships. A small but committed group participated under the able leadership of Jennie Perry. My thanks go to her for all her organisation, effort and enthusiasm and to Charles McMillan and Kathryn Coad, the SU Scotland's Independent Schools representatives for their support and encouragement. My thanks also go to Sandy Lunan and Fiona Sinclair for their help. It's good to know that they are both highly capable Christians who enjoy leading and helping the group to grow in spirit.

Three of the group went on SU camps at Ballater and Altnacriche this summer and, by all accounts, had a terrific time, taking part in all the activities on offer as well as being challenged by the Scriptures.

We are looking forward to some fresh faces next year so come along and meet the group and see what the Lord has in store for you.

GCK

Salvete

RILEY

I W Aitken, E S Allardyce, A P Bell,
A I M Bennet, A A Brow, G W Bruno, P J Burgess,
R A Carmichael, L P Carragher, A F Drane,
V A Drummond-Hay, E E C Fairlie, J C Fraser,
C K Gammack-Clark, M C Gillanders,
K J B Gordon, O L Halvorsen, K I Hay,
C S Hayward, R A Henneberg, S J Herd,
P W Hewitt, L M Holt, C K Jack, M F Jones,
D H P Legge, A M MacKay, D C MacKay,
L I McBain, S W McDonald, C A Morrison,
S Moulds, A T R Peattie, A F D Petzsch,
R J M Philip, E M Phillips, M E Phillips,
H A Rae, C L Raeside, P L Ross, E A Roy,
C E Rutherford, A H Smith,
A J Stormonth-Darling, C R Terrell

FREELAND

B B Constable, M C Boyd, G Everett, P Kuhn

NICOL

A J Carmichael, G H Gardner, A J Gittens,
F J Maxwell, N Michael, R J Stewart, A W Wallace

RUTHVEN

R J Emslie, A R Ferguson, L M Irving,
D C Shepherd, G C Sinclair, S K Wong

SIMPSON

A R Bird, W Duff, M G Gordon, C Johnson,
T K Linberg, G R Penrose, A B Pringle,
S G M Scroggie, D G Smith, I Soot

THORNBANK

L F Allan, I L Chaussy, R M Harbit, K J Moulds,
K Roy

WOODLANDS

S E Bates, A J E Cliff, R A Dobson, A Duncan,
K S J Fitzgerald, C A Frew, H E Hunt, C M Kelly,
C A Laing, S J Lyburn, V MacKenzie, K A McKie,
E L N Musisi, K H Norris, R A Zollinger



Music

A quick scan through the musical events of the year reveals that something in the region of an impressive 34 concerts have taken place.

These range from full scale concerts, such as Headmaster's Music or the House Music Competition, through to fifteen minute Lunchtime or Riley Mini-Concerts. Even so, this number does not take into account choir performances in Chapel on many Sundays or the very considerable performing skills required in the Associated Board music exams each term.

A busy year then which began with a flurry of activity for House Music, now in its new slot in the middle of the autumn term. It did not seem a year since the last competition and indeed it was not: this was the second such event in 1997. Following many hard rehearsals (some Houses more than others) there were a few surprises, a very real sense of enjoyment from the performers and genuine appreciation for each others efforts.

Soon after half term, we were delighted to welcome The Cambridge Scholars, a vocal group comprising six ex-choral scholars who gave two concerts: to the school in morning chapel and a public concert in the evening in the theatre. A wide ranging programme showed great vocal dexterity and musicianship which was much appreciated.

November showed music flourishing in all areas of the school. Not only did we have Headmaster's Music on two successive evenings, but both 3rd and 5th forms gave two separate concerts.

The choirs were kept busy until the end of term with the O.A.P. carol service, followed by carol singing in the village, the Riley Carol Service and finally Junior and Senior School ones on the last day of term. There was some spirited singing, from Wood's Magnificat in D and a rousing setting of 'Gaudete', to the subtleties of 'There is no Rose', by Joubert and Jaques setting of 'In Dulci Jubilo'.

During the Spring term, the Choral Society joined forces with the Chapel Choir to prepare for two concerts, the first given at the end of term, in chapel, with the Chamber Orchestra. Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' is an unusual piece both musically and in its choice of text. Some approached it with trepidation if not reservation, but were soon enjoying the remarkably varied textures assigned to the choir as well as passages for the four soloists: Richard Blakey, Shuna Readman, Michael Ellacott and Mark Ashmore who conveyed the contrasting moods musically and skilfully. Geoffrey Bolton presided over the very tricky organ accompaniment splendidly. In the second half of the concert, we were joined by the Chamber Orchestra for Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass'. Many singers felt more comfortable with the classical repertoire. Ruth Mazur's extended solo in the Benedictus revealed a mature tone and interpretation, and some excellent string playing brought the best out of the choir of about 80 singers.

The Chapel choir also found time to prepare the music for a choral evensong at St. Mary's in March, when the fine acoustic and setting were an added stimulus for them.

Throughout the spring term both Riley and the Senior School embarked on a series of short concerts given to internal audiences on Monday and Friday afternoons. This brought forth a remarkable variety of music too numerous to mention individually here but including anything from Scottish fiddle, 60's rock, virtuoso Bartok, piano concerto, solo items and vocal duets, the series proves invaluable in providing a platform on which young performers can gain experience.

It was rewarding for the choral society to regroup and sing the Haydn Mass again at the beginning of the summer term, but on this occasion in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, in its liturgical context during the Eucharist Service. We thank the Provost for his invitation and hospitality.

The term continued with preparations for the Speech Day and Perth Festival Lunchtime Concerts. Again many major forces such as choirs and orchestra were brought into play: the press reviewed very favourably and the large audience was appreciative of the very diverse concert featuring Walton, Bach, Hindemith, Mathias, Alwyn, Beatles and even Bradley.

The Associated Board music exams continue to expand and successes become more numerous. Thirty-three sat exams and eleven passed with merit or above. Ruth Mazur and Julia Rogers are to be congratulated on achieving grade 8 at merit and Ruth Sharp grade 8, clarinet and piano with distinction. Added to that accolade, Julia achieved acceptance into the Scottish Youth Orchestra as its youngest member: amongst many other prestigious venues at home and abroad, she will play at the Proms during the summer holiday.

Each year, we say goodbye to musicians who have contributed an invaluable mixture of loyalty, enthusiasm, musicianship and skill to so many musical events and performances during their time at school. Best wishes in particular go to Graham Bird, Christopher Bradley, Ruth Mazur, to read music at Durham University, Andrew Morris and Emma Readman.

DGR

String section of the School Orchestra on Speech Day.



Headmaster's Music

Autumn

Shakespeare wrote in *Twelfth Night* that, 'If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it.' Certainly, the parents, staff and pupils who gathered in the Chapel on 14th and 15th November for the autumnal Headmaster's Music would concur with Shakespeare's sentiments. Here there was something for everyone; from the classic to the popular, Great Masters to home-grown talent, the programme was mainly of vocal music, though we began and ended with ensemble playing of a high calibre. Music was indeed the food of love both evenings with songs such as 'Can't Help Lovin' That Man' from the girls' Chamber Choir and 'I Don't Know how to Love Him' from the talented Vicki Robertson. And we certainly were given excess, not only of music, but of quality as well. Here was music-making of a very high standard indeed, our appetite did not 'sicken, and so die'. David Read and Stephen Dutton are to be heartily congratulated for what this reviewer believed was the best Headmaster's Music for some time.

Both evenings began with contributions from the School orchestra. It is often the case with School concerts that the standard of orchestral playing can be variable at best - there were no fears on this account. Handel's *Water Music*, composed in 1717, is just as popular today as it was with King George I, and the playing of a *Bouree and Air* was carried off with aplomb. Of particular note was the inter-play between the flutes and reed instruments, well timed and with an impressive wholesome sound. This was followed by an engaging *Intermezzo* from Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor, played by Ruth Sharp. The rapport between Hamish Forbes on the cello and Ruth on the piano was a highlight of this piece and showed that a good deal of preparation and concentration had gone into making it a success. To round off the Orchestra's contribution were some Scottish Dances. These are ideally suited for a large School Orchestra (37 performers in all) and all sections were given the chance to show off their talents. Here we had a contrast of moods between the foot-tapping *Trip to Italy* and the more

sombre start of 'Colonel Thornton's Strathspey', the thrill of 'The Perthshire Hunt', and the rousing finale of 'Miss Anne Carnegie's Hornpipe'. In all, a triumphant start to the evening's entertainment.

Having whetted our appetite, and after a very thorough clearing of the stage, we were presented with a brave choice of Guitar pieces played sensitively by Jemma Hepworth. In the rather dull acoustic of the Chapel, Jemma had to compensate and perhaps did not play as well as she has on other occasions.

Next up was a selection of solo vocal pieces, some well known, some not;

ranging from *Rest Sweet Nymphs* by Warlock to *Vezza Aurora* by Millonie and *The Man in the Mune* by Musgrave. We had on show here two obviously talented young sopranos in Ruth Mazur and Emma Readman, both of whom sang with a pure tone, good diction and a musicality not often found in fledgling performers. Indeed, the overall standard of solo singing was superb. Richard Blakey, a Third Former new to the school and trained in an English cathedral choir, sang the well-known 'Hear My Prayer' by Mendelssohn; Vicki Robertson impressed greatly in her performance of 'I Don't Know how to Love Him' with her

Julia Rogers (Below) was the youngest musician to be selected for The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland's (NYOS) Summer Course and performed in Holland, London and Birmingham. Claire McFarlane was selected by NYOS for The National Children's Orchestra of Scotland and took part in their Easter training course.



The STRATHALLIAN



sensitivity and dynamism; Shona Dickie, an old hand at performance in comparison with the other young soloists, performed Handel's 'Gentle Morpheus' from his opera *Alceste*. The purity of Shona's tone and emotion of dynamics reminds one of a youthful Emma Kirkby taking her first steps in Baroque music.

Moving away from the solo items, we had a variety of choral contributions. From the Riley Choir we had the contrast of a Norwegian Folk song *Aften Klokken* with its dramatic entry, Bernstein's 'Somewhere' in which we again had a talented soloist in Kirstie Aitken, and 'Dog Walker' written by our own Chris Bradley. *Aften Klokken* and 'Dog Walker' were characterised by some excellent and complex part singing showing the sheer joy and enthusiasm with which Stephen Dutton has managed to imbue Riley House. Kirstie Aitken showed in her solo that here is another talent to watch out for in the future. Her performance was one of the highlights of the evening. The girls' chamber choir produced a good, closely harmonised, performance of 'Can't Help Lovin' That Man', in four parts with a variety of well timed actions. Hopefully, this will be the first performance of many.

The Chapel Choir, under the direction of David Read, performed three pieces; *O Quam Gloriosum* by the early Baroque Spanish composer Victoria, 'Deep River' - a traditional piece, and 'Don't It make Your Brown Eyes Blue' by Leigh. All three pieces were well rehearsed and provided a neat contrast with each other. *O Quam Gloriosum*, a motet by Victoria, is a dramatic and richly textured piece, full of religious fervour and close part harmonies. The girls in particular provided a solid platform for some intricate singing. The choir seemed most comfortable with the more recent works, particularly 'Don't It make Your Brown Eyes Blue', which had everyone tapping their feet and many a smile on the face of the singers. This is, after all, what music-making is all about - enjoyment and conveying same to the audience.

A second highlight of the evening was the astonishingly mature performance of a Third Form violinist, Julia Rogers. In tackling the difficult solo, 'Meditation', from Jules Massenet's quasi-mystical piece

of morality set in fourth century Egypt - *Thais*, Julia seemed to have chosen an almost impossible task. We need not have worried as Julia produced a real 'tour de force.' Difficult passages were intoned and phrased with the skill of a seasoned performer, there was dynamism and sensitivity of expression, and above all enjoyment. This was a very impressive debut which promises much for the future.

My final highlight of this cornucopia of music-making was the technically accomplished and sensitively realised performance by Ruth Sharp of Debussy's *La Cathedrale Engloutie*. One certainly had the sense of rolling waves submerging the cathedral, bells tolling loudly as wave after wave hit the tower; then the cathedral rising, phoenix-like, the image fading away into silent contemplation. Whilst Ruth had impressed at the House Music Competition before half-term, she certainly triumphed here with Debussy's picture.

Proceedings came to an end with two more modern items; 'Mrs. Robinson', sung by Strathallan's own Simon and Garfunkel, Chris Bradley and Andrew Morris; and two pieces played by the Jazz Band, 'Rock A Bye My Baby' and 'Hello Dolly'. Bradley and Morris performed this well known song with panache and carefully tuned professionalism, even producing a moment of pure theatre in the middle which threatened to bring the House down. Clearly, having seen the standard of singing from others earlier in the evening, they were determined to perform and entertain. The Jazz Band found it difficult to play in the acoustic of the Chapel, but very successfully managed to sound like a 1920s ensemble with good balance between drums, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet and guitars. It provided a rousing end to the evening's entertainment.

Clearly, Strathallan's musical future looks secure with performers and performances of this calibre. The standard of singing was uniformly high, with some excellent impressions made by young soloists in particular. Instrumentally, it was pleasing to see so many players in the orchestra and jazz band, playing a variety of music which any other comparable school would be hard pressed to emulate.

RHF

Summer

As the Director of Music explained in his introductory remarks, this was "a varied programme" put together at the end of a busy term "more by accident than design". It was certainly another forum where the varied talents of Strathallan musicians might be displayed but the large and appreciative audience seemed to discern rather more structure perhaps than Mr. Read's introduction suggested.

For a start, this was clearly more of a vocal concert than had recently been the case. It began with the massed ranks of Riley House performing extracts from their production of *Joseph* (a piece of shameless advertising by the producer of a full Junior school version the following term was the main feature of his introduction). This was an ideally energetic and spirited start which set the tone for a lively and enjoyable evening. In particular, the zest and musicality of the soloists, Catriona Sutherland, Kate Nesbit, Catriona Martin, Amelia Lane and Alan Martin, stood out in this entertaining opening number. The Concert ended with the traditional Leavers' Choir (there was a ripple of apprehension when the Headmaster joined them) with their thoughts at the end of their school careers rather movingly expressed.

And inbetween there was a varied programme to entertain and instruct. There were some excellent solo and ensemble playing. Shyamala Arumugam and Hamish Forbes were quite at ease with the demands of Handel's lovely *Adagio and Allegro* in E Minor and Ruth Sharp, once an erring reed had been corrected, entertained us with the *Allegro* from Poulenc's clarinet Sonata, a performance that confirmed the reputation of this most individualistic of twentieth century composers as by no means the least of *Les Six*. The Junior String Group accompanied Julia Rogers in Hayden's Piano *Concerto in C*, a delightful and engaging performance with an outstanding soloist, and what was billed the String Quartet exercised the minds of their audience with "Spot the Tune" arranged by Jack Long. Andrew Morris and Chris Bradley (who had been somewhat miffed that last year's review



Chapel Choir

had restricted itself to noting dryly that they had “plucked their guitars to good effect”) had clearly revamped their programme as this time it seemed that the latter whistled. But they had made their debut at the Perth Festival and this audience, with alas still one perverse exception, loved their act.

There was lots more thoroughly engaging vocal music. Georgina (La Diva) Philip sang Elizabeth Maconchy’s “Ophelia’s Song” movingly, Ruth Mazur’s touching rendition of Sondheim’s “Green Finch and Linnet Bird” was well received and Emma Readman and Kim Anderson selected “Stars” by, according to the programme, “Schönberg” which aroused the direst expectations of this reviewer, but fortunately turned out to be a charming song by Claude-Michel rather than the dodecaphonic Arnold. Riley Chamber Choir and the Senior Chamber Choir (stirring soloists in Victoria Robertson and Shuna Readman) clearly thoroughly enjoyed their evening; the Choir and members of the Choral Society showed off their paces with songs by Frank Bridge and John Tavener sandwiching the ‘Londonderry Air’ (presumably to celebrate that the evening of the concert was the day of elections to the new Northern Ireland Assembly). And listed among the leavers was Mr Mark Ashmore, who had contributed so much to Strathallan music during his time here. He gave us the “Song of the Volga Boatman” by Rimsky-Korsakov in a marvellous performance that, as they say, brought the house down. A wonderful exhibition of his skills as a *basso profundo* which he is taking to Music College to add to all the others that had contributed to such a fine evening of good music well performed and sung.

Post-script. An informal concert was held in the Music Room at the end of the summer term by Mark Ashmore and some of his musical colleagues from Perth to mark his departure to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. A varied programme bore witness to his eclectic taste (Schubert and Handel through Rossini and Rimsky-Korsakov to G. and S. and Gershwin) and both the power and beauty of his voice and its delicacy as heard in the delightful rarity of songs by Gerald Finzi. Another *soirée musicale* which marked the end of a busy year of enjoyable music-making.

Trip to York, Selby and Carlisle

By 8am most of the School’s inhabitants are in the land of the living and getting to grips with the morning routine.

Unfortunately for the Choir, the tenor section isn’t among this majority, and adopt the more energy-saving option of staying in bed. As Mr Read’s blood pressure rose steadily, so too did the tenors, arriving on the bus a mere forty minutes late. This inconvenience did not trouble the rest of the Choir because they were ‘delighted’ that Chris Bradley had brought along his guitar to entertain them.

By nine o’clock we were well on the way to Carlisle and after a quick rehearsal after lunch we were ready for our first concert. It went well except for a few teething problems due perhaps to our streamlined numbers and lack of practice with a different organ. The concert included excellent solos from Ruth Sharp and Julia Rogers, as well as some old choir favourites such as Bruckner’s *Locus Iste*. No sooner had we finished our last note then it was back on the bus and heading for York.

There was a profound sense of *déjà-vu* as we drove up the drive of the York International Youth Hostel and, after a good meal, we set out along the banks of the Ouse towards York Minster for a late night rehearsal, courtesy of the Minster Police, who are on duty twenty-four hours a day!

Next morning it was time for relaxation at Yorkshire’s Venice Beach equivalent, Scarborough. As we peered out of steamed up bus windows, the rain soon brought a sudden end to any ideas of sunbathing and the fear that any existing tan may wash off. After several miles of amusement arcades and fish and chip shops, we all returned to the coach with spending money halved but plenty of tacky souvenirs and sticks of rock.

Our next port of call was Selby, taking us through James Herriot country, prompting the odd ‘eeh bah gum vet’nary’. We arrived at the impressive Selby Abbey and were straight into our longest and most difficult rehearsal, with tenors occasionally impersonating pancakes with their pitch and the basses

becoming increasingly impatient and jumping their cues. As we prepared to face our second audience (many from the Abbey choir) the *Nunc Dimittis* was a little shaky, but the service ran far more smoothly than I had expected, with the psalm going particularly well.

The evening brought the annual choir dinner in Pizza Express and the England World Cup match against Argentina. York was buzzing and everyone had a great evening. The resident pianist and the other diners were impressed with the choir’s spontaneous burst into song during the meal, but later Harry Crump and Mr Bolton became emotionally unbalanced after a certain penalty shoot out.

The next morning brought time for shopping and sightseeing, including the amazing Minster, literally from top to bottom: the sheer size of which is unbelievable. We had already rehearsed two evenings before in an empty building but this rehearsal was different. The Minster was full of people and it was as if we were performing rather than practising. The increased interest and number of camcorders fuelled our concentration resulting in the best performance the Chapel Choir has given, and high praise from one resident choir men who came along to listen.

All credit must go to Mr Read, who over the past year has had to coax the Choir which has sometimes been unresponsive to his enthusiasm. Thanks must also go to Mrs Read, Mrs McFarlane, Miss Vass and organist Mr Bolton who bravely took the risk of coming on the trip.

Andrew Morris (Upper Sixth)

Chapel Choir at Selby Abbey.



House Music



Ruthven 'On Parade'.

The standards of performance and the degree of excellence

achieved, have risen categorically within the Music Department since the inception of House Music three years ago.

On the 16 October 1997 the stage was once again set for a musical *mélange* of quality performances, a keen sense of House loyalty and teamwork and, above all, sheer entertainment. The occasion was furnished with all the trappings of a local football match - a near-frenzied audience of supporters and friends, tumultuous applause - the audience, hushed in eager anticipation, striving to will each performer to do his/her utmost - in true Olympian fashion.

"The curtain went up ..." and Simpson braved the starting honours, providing a rich, diverse programme, from the haunting strains of a solo violin to the abandoned, fervent (and thoroughly enjoyable!) sounds of Alex Sheal's ensemble - with the anarchic 'Grab it and Break it'. Congratulations, lads! - a stirring opening.

Woodlands took us on a pastoral journey through the Lands of the Gaels to the wild denseness of the African jungle - from the mellow and pleasing tone of Paul Reade's 'Summer' to the happily exciting sounds of 'The Bare Necessities' with Shuna Readman fittingly laid-back at the conductor's helm. A special mention, too, for Hazel Whyte, decked out in 'correct' evening wear, as she wielded excellent control in conducting the choir in their rendition of a Gaelic love song. Simon Rattle - look out!

By the luck of the draw, the mood changed from the 'mellow' to the 'stirring' with the onset of a wonderfully innovative musical vignette - 'Barbara Anne' - courtesy of Freeland House. This thoroughly entertaining rendering provided one of the afternoon's highlights, and Jon Dalley deserves a word of praise for his creativity and inventiveness. To complete Freeland's offering, the audience were treated to the skirl of the pipes, and to an excellent delivery of Jimmy Hendrix's 'Hey Joe' - a veritable, musical 'pot-pourri' from this talented house.

And now, perhaps to the most professional and most deserving House of the afternoon - Nicol. From the choir's evocative and spiritual rendering of 'Ol' Man River' to Chris Bradley's sensitive performance of his own 'Popcorn Fields' - musicianship and talent shone through. The ensemble's 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love' - sheer perfection - with special

attention paid to every detail - dress code, musical arrangement and vocal delivery.

Even as the strains of Queen's 'Opus' still echoed in the air, the stage was cleared, and the way prepared for Thornbank. Never have so many pupils participated in one item before - and their lusty performance of John Williams' *Star Wars* Theme was certainly appreciated by the generous audience. The soloist, Ruth Sharp, gave a simply flawless, polished performance of Khachaturian's *Toccata* on the piano - a dream of creativity that one or two of Strathallan's piano teachers

would be glad to emulate. To complete Thornbank's cabaret - an immensely enjoyable performance of Sister Acts 'I Will Follow Him' delivered with great enthusiasm and aplomb.

And finally, to Ruthven - last, but by no means least. A thoroughly pleasing and well-rehearsed favourite 'Oh, When the Saints' opened their account with their ensemble; this made way for an excellent solo piper, and the choir closed the afternoon's proceedings with their own cheerful and humorous version of Dad's Army's 'Who Do You Think You Are Kidding, Mr Proctor?'

A splendid afternoon's entertainment - with many congratulations to all the students - a great deal of hard work, energy and precious time went into a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

ME

Freeland 'Groovin'.



Pipe Band

The Pipe Band have had another busy and successful year, with members playing both as a band, at engagements and competitions, in quartets and as individuals in competitions.

