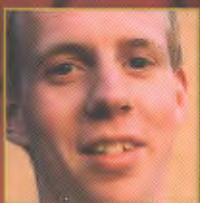
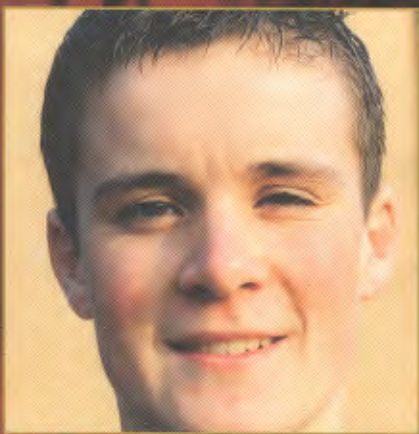




The Strathallian

2002-2003



Do you feel
the force?



Do you mean to
say it's a digitally-
driven motor



Bin Laden finds
perfect hiding
place



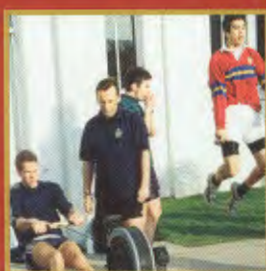
During the interregnum
Strathallan underwent
something of a
religious revival.



Mr Metcalfe was right,
Becky. It's a laugh a
minute here.



Just one clarinetto



Headmaster....would it
not make more sense to
put the wheels back on.



Gargoyles?
What
gargoyles?



John, that
computer's on line
again.



And I'm thinking of
having a kilt made
out of it.



Imelda's
little helpers
road-test her
Christmas gifts.



Keith gets the sack



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To begin by saying that being made Captain of School was a great honour and privilege is the customary refrain of many a Captain of School's report. However, I feel it must be said since without it this report would not reflect how grateful and how proud I am to have held the position.

Captains of School

2

Taking on this role undoubtedly does alter one's outlook, particularly, of course, on how to behave, and relate to others, though it need not alter the character of those who accept it. I felt very much in the summer before my final year that this was perhaps the most important thing I should keep in mind. Indeed, I think that this is the key to fulfilling a position such as Captain of School; both Amelia and I were aware that we were given the post because of what we were before, rather than what we should become. I do feel that we both were generally able to manage this, and I say that not out of a sense of vanity but to highlight that this was made possible for us by the immense support and understanding offered to us by the staff and by our peers. The prefects were indispensable, and the wisdom and honesty of Mr Thompson and Mr Barnes, who always allowed for the fact that we were people who were Captains of School rather than the other way around, deserves special gratitude.

Upon reflection on my time at Strath, I am always struck by how successful the school is: Friday morning assemblies were, and I am sure will continue to be testament to the breadth and genuine high standard of our collective and individual achievements. It is apparent to

me that the kind of spirit and atmosphere required to produce an environment where members of a community can flourish as they do at Strath is not necessarily a common occurrence in the wider world. That the school possesses such a strong spirit is self-evident; this is to me and hopefully all Strathallians a constant source of pride.

In saying this I think it important to mention that in the midst of taking advantage of the "opportunities for all to excel" pupils always seemed to be generally happy, and this happiness is integral to the school spirit I speak of. I think that the fundamental secret to ensuring this lies in a piece of advice the headmaster offered: "busy people are usually successful people." To this I would add that those who keep busy are usually also more fulfilled and consequently happier people than those who succumb to the temptation to skive off and not do justice to their capabilities.

I tried to keep this in mind when, as we all are, I was faced with things I wasn't terribly keen to tackle. Thus, as has become customary, I will pass this on as my piece of advice to Tom and Becky, and indeed to all pupils, for within that maxim I believe lies a large part of why Strath is such an outstanding place.



Among the advice given to me as a result of my appointment was: "Remember to enjoy the year." I can say unequivocally that this was something I never needed to be reminded of. I sincerely hope that the same is true for Tom and Becky.

Calum Emslie



Being head girl at Strathallan is an experience I will always treasure in my memory. It has given me personally so much; confidence in public speaking, a great deal of insight into what it takes to run an institution like Strathallan and a wealth of happy memories.

I will never forget the fear I experienced on the days leading up to Speech Day, nor will I forget how it turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Sitting writing this in an internet cafe in Sri Lanka, I very much doubt if I would have the confidence to be here now were it not for the experiences I had at Strathallan. Playing a part in the running of the school this last year has been wonderful since, I hope, Calum and I were able to give something back to the school that truly gave us so much. As for the help and support

we received from those around us, I will always be grateful to Mr Barnes and the Headmaster and to Mr Fleming who was particularly supportive. All the staff and pupils were very kind and helpful to us throughout the year and I want to thank everyone for their help.

I am certain that Tom and Becky will do a superb job and bring a lot to the school this year.

Good luck to you both, and take Calum's advice!

Amelia Lane


Staff notes

3

After a number of changes last year, movement to and from the Strathallan Common Room has this year been comparatively limited. After four years in charge of Woodlands, Mark and Lynne Evans leave for Sussex where Mark has been appointed as Assistant Head/Pastoral at St Leonards-Mayfield.

Their total commitment both in terms of time and energy to the girls in their care has been evident to all and much appreciated by girls and parents alike. Mark has also helped with Games and taught History and English to pupils in Riley. Family commitments have necessitated Paul Shields' move to Glasgow and he leaves us having established Spanish as an integral part of the Modern Languages provision at Strathallan. During his tenure as senior Spanish teacher, the subject has been introduced at all levels and numbers have increased steadily. Results have been excellent in line with those achieved by the department as a whole and his contribution particularly to Football and as a tutor in Ruthven have also been highly valued. The central importance of Chapel in the life of a boarding school is sometimes underestimated but there is no doubt that Robert Pickles' commitment and determination to ensure that the service was moved to the middle of the week in order that everyone have the opportunity to attend ensured that the full involvement of all. His sympathy and understanding in times of trouble were greatly appreciated by a number of the members of the community and the large group of pupils who attended Alpha was testament to the interest raised in that quarter. He leaves us to take over the Parish of Portmoak but remains with us for the winter term to take services prior to the appointment of a new Chaplain. With the slight increase in the number of pupils whose first language is not English, has come the introduction of specialist teachers of English as an Additional Language. We have been very fortunate to welcome Katerina Vosmekova for two years and Jan Klapis for one. Both have worked tirelessly to support individuals and groups as they undertake the difficult task of operating fully in another language. There is no doubt of the high calibre of both as teachers and their commitment and scholarship were evident to all, as was their commitment to the wider aspects of life at the school. Katerina was a tutor in Riley and was always willing to be involved in social events both with younger pupils and all those for whom she had particular care in the senior school. Jan was an integral part of the support team in Simpson.

The Evans' are replaced in Woodlands House by Morc and Abi Tod who bring with them extensive experience of boarding at Strathallan through their previous positions as senior tutors and resident tutors in Ruthven and Woodlands respectively. We are delighted that continuity of care is maintained. Elena de Celis Lucas, a native of Spain and graduate of La Coruña University joins the Modern Languages department as a Spanish specialist after teaching at Oundle for a year. She has enjoyed the boarding school life, will be resident tutor in Woodlands and looks forward to being involved with the CCF and outdoor activities. Claire Laurie has spent two years teaching in Glasgow and joins us after a degree in Computing from Glasgow Caledonian University. She will be a tutor in Woodlands also and is keen to be involved in a range of sporting activities. Traude Ailinger will take over much of the teaching of English as an Additional Language and joins us having experience of teaching English to Chinese students at Dundee University. She also has experience of the boarding world after a short stint at Rannoch School

teaching German and Latin. She will be supported by Peter Fialek who will spend one year with us as a teaching assistant. He is a graduate of the University of Matej Bel Slovakia and also has interests in Philosophy. He will be resident in Simpson House. Finally, in the absence of a resident Chaplain, R.E. teaching will be undertaken by Daniel Goodey who has a Philosophy background and a wide range of teaching experience at university prior to specialising in R.E. We welcome them all and trust that they will be very happy with us 


BKT



All successful institutions depend very much on people who are often largely unseen and too often largely unthanked but whose contributions are vital.

Mrs Wylie


4



all these things and many more Rene weathered with apparent ease, invariable efficiency and incredible good humour

Rene was just one such. From 1985 she fulfilled the role of Housekeeper with an unflappable style and remarkable tolerance. The teaching profession is not renowned for its forward planning and last minute demands and changes to arrangements are not unknown. Often, these put considerable pressure on domestic staff. Touring teams suddenly arriving with ten extra players; baths left running and flooding the Headmaster's study below, flower arrangements to be conjured up at the last minute, sudden staff shortages; all these things and many more Rene weathered with apparent ease, invariable efficiency and incredible good humour.

The post of Housekeeper is a demanding one, requiring considerable management skills and flexibility. Beneath her gentle exterior, Rene hid considerable determination. She did not suffer fools gladly and she required the same high standards from her staff as she demanded of herself. Nevertheless she possesses a warm heart and an excellent sense of humour, both qualities she needed when looking after the staff so well, particularly those she wryly referred to as 'her boys'.

Rene will be sadly missed. She has returned for retirement to her beloved Orkney; that distance needed, perhaps, to escape any future possibility of dealing with the unannounced arrival of fifty antipodeans requiring beds for a week. She takes with her our undying gratitude and genuine affection 

RJWP

The seven year itch finally got the better of Paul Shields and he made a definitive return to his native and beloved Glasgow at the end of the last academic year.

Shieldsy, ...ipesetas!

5

Having spent the eight (or so) years prior to his arrival in Perthshire in the glorious and almost uninterrupted sunshine of Jerez de la Frontera, it was always going to be a bit of a shock coming north, and being made to wait quite so long for Celtic FC to regain their rightful place at the top of the SPL can't have helped.

When he wasn't filing papers in the section of the department devoted to Spanish he was out on the football pitch putting that select band of brothers who thought they could play soccer through their paces. In recent years he even developed a taste for hill running and could often be seen (almost) keeping up with Higgys on one of his punishing outings.

Under Paul's guidance, Spanish at Strathallan became a torre de fuerza and the number of pupils opting to study the language at GCSE and beyond put on a healthy spurt. Trips to Spain, extra tuition in the run-up to exams, an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the language or, if necessary, a quiet word in the ear for anyone who got out of hand; pupils knew that they could rely on Paul for all of these things.

Staff, on the other hand, will readily recall the ease with which he would turn a gesture or a voice characteristic into an uncannily accurate impression from which no-one was safe. A lively social life meant that he was a well-known character around town as well and could be sure of a friendly welcome at the Ice Factory or the local Thai restaurant. More than anything else Paul was aware that as long as you had a fine cigar and a nice pair of slacks you couldn't really go far wrong.

He will be greatly missed and our best wishes go to him, Susan and baby Jonathan in their new and greatly changed life in Glasgow.

EGK



Dougie McDougall PhD

Dr Dougie 'Diesel' McDougall was finally transferred back to Blantyre during the 2002-3 season. A man of many parts, he began his career at Strathallan as part of the Chemistry department before making his way across the quadrangle to Maths. His enthusiasm for all aspects of life at the school would see him popping up in a variety of guises, not least as trainer of the swim team. A 6am start with Dougie was not an experience to be forgotten. Water wasn't his only medium, however, and Dougie was a dab hand with a welder's torch as well.

We wish him the best for the future.

EGK

This is always an opportunity to put as much spin as possible on the image of the school. The grounds have been carefully manicured, the food is dressed to look sophisticated; children seem miraculously able to sit still for more than ten minutes; parents are smiling.

Speech day



You realise that the Chairman of the Governors wants to appear so young that he's going to out-live his aunt; the Bursar fantastically seems a fount of generosity and limitless funds; strangely the Headmaster's talk of 'aim high' is replaced with tales of how high some have reached. Even the academic staff seemed to have changed for, wonderfully, Mr Keir and Mr Court (who say they don't even know each other) seem to have graduated at the same level from the same university's Arts faculty. The sombre and somewhat brooding figure of Mr Kennedy seems ebullient, curiously - until you discover that he has slipped some unsuspecting naïve yet one more piece of The Strathallian. The Headmaster told us of the ingenious attempts of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's expedition to publicise the school by parking the coy Strathallan minibuses before the lodge to be used in a sequence from Monarch of the Glen. The resourceful producer of the programme managed to get them moved and I can only think that the member of staff in charge of the trip must have believed, along with the various celebrities that volunteer for Big Brother, that there is no such thing as bad publicity.

It is not only schools and politicians that are entitled to put spin of life. Official educational bodies keep telling us, while they furiously adjust (one is tempted to say 'fiddle') marks and results, that public examinations are no easier. As far as I'm concerned, you can tell that to the Marines who, of course, are quite a long way away for they went to war to save us all from imminent destruction at the hands of Saddam's Weapons of Mass Destruction. Incidentally, my favourite moment this year was overhearing Clarissa (of Two Fat Ladies fame) explaining why she was so volubly cheering for Daniel Stewart's Melville in the final of the Merchiston Sevens against Fettes. "Why not," she said, "at least Tony Blair didn't go there".

Whatever the case, at 'A' Level our school achieved a 75% pass-rate at 'A' or 'B', at GCSE there was our best ever percentage of passes at 'A*' or 'A' and there was a significant improvement on last year's pass rate at Higher. At national level Coralie Morrison achieved first prize in the Bank of Scotland Art Awards; in the Independent School's Art Exhibition both Lois Hunter and Anne Kelly won Master Class awards. Rebecca Chalmers, Michael Segaud and Clement Ip are attending the Royal Academy of Music every week and Jake Streatfeild-James and Rachel Davies are members of the National Youth Choir. The girls' hockey team won the Scottish Schools' Championships and also the Independent Schools Trophy. In hockey Jamie (check sp) Cachia, Malcolm Jack, Kirsty Hay and Anne-Louise Breden are all selected for the National Under-Sixteen teams and Melanie Kotseroglou was selected for the Greek national squad. The girls won the Scottish Day-Slope Championships and Melissa Piper was selected for the youth Olympics. Richie Duncan was a member of the Scottish team at the World Schools' Championships. In the Scottish Girls Cross-Country our senior girls achieved victory and Francesca Grieve was selected for the Scotland squad. Tom Hine and Brad Coupar were 4th and 6th in last years Wisden's schoolboy averages; our juniors won that section of the Scottish Clay Pigeon



Championships; Andrew Marshall was selected for the National Under-Thirteen Squash squad and Ishbel McFarlane and Louise Wallace reached the final of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition.

I am glad that, from the Headmaster's speech, I can list the above as a series of facts for spin is perhaps the very worst influence of the modern way upon our lives. And I am glad to be able to say - most sincerely - that our pupils are as ordinary, as foolish, as plain annoying and downright tricky and inconsiderate as the teenage children of any parents that I know. What I hope is that at Strathallan they have at least learned how to admit to their faults and try to correct their failings. That is why, to use the rather nice extended metaphor employed by the Chief Constable of Perthshire, pencils have rubbers at one end. Pencils are precious because they can be used to make marks and write words. Of these latter I would like to quote from a piece by Njabulo Ndebele:

"Words, little man, are a gift from the Almighty, the Eternal Wisdom. He gave us all a little pinch of His mind and called on us to think. That is why it is folly to misuse words."

Had our politicians been able to heed such wisdom their addiction to spin and the sad consequences thereof might have been avoided.

Both the Chairman of the Governors and Chief Constable Vine emphasised the importance of substance over form, or worth rather than style. Mr Pighills talked of weddings and funerals that he had attended with Strathallians. I find such ceremonies entirely apt when thinking of the nature of substance and form. People spend a very great deal of time, effort and money on these and yet if you don't mean what you say everything amounts to almost nothing, or worse than nothing. His impression of Strathallians (and mine, too, when I recently attended the funeral of someone closely linked to the school), was that for Strathallians substance held sway over style. Strathallians whom I meet are not academics with no love of learning; businessmen with no respect for people; farmers with no love of nature; sportsmen who see no value in losing; voices more fond of sound than of truth; friends with an eye for advantage rather than need; conversationalists who don't want to listen; colleagues interested only in what you could do for them. And all that was something I took from Chief Constable Vine's analogy of the pupil with his pencil. The pupil knows that without the hands of others he is next to powerless. He needs the regular sharpening of experience and has the ability to correct his mistakes. He is, whatever the surface or situation he confronts, keen to make his mark and be judged by the mark he makes. Most importantly, for both the pupil and the pencil, it is what lies within the core that is the working component, the vital element



The Autumn Term began with the arrival of 22 new pupils and a new housemaster and housemistress. All were rather excited and nervous about what was in store over the next three terms.

Riley House

8

Having been told that Riley always begin the year with a House outing to the Leuchars Airshow - I duly obliged and on the second Saturday of term lessons were cancelled and 50 Rileyites, plus Sandra, Katharine, me, Mrs Bush and Mimi clambered aboard the Earnside old double decker bus and headed for Fife and Leuchars. A great time was had by all despite the noise of the low flying jets - a good bonding session that helped everyone settle in.

Very soon the boys and girls began to fill in their school planners with lots of extra-curricular activities - climbing, Riley choir, clay pigeon shooting, cooking, art club, Riley Big Band, chess, fencing, athletics, pipe band and judo, to name just a few. It was great to see so many taking and having a go at the activities. The weather was kind to us for the first half of the term so that our sports teams were able to have many useful practices. The girls' hockey team had an excellent and promising season while our rugby team gained in confidence and put in some noble performances. Our Clay Pigeon shooters won the British Championship at Cluny Clays in October. Halloween was celebrated with an evening party - ducking for apples, plenty of water, flour and sweets and of course some interesting costumes. The dark days of December were brightened by the Divisional Plays written and directed by the pupils themselves, Dron being voted the best Division, and by our Christmas Disco and our own Carol Service in the School Chapel on the final morning of term.


The Spring Term began in early January and almost immediately Mr Walmsley gave direction to the Divisional Heads about the House Music Competition. On the games side the boys took up their hockey sticks while the girls concentrated on a mixture of netball and hockey. The boys' team had a successful season its high point coming when they were runners-up to Malsis School in the Strathallan 6-a-side Tournament. The Divisional Music was won by Glenearn this year but there were some excellent performances amongst all the Divisions. Unfortunately the excitement of the first snow was very short lived and we were

unable to have any skiing days at Glenshee as the snow was not good enough.

And so to the Summer Term with the lengthening evenings on the Paddock and the sound of cricket bats and balls, tennis rackets and youthful voices echoing in the Valley. After a fairly dismal May weather-wise the term improved and we witnessed much improvement in our cricket teams towards the end of the season and likewise for the girls in rounders and tennis. There were many good performances on the athletics track and a fair bit of talent was seen here. Music and drama were very much to the fore with the Edinburgh Festival, LAMDA examinations and our own 'Evening of the Arts' and a major musical production of Bugsy Malone which involved the whole House on stage on the final afternoon of term. What a great way to finish a term and the year. The production was superb and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and, of course, the pupils. Many thanks to all the children for without their enthusiasm the show would not have been the success it was. Richard Walmsley and Vicky Robertson are congratulated on their efforts in directing the show.

Many thanks also to all who help in Riley. On the domestic side under the direction of Sandra Cartwright, our Matron, Katrine, Emma, Betty and Rita. Our tutors Pete Keir, John Burgess, Kate Streatfeild-James, Judy Bush and Katherine Vosmekova. We say a special thank you to Katherine as she moves on after two years in Riley. Again without all your efforts and professionalism the House would not be the place it is.

I hope the Second Formers have enjoyed this past year in Riley and that they will enter the Senior School with fond memories, a little wiser and with more confidence as the new year begins. Those that remain will, I hope, make our new recruits arriving in September feel most welcome for the year ahead. Leuchars here we come again.

With ear plugs 

PB



I hope the Second Formers have enjoyed this past year in Riley and that they will enter the Senior School with fond memories, a little wiser and with more confidence as the new year begins.



Riding at Dunvegan Equestrian Centre

It is a twenty-minute drive to Newburgh. In that time the girls manage to tackle a huge variety of conversation topics. It is a real education. Once we arrive the race is on to see who is riding which pony, some being more popular than others. Once Laura and Amanda have sorted everyone out the ponies have to be located, tacked up and brought into the yard. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly some of the girls become confident in this whilst others still struggle to remember which part of the bridle goes where. Once all the girls are on and girths are tightened it's up to the school for a lesson. Backs straighten, reins tighten legs are put in the correct position as the girls and their ponies are put through their paces.

All those who came along this year have made excellent progress and were really enjoying their riding. It was with great sadness we heard that Dunvegan had closed over the Easter holidays. Amos, Jack, Duchess, Inky, Tilly, Clyde, Ricky and Milly have gone to new homes and are probably enjoying a well-earned break from riding school lessons. Thanks go to Amanda and Laura for their endless patience and good humour.



What would I have as a car, a diesel 4WD or a high performance sports car?

For a quick egocentric moment of glory, a sports car, for the long haul I would choose the 4WD.

Once started the diesel engine can't be stopped unless the fuel source is depleted or cut off.

Freeland House

10

The fact that it's 4WD means that it can go over most terrain (including stone fences). So we have an engine that keeps running as long as it has fuel and a vehicle that can go nearly anywhere; in my book not a bad combination. Nothing too flash, not too impressive to the lasses, and not liable to get stuck on a kerb or speed hump. Taking over Freeland, I was delighted to notice that if the boys had to be compared to a car they were definitely diesels; a group of young men who were not too flash, reliable and once you got them started, well, just enjoy the ride, but hang on it could be bumpy.

The great skill that many of the boys in Freeland possess, apart from their loyalty, commitment and respect, is empathy. The majority of the boys have the ability to put themselves in someone else's situation and imagine what it is like to be them. This valuable skill allows the members of the House to live a happy and harmonious life, as they are able to show vast amounts of respect and understanding towards each other and the community they live in. Empathy is a learnt skill, it is something that has to be fostered, and the outgoing Housemaster left a legacy of it.

Mr and Mrs Court left the House after 15 years, Susan and I stepped into two very large pairs of shoes (brogues or trainers, Sheps? Ed). All members of the House showed a good deal of flexibility and adapted to the changes easily. The Head of House, Joe Watson, and Deputy Head of House, Hamish Campbell, proved invaluable as they kept the transition smooth and steady.

The year started well with the House Music competition, where we won the House Choir section, and were extremely unfortunate not to win the ensemble and whole competition. Peter Hewitt led an excellent band made up of 7 other Freelanders. Bryan Tsang played a superb flute solo, composed by another House member, Li Gan.

The House spirit and identity shown at this event was maintained throughout the year as the boys competed in every House competition with determination, vigour and zeal. The cross country was an excellent example of this where every runner gave of his best, pushing himself to the limit of his endurance. Christoph Schulz was unable to defend his title, however the middle school age group was won convincingly with Tom Hine and Stephen Gavin who finished in joint first place. David Burgess showed his grit and determination as he proved himself a stalwart of the House. The other runners put their best in and did themselves and the House proud.

Freeland's success in other inter-house competitions was rather limited although the boys put their best effort into everything they did. The senior hockey was a fine example of this where the boys held a much stronger team to nil-nil until the dying moments of the game. The team spirit they displayed was seen again in the athletics. Where the junior 4x400 team put in a great performance to dominate the race from start to finish. Greg Guthrie anchored the team and also put in an excellent performance in the individual competition. Stephen Gavin again showed his athletic prowess and won the intermediate age group competition.


The drama competitions saw Freeland working well as a House again. We must have been very close to winning the Senior House performance as the boys delivered a polished and refined production, with some great acting from Andrew Appleby and Adrian Duthie. The Junior House play under the direction of Ross Anders and Peter Hewitt received critical acclaim and was successful in winning the competition.

Despite the long delay for Freeland's House chapel, Li Gan utilised this time to develop a House band to lead the ceremony with unique flair.

The tutors and staff of the House must be thanked, especially Mr Proctor, Mr Walmsley and Sally. Their input and gentle guidance ensured that I did not get too many things wrong, and if I did, well Apps would be sure to tell me. The House and I must also thank the partners of all the House staff who support them in such a manner that they can invest such a vast amount of time in the boys in Freeland.

To the many boys not mentioned directly in this report, your inputs to the House do not go unnoticed, you are in the diesel engines of the School, House and community you just keep on going and going.

To the boys who left the House this year, we all wish you every success in the future; you all contributed to the House and helped shape it in your own way. For those who enjoyed success in their examinations, well done. To those who were disappointed, don't give up. Reassess your situation, be honest with yourself and find a new path to your goal.

I hope that you carry on living your lives with commitment, respect, loyalty and empathy, by embracing these qualities and living with by them you will find yourself respected by all and liked by many. Remember that you are the living legacy by which the House and School are judged by others 

SWS



Nicol House

This year Nicol has gone from strength to strength, due mainly to the attitude and determination of the boys and, more importantly, of Mr Giles. The reputation of Nicol boys within the School is one of good spirits and a sense of unity and working for each other. This attitude in the house comes directly from the tutors, who put in a great many hours in order to keep the house ticking over. I certainly feel extremely proud to have been part of this house.



House Rugby

The Junior 7 had convincing wins over Simpson and Freeland, only conceding one try. They beat Ruthven in the Final to take the competition. Unfortunately the Senior Rugby was cancelled at the last moment this year, enabling Ruthven to retain the title

House Hockey

The Juniors beat Freeland to progress into the final, where they were beaten by Simpson in penalty flicks. Unfortunately the Junior team were put out of the competition after losing to Ruthven in penalty flicks in the semis. The Senior indoor team defeated Freeland in the semis, then went on to beat Ruthven in the final. In outdoor hockey the Seniors beat Freeland in the semis, and defeated Ruthven in the final with penalty flicks.

House Cricket

The Juniors beat Simpson easily and then went on to defeat Ruthven in the final and retain the trophy. Special mention to Craig Wallace and Michael Cachia for outstanding batting performances

House Athletics

The entire house this year put in a massive effort in the Standards competition with the Upper Sixth, Lower Sixth and Fourth form gaining the most points in their year group again the other houses. This gave us a good foundation to build towards good performances on Sports day.

On Sports day however, the team, plagued by injury, put up a good fight only to come third. This was a disappointment as we felt we could have pushed the eventual winners if our team was at full strength. However, we came second in the Standards to Ruthven, so not all was in vain.

House Drama

In senior House Drama this year the house acted out a Scene from Blood Brothers. We were unfortunate not to win, but Fraser Philip won the Best Actor prize and we were overall runners up to Thornbank. The Juniors performed well and were the only house to write their own script. We did not win, but Iain Aitken won Best Actor

House Music

This year the House put in three solid performances. The choir sang Sweet Memories, conducted by Lawrie Quibell, who won the Best Conductor prize. Clement Ip showed the school his remarkable talents on the piano to win the Best Solo Performance. The Ensemble performed the Spin Doctors Two Princes to cap off an excellent performance by Nicol.





The reputation of Nicol boys within the School is one of good spirits and a sense of unity and working for each other.

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This was noted by the Adjudicator, who awarded Nicol Best House Overall. The house is indebted to Michael Arthur and Adam Wallace for the sheer amount of hard work both boys put in to once again put Nicol's name on the Cup. Upon standing down I do feel a little sense of sadness as Nicol has left me with many happy memories that will last a lifetime.

My thanks go to the Prefects, who put in a great deal of work both to the academic and pastoral upkeep of the house. Also to Marion, Davina, Caroline and Lisa who have put up with a lot this year, yet kept smiling the whole way through.

The Nicol boys have done themselves proud this year, academically, socially and sports wise, strengthening the house's reputation in the school.

Finally, I wish to thank Fitz, who worked hard for the House, and also my deputy, Doc, without whom I would have been completely lost. I wish Adam all the luck in the world and hope he enjoys it as much as I have.

Ewan O'Donnell



Inter-House Tournaments Won: Tennis, Junior Hockey, Badminton, Tug O' War, Swimming Standards, Swimming Gala, Athletics Standards, Sports Day, Cross Country, Golf, House Music Ensemble, Junior House Drama 'Best Interpretation of Script'.

Ruthven House

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Looking back through Strathallian Magazines from previous years it would seem that etiquette dictates that one should start a report of this nature with a poignant quotation, parable, or story intended to offer the reader a chance to take a moral lesson on board and better their life (Think of Mr. Court's for the last 15 years).

I would like to buck such a trend, not purely due to the fear of failing miserably, but also because I believe that Ruthven's list of House achievements from last year not only mirror the house spirit, but also the ideas and morals that we as a House believe in.

The first of these is sharing, and as a house we decided to let the Clay Pigeon Shield and the Academic Challenge move on to new homes, for the time being at least. We even felt compelled to let Freeland enjoy the honour of being home to the captain of school rather than make it a hat-trick for ourselves. Similarly, we will allow Nicol to accommodate the Captain of Rugby, but we do so safe in the knowledge that the majority of the squad will be born and bred Ruthvenites anyway.

One thing that a 5 year stay in Ruthven has taught me is that the saying 'Nothing breeds success like success' is almost certainly true. The majority of the trophies won this year were being retained and are now at home on our burgeoning trophy shelf. Hopefully they will soon find themselves equally at home in a long overdue trophy cabinet within the castle walls. (You'll see it next time you visit, Blair. Ed)

It is not just the quantity of trophies won this year that make the achievement so great, but also the manner in which they were won. During the Tug O' War, Lachie pulled like a man possessed (very similar to his normal Saturday nights some might argue), and almost everybody in the house not involved in the actual pulling, was giving his all supporting. Many people argue that Ruthven should not be praised for their sporting achievements because 'What do you expect when you put all the good people in one house?'. But when it is

considered that Athletics Standards were only won by a mere seven points, and that Ruthven only won one of the individual sections of the Cross Country, it shows that the whole house, rather than individuals, had to consistently give their all and pull together to achieve the results we did.


Ruthven even decided to spread its wings and pick up the 'Best Ensemble' prize at House Music, along with the 'Best Interpretation of Theme' award at Junior House Drama. These may not seem like achievements that should stand out from the rest, but in competitions where Ruthven are traditionally incompetent we have hopefully set some new precedents that will be followed and built upon in years to come.

What do you expect when you put all the good people in one house!?

