



# *The* STRATHALLIAN

96-97





*Venice (Woodcut) - Robbie Gemmill*

# The Strathallian

1996/97

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# Staff Notes

With a new academic year comes the usual round of staff changes.

Although it is not every year that two members of staff with a combined service of 62 years leave the School and the departure of John Clayton and Alan Pearson is special. John Clayton joined the staff in 1965 and taught Modern Languages until his appointment as Administration Secretary in 1991. Outside the classroom he served in the Naval Section and taught Sailing but John will best be remembered for his work in establishing Skiing as a major part of School life. The development of Strathsiki, which met the demands of recreational and competitive skiers alike was a great tribute to John's administrative abilities and his enthusiasm. It was no surprise that his talents were in demand at higher echelons of the sport and he will no doubt continue to serve skiing nationally and internationally in the years ahead. With Helen remaining as Senior Matron I am sure we will stay in touch.

Alan Pearson, who came as recently as 1967, enjoyed a variety of senior posts as Head of Chemistry, Housemaster of Simpson and Director of Studies. As the School Timetabler his qualities of mental agility, attention to detail and tact were much in evidence. He has contributed a huge amount to life here and we wish him and Angela - who retires from a similar post at Kilgraston - happiness in the years ahead.

The departure of Alan Ball to become Head of Boarding at Brisbane Boy's College robs the School of three great characters and we will all miss Alan, Louise and Caitlin greatly. In five years Alan has made a real impact in the classroom, as Coach of a very successful 1st XV and as Housemaster of Simpson. Simpsonites responded to the family atmosphere in the House and will wish Alan, Louise, Caitlin and her "little" (9lb 12ozs!) brother, Calum, best wishes in Australia.

Brigitte Gnanou enjoyed two very successful years teaching French and Spanish and contributed much as a Resident House Tutor in Woodlands. Her organisation of the French exchange to Montbrison was invaluable and we wish her well in her new job in Aberdeen.

They are not leaving the staff but Alastair and Carol Thomson's departure from Riley should not go unrecorded. Riley has changed hugely in their fourteen years in charge and the debt numerous pupils owe them is considerable. Numbers have grown significantly in the Junior House but Alastair and Carol have maintained a wonderful blend of humour and discipline. The wisdom, care and lightness of touch that have characterised their tenure has been a delight.

Quite a few gaps to fill therefore and it is a pleasure to welcome four full-time and two part-time members of staff to Strathallan in September 1997. Bill Weigall takes over as Housemaster of Simpson and he and his wife, Belinda, join us from an Assistant Housemastership at Loretto, where Bill coached the 1st XV. He will also take over this role at Strathallan and has already enjoyed a four week tour to his native Australia reported elsewhere in the magazine.

Brigitte Gnanou's replacement in the Modern Languages Department is Gerry Kennedy, who joins us from teaching in Liverpool. Mr Kennedy took a degree in French and Spanish at Durham, where he met his wife, Claire, and will bring considerable experience to the department.

Brigitte Gnanou's replacement as Residential Tutor in Woodlands will be Morag Vass, who after gaining a First at Edinburgh University will join the Physics Department. Miss Vass brings a love of the hills and music and we look forward to her contribution in the years ahead.

With Bill Colley becoming Housemaster of Riley after three years as Alastair Thomson's assistant we are delighted to welcome John and Sandra Fleming to replace the Colleys. John and Sandra had six years running Cameron House at Rannoch School and will certainly contribute hugely to boarding life and School games here.

Two part-time members of staff also join us. Douglas McDougall recently completed his doctorate in Chemistry at Edinburgh University and has experience of teaching both in Scotland and abroad and Mrs Jackie Martin comes to add her expertise to the steadily growing Computing and Information Technology Department.

AWM



Mrs Martin.



New staff of 1997.

# Editorial

As the academic year draws to a close, soon to become another set of statistics to be declaimed at speech day, I find it somewhat comforting to look back at and write about the years that I, and my colleagues, have spent at Strathallan.

Writing such an account is a process that requires a certain amount of detachment, as well as a thesaurus, and it is this detachment, this disengagement, which is so uplifting. I must admit that as soon as the dust began to settle on my time at Strathallan, I couldn't wait to shake it off.

I've been here for seven years. I can't help but feel that it's slightly unfair that thieves and arsonists should serve less time than we do when their crimes are infinitely more serious than that of being uneducated. Still, I would only hesitate for a few moments before saying that a school has a better success rate in amending that fault in its pupils than a prison does in reforming its convicts. Perhaps some of my friends will soon put this theory to the test. The bottom line is that most of us have, albeit reluctantly, learnt 'stuff'.

The great irony about school is that it channels so much effort into helping its students develop only to find that they respond by developing to such an extent that they grow out of the school itself and end up dismissing it like a teacher dismisses a class, only with a lot more disdain. They don't so much bite the hand that feeds them, as tear off the whole arm, chew on it slowly and spit it out. I sometimes begin to feel sorry for institutions like Strathallan that are forced to suffer this indignity, but then I remember we pay them handsomely to do so. I'm sure they'll get over it.

Nevertheless, to run such an institution must be extremely difficult. A headmaster's job must require a lot of patience, having to deal with such a wide variety of individuals and the problems they cause, from those for whom the term 'individual' is decidedly inappropriate, whose teenage rebellion phase threatens to last well into their twenties, to those whose arrogance refuses to be stifled by the limitations and restrictions a school has to impose. As if this didn't seem demanding enough, let us not forget that the atmosphere of a boarding school can be particularly unpleasant, where everybody both induces and suffers distress at some time or other, and to keep everything composed and calm is practically impossible.

We should therefore be thankful of the efforts made to ensure that our struggle was relatively comfortable and that we could live in comparative luxury. We should also count ourselves lucky to have been blessed with a superb teaching staff. While there existed, and will always exist, tensions between certain members of staff and certain pupils, this surely indicates that relations between the two groups are entirely subjective, as they should be. One of the factors of life at Strathallan, that I found personally to be very rewarding, is that some members of staff are prepared to reject the traditional notion of the distinction between teacher and pupil, for this, in my opinion, leads to a much happier and more enjoyable environment.

I could never say that all I left Strathallan with was an education, and I would suspect that most of my fellow students feel the same way. But this is what we came for, and this is the most valuable thing we take away with us. There are many who



Colin Perry - "A man of many parts" - with Lucy Kitson.

will never apply their knowledge of Parallel Axis Theorem to any practical use and likewise there are many who will never discuss *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* over crayfish and white wine, but this does not detract from the fact that we have all received an excellent education. It should be recognised that it is only the very small minority who have consistently cast this aside, seemingly untroubled by the idea that their parents are shelling out a fortune for them to enjoy the daily adventure of going (undetected) for a cigarette. It brings a smile to my face to think that tobacco companies are about to lose a huge chunk of their trade as school leavers across the country realise that smoking just isn't big or clever any more.

This is one of the many realities that we will all have to get to grips with after leaving the sheltered world of Strathallan behind. In effect, we have to start from scratch, no matter where we go. Any notions of importance or significance that we have built up over our time at school are utterly pointless, for we will now have to prove ourselves to a jury that couldn't care one bit if we played for the first XV or if we won the house debating competition. I know that this is a challenge I've been looking forward to for some time.

Colin Perry  
UVI - Nicol

# Speech Day

A sunny, early summer day, the lawns precision manicured, pupils and parents in their best clothes and on their best behaviour, the school flag and the pipe band's kilts moving in unison to the gentle breeze, all ensured a perfect setting for this year's speech day.

The Chairman introduced the replacement to the Assisted Places Scheme, the Ochil Trust, in order to continue to provide support for children who would not otherwise be able to attend the school, the awards being made on a sliding scale dependant on parental income. He declared the school to be in good heart with great promise for the future and invited the Headmaster to make his report. Mr McPhail began by thanking this year's staff leavers, two of whom, John Clayton and Alan Pearson, with more than thirty years each in the school. He had a special thanks too for Alistair and Carol Thomson, who resign their Riley commission, but stay on at Strathallan. 'Education for life' was the theme of the Headmaster's speech; a full

and thorough education concerned with understanding and the ability to respond to different situations. He maintained that it was easy to identify but not define an educated person and hoped that if boys and girls leave Strathallan with an appreciation of what it is to put something into society then we will have achieved our objective.

This year's guest speaker, Sir William Kerr Fraser, Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, was then introduced by the Headmaster and delighted the audience with a mixture of wit, humour, sagacity and good advice, advising children and adults alike that there was no excuse for being bored, that life for everyone had something of interest to them if only it could be identified.

Having inspired and entertained young and old alike, Sir William wished everyone well and hoped they would go through life with the wind at their back. Proceedings concluded with the usual high quality pipe band performance on the lawn and a tent full of lunch for those so inclined.

AJHW

## Alasdair Sutherland Captain of School 1996/97



The question that I am confronted with most is "What is it like to be Captain of School?"; it is very difficult to describe what it is like exactly, at times I am compelled to be diplomatic with my answer - this is one of them.

The aspect of the job, essentially this is what it is, I found most difficult to come to terms with, was the fact that everyone in school, pupils and teachers alike, will at some stage formulate an opinion of you, regardless of how well they know you. This creates the added pressure of having to give the best account of yourself at all times, because the majority of the people judge you purely by what you do and say, without necessarily knowing what you are really like.

It is very easy to lose sight of the real task at hand in your year as Captain of School - that of getting your Higher/ A-Level results. Although the position only takes up as much time as you allow it, more often than not it appears to be a much more attractive option than school work. I found it especially hard in the first term having to try and balance rugby into the equation as well.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to satisfy both teachers and pupils at the same time. I was confident in my approach to the job in that I hoped my methods would be conducive to a happier and more relaxed atmosphere within School. I hope that people will remember me more as a friend than as a prefect.

The advantages associated with being Captain of School are plentiful, although it is difficult to appreciate them fully at the time. It is only with hindsight that the extent of their value becomes apparent. I certainly wasn't relishing the idea of having to bring last year's Ernst & Young lecture to a close, after being asked to do it just five minutes before the lecture actually began! But I believe that this part of my education is just as valuable as anything else.

In leaving, I cherish the friendship and respect of the members of staff who gave me their support throughout the year and I am especially grateful for all the help and advice I was given by my tutors, Mr Barnes and Mr Murray.

Of course, I could not have managed without the support of the body of the house and school prefects, who maintained the day to day running of the school. I owe special thanks to the House Captains.

Most of all I would like to thank the pupils, for resisting the temptation on most occasions of hurling hymn books in chapel or throwing half-cooked pies across the dining hall. I appreciate you making my final year at Strathallan that little bit easier.



*The Headmaster and Sir William Kerr Fraser.*

# Prizes 1997

## UPPER SIXTH

The Smith Cup for Captain of School	..... Alasdair Sutherland
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	..... Stuart Catto
The Scanlon Cup for Merit (girls)	..... Jennifer Malcolm
Thomson Salver for Achievement	..... Mathew Morley/ Alexandra Mair
John Fulton Prize for Overall Contribution	..... Neil Grosset/ Christopher Wands
Dux	..... Douglas Patterson
The William Tattersall Art Prize	..... Kirsty Glimm
The Robt Barr Memorial Prize for Music	..... Jonathan Dalley
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	..... Agnes Bradley
William Pasfield Salver for Music	..... Claire Ketcher
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	..... Claire Ketcher
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	..... Jennifer Malcolm/ Helen Nesbitt
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	..... Angus Macdonald
The Lord Kincraig Prize for English	..... Jennifer Malcolm
The Robert Rankin Prize for Maths	..... Alan Senior
CCF Prize	..... Richard Wands
Elliott Trophy - Design & Technology	..... Kevin Eadie
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	..... Lyndsay Allison/ Adam Rackley

## A-LEVEL

Geography	..... John Osborne
French	..... Laurent Gibb
German	..... Colin Perry
Chemistry	..... Alan Senior
Physics	..... Alan Senior
Business Studies	..... Lyndsey MacEachern

## HIGHERS

English	..... Kirsty Glimm
History	..... Finlay Nicolson
Geography	..... Finlay Nicolson
French	..... Alan Senior
German	..... Iain Millar
Mathematics	..... Philip Price
Chemistry	..... Fiona Hamilton
Biology	..... James Cessford
Spanish	..... Helen Nesbitt
Art	..... Nicholas Dalley
Craft & Design	..... Karen Wilson
Management & Information Studies	..... Magnus Webb
Computing	..... Magnus Webb/ Samantha Prentice
Choir Prize	..... Lyndsey Allison/ Andrew Forbes

## LOWER SIXTH

Art	..... Jaclyn Murdoch
Music	..... Ruth Mazur
History	..... Neil Hutton
Economics	..... Leon Webb
English	..... Cristian Rogers
Geography	..... Jemma Hepworth
Physics	..... Sam Bateman
Biology	..... Andrew Harbit
Design & Technology	..... Jennie Perry
Computing	..... Martin Heslop
Maths	..... Jennie Perry
Business Studies	..... Jennifer Maxwell
MIS	..... John Cameron
Politics	..... Neil Hutton

## FIFTH FORM

English	John-Matthew Court
History	Peter Wilkinson
German	Ruth Sharp
French	Ruth Sharp
Geography	Rachel Halliday
Maths	Christina Breden
Computing	James Patterson
Physics	Nicola Milne
Chemistry	James Patterson
Art	Rebecca Booth
Biology	Andrew Turner
Design & Technology	Andrew Turner
Music	Ruth Sharp
Spanish	Arlette Lafayeedney

## FOURTH FORM

English	Ella Bird
History	Douglas Forbes
Physics	John Coull
Chemistry	Sarah Mazur
French	Sarah Mazur
Spanish	Sarah Mazur
Geography	Helen Stewart
Maths	Kirsty Senior
Design & Technology	John Coull
Computing	Susannah Malcolm
Art	Simon King
Biology	John Coull
Music	Ruth Chalmers

## THIRD FORM

Oliver Lane

# Riley

Trying to hide the nervousness, butterflies were working overtime in my stomach. This was it, the moment I'd been waiting for all summer!!

"There it is!" said mum, pointing down to the bright lights of the school. There were lots of cars piling in through the drive-way. It seemed everyone was going there.

When I was first introduced to my class I found that everyone was either barking mad or just plain mad. Louise Lamb (now know as 'petite mouton') was also a new kid like me. We figured to lie low for the first few days and observe our surroundings. This new place either seemed very big or we were very small! Over the days the place seemed friendlier and we moulded in more!

At Riley, in our free time, we play a lot of football, at which we have many talented players. A lot of the time Phil and Steve play with us. (Student teachers from Australia and New Zealand). They normally end up in pile-ons on whoever happens to be at the bottom, which isn't the best thing to end a day. Dorm life can be interesting, I will not go into detail so the public eye is not trampling on my doorstep, but we still enjoy it!

Leuchars is an annual air show, basically the Scottish Farnborough equivalent. It was just an ordinary Saturday, with no lessons. We were packed into a double-decker. It took us about 1 hour to get there, but when we arrived it was amazing to see all the different aircraft, missiles and stalls. The planes ranged from bombers,

fighters, helicopters to transport. Different nationalities performed aerobatics with coloured smoke. Among these were the Red Arrows and the Italian Hawks. After it came to an end we packed up and prepared for the long journey back ....

We also visited a show "à la Français", visited an art gallery and several sports matches. The excitement doesn't stop outside the school as we have events inside. One of the memorable ones was Non-Uniform Day. Non-Uniform Day was great fun in Riley. Lots of pupils and staff members dressed up in lots of different costumes. Spice Girls were attempted very successfully by 5 girls, Karate Kid and numerous Scotsmen were also parading throughout the day. The Hunchback of Notre Dame joined us along with a "male lady" friend and a Thunderbird! Not only was it enjoyable but it produced money for charity as well!

During the winter term there are, even without sun, still outdoor sports. Unfortunately, due to lack of snow in the right place at the right time, there was no skiing but we fixed that with snowball fights and came up with some big balls. One was big enough to sit on (around 5 people) it had a brother that, sadly, was destroyed using feet and sticks. Of course we couldn't throw them but it was worth the while!

All through the year we have dramatic productions, sometimes very dramatic. We had a pantomime produced by Mr Kilpatrick but performed by the pupils. We have produced "Nearly Cinderella" and "Summer Nights". There were also parties, such as the large Christmas party with the D.J. Dalley. This was



*Dancing Queen!*

enjoyed by all and went on through the night. A rock concert was performed by Vertigo, the Riley rock band, this consisted of our drummer, Johny, our guitarists, Scott, Giles and James, and our lead singer Ben. This was "Coached" by Fraser Currie, John Dalley and Andrew Kettle. Mr. Dutton was also there pushing them along the way! Everyone was jumping around and having fun all the way!

There are many competitions in Riley split into divisions. Possibly the most enjoyable div. events was the div. music and the div. plays. In the music we had some enjoyable acts such as the Jazz Band, who played the "Saints Go Marching" in a new fashion. The div plays, produced and performed by the pupils were also enjoyable with lots of fairy tales told and twisted into the Riley way.



And the Hypnotizer





## BOYS' SPORT

Riley does both boys' and girls' sports, which this year have been very successful. Here is the boys' sports review.

### Rugby Term:-

Second form rugby progressed well throughout the term. Although facing a lot of defeats a few wins were grasped. The team learnt a lot, including how to work together, but sadly no-one learned to grow bigger, except for Andrew Mack, the magic midge.

The first form season was a lot more successful beating all comers. They also progressed in their skills very well and look a promising side for next season.

### Hockey Term:-

This second form team was evenly matched to our rugby team with 3 wins and 4 losses. Although there were defeats, very good victories were taken and a lot was learnt this season again. We also came runners up in the six-a-side tournament.

The first form thrashed that record and earned an unbeaten season. The team looks set to hold this record and keep up the excellent work.

### Cricket Season:-

So far the second formers have done well with many amazing wins to face our only defeat. Tom Booth even played wicket keeper for the 1st IX against the Old Boys!

The first form have beaten all but one.

## GIRLS' SPORTS

### Hockey Term:-

At the start, Mrs Dorward asked, "Now girls, who's played hockey before? Only a few hands were raised and they were here last year! For the next few weeks we practised, practised, and you guessed it, practised! It didn't seem to pay off as we



*"Just another hard day at the office"*

lost our first few matches only drawing one and never ending victorious, but when we won, the rest fell to the mighty Riley Girls!

Then when we heard it was going to be netball, it was unanimous that this wasn't the best of sports in Riley. This time round we nearly lost all but just avoided last place in Ardvreck's netball tournament.

### Tennis:-

This year we had a good team with competition for the first few places. With blue sky and no rain what more could you want!

I hope you have found out more about Riley from reading this. Why not come and have a look? You might be pleasantly surprised by what you see. But watch out for the odd garden gnome!

**Compiled by the Editors of the  
Gnominal News.**



*"Any more Sardines?"*



*Cartoon by Howard Gray*

# Freeland

“It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: but when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.”



*Head of House stands to attention one last time.*



*A little lost lamb!*

I listened, half-awake, wondering what it meant. Great things have small beginnings? Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves? Now, I know what a mustard plant looks like - and greenfly or ladybirds, yes. Fowls of the air? Not a chance! Anyway, it didn't make much sense and I wasn't going to be bothered with such minutiae. Perhaps 'mustard' meant some quite different plant in the land of the Israelites - before Marks & Spencer had financed their particular agricultural miracle.

Talking of spectacular changes - the face of Freeland House has altered a lot in the time that I have known it. I can remember the old Study Block - its howling draughts, its battle-scarred walls, its pet rats and the winter nights of duty when (wrapped in a Sixties-fashion-wear great coat) I felt I was re-enacting some kind of retreat from Stalingrad. Then came the new halls of urbane brick rather than fabricated concrete, of study bedrooms, double glazing, central heating and carpets. Much had changed, along with the C.D.T. Block, new Sanatorium, lecture theatres (even a theatre), Computer rooms, Biology laboratories, Astro pitch, etc. etc. It was a fairly significant transformation and had some instantaneous pay-backs, such as the material comfort of all and a much more marketable product. It brought, also, a gradual change in the way the pupils saw themselves in relation to the school. Vividly, I recall the scepticism with which the old-guard viewed their new accommodation. They saw it as all rather unnecessary and took to using the fancy dish-shaped light fittings as stocking-filler frisbees. They regarded the new as something of a threat to their machismo - and they were right. Things have changed - for the better - and life is now much less rough and ready, less sharp at the edges and, crucially, consideration for and tolerance of others has grown along with the change from floor-board and linoleum to carpet.

What, perhaps, is more interesting than the process of change is the nature of the constants. The boys outside my study remain much the same, with the same talents and faults, the same worries and triumphs. Furthermore, I can still look out upon the trees of Scout Woods and those surrounding the Garden Pitch - great firs, beeches, birches, ash, rhododendron and, possibly, some mustards. They were planted by someone, they have endured many seasonal, social, architectural and educational changes and they will still be there, offering shade, when Hall No 1 (Freeland House) has been knocked down and replaced. It makes me ask, what of the 'new' Freeland that stands amidst them? Are the boys of the past, wearing rather different uniforms and customs so different from the boys of the present? Were they some kind of rough barbarian tide loosed upon the world? Are the present lot a collection of namby-pambies sent out to dilute the world with their sissy ways? Somehow, I suspect that schoolboys and mustard seeds remain much the same, no matter what the weather. I suspect, also, that what's important is that which endures - strength, roots that grip and shoots that grow towards the light.



*Sartorial Smoothies - Freeland style.*

The parable of the mustard seed seems appropriate in this age when instantaneous or big effects are expected. The growth of trees, the ecology of a sea-bed, the slow, painstaking and steady, does not much interest us. We celebrate the first round knock-out rather than the what makes a boxer, the excitement of a one-day limited overs game rather than the steady and carefully gutsy nature of Steve Waugh's batting in the Edgebaston Test Match. If there's no quick pay-back, we're not really interested; if it can't be done in one day or one life-time, it's hardly worth doing; if it can't be league-tabled, then it's of little value.

I'm now beginning to get back to the vegetable parable with which I started and which becomes, for me at least, a little clearer. Pay less heed to the spectacular or instantly momentous and more to those that hardly seem to matter. Trees don't quit the business of growing and neither do boys provided they have the right germ - a grip on life and a desire to grow towards the light. I witnessed it perhaps more often than I had a right to expect this year and I recall the victory of the Junior Cricket team against the odds, the way Mark Roger played in the Junior Rugby final, the terrific endeavour that enable us to win the Standards Competition, the

sublime moment when the donkeys of the footballing world won the Junior Inter-House final and the great collective effort that carried-off the trophies for both House Drama competitions. Trees provide shelter and shade, spaces on their branches, support and sustenance for these around them and for that I can look to this year's leavers who set a fine example in handling the business of responsibility in a sensitive and rigorous way. The Wands twins weren't going to quit on their studies or their ideas of right and wrong and that feisty spirit was evident from as early as their 4th Form. I could tell that S Catto wasn't going to be defeated by the difficulties of W.H. Auden or the challenge of football management from the moment he refused - in Riley - to change his white sports socks for regulation grey or to cut an image for himself more in tune with the demands of fashion. Whether or not Dengus was going to throw in the towel on his Highers wasn't a question if one witnessed his determination to have the House discipline run in his way rather than mine. Laurent Gibb pursued the mysteries of Higher Maths and the tricky question of the showers with almost equal rigour - leaving only the plumbing now to be adjusted. There are too many of them to be mentioned by name but, for the most part, I enjoyed

the way they stuck to the principles tied up in their own ideas of themselves - principles such as Mini-Mac's ambition for the success of the Pipe Band, David Horsfall's sense of decency or Stephen Scales' integrity. These were things hardly more noticeable than the mustard seed but, when planted in the soil of their community, provided shelter and example to those around them. When work or play (in the cricketering sense) gets demanding there is a kernel in some that refuses to stop growing. It won't be beaten down or back and won't be pampered into atrophy. It refuses the glitter of the large gesture, the glamour of easy words, instant popularity or easy notoriety, the glib or the ready-made. It is something living and dignified (like the inhabitants of Scout Woods) that is showed by real schoolboys, whether they be the dorm-residents of the once-manorial pile of the 1930s, the chilled inhabitants of the 1960s pre-fabricated block or the modern-day occupant of the comfortably-heated study-bedroom.

The job of Freeland Housemaster had better be more of the forester than the planner, more of seed than of brick and I would like to thank those who live and work in Freeland who know exactly that difference and keep reminding me of it.

CNC

# Nicol

I have not been looking forward to writing this report, because I did not know what to say in it. As I sit in my office at the end of another year, I think of the first time that I wrote a house report and my aspirations for the house and myself. As I think of those aspirations, I wonder how I would re-appraise them now. As far as the house is concerned, I hope, as I always have, that the boys that make up Nicol leave knowing the difference between right and wrong; I also hope that they can put others before themselves and that they learn to work hard and play hard. Finally, I hope that they are basically honest and know the importance of truth.

For myself, I sit here in my office and try to assess the last two years and within that the last six months. I do not think that my priorities have changed in the way I hope the house will run, but I have had to approach the running of the house from another angle. As ever, the importance of the tutors and the support they have given over the year has been exceptional. Without them the house would not have run. I know that sounds like a cliché, but it is not. The other

group of individuals who have been so good are the boys themselves. Nicol boys are a strange breed. They can be unforgiving when you fail, but more than anything they can, and have, been so encouraging. The parents of the boys in Nicol too have been supportive, helpful and understanding. It is comforting to think that as one of a team who normally dispenses pastoral care and support (if dispensing is the correct term) that the extended family which is Nicol has shown the same support to me over the past year. To all of the Nicol extended family, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all their help and support over the last eight months, without it I am sure that I could not have coped as well as I have. In particular, Matt, John and Neil were exceptionally good prefects and did so much work behind the scenes to oil the cogs of the Nicol engine. Matt especially showed a degree of maturity and selflessness which epitomised the characteristics I would give as gifts to all children if I had them to give; not to rob them of their youth, but to give them the skills within their armoury of talents to cope with situations in an appropriate way.

Last year promised much in terms of academic success and as I look at the results achieved I feel that on the whole, the Vth form performed well and can look forward to sixth form with confidence. In the UVith, of the 12 who applied, all gained entry into university; three applying next year after taking an impromptu year out. Alan Senior deserves particular praise for his achievements, gaining straight A's and 1's in his exams. I wish all the leavers a happy and prosperous future and hope that they reap what they sow in the future. On speech day, Nicol again had a large haul of prizes gaining eighteen in all categories going to twelve different boys.

The year, however, was not characterised by success on the sports field in house competitions, but I can honestly say that those Nicolites who represented the house gave of their best and achieved much praise for their attitude and effort. On the school front, we had our share of representatives in school teams. Barry Corbett (full colours) and Matt Morley represented the first XV, while Neil Grossett, Dave Russell, John Osborne and Andrew Wilson took the field for the 2nd XV. Richard



*"Grinning in the rain."*

Crawford, Nick Gdula, James Camilleri and Alistair Turner all played for the U15 As while Fraser Chisholm, Colin Williamson, Euan Aitkenhead and Angus Spiers all turned out for the U14 As. Andrew Wilson and Nick Gdula subsequently went on to Midlands honours. On the hockey pitch, Matt and James Dinning played for the first XI and along with Nick Gdula represented the school in the Scottish Chameleons. Our senior cricketers were again thin on the ground, but there is hope for the future in our next year's intake! Matt captained the school athletics team, which contained several Nicolites. Barry and Dave (Gump) MacLennan both played for the school soccer 1st XI, Barry was also awarded full colours for tennis. Mark Lowe captained the Clay Pigeon team in his usual quiet way. Pride of place, perhaps, ought to go to Charles William John Beveridge's guest appearance for the U16 Bs against Loretto.

In the CCF, Andrews Bishop and Morris along with James Wright were senior NCOs in the Army section and Matt the Marine equivalent. Andrew Harbit, Euan Aitkenhead, Carrick Allison and Iain Millar all played for the pipe band at various levels.

On the Arts side, Colin 'Tarantino' Perry put on, directed and cast a senior production of 'Gaslight' to much acclaim. Andrew Morris and Richard Crawford both won 'best actor' awards for the interhouse play competitions. School productions were star-studded with Nicol boys; Dave Russell, Neil Hutton, Neil Grosset, Andrew Morris and Richard Crawford all taking large parts in the



*Nicol rock band.*

production of 'Guys and Dolls', while behind the scenes Fraser Currie and Tristan 'captain of skiing during the season that had no snow' Ranger were invaluable and unselfish in their lighting and sound exploits. Nick Gdula, Greg Mouat and 'Cindy' Crawford all gained credit passes in their Lamda exams. The choir and orchestra were also well represented with Dave Russell, Andrew Morris, Chris 'John Williams' Bradley and Alasdair Gardner all participating. My final abiding memory of a year of theatrical success was the impromptu sing song round the 'house piano' that is the pool table after the final performance of 'Guys and Dolls'. All those that starred in this successful production; still be-decked in stage make-up; sang into the "wee sma' 'ours" a very enjoyable pastiche of songs from the musical (accompanied by a very proud, if out of tune, Housemaster!)

But the house is not just a list of events that inevitably punctuate a school year like the ringing of the bell between classes. I prefer remembering the moments that stick in one's mind of situations and characters. Watching Gump, James, Barry and Ross playing with Becky on the couch after prep and seeing her eyes light up when they came into my office to see her in her baby walker. Watching the determination on Rory Broadfoot's face when he played in the junior house rugby, despite the cold and wet and his imminent collapse with an asthma attack. Seeing Dom Perrett get chased from the pitch by his own team after getting out to Riley in the last ball of the annual cricket match. Watching with pride as the tug-o-war team again took on all-comers, retaining the trophyless title. Seeing Nick and Cindy overcome the favourites to win the junior debating title. Taking £1 from 'Bish' and 'Winnie' after the Italy vs England match at Wembley. Such moments mean a great deal and serve to bind groups of individuals of different ages together.

As always, I would like to end with my thanks to all members of the house and the staff who support us. All the long suffering and infinitely patient tutors: AJHW, RHE, AMT, GRMR and GAB, without whose help Nicol would not be the success it is. To Bess, Jean and Devina for their good humour and hard work. Finally to Katie and Becky, who have put up with an absent father on many occasions, even if I was just "in the office again".



*Mr Vallot and Mr Wands*



# Ruthven

Another year of considerable achievement by the members of Ruthven House was made all the more enjoyable by the positive, supportive atmosphere amongst Ruthvenites.



