



The Strathallian

2007-2008





Seriously? OCR have appointed Ricky Gervais as Chief Examiner?



The Riley girls get lucky.



Now where was I again? Oh, yes.
Forgandenny. Rings a bell.



Are you sure we
buried him here?



Crouchy celebrates scoring at the Christmas party



And my dad says this is all we have left in the bank.

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Thanks for photography
are also due especially
to David Barnes,
Irene McFarlane
and Andrew Watt.



School Captains

Rachel McLean

Reflecting on five years at Strathallan and ending the last year as Head Girl it has been a time of invaluable experience and one of great privilege. The last year especially began as a huge challenge. From the outset it was a question of achieving the correct balance between the duties required of a Head Girl, captain of girls' hockey, the study requirements for A levels and various other activities throughout the school. Team work was key to achieving the tasks and overcoming the time constraints. The interlinking with the head and Second Master, the Housemasters, House captains, sports coaches and captains and prefects were all essential. Support from friends was hugely appreciated.

Looking back now as an ex-pupil, having been away for some four months, it's much easier to appreciate that at Strathallan there is a huge scope of opportunity that exists for every pupil who finds or has found themselves in the fortunate position of attending the school. Granted, not everyone enjoys the experience but in my view to get "stuck in" and realise the talent and potential that exists in us all is core to what Strath is all about.

Every year had its challenges, from the very start as a small fish in a big pond to those exams in the final term. Throughout, however, an outstanding feature for me was the friendship and camaraderie that existed through each term. The endless hours of prep, class work and exams, the sports training - we all had a slog at times. We endured all these things together and it all seemed to come good; the winning on the games pitch; the passing of (most) exams; the amazing and exciting experiences of hockey and netball tours; the fun of events; the house plays; the encouraging of the younger ones; the support from the teaching staff. These were the factors which made the place special - we had a lot of fun times.

I would like to contribute a bit of sympathy to my parents (and all the other parents) who I know made it all possible but who at the same time had to undertake the huge commitment to send me to a school like Strath. Their choice, but I've benefited, and I hope that they might conclude that it was worth while - it was for me!

Now for the next challenge as a wee fish in an even bigger pond, yes - but ready. It's been a great start in life - Thanks, Strath!

Good luck and I look forward to keeping in touch.

Rachel McLean UVI Thornbank

Tom Fleming

Looking back over my time at Strathallan I find that it is difficult to highlight an individual year as being the best due to the dynamic nature of the school. Each one brought its own series of experiences and challenges and this was certainly no different when it came to being Captain of School in the Upper VI.

It is, of course, customary in the Head of School's report to ramble on about how fast the final year of school passes but I suppose when you're busy with things like enjoying lunch with the headmaster, it's not so surprising. However, my position allowed me to take a step back this year and see the school from an entirely new perspective. I began to understand that "success" and "achievement" came from those who made the most of their time at school and that it was not reserved for only a special few. I saw that pupils at Strathallan all achieve in their own individual ways by doing the things they enjoy and excelling because they took their chances. One of the greatest things about Strath is that we all come as individuals who have our own tastes, likes and dislikes and even though we learn and change during our time at school we retain our identity, chiefly

because there are so many different types of opportunity from the academic through music, drama, sport to just hanging out with your friends and having a laugh. So to reiterate what Ollie said in last year's report, I urge you all to try as many things as possible because you never know what you might end up doing. I, for one, discovered that I liked to run in circles for games and now do it all the time for fun! I have the utmost confidence that the pupils of Strathallan will continue to make the most of the many opportunities available to them and that the friendly atmosphere, decent nature and, of course, the Friday morning assemblies will remain as testament to this.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me through this final year and indeed my seven years at Strathallan. From all the teachers who make the place much more than a school but also a great place to live through their support and good humour (most of the time), to all of the pupils who have made it an unforgettable experience. I would especially like to thank Mr Thompson and Mr Barnes for the amount of time and effort they committed to help both Rachel and me in our final year as it made a job for which we were unprepared easy and enjoyable.

I wish all the pupils at Strathallan the very best of luck for the future as well as the same to the previous Upper VI who, I am sure, are by now are enjoying a variety of new and very different experiences wherever they are. Finally, a very special mention to Liam, who decided that he could just not get enough of Strath and has subsequently ended up 'doing a Milf' - good luck Liam! Enjoy the Upper Upper VI.

Tom Fleming UVI Simpson



Staff Notes

This year saw the departure of a number of members of staff who have made a significant contribution to the life of Strathallan.

Neil Metcalfe and Angus Weir took over the Music and the Mathematics Departments respectively in 2002. Angus has energised the Mathematics Department, supporting and motivating staff and organising curriculum resources in meticulous fashion. There have been some outstanding Mathematics results and a growth in the number of pupils taking the subject at A Level and also Further Maths entries. His input as an all-round schoolmaster has also been valued through his work with the Fourth Form B rugby team, as Assistant Coach to the 1st XI football team, Freeland Tutor and in his acknowledged area of expertise, golf. He leaves us to join another former Strathallan teacher, Iain Kilpatrick, at Beaconsfield as his Deputy Head. Neil Metcalfe's qualities as a musician are evident to all who see him perform but it is as a motivator and inspirational director that I suspect most will remember him. Music was always a pleasure to Neil and to those who were fortunate enough to work with him and be taught by him. There have been a number of initiatives in the Music Department and an increase in participation and standard, all of which were achieved with a freshness and enthusiasm which communicated itself to all involved. Neil has taken the opportunity to go back to the life of a full-time musician in which we are sure he will do very well and we hope to entice him back to Strathallan on occasion to maintain his contact with us. Ann Dorward has played a key role in the Girls' Games programme for fifteen years. Generations of Strathallan Games players have benefited from her professionalism and support in hockey and tennis in particular and the foundations for many successful teams have been laid through Ann's input. She was always prepared to help beyond her "part-time" role. Miriam Hanks was a first rate Mathematics teacher who worked hard to support those who found the subject difficult and also to extend those to whom it came more easily. Her quiet professionalism and commitment were appreciated also beyond the classroom, particularly in organising Duke of Edinburgh trips and in her tutorial support in Thornbank. She is moving on to work in an increasingly tutorial role and also setting up Maths revision courses. Jackie Martin has been with the Computing Department for eleven years in a part-time role but centrally involved in the continuing development of that department.

Jackie's care and expertise have been appreciated by large numbers of pupils as has been her huge contribution to the wardrobe and costumes for the many school productions with which she has been involved. She goes on to a full-time post at Auchterarder High School. Elaine Harte and Lovina Roe were with us for only the year during which each made a distinctive contribution to the life of Strathallan. Elaine is a first class Geography teacher whose ambitions were recognised in her appointment as Head of Sixth Form at Kilgraston School. Lovina's enthusiasm and support for the younger pupils in Riley were much appreciated and we are delighted that we will still see her as part of our examining team in the summer. Richard Parker made a significant life choice by moving to New Zealand at the end of the Spring term. His care and support of the boys in Simpson House and his input to the Design Technology Department have been appreciated through the four years for which he has been with us. He moves to be Head of the DT Department at Wairarapa College.