Two of our pipers won prizes during the summer holidays, Jonathan Stone, winning the Watt Trophy for Piobaireachd, the John Brown (Strone) Trophy for Slow Air as well as two third prizes for March and Strathspey & Reel. Carin Munro, a new pupil in Riley in September, won the Novice March Competition and took third prize in the Novice Strathspey & Reel Competitions at the Montrose Highland Games.

The first competition our pipers attended was the Scottish Junior Solo Piping Championships at Carnoustie in September. They took three of the first prizes in a very keenly fought contest. Niall Robertson won the Conoco (UK) Ltd award for the under 13 years Open Championship. Carin Munro won the TSB Bank Trophy for the under 13 years Novice Piping Section. Mark Stringer won the Vale of Atholl Pipers' Association Trophy as winner of the 13-16 years Chanter Competition. Jonathan Stone was fourth in the 13-16 years Chanter event.

Rory Whytock was placed fourth and Peter Mackie was placed fifth in the under 13 years Chanter event. This was an exceptional day for Strathallan.

The first outing for the full band was to play at the fund-raising day at the Heavy Horse Centre at Glencarse, to help raise funds for the upkeep of the animals at the sanctuary. The performance was well received. The band members then went off armed with lots of carrots to feed the horses.

St Kentigern College Pipe Band paid a visit to Strathallan as part of their tour of Scotland; our band joined them for a display on the cricket lawn for staff and pupils. Some of the band members spent social time with the New Zealand band before they moved on to Edinburgh.

On CCF Field Day the band set off to New Lanark to visit the Kilt centre, where the new uniform kilts were being made, and had an interesting time seeing some of the secrets of kilt making unfold. We then had a guided tour of the New Lanark Mills and village, including the 'Annie MacLeod Experience', before returning to School.

Robbie Whytock stepped in to make an excellent job of playing the lament on Remembrance Day.

The Scottish Schools' Quartet and Trio Piping Competition was next on the agenda. Despite some last minute changes, due to pupils not being able to play, Strathallan finished second in each competition. (Quartets - 15 teams, Trios - 18 teams), winning the Headmaster's Trophy in each case.

The Pipe Band claiming victory in the Scottish Schools' Championship, held this year at Strathallan.



The RSPBA Solo Piping Championships at Blairgowrie were the next event we attended. Robbie Whytock won the under 14 years March and took fourth prize in the under 17 years Jig. Tim Elliott was placed third in the under 17 years Jig while Rory Whytock was placed fourth in the Novice Piping.

The last outing of the term was to the Craigmount High School Solo Piping Competition, the highest standard of contest for young pipers in the country. Niall Robertson won the Wardie Trophy as third prize in the 13 years & under March. Robbie Whytock took fourth prize in the 15 years & under March, Strathspey & Reel and Tim Elliott took sixth prize in the 18 years and under Piobaireachd.

At the start of Spring Term, the Vale of Atholl Solo Piping Competition was the first outing. Robbie Whytock was named under 15 years Open Championship Runner Up by taking second prize in the March, third prize in the Piobaireachd and third prize in the Jig competitions. Mark Stringer won 3 prizes - first in the Novice Piping 13-18 years, first in Marching and Deportment and fifth in the under 15 years (open) March. Niall Robertson won the under 15 years Piobaireachd, Rory Whytock was fourth in the 13-18 years Novice Piping and Tim Elliott was fifth in the under 18 years Jig.

At the House Music Competition, Tim Elliott and Robbie Whytock represented their houses as soloists, both giving a very good display.

The RSPBA (Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch) Mini-Bands saw Strathallan take second prize in Grade 3 with a very good performance.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition Strathallan once again won the band contest. Niall Robertson won the Junior Piping with Carin Munro taking fourth prize. Mark Stringer was placed fifth in the Intermediate Piping with Robbie Whytock taking fourth place in the Senior Piping. Another good evening's work!

During the Easter break, a group of pipers decided to play at the RSPBA Solo Competition at Shotts. Tim Elliott took second prize in the 17 years and under section, Niall Robertson took second prize in the 13 years and under section, Robbie Whytock took fourth prize in the 14 years and under section while Carin Munro took 6th prize in the 13 years and under section.

Summer Term saw the band taking first and third prizes in Novice Juvenile and the prize for the best Juvenile band in Grade 3 of the RSPBA Mini Band Competition at Denny.

The band put on their usual polished performance on Sports Day, where some of our new players were able to show off their new skills.

At the Shotts Highland Games, the band took second prize in Novice Juvenile and also won the Junior Dress and Deportment Trophy.

An exceptional day at Bearsden saw the band win both the Novice Juvenile and Juvenile Grade. A fantastic result for the

players as they beat the current Juvenile Scottish Champions!

The Scottish Schools' Championship was held at Strathallan this year, which involved a great deal of hard work for all concerned on the playing and administration side of the operation. My thanks to everyone who helped make this a huge success. As to the playing, Strathallan won the band contest for the second year running, while our soloists also did well. Niall Robertson won the Junior Piping with Carin Munro taking third prize.

The School Solo Competition went well, with the following pupils being the main prizewinners: Hugh MacKay - Chanter; Novice Piping - Carin Munro; Junior Piping - Robbie Whytock; Senior Piping - Tim Elliott; Piobaireachd - Tim Elliott; Hornpipe and Jig - Robbie Whytock; Novice Drumming - Thomas Gray; Bass and Tenor Drumming - Jennie Perry; Junior Drumming - Fraser McKay and Senior Drumming - Aisla Stringer. The most improved piper was Rory Whytock, the most improved drummer was John Falconer with Tim Elliott making the best contribution to the Band.

The Scottish Championship was the last outing for the band.

This was held in Rothesay this year, which meant an early start for the players. With ferries to catch everyone had to be up very early. The journey went well with everyone arriving fairly fresh and ready to defend the title they won last year. The performance went quite well but one or two small errors had us finish in third place this year. The march from the park down to the ferry made up for the disappointment, as the atmosphere was tremendous with the crowd cheering loudly as the band marched past. The journey home was quite pleasant and saw the band return to School happy with their day.

We look forward to next year's challenges.

JSRH

The Bursar, presiding as Master of Ceremonies at the Scottish Schools' Championship.



Drama

I wrote last year of the development of the Expressive Arts in general and Drama in particular.

Now that I am about to leave Strathallan, I find myself looking back, in a more focused way, at my own involvement in School Drama over the past eleven years.

Nine productions, all more or less successful: *Oliver!*, *Macbeth*, *The Boyfriend*, *Tartuffe* (which we took to the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe), *The Crucible*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Bugsy Malone*, *The Hunting of the Snark*, *Guys and Dolls*.

The Dream was the first to be performed in the new theatre, a facility for which many an established Repertory Company would die, but one which the quality and standard of School Drama warranted. Furthermore, each successive undertaking has sought to exploit more fully the enormous potential of the theatre, bringing an increasing professionalism to all aspects of production.

Robbie Stevenson in Nicol's junior house play.



It would be reasonable to assert that Drama has a broad base of interest and support in the School and is perceived by pupils and staff as an integral part of the education offered at Strathallan.

Confirmation of that view would seem to lie in the fact that I have been replaced by a fully-trained and very experienced Head of Drama, Jane Quan. I wish her well as she takes Thespian activity within the School in new directions and to new heights.

This year we have seen two major and highly successful School productions: *Flavio's Disgrace*, directed by Iain Kilpatrick and *Billy Liar*, directed by Andrew Murray. Both these productions are reviewed elsewhere.

In addition, we have had a first public performance - two short plays by Alan Ayckbourn - by students of the new Theatre Studies A level course. In this, the ten students had entire responsibility for all aspects of production (their course teacher adopting only an advisory role).

The quality was hugely impressive, both in the acting and in the sophistication of the staging. 'Between Mouthfuls' and 'Mother Figure' typify the sharp-edged social satire we associate with Ayckbourn. Individual performers were both convincing and moving. Both productions were warmly received by the peer group audience, who were all there voluntarily. Indeed, this has been a feature of School Drama in recent years: the genuine enthusiasm and increasingly sophisticated nature of Strathallan's theatre-going public.

It was a feature again of the Junior House Drama Competition staged in November, where an evening of energy, fun, enthusiasm, inventiveness and imagination was enjoyed by all who participated on or off the stage.

The theme this year was 'Consequences'. The judges were again from outside, which seemed again to concentrate minds wonderfully. And, once again, it was Freeland House which won the coveted trophy, having, it seemed, an edge on the others in terms of the cleverness of the idea and the ambitiousness of the production.

'Definitely Lola', starring Stuart Chapman and a galaxy of other stars, concerned cross-dressing, magic potions

and all sorts of dreadful 'consequences'. Never mind the detail: this was total theatre!

So victory in the teeth of fierce opposition: Ruthven's dark allegory of life in Strath, Simpson's 'Tavantino Connection', modestly described (by themselves) as 'a compelling mixture of Greek Tragedy and modern comedy', Thornbank's Ayckbournesque portrait of contemporary society.

Freeland were presented with the new Drama Shield and, in recognition of their unparalleled success in no fewer than six of the thirteen years in which the competition has been staged, were awarded permanent custody of the original trophy.

The Senior House Drama Competition took place at the beginning of the Summer term, squeezed into the two and a half weeks before the theatre became an examination hall. The standard achieved in such a short time was truly remarkable.

Nicol and Simpson staged excerpts from *The Long, the Short and the Tall* and *Twelve Angry Men* respectively. Both productions were a little ragged at the edges but featured commanding individual performances by Andrew Morris (Corporal Johnstone) and Duncan Edwards as the last recalcitrant juror.

Woodlands' production of the opening of Ayckbourn's three-hander *Absent Friends* displayed real virtuosity. The inter-bitchery of suburban housewives was wonderfully exposed in this comic satire. Lyn Gemmel, Tabitha Combe and Shyamala Arumugam were all outstanding with Shyamala winning a Best Actress Award.

Thornbank's scene from *Steel Magnolias* set in Truvy Jones' beauty salon Chinquapin, Louisiana, viewed life in this southern town through the eyes of the women who gathered there as they prepared for the wedding of the beautiful Shelby. Again, the acting was utterly convincing with Christina Breaden winning a Best Actress Award and Rebecca Booth being highly commended.

Freeland's production of the comic recruiting scene from Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer* was extraordinarily inventive - a difficult text performed with style, verve and imagination, rendered



Billy Liar

wholly accessible to the enthusiastic audience. Jon Dally and Jamie Partridge, who won a Best Actor Award, were both outstanding.

Finally there was Ruthven who, for the first time in their history, won a House Drama Competition. A memorable performance of the opening scheme of Pinter's darkly disturbing *The Homecoming* scooped the major prize. Subtly contrasting performances from John-Matthew Court, Scott Harvey, Nick Coaton and Darren Miranda produced a riveting piece of theatre.

What an evening's entertainment, one hugely enjoyed by cast and audience alike and all achieved in just two weeks. That in itself is testimony to the theatrical vitality of the School.

Riley's performance of highlights from *Joseph*, directed by Iain Kilpatrick with musical direction by Stephen Dutton, at the end of the Summer term rounded off what has been, in dramatic terms, another memorable year.

Well, having had my hour upon the Strathallan stage, to paraphrase the Bard's words, I will be heard no more. But I wish the Theatre Company continuing success: may future generations of pupils, in ever larger numbers, savour that unique and enabling experience which is live theatre.

JLB

Billy Liar... belongs to the stars.

The term 'angry young man' has, as such things happen, been attached to that generation of writers who set about attempting to represent what they perceived as the reality of Britain in the 1950s. The play, *Billy Liar*, (adapted from Keith Waterhouse's novel) is now firmly established in that genre.

The beauty of Strathallan's recent production was that it captured precisely, not so much the anger of the text, but its pathos and paradoxically, its humour too.

Fluently adapted by Alistair Thomson and sensitively directed by Andrew Murray, the play seamlessly displayed the claustrophobic setting of working-class life in the North of England of this period.



All fingers point to Jamie Partridge as the eponymous hero in "Billy Liar"

From the moment that Billy Fisher (Jamie Partridge) opened his bleary eyes in the confines of his messy bedroom, the audience was made aware of the stifling boredom of his existence which forces him to retreat to the fantasy land of Ambrosia.

Jamie Partridge's characterisation of the play's anti-hero was sustained and sympathetic. Unable to face the reality of his life of stultifying boredom, the audience was made to react with laughter and increasing exasperation at Billy's compulsive tale-telling. His frequent trips into the land of escapist fantasy were brilliantly conveyed by the theatrical device of a screen incorporated into the depressingly realistic set of the Fishers' parlour.

Full credit must go to all concerned for bringing so vividly to life the almost tragic inevitability of Billy's inability to escape. Much of this credit must go to the supporting cast: Billy's long-suffering family; his fianc  es; his best friend Arthur (played with gusto by Harry Crump) and his unfortunate employer, the gloomy undertaker, Mr Shadrack (Peter Wilkinson).

It is never easy for a young cast to carry off adult roles but Billy's Grandmother (Christina Breaden) was a comic treat of mannered senility. At the same time, Billy's parents, (Duncan Edwards and Clare Proctor) embodied exactly the weariness of fighting the

battle of the generation gap whilst keeping home and hearth together. It is a testament to these two young fine actors that, despite their characters' obvious short-comings as parents and people, they emerged from the performance with the audience's sympathy. No wonder Billy's father bloody swore!

Similarly, Billy's string of girl-friends each played her part to perfection. From the homely domesticity of Barbara (Jaclyn Murdoch), to the electrifying, working-class vulgarity of Rita (Vicki McIntyre) as well as the Bohemian, dangerousness of Liz (Tara Laing), each girl explored her role with insight and intelligence.

Looking back over an evening which delighted and moved a spell-bound audience, it is all too easy to omit to mention the many people whose contributions added to this professional occasion. The set design was exactly right. Stage management, lighting and sound was slick and unobtrusive with some marvellously appropriate choices of music.

It is little wonder that Strathallan has a strong and growing reputation for producing the best that amateur dramatics can offer. Their production of *Billy Liar* 'belongs to the stars' in more senses than one.

JDS



Flavio's Disgrace



Phillip Scales and Mungo Laing as Arlecchino and Pulcinella in 'Flavio's Disgrace'.

Commedia dell'arte has its origins in the popular travelling theatre of 16th Century Italy.

The plays which were performed grew out of improvisation in rehearsal and used caricature, buffoonery, mime, farcical situations and stock characters. The strong links with traditional pantomime are clearly evident.

Flavio's Disgrace by David Griffiths, the hugely successful Third and Fourth Form School Play this year, is firmly in this theatrical tradition. Although the masking of the actors was dispensed with, stock characters - the clown, the miser, the braggart, the dupe, the lover; stock themes - deceit, betrayal, duplicity, greed, hubris; and wonderful knockabout humour, were all present in abundance.

The plot is fairly simple: rich and miserly Pantelone (William Bowry) is robbed by the mischievous clown Arlecchino (Phillip Scales) and Pulcinella (Mungo Laing) and the blame put on his son Flavio (Stuart Chapman). The love plot is perhaps not quite so simple: the ingenuous Flavio is in love the Flaminia (Lindsay Broadfoot), a rich young woman who is in love with herself; Isabella (Vicki Robertson, who had to replace Georgina Philip at very short notice), a rich and devious widow vies with Flaminia for Flavio's love, that is until they hear that he is to be disinherited for stealing his father's money, which of course he didn't steal!

Then there is Capitano Spavento, the boastful yet cowardly soldier who is in love with Isabella, a love unrequited until Flavio is disinherited and Isabella and Flaminia turn their attentions towards him.

Finally, there is Franceschina (Mimi Bush), Isabella's streetwise maid, who is involved in Arlecchino's intrigues and more than a little romantically interested in her fellow mischief maker.

This frivolous plot is the vehicle for the amusing and highly entertaining treatment of the various stock themes mentioned above. Indeed, the audience was highly entertained. Strong characterisation, pacy performances and bags of stage business ensured young and old alike were totally absorbed.

Isabella and Flaminia were sharply differentiated as the self-absorbed, wealthy society women. Franceschina deftly divided her loyalties between her mistress and the bold Arlecchino. Capitano Spavento (Lawrence Court) was at once the comic buffoon and a moral lesson in human failings.

Stuart Chapman handled the difficult part of the hapless lover with great maturity, while William Bowry, portraying effectively the stereotypical miserly merchant, managed also to suggest a very human fatherly concern for his son at the end of the play.

Finally, the parts of the two clowns, Arlecchino and Pulcinella, were superbly played by Phillip Scales and Mungo Laing. Their dialogue crackled, flawless in pacing and timing; their stage business was executed with skill and athleticism.

The success of this production was due not only to some wonderfully accomplished acting but also to a set, which was visually striking, beautifully lit and, in its multi-level design, afforded endless scope for inventive staging. Character and situation were cleverly underscored by Stephen Dutton's musical montage. Iain Kilpatrick's skilled and imaginative direction fully exploited both the talents of the young actors and the potential of the superb set, doing full justice to a great theatrical tradition.

JLB



Riley Expressive Arts

Joseph

Colourful - that's an understatement! The multi-coloured dreamcoat paled into significance beside the brilliance of the young stars.

Riley's performance of *Joseph* was one not to be missed. Anyone who doubts today's youngsters' wholehearted commitment to a project should visit the Strathallan Theatre at the end of the Summer term to be truly won over. After only a few weeks of rehearsals, most of which coincided with exam revision and "sitting", the end result was a slick, entertaining, lively show that was above all FUN both to perform and to watch.

The familiar story of Joseph and his treacherous brothers, of their gradual repentance and reconciliation, was movingly portrayed by a united and expressive cast to the very professional accompaniment of the swinging techno-coloured band and against a backdrop of really impressive sets. The chorus did a superb job singing and dancing with joyful yet well-disciplined enthusiasm. Well done, the choreographer!

There were many outstanding individual performances: David Chalmers, as the central character, whose pure, clear tones were a delight to hear;

Catriona Sutherland, whose confidence and volume are legendary!; Catriona and Alan Martin, whose duets were assured and polished despite Alan having left part of his voice at the previous evening's disco!; Kate Nesbitt, whose sensitive story-telling and communication with her audience show a remarkable maturity and blossoming talent; and of course, Amelia - well, what can I say, except "Long live the King!" What a sensational interpretation!

Other solo contributions came from:- Andy Appleby, David Coaton, Melenik Forde, Holly Harvey, Jenny Hay, David Petrie and Rebecca Johnstone - and fine contributions they were too. Aimi Gdula and Andrew Lawson kept us up-to-date with the story-line admirably and the dancing girls may grace the stage of the Moulin Rouge any day now!

The work required to produce an entertainment of such quality is phenomenal but Iain Kilpatrick and Stephen Dutton, as Director and Musical Director respectively, once again came up trumps and their dedication is recognised and greatly appreciated by all. So also are the efforts of many other willing helpers, adults and pupils, who were involved behind the scenes of this splendid show.

FMN

Riley Music

"WOW! THAT WAS SENSATIONAL!" ... was one of the many comments received from the audience, much to our enjoyment. The drums had rolled off to a crashing finish, the stage crew were wheeling off the props, the lights were still flickering beams of colour on the floor, catching glimpses of the dust and smoke. That was the end of our whole year's work.

Well, OK, I'd better tell you how it began. On the first day of term, a whole crowd of new people arrived, all of different ages and abilities. Crammed into one room, from the second day onwards we found out on just how large a scale music here was based. Immediately all of us were arranged into choirs, there being four in Riley and all successfully running. As our instrumentalists ranged from recorders to double basses, an orchestra was quick and easy to establish and, needless to say, worked well. Despite our busy schedule, weekly practices had already been written into our timetable. But extra practices crept in as soon as the need for chapel and concerts arose. (Where we found all the energy and inspiration to do all this and come back for more, I really don't know.)

Our teachers certainly encouraged us. We performed concerts, mini yes, but every Monday. All of us had to do a solo at some point. Did you see us in Headmaster's Music? Self-confidence started from there. So much so, that by the second term we were taking over. (Almost.) No, we didn't believe it either.

"What, we are doing their job?" Yes, each div.(division) chose their own music representative who would choose the music, people, organise them and teach. Practices held in their own spare time? It was done and it couldn't have been better! By Easter each div. had produced their own solo, choir and ensemble with as much enthusiasm, colour and competition as you could imagine. And really serious musical talent? That didn't matter. But by the end of the year, all four were clearly on show.

Kate Nesbitt (2nd Form)

A scene from Riley's production of 'Joseph'.



St. Andrew's Night

When beginning to write this article, I asked various people what recollection they had of St Andrew's Night.

Most replies came in the form of: "I can't really remember ..." But as I continued to urge: "Please, please you must be able to think of something" - suddenly it all came flooding back ...

To everyone's surprise, the night had a favourable outcome - even the 1st XV would have to admit that drinking Sprite all night wasn't too bad! The meal, the friendly atmosphere and the sight of staff and pupils dancing - (sometimes their own war dance), certainly made the evening highly entertaining. Special thanks must be given to Mrs Hamilton and her fairy-footed helpers, James Donald and Neil Hutton for their expert demonstrations.

But, most of all, the Upper Sixth give a BIG thanks to all the staff who contributed to making the event such a success.

Joanne Buchanan (Upper Sixth)

Mrs. H. and Alex B.



Examination Results 1998

Strathallan's pupils have once again achieved outstanding examination results. The A level pass rate was over 97% with almost 40% of pupils gaining A-B grades.

The pupils sitting Scottish Highers achieved almost a 71% pass rate with almost 47% of them obtaining A-B grades.

GCSE and Scottish Standard Grade results fared just as well with an A*-C rate of over 88% almost a 62% increase on the national average. The percentage of A* grades leapt from 6.4% last year to a record level of 11.9% almost 3 times the national average.

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Our professional association with Strathallan School has spanned the past 13 years and we wish the school continued success in the future.

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In a year which saw the foundations laid for the Scottish Parliament, the signing of the Northern Ireland Peace Treaty and the World Cup; we thought we would pay tribute to perhaps the biggest event of all - Geri leaving the 'Spice Girls'.

So here, in honour of the new fab four, we represent... **Strath Spice!**

Baby Spice



Brotherly, sisterly love.



The King - UH HUH!



Hard work acting!



Posh Spice



Mr. Murray enjoys his final Speech Day.



Mr. Broadfoot has one for the road to Kelvinside.

The pipe band stand to attention.





Step this way please, sir



Mrs. McDonald hard at work.

Wow, there's millions of them!



Mr. Ashmore makes a tuneful farewell.



Two headmasters entertain the crowd.



Sporty Spice



Fraser Whitelaw goes for the kill.



Lil Thapo prays for speed.

Charitably exhausted!



Not far now, boys.

Curling Champs '98.





We wish Tucker was here!

Head of School leads from the front.



What a pity! If you'd made the save you'd have got the car.

Me! I live for rugby.



Scary Spice



Charles proves he can.



The future's bright, the future's orange.

Mr. Read - scared to smile.



A hasty exit from chapel.



Art Awards



A self-portrait by Laura Dover won second prize in a Royal Bank Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy schools art competition.

Laura Dover receives her award from Sir Angus Grossart from the Royal Bank and Petronella Haldane, FRSA.