*"Tuck shop is open!"*

This is a credit to the senior boys in particular, but also to their predecessors and to the community as a whole. For the fourth year in six, Ruthven had, amongst its members, the Captain of School, Alasdair Sutherland who performed this demanding role with considerable skill. We are indebted to him for the tremendous commitment he showed. As Head of House, Marcus Honig led from the front. His inexhaustible energy, skill in managing tricky situations and the fact that (much to Miss Anderson's despair!) his heart was very much in the job meant that as a House, we were always on the ball. The Prefects did a fine job in encouraging everyone to make the most of their opportunities in Ruthven and helping to maintain the important, if at times wearing, routine. The Upper Sixth were in many ways a vintage year. We were lucky to have such a broad spread of talents, interests and characters, attitudes and opinions - qualities which make communal living so enjoyable. We will miss Nellie's in-depth analysis, J.C.'s disbelief as another hour passes, working on D.T. coursework! Bigus' natural optimism (well done with the A-Level Geog!) and Cyril's electric pace on the Sevens Field. Pizza's love of French, China's ambivalence towards Rugby (congratulations on a well deserved Scottish Schools' Cap against Ireland). Roni's mastery of his fiery temper, Ugga's omnipresence at the breakdown (superb effort with the straight As at A-Level). P.V. Price's trick cycling, Magnus' computer wizardry. and Rich's boastfulness!

We had the School Captains of Rugby and Hockey, Football and Tennis, the winner of the Further Maths prize and, for yet another year, came second in the Inter-House swimming! In the face of high quality competition, we stunned the critics and retained the House Choir Cup. Graham Bird and 'Hefty' Coaton synthesised the boys into an awesome singing machine, capturing the spirit of the House and lifting the 'Best Conductor' cup in the process.

The 'Christmas Karaoke and Barbecue' was perhaps the 'in House' social event of the year. The fourteen quiz teams that night comprised one member of each year group, the winners being 'The Italian Brothers'. It was a night when everyone joined in, the atmosphere was really special and the singing brought a hint of a tear to many an eye.

Ruthven won the Inter-House Tennis, Senior Football, Junior Rugby and Cricket Cups and was strongly represented in every facet of School life. The contribution which the third formers made to the success of the Pipe Band is worthy of special note. As a House, we failed to win more trophies than we won, but we competed for everything with commitment and spirit. One highlight was the excellent Junior House Drama production, written by Thomas Gemmill and Alastair Roy, which took the 'Best Script' Prize. Another was the 'Double Whammy' at the Athletics, where Donald Matheson and Jamie Walker secured the Senior and U17 Victor Ludorums. A third, and perhaps the most selfless, was Rich Wallace's solo piano performance at the House Music - a contribution which demanded so much.



*3rd Form behind bars.*

So another year draws to a close and we look forward with confidence to the future. A talented and lively 3rd Form (who were on top form on the Weekend Retreat at Loch Laggan) have provided the community with fresh blood as we bid farewell to our five year Ruthven veterans. The contribution made by the Tutor Staff to the future of these individuals is not to be underestimated; they recognise and will continue to recognise this. To everyone - members of the Strathallan community - but especially to the boys', tutors and domestic staff in Ruthven, thank you for making this such an enjoyable and fulfilling year. To the members of the House, thanks for being so kind to my children (Molly will be lost without her pals over the summer!) and to Tessa, thanks for supporting us all!

So, we reach the end and then begin...

DJB



*Reynolds, Gemmill, Coaton, High, Blackstock. . . and Harvey.*



# Simpson

“Can we have a Fourth Form barbecue?”, was just about the first question I was asked on starting my brief term of office.

“Yes” I replied, with that blithe optimism which results from amnesia. I had forgotten what Housemastering was about - a life of surprises which makes the planning of the most simple events impossible. I should have anticipated, I suppose, that the questioner was soon to reveal himself as a catapult-owner with homicidal tendencies, that one of his friends was to indulge in the sport of shooting painters and that answer and fax machines confirm Parkinson’s Law. I am sorry about the barbecue.

It was, in fact, whilst interviewing the would-be assassin that I realised the horrible truth that I could not rely on a House Report winging its way from Queensland. I hoped but I hoped in vain. There is no standard format for a House Report. It can be a narrative of events, a paean of praise, a catalogue of disasters or an extra valet service. This is none of these but, perhaps, a bit of each.

To the House golfers and athletes well done, particularly to those who took the time to organise the teams. Much less satisfying was our failure to produce a Senior Drama performance. Congratulations to those who surpassed expectations in their exams. Some universities will be receiving some very surprising undergraduates (Aberdeen will never be the same again). There were one or two others, however, who were disappointed and their experience should be noted by some, particularly in this year’s Upper Sixth, who follow. A great many individuals participated successfully in School sport; not enough in ‘cultural’ activities; a few in nothing at all. Those few (and those few managed very little work either) need to consider their position carefully.

This is not, however, meant to be a lecture. Achievement is easy to assess. Atmosphere is less so. I had no idea that the atmosphere in Simpson would be so friendly and so supportive or that the system of authority, on the surface so relaxed, was so effective. That atmosphere is very much a tribute to Alan and Louise. It is also a tribute to many of those pupils who have left; to Callum Stevens who, when awake, proved himself to be a sensitive and



*Sports Day Athletes.*

considerate Head of House, to Alasdair Grieve who remembered the bits of paper and forgot his footwear. Many others leave abiding memories:- Tom Forster’s sparkling energy and wit in the morning; Douglas Gilbert’s stern taciturnity; Rory Gove’s macho image and Nick Stark’s cultural ethos, to name but a few. More seriously, though, the success of the House depends on just that sort of mixture of individuals, each with different talents and strengths and all supportive of each other. I was very impressed and pleased to see that that same sort of mixture and support existed in other year groups.

To those who would have liked a list of achievements and events I apologise. To be perfectly honest, I don’t know enough of Simpson’s individual honours in the first term. The summer Term was excellent, particularly with the Golf and with a superb Sports Day performance. To all those involved go my congratulations.

Many thanks are also due. Thank you to the House Prefects, without whose efforts a system could not work and particularly to Callum who attempted to educate me into the Simpson way of

life. Thank you to the House Tutors, especially to Sandy Lunan who took on so much extra work and who put up with my idiosyncrasies with tolerant amusement. Thank you to the magnificent Grace whose obvious love for her charges is just occasionally tinged with a touch of severity (I admit, on one occasion, to hiding in the telephone box when Grace was on the warpath). Thank you to my wife for putting up with my nomadic existence. Thank you to Alan and Louise for giving me a House in such good spirits and with such a good ethos. Above all, however, I would like to thank the pupils in Simpson for their friendliness and willingness to put up with an intruder. I needed to be reminded not just of the unpredictability of a Housemaster’s life but of the atmosphere of a good House. Simpson is a good House and I wish Bill and Belinda Weigall a long and successful time in it. Simpsonites may wish to view my sojourn as a dark age between two periods of Antipodean enlightenment.

**RJWP**

*Ed. My particular thanks to RJWP. Surely a demand over and above the call of duty.*

## Bally Remembered

"Now, listen, Bucko"; the index finger would come down and point assertively and the eyes glower down over the top of the glasses. No-one crosses Alan Ball when he's in that kind of mood. He rarely, if ever, had to raise his voice, though. Those hauled up by his booming voice would freeze in their tracks as Alan's shadow loomed over them. He had no truck with fools, liars or malingerers, but he is a gentle giant and for three and a half years was the very personification of Simpson House. Proudly flying the Simpson flag by wearing a variety of Simpson logo-encrusted sports gear (the olive green, shapeless "sack" was a particular favourite), he made Simpson a happy, relaxed house in which the pupils took a great pride. The trust and respect he engendered in the boys were carefully nurtured by him and entirely mutual. Everyone in the house had a role to play and felt valued; he made a special point of making sure that the quieter, less extrovert characters were as much a part of the family as the bouncy rugby players inhabiting the top floor.

When the opportunity arose for me to move to Oakham School, it was a wrench to leave behind such a lively and successful house and to part company with Alan, Louise and Caitlin. Their kindness and generosity to me and to countless others, knew no bounds and their kitchen became my second home.

There were various things about Alan which became legendary and for which he will be fondly remembered. Barbecues in



*Mr Ball's presentation.*

a blizzard were certainly a novelty in 1993, but soon became part of the tradition and the notices displayed on his house noticeboard were evidence of many hours spent playing with the graphics package on his computer. There was the air of the exotic about his office when I wandered in to find him prattling away in Japanese on the telephone and, although I am as about as qualified to speak about rugby as Paul Gascoigne is about flower arranging, I could certainly hear his encouraging bellows on Big Acre from the other side of the school.

He and Louise were great entertainers in every sense of the word and seemed equally happy hosting a Japanese dinner party where guests were encouraged to have a crash course in using chopsticks or sharing a take away from Bridge of Earn with a crowd of hungry sixth formers crowded into the Common Room. It wasn't just the lure of the bountifully stocked House Shop and the luxury of Sky television which had potential 3rd formers clamouring for places in Simpson; the Balls made it a happy, relaxed and friendly place to live and work, both

for the eighty or so boys and for its resident tutor.

Alan, Louise and Caitlin will all be sadly missed and their warmth of personality was undoubtedly Simpson's greatest strength. It is a mark of the affection they all generated amongst pupils and staff that forty pupils, three Simpson tutors and four other former colleagues all attended the christening of baby Calum, their three month old son, in Brisbane, during the recent rugby tour.

**Paul Crosfield**  
Senior Tutor, Simpson House  
1991-1996

# Woodlands

I must apologise for the confusion caused in these pages last year.

I have in fact turned down a number of highly paid, senior executive posts in industry since then and have had to tell Tony, with genuine regret, that I cannot at present help him out. The S-J family is therefore still resident at Woodlands ....

Woodlands continues to change and evolve as any community will, although looking back on the past year, the precise nature of the changes is hard to pin down. Much depends on the collective character of the Upper Sixth, if such a thing is a possibility, and we were lucky to have a successful and enterprising year group - the first to have spent their entire secondary career in Woodlands with us, poor things! Under Karen Wilson's unusual but committed management, they achieved a record number of stripes of various colours (five blue, five red and at least three yellow) and the more culturally inclined of them must have broken all records for the number of hours of television watched. Interestingly, those who were the most avid Bildschirmschauer or Téléspectateurs (there was a suggestion floated at one point last year that the U6 should be allowed to watch TV during prep), had the greatest problems meeting the offers made to them by universities. Funny, that .... At any rate, we did enjoy their company over a long period of time and must record with relief that they have

almost all found a place in the last "free" year of Higher Education. Sally Burnett and Tyrie Turner are off to see the world, Sally as a sort of Scottish Skippy (she is working in Oz) and Tyrie with the Project Trust in Zimbabwe; Karina is also touring the world, but as yet I don't think anyone is quite sure what she is going to do. Particular congratulations must go to Jenni Malcolm for her 3 A grades at A Level and two A's at Higher, to Kirsty Glimm for the ease with which she gained a place in the Navy (she started at Dartmouth in September, joining Sally Cust), to Tyrie for the unheard-of offer of three B Grades at Higher (from Durham! - and yes, she did make it ....) and to Lucy for her unconditional offer from Glasgow (unconditional offers are pretty hard to come by). Speaking of which, Helen Johnston also had an unconditional offer from Edinburgh to read Medicine, but unfortunately she sent the wrong form back. Those who knew Helen will realise that this was not as unlikely as it sounds, but will be relieved that she has now had the offer renewed and will be starting in 1998.

Over the years, Woodlanders, as a House, have been successful in many areas. We have yet to repeat Rebecca Dover's feat of producing a winning Junior Play (the present Upper Sixth are the youngest who took part in that), but the Ensemble won their section at the House Music Competition, and many thanks are due to Emma and Ruth for the work they put in - also to all those, the majority of the house, who took part in some way. Many thanks too to the large number of people who took part in the Drama Competition at both levels, and to Clare Proctor for her work in both productions. The Swimming Team again beat Simpson and were close to beating Ruthven; the athletes improved on their '96 Sports Day win over Thornbank and did quite respectably in Standards too, though according to Mr Shore, the girls should be gaining the same level of points as the boys. We retained the Netball cup and put in a good performance in the Hockey, despite having only one member of the 1st XI (the Juniors won, but the Seniors lost); the Basketball competition seemed to be in the bag after the Juniors ran away with their match, but slipped away again in the



*All dressed up with somewhere to go.*





"Who, me?"



Helen Miller posing for the camera.

Senior game. The Cross Country didn't happen (much disappointment over that) and neither did the House Ski races. Finally on the sports report, Elise won the in-House Table Tennis again, so the only options to stop her repeating this next year, was to get rid of the TT table!

The year has ended with the appointment of Alison Hunter as the next Head of School, an achievement which is a great credit to her. She will be only the second girl to head Strath, following Nicola Robb in 1990 (to put that in perspective, one of Miss Vass's friends at university, Suzanne Paterson, was in the Upper Sixth with Nicola), and is the first girl from Woodlands to do so. We wish her a very successful year. Ruth Mazur, Emma Readman and Jennie Perry are also to be congratulated on the award of their School Colours. I hope that the incoming Upper Sixth will be successful in their leadership of the house.

Other events of the year included the large amounts of money raised for SOS Children's Villages. Kate and I did complete our parachute jump - it seems a long time ago now - and would like to thank everyone who sponsored us. Rebecca Haverson, Kirsty Glimm and I went to Arbroath, one gloomy evening last September, to hand over a cheque to Christina Barnes, the national organiser for SOS Children's Villages: with a few late contributions, the final total raised was £1300. While on the subject - charity fund-raising is something which the school does not do well except in isolated events, and it is not generally easy to get pupils interested in contributing to good causes themselves or in organising others to do so. We do however, manage to raise large sums for sports tours. I think that this is a shame, and I am sure that a more determined approach to charity work would not only be good for charities, but would also be something which would benefit lots of pupils.

We have many people to thank for their efforts on behalf of the House; all the Tutors, of course, whose support, advice and good humour are invaluable, Mr Kitson for organising the outing to Riverdance and the shopping trips; also the domestic staff, Janet, Vicky, Zenka and Margaret, for keeping the fabric of the place together, and anyone else who wittingly or unwittingly has made life easier or more pleasant for Woodlanders this year. We say goodbye to Miss Gnanou, who is leaving after two years to take up a post in Aberdeen and who will be missed for her sense of humour and her generous help with extra French, as well as by downstairs North Wing for her exotic cooking. She will be replaced by Miss Vass, who is joining the Physics Department.

Finally, here are the prizes awarded to the Leavers last term: Lyndsay Allison: Telly Addicts' Trophy; Sally Burnett: Rhododendron Society's Gold Medal; Karina: Marlboro' Award for Industry; Kirsty Glimm: Daily Telegraph Art Prize; Louisa Graham-Campbell: CCF (Culliford Cadet Force) Prize; Fiona Hamilton: Colgate Ring of Confidence; Rebecca Haverson: Mrs Higginbottom's Special Maths Prize; Helen Johnston: UCAS "I'm sorry, I'll write that again" Prize; Lucy Kitson: Damon Hill Driving Cup; Jenny Littleford: Ingrowing Toenail Athletics Cup; Jenni Malcolm: Gray Memorial Hacksaw; Helen Miller: Oban Lovers' Quaich; Kate Miller: The Magic Flute; Susan Miller: Teetotallers' Tankard; Sam Prentice: Mystic Meg's Golf Prize; Sarah-Jane: Deputy Head of Freeland Award; Tyrie Turner: Head of Freeland Award; Karen Wilson: The Bacchus Award and the John Deere Driving Cup.

ACWS-J



# Chaplaincy Report

There comes a moment in a Popeye cartoon when our hero is all but finished. The bullies have knocked him to the ground and Olive Oyle is tied to the railway lines as the express thunders nearer. We know all will be well. At any moment we know he will produce a tin of spinach from under his jumper and revive his energy. Single-handed he will divert the train, rescue Olive and banish the villains. We warm to the myth, if only because real life is so seldom the same. The experience of childhood, extending into our adult years, is that we cannot always find the spinach in real life. Evil and injustice appear to triumph.

Some people would like to make religion into spinach. A quick shot at a moment of crisis and all is well. Alternatively "pie in the sky when you die" will make up for everything. Serious students of religion know it is not quite like that. Part of the power of religion is that people live in transformational ways, even when evil does seem to win all the battles. Religion has sustained and continued to sustain people through hellish experiences. There are few of us who do not know a story to illustrate this. More remarkably, amongst our friends and family, we can often illustrate the point.

The power of religion, both in individuals and society, is less obvious in Britain than in any other part of the world. An episode of the TV series 'The Peoples' Century' featured what it called 'God fighting back'. It showed examples of the powerful mixture of religion and politics in various parts of the world. The unspoken question prompted by the pictures was; 'What is the boundary between mobilising the power of religion to resist injustice and using religious demagoguery in pursuit of power for its own sake?' A recall to fundamentals has to be a legitimate strategy for any religious community. The call to moral living in the fear of God, to be found in most faiths, has to be a virtue. However, it has always carried with it a dark side of intolerance. The self-appointed guardians of God's reign over human affairs, seem to forget that they too are subject to judgement. Who opens the tin of spinach is crucial to the use of its power.

The question for religions, especially Christianity, is what account do you give of the power of good and evil and how it is controlled? This is a question religious educators especially want to ask; after all, it is in the syllabus . . . The answers, especially in the classroom, need to stand up theologically and philosophically, but also to resonate with the human experience that life can leave you needing the spinach.

TGL



The Chapel Altar.

**Baptisms:** April 4th, 1997 Emily and Rory Barnes by the Chaplain in the School Chapel.

**Marriages:** July 27th, 1996 Timothy James Bryant to Lara Helen Clayton (OS) by the Chaplain in the School Chapel.

February 15th, 1997 Michael William Davidson Blanche (OS) to Katherine Kabu Keyvuya Orr (OS) by the Chaplain in the School Chapel.

**Autumn Term Preachers:**

The Revd. D. D. Ogston MA, BD, St John's Kirk, Perth; The Revd C Robertson JP, MA, Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh; The Scripture Union Christian Focus Team; The Revd D G Galbraith, MA, BD, BMus, MPhil, Admin. Secretary: Panels on Worship, Doctrine and Artistic Matters

**Spring Term Preachers:**

The Revd John P. Chalmers, BD (Department of Ministry); The Revd W Uist Macdonald, JP, MA; "The Still Waters Band"; The Revd Gavin J Elliot, MA, BD Biggar

**Summer Term Preachers:**

The Revd Stewart J Lamont, BSc, BD Kinning Park, Glasgow, Broadcaster and Columnist; The Revd John P Chalmers, MA, BD (Department of Ministry); The Revd Charles Robertson, JP, MA Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh (Chaplain to HM the Queen) Valedictory Service

## Salvete

### RILEY

G Allardyce, R Anderson,  
A Appleby, E Baykal, J A Bennet,  
A-L Breaden, G Brownlie,  
J D Burgess, F Carpenter,  
M Chalmers, D H Coaton,  
J W Falconer, K F Faucett-Reid,  
A Ferguson, K Fleming,  
T D Gray, H R Harvey,  
R Johnstone, S Johnstone,  
A R Lawson, J E Lawson,  
C R Leadbetter, H M Lyburn,  
A S MacDonald, S J MacDonald,  
K Mackenzie, I Mackie, J McBain,  
C Munro, A J Murray, R J Myles,  
K L Nesbitt, A O'Donnell,  
J C Roy, C D Skinner, D J Skinner,  
R H Stark, S Stark, R F Terrell,  
R T Whytock, M Woodrow.

### FREELAND

A R Broadfoot, S J Chapman,  
G H A StV Henry, R Thomason,  
A Wallace.

### NICOL

R Boba, R Bickerton, D Hotger,  
K MacLennan, G Paterson,  
J Riach, R Winsey.

### RUTHVEN

N Anderson, S Bazanov,  
P M Brown, J D Cameron,  
L S Ferry, B Lithgow,  
P J Lyburn, H MacKay,  
G D McKerracher, T Mitchell,  
I A Robb, C Warschau.

### SIMPSON

A Arakji, D G Bennet, R Blakey,  
P Blumenthal, C Johnson,  
D Parker, S M Smith.

### THORNBANK

S A Adam, C S Bush,  
M A Bush, K Cameron,  
S Campbell, C E Dickie,  
K V Flatman, K A McArthur,  
E J McFarlane, J Rogers.

### WOODLANDS

S Arumugam, L E Chisholm,  
S Eddie, S Gillespie,  
L Kotseroglou, M Kauffmann,  
H Light, J McChesney,  
K Podymakhina, V Reid,  
I Stirling, H Sullivan,  
L Watson, E Wood.

# Music

We began the year with the much needed, improved music facilities on the upper floor of the main building.

These consisted of a splendid new classroom over the old Music Recital Room, together with a fully equipped keyboard room to enhance class music teaching. This is the first stage of a move to expand the department in this area of the school. The newly decorated facilities had an immediate impact and quickly erased the memories of the previous year's teaching conditions.

Each year, music is inevitably dominated by the major events, several of which are mentioned elsewhere. Often overlooked is the enormous amount of other activity taking place. Each week, there are now approximately 200 music lessons taught by the 18 peripatetic staff, there are numerous rehearsals for orchestras, bands, ensembles and choirs, and in addition, the pupils have to find time to practice their instruments. For example, over the last year there were 47 successful candidates for the Associated Board Exams, of which 15 obtained merits or distinctions. This was in addition to the extra practices for such events as House Music or 'Guys and Dolls', and represents a formidable commitment on the part of the pupils.

The three concerts by the 'Demon Barbers' vocal group in September (two to the school and one open to the public) may well have dispelled some pupils' preconceived notions about singing, by presenting concerts of wide appeal and much humour. Judging by the number of pupils who turned up again to hear the evening performance, this was a great success and widely enjoyed.

The first term brought a variety of activity in other areas; two concerts given by members of the fourth and third forms and the continuing series of mini-concerts gave a valuable performing platform for many. Riley made an enjoyable trip to Glenalmond's Choral Day, a small group performed at Forgandenny Church in aid of UNICEF, two Headmaster's Music Concerts and the Choral Society performed movements from Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and the 'Magnificat' by Rutter.

The choir benefited from greater numbers joining, including more boys, although we are still short of tenors and



*School Orchestra at St. John's Kirk, Perth (photograph courtesy of D.C. Thomson & Co).*

basses. Anthems were sung at all the evening services and the term ended with a very successful series of carol services. The annual OAP service was followed by carol singing around the village raising £60 for 'Edinburgh Aid to Bosnia'. There were some particularly enjoyable performances of 'Sussex Carol' and Stanford's 'Magnificat' despite the fact that some had not had a great deal of experience of part-singing before. The Riley Choir contributed solos and a moving rendition of 'Myn Lyking' in the Junior Service.

In the Easter term, 'Guys and Dolls' and the House Music competition took most of our rehearsal time. This joint music and drama production revealed much new talent and appealed to many outside the regular group of musicians. As a contrast, the Baroque Ensemble and Vocalists also gave a highly praised concert in the Music Room. A recording of the choir, sent to York Minster, resulted in an invitation to sing there in May. As well as accepting this, the choir again visited the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling, to sing choral evensong. During both these services the choir managed the music (and in particular, the psalm singing) with great sensitivity and accuracy, and the pupils will have been encouraged by the Dean of York's invitation to return to this magnificent building.

Riley has continued to flourish under a new arrangement whereby two time-tabled lessons have been set aside, one for singing in one of the four choirs, and one

for instrumentalists to play in either ensembles or an orchestra. This has been effective in creating flexible rehearsal times and encouraging performance. The Riley Divisional Competition, modelled along Senior House Music lines, was an excellent addition to the term and will surely pay dividends in the future by giving valuable experience for the Senior competition. The busy year ended with an excellent performance of 'Summer Nights'.

The chapel choir, girl's choir and orchestra kept busy during the summer term. Concerts were given after Prizegiving, for Headmaster's Music and at the Perth Festival Lunchtime series. Here, the newspaper critics spoke of; 'legato string playing', 'blending perfectly', 'a performance of the top class' and 'the commendable quality of the boys' sound'.

This year, we say goodbye to a number of particularly loyal and talented musicians. The extra-curricular nature of music relies on such pupil's commitment and willingness to participate and perform. Mention must be made of Agnes Bradley, a superb soloist and leader of the orchestra for two years, as well as a pianist and singer, who has been offered a place at the Royal Academy of Music, Claire Ketcher (Head of Choir), pianist and timpanist, Lyndsay Allison, Emma Allstaff and Andrew Forbes, all of whom have made an enormous contribution to music at school.

DGR

# Headmaster's Music 1996/1997

The first Headmaster's Music took place in November and true to tradition proved to be another civilised and pleasant evening.



Agnes Bradley, who is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music.

Drinks in the Music Room beforehand got everything off to an informal start and there were appetising refreshments afterwards for those who had earned their meal ticket. The Concert this year was held in the Chapel.

It was indeed a varied programme which unfolded, allowing us to appreciate all the different aspects of school music in what looked to be a very ambitious programme. The School Choir, the Girls' Choir and Riley Choir sang popular numbers with their customary skill and gusto; the Vocal Group were admired for their agility and poise; the Cuthie Men (four stalwarts of Strathallan music, Agnes Bradley, Harry Crump, Claire Ketcher and Emma Readman) stirred Highland hearts with a "Gaelic Air" and "The Star of Munster." There were two delightful vocal solos, a husky "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" in the best café noir cabaret tradition from Ruth Mazur and Fauré's "En Priure" which was very effectively and movingly sung by Emma Allstaff.

The three solo instrumentalists had certainly selected challenging works. Ruth Sharp had the daunting task of opening the concert and her interpretation of Bach's "Fantasia in A Minor" betrayed no nerves and gave what seemed to sympathetic but amateur ears a masterful account of a difficult piece. Claire Ketcher's Clementi, *Allegro and Adagio* from the Sonata in D, was very finely played and Agnes Bradley selected what was one of the highlights of the evening in her playing of Kreisler's virtuosi *Prelude and Allegro*.

Agnes had earlier joined Hamish Forbes and the Headmaster in "Bach at the Double" - which was rather different. The very first performance by the recently formed Baroque Ensemble made a splendid start to the second part of the programme. It was all Handel, and what a delight. The familiar *Allegro* from the "Fireworks Suite" and the Air from the "Water Music" and the less familiar; Alix Chenevix-Trench's stylish interpretation of two movements from the Organ Concerto in F major, combined to produce a memorable ten minute's of music making. The Orchestra's first piece was the Violin Concerto by Gordon Dale, a work specially written for schools, and gave every instrument a chance to shine; Agnes' technical skills were very much on display but perhaps the Kreisler was more of a challenge.

It will already be apparent this was an ambitious concert and nowhere more so than in the final number, an arrangement of the slow movement of Mahler's Third Symphony. This was played with real verve and style and was an opportunity to see and hear almost everybody who had entertained us so well. An encore would have been nice, but alas we were summoned back to the Music Room for supper, where there was no shortage of musical topics of conversation after a great evening's entertainment.

The summer Headmaster's Music took place in the Chapel in the last week of term and as ever it turned out to be an

enjoyable evening in which the diversity and scope of the musical talents present in the school were given the opportunity to entertain an appreciative audience. It was a well-planned concert with the rising stars of Riley there to get everything off to a good start and thereafter a varied melange of individual and choral skills in a programme which ranged from the familiar to the obscure and from the popular to the esoteric; something, as they say, for everyone.

Only the most steelily unemotional could have failed to be stirred by the verve with which the Riley Jazz Band opened proceedings with a rendering of "Oh When the Saints" (somewhat mysteriously attributed to P.K\*\*r) and the enthusiasm with which the Choir from Riley tackled their number, particularly the chorus from the "Lion King", a piece with which probably everybody, apart from the present reviewer, was perfectly familiar, so many a stout pair of brogues were set a-tapping. It should be noted that there some quite dextrous changes of seating and instrument stands required for these opening numbers and this was managed discreetly and efficiently by the well-drilled efforts of Tom Hayward and his team. Having got off to such a spirited start, the programme then moved on to a succession of items which enabled the more senior musicians to display their talents. The Girls' Choir were quite excellent in their rendition of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. This, more fully entitled *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* ("stood the mother full of grieving") is a mediaeval Latin poem in the sorrows of the Virgin Mary at the Crucifixion and they sang beautifully to convey the poignant sorrow expressed in the music. This was followed by Claire Ketcher's expert playing of Poulenc's *Novelette* in C Major, a piece which was probably new to most of us but which she played expertly to convince many of us that the frontiers of our musical taste might reasonably be pushed forward to include *les cinq*. Shona Dickie then proceeded to steal the show with a magnificent rendering of Cherubino's taxing *Voi che Sapete* from *Le Nozze de Figaro*. This was enchantingly sung, with great panache and she succeeded not just in addressing the notes but in bringing out the character of Mozart's reluctant teenage soldier. Then came a Telemann Trio, which was rather alarmingly played by the quartet of recorder (Alison Hunter), oboe (Alex Lamb), cello (Hamish Forbes) and piano (Claire Ketcher) - a delicate and very satisfying performance of a perfect work for a summer's evening. Another highlight of the evening was Ruth Sharp's playing of the *Intermezzo* in A by Brahms. This is defined by the O.E.D. as "a short, light, dramatic, musical or other performance, inserted between the acts of a play or, formerly an opera" and there were certainly operatic and dramatic moments in her utterly convincing performance that underlined what a powerful piece she had chosen to entertain us with.

The second half began with an enterprising arrangement of "Gracelands" by Emma Readman, who also played the flute in a sextet that included sister Shuna (who had a spirited solo that complemented the performance of the ensemble), Inez Manson on the flute, Alison Hunter this time playing her violin, Sarah Mazur on the cello and Laura Morley contributing on the clarsach, the traditional Celtic harp. Unfortunately for the benefit of generations as yet unborn who might want to test the musical taste of critics of the 1990s, much of the remainder of the programme, although well performed to the satisfaction of the rest of the audience,

was somewhat outwith the appreciation of this reviewer. I was able to praise the Chapel Choir in the Tippet without necessarily wholeheartedly approving of the choice; Lennon and McCartney were not familiar composers but the barbershop ensemble produced some wonderful sounds. The next piece was a recitative and aria written by Scarlatti which gave the Mazur sisters, Ruth singing and Sarah accompanying her on the cello, assisted by Alix Chenevix-Trench on the piano, a chance to shine. It was a radiant performance, full of charm characteristic of the baroque era and had clearly been impeccably rehearsed.