The loss of colleagues of course provides an opportunity also and we are delighted that we have secured high calibre placements for those who have left. Dr Stephen Ferguson joins us as Head of the Mathematics Department. He studied Mathematics and Philosophy both at Undergraduate and Doctorate level at the University of St Andrews and he has also studied at Bristol University and Durham. He has taught at Stewart's Melville and brings experience as a performer and coach in fencing. Such was the effect of the departure of Neil Metcalfe that it was decided to change things around in the Music Department. Richard Walmsley, who so ably assisted Neil for the past six years, steps up to the role of Director of Music and Richard is "replaced" by two people who bring a distinctive expertise and a variety of interests to the department and will help to expand its range still further. Carol Sim Sayce who has achieved outstanding success at Morgan Academy as Principal Teacher brings real classroom expertise to the role. Her personal specialism is singing. Neil Hamilton is already known to many at Strathallan through his work as a clarinet teacher in which context he has also developed much of the ensemble work which has been an increasing part of the School repertoire. He will take this further in his new role as Assistant Director but will also continue to teach clarinet. He also steps in as Resident Tutor in Freeland House. Simon Cowper joined the Design

Salvete

Technology Department at the beginning of the Summer term. He brings with him expertise as a lecturer in further education and personal experience in the design industry. He is tutoring in Freeland House and has an enthusiasm for racquet sports and the outdoor life. Dr Matthew Gibson joins the Geography Department; he studied at Edinburgh University and Durham and has been teaching at The Nelson Thomlinson School. In addition to his Geography expertise he has enthusiasm for Games and the outdoor life and has taken on the task of tutoring Dupplin in Riley House. Scientific research was Brian Cooper's specialism for a decade before turning to teaching and after a short spell in another school we are delighted that Brian has joined us in the Biology Department. Another member of staff who is very enthusiastic for the outdoor life and a qualified mountaineer, Brian will bring a cutting edge to the work of the Biology Department and will also be tutoring in Nicol House. Louise Carroll is a newly qualified teacher but one whose experience in sport is at a very high level. Louise has nine caps for Great Britain in hockey and is a regular member of the Scotland side. She has already put the pressure on boys' and girls' sides in training and pupils will undoubtedly benefit from working alongside someone currently involved in the highest level of sport. Louise is tutoring in Woodlands House and will add new ideas and up-to-date expertise to the Physical Education Department. Louise Toye also enjoys exercise and is a top level swimmer and triathlete; she joins as a Mathematics teacher in which subject she has a degree from the University of St Andrews. She will be tutoring in Thornbank. Dr Andrew Collins is the fourth member of staff with a doctorate who joins us this year. Again he is an experienced research scientist and also an educational publisher who has decided to move to teaching and covers for the maternity leave of Fiona MacBain. And last, but by no means least, Lilian Salisbury leaves her post as Principal Teacher of English at Breadalbane Academy to join us as a part-time teacher of English. Her expertise in all aspects of the subject will be of great value to us.


BKT

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Horriya A	Abdo	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Jonas	Abo Basha	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Benjamin D	Addison-Scott	P6	Riley	01 09 2008
Callum L	Airey	S3	Nicol	01 09 2008
Joshua M	Anderson	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Phoebe O	Arnot	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Sophie H	Arnot	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Annika H	Arthur	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Rory R M	Arthur	P5	Riley	01 09 2008
Manuela E	Ayee	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Michael J S	Barbour	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Ashlee J	Barnett	S4	Thornbank	07 08 2008
James G	Barrack	P6	Riley	01 09 2008
Jean N	Behets	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Marcus A	Black	S2	Simpson	01 09 2008
Connor R	Blackburn	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Jonathan W A	Blackburn	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Alexandre	Bougrov	S3	Simpson	19 02 2008
Archie D	Brown	P5	Riley	01 09 2008
Euan A	Brown	S2	Simpson	01 09 2008
Fergus R	Brown	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Rosalie F	Brown	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Shane I A	Brown	S2	Freeland	01 09 2008
Claire R R	Bruce	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Jack G F	Bruce	P6	Riley	01 09 2008
George	Burbury	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Rachael C	Campbell	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2008
David F	Carswell	P5	Riley	01 09 2008
Shi K	Chen	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Shi K	Chen	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Zi H	Chen	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Chun K	Chu	S3	Freeland	01 09 2008
Chun S	Chu	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Nicola S	Cochrane	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Ella F	Coleman	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Lucy C	Coleman	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Ross G	Dafereras	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Andrina S	Dew	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Hannah	Dibnah	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008
James W J	Dinsmore	S2	Nicol	01 09 2008
Calum M L	Dodd	S2	Nicol	01 09 2008
Ting K	Dong	S4	Simpson	01 09 2008
Nicholas P	Drummond-Hay	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Alison M	Duncan	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Caroline D	Duncan	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Dominik	Durig	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Antonio	Elias Castellon	S2	Simpson	01 09 2008
Katharina J	Eller	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Yan C	Fong	S4	Simpson	01 09 2008
Alison H	Forsyth	S3	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Camilla S E	Galashan	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Santiago	Garcia Serrano	S3	Simpson	01 09 2008
Darryl J	Goldie	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Maksym	Goncharov	S4	Freeland	07 01 2008
Colin	Gordon	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Rory G	Gordon	S2	Freeland	01 09 2008
Momme	Grandt	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Hannah K	Grant	S4	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Hazel J	Greer	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Kieran H	Grieve	P6	Riley	07 01 2008
Clemens	Haidinger	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Ahmed B b	Haji Mohd Sufian	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Andrew J	Hall	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Reece	Hay	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Qian W	He	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Nicolas R	Heger	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Connor R	Holborn	P7	Riley	07 01 2008
Ryan J	Hood	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Georgina A	Howell	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Ka L	Hui	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Cameron T	Jenkins	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Joshua W	Johnstone	S1	Riley	04 06 2008
Steven	Kennett	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Damir	Khusaynov	S2	Freeland	01 09 2008
Christy F	Knowles	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Christian J	Kolb	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Polina	Konkina	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Simon	Kremer	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Harry	L'Estrange	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Xin	Li	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Sophie C	Lightbody	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Josephine T S	Lyngvang	S3	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Therese A S	Lyngvang	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Timothy S	McBride	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Christopher S	McCarthy	S2	Nicol	01 09 2008
Guy G M	MacGregor	P5	Riley	01 09 2008
Mark J	McGuire	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Kirsty E C	Mack	P6	Riley	01 09 2008
Maia	Magumba	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Hamish C	Malcolm-Watts	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Martin J	Marshall	S2	Freeland	01 09 2008
Joshua	Martin	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Molly E	Menneer	P6	Riley	01 09 2008
Theophile A R	Meunier	S4	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Jo M A	Morrison	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Victoria A	Morrison-Low	S1	Riley	01 09 2008
Nurafina B	Muhamad	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Ho T	Ng	S2	Nicol	01 09 2008
Crawford I	Niven	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Ming L	Pak	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Matthew J	Patterson	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Dk N N	Pg Hj Saiful Rizal	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Niclas	Rehmann	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Christopher D	Rennison	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Craig	Rintoul	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Alexander M L	Robertson	P6	Riley	01 09 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Vadym	Sadovych	S3	Nicol	07 01 2008
Volodymyr	Sadovych	S2	Nicol	07 01 2008
Julius	Schulte	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Duncan W M	Scott	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
James W	Scott	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Rachel M	Seed	S3	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Ken	Seeska	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
James A	Spalding	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Rayko I	Stanev	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Kirsty J	Steele	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Finlay D J	Stewart	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Sacha M	Taylor	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Aurelie K G	Thompson	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Severine F G	Thompson	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Jayne	Thoms	S2	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Callum J	Thomson	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Morgen E G	Thomson	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Chwei P	Tieng	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008
Xinwei	Tong	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Long F	Tsang	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Pui-Meng	Tsang	S3	Freeland	01 09 2008
Vasily	Tsarkov	S5	Nicol	01 09 2008
Bato-Bair	Tsyrenov	S2	Simpson	01 09 2008
Rebecca N	Vallot	S1	Riley	17 04 2008
Christopher R	van Dort	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Moritz	Weisbrodt	S5	Simpson	01 09 2008
Tim J U	Welp	S5	Freeland	01 09 2008
Charlotte E	Williams	S2	Thornbank	17 04 2008
Finlay A A	Wilson	P5	Riley	01 09 2008
Hannah M A	Wilson	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Kuo H	Wong	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Bronya A	Woodes Rogers	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Sarah J	Wordie	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
James F	Wright	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2008
Wen L	Yau	S3	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Andrew G	Young	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Anna C	Younger	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2008
Eliza V	Younger	P7	Riley	01 09 2008
Mark D	Zaczek	S2	Simpson	01 09 2008
Yi	Zhong	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2008

Speech Day



The predetermined path of the speeches was once again recognised as the Headmaster unveiled the triumphs that the year had produced.

A quip perhaps to start this article off - My mother once told me that the two most important days of your life are Speech Days and the first day of Freshers' Week - as they represent the only times when you can see what your friends, boyfriends and girlfriends will look like in their later years. Suffice to say, this year was interesting and I now look upon my friends in a new and less flattering light. You know it's Speech Day when the eclectic motorcade positioned round the school begins to bulge in numbers, proud parents amble aimlessly, and the finicky final preparations round the school have begun. Throughout common rooms pupils are being told in fevered tones by House staff to be on their best behaviour and definitely not take advantage of the free and unguarded wine.