Robbie Gemmil receiving the Junior Art Prize in the Perthshire Art Association's annual show. The presentation was made by the well known sculptor Tony Morrow.

Three other pupils also received awards for their entries: Miller Nicolson, Duncan Crosthwaite and Nicky Malcolm.



Ceramics



'Portrait Vase' - Fiona McFarlane (Ceramic).

“Those who like the unusual are immune to the ordinary.”

Sōetsu Yanagu



'Snake' - Simon King (Ceramic).



'Vanitas' - Ed Willing (Ceramic).

'Venetian Masks' - Neil Walker (Ceramic).



'Baroque Armour' - Thomas Gemmil (Ceramic).



Painting



'Orient' - Laura Dover (Woodcut).



'Self-portrait' - Fraser Phillip (Painting).



'Self-portrait' - Jennifer McBain (Painting).



'Discovery' - Thomas Gemmil (Woodcut).

*“Art is a harmony
parallel to nature.”*

Paul Cézanne

'Yesnaby Cliffs' - Jaclyn Murdoch (Acrylic).



Reportage



Edward Phillips was awarded a sixth form Royal Navy scholarship following selection by the Admiralty Interview Board.



Hockey stars; Mike Chaussy and Lil Thapa, with Alex Blackstock and James Donald enjoying a training session with Barry Cibich, Director of High Performance Hockey at the Australian Institute of Sport.



Jennie Perry received a gold medal for public speaking in the LAMDA awards.



Shyamala Arumugam was picked for the Scottish Youth Theatre's month-long Summer School in Glasgow.



Niall Robertson, Solo Piping Scottish Champion in the under 13 section for 1997. Seen here holding the Conoco (UK) trophy and wearing the kilt, both of which make up his prize.



Nicola Milne and John-Matthew Court were awarded sixth form army scholarships.



Jeremy McDougall was selected for the Scottish Schools National Player Development Squad.



Alexander Ferguson won first prize in the Bible reading class aged 10-12, in the Perthshire Musical Competition Festival.



Girls in Woodlands swam 3,000 lengths of the pool - equivalent to swimming to France and back - and raised £1,500 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. Angela Wares from Macmillan was presented with the cheque by some of the swimmers, (left to right) Lynn Watson, Katie Dutton, Inez Manson, Laura Dover, Philippa Blair Oliphant, Ruth Mazur and Jaclyn Murdoch.



(Photograph courtesy of D C Thomson).



Scott McKinley was picked to represent the Scottish Schools' Athletic Association in an International Multi-Event Competition against England, Ireland and Wales at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.



Sixth Form Ball



Strath 'Beautiful People' heading for the Ball.

Y.M.C.A!!!

Although there are considerable

variations to the story- what follows is the accurate account of the Ball. As usual, all the hairdressers in Perth were booked up on the Saturday afternoon. As usual, a gale was blowing outside and, as usual, the girls were up to high-doh!

By 7.30 though most had arrived at the Dining Hall safe, sound and sexy after hours of filing, cutting, plucking, buffing, waxing, pampering and shaving (or so the boys claimed).

Before dancing started there was much to be done. The photos were a great success (although Sarah Campbell insisted on being in about 8 photos, so prolonging the event). The meal was enjoyed by all - many thanks to the wine waiters - and the raffle seemed to be the highlight of the evening for Simpson Upper Sixth.

Everyone present will have their own recollections (or lack of them) as to what followed, but the country dancing, guided of course by Mrs Hamilton and the staff band, fronted by Mr Kennedy singing some classics were among some of the dignified events that took place.

The evening proved to be great fun and our thanks go to Dr Carr and all who helped in making it such a memorable evening; to Mr Proctor for making us all tidy up afterwards, and, of course, James Donald and Dave Russell for helping with the flower arranging.



Christina Breaden (Lower Sixth)



The Dame

I risked an upwards glance when the dame came in.

She was obviously distressed. It was just my luck. It was a Monday, I had just run out of cigarettes and I was having to deal with a distressed dame. She had a face that suggested that somebody upstairs had a sense of humour, but I wasn't in the mood for laughing.

She was blubbering something about 'her Danny'. I caught the words 'help' and 'six foot men with ten shot automatics'. Normally, I wouldn't accept that kind of case - it's not really my scene but under the circumstances I decided that I'd give it a shot.

The dame's screaming hit an octave normally used for calling dogs.

"Woah, lady - you've gone ultrasonic!"

"Look, buster! I have just been to hell and back. Are you going to help me or not?" Her voice was high pitched and trembling like a nightingale in mating season.

She was a pushy dame, but she had a case. She sounded like a case herself, but I can't choose my clients and work hadn't exactly been busy. In fact, if business was as good as my aim, I'd have been on easy street. Instead, I was in a dingy office on 49th Street and had a nasty relationship with my landlord.

"Sure, sister." I snapped. I told her it would cost fifty greenbacks a day, plus expenses.

I decided to go out investigating. As an experienced private eye, I knew where to start - the tobacco store. I puffed deeply and watched the smoke mingle with the smell of a rainy afternoon. Cars passed and sprayed the pavements and lampposts flooded the street with orange light. Questions poured down on me like rain. The dame sure hadn't been helpful. I knew three things - his name was Danny, he had been taken by six foot men with ten shot automatics, and I needed another cigarette.

Since I didn't have much to go on, I decided to go and try big Frankie. I found him by the bar and asked him for some information. He wasn't talking - someone had got to him first and shut him up good. And knowing Big Frankie, that would have taken a lot of work. I needed a clue and I

needed a cigarette. I knew where to find one of them.

I bowed my head and sheltered my cigarette under my coat to light up. The click of a .38 behind my head focused my thoughts like only imminent death can. I remembered my useful buddy who's very close to my heart - a little down and left, to be exact.

I reached for him and spun around. As I did, I felt a particularly large and heavy two by four on the side of my skull.

When I came to, the inside of my head was exploding with fireworks. Fortunately, my last thought turned out the light before it left. I opened my eyes but I couldn't see much. It was pitch black. Suddenly the lights flicked on and bright, white light hit me like a bad hangover.

I found myself in a small, bare room with no windows. I figured I was underground. I was lying tightly tied up by

"It was at times like this when I wondered if being a private eye was worth it. But snooping pays the bills though. Especially Bill, my bookie, and Bill, my probation officer."

a rope that squeezed like a hug from a large grizzly. I figured someone wanted to keep me here. Boy, was my mind working fast. I wriggled myself up the wall into a sitting position. Unfortunately, the wall had just been whitewashed and my trench coat was ruined. A man's got to look his best when he's working, after all.

I squinted my eyes to try and focus on the three blurred people now in the room.

One spoke. "Remember me?"

I recognised the voice immediately. It was the hysterical dame. I guessed the other two must have been her hired goons.

"What the hell are you doing lady?" I asked. It seemed like a reasonable question at the time.

"You're the private eye - you work it out. After all, I am paying you!" she retorted.

Yeah, well my expenses just increased. You owe me a new coat," I snapped.

It was times like this when I wondered if being a private eye was worth it. But snooping pays the bills though. Especially

Bill, my bookie, and Bill, my probation officer.

I figured that she was trying to set me up - she didn't need me to solve the case at all. She just wanted a poor patsy to pin the kidnapping of her Danny on. I had seen cases like this before.

She laughed, mumbled to the men and then left. There was nothing much I could have done then - not with the hired goons there. One I could have taken, but this was a different story. My plans for that night had been ruined. I had planned to spend the night with a couple of buddies. They travel light and they're fun to be with - one travels in a holster, the other in a hip flask. That made me mad.

I wriggled and squirmed in frustration on the floor like a worm - soggy and drowning at the bottom of a puddle. But the ropes just tightened their grip. Again, I sat against the wall to catch my breath - I noticed something gleaming on the floor just in front of me, like a present from up above. It was my lighter.

I crawled over to it 'caterpillar-style' and managed to pick it up. I lit it and held it under the rope around my hands. Eventually, I had burnt through the ropes and nearly my wrists, too. With my free hand free, I quickly untied the rest of the ropes and parked up a cigarette. I smoked it with an "I've just broke free" feel.

I heard a slow, heavy beat of footsteps.

"Marlowe! We have a nice surprise for you. Haw, haw, haw!"

Marlowe's my name. What people call me is something else again. I thanked them under my breath for the early warning.

I jumped up and stood behind the door. I heard the key turn. The door creaked open. They walked in. Good - the dame wasn't with them. I slipped behind them and sneaked out the door. I slammed it shut and turned the key. They were prisoners now.

Although they're big and strong, gorillas generally aren't known for their speed or mental agility. I gave them a minute to see the burnt ropes and to put two and two together. It took them about three. Those guys were exceptionally thick.

I hear the cursing, shouting and banging as I walked quickly down the corridor in search of the hysterical dame. I wondered why she had chosen me. I had a hunch that before this was over, I'd be sorry I'd asked.

Charis Robertson (Fifth Form)



Dragons

Once upon a time,

when people and dragons were at peace with each other, there lived a young Dragon called Timothy.

He had a mother and father, and a big sister called Natasha. His father, Rashnu, was the head of their village, and all the other Dragons looked up to him. Timothy's mother, Sellano, was a fierce warrior and as well as being a housewife, she often accompanied Rashnu and the other male Dragons into battle. There is not much to say about Natasha. Most of her time was spent up in her bedroom in front of the mirror, preening herself and putting on make-up.

Now, I have already said that at this time, people and dragons were at peace with each other. The Dragons, to people, were just another non-fire breathing race that lived in the next country. Some arguments had been known to occur, but at the time this story begins, peace reigned.

Chapter 1

It was around 9 o'clock in the Dragon village. All the shops were just opening up and you could see the shop owners stacking piles of fruit and vegetables outside their doors. It was a beautiful day; a deep blue sky and the sun shining down on the village. The leafy trees which were in full bloom, provided much needed shade and several dragons were walking towards them.

In a quiet, shaded street lived Timothy and his family. They owned a spacious, four bedroomed shack with a wooden patio and a big sloping garden. At the bottom of this garden was an old oak tree which was much taller than the house. It was great for climbing and Timothy could already get three-quarters of the way up it. On this particular day, Timothy got up early and went out to the garden. He began to climb the tree, higher and higher, until he reached a point where he could climb no further. It was a lovely view from the tree. You could see all the village spread out like a jigsaw puzzle. He had a good view of the main street, too, and he was just thinking how nice the village looked in the morning sunshine, when he heard a clattering of hooves! He looked down in surprise, and saw his father's messenger charging up the street on his horse.

"Listen, Ladies and Gentlemen, listen!" he cried as he came to a rather abrupt stop by the fountain. His horse shied and it was sometime before he managed to gain control of it. When he did, he started shouting again.

"I have bad news, friends," he cried. "I went to the people's town of Caleston to run some errands but when I got to the gates, they were shut and the guards wouldn't let me in!"

There were murmurings in the crowd at this.

"When I asked why they wouldn't, they said that the people had declared war on the Dragons, and no correspondence could be entered into between either side!"

A cry of amazement went up from the gathering. Why, people and Dragons had been at peace - or nearly at peace, for several hundred years. Whatever could have turned the people against them?

"I must go and tell the head," the messenger said. "You will get more news later." He galloped off.

Timothy, from high up in his tree leaning over the main street, saw and heard everything. He was, although surprised rather excited. He'd always wanted to fight in a battle but they were scarce, and if one had come along his father probably wouldn't have let him fight anyway.

"Still," he said thinking out loud. "I may as well try to persuade him - after all, I'm twelve now, and that's almost as good as being an adult!"

He clambered quickly down the tree and ran to the house. He burst through the kitchen door where his Mum, Dad and sister were having breakfast.

"Mum, Dad!" he cried. "Your messenger has come back, and he says that the people of Caleston have declared war on the Dragons! I know I'm young - but I'm twelve

now, so can I fight in the battle?"

Rashnu his father, said: "I am not sure that what you say is true, but if it is then the messenger should arrive soon and give us the details. As to fighting in a battle, that is out of the question, for a battlefield is no place for a boy."

Timothy was about to protest when they heard a horse's whinny and a stamping of hooves, and a loud knock at the door.

"That will be him now," said Rashnu.

The door opened and the messenger entered. He hung up his coat for it was a warm day.

"Sire," he cried, "I have terrible news. The people have declared war on us! Even now they are getting ready for battle. We must start to get ready too."

"This is terrible," agreed Rashnu. "But you are right. We must make preparations. Call the village councillors!"

"Yes, Sire," said the messenger, and he rode away on his horse.

Alexandra Lamb (Fifth Form)



A party of fourteen led by RJWP and AMT spent three days in London over the February

half-term visiting as many as possible of the institutions that are part of the A level syllabus and as many of the personalities associated with them. The aim was to add some flesh and blood to the perhaps rather dry academic bones that had been collected during the course.

We caught the sleeper at Perth and arrived remarkably fresh at Euston on Monday, 16 February managing successfully to liaise with those members of our party for whom it had not been practical to leave from School. A quick dash to Hobbs Hotel to deposit luggage (more than one member of the group realised with a shudder that the shabbiest hotel on Belgrave Road, into which a malignant fate might have booked us, was the H*tt*n Hotel) was followed by a short walk to Westminster where the charming and efficient secretary of Michael Moore (the Strathallian, recently elected Liberal Democrat MP for David Steel's old seat) took us on an introductory tour round the Commons, the Lords and all the public areas of the Palace. These were buildings which we were to know well in the course of the next three days and by the end it was with a certain insouciance that we would pass the queues outside and exchange friendly greetings with the policemen on duty.

After our tour we had an appointment in one of the ornate Committee Rooms with the Earl of Mar and Kellie, who is the constitutional spokesman for the Scottish Liberal Democrats. He guided us through the functions of an Upper Chamber and, as he is formerly a social worker and currently a candidate for the Scottish Parliament his ancestor did as much as any to dissolve, he had a lot of interesting ideas to communicate about the wide political world. Lord Hope of Craighead, one of the Scottish Appeal Judges in the Lords, although engaged that day at Downing Street with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, had said that he would look out for us and our paths duly, if briefly, coincided which was much appreciated.

We had some tickets for Ministerial Question Time in the Commons, where it was the turn of Chris Smith, the Minister for Culture, Sport etc. to face the slings and arrows of his political adversaries; the remainder attended the similar, but rather more dignified occasion in the Lords. Afterwards we re-assembled in the Central Lobby and proceeded to Committee Room 20 where we had a very interesting hour with one of the fresh intake of Labour MPs, Ann Maguire, who had just been promoted to being the Secretary of State's Parliamentary Private Secretary so she too had a lot of fascinating first impressions to give about the life and work of a new MP. Roseanna Cunningham, our SNP local MP who had been extremely helpful in helping us to organise the trip, met us afterwards on the Terrace outside the Commons and she seemed to be as interested in our experiences as we were in asking her political questions.

We had had a pretty busy day but there was still another visit on our schedule and that was to Bush House, home of the marvellous BBC World Service. Some of the more jaded opined

that perhaps it might have been better not to have had so much on our first day but such craven souls soon recovered as Fiona MacDonald, a programme producer, took us round and introduced us to a good number of the interesting people who work in what is an institution that clearly lives up to its reputation. Flagging spirits recovered in the canteen where the overwhelming impression was of a relaxed and highly professional staff enjoying each other's company after a rewarding day's work.

Our second day began with a visit to the British Museum, where as on our previous visit we had the great good fortune to meet Robert Anderson, who is the Director. He gave us a well-crafted talk in which he explained his duties and responsibilities against the background of organising an institution that received a great deal of government money. Afterwards he himself took us round some of the celebrated exhibits; it was a curious feeling to have the significance of the Elgin Marbles and the Rosetta Stone explained to us by the Director.

From there it was back to the Commons to another Committee Room where three MPs had agreed to be available at different stages of the two hours before lunch to talk to us and answer our questions. They were Michael Moore, Alan Beith, the Liberal Democratic Deputy Leader, in whose office one of our party had worked the previous summer, and Michael Ancram, the former junior minister in the Northern Ireland Office and currently the spokesman of the Conservative party on matters constitutional. Individually and together they talked about their

Michael Moore MP. Member of Parliament for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, and Old Strathallian - Simpson (82).



matters of concern, current issues and political principles, and we were all struck by how well, despite public appearances particularly on television, they got on together.

As before, we had some tickets for what turned out to be Ministerial Question Time on Scottish Affairs and those who did not manage to get tickets were entertained by similar procedures in the Lords: 'entertained' is perhaps the correct verb to describe such quaint, old-fashioned courtesies and the only real show of emotion was when a flustered peer did not seem pleased at the ribald reaction to his rather curious statement that "...if we were in the West Indies, which we are not ..." as he made some cogent point about forestation! We listened to a bit of the ensuing debate and then proceeded rather smartly up Whitehall to Dover House, the Scottish Office in London, where we were fortunate enough to have forty minutes with Sam Galbraith, the Junior Minister for Health, and a former brain surgeon himself, so there were plenty of insights to be had into the world of medical politics. And that gave us just enough time to dash to see the play *A Question of Resignation* starring James Fox as Prime Minister, Harold MacMillan, facing the disintegration of his government and his own personal life. It had therefore been a day when there were plenty of political issues to focus upon.

Our last day had been planned round the visit by the fortunate few to the rearranged half hour Prime Ministerial Question Time; thanks to the marvellous work done by the various secretaries to the MPs whom we nagged remorselessly, we managed to get no less than eight tickets which left only a few to go, in their turn, to the Lords. The morning we spent at the offices of the European Parliament where we met the Chief Press Officer who provided us with the European dimension to our observations on what we had seen and experienced in our Westminster meetings. Afterwards, on our way to the Commons, we witnessed the mourners leaving after a service of remembrance for Enoch Powell and it was an opportunity after a hard few days to stop and goggle at the great and the good. John Major looked understandably relaxed, Kenneth Clarke did not wear Hush Puppies, Alan Clark rushed for a taxi and it was odd, but somehow gratifying, to see Tony Benn there. Best of all for us, Iain Sproat, who had visited Strathallan when Minister for sport, came over to greet us and acted as guide through what had been happening to some of the more notorious of the mourners.

On then for a last nostalgic visit to Westminster, where by now we all felt very much at home; valedictory vindaloo and the sleeper to Perth; at the end of a worthwhile and enjoyable trip we certainly were not short of small talk on the journey back to School.



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Science Matters

Challenges for the Medical Profession.

"We tinker with the food chain at our peril," warned Sir David Carter at this year's Ernst & Young lecture, as he reflected on some of the lessons learnt as a result of the BSE crisis.

In his address to members of the sixth form and guests of the School, he paid tribute to the many achievements of the past hundred years: "We are coming to the end of a marvellous century for medicine." Within this time, we have seen the birth of the National Health Service which, at 50 years old, "has survived remarkably well". We have also seen major developments, with minimally invasive key hole surgery and organ transplants being just some examples which demonstrate the pace of change.

Sir David is the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland and has had a distinguished medical career. He served as the Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Edinburgh and before this, as the St Mungo Professor of Surgery at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He also established the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit in Edinburgh and in 1993 was appointed Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland.

Whilst applauding the achievements and considerable progress that has been made over the years, he also highlighted new challenges which "have come out of the jungle to haunt us". Citing examples, Sir David began with HIV and the magnitude of the problem in Scotland. He also talked about the consequences of BSE and the toxic E coli strain which, with its tragic consequences, has been the subject of much media coverage. He warned, "We can't be too complacent; we are not as clever as we think we are. This problem is not yet under control and we have to be very careful what we eat."

Continuing with his warnings, Sir David went on to criticise Scotland's public health record - both at Government and individual level. We were reminded that we have a poorer life expectancy north of the border, compared with other countries. Whilst there is 23% more *per capita* spent on health in Scotland as compared with the rest of the UK, we still fall way behind other G7 countries.

He certainly made us think about what we eat with his warning that "we are eating ourselves into major difficulties, ... our diet predisposes us to cancer and coronary heart disease." Although, in conversation after the lecture, he did confess to enjoying the occasional plate of chips.

This was a thought-provoking lecture, and Sir David was an entertaining speaker. He inspired those fortunate to chat to him at supper afterwards and he left a clear impression about the challenges for the medical profession as we head into the next century.



Sir David Carter is pictured with Alison Hunter and John Fingland (OS), Partner of sponsors Ernst & Young (standing).



Louise Johnson having a hair raising experience on the Van der Graaff generator bar.

TEM



Colder Than Cold.

Dr Pagett from St. Andrews University came to give Strathallan's A-level physics pupils his lecture, 'Colder Than Cold', on Wednesday 19th November. Arriving half an hour early to get our photographs taken, we got a sneak preview of the "chilling" demonstrations to come. In that short time, Dr Pagett managed to transform the typical "physics lecturer" images that spring to mind to ones much more appealing.

Dr Pagett made a comment that the lecture theatre reminded him of a cinema, indeed, we felt like an audience. The whole thing was a bit like a magic show, except we were given some explanation as to how the "magic" actually worked!

When we weren't actually immersed in the stuff, it was obvious that liquid nitrogen was the key to the lecture's demonstrations and entertainment. Between flying magnets, air rings and the "smashing" frozen pipe, we all survived to sample Dr Pagett's home made ice-cream.

Dr Pagett's lecture was both educational and entertaining and we hope to have similar opportunities to further our understanding of physics in the future - preferably within the next two years.

Rebecca Booth and Sarah Campbell (Sixth Form)



Dr. Pagett with Rebecca Booth and Sarah Campbell.

Dr Bruce Sinclair, a researcher at St Andrews University, is pictured with Nicola Milne and Gareth Paterson demonstrating the capabilities of a helium neon laser. He talked to sixth form pupils in the Spring term about laser technology and its application in medicine and astronomy.



Ice Station Zebra

The Lower Sixth Geography field trip began auspiciously - the sun was shining.

After one of the wettest Easter holidays anyone could remember, the party were encouraged by the thought that they were off to Southern France, a destination chosen because the weather could be guaranteed to be hot and sunny, unlike Scotland's - cold, wet and miserable (and it was cheaper than Morocco, the other destination offered by the field studies group we were with). DJC's reminders that the centre was 5,000 feet up in the Cévennes and that mountain climates were unpredictable had fallen on deaf ears. The shorts and T-shirts were packed and they were going to be worn.

Reality set in when the coach driver told us there was eight inches of snow at the centre. But, safe in the knowledge that mountain climates are variable, we were all pretty confident that it would have melted by our arrival. How wrong we were! Arriving in snow, the Eagle's Nest Field Centre bore a distinct resemblance to Hitler's hideaway of the same name but we suspect his place might have been warmer.

So, did the conditions allow us to do any work? But of course! We couldn't do everything: it's difficult to measure footpath erosion when the path is invisible under six inches of snow; and cries of, "Cruelty!" would doubtless have greeted any

suggestions that the tor we visited might be field-sketched. So, instead of having everyone with hypothermia, we gave Harry the opportunity to front a video discussion of tor formation. Unfortunately, he mixed freeze-thaw weathering (currently being experienced) with tropical conditions (he wished) to earn a decisive, "Wrong!" from DJC.