The final part of the concert was a generous mix of musical styles that clearly gave a great deal of pleasure to everybody. Chris Bradley and Andrew Morris plucked their guitars to good effect and the Stage Band entertained us all with a swinging "Sweet Georgia Brown." These were highly entertaining but it was felt that the two items that in a way summarised the spirit of the whole evening were Agnes Bradley's solo and the contribution made by the Leavers' Choir. She had selected for what was a well deserved finale to the whole concert, a piece by Charles de Beriot (1802-1870), very much a new name, especially as for most of us he is a recruit to the ranks of famous, totally blind Belgian composers. Unfamiliar he may have been, but his *Scene de Ballet* (opus no less than 100) was a splendid opportunity for Agnes to illustrate how she had provided musical entertainment of such a high standard as this in her many and varied contributions to the Headmaster's Music concerts. It was entirely appropriate that she should have left her magnificent solo performance to have taken her place in the really rather moving Leaver's Choir, whose light-hearted performance concluded the evening on a perfect note.



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# House Music



Thornbank choir performing "Unchained Melody".

## Senior House Music Competition

The House Music Competition entered its second year under the leadership of David Read, and the whole school, with many parents, managed to squeeze themselves into the transformed sports hall.

We were first treated to Woodlands House, and their geographical journey from 'Lascio ch'io pianga' to 'Gracelands', with the 'evocative opening and instrumentation' winning them the Best Ensemble.

Freeland offered everything from Bach to Boyzone, only with more of a 'professional, well balanced and energetic performance'. Mention must be given to their compere, Max Markus, who demonstrated distinction, poise and suitably compelling wit.

Nicol found a 'solid bass' from which to build on in the choir, and their guitar trio worked well together in the ensemble's medley of 'Creep' and 'Accuse Me'.

The next item took us all by storm. The massed choir of Thornbank showed the rest of the choirs how to do it. They had energy, were together, confident and above all performed their version of 'Unchained Melody'. This was followed by the performance of the afternoon. No one could question the talent of Agnes Bradley in her exceptional, exciting and very stylish 'Bolero'.

'Not the School Song' was another masterpiece of presentation. An obviously well rehearsed song, brought some most unexpectedly talented singers to the attention of Mr. Read, not to mention a few others in the audience. The 'excellently drilled' piping medley completed Ruthven Houses performance.

Finally Simpson took to the stage, with something to live up to following last year! The adjudicator particularly liked the 'bumming' from the basses in the choir item. 'Hordes of Locusts' occasionally sounded as such, but displayed the 'accomplished technique' of the soloist.

Once again this competition demonstrated the sheer diversity of musical talent that abounds at Strathallan. The energy of the performers, enthusiasm of staff and pupils alike, and the desire to make music enjoyable was evident to all those who had the pleasure of listening to this almost concert-like competition. Music is meant to be fun, this extravaganza certainly lived up to this.

MJSA

## Riley Inter-Divisional House Music Competition - May 1997

A House Music competition is a relatively easy and painless way of encouraging wide-scale music making in a school. A Divisional competition within just one house could have posed some problems of finding enough musicians to take part, and in the past a Riley music competition would have been inconceivable. However, Riley House is now, musically speaking, a very special place. All eighty Riley pupils are singing in various choirs and there is an array of established ensembles such as a very successful Jazz Band and an Orchestra that is conducted by a pupil. This year seemed to be the right time to take the risk with a music competition.

As it turned out, the Riley music competition was the most enjoyable musical concert that could have been imagined. It was a concert full of enthusiasm and energy, a sense of fun and had a consistently high standard of musical achievement and discipline. The adjudication was based on the quality of the performance regardless of ability. So basically, "Twinkle twinkle little star", if performed and presented

well, could score better than a more difficult piece played badly. This resulted in a level playing field in which every pupil in Riley felt able to contribute.

And contribute they did! All eighty of them. The Headmaster adjudicated and was very impressed with the whole evening. He commented upon the quality of presentation and performance. He was particularly impressed with the four soloists. I was deeply impressed with how much effort and energy was put in to the performances by all four divisions, from the choosing of the music to the finished presentation.

I pay tribute to the support and efforts of all the staff involved, the divisional heads and in particular the outstanding efforts of Tom Booth and Lindsay-Gail Broadfoot, Georgina Philip and Victoria Robertson. My thanks should also go to all the past and present pupils of Riley who have helped pave the way for the sheer energy of music-making in Riley and the quite remarkable musical talent which is apparent today.

SD

# York Trip

After numerous recordings of the School Choir, Mr Read finally found someone to "invite" us to sing. Rehearsals all went fairly well - Mr Read escaped with only a few more grey hairs than he started with and so off we went to York.

For the majority of us who have never even seen the Minster in real life, let alone sung in it before, we were in for a real shock. This place was BIG! Even the most experienced window cleaner would have their work cut out!

Having only half recovered from the long journey and the astounding scenery, rehearsals started. The first one, to get used to singing in such a vast building, turned out to be the shortest rehearsal on record: possibly due to the fact that we had taken the longest ever 'short cut' along most of the city walls. Courtesy of the School, we then went out for the obligatory MacDonalds meal followed by 10-pin bowling. Unfortunately, the winner was undisputed, but then not all of us had done it before. Then, passing on congratulations


to some surprising announcements, we went back to the very considerable comforts of the York International Youth Hostel for a quiet night.

Monday saw more rehearsals, time to do some shopping and sight-seeing and a little posing for mug shots - all that fame, it was good, honest!!

York Minster turned out to be an exhilarating building to sing in, and the kilts were a novelty for them down in Yorkshire. The Evensong was extremely well attended by about two hundred people. This may have been due to our reputation preceding us? Or that Ruth had handed out invitations to everyone we met, or that some unsuspecting tourists were driven in to the quire stalls! Just when we thought we had escaped from the School, our very own Rev made an appearance!

All in all the trip was a success, we were invited back by the Dean, so we can't have been that bad! But Mr Read, is he calling us or are we calling him....?

DGR/Alison Hunter



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Choir rehearsing for Sung Evensong at York Minster.



# Strathreadathon



*Morag Mackay receives a cheque from Mark Stringer and Ben Dalley.*

The eternal cry of any School Librarian, 'How can I get them to read more?' was answered last summer by Mrs McFarlane who suggested 'Why not hold a Readathon?' No sooner said than done. We bought badges, medals, ribbons and bookmarks, designed record sheets, decided on a starting date and on which pupils should participate. A selection of Riley Form 1 and 2 chose a remarkably wide variety of books suitable for an equally wide variety of readers.

On the launch date, in early September, we were delighted with the response - although this rapture was soon modified as many who enrolled were seen no more until December, when they returned their original book.

However, we had a core of faithful readers from 1J to Form 3 who enjoyed seeing their totals grow over the weeks. Just before half-term, Mrs McFarlane had the idea of making it into a Sponsored Readathon, in which any money raised would go to the Scottish charity 'Cue and Review'. This little known charity sends out cassettes of young people's magazines to blind or partially sighted youngsters. Our excellent band of readers raised over £200 which was presented to Morag MacKay of 'Cue and Review' at an enjoyable ceremony in February.

JW

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# Montbrison

## III Form French Exchange to Montbrison

This year has seen yet another 3rd form French Exchange, with the village of Montbrison. A group of eight pupils travelled over there in April and experienced brilliant weather and a new culture.

The French pupils returned to Strathallan in June. The weather was wet and typically Scottish. However, this did not stop the whole group going on several trips, which were enjoyed by all.

One of the places we went in France was "Le Chateau" in Grézieux, where Madame Alice de Benzy lives with her family. We were invited there for the afternoon and played several sports and games and enjoyed many nice new delicacies.

At the School "La Madeleine", we went to classes for one day and were horrified to find that their lessons were an hour long!

The school was also smaller and a day school. We stayed with families, who were very kind and helped us to practise our French.

When the French came to Scotland there were several activities organised including a visit to Edinburgh, where we did a lot of shopping. We also went to the Castle where we saw the Scottish Crown Jewels and went to Crieff and Glen Turret Distillery where we had a guided tour.

In addition, we went to St Andrews and saw the beach and sampled Scottish sea waters. On the way there, we went to see the famous Dundee ship "The Discovery".

There was a lot of shopping of course! The good thing about all this is that we stayed together with the French group which meant that we got to know each other a lot better.

Our advice to IIIrd formers next year is to go!

BG



Third formers - 'aux magasins'.



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# Alès

## 'Another Year, Another French Exchange'

This year's exchange to Alès once again proved to be an 'entente cordiale'. From the moment we, an unlikely band of nine Lower Sixth formers, stepped off the plane, the sun followed us. This was a pleasant improvement from the dreary conditions that we had left back home in Scotland.

The correspondents and host families were all very welcoming and everyone proved to be a great success with their new found friends. There were, however, many differences in the way of life, but we even surprised ourselves by how well we coped with the changes. The food was "interesting" since most of us were invited to try many different things that we had never seen before, such as frogs legs and snails, horse meat and, as Eleanor recalls, rabbit, only to be informed that it was one of the pet rabbits that she had met in the garden the previous day.

We spent some time at our correspondents' school as well. The classes were much larger than we were used to, and many of the French students were surprised to find out that we were taught in classes of ten rather than forty. Our French was put to the test when we were asked to contribute to the lessons, but at the mention of a maths test (with which we are not too comfortable at the best of times) we all took our leave to discover the delights of the town of Alès.

On the final evening we took part in a farewell party hosted in our honour. Jon Butler moved everyone to excited cheering when he opened the event with a majestic performance on the bagpipes while wearing his 'jupe Ecosaise'. The audience of



*Lower sixth in Alès.*

about fifty chatted and danced until the small hours of the morning, paying testimony to the fact that we were able to speak reasonable French after our trip.

The farewells were tearful, showing that we had all struck up good friendships with our correspondents and many other friends we had made during our stay. Genuine regret at leaving was evident but being on holiday from school seemed to cushion the blow.

Mille Mercis!

Jennifer Maxwell

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# Sixth Form Talks



*Professor Sir Donald MacKay in conversation with senior pupils; Kirsty Glimm, Andrew Morris and Jenni Malcolm.*

The customary series of outside speakers invited to entertain us on general topics that might prove instructive and interesting for an audience composed principally of sixth-formers was organised for the winter and spring terms. Rosannah Cunningham, who had recently been elected Member of Parliament for Kinross and West Perthshire in a bye-election, was our first speaker. She spoke extremely well in a talk that ranged over her personal reasons for always having been politically involved to the contemporary problems of Scottish, British and European politics. In retrospect, her forecasts about what, in her judgement, was likely to happen proved to be remarkably accurate. The next speaker was Giles Havergal, the Artistic Director of the Citizens' Theatre. He spoke about the challenges and responsibilities of helping to run one of the most successful of theatres, which regularly toured the European festivals whilst remaining aware of its responsibilities to its roots in Glasgow. This was very appropriate for some of his audience who were that very week attending a Citizens' performance of Hamlet, so many of his illustrations were geared to their visit. Our third guest was Sandy Mole, the President of the National Farmers' Union in Scotland, who managed to squeeze his visit in-between meetings in Brussels and Westminster, which rather neatly summarised his current responsibilities. He spoke both personally as a Berwickshire farmer and as the head of an organisation which has had to represent Scottish farmers in the course of some of the greatest problems they can ever have faced and we were reminded of the importance his industry still possesses for the economy as a whole.

We moved neatly, but not intentionally with our next speaker from the world of agriculture to that of industry. Professor Sir Donald Mackay, who at the time was the Chairman of Scottish Enterprise, was able to give us an interesting overview of current industrial trends and then direct our thoughts to how these compare with developments elsewhere in Europe and, in particular, the Far East. His Chair in Economics at Heriot Watt University provided the opportunity for some more direct questioning from those studying his subject. Finally Professor Owen Dudley Edwards from the University of Edinburgh graced us with a return visit. Truly a Renaissance figure, teaching American History as well as writing and broadcasting on a variety of subjects, he had been invited to talk, as a Dubliner, about

southern perceptions of Northern Ireland. This he did extraordinarily well, casting new light on many aspects of this most intractable of political, religious and economic problems. Although he had entertained his audience for an hour, he readily accepted an invitation to talk to the historians in his audience afterwards about the significance of the Irish contribution to Jacobitism; this too proved to be both entertaining and instructive.

Jacobitism was very much a specialist interest for many of the sixth form historians and two other speakers were invited to help us examine different aspects of the subject. Hugh Cheape from the National Museums of Scotland led us on an examination of Jacobite culture which helped to illuminate the backgrounds from which it sprang and was sustained. Professor Murray Pinnock, in a well crafted talk, took us through the recent changes in interpretation of many aspects of this movement, in ways which were helpful to those who had public examinations in their sights as well as being interesting to those whose involvement in Jacobitism was more general. And that I suppose is the rationale and justification for this whole series of talks.

## Examination Results

Strathallan's pupils have once again achieved outstanding examination results. The A level pass rate was almost 100% with just over 47% gaining A-B grades - the national average being 35%, Alexandra Mair, Jennifer Malcolm, Helen Nesbitt, Alan Senior and Graham Tyldesley all achieving straight As in their chosen subjects.

The pupils sitting Scottish Highers achieved almost a 87% pass rate overall with just over 60% gaining the A-B grades.

GCSE and Standard Grade results fared just as well with an A\*-C pass rate of just over 90% and an A\*-A rate of 37%, almost 2 1/2 times the national average.

# Changing Rooms

More than a hundred guests, including parents, Governors and friends of the School, gathered for the official opening of the new medical centre in June.

Professor Peter Howie, Deputy Principal of the University of Dundee and a distinguished member of both academic and medical professions performed the official opening ceremony. In his address, he complimented the School on its facilities and extended congratulations from the University of Dundee.

The event marked a culmination of many months of planning and building work which resulted in a centre which has already proved to be a welcome addition to our resources. There are dedicated male and female wards as well as a consulting room, treatment room, kitchen, day room and isolation unit. Residential accommodation has been provided for the nursing sister and this is linked to the wards by an internal staircase and a push button "call" system.

Whilst the medical centre has benefited pupils, staff have also appreciated the new accommodation created in what was formerly the sanatorium. On the ground floor, where once there were beds, there is now a large common room with working space above.

Another new development this year has been the creation of a sixth form centre out of what was formerly the changing room overlooking the rugby pitches. The complete overhaul of these buildings has included gutting the inside to create a bright and spacious interior which now bears little resemblance to how it was before. The centre boasts a lounge, games room, dance floor and television room, together with a kitchen.

TM



Professor Peter Howie opening the new Medical Centre.

# St. Andrew's Night

Kilts on, dresses ironed and sporrans straightened then everyone was ready for the annual celebration of St. Andrew's night. Many of the participants started off the night with nibbles etc. at various willing (or unwilling) Masters' houses, then all congregated at the theatre for the start of the dancing.

The band put an impressive effort into creating a truly Scottish atmosphere and continued to quietly lilt in the background whilst a much appreciated meal was served.

Meanwhile, Malcolm was still sweeping Mrs Hamilton around the dance floor (true contenders for 'Come Dancing'); Becca was yelling Canadian obscenities at Helen for spilling red wine on her white dress (now

she'll never pass the doorstep challenge) and Gump was proving to be a real twinkle toes (many of us still have the bruised feet to prove it).

But, alas, the night had to come to an end and many suffered the next day (due to exhaustion - what else?).


Thank you to everyone who helped in the organising and clearing up; it was a truly memorable event.

Helen Miller


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# A Day with a Difference

Imaginative. Gory. Impressive.

This is just a small selection of words to sum up various views expressed by people on Non-Uniform Day. It has been said that the best way to raise money for charity is to "have a good laugh" in the process. I think you will agree that this is true of Friday the 25th April. That day became a haven for deep sea divers, hippies (in their 100s), blood splattered surgeons, Humpty Dumpty, Tarzan accompanied by ..... was it Jane?! And of course the heroic Indiana Jones.

You could in no way have been oblivious to a large bright pink .... creature (!) floating around and looking rather conspicuous. It was also a day for getting soaked - no I'm not referring to our beloved British weather - but I am referring to the large number of water pistols used in the ambush on the causeway. Those of you who encountered a clown will know exactly what I mean.

On a more serious note, the amount of money raised was £700 which has gone to the charity UNICEF. This stands for United Nations Children's Fund and they believe that assistance should be given "on the basis of need without discrimination because of race, creed, nationality, status or political belief". The money we raised on Non-Uniform Day will help to bring clean water supplies and hygienic sanitation to islands such as East Timor. The activities will be carried out by local community organisations and non-governmental organisations in various parts of Indonesia.

Thanks is given to all those who participated in what was a successful day. Only one question remains - WHO was the priest with the white mask (and tan)? Mmmm!!

**Joanne Buchanan**



*"Sometimes a girl just wants to be alone."*



*What a motley crew!*

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## 'Good Prospects For Graduates'

The good news of a 6% increase in graduate vacancies and a predicted one of 11% next year was brought by Graham Nicolson, Chairman of the Scottish University Careers Advisers, when he spoke to an audience of parents and pupils in the Lower Sixth in May. This was the first step in an initiative to involve parents more fully in the process of choosing Higher Education, and to remedy some of the misconceptions about opportunities. Mr Nicolson also stressed that it was not the subject of the degree which is of great importance, but its quality and the acquisition of 'transferable' skills.

Employers are looking for self-reliance, leadership, teamwork, good communication skills (most lacking in current graduates according to a recent survey), ability to cope with

stress and, above all, creativity. These can be developed in any course and through the many university clubs and societies.

Strathallan tries to foster many of these skills, but there is a clear need to develop pupils' confidence in projecting themselves. To this end we have continued with the 'mock' interviews so efficiently conducted by Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club. Next year's PSE classes will include instruction in interview techniques for fifth formers, and the introduction of study skills to the third form (already given to the fourth form).

JNF

## Work Experience

"Things don't add up - count me out of banking." "I'm fed up with catering." "I can do you a nice line in double glazing." "I'm exhausted, I didn't realise earning a living was such hard work!" Just a few of the printable comments from, during or after the inaugural post GCSE work experience programme last June.

All seventy-two fifth formers found meaningful employment, some locally, some with friends and nearly a third made their own arrangements, usually with parents. Jobs varied from oil field roustabout in Azerbaijan, child care, multilingual tourism, hotel work, research at Radio 5 and a fortnight in the operations centre of C.R. Smith.

As these 'experiences' finished the day before a very busy end of term, it was not possible to get much feedback from the participants before they set off on what they no doubt considered a well earned rest. However, time being the healer it has always been, by the start of the Autumn term any bad experiences had been forgotten and only positive memories remained. Mistakes were made, lessons were learned.

Everyone, I hope, benefited and we're doing it again next year!

AJHW



# Pipe Band

The Pipe Band have had their most successful season ever, winning 37 prizes and awards in competition.

Outings have included a parade in Perth for the Clan MacMillan Society, who were staging a "Battle of the Clans" on the North Inch in early September. CCF Review Day was played in the pouring rain, as was the display at McDiarmid Park for the Scotland Select v Australia Rugby International. Are we jinxed, I wonder?

The Scottish Schools' Beating of the Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House also went with few hitches and Strathallan's hospitality was much appreciated. The band played a beating of the retreat ceremony at Kinfauns Castle at the official opening of a new hotel and conference facility there, the display was very well received. The band also put on their display on Sports Day and Speech Day, where 19 pipers and 7 drummers took part. The annual display at the Ice Rink for the Scottish Curling Championships was well received and various weddings and Burns' nights have kept our pipers busy over the year.

Solo competitions have seen Strathallan pipers well represented in the prize list. In particular, Robbie Whytock won the junior piping at both the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Championships and the Scottish Schools' Championships with Niall Robertson, Mark Stringer, Tim Elliott, Jeremy McDougall, Jonathan Stone, Fraser Mackie, Peter Mackie and Euan Aitkenhead also taking prizes this year. The main achievements for the band over the year were firstly; winning the Scottish Schools' Quartet Piping Competition (14 teams) and being placed second in the Trio Piping for juniors (13 teams) at the same event. The winning Quartet was Ewan McMaster, Tim, Robbie and Niall, the Trio were Jonathan, Mark and Fraser.

Next came the Mini Bands competition at Dundee, where the "A" team were 2nd in the Novice Juvenile Grade and also 2nd in Grade 3 - our first attempt at playing a mixed selection in competition.

The R.S.P.B.A. (National) Mini Bands at Shotts, again saw the "A" team taking 2nd prize with the "B" and "C" teams finishing 6th and 8th out of 18 teams.

The major triumph of the Spring term was winning the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Championship, with the Clubs' Shield and Banner as the trophy. With Robbie Whytock, Niall Robertson and Mark Stringer taking all the prizes in the Junior piping and Tim Elliott taking 4th prize in the Intermediate piping, it was a tremendous evening for Strathallan! A 2nd and 4th prize for our "A" and "B" teams in the Denny Mini Band competition finished off the indoor competitions, with the band looking forward to the start of the outdoor season with bated breath.

The Scottish Pipe Band Championships at Ayr was our first venture. It started out pouring with rain (jinxed again?), so we commandeered a shelter on the sea front and set about tuning up and getting ready for the event. Our luck being as it was, we were drawn to play first, not the ideal place to be. As the playing time approached the rain went off. Was our luck changing? It seemed so. We played over to the competition area, to discover that one of the judges had failed to appear. This would have upset many bands but our troops took it in their stride. We used the time to

have a last minute run through which seemed to settle a few nerves. The judge was located and on we marched to play the performance of a lifetime! At the end of the competition, the massed bands took place with 127 bands assembled for the prizes to be announced. Our boys and girls will never forget that announcement "The 1997 Scottish Champions are Strathallan School". The band played off with the trophy but I am sure their feet did not touch the ground!

In the Novice Juvenile Grade, 1st prize at Bearsden, 2nd at Shotts and 4th at Bathgate while playing in the higher Juvenile Grade, 2nd at Bearsden, 2nd at Shotts and 4th at Bathgate completed our R.S.P.B.A. competition results.

The season finished at Broughty Ferry with the Scottish Schools' Championship which we also won to round off an exceptional season.

Our own School Solo Piping and Drumming Competition gave us a number of very good performances with the main prize winners being as follows:-

Most Improved Piper	Jeremy McDougall
Chanter	Jennie Perry
Novice Piping	Peter Mackie
Junior Piping	Robbie Whytock
Senior Piping	Tim Elliott
Piobaireachd	Niall Robertson
Hornpipe and Jig	Tim Elliott
Most Improved Drummer	David Petrie
Novice Drumming	David Petrie
Junior Drumming	Aisla Stringer
Senior Drumming	David Smith
Bass and Tenor Drumming	Jennie Perry

We look forward to the challenges of next year, when we hope that we can be as successful as this year.

JSRH

## Bio Bloops

**Q:** What is the main factor which limits the size of the owl population?

**A:** 27

**Q:** Bread is chewed in the mouth. Which part of the digestive system does it pass through next?

**A:** *Windpipe*

**Q:** What factor would affect the rate of photosynthesis in oak trees?

**A:** *Chopping them down.*







*The Pipe Band on Speech Day .*

# C. V.

25 YEARS OLD

Gold medal winner, 1996 International Spirits Challenge.

18 YEARS OLD

Hall of Fame status, Quarterly Review of Wines.

Voted "favourite after dinner drink" over other well-known malts and VSOP cognacs in a survey by Decanter Magazine.

10 YEARS OLD

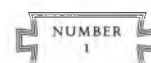
Described in the Harrods Book of Whiskies as a "Rolls Royce among malts".

Quoted as "favourite" by three quarters of American malt whisky drinkers surveyed in Wine and Spirits magazine.

'Empty Bottle Award' for being the only malt always fully consumed at Whisky Conventions.

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# Broadway Meets Strathallan



*Almost a cast of thousands!*

It is impossible to appreciate every element that produced the impressive 1997 Strathallan Theatre spectacle - a full blown, energetic production of the Broadway musical, 'Guys and Dolls'.

To quote the director, "to put on the big musical is quite a daunting task". He was not far wrong. The size of the team and the work put into pulling the whole thing together was phenomenal. This included over eighty pupil performers, set designers, constructors,

make-up artists, musicians, stage crew, sound and lighting designers, costume designers, directors, conductors ... to name but a few!

But the end result was worth all the work. A special public performance was put on for charity, raising a substantial sum of money to go towards the construction of a perimeter fence for the Inyathi Mission School, with which Strathallan is twinned.

**Jennie Perry**

## What Guys And Dolls!!

Once more the theatre played to packed houses, and this time an impressive fifth of the school was involved in the highly successful production of West End favourite "Guys and Dolls". Produced and directed by John Broadfoot and Iain Kilpatrick, the expertise of David Read as Musical Director came to the fore in this very happy union of talents.

The setting in 1950s New York was immediately established in the dramatic red and black set designed by Alasdair McMorris and constructed by Mike Wilson and his hard working crew. It created imaginative use of space as we moved from street scene to the Hot Box night club, from the Save-a-Soul Mission to the sewers. Every detail was right. The sound effects and the movement of the opening scene set the tone and pace of the production - dramatic, slick, stylish and above all, alive. Particularly skilful use of lighting (designed by Trevor Goody and Fraser Currie) ensured subtle mood changes from tension to romance throughout.

Benny (Harry Crump) and Rusty (Andrew Morris) quickly stamped their gangsterish qualities and with Jonathan Dalley as Nicely-Nicely proved excellent "side-kicks" to Nathan Detroit (Neil Hutton) who impressively and powerfully presented himself as organiser of the oldest, illegal crap game in the city and who met his match in Miss Adelaide (Tara Laing). Ably assisted by fellow crapshooters Michael Narchi, Robbie and Tommy Gemmill and Duncan Broadfoot, tight group work was apparent. All the actors maintained effective American accents throughout.

The Mission Band's opening entry showed their team spirit, as well as subtle characterisation. Arvide (Neil Grosset) was clearly the solidly dependable type, and Helen Nesbitt, Martin Petzch and Chris Bradley prime examples of the sadly loyal fellow bandmen. They and the other Mission Boys and Girls struggled to come to terms with bossy General Matilda's (Kate McFarlane) demands that their unsuccessful Mission should be closed down (What's new!). Excellent performances were displayed by Claire Ketcher as Sarah Brown (the Mission Leader)



*Boys' chorus in 'Oldest Established'.*

and Dave Russell as the irresistible legendary gambler, Sky Masterson. In their early encounter and opening number we recognised a talented pair and their lovely duet "I've Never Been in Love Before" brought the first Act to a highly memorable crescendo. The audience was ready for romance and watched "their space" with interest. Could Sky supply those promised sinners to save the Mission?

In the first Act too, impossible to forget, was the brilliant mood change in Miss Adelaide's "Lament" - typical of her versatile performance throughout; or the "G+S" polish of Benny and Nicely's "Guys And Dolls"; or the technically demanding party scene with neon lights and Hawaiian shirts; or those quirky one liners "Coffee's so good I can't believe it isn't a sin" particularly well timed by Sarah or the laconic John-Matthew Court as Harry the Horse.

So much of the music was foot-tapping one moment and tear-jerking the next as we moved from jazz to solo



*Salvation Army Chorus "saving souls".*

accompaniment, but sheer syncopated excitement marked the opening tempo of Act 2 in the Hot Box. The costumes produced by Katrina Kilpatrick, Sarah Read and the indefatigable Ladies of the Sewing Room were once more striking. The audience was stunned into silence with the gold and net stripped off to reveal the .... loveliness of the dancers. Tony Ellis' genius as choreographer was seen to perfection in the opening number "Take Back Your Mink". The dancing was excellent. In this Act, Big Jule (Richard Crawford) came into his own with an impressively strong performance. Controlled group work witnessed among all the ensembles - dancers, singers, waitresses, those on Broadway and the waiter and his El Cafe Cubano patrons - was noticeable among these tense sharp ties of the gamblers in the sewers as they played the vital Dice Game. The make up, supervised by Dorothy Hunter and her team, once more added to the overall magical effect. The tempo lifted to one of the most memorable songs in the show "Luck, Be a Lady", and again in the technically difficult but clear "Sue Me", and also in the forceful rendering of everyone's favourite "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat." The audience loved it all.

This episode illustrated another delightfully slick scene change. The Backstage crew (ably led by Stage Manager Tom Hayward, Jennie Perry and Ray Duffy) worked hard and unobtrusively. Humour there was in plenty and diction was excellent. Movement was polished and voices assured. There was a moment of "sheer poetry" in the final poignant duet of Tara and Claire's "Marry the Man Today" before the rumbustious and confident finale when all the talented Guys and Dolls sang out their final number, and they and the guys and dolls in the band met enthusiastic applause.

The success of the show is a tremendous tribute to the hard work and obvious enjoyment of all those involved back stage, front of house and musically. How splendid that the pleasure given to the audience at Strathallan will be in a different way gladly received in Bulawayo when a different mission - the Inyathi Mission School who give boys a chance in life - will be helped to build their perimeter fencing, a long lasting gift from Perthshire.

**Jane Forbes.**



*Neil Grosset, David Russell and Claire Ketcher*

## A Backstage View

With a cast of 80, you might think that there would have been a few squabbles back stage. However, the cast were so professional that they just got on with the job in hand. The thing that pleased the whole cast so much was the fact that not only was the production a huge success with parents but also with the pupils. This made all the work spent on the show and all the free time missed worthwhile for everyone.

For days after the production I could hear everyone, cast and audience

alike, singing the songs. That is why I believe this production was such a success because the music in it was so good.

'Guys and Dolls' has been the best production that I have starred in (so far) and will probably be the best that I will be involved in because of the great feeling back stage and the quality of the performance.

However, I don't think I will be able to get the song "Sue Me" out of my head!

**Neil Hutton**

# Expressive Arts

The last few years have seen a tremendous growth in interest and participation in Drama at all levels of the School.



*Nicol's Junior house play.*

That growth is part of wider developments in the Expressive Arts: music, dance, film, photography, the visual arts, verse speaking are all thriving, both within and outwith the formal curriculum. Increasingly, the Arts are seen not as the self-indulgence of an eccentric and effete minority, rather as an experience central to the education of all.

Since the new theatre opened in September '93, there have been six major school productions, including two musicals; there have been junior and senior House drama competitions of ever rising quality; there have been Riley pantomimes and Summer entertainments of increasing sophistication. Next year will see the introduction of Theatre Studies 'A' level into the curriculum. This will require pupils to mount their own production.

A precedent for this has been established this year, with a group of senior pupils, led by Colin Perry, mounting a full-scale public production of 'Gaslight' by Patrick Hamilton.