I have not been able to figure out if Ruthven's success as a house has led to, or been the result of, the individual achievements of those in it. The answer is probably a mixture of both. Peter Mackie found himself playing Rugby for the Scotland U18 A team during the Easter Holidays and a few weeks later his Design and Technology A Level project was being displayed at a national woodwork convention. Calum Emslie not only carried out his duties as Captain of School reliably, but he also found time to contribute to the successes of the school Pipe Band and receive an open offer to the prestigious Sandhurst Officer's College, while Marc Best is still awaiting the decision regarding his application to Hogwarts. Andrew Lawson (affectionately known as Lurpak), continuously found new ways to amuse us all and contributed like no other to the profits of Ruthven's infamous tuck shop. The Third Form settled in quicker than we had expected, or hoped for, and it was no time at all before they were running riot. I shall wish them good luck;

because the new Upper VI will wisely not tolerate such a mix of characters as we did (I think that was put diplomatically enough). There were also some sad moments this year with the departure of Duncan Gillanders, here briefly from New Zealand, and Phillip Preiss, over from Germany, because they both fitted in brilliantly and gave their all to the house, hopefully enjoying being in Ruthven as much as Ruthven enjoyed having them.

It is probably time to round off this report before it starts getting shortened by the editor; but first I would like to thank all the house tutors, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Vallot and Mr. Salisbury, and our new Resident Tutor Dr. Downhill for all their help over the year. Mr. Shields will be sadly missed after his years of help to the house, and we wish him good luck for the future with his new baby JJ. Mr. Tod is also leaving, but not going quite so far, as he is taking up the position of Housemaster of Woodlands along with Mrs. Tod. We wish them all the best, and thank him especially for all his work as resident house tutor over the years. Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Watt, along with Mrs. Watt, Gareth and Emily, deserve a big thank you from the whole house, for all the late nights and general hard work above and beyond the call of duty.

And finally I would like to thank the whole house for making my job a relatively easy one, allowing me to bask in all their glory. You are in very good hands next year with Robin, Rob, Dave, Rory, Cameron, Woody et al, and will no doubt go on to set another record for the number and diversity of house trophies and achievements next year 

Blair Chalmers



At Dotheboys Hall, Youth are boarded, clothed, booked, furnished with pocket-money, provided with all necessities, instructed in all languages living and dead ... and every other branch of classical literature. Terms, twenty guineas per annum. No extras, no vacations, and diet unparalleled. — Nicholas Nickleby

Simpson House

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Things have changed considerably since Charles Dickens made these observations of boarding schools in the early nineteenth century – not least the fees. Although Dickens was being satirical, it is nevertheless interesting to run a litmus test on how well we nurture, cater and provide for modern youth by comparing it with historical antecedents – albeit in this case of a literary sort.

Rather than giving a chronological digest of events that have taken place throughout the year, I have decided to record them under three headings: Sporting, Extra-Curricular and Academic, as these are the main tenets of life not just in Simpson, but also more generally at Strathallan. They come in no particular order, nor do they represent the totality of what goes to make up the experience of being part of a boarding community, but serve to provide a rough framework of achievement throughout the year.

On the rugby field our junior team put in a very fine performance against stronger and more experienced teams from other houses. Although losing to Ruthven and Nicol, they drew their match with Freeland in a close and well balanced game. Excellent performances were put in by all members of the squad, with particular mention going to captain, Richie Duncan, and 'Man of the Match', Ben Braithwaite. The team was well supported and coached from the touchline by Ken Mackenzie and Alex Murray. Staying outdoors and in even colder conditions, Simpson came third in the inter-House cross country competition, with notable performances coming from Ben Braithwaite (third Junior), Roddy Walker (twelfth Intermediate) and Liam Brook (sixth Senior).

Perhaps the boys of Simpson are better suited to the warmer climes of indoor events. This certainly appeared to be the case with basketball, where we won both the Junior and Senior competitions in triumphant fashion. The Junior team set the pace in their competition recording 37 baskets for and only 19 against to win by a clear margin of 18 baskets. Captained by Antonio Pellicci, they were a strong and

skilful side, who had the added fire power of the mighty Li Q. The Seniors, captained by Xiao Lei Ding, had a closer margin, but still managed to beat Nicol into second place by 5 baskets. The achievement of this double success was in no small measure due to the enthusiasm of the players and the dedication of Coach Klapis, who set up what appeared to be a Monday night training camp in the sports hall.

And so to hockey. It was the junior team who again dominated the inter-house competitions by getting to the finals of both indoor and outdoor events. The outdoor team put in a very convincing performance but came second to a strong Ruthven side. However, the indoor competition was a different story. Against a much-fancied team from Nicol, our boys went into the final very much the under-dogs. Yet in a nail-biting match that went to penalty strokes, cool, calm concentration won the day and we recorded a magnificent victory. My thanks go not only to those who took part on the field of play, but also to the seniors who helped to coach the teams and to other members of the House who lent their support.

In the better weather of the summer term, two events have come to dominate what free time remains outside exam preparation. These are Sports Day and the annual Charity Run. Although we finished third overall in standards, there were exceptional individual performances in a variety of categories and events. We won the prestigious 4x400 and 4x100 relays and reached the final of the Tug-o-War. However, two of our number, Ben Braithwaite and Gregor Duncan won the Junior and Senior competitions for Victor

Ludorum. As far as the Charity Run was concerned, Simpson held on to the Corrie Shield for Best Boys' House, which we have held since the event began four years ago, recording a massive 214 laps. This was followed by good individual performances by David Chalmers, J-J Chalmers and George McWilliams, who did twenty laps each. In a new event this year, our own Head of House, Ken Mackenzie, won a medal for the best rowing performance by completing 500 metres in 1:29:3.

Quite clearly this has been a rewarding year in a variety of games arenas, and this is a trend that was continued in the extra-curricular events that took place. The opening event of the Autumn term is House Music, and under the supervision of David Chalmers Simpson embarked on a challenging repertoire. The choir opened our programme with a madrigal, O Fly Not Love, which was followed by an aria from The Marriage of Figaro, performed by David and completed with an ensemble version of Cole Porter's I've Got You Under My Skin, by our very own in-house jazz group. This was certainly the highest quality submission I can remember our putting forward, and although not wholly acknowledged by the adjudicator, it represented something we could all be proud of. Members of the House continued to make a significant contribution to music-making at Strathallan over the course of the year; in Headmaster's Music, year group concerts, and the Chapel Choir tour to Venice. I was particularly pleased to see the contributions made by Jake Streatfeild-James and Josh Wright, both of whom performed in concerts outside school; Jake with NYCOS and Josh in a charity concert at Marischal College, Aberdeen. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of David Chalmers over the years, who has worked tirelessly in organising and taking part in all manner of events musical during his time in the House.

Just as the final chord dies in House Music, so the curtain rises in House Drama, with the senior competition taking place soon after the autumn half term. Simpson performed an

extract from The Slab Boys by John Byrne, which involved a 'cast of thousands' both on and off stage. The end result was a comic, well-acted, pacy performance on a set that would have graced any whole-school production. Credit goes to all those who took part, especially Neil Wright, who acted as set designer and stage manager. One further point – the sight of Stuart Scroggie and Howard Gray in drag still comes back to haunt me despite a considerable amount of expensive therapy. Junior drama, in the summer term, was no less memorable, featuring a witty, Pythonesque




script from Brian McWilliams and David Chalmers and some good performances from our juniors, not to mention the cameo appearance of an inflatable killer whale. Concerned? You should be.

Debating took a higher profile this year with the addition of some lively III Formers, Duncan Clark and Robert McMorris, who went on to win the junior competition. They were joined in the final by Derek Elder and Geoff Melloy, who maintained a similarly high standard debating the motion 'The House believes that ignorance is bliss'. In the field of verse speaking Gregor Duncan, Derek Elder and Nick Scott all won certificates in the Perth Festival and there were a smattering of successful candidates in LAMDA and LCM Music Theatre examinations throughout the year. One of the highlights of the year for me was the House Chapel service, when both oratorical skills and commitment combined in a service which was sensitive, topical and thought-provoking - a presentation to be proud of and of a sort that has scarcely been seen in Chapel in recent times.

So, finally, to matters academic. I do not treat them last because they are least important. Quite the contrary, we are frequently reminded that academic endeavour is central to all we do and it was pleasing to acknowledge the success of a significant group of Simpsonites at Speech Day. Pleasing also, to record the awarding of Academic Colours to George McWilliams and Jure Miocic-Stosic for their performances at AS level and to mention the awarding of a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship in Design and Technology to Harry Workman. However, perhaps most pleasing of all was the positive work ethic that pervaded the House and culminated in success for all in the external examinations of the summer term. What continues to both amaze and impress me is the amount that boys are able to cram into their lives around academic study and yet meet their potential in all they do.

Another busy year which saw, at its close, change in personnel. We were sorry to see the departure of Debbie Wood as House Matron and wish her well in her new post in the Murrayshall Hotel. Debbie devoted a huge amount of time to the boys of Simpson, although I am sure will be glad to move from one prestigious Perthshire institution to another. We welcomed Debbie's successor, Linda Ross, to the team at the end of the Summer Term and look forward to her contribution over the months and years to come. We also said an all too brief hello and goodbye to Jan Klapis, who came to us on a year's exchange from Slovakia. We were grateful for the work Jan did in House, particularly on the basketball court and with our EAL pupils and wish him every success in his teaching career back home.

As ever, to our leavers, we wish you well and hope that you have enjoyed and benefited from your time in Simpson. In particular to those in UVI, I thank you for your contribution to the smooth running and calm ethos of the House over the year. I look forward to keeping track of your exploits after Strathallan and hope you will keep in touch. My special thanks go to Ken, David and Stuart - The Dream Team - for their hard work and commitment to the House. And of course, to the dedicated crew of tutors and domestic staff - thanks for your support and unflinching dedication to the boys and House.

Would Nicholas Nickleby then recognise his modern day contemporaries? I suspect not. Certain aspects of childhood remain, but the demands to achieve and succeed make it ever more challenging in an increasingly competitive society. I am, therefore, even more encouraged by the achievements of the boys in Simpson over the course of the year and look forward to this as a continuing trend in years to come 

IWK

This year along with our new girls we have acquired three new tutors. Fresh from the boys' houses we welcomed Carole Duncan and Audrey Ingram-Forde along with new recruit Audrey Sime. They were quickly thrown into the deep end with our now customary house trip on a double decker bus (singing compulsory).

Thornbank House

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Under the leadership of Jenny Hay our new prefects swung into action.

Rebecca Johnstone and Catriona Sutherland took able charge of the House Music competition, which always proves a binding force in the house. Unfortunately no prizes this year, but what a performance!

Egged on by Lindsay Allan the prefects decided that they would like our Christmas party to be an upmarket affair so Marks & Spencer's food section was duly plundered. This year's party shall be remembered for Sarah Herd's magnificent imitation of one of Strathallan's finest mathematicians.

Food nights have always been a feature of Thornbank weekends. The favourites were the ice cream night and pancake night. This year we had a Scottish food night to celebrate Burns Night, hence Irn Bru and Tunnock's wafers were duly consumed..

Donna, Queency and Vivian introduced us to the special events at Chinese New Year and provided us with some fascinating decoration for the foyer.





The VI Form Ball always brings its own brand of excitement to the whole house. It starts many weeks before the due date with the search for suitable dresses and accessories leading to the final week of perfecting nails and hair and developing that natural-looking tan..

Holly Harvey skilfully directed the Senior House drama competition and led Thornbank to victory with her fantastic adaptation of "The Vicar of Dibley" starring Vicky Drummond-Hay in the lead role. Special comedic mention goes to our head of school Amelia Lane

The junior house drama competition left us in our usual supporting role, however we did win a special prize for best dance performance, ably choreographed by our resident expert Caroline Sinclair.

Interhouse debating proved a great success as the formidable quartet of Sarah Robb Flossie Carpenter Sam Stark and Becky Johnstone took Thornbank through to the final round and almost clinched it..

Inter House sport competition saw Thornbank continue in its winning ways. Samara Johnstone captained the house team to victory in the Senior Cross country competition and then proceeded to lead the same girls to gold medals in the national schools' competition. Well done Katie Fleming, Jenny Hay, Anna MacDonald, ably supported by Holly Harvey, Emma Fairlie, and Jo Greer.

Further senior victories followed in Athletics, Netball, Hockey, Tennis, Rounders and Tug of war- Phew.. Particular thanks go to Nicola Turnbull, Lindsay Allan and Kirstie Aitken for ensuring the safe return of the (rubber) Clay pigeon trophy. The juniors have got quite a hard act to follow although they did manage a win in the Junior inter house hockey and Athletics.

Outside the house, but fervently followed on the internet were Melissa Piper's skiing exploits in Bled, Slovenia at the Youth Winter Olympics; not only competing for the GB but carrying the flag for the team. I think we were as excited as Melissa .

The tutors took their respective year groups out for outings, most of them plumping for a restaurant meal, preceded by that all important question "Is it going on the bill?" The Upper VI meal will be remembered for its sortie into the world of karaoke where Mrs Summersgill and Mrs Fleming caught the eye of an unwanted admirer... I think he wanted us to sing.


The summer barbecue is always a great evening with the house bringing out all its toys: skipping ropes, boules, bows and arrows and of course the game of rounders to finish the evening off.. Great fun was had by all.

Getting to know the Upper VI before they head off into the big wide world is one of the many joys of running a boarding house. Jenny, along with the capable help of Helen Smith, led a great team of prefects, we shall miss their spark and huge sense of fun. (Well done Kirstie for all those breakfast duties.) I hope that Aiya Napa was prepared for its small invasion of Thornbank girls..



This year's party shall be remembered for Sarah Herd's magnificent imitation of one of Strathallan's finest mathematicians

Others we have lost this year are Julie Summersgill whom we hopefully look forward to welcoming back into the ranks of Thornbank tutoring in the future. We have also lost our sewing wonder woman, Linda, who can do amazing things with ball gowns that don't quite fit in all the right places. She has gone over to the other side and can currently be seen venturing into the recesses of Simpson House as their new matron. I wonder if her sewing skills will be put to the same use.

Morag and the rest of her team, Liz, Margaret and Ros (our new sewing lady) continue to prove themselves indispensable. A huge thanks to everyone who has supported us this year, including the prefects. We wish you all great success and happiness for the future. 

SF/JRF

Our time in Woodlands has come to an end. Four good years have elapsed since we took over and there have been plenty of tales to remember. We will miss the members of the House a great deal and many of the parents too.

Woodlands House

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We have found that Woodlands is very much its own community within Strathallan and it is this sense of community and belonging that makes the House such a rewarding and happy place to work. The characters of the girls will remain in our memories and we would hope that many will keep in touch and allow us to know how they are getting on. Such a diverse group of girls - 83 for a time this year and every single one making an impression of some kind on both us and the House. It is the individuals and their personalities that mould the atmosphere of the House and create the relaxed and friendly nature of the place. They ensure that the passion for the House continues to develop.

Girls respect their peers and other members of the House and enjoy the success of others. Indeed, the talents within the House are quite staggering in their wide-ranging nature. We have been fortunate to watch or hear of many fine performances, be they sporting, dramatic or musical. We have been proud to be able to congratulate so many for their successes and we recognise the commitment that is necessary to follow any interest through. The effort in inter-house events has often been staggering and we are always most grateful for the time that the girls give to the House. Hence, even if we have not always had the greatest of sporting success over the years, the team spirit has been amazing and what we have sometimes lacked on the sports field has certainly been made up for in our music and drama.

The Head of House and Deputy are extremely important in making things work and ensuring that the ethos that the Housemaster and Housemistress are trying to develop in the House grows that bit further each year. Sioned and Sarah have been first rate in this respect and we thank them for their efforts. They have been backed up by an excellent set of prefects that have stuck together more closely this year. We wish Lisa and Louise every success next year in sensing the mood of the House and acting accordingly.

Throughout our time in Woodlands we have always been fortunate to work with some super

tutors - luckily they have appeared to have the same philosophy as us and they have been colleagues that we have seen as friends. Mrs Tod has been with us from the start and has always been there to help - we wish her and Mr Tod every success as they take over the House. We hope that the privilege of looking after such great people, will overcome those times when tiredness is beginning to tell. Mrs Tod will bring with her a very good knowledge of the girls and an understanding of the character of the place.

Mrs Hunter has also been with us all 4 years and will miss the sense of humour that goes with such a wise head. There is never a crisis in her mind - always ways of working things out. Mrs Hamilton, whom we have greatly appreciated for her wonderful no nonsense approach has been fantastic with our current IV formers - not many tutors can claim that tutees hang on their every word. This year we have had some wonderful additions to our tutor team. Miss Balent has been our resident and the girls have gradually got to know her and realise what a warm person she is. Madame Crane arrived to help us out for a short time and enjoyed it so much that she stayed - much to the girls' advantage as they have enjoyed her relaxed manner. Maxime has also made an excellent impression and we thank her for her help with the Chinese girls.

Central to the girls' life throughout their whole time in Woodlands has been Janet. There for all medical needs, the girls totally rely upon her for all their shopping needs and chocolate fixes. She has been there for so many, whether it be for general chit-chat or much needed advice. Quite amazingly, she has had some success in getting the girls to keep their rooms and the place tidy. We owe her a great deal and have enjoyed her company. Always cheerful, it is never long before she sees the bright side of things. Zenka too, has been a really good friend to so many girls. She has kept them all smart and been a great help to us all.

What does the whole Woodlands boarding experience give to the girls? Most importantly, it gives them a good chance of getting to know many diverse characters and learning to cope with getting on with them all. It enables people to learn to respect the individual and allow them to live and express themselves. Compromises have to be made if 80 or so girls are going to live together within a community and this a very worthwhile experience that will help in future life. Friends are made for life and these friends will be second to none. Good luck to you all!

PME & LE







Music

Reflecting on the achievements of the past year in a school is often a humbling experience. This year has been no exception to that rule. So many pupils and their teachers have put such herculean efforts into their music-making that a staggering amount of performances have taken place both in and out of school.



These were the results not only of personal labours, but of the burgeoning numbers of ensembles which have sprung into action this year; there are now over 30 rehearsals a week between Monday lunchtime and Friday evening for 25 different ensembles. A full concert schedule of over 40 concerts has given a platform for these ensembles to display their wares in a variety of guises - from Choral Evensong to Cabaret to Concerto performances.

We have sought to widen our repertoire of ensembles from Riley upwards. This has seen the emergence of many new ensembles including:

Riley String Orchestra

String Orchestra

Senior String Quartets 1 & 2

Junior String Quartet

Piano Quartets 1 & 2

Baroque Orchestra

Symphonic Wind Band

Chamber Choir

Barbershop

Choral Society

Repertoire Choir

Clarinet Ensemble



Not only has this meant more performers to deal with, but also more performances to instigate and organise. This year saw the resurrection of the Strathallan Lunchtime concert series for solo performances. It also saw the programme lengths of well established concerts increase as more ensembles were asking to perform, as exemplified in the 27 hour marathon that was Headmaster's Music.

Performing outside school has been a priority over the course of this year, fostering closer links with the wider community. The Chamber Choir has taken a central role in these concerts, taking a wide repertoire of sacred and secular music to concerts and services in Kinross, Forgandenny and Bridge of Earn Parish Churches as well as St. John's Kirk, Perth during the Perth Festival of the Arts. Slightly further afield, an evening of music was taken to the new concert hall at the Birnam Institute in Dunkeld, where 80 pupils gave a most memorable concert to a capacity audience. This success was followed at the end of summer term with a joint concert in the same venue with the Pitlochry and District Choral Society. Our own school Choral Society - made up of many members of the wider Strathallan community - gave a magnificent performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem in the Chapel during the same term. The high point of our forays into the wider world was a 5 day Choir Tour to Venice where, for one of our performances, we had been invited to sing High Mass at St Mark's Basilica - a truly exhilarating experience for all involved. This was the first time choristers had been on tour overseas, and is something we shall (it is to be hoped) repeat many times in the future.


Individually, musical excellence has been rewarded with places in national organisations. Congratulations to: Jake Streatfeild-James, Michael Segaud, Rebecca Chalmers and Clement Ip who gained places to study weekly at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama Junior (Music) Department, and to Katie Fitzgerald and Rosie Stanford who attend the same institution's Junior Drama Department; Jake Streatfeild-James and Rachel Davies sing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland and William Campbell-Gibson gained a place with National Boys' Choir; Michael Segaud is this year a member of both the National Childrens' Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland;

Clement Ip, who so impressed us at the beginning of the year in the House Music Competition, was invited to participate in masterclasses at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester with international pianist Murray MacLaughlan; and Emma Gordon of Fields of Gold fame was victorious in the Pop Stars Argyll competition, where she was awarded a full day's session in a recording studio culminating in one of her recordings being aired on radio.

All this aside, music in school has continued to flourish with productions of Cabaret and Bugsy Malone, Headmaster's Music, Form Concerts, Riley Informal Concerts, Lunchtime Concerts, Visiting Performers, Masterclasses, and so on. The new London College of Music Music Theatre examinations have also proved to be a hit with almost a dozen pupils (and a certain Simpson Housemaster) gaining Merit and Honours awards in their exams.

After a whirlwind of a year, the final concert of summer term offered a glimpse of real musical quality; an orchestra of professional musicians had been invited to school for a day of Concerto Masterclasses with Russian-trained conductor Susie Dingle. Under Susie's baton they accompanied seven pupils from Forms IV to Upper VI who played concerto movements from a wide repertoire. Piano, flute, trumpet and viola concertos were enjoyed by a truly astonished audience; this was remarkable music-making by any standards.

Of course, none of this could happen without the dedicated team of staff who work tirelessly to support and encourage our pupils in their efforts. To them we say a heartfelt 'thank you' - music at Strathallan would not be what it is without your magnificent efforts.

Our biggest debt of gratitude though, goes to those youngsters who actually make the music. Particularly to Catriona Sutherland (Head of Choir), Tim Law (Leader of the Orchestra) and the outgoing Upper VI who have given so much to the department throughout their time here. Bravo 

A very expectant audience filled the Strathallan Chapel to capacity on a surprisingly sultry November evening to hear probably the most varied Headmaster's Music programme ever attempted.

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Headmaster's Autumn Music

Nearly two and a half hours later the rafters resounded to most enthusiastic cheering and clapping heard in the Chapel for some time. The evening was a triumph for new Director of Music Neil Metcalfe, and his assistant Richard Walmsley, and it was also fitting that on such an evening many of the visiting music teachers, who coach our youngsters, took part in the evening's entertainment. We had the School orchestra and choir, a Baroque orchestra, Riley choir, jazz group, flute ensemble, string quartets as well as a plethora of individual and duo performances. This was a veritable *cornucopia* of high quality entertainment.

It is always difficult to be the first act in a concert evening of this nature, the more so in the case of pipes played indoors, but the Ruthven pipe quartet, led by the Head of School, Calum Emslie, gave a polished performance of the well-known piece Highland Cathedral. The School orchestra then performed a rondeau from Purcell's incidental music Abdelazer, and Jupiter from Holst's Planets Suite. School orchestras can often be contributors to cringing moments in concerts of this type, but on this occasion two contrasting pieces were well played; the first stately, and with a hint of over-bearing woodwind; the second, an altogether better performance, dynamic and rhythmically vibrant under Tim Law's leadership.

The newly formed Baroque orchestra presented a rare concertino for trumpet and strings by Handel, unknown to this reviewer. Lauren MacDonald's assured and stylish playing from the start carried along her fellow players. The main theme, based on one from Handel's opera Giulio Cesare (an aria sung by the odious Ptolemy), was clear and based on a good tempo set by Tim Law once more. For me, this was one of the many highlights of an enthralling evening.

But the evening was not one totally dominated by the Senior School ensembles. Riley musicians were also to the fore, beginning with their choir singing Howard Goodall's The Lord is my Shepherd. Here the sweet treble voices of William Campbell-Gibson, and particularly Alex

Beetschen, gave an almost other-worldly quality to an impressive performance by so many youngsters. No to be out-done, a Riley jazz band and string ensemble, both of which were making their debuts in front of any type of audience, took the stage. Their calmness and assuredness promises much for their elevation to the Senior School, and is testimony to the hard work put in by Richard Walmsley and the peripatetic teachers.

One of the main aims of an evening such as this is to showcase the talent of individual musicians. Strathallan has recently had an excellent reputation for vocal talent, though on this occasion instrumentalists took the limelight. Rebecca Chalmers gave a very technically assured and musical performance of a Prelude & Ostinato from Rutter's Suite Antique for flute. Michael Segaud gave a short and sweet rendition of Hummel's Allegro for Viola. Helen Summersgill on piano played a sparkling little rondo from the Sonatina in F opus 168, by Diabelli.

**this was one of the
many highlights of an
enthralling evening.**

Two further piano soloists completed the evening's individual line-up. Chen Jin gave a very polished account of the allegro from Beethoven's Sonata in F minor, displaying a formidable technique and awareness of the instrument's possibilities. Following that was going to be hard but Clement Ip, who came into the Fourth Form from Hong Kong, stunned the audience with his performance of Chopin's Fantaisie-Impromptu, opus 66. This was the piece with which he had won the House Music solo prize a month before, and was a technically unrivalled account of an exquisite piece that fully deserved the standing ovation it received.

Proceedings were brought to an end with several vocal pieces. Nicol House choir, conducted by the eccentric Laurie Quibell,



performed their prize-winning Memories are made of this by Gillkyson, introducing a slightly 'cheesy' note to the evening's entertainment. The Chapel Choir introduced two contrasting pieces. The first, Maurice Greene's Thou Visitest the Earth which had a delightful solo part for young treble Alex Beetschen, who gave a very mature and technically assured performance. This was followed by Rutter's Look at the world, which showed off the talents of the massed ranks of the choir. The highlight of vocal contributions was the duet from Phantom of the Opera, All I ask of you, sung by Josh Wright and Catriona Sutherland. Both displayed maturity beyond their years in communicating their characters to the audience, and both have obviously a great deal of vocal talent.

All in all, this was a very enjoyable evening of music-making which show-cased the immense reserves of talent in the School. Not many schools of our kind could put together such a diverse and interesting programme in the midst of the busy academic year. When one thinks of the myriad other events - informal year concerts, Riley concerts, Choral Society, Evensong, Choir trips to both Venice and York Minster, not to mention the Staff Concert in the summer term and both sets of Headmaster's Music - one can only be amazed at the depth of commitment of both the pupils and their music teachers, and pleased that we are fortunate to have them in our School.

RHF

By the time of the Summer Headmaster's Music, because of post-Highers programmes, work experience, and all the other distractions associated with the end of term, this concert has developed over the years into a pot-pourri of solos and performances by smaller ensembles.

Headmaster's Summer Music

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But by no means did Neil Metcalfe have to struggle to fill the evening. On the contrary he had the enviable task of selecting a programme from a huge list of worthy, talented volunteers.

Despite the absentees, it was still possible to hear a well-balanced chamber choir who were bookends to the rest of the concert. They set the mood for this midsummer concert with the gentle sounds of Bach's Flocks in Pastures Green and closed in similar vein with Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. In the first, they were accompanied on the flute by Bryan Tsang, and in both by Rebecca Chalmers, who also displayed her athletic dexterity in Chaminade's Concertino for Flute. Rebecca's mature, seemingly effortless playing made this one of the highlights of the concert.

There were 2 fine solo piano performances from Chen Jin Frank Bridge's Rosemary and Gan Li Scherzo in E Minor by Mendelssohn. Both displayed great skill and sensitivity. Michael Segaud and George McWilliams gave a confident rendering of a section of Concerto in D minor for 2 violins, again by Bach.

A number of pupils have been recently very successful in the London College of Music Theatre grade exams and we were privileged to hear some of them. A highlight was Katie Jane Fitzgerald's confident, sparking rendering of Just You Wait from My Fair Lady. Vicky Drummond Hay showed a flair for lively comedy in You can Always Count on Me by Cy Coleman while Catriona Martin's clear diction and mature voice dealt admirably with that heart-rending song from Miss Saigon, I'd Give my Life for You.

Catriona Sutherland has contributed a great deal to school concerts over the years, and will be sadly missed. Her singing of It's Oh So Quiet by Hans Lang recently revived by Björk showed Catriona performing as well as ever.

A growing feature of school music is the ensemble work. The Riley String Ensemble comprises pupils from this year's beginners to experienced players. The setting of Handel's March allowed them all to play at a level to suit their ability and experience. Then later the String Quartet breathed life and energy into that old favourite, Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

Another old favourite, though from a somewhat later era, is Lennon and McCartney's A Hard Day's Night. This was well played by the Riley Band. Then the energy, enthusiasm and technical accuracy of the Clarinet Ensemble made another highlight of the evening in their rendering of the 60's piece, I Get Around by The Beach Boys.


There was staff involvement too in the lively, humorous version of Poulenc's Allegro Moderato from Sonata for Trumpet, Horn and Trombone played respectively by Lauren McDonald, Mr Walmsley and Mr Stearn. The Jazz Ensemble also benefited from the singing of Mr Morrice in Gonna Go Fishin' by Duke Ellington.

A topical item for the day of the launch of Harry Potter 5 was an enthusiastically played section from John Williams' Harry Potter Suite, performed by the Wind Band.

Three leavers, Sulekha Varma, Victoria Watson and Lauren Welstead with a wonderful blend of voice, violin and piano in Gates of Dawn by Rolf Lovland gave us, as with Catriona, another reminder of what we shall be losing.

On the other hand, Riley gave us a taster to whet the appetite with excerpts from the forthcoming production of Bugsy Malone. Then another nibble of a future production was provided by Jake Streatfeild-James in the first speech If music be the food of love... from Twelfth Night, to be performed next term. Phillip Preiss provided a suitably Elizabethan accompaniment on the guitar with Bockington's Pound by Francis Gutting.

Another acted item, much appreciated by the audience as a little interlude in the music, was provided by Tom Hine as Max and Stephanie Murray as Maggie in a fast-moving dialogue from the highly amusing play Lend Me a Tenor by Ken Ludwig. Steph and Tom are quite accustomed to playing a courting couple, having already been romantically attached in The Importance of Being Earnest.

In his vote of thanks the Headmaster expressed appreciation for the quality and quantity of music which had featured in Mr Metcalfe's first year. A satisfied audience then headed to supper, led by Adam Michie on the pipes and Tom Fleming on the drums 

IIMcF



Boats, Basses and Batteries

There are many ways to feel superior to day-trippers when travelling. Last summer I found one was to carry a sketchbook, occasionally scribbling into it. Another method, however, is to burst into song at the occasional bridge or church.