A day at the coast (to warm us up) saw the party draw up a land-use map of Aigues-Mortes: an exercise cunningly devised to show the pros and cons of the technique of classification. It highlighted the importance of perception in these studies, as a certain retail outlet was mapped as 'high class tourism', something clearly recognised by the staff for whom it was the main source of the exquisite examples of local artefacts awarded at the end of

week prize-giving (a shopping trip disguised as a tacky tourism competition). Another tip on advance fieldwork planning for the A level projects to come was provided by the trip to St. Enimie, a tourist honeypot. Studies of its land use, catchment area and conflicts between locals and tourists were not very successful. Next time we'll try not to arrive out of season on a snowy day,

when the car park was under water, at lunch time when the shops were shut. Honey-pot? The place was a ghost town.

We'd been told that the weather would change on Tuesday. The optimists amongst us (everyone) had assumed this would be for the better. We were wrong: Wednesday saw us totally snowed in. We did, however, have a visitor - the Head Ranger from the Mont Lozère National Park. On the farming study day we had been able to see how keen the Aubrac cattle were to implement

It's not always sunny in France...





Geographers will do anything to see if footpath erosion is taking place!

the policy of maintaining the traditional species, now the Ranger was able to fill us in - in French - on a lot of other issues.

Of course, it wasn't all work. The new sports of drift diving and snow volleyball were invented and the more artistic excelled at snow sculpture. For the traditionalists, a spot of rugby training was provided the day the coach got stuck in a snowdrift. Other highlights included Harry's insistence that we watch *Manon des Sources* (nothing to do with Emanuelle Déart - it was for the storyline); Rocky's ability to scatter his belongings - but two pairs of boxer shorts at the beach was a bit excessive; Tucker's determination to look at the boats - at Aigues-Mortes, La Grande Motte ... and the car park on the way home; Christina's efforts at improving Anglo-Scottish relations by way of Edinburgh Woollen Mill; J-P's desire to cash some money (did he ever find a bank?); the effect running both Riley and the Geography Department was having on WAC; the sketch of Strathallan during the game of Pictionary, that nobody recognised

Eventually it was time to leave - one last snowfall, one last snow fight. A picnic stop - in the rain - an overnight journey and twenty-nine and a half hours later we arrived back at Strathallan. Naturally, because it was Scotland, where it always rains, the sun was shining brightly.

(Perhaps we could persuade Dr Carr to take us to Morocco next year. Isn't it always hot and sunny in Morocco?)



"I think this grin is frozen to my face by now."

EAE

The STRATHALLIAN



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Irrigation in the Salvation Hotel

“What’s it we’ve got to do for the irrigation exam?” asked one little fellow.

No, this is not the start of a report of farming activities at Strathallan, but on - believe it or not! speech and drama activities. The activity the IJ pupil was confused about was ‘improvisation’, not ‘irrigation’!

This year, yet again, numbers involved in speech and drama activities increased. This is apart from the cohorts taking part in internal productions! Almost 20% of our pupils participated in at least one external performance, competition, festival or examination.

In the Autumn term, Andrew Morris was runner-up in the Perth Speakers Club’s annual Public Speaking Competition. In the Perth Burns Club’s Festival, Duncan Broadfoot won the over 15 recitation class with Douglas Forbes runner-up and James Duncan came second in the under 15 section.

Because of renovations to the City Hall, the Perthshire Competition Festival speech classes took place in the Salvation Hotel (not the Salvation Hotel, as one of our pupils thought!). Here, there were fine performances in the Shakespeare classes. In

the over 15 section, Leila Arakji came first, Alexandra Lamb second and Nicol Edwards third. William Bowry was second in the under 15s. Alexandra Lamb had a particularly successful day as she also achieved ‘distinctions’ in Bible reading and poetry recitation. Another Bible reading success went to Alexander Ferguson, first in a huge class of under 12s. Georgina Philip won the 12 to 15 class for recitation of ‘Nature’ by H D Carberry.

The Edinburgh (Competition) Festival saw our best ever results. We achieved a magnificent nine firsts, including five of the major prizes. Two of these went to Alexandra Lamb - the W L Dalgleish Prize for Bible reading 14 to 17 years and the Jean Belfrage Elocution Prize for the best performance of a poem, for which she also achieved ‘honours’ for ‘an outstanding performance’. A similar grade went to Aimi Gdula and Catriona Sutherland in the ‘dramatic scene - under 17 class’. Aimi also won the Edinburgh and District Burns Club Association Prize for the best performance of Burns - under 17.

Georgina Philip won the Mary Cameron Watson Cup for a speech from Shakespeare and her brother, Fraser, won the solo verse speaking 12 to 14 class. Another brother/sister success went to Alan and Catriona Martin who were first and second respectively in the story telling class.

Liam Ferry won the W L Dalgleish Prize for Bible reading 12 to 14 years. In the choral verse speaking IJ was first and I set 2 was second.

The exams of LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) took place over three days in May and June. Compared with our first year of entering 4 years ago we now have a very large number of entries. Many are now attempting medals or junior medallion.

Honours (over 85%) in acting went to Tara Laing and Jamie Partridge (Silver medal), Victoria Robertson, Georgina Philip, Tom Booth, William Bowry, James Duncan and Jamie Laux (all junior medallion), Lucy Green and Georgia Manson (Grade 8) and to Hian Stark and Fraser Philip (Grade 5).

The examiner declared herself particularly impressed with the improvisation candidates. All of IJ who did improvisation exams achieved at least distinction (75%) with David Burgess, Scott Macdonald and Charles Leadbetter gaining honours. Liam Ferry and Rebecca Johnstone achieved honours in the performance of verse and prose.

We had our first Gold medal candidates this year. In acting, Victoria McIntyre gained a very high distinction mark. She is, in fact, going to study drama at LAMDA. For her gold medal in public speaking, Jennie Perry was awarded, according to the examiner, the highest mark she had ever given a medal candidate. Jennie has derived much benefit from her involvement with the Fair City Speakers Club, in Perth, where she has learned a great deal about public speaking and evaluation. We are indebted to the Speakers’ Club for the encouragement they have given all of our pupils who have gone along to it.

And to round off a hectic year Shyamala Arumugam took part in a four week course in the summer holidays at the Scottish Youth Theatre Summer School.

Successful Lamda Candidates and Verse Speakers.



Brisbane Boys' College

On the 30 March I waved goodbye to my parents as I

disappeared through the departure gates of London, Heathrow. Twenty two hours and 2 days later I waved hello to the slightly larger figures of Bally and Donald Matheson as I emerged from the arrival gates of Australia's Brisbane International Airport on a term's exchange to Brisbane Boys' College.

Over the course of the four and a half months I spent in Australia and New Zealand I went white water rafting, lugeing (anyone who went on the Oceania Tour will explain what that is) and jet boating. I visited the outback and helped work on a sheep property, spent a week in the famous Noosa Heads seaside resort and surfed on the even more famous Gold Coast. I even bungee jumped - to my mum's great disapproval, I might add - sorry, Mum!

Before anyone starts thinking that this sounds like the holiday of a lifetime, I would add that between all this entertainment I also took part in arguably the most gruelling and intense rugby competition in the world. Playing for Brisbane Boys' College, I spent the season in the 1st XV playing with and against some of the most talented athletes I have ever seen. The 'GPS Comp', as it is known, is competed for by nine of Brisbane's, Toowoomba's and Ipswich's top rugby-playing schools and the mantle of GPS Champions carries with it the respect of all - not to mention a day's holiday for the entire school.

Colin Eadie turning out for Brisbane Boys' College First XV.



Colin, back on home ground, playing for Strath First XV.

The biggest thing for me was the pride every student took in the school and especially representing it on the sports field. This is something we unfortunately tends to lack in a lot of Scottish schools. The pride is best demonstrated in the fact that it was common place to get crowds in excess of 4,000 people at rugby games. The crowd consisted of the entire school plus parents, grandparents, friends, old boys and anyone else who happened to be strolling by at 3.15 on a Saturday afternoon. Being part of the 1st XV was a special experience as everyone looked up to you and you could make a young lad's day by just saying 'hi!' to him. A couple of lasting memories for me were of junior school kids fighting over standing on the scrummaging sledge as we practised our scrum and of one guy, on the day of my departure, asking for my autograph before I left. That may sound a little bid-headed but that's what happens and he no doubt went on and asked the rest of the team for their autographs as well.

Although all the exciting things I did and the pride of running on the 1st XV pitch will last long in my mind, the enduring memories will be of the friends made on and off the pitch. The friends you make when you are part of something like a rugby team in my mind are the most special because it is with them you share the highest highs and the lowest lows. When I look back on a season like mine at BBC I may not remember results but I will always remember the faces for whom I put my body on the line, as they did for me.

I would like to thank the Headmaster for allowing me the opportunity to go to Australia and to Mr Ball and Mr Weigall for making it possible.

PS - for the record: BBC 1st XV played 8; won 5; lost 3 and finished 3rd in the GPS Comp '98.

Colin Eadie (Lower Sixth Form)



Rugby



Hamish Mason - reaching the heights.

Following a physically and psychologically testing tour down under the squad returned in somewhat diffident mood.

Some had rarely won a match in Strathallan colours, they had never played together as a team and few had been coached by WDAW so there was much to do! Throughout the first week we ran trials and worked on our patterns of play.

Facing the imposing Melrose Wasps with limited preparation, the team gelled surprisingly well and disconcerted their hosts by competing strongly throughout the first half. All three of Strath's tries were scored in the first session, including a long-range intercept by Chris "Pumpin" Howarth. Sadly, fitness and inexperience told in the second half and Wasps built a significant lead. Nonetheless, this was a more promising start than last year's team managed at the Greenyards and optimism began to build. Lost 19-42.

A late start and heavy traffic combined to see us arrive at Glasgow Academy a mere twenty minutes before kick off. Consequently, we were sluggish in the opening exchanges and a combination of this lethargy and naivety saw us concede four

tries in the first half. To the team's credit they regrouped to dominate the latter stages of the half and all of the second scoring a try and two penalties without reply. Andrew Wilson was on great form, scoring an excellent try from fullback and kicking the goals. Unfortunately, a neck injury to a Glasgow player at the height of our assault brought the game to a premature end and we were left pondering what might have been. Lost 11-26.

Big Acre saw action for the first time this season against Loretto. With only the impressive team of '95 beating Loretto in recent years, this was another daunting match and rather personal for WDAW as many of the opposition had been coached or taught by him last year. Given the disappointment of the previous week, the team could have been forgiven for a lack of self-belief but they came out with all guns blazing. Chris Howarth scored another opportunist's try and the forwards dictated terms up front. As expected Loretto stuck to the task and clawed back to level terms. Following a serious injury scare involving the Loretto hooker, Strath, went ahead again. A concerted forward rush lead to an impressive score by Colin Eadie. Sadly, elation quickly turned to disappointment when Loretto again equalised.

With the score at twelve all, the match was so balanced that all concerned felt a draw would be a fair result. In the final few moments a foolish pass when attacking from our half saw an intercept try to the Loretto fullback, who converted and then produced an enormous drop kick to seal the match. Lost 12-22



Not surprisingly, following two missed opportunities to post a win, the boys were frustrated in the lead up to the match against St Aloysious. To their credit they took note of the game plan and executed it with clinical precision. It took time to come to grips with the opposition's enormous pack and a string of penalties were conceded before an outrageous dummy from Ian "Rocky" Stewart fooled their over anxious scrum half. Strong support from Colin Eadie (who proved his critics wrong by both taking and giving a pass without incident) led to a try to Alex Blackstock. Back row moves resulted in tries to Hamish Mason and Kerr Young before an unfortunate, but deserved, final score in the shape of a penalty try. Won 26-0

Fettes were having an even more miserable season than Strath. Unbelievably, we managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by wasting several scoring opportunities whilst they seized their only realistic chance. Credit must be given to some determined defence and a particularly inspirational display by their South African prop, but we should have won. Poor discipline and a lack of self-belief cost us dearly. This was particularly galling in the face of the victory the previous week. Lost 0-5

After such a dispiriting performance the team was faced with lifting themselves for the challenge of a powerful Glenalmond team. Although they went on to reach the semi-final of the Scottish Cup and beat some excellent sides in the process, Glenalmond never looked comfortable against a proud and tenacious Strath team. Eventually their huge and competent forwards ground out a victory but they were disappointed by the three try margin, which actually flattered them. Lost 8-29

As Glenalmond had beaten Merchiston, we went to Edinburgh in an optimistic frame of mind. Despite losing James Donald (to an injury incurred whilst asleep the night before!) in the initial stages of the match, honours were even with Alex Blackstock scoring an excellent early try.

However, the conversion and one penalty goal were to provide our only other points. Nick "Hefty" Coaton played manfully in his first full match but, as with others, the pace told in the second half. Andrew Russell, Merchiston's huge second row, took charge and the tiring Strathallians allowed him to run. Eventually a match that had appeared winnable was lost quite heavily. Lost 10-38

Another powerful and successful team, in the form of Edinburgh Academy, came to Forgandenny the next week. In the opening moments we lost Ed Phillips and James Donald to injury - James later returned but his injured shoulder was to hamper him for the rest of the season. Despite playing almost to their potential Strathallians were outclassed by the best back line they encountered all season. With three of the Edinburgh threequarters figuring in Scottish School's calculations this was disappointing but no disgrace. Indeed the scoreline should have been far greater and, had it not been for an inspired defensive performance from Barry Corbett at inside centre and Jamie Walker, who was coming of age on the wing, the tally could well have been past fifty. Finally, in typically determined fashion, Duncan McCredie bulldozed his way single-handedly over the line from a penalty for a confidence boosting score. Lost 7-38

With morale now flagging noticeably we meandered across to Crieff with many players too confident of victory in this - a

traditionally successful fixture. A combination of lethargy and selfish play saw the better team lose. Even the referee felt obliged to remark on the difference between the teams! This was the most disappointing performance of the season - losing to a team considerably weaker than Fettes and one we should have brushed aside. Lost 0-9

Back on Big Acre the team faced a moderate challenge from Dollar who were also struggling this season. In a relatively even encounter we contested every aspect of the match, playing with commitment and courage and the final score reflected the bounce of the ball rather than a differential in skill or resolve. Although the scoreboard was against us Alex Blackstock played with his usual panache and caught the eye of the Midlands coach to begin his progression toward selection for Scottish Schools. Lost 7-12

Our final domestic match of the season saw us at home to Hutcheson's. Again the team contested strongly but lacked the faith in themselves that could so easily have propelled them to victory. Although there was nothing between the two teams in terms of skill or strength the Glaswegians were simply a little more positive and hungry and this enabled them to prevail by a very narrow margin. Lost 8-14

Frost very nearly finished our season at that point. With King's College Parramatta in residence in the Activities' Block, Big Acre was obviously unplayable. Many would have said the same of Little Acre but as our guests had travelled thousands of miles to play rugby it was decided to proceed. Against a team containing no fewer than four Australian School's representatives

Tom Mitchell - anticipating the ball.



Strathallan turned in a stirring performance. Lead by Steve Gallagher, our Kiwi gap student, and in front of a sizeable home crowd, the boys demonstrated the lessons learnt the hard way throughout this disappointing season. Time after time seemingly unstoppable attacks were halted by crunching tackles and fearsome rucking. The character and courage displayed did much to build hopes for next season and to compensate for past problems. Having ranked us as their weakest opponents on tour Kings were greatly surprised and impressed. It transpired that we - although conceding four tries - gave them their closest contest. Lost 0-24

Overall it was not, quite obviously, a successful season in terms of results but the team showed real character to stick at the task even when it had become apparent that the prospect of a winning season was forlorn. In the successes of James Donald, Colin Eadie and the redoubtable Alex (A.B.) Blackstock there was compensation for the other setbacks. As captain Barry Corbett showed courage in adversity and it was only his date of birth that precluded him from representative honours. By the end of the season a number of younger players had come through, so the outlook for season '98 is bright.

WDAW

Junior Rugby

The junior ranks provided their usual blend of pleasure and pain throughout the short but testing season. At the U16 level, Nick Gdula, Euan Matheson, Mike Wilson and Jonathan McDougall were all involved in the Midlands District Squad. The Fourth Form XV completed a largely successful season. Wins included the games against Fettes, Edinburgh Academy and Hutcheson's but there were defeats at the hands of Merchiston, Glenalmond and Loretto. Fraser Chisholm and Jeremy McDougall represented the Midlands at U15 level, Jeremy going on to Scottish U15 trial squads. The Third Form XV struggled to secure wins, their diminutive stature being the root of their problems. On the brighter side, there are some talented, skilful boys in this group and they and their coaches deserve credit for the manner in which they developed their game over the season.

DJB

Ruthven Junior Rugby Team.



Louis Flood Photographers



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Boys' Hockey



Team Talk.

For the first time we entered an Under 18 side in the SYHB U18 Cup.

We overcame a very weak Clydesdale side in the first round to make it through to the last 16. Here we came across the eventual winners, Glasgow Western, going down 1-6. This was a creditable performance especially as we were 0-5 down at half time. This was a worthwhile experience and one we look forward to continuing in the future.

Indoor

The season started with 2 matches for both the first and seconds. First up were Rannoch away, the first going down 4-7, but the seconds came back from 1-4 down to win 5-6. Next came Glenalmond with a more focused Firsts winning comfortably 3-1. After a lot of preparation, we entered the Glenalmond Invitational Indoor Tournament. With a 2-2 draw against Robert Gordons, and wins against QVS (7-0) and Loretto (2-0) we won our group to face Perthshire in the semi-final. This was a demanding game both mentally and physically, having never recovered from losing 2 early goals we finally went down 1-3. A disappointed side met Loretto again, in the 3/4th play off and after going 0-1 down, we recovered to win 4-1.

Outdoor

1st XI

Our first outdoor game of the season was against Perthshire 2nd XI. This was good warm up for the season ahead. Being 4-0 up at half time, we relaxed and became lazy only scoring 2 more goals, one being a penalty kick from Robin Dicke.

Next up were Loretto at home. We started with a bang and with quick passing and running into space, we were rewarded with two early goals. After this we relaxed and a defensive lapse let an attacker in on goal, he was fouled by our keeper, Michael Chaussy, and Loretto made it 2-1 from the resulting penalty flick. We never again found our rhythm and were lucky to hang on to our slender lead.

We started the game against Glenalmond, at McDiarmid Park, much the same as against Loretto and were soon 2-0 up, but again our concentration went and Glenalmond capitalised on this to draw level by half time. Early in the second half, we went 3-2 ahead only for Glenalmond to equalise leaving a final score of 3-3.

Fettes at home were our next opponents. Again we started very well, earning 2 early goals and making this three by half time. In the second half, we scored again and Robin Dicke was denied a penalty flick. They scored a soft consolation goal towards the end of the game to make the final score 4-1.

Sadly, snow led to the cancellation of the Northern Tour, and the Outdoor Sixes but we managed to rearrange the fixture against a very strong multi-national Gordonstoun side, containing a German Under 21 International to name but one. This was a very exciting and explosive game. We went very quickly 0-1 down from a superb reverse stick strike, but we refused to give in and went in at half-time at 2-2, having played our best hockey of the season. Unfortunately, we could not maintain this level and finally lost the game 2-4. Our final school fixture of the season was the return against Loretto, in front of a large Loretto crowd. In a game that we never looked like losing, we came from behind twice to draw the match 2-2.

Altogether a solid performance throughout the season, although it was disappointing that our level of performances could not be maintained in certain games. There were consistent

Alex Blackstock thwarts the opposition.



performances from the captain, James Donald and vice captain, Lil Thapa. In parts, Robin Dicke put in some excellent performances. Alistair Christie and Ian Stewart linked well between the defence and attack. Alex Blackstock did not perhaps have his best of seasons in front of goal, but his selfless running created the opportunities for others. The back line of Michael Chaussy, Ross Maddox, Stuart Watson and Chris Appleby were generally good throughout the season, with Watson, along with Stewart, earning player of the season. Simon Davidson-Dell was quick but at times too quick for his own good. There were also good performances from Scott Harvey and Euan Matheson. With seven of these players returning next year and some good youngsters coming up, the future of the First XI looks quite healthy.

Chris Appleby/DRG

The Rest

Of the other teams, the 2nd XI were hit with injuries for most of the season and were, as a result, never able to put out the same side twice. Even so, Mr Vallot and his team generally finished on top or would have done but for the lack of a genuine goal scorer. The 3rd XI under the watchful eyes of Messrs Ross and Shore, competed in every game they were allowed to and credit must go to the enthusiasm of the captain Jamie MacKenzie. Mr Proctor's U16 A's at times produced some very nice hockey and finished the majority of their games on top. The B's were equally as successful, this only being matched by the enthusiasm of Coach Court, who always managed to produce a side to play in all weathers against any opposition. The very young U15A and B sides had a mixed set of results, but under the management of Dr. Tod, ably assisted by our South African Gap student Graham,

they, at times, played some very skilful hockey and in Tom Booth they have a player to watch out for in the future. The C's seemed to enjoy their hockey, much credit must go to Messrs Wands and Ashmore (the latter, who will be sadly missed), and every effort must be made to find them more fixtures.

Finally, a big thank you to those mentioned above, David Armitage, the Catering staff and the Groundsmen for allowing yet another hockey season to pass relatively smoothly.

Colours & Representative Honours

Full Colours:

Chris Appleby
Alex Blackstock
Michael Chaussy
Alistair Christie
Robin Dicke
James Donald
Ian Stewart
Lil Thapa
Stuart Watson

Scottish Chameleons:

U18

Chris Appleby
Michael Chaussy
Alistair Christie
Simon Davidson-Dell
Ian Stewart
Lil Thapa

U16

Tom Booth
Fraser Mackie
Neil McIlwraith

Midlands:

U14

Tom Booth

DRG

C.J. Mouat plays the corner.



Cricket

1st XI

Unbeaten against schools in Scotland and losing only (amongst schools) to Lancaster Royal Grammar in the end of term Festival, the 1st XI had another very successful season. Three of the wins were recorded before half-term over Dollar (3 wickets), Loretto (9 wickets) and Fettes College (55 runs). These were due, in the main, to the all-round performances of left-arm spinner Ian Stewart and fast bowler Robin Dicke. After half-term, with a long-term illness for captain Dicke, the team struggled to bowl sides out, though we were never really in any danger of losing. Wins should have been secured against Merchiston Castle and New Forest High School from South Africa, whilst the monsoon rains came when we were in a strong batting position (114-2) against our traditional rivals Glenalmond College. The only losses came at the hands of a very powerful Old Strathallian batting line-up and the Clubsport XI, with five professional players, in a Festival limited overs warm-up.

In the end of term Festival at Lancaster RGS, we lost narrowly to the hosts by 6 runs - man of the match here was Ian Stewart who took 5-38 in 15 overs and then scored 61 at nearly a run a ball in our reply. Alas it was not to be enough, despite Andrew Moodie's valiant attempt in scoring 44. Lancaster had only lost to Manchester Grammar in the north-west circuit and so this was a very creditable performance from our inexperienced side. The performance was to be outdone against Dulwich College (unbeaten on their circuit) the following day when we

did well to restrict them to 230 in 50 overs. Our reply was dominated by a partnership of 164 between opener Andrew Reed (43) and our Australian wicket-keeper Chris Hartley (132 not out). With the 50th over reached we required 18 to win. Hartley smote the England U17 left arm spinner Moon for two huge sixes and a four to reach the last ball needing two to win. A leg-bye was run to the wicket-keeper to tie the scores. Again, another superb finish to a game. The last game was against a composite side, Downside having withdrawn at the 11th hour. Hartley's second successive hundred (119) was inevitable and Moodie kept him company with a well-made 37 for us to total 236 all out. A comfortable victory was secured by 50 runs.