A psychological thriller, described by the director as Hitchcockian in quality, 'Gaslight' draws the audience helplessly into the nightmarish predicament of Mrs Manningham (Lucy Kitson), the

undeserving object of her husband's (Jon Butler) evil machinations. Lucy Kitson was outstanding as the hapless yet resourceful victim. The range, power and pacing of her performance was hugely impressive and crucial to the success of the production. Jon Butler, Kirsty Partridge and Alasdair Sutherland all contributed memorably to an evening of great theatre.

Colin Perry, who also impressed in the comic role of Rough, is to be congratulated on his achievement; it takes courage and self-belief to carry off something like this and Colin lacks neither. Perhaps he would sum himself up in the words of the character he portrayed on the stage 'Dear God in heaven, am I not a wonderful man?'

This year's Senior House Drama Competition was squeezed in early in the Summer term, before the theatre metamorphosed into an examination hall. Given the time constraints and the pressure of impending examinations, the four Houses which took part provided a large audience with an evening of varied, impressive and highly entertaining theatre. Each House was given a short extract from a recognised play, the challenge being in the interpretation and production.

Freeland, the eventual winners, presented the scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' where the hapless Peter Quince attempts to cast his play from the ranks of the ill-disciplined, 'mad mechanicals'. Jamie Partridge played the part of Quince with considerable finesse, Jon Dalley was a splendid Bottom and, of course, mention must be made of David Mapleston's Aussie Snout!

Nicol's excerpt was from Patrick Hamilton's 'Rope', a tense thriller in which two murderers plan to hold a cocktail party with the victim concealed only the length of a gin and tonic from the unwitting guest. The quality of performances from all three actors was impressive, with Neil Hutton, Peter Wilkinson as the murderers and Andrew Morris (winner of the Best Actor Award) outstanding as the Bertie Wooster-like guest. Only technical short-comings weakened an otherwise splendid production.

Woodlands tackled a scene from Brian Friel's 'Dancing at Lughnasa', a poignant portrait of Irish country life. The different members of the family were all clearly differentiated in a series of thoughtful performances - the drama admirably sustained in spite of the technical gremlins which tested the cast. Lyn Gemmell and Karina Combe particularly impressed.

Finally, across the border in Belfast, Thornbank offered us 'Bold Girls' Rona Munro's portrait of Belfast women, set against the backdrop of the troubles. This was a fine production which caught both the pathos and the humour of this very human situation. Again characterisation was strong with particularly fine performances from Ailsa Grant and Christina Breaden, who won the Best Actress Award.

We can only look forward with relish to next year and the rich dramatic fare which will be forthcoming. 'Always a Little Further' is the title of a mountaineering classic, but it would serve equally to describe the widening horizons and steadily climbing standards of thespian activity in the School.

JLB

# Six-Love!

The theme of this year's junior house drama competition was "love". The plays were written and performed by pupils in Forms 3 and 4; senior pupils assisted with direction.

One very successful change in the arrangements this year was the involvement of external adjudicators. This provided a truly objective assessment - no longer the joking (?) offer of bribes to school-based judges! But, significantly, it created a far better atmosphere in the theatre during the evening. There were fewer raucous comments from the audience, who showed themselves at their very best, each house being very appreciative of the contributions of all of the others.

The prize for the best play went to Freeland. Alastair MacMillan starred as Bruno who fought with trainspotter, James Hay, over the hand of the beautiful Andrew Moodie. And who could forget Max Marcus' Basil Fawltly-type character?

Deservedly, the prize for best script went to Alistair Roy and Tommy Gemmill in Ruthven for a thoughtful exploration of "first love", and the age old problem faced by young boys, that girls of their age prefer the attractions of Seniors. Were you speaking from experience, lads? A fine performance here from Lawrence Court.

Richard Crawford was the star of the Nicol production. Here again we witnessed rivalry in love as "Cindy" and Greg Mouat vied for the charms of the delectable Gary Hutton. Woodlands looked to supernatural assistance in the search for True Love. Ella Bird made a convincing fortune teller. Thornbank and Simpson developed the theme of love as explored by "The Sleeping Beauty" (with fine performances from Georgia Manson, Suzanne Potter and Lucy Green) and "Grease" (starring Ben Bartlett and Robert MacKenzie).

The adjudicators and the audience were most impressed by the evening. One of the best in recent years, I think.

IMcF



*The Deep Denims.*



*The Mustangs.*

## Wow! - Riley Music and Drama

The end of year production, "Summer Nights" was, to use a Duttonism, simply stunning. For some time now the momentum in Riley House for drama and more recently for music, has been building and the desire to perform is everywhere whether in informal, impromptu nuggets of in House "culture" or on the more formal school stages of the Headmaster's Music and concerts for parents and friends. Turn a corner in Riley and you will find Steve Dutton and a group of musicians, Iain Kilpatrick with members of his drama club and Irene McFarlane with her performing poets, those nervy people who almost inevitably, it seems, win prizes at the Perth and Edinburgh festivals for their recitations. All these energies seemed to combine for this final show of the year and a performance of extraordinary energy, enthusiasm and talent burst into life.

Victoria Robertson was an extremely convincing Janie and, despite a raw throat, sang beautifully. Whilst coyly pretending otherwise, she had the measure of the bold and Macho Mikey - Jonathan Woodrow. Dayna - Georgina Philip - exuded character and Ross Sutherland's Jacko was an ideal foil to Mikey. Jennie Hay was the 'Prissiest' Prissie imaginable and all the principals were surrounded by a really whole-hearted chorus which responded in kind to Steve Dutton's pages and pages of musical score and Iain Kilpatrick's punchy direction and zappy choreography. Many of this cast will be influential in the dramatic life of Strathallan in the very near future. Great show!

AT



# Going From Strength to Strength

**P**articipation in speech and drama exams continues to increase and results to improve.

In the first competition of the year, the Perth Burns Club's annual schools' festival, James Duncan (at only 13) won the secondary school trophy, the "Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich", for his performance of "Willie Wastle". Runners-up to James were Robert Mackenzie and James Hay. In the primary age group classes, Victoria Robertson won the singing and Jenny Hay was runner-up in verse speaking.

The Hay family featured again in the Perth Competition Festival speech classes in March. Jenny and James were joined by Allan in the Burns class. In this "family battle" Jenny took the honours and was placed second with Allan and James tying for fourth place. James Duncan was sandwiched in-between in third. In other Burns classes, Lucy Kitson achieved a first and Catriona Sutherland a third.

Our second trophy of the year went to Aimi Gdula who won the Soutar Tassie for her recitation of a poem by Perth poet, William Soutar. Robert Clarke came second in the Soutar class and Fraser McKay third.

There were successes, too, in the Shakespeare classes at Perth. In the twelve to fourteen section, Alex Lamb's Titania came first and James Duncan and Euan Aitkenhead's Puck second equal. Jon Butler's Jacques won the fifteen to seventeen class with Greg Mouat's coming equal third with Lyn Gemmell's, Katrina. All of these achieved distinction, as did Sulekha Varma and Leila Arakji in the Bible reading.

In choral verse speaking II set 2 won their class while 1J was placed third, but in Edinburgh in the competition festival in May, the fortunes of these two Riley classes was reversed when Mr Kilpatrick's 1J came first and Mrs McFarlane's II set 2, second in the "group acting of a poem" with their renderings of Roald Dahl's "The Dentist and the Crocodile".

Jon Butler and Clare Proctor won the over seventeen acting class with a scene from "The Crucible" where they played John and Elizabeth Proctor, ancestors, in fact, of Clare's. Jillian Fishback won one of the festival's main awards, the "Jean Belfrage Elocution Prize", and Douglas Forbes was second in the Burns, under seventeen class. In the under seventeen acting class, Georgina Philip and Victoria Robertson were second and Arlette Lafayeedney and Victoria McIntyre third.

At Edinburgh we bade farewell, as far as competitions are concerned, to the "old trooper", Lucy Kitson who has performed many, many times over her seven years at Strathallan. Lucy has had a particular interest in Scots poetry, especially Burns, and has achieved the singular honour of being invited three years in a row to perform at the Perth Burns Club annual dinner. Very deservedly, at the Edinburgh Festival, she won the Edinburgh and District Burns Club Trophy. Well done, Lucy.

Another upper sixth pupil who has done a great deal of speech work at Strathallan is Lyndsay Allison, who for the second year in a row, came second in the Perth Speakers' Club Schools' Competition.

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, LAMDA, exams in June saw another increase in entries - fifty candidates in all, taking two full days to perform. We had entries covering

acting, improvisation, public speaking and the speaking of verse and prose. In the grade exams there were twenty two distinctions, and honours passes for Melenik Forde, Amelia Lane, Jillian Fishback, Nick Gdula, Greg Mouat, Douglas Forbes, Victoria Robertson, Georgina Philip, Jamie Laux and a splendid double honours for Aimi Gdula. Alex Lamb and Leila Arakji gained honours in the junior acting medallion. Senior medals were awarded to Jennie Perry, Andrew Morris, Clare Proctor, Catherine Gdula and Richard Crawford. There were doubles for Jon Butler and Lyn Gemmell.

The examiner declared herself "very impressed with the excellent standard of work being done at Strathallan" and said we were going "from strength to strength".

IMcF



*Aimi Gdula, winner of the Soutar Tassie at Perth Festival.*

## Debating

This year's debating saw both the pairings of Leila Arakji and Stephanie Dorward and Lawrence Court and Laura Morley/Ella Bird go through to the second round of the Schools' Dundee Courier Competition. In a debate at Kilgraston it was felt, though I was not so sure, that Stephanie and Leila argued the issue of negotiating with terrorists rather without sufficient passion. Lawrence and Ella debated with success and a nice sense of humour (and many party invitations) the case for retaining New Year but then failed in a

debate on 'green' policies (where Laura replaced Ella) in Cupar.

In the upper part of the school and The Bank of Scotland Mace Competition, Sam Bateman and Jon Butler argued the case for retaining Remembrance Day with a good deal of conviction but were bettered by an excellent Dundee High School team.

Within school, the Junior Debating Competition was won by Nick Gdula and 'Cindy' Crawford who were both funny and forceful in the final.

CNC



# Experiences in Space

## Tales from Britain's First Astronaut



*Helen Sharman, the Headmaster and senior pupils.  
(photograph courtesy of D.C. Thomson & Co.)*

It is not every day that an astronaut visits the School and so, at the start of the Spring term, we were particularly delighted to meet Helen Sharman - Britain's first astronaut. Helen became a national celebrity when, in May 1991, she spent eight days on board the Mir space station as part of the first Anglo/Soviet space mission.

It all began in June 1989, when driving home from work at Mars Confectionery, she heard a radio advertisement for astronauts - "No experience necessary". She decided, then and there, to apply - a decision which has dramatically changed the course of her life. Her application was selected from 13,000 replies and she soon found herself exchanging life in Slough for Moscow's Star City, where she spent 18 months on an intensive training programme.

During the first three months, she learnt to speak fluent Russian. After this, the official training began with eight hours of lessons every day and homework every evening. Clearly, Helen has learnt considerable self-discipline which helped her cope with a daunting number of exams - 99 in total. In addition, she had to complete a rigorous training schedule.

Finally, the hard work was rewarded and Helen was selected to join the Soviet Space Mission, Project Juno. She spent eight days in space, two of these orbiting the earth, on her way to Mir; her pictures taken as she travelled round the world 16 times a day were tremendous.

This was an entertaining and inspirational story. Helen was very approachable and those who had the chance to talk to her informally at the tea, which followed, were very impressed. She presented the fun side of science and who knows, she may have provided the inspiration for the first Old Strathallian to go into space.

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## "The Bus Ride"

by Lyndsay Allison

It was raining and while he stood at the unsheltered bus stop, he was getting wetter. The expression on his face was concentrating on the horizon, somewhere between purgatory and hell.



The dirty trench-coat reached down as far as the top of his wellingtons. The shirt and tie had once been a recognisable colour but now it could have been mud or dung. His trousers were thread-bare and reminiscent of sack-cloth. The hair matted down with rain still had a youthful lustre, his age being betrayed only by a pair of slightly greying eyebrows. It was difficult to tell how wrinkled his face was when he stopped frowning because he never did.



The number 50 stopped just in front of him. The sound of pistons when the door opened made him start, he simply hadn't noticed the flash of red as it had pulled up in front of him. He lifted his gaze to look at the fat, cheery driver as he sat in his cramped cubicle.

"Where to, sir?"



"Oak Lane," he grunted back before showing his bus-pass. The bus doors closed mechanically. He took a seat on the left hand side of the bus, turned away from the other passengers and gazed out of the window. After a few minutes though, the bus picked up speed and the man's head vibrated against the glass. A woman at the curb wearing a blue mackintosh and carrying four full shopping bags stuck her left foot out awkwardly to indicate to the bus to stop. It did.

As she struggled onto the bus and paid her fare, the man took a greasy newspaper from his inside pocket that he saved for such occasions, and placed it on the space beside him. It was dated 1984. The woman moved up the aisle.

"I'm terribly sorry, but could you move your paper, I need a seat and I've been ..."



"So?" he interrupted. He wished people wouldn't complain so much. The woman's lip trembled.

"Please, have my seat, we're getting off at the next stop." A chivalrous young man stood up and winked at his freckled girlfriend. She giggled and then was lost behind four shopping bags and a damp umbrella.

They were approaching the Catholic Church on the left. The grey stone walls made it look just like any other building but, as they passed, the sun reflected off the

*Hands (Pastel) - Kirsty Glimm*



stained glass window and they were dazzled by blue and yellow saints. The choir were practising. The woman in the mackintosh went 'oooh'. The man didn't flinch. The church vanished again. The woman was pacified. The man remained inanimate. The bus stopped.

The young man and his girlfriend jumped down from the step amidst much more giggling. The man's frown deepened imperceptibly. Nobody got on this time. As soon as the bus had set off again, the man picked up his paper and stood up straight. The woman opposite with the shopping turned the other cheek but he wasn't paying attention. He pressed the red button on the pole in front of him and made his way down the bus, buffeting against the seats and leaving a damp patch on the occasional shoulder.

He gripped the rail grimly and gazed at the foliage on the trees behind the stone wall that lined the road. The bus came to a juddering stop on the side of the hill. The man shuffled off and stood with his back to the bus until it had gone over the rise of the hill. He was alone. He turned round again and tentatively crossed the road using the green cross code futilely since there was seldom any traffic at this time of day. He estimated that he had ten minutes so he waited. The rain had stopped and the place smelled humid, a dove cooed in a tree. The man sneezed and wiped his nose down the length of his sleeve leaving it blackened and wet like a dog.

Nine and a half thoughtless minutes later, the number 50 bus pulled up at the stop and opened its doors for its next customer. His eyes met the female driver. She had peroxide hair and bright red lipstick. She was chatting to the sixty-year old conductor whose ticket machine rested indignantly on his paunch. The bus driver knew the man and waved him away casually when he produced his pass while she finished her conversation. He moved up the aisle and took his seat on the left side. There were no others on the bottom floor but the man could hear adolescents

stomping upstairs. The man's forehead moved towards the glass as they set off again.

The view of trees soon gave way to houses again. They made a stop opposite where the young man and his girlfriend had disembarked. Six pairs of Doc. Martens pounded down the stairs.

"Bye then, dawlin'," said one youth in the direction of the driver and flashed a smile to show already yellowing teeth. She smiled back, her jaws clacking with the chewing-gum. The conductor got off too. The bus moved on. Occasionally the driver would look at her hair and make-up in the rear-view mirror and glanced back to her passenger. It didn't matter, he was still frowning out the window; they were reaching the climax of the journey.

The petrol station lay opposite the church with its gaudy orange and turquoise sign which had faded from its original brilliance. The man preferred it that way. He breathed in the fumes deeply and acknowledged the discordance of engines and horns from the cars belonging to the neighbourhood. Then it was gone and the bus was preparing to stop once more. This time there was a middle-aged man in a camel over-coat with his neatly groomed wife. They looked at each other and smiled but had to let go of the other's hand to step aboard. The middle-aged man paid for both of them and stood aside to let his wife past. They assumed the seat in front of the man and took hold of each other once more. The man caught a sweet sample of her perfume and winced.

Remembering that his stop was next, he rose to his feet and pressed the red button. This time he stayed sitting until the bus had stopped and walked with some dignity towards the doors. The people getting on the other end were talking animatedly. He stood on the pavement until the sound of the motor had become indistinguishable from the other daytime noises.

He turned round and stepped into the road. He didn't see the grey Mercedes. As he died, no song from heavenly angels filled his potato-dirty ears.



*Brough of Birsay (Conté) - Miller Nicolson*



# 'The Metamorphosis'

by Adam Rackley

The sun shone down onto the fresh dew, which scattered the light like a field full of diamonds. A cobweb, intricately woven between two branches, had caught a stray ray, as it might have caught a fly.

The effect was spectacular, turning the cobweb into an artist's palette, alive with colour. Although at this early stage in the morning the air seemed still enough, the eye was drawn to subtle movements that hinted to the bustle of life. A closer look might have revealed a caterpillar, black but for the red stripe that ran down its back, silently eating a leaf, oblivious to the task in hand.

The large ape hobbled through the clearing mists of the new day. Far off the sun was rising above the trees, and piercing the humid air could be heard the waking calls of the jungle. The ape continued on its journey through the giant buttressed trees till he reached a clearing on a river bank. Here fruit trees grew, their delicious bounty hanging on branches that stooped to the ground for the weight of their crop. At this hour the area was deserted, but in moments the solitary ape would be joined by countless others for their morning meal. Soon enough the area was packed with beasts, peacefully picking the large fruit from the overburdened branches. The animal's short-fingered hands carefully selected the finest specimens whereupon their hard skins were crushed to a pulp by large white molars. The apes ate in idyllic harmony.

The fresh feel of the morning air livened the senses and threw the forest into a flurry of action. Weeks of constant feeding had turned the caterpillar obese, and its skin was hard, stretched to its limit. The creature was now hanging by its eight short, fat prolegs to the underside of a leaf, perfectly still. The wind blew, bobbing the leaf up and down in erratic, irregular motions, but the caterpillar did not move. Suddenly, in the blink of an eye, something happened. At the caterpillar's head a split appeared, which spread, till a rip ran down the length of its body. No sooner had this occurred, then the skin, which had for so many weeks held this delicate being together, fell off, fluttering in the breeze to the ground. Where there had once been a caterpillar was now a chrysalis.

As the planet spun a new portion of the human race was greeted by sunrise, another sunset. The light had travelled from the heart of the sun's great atomic furnace, through the vast emptiness of space and now it rained down on the sorry sight of Earth. The human race's solemn acceptance of the nihilistic view of birth, copulation and death was evident in the self-destruction they now brought on themselves. The future would strike suddenly, irradiating all significance of the present.

The night was still, perhaps time too was standing still. In the chrysalis there was no notion of time, or existence. What was once a caterpillar had over the course of weeks turned to a non-sentient paste. Although on the outside of the pupa the wing, proboscis and eye of a butterfly were clearly visible, they were but a facia, for inside there was no present, only a future, and potential for the birth that was to come.

Occasionally they would meet, drifting through the enormity of space. Perhaps they would converse, or witness a sunset, or gape in childish wonder at the birth of a star. What is this existence, to be free of all restraints, wants, fears and desires. Who can say, but who would not give their lives to know.

A pool of water had gathered at the base of the tree. Although the midday sun shone now, ferociously glaring at the Earth's inhabitants, moments earlier a depressing drizzle had fallen, carefully glazing all in a fine spray of water. Timing was essential and from somewhere inside the chrysalis it was decided that the time would be now. The butterfly's escape from its skin-like prison could be compared to a bird, hatching from an egg, emerging at last, delicate and vulnerable.

The butterfly alighted on the petals of a flower and carefully closed its wings together. Andrew admired the bright colours and impressive wingspan of the Red Admiral, noting it in his book. He had witnessed the miracle of metamorphosis from butterfly, to egg, to butterfly, full circle. Now was his chance, quickly Andrew pulled the insect repellent from his bag and mercilessly sprayed the creature, till its legs collapsed and releasing its grip on the petal as it lost its hold on life, the butterfly fell lifeless to the ground.



Woodcut - Laura Dover



# Prague

**I**t was, after all, quite an early start. Sixteen sixth formers, marshalled by RJWP, AMT, AM, and MRAJBT (sic) mustered at six fifteen in the morning,

clutching their passports and krína, carefully tending their assembled bags and baggages, ready to be transported into Perth on the first stage ("C'est le premier pas qui compte." as Voltaire observed about St. Denis strolling off with his head under his arm after his execution) of the odyssey to Prague.

Voltaire got it about right. Within seconds of arriving at the station in plenty of time, it emerged that one of our somewhat informal party had set off under the impression that we were travelling on a collective passport. Rather more alarmingly, what to a benign general glance had seemed to all in authority as a complete party, turned out to be, unfortunately, one short. Swift telephone calls to Strathallan soon had CNC driving like Jehu with the passport. He took no notice of the solitary figure lurking by Rothesay Pier who was under the impression that our departure time was a quarter to seven; the driver's dark thoughts were fully focused on what he intended to say to his unreliable colleagues at the station.

That solved problem number one. And, it has to be said, it was with the most transient of toasts accompanying our early morning coffee that we lamented the second problem in the form of the absence of our missing friend, before settling down to more pressing matters like the detailed perusal of Guides Bleus and newspapers. Although past experience, confirmed by later events, might have suggested the opposite, it was indeed one of the boys who had been stranded, caught a taxi to Inverkeithing and reached Waverly ten minutes before the rest of us. Although not obviously expressed, feelings had been running somewhat high among the more adult members of the party so it was in a more holiday mood that we boarded the Intercity to London. There were some who derived their amusement during the journey from the ineffectual efforts at establishing some form of elementary banking arrangement whereby Czech currency could, in modest portions, be obtained for sterling, a system that was instantly christened the



*Contemplating defenestration?*

'Banco de Collapso'; all that this suspect organisation had succeeded in achieving by the border was the conversion of five hundred pounds of Czech notes into a rough equivalent in pound notes in the hip pocket of the master concerned. Meantime others, with the quite excellent introduction to the cultural history and artistic traditions of Prague still fresh in their minds thanks to the generous efforts of Alasdair McMorrine and the Art Department, put the finishing touches to their plans for the days ahead. Others just slept.

We had the better part of four full days in this gem of a city and we were all able really to appreciate its wonders. The majority of the party were studying a combination of Art or English or French or History or Music and without being too heavy-handed about it, there was every possibility for the artists to work on a portfolio that would enhance their examination work and for those who were English and History orientated to relate the ambience of this wonderful city to what had been read back in Forgandenny. However, it was very much not a subject orientated trip but it could not fail to arouse the cultural interests of anyone remotely affected by the privilege of staying for a

few days in one of the great capitals of European civilisation. Our daily routine reflected our interests. Different groups organised themselves at breakfast and we met again as a party under the wonderful fifteenth century astrological clock on the Town Hall in the Old Town Square in the middle of the day to compare notes over lunch.

The four days disappeared far too quickly but there was a wealth of memories to mull over on what was mercifully a less hazardous journey home. Everybody in the party will have had their own particular memories. Our English expert will perhaps rue the day she had to open her own loss-making banking operations, the artist in residence might always associate baroque with snowboarding, the historian has dined out often on how he spent his last morning in Prague in the truly Kafka-like conditions of the police station filling in insurance forms for a complete suitcase which had mysteriously but perhaps predictably disappeared before the owner had even set foot in the hotel, and the Second Master will ponder on how close he got actually to driving one of the splendid Prague trams. A fairly typical series of holiday memories.



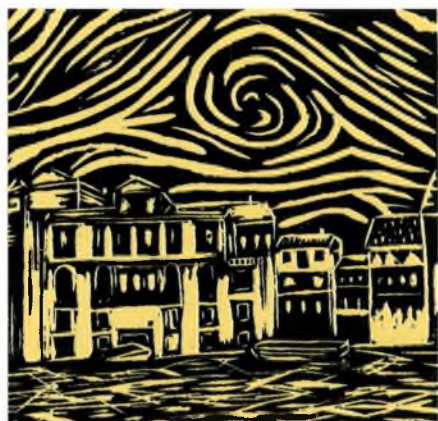
# Art at Strathallan

Summer Trip to Venice 26 June - 5 July 1996

**A**ims: To look at and begin to analyse style and expressive content in Art and Architecture. To see, at first hand, key Renaissance sites and paintings.

To begin to understand and identify the influences that have shaped contemporary European culture; Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. To draw and paint in the open air in the tradition of Turner and Whistler and to produce an exhibition of prints and paintings on the theme of the Veneto. Pupils will keep a diary/common place book in which they can sketch views, note details and jot their own impressions of Verona, Padua and Venice.

Members : Jason Buchan, Tabitha Combe, Nick Dalley, Robbie Gemmill, Gillian Green, Nicola Milne, Catriona Pringle, Clare Proctor, Ruth Sharp, Lucy Sproat, Duncan Walker and Natalie Young. Staff: A E McMorris and D S Hunter.



*Burano (Woodcut) - Gillian Green*



*Canal (Woodcut) - Gillian Green*





*Burano (Woodcut) - Nicola Milne*



*Doge's Palace (Woodcut) - Gillian Green*



*The Lagoon (Woodcut) - Gillian Green*

The trip was run in combination with a similar group of artists and staff from Portree High School, Isle of Skye, which worked extremely well and has led to a joint exhibition of work at the Ann Tuirrean Centre in Portree, which was highly successful and cemented the lasting friendships made in Venice. Thank you Mr and Mrs Andrew McMorrine. Thanks are also due to the following for the excellent preparatory lectures that equipped our artists for their enjoyment of this most extra-ordinary city: Mrs Rosemary Bassett for "The Art and Architecture of Venice", Mr N T H Du Boulay for "An Introduction to Venetian History" with some wonderful asides!, the Schools Liaison Service at the National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, who led us through examples of Renaissance and on to the amazing collection of Venetian painting, with humour and insight.

AECM



# Art Accolades

**K**irsty Glimm was selected by Alberto Morocco as his model whilst he demonstrated the art of portraiture at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery in November.



*Kirsty Glimm with Alberto Morocco*

Unfortunately, Kirsty was not able to keep the final piece but did receive Perthshire Art Association's Junior Art Prize for her triptych inspired by the department's visit to Colonsay.

The Art Association also presented highly commended certificates to Gregor Nims and Marcus Honig for their entries.

At the SCIS Art Exhibition held at Kelvinside Academy in October, Finlay Nicolson won the Hanging Award and Richard King the Leith School of Art Prize. In London at the ISIS exhibition at Olympia, Robert Dundas and Nicola Milne were singled out for praise, with the Junior Art Award going to Nicola and a Highly Commended Award to Robert.



*Triptych (Pastel) - Kirsty Glimm*



# Art of the New

I was delighted to accept the invitation from Alastair McMorris to attend a preview of pupils work in the Art Department. What a marvellous show it was.

The range and quality of work was excellent, comparable in many ways to a first year show at any Art College. There was a diverse range of artistic achievement on display, from fine painting and drawing, sculpture and ceramics through to the use of modern technology.

Working as I do in the field of graphics, it is encouraging to see the future generation of artists embracing the new technologies and creating both technical and aesthetically pleasing solutions.

The vitality of the department shone through in the work on display, every inch of wall and floor space was employed to present work, surprising the viewer at every turn. In particular, I was most impressed by the work of Kirsty Glimm, the Skull Relief by David Stone and the multi media presentation on Picasso by Marcus Honig.

Having spoken to some of the pupils, it was no great surprise that some have already been accepted for Art School and others, who although following different career paths, will continue to pursue their artistic talent throughout their lives.

Art education and the enjoyment of artistic endeavour is imperative for the fulfilment of the individual, what was on show at Strathallan exceeded my expectations and is hugely encouraging for the future.

**Ken Cassidy FCSD**

Managing Director - Pointsize Associates



*Ceramic Forms - Helen Miller*



*Moving Parts (Woodcut) - Jaclyn Murdoch*



*Masks (Ceramics) - Nicola Malcolm*



# Orkney

## A Picture to Remember



*Seascape (Acrylic) - Jaclyn Murdoch*

As I sat there feeling the cold wind biting my bare hands, I studied the darks and lights of the rocky outcrops in front of me. The only noises to be heard were the seagulls above and the fast wind ripping past my ears.

Looking out across the sea to the far away hills, I observed the obvious colour change of the landscape. The distant hills had been dulled by the haze forming above them, creating a misty grey colour and the brighter plains of the closer landscape were a strong comparison which seemed to contradict the colour in the distance.

The pink and red of the rocks and pebbles gave a pleasant contrast to the darker browns and yellows of the dampened sand they were sitting upon. The shoreline crept closer to the cliffs as the day wore on, re-arranging the rock structure with its powerful waves, producing white and silver horses in the darkness of the sea.

**Jaclyn Murdoch**

## Orkney Art and English Trip, Summer 1997

At the end of the summer term, ten members of the Lower Sixth visited the West Mainland of Orkney to view sites of historical importance, paint *en-plein-air* and engage in some creative writing amidst stone circles, chambered tombs and a stunningly diverse landscape. They were able to glimpse some of the earliest traces of human settlement in the British Isles and understand something of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Viking legacy of our heritage.

The expedition visited Skara Brae, Maes Howe and the stone circles at Stromness and Brodgar and considered the Viking legacy at Orphir, St. Magnus' Kirkwall and at the Brough of Birsay. We owe a great deal of thanks to the Orkney Islands Museum Service whose farm museums at Corrigal and Kirbister are examples of how atmospherically and vividly island history can be presented. Thanks are also due to the Pier Arts Centre, Stromness for putting 20th Century Art in an island context and introducing our artists to the work of St. Ives school. Mr Tod deserves our collective thanks for outdoing Gary Rhodes and the Two Fat Ladies' culinary efforts. A nice bit of shark? Well done the Wee Herdie Boys!

Pupils: Gillian Green, Jaclyn Murdoch, Nicola Malcolm, Catriona Pringle, Clare Proctor, Robbie Gemmill, Miller Nicholson, James Dinning, Cristian Rogers and Duncan Crosthwaite.



*Marwick Head (Conté) - Robbie Gemmill*



# Stenness



*Standing Stones (Tempera Painting) - Robbie Gemmill*

A single strand of moonlight threads its way through the clouds, between the waves and runs up the bank of this desolate island. The fog and clouds merge into an aura of anticipation. A vast wall of infinite height and breadth sails through the mist, frozen, temporarily glaring. It begins to fragment, break up into stones no longer infinite but towering over me, glaring back at me. The moonlight reappears, like an arrow which darts between two of these giant columns.