Sadly, the romanticism of Venice is so strong that even the most menial tour group will have at least one madman who insists on singing at every opportunity. Here is where the assorted kilts of the Chapel Choir really gave that elevating boost on our February trip to Venice.

The kilts were absent on our arrival, instead we were mainly dressed in clothes suited to our stylish and surprisingly accurate view of Venetian fashions, but sadly, also our over-optimistic idea about Italian weather. Despite the fact it was 4°C we positively bounced across the Scalzi Bridge over the Grand Canal with every other Venetian stereotype being realised, even in the darkness. We arrived at our hotel situated very near the station, carting electronic keyboard and our suitcases (or entire household, Megan). The nature of Venice is such that no map can ever show an entirely true likeness of all the alleyways. This is the excuse we will give Mr Metcalfe for by-passing our hotel several times.

The following morning we were able to begin to satiate our need for sightseeing with a walk to the Rialto. Passing through the markets in the relatively early morning allowed us to appreciate the stalls, with their colourful carnival masks next to the equally colourful, but more practical, fruit and vegetables of the living Venice. We managed a trip on the traghetto, considered an unromantic commuter boat by locals, though I ask how unromantic any gondola trip in Venice is on Valentine's Day.

Emerging from unending tiny alleys into the grand scale of St Mark's square was unbelievable. The air was so cold it proved no barrier to the eyes and we saw the spectacular cathedral in a crisp, sharp light the visitors in warmer times could only dream of. Our fashion conscious attitude froze off surprisingly quickly. Even Flossie and Rachel bought two warm, but distinctly daft looking hats. After the weightless, blue light of the outside, the deep, heavy light of the interior of St Mark's Cathedral would have been oppressive were it not for the enormous size. The effect was increased by the gold mosaic walls. We found it better not to think too carefully about the necessity for us to fill this space on Sunday.

With excitement redoubled we split up to see several parts of this city of islands. I joined a group which took a vaporetta across the lagoon to the fairytale Chiesa San Giorgio Maggiore with its steps rising from the waves. We sat looking at the great marble façade and huge tower, which, oh joy of joys, had a lift. If only all Italy took its lead from Venice. Though we had no chance to test the theory I am sure the walk would have been worth it for the stretching panoramic views of the jewel-like city.

The next morning was particularly significant for Mr Metcalfe. Having walked through the areas or Sestiere south of the Grand Canal, he decided to set up permanent residence there. We found this perfectly understandable, but only acceptable if we are all invited. On our walk we nipped into the Frari, a typical "ordinary" Venetian church with three globally renowned paintings, and the tombs of Canova and Titian for the artists amongst us, and Monteverdi for the musicians. To complete the Italian experience we dutifully bought ice creams in front of San Rocca, another stunning building squashed into this intricate city.

Though we could see more than enough world famous art by just stepping into any small, insignificant church we spent the rest of the morning in the Galleria dell' Accademia, all attempts to count how many of the "World's Greatest" we had seen in any subject abandoned long since.

That evening we were almost overwhelmed as our own private boat sped us to our first concert venue. I am told that with the water, lights and spontaneous recital of Locus Iste some people even cried (ahem). The intense beauty of Santa Maria dei Miracoli was equalled only by the intense cold radiated by the marble walls. The entire atmosphere was steeped in a surreal loveliness, and I am sure the large audience felt our voices enhanced this beauty.

The next morning we returned to St Mark's square, feeling much more complete in Kilt Dress. We had definite status now. We were going to sing mass in one of the greatest





In a city with a growing carnival spirit, people thought nothing of stopping to listen to a group of singing girls and boys, wearing multi-coloured skirts.

medieval buildings in the world. Take that, tour guides. The excitement in the group was such that even Flossie, who was by now half dead from glandular fever, managed to struggle out of her hanky-strewn bed to hear us.

Eventually we made our way up the stairs to the choir's balcony. Admittedly, it was hard not to feel the pressure as we leaned against the golden medieval art which covered the walls. Fortunately, when the moment came our voices resonated magnificently from the thousand-year-old walls. With hundreds of worshippers, tourists and music aficionados listening it was impressive just to get through the music, before you even mention the quality of sound we managed to achieve. Yet, it is hard to believe that we sang as well as we did ten minutes later when we formed outside San Marco and sang *Locus Iste* once more. In a city with a growing carnival spirit, people thought nothing of stopping to listen to a group of singing girls and boys, wearing multi-coloured skirts

In a frenzy of energy and exhilaration at our achievement, we all, including the fluey Flossie, once again dined outside. Ignoring the disbelieving looks from the natives we shivered and laughed over more pizzas. There was then time for a final carnival mask shopping spree before rehearsal and for our final concert in San Giovanni Elemansinario.

Those of us studying "The Merchant of Venice" had already been liberally quoting Shylock, but to realise that this little church off the Rialto was where wealthy merchants would have worshipped, sent us once more into a sea of bad accents. Dramatically, as we pranced about being distinctly uncool, Mr Walmsley realised that of all the hundreds of bags we had loaded onto the plane not one contained spare batteries for the keyboard. This was to be a revolutionary moment in the life of this arts scholar; a practical use for physics was identified. We were assured that, with luck, if we warmed the existing batteries we would be able to "squeeze" the last of the energy out of

them (though the actual theory contained much more information about colliding molecules and such like). People were issued with a battery each to place in the warmest area of their person. I'm not sure what followed was entirely acceptable under that consecrated roof but, whether due to our sweaty oxters or not, the concert was yet another success.

I had managed to choose the best position that night, able to look directly through the open door onto the street. Though our seated audience was smaller than the first night I counted sixty-four people who stopped outside during the course of our singing. Just imagining how they must have felt to hear our angel voices floating from that jewel box of a building in the heart of the Rialto, justifies the entire glorious trip for this sad old sentimentalist.

Ishbel McFarlane



Adam Michie won a total of nine prizes (including three firsts) at The Halkirk Highland Games, The Helmsdale Highland Games, Birnam Highland Games and The Lonach Gathering.

At The Scottish Junior Piping Championships, Duncan Lawson won The Reekie Engineering Ltd. Cup as first prize in the Senior Novice Piping Event; Adam Michie won The TSB Bank Trophy as first prize in the Junior Novice Piping Event.

The Ruthven Pipers, led by Pipe Sergeant Calum Emslie took the best ensemble prize at the House Music Competition this year with a lovely rendition of Highland Cathedral. They repeated the performance at Headmaster's Music.

Carin Munro again made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day. At The Blairgowrie competition, The Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, six prizes were won. These were Carin with The Kemp Trophy, first in the senior march, strathspey and reel; she then went on to win The Royal Hotel Shield as first prize in the Open Jig Competition. Tom Fleming took third prize in novice drumming, Kit Hayward second and Cameron Jack third, both in novice piping, Duncan Lawson, having moved to the open events took a well deserved third prize in the Junior March, Strathspey and Reel. A good haul for the day.

The Craigmount High School Solo Piping Championship came next, six prizes followed. These were The 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers' Shield for Duncan as first prize in the Junior Dress and Deportment section. Carin was named Champion Lady Piper, winning The Mina Hutcheon Memorial Trophy as her prize, she won this by taking fifth prizes in the Senior Piobaireachd and the

The pipe band has had another busy and successful year, winning a total of 57 prizes and awards. The award winning began during the school holidays with Pipe Major Carin Munro winning a bronze medal for at The Cowal Gathering at Dunoon.

Senior March, Strathspey and Reel. Second place in the Senior Chanter was won by Sarah Herd with The Lothian and Borders Pipe Band Association Shield as her prize. Adam won The Harvey Shield as his prize for taking third prize in the 12 years and under March Competition.

Twenty-two prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Carin won The Vale of Atholl Pipe Band Cup as first prize in the Senior Jig section, then taking fourth prize in the Senior Piobaireachd and third prize in the Senior Dress and Deportment. Richard Quibell won The MacDonald Brothers Trophy as first prize in the Senior Chanter Event, Andrew Fyffe, Katie Scobie and Allan King took third, fourth and fifth prizes respectively in the same event. Adam was fourth in the Junior Jig, Cameron took second prize and Katie took fourth prize in The Novice Piping event. Strathallan took the drumming events by storm. Tom Fleming won The Drumming on a Pad event with The Gillie McNab Shield as his prize, the other winners in the event were Nick Miller (second), Steven Peaston (third) and Olivia Streatfeild - James (fourth), a clean sweep. Tom then won The Dobson Quaich as first prize in the Novice Drumming, Olivia and Steven were fifth equal with Nick taking sixth prize. Tom continued his winning ways by taking second prize in the Junior Drumming competition then, when invited to play in the Senior Drumming, he amazingly took third prize. Definitely the star of the show. Not to be outdone, our tenor drummers took part in the Tenor Drumming Competition; Oliver Stevenson took third prize in the Junior event while Laura Mackie took third prize in the Senior event. Another good day's work.

Our only prize winner at The George Watson's College Competition was Adam who took second prize in the Junior Piping event.

Strathallan was represented by Adam Michie in the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships this year, where he gave a very good account of himself.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year the band finished in fourth place. Carin took second prize in the Senior Piping. Tom excelled himself to take sixth prize in the Junior Drumming Competition.

Seven pipers and four drummers took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle this year. All enjoyed the experience of the rehearsals and the performance, not to mention the hamburgers on the way home.

At The Scottish Pipe Band Championships held in Dumbarton this year, Strathallan were out of the prize list but gained valuable experience of a very big event.

Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn which included our new large (in number) drum corps. A big group of new pipers marched on for a spirited rendition of The Piper's Prayer and The Skye Boat Song to show off their new skills. With lots of practice next year we hope most of them will be able to play the whole display.



At The Shotts Highland Games the band played very well to win The Jean Miller Trophy as second prize in Novice Juvenile, a foray into the higher juvenile grade saw the band march off with fourth prize, a good day out.

The Scottish Schools' Championships were held this year at The Edinburgh Academy. Carin took third prize in the Senior Solo Piping Championship; Adam was second in the Junior Solo Piping Championship. In The Junior Drumming Championship, Strathallan pupils were very well placed, Tom won The Douglas Henderson Memorial Trophy as first prize, Nick took third prize while Olivia was placed sixth, a tremendous achievement.

Our last big competition of the year was The British Pipe Band Championships at Pitlochry. The band put on a great performance to win The Invergarry Trophy as fifth prize in the Novice Juvenile Grade. On returning from the championships, Adam and Tom took part in Headmaster's Music by leading the audience to dinner after the concert.

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming competition. The major winners were as follows: Most Improved Drummer - Steven Peaston; Most Improved Novice



Tom Fleming, Junior Drumming Champion

Drumming - Nick Miller; Junior Drumming - Tom Fleming; Bass and Tenor Drumming - Oliver Stevenson; Most Improved Piper - Jennifer Whitelaw; Chanter - Jennifer Whitelaw; Novice Piping - Jennifer Whitelaw; Junior Piping - Adam Michie; Senior Piping - Duncan Lawson; Piobaireachd, Hornpipe & Jig; Best Contribution to the Band - Calum Emslie.

We look forward to the challenges of next year



JSRH

The Importance of Being Earnest

"A HANDBAG!"

It was not the anticipated solution to the mystery of Ernest's parentage and Flossie Carpenter made it all her own by avoiding the temptation to over-act.

Thus the famous response was entirely part and parcel of 'her' Lady Bracknell, who was having nothing to do with a proposal of marriage to her niece, Miss Gwendolen Fairfax, from a young man who didn't know who his parents might have been because he had been found, abandoned, as a baby in a travelling handbag on the platform at Victoria station.

Resplendent in well-corseted orange silk, Lady B's ram-rod straight posture revealed her inflexibility, her face was a study in impassive snobbery and she moved on stage as if on wheels as she commanded the attention of all: the producer of the play, Ishbel MacFarlane, must be congratulated on shrewd casting and superb directing.

Within Lady Bracknell's social orbit, other similarly talented actors competed for the privilege of being their own true love's betrothed. Tom Hine, as Ernest, was an utterly convincing young gent-about-town and clearly quite a 'catch' for the simpering and besotted Gwendolen, played by Stephanie Murray, whose obedience to her Aunt was severely tried at times. Peter Hewitt flitted in and out of the drama as Algernon, with his Bunbury ruses and his insatiable appetite for cucumber sandwiches, until Vicky Drummond-Hay as the splendid Cicely Cardew fell for him and pinned him down with exactly the right mixture of innocence and guile.

The inevitable tea-party at which the muffins were served with dignified skill by Lane, the butler and Merriman, the maid (Hian Stark and Abby Riley are clearly potential recruits for Buckingham Palace) created the perfect

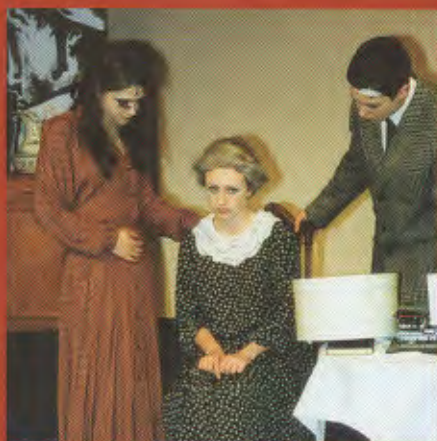
circumstances for the revelation of all mysteries and Miss Prism (Mary Shaw-Stewart), Cecily's governess, took centre stage as she examined the handbag with prim exactitude and YES, it was hers. She had, of course, been the nanny who had absent-mindedly put the baby down in it instead of the pram.... and Ernest's parentage was thus revealed.

Now everyone could marry and live happy ever after, especially Miss Prism who was claimed as his own dear one by the unctuous Dr Chasuble in a superb cameo performance by Jake Streatfeild-James, Archbishop in the making.

This debut direction/production by Ishbel Macfarlane was a triumph. The audience chuckled and the actors were confident because the direction, costumes, makeup, lighting, sound, scenery and props supported the action on stage so successfully. The smooth running of Wilde's complex plot and witty dialogue was a credit to all the pupils who had worked so hard to achieve the trick of making it look both natural and easy. Ishbel has set a high standard and we are all looking forward to more evenings of entertainment from pupil productions in the future.

EMA





I am of the firm belief that if a musical is to leave a lasting impression on us it must both entertain and educate. In other words, it should arouse deep feelings by narrating a powerful story, and reinforce that with a magnificent spectacle.

Cabaret

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Apparently, the authors of the 1966 production of Cabaret shared the same view, for the show, based on the Stories by Christopher Isherwood and brought to life by F. Ebb's songs and J. Kander's music, became one of the most commercially successful musicals on the post-war Broadway scene.

The end of the spring term saw the revival of Cabaret at Strathallan. An experienced duo, Jim Salisbury and Iain Kilpatrick, adhered closely to their predecessors' recipe for success, since by having just slightly adapted the original version they managed to retain the strong message of the work, and with more than eighty pupils and members of staff involved they ensured that even the greatest sceptic was carried away by the extravaganza.

In order to understand proceedings on the stage, first it was necessary to consult the Programme that conveniently provided all the details about the background in which the story was set. It said that inter-war Berlin was plagued with high inflation, when bank notes were not worth the paper they were printed on and people, having learnt that saving was of no value, tried to spend their earnings immediately in the pursuit of all possible pleasure which they hoped would help them escape the harsh reality of those days. No wonder that dance bands, clubs and bars flourished. Kit Kat Klub, being one of them, reflected well the desperate search for enjoyment, yet, even more importantly, it also revealed the silent and steady growth of a nationalistic ideology.

In this setting, two relationships develop: the first between Sally Bowles (Catriona Sutherland), the Kit Kat Klub star dancer and embodiment of life-is-a-cabaret lifestyle, and Cliff Bradshaw (Josh Wright), a writer from Pennsylvania looking for inspiration in Europe, and the second between German landlady Fraülein Schneider (Flossie Carpenter) and Jewish fruit-store owner Herr Schulz (Tom Hine). The powerful force of the musical lies in depicting how the gloomy Nazi atmosphere destroys both relationships.

Naturally, to get that poignant mood across, convincing performances were necessary, entailing that rare combination the ability both to act and sing well. In this respect, I was particularly impressed by Catriona Sutherland. The way that she managed to combine brilliant acting with beautifully sung songs of a wide repertoire far surpassed the standards of a school show and would have stung the pride of many musical divas had there been any present in the audience. Her character Sally Bowles leaves us with a sense of pity and tacit disapproval, and vividly evokes the hopelessness of those times and the emptiness of human relationships.

Catriona was well supported by Josh Wright as Cliff Bradshaw, whose down-to-earth attitude to the world around him sharply contrasted with Sally's careless flamboyance. Josh played his part superbly, switching confidently between the expressions of his love for Sally and determined refusal of Hitler's regime, and succeeded in showing how the latter influenced, and eventually ended, their short-lived romance.

The second relationship fails because Fraülein Schneider fears that by marrying a Jew she might lose her licence, and thereby her only means of livelihood. Flossie Carpenter sparkled once again in the role of an elderly lady (I will never forget her Lady Bracknell from the autumn term play) and touchingly portrayed the sad life of a widow dependent on income from renting rooms. Her suitor Tom Hine struck me as even more moving, possibly because of his character's origin and good-natured, if somewhat simple disposition. For me especially memorable was his 'Meeskite' song as well as his fatal mistake in believing that it was 'just school children on their way to school' making noise in the streets.

In fact, the slow rise of fascism was well illustrated throughout the show. The chief protagonist in this regard was David Chalmers whose impenetrable air and authentic German accent made him, as Herr Ludwig, a good follower of Hitler. This was plainly seen in his smuggling and his efforts to discourage






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Fraülein Schneider from marrying Herr Schulz. Similarly, as the fascism grew stronger, so did also the singing of German waiters whose 'Tomorrow Belongs To Me' foreshadowed Der Führer's rise to power, imposingly announced by the sudden unfurling of huge flags bearing swastikas and his peremptory voice in the loudspeakers. However, the pro-Nazi mood culminated probably in the scene when Emcee (Sean Murray) chose to dance with the Gorilla rather than with a Jewish girl.

Indeed, the role of Emcee was of great importance because he kept the show going and through his remarks we learned a lot about Berlin's social life. Sean Murray, who was asked to study his part just a few days before the première acquitted himself in great style, and all credit must go also to his employees - the Kit Kat Klub dancers who, together with Fraülein Kost (Holly Harvey) and her collection of 'cousins', captured the sinful life of Berlin nights in a very realistic fashion.

As a matter of fact, the excellent performances would not stand out without the typical night club atmosphere, created mainly by Lisa Bibby's choreographic experience, elaborate costumes by Jacqui Martin and Kate Streatfeild-James, and authentic props from Sandra Fleming. Besides, Music Director Neil Metcalfe did a wonderful job when throughout the show neither his concentration nor that of his splendid band lapsed for a moment, and made our ears resonate with cabaret tunes and songs long after the show had finished. It is impossible to mention everybody from the production team, suffice it to say that everybody's contribution helped to achieve the desired result.

For my part, I enjoyed Cabaret thoroughly, as this review also suggests. I did occasionally wonder whether some of the more serious issues, and some of the slightly more daring dance routines, were really suitable for the younger members of the audience. Apart from that, I have nothing but words of praise and I truly regret that this musical was my first and also last at Strathallan.

Good luck next year! 

JK



Two cameos from this year's LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams....

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Drunken behaviour and passing out in the blue corridor

Firstly the "drunken behaviour". During the autumn exams, I came up to the English department to collect the next candidates to take down to the examiner in the theatre, to find "the blue corridor" packed with a loudly appreciative audience of seniors admiring two Riley boys (Joe Corlett and Henry Jones) performing a spontaneous improvisation scene which was the subject of the inevitable effect on a whisky taster of imbibing rather too much of the golden nectar.

Secondly, the "passing out". The first class on the second day of the June exams was choral verse speaking. Taking part should have been the combined force of the 17 members of Forms I and IJ. At 8.30, when they were supposed to arrive for a practice, I counted heads..... two missing. One was ill; as he had solo lines, these had to be reallocated. Another was nowhere to be found. Later it turned out he had gone to Science, having completely "blanked" on which day it was. So his lines had to be reallocated. We were down to 15.

At this point Mrs Streatfeild-James arrived with the examiner who was gently ushered down to the common room for "5 minutes". Just as we were about to begin a practice with the hastily re-arranged group, one girl passed out and crumpled to a heap on the floor. She was revived and, when feeling less wobbly, taken by Mrs Tod back to Riley. We were down to 14 and there was another reallocation of lines.

The examiner appeared round the door only to be removed again by Mrs Streatfeild-James and taken away for yet another coffee. Just at this point another girl declared she was feeling sick and disappeared to the toilet. Down to 13 now, we reallocated her lines. The examiner attempted to break back into the room; resisting all restraints she tentatively suggested we postpone that exam until the next day. "No!" was the chorused response. "Let's get it over and done with!" She settled into her chair and assembled her papers.

Just as the depleted group were about to open their mouths to start, the "sick" girl returned. Back up to 14! I reversed out of the room and firmly closed the door behind me in the determined hope that no one else would escape. And they still achieved honours. Both incidents, I think you'll agree, provide evidence that there can be more drama off-stage than on.

From June we'll go right back to the autumn and the launch of the speech and drama year at the Perth Burns Club's Annual Festival. This event involves music as well as poetry and Catriona Martin won the "Windyyedge Bowl" for unaccompanied singing in the secondary age group. In the verse speaking we "swept the board". Adam Michie won the primary age group classes with that favourite of Strathallan pupils, "A Dug, a Dug" by Bill Keys. Alex Beetschen came first in the secondary one to three class, while Ishbel McFarlane, for the fourth year in a row, won the overall secondary trophy, "The Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich" with the Burns poem "Tae a Louse".

Following this success, Ishbel received invitations to perform at two Burns Suppers: the Kinross-shire Volunteers Association and the Perth Burns Club's annual dinner.

Twelve firsts came to Strathallan pupils at the Perthshire Competition Festival in March. In their respective age groups Amyce Smith-Bannister won the Shakespeare class, Bronwyn Lear the prepared reading of prose, Rosemary Stanford, Soutar poems and Henry Jones "The William Soutar Tassie". Another trophy for bible reading went to Derek Elder and three firsts to Katie Fitzgerald for Shakespeare, English verse and Soutar poems. In bible reading, Mark Best shared an honours mark and first place with Ishbel McFarlane who also won Shakespeare and Burns in her age group.

These pupils maintained their high standard at the Edinburgh Competitions Festival in May. Katie won the "Mary Cameron Watson Cup" with a speech by Phoebe from "As You Like It" and she and Rosemary, along with Emily Beetschen, achieved first and honours for "an outstanding performance" of a scene from "Bold Girls". Solo verse (12 to 14) went to Amyce Smith-Bannister and the junior dramatic scene class was one by the aforementioned Joe and Henry, in a scene from "James and the Giant Peach".

Ishbel McFarlane won the "Jean Belfrage Memorial Prize" for recitation and gained double honours, one for prepared reading of prose and the other for bible reading. In the latter class Marc Best was runner-up, also with an honours mark. For her overall performance in the speech sections at the festival, Ishbel was invited to represent that day at the "end of the Festival" concert.

A highlight of the Edinburgh Festival for all concerned was the performance by II set I - all 19 of them - of a choral verse rendering (with movement) of "Fi'baw in the Street", a Scots language poem by Robert Garioch, set in the very area of north Edinburgh where the speech competitions were taking place.

The standard they reached in this was a double for II set I, because they had already achieved honours for "Fi'baw in the Street" along with W H Auden's "Night Mail" in LAMDA in November.

The increase in LAMDA participation continues relentlessly. We have had 5 days of examinations this year. Apart from the choral verse speaking by Riley pupils already mentioned, there were many other highlights. In acting grade exams, honours went to Ceri Caves, Rachel Terrell, Natasha Potts and Kirsty Sangster (grade 1), Naomi Miller and Megan Parkinson (4), Katie Fitzgerald, Rosemary Stanford and Emily Beetschen (Grade 5, in a repeat of their Edinburgh success) and Marc Best (8). In Spoken English, Joe Corlett, at grade 2, and Amyce Smith-Bannister (grade 3) achieved honours.



Medals were attained for acting by Marc Best and Kimi Gordon (Bronze), Olivia Halvorsen, Nicola Boyd and Mhairi Gillanders (bronze with distinction), Charlotte Carpenter (silver) and Catriona Bissett and Ishbel McFarlane (silver with distinction). For the speaking of verse and prose, Emma Fairlie achieved bronze and Ishbel McFarlane, gold with distinction. In public speaking, Ishbel was awarded a silver medal with honours.

Our best ever results in improvisation were achieved this year with almost all pupils gaining honours. These included Emily Morrison and Ella Legge (grade 2), Tom Fleming, Mark Zwetsloot and Alex Beetschen (also grade 2), Emily McLaren, Lucy Drummond-Hay, Megan Parkinson, Naomi Miller and Helen Summersgill (2) and Emily Roy, Kirsty Fitzgerald, Emily Beetschen and Karina McLean in grade 4.

Another anecdote from the blue corridor....

A group of three Form I boys had entered grade 1 improvisation. On the morning of the exam it transpired that one of their number was ill. I knew nothing about this until the remaining 2 came to the holding room half-an-hour before the exam. Instead of panicking and withdrawing, the enterprising pair - William Campbell-Gibson and Joe Corlett - had employed a substitute, Jonathan Dickson. In that half-hour they initiated Jonny into the moves of their "prepared" scene, about the survivors of a plane crash, making adjustments to suit the different strengths of their new member. I let them get on with it while I confirmed with the examiner whether she would allow a replacement. She did, and the boys were ushered through. "They were so good!" she said at the end, and awarded them 91%.

These boys again displayed their improvisation skills when they were asked to perform their piece at the "Riley Evening of the Arts". Tom Cargill, who was the candidate who had been ill and missed the LAMDA exam, wanted to be included. So they again adapted their scene and created an extra part. One of the plane crash survivors acquired a dog!

So art really does imitate life. Overall best performances in the year in LAMDA exams were given by the 3 improvisers, Joe, Tom and Jonathan, in the senior school grade exams, by Katie Fitzgerald and in medals by Ishbel McFarlane

Ishbel and Louise Wallace displayed great skill in another area of speech work, distinguishing themselves amongst a field of 84 teams who entered the competition by reaching the final of the "Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament" organised by the Law Society of Scotland



It seems to me that 'Inter-House Drama' - and there's always been plenty of that knocking about on an informal basis - has, in terms of theatrical performance come a very long way. It is very far from 'an evening of outrageous buffooneries and cat-calls

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Inter-House drama



It once afforded an opportunity to witness the heroics of the 1st XV Captain on a different kind of stage; an opportunity to see friends in funny roles; a chance to catch a glimpse of the glamorous girl you've always fancied; to applaud the boy you've always known but who's somehow made more human by being forced into a dress that's always too small and filled with socks for silicone.

The fact that during this thoroughly enjoyable evening (when two hours passed in a flash) each House approached its piece in a serious and thoughtful way and that nothing was simply a parody of the idea of a play, made certain elements which had been hitherto rather irrelevant, of critical importance.

The boys' Houses have always had fun in presenting female roles as either pantomime dames or busty bimbos and if the whole production was little other than a rumbustious burlesque that was fine. Bosoms could threaten all the recognised laws of gravity and hairy oxters find odd affinity with slinky cocktail dresses.

When girls came to performing masculine roles we had presentations of their fathers - all smoking pipes, wearing moustaches and carrying under the

jacket not a chequebook with which to pay the fees but a pistol. If something younger were required we had their younger brothers - all pimples, shorts, nasty habits and even nastier imaginations. Seldom did anything as innocent as Wee Jimmy Crankie appear.

When plays start becoming serious this simply will not do. One of my favourite pieces of the night was from 'The Slab Boys' and I thought the factory-floor boys, particularly Josh Wright, were excellently portrayed and ably supported by the likes of Ken McKenzie cast as 'The Gaffer'. But towards the end we saw the entrance of two female roles and the suspension of disbelief ended with a pouf - no, puff. The beautiful Lucille Bentley and the Tea Lady were described respectively in the programmes as 'hot ass' and 'bad pits' and that was sufficient warning for what was to come.

In Freeland's finely inventive and utterly enjoyable performance of the mechanical's, play from 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' it was quite within the text for the part of Francis Flute (played by Peter Hewitt) playing Thisbe to be very much less than a convincing romantic heroine. He played the part with real accuracy and flair and was awarded 'Best Actor'.


In 'Blood Brothers', performed by Nicol, the knock-about comedy and whimsy of the piece did prove fitting foil for the very high-pitched but decidedly butch performance of Richard Quibell as 'Mrs Johnstone'. The whole piece held together nicely around fine performances

by Andrew O'Donnell and Fraser Philip as the brothers Mickey Johnstone and Edward Lyons.

Ruthven's performance of 'The Long The Short and The Tall' was tackled in a serious way and though the tension of the piece somehow failed to come alive I thought 'Tojo's' character was thoughtfully managed and sensitively directed.

The problem of cross-gender roles within pieces of gentle social comedy was very clearly illustrated in the performance of 'Gregory's Girl' by Woodlands. There were some fine performances of girls as girls - notably Sammie Locke as Margo. But the centre of the piece was Gregory and this was something that, no matter how admirably hard she tried, Sarah Lyburn could not sustain. I felt that it was pretty much impossible.

The winning production of the night was an episode from 'The Vicar of Dibley' performed by Thornbank. Here the key female roles were nicely performed by Vicky Drummond-Hay, Amelia Lane, Becca Reid and Claire Leslie. The men were in any case, merely stereotypically empty and eccentric (it's funny how so much feminist literature manages that) and their various twitches and idiosyncrasies were carried-off very neatly by good acting and careful direction.

In all, once again a highly entertaining and satisfactory evening of drama 

CNC




When I asked my Father for his opinions on Bugsy, he said "It was good how it looked like Tallulah and Blousey were singing." I questioned him and finally told him that they *were* singing. His instant reaction was amazement.