The general spill outside the marquee increased as parents and children found each other like individuals in a seal-pack, each with their own call; from the portly Rolex groan to the I-just-managed-to-get-an-outfit-together-squawk. Once rekindled, a customary visit to Mrs. I-F's biscuit sale to support the Netball Team (at £2.00 for a slice of millionaire's shortbread it would be rude not to) was only enhanced by the overall mood of childhood bemusement as inter-parent pairs struggled to make occasionally awkward conversation.

However these are the Speech Day staples - these are what we endure, nay love about that magical midsummer day - these are the moments we remember when we attend and

when we finish Strathallan. The ushers, the smartly dressed Marines, the red carpet, the teachers in gowns, the familiar faces, the not so familiar faces and the speeches have started before you can talk about how good the pianist was in the con....shhhhhhh did you know its Mr Metcalfe's last re..shhhhhhh I spoke to your art teach... Please Rise!

The predetermined path of the speeches was once again recognised as the Headmaster unveiled the triumphs that the year had produced. 2008 was a vintage in that respect and the speech went on for considerably longer than usual. Nonetheless, he outlined the successes that Strathallan continually seems to muster in all respects with great headmasterly zeal and exemplary Gordon Brown-esque oratory. Tom Fleming and Rachel McLean rose to great heights too, their anecdote fuelled, tit-for-tat speech had the audience in stitches and the bursar in blushes. The applause echoed in toast to another fine crop of UVI and their party-popper salute provided a more than adequate send-off. The real show-stopper, however, lay in the emotional voice of Olivia Giles; the guest speaker reminded all present of the fragility of life and the need to step back and enjoy what is given in living. At Strathallan we are continually run off our feet, on the sports field, in class, on the stage. You name it, we throw ourselves at it. If I learnt anything at Speech Day (other than the fact that the strawberry tarts are diminishing in quality and size) it was that we should take a moment to reflect on what we have and be grateful for it, and if that sounds starchy, you should have tasted the canapés.

Josh Lipworth UVI Nicol





RILEY HOUSE



THE SPRING TERM STARTED WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF THE DIVISIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION AND A SKI DAY AT GLENSHEE WHERE OUR GAP YEAR STUDENT, NICK MCARTHUR, GOT LOST IN THE MIST.

At the beginning of the Autumn Term we welcomed 45 new pupils out of a total of 72 children. We also welcomed a new matron, Tracey Mansfield, and Christine Menzies who joined the academic staff as teacher of our youngest year group – 9 to 10-year-olds, a year- group new to Riley.

As a bonding exercise we all headed off early on the first Saturday morning of term to Landmark, a forest theme park at Carrbridge near Aviemore. After the 2-hour bus journey the children enjoyed 4 hours of activities which included water slides, a high wire adventure course and rock climbing and, of course, got to know each other. Mrs Bush was very pleased to get back to Riley with all 72 children in one piece – well nearly – one person did manage to cut his head.

Other events of note during the Autumn Term included an informal concert, non-uniform day, a Halloween party, Headmaster's Music in the Perth Concert Hall, Games' Night in the Sport's Hall, Divisional plays, Christmas Party and our Carol Service on the last day of term.

On the sports' side there were many good individual performances from our boys and girls but our first teams were small and less experienced this year and therefore struggled in a number of their fixtures.

The Spring Term started with the excitement of the Divisional music competition and a ski day at Glenshee where our Gap Year student, Nick McArthur, got lost in the mist. We also went to Murrayfield to watch the rugby international between Scotland and France and a few weeks later watched Scotland A v Ireland A in Perth. On the games' side there was success for our hockey boys in the Strathallan Six-a-side tournament where they won the Plate competition.

The short Summer Term included a large entry from Riley in the Triathlon and 500 miles Charity event, a successful 2nd Form camp on the shores of Loch Morlich, a Parents' and Pupils' House BBQ and Parents' Forum, Senior School Speech Day, Strathallian Day with lots of activities on the Paddock, Headmaster's Music and our production of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat performed superbly to a packed audience on the final afternoon of term just before our prize-giving. At this John Burgess was presented with a memento for his eleven years as a Riley tutor and we also said 'Thank you and goodbye' to Anne Dorward after her many years as a Riley girls' games coach. We are sure they will enjoy the peace and quiet now.

Well done, Riley – another interesting, rewarding and successful year.

The following were presented with Prizes on Friday 27th June 2008:



Academic – Best Form Orders – Effort Totals

1JJ	Nina Mearns
1J	Tabitha Robertson-Barnett
1st	Finlay Kettles Gareth Watt Frances Myatt Sophie Burdett
2nd	

Most Progress Charles Gifford

Distinctions Rosalind Coutts
Craig Small
Ellie Hall
Eilidh Gibson
Olwyn Jenkins
Claire Mendelson
Harriet Smith

Music Murdo Elwis
& Jenny Summersgill

Drama Henry Melville
& Frances Myatt

Games Daniel Adams
& Olwyn Jenkins

Art Gavin Keddie
& Charlotte Williams

DT Chris Thomson
& Eilidh Gibson

Cups and Trophies

Div Plays	Dupplin
Chess Master	Murdo Elwis
Divisional Music	Glennearn
Best soloist	Murdo Elwis

Piping/Drumming

Novice Chanter	Jordan Black
Junior Drumming	Cammy Mack
Novice Drumming	Cammy Mack

Equestrian Awards

Jenny Summersgill, Emma Cheape, Rosie Williams,
Robyn Somerville

Div Swimming

The Simpson Cup Balmanno

Football – World Cup

Dupplin

Athletics -Senior Sport's Day

Girl's 100metres

1st	Jenny Summersgill
2nd	Laura Glasgow
3rd	Claire Mendelson

Boy's 100 metres

1st	Kevin McAlister
2nd	Josh Henderson
3rd	Daniel Adams

Mixed 800 metres

1st	Murdo Elwis
2nd	Olwyn Jenkins
3rd	Euan Gray

Riley Sports' Day

Victrix Ludorum
Jenny Summersgill
Victor Ludorum
Murdo Elwis

Tennis

Forward Mixed Doubles Cup
Daniel Adams
Robyn Somerville

Hewson Cup
Daniel Adams

Divisional Shield (DRON)
JB and PB



FREELAND HOUSE

1.30am and all is quiet in Freeland House. Suddenly, three tall figures emerge from the gloomy darkness and creep silently towards the back of the House while an accomplice from inside helps to unlock the door. The shrill sound of the intruder alarm pierces the night air and the boys freeze like a deer in headlights. The clay shooting team has returned from the British Nationals competition.

Yet another action-packed year has come to an end, albeit with a few more grey hairs on Mr Heaney's head! The year has been an enjoyable one, yielding great successes in the academic sporting and artistic spheres throughout the House.

House Activities

This year we looked for opportunities to strengthen House spirit. A day of combat at Skirmish in the Autumn Term provided a lot of fun for many, while pizza and film nights provided a welcome change to the House routine. Friday night football, with the support of Mr Goddard, has continued to be a unifying focus each week.

Academic

One of our Upper Sixth, Alex Beetschen, won a place to read music at Cambridge University, testament not only to his exceptional musical talent but to his all-round academic ability. Alex and Radek Oborny attained school academic colours while Sam Lipworth's excellent GCSE exam results produced academic half-colours. Radek went on to win a silver medal in the British Biology Olympiad while working hard to maintain the profile and momentum of the eco-committee.

Sport

We competed keenly in inter-House sports enjoying success in the junior rugby, senior basketball and clay pigeon shooting. The swimming sports came down to the wire but we were touched out by Nicol in the final relay.

The games programme produced a number of fine individual performances. Ben Lewis was selected in the Perth and Kinross table tennis team; Oli Luck and Nik Giesse represented Caledonia in Rugby; Ian McKenzie represented Midlands in Hockey; Andrew Glover represented the school in equestrianism and Roy Cameron achieved at the national level in swimming.