It becomes clear; suddenly the hardships of my pilgrimage, the wind bruising my face, heather biting my hands and legs, the fear and anxiety I bore throughout my voyage, have a reason.

Miller Nicolson - LVI



*Stenness (Conté) - Robbie Gemmill*





# In the Land of the Rising Sun

Mrs Dorothy Hunter

One of the major benefits of working at a school such as Strathallan is the opportunity of participation in a variety of aspects of the curriculum.

Undoubtedly, this is the reason why many staff elect to work within such a system and the breadth this provides, enriches the teaching experience. However, after years of working in this way, it was wonderful to be given the opportunity to study a different aspect of my own subject - ceramics. I am indebted to the vision of my Head of Department and to the Headmaster for allowing this to happen.



ろくろ  
轆轤をひく

轆轤をひく時には右手も左手も等分を使う





*Arita High School*



*Kyushu High School*



*Naborigama Kiln*



*Firing Chambers of Naborigama Kiln.*

Ceramics holds for the ceramicist a peculiar and special fascination. This involvement with clay induces a philosophy and enthusiasm, which becomes an integral part of his/her life. Finding myself within a culture whose passion for ceramics was obvious and meeting such a variety of potters, reminded me of how much I had missed this. It was like meeting an old and very dear friend again. Of course, I already knew of the importance of ceramics within Japan, but I was unprepared for the extent of this. I think the causes are mainly traditional and reflect the eating style of Japan, which can involve between eight and twenty dishes per person per meal. Also the frequency of earthquakes causes a disinterest and lack of need to view architecture as permanent. An average Japanese house seems to take two months to build and has a life expectancy of twenty years. Valuables, therefore, become transportable; textiles and ceramics which can be extremely beautiful and expressive. This was wonderful for me.

Although I did not at first realise it, the importance of being accepted as a researcher by the staff of Joetsu University was the key to the success of my short trip. The guidance and introductions arranged by Jiro Takaishi (head of ceramics) would have been time-consuming and, in many cases, impossible on my own.

Language was a problem, both travel-wise and within the tutorial setting where discussion of the more abstract areas were, at times, prolonged and even abandoned. This problem lessened during visits to schools and those with potters - some things just seem to transcend the spoken word. It was fascinating to exchange ideas on firing techniques and glaze problems with the minimum of conversation and to take very happy, successful ceramics lessons with only a few words - although for my lectures, I did have an interpreter. My research plan had fallen into three categories, which I think I was able to answer because of the balance of my schedule, which included educational, tourist and social aspects. Jiro found the idea of me trying to achieve this in six weeks ridiculous, but nonetheless did his utmost to supply me with the information, experience and introductions I needed. As I discovered more about Japanese life, customs, traditions, religion and education it became increasingly foreign and increasingly fascinating.

Overall, I found the whole experience unique and valuable and as I reflect on my visit, I find my thoughts dividing into two groups - the experiences which were obvious, straightforward and beautifully simple and those which were far more complex, mysterious and interwoven. Two extreme and apparently contradictory impressions which are inexorably linked and yet for me, sum up Japan.



# The Good...

Once upon a time in an enchanted land far, far away there was a school where every day was brimming full of fun, everyone charitable, gracious and obliging, no task considered too big - no detail too small ....



*It's orange honest.*



*S-J Sets Sail.*



*Old Father Time-Table.*

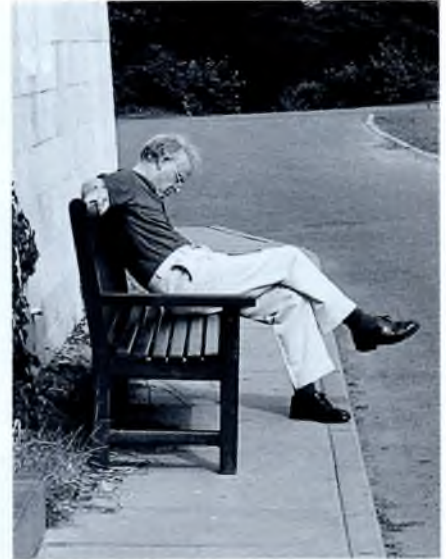


*Backstage - Guys and Dolls.*





*The Pain and the Glory.*



*Gnome Patrol.*



*Cherubic Gangsters?*



*All smiles!*



*The 102nd Dalmation.*



*This Year's Spot the Ball Competition...*



# ...The Bad...

But into every sun-filled day a little rain must fall ....



*Fun Lovin' Criminal!*



*The ultimate Daz doorstep challenge.*



*Alms for the poor?*



*Sixth Form Swinger.*



*Perfect Prefect? (!)*





*"May God preserve you"*



*"I'm the firestarter!"*



*Pina colada PK!*





## ...The Rest?(!)

Despite the bad and not so bad apples, the school continued to flourish in the rolling, green hills with the bright blue sky and glorious golden sunshine beaming overhead. But, as we all know, this story could not possibly end with anything other than - they all lived happily ever after...

Joanne Buchanan



*Another damsel in distress!*



*Thesps on the loose.*



*Wheeeee !!!*



*Worried? You should be!*





*The finishing line's in sight.*



*Gnominal change.*



*"I'll be there for you."*



*Cheesey - Who us?*



*Mr Weigall - dressed for the office.*





# Strath on Tour

## Oceania

One thousand kilograms of luggage, forty seven tourists, thirty two days on the road, thirteen flights, nine locations in four countries, this was no small venture!



*It's a hard life on tour!*



*Flying the flag Down-Under.*

We saw off a very physical Fijian district team - how their Rugby contrasts with their incredible friendliness and hospitality. Leaving the Warwick Fiji Resort Hotel was a real wrench!

On to Brisbane (after a training stop-over in Auckland) and a re-acquaintance with old friends at Marist Ashgrove and Gregory Terrace. Our links with Queensland are now more than a decade old and it was particularly good to be able to attend the Ball christening (Alan, Louise and Caitlin are settled at the Brisbane Boys' College and Calum is not unlike his father in stature!). The Rugby was first class - we went down at both locations - the Ashgrove team (alma mater of John Eales) possessing a back three of Schoolboy International quality. A quick 13 hour bus journey south to Sydney - yes, we had the drivers from Hell! - and we were ready to do battle in New South Wales. Barker College witnessed the spectacular "Blackstock Try" and Northholm Grammar the Blackstock Try and Northholm Grammar the "Stone Score", followed by the Stone concussion and hospitalisation!

A victorious departure from Australia's largest city was followed by a jaded arrival in New Zealand's rugby capital. Rugby here is not important - it is omnipotent. We gave the excellent Rosmini College a real fright at the development team level but the mounting toll of injuries meant victory was not within our compass. Once again, the hospitality was outstanding and the tales of 'Rocky's' meeting of minds with his wonderful Western Samoan hosts will go down in Strath legend. We outdid the Maoris with our cultural display in the fascinating Rotorua

geothermal landscape - those hot spas really were a lifesaver by this stage. On to Hastings and Lindisfarne College - the school which produced Tain Randall (New Zealand's next Captain, according to DJB). They did to us in New Zealand what we did to them in Scotland but again the Development boys took them right to the wire.

So it was off and away home - oh, via Honolulu, that is! That Waikiki Beach really is as good as it looks!

To our hosts - and particularly the billeting families who took us into their homes and made us so very welcome - we owe a considerable debt of gratitude. The opportunities for personal development on a tour such as this are unmistakable and it has been gratifying to observe the results. So, where next? Thailand, Australia and the USA in 2000? Book your places now!



DJB Staff lead from the front - observing the latest SRU Directive on Head Protection.

## Strathallan Rugby - Oceania Tour Itinerary June - July 1997

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>30</b> EDI - LHR - LAX - NAN BD 59/NZ1/NZ51 1440/1555/1715/2030/2130 MEET AT EDINBURGH AIRPORT NO LATER THAN 1340	<b>I</b> IN FLIGHT NZ51	<b>2</b> FIJI (HOTEL B&B) ARRIVE FIJI 0610 TRANSFERS ORIENTATION AND ACCLIMATISATION!	<b>3</b> FIJI (HOTEL B&B) TRAINING + BEACH AND SWIMMING	<b>4</b> FIJI (HOTEL B&B) AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #1 versus FIJI SCHOOLS SIDE + POST MATCH CELEBRATION	<b>5</b> ASHGROVE, BRISBANE NAN - AKL - BNE NZ51/NZ135 0740/1045/1630/1805 (BRIEF TRAINING IN AUCKLAND) HOME WITH BILLETS
<b>6</b> ASHGROVE, BRISBANE AM; TRAINING + TRANSFERS TO AND FROM BEACH - SUNSHINE COAST	<b>7</b> ASHGROVE, BRISBANE AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #2 versus MARIST ASHGROVE POST MATCH RECEPTION	<b>8</b> ASHGROVE, BRISBANE AM; TRAINING THEN TRANSFER TO CITY - FREE TIME IN CITY BEACH/EXPO CENTRE/SHOPS RETURN TO HOSTS	<b>9</b> TERRACE, BRISBANE DAY TRIP DREAMWORLD TRANSFER TO NEW HOSTS AT TERRACE HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>10</b> TERRACE, BRISBANE AM; FREE IN CITY VISIT TO BALLYMORE STADIUM PM; TRANSFER TO TENNYSON FOR TRAINING UNDER LIGHTS HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>11</b> TERRACE, BRISBANE DAY TRIP TO GOLD COASTS SURFER'S PARADISE SHOP/SWIM/BEACH HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>12</b> TERRACE, BRISBANE AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #3 V St. JOSEPH'S, GREGORY TERRACE POST MATCH RECEPTION HOME WITH HOSTS
<b>13</b> BARKER COLLEGE COACH TO SYDNEY LUNCH AT COFFE'S HARBOUR ALL DAY TRIP HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>14</b> BARKER COLLEGE AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #4 versus BARKER COLLEGE POST MATCH RECEPTION HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>15</b> BARKER COLLEGE AM; LIGHT TRAINING THEN TRANSFER TO CIRCULAR QUAY MANLEY FERRY IN SYDNEY HARBOUR - MAINLY BEACH HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>16</b> NORTHOLM GRAMMER TRANSFER TO NORTHOLM PM; TRAINING HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>17</b> NORTHOLM GRAMMER AM; TRAINING PM; MATCH #5 V NORTHOLM GRAMMER POST MATCH RECEPTION HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>18</b> NORTHOLM GRAMMER AM; TRAINING TRANSFER TO CITY DARLING HARBOUR - MONORAIL - SYDNEY TOWER HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>19</b> NORTHOLM GRAMMER SYD - AKL - NZ102 1200/1650 TRANSFER HOSTS HOME WITH HOSTS
<b>20</b> ROSMINI AM; TRAINING (IF POSSIBLE) PM; FREE WITH HOSTS	<b>21</b> ROSMINI AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #6 versus ROSMINI POST MATCH RECEPTION HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>22</b> ROSMINI HOTEL (B&B) AM; NGONGOTAHA MOUNTAIN GONDOLA + LUGE RIDE PARADISE VALLEY PADDLE STEAMER RELAX IN POLYNESIAN POOLS MAORI HANGI MEAL	<b>23</b> LINDISFARNE AM; WHAKAREWA THERMAL RESERVE + PUHUTU GEYSER PM; HUKAJET BOAT RIDE COACH WITH HASTINGS MAORI HANGI MEAL	<b>24</b> LINDISFARNE AM; TRAINING PM; FREE TIME WITH HASTINGS HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>25</b> LINDISFARNE AM; LIGHT TRAINING PM; MATCH #7 versus LINDISFARNE COLLEGE POST MATCH RECEPTION HOME WITH HOSTS	<b>26</b> HAWAII (HOTEL) COACH TO WELLINGTON WEL - AKL - HNL NZ450/NZ50 1230/1350/1520/0150 ARRIVE ON MORNING WE SET OFF!
<b>27</b> HAWAII (HOTEL) PEARL HARBOUR VISIT	<b>28</b> HAWAII (HOTEL) FREE DAY IN WAIKIKI BEACH/SHOPPING/WATERSPORT	<b>29</b> IN FLIGHT FREE DAY; SHOPPING, ENJOYING THE SURF/BEACH	<b>30</b> IN FLIGHT HNL - LAX - LHR NZ50/NZ2 0525/1345/1445	<b>31</b> HOME! LAX - LHR - EDI NZ2/BD56 0920/1240/1355 ARRIVE IN LONDON 0920 ARRIVE IN EDINBURGH 1355		

A punishing schedule.





# The Costa Del Sol

It is not just sea, sand and sun!

Girls ranging from IV Form to UVI joined together at the start of the summer term to train for their one week hockey tour.



*Teamwork!*



*I thought you had passed your test Kirsty!*



*A successful team has to be a courageous team.*

They would play three matches against sides from Benalmadena Hockey Club. Like their ages, their standard of play stretched from 3rdXI to 1stXI and the fourteen players, it had to be said, were not going to be a strong touring side.

After all goodbyes were said on the last day of term, we set off for the Costa Del Sol. This of course is peak travelling time to Spain and the staff were a little concerned that the squad may have treated the tour as 'Espania here we come!' However, from embarking on the bus to Glasgow airport until we arrived back in Scotland, Mr Giles and myself could not have dreamt of a better team effort.

During the tour TEAM to us stood for 'Together Everyone Achieves More' and this certainly was the case. We were taking a risk, but as all coaches know, you can't reach your goals without occasionally playing some long shots. It has been said that "Winners are ordinary people with extraordinary determination". It was this that made all the difference.

The team scored eighteen goals and conceded just two in the three matches. The opposition grew in stature as the matches progressed but twelve year old identical twins featured in each game against us and I rather suspect in the near future the same twins may well feature in a Spanish International side. We won 11 - 0 against the under 14 side and beat the under 16s, 6 - 0. Our 2 - 1 defeat at the hands of the under 18s was a superb match and looked an excellent draw until their winning goal crossed the line in the final ten seconds. A squad which appeared on paper and at training, as weak worked together towards one of the best touring records we have seen. They seemed to have a common vision that produced uncommon results. Their attitude for the week was one of teamwork - whether it was carrying the kit to the ground, having water bottles at the ready when the sun began to play its part (and it is only quite warm in Spain in early July) going out as a group and looking after each other during free time. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference and the whole team were positive and thoughtful.

Like all tours, there were memories to take home: trying to find the pitch for the first match; the Coca Cola cafe after each game; being ripped off at the Irish pub; Helen's 'boob' on tour; being serenaded in Pepe's restaurant on the last night and Sarah "just calling to say I love you"; Karen's expertise at the Rodeo; the coach-turned-pupil being given a practical lesson entitled "tequila slammers"; Spice Girls Strath style on video; being tourists and having to 'do' the markets; balcony parties - but don't tell Miss Smith.

The sea, the sand and the sun!

LJS

# Sixth Form Ball

“My tights are laddered! Help!” Everyone was running around in a frantic state, people were zooming off in taxis to the hairdressers, whilst others were getting second opinions from their friends on whether the “lipstick matched the shoes.”



*The three wise Monkeys!*



*Nicol VI Form*

The excitement was obvious and the day seemed so long. This was it though. No, not just another Saturday night event, this was the Sixth Form Ball.

Of course, it just had to be raining on the night, but once inside, what was happening outside was the last thing anyone was thinking about. Comments on how great everyone looked were coming from all directions and complaints like “I can’t walk in these shoes” or “My hair’s falling out!” seemed to be quite popular too.

Once the drinks started flowing, people started to relax a bit and Mr Proctor wasn’t the only one dancing! The band was fantastic and the ball was well underway. The “Kilgie” girls were swallowed up by certain young men who shall remain nameless, although we all know who you are!

The night was a complete success and the embarrassment of seeing “that certain person of the opposite sex” the day after soon wore off. The event was definitely one to remember, so let’s hope that next year’s ball is just as good.

**Jaclyn Murdoch**



*And the band played on.*



# Rugby

## 1ST XV

RECORD FOR OFFICIAL FIXTURES: PLAYED NINE, WON SIX,  
TOTAL POINTS FOR: 230      AGAINST: 118      TRIES SCORED: 33

With only three players from the undefeated team of 1995-96 returning, rebuilding was our prime objective at the start of the season.



*Strathallan touring side against Sigatoga Staff Schools in Fiji.*

With the Oceania tour planned for the summer, our pre-season wanderings took us to the scenic north of England. With trial games in Morpeth and Lancaster, we were very impressed with some of the new talent that was exposed on our English foray. Although unintelligible, our English hosts were genial, and the rugby competitive.

Very quickly, the 1st XV squad proved itself to be very competitive, as willing to work hard at fitness and skills sessions as the juggernaut that had passed before them. As proven last year, fitness was going to be one of our strengths - we like to rely on our ability to maintain or exert pressure on opposition teams when it is least expected. Monday nights continued to be arduous, as the squad worked to achieve fitness levels far above those of our competitor schools.

With such an influx of new blood into the team, we were unsure about how quickly 'things would gel', but it only took our journey to Rannoch, for the first match of the season, to assure us that this team was a very potent force. In an eleven-try romp, the team notched up a 66-0 first win of the season. The first three of Richard Wallace's amazing thirteen tries of the season came at Rannoch, and the power of the captain, Donald Matheson was signalled when he won the Best & Fairest award and Best Tackle of the match. The speed of half-back Scott Mitchell was also very pleasing to see. 'Zippy' scrum halves have not been a feature of Strath rugby in recent years! We could not have asked for a better start to the '96-'97 campaign.

Coming off such an easy first game, there was always the fatal danger of complacency affecting our performance against Glasgow Academy. However, it was very encouraging to see the team attack Glasgow from the outset, and the two early tries to Rich Wallace and Scott Mitchell were enough to break the Glaswegian resolve. Some sloppy play mid-game caused us some concern; with lack of ball retention, and 'seagulling' forwards the

major offences. Phil Price emerged as a defensive force in the game and his efforts in both defence and attack earned him both the Best Tackle and Best & Fairest awards for the game. The 22-3 score-line was emphatic, but much more would be needed for our outing to Musselburgh the following week.

Loretto has been a graveyard for Strathallan 1st XV's in recent years so our preparation for this match was intense; we concentrated on maintaining possession at the breakdowns, and putting our fast men into space. Our preparation for the match was dealt a blow on the bus to Loretto when it became apparent that the 'flu had claimed Graham Tyldesley, and he would not be able to start the match. It was not unusual to find Loretto expecting us to be a pushover - a fact evinced by what was said on and off the field after their first try. However, the team's riposte - winning the kick-off, recycling the ball quickly to a speeding Richard Wallace who scored a great try - served notice that we would be no easy beats. In a nail-biting game that saw the lead change seven times, there were some fine performances. Richard Wallace and Scott Mitchell scored tries borne out of pace, whilst Callum Steven's try saw strength (bulk?) carry him across the line after he sold a dummy to the Loretto backs. James Donald's boot kept us in the hunt, and sealed our result in this see-sawing match. Marcus Honig played extremely well as 'Ugga's' replacement on the side of the scrum, and he showed his versatility when an ugly late hit by a Loretto player forced David Stone out of the game, and Marcus had to move onto the wing. I have seen better defence from two teams, as the 28-28 score line suggests, but the topsy-turvy nature of the game made for great excitement. Our backs were against the wall from the outset of



*Scott Mitchell making a pass against Dollar Academy.*





*Strathallan First XV with the 1996 Australian UK tour squad.*

this game, and to secure a draw was testimony to the spirit of the team. Rich Wallace's influence on the game saw him win the Best & Fairest and Best Tackle awards at Musselburgh. The next match in the '96-'97 campaign took us to St Aloysius. This is another venue that has not been kind to us in the recent past. We have struggled to some lacklustre defeats in Glasgow, and have often found the Glasgow referees 'entertaining'! However, the sheer power and speed of this year's 1st XV saw only Blue and Gold traffic at St Aloysius this year. In another 'try-fest', the team scored nine tries to nil, as St Aloysius were blown aside 53-3! Our backs scored seven tries with Rich Wallace scoring four of those. The buzz that followed our Loretto performance saw our recycling, defence, set plays and moves all performed with a great deal of confidence. The relationship between Donald Matheson and Scott Mitchell at the base of the scrum had been improving all season, and Scott's try off a planned back row move set the back row alive for the rest of the match. The support play in this game was as good as Strath have shown in my four years here. It was good to see two of the tight five score tries, and also to see Tom Forster dominant in the line-outs. Donald Matheson shared the Best & Fairest award with Rich Wallace, whilst David Stone took the Best Tackle.

We hosted Fettes the following weekend in our first wet day of the season. The rain brought expected handling errors, however, we made many fundamental mistakes, and gave away too much ball that should have been secured by our rippers. We also tended to isolate ourselves with the ball against Fettes, with players willing to take the extra step that took them away from their support, finding themselves falling into the clutches of the Fettes back row. We also let slip the chance to punish Fettes when we were ahead, and let our foot off the gas when all we needed to do was maintain the pressure for a big win. However, we did manage to score two tries to nil in the wet to win 13-9. Notwithstanding, our mid-field defence was excellent in this

game with Phil Price, Graham Tyldesley and Colin Eadie all making some crunching tackles. Richard Wallace scored all of our points, so determining the man of the match was not a difficult task. Phil's defence won him the Best Tackle award.

It is difficult for any side to go to Glenalmond and win, and it is especially tough for a Strathallan 1st XV. Our excursion to 'Coll' this year was no exception. Whilst there was no doubting the fact that we were the better side on the field, it took us half an hour to get into our stride. Glenalmond's try was a gift from us, and thankfully, it was enough to jolt us into gear. With some thoughtful rugby in the second half, we were able to force ourselves into the 'must score zone' courtesy of a good penalty kick for line from Callum Stevens. The ensuing driving lineout had been practised a thousand times, and its execution ripped the heart out of the 'Glennie' pack. Glenalmond had Richard Wallace well-marked, so it allowed Barry Corbett and Phil Price to figure in our attack. There were some excellent defensive hits in the game; Alex Macmillan pulled-off three great tackles, whilst Donald Matheson crunched the dangerous 'Col' flanker with a hit that threw the ball into our hands. It was a tough game, as the 11-8 score-line testifies, that required a lot of guts and thought - a game well won! Glenalmond have not beaten Strathallan since 1992.

Our next match was at Forgandenny against Merchiston. We had the pleasure of hosting the Wallaby Test team at school earlier in the week, when Tom Forster was awarded his Full Colours by Wallaby Captain, John Eales. Donald Matheson swapped socks with the big man, and the green and gold hoops made many an appearance during the remainder of the season. We expected Merchiston to start with a bang, and that was the case - three quick tries! At half time, the team knew that it had not begun to reach its stride, and the 6-17 deficit at the break was far from unsurmountable. Controlled rugby saw the team take the game to Merchiston, and with only two minutes to go,



we were 18-17 in the lead. We can only rue the fact that indiscipline saw us give away two penalties in quick succession, when instead of slowing the game down in the Merchiston quarter, we gave them an easy shot at our posts - and the match! Losing 18-20 was a bitter pill to swallow. Graham Tyldesley's tenacity earned him the Best & Fairest points for the game, whilst Callum Stevens' defence won him Best Tackle. At least this antipodean coach had a trip to Murrayfield after the match to see the Wallabies play to cheer him up!

Smarting from the Merchiston nightmare, we travelled to Edinburgh Academy the following Saturday and played very well indeed. Edinburgh Academy had performed a couple of 'Lazarus' acts during the season, so we knew not to take them lightly. We dominated Edinburgh Academy in all facets of the game, and led 11-7 for most of it. In fact, we led 11-7 after the game should have finished! Another great performance from Graham Tyldesley earned him Best & Fairest points for the match, whilst the mid-field defence of Phil Price and Barry Corbett saw them share the Best Tackle points. We learned how quickly elation can become despair in this match, as we saw a couple of bizarre refereeing decisions put us under pressure that we did not warrant. Significantly, not being awarded a scrum feed from a defensive maul we had killed (when clearly the laws of the game state we should have been) meant we were unable to clear our line two and a half minutes into injury time. Lazarus scored in the corner, the whistle blew, and we had lost 11-12. That's rugby!

What followed the Edinburgh Academy game can only happen in Scotland (or Siberia)! We were treated to heavy snow and freezing weather which saw Strath resemble Lapland for two weeks. The frustration of missing valuable training and the match against Morrisons left us well and truly short of form as the Dollar match loomed.



*Captain to Captain; John Eales and Donald Matheson*



*Donald Matheson and Philip Price turning out for Dunfermline Rugby Club, winners of the Scottish Youth Rugby Championship.*

Dollar was always going to be our hardest match of the season, and this fact was exacerbated by our inability to train before the match. Even at full fitness, with the benefit of two week's preparation, we should have found it hard to beat Dollar - they were a very sharp outfit. Our game hinged on our defence, and our ability to shut-down the Dollar mid-field attack. The half time score of 3-10 gave us confidence as players realised that Dollar's attack could be tamed. Short of puff, our defence was overwhelmed in the second stanza and Dollar ran away with a 27 point win. Our late try was something of a consolation but did managed to salve some of the pain. The elements had robbed us of the chance to make more of a dent in the Dollar armour. David Stone scored his first try of the season; Donald Matheson and Phil Price shared the Best & Fairest point, whilst Graham Tyldesley, Phil Price and Rich Wallace shared the Best Tackle points - awarded for the sheer numbers of hits they made.

Jack Frost stole our last match of the regular season, when the Hutcheson's match was cancelled, and sadly, we were left with an anti-climatic end to a very successful season. We had to wait until 19 March for our last game at Forgandenny, when we hosted Collingwood School, from Vancouver, British Columbia. The Canucks were completely outclassed and in a fitting end to a hard season, the 1st XV won 81-3!

We had two internationalists in the team this season. Donald Matheson played Number 8 for the SSRU U18 side, whilst Colin Eadie played Flanker for the SSRU U16 team. Donald's selection chances were dealt a blow when he was concussed at training (forcing him to miss the Rugby Dinner). However, he persevered with his fitness and got a run-out against the Japan Schools team, and then against the English. Hopefully, players

of Donald's calibre won't have to fight so hard to be selected in future years. Colin Eadie's future in SSRU rugby should, barring injury, be assured. He will spend next year's Queensland rugby term at Brisbane Boys' College.

Donald Matheson, James Donald, Tom Forster and Richard Wallace all represented Strathallan in the Midlands U18 team at some stage during the season.

Full Colours were awarded (or had previously been won) to: James Donald, Gareth Greenwood, Tom Forster, Donald Matheson, Scott Mitchell, Callum Stevens, Phil Price and Richard Wallace.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I write my report - my last as coach of the 1st XV at Strathallan. I have had five really enjoyable seasons of rugby at Strath. I've been lucky enough to tour to the south of France and Australia and Hong Kong with Strath teams. I have also had the privilege of working with some talented coaches and some gifted rugby players. I came to Strath as a direct result of contacts made when they toured Australia in 1988. Strathallan (particularly rugby at Strathallan) has provided me with a lifetime of memories, and more importantly, lifelong friends. I look forward to hearing of the rugby progress of some of our F.P.s and to seeing many of those who lived through Monday Nights and Saturday breakfasts some time in the future in Brisbane. My thanks must go to Brian Raine (who pushed to get me to Strath in the first place), Nick Du Boulay, Peter Green, Peter Keir and David Barnes, without whose support, the success of Strathallan Rugby would have been limited in recent years. PK donned PRAG's mantle with trepidation this year, and has done a great job with an inexperienced backline. The sage-like advice of NTHDuB did an immeasurable amount of good for our half backs, and he even taught Colin to pass! I have also to acknowledge DJB's tireless support of the senior teams, interpreting for me in Morpeth, and taking over the reins of the Oceania Tour.

It has been a wonderful association - one that I will always remember with fondness. Do please contact me if you are ever in Brisbane.



ARB *The inscrutable David Campese at Strathallan.*



*Future First XV?*

## Junior Rugby

At Junior level, the 4th Form group played some excellent and entertaining Rugby. The 'A' XV, supported by the 'B' and 'C' XV's, played with courage, discipline and flair, winning all but one of their matches. At third form level, an enthusiastic and committed group of players found it hard to secure wins, their lack of size and pace frustrating the best laid plans. Nevertheless, we can be optimistic about the future.

DJB

# Hockey

## Indoor

The season began with a comfortable victory over Rannoch, but we were soon brought down to earth losing our three years old unbeaten record to a very good Glenalmond side. After some fine tuning from Neil Mitchell (Perthshire Hockey Club), we entered the Glenalmond Sixes, aiming to make the semi-finals. Fine performances from David Horsfall, Scott Mitchell and Richard Wallace saw us through to the final, only to lose out in a closely fought contest 3-2 to Glenalmond.

## Outdoor

Our first opponents were the Scottish U16 Squad. Although they were a great deal more skilful than ourselves, they found it difficult to cope with the pace of Wallace and Mitchell down the right and we ran out with a comfortable 2-1 victory. Robert Gordon's were a totally different proposition and we were extremely lucky to reach half time with a 1-0 lead, but we settled down in the second half and were unlucky not to extend our lead. The next day we were away to Loretto and from the first whistle we were very much under pressure, our cause not being helped by the early loss of captain Marcus Honig; but with a good display of goalkeeping from Horsfall and some fine defending, especially from Gus Macdonald, we weathered the storm and came home with a 2-1 victory with well taken goals from Robin Dicke. At home to Glenalmond, we played our best hockey of the season and put our two indoor defeats behind us with an impressive 4-0 victory, Alex Blackstock scoring a hat-trick. With four straight victories, thoughts of emulating last year's team were beginning to creep in, but these were soon swept away by the visit of Gordonstoun. Unlucky to be 2-1 down at half time, we were not allowed to get out of our own half in the second half and went on to lose 8-1, our heaviest defeat for a long, long time. Still hungover from the Gordonstoun game, away to Fettes we put in a very lacklustre performance and managed to hand them a 2-0 victory. We recovered some-what by the next weekend, defeating a young Aberdeen Grammar side 2-0. The next day, with James Donald and Lil Thapa in outstanding form, we reached the final of the outdoor sixes and although we lost to Glenalmond 1-0, a certain amount of

pride was restored with comfortable victories over Fettes and Gordonstoun en route to the final. In the return match against Loretto, they gained sweet revenge by out playing us in the second half, to gain a 5-1 victory in a match that had initially looked as if it could go either way. Our penultimate game of the season was against Watson's and although we were never in any danger of losing, we failed to capitalise on our possession in front of goal and came home with a one all draw. To end the season we entertained the Old Boys. After being 2-1 down, ex-internationalist Mike Yellowlees, last year's captain Robert Barr and Eddie Anderson, who found a golden touch in front of goal, turned on the style and taught us a lesson in how to play a passing game, giving the Old Boys a 6-2 victory. As well as those already mentioned, Chris Appleby, Alistair Christie, Cameron High, Matthew Morley, James Dinning, Ross Maddox, Donald Matheson, Chris Mouat and Scott Harvey also represented the First XI.