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Rehearsals **were** due to start at the beginning of the Summer term, but before the characters were handed out, we held discussions at the dining tables of who we thought should be Bugsy, Fat Sam, Tallulah, Blousey, or which boys should be in Fat Sam's Gang? Rehearsals were hectic and cramped with so many things to do: pie fights, dancing, getting in time with the sound effects and doing the Italian-American accents, all rehearsed initially in the Riley Music Room. When the cast got to practise in the theatre, it began to take shape, especially when added to the music and, later on, the costumes. It was not all work, work, work for everyone. In the less hectic parts of rehearsals, some of us amused ourselves with props and trying to crawl between the rows of seats without being seen. Usually, the stage lights would let off a lot of heat and it was a relief when we were set free, getting some fresh cool air on the way to tea. Finally our first performance came and we were anxious: would anyone make a mistake? We were all quite proud of our make up, especially if it was a french moustache on a girl. We all enjoyed the play and none of us could wait until the final 'pie' fight scene where we could go really wild. This was especially true of our last performance where our unsuspecting Housemaster was 'pied'.

The show was a very enjoyable and memorable experience for both the cast and the audience, but particularly for those of us who were leaving Riley for new experiences .

Annabel Farquharson

Rehearsals were hectic and cramped with so many things to do: pie fights, dancing, getting in time with the sound effects and doing the Italian-American accents.

The academic session 2002-2003 got off to a great start in the Bursar's Office when the Housekeeper, Mrs Rene Wylie, informed the Bursar that she planned to retire in April 2003 after some 18 years service with the School.

Dirt behind the daydream

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The Bursar's initial shock, horror and panic were greatly relieved when he was able to persuade her to stay until June 2003.

Mrs Wylie has been a loyal and hardworking member of staff at Strathallan during the reign of three Headmasters and two Bursars and has worked through the majority of more recent development changes which Strathallan has undergone. Her service to the School has been invaluable as she has controlled and managed the housekeeping services of the entire School while it continued to change shape and size during this period. This onerous task also involved the recruiting and supervising of over 35 members of staff. Prior to Mrs Wylie's departure from the School, she had lunch with the Board of Governors and received tributes and presentations from the teaching staff and administration staff at Strathallan. All our best wishes go to her for her retirement in her native Orkney.

We have been fortunate to recruit a new Housekeeper, Mrs Annemarie Fourie, originally from South Africa, who was able to take up the post of Housekeeper in June 2003. We welcome her to the Staff and the School in the next academic session. The year has been effectively dominated by the upgrading of the School's water supply including the installation of a borehole in the grounds. This was a task planned over some 24 months and


accomplished over the 4 months prior to January 2003. It is now fully operational providing the School with over 70% of its daily water needs. This has been a sound investment for the future in view of the rising water costs which the School has had to incur. In addition, the infamous swimming pool changing rooms have been upgraded from their original 1930s design and have been substantially improved and upgraded to provide three changing rooms which include disabled changing facilities for use by the School and a dual purpose one for visiting sports teams if required.

The School's computer network system has been extended to embrace almost the entire School including all Boarding Houses and several additional academic departments in order that the whole School may benefit from the broadband satellite internet connection and centralised administrative system. There have been a number of teething difficulties with the new satellite system and during this process the Bursar was heard on several occasions to say "Beam me up, Scotty. I've had enough of this!"

Throughout the summer, we continued to pursue our refurbishment programme including the second chemistry laboratory, so as to upgrade the School's teaching facilities with the aim of completing the refurbishment of the entire chemistry department by the end of 2003.

Considerable work has also been done by the new Head Groundsman, John Newall, who joined Strathallan in August 2001. The renovation of the main sports pitches and the fruits of the groundsman's labour have been more than evident this year. The School has greatly benefited from these enhanced sporting pitch facilities including the introduction of an 18-hole golf course by Mr Newall.

The worldwide SARS crisis affected many schools and at the beginning of the Spring Term a number of pupils and staff were kept under observation in the Medical Centre for some ten days. This involved a considerable amount of extra work by all concerned, but especially the Medical Sister, Joyce Mair and her Assistant Anne Cameron, ably helped by Anne Robinson, Medical Assistant and Diane Long, who are to be congratulated for their hard work during this particular time, which also involved the running of an alternative Medical Centre in the Main Building.

Lastly, our warm congratulations go to June Penman who has been employed in Strathallan Catering Department for the past 15 years and who has been awarded the Sodexo Management Trainee of the Year Award for the Scotland Division .

The Bursar



The Scottish Woodfair, held in Perth in May, was an eyeopener for some Strathallan pupils. It is an annual exhibition to promote the works and products of designers and companies who use native Scottish timbers. Strathallan were invited to attend as a result of the event organiser's seeing our work exhibited in Perth at the SCIS Art/DT exhibition. It was a real privilege for Strathallan to be asked: the Woodfair is for professionals.

Scottish Woodfair

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In small groups, we attended the exhibition, not sure exactly what to expect. The standard from our school was very high, with selected works from GCSE, A-level and Higher pupils which included pieces produced as part of coursework. We were the only school with work displayed, and remarks from the public and other exhibitors were both complimentary and encouraging.

There were numerous exhibitors with excellent examples of craftsmanship in the form of toy-making, furniture schools, boat building, roofing design and wooden signage to name a few. Timber growers and conservation groups were also well represented.

Everyone seemed passionate about their work, and their enthusiasm was infectious. They offered encouragement to us and praise for our pieces, hardly believing it had been designed and manufactured by school pupils.

The whole Woodfair experience fuelled my enthusiasm for design and it is both encouraging and exciting to know that our work stood proudly alongside that of professional designers.

Mary Shaw-Stewart



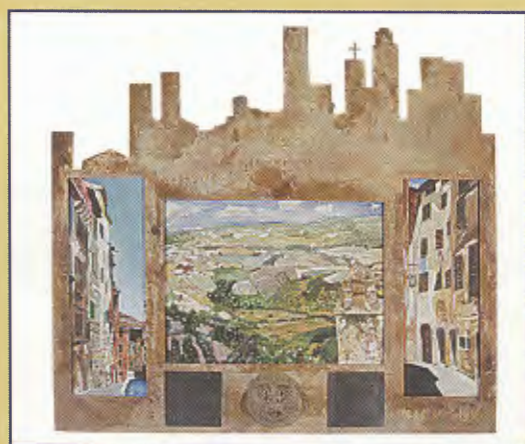
Art

40



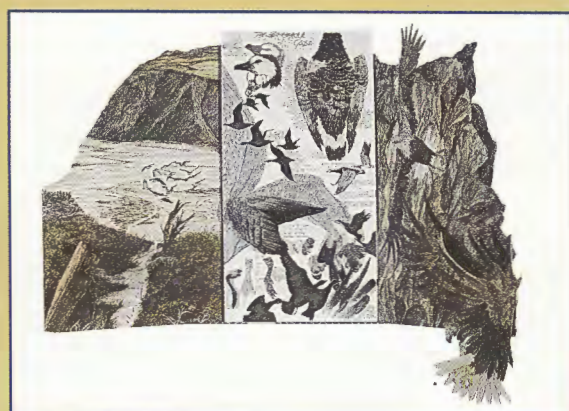
1 Alison Skinner UVI A2

'Illusion + Reality' mixed media



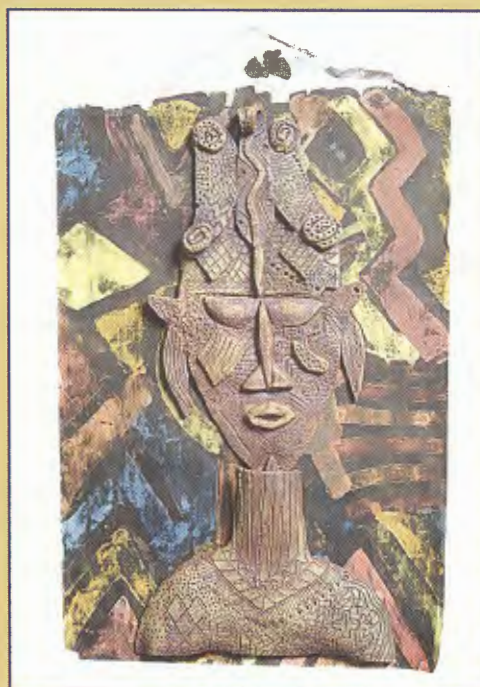
2 Lyndsay Allan UVI A2

'Tuscany' mixed media



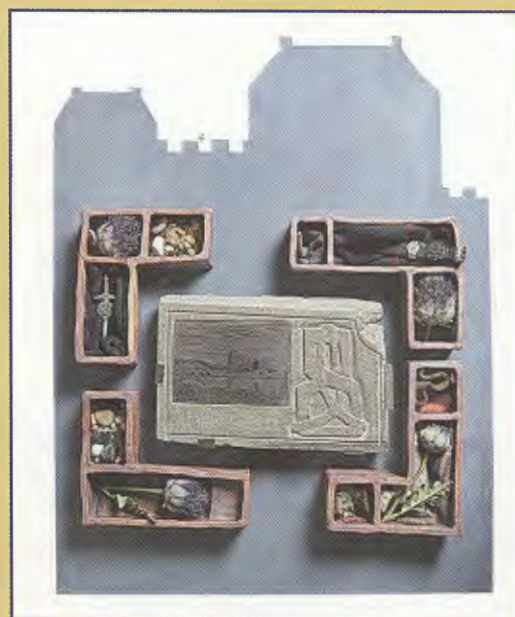
5 Samara Johnstone UVI A2

'Migration' mixed media



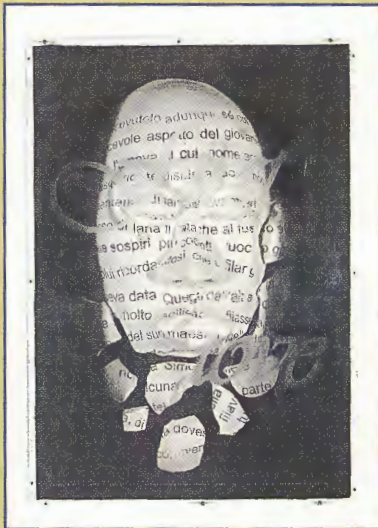
3 Claire Raeside GCSE

'Africa' mixed media



4 Harry Workman V GCSE

'Hartlepool' mixed media



6 Anne Kelly LVI AS
'First Love' mixed media



7 Judi Cargill LVI AS
'Environments' mixed media



8 Stef Carthy UVI A2
'Structures' mixed media



10 Ishbel McFarlane LVI AS
Woodcut



9 Gayle Allardyce LVI
Shadow puppets mixed media



11 Olivia Halvorsen V GCSE
'Self' mixed media

Design and Technology



1 Peter Mackie
Contemporary Garden Seat Unit
A-level Design and Technology

2 Karen Leitch
Child's Seat
GCSE Resistant Materials



3 Dot Bowry
Coffee Table
GCSE Resistant Materials



4 Joe Watson
Clay Pigeon Shooting Score Board
A-level Design and Technology



5 Claire McArthur
Coffee Table
GCSE

6 Max Stewart
Z Coffee Table
GCSE Resistant Materials



7 Hal Marshall
Wine Storage System
Higher - Craft and Design



8 Kit Hayward
Book Storage System
GCSE Resistant Materials

Overall this was another highly successful season at all levels, showing a lot of depth at senior level and considerable promise in the juniors.

Boys' hockey

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The First XI was a team which never gave up


The First XI was a very young team, containing only two members of the Upper Sixth. It performed beyond all reasonable expectation. Two successful cup runs were stopped at semi-final stage, one on penalty strokes to a club team and the other to a superb George Watson's side that went on to win the final comfortably. These were the only losses and the final tally of Played 13, Won 10, Drawn 1 and Lost 2 was just reward for great determination and considerable commitment. A fitting climax to the season was an 8-0 victory over what looked (on paper) a very powerful Old Strathallian side. The First XI was a team which never gave up. Skillful though it was, it was usually playing against older and more experienced opposition. The work-rate was impressive. Five players were selected at district level: Daniel Hoffman and David Coaton at under-18; Malcolm Jack, Michael Segaud and

Liam Carragher at under-16. Full Colours were awarded to Daniel Hoffman and David Coaton. Half Colours to Peter Mackie, David Stewart, Malcolm Jack and Adam Stephens (who was also chosen as 'Player of the Season').

The other senior teams had missed results. The Second XI had some good wins but often had to play against First XIs, at times a difficult task. The Third and Fourth XIs suffered from lack of fixtures but did well in those they had.

At a junior level results were generally very good and the Third Form in particular benefited from the arrival of Audrey Sime. Always with a word of encouragement when needed, she brought the best out of an excellent team only defeated by a quite outstanding Fettes one. The Fourth Form team developed very well indeed and by the end of the season looked an impressive unit. Once again we struggled to get

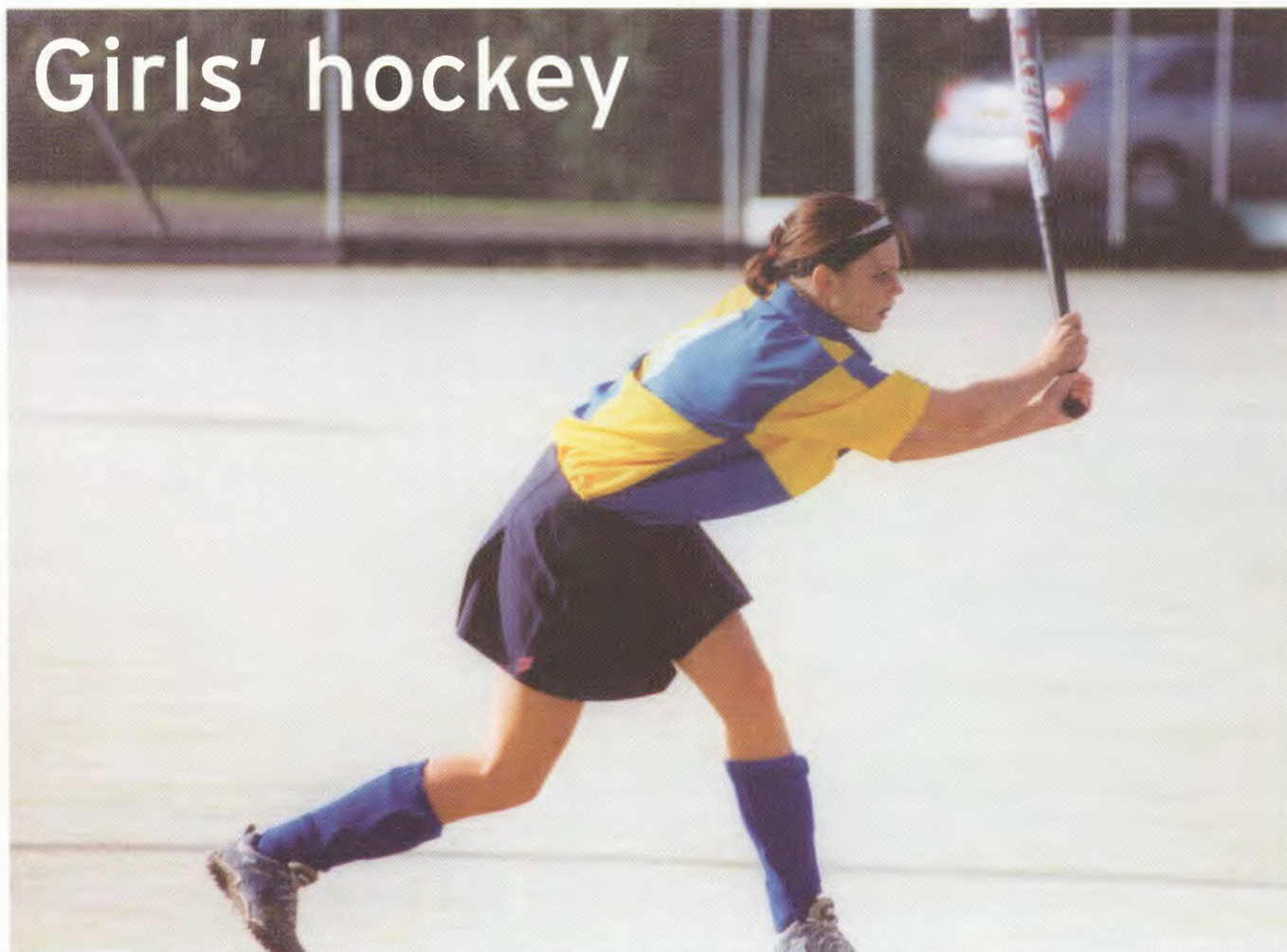
enough fixtures for the 'B' teams. At this level matches need to be played.

Thanks must go to all the coaches and not just those looking after the prestige teams. This year we had a total of sixty seniors doing hockey. Many of these players have no great expectations of first eleven honours but simply play for enjoyment, enthusiasm engendered possibly by the tireless encouragement of those such as Greg Ross (complete with canvas bag) or the prospect of liberal interpretation of the laws by Charles Court. To those and to the ever-reliable Earnside Coaches, the caterers, the umpires and to the ground staff (the overall improvement to the grass pitches is astounding) very many thanks. The prospects are good 

RJWP

It has been another successful year for Girls' Hockey at Strathallan. Starting from pre-season training at the end of August right up to the summer term fixture against the staff in 2003. The girls' hockey team have enjoyed many victories in both friendly matches and competitive Scottish Schools Tournaments.

Girls' hockey



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The juniors' standard of hockey continues to improve with more individuals playing for the district. Their team efforts have resulted in winning trophies such as the Midlands Junior Outdoor Tournament in which the team conceded not a single goal.

Senior hockey has also a series of successes, particularly the 1st XI. Starting the season as joint winners of the Midlands Schools/Clubs 1st XI Tournament, winners of the Midlands Knock-Out Cup and then runners up in the Midlands Indoor Tournament made the hard and strenuous work, dynamic warm-ups and body aches from pre-season training seem a bit more worth while.

Our success then continued into the spring term in which we had to learn not to tackle, not to hit the ball and to start using the wall to pass it. Yes, it was time to play indoor hockey, but the changes in the game from outdoor hockey were soon assimilated resulting in the seniors winning the Glenalmond Indoor Tournament at Bells Sports Centre.

Our most memorable victory will definitely be winning the Scottish Schools Tournament at Peffermill in Edinburgh, representing Midlands


and going on to become Champions. Remembering clearly the final against Mary Erskine which went to penalty flicks still sends shivers down my spine now.

The increasing number of Strath girls representing Midlands and Scotland at different levels is exceptional. A special mention must go to Ann-Louise Breaden, who is representing the Scotland U16 team for the second year, and who will be joined this year by Kirsty Hay. They will be playing England, Belgium and Ireland over the Summer holidays, so we congratulate them both on their success and wish them good luck.

Half colours this year have been awarded to Kirsty Hay, Melanie Kotseroglou, Lindsey Allan, Kirstie Aitken and Amelia Lane. Full Colours have been awarded to Ann-Louise Breaden, Anna MacDonald. Katie Fleming and Jenny Hay, were re-awarded full colours. Player of the year for indoor hockey went to Ann-Louise and the outdoor player of the year was Katie Fleming who was also our top goal scorer of the season with an outstanding 50 goals.

This report could not have been written without the organisation of our coach Miss

Sime. Not only has she recalled every fixture result and details but has been kept very busy organising matches, training sessions, development squads, hockey meal outings (which we looked forward to the most) and even organising the staff, who were put through a fitness test to gain their place in the staff team. They lost narrowly 6 - 2, but I must admit played extremely well for a team with an average age of 40 (and that was with lying about their ages).

Thanks must also be passed on to Mr Giles who coached and helped us in the first term, building up our confidence; and to Mr Fitzsimmons who has umpired our matches and managed (just) to put up with us. Thanks also to Mrs Dorward and her generous gifts of wine gums, and to all the other staff involved in coaching Girls' Hockey. A final mention must be given to all the supporters especially Mr Breaden's Irish encouragement and "boxes of chocolates" 

Jenny Hay
Captain 1st XI

The arrival of a large squad for pre-season training gave the coaches the opportunity to observe several faces new to senior rugby. During the following days the boys worked hard on both their fitness and general skills and once again we were indebted to Jono Philips, the Caledonia Rugby Academy manager, who spent a morning emphasising key areas of continuity play.

Rugby

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The culmination of this early start to term was a visit to Stirling Rugby Club where we played the U18 team in an entertaining training match under lights. While the boys played effectively in the opening and last thirds they were not able to cope with the attacking running of the full backs in the middle 20 minutes and were on the receiving end of four very well worked tries. Sadly, injuries were picked up during this game and it was some time before we were able to get back to full strength.

Following the opening fixture of the season against High School of Glasgow the feeling in the changing room was that we had not played to anywhere near our potential. A narrow loss of 5-10 was a reflection of a lack of control in our play and the disappointment was there for all to see on the journey back up to Strathallan.

During the next two weeks we were once again delighted to host two visiting teams to school. Both Grange and Craighouse have stayed with us during their previous UK tours and it remains a pleasure to be able to host such good ambassadors for Chile. Looking at the results from recent U19 and U21 world cups it is obvious that rugby in this part of the world is in the ascendant and the physicality of both squads was very much in evidence as they settled into their time at Strathallan. Grange School play a tough game up front combined with the potent weapon of real pace out wide and this match was no exception. The 1st XV and several other squad members all played in a fast and at times very skillful match and although the final score line of 0-28 suggests a rather one sided affair the feeling afterwards was that the Strathallan team had held their own in many areas and it was pleasing to hear at a later date that this had been their toughest game over the course of the tour. The knowledge that Craighouse had defeated Grange back home gave our boys a sleepless night. In reality the form book was thrown out of the window and over the course of a thrilling 70 minutes the forwards and backs of both teams played a highly entertaining and competitive match. The try down the left wing

finished by Tom Hine was a good example of what rugby is all about with players linking at pace, and it was a pleasure to witness a score that was described by many as "the best they had seen in recent years". Unfortunately, the 1st XV were not able to finish off our visitors this time and the 10-13 score line reflected our inability to secure a win through thoughtful and mature play.

The arrival of Glasgow Academy, whose coaches felt that they had a strong squad this year, presented the players with a fresh challenge. Both teams tried to play a good mixture of powerful forward drives and contrasting width through the backs but struggled to maintain any continuity. After a strong start the 1st XV had established a good lead but a lack of concentration and some questionable decision making allowed our visitors back into the game. Upon the final whistle, and a 8-18 loss, the look on the players' faces told the obvious story; how did we let that one go or how did we win that one? One could not fault the boys' effort during training or the manner in which they wanted to play but the vital component of an all round game breaker was sadly lacking.

Once again the match versus Dundee High School presented a similar morning's outing. At points the team combined to produce some impressive sequences of play but they were unable to finish off several promising phases and sadly these errors allowed our visitors a narrow win (14-17). Matches are often won or lost on small mistakes and an error in defending the blind side of a close in ruck gave the Dundee scrum half the opportunity to demonstrate his "George Gregan flip" and turn the result.

Matches against Fettes College are often close run and once again this year was no exception. The weather had turned over the preceding week and it is a testament to John Newall's efforts since starting as Head Groundsman that the pitch kept playing so well. On a dull and rather dismal day the hardy supporters were witness to a match that often mirrored

the conditions. In the end an 8-8 draw left us with the feeling that this was another game that should have been won.

After half term the squad prepared for the trip across to Glenalmond. Slightly weakened by injury the team once again started the stronger outfit and the vociferous home crowd was soon silenced. Battling against inclement conditions the line-out struggled to impose any control on the home side with their older and more aggressive pack able to slow down any phases of play that we were trying to establish. In the end the main difference was a more organised back three and a 16-0 loss was a fair reflection on a match that stuttered to provide any sustained entertainment.

The second half of the fixture list presents no easy games and the boys worked hard during the run up to the Merchiston match. Once again the team started to play towards their potential and for most of the 70 minutes had this well organised team on the back foot. Ian MacGeehan often talks about "brains in the fridge and bodies in the oven" and sadly we took a couple of wrong options in the dying minutes of the game. At 15-17 down we tried to drive over a series of penalty line outs but were constantly thwarted by technical infringements. Given the chance again a shot at a penalty goal might have been the more obvious choice but you have to commend the desire to secure the win by a greater margin. This result was another that joined the list of "ones that should have been won".

The deterioration in weather prevented us in traveling to both Edinburgh Academy and Dollar Academy where the pitches were deemed unplayable. The final outing for the 1st XV saw Hutcheson's Grammar arriving in the last Saturday of term. From the outset the team played with conviction and where passes had previously gone to ground this time they stuck. The winning score of 22-0 perhaps does not do justice the control that was evident throughout but it was pleasing to observe the boys coming off Big Acre with a satisfied look at last.

International Honours: Peter Mackie Scotland U18A and U19 training squad

District Honours : U18 Peter Mackie, Fraser Philip, Ken MacKenzie,
U16 Jono Becks, Bruce Lerman, Stuart MacDonald,
Jamie Cachia

Looking at the win/loss columns for this season it would be easy enough in the future to write off this group of players but this would not be a fair reflection of their effort and commitment. Given that the entire back line was from LVI and several pack members will also be returning for UVI, this is a group of players that will continue to progress and, as coaches, we look forward to working with them in the forthcoming months

MRAJBT



But enough of the Geography!

The water was indeed white and the first of many grade 4 rapids was appropriately named "The Alarm Clock" - safe to say, we were all awake after crashing over it. Everyone had a most enjoyable day, varying amounts of it actually out of the Raft and in the Tully itself. The crew with Takishi (the Japanese Raft Captain with suicidal tendencies) had a particularly exciting time. Unusually, a BBQ followed as we swapped tales of our daring exploits and then it was back to the Rafter's Bar to watch a video of the day's events.

Following an excellent breakfast, it was on the road by 7.00am. This time it was 750km and all day on the bus on the now rather too familiar Bruce Highway - any more sugar cane and banana plantations and madness beckoned.

Tuesday am saw the boys assemble at RGS at 7.45am and head off to the Capricorn Caves - these are Carboniferous Limestone lithology, organic sedimentary, coral (.... but enough of the Geography!). We spent an amusing morning in the caves and tunnels, including scrambling around in the dark through narrow tunnels, crawling on compacted bat droppings.

Monday morning was a little worrying for DJB as one tourist could not locate his passport and the prospect of having to get a replacement was not a straightforward one. As it happened, after phone calls to the High Commission in Sydney and Canberra, the passport office in Glasgow, QANTAS re. changing flights etc, etc collecting police reports, downloading application forms from the web and getting passport photographs, it emerged that the pupil had put his passport in another tourist's bag by mistake!

27 days, 11 different places to stay (not including the 3 overnight flights), 11 matches (6 wins, 5 losses), many new friends, so many excellent experiences. Another Strathallian tour is over



DJB



After the deluge of the previous two seasons, the 2003 season was anticipated with some trepidation. Would lack of experience be a handicap? Would the team gel, bearing in mind there was only one Upper Sixth boy in the side? Above all, would it rain?

Leather upon willow

48

In the end we lost only the Fettes fixtures to the rain and the later matches were played on hard pitches with a lightning-fast outfield. Strathallians will remember how slow the outfield has been in the past, particularly up the hill. Our new groundsman John Newall has done wonders for both the square and outfield this year, and deserves our thanks for his hard work.

The season began with the traditional opener against Perth Northern normally a relatively gentle start to the campaign. Our lack of experience nearly told against us as we totalled only 163 all out in 37 overs. Our Brisbane Boys' College exchange pupil Simon Blood scored a first fifty on Scottish turf, but it was left to the tailenders to pull us out of the mire with nearly 70 runs scored for the last three wickets. In reply, Northern never really threatened our score until their last pair put on nearly 40 runs. Jono Becks bowled well to take 3-19 and captain Ross Anders took 4-30. So, a first win by 28 runs, but a win which seemed to indicate what a hard slog things might be for the season.

The first School match was against Dollar in a 45 overs win-lose only format. This is the format we normally play in Festival matches, but some Scottish schools have adopted this for all their fixtures this season. The first priority was to bat all our overs which we duly did, despite Simon Blood's dismissal off the first ball of the match! Tom Hine scored his first half-century for the XI and he was helped by Jono Becks and Robin Snape to post a decent 148-9. Much would depend on how we coped with the threat of Dollar's Barbadian exchange pupil, but he too, like our Aussie, lost his wicket in the first over of the innings. Thereafter some very good fielding, including some spectacular catches, backed up a promising bowling effort to rout Dollar for 86.

Over the years our match against Glenalmond has produced some tight finishes, as well as some dull draws, but we went into this fixture full of confidence after two wins, only to bowl probably the worst we managed all season. After reducing Glenalmond to 107-7 by lunch, their last three batsmen batted very sensibly to



post an all-out total of 190 in 63 overs. Not for the last time this season we bowled our overs quickly (at 21 per hour). In reply, all our batsmen got a start. They managed to get into double figures, but no-one really managed a score of substance, though Jamie Cachia on debut managed to get into the 20s. We totalled a disappointing 158-7 off 50 overs when time ran out, to leave both sides locked in another draw. Had the over-rate been consistent throughout the game, there may well have been a more exciting finish.

In what was a very short term we went into half-term unbeaten but with a run of games to come, the first of which was a hard-fought encounter with the Scottish XL Club. The XL Club totalled 237-3 in 50 overs with the hard-hitting Johnstone scoring an unbeaten 121. The only bowler to come out of the innings with any credit was Simon Blood who bowled 21 overs of off-spin for 67 runs. In reply, all the batsmen again got a start, except for poor Simon who was run out by the captain without facing a ball. Danny Hoffmann scored his first half-century for the XI and when stumps were

drawn we were on a respectable 199-6 to earn a draw.

Strathallian Day always brings a hard-fought fixture against the Old Boys, and this year was to be no exception. It was good to see so many Strathallians turn up for what turned into a very close and exciting game on a glorious day. The Strathallians declared at 203-8 after 56 overs to set up an intriguing second half of the match. Jono Becks was once again the pick of the bowling with 2-45 off 19 overs. After the early loss of Tom Hine, Ross Anders (50) and Simon Blood (70) proceeded to put us in with a good chance, compiling a stand of 93 as we went for the victory. However, we blew any chance of victory as runs ground to a halt with wickets in hand and, despite the desperate loss of wickets in pursuit of quick runs, we finished 10 runs short with Charlie Leadbetter playing out the last 4 balls to draw the match.

Against Loretto at Mussleburgh we again lost the toss and found ourselves in the field in a 50 over per side match. We managed to snare their Aussie opener relatively cheaply and



bowled them out for 117, Jono Becks being the pick of the bowlers once more with 4-19. Simon Blood took 3-17 off his ten overs and Ross Anders 3-31. In reply, after the early loss of Cachia, Tom Hine scored a brisk 45 off 39 balls and Simon 53 not out to see us home by 8 wickets, with over half our overs to spare.