TEAMWORK DIVIDES THE TASK AND DOUBLES THE SUCCESS

Music

We have continued to produce both entertaining and enjoyable House music pieces and House choir's effort with "Pokemon" was no exception. Adam Michie played an ambitious piece of modern bagpipe music in the solo section while the ensemble produced one of the highlights of the concert with their winning arrangement of "The Final Countdown".

Adam Michie, the bagpipe major was joined by Sean Townsley as his sergeant and together and individually they have excelled, winning a number of trophies in competition. Jamie Parker continues to develop on the pipes winning several awards during the year.

Debating

The dynamic combination of Sam Lipworth and Radek Oborny won the senior inter-House debating and they were ably supported by Jamie Parker and Andrew Glover. In the junior ranks Jazz Gray, Josiah Bircham, Jonathan Keddle and Graham Ramsay took to the floor.

Drama

Oliver Beetschen and William Campbell-Gibson have given their hearts and souls to Strathallan theatre and music and this year their efforts were recognised with half-colours in drama for Oliver and a LAMDA gold medal in acting for William. Oliver Wale claimed the lead role in the Autumn production, "The Changeling". Oliver also hit the airwaves for the first time, performing in a BBC radio play.

This year we saw a significant contingent of IV Formers take to the stage in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" with Marcus Adams and Jonathan Keddle occupying lead roles. Alex Beetschen led a very professional band which included William Campbell-Gibson while Oliver Beetschen took on a new role as stage manager.

Special Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diane Long, our House matron, for all the hard work she has put into Freeland over the last year. She has acted as mother for many of the boys during their stay and helped many new pupils in their transition into the House. Thanks go to Katherine, Jeanette and Liz for keeping the House clean and tidy against some notable and formidable opposition.

We have, sadly, had to say goodbye to two of our loyal and long-serving House tutors during the course of the summer term; to Mr Batterham who has deserted us to become Housemaster of Simpson and to Mr Weir who has taken on an exciting new challenge as deputy headmaster of Beaconsfield School. We wish them all the best for the future. We have been fortunate to have replaced them with two committed and energetic tutors in Mr Cowper and Mr Hamilton.

"Teamwork divides the task and doubles the success":

a quotation which adequately describes the role of our House prefects, without whom this year would have been much more difficult for both Mr Heaney and me. In Freeland we believe it is important for each member of the Upper Sixth to take some responsibility for the running of the House. This year's Upper Sixth have set a high standard for our Lower Sixth to live up to. Thanks also to Rory Gibson, the Deputy Head of House, for always providing a helping hand and assisting with the smooth running of the House.

RJ and BAH



THE SUMMER TERM IS SEEN BY THE YOUNGER BOYS AS A WELCOME RESPIRE FROM THE COLD SHORT DAYS OF SPRING, AND WITHOUT ANY LIFE CHANGING EXAMS TO FRET OVER, IS RELATIVELY RELAXED AND ENJOYABLE.



NICOL HOUSE

Successful, dedicated, fun loving, tight-knit, diverse and undoubtedly Strathallan's Premier Boarding House; these are just few ways in which I've heard Nicol described over the last few school years and I'm proud to say that once again the House has lived up to its high expectations and recurring accolades and in some cases even exceeded them.

The year began with Fraser Rawlinson stepping into his new duties as head of House and he was ably supported not only by his deputies but by the whole of VI Form as well, creating not only a strong leadership team but a sense of structure around the House. We were joined by Nick Cassella in the first term and he brought to Nicol not only a hilarious Australian-American accent but also great memories and some truly memorable quotes.

The first major event of the year was the House music competition and there were stirring performances from all the Nicolites involved, Steven Segaud's solo was "awesome" while the House choir had the crowd going with The Coral and our ensemble played House of the Rising Sun. However, we were unable to achieve a notable position. Importantly, though, everybody enjoyed the competition and the feeling was widespread that "we were robbed....." Maybe next year, lads.

Next up was House Rugby- a competition that, and I quote from years gone by, "means as much to Nicol as the Manzil means to Fitz" and there were no exceptions this year as a tense and exciting competition, including an epic victory against Ruthven, culminated in Nicol reigning triumphant

over the other Houses: special mentions go to Duncan- the new Bryan Habana, Fraser- leading by example and Cass- proving again what a good exchange he was. The whole team played well, though I think it is fair to say that with eight first team players we were the favourites from the outset. It was a good day for Nicol and it set the standards high for the sporting year to come. Unfortunately, the juniors were unable to replicate this feat and came third. House swimming was next up and Nicol once again were crowned champions and received the trophy which is now becoming dusty in the Nicol trophy cabinet, special mentions in this category go to Joe Lipworth who is excelling and is now swimming at a national level.

Nicol's House outing this year involved a logistical nightmare which was handled with perfection by Mr. Giles as the whole House paid a visit to Perth Cinema to see the new and much anticipated James Bond film. Amazingly, everyone found a seat and the night was much enjoyed by all. This was not the only trip of the year as each year group also went on tutor outings to various places, the Lower VI were treated to an afternoon's go-karting at Knockhill and not only were there some clear indications that Andrew Whitelaw thinks he actually is Lewis Hamilton but we were also treated to some lessons of "how not to drive" by some of the German members of the House. Thanks go to Mr. Giles and all the senior tutors who organised these trips and kept the House amused throughout the year.



The famous Nicol Christmas party was once again a hit and I think the epic battle of will and determination between Mr. Kitson and Davina on the gladiator podiums will go down in Nicol folklore as a truly momentous bout, Mr. Kitson proved that he still has a bit of magic in him while Devina reminded us once again why she's not one to mess with. The night finished with another classic House video although perhaps someone should have reminded Josh that just because he's editing it doesn't mean people want to see long and largely pointless clips of him bouncing in a chair.

Into the Spring term and Nicol once again had a strong showing in both the football and hockey 1st XI. It was a long, cold and wet term but the spirit within the House remained strong despite the poor weather. On a cold Saturday early in the term came inter- House cross-country, with the seniors coming second and the juniors securing a great team victory, helped by Freddie Coleman's 1st place finish. This meant Nicol were the overall Champions. In House hockey; both the junior and Senior teams made it to the finals but unfortunately both were defeated on penalty flicks in matches that could quite easily have gone either way. Much to my dismay and that of the five other first team footballers there was no House football competition although after some tight astro "friendlies" it is fair to say Nicol were the probable winners. (Sure thing, Hugh. Is that a bit like Rangers being probable winners of the SPL if they hadn't had such a terrible fixture-list? Just a thought. Ed) The Nicol juniors did however emerge victorious in the indoor hockey and thus the term did bring some silverware to the trophy cabinet.

The Summer term is seen by the younger boys as a welcome respite from the cold short days of Spring, and without any life-changing exams to fret over, is relatively relaxed and enjoyable. For seniors, however, it is undeniably hard work and the pressures of the Summer exams can sometimes see House events put to one side, however due to another great team performance and with the help of Chris McClellan, another Aussie exchange, we were able to secure senior

House cricket, once again helped by our strong showing in the 1st XI. The final two events of the year were sports day and the academic challenge, sports day was an extremely close-run affair and we were unfortunate to lose it in the final race, a memorable 4 x 100m relay – the academic challenge, on the other hand, an affair in which traditionally Nicol is not particularly strong, was our final trophy this year and perhaps could be another one for Nicol to target in years to come.

Throughout the year many boys achieved things in and outside of school and to list all of them would take a small book so here are a few; Joe Lipworth achieved consistent swimming wins throughout the year at a national level, Freddie Coleman is now performing for the Scotland under-19 cricket squad, Will Lyburn has played 1st XI tennis whilst still in III Form, Fraser Rawlinson captained the 1st XV Rugby, Douglas Britton represented the District at Hockey, Steven Segaud followed in his brothers footsteps by securing a place at the Scottish Academy, Mark Garratt achieved straight As in his A levels and humble old me was awarded an Army Scholarship.

So it has been yet another strong year for Strathallan's proudest boarding House and this is down to the hard work put in by all the members of the House, and in no small part to the staff as well. Thanks go to all the tutors, to Davina and her cleaning staff and especially to Mr. Giles who, with his family, worked tirelessly for the House throughout the year. I only hope next year can be as successful with Andrew as Head of House and me and Robbie supporting him as his deputies, I am sure Nicol will not disappoint.