In all, our success was due to a superb team effort, especially in our fielding, though inevitably individuals shone. Christopher Hartley, on exchange from Brisbane Boys' College, at the age of 16 has to be the best schoolboy wicket-keeper/batsman I have seen. He scored 615 runs at 68.33 with two hundreds in the Festival as well as a plethora of half-centuries, adding to the fielding greatly with his immaculate 'keeping and general Australian 'nous'. He will be sorely missed. Ian Stewart began the season well, though the burden of expectation proved a little too much as captaincy was also thrust upon him at half-term when Robin Dicke fell ill. He scored 303 runs at 25 but took 32 wickets at 13.97. Finally, captain Robin Dicke had a disjointed term because of his serious illness, but still scored 210 runs at 30 and took 18 wickets at an unflattering 19.88. He led the side with calm assurance and confidence, nursing along some of the much younger players.

Chris Hartley hits for six.



Prospects for next season look good with genuine competition for selection among the seam bowlers and batsmen. It will no longer be enough simply to get into the 1st XI, players will have to work hard to stave off threats to their places. I wrote in *The Cricketer International* last May that "...we have unearthed some useful youngsters in Colin Thwaites, Jamie Partridge and Euan Matheson." To that list I would now add Andrew Moodie, Jamie Mackenzie, Neil McIlwraith and Tom Booth as players to watch for next season. Together with 'old hands' Stewart and Colquhoun, the side could yet surprise a few people again next season.

My thanks go, as ever, to Nick Du Boulay for his continued magnificence at the crease and his endless batting coaching - it is no coincidence that our batting consistently looks better than that of other schools. To Iain Philip congratulations on improving all our cricket squares still further in a difficult season for groundsmen; many thanks indeed go to Craig Young and his catering staff along with Earnside Coaches for coping with 'la deluge' and the ensuing cancellations of both catering and travel requests.

RHF

2nd XI

Nearly as wet as 1997, but not quite. We got off to an easy start, Sam Bateman turning in the remarkable figures of 6 for 3 to turn over a weak Dollar side for 47. Only their female captain looked a player. Andrew Moodie smashed a ten wicket victory in five overs. The come-uppance came at Loretto. Lack of penetrative bowling allowed them to get 149, and then we collapsed badly against some very tight and very slow bowling to lose by over 100.

Jamie Mackenzie (on loan from the 1st XI) and Scott Harvey produced fine five wicket hauls at Fettes who could muster only 37. We cruised home by 8 wickets before tea. A disciplined innings from Jon Dalley with good basic support from captain Chris Appleby enabled us to declare on 153 for 6 against Merchiston. It looked all over when Merchiston were 30 odd for 6, but they dug in, the bowling reverted to moderate and the game meandered to a draw. The rest of the fixtures were consigned to 'la deluge'.

JNF

Senior Colts

In a season which was just about washed out and on pitches which never really dried out, the performance of the Senior Colts was probably to be expected. There was a tremendous amount of guts shown in the games against Dollar and Glenalmond, including a good win over the latter, with Fraser Mackie taking seven wickets and captain James Phillips showing some sound common sense. The best batsman was Neil McIlwraith who deserved his elevation to the 1st XI at the end of term, although both Lawrence Court and Greg McKerracher also made runs. In the bowling department a heavy load was borne by Fraser Mackie with sterling support from McIlwraith, the spin being supplied by Greg McKerracher.

RJWP

Junior Colts

Although only one match was lost to rain during the season, most of the others were played on soft wickets. This, together with damp outfield, contributed greatly to low scoring and bowlers were generally on top. The opening game against Merchiston resulted in the only defeat for the Junior Colts by a Scottish school. We became bogged down on a muddy track chasing a meagre 69 runs and were all out when nine runs short. Successive wins against Loretto, Fettes and Glenalmond meant that the team was in good heart for the long trip to Lancaster and, even though we put up a good performance with the bat on the only hard wicket of the season, the bowlers on this occasion failed to stem the flow of runs.

The winning habit was resumed against Dollar with Nick Common taking 6 wickets for only 2 runs and Iain Robb's 7 for 16 was the outstanding performance in the revenge win over Merchiston at Colinton. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the second win over Glenalmond in the closing fixture on The Lawn. Having reduced the opposition to 20 for 6 at one stage, their eventual total of 102 had appeared rather more daunting. However, sensible batting brought about a successful climax with a comfortable 5 wicket win.

Aided by his 44 not out against Glenalmond, William Bowry, a captain who constantly encouraged his team, was top scorer for the season with 119 runs. Scott MacFarlane and Iain Robb both had a season's tally of 20 wickets, with Iain just scraping ahead in the averages.

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1998 RESULTS:

| Played 15 | Won 4 | Lost 3 | Drawn 5 | Tied 1 | Abandoned 2 |
|--|-------|--|---------|--------|------------------|
| Perth Northern Strathallan | | Did not Bat 79-2 (Stewart 45*; Dicke 22*) | | | Abandoned |
| Dollar Academy Strathallan | | 123 all out 124-7 (Thapa 33; Stewart 23; Reed 10*) | | | Won by 3 wickets |
| I. L. Philip's XI Strathallan | | 171-7 dec. (I. Philip 53; R. Suresh 48; R. Dicke 2-38; I. Stewart 2-20) 116-9 (R. Dicke 38; O. Colquhoun 51) | | | Drawn |
| Loretto School Strathallan | | 76 all out (R. Dicke 3-19; I. Stewart 3-17; O. Colquhoun 3-24) 79-1 (I. Stewart 48*; C. Hartley 15*) | | | Won by 9 wickets |
| Strathallan Fettes College | | 122 all out (I. Stewart 21; R. Dicke 29; O. Colquhoun 40) 67 all out (R. Dicke 4-35; C. Thwaites 3-19; I. Stewart 3-11) | | | Won by 55 runs |
| XL Club Strathallan | | 227-3 dec. (A. Duncan 86*; G. McLaren 95; S. Harvey 2-40) 161-8 (C. Hartley 51; O. Colquhoun 39; L. Thapa 24; A. Moodie 19*) | | | Drawn |
| Merchiston Strathallan | | 166-7 dec. (R. Easton 23; B. McKeracher 32; J. Mackenzie 3-41; I. Stewart 3-56) 139-5 (C. Hartley 41; A. Reed 51; I. Stewart 21) | | | Drawn |
| Strathallan Old Strathallians | | 187 all out (C. Hartley 72; A. Reed 44; K. Smith 6-58) 188-6 (A. MacDonnell 39; R. Barr 45; K. Smith 33*; I. Stewart 3-34) | | | Lost |
| M. C. C. Strathallan | | 198-7 dec. (A. W. Saddler 32; R. Mitchinson 38*; J. Mackenzie 3-35) 144-6 (C. Hartley 59; J. Partridge 26) | | | Drawn |
| Strathallan New Forest High Durban, RSA | | 122 all out (C. Hartley 25; O. Colquhoun 26; C. Thwaites 17; Schreiber 3-15) 67-4 (K. Higgins 29; I. Stewart 2-19) | | | Drawn |
| Strathallan Glenalmond | | 114-2 (C. Hartley 60*; R. Dicke 13*) Did not bat | | | Abandoned |
| ClubSport XI Strathallan | | 190-5 (R. Watson 80; J. Mackenzie 2-45; H. Forbes 2-36) 187-9 (I. Stewart 32; A. Reed 37; R. Dicke 64*) | | | Lost by 3 runs |
| Lancaster RGS Strathallan | | 170 all out (A. Mashiter 33; D. Dodd 29; A. Sachdeva 42; I. Stewart 5-38) 164 all out (I. Stewart 61; A. Moodie 44; A. Sachdeva 5-63) | | | Lost by 6 runs |
| Dulwich College Strathallan | | 230-3 (M. Kakad 58; V. Kumar 99; R. Barry 40*; R. Dicke 3-76) 230-6 (A. Reed 43; C. Hartley 132*; N. McIlwraith 9*) | | | Tied |
| Strathallan Festival XI | | 236 all out (C. Hartley 119; A. Moodie 37) 186 all out (L. Philips 49; I. Stewart 3-53; C. Hartley 2-22) | | | Won by 50 runs |

1998 BATTING AVERAGES:

| Initials | Innings | Not Out | Runs | Highest Inn.s | 100s | Average |
|-------------------|---------|---------|------|---------------|------|---------|
| C. D. Hartley | 12 | 3 | 615 | 132* | 2 | 68.33 |
| R. H. W. J. Dicke | 10 | 3 | 210 | 64* | - | 30.00 |
| O. Colquhoun | 8 | 1 | 188 | 51 | - | 26.86 |
| I. Stewart | 14 | 2 | 303 | 61 | - | 25.25 |
| A. O. Reed | 14 | 1 | 243 | 51 | - | 18.70 |

1998 BOWLING AVERAGES:

| Name | Overs | Mdns | Runs | Wkts | Best Bowling | Average |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|--------------|---------|
| I. Stewart | 179.3 | 59 | 447 | 32 | 6-18 | 13.97 |
| R. H. W. J. Dicke | 119.1 | 19 | 358 | 18 | 4-35 | 19.88 |

1998 FIELDING/WICKETKEEPING

| Name | Catches | Stumpings |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| C. D. Hartley | 8 | 5 |
| A. R. Moodie | 6 | - |
| E. C. Matheson | - | 6 |
| R. H. W. J. Dicke | - | 4 |



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Sports Day and Athletics



Sports Day winners.

Sports day this year proved to be a much closer event than in previous years.

Ruthven finally took the honours, but were pushed right to the end by Simpson. There were some fine performances by lots of athletes, in particular by Okki Colquhoun (High Jump - 1.81m), Ian Stewart (800m - 2.03.62), M Butler (Triple Jump - 11.97m). C Reed (100m - 13.41), K D McArthur (100m - 13.64). The Victor/Victrix Ludoruns were also very close affairs with the final award winners being:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Junior Boys | T Booth |
| Junior girls | K McArthur |
| Middle Boys | N Walker |
| Senior Girls | A Little |
| Senior Boys | M Butler |

All this year's fixtures were very keenly contested and again were characterised by good wins by the various age groups, the highlight being convincing wins over Glenalmond / Gordonstoun in a triangular match, as well as a good strong performance in

beating Fettes at 3 out of the 4 age groups. This year we saw a lot of new talent emerging, particularly in the Junior Girls. Performers of note this year throughout the School were:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| K McArthur | Junior Girls - 100m/200m |
| K Fleming | Junior Girls - 800m/1500m/L Jump |
| J Donald | Senior Boys - Javelin |
| M Butler | Senior Boys - 100m/200m |
| A Little | Senior Girls - 400m |
| I Stewart | Senior Boys - 800m/1500m |
| C Reed | Senior Girls - 100m |
| L Sproat | Senior Girls - 100m |
| C Narchi | U17 Boys - Javelin |
| O Colquhoun | Senior Boys - H Jump |
| N Walker | U17 Boys - 100m/200m |
| I Anderson | U17 Boys - 100m/200m |

The School currently has a good depth of sprinters, so much so that the Senior Relay Team won the 4x100m Silver at the Scottish Schools Relay Championships. The U17 Team had an unlucky run in the earlier rounds with a bad change over, but were also strong candidates for a medal place.

Scott McKinlay represented Scotland twice this season in multi-events/pentathlons and has already been picked for an International this year, September 1998.



Tug o' War

The School has a lot of talented athletes and the successes that they are having are beginning to encourage younger pupils to become more active in Athletics. John and Sandra Fleming have worked hard at promoting Athletics throughout the Junior School and my thanks for to the both of them for their assistance this year. Bill Weigall took on the unenviable job of trying to teach the Javelin to pupils who had little or no knowledge of the discipline and was very successful in producing two throwers over 40m within a few weeks - a tremendous achievement! Particular thanks go to all the members of Staff who turned up to help out both in training and in matches (the Officials sometimes outnumbering the other schools' athletes).

Finally, credit should go to all the athletes who trained and ran, jumped or threw for the School for their attitude during training and matches. Hopefully these good standards will continue next year.

Full Athletic Colours were award to:
A Little / K Young / M Butler

Half Athletic Colours were awarded to:
L Sproat / R Kennedy / K Martin /
I Anderson / S McKinlay

PAS

Once again, the Nicol Tug of War Team has been unbeatable for the third year in a row.

Our campaign began against our great rivals, Ruthven. After creaming them to a 2-0 defeat we prepared ourselves for what Simpson could offer. As we went in to take our places we felt confident with Dave Russell at the front and Scott Macfarlane and Rowan Marshall next in line; then the almighty power of Fraser Chisholm and Colin Williamson then Nick Gdula at the back as anchor man. We lifted the rope and took the strain. We then pulled in the first victory closely followed by the second. Once again, we'd done it!

Nick Gdula (Fifth Form)

Nicol pulling for victory.



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BOYS' RESULTS

| Event | Age | Winner | Time/Dist | Record | Holder | Year |
|-----------|-----|-------------|-----------|---------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 100m | J | McFarlane S | 13.11 | 12 | Ling T | 1971 |
| 100m | M | Walker N | 11.8 | 10.9 | Ogilvie | 1978 |
| 100m | S | Butler M | 11.64 | 11 | Lockhart/Ling/ Smellie/Kirkland | 1971/1978 |
| 200m | J | Holman | 28.28 | 24 | Wallace R | 1993 |
| 200m | M | McKinlay S | 24.9 | 23.2 | Ling T | 1973 |
| 200m | S | Butler M | 24 | 22.8 | Ling T | 1973 |
| 200m | J | Buchan M | 65.58 | 56.5 | Cook C | 1987 |
| 400m | M | Johnston C | 57.01 | 52.5 | Millar | 1977 |
| 400m | S | Walker J | 54.87 | 50.3 | Roger G | 1982 |
| 800m | J | Constable P | 2.31.13 | 2.12.90 | Lawrence C | 1984 |
| 800m | M | McKinlay S | 2.15.13 | 2.03.06 | Lawrence C | 1985 |
| 800m | S | Stewart I | 2.03.62 | 1.55.02 | Roger G | 1982 |
| 1500m | J | S-Darling J | 5.31.78 | 4.32.07 | Lawrence C | 1985 |
| 1500m | M | Mitchell T | 4.50.87 | 4.14.05 | Bond R | 1988 |
| 1500m | S | Stewart I | 4.34.31 | 4.09.02 | Bond R | 1989 |
| High Jump | J | Booth T | 1.35m | 1.63m | Holmes | 1965 |
| High Jump | M | Walker N | 1.55m | 1.77.5m | Cuthbertson A | 1984 |
| High Jump | S | Colquhoun O | 1.81m | 1.89.5m | Roger G | 1982 |
| Long Jump | J | Booth T | 4.08m | 5.55m | Lear C | 1967 |
| Long Jump | M | Walker N | 4.61m | 6.17m | Lawson | 1967 |
| Long Jump | S | Colquhoun O | 5.33m | 6.52m | Smellie D | 1978 |
| Shot | J | Mack A | 10.83m | 12.83m | Walker L | 1992 |
| Shot | M | Mitchell T | 11.03m | 14.73m. | McKenzie G | 1973 |
| Shot | S | Walker J | 10.32m | 12.90m | Callender | 1979 |
| Discus | J | Arakji A | 21.18m | 36.27m | Knox S | 1974 |
| Discus | M | McMillan A | 28.45m | 42.00m | Knox S | 1976 |
| Discus | S | McKenzie P | 29.54m | 40.26m | McKenzie G | 1974 |
| Javelin | J | Mitchell R | 25.06m | 49.81m | McBride J | 1969 |
| Javelin | M | Narchi C | 36.9m | 49.81m | McBride J | 1969 |
| Javelin | S | Donald J | 40.23m | 57.07m | McBride J | 1971 |
| 4x100m | J | Freeland | 56 | 50.5 | Ruthven | 1987 |
| 4x100m | M | Freeland | 50.84 | 46.6 | Simpson | 1972 |
| 4x100m | S | Ruthven | 46.77 | 45.5 | Freeland | 1981 |
| 4x400m | J | Nicol | 4.35.26 | 4.09.07 | Simpson | 1995 |
| 4x400m | M | Simpson | 4.01.45 | 3.53.49 | Simpson | 1995 |
| 4x400m | S | Simpson | 3.48.82 | 3.41.03 | Freeland | 1992 |

GIRLS' RESULTS

| Event | Age | Winner | Time/Dist | Record | Holder | Year |
|-----------|-----|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| 100m | J | McArthur K | 13.63 | 13 | Streule K | 1982 |
| 100m | S | Reed C | 13.41 | 12.12 | Edmunds A | 1990 |
| 200m | J | McArthur K | 29.15 | 27.79 | Reid S | 1988 |
| 200m | S | Reed C | 28.66 | 25.2 | Edmunds A | 1990 |
| 400m | J | Langlands L | 73.85 | 66 | Reid S/Taylor R | 1987/1990 |
| 400m | S | Little A | 68.9 | 60 | Reid S | 1990 |
| 800m | J | Laux A | 2.53.46 | 2.32.10 | Taylor R | 1990 |
| 800m | S | Hunter A | 2.44.28 | 2.25.06 | Taylor R | 1993 |
| 1500m | J | Broadfoot L-G | 6.32.93 | 5.14.09 | Barlow A | 1992 |
| 1500m | S | Cameron K | 5.55.55 | 5.05.10 | Meiklejohn C | 1990 |
| High Jump | J | Wanless E | 1.32m | 1.45m | Orr K | 1984 |
| High Jump | S | Little A | 1.35m | 1.55m | Rutherford R | 1987 |
| Long Jump | J | McArthur K | 3.75m | 4.46m | Gordons S | 1985 |
| Long Jump | S | Cameron K | 3.74m | 4.58m | Carruthers C | 1989 |
| Shot | J | Morley L | 8.29m | 10.23m | Sang R | 1992 |
| Shot | S | Chapman R | 7.84m | 9.49m | Edmunds A | 1990 |
| Discus | J | Bush C | 16.97m | 25.10m | Chapman R | 1995 |
| Discus | S | Martin K | 21.36m | 45.59m | Krannenburg H | 1995 |
| Javelin | J | Greshon S | 14.28m | 23.39m | Buchanan K | 1995 |
| Javelin | S | Dover L | 19.23m | 22.42m | Bruce M | 1995 |
| 4x100m | J | Woodlands | 58.44 | 55.65 | Thornbank | 1995 |
| 4x100m | S | Thornbank | 54.99 | 54.54 | Thornbank | 1990 |
| 4x400m | J | Thornbank | 5.01.84 | 4.39.37 | Thornbank | 1992 |
| 4x400m | S | Woodlands | 4.41.22 | 4.43.83 | Thornbank | 1993 |



Scotland is presently underway, making plans for setting up an Institute of Sport which will consist of a hub and several centres of excellence.

This past year has again seen Strathallan at the centre of District and National hockey training for both girls and boys and as the venue for a very successful International Netball and Hockey festival in the easter holidays. Seven girls journeyed to England as members of the Scottish Senior, Under 16 and Under 14 rounders teams towards the end of the summer term and three girls have been invited to join Scottish hockey talent camps during the summer vacation. With the facilities we have to accommodate such events plus our pool and fitness room along with the expertise of staff, we are providing at school level, what many would be looking for much further up the sporting tree. Bill Colwill in his July issue of *Hockey Sport* certainly felt the school continues to lead the way and set standards.

The following reports are a testimonial to those who take advantage of all that is on offer here. To the athletes and the staff who coach them, a thank you. Hopefully one day the fruits of our labour may well be attending a Scottish Institute of Sport centre of excellence as she progresses up the tree.

LJS



Miss Smith talking tactics.

Fiona Crosthwaite against Robert Gordons.



With only four fixtures in the Spring term, this virtually becomes a report for the Winter term and a busy term it was.

Apart from the heavy fixture schedule, we also managed to fit in four very welcome touring sides: Schule Schloss from Germany, Sutton Valence and Dean Close from England, and Regent House from Ireland. The seniors felt they just ran from one fixture to another certain weeks - so much so, our captain even ran on to the bus for an away match in St Andrews leaving her kit lying on Rothesay Pier. She made a very good team manager for that match!

Anneka Laux and Alison Roger gained places in the Midlands Under 16 side following invitations to Scottish talent camp in the summer and were awarded runners-up medals at the District Tournament in November; Miranda Harington and Christina Breden played for Midlands Under 18. Hazel Whyte continued in the Midlands Under 14 squad (her third year) and was joined by Laura Kotseroglou, Aimi Gdula and Jenny Hay.

The first Tournament of the season on September 6th was cancelled as a mark of respect to Diana, Princess of Wales. Thereafter, in the Junior Outdoor we won the section and were beaten semi-finalists by the eventual winners; in the Indoor the team gave their all, going out on penalty strokes in the semis; at the Senior Indoor again we featured as semi-finalists but lost to Dundee High. Our 1st XI Cup run began with a nail-biting match v Dollar which resulted in 4 - 4 at full time and a victory to us 3/2 on penalties. Wins of 1 - 0 over Kinross and 5 - 0 against Grove saw us in the final. On a dry, water based pitch in Dundee, which played more like grass than astro, we went out against Dundee High 2 - 1. It was therefore exceptionally pleasing that our only piece of silverware during the season was the return of the Independent Trophy. Clearly Fettes enjoyed the experience so much of being the only school to prise this from Strathallan in its 12 year history that they forgot to bring the said trophy to the Tournament. However after wins of 3 - 1 v Loretto; 3 - 0 v Rannoch; 1 - 0 v Glenalmond and a golden goal v Fettes we were happy to make the victors speech.

Next season will be on us sooner than we expect and with the prospect of one of the strongest 1st XI sides for many a year and a tour to down under, including the Schweppes International Schools Hockey Tournament in Sydney, there is much to look forward to.

RESULTS:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st XI | played 18 won 9 lost 4 drew 5 |
| 2nd XI | played 15 won 5 lost 7 drew 3 |
| 4th Form | played 14 won 2 lost 8 drew 4 |
| 3rd Form | played 11 won 6 lost 3 drew 2 |
| Colours: Full | Christina Breden |
| Half | Rhona Chapman |
| | Anneka Laux |
| | Alison Roger |



Netball

In a report like this it would be only too easy to write a full declaration of our team's success, and flaunt this by listing all the matches which gave us the impressive total of 236 goals for and only 80 against. But being blessed with true modesty, we can confess to our loss of one match (a two-goal defeat by Gordonstoun)! However, we got our own back in the final of the Independent Schools Tournament, to regain the trophy for the fifth year in a row. In the Perth Ladies League we excelled against far more experienced (and follicly-stimulated) teams. In fact the only team who we didn't give a run for their money was the boys, who had to withdraw their challenge due to exam stress, fatigue and general insecurities - not due to a lack of talent (on the sports field) you understand! All this was achieved despite our various disadvantages, to name but a few - Becca's ever-lacking sense of direction, Catriona's ability to spend one third of each match wiped out, Elise's in-built design as a stopwatch, deciding simply to stop playing at crucial moments (usually when she had the ball) and the fact that we never fielded the same team twice.