The following weekend saw a 'double-header', away against The Edinburgh Academy, and at home to the MCC. Both games were played in glorious summer sunshine on good batting wickets. On the Saturday we lost the toss again and found ourselves once more in the field. A combination of luck (2 run-outs), good catching and hostile bowling saw us skittle the young Academy side for 132 in just under 50 overs. Jono Becks and Simon Blood both picked up three wickets. Our innings was dominated by Simon Blood, revelling in the ideal batting conditions, who scored an unbeaten 98 as we knocked off the runs in 30 overs. It was a mature innings full of touch and judicious aggression in the midst of an impressive run of scores for the young Australian.

Against the MCC on the Sunday the XI won a much more exciting and impressive match with two balls to spare. MCC, as they traditionally do, batted first and totalled 228-5 declared in 50 overs - a fair declaration which set the game up nicely. Jono Becks again took most wickets, and Simon Blood bowled 19 overs of impressive off-spin once more. In our reply,



Jamie Cachia (20) and Simon Blood (47) played well against the speed of Natal player Neil Warren, and the wiles of Major MacPherson. Tom Hine (43) and captain Ross Anders (52) accelerated the scoring, but just as it looked as if Anders would see his team home to the total, he got out. David Stewart played an impressive innings of 33 to move us closer to the target, but two more wickets fell before Jono Becks smacked the ball straight to the chapel boundary amidst cheering from the biggest crowd gathered on the Lawn for some time. This was a good run chase which proved the team had obviously learned from the failure against the Strathallians. So, a very successful weekend before the big test against Merchiston.

Merchiston travelled to Forgandenny undefeated, having crushed all their opponents, and determined to keep their record intact. They won the toss, decided to bat on a belter of a pitch with a very fast outfield, and proceeded to notch up 262-7 in 54 overs. Their Aussie 'keeper/batsman scored a magnificent 159, albeit helped by some uncharacteristic fielding lapses, and some generous bowling. Malcolm Jack was the pick of the bowlers with 3-65 off 17 overs, in a total that would be quite a special one to achieve batting second. We were not quite up to the task in the face of the most hostile bowling we had seen all term from their South African quick and their left-armer. Only Danny Hoffman, in making 25, gave Simon Blood (112) any real support. Simon batted superbly hardly giving a chance and dealing confidently with anything the Merchiston bowlers could throw at him. So, a first loss of the season to by far the strongest side we had encountered, and a team which set standards we need to aspire to for next season.

As ever, I owe a great deal of thanks to the people who make the Master i/c's job so much easier. To Carol Duffy and her Sodexho staff thanks are due for the cheerful way they coped with last minute requests, and for much enjoyed 1st XI lunches. Earnside Coaches once more provided an unrivalled service particularly when the Master i/c forgot to book a bus to Loretto.

Perhaps the biggest debt of thanks I owe is to the ageless Nick du Boulay who, apart from dispensing calmness and wisdom to the Master i/c, umpired with sagacity and no little authority. His coaching, as ever, remains indispensable 🏏

RHF

Strathallan 1st XI Averages 2003

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Average Score	Highest
S. Blood	9	2	448	64.00	112
J. Becks	7	2	118	23.60	27 n.o.
R. Anders	9	1	166	20.75	52
D. Hoffmann	8	0	158	19.75	64
T. Hine	9	0	167	18.56	55

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
J. Becks	92.2	14	290	19	15.26
M. Jack	50	9	149	8	18.63
R. Anders	85.5	6	366	18	20.33
S. Blood	136	24	400	14	28.57



2nd XI

The 2nd XI's season was hardly inspiring. Lack of concentration with the batting often did not give the bowlers large enough targets to defend, and so lost causes were too frequently the order of the day. An early win against Dollar by 48 runs was the zenith of the season, and 22 all out against Glenalmond the nadir. There were one or two promising performances. Harry Workman and Charlie Leadbetter both played for the 1st XI, but strength in depth was sorely lacking amongst the rest of the players. More commitment is needed if this side is to improve next season and recover some of its reputation.

Senior Colts

As so often in the recent past, the Senior Colts suffered from 1st XI selection as the season wore on, Jamie Cachia being promoted to opening the 1st XI batting. He had scored the majority of the Senior Colts' runs, though both Andrew Fyfe and Iain Aitken both played long innings without their merited reward. As the season continued, Craig Wallace's own unique style of bucaneeering batting came into its own with some late season scores. Highlight of the season was the victory over Merchiston due, in large part, to captain Geoffrey Melloy capturing 5-19 with his offspin, and 63 from Cachia. The B side under the management of John McCann played entertaining cricket, the highlight being a very close encounter with The Edinburgh Academy.

Junior Colts

On paper, the A side should have been quite a strong one. The bowling attack of Michael Cachia, Joss Beharrell, Ben Braithwaite, Ryan Matthews and Mauricio Keiserie was the strongest seam attack we have had at this level for quite some time. However, the batting really let the side down on quite a few occasions, few having any real concentration to survive for long periods of time. That said, good victories were scored against Dollar (8 wickets), Merchiston (29 runs), and The Edinburgh Academy (65 runs). Highlight of the season was the victory over Merchiston in which Michael Cachia scored an unbeaten 84 out of our 108, and then took 5-9 to skittle Merchiston for 79. As the term continued Ryan Matthews and Nick Harvey began to show some form with the bat, whilst Ryan's bowling showed increasing promise. Greg Guthrie shone in the field, but generally too many catches were dropped. Much needs to be done if this side is to achieve greater consistency next season 🏏

RHF

The season seemed to bode well when, in our first match, we recorded our first ever victory against an Australian touring side.

Netball Report

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Rockhampton Grammar School from Sydney were a delightful team to host but fortunately on the day it was a case of the Davids playing confidently and fluently to triumph over the Goliaths. The final score was a comfortable 38 - 17 win.

Amid much expectation and high hopes, Strathallan welcomed teams from the Methodist Ladies College in Perth. Whilst the first team succumbed to the impressive athleticism and skill of the antipodeans; fortunately the second team followed the earlier example and took the scalps of the Methodist Ladies College team in a closely contested, nerve jangling 33 - 28 victory.

Domestically the season always promised to be difficult. Significant rebuilding both in terms of team positions and morale was required after a dynamic and highly committed UVI group had moved to Netball pastures new. Early victories against Perth High school and Kilgraston suggested that all was going well but drawing against an Amazonian Gordonstoun side was a reminder, if one were needed, that commitment and training was required if we were to retain the Independent Netball School's trophy for a tenth successive year. Losses to Fettes and Gordonstoun prior to the tournament were another reminder though these certainly weren't required! Every captain of netball will testify to the terror and foreboding of being the captain of "the side who lost the trophy". Every team will testify to the grease which seems to have developed on your fingers where preceding teams had glue. Once nerves and doubt creep in it is very difficult for any side, whether professional or amateur, to conquer these foes. An early group stage loss to Glenalmond made the task of winning almost insurmountable and seemingly released from this pressure the first VII went on to play some of their best Netball of the season. Gordonstoun were certainly deserved winners of the trophy this year but it was interesting to see Strathallan record handsome victories against the teams that had previously beaten them (v. Fettes, 36 - 18 and Glenalmond 43 - 13). Kirsty Fitzgerald's determination, Sarah Lyburn's tenacity and Frankie Grieve's




skill (which is particularly remarkable given that she is only in third form) were instrumental in recording these wins.

The second team, by contrast, had one of their most successful seasons for years. Victories against Glenalmond, Gordonstoun and Kilgraston were enjoyed as was the trip to Glasgow to eventually play our own U15 side as the opposition had forgotten to turn up or as the seconds preferred - "were running scared!!"

Junior Netball at Strathallan continues to flourish. The U15 As, in spite of a significant height disadvantage, managed to prevail over Fettes, The High School of Dundee, and Kilgraston but were unable to record an unbeaten season as they lost narrowly to Gordonstoun. Lizzi "Bushette" Bush who seemed to be able to shoot beyond towering defences and Pamela Garratt who captained her side with commitment and enthusiasm deserve particular commendation. The U14 As were not similarly encumbered and did record an unbeaten season - the high point of which was victory in the Tayside Challenge Tournament which is open to all the Secondary schools in Perth and Kinross. Given their

victory and the second placings of both Riley and the U15, Stathallan won the trophy for the best Overall school. The juniors therefore managed to save our Netball blushes as the trophy cabinet wasn't entirely filled with Hockey wares.

Although coaching is its own reward, the time, dedication and enthusiasm of Mrs I-F cannot be understated. She tries to keep me sane and is always on hand to support the girls' efforts whether by cheerleading, umpiring, bus driving or first aiding. We were also very fortunate this year to have the assistance of Jo Workman and Kate Wilson. The U15 and U14 B team victories against Glenalmond were a testament to their skills as coaches but I am sure that their enthusiasm and sense of fun will last longer in the minds of the girls. Kirsty Fitzgerald should be thanked for her captaincy. It was not always an easy job and her skills as a team player were resoundingly recognised by securing almost 50% of the nominations as opposition player of the team in the local Perth Ladies League. Securing the netball report proved to be rather less easy, Kirsty 

AJT

Girls' Tennis

Overall, Strathallan's tennis teams of all ages had a good season, the 1st and 2nd VIs competing at a very high level and the juniors certainly showing some promising talent. A particular mention must go to Anna Macdonald who has had an outstanding season, performing consistently at a very high level, and amongst the juniors to Frankie and Catriona who have proved to make an excellent 1st couple.


The season started with a close defeat at the hands of Fettes. However, this was quickly followed by a thorough thrashing of Kilgic, in which the senior team truly excelled. Unfortunately our massively extensive winning streak came to an abrupt end when we came face to face with Glennie, but we'll put that down to the weather conditions, shall we? The season escalated into a world of ecstasy as we played our penultimate match at St. George's, with all round success, only equalled by our final encounter where we played, nay annihilated, Loretto 8-1. They have nice food there.

Riley put their hearts and souls into their match against Fettes (blessed little souls) which led to a convincing victory.

This season's Kilgraston tournament was certainly a nail-biting ordeal. The teams expertly snatched defeat from the gaping jaws of victory, our failure to qualify coming down to a matter of one too many double faults.

On Strathallian Day the Old Girls put up a good fight considering their advanced years and crippling arthritis, but the 1st VI enjoyed sweet victory once again.

Meanwhile, silverware for Inter House tennis was distributed evenly this year as we saw Woodlands win the junior match, while the senior match was dominated by Thornbank.

We would like to say thank you to Miss Sime and Miss Dorward for all their support and coaching and also to Tommy - our newly appointed part time professional tennis coach, for some invaluable advice that certainly helped this season to become so successful. Also to the team and anyone who played for the school this season for their effort and dedication which has led not only to a successful season but certainly an enjoyable one too 

Amelia Lane & Sarah Lyburn

Badminton

They say that all things come and go in cycles and if we are playing the numbers game badminton is certainly becoming more popular at Strathallan. There was a healthy turnout of III, IV and V Formers this year.

Rebecca, Kirsty, Finlay, Craig, Michael, Euan, Hanna, Louise, Rhianna, Mhairi, Nicola, Renny, Alison and Rory all showed promise and braved many of the colder winter nights in their quest for improvement.

Invariably the VI Form sessions were over subscribed due in the main to an extremely keen Chinese contingent. My thanks go to Adrian, Ding, Bufan, Benson, George, Lina, Nan & Sulekha for making Friday nights so much fun as well as providing some challenging opposition.

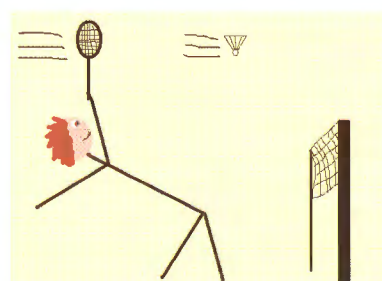
The annual House championships were, again, keenly contested but Freeland were just too good for the others this time.

Thornbank took the girls' trophy and, interestingly, beat Ruthven into fourth place overall.

While I am writing this the 2002-2003 season is already well under way with activity sessions more popular than ever. We have also entered a team in the Perth & Kinross league. Matches take place on Wednesday evenings and the competition should be of a high standard so let us hope we can at least hold our own. Good luck to the team and my thanks once again to all who contributed to making the 2001-2002 season so enjoyable.

Badminton is now offered as a Games Option at Senior level and there is no doubt that the general standard of play is improving as a result. In this regard I must thank Mr Sneddon, Madame Crane and Mrs Duncan for their considerable contributions.

GCK



Andrew Mack rounded off last year's tennis report for the Strathallian by predicting that 'with youth on our side there is only one way the team will head next year'. I doubt that even he would claim to have known just how much of a success this year was going to be, but that is an argument for another time.

Boys' Tennis

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The season opened with what had become the annual defeat against Glenalmond in the Glanvil Cup Competition, yet, as seems to have been the norm this year, the team decided that it was Strath who were going through to the next round for the first time in 13 years and we ground out a 4 - 2 victory. This was a welcome confidence boost to the team, and before we knew it, it was time to play the next round against Marr College. The journey across Scotland to Troon seemed to take ages, but after another tough victory the journey home seemed much quicker, in spite of that stop at McDonalds. Our Glanvil Cup adventure finished, somewhat abruptly, in the next round against Madras College who turned out to be just too good, although Joe Corbett kept up his personal winning run in the tournament. That got us to the last 2 Scottish Schools in this national tournament.

There were many other notable moments in the season; every single other match in fact as the table of results show, but the extra special victories must be the second at Glenalmond, the Merchiston match and the Stewart's Melville match. Our second outing to Glenalmond resulted in Strath's winning the first 5 sets with the match being over as a contest as early as it could possibly be. The visit of Merchiston turned out to be Jamie Morrison's senior team debut where he exceeded all expectations and is surely a future team player. The rest of the team performed well in what turned out to be a more comfortable victory than expected. Our last school match of the season was against Stewart's Melville and we were expecting our hardest match of the season against what is customarily a formidable side. Strathallan last won this fixture over a decade ago, so to keep our unbeaten record for the season in school matches was going to be tough. The team once again showed its strength and came through for a much deserved victory.

The traditional end of season match against the Masters' Common Room turned out to be as enjoyable as ever, even though it was a much more closely contested match than



normal. A 5 - 4 victory does not show the strength of the staff at Strathallan, as they may claim, but it does show that the Boys' team was without David and Joe, who were replaced (in the least sexist way possible) by Anna and Katie.

Whilst on the subject of mixed tennis, the annual Mixed Doubles Tournament at Glenalmond deserves a mention. The 3 Strath teams comprised Rory and Anna, Blair and Amelia and David and Ann Louise. We finished a respectable second only just missing out on first place, and who knows what might have been if the first set of matches hadn't been so early in the morning. Rory and Anna were undefeated in the A section of the tournament. Well done to them.

The team was undoubtedly helped over the season by our newly refurbished all weather

courts (Thank you, Mr Bursar), and the weekly presence of Tommy Ogilvie, who helped get us into the swing of things quicker than usual this term. Thanks must also go to Mr Batterham and Mr Watt who have been reliably bringing on the future team players week after week.

Regular team members were:

Blair Chalmers - captain
Rory Carmichael
David Coaton
Joe Corbett
Alistair Mather
Adrian Duthie
Andreas Corbett and
Daniel Landers

Colours were awarded to the following members of the team for commitment and service to the team over a number of years:

- Blair Chalmers - Full colours
- Rory Carmichael
- David Coaton
- Joe Corbett - Half colours

Inter House Tennis this year went to Ruthven and the team, that also happens to be the school first team, ALMOST felt guilty about retaining the trophy for the fifth consecutive year

B H S Chalmers / AW



Boys' Tennis Fixtures 2003

Wednesday 30th	April Glanvil Cup Match vs Glenalmond	Won 4 - 2
Saturday 3rd	Gordonstoun (H)	Won 12 - 6
Wednesday 7th	Marr College Cup Match	Won 4 - 2
Thursday 8th	Edinburgh Academy (A)	Won 7 - 2
Friday 9th	Dollar Academy (A)	Rained off
Saturday 10th	Glenalmond Snrs (A)	Won 6 - 3
Thursday 15th	Merchiston Snrs (H)	Won 7 - 2
Saturday 31st	St Leonards (A)	Won 9 - 0
Tuesday 3rd June	Merchiston Jnrs (H)	Drew 4 - 4
Friday 6th	Dollar Academy (H)	Won 7 - 2
Saturday 7th	Fettes (A)	Won 9 - 0
Thursday 12th	Interhouse Finals RvN	Ruthven
Tuesday 17th	Stewarts Melville Snrs (H)	Won 6 - 3
Thursday 19th	SMCR	Boys 5 - 4

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But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,
 In proving foresight may be vain:
 The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
 Gang aft a-gley
 An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
 For promised joy.

The Christmas holidays were filled with thoughts of pleasant anticipation of the season that lay ahead for a particular captain. Just like any adolescent obsessed with football, I spent many hours doodling tactics on scrap bits of paper/ revision notes, and by the time January came about a seemingly unbeatable team had been formulated in this naïve young man's head. What could possibly stand in the way of this team's being crowned champions of the Scottish Independent Schools Cup?

The season started well enough with a 7-1 away victory against St. Leonard's, and the ease with which things were falling into place made this same young man think that possibly a long and illustrious career in football lay ahead of him. It was admittedly not long before the reality of the situation became painfully obvious to all, especially after a 3-3 draw with Dundee High at home. The match once again started well with Strath taking an early lead, and even though this was followed by an incredible series of misses by one of the strikers, 293 to be exact (verified by OPTA Index Ltd), it seemed that the team would be fine. By the final whistle, an initially supportive home crowd had turned hostile and the team realised that a match which had been there for the taking had in fact been thrown away. This was definitely the start of things to come for the team, with another home match against QVS about a week later ending in a 0-2 defeat, despite Strathallan having had easily the majority of the chances and possession.

The real low point of the season was unfortunately still to come with a 4-1 defeat away to Glenamond. The Scottish winter was doing its best, as per usual, to disrupt the team and the match was moved from a home game to an away one with the conditions debatably being no different at Glenamond. Strath never really got started and this really was one match to forget.

This run of results ended our participation in the cup, and it was with dread that the team approached the annual match against the staff. This fear was compounded when the staff turned out in number, 24 to be precise, and all

the ease with which things were falling into place made this same young man think that possibly a long and illustrious career in football lay ahead of him

took part in a slightly unfair rolling subs match. Fortunately, though, it was skill and fitness, and not a combined age of about 1000 that proved decisive, and the pupils ended up deserving 8-0 winners.

The final match of the season was against 'The Old Boys', and the majority of the team from the 96/97 season turned up for a hard fought game. Their own chosen strip of Rangers tops was much appreciated (not by everyone, Blair Ed), and the Old Boys edged the match with a brilliant strike from Duncan Crosthwaite.

All that remains is to thank all the coaches, Mr. Bolton, Mr. Shields, Mr. Batterham, Mr. Smith and Mr. Weir for putting up with such an awful season, and to wish the team luck for next year.

Blair Chalmers Capt. 2002/3



Despite playing some very good golf during the season the team seemed to be continually playing bridesmaid to a very strong Morrison's Academy side. We finished runners up to them in both the PKSGA league competition and the Scottish Independent Schools' team championships. Morrison's were able to call on the services of a full Scottish international for their team so it is perhaps not surprising that they were so successful.

Golf

56



The season started with games on The Old Course at St Andrews and on the Centenary Course at Gleneagles (the venue of the Ryder Cup in 2014), and although we could not match these venues in the following weeks a great deal of golf was played by the squad members.

The team was well led this year by Gordon Bujaud who was enjoying his fourth year as a team member. Despite the pressures of public examinations Gordon played a full part in the team's busy and successful season. He led by example, always trying 100% in his matches, and it is not surprising that his playing record over the last four years shows a win ratio of nearly 80%. He will be a hard act to follow next year and we wish him well in the future.

Cameron Jack showed the best early season form, being the highest placed Strathallan boy in the PKSGA Championships at Gleneagles and winning the 36 hole St. Columba's Trophy at Auchterarder from Daniel Hoffmann on a card play off. Both Cameron and Daniel enjoyed successful seasons, winning more matches than they lost in the various competitions.

It is pleasing to report on the progress of our girl golfers this year with Sarah Herd leading the way. Sarah won the PKSGA girls championship at Gleneagles from another Strathallan girl, Jenny Hay. Following this, she went on to represent the district in the Scottish Schools' Championships later in the season. Sarah's progress also meant that she was able to force her way into the school team, traditionally a male preserve.

Victories were achieved in team matches against Fettes, Merchiston, Breadalbane

Academy and Crieff High with defeat only being suffered at the hands of Morrison's and Loretto, the match against Glenalmond being drawn. The absence of some of the top players with exam commitments always gives the opportunity to others and this proved the case at Blairgowrie's Junior Invitation Day where our 4 "man" team of Gordon, Joe, Sarah and Duncan Bickerton won the event on the Lansdowne course. Duncan found that his opportunities to play were limited because of exams and the talents of the other golfers yet when he did get the chance to play he invariably did well. At Blairgowrie he was the individual winner and early in the season during a practice round at Auchterarder he achieved that rarest of birds an albatross at the 283 yard par 4. His first ever hole in one and for the rest of the season pupils and staff at this hole were asked if they could "do a Biscuiton" (sorry a private joke).

Ruthven won the Inter-House golf competition largely due to a fine round of 69 from Gordon Bujaud. As the exams took their toll during June it was possible to introduce some of the younger players to the team including Sean Murray, Matt Brebner, Liam Carragher and Craig Wallace. All showed promise for the future. Readers of last year's report may remember my comments about Sean's one match for the team against Loretto. Well this year he could only manage one appearance for the team, also against Loretto and despite his playing an opponent with a much better handicap he won his match again, making it 2 wins out of 2.

It seemed a good idea at the time to arrange a Staff v Pupils match, although a 5-1 victory for the pupils might suggest otherwise as far as

the staff are concerned anyway. In fact, despite the score there were some very close encounters. Gordon pushed Mr Weir all the way in the top match and lost despite being under par for his round; Mr Weir's 4 under par 67 being too good for him. Mr. Kitson had a tough battle with Daniel, only clinching defeat at the very end. Yours truly managed to lose easily despite being 4 up after 4 to Cameron Jack. Perhaps the closest match, though, was Joe Watson's against Mr Thomson. This match was "nip and tuck" all the way round and was finally decided in Joe's favour on the 18th. This was a real battle of the giants and a credit to both players for their competitiveness and sportsmanship. Joe, who had a very successful season, losing only 1 match said it was his toughest match of the season. If you want to know what Tommo said, come and see me privately.

Mr Keir and Mr Batterham found their respective opponents just a little too strong for them. We are already planning tactics for the return match next year. In order for the season to go smoothly and for the golfers to have all the opportunities to play requires the hard work of a number of people. I am once again greatly indebted to Mr Kitson for his unfailing help and support during the season. We were also able to welcome Mr Weir to the team and because he was willing to look after the golfers back at base we were able to have more games at private courses. It would also be remiss of me not to mention our groundsman, John Newell and his team. The quality of the school course continues to improve and we look forward to its continued development over the next few years



NS

With the number of schools who play competitive rounders now down to four we embarked on our new short season with a double home win for 2 senior teams against Glenalmond. This success was followed by mixed fortunes of a III Form win and a IV Form loss for our Juniors at Fettes.

Rounders

57

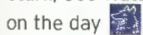
Returning to Glenalmond with our Juniors saw another double victory. The final matches of the season were played at Kilgraston where our V Form put out a team leading to their only loss. However, the III Form and Seniors maintained their unbeaten form for a great end to the school season.

The remainder of the season was taken up with Scotland rounders trials, practices and finally a tournament with England's best held here at Strathallan.

Congratulations to the following girls who took part in that weekend of International Rounders

Lucy Drummond-Hay, J. Whitelaw, Frankie Grieve, Caroline Melloy, Lizi Bush, Catriona Kelly, Katie Lyburn, Louise Wallace, Rhianna Terrell and Katie Fleming.

A special mention should be made of Strathallan boys Rounders team who came along, learned the rules and practised hard so they could join in the International tournament. This they did so well that they nearly won the whole event. Thanks to Tim Law, Ali Crearer, Simon Blood, Adam Wallace, Ewan Templeman, James Lawson, Sean Murray, Hian Stark, Joe Watson, Joel Moll and Blair Chalmers for providing real fun on the day



SRF



Cross country and Athletics

2003 proved to be an excellent year for Strathallan athletics.

As in previous years, it was the girls who led the way; the team of Samara Johnstone, Katie Fleming, Anna Macdonald and Jenny Hay winning the Scottish schools cross country senior event, and the athletics teams achieving their sixth consecutive unbeaten season.



Victores Ludorum:

Junior:

Ben Braithwaite Katie Scobie

Middle:

Stephen Gavin

Senior:

Gregor Duncan Katie Fleming

The boys were not to be left behind, however; Christoph Schulz and Stephen Gavin ran very well in the cross country season, and the athletics season began with an emphatic clean sweep of all four teams at Glenalmond, with final scores of 283-220 in Strathallan's favour, followed by a win for the girls against Kilgraston, and a good performance for the boys against Merchiston, the Seniors winning 52-48, and the under 17s just being defeated 50-56. This was a very close match, and a timely reminder of the importance of the "B" athlete in tight competitions.

Our visit to Edinburgh Academy was not notable for its success, 'though the spirit shown by the athletes to cover the seven missing regular team members was good to see.

Pride was restored in the Fettes match: an again under-strength senior side was defeated 48-56, but the under 17s showed the extent of their improvement throughout the term, and the benefit of a hard cross country season, with an excellent 62-44 victory. The girls were outstanding in this match, the Seniors winning by a massive 70-36 margin.

After such a good season, we expected success in the Scottish schools, and we were not disappointed. The under 15 girls, Jayne Carmichael, Fiona Campbell, Emily Fraser and Lauren Giles, won a Silver medal in the relays; Lauren went on to come 4th in the 200m final. Bronze medals were won by Michael Woodrow in the over 17 shot put, Jude Todd in the triple jump, and Samara Johnstone in the 3000m; Sarah Fleming won a bronze in the under 17 pole vault. Katie Fleming, in the over 17 400m, and Helen Summersgill, in the under 14 discus, both won Silver medals.

The good results of the year reflect the hard work put in by the individuals, not only in official sessions, but also in their own time, and during the visits to Pitreavie AC with Mr Fleming. There is no mystery to success in athletics; those who have achieved goals this year, whether they are medals in Scottish Schools, an improvement in their personal best, or a third place that clinches a match in Strathallan's favour, have done so in direct proportion to the work they have done. Moreover, the rewards are not instant: the exertions of the V Form might not bear fruit until the VI Form, and anybody hoping to succeed in this sport must look toward a major and lengthy commitment if they are to reach their true potential.

As ever, thank you very much to the staff who have given of their time to make the term a successful one, and who have allowed us to plunder their teams in our search of athletic talent.

The House Standards competition was won by Ruthven, Thornbank taking a notable scalp in winning the III Form competition. Ruthven and Thornbank were also winners on Sports Day.

Colours were reawarded to Katie Fleming and Samara Johnstone and awarded to Ewan O'Donnell. Half colours were awarded to Mel Forde, Gregor Duncan and Michael Woodrow 

DMH



STANDARDS

1st	RUTHVEN	1434	4th	FREELAND	1178
2nd	NICOL	1427	5th	THORNBANK	1077
3rd	SIMPSON	1216	6th	WOODLANDS	711

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BOYS' RESULTS

Event	Age	Winner	Time/Dist	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	G GUTHRIE	13.43	12.00	LING, T.	1971
100M	M	E WARDMAN	12.10	10.90	OGILVIE	1978
100M	S	M WOODROW	12.29	11.00	LOCHART/LING	1971
200M	J	G GUTHRIE	27.37	24.00	WALLACE, R.	1993
200M	M	E WARDMAN	25.10	23.20	LING T.	1973
200M	S	G DUNCAN	24.90	22.80	LING, T.	1973
400M	J	P BURGESS	65.90	56.50	COOK, C.	1987
400M	M	L CARRAGHER	61.50	52.50	MILLAR	1977
400M	S	H STARK	58.03	50.30	ROGER, G.	1982
800M	J	B BRAITHWAITE	2.32.2	2.12.90	LAWRENCE, C.	1984
800M	M	S GAVIN	2.15.7	2.03.06	LAWRENCE, C.	1985
800M	S	A STEPHENS	2.14.3	1.55.02	ROGER, G.	1982
1500M	J	B BRAITHWAITE	5.19.12	4.32.07	LAWRENCE, C.	1985
1500M	M	S GAVIN	4.54.41	4.14.05	BOND, R.	1988
1500M	S	A STEPHENS	4.44.0	4.09.02	BOND, R.	1989
HIGH JUMP	J	M RICHARDS	1.35	1.63	HOLMES	1965
HIGH JUMP	M	L CARRAGHER	1.45	1.77	CUTHBERTSON	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	M FORDE	1.60	1.95	COLQUHOUN , O	1999
LONG JUMP	J	B BRAITHWAITE	4.92	5.55	LEAR, C.	1967
LONG JUMP	M	S McDONALD	5.25	6.17	LAWSON	1967
LONG JUMP	S	G DUNCAN	5.60	6.52	SMELLIE, D.	1978
SHOT	J	A ROBB	10.92	12.83	WALKER, L.	1992
SHOT	M	J BECKS	10.53	14.73	McKENZIE, G.	1973
SHOT	S	M WOODROW	10.86	12.90	CALLANDER	1979
DISCUS	J	M KEISERIE	23.40	36.27	KNOX, S.	1974
DISCUS	M	B LERMAN	24.86	42.00	KNOX, S.	1976
DISCUS	S	J LOWE	30.30	40.26	McKENZIE, G.	1974
JAVELIN	J	N HARVEY	29.10	49.81	McBRIDE, J.	1969
JAVELIN	M	D LEGGE	35.24	49.81	McBRIDE, J.	1969
JAVELIN	S	R SNAPE	43.38	57.07	McBRIDE, J.	1971
4X100M	J	RUTHVEN	57.20	50.50	RUTHVEN	1987
4X100M	M	NICOL	50.82	46.60	SIMPSON	1972
4X100M	S	SIMPSON	49.73	45.50	FREELAND	1981
4X400M	J	FREELAND	4.38.59	4.09.07	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	M	RUTHVEN	4.09.09	3.53.49	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	S	SIMPSON	3.57.87	3.41.03	FREELAND	1992





GIRLS' RESULTS

Event	Age	Winner	Time/Dist	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	L GILES	13.89	13.00	STREULE, K.	1982
100M	S	K HAY	13.55	12.12	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
200M	J	L GILES	29.26	26.73	GILES, L.	2003
200M	S	A - L BREADEN	29.70	25.20	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
400M	J	C MELLOY	78.40	65.70	FLEMING, K	2000
400M	S	K FLEMING	65.13	60.00	REID, S.	1990
800M	J	K SCOBIE	2.48.0	2.26.2	FLEMING, K	1999
800M	S	K FLEMING	2.40.3	2.23.2	FLEMING, K	2002
1500M	J	K SCOBIE	5.59.14	5.14.09	BARLOW, A.	1992
1500M	S	S JOHNSTONE	5.38.02	5.05.10	MEIKLEJOHN, C.	1990
HIGH JUMP	J	F CAMPBELL	1.25	1.45	ORR, K	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	K CAMPBELL-MORR	1.40	1.55	RUTHERFORD, R	1987
LONG JUMP	J	FRASER, E	4.49	4.49	FRASER, E	2003
LONG JUMP	S	FLEMING, K	4.61	4.61	FLEMING, K	2003
SHOT	J	R MILLER	6.52	10.23	SANG, T.	1992
SHOT	S	A LANE	7.25	9.49	EDMUNDS, A.	1990
DISCUS	J	K SCOBIE	17.64	25.10	CHAPMAN, R.	1995
DISCUS	S	J HAY	20.83	26.60	CHAPMAN, R.	1998
JAVELIN	J	J STEWART	18.98	23.44	KOTSEROGLOU, M	2002
JAVELIN	S	TERRELL, R	22.87	22.87	TERRELL, R	2003
4X100M	J	THORNBANK	58.93	53.73	at Scottish cha	2003
4X100M	S	THORNBANK	54.96	53.62	at Scottish cha	2003
4X400M	J	WOODLANDS	5.10.42	4.39.37	THORNBANK	1992
4X400M	S	THORNBANK	4.42.36	4.42.36	THORNBANK	2003

This year Strathallan entered one team in the Intermediate section of this highly competitive event.