To the Nicol lads just remember this: anyone can be a hero but not everyone can be a Nicolite.

Hugh Lungmuss



RUTHVEN HOUSE

The start of a New Year is always hectic and September 2007 was no different. With a large number of new boys coming into the House, prefects and buddies had their work cut out for them. The III Form had their trip away to Dalguise and, as usual, it was a great success. Oli, Andrew and Niall, as House prefects, were very good in assisting over the weekend and Mrs Robertson-Barnett as the III Form Tutor managed to stay dry on the Sunday, avoiding the wet suit and rafts. White water rafting in Scotland is always hard work, mainly due to a lack of white water, so the raft teams had to really work hard to reach their destination.

As always, sport plays an important role in the life of the Boys in Ruthven. Many in the House represented the school in the rugby teams, spread across all age groups and levels of ability. It was early on in the term that the Lower VI group were introduced to some drumming. Sandy Hutcheon ran a very successful and entertaining session which had the lower VI working as a team in creating music. This was later repeated with the V Form Tutor group including Mr Henderson who managed to hone his skills on the drums.



In the various House competitions throughout the year, the Ruthven team spirit was very much in evidence; whether we were winning or allowing Nicol or Simpson the chance to win for a change. Cross-country, hockey, athletics, golf, tug-of-war competitions all spring to mind while we allowed Simpson to taste some success in other areas.

Various trips are held during the year, with a firm favourite being our Christmas party at a Chinese Buffet in Dundee. With the entire House on a coach we spent a very pleasant evening emptying the restaurant of all that resembled food. Other trips included karting, cinema and a fun-filled day on the water at Elie Beach.

Social events for all years are proving a popular evening activity with a variety of costumes emerging from the House. Tommy was able to put his DJ skills to the test during the year along with Mark on occasion. The VI Form Ball was a great success and, as always, the boys scrubbed up well.



IN THE VARIOUS HOUSE COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE RUTHVEN TEAM SPIRIT WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE WHETHER WE WERE WINNING OR ALLOWING NICOL OR SIMPSON THE CHANCE TO WIN FOR A CHANGE.



Oli Stevenson, his team of prefects and the upper VI in general formed a very strong team throughout the year and they generally performed well in their end-of-year exams. The majority achieved grades to get them on to the next stage of their academic career. A number of boys achieved successes in representative teams or groups and congratulations go to them all.

The House Tutor team is a strong unit with no change during the year. We welcomed Mr Andy Henderson to the team in September and the presence of two ladies on the team is proving very popular. They both bring an air of homeliness to the House which results in a very pleasant atmosphere.

Matron and her team keep us all clean and the boys on their toes. Without their valued input into the running of the House we would really not cope. Finally a big thank you to Ann and my family who manage to share me with everyone else in Ruthven. Although often behind the scenes they play a vital part in what Ruthven is.

Finally, to Henry Jones and the incoming Upper VI best wishes for 2008/9; as always you have a hard act to follow. To all the leavers, good luck for the next stage in your journey through life.

AW



SIMPSON HOUSE

This year, Simpson was once again successfully represented in everything from music and drama to sport and academic pursuits. One of the best things about life in a Boarding House is being able to share this success with each other.

A fantastic way to start the year was the one in which Simpson swept the board at the annual House Music competition. A very apt rendition of 'The World's Greatest' was triumphant in Best Boys Choir whilst Martin Kwok's stunning solo was the clear winner in his category. Another great performance, this time of 'Drive' by our ensemble helped us to victory in the overall competition, with every member of the house contributing to a memorable success.

Four of the school's finest minds then came together to represent Simpson for the Academic Challenge. Alastair Hunt and Etienne Melville, coming off the back of academic colours for their performance at GCSE, were joined by Richard Parker and Tom Fleming. Despite this incredible fire-power, Simpson unfortunately finished second, mainly thanks to Mr Kennedy's somewhat lacking peripheral vision...or perhaps it was just our coloured shirts! (Wait 'til you see how my vision has deteriorated by next year. Ed)

In Cross Country, Simpson scooped both the junior and intermediate titles, well captained by Tom Fleming. Tom also managed a silver at the Scottish Schools' Cross Country, as well as filling the role of Captain of School for the academic year. Particular individual success also came from Fergus Baird in equestrianism, Etienne Melville in rugby (Caledonia U17, Reserve Scotland U17) and Alasdair Cameron in tennis (British Mixed Doubles Finalist). Ben Melville and James McAllister gave an excellent comedy performance in the school musical 'Thoroughly Modern Millie', upholding Simpson's long tradition of dramatic excellence.

The summer term was another very successful one for Simpson. Our juniors comfortably won the cricket competition, whilst our team of James Gray, Andrew Lyons, Ruairidh Watson, Mike Wells, Alastair Hunt and Alasdair Cameron once again retained the House Tennis crown. Probably the finest moment for Simpson was our last gasp victory on Sports Day, when the entire competition was decided upon the final 4x100m relay, brought home by Julian Essen in first place. Our new trademark celebration 'Oofta' was brought out for the party, thanks to our new German friends Robert Leverkus and Julian Essen.

We were very lucky to be joined by some fantastic exchange students this year. Freddy Hamilton of Tasmania for the first term and Ryan McEwan of New Zealand for the last both brought their own humour and culture to our Boarding House, and we hope they both enjoyed their time as much as we enjoyed having them. They will always be welcome back and their various antics will not be forgotten in a hurry. Freddy – the sink in our bathroom has not been the same since!

This report would not be complete without thanking Mr and Mrs Parker who put years of effort in to Simpson House. On behalf of the house, I would like to wish you both well in the future and in your endeavours in New Zealand.

This year in Simpson, we have managed to combine success in music, sport, drama and academia and have had great fun doing it. Big thanks go to every member of the House; you made it such a great place to live and work. Carlsberg don't do boarding houses but if they did, they'd probably be something like Simpson...

Alastair Hunt



A FANTASTIC WAY TO START THE YEAR WAS THE ONE IN WHICH SIMPSON SWEEP THE BOARD AT THE ANNUAL HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION.

In April 2008 my life, that of my family, and that of all Simpsonites changed forever. Whether those changes will be for better or worse only time will tell. I entered Simpson House with kind words of encouragement still ringing in my ears. One day I must thank the members of my previous, not-to-be-named-in-this-report House for an almost flawless three months of encouragement every time I passed one of them.

It is never an easy task taking over such a post, especially two terms into a school year. The challenges that needed to be faced were many but with an increasingly positive approach from all in the House these were encountered and then conquered. It was an informative time for me and one that I will always look back upon as an encouraging time for Simpson.

We had a number of good ideas and I look forward to putting them into practice. I must give a big thank you to the existing House Authority and House Prefects who were honest, forthright, and most forthcoming with their own ideas of what made Simpson the very special place that it undoubtedly is.

I will not dwell upon the achievements of last year, Alastair has already done a much more eloquent job than my Science background would have allowed, but I must add my and Mrs B's hearty congratulations to all Simpsonites.

I must thank the Visiting Tutors, Matron, Anne, Michelle, Aileen, Tao and Wei. Thank you also to my own family; to Mrs B for not agreeing with me and letting me know that I wasn't 'mad' to be taking on such a role. I could not have done this without her support. To my kids, who forgot what their father looked like as I lived in two places at once, 'though to be honest they were just looking forward to having sixty older brothers. Most importantly, thank you to the boys of Simpson House.

GJB





THORNBANK HOUSE

As our eighth year as Housemasters dawned we welcomed yet another extension to Thornbank House ready to accommodate our ever expanding numbers. The VI Form moved into their new Cubby and Morag moved back into her old room.

The Flemings' kitchen returned to its alter ego as a centre of serious debate as Lucy and Ailsa led the Upper VI in their first prefect meeting of the year. Over a glass of wine and tuck shop crisps (oh the glamour) weighty and yet predictable matters were discussed

"How can I get the III Form to bed on time?" "The IV Form are not signing in to meals." "Is it true that we get brew box?"