Our thanks must go to Miss England and Miss Mason for their unequalled coaching and support and congratulations go to Eleanor Wanless and Lindsey Chisholm for their selection for Perth Under 15s; Alison Hunter, Clare Proctor, Vicki McIntyre, Kimberley Cooper, Pip Blair Oliphant for achieving full colours; and Cationa Pringle and Elise Rankine for gaining half colours.

Alison Hunter and Clare Proctor (Upper Sixth)

Strathallan's Senior Netball Team.



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Rounders

Last June, seven of us found ourselves on a coach driving down to Bolton in England

to represent Scotland in a rounders tournament. Unbeknown to many of us as we played in a mini tournament at Kilgraston three weeks earlier, we were actually being observed with a view to being selected. Word came later, somewhat unbelievably, that some of us had been deemed worthy enough to represent Scotland for one day in June. Needless to say, some training was needed considering that most of us had last picked up a rounders bat some four years earlier. This we did on a very rainy Saturday afternoon which, incidentally, happened to be the day before the tournament. However, full of enthusiasm and expectation, we boarded the bus headed for Bolton at 6 o'clock on Sunday morning and discussed such trifles as positions and batting orders.

When we arrived and managed to untangle ourselves from six hours worth of 'bus clutter', we poured out to be confronted with the other teams. These turned out to be England and Wales. Ireland (who accidentally brought their soft-ball team last year) did not turn up, much to our disappointment. However, there were the England team warming up, looking tanned and healthy from their recent tour of the West Indies, as we stood bleary eyed and travel sick. One of the Welsh teams was missing but the English, keen to improvise, found a team from a local club accustomed to playing a weird mix of rounders, cricket and baseball. They proved to be good at rounders, very good in fact, and secured a substantial defeat against the Senior team. The English team likewise proved to have the edge over us and won quite convincingly whilst we stood there, in awe. Before long, the afternoon brightened up, as did our spirits, and we all thoroughly enjoyed playing the matches. The Junior teams also appeared to be enjoying themselves and had the added bonus of doing well, at the same time.

We arrived back in Scotland at around midnight, after a further six hours in the bus. I think that it is fair to say that by this time our outward appearance was reflecting how we were feeling. We returned to School exhausted and defeated but feeling rather smug about having been to Bolton at all!

ROUNDERS INTERNATIONALISTS

v England A & B

v Wales A & B

in Bolton 28th June 1998

Senior

Tabitha Combe
Elise Rankin

Under 16

Anneka Laux
Catriona Peattie

Under 14

Katie Fleming
Jenny Hay

Pip Blair Oliphant (Upper Sixth)

Tennis

The prospects for the girls' tennis season looked unpromising, with only one first team player remaining from last year.

The first team was, in fact, never a fixed entity. Instead players for each match were chosen from a pool, generally consisting of - Elise Rankin, Anneka Laux, Miranda Harington, Christina Breaden, Nicola Milne, Katie Dutton, Jo Coaton, Rebecca Booth and Rebecca Perrett. Some of these also played in the second team. The fourth and third form teams plus Riley had a successful year.

Kirsten Cameron and Elise reached the U18 quarter finals in the Kilgraston Tournament, as did Laura Morley and Catriona Peattie in the U16 section. At the New Park Tournament Jenny Hay and Anna MacDonald were runners-up. Thornbank had a convincing win over Woodlands in the Inter-House competition at the end of term.

Strathallan can look forward to having some strong girls' teams in the next few years, with the existing players from the top of the school, along with Anneka and other promising young talent from the junior end of school.

RESULTS:

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 1st VI | played 9 won 4 lost 5 |
| 2nd VI | played 4 won 2 lost 2 |
| 4th Form | played 7 won 4 lost 3 |
| 3rd Form | played 7 won 5 lost 2 |
| Riley | played 5 won 3 lost 2 |

Full Colours were awarded to:

Christina Breaden
Miranda Harington
Anneka Laux

Half Colours:

Jo Coaton
Katie Dutton
Nicola Milne

Elise Rankin (Upper Sixth)



Boys' Tennis

Badminton

The Summer of '98 was a bad year for faint hearted or fair weather tennis players!

There were few practice days that were not adversely affected by driving rain or buffeting winds and it was to the credit of those opting for tennis this year that they were prepared to cope with whatever conditions prevailed. Remarkably, only one match was cancelled, although our fixture with Merchiston, poised tantalisingly at 4-4 with the last game on court just entering a tie break, had to be abandoned when a thunderstorm flooded the courts.

For the first time in the 90s there was no Wallace in the first pair, although Richard's influence was still apparent in the patterns of play of the first two couples. The team this year produced some excellent tennis and although our fixture with the strongest team we play was cancelled, they remained unbeaten until the final match of the season.

The first pair of Blackstock and Corbett showed real flair at times but the consistency needed to expose the flaws of opposition first pairs was not always evident. Our second pair of Watson and Turner, both much improved from last season, rallied exceptionally well and quickly developed a canny understanding on court. The pairing of, Crump and Bradley were very competitive and made up for their lack of expertise and range of shot with a gritty determination and some disconcertingly improvised returns. Reynolds proved a capable substitute when exams claimed the services of members of the first six and there is an encouraging pool of talent in the junior forms waiting their chance for next year. Several of these have emerged from the coaching programme targeted at Riley and more than half of Riley House chose tennis coaching this year - a very healthy sign.

The 'curtain raiser' mixed doubles match was won this year by the girls captain's team and Simpson House won the boys' trophy in a well contested final.

Alex Blackstock proved a capable, charming and totally unflappable captain; Stuart Watson and Gordon Turner were awarded new colours.

RESULTS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| v Edinburgh Academy | (a) | won | 5-4 |
| v Merchiston Castle | (h) | drew | 4-4 |
| v Fettes | (a) | won | 7-2 |
| v Rannoch | (a) | won | 7-2 |
| v Morrison's Academy | (a) | won | 7-2 |
| v Glenalmond | (h) | won | 7-2 |
| v Stewarts Melville | | cancelled | |
| v Loretto | (h) | lost | 4-5 |
| v MCR | (h) | won | 6-3 |

Again, the Fifth and Sixth Forms have been the mainstay of the Badminton Club with few from the lower years taking part.

We were well served by Tim Elliott, John Cameron, Duncan McCredie, Adrian Beaumont, Aisla Stringer and Elise Rankin and had many a heart-warming contest on a cold winter's night.

Freeland took the honours in the House Competition against a fancied Simpson squad. John Cameron's experience was invaluable but he was well supported by Duncan McCredie and the second strings, Adrian Beaumont and Edward Willing. Woodlands had strength in depth in overcoming Thornbank for the Girls' title with Elise Rankin and Aisla Stringer making a formidable partnership.

We hope to see more enthusiasm from the younger ones next year so if you are just coming up from Riley or looking for a good way to run off some energy, come along and show us how well you can play.

GCK

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DJR



Football

Though a minor sport, football

was chosen by a large group of boys as their Spring Term games option and the School managed to put out three teams for competition with other Independent Schools.

Coaches Bolton, Fitzsimmons and Du Boulay once again attempted to steer the 1st XI through a tough programme of games, exhorting the players to still higher levels of achievement in the 'beautiful game' (Pélé), or at least scoring more goals than the opposition which, to their credit, they usually managed to do. The narrow defeat at QVS produced more injuries than goals, but the return match redressed the balance and the draw against Stewart's Melville was turned into victory in the return match. All other matches were won, sometimes very convincingly and the general feeling in the team was that this had, once again, been a successful season.

Increasingly, other schools are able to put out more than one team and 2nd XI and U16 had a reasonable number of matches this season. While this sometimes necessitated them playing stronger teams from other schools, they had a good degree of success. It is to these teams, particularly the U16 players, that we must look to next year to fill the large number of 1st XI vacancies caused by many players leaving at the end of the year. I hope they are up to the challenge.

Many thanks to Mr Shields and Dr McDougall for their work with the 2nd XI and to Mr Smith and Mr Mayes (can you get Manchester United matches in Spain?) for leadership of the U16 team.

GAB

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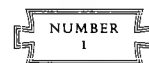


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Oasis



Pre-match warm up.

Oasis - not the group, the resort.

For the first time girls, from the 2nd XI hockey squad went on their own trip - to the Oasis Forest Leisure Complex in the North Lakes.

Arriving the same day as an official visit by the Queen, sixteen out of the twenty in the 2nd XI squad stayed in three deluxe Cumbrian Lodges as a base for their end of season trip, playing three games over the first weekend of the Easter holiday.

After a three hour drive, the first day was spent settling into the lodges and complex. Most girls tried out the 'World of Water' and then dance gear and make-up was attired as Strathallan girls hit the late night disco in the centre's Green Room. Alas, we soon found that we were the disco, for the first hour anyway. However, the party took the floor en masse, the highlight being Claire Marshall's impromptu boogy with Mr. Proctor!

Saturday saw the start of the hockey and a journey into the unknown, in reality, for the coach. Would all the excellent spirit and enthusiasm shown throughout the season acquit itself well enough against English sides?

The first game was against Ambleside Junior XI, moulded together by ex-North of England player Sue Conway. After a somewhat dull and scoreless first half, the side realised that they could and were determined to win, and this they did, coming from a goal down, with two well worked late goals from Julia Scales, to sneak it 2-1.

The second day saw us not playing the team we thought we would be, but the full Kirkby Stephen Grammar School 1st XI, including three current North of England U18 representatives. We started well enough, but were soon very much on the defensive, though we never lost heart, with Gillian Greenwood making some fine saves in goal. Though we lost 7-0 we played creditably and lost to a side that would probably have had the upper hand in a match against our full 1st XI.

Monday dawned against Kirkby Stephen U16 XI - unbeaten and county champions at their age group. We played with great determination, with all the party on the pitch at some point during the game and were unlucky not to score against a well

organised team. Claire Marshall, in particular, showed her potential on the wing in an entertaining 0-0 draw.

All in all, one win, one draw and loss was a good effort for a 2nd XI, but trips usually have memories to take home and this was no exception:

The Italian waiter who took an obvious liking to Rebecca Booth with the presentation of a huge red rose; Miss Mason and Miss Morrison missing the M6 turn off for lunch on the way down; the sandwiches and chips after each game in typically basic northern pubs; Miss Morrison becoming truly involved with her fifth year lodge by throwing 'cookies' to them in their whirlpool bath; Mrs Summersgill's excellent lasagne on the last night; the L6 fine efforts at liar dice and card games and Rebecca Booth's take out of myself in the first point of a tennis challenge. Overall, a great trip and I must commend the girls on their good sense of humour, determination and behaviour throughout. Personal thanks must go to Miss Mason, Miss Morrison and Mrs Summersgill who took charge of the lodges and to Mr Proctor for his umpiring and being the oldest teenager of the weekend!

DA



Gill Greenwood, Goalie.

Post-match R & R.



Sailing

This year's sailing group assembled, with the old and some new faces, ready to make the plunge into the world of Strathallan School Sailing.

Led by the newly appointed Captain, Andrew Thwaites, they set off for a second year of sailing at Port Edgar Sailing Club. Upon arrival a few changes to the Club were noticed, mainly in the form of two new boats, a Dart 16 catamaran and a Topper Buzz, which lit up the faces of some of the more experienced and daring sailors in the group. As the term progressed, so did the level of the new sailors; the old sailors also improved their knowledge and experience in the boats that they already knew how to sail, as well as in the new boats.

This year Andrew Thwaites and Helen Stewart opted to do their instructors course while Ed Phillips and Graham Bird followed up their catamaran sailing experience. The first capsized of the year went to Graham Bird who managed to capsize backwards. A ghost from two years ago returned in the form of Helen Stewart scratching the rubber blades on the new Dart 16, reinstating her as the disaster woman of the group. This year's weather was not always constant but there was hardly ever a day without wind. The sun would also make an appearance every now and then. The team met all the types of weather that nature could throw at them, from extreme fog and high winds to brilliant sun and flat seas.

The School also entered a team in the Scottish School's Sailing competition at Loch Earn. The team consisted of Andrew Thwaites in his own Laser, Adam Constable and Mark Stringer in the Navy's (CCF) Boatswain, and Graham Bird and Ella Bird in Mr Broadfoot's Enterprise. The first race was cursed with very little wind and the race was shortened to one lap. There was more luck in the second race with more



Tim Mulvihill giving instruction in the newly - renovated school pool.

wind. Only two races out of the scheduled five took place. Adam Constable and Mark Stringer graced the team with a second place in their group in the second race.

Thanks must go to the organiser, Mr Walker, for putting time aside for us during his busy exam schedule organisation, and also for taking Graham Bird out on the Navy's motor launch to take photographs of the sailing. Thanks must also go to Mr Broadfoot and Mr Phillips for driving us to the sailing club.

Graham Bird (Upper Sixth)

Look out! Bridge ahead!



Swimming

We are pleased to report that Swimming is alive and well

at Strathallan and developing in the right direction. The refurbishment of the pool turned out to be a great success and if the promised improvements to the changing rooms are of a similar standard we shall all be very happy. By way of a welcome, and probably long overdue, innovation we have successfully separated the ordinary swimmers, i.e. persons who prefer swimming to rugby, hockey and similar life-threatening activities from those who like rugby etc. and consequently require the services of a physiotherapist by the pool-side.

Thus we have been able to concentrate our coaching efforts to able-bodied swimmers, some of whom have put in a great deal of work and progressed in a most satisfactory manner. During the Autumn Term, Tim, the Gap Student, brought a lot of his expertise into the coaching process and the improvement among the senior swimmers was quite amazing. His help (and the new lane-markers) freed me to pay a lot more attention to the main group and provide and ability-related work schedule.



Cross Country

We had a number of interesting fixtures vs. Glenalmond, Merchiston, Rannoch and others this year and although we did not come away with any prizes, the level of performance was very encouraging. The girls in particular have again been very consistent in both effort and achievement - I am convinced that our senior boys, if they showed a similar degree of commitment, could make their mark too!

The Inter-House swimming competition had been scheduled for the second half of the Summer Term, but so many people took their Leave-out on that day, that the event had to be postponed until next year.

May I thank the outgoing Captain of Swimming, Jemma Hepworth, for all her work with the organisation of fixtures and for the cheerful way in which she kept things in order. My thanks also to Tim, the Gap, to Mrs Read for her physiotherapeutic support and to Dr McDougall for assisting in a more general way.

KG

Low numbers in full time cross-country

this term were balanced by very positive encouragement from the hockey staff, with the result that many more of the pupils took part in regular running, especially among the juniors, and the middle and senior teams were filled by the best runners of the school, not just the club. With the increasing pressure on talented sportsmen, this scenario looks set to continue for the next few years, and we were delighted to see the increase of general fitness and a much more positive approach to aerobic exercise, which not only contributed to some outstanding results in the Athletics season, but is also paying dividends in this year's rugby teams. Running, and especially cross-country, off-road running, remains the inescapable foundation for any athlete's training, whatever his or her main sport.

The season's races began with the invitation relays at St. Aloysius, where both

teams competed well on a fast, easy angled loop. We chose not to compete in the Northern schools fixture this year; again our social calendar and the Sixth Form Ball made selecting a team for the morning after impossible. It was not until Rannoch that our teams could perform to their strengths on a miserable wet day on the infamous hilly course. All teams did well, the seniors and middles pipped by strong Glenalmond and Rannoch teams respectively and the juniors working hard, but lacking, at this stage, the fitness to compete with the leaders. This was also a first away match for the girls' team, who showed excellent grit and determination to lead the senior event home. After Rannoch, the teams remained settled, but despite a promising win for the under 14 girls at Fettes, our performances over the flat and quick Edinburgh relay courses were not good enough to win events. However, the under 14 team of Catriona Sutherland, Anna Macdonald and Jenny Hay were led to an outstanding fourth place by Katie Fleming, in silver medal position, at the National championships, where Susan Balfour and Adrian Beaumont also ran well in the over 17 age group.

As the season progressed, both boys and girls teams looked more and more like runners; we have enough natural talent to compete with most other schools, and with most of the personnel young enough to compete again next year, and motivated enough to have a fitness base at the beginning of the term, rather than halfway through it, we can only hope for even better results in the coming season.

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Clay Pigeon Shooting D of E



Clay pigeon shooting by the school pond.

The season started, as always, with the build up to the Scottish Schools Championship.

The School entered four teams, three senior and one junior. A team of Grant Davidson, Hamish Allan and Pete MacKenzie shot very well scoring 138/150 and completed a hat trick of wins for the School in this event. Grant also won the Senior High Gun trophy with an excellent 49/50. Lawrence Court, Allan Hay and Robbie Whytock made up the B team who scored equally well with 118/150, a score that would have won the overall competition in other years. The C team came fifth. In the junior section, Mungo Laing won the Junior High Gun trophy with a score of 23/50. We made a clean sweep of the prizes when Charles 'Bandit' Court and son, Lawrence, took the Father and Son Quaich. Thanks again to Donnie Allan for his organisation.

The next big event was the inaugural Inter-House & OS v School Shoot held at Cluny Clays on 2 May. On the day Ruthven won the Inter-House event, the separate girls' competition was won by Woodlands (thank you Mrs Flatman for the trophy). The four best scores from this event went forward to the OS v School Shoot. The OS team comprised of ex-Scotland shot Nick Needlemire, Andrew and Graham Sinclair, John Patterson and Charlie McGee. The School won this event and went on to win a return match at Douglas Sinclair's farm on the day of the OS v 1st XI Cricket fixture. Thanks to both Robin Sheddin and Douglas Sinclair for their help and organisation.

The following weekend, two teams of six rose before the larks to travel to Stafford for the National Schools' Championship for the first time. As the only Scottish school in the field and as reigning Scottish Champions, the pressure on us was not lacking. In the end our A team of Grant Davidson, Hamish Allan, Lawrence and John-Matthew Court, Peter MacKenzie and Robbie Whytock took fifth place overall out of over thirty schools and Hamish won the UK Schools' Overall High Gun trophy, after a shoot off, with an excellent score of 44/50. The B team gained a lot of experience and Ben Kass took the Side by Side High Gun trophy. For our first attempt it was an excellent set of results.

As well as all of the above, there were a hard core of about 25 regular shooters who just enjoyed the shooting. I thank all the pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm and the endless support of CNC and AJHW. I look forward to another successful year in 1998/99.

PMV

Grant Davidson - selected for the Scotland under 18 skeet team.



The STRATHALLIAN

This year has seen a return to more normal numbers

(around 25) entering the scheme in the Fourth Form. Two very successful bronze expeditions were held with groups making their way through the hills from Callander to Comrie. Some of the boys even enjoyed an exhilarating late evening dip in the cool mountain stream at the campsite. I am now just waiting for reports and logbooks so that I can issue the awards (hint!).

At Silver level numbers have been low with only one assessed expedition which headed for Lochaber.

At Gold level my thanks are due to Mr Caves who has been organising the expedition work. Various expeditions have taken place with a final assessment in the Cairngorms for those who had successfully completed their training. Thanks are also due to Mr Menzies who took a group on his boat to help train them for a sailing expedition which, it is hoped, will take place next year.

Congratulations go to Tristan Ranger and Alexandra Mair who completed their Gold Awards this year.

As ever, my thanks are due to all my colleagues who run the activities and sports on which the award so much depends. The community service group under Mr Kitson has ensured that a good range of opportunities have been available in this important area of the scheme.

This has been my last year as the Award Officer for the school. Fourteen years was long enough and I am extremely grateful to Dr Carr who has agreed to take on responsibility for the running of the scheme. She (and Ben, of course) have given a great deal of help and support in the past and I wish her every success in her new role.

JSB

Mr. Burgess 'Bow-ing' out of D of E.



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With Mr. Kitson's enthusiastic assistance we were able to arrange fourteen competitive rounds of golf for the team this term.

We were pretty successful against the other boarding schools, winning three and losing one - including our very first win against Merchiston during my eight years in charge of golf. However, against some of the local sides we were unable to reproduce this good form.

Captain of golf, Hamish Mason, played well enough at number 1 but found himself up against some tough opponents and only managed to win once in five outings. However, he still proved that he was our top golfer by winning the 36 hole St. Columba's Trophy and the individual prize at the Inter-House Competition, both by a large margin.

Miller Nicholson won three matches out of six, but our main point scorers were Ian Smith with five from seven appearances and Robin Wallace with four and a half. Grant Davidson's appearances were limited due to his GCSE exams, but he 'won' both matches that he was able to play.

POINTS TABLE

| | Played | Won | Halved | Lost | Points |
|------------------|--------|-----|--------|------|--------|
| Ian Smith | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Robin Wallace | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 1/2 |
| Miller Nicholson | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Grant Davidson | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Hamish Mason | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| David MacLennan | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 1/2 |
| Allan Hay | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hayley Sullivan | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| John Cameron | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Colin Warschau | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1/2 |

Simpson dominated the Inter-House Golf Competition at Auchterarder, with their team all breaking 80 to occupy the top four individual positions.

Girls' Golf continues to develop with two matches this year and their own House competition, which was won easily by Woodlands.

Hayley Sullivan represented the County in the Scottish Schools Golf Championships this year and in recognition of their contribution to the golf team, colours were awarded to Hamish Mason, Ian Smith and Robin Wallace.

We were indebted again to the patient coaching of our golf professional, Mark Pirie, now of Crieff Golf Club.

NS

The new Lanman Group began the year with a flourish under the leadership of Robbie Gemmill.

The unusually high number of Fifth Years showed a promise for the future but it was to turn out that the Sixth Years were to be the more responsible members of the group. This was an eventual lesson for us all against the expectation of the year.

However, the early season gave us a lot to do with the, by now, regular tidy up of the areas and the trips away. We had an especially enjoyable field day at Cluny Clays where everyone shot both gun and bow and several showed dangerous expertise when in control, or not, of a long-base Land Rover. We are indebted to Mr Vallot for helping to organise this day.

The half term break in October marked the start of the usual competition between three groups in selected areas. Some of last year's competitors were keen to get going with the new members of the group. When Dr Carr judged the eventual results, we agreed that only one group had really performed in the spirit of the competition. The group had done so well that the valley area from Lady's Well has now become much more used by a wider section of the School and favourable comments have been received gratefully. The dereliction of the other areas will provide greater incentive for next year's groups.

From Christmas, the greenhouse work began gently culminating in another sale of summer bedding plants before Easter. Mr Bolton's unstinting effort produced the largest number and variety of plants for sale ever. The group provided an excellent reception for all purchasers while, at the same time, having their own barbecue.

In all, the year was one of the less memorable, but we are sure that the determined presence of Gordon Turner and Neil Taylor, who take over the group next year, will fire the projects with the right brand of enthusiasm.

GRMR



As the days begin to shorten and the rivers start to rise, it is time

to look back on a successful year for canoeing at Strathallan. Some competent paddlers have emerged, as well as some promising beginners, and pupils (and staff) from across the school have enjoyed canoeing both in the swimming pool and outside.