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Kilgraston Scottish School Equestrian Chamionships

The team members were :

Pamela Garratt	riding "Barney"
Olivia Streatfeild-James	riding "Taz"
Rachel Leslie	riding "Smokey"
Helen Summersgill	riding "Whisper"

All the girls put great effort and determination into the dressage section which was being strictly marked. Olivia achieved a highly commendable score, and Pamela was pleased to improve her marks compared to her score in last year's competition.

The showjumping section came next and the large fences were soon proving quite a challenge to the other twelve teams. I watched with delight and excitement as Pamela and Rachel completed superb clear rounds, followed by Helen, who just managed to knock down the last fence. They were the fastest team to finish on a score of four faults, so this placed them 3rd in the showjumping.

After last year's disappointment of just missing being placed, we were all thrilled to watch Strathallan in the line up for the first time, while the rosettes were being awarded and the cameras were flashing.

The final results were :

Overall (combined dressage and showjumping)	8 th
Dressage	9 th
Showjumping	3 rd

I would like to thank all the team members, their helpers (especially Sulekha Varma and Katie Potts), parents and staff, for contributing their time and expertise, and for helping make the day such a success 🏆

JAS



In September, Strathallian School took part in the Scottish Schools Dry Ski Slopes Championships at the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. Melissa Piper won the overall girls' event, and with excellent performances by Vicky Drummond-Hay, Jennifer Whitelaw and Katie Lyburn, Strathallian's team took first place.

Ski Season

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Our boys' team was disqualified in spite of Adam Wallace and Harry Workman being well placed. The girls subsequently qualified for the British Schools Championships, which this year took place on the familiar Hillend course (the steepest in Britain). Not intimidated by the fierce reputation of the English and Welsh girls on 'the mat', Melissa Piper was victorious again. Thanks to Vicky, Jennifer and Katie's great achievement, our girls were placed fourth overall.

The snow season started on an optimistic note with excellent skiing reported at the Lecht in October. However, the snow rapidly disappeared and the snow fall in January was insufficient for the Senior Championships to be held on the first scheduled date.

A further fall of snow at the start of February meant that the Minors Race was held in good conditions. Our girls' team finished 5th, with Jennifer Whitelaw grabbing the bronze and Francesca Grieve, Robynne Smith and Lucy Drummond-Hay finishing well placed. Our boys' team (Jack Workman, Piers Ranger, Duncan O'Reilly and Jonathan Dickson) finished 8th. Considering that for some of our children, ski racing was a novelty, our achievement that day was something to be proud of.

As the alternative date of the Senior Championships approached, the snow was melting at an alarming rate. Although temperatures in Glasgow were as high as 16°C

the day before the race was due, the event took place on the Harrier piste, where any snow which could be found in Scotland seemed to have been moved to. Access to the slope involved skiing down a burn and through a grassy path. The ski patrol kept shovelling snow onto the tow track and we were glad of everyone's effort to make this special day happen. Melissa Piper took the gold in the girls' event whilst Vicky Drummond-Hay, Katie Lyburn and Alex Sarney were well enough placed to see our team finish in 6th position. Our boys (Magnus O'Reilly, Adam Wallace, Harry Workman, and Simon Erdal) finished in 8th position, a respectable performance among such a crowd of seasoned racers.

At international level, Richie Duncan was selected to represent Scotland at the World Schools Championships in Schladming, Austria. He was particularly well placed in slalom.

The British Schools Championships were unfortunately a casualty of the poor season: this event was cancelled.

Beyond the schools circuit, the following results deserve a mention:

Melissa had a very successful season on the junior world circuit. She was selected for the Scottish Youth Team and thus travelled extensively around the globe. She was placed 4th in the Australian Junior Championships, and took two top ten places in the USA followed

by 3rd and 4th places in Austria. She was selected to represent Great Britain at the Youth Olympics in Slovenia and finished fastest British girl in the slalom. Melissa was also a finalist in the Perth Young Sportsperson of the Year Awards. She has been accepted by the Highland Institute for Sports as an A class athlete.

Richie Duncan had a fruitful season. He took the silver medal in slalom and bronze medal in giant slalom at the British (B.A.R.S.C.) races. He won the Meribel Cup twice and finished first and third in his age group at the British Junior Championships in Pitztal, Austria.

Magnus O'Reilly's season was also a success in Scotland and abroad. He won a Silver medal in giant slalom at the Alpine Cup in Tignes, France. At the John Clark Championships in Glenshee, he took two Silver medals in slalom. Another Silver medal and a Bronze medal were the reward of his achievement at the British Army Championships in Cairngorm.

Once again, we have been grateful for Scotland's determination to run races, regardless of how thinly the snow has to be spread on the course. The atmosphere at these events and the satisfaction everyone gets out of trying their very best makes it all worthwhile. We look forward to the record snowfall we feel we deserve for next winter



Fabienne Thompson



Joe Watson was reappointed as team captain and the year started with a flurry of shooting to get rid of the cobwebs before the Scottish Championship. We had several new members which promised much for the future development of the sport. Included in this group of novices were Mr. Shepherd and the Ed (aka Mr. Kennedy).

Clay Pigeon Report

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We continue to be hampered by the fact that our pupils do so much in their free time and trying to get whole teams together for a practice is difficult at best.

Antiquarian Booksellers use the term "fine" to describe a volume that is of the highest standard, thus I deliberately choose the same term in discussing this year's championship, it was a "fine" day all round.

Since 1999, when I took over the organisation of the competition from Donnie Allan, the event has been somewhat nomadic, both in terms of time and place. I am pleased to say that we have found a worthy home and time of year to suit everyone; the time, during our Indian summer mid September, and the place Cluny Clays. We had the added bonus this year of gaining support from "Clay Shooting" in the form of some wonderful trophies.

The competition was given a further boost by the fact that Kimbolton School one of the "Big Guns" (sorry Ed.) from South of the border came to take part as guests, despite the fact that as an English School they could not take home any silverware. Mark Bennett, their man in charge, organises the British Championships. I would like to thank Mark, Edward and their teams for making the long journey north and we look forward to seeing them next summer.

The competition was of a high standard and all the competitors gave of their best. The course, set by Lucy, asked many and varied questions of all the shooters; the spread of scores gives a good indication of the very demanding nature of the course (next year a short course for juniors

may be in order). Loretto A took the main senior prize. As Andrew Chapman only started the club last year, their achievement is all the more laudable. For the first time Andrew Wands brought a team from Ardvreck to compete in the junior competition and their A team of Harry Wolridge-Gordon, Giles Bromley-Martin and William Parry shot very well, but were pipped for the team trophy by Riley House from Strathallan whose A team of Nick Millar, Ashley Paledi and Michael Niven broke 4 more targets.

The effort and support of Robin & Drew Shedden, along with Lucy and all the staff, markers and scorers made the whole event run like a well oiled rabbit trap and I thank them for everything, I just hope that Robin puts in an early request with the god of shooting for similar weather next year. May I also take this opportunity to extend an early invitation to any other schools, clubs or individuals to enter the competition next year. Details can be had from Cluny Clays, Ricky Wright of the SCTA or me, Paul Vallot at Strathallan School.

Senior Competition Results:

2nd	Strathallan A	96/150
	Joe Watson	37 (2nd in High Gun Competition)
	Keith Brown	34
	Digby Legge	25
4th	Strathallan C	83/150
	Ken Mackenzie	28
	James Bennett	27
	Matthew Smith	28
6th	Strathallan B	74/150
	Peter Mackie	21
	Gregor Duncan	23
	Benno Rawlinson	31

Junior Competition Results:

1st	Riley A	51
	Nick Millar	16
	Ashley Paledi	20 (4th in High Gun Competition)
	Michael Niven	15
5th	Riley B	25
	Ian Lyburn	6
	William Campbell-Morris	6
	Tim Dickson	13





After a quiet Easter term during which the stalwarts continued to practise in all weathers, we began the run of events that led up to and beyond the Nationals, again held at Sporting Targets in Cambridgeshire.

A-team.

(J.Watson(cpt), B.Rawlinson, K.Brown, J.Bennett, M.Smith & D.Legge)

They shot very well, scoring 213 out of 300. This score would have won the competition 4 years ago, but this year it placed them 8th out of 32 schools. Joe Watson scored a very creditable 41/50 and thus finished 6th in the High Gun list. Benno Rawlinson and Keith Brown also shot well with scores of 40 and 38 respectively.

B-team.

(A.Garrett(cpt), J.Laing, L.Stewart, R.McCulloch, C.Terrell & S.Gordon)

This young and inexperienced side also shot well, finishing 8th out of 26 schools in all, Jash Laing and Alan Garrett posting good individual scores.

Riley (Prep School) team.

(N.Millar, T.Robertson & R.Gibson)

This was an inexperienced team, only one of them having shot in and won the Scottish Championship in September. The inexperience showed on some hard stands and the team score left them in about 7th place from 15 schools. Toby Robertson shot an excellent 22/32 and finished 5th in the High Gun list.

Despite the long journey (8 and a half hours each way) all had a good time and gained valuable experience which will stand them in good stead next year.

The inter-house and Old Strathallian shoots took place on Strathallian Day. Again the sun split the skies and all had a very enjoyable day. Nicol

took the inter-house trophy for the first time from Ruthven, while in the reinstated girls' competition, Thornbank pipped Woodlands in a close competition.

The school retained the OS challenge trophy despite an ex-Scotland Cap Nick Sneadleberg out-scoring everyone else on the day. In all another enjoyable year and my thanks again to CNC and to Joe Watson, our outgoing captain, for all their hard work and support over the year 🏆

PMV



Diving is just one of the many activities offered at Strathallan, but few can be more exciting. Luckily the 'master in charge' is well known for his sensible approach to life and calm-natured ways.....

The abyss

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Part I

Robert Henneberg
(BSAC Ocean Diver, PADI Advanced)

The summer term brought a feeling of apprehension as we embarked upon our external exams. In the background we also knew that we would be going on the diving expeditions with Mr McCann, to experience our first 'cold' open water dives and hopefully accomplish the grade of BSAC Ocean Diver.

Sam and Tasha were the first to venture into the cold depths of the Oban waters. It was unfortunate that their dry suits didn't quite fit. Either the boots were too big for their small feet or the new neck seals were too tight. Sam also had an unfortunate incident when her suit leaked through the inlet valve and she got very wet and cold on the first dive. But this did not hinder a 'ruffy tufty' diver like Sam and she plunged straight back in for the next dive.

Both Sam and Tasha were a bit wary of going on the half term trip after their excitement, unlike the frenzied Fergie and Robert who, having had a practice in the pool with the dry suits, were ecstatic at the thought of going diving once again with Dr. Carr (now at Edinburgh Academy) and Mr Cook (Big Tony who wears no gloves when diving - either crazy or just tough). They therefore didn't have as many problems with their buoyancy as Sam who didn't seem to like the bottom of the sea - she couldn't wait to get to the surface at break neck speed, not surprising, after being 'flushed' with freezing cold water.

The half term trip was a laugh, and even though we didn't get to dive the Breda, we learnt that Big Tone's secret of not wearing gloves while diving wasn't half as impressive as the fact that he easily managed the vindaloo from the traditional sub aqua club visit to the Indian down the road. Most others who tried it were just blown away. Not ideal when you're going to be trapped inside a rubber suit for 5 hours the next day I guess.

Now after the brilliant (and cold) experiences of diving the depths of Oban, including the Thwaites' mussel farm, we can look forward to the hot sunny beaches and warm clear waters of Egypt. By the time you read this we should have experienced the sharks, turtles and bronzing hot sun with Dr. Carr and Mr. McCann.

Robert

Part II

Tasha Smith (BSAC Ocean Diver)

Over half term Sam, Robert, Alex and I managed to complete 5 dives. Our first dive was at Dunstaffnage Channel, where there is a huge crack in a wall that you can follow against a gentle drift, and see huge lobsters, conger eels and loads of starfish. The visibility was pretty good and the current picked up just as we were nearing the end of the 50ft crevice. Mr. McCann gave us the signal to turn for home and we had a really cool drift dive back through the islands underwater kelp trees, which is such a relief from finning.

Our next dive was on the NE face of Maiden Island. It didn't have fantastic viz but was a good dive nonetheless. It had to end early when Sam lost control of her buoyancy and headed for the surface dragging Mr McCann all the way with her holding on to her fins to try and keep her at 10m. This was followed by our deepest dive, with a maximum depth of 18.8m, at Ard-na Cuile, an underwater cliff near the puffin dive centre. For some reason this dive was freezing, but we did see some really colourful sun stars, lots of starfish and anemones - the wall had plenty of bright life on it.

Our next descent was a training dive below Ganavan Hill. It was a really gently-sloping sandy bottom, ideal conditions for us to demonstrate our skills to our instructor. We practised doing controlled buoyant lifts and using alternate air sources, things that you need to be able to do to complete your Ocean Diver certificate. The visibility was great and the sandy bottom seems to make everything a lot brighter. There were loads of hermit crabs to play with, a few spider crabs and one huge edible crab (picking this up almost proved a terminal risk to the fingers). It turned out to be another good dive, and we got some training skills out of the way so that we could enjoy our last day in Oban.

Our last main dive of half term was at a mussel farm, which was really interesting to see. Ropes are hung from buoys to a depth of about 14m, and there is so much life growing on these ropes. Although they are supposed to be for the mussels to grow on, the ropes are also home to sea squirts and sea fans; fun to play with and shine torches at. The colours which were reflected were so vivid and bright. It was a good dive to finish off a highly enjoyable half term, and I look forward to exploring some more sites in the future.

Tasha



Oh, and by the way. Did I mention that the Sub-Aqua Club has just bought itself a fan-dabby-dozy new watch that goes down to 100 metres without batting an eyelid? Didn't I? Well I have now.

Despite a slow-down in the number of pupils being trained in the pool, there is still a very substantial bunch of divers and I hope that there will be as many pupils interested in the October 2004 trip to the Red Sea as there were in the 2003 expedition. Although Sports diving is, for me, a very private and relaxing experience, it is also one which demands that the pupils work for each other above and below the water and I have really enjoyed witnessing this year's bunch transform from 'faff-tastic' individuals into a really great team of fully-fledged rufy-tufy divers.

We, as usual, have Dr. Carr to thank for helping us run the Oban trips and Mr Walker and Mr Wilson for driving and maintaining our school boat "Strathallan" (funnily enough). Roger and Judith Thwaites for allowing the kids to experience a dive I don't think they are likely to encounter again, not to mention the fantastic bag of mussels which the pupils cooked in a chilli, garlic and white wine sauce once we got back to school - tasty, I can tell you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Cook, who retired from Edinburgh Academy this year after running their Sub-Aqua section for more than 10 years - he has an amazing enthusiasm and knowledge of diving at the tender age of 60 and I hope that he can come and help out once again next academic session



JJMc

A bigger splash

The refurbishment of the swimming pool and changing facilities is now almost complete. No longer will swimmers have to endure the sub-zero conditions their predecessors did; the transformation is indeed remarkable.

The protracted work carried out meant disruption to matches arranged at home and only two fixtures were fulfilled, both of which were won away. The first of these was at Morrison's Academy and the second saw the Strathallan Swimming Team victorious for the second successive year at Glenalmond.

The team has improved considerably over the year and it is a pity they were denied the opportunity to demonstrate their ability and strength in depth against other teams. Training sessions have seen the numbers swell and we currently have both girls and boys participating from III Form right through to Upper VI. Prospects for the immediate future are bright and the girls in particular appear very strong.

The team worked hard over the year in training and certainly benefitted from the visit of double Olympic medallist Nick Gillingham MBE. Nick invited no fewer than seventeen pupils into the pool and demonstrated basic 'feel for the water' concepts in all four main strokes. The fact that more than forty delegates from around the UK came to observe this innovative training session speaks highly of his reputation and expertise and we are immensely grateful for his attendance.

Paul Esparon and Rory Dewar were given the opportunity of challenging Nick on an individual basis over two lengths of the pool in the breaststroke and butterfly respectively. As expected in his strongest stroke, the breaststroke, Nick won with a bit in hand. However, in the butterfly Rory pushed him very close and Nick was gracious enough to admit he 'had a little left in the locker, but not a lot'.

Many many thanks go to Audrey Sime for arranging Nick's appearance as part of the Sporting Matters Conference.

Both the Standards and the Inter-House competitions were won by Ruthven and I would like to thank Sandra Fleming and David Barnes for their assistance with the time-keeping of these events.

Finally I take the opportunity of giving a special thank you to Vicky Watson who has been the Captain of swimming over the last two years. She has been a tremendous support to the team and to me and has proved to be outstanding in her role of captaincy.

We look forward to the year which lies ahead and are confident that the team can continue to strengthen in technique, ability and in depth 

DMcD

Sponsored Charity Run and Fun Day


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The sun has an agreeable habit of coming out to play in time for the Sponsored Charity Run and Fun Day and this year was no exception to that rule. The beautifully manicured course, measuring about 1.5 miles and named the "Duffy", after Bill Duff, whose initiative it was to organise a sponsored run four years ago, proved irresistibly attractive. 250 pupils, parents, staff and visitors walked, jogged, cycled and ran for the best part of Sunday 11 May in an attempt to raise funds for C.H.A.S., GET KIDS GOING! (who deal respectively with terminally ill and disabled children) and CANCER RESEARCH.

The day started with Caroline Sinclair's energetic and stylish aerobics warm up, which ensured that no muscle was left dormant. As soon as the course was officially open, a herd of pupils shot off down the hill with obvious competitiveness, whilst others gently strolled around our splendid ground, using the event as an excuse to have a good chat with friends. 7 ? hours later, Peter Hewitt was declared record breaker as he managed to equal last year's maximum number of laps (24), achieved indeed on a slightly shorter course, but in Peter's case in a much shorter period of time. Samara Johnstone won the girl's trophy, leading with 19 laps. The friendship between Jayne Carmichael, Lucy Drummond-Hay, Fiona Roy and Henry Jones proved to be solid throughout the entire event as they clocked 17 laps and took respectively the first Riley girl's and first Riley boy's prize. Adrian Duthie was grateful to his fitness and various bicycles (including an ancient one he acquired for a few pennies in a charity shop) when he finished his 23 laps and won the Sodexo Challenge. The newly introduced 500 metre Rowing Challenge managed by Ishbel McFarlane was most successful with both staff and pupils taking part. Amelia Lane (in 1:56:4) took the girls' prize and Ken McKenzie (in 1:29:3) the boys'. The arrival of horses enhanced the scenery further with Phoebe Shaw-Stewart and Helen Summersgill enjoying 4 laps of the specially adapted 'horsey' course. The Kiddies' Race, open to children under 11 and consisting of one lap of the athletics track, was a moment of high emotion for children and parents alike. Corrie Stewart (age 9) won the overall event and Rory Barnes (age 7) finished first boy. A dozen children crossed the finish line and were rewarded with balloons and stickers. They then came up beaming with pride and excitement as they received their category awards and spot prizes. Young Enterprise offered an exciting and popular display of craft goods for sale and the service of digital photography for anyone wishing to keep a personalised memento of this special day. Carole Duffy and her energetic catering team ensured we were duly fed and watered at lunchtime as they treated us to a rather luxurious barbecue picnic, which we ate under the most glorious sunshine. The raffle draw, professionally orchestrated by the Bursar, was awaited with much trepidation and lived up to expectations with its generous list of prizes and the colourful giant die-shaped bean bag which everyone present seemed to want to win.

In conjunction with Sunday's events, a 5 mile Road Race took place the night before. Donations at registration time poured into the charity box before Carnegie Harriers and local athletes went off and raced through

the school grounds and around the "Pilgie" under the eyes of attentive race marshals: Judy Todd, Iain Greig, Ewan and Andrew O'Donnell and Mario Pellici. Refreshments and a barbecue at the end proved most popular and the voices of a selection of the school's best solo singers rounded off a perfect evening.

This fourth edition of our annual charity event has raised over £4,000 to be divided between the three causes and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of those who have contributed financially or by giving up their own time to make this event such a success 

Fabienne Thompson



Good Friday, 1958. The letter had said: "I will meet you outside the Station Hotel at 10.00a.m. I will be wearing a Hawks tie." At exactly ten o'clock a shining Bentley drew up, and out stepped an immaculately dressed silver-haired gentleman in a Hawks tie.

W.N.S.H.

a personal reminiscence

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I introduced myself; he had no idea what I was talking about.

About two minutes later a rather battered Humber arrived, and out got a larger than life figure in a polo-necked sweater. Pulling down the neck, he revealed an ancient Hawks tie. That was how I met Wilf when I came for my interview. I never did find out who the other chap was.

Forty-five years later I look back, and I realise how lucky I was to be at a school under his leadership, which may explain – at least in part – why I stayed until my own retirement. At that time Strathallan was on the up, but it had some way to go in some eyes before it could say it was on a par with the big Edinburgh names. There were no past laurels to rest on; the School would be judged in the present. Advertising was very restricted under HMC rules, but one way to get the name before the public was through sport. Promoting excellence in sport was always close to Wilf's heart, a fact to which the fruit bowl filled with cricket balls in his study, his constant presence in the nets and on the touchline, and his appointment of young enthusiastic sportsmen on the staff all bore witness.

In 1963 we beat Fettes for the first time, away from home, and by 143 runs. When Colin Addison and I arrived back with the teams at about 8.30, we had to report on the match. Four hours and much refreshment later, and after much back slapping, I made my way home. At break the next morning a stern voice said: "Williams!" (that was ominous), "Williams! You were two minutes late for first period. Don't let it happen again!" As a matter of fact, I hadn't been, but no matter, good order and school discipline were back in place.

But important though sport undoubtedly was, it was the means to an end, for Wilf was a man of vision and of greater scholarship than he would admit. He understood only too well the importance of good academic results, and of taking on board the latest developments in education, or at least those that seemed sensible. In the early '60s, Richard Studholme, a brilliant and very enthusiastic linguist, was convinced that the School should have a language laboratory.

He drew up detailed plans, and with a little difficulty (Wilf tended to shy away from things technical), he managed to get an hour of the great man's time after lunch on a wet Tuesday afternoon in the summer. After a lengthy presentation, he asked Wilf what he thought. Wilf got up, opened the French windows, dug his shooting stick into the ground, and said, "If it stops raining now, there should be play by half past three." A deflated Richard left the plans with him. The following term a pilot scheme was launched, and a year later Strathallan was the first independent school in Scotland to have a fully equipped language laboratory.


The staff were always encouraged to pursue their own hobbies, interests and skills, provided they were prepared to share them with the boys. This led to clubs and societies – photography, play-reading, judo, and many more – being run by real enthusiasts, and I imagine there are many today who will talk of their interest in an activity being inspired at that time.



The School came first, or so we thought. There was a time in the late sixties when he seemed to go off the boil, he had little interest in what was going on, and we thought that he was over the hill. Then we learned that Gracie had had a health scare. Fortunately all was well, and Wilf's bounce was soon back. When the chips were down, it was family first, and there wasn't a member of staff who didn't respect him all the more for it.

After their final meeting with the School in the then new dining hall, Wilf and Gracie were piped back to their house, with the entire School forming a guard of honour, and they were applauded every inch of the way.

When I last saw Wilf a couple of years ago, he was banging on about the England cricket team and the lack of good technique. "But I like this young Vaughan," he said, "He keeps his head over the ball." Plus ça change!

I met him when I was a callow apprentice. He became a dear old friend, and I shall miss him .

David Williams

Strathallan 1930-39

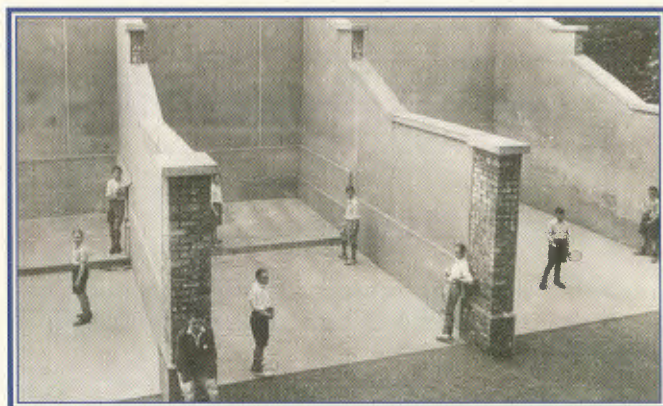
The 1930s began much as the previous decade had ended – with a further expansion both of the School's enviable facilities and of its reputation as an establishment which produced a good all-round education at competitive fee levels (fees were £44 per term in those days). Despite the parlous state of the country's economy in the early 1930s, Harry Riley was able to continue his ambitious programme of investment in the building infrastructure at Strathallan.

The Cricket pavilion, partly a gift of the India Rubber Company of Inchinnan, was opened in 1930, and the Melville Trophy inaugurated for the champion House at cricket. At the same time the new hard tennis courts were laid out on their present site, and the library moved to a location in the main building, above the main entrance. A 9-hole golf course was established at the newly-bought Thorneyshades in 1931, and two sets of Fives courts constructed, both Rugby and Eton. By 1936, the classroom blocks now occupied by the Geography department were open for use, and a new stage fully-equipped with curtains and lighting was available for the Saturday night cinema shows and school productions. Also in this year land was acquired to turn into international size rugby pitches – these later became Big and Little Acres – which required substantial levelling, extension and drainage.



Fives Courts

There were two types of Fives Courts put up at Strathallan: Three Eton Fives courts at the back of the gymnasium in the autumn of 1933 and, in the spring of 1934, Rugby Fives courts were opened, roofed and artificially lit. This latter building also housed the school tuckshop.



Big Acre was ready for use in 1938, Little Acre the following year. All of this, of course, required money, and Riley continued a prior trend of financing changes out of available income rather than entering into debt. His personal parsimony was legendary, and conditions at the school were spartan, though all were well fed and administered to by Riley's sister, May, and her staff. Let us all remember that Strathallan at this stage of its development was still a privately owned concern, and not the public school that it is today.

This decade saw an increasing number of scholarships won to both Oxford and Cambridge – five to Cambridge in 1935 and twelve to the same University in 1937. Education department inspections in the mid-1930s also praised the academic excellence of the teaching at Strathallan whilst recognising that classes were rarely selective. They comment on the discipline and excellent classroom behaviour of the boys and their happy relations with the teaching staff, a facet of Strathallan life commented upon in a pastoral inspection as recently as the late 1990s.

One of Strathallan's innovations of this period was to teach the final year boys university-level courses in accountancy and economics, actuarial science and mercantile law. Classes were also taught in pure science, medicine, law and engineering. Riley believed that it was his calling to make boys good as well as knowledgeable, and he endeavoured to educate, in the widest sense, each boy in his own particular field so that they would be able to 'accept with confidence the responsibilities of manhood'.



View of Strathallan from the East

This picture dates from sometime in the late 1930s, we think, as Simpson House (1928), Rothesay Pier (1935) and the Activity Block (now the Art department) were relatively newly built. The lawn in the foreground of the picture was set aside for Junior Cricket in the summer term.

The 1930s was also to be a decade of firsts for the School – T. M. Hart, cricketing star of the mid-1920s became the first Strathallian to play rugby for Scotland (against Ireland and Wales in 1930), and achieved an Oxford Rugby Blue in 1931. He also went on to represent Scotland at cricket in 1936 as a member of the Clydesdale club. The formal establishment of an Old Boys' association in 1933 was a first in the School's history, initially under the presidency of D. O. Melrose, and later Harry Riley made the school over to the Strathallian Club in 1938 under its Trustees John Maitland Cowan and David Bogie. This latter event was crucial in ensuring that the School survived the death of the Founder in September 1942, and emerged from the War years battered but able to rebuild.

This link with the Strathallian Club was very close to Harry Riley's heart. He had always encouraged Strathallians to come back to school at any time to see the progress which had been made, and to reminisce about earlier days. In this respect the 1930s saw the beginning of fixtures at both Rugby and Cricket between School and Club, together with competitions for swimming and athletics, events which in 1938 were developed into the School's first Commemoration Day, and which have in recent years become Strathallian Day.