In what was nearly a very successful season, we have been shown that we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

If we are to continue to enjoy the success that we have in the past, then we must take heed of the lessons taught and those returning must be willing to work to the high standards set by our predecessors, and only if we push our talented players towards representative hockey, will we continue to compete with our competitors.

All is not doom and gloom and the results of our other teams speak for themselves. The Second XI finished the season unbeaten, this being equalled by the U15A XI, the U16As only lost one game, the Third and U16B XIs finished on top more often than not, but the U15B and C teams excelled themselves with 100% records and as long as we can keep these younger players interested, this should help in keeping our senior teams reasonably strong. Many thanks to all the coaches for all their hard work throughout the season, and in some cases above and beyond the call of duty, to DA, PMV, GRMR, PS, RJWP, CNC, JNE, AMT, MA and AJHW, I am eternally grateful. I would also like to thank the catering staff and the ground staff for their assistance in enabling the season to run so smoothly.



*Angus MacDonald gets to the ball against Belfast Royal Academy.*

## Colours and Representative Honours

Full Colours were awarded to Honig, Macdonald, Mitchell, Matheson, Wallace, Horsfall.

Half Colours were awarded to Dicke, Donald, Thapa, Blackstock.

Midlands U16 - Christie

Scottish Chameleons

U18 - Horsfall, Appleby, Donald, Macdonald, Dinning, Watson, Thapa, Mitchell, Morley, Blackstock

U16 - Christie (capt), Harvey, Euan Matheson, Simon Raeder, Andrew Potter, Nick Gdula, Jonathan Dalley

**DRG/Alex Blackstock**



# Cricket

Never, in nearly twelve years of living in this part of Scotland, can I remember the weather being so consistently poor during the middle of May and almost the whole of June.

This resulted in the wholesale cancelling of fixtures: home matches against Loretto, the total wiping out of the Fettes and Glenalmond cards, the cancellation of the M.C.C. match on the last Sunday. The knock-on effect of such inhospitable weather was a growing sense of frustration for the talent we undoubtedly had at all levels, and a severe disruption to the momentum built up by the 1st XI, which was unbeaten until well after half-term.

This season saw the continuing rehabilitation of our pitches. The Lawn is fast reaching almost 1st Class standard, the Garden is probably only a year or so behind it. The Paddock, home to Riley cricket, was dug up and re-laid at the end of last summer and, although patchy in places, has already seen a dramatic improvement in consistency of bounce and safety. These improvements can only be good for the continued development of cricket at Strathallan. Our aim is to make our cricket the best on the circuit; with good grounds and safe pitches children can be coached to play properly without fear of being 'skulled' by a ball which jumps, or without the use of a helmet at an early stage of their development. Would that pitches at other venues on the circuit were as safe or well looked after. The improvement has been brought around through the time and effort expended by our groundsmen, Iain Philip. It is hoped that his association with Strathallan will continue for some time to come.

Although good pitches are a prerequisite for a high standard of cricket, so are good and dedicated coaches. We are very fortunate in having so many members of staff with playing experience, able to pass on their hard-gained knowledge. To Robert Proctor, Nick du Boulay, John Ford, Charles Court, Adam Streatfield-James, David Giles, David Armitage, Ken Dutton, Andrew Wands, Paul Vallot, Greg Ross, newcomers Sandy Lunan and Steve Gallagher, and Iain Philip, many thanks indeed. Without their contribution, cricket at Strathallan would be much the poorer.

As always, it takes more than the coaching staff to make cricket possible; thanks are also due to Ed. Macdonald and his groundstaff, Craig and Carmel Young for their exemplary catering and Earnside coaches who have to cope with my weather-induced fluctuating demands.

RHF

## 1st XI

The strength of the team was very much an unknown quantity at the start of the season. The success of the side surpassed all expectations, which added all the more to the disappointment caused by the cancellation through weather of so many fixtures. Indeed the end part of the season was totally wrecked.

Although there were several very good individual performances, the strength of the side was very much as a unit. Several players made important contributions to the side without producing impressive score-book statistics. In particular some of the fielding was very good indeed.



*Euan Matheson 'guiding' the ball.*

It is never easy to captain when in the Lower Sixth. Not only did Robin Dicke lead very effectively (given some excellent antipodean advice) but his own game came on considerably to produce a genuine all-rounder. The experience and bowling skills of David Mapleston were invaluable (he was almost unplayable at Loretto). It was hard to believe that he was under sixteen, although his batting never hit any sort of form. Callum Stevens showed far greater maturity behind the stumps and his century was very impressive. Perhaps it was no accident that our one defeat was during his absence, not that I am one to bear grudges of course. Ian Stewart improved all season with both bat and ball and Alastair Sutherland made several good contributions without ever producing a major inning. At times, Malcolm Elder bowled very impressively but he lacked true consistency. Jamie Mackenzie has yet to find the knack of getting wickets but the potential is there, as with his batting. Both Euan Matheson and Jamie Partridge made encouraging debuts whilst Chris Appleby and Lil Thapa contributed much to the fielding. Several others played in one or two matches including Tom Booth from Riley. Some showed real promise.

On this evidence, there is some good potential for the future although there are important gaps to fill. Of great help has been the enormous improvement of the wicket and Iain Philip deserves our thanks. So also do Nick du Boulay for his coaching and umpiring, Richard Fitzsimmons for his coaching and immaculate, though lugubrious, organisation. I wish Richard as much enjoyment as I have had in running the First XI.

RJWP



# Cricket Results

Played 10

Won 4

Lost 1

Drawn 5

Abandoned 6

Perth Northern 205-6 dec. (Gallaughier 52; Gray 37; M. Elder 3-34)

Strathallan 206-4 (C Stevens 117\*; E Matheson 40)

Won by 6 wickets

Strathallan 159 all out (A Sutherland 43; D Mapleston 27)

Dollar Academy 127-7 (Butcher 52\*; R Dicke 3-18; m Elder 2-36)

Drawn

Strathallan 148 all out (A Sutherland 35; R Dicke 34)

Loretto School 83 all out (D Mapleston 5-29; M Elder 2-9)

Won by 65 runs

Strathallan 180-6 dec. (I Stewart 83\*; D Mapleston 24; J Partridge 25\*)

Occasionals 134-3 (G Fraynor 57; D Armitage 35\*)

Drawn

XL Club 254-6 dec. (A W McPhail 103\*; A Duncan 39; D Mapleston 3-57)

Strathallan 191-4 (R Dicke 60\*; D Mapleston 48; A Sutherland 33; J Partridge 31\*)

Drawn

The Edinburgh Academy 219-8 dec. (Hillyland 42; Thomson 32; R Dicke 3-57)

Strathallan 220-4 (C Stevens 51; I Stewart 48; R Dicke 48\*; Blair 3-52)

Won by 6 wickets

Crieff 86 all out (McDonald 31; I Stewart 4-8; R Dicke 2-21; D Mapleston 2-33)

Strathallan 87-3 (C Stevens 25\*; I Stewart 25; R Dicke 20\*)

Won by 7 wickets

Merchiston Castle 102-6 (Easton 25; Swan 22; R Dicke 2-24)

Strathallan 50 all out

Lost by 52 runs

Old Strathallians 249-5 dec. (Gray 79; Anderson 62\*; R Dicke 3-31)

Strathallan 136-4 (I Stewart 52; J Partridge 36\*; J D'Ath 3-28)

Drawn

Clubsport XI 167-5 dec. (B Hunter 104; I Stewart 2-34)

Strathallan 116-7 (I Stewart 49; C Stevens 15)

Abandoned

## Batting Averages:

Name	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Innings	100s	Average
C A Stevens	7	2	246	110*	1	49.20
R H W J Dicke	9	3	231	60*	-	38.50
I Stewart	9	1	275	83*	-	34.37

## Bowling Averages:

Names	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
R H W J Dicke	123	30	311	18	3-18	17.27
D N Mapleston	142.5	41	406	22	5-29	18.45
I Stewart	109	22	342	16	4-8	21.37
M S Elder	118	17	432	15	4-34	28.80

## 2nd XI

A disastrous season – not in terms of results with both school games won – but in the cancellation of five fixtures. All began well on a fiery Labour Day on the re-laid Garden pitch. Chris Wands and Jonathan Dalley dug us out of a minor hole to reach an unexpectedly big total (I had been warned that the batting would be weak). We had Dollar in early trouble, but lack of imagination in bowling changes and some rubbish bowling let them back into the game. We were happy to scramble a win.

On a difficult pitch against The Edinburgh Academy, the batsmen played to form, only Jonathan Butler scoring significantly with a typically robust knock. The total seemed indefensible, but this time the captain got it right, Scott Harvey bowled beautifully (7-23), and they were rolled over.

In the other game, hastily arranged with Perth Northern, Andrew Reed and Ian Gove produced a remarkably composed ninth wicket partnership to give us another big total. With Northern five down for very few, we looked home and dry, but we dropped Malcolm McLaren and both he and another oldster used all their experience against some listless bowling to bring them home with lots to spare.

JNF

## Senior Colts

In common with just about all other sides, the Senior Colts were hamstrung by the appalling weather. Out of a card of eight games, only four were eventually played, a source of great frustration for this inexperienced side. Under the leadership of Michael Wilson everything started well with a formidable total on The Garden against Merchiston, traditionally the strongest side on the circuit at this level. Unfortunately, Merchiston were not able to take up the challenge, despite having only seven overs less than the Strathallan side. And so to Loretto and a much tougher fixture on an interesting pitch. The Senior Colts sold their wickets dearly, but could not make much headway and set a challenging total. Against Glenalmond, our bowlers were hammered with only Colin Thwaites bowling with any control. The less said about our innings the better.

At least the season ended, albeit prematurely, with the only win of the term against The Edinburgh Academy. Tight bowling backed up with some good fielding ensured a moderate Academy total, seven of their batsmen being bowled. After a disastrous start with both opening batsmen back in the pavilion with a combined total of one run, Duncan Broadfoot, aided by the middle order and Hamish Forbes, put us back on track. The look on Greg Moat's face, as he stroked the winning boundary, had to be seen to be believed.

Many of these players will be in with a chance of 1st XI honours next season. Indeed, Fraser Whitelaw and Colin Thwaites both made appearances this season. There are places to be won and the 1st XI coaching staff will be looking out for those who want to win them.

DRG/DA

# “Character in Charge”

Robert Proctor

After a year at Strathallan, Robert Proctor became Master in Charge of Cricket in 1981. He was well qualified for the job. He had run the XI at St. Edmund's Canterbury, played Australian Grade cricket under Ian Chappell, captained St. Andrew's University and represented both Scottish Universities and the Sherborne Cricketer Cup side. As a batsman he was prolific and aggressive, often playing match-winning innings. At the same time he would play and miss with considerable elegance outside off-stump. His bowling, seemingly innocuous, regularly picked up wickets. He was particularly adept at luring callow tailenders into committing Hari Kari. He took considerable pleasure in captaincy, getting everyone into the game, always trying something and never allowing things to drift.

As Master in Charge, he encouraged the positive and enthusiastic and was unsparing of his time irrespective of a player's talent. Conversely, the Prima Donna, the selfish or the indolent could be the recipient of a volcanic eruption. He instigated Strathallan's introduction into Festival Cricket and all the enjoyment entailed. He was also extremely generous to guests, colleagues and players alike. Ultimately “Proc” made cricket fun and people “played” for him. Florence's patience as a cricket widow was remarkable, if sometimes irascible.

NTHDuB



RJWP in bowling action.



# Sports Day And Athletics

This year saw a first for both Sports Day and Speech Day for a number of years - the sun.



*Sports Day winners.*

In keeping with the weather, Sports Day events turned out to be very good. There were some extremely close and exciting races and some very good individual performances, all of which were enhanced by Greg Ross (in his inimitable fashion) and his commentary team.

Simpson again proved to have too much depth to be beaten and managed to squeeze Ruthven into 2nd place. There were notable all round performances from Donald Matheson, Roderick Murray, Jamie Walker, Scott McKinlay, Rhona Chapman, and Caroline Reed. Angus Macdonald (100m/200m), Alasdair Grieve (400m), Kerr Young (400m) and Roderick Murray (800m) produced excellent performances and all qualified for the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships, held at Meadowbank.

At the Scottish Schools Championships, Susan Balfour followed a disappointing run in the 800 metres with a very brave run in the 1500 metres to win the Bronze in a personal best time of 5 min 5 secs. Scott McKinlay performed very well to finish 4th in a very strong field in the Pentathlon, only 192 points off the leader. Alasdair Grieve also had a superb run and was narrowly beaten for the Bronze in the 400 metres, but posted a seasons best of 51.8 secs. Well done to all these Athletes for their fine performances.

All this year's fixtures were very close run affairs characterised by good wins in the various age groups, the highlight being a very convincing win against Rannoch. This year we owe much of the sprinting successes to the tremendous work put in by Phil Chee. He has added a new dimension to the training and produced a group of sprinters who will go on to do very well in the coming years.

The number of Athletes rose quite dramatically this year and it was very heartening to see the dedication and commitment that they showed both during training and matches. The range of talent in the School is very widespread and as was the case this year, a lot of good Athletes appeared mid-season. Let's hope the trend continues!

We were also fortunate to have Roy England (a professional Throwing Coach) visit the School for a week to pass on some of his expertise to our Field Athletics. He has certainly helped to produce a new group of throwers who should go on to achieve some great results next year.

My thanks go to all the Athletes who trained with a committed and conscientious approach this year. In particular, I would like to thank Matt Morley for his work as Captain of Athletics and the House Captains for their assistance in helping with the running of Standards. I would also like to thank all the Staff who helped and worked with the Athletes throughout the season and also the Staff who helped on Sports Day.

The following Colours were awarded this year:

K Young	Half Colours
D Matheson	Half Colours
S Catto	Half Colours
M Morley	Full Colours
A Grieve	Full Colours

PAS





# Tug O' War



1,2,3 heave. . .

For the second year in a row, the 'Mighty Nicol' pulled out all the stops on their way to a thrilling, comfortable win over Simpson. Nicol again looked the stronger team with Neil Grossett as anchor man there was no chance of Nicol being pulled back and with a strong Junior side it looks like Nicol could hold this title for a few years to come.

**Neil Hutton**



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## Standards

- 1st Freeland 2053
- 2nd Ruthven 1986
- 3rd Simpson 1971
- 4th Nicol 1909
- 5th Woodlands 1072
- 6th Thornbank 797

## Sports Day Results

### Boys Inter-House

- 1st Simpson 132
- 2nd Ruthven 111
- 3rd Freeland 90
- 4th Nicol 85

### Girls Inter-House Shield

- 1st Woodlands 138
- 2nd Thornbank 104

### Individual Awards

- Junior boys Victor Lud - Scott McKinlay (S)
- Junior girls Victrix Lud - Caroline Reed (W)
- Middle boys Victor Lud - Jamie Walker (R)
- Senior girls Victrix Lud - Rhona Chapman (T)
- Senior boys Victor Lud - Donald Matheson (R)

### Tug of War Boys

- 1st Nicol
- 2nd Simpson
- 3rd Freeland
- 4th Ruthven

### Tug of War Girls

- 1st Woodlands
- 2nd Thornbank



# Sports Day Results 1996/97

## Girls' Results

EVENT	AGE	WINNER	TIME/DIST.	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100m	J	C Reed	14.1	13.00	Strenle K	1982
100m	S	R Chapman	14.16	12.12	Edmunds A	1990
200m	J	C Reed	30.6	27.79	Reid S	1988
200m	S	R Chapman	30.69	25.20	Edmunds A	1990
400m	J	A Little	72.21	66.00	Reid S/Taylor R	1987/90
400m	S	A Hunter	74.35	60.00	Reid S	1990
800m	J	S Balfour	2.39.00	2.32.10	Taylor R	1990
800m	S	A Hunter	2.58.00	2.25.06	Taylor R	1993
1500m	J	S Balfour	5.27.11	5.14.09	Barlow A	1992
1500m	S	F Miller	6.45.59	5.05.10	Meiklejohn C	1990
H Jump	J	F Hunter	1.25m	1.45m	Orr K	1984
H Jump	S	K Partridge	1.3m	1.55m	Rutherford R	1987
L Jump	J	C Reed	3.7m	4.46m	Gordon S	1985
L Jump	S	K Partridge	4.09m	4.58m	Carruthers C	1989
Shot	J	G Greenwood	7.11m	10.23m	Sang T	1992
Shot	S	F Elder	7.05m	9.49m	Edmunds A	1990
Discus	J	L Dover	16.9m	25.10m	Chapman R	1995
Discus	S	R Chapman	23.11m	24.59m	KrannenburgH	1995
Javelin	J	G Greenwood	19.49m	23.39m	Buchanan K	1995
Javelin	S	J Malcolm	17.45m	22.42m	Bruce M	1995
4x100m	J	Thornbank	1.05.34	55.65	Thornbank	1995
4x100m	S	Thornbank	57.48	54.54	Thornbank	1990
4x400m	J	Woodlands	5.04.58	4.39.37	Thornbank	1992
4x400m	S	Woodlands	5.22.33	4.43.83	Thornbank	1993

## Boys' Results

EVENT	AGE	WINNER	TIME/DIST.	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100m	J	I Anderson	12.21	12.00	Ling T	1971
100m	M	J Walker	12.36	10.90	Ogilvie	1978
100m	S	A McDonald	11.5	11.00	Lochart/Ling/Smellie/Kirkland	1971/8
200m	J	I Anderson	26.44	24.00	Wallace R	1993
200m	M	M Butler	25.22	23.20	Ling T	1973
200m	S	A McDonald	24.12	22.80	Ling T	1974
400m	J	J Camilleri	59.4	56.50	Cook C	1987
400m	M	K Young	55.86	52.50	Millar	1977
400m	S	A Grieve	54.7	50.30	Roger G	1982
800m	J	S McKinlay	2.17	2.12.90	Lawrence C	1984
800m	M	K Young	2.14	2.03.06	Lawrence C	1985
800m	S	R Murray	2.03.87	1.55.02	Roger G	1982
1500m	J	S McKinlay	5.6.59	4.32.07	Lawrence C	1985
1500m	M	I Stewart	4.57.40	4.14.05	Bond R	1988
1500m	S	R Murray	4.47.28	4.09.02	Bond R	1989
H Jump	J	R McKenzie	1.5m	1.63m	Holmes	1965
H Jump	M	S Harvey	1.62m	1.77.5m	Cuthbertson A	1984
H Jump	S	D Matheson	1.66m	1.89.5m	Roger G	1982
L Jump	J	N Walker	4.56m	5.55m	Lear C	1967
L Jump	M	J Walker	5.4m	6.17m	Lawson	1967
L Jump	S	J Dinning	5.65m	6.52m	Smellie D	1978
Shot	J	S McKinlay	10.28m	12.83m	Walker L	1992
Shot	M	P McKenzie	10.88m	14.73m	McKenzie G	1973
Shot	S	D Matheson	10.25m	12.90m	Calender	1979
Discus	J	G Davidson	27.76m	36.27m	Knox S	1974
Discus	M	P McKenzie	34m	42.00m	Knox S	1976
Discus	S	A McMillan	30.52m	40.26m	McKenzie G	1974
Javelin	J	G Davidson	27.61m	49.81m	McBride J	1969
Javelin	M	H Mason	28.53m	49.81m	McBride J	1969
Javelin	S	M Elder	39.41m	57.07m	McBride J	1971
4 x 100m	J	Nicol	54.44	50.50	Ruthven	1987
4 x 100m	M	Ruthven	49.33	46.60	Simpson	1972
4 x 100m	S	Ruthven	47.25	45.50	Freeland	1981
4 x 400m	J	Freeland	4.33.58	4.09.07	Simpson	1995
4 x 400m	M	Simpson	3.59.49	3.53.49	Simpson	1995
4 x 400m	S	Simpson	3.48.82	3.41.03	Freeland	1992



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# Girls' Games

Within the last decade we have seen four girls play hockey for Scotland - two as vice captain, one play netball for Scotland, one as 100m and 200m Scottish Athletics Champion and just this summer, five gained caps in the Scottish Rounders teams.

Many more have gained honours at district level in both netball and hockey with every girl having the opportunity to represent school in our fixture programme across several sports. Their story is reported below.

The last ten years has seen a well established team of staff work with the girls on games afternoons. Mrs Sandra Lamont and Mrs Helen Segaud, who joined the staff in 1987 and 1989 respectively, have contributed greatly to the above successes. They have now decided to concentrate their energy on much younger children by running their own nursery. We thank them for their help over many years and wish them every success in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the girls' games team who coach, encourage and motivate the girls in their sport. And a final word to the girls - thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm over the year.

LJS

# Hockey

The Finlay twins, Kim and Lisa, clearly made a solid contribution to our team but sadly left at the end of the first term.

Fixtures overall for the teams were played with determination, despite the opposition usually coming out on top. The 2nd XI struggled to put the ball in the goal and had some very close matches. The young 1st XI achieved results well beyond my expectations. Huge losses the previous season against High School of Dundee (0-8), Heriot's (1-7), and Mary Erskine (0-6) became 1-1, 1-3 and 2-2 respectively - a major improvement. The IV Form team really were the team of the season. They won the Junior Tournament in November and reached the semi-finals of the Indoor Tournament, only losing out in sudden death penalty strokes. The 1st XI reached the quarter finals of their pre-season Tournament and the semi-finals of the Midlands Cup. Matches in late November against St. Leonards, Loretto and Fettes were cancelled due to bad weather and the Independent Trophy, which we were due to host, also had to be cancelled because the astro was under ice and snow. This was a disappointment as we had home advantage and were ready to reclaim the trophy, which had been with Fettes for the year. This year has seen a very young side starting to prepare for the next two seasons - one III Former, one IV Former, four V Formers, two LVI and three UVI players.

Over the season we hosted five touring sides: St Wilfrids (England) 3-1,

Sligo Grammar (Ireland) 4-0, Friend's School (Ireland) 0-4, St. Gerard's (Ireland) 0-5 and Collingwood (Canada) 4-0. The run of 7's Tournaments at the end of season was tiring and for the first time in five years included the High School of Glasgow's event which has, without fail, been cancelled due to rain. A semi-final place in the aforementioned was pleasing.

Alison Roger, Christina Breden and Anneka Laux played Midlands Under 16 with Miranda Harington, Kim Finlay and Karen Wilson making the Under 18 team. Kim and Karen then gained a Scottish Trial but were unsuccessful in reaching the final squad.

In what was going to be a very difficult season there were many highlights and all the teams must be congratulated for their grit and determination. None more so than Karen Wilson, the 1st XI Goalkeeper, who two weeks into the season was asked if she would keep goal for Perthshire Ladies in a Cup match. She accepted and it was in the car travelling to the match I informed her the opposition was Grove Ladies; two current and one past Great Britain players, former and present Scottish team players all fired balls at Karen. Ten went in, but double that were saved. Karen became of age that day and a photo presented to her at Christmas with the GB vice-captain slotting one in as Karen dived to the ground, I trust will be cherished.

LJS



*What the Keeper saw!*



# Netball

Once again, this year's Strath netball team proved to be more than capable of living up to the reputation established by the success of the preceding years. A team to strike fear into the heart of every independent school's netball player, we emerged victorious from a particularly intense and violent match against Gordonstoun in the finals of Scottish Independent Schools tournament (for the 4th year running) - no mean feat amid the generally hostile cheers of the Gordonstoun home crowd. However, by virtue of the fact that this year's tournament is to be hosted by Strath, we are possibly presented with the perfect opportunity of repaying like with like!

The season was successful but for the exception of a defeat suffered at the hands of Dundee High. However, it is worth noting that out of the three matches we played against them, we did win a majority of two.

The shooters, Pip Blair-Oliphant and Kimberly Cooper continued to perform with awe-inspiring accuracy and they'll certainly stand the team in good stead for next year.

In addition to playing for the School team, Alison Hunter, Jenni Malcolm, Pip Blair-Oliphant, Becca Perrett and Tabby Combe represented the Perth Under 19's and Under 16's respectively.

Our thanks go to both Miss England and Miss Mason for their coaching and support and, most especially, for the netball dinner which Tabby at least made the most of (2 puddings?!).

**Jenni Malcolm**



*Strathhallan's senior netball team retaining the Independent School's Trophy - minus Kimberly Cooper.*

## Cap THAT!

After having played and worked hard at hockey for the last five years, I could not help but laugh when I found myself in the Scottish Rounders Team.

Failing to gain even a Scotland trial when it came to hockey seemed to prove that there would always be tough competition when it came to gaining a place in the national side and playing for your country. How wrong I was!

I decided to try for the school rounders team even though I had not held a bat since Riley, three years ago. Within five hours I was congratulated on being in the Scottish senior Rounders Team!

Along with Louisa Graham-Campbell and Elise Rankin, I helped the over 16 team to victory against England B and a memorable win over Ireland. I should perhaps mention that the Irish teams thought they were coming to a Softball International, but it's all the same really?

Well done also to Anneka Laux and Caroline Reed for their caps in the under 16 teams' victories against England and Ireland's softball teams.

Thank you to our staff for the intensive training of one and a bit hours and to all the staff who came to support us. Overkill was mentioned but it was much appreciated.

**Christina Breden**



*Representatives from Strathhallan in the Scottish Rounders Team.*



# Boys' Tennis

April and May this year were decidedly 'tennis unfriendly' with the weather windy, wet and cold. Unusually, this led to two cancelled matches and one postponement, an indication perhaps that our all-weather surface is beginning to feel its age. Unfortunately, one of the matches cancelled was that with Fettes, a fixture we managed to resurrect this year after they reduced their fixture load four years ago. The tennis squad this year consisted of a small pool of talented and experienced players but there was little depth beyond that. Fixtures had to be arranged around exam timetables and injuries were strictly forbidden!

It has been a good season, unbeaten at home and winning six of our nine fixtures with some of the tennis of a very high standard. The first pair of Wallace and Blackstock played exceptionally well to complete the season without dropping a set - even against the Masters' team! In the Scottish Schools tournament, we comfortably reached the last sixteen stage, where we were drawn to meet Glenalmond away. This proved to be a tense and exciting tie, full of high quality tennis. Richard Wallace had to be at his very best to win his singles rubber against the Glenalmond number one. Behind 3-5, after the singles round, we needed at least three of the final doubles sets. Our number one pair duly obliged with two and our second pair forced the final set into a tie break. Glenalmond just proved the steadier under considerable pressure and went through to the quarter finals.

For the future, it was good to see nearly half the junior house, Riley, taking advantage of the tennis coaching course. Those in the top group looked very promising and could cope with top spin and slice services by the end of term.

Special mention must be made of Richard Wallace and the huge contribution he has made to tennis at Strathallan. This has been his second year as captain and sixth year playing in the first pair of the team. He has a singular talent for the game and was ever a fine ambassador for the school when on court.

This year's team was selected from R. Wallace, A. Blackstock, B. Corbett, G. Turner, S. Kilfedder, S. Watson and A. Potter. B. Corbett was awarded colours.

## Results

v Edinburgh Academy	won 7-2
v Merchiston Castle	lost 3-6
v Perth High	won 12-0
v Rannoch	won 9-0
v Glenalmond	lost 5-7
v Morrison's	won 8-1
v Stewart Melville	lost 3-6
v Loretto	won 6-3
v Masters' C R	won 5-4

DJR

# Basketball

This year, the basketball has continued to benefit from the planned developments of last year. Firstly, the seniors have become a very effective side and have displayed a lot of maturity. This togetherness enables a side to trust each other and isolates the greedier player, both necessary for the team to think and act as one. Secondly, the juniors have continued to cover the basics in their PE lessons with Mr. Shore and a good group of skilful enthusiasts will be pushing for team places next year.

Phil Chee has joined us this year and has injected a much needed sense of enthusiasm while using his skill to re-inforce the seniors. This year the senior team managed a few matches in the run up to the main tournament, beating Morrisons and Rannoch in away games. The senior captain, Magnus Webb, has used his experience to lead the team well and we will miss his strength next year.

Magnus and the team continued to improve their levels of fitness and team play and came to the 9th Strathallan Invitation Tournament well prepared for the contest. Stephen Scales and Gregor Nim have never worked so hard and we were sorry to lose Rod Murray to injury early in the competition. Six school sides from the region competed in two initial groups with Strathallan, getting through to the cross overs after some hard fought matches. Strathallan proved themselves in the opening

match against Arbroath, and came in first against a much improved Rannoch side to take the Fagerson Cup again. We also played well against Rannoch to take the individual Fagerson Cup with a good score. Kinross were the eventual winners of the Tournament which was a fitting end for their coach, Charlie Archibald, who retires this season. Charlie has contributed enormously to the setting up and running of the tournament and we all wish him well in the future.

The House matches were held for juniors and seniors after the Strathallan Tournament and again, as appears to be the case each year, the standard of team play has gone up. All the school team players were involved with the junior sides leading to some fierce pre-match rivalry. They all did a splendid job with the Simpson boys coming through in the end to pip Ruthven at the post after an excellent, if short, match. In the seniors, the experienced and very well drilled Freeland team were excellent value as final winners

In conclusion, this has been a very busy year and a lot has been achieved. This has been possible through the commitment of staff and players who contribute to basketball on top of their usual work. It is a sad year for me personally as I shall not be able to take an active part next year, after 10 years of involvement. I have a lot of memories to thank those players for, which I shall keep forever.

GRMR

# Football Report: 1997 Season

By any standard, the 1997 season was a resounding success. After beginning the Spring term with reaching the final of the Independent Schools' 5-a-side tournament, excellently hosted by Queen Victoria School, the 1st XI played a total of eleven games, winning nine of them and drawing one. The only loss came to a well drilled Merchiston Castle side, though revenge was sweet some weeks later with a deserved 4-1 win away from home.