For the first time in 1998, we attended the Tyne Tour, a weekend event where over a thousand paddlers from all over the U.K. converge on the (cold!) banks of the North Tyne at Hexham for what the organisers claim is the largest rally of its type in Europe. This was a highly successful trip, which we hope now to make on a regular basis. Also planned for 1999 is a two week tour of white-water rivers in the French Alps, and we intend to be competing soon in either canoe polo or in canoe slalom events.

The river Tay at Stanley continues to provide excellent paddling for all abilities throughout the year. Unique in perhaps the whole of Britain, it has waves to surf and holes to play in all year round, even during the dry(er) summer months. The constant stream of paddlers from far and wide remind us how lucky we are to have this on our doorstep, but this is of small comfort when trying to extricate the trailer from a crowded car park!

Perhaps the real beauty of Stanley however, is its versatility; it is also an ideal location for beginners. One of my enduring memories of the year will be of the tremendous energy of the Riley pupils enjoying summer evenings - their enthusiasm bodes well for the future.

MJW

Mr Burgess shows the way.



Tyne Tour - Hexham Nov. 1997.

Friday classes ended and four of us shot for our canoeing kit, and rushed to the minibus, in a night that was already pitch black and typically, was beginning to fall at a great rate of knots. With a fabulously painted trailer in tow, and (to say the least) not such a fabulous array of boats, we left Strath and started the four hour journey to Hexham in the North of England. The rain, of course, did not cease as we ventured further south and, eventually, we arrived at Tyne Green - the Campsite. However, only to discover that the other 1500 paddlers had been sensible enough to arrive before 11pm and so we got a pitch at the end of the green. We tried desperately to raise the tents, and then get some food, although those priorities were somewhat reversed.

The next day we emerged from the tents to be faced by a thick mist. This would be fun! After eating breakfast (an attempted fry-up and loads of bread and butter) we tried to get ourselves some thermal tops, since the weather seemed to have sensed we were camping that weekend. Unfortunately, we discovered that the stalls had sold out! We then surveyed the range of exciting new boats on offer as demos. We took a couple, leaving the sales assistants with the pretence that we were going to buy them, and headed for the river. When we reached the drop-off point in the mini-bus, we saw a huge number of canoeists, and such a range of canoes that none of us had ever seen before, and made our selection look even more feeble than it really was!

Since none of us had ever really paddled any other river but the Tay, the shock was tremendous on a new stretch of water. The Tyne is a brilliant river and has a variety of different areas for different skills and abilities. That is except the inevitable "Gorge" - with no chickening out route, it is down or nothing. So we all went for it - and survived, with only one swimmer, over the two days! The only gripe about the Tyne is the end - a two-mile paddle on still water, which is one of the most tiring things to do especially after three hours of continuous canoeing.

On returning to the Green, we decided to get dry and warm, (easier said than done in a tent!) and got dressed for the ceilidh, which was a good laugh and put over a thousand freezing canoeists into a good mood.

The next morning, the wet kit that we had left in the end of the tent had decided to get itself frozen, and was most pleasant to put on - honestly! But that did not prevent us from doing the same route as the previous day, with more confidence as we now knew what lay around each of the corners. Arriving back at camp at about 5pm, we loaded the bus with a horrible mixture of wet kit and tents, and headed back to Strath, all of us shattered after our weekend.

Neal Adam, Ben Bartlett & Doug Forbes (Fifth Form)



Mountaineering



Mountaineers on Glenmore.

The basic idea was that a group from School and a group from Cambel College

in Ireland, combined to form a mountaineering party to tour the peaks and maybe walls around Glenshiel on the premise that the weather stay amiable, obviously too much to hope for in Spring.

Having lasted the five hour journey to Glenshiel by exchanging anecdotes about teachers, and avoiding any jokes to do with the Irish, we found our youth hostel, somewhat shrouded in mist and a stiff wind. It was now that we discovered the quality of food we were to be treated to. Ten boxes of 24 hour ration packs! And the fun had only just started. As we cooked our boil-in-the-bags we marvelled at what we could see of the scenery, a vast loch bordered by hills with, at that point, invisible peaks. Going to bed in awe we woke up in cold mist and set off for the day to ascend Beinn Fhada.

Once the front running boys had tired themselves out sprinting into the lead, our sedate pace allowed us, in the now brilliant sunshine, to view the hills, lakes and passing military aircraft. As we intended a different descent to our climb we found a rather steep finish to the day which did not treat our newly found

blisters well. Through a tiring eight hours of work the group seemed inspired to keep this pace going for the week.

Unfortunately, the next day took away our momentum due to the gale-force winds that would have woken us up if the rain against the glass hadn't done the job first. Those in power resolved that we should be treated to a day of navigation practice involving pacing and timing so, though uneventful, we learnt something (though it was supposed to be the holidays).

However, Saturday held more promise, quite windy, cold but with snow on the peaks. At last a chance to use the ice axes and crampons we'd had to lug around on previous days. After some navigation through the valley the groups split. One lot skirted the hills of the valley whilst the others attempted the snowy cap of Ciste Dubh.

After the steep start the snow slowed down navigation where sky and snow became indistinguishable. At this point our ice axes and crampons were revealed as the wind and icy snow started to make us unsteady on our feet. We struggled on for as long as possible. Unfortunately, we were beaten back with those less confident in the group being given leashes to be held by a more confident adult. A tough day but the warm pub at the base of the hill provided soothing hot drinks and relaxing soft seats. By Sunday, some people were a little the worse for wear so a relaxing walk along some ridges

provided a compromise between those blistered souls and energetic kids. As ever, the wind and rain made us glad of our fleeces and high quality (bin-bag like) waterproofs.

With new resolve on Monday we had a go at Sgurr na Sgine. Again snowy and misty, to the point where the long drop on either side being visible, was preferable to the mystery of the mist and slippery snow. As we descended we met herds of deer and were introduced to leg-breakers. Fortunately, nobody fell foul of these as our bothy was a nice and warm shelter for lunch rather than first aid.

Our final day was to be spent up Maol Chinn-deargand Doire Leathain. A small group including myself, our winter leader Fergus, our two young Irish dynamos, Peter and David and Miss Vass, now affectionately known to the younger members as 'Auntie Morag' - with Mr Caves and Tim providing the Strath contingent in the second, more sedate group. This last day required our navigation due to poor visibility; our energy as the two Munros took some work and our tolerance as we didn't want it to end. Luckily it was a dry end to a wet week as everyone spent the evening deciding if they really wanted to eat the fruit dumpling or could hand on 'till they got home. All in all it was a great trip away from the noise of cities and cars, with only the Daily Telegraph to tell us what was happening outside.

Carrick Allison

Glenmore '98

Glenmore Lodge, in Aviemore, is the National Outdoor Sports Centre where I managed to attain a place on a mountaineering course during the Summer. The bulk of the cost of this was subsidised by Goretex, the outdoor clothing manufacturer. This year is the first year it is fully up and running. The idea behind it is to provide 14-19 year olds, interested in outdoor pursuits such as climbing, hill walking and camping the opportunity to experience these activities at a structured and informative level, though it should be pointed out it is not for those already high standards in, say, climbing. It is more as a stepping stone to encourage teenagers in outdoor exploits -



Army

a task made easier in the wonderful scenery and facilities such as canoeing, pool, multi-gym and indoor climbing wall.

The week began with my arrival on Sunday, where I met the whole group of about ten people and was issued with everything I might need for the week, such as day sacks, tents, climbing harness and rock-boots. Then it was orientation from the staff - basic rules and layout of facilities and then to bed.

On the first day, the lesson was Basic Navigation, that is pacing, some orienteering, bearings and basic climbing. This easily filled the whole day at the end of which lectures were given on a wide variety of subjects from ice-climbing to Everest expeditions and trips to Yosemite.

The second and third days were occupied with walking and camping. Having pitched our tents we did some scrambling among some crags, before bedding down for the night. After packing, we walked up Cairngorm and skirted round to walk back to the Lodge, where we took a well-earned rest after attending the Yosemite lecture.

Somewhat disappointingly we awoke to pouring rain and the news that there would be no outdoor climbing that day. However, we did get in some gorge walking, the purpose of which is supposed to be walking up the source of a river - though in the swollen waters we didn't get very far before being swept back down. Having dried off, with no lecture we were allowed to relax in the bar area talking or watching TV.

On the final day, we did manage to do some climbing outdoors, by the seaside, and those more confident and adventurous led some of the walks, putting in their own protection. After a warm and busy day we finished off with a talk on an expedition up Mount Everest. A good end to a brilliant week. The other members of group were from all over Britain from different backgrounds but still managed to get together and get on well.

Carrick Allison (Lower Sixth)

The year started with a smaller group than normal, in terms of numbers,

but who, none the less were well motivated and quickly got their training. The Senior members of the Army Section went off to the Highland Cadet Tactical Competition with both male and female teams. Both teams put in a lot of effort and were noted for their enthusiastic approach to all parts of the competition. Due to a great deal of teamwork and effort, the girls' team just managed to pip the boys' team and were placed 3rd out of all the girls' teams. A very creditable result! (This year, I have been assured that the girls are out to win it.)

The Fourth Form, who had very quickly picked up the basic skills, then joined the rest of the Section for a Field Day up at Barry Buddon where they acquitted themselves very well.

After half term, the Army ran an Inter-Section Competition for five weeks and this enabled not only the newer members of the group to get more involved in section work, but it also gave the group leaders a chance to find out their strengths and weaknesses.

The start of the Spring Term saw more continuation training for the juniors as they trained towards their Army Proficiency Certificates, whilst the seniors were heavily occupied doing Leadership courses. Not only did the seniors do very well on their course and fully deserved the promotions that followed, most were also able to complete their final phases of training and some were awarded their Advanced Proficiency Certificates.

Sgt Andy McPherson of the Cadet Training Team (based in Perth), has continued to support our training and his enthusiastic and professional approach to everything that he does has benefited the Army Section enormously.

At the start of the Summer Term the whole Section had a second Field Day, which took place at Rothiemurchus

Lodge near Aviemore. The activities included orienteering, mountain biking, skiing and snowboarding, team tasks and a quiz night. Again, teamwork came to the fore a lot, and it was rewarding to see the sections working well together.

Tam Lindsay has continued his great work in running the Stores, and has been very professional in the manner in which he has accounted for all the equipment and weapons. He has generally helped, not only the Army Section, but also the Contingent, to run efficiently.

Other forms of training that have been covered in recent months are: Command Tasks, an Orienteering Competition, Night Exercises and Assault Course Competitions.

This year culminated with Summer Camp at Cultybraggan and despite reservations, everyone who went had a good time, worked very well and were a credit to the School. The team won both the Live Firing Competition and the Orienteering and performed exceptionally in the March and Shoot Competition.

PAS

Marines on parade on Field Day.



Survival

The survival party arrived, at the resort that was to be their 'Island of Dreams' for almost a week's stay, in extremely high spirits.

Upon disembarking in some style we were disappointed to discover the tour guide was conspicuously absent and so we had to find our own way to the 'Bedrock Hotel' complex.

After selecting our incomplete accommodation from a choice of two the 'Changing Rooms', members of the party set about some interior decorating and were followed by the roofing 'experts'. With the refurbishment programme complete, individual members scrambled for positions, though the experienced survivalists declared their patches first. In an act of folly, newcomer Dr McDougall, accepted the advice of one of these veterans on where to locate himself, a decision he was later to deeply regret. The same individual also produced an airbed which prompted the remark from Master Gdula "who's the cheeseball with the inflatable?" The 'cheeseball' was to be truly thankful for the inflatable as the week progressed and the rain arrived.

With everyone tucked in we settled down to our first, and only, night free of rain.

Daybreak saw the party fragmented into smaller groups. The seniors who had adopted a 'no eating for the week' policy headed for an early morning bath in rock pools left by overnight tidal changes of the North Atlantic and this would be followed by walrus type behaviour of lying on rocks for hours on end. The highlight of the week occurred one morning during this activity when the aforementioned Nick Gdula forlornly attempted to pre-heat the water in his rock pool by heating a couple of rocks over a fire and throwing them in. Amazingly he seemed disappointed it didn't work! The others set off in search of the island's seafood delicacies and though they were in small groups, team spirit and camaraderie dictated that anything caught would be shared by all. Triumphant cries of "we're not going to starve all week" - which would later prove to be premature - combined with the smell of smoke and a gathering of bodies around the camp-fire were sure-fire signs that some measure of success in obtaining eatables had been achieved.

And so the initial scene was set for the day-times for the 'lucky' twelve souls who had actually paid to come on the trip.

Night-times, the first night apart, were not for sleeping. Most were spent listening, praying and cursing. That is: listening to the incessant patter of rain landing on the makeshift roof, praying that when the build up in certain points inevitably gave way it would not cascade on top of you and cursing the roofing experts when it did.

A couple of days on, most had given up on the seafood diet and were adopting the no-eating policy. Survival Island was now baring its teeth, the weather was dismal, bellies were empty and inspiration was zero. At this juncture some were coping better than others, however, none complained.

The week had passed the mid-way point and the rain refused to relent. Mr Wands and Dr McDougall had taken to cave dwelling, whilst Mr Glimm (brilliantly resplendent in his attire of combat gear including vest, bandanna and roll up cigarette, cut a combined 60's hippy/70's Vietnam look) stayed with the others to maintain morale.

As the week closed to its last evening spirits had risen again, the party had regrouped and stories of survival groups of the past were being shared. There was a general feeling of well-being especially since the rain had ceased and we were 'reliably' informed by Mr Wands that there was only a small shower on the way.

What followed will remain in the memories of all concerned for many a day as torrential rain and storm force winds lashed the roof and threatened to tear it from overhead to leave us entirely exposed and at the mercy of Mother Nature.

The above is no more than a brief insight into spending a week on survival. There are times when members of the party question why they came on the trip. Effectively no food for the week, little comfort during the day or night and no prospect of speeding up time when morale is low. However, when the boat arrives to take you back, there is a real sense of achievement and personal pride that you managed to cope without complaint, as all involved in this group did, sometimes under the most trying circumstances.

Survival provides the opportunity to find out things about yourself; how mentally tough you really are, can you remain upbeat despite the problems you are facing and how helpful can you be to others? A striking example of this was demonstrated by Mr Glimm in the early hours of one cold and very wet night when he gave his sleeping bag to another member of the party who had been soaked through.

If you believe you have what it takes, watch for the notices later in the year and enter your name. You may have some regrets at the time, but once done you'll never regret it again.

A Survivor

Survivors surviving.



Royal Marines

Royal Navy

As usual, so much has happened in the last year that I find it difficult to establish the priorities. Please accept, therefore, that this report must be selective and that many things will go unmentioned, even if they were very important at the time.

Let me begin with what has become one of the central issues of our training - the Pringle Trophy Competition at CTCRM in Lymington. Our team battled against formidable opposition and managed to retain the Map Reading Trophy (by a single point!); in some other areas of the competition it became very clear that we need even more preparatory work, in order to avoid those lapses of concentration that cost valuable points and have kept us further down in the ranking list than our actual skills would warrant. But results apart - it was again a very useful experience and the members of the team did us proud in every respect.

Speaking of preparatory work, I must mention the Assault Course which was set up more than ten years ago and has now reached the end of its serviceable life. The rope course has been dismantled and we no longer have this important training facility at our disposal; at the time of going to print no organisation has come forward to assist with the setting up of an alternative - but we remain hopeful.

Even without the full Assault Course, training has continued along the well-established times of a healthy mixture of military skills and adventure/outdoor training. Warrant Officer Martin RM has again given us the benefit of his vast experience - I still have to see the Cadet who could resist Mr Martin's considerable powers of persuasion. When this Gentle Giant looms over you, you learn p.d.q.!

Our Pre-Marines have also got back into the full swing of preparing themselves for the aptitude test at the beginning of the Summer Term. I am always rather sad when I have to tell some of them that they have not quite reached the required standard. Having observed them throughout the year and having watched the tremendous effort and determination with which they approach the test, one feels inclined to accept all applicants. But then again, life is not always fair, and the word 'Elite' would become meaningless if one gave in to such sentiments.

We had a couple of entertaining Night Exercises at Barry Buddon this year. Since it has become increasingly difficult to find training areas where blank ammunition can be used, the opportunity of training on MoD property (where few restrictions exist) is very welcome indeed. The more trigger-happy cadets proceeded to make full use of the chance to set one noisy ambush after the other.

Whenever I meet former members of the Detachment, I am asked the same question. And here is your answer: Yes, the Detachment is in good shape and in excellent spirits - we are following the fine example set by you!

No report would be complete without a word of thanks to the many people who have helped in one capacity or other, to make the 97/98 session a success. What you have done is much appreciated by all of us!

My personal thanks to all NCO's who have taken on considerable responsibilities and who have made my life relatively easy, and to all RM Cadets: it has again been a pleasure working with you.

KG

The STRATHALLIAN



After many months of dedicated labour, Captain Walker and Mr Wilson have managed to re-float the Navy Section.

The power boats are again running out of Port Edgar and Cadets are being trained to a high level of competency in boat handling and practical navigation.

While all this work was going on with the boats, Sub. Lt. Phillips had the not always enviable task of keeping the troops happy and involved back at the Base. He introduced an element of adventure training into the programme and looked after the Pre-Marines who acquired considerable skills under his leadership.

The Navy Section has been in recession, but we seem to be coming out of the doldrums; leaner and stronger than ever and are looking forward to a year of varied and enjoyable activity. The opportunities are there, it's up to you to take them.

KG

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Curling



Andrew Reed qualified as the lead in the English Junior Curling Team which competed in the World Championships in Thunder Bay, Canada.

Well, what a great season. This season has been full of excitement, mainly due to close nerve-racking games. This year we have competed in more competitions than in previous years. By starting the season with Keith MacLennan (skip), Andrew Reed (third), Duncan Edwards (second) and Caroline Reed (lead) and a handful of reserves, we have really made a name for Strathallan curling in a lot of competitions.

As usual, we competed in the Millar Drummond league where we won all our games and went into the High Road as favourites. However, we came up against tough opposition in the finals against Dollar and unfortunately, were unable to beat the side which consequently went on to win the competition leaving us as runners-up.

Nonetheless, we still managed to push on and we qualified for the Scottish Schools Finals, which the School had not managed to qualify for, for a good number of years. This took place at the Summit Centre in Glasgow in the first week of the Easter holidays.

The team that went to Glasgow was a strong team with Keith MacLennan, Hamish Mason, Duncan Edwards and Bjorn Tviert. The Finals started with all the teams having to compete to get through to the quarterfinals. This we managed to do and faced

Horse Riding

The Strathallan Riding Group

started the year at Shieldbank Riding Centre at Saline where they worked on riding, stable management and vaulting. They enjoyed their afternoon's activities each week and progressed well. A change of venue meant that we continued the season at Dunvegan Equestrian Centre at Newburgh. Dunvegan are able to offer us hacking as well as tuition, which pleased us greatly as it meant that we could spend an hour out in the countryside around

Newburgh. The stables have a large number of excellent horses for every standard and tuition of a very high quality. The pupils have enjoyed their outings each Thursday. During the Summer Term the more experienced were given tuition in jumping, which they enjoyed immensely.

At the end of the Summer Term shields were awarded to our most improved pupils: Tracy Oliphant, Victoria Reid and Ksenia Podymakhina. - congratulations to all of them. Everyone received badges and rosettes, so no one went home empty-handed. We look forward to returning next term.

JSRH

Dollar. We knew that this was when we had to beat the team which had put us out of so many other close victories. The game that followed was very close and came down to an extra end with the scores being tied at six all. We succeeded in pushing the other team out of the competition as they could not take the pressure. Sadly, we ourselves were put out of play in the semi-finals by Morrisons who went on to win overall. Andrew Reed was unable to play as he was representing the England Under 21's Junior Squad in the World Championships in Canada.

This year Strathallan was asked to represent the Perth mixed team in an invitation weekend at Pitlochry. This was an RCCC division two competition and was the first time we had been asked to go. We managed to win all our games during the course of the weekend and helped to promote Perth into the First Division for next year. Subsequently, from playing and winning, the Gogar team invited us to play in a competition at Gogar for all the Scottish Schools, where we met Stranraer and Lockerbie. With our team playing to full capacity we cruised to lifting our first trophy, which was a fitting end to a great season.

As a result of qualifying for the Scottish Schools, minor sports colours were awarded to Keith, Andrew, Duncan and Caroline. It's been a great season and hopefully next year will be even more successful. Sadly Andrew Reed will be leaving so we'll be looking for a replacement. A special thanks to Mr Walker for arranging matches and ice.

Duncan Edwards (Lower Sixth)



Children's Hospice Road Race



Some post-race R&R.

Rachael House in Kinross is Scotland's only Children's Hospice.

With running costs of £1m a year to find, CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) relies upon community support. Strathallan helped raise the funds required to build the Hospice and, since it was opened in 1996, has been committed to ongoing fund raising.

On Sunday 19th April, more than 100 members of the Strathallan community took part in the second Strathallan to Kinross "Road Relay", bridging the Ochil Hills and covering the 13 miles of undulating terrain. The majority of participants were members of teams of six runners, each covering a leg of just over two miles. Support vehicles shuttled team members to and from their starting and finishing points as well as providing support in the form of food, drink and first aid. A small number of pupils went all the way, running the whole half marathon distance! The final leg finished the relay at Rachael House, Scotland's only Children's Hospice.

Thanks to all those who participated on the day, to the pupils and staff who provided the support crews, the house reps., who co-ordinated efforts in the boarding houses and to all those friends of the School who sponsored the runners. As a result, Scott Harvey and Darren Miranda, on behalf of the School, were able to present a cheque for £1,700 to the Hospice fundraising manager.

DJB



Scott Harvey and Darren Miranda present the cheque.



Strathallian Club

President

Douglas attended Strathallan from 1956-61 in Freeland House. He was the youngest of three brothers who were all at Strath in the 50's.

Whilst at school, in his own words, "I had modest success in Fives, Hockey and Rugby". After leaving school, he attended Agricultural College at Lawers and now farms at Bridge of Earn, successfully breeding fat cattle and sheep and growing grain and potatoes. Douglas takes a keen interest in things agricultural, being past Chairman of the East of Scotland Grassland Society, past Chairman of Perthshire Agricultural Discussion Society, Director of Perth Show and a local Committee Member of The National Farmers Union, The Landowners Federation and The Farming Wildlife Advisory Group.

Away from farming, Douglas's interests are Rotary, he is Vice-President of Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club and a Justice of the Peace. He also enjoys curling, shooting, golf and attending Internationals at Murrayfield.

Douglas has had a long connection with Strathallan and married his wife, Eva, in the School Chapel. They have a family of two, Andrew and Amanda. Andrew was at Strathallan from 1985-90 and was the last Captain of Leburn House.

Douglas Sinclair 1997-98

President, Douglas Sinclair 1997-98.



Strathallian Club Contacts Abroad

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Botswana:

David J Watson (1980), P.O. Box 655, Gabarone.