View from the Cloakroom

This we believe to have been taken around 1936, a year after Rothesay Pier was constructed, but a year before Big Acre was levelled and brought into use as the main Rugby Pitch.



Front Entrance


We cannot date this picture with any real certainty except to say that it falls sometime between 1920 and 1940. This Old Beech Walk, which ran from the side of the main building across what is now the Chapel Lawn, was one of the most beautiful sights in the School's property.

The Dining Room

This dates from the mid 1930s and was housed in the ground floor of what then was Simpson House but is now the Theatre in the main School building. At that time pupils sat in Houses supervised by a member of staff at the end of each table. You will notice the School Honours Boards hanging on the wall in the background.



In these days of major sporting and cultural tours to Prague, Spain, Australia and the West Indies, amongst other places, it is easy to overlook the fact that both Harry Riley, his deputy Willie Ward and senior languages master A. J. Shaw themselves took senior boys on trips to the continent in the 1930s. Strathallian Hugh Scott (1936-38) tells us of a trip to the continent at Easter 1938 in Riley's Austin Convertible. "The route took us from Edinburgh to Rome with overnight stops in the East Midlands, Folkestone, Brussels, Koblenz, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Lugano, Milan, Venice and Florence, finishing with two nights in Rome. In Venice we stayed in the Hotel Royale Danieli, no less, right on the Grand Canal... we attended theatre and opera performances in Freiburg and La Scala, Milan respectively. On the return journey, the idea had been to include Vienna, but Hitler intervened and it was considered imprudent to go there on the very weekend when voting was to take place on the Anschluss between Germany and Austria." These trips were a regular feature for boys who could not go home during the holiday periods, and one of them became almost legendary, for, in 1939, according to one Strathallian, on his visit to Poland and the city of Danzig Riley was suspected of being a British agent and temporarily detained. Shades, perhaps, of a similar incident in 1914 when it is alleged he visited Belgium and Germany.

This trip of Hugh Scott's was disrupted by the threat of a gathering shadow on the European horizon. Riley himself had been badly affected during the Great War by the fate of several Strathallians, and pupils of that period all commented upon his mood's being dictated by the state of the war. Now he and his School were to be visited again by the spectre of war and the inevitable resultant casualties. It had always been a source of pride for Riley that Strathallians were to be found all over the world, in business, commerce, the service of the Empire, and in the armed forces. Now, as the war began in September 1939, he was once again to come to terms with the loss of 'his boys' killed in France, at sea, or in the far East 

RHF



Classrooms

All these pictures date from the mid 1930s when these classrooms were built to house the Junior School, Middle School and Workshops, in addition to Chemistry and Physics Laboratories. They were all opened by 1936 and form, still, the north side of the present teaching quadrangle.



Tennis courts

These were constructed originally in the late 1920s/early 1930s, but later extended and re-surfaced in 1936 with two new courts established. The courts were upgraded in the 1980s, and again in 2002, and 6 high class rubberised



Visiting Lecturers

Sex, Death & Geography

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From the way that Dr Downhill was literally bouncing up and down about the talk in the geography lesson beforehand we presumed that Dr Kesby would be a very good speaker, and we were not disappointed. The meal with Dr Kesby went very well and the conversation was varied and interesting. We did occasionally touch upon geography and a heated debate was begun about the consequences of migration to and from the UK.

In the excellent setting of the Music Room, Dr Kesby presented an interesting and revealing talk upon the Aids Pandemic Worldwide, aptly named 'Sex, Death and Geography'. The facts that he was able to bring to our attention are often well hidden by the media.

The topic provided many good talking points and the U6 A-Level geographers had a great many questions for Dr Kesby. The evening was well received and we thank Dr Kesby for spending the time to give this talk.

Adam Wallace

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Visiting Lecturers

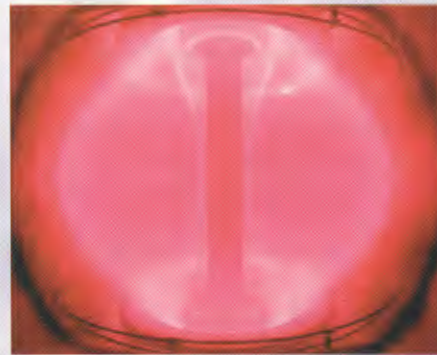
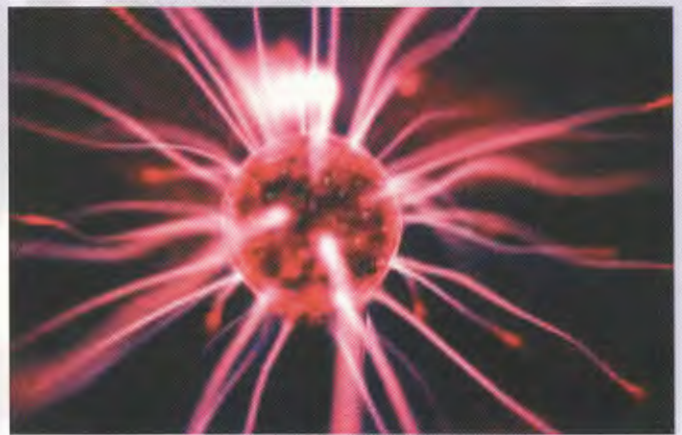
Bringing the sun down to earth

77

In late March 2003, Strathallan played host to a lecture by Dr Kieran Gibson of the Department of Physics, UMIST. In a lecture titled "Fusion Power: Bringing the Sun Down to Earth", Dr Gibson outlined the impending energy crisis facing the developed world (for example, did you know that we all, on average, use the equivalent power required to heat half a averaged sized house...continuously?) Given the increasing needs of the developing world, Dr Gibson described how there was no easy solution to this energy problem. Dwindling fossil fuel resources, the "greenhouse" effect brought on by burning these fuels, not to mention the environmental concerns associated with conventional nuclear power stations; all of these mean that mankind must seek an alternative, long-lasting and clean alternative energy source.

Controlled fusion power, in which elements like hydrogen are "fused" together, promises essentially limitless energy supplies in the future with minimal waste products. This is the source of power that drives the whole universe: for example, the sun is driven by fusion power. The problem in controlling this power for producing electricity is that we have to create a miniature "sun" on Earth. As Dr Gibson explained, to do this we have to contain a very hot gas (a "plasma") at 300 million degrees Celsius, using very strong magnetic fields. For the last 50 years researchers have been developing the magnetic "bottles" to contain these miniature suns, with a great deal of success. As Dr Gibson detailed in his talk, all of this work will culminate in the next 20 years with the building of a trial fusion reactor called "ITER", that will test how future fusion reactors can be used to produce electricity. So, with any luck when you boil a kettle in 30 years time, the power source may well be from a green, clean, fusion power reactor.

SBD



VI Form Common Room

This year's committee was led by David Shepherd and Jude O'Mara, helped by Andrew Hayward, Hal Marshall, Blair Chalmers, Howard Gray, Holly Harvey, Sulekha Varma & Lauren Welstead. The CR was given funds to buy some new furniture and so PMV went on a shopping trip to IKEA. The result was a retro 60s lounge which looked like a part of the set from an Austin Powers movie. We also changed the entrance to allow members to enter directly into the lounge area and invested in a DVD player and a new music system.

The events were well attended and the behaviour of members was generally a credit to all concerned. The Christmas Party showed that some members had a vivid imagination to say the least. The games night was again a huge success and all returned to their houses tired and happy. Even Mr. Bush was seen attempting the assault course, as the committee again offered Riley a chance to use the facilities before the VI Form arrived.

Easter term was very busy, with the first Comedy Night which Mr. Kennedy sharply described as being "Sexy, not sexist. Racy, but not racist." Professional comedians from around the UK came to the School to entertain the VI Form. Barry Hall compered the evening and kept the masses wanting more. Barry returned during the summer term with Sarah Kendal to perform in the theatre and we were fortunate to be able to see the work of a couple of top-class stand-ups both of whom were performing at The Fringe during the summer.

The staff were again invited by the VI Form to join them for a roast pig B-B-Q at the start of the summer term. The event took place in the Music room as our usual space had been handed over to the Medical Centre for use by those in who had been had been potentially exposed to the SARS virus.

My thanks again to David and Andrew who worked tirelessly for the CR and to all the committee for their hard work throughout the year. My thanks also to RJWP & DSH for their continued help with events and to Alex who continued to clean up our mess and fix our breakages without a word of complaint

PMV



Sunday 1st June 2003

Strathallian Day was held on Sunday 1st June 2003, and over 220 former pupils with their friends and families came back to the School to enjoy a day blessed with perfect weather.

Strathallian Day

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The School 1st XI v Strathallians cricket match was the first event of the day, and the weather was already so enticing that it proved difficult to draw guests inside for the formal welcome at noon. A concert in the Chapel was followed by an excellent lunch, served in the Music Room but enjoyed by many outside in the sunshine.

The afternoon programme included a number of matches in different sports between the current pupils and the Strathallian teams. The School won the Girls Tennis and Clay Pigeon Shooting competitions, while the Strathallians won the Football and Touch Rugby. The Cricket resulted in a draw.

Other attractions during the day included Art and Design Technology exhibitions, Croquet, Golf driving and chipping competitions, and swimming for the children - which proved to be a hit on such a warm day! For most of the guests, the main appeal of the event was the chance to have a look round the School, remark on the changes, reminisce on old times and chat with old friends.

Among the guests were former pupils who left as long ago as 1939, and some who left as recently as 2001. Some had not visited the School for many years, and had plenty of tales to tell of "the good old days"!

Strathallian Day is just one of the activities organised to keep former pupils and the families and friends in touch with the School. In the pipeline are plans to develop a web-based Strathallian community, which will enable former pupils to get in touch with one another, track down old friends and make new acquaintances with Strathallians who share similar interests.

In the meantime, we will continue to plan for another excellent Strathallian Day in 2004 - hopefully benefiting from similar fantastic weather!

LMN

Comedy Nights


The jokes were flowing, the drinks were being poured (or spilled in the case of some rowdy pupils) and the abuse was being hurled at various groups around the room - Justus and Lachie being the main recipients, although Lachie gave as good as he got.

Jokes ranged from the lack of alcohol at the 6th Form events (obviously some improvement is needed Mr Vallot) to the pay rate of EasyJet pilots.

All comedians need audience participation in their shows and there was no lack of it at Strath - Lauren's participation in both shows was particularly appreciated.

But the show didn't stop when the curtain went down in the theatre. Oh no. The Ibiza crew got up close and personal with certain comedians who resembled Patrick Keilty (but don't worry Sioned, it's okay to be second choice).

Lauren's participation in both shows was particularly appreciated.

We'd like to thank Mr Vallot for organising the night - we all thoroughly enjoyed it and I'm sure the comedians enjoyed coming to a grand public school like Strath (despite the fact that their drinks were stolen by front-row girls.) They were great nights and will hopefully be repeated in the near future 

Steph Murray

VI Form Ball

80


Innumerable changes occur in school with an approaching ball. One of the worst hit areas is the salad bar. The usually bounteous green boxes are stripped of their healthy contents by the female population of the VI Form, many of whom were rather optimistic when they bought their dresses. In House little else is spoken of for months, if not years. The unfortunate teaching staff struggle in vain to empty minds of tiaras, shawls and partners for long enough to cram in something of practical worth.



There is only one exception to this blanket feeling of upheaval... the boys' Houses. Here sanity reigns as always, while all about are losing theirs.

On the night our men turned up beautifully presented, so that we girls suspected there had been a degree more consideration of the event than they had previously implied.

Under the new management of Mr Walmsley and Mr Barnes the ball ran in the successful tradition set by Mme Crane and Mr Kitson. Photos, food and footwork were indulged in by both experienced and naive ball-goers.

The hours sped by and all too soon we had to leave with mixed feelings of grief and panic at the thought of filling conversation after the inevitable post mortem. Fortunately for us, we have another year to look forward to 

Ishbel McFarlane



This trip was not for the squeamish. On January 19th 2003, the Lower VI Higher and AS classes travelled to Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh for the sixth consecutive year.

Biology Trip to Surgeons Hall

81



Since its foundation in 1505, the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has continually promoted the raising of standards in surgical practice. The College also plays the role of a museum which shows the history of surgery.

The classes were split into two groups and each was given a guided tour of the museum by an experienced retired surgeon. We were told about various famous surgeons and how methods had changed. It was mentioned how anaesthesia had only recently been discovered; before its discovery surgery was excruciatingly painful and lightning quick.

The most appealing part of the tour for most was observing the countless preserved body parts of human beings. Further entertainment was provided when one pupil managed to faint.

After the tour of the Royal College we went to Lazio's, an Italian restaurant, to examine more body parts and complete a thoroughly enjoyable outing.

Rory Carmichael

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As part of our Spanish course we got the chance to travel to Spain with Mr Shields, Mr Kennedy and Mrs Hunter. We left school at five in the morning and arrived tired and sizzling in the midsummer heat of Madrid.

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That afternoon we went for a walk in the beautiful Parque del Retiro and some of us went rowing on the lake in the middle of the park. That night, after dinner in the Hostal Cantábrico we took an open-top bus tour around the city. This gave us some brilliant opportunities to catch the wonderful sights of Madrid in the moonlight.

The next day we travelled to the beautiful city of Toledo where we visited the cathedral and a traditional factory which produced not only beautiful jewellery but swords and knives as well. We returned to the hotel weighted down with enough weaponry to capture a small village. We didn't immediately get an opportunity to try out this theory but instead made our way to the Plaza Mayor where we saw mimes and other street performances (some better than others, I might add). We also saw the stalls that line the streets day and night selling anything from watches to football strips and CDs that don't quite work.

On Wednesday we visited the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía where we saw the Picasso painting Guernica, painted in outrage against the bombing by Nazi planes of the town of that name during the civil war. The sheer complexity of it was crazy and you could really tell that the painter was horrified at the massacre. We then visited the railway station called Atocha, which houses, amongst other things, a strange tropical forest with live tortoises. Later we went to El Corte Inglés, Madrid's largest department store.

On Thursday we visited Segovia and saw the huge cathedral housing an exhibition of Christian art. We also had a look at the overly ostentatious castle, used by Walt Disney as a model for the one that features in Cinderella.

The trip was amazing and we all got to see what the real Spain was like, rather than the version offered by the tourist traps at the coast. Despite the heat and the noise, and there were plenty of both, I had a really great time.

Duncan Clark, III Form Simpson



In June 2003, for the second time, a group of VI Form pupils and teachers from the Eifel-Gymnasium in Neuerburg, Germany, travelled to Scotland to spend a week in Edinburgh and to visit Strathallan School. This time we also had a group from the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium in Trier with us. We stayed in the youth hostel in Edinburgh's West End, an ideal centre from which to explore Scotland's capital city.

Neuerburg comes to Strathallan

83



On Wednesday, we visited Strathallan School. Mr Kennedy had fixed up e-mail contacts between the schools, so some of the German and British pupils knew each other already.

The German visiting staff, Herr Gunter Klar, Headteacher of the Eifel-Gymnasium, Frau Gabriele Keck, Head of English and in charge of the group, and Frau Isabella Cosacchi, a music teacher from the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium, were introduced to Mr Bruce Thompson and to other colleagues at Strathallan who teach German. It was nice to see Adam Streatfeild-James again (we knew him from a previous visit) and to meet Alice Young.

The German pupils were made welcome in Simpson House's common room, and then paired up with Strathallan pupils, who showed them around for the day. For our pupils it was most interesting to see a British school which is of similar size to their own: the Eifel-Gymnasium is also a boarding school. The structure of houses is not known in German schools, and there is also no school uniform. So first impressions identified interesting differences, but the pupils also found a lot in common in the course of the day.

We then went together with the paired-up pupils to German lessons, and were impressed how much they had learned in less than a year. The group of music students were shown the music department and received a very interesting introduction to bagpipe music by Jennifer

Hutcheon, the Pipe Major. Back in Edinburgh, the music teacher even bought herself a practice chanter to take bagpipe music to classrooms in Germany.

At lunch, our pupils appreciated the large range of food on offer every day at Strathallan. In the afternoon, there was a choice between listening to the single piping competition or participating in one of the sports activities. We were fascinated by the young pipers, all in their kilts, even the girls. We realised that bagpipe music is not something only for tourists, but a tradition for the people, which is being passed on to the next generation. Some of our pupils had opted for clay pigeon shooting, not a sport offered at German schools: apparently some turned out to be quite talented at it. Sweeping views over the Strathallan grounds and a light breeze made for a perfect Scottish afternoon. Everyone certainly enjoyed it very much.

At around 4 pm, we thanked the British pupils who had shared the day with us and who had given us a valuable glimpse into school life in a different country. As souvenirs of Strathallan we all received lapel pins and a Strathallan leaflet. Having swapped more e-mail addresses, we waved good-bye, and travelled with our coach back to Edinburgh via the Trossachs.

We are hoping to welcome a group from Strathallan to Trier and Neuerburg soon.

Gabriele Keck, Head of English

A quick flick through back copies of the Strathallian would show you that I am no stranger to long bus journeys. Not content with limiting my time sleeping upright to Strathallan tours I joined students from across Scotland and England on a bus from Perth to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Euroscola

2003

84



I had been nominated to attend the Euroscola trip in the Easter holidays by members of my local Rotary club in Kinross and it was not until I actually boarded the bus that I discovered that every other member of the trip was in the year above and taking an Advanced Higher or an A2 in French. The entire visit was geared to increasing our confidence in using the French language. Having dropped the subject after GCSE I felt as if I had been plunged head first into minefield of problems. The memory is so disturbing I'm mixing my metaphors.

Luckily for all concerned (a panicked Ishbel is not an animal you want to spend time with) the language teaching of Strathallan saved the day. Having always been spoken to in French in my three years' learning, even from my first lesson, I had no major problems understanding vast quantities of high-speed French purely from memory.

Anyone desirous of a long lie was sadly disappointed on the first day in Strasbourg as we went into town for the Sunday service in the stunning Gothic cathedral. Being able to generally follow a service in French was a great boost and this was just one of the ploys of the organisers to make us more assured. Another example were quizzes with answers that could only be acquired by asking local people. My group made a bee-line for the Information Touristique (That is not cheating. It's showing initiative).



This just reinforces my theory that all that we do in school and out of school is, and should be, so closely inter-connected that the distinctions are blurred

For lunch that day I had my first ever Tarte Flambée, an Alsacienne speciality I have since craved. It had to build me up for the survey we did of the innocent inhabitants of Strasbourg. Surprisingly many people were willing to stop for us to quiz them on their knowledge of Scottish culture and the European Union. This was a great success, especially considering we had been quaking in our kilts at the thought of approaching real live French people, *zut alors!*

We then hiked up to the top of the cathedral (another familiar activity as far as school trips are concerned) and had an impromptu Gay Gordon's at the top, undoing all our admirable attempts to break down French stereotypes of us British.

As with every night we had a short session of preparation to learn phrases or facts necessary for the day ahead. None of our group was particularly well versed in the technical language of architecture, and that just so happened to be what we needed for the next day and the tour of historic Strasbourg.

This was the event of the week which I particularly enjoyed. The combination of the fascinating history of a town so banded between France and Germany and the fact that I could understand all our guide told us, made my week. We rewarded our talent with shopping in the afternoon before returning to the hotel to prepare for the all important final day.

The Euroscola day was central to our entire trip and all the activities beforehand, fun as they were, were designed to encourage our use of additional languages on the day. Our reputation preceded us due to the equal commitment of previous Scottish groups brought by the same scheme. Thus we were allowed a photo opportunity at "l'escalier d'honneur", a privilege bestowed on no other group. We then joined the 400 delegates from 13 European Union member states for a question and answer session with some of the MEPs. Our little group asked almost half of the 24 questions addressed, all in perfect French, *bien sûr*.

At lunchtime we took part in a parliament-organised euroquiz with team mates from another three countries and in the afternoon broke up into working parties of 80 to discuss issues relevant to young people in Europe. In my group, discussing the Future of an expanding Europe, I was elected "la Présidente" through a system of nomination and votes. My main duties were splitting the young people into smaller transnational groups through which I would circulate and often helped translate between, much to my surprise. Here my GCSE in German also proved invaluable.

With twenty minutes left I got back together with le rapporteur and le secrétaire to compile a report. My rapporteur, Antoine, utterly petrified, abandoned any pretence at speaking English and conversed in super-sonic French. My ability to comprehend all he said about a common agricultural policy in the prospective Eastern European member states was another testimony to great teaching. I then chaired a discussion as to the report's accuracy in our working party, before returning to the main debating chamber so that Antoine could relay it to the entire assembly. It was rather frightening to then realise that I too had a speech to make. Anyone who doesn't feel bungee jumping gives a big enough buzz should try writing and giving a speech in French and English, with

simultaneous translation, to a room filled with 500 Europeans. Here I also clung onto skills I had learnt outside the classroom at Strath, particularly LAMDA and debating.

I was so lucky to have the opportunity to go to Strasbourg and as a direct result I have once more picked up French. This fact just reinforces my theory that all that we do in school and out of school is, and should be, so closely inter-connected that the distinctions are blurred. So, you have the benefit of learning an important life lesson without travelling all the way to France. No need to thank me

Ishbel McFarlane

Scottish Schools Prize Essay Competition

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Ishbel McFarlane achieved third prize out of nearly 200 entries in the Scottish Schools Essay competition run by the library of the University of Paisley (sponsored by John Smiths Booksellers).

The prize was presented by Alan Taylor, author and journalist.

The subject of the competition was "Ban a Book" in which pupils were expected to write about a book, or books which had either been, or should have been, banned. Ishbel wrote about Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

IIMcF

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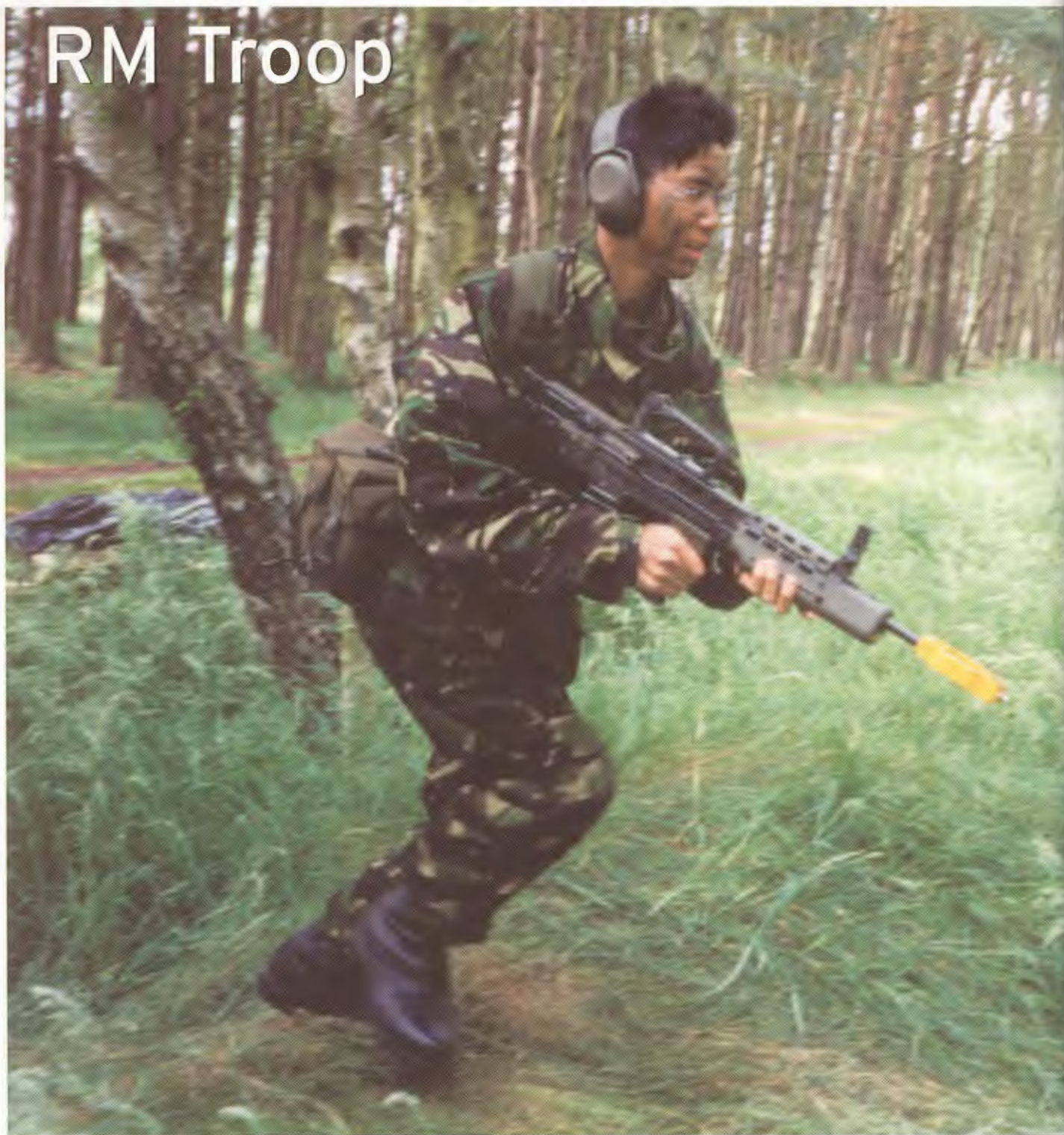
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RM Troop

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This has been another busy year for the RM Troop: we started the year with a new system of recruitment which meant that the new intake were not identified by uniform until things had settled down, so there were around forty potential Royal Marines cadets including the nine girls (of whom more later).

Summer 2002 ended with Central Camp at Cultybraggan, attended by eleven RM cadets along with the Army element. There were excellent reports on them from those running the camp and from Mr. Lindsay. Sadly, Gareth Everett and Calum Emslie were unable to go to the RM Camp at Garelochhead, and it was left to the stalwarts to carry the flag for Strathallan (i.e. Mr. Walmsley and I attended).

It was rumoured that Andrew Campbell passed his weapon handling test at Cultybraggan, but on the first exercise of the year, the work-up for Pringle which we held in mid-September, he succeeded in frightening a number of seasoned veterans (not to mention the rest of his year group).



The Pringle Trophy was a mixed experience: as the holders of the trophy we were bound to be in the public eye, but as things turned out we had a young team and were short on experience - we did not have enough team members over the age of 16 to make up the full squad for the endurance run, and although the whole competition was good training for the future, we did not return with the big prize. Next year?

The term continued with the excellent "Exercise Extreme Prejudice", our October Field Day which saw the combined forces of the Troop pitched against the might of Greenstate (ably played by the senior Army cadets) who were attempting to attack our Recruits exercise. We hear a lot about Blue on Blue incidents in the press these days, and Fraser Philip


proved that a military background is no safeguard against such problems, when his patrol attacked our own headquarters area. By the way, I am looking out for more names for exercises: in the past couple of years we have had Exercises Extreme Prejudice, Hot Lead, Cold Steel, and Cutthroat, (How about Sexed-Up Dossier? Ed) against such adversaries as the British Livestock Offensive Battalion, the Perthshire Livestock Offensive Patrol and the Freedom Army for Republican Tayside). I must get Lt. Walmsley on his Advanced course at Frimley so that he can take over some of the planning!

The Spring term is always a difficult one to fill with meaningful and motivational training, but we were helped out this year by a number of outside organisations who kindly gave their time and enthusiasm to enliven our Wednesday afternoons: on January 22nd Lt. Campbell brought a wide range of hardware over from H.M.S. Neptune, and we were able to look at and even get our hands on the sorts of weapons which one usually only sees in Sylvester Stallone films. Following on from that, RSM Bob Turner hosted the senior cadets at RM Condor for a demonstration and practical on house clearing (FIBUA in military speak - Fighting In Built-Up Areas). This was the coldest afternoon's work I can remember, but the RM cadets are well known for their resilience. Finally the RM Visibility Team came along towards the end of the term to give us a comprehensive introduction to survival skills: the pièce de résistance was the cookery, which included trout and rabbit. Fraser gave an impromptu demonstration of the possible uses of rabbit skins, of which the less said, the better.

The term ended with the mildly named Exercise Spring Roll, which was intended to be the qualifying exercise for the recruits' fieldcraft skills. It was a good one, though there was a certain amount of chickening out amongst the less hardy recruits; and it didn't rain - quite something for early March. Fraser managed to behave himself on this occasion.

The RM Mess Dinner this year was the most ambitious to date and the first to include Ladies as guests of the cadets. We were very pleased to welcome Lt. Col. and Mrs. Roy as the guests of honour (much to Emily's dismay, as she had also been invited), also the Headmaster, Major Legge and Captain Walker and their wives. The event was a resounding success despite Lt. Walmsley's speeches, and I must thank him, the musicians and the caterers for their efforts. It was appropriate that the first Ladies' Night should have taken place in the year in which we welcomed (subject to her completing an overnight exercise) our first female R.M. cadet, Lizi Bush.

As we look forward to the end of the year and to annual camp (again, both at Cultybraggan and at Garelochhead), it is time to say goodbye to our current Upper Sixth: RSM Mark Riley and Col. Sgt. Calum Emslie will be leaving us at the end of the term; both have been excellent leaders and first class RM Cadets.

Thanks are due to many: Lt. Campbell of the Fleet Protection Group, Lt. Col. Roy for the continuing support of RMR Scotland, Major Corde of RMR Scotland for supplying us with kit, the RM Visibility Team, RSM Turner, Captain Ian Waddell, WO1 Lindsay, Lt. Higginbottom, Captain Walker and of course, Lt. Walmsley (RMR CCF). Thanks also to all those cadets who have made the year the success that it has been 

The start of the Autumn term saw an encouraging number of Fourth Form recruits, no fewer than forty in total, all of whom technically belong to the Army Section. By June, as I write, the Section totals thirty - much more like it.

Naming of parts

CCF Army Section

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Due to a shortage of officers training has of necessity been a combined effort with the RM Troop: unfortunately the hopes that SWS would be taking over the leadership of the Army were not realised, and it has fallen to me to keep things going until the situation is rectified. This has not held us back.

Once again we entered a team in the Highland Cadets Tactical Competition, and had the distinction of gaining the highest score in the Section Attack - not a small achievement given that there were about twenty teams competing including the ACF ones. The Team was well led and well motivated; there were some areas in which they performed below par but there is plenty of potential there and they only lose one member of the squad next year, so we should be in good shape then.