From the outset the captain and vice-captain, David Stone and Finlay Nicolson, set the right tone with a good attitude to training. The squad of sixteen players responded well to the early season fitness/tactical drills, which were later to stand them in good stead during a run of five matches in nine days, later on in term. The players also had to adapt to a new system of play; after the 4-2 defeat by Merchiston we abandoned the traditional 4-4-2 style and eventually settled on 5-3-2, with sterling work done in all matches by our wing-backs Callum Stevens and Alasdair Grieve. Above all, this was a team committed to attacking a positive play. In all games we scored 47 goals and conceded only 11, a testimony also to our solid defence and good goalkeeping by Duncan Crosthwaite. Leading scorers were captain David Stone and Barry Corbett, both on 13; not far behind were Alex Sheal on 8 and newcomer Chris Howarth on 5.

The majority of this squad are back again next year and there are a number of useful players pushing for places from the Second XI for next season. It has been very pleasing this year to notice that more and more of the Independent Schools are competing at Football and can now offer fixtures for 2nd XIs as well as the main side. We will have to work very hard indeed to keep our place at the top of these schools. Full colours in a minor sport were awarded to D. Stone, F. Nicolson, C. Stevens, A. Grieve, P. Price, D. Crowe.

## 1st XI Squad 1997:

D. Stone (Captain)	M. Butler
F. Nicolson (Vice-captain)	D. Crosthwaite
D. Crowe	Y. Thomson
T. Forster	H. Mason
A. Grieve	A. Sheal
C. Stevens	D. MacLennan
P. Price	C. Howarth
B. Corbett	J. Walker



Callum Stevens, on the ball.

## Badminton

We have had a much quieter year this year with notably less 3rd and 4th years showing interest. However, the 5th and 6th form provided loyal participants in the form of Aisla Stringer, Elise Rankin, Nicola Milne, Tim Elliott, John Cameron and Adrian Beaumont. The House competition was

again hard fought with Simpson coming out on top, largely due to the promising young pairing of Mark Stringer and Scott McKinlay. Both Woodlands and Thornbank put forward strong teams, with Woodlands just edging the girls' competitions.

GCK

Results: 1997	Played 11	Won 9	Lost 1	Drawn 1
-v- Staff (h)	6-1 won	-v- Merchiston (a)	4-1 won	
-v- Merchiston (h)	4-2 lost	-v- Edinburgh Academy (h)	6-1 won	
-v- QVS (h)	5-0 won	-v- QVS (h)	6-2 won	
-v- Edinburgh Academy (a)	4-0 won	-v- DSM (h)	4-0 won	
-v- DSM (a)	2-2 drawn	-v- Staff (h)	2-0 won	
-v- Glenalmond (h)	4-2 won			

Goals for: 47      Goals against: 11

RHF/GAB





# Sailing



*A life on the ocean wave.*

This term's sailing started on a different note from previous seasons in that we missed the usual turn off for Lochore Meadows and continued on to our new venue, Port Edgar on the Firth of Forth.

We were now under the auspices of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and doing courses for their achievement certificates, be it the Basic level Z, the Advanced level S or Instructor courses.

The sailing varied from calm and placid to fast and furious, depending on wind and conditions, with us taking to the seas in a variety of craft, varying from Patters and Laser Picos, through Tapper Sports and Wayfairers to 420's and Dart 18 catamarans.

Andrew Morris had the honour of the first capsiz, even if it was in 2ft of water and Helen Stewart did not crash into the pier as was expected, judging by her efforts of last year. In the end all of us achieved the required standard to pass and thanks must go to our instructor Ian for his help and direction. More thanks go to Mr. Walker, for organising and transporting us, Mr. Broadfoot, Mr. Phillips and Miss. England for what was an highly enjoyable time.

**Edward Phillips**

## Cross Country

In terms of results, this has not been a good season. As the season went on, it became increasingly rare to find all of the first six training at any one time, and this inevitably led to some disappointing results.

Our team at Glenalmond was probably the strongest of the term, but with this prestige event, against two of the strongest running schools in the North of England, coming on the day after the sixth form ball, the result was never really going to be in doubt.

Some pride was restored at Rannoch the next week, where the Glenalmond seniors only beat us by a point. We won the junior girls, and competed well in the junior boys and middle girls, with Susan Balfour winning the girls race outright.

The Scottish Schools in Irvine, at the beginning of March, came at a bad time; too many injuries, too many missed training sessions and a very quick course conspired to drive us far down the field. A week later the Fettes match again restored some pride, but by now the squad was reduced to "walking wounded" by the flu virus, and we did not do as well as we might.

There have, however, been some pleasant surprises this term. Although we have a long way to go, there were girls training and competing this year; we managed to kidnap some junior boys from the major sports; we had a consistently high number of social runners, many of whom, incidentally, trained much harder, for less tangible reward than the first team. It is good to see how many of them are trying hard to keep their fitness throughout the year.

In the future we must keep our juniors training, and build for the season after next. We have a hiatus in the seniors next year, with few runners moving up from the fifth form, we shall have to try hard to recruit.

**DMH**

## Swimming

The Swimming Pool is undergoing (by the time you read this, has undergone) a thorough up-grading, which will end years of misery and flaking paint. I sincerely hope that this attractive appearance will help to attract, in particular, more boys to take up serious training again.

During the 1996/97 session we extended our range of fixtures to include Fettes, Glenalmond and Rannoch and although we were perhaps not as successful as one might have wished, the individual performances and the team effort displayed left nothing to be desired.

The Inter-House competition was, as always, a hard-fought contest in which the junior girls particularly have become a force to be reckoned with. It has been argued that there can never be a fair comparison between the girls and the boys in

swimming and that some form of handicap-system ought to be introduced or that separate competitions for girls and boys be held. But it would be nice if we could maintain the integration of boys and girls, at least in one of the minor sports.

In recent years, the post of School Captain of Swimming has been held by girls, which reflects the interest and commitment shown by the ladies. This kind of appointment has had the additional advantage of having a team leader who could get the boys to turn up for matches without having to resort to coercion.

My thanks go to Sally Burnett for having maintained the high standard of leadership shown by her predecessors.

**KG**

# Horse Riding



*Katie Smith - top vaulter.*

The Strathallan Riding Group began the year at Perth Equine Centre, with one group having lessons in the indoor school and the other hacking round Glendevon Farm. Activities ranged from flatwork (walking, trotting and cantering), doing simple dressage movements, to jumping. The jumping had a range of success, from very competent to some quite spectacular falls, including some full somersaults!

During the Easter term, the Perth Equine Centre closed for financial reasons. This meant some detective work on my part to find a new venue. I visited a number of establishments and then decided on the Shieldbank Stud Riding Centre at Saline. This 300 year old farm has been converted into a riding centre by Victor and Marianne Beasley who run a very highly thought of establishment. They have won the riding schools' competition for the last two years.

As well as teaching all standards of riding, Shieldbank teach vaulting (gymnastics on horseback) up to Scottish Squad level. Needless to say our intrepid riders thought that they would like to try this as well! They did, and with a fair amount of success.

Shieldbank teach our riders stable management, as well as the actual riding, which all the pupils are enjoying. Our most improved rider (Sulekha Varma) and vaulter (Katie Smith) over the term were awarded plaques at the end of a vaulting competition between Shieldbank and Strathallan, which Shieldbank narrowly won. We look forward to returning next term.

**JSRH**

# Canoeing

Canoeing this year, to put it bluntly, has been fantastic! Masses of runs on lots of different rivers, a good team of enthusiastic, lively and fearless people led brilliantly by the courageous Mr Wightman.

We began - of all times to begin! - in peak winter floods on the Allan in Dunblane. An eventful day to say the least, resulting in the loss of a life jacket, the loss of a paddle, almost the loss of a mountain bike (sir!) and a member of the group, who shall remain nameless, who decided to play chicken with a tree! Gains though, were four happy paddlers who'd completed some big waters and rough runs in rather unfavourable conditions.

Summer gradually crept in, noticed only through the calendar date and certainly not the temperatures of the water or the pleasant climatic surroundings in which we paddled. In any event, many happy times were spent on the Tay at Stanley, the Allan at Dunblane and the Gerry near Pitlochry; learning the odd manoeuvre, surfing, rolling, popping in and out of falls, sliding shutters - you know, the kind of things experts like us do!

Disasters include Mike and Chris's record achievement of 12 capsizes in an hour or so and Dorm's brief encounter with a tree - yet the miracles outweigh these ten fold.

**Richard Wands**



*Douglas Forbes shooting a rapid.*

# Curling

At the start of this season we had a reasonably young team compared to previous years. However, we certainly tried our hardest and consistently gave the opposition a good game. Unfortunately there has not always been a large selection of curlers to choose from but we were always able to field a team.

The team has certainly had some uneven moments during the season but has also had some very positive aspects. Andrew Reed received national honours by playing for England - so congratulations to him. More closer to home, the team managed to triumph over the 'Old Boys' and brought back a trophy that hasn't been won by the School team in a very long time.

Once again, we entered the Millar Drummond Competition and played very well against other schools to find ourselves at the top of the 'Low Road' as we approached the finals. The team played very well over the finals' weekend at Greenacres but unfortunately lost to the better team of Mary Erskine.

We also competed in the Scottish School Playdowns, where we were up against some very strong teams and consequently failed to qualify. The team entered the Perth League for another season but, unlike last season, were not the dominating team on the ice.

This year the school received invitations to play in a pairs' competition at Murrayfield Ice Rink during the Easter Holidays. The competition required a boy and a girl so Andrew and Caroline Reed went along and played extremely well. Unfortunately they were knocked out in the quarter finals after playing against tough opposition.

Sartorially, the season started off very well with the team receiving brand new fleeces with the school crest on them. This was a great asset to the team and we now look very professional - smartest team on the ice!

A word of thanks to Mr Walker who arranged matches and transport throughout the season.

Duncan Edwards



Andrew Reed was invited to join the English U21 curling squad earlier this year - he travelled to Canada, where he trained and competed. Andrew also took part in the qualifying competition for the Junior World Championships in Hamburg.

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# Skiing



*John Clayton - Strathski supremo.*

A "green" season only enlivened by the Chaplain's ever-increasing plethora of ski lists and daily weather faxes, full of sound and fury, but sadly, signifying nothing.

The Autumn term saw weekly trips to Hillend for training sessions with our coach Claire Bailey and the Rev. With Claire at the wheel of a school minibus our travel time was much shorter. These sessions paid off and Strathallan maintained its high position in the Scottish Schools' Dry Slopes Championships. With no "Thurski" or "Sunski", all the devotees were left with was a trip to Sauze d'Oulx (Italy) at Easter. Despite the mini-bus journey to Newcastle (and back) all the reports were that this was a holiday with a difference.

Being half-way up a mountain with no evening entertainment other than a TV, did have its advantages. In the early morning, with "the" comet still visible, we took to the Italian snow-covered slopes whilst those in the village below were still queuing for the chairlift up. By 3.00pm, the queues for the chairlift by our hotel were enormous as "mamas and papas and Nicolettes" were heading back down, and still we skied on even after the lifts closed.

The Rev was forced to eat his words about "trays", as he trudged up the hill in soft boots and donned a borrowed board to begin another alpine adventure - this time as a snowboarder. After much laughter (from guests on the balconies), many shouts of "How do I get up?", frustrated fists flagellating in frustration, it is alleged that he began to ride.

The last word of this season's non-report must be given over to John Clayton; founder of Strathski - Driving Force, Mastermind and Equipment Acquisitor, Inspiration to Staff and pupil non-skiers, renowned and respected in the National, International and global sports scene. For over 30 years, John has demonstrated wisdom, commitment, technical knowledge and persuasive powers. Louis Graham-Campbell presented him with an engraved Caithness glass bowl and a decorated ski at the last School Assembly in Chapel in June.

TR, LG.-C, SR, RC, ASH.

Tristan Ranger, Captain of Skiing, was awarded colours.

TGL

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# Land Management

This year, we have been able to lay down a strong format for the future while becoming more integrated in the many activities in the school.

We have had a lot of support from Major Legge and Ed Macdonald, without whom we could achieve very little. The larger group of pupils were very committed to the schemes in place and their efforts over the year have been enjoyable and successful.

We began in September in good heart and Fraser Currie led his team to put some of the usual summer damage right by clearing all the main areas in Coventrees. The building of the new Sanatorium took one area out of action but the clearance of the trees in that area was done extremely well, with special attention paid to the rarer species. The East wood has begun to need less clearance each year but we did lose a new horse chestnut in the enthusiasm to clear the ground.

By half term, the main area had been brought back to shape and we introduced the pupils to the wider area, taking in the whole valley area. Three groups worked in competition to improve three designated areas and produce plans and suggestions for the future.

In the spring term, each group asked to continue the work in their areas but we had to introduce other schemes as well. The greenhouse work began earlier with each group taking part in the sowing and planting over the term. Mr Bolton had a lot of work to do to keep with the pace, as growth seemed to accelerate over the term. The sale in

the summer was very successful. In addition, we began a forestry survey of the whole grounds. The Lanman group will be involved in beginning and running a forestry nursery and this year we had to find out what would be needed. The whole school estate was divided into sections and the numbers of successful saplings from the last planting were counted. The tree protectors were brought in from all over the estate, a task both cumbersome and time consuming.

In the summer term, we began a sequence of activities which included fishing on Loch Buttermere and shooting with the school Clay Pigeon Club. We are very grateful to Mr Vallott and Mr Wands for this opportunity, in which everyone has now been introduced to the sport. Each group also completed a project which involved the cleaning of the Lindsay-Wood family graves, the preparation of new flower beds and the creation of a rose garden.

Looking back, we have all been amazed at the amount of work everyone has completed over the year and I am sure we have all enjoyed the experience. Sadly, we have lost Fraser Currie, as group leader, and Chris Robbie who both leave this year. On the good side we know that Fraser's successor, Robbie Gemmill, will be a worthy replacement.

GRMR/GAB/PRS

# Golf

The school golf team had an "up and down" season this year. They started the season particularly well by winning the 'Stocks Cup' at Glenalmond, competing against other schools within Perth and Kinross. Captain Cameron High led the way with a fine individual round of 76; which was good enough to capture the Frank Gloak Cup for the best individual score of the day.

The match against Merchiston was abandoned due to torrential rain, but overall we won as many games as we lost. The 5-0 victory over Fettes at Pitlochry on a beautiful spring day being perhaps the most memorable. The diminutive Pitlochry H.S. team also taught us a lesson at Auchterarder and we were fortunate to scrape a 2-2 draw. None of their players were long hitters, but they kept the ball on the fairway, generally hit the green with their next shot and were pretty good at putting too! Richard Jones, without playing badly, found himself 4 down after 4 holes when his opponent started with 4 consecutive birdies - some sort of record at this level.

In school competitions, new boy Hamish Mason produced the steadiest golf to win the St. Columba's Trophy and the individual prize at the Inter-House Competition. Simpson took the team honours once again, largely due to a fine 77 from Hamish and an impressive 81 from Grant Davidson, who looks a good prospect for the future.

It is also pleasing to report the development of the girls' golf team, under the supervision of Mrs Ninham and Miss Morrison. Our visiting professional, Mark from Craigie Hill, can take a lot of credit for his patient tuition, even when the clay pigeon shooters tried their best to put us off our swing (only joking Mr Vallot!). All those taking golf lessons benefited from his expertise.

NS

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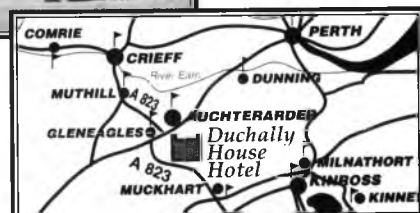
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*A water skiing Wands - but which one?*

# Water Skiing

Strathallan's second year of water skiing showed a marked increase in pupils both attempting and achieving in this sport. All told, some 34 pupils travelled to The Scottish National Water Ski Centre, north of Dunfermline, on two afternoons a week in the Summer Term.

A new dimension was "wakeboarding", very similar to snowboarding but on water. Towards the end of the term at least one pupil achieved the coveted "360°". Further excitement was added to the afternoons' fun when all went "ringoing" - being towed behind the powerboat on inflatable doughnuts.

To the staff at the Centre and to the Chaplain (who still hasn't gone into the water) our thanks.

**Stephen Scales**

# Windsurfing

During the Summer Term, fifteen avid adventurers endured the half-hour mini-bus trip to Lochore Meadows Country Park. Well, sometimes there were a few less than fifteen of us.

For part of the first week the beginners were taught on land. They were shown which end of a windsurfer is which and how to move and turn. While some of the beginners were floundering around, some more adept windsurfers quickly grabbed the biggest sails they could get their hands on and rushed out to race each other. They rapidly learnt how to go quickly - but did they learn anything else?

Towards the end of the season there was a fortnight with virtually no wind - but plenty of rain. We were taught tricks such as the 'heli-tack' and 'sail-360' to relieve the boredom. Understandably, few windsurfers were enthusiastic without wind (apart from when it was dry and sunny!).

We must thank Colin MacPhail (no relation) and his team for not letting us drown ourselves (though we won't thank them for stocking bait for the fishermen - the maggots really stink!).

Our thanks and sympathies must also go to our drivers, Dr. Carr and Miss Mason, who wrestled with the gears on various vehicles and survived a few really boring conversations. We won't go into the causes of these conversations here because that could be - well - boring!

**Alan Senior  
Geoffrey Wheeldon**

# Shooting

Last Spring we finally laid our hands on the magnificent Strathcona Shield, a trophy which we won two years running ('93 and '94, I think) at a time when it had been mislaid. It features in our team photograph this term. However, sadly, we had to hand it over to Watson's a few weeks before the end of the Summer term. Individual results have continued to be outstanding: Jennifer Littleford's win in the Junior Women's Indoor Championship last term was the highlight of the year, with good placings for Fiona Hamilton and creditable ones for the rest of the A Team. We also came in 2nd to Felsted in the Junior Winter shoot, which makes us effectively UK runners-up at Schools level.

The present team are all leaving except for one at the end of this term, and it will

be a long time before such feats are seen again. Over the last five years Strathallan has been at the forefront of .22 shooting, as past reports will illustrate, but there will inevitably now be a hiatus as the old team leave (with Nicky Malcolm staying on as next year's Captain). Riley Shooting is attracting good numbers, and with over 50 shooters in all during most of the winter season, there is still a high level of interest in the sport at Strathallan.

**ACWS-J**





# Clay Pigeon Shooting

The year began with the usual rush to practise for the Scottish Championships which were again held at Castlandhills on Sunday 6th October 1996. Strathallan took three teams down; the junior team was made up of Hamish Allan (R3), Laurence Court (R3) and Alan Hay (F3); the senior teams; Mark Lowe (N7 & Cpt), Mike Wilson (R4) and Richard Wands (F7); while the B team was Chris Wands (F7), Matt Morley (N7) and Peter Mackenzie (S6). Strathallan finished 1st, 2nd and 4th; but unexpectedly the Junior team overshadowed the A team on the day to take the overall title.

As Scottish Champions, we were challenged to a shoot off by Kimbolton School who are the English Champions. The competition was run on a home and away basis over the summer term. Kimbolton (whose team members shoot as their only sport throughout the year) had to overcome about thirty-five other teams to win the English championship. Mr Wands and Mr Court took a team of nine down to Huntingdon. The senior team lost narrowly, but the juniors were well beaten on the day. On the home leg of the trip Kimbolton again won through by four targets out of a possible nine hundred. Which goes to show just how close it was.

PMV



Lawrence Court, Alan Hay and Hamish Allan - Scottish Champions.

# London Marathon



Still smiling after 26 miles.

On Sunday April 13th, along with 29,999 others, I pounded 42km worth of the streets of London! After months of intensive (?) training - anything to get away from the House and children! I covered the marathon distance in three and three-quarter hours. I will not pretend that it was all enjoyable - at 90kg, I am not really built for this sort of thing but the build up, the first 30km and the finish, were moments to remember. No matter how bad you feel - and at about 32km I felt pretty bad - you cannot help but recognise that many of those around you have made or are making greater

sacrifices. It is a humbling experience.

I was particularly pleased to be able to run in support of C.H.A.S. (The Children's Hospice Association of Scotland), the organisation which raises funds for Rachel House in Kinross, Scotland's only Children's Hospice. On behalf of C.H.A.S., can I thank everyone from the Strathallan Community who so generously sponsored me and helped to add £1,000 to the coffers. As a community, Strathallan is committed to ongoing support of the Hospice, both financially and in terms of practical help. I know that your assistance is greatly appreciated.

DJB

# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Around thirty pupils have been involved in the various levels of the scheme this year. This is rather less than normal, mainly because the bronze group in the fourth form was unusually small. The signs are that this trend seems likely to be reversed next year.

Those who were involved engaged in a wide range of activities, sports and

community service with expeditions in various areas including Mull, the Cairngorms, Lochaber, Glen Tilt and the Lake District. My thanks are due to all those staff who have helped with these activities and expeditions.

Particular congratulations to those who have completed their awards this year.

Bronze: Fiona Elder, Lucy Sproat, Andrew Turner, Rebecca Perrett, Chris Stewart and Dirkja Hannson-Bolt.

Silver: David Taylor, Helen Nesbitt, Emma Readman and Jemma Hepworth.

Gold: Jonathan Goody, Alan Senior, Geoff Wheeldon, Tyrie Turner, Struan Fairbairn and Gordon Duncan.

JSB

# CCF

## Army

This year saw an increase in the numbers joining the Army Section. A lively and enthusiastic 4th Form group started the term with great vigour and training got off to a good start. The Senior members of the Army Section took a team to the Highland Cadet Tactical Competition and came a creditable 3rd amongst the CCF teams. The team is determined to do even better this year and has entered a Brigade competition, two weeks prior to the main one, in order to do some final training. After half-term, the 4th Form underwent a concentrated phase of Adventure Training to cover the basics and prepare them for going on to tackle these activities in greater depth later on in the year.

The main event of the Autumn term was the Section's night exercise, which took place up on the Ochils under fairly arduous conditions. All the younger members of the section acquitted themselves extremely well and had many stories to tell on their return.

The start of the Spring term saw the juniors continue with their training towards the Army Proficiency Certificates, whilst the Seniors were heavily occupied on Leadership courses. Not only did the Seniors do very well on their course and fully deserved the promotions that followed, they were also all able to complete their final phases of training and were all awarded Advanced Proficiency Certificates.

The Army Section has been very fortunate to have had the services of Sgt. Andy McPherson of the Cadet Training Team, who has turned up regularly on Wednesdays and has made a professional and enthusiastic contribution to training days.

The School has also benefited tremendously from the arrival of Tam Lindsay who has done a superb job in running the stores, taking over accounting for all the equipment and weapons and generally helping to create an atmosphere in which training can be conducted safely and with as much equipment as is possible.

The year culminated in a Summer Camp to Fallingbommel in Germany, where the Section were hosted by 1 Royal Highland Fusiliers and had a wonderful time honing their skills whilst at the same time getting the chance to see and use all the equipment used by a modern Infantry Battalion, as well as having the chance to visit local sites and theme parks.

PAS



Michael Narchi, Andrew Donald and Edward Willing being given their orders by Sgt. McPherson of 36 Cadet Training Team.



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## Royal Navy

The re-organisation of the Royal Navy Section to include a Diving Team and a Pre-Marines Training Division, has helped to keep the section at a viable level.

Captain Walker and Mr Wilson concentrated on the power boats, maintaining them to the usual high standards and training Cadets in boat-handling to a level well beyond standards of competence required by CCF regulations.

Sub-Lieutenant Phillips was in charge of the Pre-Marines Training Division. He was assisted by some of the senior members of the RM Detachment and together they provided a varied and challenging programme which included a memorable night exercise. As always, those who followed instructions spent a fairly comfortable night. Those who did not, were

living proof of the old adage that any fool can be cold and miserable.

Sub-Lieutenant Ashmore has been building up the Diving Division. The very nature of this activity requires thorough theoretical preparation and although some members of the Division were becoming a bit impatient, it must be stressed that only on the basis of sound theory can practical diving be conducted safely. The coming year will see the emphasis shifting towards actual diving and we look forward to hearing an exciting range of tales from the deep.

During the Summer Term, the Marines aptitude tests were conducted and an encouraging number of Pre-Marines passed with flying colours. They are now members of the RM Detachment - but that is a different story.

KG



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# Survival 97

If you see a new T-shirt design being shown off around the campus this year, don't rush into town to buy one like it. This T-shirt with the Fishbones and Crab emblem, is not available in the shops, it is, like the famous tie, for Survivors only.

In order to qualify for these splendid garments, we spent a week on the island of Fladda, enduring and perversely enjoying, the self-imposed restrictions on such luxuries as food, drink, shelter and warmth, which are the essential ingredients of survival.

Fladda had not been our original choice of island. High winds prevented us from landing on Cairn na Burgh Mhor and we had to divert to Fladda, which is considered to be a slightly easier option. Mind you, in this game everything is relative and we found the search for water and firewood sufficiently challenging, even if Fladda is huge (all of a thousand yards long) compared to Cairn na Burgh.

Domestic circumstances forced the other 'professional' survivor, Mr Wands, to stay away from the party this year. His place was taken by two Old Boys who, having missed out while they were still at School, put their names forward as adult instructors. Thank you, Robo and Gresh!

If you want to hear stories of heroism and suffering, get hold of one of the T-shirt wearers and buy him a pint. If you want to know why I think Survival is good for you, read on.

You are taken away from your home comforts, the warm bed, dry clothes, mother clearing up behind you, 3000 calories per day and countless snacks in between, television and the ghetto blaster. In return, you find yourself in a communal shelter, the make-shift roof is leaking and ready to take off with the next gust of wind. For the first time in your life, you are actually hungry and not just mildly peckish, everything you do requires a great effort.

Now, look at yourself! What are you like? Do you still have a sense of humour to sustain yourself and others? Do you still see problems and do something about them? Can you still work and live with other people - and can they still live with you? Or do you sit in a corner, feeling sorry for yourself, letting others get on with the work that needs to be done? What kind of a person are you, when the pressure is on, when the chips are down?

One week on a desert island is all it takes to find out, in fact, after three days you have a pretty good idea. And when you come back, you suddenly appreciate things that you have taken for granted all your life, you begin to understand how fortunate you actually are.

And the reward for such insight is a natty T-shirt.

KG



Ray Duffy in a tight situation.



*In the country of the blind the one eyed man is king!*

## Royal Marines

What is wrong with young people today?

Not much, I thought, when I watched the team from the Royal Marines Detachment in action at CTC RM in Lymestone last autumn. Our team was by no means the strongest nor the most experienced, but at every stage of the competition for the Pringle Trophy I saw the team members display dedication, initiative, self discipline and dogged determination - to mention just a few of the qualities that go into the making of a Royal Marine Cadet.

In the end, it was not enough to win the coveted trophy, but we did come away with the cup for Mapreading/Navigation and showed that when it comes to practical skills, we can hold our own against the very best from all around the country.

This year's training followed well established patterns, providing a healthy mix of military and adventure training. It is difficult to single out any particular activity or exercise, but I would like to highlight one which, to my mind, illustrates the philosophy behind the Cadet training.

Now and again, we set up an Abseiling stance. Of course, every conceivable safety precaution is observed and, as the saying goes, nothing can possibly go wrong if you follow the instructions. But the fact remains that it is very much against one's natural instincts to launch oneself down a cliff, relying on no more than stout ropes and a couple of friends.

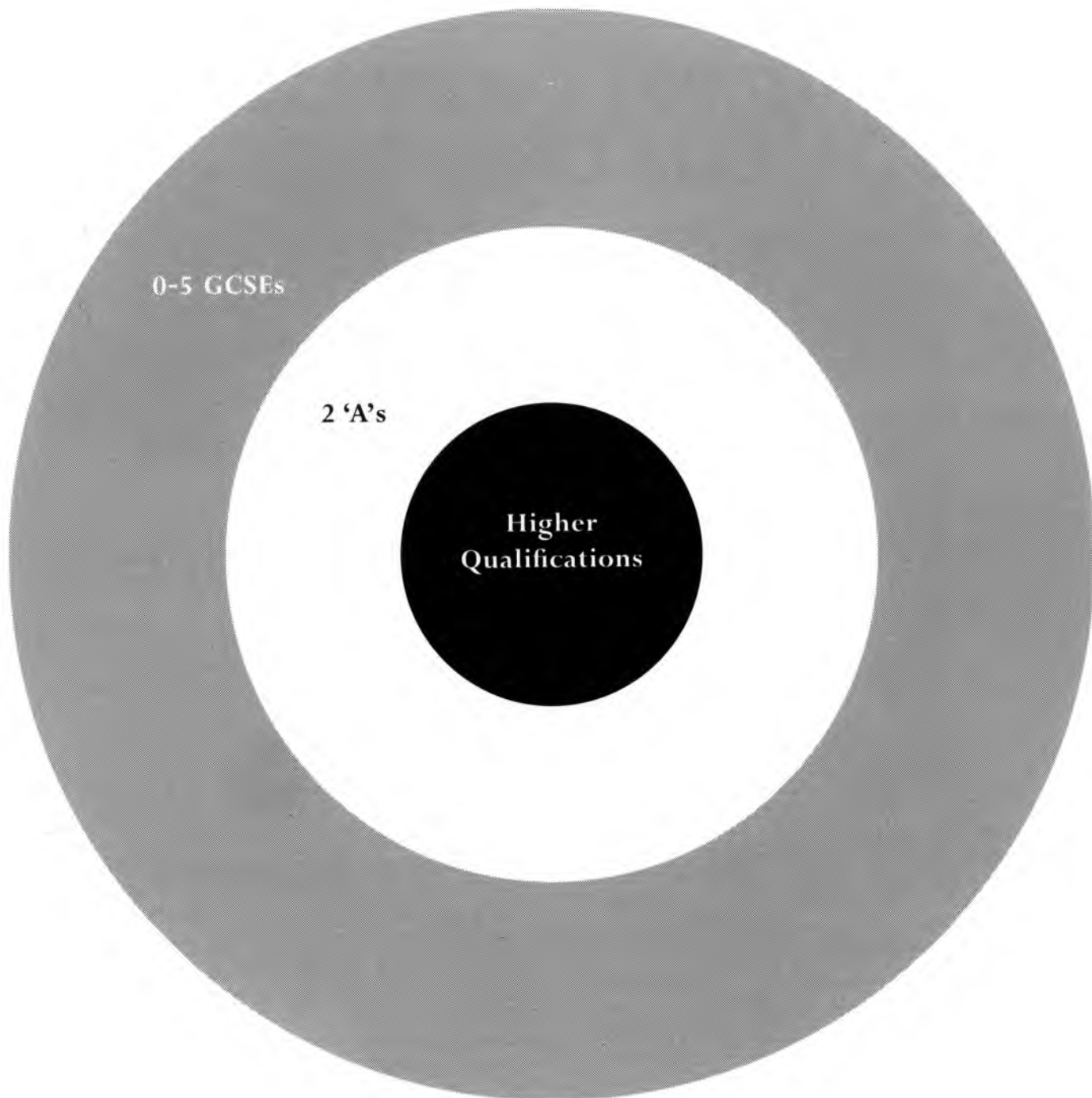
The ropes, tested to breaking strains that would give comfort to an elephant, are the rational factor in the equation. The friends - well, that is a different matter. Here the elements of trust comes into play and you must be able to rely completely on the man who holds your life-line and double checks that you have strapped yourself in correctly, or the one who acts as your final anchor man.