Canada:

Ian D Lewis (1970), 420 Coach Light Bay S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3H 1Z2.

Stephen W Geddes (1987), 100 Lamont Boulevard, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0E6.

Rahul Suri (1983), 942 Logan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 3E4.

France:

Andrew Elliot (1986), Moulin Rateau, 89260 St Martin sur Oreuse, Tel: 33+(0) 3 86 97 69 92

Italy:

Mrs Fiona Magoni (nee Mowat) (1991), Loc. Le Fonti, 50020 Panzano, Firenze. Tel: 055 852914.

New Zealand:

Iain S Cree (1961), Omaha Flats Road, RD6, Warkworth.

Robin A. Taylor (1965), 35 Chamber Street, Havelock North.

Nigeria:

R Gary Walker (1978), c/o Chevron Nigeria Ltd., PMB 12825, Lagos. Tel: 260 0600 ext 8377 (work) or ext 7649 (home). Fax: 260 0395

Singapore:

Thomas A Kerr (1952), 82 Grange Road, Les Colonnades, Singapore 1024.

Patrick D Russell (1981), 24 Bukit Chermin Road, Singapore 0410. Tel: 2243001.

South Africa:

Michael I M Dawson (1964), 459 Currie Road, Durban 4001

William B Melville (1966), 72 Catherine Road, Fontainebleau, Randburg 2194.

Tommy R Taylor (1961), 9 Uve Road, Kloof, Natal.

USA:

John Brough (1956), 29142 Dean Street, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, Tel: 714 495 3376

Michael J Dobbie, 1761 Coventry Road, Decatur, Georgia 30030. Tel: 404 687 8642 (work)

New World Sales Marketing Inc, 3200 Windy Hill Road, Suite 1110 West, Atlanta, GA 30339. Tel: 404 953 1500 Fax: 4044 563 9611

Scott R Gibb (1990), 4425 1/2 Laurel Street, New Orleans LA 70115. Tel/Fax: 504 897 1203.

Richard J Lester (1978), 5450 Sterling Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035.

Walter J McFarlane (1978), 931 Shattuck Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois 60194 Tel (H) 708 885 3367 (O) 708 428 7171.

Roderick A D Powrie (1974), Merrill Lynch, 101 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302 Tel: 201 557 3054 Fax: 291 557 4285.

David E Uprichard (1984), 30 Ivy Hill Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514 Tel: 914 241 1283.



Obituaries

William M McGregor (Nicol 46)

William Mackenzie McGregor died on the 29th April 1998. He was born and brought up in Monifieth in Angus. Throughout his life he was known as 'Mac'.

On leaving Strathallan he joined Ellerman City Line as an officer cadet and studied at Dundee Navigation School for his sea going certificates. By his retirement he was a Master Mariner.

Throughout his life, he kept in touch with many of his school friends.

He leaves a wife, Margaret.

Thomas F Docherty (Freeland 30)

Thomas Finnie Docherty died on the 14th October 1997, having been very ill for the last few years of his life.

He came from a family of Railwaymen. His father was superintendent of the Old Caledonian Railway and then took on a similar role in Argentina. His elder brother managed the Santiago-Antofagasta Railway in Chile. Thomas was a railwayman in Argentina before volunteering for service in the forces in WWII. After this he was Traffic Manager for the Central Railway in Peru.

He leaves a wife, Margaret.

Donald G Lyle (Nicol 46)

Donald Gordon Lyle died of a heart attack on the 5th July 1997. He was born at Kilmacoll in Renfrewshire. He served in the R.A.F. in Germany after WWII; then he joined Shanks in Glasgow. In 1955 he bought a Newsagents business in St. Andrews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth in 1997 and leaves two sons, David and Michael.

Grant Carrie (1938)

Grant Carrie died in January 1998. During World War II he reached the rank of Major with the Seaforth Highlanders. Having studied law at Edinburgh University he practised in Oban, becoming a Writer to the Signet. In 1955, he joined British Petroleum and worked in London until his retirement in 1981.

He moved to the Highlands in 1994 to be close to his family.

He was predeceased by his wife in 1997 and leaves a son, John.

David Wilkie (1930)

David Wilkie on 14th August 1997. After leaving School he graduated in Law from Glasgow University. He became a Solicitor and entered practice in Kilmarnock where he continued as a traditional family Lawyer in his firm of Inglis & Wilkie until he retired at the age of 80, apart from the period of the Second World War in the 16th Royal Horse Artillery where he served in Syria. He was a modest, dapper person respected for sagacious and professional guidance as a solicitor and valued enormously in his work as Ruling Elder in St. Columba's Church in Ayr, where he lived with his sister.

Donald McIntyre (Simpson 94)

Donnie McIntyre died at Worthy Down in February 1998 (aged 19) whilst on a course preparing him to go to Sandhurst.

He came to Strathallan in 1991 and chose to leave after his GCSEs in 1995. He was a useful athlete and rugby player and was chosen to go on the tour of Australia in 1995. He did particularly well in outdoor activities and was a very keen member of the Royal Marine Section, successfully completing a Ridgeway 'Outward Bound' course.

Having been at College in London, he then went to Nepal to act as an assistant guide. In 1997 he joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers, his local regiment, and was well on the way to a successful career in the Army.

He was a kind, generous and enthusiastic character, who will be much missed by his family, friends and colleagues.



Victor S Lowden.

Victor S Lowden (Nicol 40)

Victor went to Strathallan in 1935, accompanied by his younger brothers, Hamish and Gordon, and stayed until 1940, having become Captain of Rugby and Captain of Nicol. He was later to become the President of the Strathallian Club and, with his brothers, made nostalgic returns to celebrate dinner and lunch outings at the school.

After graduating from St John's College, Cambridge, with an accelerated Honours degree in Economics, Victor joined the Fleet Air Arm to see extensive service as a Seafire pilot in home waters and the Far East during the second world war. He was awarded the DSC for bravery and leadership in aerial combat south of Tokyo on 15 August 1945.



Victor returned to Dundee after the war and joined Low and Bonar, became a director of Low and Bonar (Textiles and Packaging) in 1964 and was appointed to the main board four years later. He became chief executive, Textiles Division, in 1974 and continued to develop home and overseas businesses successfully until his retirement in 1980.

Outside his business career, Victor was also active, particularly in various sporting circles. He enjoyed a long association with Panmure Rugby Club, was a founder member of Forthill Sports Club, and played much of his golf at Blairgowrie Golf Club, where he was captain, 1975-77.

Victor and his wife Helen, surrounded by family and friends, celebrated their golden wedding in December 1994. Victor cherished his family connections: he is survived by Helen, their children, Graham and Carole, and their grandchildren, Samantha, Ross and Gillan.

Those who knew Victor found in his companionship a generosity of spirit, a puckish sense of humour, a determination and courage to live and enjoy life in both his prime and latter years. I was glad Victor and I retained our close connection and that we took the chance to play seniors golf together, at the same time reviving memories of school days and family.

Harry R Levick (1953)

Levick H R (1953) on 17th December 1997, in Glasgow. Aged 62.

Harry hooked for the 1st XV in a team which enjoyed considerable success.

After leaving school, he joined his father's printing firm which in due course he took over. He always said that his typesetting apprenticeship gave him the advantage of being word perfect in most of the popular hymns.

He was a very keen golfer and an enthusiastic sailor. Undoubtedly his greatest sporting interest was curling. He was an aggressive competitor who enjoyed considerable success, becoming President of four West of Scotland Curling Clubs.

Harry was a gregarious and extrovert individual who made friends wherever he went.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Isobel, and children Fred (1982) and Lorna.

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Valete

FREELAND

UVI

Bateman S I: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 2nd XV Rugby; 2nd XI Cricket; Dramatic Society; Secretary Debating Society; Sgt Army Section.

Calle Cervantes 1, Sotogrande, Cadiz, Spain 11310.

Baumont A J: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 1st Athletics; Cross-country Team Captain; 5th XV Rugby.

New Zealand.

Buchan S D: Came 1992; II; School Prefect; 1st XI Football; 4th XV Rugby; Chapel Prefect.

The Oaks, 22 Queens Hill Drive, Aboyne, Aberdeen AB34 5GD

Butler J A: Came 1993; III; School Prefect; Deputy Head of House; 1st XV Rugby; 2nd XI Cricket; Tennis Team; President Debating Society; School Dramatic Society.

Didsbury, Carrington Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4DZ

Butler M R: Came 1996, LVI; Senior Victor Ludorum; House Prefect; 1st Athletics; 1st XI Football; 3rd XV Rugby.

25 Haston Crescent, Perth PH2 7XD

Cameron J E: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; House Squash; 1st Badminton Team.

Glen Nevis House, Glen Nevis, Fort William, Inverness PH33 6 ST

Constable W B: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 1st Swimming Team; 5th XV Rugby; Head of Army Section.

Benarty House, by Kelty, Fife KY4 0HT

Donald J N: Came 1990; II; Head of House; 1st XV Rugby Vice-Captain; 1st XI Hockey; Athletics

c/o Mrs J S Golson (Paraguay), Lloyds Bank Plc, Hays Lane, London.

Duffy R J: Came 1990; II; House Prefect; Head of Stage Management; Sgt Army Section.

3 Chasefield Wood, Denny, Stirlingshire, FK6 5LY

Hayward T J: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; Stage Management.

Grange of Airlie, Kirriemuir, Angus DD8 5NN

Nesbitt D I: Came 1993; III; House Prefect.

Gartur Lodge, Cambusbarron, Stirling FK7 9QQ

Rodgers C S: Came 1991; II; House Prefect; 2nd XI Hockey; 3rd XI Cricket.

Solvik Calle Avila 25, Sotogrande San Roque, Cadiz, Spain.

V

Ballantyne G J: Came 1994, II.

Winbury, 305 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 2LL

NICOL

UVI

Bishop A R: Came 1991; House Prefect; 1st XI Football; Sgt Army Section.

59 South Lawne, Bletchley, Bucks MK3 6BU

Bradley C L: Came 1992; II; School Prefect; 2nd XV Rugby; Music (composer, guitar, violin, drums, Choir); Tennis; Badminton.

7B Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EP

Corbett B: Came 1993, III; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby (Captain); 1st XI Football (Captain); Tennis; Athletics.

Wychwood, Durris, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 6BD

Dinning J R: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; 2nd XI Hockey (Captain); Art; Athlete; DJ.

Meiklemossie, Fenwick, Ayrshire, KA3 6AY

Harbit A: Came 1996; LVI; House Prefect; 5th Rugby XV.

Woodlands, Tegarmuchd, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2NB

Hutton N D: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 2nd XI Hockey; Drama.

SPDC Port Harcourt, (PRPE/2), Expat Mail, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA

MacLennan D S: Came 1996; LVI; House Prefect; 3rd XV Rugby; 1st XI Football; Golf.

25 Toberargan Rd, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5HG

Maddox R O: Came 1990; II; School Prefect; 2nd XV Rugby; 1st XI Hockey (Colours).

3 Coldstone Avenue, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB1 8TT

Mears S P: Came 1993; III; Canoeing; Computers.

c/o Standard Bank London Ltd, Zambia, Cannon Bridge House, 25, Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SB

Menzies A G: Came 1993; III; Badminton; Computers; Internet site for school.

Convenanter Hotel, Falkland, Fife, KY7 7BU

Morris A S: Came 1993; III; School Prefect; Drama; Choir; Sailing.

5 Mount Charles House, Doonfoot, Ayr KA7 4NY

Mouat C J: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; 2nd XI Hockey (Captain).

White Lodge, Mt Tabor Road, Kinnoull Hill, Perth.

Pyke R: Came 1996; LVI; Computing, Fitness.

Lannball Cottage, Tynron, Dumfriesshire DG3 4LA

Russell D A: Came 1993; III; House Captain; 1st XV Rugby; 2nd XI Hockey; Athletics; Singing.

Broad Oak House, Newton Road, Chilton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0PZ

Wright J A R: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; Clay Pigeon Shooting; Computing; Fishing.

Greenfields Country Sports, Homelands, Lynchat, Kingussie, Inverness-shire PH21 1LT

LVI

Hotger D: Came 1997; LVI; Very hard-working academic and general enthusiast.

Germany.

RUTHVEN

UVI

Bird G R: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; Sailing Team; School Choir and Choral; Drama (School & House); D of E Silver; Junior Rugby; School Colours.

P O Box 31329 S.M.B., Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies.



Blackstock A: Came 1991; I; School Prefect; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; 1st XI Hockey; 1st VI Tennis (Captain); RLLS Bronze Medallion; School Athletics.

60 Stewarton Drive, Cambuslang, Glasgow, G72 8DG

Corrie D J G: Came 1993, III; House Prefect; 3rd XV Rugby; Rugby Sevens; Headmaster's Discussion Group.
Park of Tongland, Kirkcudbright DG6 4NE

Crosthwaite D F: Came 1992; II; House Prefect; 3rd XV Rugby (Captain); 1st XI Football; Swimming Team; Sixth Form Committee; Community Service; D of E.
Cosses, Ballantrae, Ayrshire KA6 0LR.

Elliot T P: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; Pipe Band Pipe Major; Badminton Team.
1 Trinafour, Perth.

Gemmill R: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; Head of Land Management; 6th XV Rugby; School Colours; Grade 6 LAMDA; Drama; D of E.
8 Cunningham Court, Lowboughton, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3LT

Girvan B: Came 1996, LVI; House Prefect; 3rd XI Hockey; 5th XV Rugby.
Blairovan, 2 Irvine Terrace, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5HW

Howarth C P: Came 1996; LVI; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; 1st XI Football; Athletics Team; Sixth Form Committee; D of E Gold; Community Service; Golf Team.
The Old Rectory, 28 Oldmeldrum Road, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB2 9DU

Jones R I: Came 1992; II; School Prefect; House Captain; House Prefect; 3rd XV Rugby; 1st XI Hockey; 2nd XI Cricket; Golf (Captain).
24 Ann Street, Edinburgh EH4 1PJ

Phillips E R: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; Rugby Sevens; Sailing Team; Head of CCF; Head of Marines; D of E Art Scholarship; Headmaster's Discussion Group; Passed AIB, awarded RN Sixth Form Scholarship and RN Flying Scholarship.
Wellbrae, Clackmarras, By Elgin, Morayshire IV30 3RJ

Thomson Y G R: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; Rugby; 1st XI Football; Swimming Team; Sixth Form Committee; Headmaster's Discussion Group; D of E Gold; Community Service; RAF Flying Scholarship.
Cul de Zak, Barclay Park, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 5JF

Walker J M: Came 1996; LVI; House Prefect; 1st XV Rugby; 1st XI Football; Athletics Team; U17 Victor Ludorum; D of E; Community Service.
Syria Shell Damascus, P O Box 824, Slough, Berkshire SL3 0BA
V

Browne M A: Came 1995; III; Junior Rugby; House Cross-country; CCE.
1 Saddle Back Close, Calne, Wilts SN11 8HW

Potter A G: Came 1995; III; 1st VI Tennis; 2nd XV Rugby; Land Management.
Arden House, Strowan Road, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2ES

SIMPSON

UVI

Culbert P J: Came 1993; III; House Football; Football 2nd XI; Rugby Vth XV
Wester Ballindean House, Inchture, Perth PH14 9QS

Dicke R H W: Came 1993; III; School Prefect; Head of House (House Colours); Rugby 2nd XV; Hockey XI (Colours); Cricket XI (Captain and Colours).
Castlecraig, Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4HY

Henderson J R: Came 1990; IJ; House Prefect (Colours); House Plays; House Music; House Badminton.
30 Lodore Road, High West Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE23 3NN

Heslop M A: Came 1991; I; Backstage Theatre; Junior Rugby; Hockey; Cricket; L6 Computing Prize.
290 North Deeside Road, Cults, Aberdeen AB1 9SB

MacKenzie C P: Came 1996; LVI; Rugby XV; Hockey 3rd XI; Athletics; Clay Pigeon Team (Colours).
Cullisse, Nigg, Tain, Ross-shire, IV19 1QN

Mason H M: Came 1996; LV; Oceania Tour; Rugby XV; Hockey 3rd XI; Athletics; Football XI; Golf Team - individual winner both years.
Inverglenn, Ardbroilach Rd, Kingussie PH21 1LB

McMullan A G: Came 1990; IJ; House Prefect (House Colours); Rugby XV; Cricket 3rd XI; House Music; Headmaster's Discussion Group.
22 Bucklerburn Drive, Peterculter, Aberdeen AB1 0XJ

Narchi M: Came 1990; IJ; Junior Rugby; Hockey; Cricket; Athletics; Backstage Theatre; CCF Army.
ARAMCO, Box 8511, Udhailiyah 31311, Saudi Arabia.

Nicolson M J: Came 1996; LVI; Golf Team; 2nd XV Rugby; Sixth Form Committee.
The Plateau, Lagavulin, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7DX

Sheal A R: Came 1994; IV; Deputy Head of House; House Prefect (Colours); Rugby 2nd XV; Football XI; Athletics; Headmaster's Discussion Group.
P O Box 10109, Saudi Aramco, Dhahran 31311, Saudi Arabia.

Smith P A: Came 1993; III; 5 XV Junior Hockey; Junior Cricket.
The Old Church Lethendy, Meikleour, Perthshire PH2 6EH

Sutcliffe M D: Came 1993; III; House Prefect (Colours); Cricket 2nd XI; Swimming (Colours); Rugby 5th XV.
49134 Wallen Horst, Hollage 4, Breslauer Strasse 16, Germany.

Thapa L: Came 1993, III; House Prefect; Rugby 1st / 2nd XV; Oceania Tour; Hockey XI (Colours); South Africa Tour; Chameleons; Cricket XI (Half Colours); Piper.
RBPC-5 Jerudong Park, PO Box 116 Sengkuron, Bandar Seri Begawan 2701, Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Watson S C: Came 1993; III; House Prefect (Colours); Rugby 2nd XV; Hockey XI (Colours); Athletics; Tennis; Squash (Perth League).
Flat 11F, King Tien Mansion, 18D Tai Koo Shing Road, Hong Kong

Webb L E: Came 1994; IV; Rugby 2nd XV; Football XI; Cricket 3rd XI; Athletics; D of E.
Craigellachie House, Dalfaber Road, Aviemore PH22 1PX



Young K A S: Came 1992; II; School Prefect (House Colours); Rugby XV and VII's; Cricket XI; Athletics (Captain and Colours).
The Vinery, East Overton, Strathaven ML10 6SZ

LVI

Reed A O: Came 1994; III; Hockey XI; Cricket XV; Curling (Skip & represented England).

Norham East Mains, Horncliffe, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2JX

V

Broadfoot D L: Came 1993; I; Rugby 4th XV; Hockey 3rd XI; Cricket XI; Headmaster's Music.

45 Clevedon Road, Kelvinside, Glasgow G12 0PH

THORNBANK

UVI

Buchanan J M: Came 1996; LVI; School Prefect; Strathallian Magazine.

Kintyre House, 5 Spey Drive, Fochabers.

Chapman R G: Came 1993; III; House Prefect; Hockey (Captain); Athletics (Captain).

3 Pitallen Terrace, Perth.

Cooper K J: Came 1993; III; 1st Netball VII (Colours); Skiing.

The Dreisch, 51 Muirend Road, Perth PH1 1JD

Crow L A: Came 1993; III; School Prefect; Head of House; Basketball (Captain); CCF Sergeant.

South Cottage, Glenalmond College, Perth PH1 3RY

Dawson J M: Came 1993; III; 2nd XI Hockey; Show Jumping.

Elmwood House, Campmuir, Coupar Angus, Perthshire PH13 9LN

Flatman K V K: Came 1997; UVI; House Prefect; 1st XI Hockey; Athletics.

21 West Montrose Street, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 9PF

Gdula C A: Came 1990; IJ; House Prefect; 2nd XI Hockey; Tennis; LAMDA.

Handellaan 11, 2253 Bf Voorschoten, The Netherlands.

Grant A M: Came 1991; I; Deputy Head of House; 1st XI Hockey; Drama; CCF Corporal.

Moncarn, 4 Dalgleish Gardens, Cupar, Fife KY15 4DL

Green G M: Came 1991; I; House Prefect; 2nd VII Netball.

42 Marchbank Gardens, Ralston, Paisley PA1 3JD

Hall Z E: Came 1994; IV; House Prefect; 2nd Tennis; 3rd XI Hockey; Skiing.

Mondhuie, Nethybridge, Inverness, PH26 3DF

Hastings R M: Came 1994; IV; Music; Drama.

Langlands, Kinmoull Terrace, Perth PH2 7JD

McIntyre V E N: Came 1996; LVI; School Prefect; Netball Team (Colours); Drama.

17 Munro Road, Glasgow G13 1SQ

LVI

Lafayeedney A: Came 1994; III; Debating; Drama.

Kildinny Farmhouse, Forteviot, Perthshire PH2 9DD

WOODLANDS

UVI

Hepworth J C: Came 1992; II; Captain of Swimming.

Beech Tree Cottage, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 5PX

Hunter A M: Came 1993; III; Head of School (School Colours); 1st VII Netball (Colours).

11 Queensbury Brae, Thornhill, Dumfries DG3 5AQ

Malcolm N A: Came 1993; III; Captain of Shooting; GB Rifle Squad; 2XI Hockey.

Walsdorperweg 50, 2597 JC, Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Maxwell J S: Came 1993; III

Whinfield House, Kinross, KY13 7AU

Mazur R A C: Came 1993; III; Head of Choir.

Finlaggan House, Chapelhill, Logiealmond, Perthshire PH1 3TH

Murdoch J E: Came 1996; LVI; School Colours.

P O Box 25454, Awali, Babrain, Middle East.

Perry J J M: Came 1992; II; Scanlon Merit Prize; School Colours; Pipe Band; Project Trust in South Africa 99.

2 Cramond Road South, Edinburgh EH4 6AD

Pringle C M L: Came 1994; IV; Swimming Team.

P O Box 25314, Awali, Babrain

Proctor C S: Came 1993; III; School Colours; 1st VII Netball.

The Airds, Forgandenny, Perth PH2 9EL

Rankin E H: Came 1993; III; 1st VII Netball; Tennis Team.

12 Hamilton Place, Perth PH1 1BB

Readman E L: Came 1992; II; School Prefect (School Colours); Deputy Head of House; GAP year in Chile.

Mill of Argaty, Doune, Perthshire, FK16 6EN

Wiseman E J: Came 1993, III; Head of House.

Glenwood, Caledonian Crescent, Gleneagles, Perthshire PH3 1NG

V

Bird E R S: Came 1993; I.

F2F, 51 Comely Bank, Edinburgh EH4 1ES

Macdonald S A: Came 1994; II.

10 Mid Steil, Glenlockart, Edinburgh EH10 5XB

Malcolm S J: Came 1995; III.

Walsdorperweg 50, 2597 JC, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Manson I H: Came 1994; II.

c/o FCO (Khartoum), King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH



On-Line

Strathallan is now "on-line" with its own website.

Designed by Alisdair Menzies, Nicol, the new site - www.strathallan.co.uk - is modelled around the current prospectus. Visitors to the site can download a registration form if required, as well as a series of location maps. The website address will feature on all advertisements and promotional literature about the School.

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