The prefects quickly established firm friendships with their new III and IV Form buddies and buddy night was its usual heady mix of pizza, fizzy drink and silly games. Some of these relationships remained very strong throughout the year, the III Form corridor becoming a haven of childishness "When I get stressed I just go down and muck about with the III Form" said our Head of School (that's Rachel – not Tom!) Eila and Annabel also took it as part of their duties to entertain the III Form, but usually after lights out. So that's all right then. The III Form were having a ball.

Claire did a brilliant job preparing the House for House Music with our version of Mamma Mia. This is always a major undertaking, but although we didn't win any prizes this year, the performances were up to their usual extremely high standards. Alice took charge of the debating competition with great competence although no medals came our way in this either.

This year's version of the Halloween party introduced the scary "walk through the dark". Some pupils not in Thornbank- Ben, Rory, Andy & Archie were co-opted into doing the scaring, but little did they know how long they would be out there and I think they were pretty cold by the end of the night. The star of the Upper VI video was Naomi who could have been starring in her own version of the Ring. We may have witnessed a future star in the making.

The Christmas party brought its usual hilarious mix of sketches, video and games. Rachel has now perfected her impersonation of the headmaster to such a degree that I am sure that she could take chapel and no-one would notice. Mr Fleming's purple fleece made its annual appearance (I think it's having its own series next year) and Mrs Fleming made an appearance on her knees again –thanks, Natalie.



THE PREFECTS QUICKLY ESTABLISHED FIRM FRIENDSHIPS WITH THEIR NEW III AND IV FORM BUDDIES AND BUDDY NIGHT WAS ITS USUAL HEADY MIX OF PIZZA, FIZZY DRINK AND SILLY GAMES.

Inter-House sports play a major part in the year and under the guidance of our sports rep, Claire, we made a clean sweep of all the competitions in the winter term. We did particularly well in the swimming standards where all the races were filled with no need for catch-up. Vicky, Stef, Lizz and Rachel were great role models and organizers.

Thanks to Finola and Heather one of our greatest achievements of the year was the return of the interHouse Clay Pigeon shooting prize. Well, it must have been our greatest moment because Mr Fleming sent everyone a text to let them know that Peter the pigeon had returned.

As I write this report late in the day and very overdue, some of the things that come to mind about the year are the small things that make Thornbank more like being at home than being at school. Ailsa sleeping in, the Sex in the City tutor (Who occupies this post, Sandra? Ed) outing and Finola and Kirsty ending up in a scary pub because they needed the toilet, no really they did need the toilet.

Abbey's camel costume and DT nights with Miss Morrison; Rita making toast and coffee at 5am and setting off the alarm; Summer BBQs in the rain; Mr Fleming's weather reports; Sunday pole-vaulting and "wonky tumour fish" who is sadly no longer with us; the Thornbank wordsearch

and my "placenta" key ring, both provided by the generosity of the DT department; all the horse riding that Emily, Katie, Corrie, Alice, Flora, Lucy, Sarah, Jemma, Heather and Steph manage to fit in in their spare time.

As someone on the telly once said "Who could live in a place like this?" Well we do, all of us and we've had an excellent time. With thanks to all the prefects, particularly Lucy and Ailsa who did a great job running the House and also to Rachel who always came in for a chat, I will miss that.

Thanks to all our tutors and Morag and her team.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Hanks, Danielle, Natalie, Bronwyn and Natasha and we wish them all good luck in their new ventures. A special thanks to Steph H for building our brand new Pool table.

I hope that next year is a much fun as this one has been, and if the last eight years are anything to go by I feel sure that it will be.

SF JRF (by proxy)



WOODLANDS HOUSE



WEIRD, WONDERFUL AND ALWAYS FUN THE VARIETY OF OUTFITS, HAIRSTYLES AND COLOURS COULD FURNISH A BOOK IN THEMSELVES.

"Life is rather like a tin of sardines, we're all of us looking for the key." Alan Bennett

Spending only a few minutes in Woodlands, the buffeted and bemused onlooker could suppose that the frenzy of activity before them is a frantic search for the "key". However, this is the more mundane but nevertheless busy reality of the daily lives of ninety-two girls. Cries of "Janet, where's my..." (anything from socks to GCSE coursework could be inserted here) to "My hair! Why does it always rain?" are frighteningly frequently heard. Girls "fly" out to classes after lunch having sandwiched in the essential dose of Neighbours (not so any longer after Amy's desperate pleas to the BBC not to let it move to Channel 5 failed); games sessions are succeeded by aches, groans, pains, hobbling and shrieks (both from the hockey players going through the ordeal of the ice bath and the fifth form watching the rugby boys take theirs in the Tods' garden) and the evening dash to say goodbye to the boyfriend and make it down the path in two seconds flat to avoid the ordeal of "the tutors", ensure that life is certainly never dull and the volume is rarely below deafening in the foyer. However it is essential to look beyond this maelstrom for in doing so there is much to celebrate and even some who are possibly already enjoying their fishy feast!

House music brought us our first taste of the Woodlands House ceilidh band (to give it its full and indeed original title – although this was later "shortened" to the school ceilidh band when Alex and Will were allowed to join). The fun and originality of the performance was not lost on Megan when in one rehearsal she thought she had misheard Sophie's instruction to sway and pirouette whilst playing her violin. Gemma's arrangement of *I am a Man of Constant Sorrow* was delightful and ran a deservedly close second place in the ensemble element of the competition. No-pirouettes-required-Megan then gave a virtuoso performance on the violin of Brahms' Scherzo in C Minor and underlined her skill and sensitivity as a grade 8 violinist. As is customary the numerous and enthusiastic choir finished the performance by dancing, singing and winning!

The Woodlands Music Evening saw a reprise of the ceilidh band but this time playing other songs from their repertoire under Sophie's enthusiastic but calm leadership. Soloists abounded but the quality was universally high in spite of the evening's premise being to let some who may not feel sufficiently confident to "star" in school concerts have a go. Particular mention must go to Lynne Howie and Natasha Potts who were relative debutants in singing solo. Both showed what they could do and whetted our appetites for more of the same next year. The evening was affably hosted by Mairi and Gemma who have given much musically to the House over the years.

Sports competition regularly brings out the best in us and the House matches certainly prove the rule. Hockey was a hotly-anticipated and keenly-fought contest. The grit, determination and camaraderie of the girls ensured that Woodlands were victorious in both the junior and senior matches. Netball saw the juniors valiantly fight back to within one goal only to be denied by the final whistle. The senior competition was similarly nail-biting and despite the unorthodox shuffling of Sophie Workman into defence the injury-weakened side just couldn't do enough to stop the Thornbank victory. Arguably the sporting highlight of

this year's House matches was the senior tennis competition where the opposition had five out of the six first team players but Woodlands managed somehow to power through to seal the win. Despite Ailie's numerous tennis triumphs, including the Kilgraston and Glenalmond tournaments, we suspect this was really the one that brought her the most pleasure. As defending Sports Day Champions we all had much to live up to but with the team lists published there was a slight feeling of 'maybe next year'. But little did we know and led admirably by Amy the pre Sports Day events saw some excellent and successful performances that provided the House with what proved to be an unassailable lead. Robynne and Ciara picked up deserved Victrix Ludorum awards to complete a memorable afternoon. To cement a sporting summer of success both rounders' trophies were secured to fill the new Woodlands trophy cabinet which was beginning to look a trifle bare. From winning a set; to gaining a rounder; saving a goal or putting in the final tackle the list of those who contribute to that silverware is obviously too well-populated to enumerate but the pleasure and buzz gained permeates through the entire House.

Clearly at the cornerstone of what the girls do is their academic achievement. With girls taking places at Universities as far afield as Oxford and Aberystwyth (yes, we learnt how to spell that one this year) and diverse as Bath and Stirling, we are proud of all they have achieved. Cara Duncan and Charlotte Garven both scored in the top ten nationally in their A level Art; both the AS and Intermediate 2 results give rise to confidence for next year and the GCSE girls worked with a determination and maturity which belied their years and gave many a headache as to what to take in the Lower Sixth. For many the anxiety of receiving their results was lessened by the knowledge that they had done their best and worked as hard as they reasonably could.