With your friends in position, you push yourself over the edge and enjoy the rush of adrenaline - there is no feeling like it! And when it is all over, nothing needs to be said - you are part of a team in which everybody can and does trust everyone else.

May I finish by thanking the many people who have helped to make the 96/97 session such a success: the ladies in the sewing room, the catering department, Mr Lindsay in the Stores, Warrant Officer Martin and, by no means least, my Cadet NCO's, without whose loyal assistance I would have been struggling on many occasions.

KG





# AIM HIGH

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## ROYAL AIR FORCE

# Strathallian Club

## President Nigel King

1996-97

Nigel attended Strathallan from 1953-1957 in Nicol House, enjoying most sports and achieving modest success in cricket and hockey.

He is a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and has been resident factor for over thirty years of the Murthly and Strathbrann and Fotheringham Estates owned by the Steuart Fotheringham family in Perthshire and Angus.

Nigel, 'A son of the Manse', is an elder of the church in the Dunkeld parish, a general trustee of the Church of Scotland, assisting in the land management of church glebes. He is a General Commissioner of Income Tax and a Justice of the Peace. For winter relaxation he is an enthusiastic exponent of the ski slopes and enjoys Scottish country dancing. The summer months are spent golfing, fishing and gardening. Nigel is married to Anne and they have three daughters and one grandson. They live at Douglasfield, Murthly, Perthshire.

Nigel's careful and quiet enthusiasm has stood him in good stead as the Club's president.

Douglas B Sinclair



President, Nigel King.

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the *Old Strathallian Newsletter*.





# Obituaries

**Robert Kirkland (N 34)** died on the 20th April 1997. During World War II he served in the RAF Air Sea Rescue Service. After the war he returned to run the family laundry business. His great interest was golf. He was a member of the Scottish Golf Union and was a past captain of St Nicholas and Royal Troon Golf Clubs.

He is survived by his wife Jean, to whom he was married for 52 years, two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. His son, Lamont, was in Leburn and currently commands the Green Howards in Germany.

**Andrew W Crowe (S 69)** died in March 1997 as a result of a hill walking accident. He was born in Bridge of Allan in 1951, the son of Wallace and Cybil Crowe. He attended George Heriots before coming to Strathallan, where he excelled at football. After reading Hotel Management and Catering at Strathclyde, he became a partner in the family restaurant at Strathgarry. He then branched out and built up the Atholl Highlanders restaurant in Pitlochry. He became a well known figure in business and the community. He was a Round Tabler, captain of Vale of Atholl Football Club and Chairman of the District Tourist Association. He was a very fit man, enjoying golf and hill walking. He was also a keen church goer.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra, two daughters, Nicola and Suzanne and his son, Dan. Nicola and Dan attended Strathallan in the VIth form.

**David S Calder (F 50)** died suddenly on the 23rd August 1996. His wife Elspeth relates that he enjoyed every minute of his life as a farmer.

**Richard G Darvell (S 46)** died on 6th November 1994. He spent 8 years as a regular officer in the Royal Artillery, serving in the UK and the Far East. Subsequently, he joined the Unilever group and had various personnel manager appointments before becoming Personnel Adviser to the 43 companies of the United Africa Group in Nigeria. On his return to the UK, he worked as a management consultant until his retirement in 1985. He is survived by his wife Julia.

**Doctor David Martin** died on the 10th October 1996. He left Strathallan in 1928 and trained in Dentistry and Medicine at Edinburgh, qualifying in the former in 1935 and the latter in 1936. He married Annette in 1939 and was immediately sent to the Middle East with the Army Dental Corps. He was promoted to Major in 1942 and received the T.D. award. After the war, he worked with the School Dental Service, in Surrey and Kingston-upon-Hull, until his return to Perth in 1950. He was responsible for building up high quality dental services in local hospitals and in particular Bridge of Earn. Orthopaedic and Plastic Surgery specialists combined with Dr Martin in dealing with the many victims of road accidents. He was also a visiting lecturer to Dundee Dental Hospital. He retired in 1977.

He is survived by his wife, his son Muir and his daughter Gillian and six grandchildren.

**Ashley Harvey-Walker** was shot dead in a Johannesburg club on the evening of April 28th 1997. He was 52. Almost certainly,

he was Strathallan's best known cricketer, playing for Derbyshire as an all rounder from 1971-78. He scored a hundred on his first class debut and made 3,186 runs, took 31 catches and 34 wickets for them, including 10 in a match against Surrey. He was a popular figure on the county circuit and a prodigious hitter of enormous sixes. John Arlott called him "Ashley Hearty-Whacker" and other nicknames included "Ash the Crash", "Colonel Chinstrap" and "Lucan".

His school record was outstanding. He scored 1237 runs and took 170 wickets for the 1st XI. Originally playing as a spin bowler, a bad injury limited the aspect of his game. He still holds the school record for the highest individual innings, 179 n.o. against Glenalmond. However more remarkable was a 100 against Merchiston out of about 125 on a barely playable wicket, when nobody else on either side could manage a respectable score.

After a few years of club cricket he emigrated to South Africa, where he coached and was involved in ground developments in Soweto, was a proprietor of night-clubs and pubs, and was curator of the Test ground at the Wanderers.

**William G Rowan** died on the 14th July 1997 (aged 83). He was the third generation of his family to run Rowan's of Buchanan Street in Glasgow.

He left Strathallan in 1932, having been an outstanding Cross Country Runner. He maintained a keen interest in Strathallian activities and was President of the Strathallian Club.

He married Mary in November 1941 and within three months was dispatched to India to serve with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, mainly in Poona. He achieved the rank of Major before returning to the family business. Paternal pressure stifled his ambition to be an architect. Rowan's was one of the biggest and most stylish of Glasgow's department stores, also having branches in Birmingham and Turnberry and Gleneagles Hotels. The store was sold to Austin Reed in 1974.

He leaves a widow of 56 happy years, his children Jill and Mike and his grandchildren.

**Duncan Campbell Scroggie** was 17 1/2 years old in 1939 when war broke out and he went straight from Strathallan into the Forces (REME). He took part in some of the commando raids on Norway and France and landed on the Normandy beaches on D Day +6. He then participated in the liberation of Paris, Holland and Belgium and saw some of the horror camps in Germany.

After demobilisation, Duncan went to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to learn tea planting. In 1948/49 he moved to Kenya and settled in the tea-growing area of Nandi Hills, where he worked for several tea companies before acquiring his own farm of 370 acres, where he grew tea and bred pedigree cattle. In 1951, Duncan married Gillian Prophet (some of whose Prophet cousins were educated at Strathallan). He had a son (Charles) Grant Scroggie and a daughter Shirley Scroggie, at present a physiotherapist in Nairobi, Kenya and a good golfer.

**Norman Ledingham** was born in Perth in 1911, the son of a Glasgow banker. Moving to Kilmacoll, he attended Alan Glen's School then, from 1926-30, Strathallan. He graduated MA in Geography from Glasgow University in 1933 then began a 5 year Law apprenticeship, graduating LLB in 1938.

# Strathallan Club Contacts Abroad

The following Strathallians have agreed to be representatives of the Club abroad, and will happily help any Strathallians planning to visit their part of the world

## Australia:

Iain S Gray (1961)	Unit 5, 19 Sutherland Crescent, Darling Point, NSW 2022. Tel: 9328 6080 Fax: 9327 7697.
Eric W Hamilton (1979)	1 Airdrie Corner, Kinross 6028, Perth, W.Australia.
John A McArthur (1970)	10 Jenolan Close, Hornsby Heights, NSW 2077.
Gordon Reynolds (1980)	18 Letitia Street, Katoomba, 2780.

## Canada:

Ian D Lewis (1970)	420 Coach Light Bay SW, Calgary, Alberta T3H 1Z2. Tel: 403 246 6121
Stephen W Geddes (1987)	100 Lamont Boulevard, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 0E6.
Rahul Suri (1983)	942 Logan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 3E4.

## Italy:

Fiona J Mowat (1991)	La Casetta 70/A, 53017 Radda in Chianti, Siena.
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## Malaysia:

Patrick D Russell (1981)	No 3 Jalan Gallagher, Kuala Lumpur 50480. PC/Fax 603 291 6227
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## New Zealand:

Ian Potts (1993)	Alea, RDIO, Masterton. Tel/Fax: 00 646 3722 446
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## Nigeria:

R Gary Walker (1978)	c/o Chevron Nigeria Ltd. PMB 12825, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: 260 0600 ext 8377 (work); ext 7649 (home); fax: 260-0395
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## Singapore:

Thomas A Kerr (1952)	82 Grange Road, Les Colonnades, Singapore 1024.
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## South Africa:

Michael I Dawson (1964)	459 Currie Road, Durban 4001.
William B Melville (1966)	72 Catherine Road, Fontainebleau, Randburg 2194.
Tommy R Taylor (1961)	9 Uve Road, Kloof, Natal.
David J Watson (1980)	PO Box 783676, Sandton 2146

## USA:

John Brough (1956)	29142 Dean Street, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Tel: 714 495 3376. Fax: 714 495 2004.
Michael J Dobbie (1983)	1761 Coventry Road, Decatur, Georgia, USA, 30030.
Richard H Lester (1978)	5450 Sterling Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035.
Walter G McFarlane (1978)	931 Shattuck Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois, 60194. Tel: 708 885 3367. Work: 708 428 7171.
Adrian I Nicolson (1979)	3338 N. Marshfield, Chicago, Illinois 60657.
Stuart R Roselle (1960)	2029 S Lowell, Springfield, Illinois 62704
David E Uprichard (1984)	30 Ivy Hill Road, Chappaqua, New York 10514. Tel: 914 241 1283.

Having joined the TA that year, he was commissioned into The Glasgow Highlanders at the outbreak of war. In 1943, after a spell with 12 Commando as Climbing Instructor, he joined The Lovat Scouts as Signals Officer. The Winter of 1943 was spent in Canada training in mountain warfare. Now a Major, he returned to the UK in May 1944, married in June, then immediately embarked with The Lovat Scouts for the Italian Campaign. He fought throughout the campaign, was mentioned in dispatches, finally being seriously wounded near Florence. He was invalided out.

His lifelong passion was mountaineering, a love he developed as a boy and continued throughout his life. He joined the Glasgow JMCS in 1933 and the Scottish Mountaineering Club in 1946, becoming vice-president in 1979. He climbed extensively in Europe and had an astonishing knowledge of Scotland and her mountains. In 1952 he published *50 Weekend Walks around Glasgow*, recently recalled by the Glasgow Herald as a model of its type.

Norman, who died in August, is survived by his wife Helen and daughter Joan. His nephew is currently teaching at Strathallan.

**G Birnie Esslemont** died on 13 August 1997. He was born on 10th June 1926 and after leaving Strathallan, joined the Royal Signals, serving in North Africa and Palestine. In 1952, he began work in the family owned department store, Esslemont and Macintosh, where he was appointed Director in 1956 and Joint Managing Director in 1975. In 1982, he was promoted to Chairman. He resigned from this position shortly before his death.

In his spare time, Birnie enjoyed sailing and amateur radio and held his private pilots licence. He is survived by his wife, Judy and daughter, Pauline.

**Kenneth Anderson** was born in 1903 and attended Strathallan whilst it was still at Bridge of Allan. Family plans required him to read engineering after school in order to join the family company in Falkirk. However, his real love was music. Whilst studying at the Royal College of Music, he came under the influence of Zacharewitch and Malcolm Sargent.

As a result of his teaching at Cargilfield, the headmaster Bruce Lockhart, on his departure to Sedbergh, invited Anderson to lead the string teaching. On his retiral, after twenty four years, he received a standing ovation at his farewell concert.

Tragically, Kenneth's wife Kay died in 1958, leaving him with three teenage daughters. He later married Margot Bouch, who predeceased him after many happy years in 1995.

## Donald Fergusson Barclay BVMS., MRCVS., DVSM.

Donald died peacefully, at home in Perth on 12 August 1997, following a short illness. Brought up in Northern Ireland, after leaving Strathallan in 1955, he studied at Glasgow University. Upon graduation, he worked as a Veterinary Surgeon in Northern Ireland and Ayrshire before joining the Ministry of Agriculture, where he worked in Paisley, Epsom and Leicestershire before returning to Perth as Divisional Veterinary Officer.

A sociable man of quiet charm and integrity, he leaves a wife, Patricia, two sons and a daughter and three grandchildren.



# Valete

## Freeland

**Catto S A:** Came 1990; I; School Prefect; Deputy Head of House; Rugby; Football; Athletics Team. 41 Culduthel Road, Inverness, IV2 4AT

**Dalley N J:** Came 1990; I; Art/Design; Theatre Backstage; School & House Plays; D of E Silver; School Magazine. Roucoopark 11, 2251 Av Voorschoten, The Netherlands

**Eadie K P:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Arkwright Scholarship; D of E Bronze; House Ski Team. Finderlie, Milnathort, Kinross, Fife, KY13 7RQ



Clay panel - Jon Stormonth-Darling

**Elder M S:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Cricket XI (Capt) (Colours); Football. Rose Cottage, Bridge of Feugh, Banchory, Kincardine, AB31 6HX

**Forbes A J:** Came 1990; I; Rugby; U16a Hockey (Capt); Athletics Team; Chapel Choir; School Orchestra; Music (House Colours); Community Services. 8 Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EQ

**Gibb L C:** Came 1993; IV; House Prefect; Rugby; Basketball 1st V; Choir; Barber Shop. 38 Hertford Avenue, London, SW14 8EQ

**Gibson A S:** Came 1989; IJ; House Prefect; Rugby; D of E Silver. Flat 16, Taypark, 30 Dundee Road, Dundee, DD5 1LX

**Goody J F:** Came 1990; IJ; Royal Life Saving Bronze & Merit Award; D of E Gold; Climbing; Canoeing; Lighting Manager for various House & School Plays. Lambs Park, Forgandenny, Perth, PH2 9HS

**Horsfall D A C:** Came 1991; II; School Prefect; Rugby XV; Hockey XI & Chameleons; CCF Marines. Dalchosnie Farm. Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire, PH16 5QD

**Ibrahim M A:** Came 1993; IV; Social Committee; Land Management. 5 Southerton Crescent, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 5ND

**MacDonald A A:** Came 1989; IJ; House Prefect; Hockey XI (Colours); Athletics (Colours). PO Box 22306, Doha, Qatar

**MacMillan A W:** Came 1989; IJ; House Prefect; Rugby XV; Athletics Team; Hockey; Swimming Team; CCF RN/RM.. 11 Manor Court, Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie, PH10 6JJ

**McMaster E H:** Came 1989; IJ; House Prefect; Pipe Major. Heron House, Toward, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 7UD

**Nims G D:** Came 1994; V; House Prefect; Rugby XV; Basketball V; Football 2nd XI (Capt). 7900 Sitzmark Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99516-1073

**Paterson R M:** Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; Football; St John's First Aid Award; D of E Gold; Chief Scouts Award. Stronvaar, Cuile Brae, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5QS

**Scales S C:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Rugby; Basketball; Cross Country; Water Skiing; CCF RM; Survivalist. Broomhills Farmhouse, Frogston Road East, Edinburgh, EH17 8RT

**Wands C J:** Came 1992; III; School Prefect; Rugby 2nd XI; Hockey 2nd VII; Cricket 2nd XI; Clay Pigeon Team, Snowboard Team, Cross Country Team (Colours for all); CCF Marines; Survivalist. 1 Thorneyshades, Forgandenny, Perthshire, PH2 9HP

**Wands R E:** Came 1992; III; School Prefect; Head of House; RAF Scholarship; Rugby 2nd XV (Capt); Hockey 2nd XI; Cricket 2nd XI; Cross Country (Colours); Clay Pigeon Team (Colours); CCF Marines; Snowboarding; Survivalist. 1 Thorneyshades, Forgandenny, Perthshire, PH2 9HP

## LVI

**Kuhne S:** Came 1996; LVI. Fridolinstrasse 12, D-50823, Koln, Germany

**Mapleston D N:** Came 1997; LVI; Cricket XI. 11 Frobisher Street, Ashgrove, Queensland 4060, Australia

## Nicol

### UVI

**Burns D W:** Came 1992; III. Rannachan, Murray Drive, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 3DG

**Currie F R:** Came 1990; I; Rock Band; Lighting/Theatre; Skiing. c/o Dr L J Currie, c/o Ciba Geigy Ltd, Int Comm Dept, KM2 2, 4002 Basle, Switzerland

**Grosset N E:** Came 1989; IJ; School Prefect; Chapel Prefect; Drama; Golf; 2nd Rugby XV. 7 Eaton Rise, Ealing, London, W5 2HE

**Lowe M R D:** Came 1993; IV; 3rd Rugby XV; Clay Pigeon (Capt). Kingswells, Muirhall Road, Kinfauns, Perth, PH2 7LL

**Millar I G:** Came 1995; LVI; 2nd Rugby XV; Pipe Band. 7 Station Road, South Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9HY

**Morley M R:** Came 1991; II; Head of House; Athletics Captain; Rugby XV; Hockey XI. 9 Burnside Road, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5JL

**Osborne D J:** Came 1990; I; School Prefect; Rugby 2nd XV; 2nd XI Hockey (Capt); Athletics. 16 Nellfield Road, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 3DU

**Perry C S:** Came 1990; I; Drama; Debating. 2 Cramond Road South, Edinburgh, EH4 6AD

**Ranger T H:** Came 1990; I; Captain of Skiing; Theatre; Cycling. Tigh an Inis, Kilmichael Glassary, Argyll, PA31 8QA

**Senior A K:** Came 1992; III; Scripture Union; Cycling. 12 Holmside, Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 1AP

**Southcott E J D:** Came 1989; IJ; Drama; Snowboarding. Cashley Farm, Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire, FK8 3PA

**Taylor D C:** Came 1991; II; Shooting; Politics. Westburn Steading, Dunning, Perthshire. PH2 0QY

**Wheeldon G I:** Came 1991; II; Canoeing; Cross Country; RAF Flying Scholarship. Sunnycroft, Oldhill Wood, Studham, Bedfordshire, LU6 2NE

**Winsey N E:** Came 1992; III; Hockey 2nd XI. Ladybrae, Ladysbridge, Near Banff, AB45 2JR

## LVI

**Crooks I:** Came 1993; III; Football. 29 Brady Crescent, Moodiesburn, Glasgow, G69 0HL





## V

**Durning J W:** Came 1994; III. c/o Mr T Durning, Royal Guard of Oman School, PO Box 767 SEEB, Postal Code 121, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

## Ruthven

### UVI

**Cessford J R:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; House Colours; Junior Rugby; Hockey; Cricket; Athletics; Cross Country Team; Skiing. Drum, Dunscore, Dumfries, DG2 0UF

**Fowler N S:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; House Colours; Drama; School Plays; Headmaster's Discussion Group; Literary Society. 70 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen, AB15 4AJ

**High C I:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; House Colours; Hockey XI, Perthshire District and Scottish Chameleons; Golf (Capt); Drama; School Plays; Headmaster's Discussion Group; Community Service. Priory Cottage, Priory Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire, SL5 9RH

**Honig M G:** Came 1990; I; Head of House; School Prefect; House Prefect; Rugby XV & Midlands District U16; Hockey XI (Capt) (Colours) & Scottish Chameleons; Sixth Year Committee. Katika, Rhu na Haven Road, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5JD

**Matheson D I:** Came 1990; I; School Prefect; House Prefect; Rugby XV (Capt) (Colours), SSRU President's U18 Rugby, Midlands U16 & U18; Hockey XI; Athletics Team; Gap year in Australia. 2 Uplands Drive, Oxshott, Surrey, KT22 0JD

**Price P V:** Came 1992; III; Rugby XV (Colours), U16 Trial; Football XI; 2nd Cricket XI; Athletics Team; Squash Team. 122 Hags Road, Pollockshields, Glasgow, G41 4AT

**Roberts C J:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect (Colours); Rugby VII; Junior Rugby; Junior Hockey; Athletics Team; Skiing; House Plays. The Coach House, 2 East Rosdhu Drive, Helensburgh, G84 7ST

**Stone D A:** Came 1990; I; House Prefect (House Colours); Rugby XV & SSRU Rugby Trials; Football XI (Capt); Athletics & SSAA Trial U16; House Plays; Swimming Team. 28 Cordingley Close, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2EN

**Sutherland A O:** Came 1990; I; Captain of School; House Prefect (House Colours); Rugby XV (Half Colours); Cricket XI; Hockey XI; School Plays; Headmaster's Discussion Group. Clifton Lodge, 16 Culduthel Road, Inverness, IV1 4AG

**Thompson A C M:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect (House Colours); Rugby; Hockey XI (Capt); Tennis; Skiing. Timbers, Downs Close, Eastbury, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 7JP

**Tyldesley G J:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect (House Colours); Rugby XV, Scottish Midlands U16, 1st VII. Craighuadh, Inchberry Road, Fochabers, Morayshire, IV32 7QA



*Clay panel - Alex Nicolson*

**Wallace R D:** Came 1991; II; School and House Prefect; Tennis (Capt) (Colours), representing Scotland U16 Team; Rugby XV (Vice Capt)(Colours), President's U18; Hockey XI (Colours), U16 Scottish Trialist; Athletics Team; Piano; House Music competitions; Literary Society; Strathallian Magazine Editorial Committee. Castle Hill, Longforan, Dundee, DD2 5EU

**Webb M L:** Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; Rugby; Basketball; Windsurfing; Canoeing. Cottack Cottage, Dunscore, Dumfries, DG2 0TB

## Simpson

### UVI

**Adam E J K:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Cross Country; CCF Marines; Survivalist. 29 Fittick Place, Cove Bay, Aberdeen

**Crowe D A:** Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; Football XI. The Mallards, Cuile Brae, Pitlochry, PH16 5QS

**Forster T J:** Came 1991; II; House Prefect; Rugby XV, Midlands; Golf. Thornbank House, Thornbank Road, Stranraer, DG9 0EY

**Gilbert D M B:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; CCF. Larchwood, Durdar, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 4UJ

**Gove R A:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Sixth Form Committee; Cricket 2nd XI; Piper; House Drama. 22 Park Road, Brechin, Angus, DD9 7AP

**Greenwood G J:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Rugby XV, Golf. Monterey, Norham, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2JZ

**Grieve A I D:** Came 1992; III; House and School Prefect; Rugby 2nd XV; Athletics. 58 Strensall Park, Strensall, York, YO3 5SH

**Hepworth J H:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect. 5 Dalzell House, Motherwell, Lanarkshire, ML1 2SJ

**Kettle A R:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Rock Band; Athletics; Marathons. 7 Beechwood Gardens, Westhill, Skene, Aberdeenshire, AB3 6YE

**Kettle G M:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Rock Band, Athletics. 7 Beechwood Gardens, Westhill, Aberdeen, AB32 6YE

**Kilfedder S M:** Came 1994; V; Tennis. Pinkerton Farm, Balcomie Road, Crail, Fife, KY10 3TN

**Mitchell S C:** Came 1992; III; House Prefect; Skiing; Hockey XI; Rugby XV; Golf. The Royal Hotel, 53 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6AB

**Murray R B:** Came 1993; IV; House Prefect; Athletics (Capt). PO Box 540, Thimpu, Bhutan

**Nicolson F D:** Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; Art; Music; School Magazine; School Colours. The Plateau, Lagavulin, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7DX

**Oldenburg F:** Came 1996; UVI Hainertrift 22, 63303 Dreieich, Germany

**Smith D R:** Came 1992; III; Pipe Band Drum-Major; Rugby 2nd XV; Hockey 2nd XI. Westbank, 19 North Latch Road, Brechin, Angus, DD9 6LE

**Stark N W J:** Came 1991; II; Sixth Form Committee Chairman. 232A High Street, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7ES

**Stevens C A:** Came 1992; III; School Prefect; Head of House; Rugby XV; Cricket XI. The Old Railway Station, Walkerburn, Peebleshire, EH43 6DD

## LVI

**Robbie C D D:** Came 1993; IV; House Prefect; Football. Cedarlea, 19 Cedar Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 3BA

## Thornbank

## UVI

**Allstaff E L:** Came 1995; LVI; Choir; Tennis; Hockey. Claverhouse, Crathes, By Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 3JH

**Anderson G C:** Came 1992; III; Tennis (Capt) (Colours); Hockey XI. Ardarroch House, Rait, Perthshire, PH2 7RT

**Bowen S J:** Came 1995; LVI; Drama. Corners, 2A Wester Coates Gardens, Edinburgh, EH12 5LT

**Bradley A M:** Came 1992; III; Music; Head of Orchestra. 7B Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5EP

**Caird S J:** Came 1992; III; Hockey XI; Tennis; Skiing; D of E; Hockey Tour (Spain). Mhor Cottage, Tulloch, Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire, PH25 3EF

**Duncan L:** Came 1993; IV; Head of House, Badminton, Fencing. 7 Harlaw Terrace, Aberdeen, AB2 4BB

**Higgins A:** Came 1990; I; House Drama. c/o Mr D Higgins, Shell PDC, PLME, Port Harcourt, c/o Herald Int. Mailings, PO Box 10235, London, SW19 3ZN

**Ketcher C L:** Came 1993; IV; Music; Drama; Computing, Head of Choir. 31 Harrow Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7DW

**MacEachern L A:** Came 1991; II; Swimming; Athletics. 9 Nicolson Close, Innsworth, Gloucester, GL3 1DN

**Mair A M:** Came 1995; LVI; Fencing; Badminton; Athletics. Dungora, Heathcote Road, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4AG

**McFarlane K E:** Came 1995; LVI; Deputy Head of House; Badminton; Drama; Choir. Copping Hill, Kirkby Thore, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1UA

**Nesbitt H E:** Came 1992; III; Hockey. Gartur Lodge, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9QQ

**Walker K E:** Came 1992; III; Hockey XI; Tennis VI; Hockey Tour (Spain). 3 Vantage, Dairsie, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4RT

## V

**Elder F E:** Came 1994; III; Athletics (Junior Victrix Ludorum); Swimming (Colours); Bronze D of E. Rose Cottage, Bridge of Feugh, Banchory, Kincardine, AB31 6HX

**Hansson-Bolt D A:** Came 1994; III; Athletics; Hockey 2nd XI; Bronze D of E. Craigvarrich, Strathtay, Perthshire, PH9 0PJ

**MacDonald L E A:** Came 1991; II; Hockey; Athletics. c/o Mr G D MacDonald, Min of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture, Building Engineering Department, PO Box 22306, Doha, Qatar.

## Woodlands

## UVI

**Allison L H M:** Came 1992; III; School Prefect; (School Colours); Verse Speaking; Choir; Drama. Parkhead Lodge, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0QQ

**Burnett S C:** Came 1991; II; Swimming. PO Box 43500, Nairobi, Kenya

**Combe K J:** Came 1992; III; Drama; Choir; Art (colours). Ardullie Lodge, By Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9TS

**Glimm K A:** Came 1992; III; Art (colours); Squash; CCF Navy. Jesmond, Pitkeathly Wells, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, PH2 9DD

**Graham-Campbell L J:** Came 1992; III; Skiing (Capt); GB Youth Ski Team; Netball VII; CCF. Carig Dhubb, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5JS

**Hamilton F:** Came 1990; I; School Prefect; Deputy Head of House; Hockey 2nd VII (Capt) (Colours); Golf; Shooting 1st Team. 33 Abbotsford Crescent, Perth PH1 1SP

**Haverson R:** Came 1994; V; House Colours for Charity Fundraising. c/o Mr I S Haverson, International Petroleum Corporation, PO Box 9211, Al Jadaf Shipyard, Dubai, UAE.

**Johnston H L M:** Came 1996; UVI; Hockey; Tennis. Ryedale, 12 Nursery Grove, Kilmacollm, Renfrewshire, PA13 4HW

**Kitson L:** Came 1990; I; School Prefect; Art (colours); Drama School Plays; Public Speaking; Verse Speaking; Senior Reading Prize; Netball; Badminton; Golf. 34 Pitcullen Terrace, Bridge End, Perth PH2 7EQ.

**Littleford J W:** Came 1992; III; Arkwright Scholarship, Netball Team; Shooting (Capt); School Colours; Sixth Form Committee. 6 South Erradale, By Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2AU.

**Malcolm J S:** Came 1992; III; Netball VII (House Colours). Waalsdorperweg 50, 2597 JC, Den Haag, The Netherlands

**Miller H F:** Came 1992; III; Art; Shooting; D of E Silver & Gold; Sixth Form Committee. Pinetrees, Glenmore Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PG.

**Miller K L:** Came 1992; III. Ilderton Hall, Wooperton, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 4YD.

**Miller S:** Came 1995; LVI; Pipe Band Drummer; Swimming. 116 Eng Neo Avenue, Singapore 289571.

**Prentice S L J:** Came 1992; III; Verse Speaking, Badminton; Golf. 6 Brookside Court, Symington, Lanarkshire, ML10 6LG.

**Skinner S-J:** Came 1996; UVI; Hockey; Tennis; Pipe Band. Taigh-Sa-Choille, Dess, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5BH.

**Turner T P:** Came 1991; II; School Prefect; Project Trust Zimbabwe; Squash; D of E Gold; CCF. 1/7 Old School House, Dean Park, Dean Village, Edinburgh

**Wilson K A:** Came 1993; IV; Head of House; School Prefect; Hockey XI (Capt) (Full Colours); Athletics Team; Shooting; School Play. Mayfield, Kelton, Castle Douglas, DG4 1TA

## V

**Dundas A C B:** Came 1994; III; Art; Badminton; Shooting. Comrie House, Comrie, Perthshire, PH6 2LR

**Partridge K A:** Came 1995; IV. Tynaherrick Bunloit, Drumnadrochit, Inverness, IV3 6XG

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