Field Day saw the seniors playing enemy for the RM exercise, a task they carried out with a certain amount of flair. The Recruits had originally been going to stay out overnight as well, but due to a shortage of equipment it was thought better to bring them out to Barry Buddon for the day: they had a series of practical lessons to perfect their camouflage techniques, were introduced to compo rations (yum) for lunch and then went on the assault course. The course at Barry is a demanding one, and although most of the recruits ended up wet to the waist they did at least seem to enjoy it.

**this is the only
opportunity I know of in
school where our pupils
are taught how to teach,
and it is no walk-over**

The second part of the term saw the Methods of Instruction course for the V Form: this is the only opportunity I know of in school where our pupils are taught how to teach, and it is no walk-over. There were some notable "withdrawals" from the course, but (together with the RM Troop) a number of successes too. Those who do pass the course will in future be awarded a BTEC certificate in Public Services which, I am told, is equivalent to four GCSE passes.

The Recruits have been working hard for the most part, though not all have sustained the drive and interest which they showed at the outset. I was very impressed with them in September, and still feel that there are a majority who have worked hard and gained a good deal. Some have yet to pass out and proceed to Cadet status, mainly because they have not attended an overnight exercise: some will do so at Annual Camp in July, the remainder will have to wait until next term. It was also encouraging to see a good number of girls back in the CCF; we have a full Section at the moment, and with the appointment of our new Spanish teacher,



O/Cdt de Celis Lucas, next term we should have a full-time female Officer to look after them.

The morale of the Army Section has taken a good number of knocks over the last two years, but I hope that things are now on the mend. Certainly we have a fine core of leaders for next year, and with continued effort there should be a good future for us.

Many thanks to all who have worked hard for us this year: Mr. Lindsay in particular, but not forgetting Mr. Higginbottom and Tim Law. Tim will be leaving the school at the end of term; as our outgoing Senior Cadet he has the longest service in the Section and has put in a great deal of effort. Thanks also to the Lower VI - it's up to you now.

ACWS-J

CCF RN Section

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The year has been one of events almost too numerous to mention.

The first of the New Year was the 'Scotland and Northern Ireland Sailing Regatta' held at Port Edgar. It was almost embarrassing at prize giving, as we basically won everything except a single Topper race. Congratulations to Richard Quibell and Chris Watson in the Bosun class for this and Adam Wallace in the Toppers. Shortly after this we left for the national regatta in Portsmouth with the Bosun duo and Jake Streatfeild-James taking over the Topper seat. The weather was perfect and we came 4th in the Bosun class only just missing the silverware and coming a credible 9th in the Topper 'Q'.


Field Day this year was a trip to Loch Inch water sports centre where the delights of Canadian canoeing and getting extremely wet while raft-building were enjoyed by all on a cold and frosty day. Thanks must go to Madame Crane for helping supervise the girls on this trip.

After returning from Field Day all minds were focussed on the looming general inspection in November, a somewhat traumatic event for some, for whom drill and parade was a fairly stressful occasion. The Navy section carried out several different activities during the afternoon. The Divers were safely in the pool while the rest learnt about the intricacies of a 'Jackstay' setup between two trees that were doing a wonderful job of pretending to be a couple of warships at sea. This was then followed by some leadership tasks in which various cadets took charge of problem solving exercises.

During the Easter term 'Navigation' and 'Diesel Engine Maintenance' courses were run under the expert tuition of Capt. Walker and Mr Wilson, without whose help, these activities could not have run.

Once the summer term arrives we all head for the water at Port Edgar with the power boats. This year we hired a RIB on several of the days so that cadets could gain experience in driving different types of boat. At the end of the term 3 cadets, Richard Quibell, Adam Wallace and David Burgess gained their RYA Level 2 Power boating certificates which will enable them to continue with their sailing and power boating qualifications in the future.



The final event of the year was a trip to Mull during the first week of the Summer holidays. The weather was perfect and it was possible to take the school FML out to the Isle of Staffa on what must have been one of the best days of the summer. The week was a great success and enabled everyone to gain experience of navigation and driving skills in a larger displacement craft as a change to smaller 'Dory' type boats 

RCC

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has proved to have great appeal to parents and pupils again this year. This is not surprising, given the undoubted value of the Award experience to pupils, in terms of personal development and the sheer enjoyment that pupils gain by participating.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

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6/9/03 - 7/9/03

Day 1

We started our expedition at Birchfield, heading for Glenmore Forest Park. The weather was wonderful. We walked south, planning to meet our assessor at Forest Lodge, about 7km from Birchfield. I learned a lot of new words on the way. Like 'Duack', 'Burn', 'brook', 'creek' etc. The road was quite flat, with thick forest on both sides. That was a totally new experience for me, since these quiet country roads are quite difficult to find in crowded, bustling Hong Kong. We passed a snug little summerhouse called Cuchanlupe, it's a shame that we could not go in and have a cup of tea. After meeting the assessor at Forest Lodge, we headed off for the next checkpoint at Ryvoan Bothy. We passed the ruin on the opposite hill and reached an open flat plain. Looking back we could see the small settlement Rynettin (the little red house below).

When we arrived at Ryvoan Bothy it started to rain and we hurriedly put on our waterproofs. Soon we came to a small fork in the road and according to the map there was a shorter route to the camping ground so we took the shorter way. However we never took the altitude into account and we ended up walking up a steep slope, to be precise it was more like cliff-climbing. We almost cried when the level big road finally came into sight. By the time we reached the camping site the rain was pouring down. In the rain we put up the tents but many pegs got crooked because the ground was too hard. The rain stopped when we brewed up, and I produced some Chinese noodles that I had brought with me to add an oriental flavour to the meal. Dessert was one of the most important courses of the meal and we had bags of sweets stocked in the rucksack. Midgies began to come out and besides, we were quite tired after the

journey, so we went to sleep. Yet it was only when we lay down inside the tent that we discovered our tent was set on top of a rock! One of our team members was so 'fortunate' to try out nature's acupuncture that he hardly slept all night. As night gradually fell, noises from the other groups faded away into silence.

Day 2

The beautiful country roads

In the morning we found that all the strings were removed from the tent pegs and the tent was about to 'collapse'. That was probably another group's prank. We had sausages and noodles for breakfast, which were quite filling.

I walked to Loch Morlich and took a few photographs. By 10 o'clock we had packed away everything and we set off again. We started on a path along Loch Morlich, but almost got lost since the junctions were quite confusing. Nevertheless, we managed to arrive at the checkpoint, which was a y-junction. We then sang our way to the Cairngorm footbridge, along the beautiful country roads. We had a snack by the footbridge before setting off for our final destination Cowlumbidge. We walked into a thick forest and had a race, which was quite exhausting. After an hour or so we hit the main road. That was the end of the journey and although we were all knackered it was a good experience and we all had fun.

Bryan Tsang

This was really a great night for every Chinese student who is studying in Strathallan School. We enjoyed the wonderful party which was held for our special Chinese festival.

Chinese New Year Party

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As everybody knows, we Chinese have a very special New Year time, which is very different from that in other countries. We have a different calendar which we have used for many years. So it is the biggest and oldest festival in China. Every year at this time, most people will have more than a week's holiday and students even have a month's holiday. All the family members come back home and stay together. Then we talk about our life and anything that happened to us in the past year. At night, all the family members sit together to enjoy a nice dinner and watch the celebration programme on TV or go outside to have fireworks.

Because we are studying in the UK at that time, it is a pity we can't go back to our country and stay with our parents. I always miss my parents when I am studying abroad.

But many thanks to the teachers in our school who always take care of us and kindly help us with any problems. It is just like staying at home. They have already thought about the party three months before our New Year and prepared for it. Here I have to say thanks to all the staff in our school.

Especially, I must say thank you to Miss Vosmekova who is our English teacher and who very kindly helped us to prepare for the party. She started thinking about our party a long time ago and asked us what we would like the party to be like. Then she called the Chinese takeaway restaurant and ordered lots of delicious Chinese food. Also thanks to Mr Klapis who is also our English teacher and always helps us in the school. He and Miss Vosmekova helped us buy everything that we needed for the party in the supermarket, and also two kinds of dumpling.

So on the 1st February, we got ready for the party. The school very kindly let us use the music room, so that we could hold our party there. Some students went there earlier and helped the teachers prepare for it. We cleaned the room and arranged the tables.

At night, everything had been done and we kept the food warm in a hot cupboard. Then all the staff who had been invited to the party and also the Chinese students came in


There were three tables in the Music Room which were called 'love', 'lucky' and 'health'. Everybody picked up one slip of paper from a red bag and found their table and the party began. The food had been allocated to many dishes and handed on to each table, and everyone got some rice and a drink. After that, people began to eat and chatted to each other. We talked about our study and any interesting things which happened in China. We also taught our teachers how to use chopsticks. They are very difficult to use for the first time for everybody, but some of the teachers could use them very well by the end of the party.

After dinner, we also had some soup and some nice tea. So everybody began to walk around and chat. Later, we had some games which were quite fun and some students played piano and electric guitar for us. We really enjoyed it. After that every Chinese student got some lucky money from staff. That's a very traditional custom and we were all very happy to receive that. It made us feel just like at home in China.

Because this is the year of the sheep everyone got a piece of paper which described their destiny in the sheep year. Everybody was interested in it and were all very happy.

Finally, we took a photo together and we thanked all the staff who came to the party and helped us prepare for it. Then some of us stayed behind and cleaned the room.

It was a fantastic party and we all enjoyed it. Thanks to all the staff who helped us in the school. I am looking forward to the next Chinese New Year, and hope we can also have a great party like this year with our new Chinese student who is coming here in the next year. It will be great to have more fun.

Finally, I hope all the people will have good luck in the year of sheep and get their wishes fulfilled 

Nan Chen

Wilfred Norman Stewart Hoare M.A. T.D. J.P.

W.N.S. Hoare who died on 28th August 2003 aged 93 years, took up his appointment as Headmaster of Strathallan School in January 1951 and, over the next nineteen years until he retired in July 1970, he revived, reinvigorated and expanded the School establishing its incontrovertible claim to be recognised as a leading Scottish Public School. He is properly acknowledged as its 'second founder'.

Although he won an exhibition in classics to Cambridge W.N.S. Hoare modestly never pretended to be of more than sufficient academic standing. He was, however, persuaded that other activities, including sport, could and did play a significant part in education. "It was an article of faith with him that if a boy could be taught to excel in some enterprise, however remote from the classroom it might be, the confidence it gave him would eventually extend to his academic work." He was no musician, nor had he any talent for art but he gave every encouragement to those who had. Cricket was his real talent. As with the quotation above it is recorded in "The Story of Strathallan School" that:

His enthusiasm for the art of batting held an absolute priority, and was liable to interrupt any business conducted indoors, the nets being within view and earshot of his study window. With an awe-inspiring bellow he would leave his audience open-mouthed as he stepped through the French window on to the Lawn and, wresting the bat from the grasp of a boy, he would demonstrate the supreme importance of keeping up the left elbow.

Before arriving at Strathallan Wilf Hoare taught at Fettes and took over as Housemaster of Glencorse. His time at Fettes was interrupted by service in the Army during the 1939 - 45 War. He is still remembered kindly by Fettesians who knew him as "Bunny" Hoare. That was not, however, the image he presented when he arrived at Strathallan.

All schools thrive under energetic headmasters. Strathallan under Wilf Hoare in the 1950s and 60s was no exception. He found on his arrival that the school had not developed as it might have under the short reign of his predecessor. Those who were pupils there at that time immediately realised that the character and atmosphere in the School would be dictated by the enormous energy and enthusiasm of the new "Head", inspired as it was by his love for the School in its beautiful location overlooking the Earn Valley and by his determination that they and it should succeed. He was totally devoted to their welfare and progress then and subsequently; after they had left, following their careers

closely. He honoured, and expected, standards of behaviour from his boys which included concern for others - haranguing them, for example, about the importance of dancing with any 'wallflowers' when entertaining girls from The Beacon School at the annual dance.

Soon, thanks to his efforts, the numbers in the School doubled and the Governors found it necessary to build. Hoare took great pride in showing parents and former pupils round the new Study Block opened in 1954. Individual Houses were built to accommodate Nicol, Ruthven, Simpson and Freeland. The Chapel, dedicated in June 1962, replaced the Beech Walk at the front of the main School Building. The plans then devised and translated into bricks and mortar shaped the future of the School for at least the next thirty years.

The endeavour to raise academic standards, while at the same time increasing numbers, placed a severe strain on the teaching staff ... To this end there were regular and lengthy meetings of the whole teaching staff to monitor the progress of each individual member of the School.

It was a tribute to the Headmaster that he earned and kept the loyalty and respect of his staff at this time; had these factors not been present, academic progress could not have occurred. Former members of his staff speak highly of his leadership and drive; likewise members of the Board of Governors who worked with him on the development of the School.

In 1964 the Arts Block and Language Laboratory were opened and soon afterwards the Science Laboratories were enlarged. The foundation stone for the present Dining Hall was laid in the 1960s. It was from this Dining Hall that Wilf and his wife, on retirement, were clapped all the way across to their house, an experience which quite overwhelmed them.

In retirement, first in Milnathort, then in the West Country and finally in Shrewsbury, Wilf maintained a keen interest in the further development of the School. It was, after all, the abiding love which he shared with his wife and family. At his funeral service conducted in the Chapel of Shrewsbury School on 4th September warm tributes were paid to him, especially by his son-in-law, Richard Field. He is remembered by former pupils from Fettes, by Strathallians and by members of his staff with affection and respect.

He leaves his wife, Gracie who gave him her devoted love; his three daughters, Rosemary, Ruth, and Patricia and his son, Ronald not to mention their spouses and his grand-children.

W.N.S. Hoare is widely acknowledged to have been one of the great post-war Scottish Headmasters.

Judge J McKee

As far as Strath is concerned the Torquil MacLeod story begins in September 1965 when he joined the school as Director of Art. By then he already completed his formal training both as a painter and as a schoolmaster and had taken the first significant steps in the furtherance of both careers. He had also married Sheena and brought into the world the first of the next generation of MacLeods.



T J M
(1933-2002)

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Proud of his Highland heritage and loyal to the associated traditional values it is almost certainly less surprising for Torquil than for others that, as the son of a schoolmaster, he should opt to follow his father into the profession.

We are all, sometimes uncomfortably perhaps, aware of the stricture that "those who can, do; those who can't, teach". To no one more than TJM could this judgment be less applicable. Generally thought to be about the best Scottish painter of water in all its subtle forms, his appearance in the "Dictionary of Scottish Painters" is but one, albeit objective, acknowledgment of his talent and achievements as a painter. It may be that only time, the market place and the assessment of others more qualified than this writer will make the final judgment. He was with good reason proud of this formal acknowledgment. Neither should we forget the succession of one-man exhibitions by which he was honoured throughout his time at Strath and on into his retirement. Nor that he was a redoubtable and very successful collector of paintings. From antique and bric-a-brac shops the length of the country and also in Amsterdam - one of his favourite painting haunts - he built up, at prices varying between the advantageous and the downright ridiculous, an impressive display wherein quietly lay one or two very big names indeed.

As generously as he was endowed with talent, he was equally generous with its fruits. Which of his old colleagues does not have at least one MacLeod on the wall, more often than not a gift to celebrate an engagement, a wedding, an anniversary or just friendship?

Not that one had to be a member of some inner circle to enjoy his work. Torquil had a really amazing talent for stage sets - both formally for school dramatic and operatic productions and informally for MCR Christmas parties where the unlikely transformation of the Music Room into the Faubourg Montmartre included some wonderfully scurrilous cartoon depictions.

For some thirty years and for hundreds of Strathallians TJM simply was their gateway to the world of drawing and painting. The works of many

pupils formed a permanently changing exhibition on the walls around the school. A number of talented individuals had that talent spotted, developed and honed and were able to go on to careers of their own. For many, many more however Torquil's art rooms were a haven from the rest of the hurly burly where any number of pupils could find some personal fulfilment.

So, an artist, a loyal colleague and a generous friend and wonderful host. Loyalty and a vow of silence forbids more than one specific recollection of the traditional Greenacres hospitality from which our other late colleague Stanley Pollard was thought to have been suffering when with a confident "Ah, here's my door!" he strode in to the netting of the hockey goal at the west end of Coventrees. After the sad breakdown of his marriage to Sheena, the same hospitality to friends and colleagues continued at Coventrees Cottage. Planning meetings for RN Section training days were frequently a prelude to yet more of this hospitality - once the NCOs had been gently despatched back to their dormitories.

As a Lieutenant-Commander in the RN CCF he was respected not just for his achievements in the maintenance of a keen, thriving and innovative Strath section but, in addition, for his work in running CCF camps, particularly at BRNC, Dartmouth where he also became the college's official picture restorer. A resourceful man he was as at home in the wheelhouse of a fleet tender keeping the rest of the maritime world, other than Australian submarines, at a very safe distance as he was in the coal-fired galley supervising cadets in the concoction of a magnificent apple crumble. For all those from the regular service who came to inspect or to help there was the same thank-you present of a freshly painted MacLeod.

Torquil had also an impressive musical talent. On piano or organ he played fluently by ear and, when the muse was with him, was known for his singing power.

For very good reason he hated driving and for anyone tempted to contest the speed limits was a dreadful passenger. A lasting if irreverent memory is of being driven back with Torquil from Faslane in a "Tilly", aggressively, by a CCF Fleet Master-at-Arms. His suggestion of a slower pace having been haughtily rebuffed, TJM, at first sotto voce but progressively with greater conviction began a heartfelt rendering of "Jerusalem".

He would have loved the parting gesture of ARK ROYAL's ensign.

It is surely vain pretension to try to sum up the life of a man in a few words but it is essentially important that we be aware of what that life has meant for us and for those that come after us.

Farewell, old friend, it really was a pleasure and privilege to have known you.

J F Clayton

Prizes and examination results

Examination results 2003

Overall there was much encouragement to be taken from the exam results especially the GCSE pass rate and the pleasing performances at the top end of the A2 and AS level group. 71.5% of passes at A level were at grades A or B and the proportion of A grades was, by some margin, the best achieved at 40.6%. The total pass rate was again nearly 99%. Grade A passes at AS level rose to 44% and at GCSE level the pass rate was 93.8%, 41.8% of them at A* or A.

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	Calum Emslie
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl, Upper Sixth A Level Biology & Chemistry	Amelia Lane
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	Adam Wallace
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	Katie Fleming
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	Ewan O'Donnell, Alison Skinner
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution, The Lord Kincaig Prize for English, The Richard Moffat Prize for History	Sioned Bates
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman, Upper Sixth A Level Design Technology	Peter Mackie
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman, Upper Sixth Higher Geography	Jennifer Hay
Dux	Louise Lamb
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Samara Johnstone
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	Victoria Watson
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	Shu Ki (Stephen) Wong
The William Pasfield Salver for Music & Choir Prize	Catriona Sutherland
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	Sulekha Varma
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	George McWilliams
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Carin Munro
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize & Lower Sixth Philosophy Prize	Ishbel McFarlane
Strathallian Travelling Scholarship	Clement Ip
Strathallian Travelling Scholarship & U6 A Level Spanish	Sarah Lyburn
The Haviston Broadsword & Quaich CCF Prize	Mark Riley

The Rick Trophy Army Prize & Choir Prize	Tim Law
Upper Sixth - A Level Prizes	
Business Studies & Computing	Michael Arthur
Classics	Catriona Bisset
French, German & Politics	Christoph Schulz
Geography	Lindsey Allan, Holly Harvey
Music	Clare Kelly
Philosophy	Brian McWilliams
Physics	Kirstie Aitken

Upper Sixth - Highers Prizes

Biology	Kenneth MacKenzie
Business Management	David Stewart
Chemistry	James Lowe
Computing, Economics, English, Mathematics & Physics	Graeme Gardner
Craft & Design	Liam Brook
German	Duncan Bickerton
History	Sandy Pringle

Lower Sixth Prizes

Art	Gayle Allardyce
Biology	Jure Miodic-Stolic
Business Studies & Economics	Robert Anderson
Business Management & Music	Lisa Bull
Chemistry & Computing	Sebastian Schulz
Classics	Tom Hine
Design Technology	Michael Woodrow
English & History	Louise Wallace
French, Mathematics & Physics	Philip Preiss
History Higher	Ross Anders
Geography	Anna MacDonald
German	Daniel Hoffmann
Spanish	Joanna Greer
Young Enterprise	Emma Fairlie, Richard Quibell

Fifth Form Prizes

Art	Olivia Halvorsen
Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Malcolm Jack
Business Studies	Caty Connell
Computing	Benno Rawlinson
Design Technology & Geography	Harry Workman
English, Music & Spanish	Emma Gordon
French	Annabelle Gordon
German	Robert Henneberg
History	Tasha Smith
Latin	David Burgess
Law	Mhairi Gillanders
Mathematics	Tom Sproat

Fourth Form Prizes

Art	Caroline Melloy
Biology, English & History	Kirsty Brown
Chemistry & German	Jamie Morrison
Computing	Emily Beetschen
Design & Technology	John-Joseph Watters
German, French & Latin	Pamela Garratt
Business Studies, Geography & History	Jamie Pugh
Mathematics & French	Bryan Tsang
Music	Rebecca Chalmers
Physics	Peter Burgess
Spanish	Gael Welstead

Third Form

	Duncan Clark
	Robert McMorris
	Suzanne Morrison
	Jessica Stewart

Valete

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Name	Form	House
Andrew Appleby	7F	Freeland
Hamish Campbell	7F	Freeland
Bryce Constable	7F	Freeland
Adrian Duthie	7F	Freeland
Gareth Everett	7F	Freeland
Li Gan	7F	Freeland
Andrew Hayward	7F	Freeland
Peter Hewitt	6F	Freeland
Jash Laing	5F	Freeland
Daniel Landers		Freeland
Timothy Law	7F	Freeland
Christopher Miller	4F	Freeland
David Pickles	7F	Freeland
Martyn Pollock	7F	Freeland
Mark Riley	7F	Freeland
Christoph Schulz	7F	Freeland
Rory Sinclair	5F	Freeland
Luke Souter	7F	Freeland
Andrew Thornton	7F	Freeland
Joe Watson	7F	Freeland
Michael Arthur	7N	Nicol
Duncan Bickerton	7N	Nicol
Simon Blood	6N	Nicol
Michael Common	4N	Nicol
Graeme Gardner	7N	Nicol
Fraser Gough	3N	Nicol
Laurence Hood	3N	Nicol
Gregor Leslie	7N	Nicol
Justus Lorenz	7N	Nicol
James Lowe	7N	Nicol
Hal Marshall	7N	Nicol
Ewan O'Donnell	7N	Nicol
Magnus O'Reilly	5N	Nicol

Angus Patterson	5N	Nicol
Mario Pellicci	5N	Nicol
David Stewart	7N	Nicol
Adam Wallace	7N	Nicol
Gordon Bujaud	7R	Ruthven
Blair Chalmers	7R	Ruthven
Joseph Corbett	7R	Ruthven
Aly Crerar	7R	Ruthven
Calum Emslie	7R	Ruthven
John Falconer	7R	Ruthven
Duncan Gillanders	6R	Ruthven
Iain Hewitt	7R	Ruthven
Andrew Lawson	7R	Ruthven
Peter Mackie	7R	Ruthven
Ross McLaren	3R	Ruthven
Elijah McLeod	7R	Ruthven
Dan MacPhee	7R	Ruthven
Philipp Preiss	6R	Ruthven
David Shepherd	7R	Ruthven
Timothy Snape	7R	Ruthven
Stephen Wong	7R	Ruthven
Andrew Hood	2	Riley
King Wai Leung	1	Riley
Andrei Bliznyuk	7S	Simpson
Liam Brook	7S	Simpson
Ben Carroll	7S	Simpson
David Chalmers	7S	Simpson
Xiaolei Ding	7S	Simpson
Simon Erdal	5S	Simpson
Mathieu Gordon	7S	Simpson
Howard Gray	7S	Simpson
Charles Lam	5S	Simpson
Qianlong Li	3S	Simpson
Billy Loudon	2	Simpson
Kenneth Mackenzie	7S	Simpson
Brian McWilliams	7S	Simpson
Alexander Melloy	7S	Simpson
Alex Murray	7S	Simpson
Andrew Niven	5S	Simpson
Sandy Pringle	7S	Simpson
Paul Reilly	7S	Simpson

Stuart Scroggie	7S	Simpson
Zhiyuan Zhong	6S	Simpson
Kirstie Aitken	7T	Thornbank
Lindsey Allan	7T	Thornbank
Sophie Barton	5T	Thornbank
Katie Fleming	7T	Thornbank
Kimi Gordon	5T	Thornbank
Holly Harvey	7T	Thornbank
Jennifer Hay	7T	Thornbank
Samara Johnstone	7T	Thornbank
Amelia Lane	7T	Thornbank
Caroline Levesque	4T	Thornbank
Judy O'Mara	7T	Thornbank
Rebecca Read	5T	Thornbank
Bella Scobie	7T	Thornbank
Shauna Scroggie	5T	Thornbank
Helen Smith	7T	Thornbank
Catriona Sutherland	7T	Thornbank
Yiner Tu	6T	Thornbank
Victoria Watson	7T	Thornbank
Paula Weston	7T	Thornbank
Sioned Bates	7W	Woodlands
Catriona Bisset	7W	Woodlands
Abigail Brown	6W	Woodlands
Stefanie Carthy	7W	Woodlands
Nan Chen	7W	Woodlands
Kerry Faucett-Reid	6W	Woodlands
Rachael Fergie	3W	Woodlands
Fitzgerald	4W	Woodlands
Kirsty Fitzgerald	7W	Woodlands
Jade Hendry	7W	Woodlands
Clare Kelly	7W	Woodlands
Samantha Locke	7W	Woodlands
Sarah Lyburn	7W	Woodlands
Lauren McDonald	7W	Woodlands
Stephanie Murray	7W	Woodlands
Hannah Pickles	3W	Woodlands
Alison Skinner	7W	Woodlands
Sulekha Varma	7W	Woodlands
Lauren Welstead	7W	Woodlands

Salvete

Name	Form	House
Paul Brown	6F	Freeland
Chuang-J (Johnson) Chiu	6F	Freeland
Moritz Dapprich	6F	Freeland
Rob Jardine	3F	Freeland
Takanori Kashino	7F	Freeland
Felix Keene	3F	Freeland
Christopher Milford	4F	Freeland
Tom Myles	3F	Freeland
Shawn Ng	5F	Freeland

James Balfour	3N	Nicol
Struan Dewar	4N	Nicol
Mark Garratt	3N	Nicol
Ruoran (Leo) Liu	6N	Nicol
Rory McLellan	3N	Nicol
Fraser Rawlinson	3N	Nicol
Zhou (Joe) Sun	6N	Nicol
Felix Velay	6N	Nicol

Oliver Bain	2	Riley
Katie Battison	2	Riley
Oliver Beetschen	1	Riley
Emmanuelle Bonham	2	Riley
Douglas Britton	1	Riley
Dunstan Brook	1	Riley
Bruce Campbell	2	Riley
Gregor Campbell	1	Riley
Sara Chalmers	1	Riley
Anna Dove	2	Riley
Chessca Fraser	2	Riley
Ben Giles	1J	Riley
Sam Gray	1J	Riley
Chris Greer	1	Riley
Peter Hall	2	Riley
Henry Lee	1J	Riley
Chloe Lindsay	1J	Riley

Sam Lipworth	2	Riley
Steph Lyon	2	Riley
Jonathan McCashin	1J	Riley
Katie McDonald-Meyer	2	Riley
Ailie MacGeoch	2	Riley
Jamie Parker	1	Riley
Natasha Porritt	1	Riley
Aaron Purvis	1	Riley
Callum Reid	1J	Riley
Jamie Schofield	1	Riley
Kirsty Scoble	2	Riley
Lizzie Sinclair	2	Riley
Alistair Stewart	2	Riley
Ian Tourney	1	Riley
Charlotte Tracey	2	Riley
Elizabeth Vine	2	Riley

James Bonham	3R	Ruthven
Robbie Girvan	6R	Ruthven
Leander Kehl	6R	Ruthven
Zhibai (Dylan) Li	6R	Ruthven
Malcolm Macdonald	4R	Ruthven
Peter Takac	6R	Ruthven

Alasdair Cameron	3S	Simpson
Robert Cooke	3S	Simpson
Tom Coutts	4S	Simpson
Jan-Christian Hashagen	6S	Simpson
Yu (John) Jin	6S	Simpson
Stefan Pretty	3S	Simpson
Darren Raitt	6S	Simpson
Jordan Raitt	4S	Simpson
Wei Ren	4S	Simpson

Gillian Brown	3T	Thornbank
Sam Burns	3T	Thornbank
Fangjing (Elly) Chen	6T	Thornbank

Qiqi (Karen) Chen	6T	Thornbank
Hannah Cockburn	3T	Thornbank
Wei Jia (Phoebe) Deng	6T	Thornbank
Rebecca Elliott	6T	Thornbank
Danina Ferry	3T	Thornbank
Vicky Gerrie	3T	Thornbank
Emma Howell	3T	Thornbank
Shuhua (Wendy) Luo	6T	Thornbank
Flizz Lyde	4T	Thornbank
Rachel McLean	3T	Thornbank
Danni O'Sullivan	4T	Thornbank
Alice Page	3T	Thornbank
Harriet Page	6T	Thornbank
Olivia Porritt	3T	Thornbank
Claire Price	3T	Thornbank
Zhimeng (Lemon) Yang	6T	Thornbank

Rebecca Dalgetty	3W	Woodlands
Cara Duncan	3W	Woodlands
Rachel Ennis	4W	Woodlands
Katie Gibson	6W	Woodlands
Lucy Grieve	4W	Woodlands
Claire McDonald	3W	Woodlands
Kirsty MacGeoch	4W	Woodlands
Mairi MacKenzie	3W	Woodlands
Erin Morison	6W	Woodlands
Jasmine Morris	3W	Woodlands
Lauren Murray	3W	Woodlands
Camilla Rhodes	3W	Woodlands
Kathryn Sutherland	3W	Woodlands
Sophie Workman	3W	Woodlands



The Strathallian

2002-2003

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