The weekend social events once again saw the foyer mutate into something akin to an over the top episode of Mr Ben (Mr Tod showing his age with this cultural reference). Weird, wonderful and always fun the variety of outfits, hairstyles and colours could furnish a book in themselves. Whether it was a junior disco or a themed 6th Form event the girls always made an effort to add that little something to proceedings and the laughter surrounding these evenings is something one could not forget.

Keeping the girls on the right track is only achieved by a considerable amount of teamwork and behind-the-scenes support. The tutoring staff are unwavering in their good humour and gentle chiding; Janet and her team of Dora, Margaret and Denise seem to be able to reclaim the House from mountains of laundry, dirt and debris with an uncomplaining efficiency that is breathtaking and Emma and her team of prefects organised many a fun social evening and led the way with ever more outlandish and ambitious event outfits. The harmony of the House is principally due to all these individuals working together and we are very grateful to them for all their efforts.

So to come back to where we started - did we find the key? Some certainly did and supped richly on all that Strathallan and Woodlands had to offer. For others the quest is just beginning but for Woodlanders there is often a hunger and a desire that guarantee that much will be achieved and enjoyed even as the search continues.

Abi Tod



Chaplain's Report



I take my text this morning from the Book of the Prophet Dumbledore:

"It is our choices Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

So began the first sermon of the year, Harry Potter & the Sacred Metaphor, reflecting on the last of the Hogwarts chronicles which so many of us had enjoyed over the summer.

That first service, Chapel was particularly tightly packed, and brought us to consider that we are doubly blessed in having a choir of about fifty pupils in Chapel, since without that number seated at the front, we would barely all fit in.

Indeed, Chapel Choir has inspired us each Wednesday with an anthem of consistently high standard, as has been the case during all of Neil Metcalfe's time as Director of Music. He celebrated his final term by providing a feast of works by one of his favourite composers, prompting the remark when Purcell eventually re-appeared; I can't believe it's not Rutter.

Between Rowling and Rutter, we considered such diverse topics as the conflicts of Christianity, Buddhism and war; the extraordinary example of Jane Tomlinson; how the Chaplain had killed with an African mask, and the nature of prayer. This last took the form of a general thanksgiving that we can talk to God at any time, and that prayer does not require the following celestial helpline:

Heaven is pleased to receive your call between the third and ninth hours, Monday to Good Friday; we will be pleased to minister to you then, when you can speak in person to the Almighty at any time.

Your call may be monitored for praising purposes by the Recording Angel.

If your call is urgent, please hold and you will be transferred to a cherub.

Thank you. An angelic being will be available to minister to you shortly; your call is of cosmic significance to us, and is being held in a queueing system.

You are call number... 59 million, 741.

If you would rather leave a message to be delivered by a saint, press star now.

Thank you.

To request a blessing, press 1

To pray that God will get you out of whatever mess you've got yourself into this

Time, press 2

To make an offering, give to charity, or for any other eleemosynary act of supererogation, press 3 followed by hash; please be ready with your credit-card details.

To hear the answer to the Ultimate Question, press 42 now.

To be transferred to another religion, dial 118118 and ask for Heresy

For all other enquiries, press 666: heaven cannot be held responsible for the actions of other agencies or those resulting from the sinful misuse of free-will.

Thank you for calling heaven. Good bye and Amen.

That first service, Chapel was particularly tightly packed, and brought us to consider that we are doubly blessed in having a choir of about fifty pupils...

As ever, Chapel has been for us a mixture of laughter and deep sorrow. One of the most significant events this year was the presentation given by Adam Piper and Peter Hall. Both in the Lower VI, both had recently been bereaved of a parent, and wanted to do something to help those less fortunate than themselves. The demeanour of their presentation in Chapel provided something which will not be forgotten by those who were there. Their courage in so doing, no less than the considerable sum raised for the Children's Society, was an immense credit both to the young men themselves, and to their late parents.

Chapel is thus where together we consider the profound aspects of our existence; of birth as of death, and as we remembered Christ's baptism, we reflected on the miracle of our own existence:

When you were born, you were a cause for the most wonderful celebration; and the same is true for everyone around you, pupils and staff alike. There has been one moment in your lives when you were the most wonderful thing that has ever happened. Look in the mirror from time to time, and remind yourself of that; because you are still wonderful, and still a miracle of life.

In May we were delighted to welcome in Chapel Rev. Allan Wilson, the newly appointed Minister of Forgandenny, who preached at our service and was kind enough to spend that morning with us in school.

We have also been delighted to have Mr Fitzsimmons once again conduct a number of Chapel services through the course of the year; his Crunchie sermon has entered the annals of Strathallian legend.

Our time together in Chapel reflects the closeness of our community; not least in that it has depended as ever on the assistance of our Chapel prefects, who this year were Gordon Tweedie, Gemma Chance and Chris Milford.

We ended the school year by reflecting on the many blessings we enjoy in our life together here; but not unquestioningly:

Does that sound just a little facile? A little easy? Are we saying that none of our grief and sorrow matters, because we've got enough to eat and somewhere to live? No. It's not that. That's not true, and we know it. But it is true that when we put our troubles in perspective, we are able to cope with them better.

For those who believe, there is even something more; that evil is temporary, but that good lasts for ever. And that, truly, is the end.

RAMTQ

Malawi Concert



In September, a capacity audience in Kinross Parish Church attended a concert performed by the Strathallian's choirs and musicians. This was their third visit to the church to help with its fundraising campaigns. On the previous two occasions the concert was for its renovation project, but this time it was in aid of the harvest appeal, for the Sangalala Fund which was to raise money to build a maize mill in the village of Cape Maclear on the shores of Lake Malawi.

The choral scholars, chamber choir and chapel choir delighted the audience with pieces in a wide range of musical styles, from traditional and modern sacred pieces, to John Bratton's *The Teddy Bears' Picnic* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* by Fats Waller and Hal Brooks. The school's long tradition of high-quality musical theatre was in evidence in choral, solo and ensemble pieces. Eila Legge sang the title song from *Sunset Boulevard* and William Campbell-Gibson and Sam Burns performed a duet from *Sweeney Todd*. Alice Inglis accompanied herself on the clarsach with a traditional Gaelic song, and fiddler, Anna Olafsson, played a Neil Gow solo.

Returning by popular request, Alex Beetschen and William Campbell-Gibson provided another Flanders and Swann duet, *The Bedstead*. Another performer much loved by the audiences in Kinross, our Chaplain, Roger Quick, displayed his versatility by improvising on hymn tunes in the style of any named composer.

In keeping with the evening's theme, the pupils, led by Neil Metcalfe, played native drums and sang a traditional African chant.

The concert raised £525 for the project. The maize mill is now complete and is being put to good use in Cape Maclear, saving the local women a walk of many miles to the next mill.

IIMcF



There were scenes of high emotion as the Headmaster bade farewell to the outstanding group of musicians in the UVI Form...

Headmaster's Music

As a day of unseasonably tempestuous weather drew to a close, it was perhaps entirely appropriate that Sophie Stephenson should set the scene for the evening with a stunning rendition of Sir Alexandra Gray's internationally renowned *Scotland*, evoking a combination of the beauty and bleakness of the Scottish landscape and subtle suggestions of people's unending struggle against the inexorable forces of untamed nature.

It was into this atmosphere that the Chapel Choir, apparently effortlessly, wove the haunting and melancholic *Banks of Inverurie*, a traditional Scottish folksong arranged by Ken Johnston. The Pipes and Drums (to be more accurate, Adam and Sean with drummer boy Tom) enhanced the nationalistic theme. In classic Head Man's style, we were then spirited way, way back many centuries ago for a sneak preview of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* enthusiastically performed by the Riley 'leads'; a sell-out of this end-of-term show is now guaranteed. Jenni Young's sensitive Tchaikovsky piano solo was well received by a large and appreciative audience, the age-range of which was as wide as their choice of garments. Martin Kwok's (I'm really nervous – no you are not, you are excited – no I am not, I'm really nervous) arrangement of *A Time For Us*, the theme tune from Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* was both ambitious and stretching, with his powerful and accurate voice creating a real sense of emotional tension. There was a big welcome for the two youngest performers of the evening; Sara Nicol's dexterous and jaunty flute solo took us through

the checkout and Nina Mearns' cornet homage to James Bond had the audience rummaging for their DJ's and cocktail dresses. It was on to the East European Jewish Ghetto and the Clarinet Ensemble's performance of *Itamar Freilach*. A sense of family celebration was engendered by the twelve clarinets ('I never knew we had that many Clarinetists') and double bass, enticing all into moving along with the syncopated rhythm. The theme evolved into one of a *Hebridean Ceilidh* as Sophie Stephenson and her ten-strong traditional music group delivered a first class medley that had even those with two left feet tapping in time. Gemma Chance's delivery of Mendelssohn's *Schilflied* was characteristically outstanding and held all those in the building spellbound. And so it was off to the forest for 1 set 1's LAMDA Choral Speaking piece (yes, they got 84%) and a wonderfully humorous rendition of Roald Dahl's *Little Red Riding Hood* (with Attitude) and she sure looked good in her beautiful wolf skin coat. It was clear that the audience loved an underdog. Just when we thought that the improbably unforgiving chapel pews were certain to cut off our circulation, Murdo Elwis hit us with a rendition of Gershwin's *Summertime*. He was at one with his saxophone, generating a spontaneous flow, with improvisation belying his age. A set at Ronnie Scott's may not be too far away. The Chamber Choir delighted with *Cantique de Jean Racine*, the exceptional quality of the choral scholars shining through in this piece which Fauré himself wrote as a young man of just nineteen. Phoebe Shaw Stewart treated us to the first movement of Brahms' clarinet concerto *Andante Sostenuto*, demonstrating the versatility of the instrument both in range

of notes and in intensity of sound. Eila Legge's vocal solo *Not for the Life of Me* had us right there in the streets of Manhattan and brimmed with character and confidence. The Wind Band's thrilling flashback to the eighties had the hungrier music lovers wondering if the post-concert food would be chicken-in-a-basket. The forty-strong band showed their true colours and had us rolling with the punches as we visualised Rocky Balboa ascending those Philadelphia steps just before we were all 'lifted up where we belong'. The Orchestra's delivery of Wagner's *Entry of the Masters* was majestic, imperious and a triumph of co-ordination. Stef Feld on harp and Anita Schoberl on clarinet gave us a delightful performance of Reade's *Summer* and the concert drew to a close as it had begun with the Chapel Choir and their final Ken Johnston piece *The Birks of Aberfeldy*. There were scenes of high emotion as the Headmaster bade farewell to the outstanding group of musicians in the UVI Form, characterised by both their talent and generosity with their time. There was a lengthy and entirely appropriate standing ovation for the Director of Music, Mr Neil Metcalfe, who will be returning to a career as a professional performer at the end of this term. His gifts both as a practitioner and teacher have been enduringly evident over the six years of his involvement at Strathallan, not only in the often stunning level of performance from his charges but also in the sheer enjoyment which both pupils and audiences have derived from being involved in music at whatever level and in whatever way. And so it was that a happy and thoroughly entertained throng repaired to supper and an enjoyable evening of conviviality amongst friends.

DJB

And so the glorious marathon which was House Music '07 concluded with Woodlands choir singing a superb Gemma Chance arrangement of *Happy Together*



House Music

The bears and lions of Simpson House choir welcomed us to this year's House Music and, under the conductorship of Ali Hunt, performed Stefan Pretty's arrangement of *The World's Greatest* in a performance notable for its great good humour.

This excellent beginning augured well, and indeed Martin Kwok's improvisatory *Isabel* showed a promising blend of European and Eastern influences; Kwok went on further to demonstrate his considerable musical integrity as the lead singer for Incubus' *Drive*, the slightly edgy mood of which was nicely caught in this powerful and commanding performance.

Ruthven kicked off with Gary Barlow's anthem *Shine*. Toby Schofield's team produced a gutsier machismo than the Take That original, and a better choral ensemble than most national football sides.

Chris Jaworski gave us an assured and atmospheric medley of Irish fiddle music. Ruthven demonstrated their versatility by finishing with a fast and groovy *Saturday Superhouse*, particularly memorable for a solo of passionate cool from Joe Corlett. CJ's vocals were impressive during a move towards the end with the equally impressive Farquhar on kit.

Thornbank gave us a particularly innovative introduction on bicycles, followed by a nicely controlled ensemble in Claire Price's sweet arrangement of the *Flying Theme* from E.T. Claire herself then went on to produce flashes of real conviction in the vocal solo *Power of Love*. Thornbank's choir, powerfully conducted by Ailsa Turnbull, produced a tightly choreographed *Mamma Mia*, which showed excellent dynamic contrast backed by flawless diction.

Freeland House produced an unusual radio-style opening, which would have been brilliant in a less ambient acoustic. No such problems, however, were encountered once Adam Michie fired up the pipes for *Tigh' na mara*, demonstrating variations of increasing complexity to which he proved himself more than equal.

The choral *Theme from Pokémon*, if not actually conducted by Pikachu, was at least performed in his presence. This was clearly well rehearsed: the audience went wild as the air-guitar quartet stepped down into the mosh-pit of the Sports Hall. Alex Beetschen's excellent arrangement of the James Brown classic *I feel good* gave ample scope for Ollie Wale to show his accustomed professionalism, and for Radek Oborný to produce a nice wah-wah solo.

Josh Lipworth conducted a loud and enthusiastic Nicol House choir in *Dreaming of you*, after which Steven Segaud moved effortlessly from keyboards to violin to give us a performance of Brahms's splendid Hungarian Dance No.5.

A rock ensemble concluded Nicol's performance; I first heard The Animals perform *House of the rising sun* in Leeds Town Hall in 1966, and it is fair to say that this performance could in every way be compared to that.

For Woodlands, Mairi MacKenzie and Gemma Chance provided an effective harmonic ensemble in the latter's effective arrangement of *I am a man of constant sorrow*. Megan Parkinson then performed Brahms's *Scherzo for violin* with verve and maturity.

And so the glorious marathon which was House Music '07 concluded with Woodlands choir singing a superb Gemma Chance arrangement of *Happy Together*. Happy Chance, as it were, showed the girls at their best, with a fine a *Cappella* section.

We were most grateful to Allan Young, conductor of the Perth Symphony Orchestra, and Head of Music for the Perth & Kinross Education Service, for adjudicating the event with insight and humour. His decisions were as follows:

Strathallan House Music Trophy, for the best House overall:

Simpson House

Strathallan House Music Cup, for the best boys' choir:

Simpson House

Strathallan House Music Cup, for the best girls' choir:

Woodlands House

Strathallan House Music Plate, for the best soloist:

Martin Kwok, Simpson

Conductor's Baton, for the best choir conductor:

Robynne Smith, Woodlands

Strathallan House Music Bowl, for the best ensemble:

Freeland House

RAMTO

Music



This year should have proven to many that time in the music department never stands still. Although the concert timetable has been as full as ever, the demands made of the musicians as great as ever, and the quality of their performances as brilliant as ever, there has also been time to ring the changes.

All musicians have to hit the ground running at the beginning of the Autumn term; with music exams and four major concert performances to prepare for, including the House music competition, within the first seven weeks of term, life in the department proved frenetic. Before October had even arrived, we were invited to perform at Kinross Parish Church, where the Chamber Choir, Choral Scholars and several soloists provided a wonderful evening's entertainment to a thoroughly appreciative audience. Quickly following-on were several in-house concerts, including the Music Scholars' concert and the first of the incredibly relaxed Riley informal concerts. However, the most significant musical event of the year for the whole school, as always, is the hotly-contested House music competition. There seemed to be an accidental but representative theme to each House's programme selection; Simpson choir's confidence in *The World's Greatest*, Ruthven Ensemble's self-opinion in *Saturday Superhouse*, the Thornbank soloist's feeling of *The Power of Love*, the Woodlands choir's camaraderie in *Happy Together* and Nicol Ensemble's self-recognition in *House of the Rising Sun* by The Animals. However, there can be no doubt that the House that caused greatest entertainment (and confusion) was Freeland in their choice of the *Pokémon* theme tune.

If the House music competition is the biggest musical event in the school's calendar, then the biggest event in the department's calendar is Headmaster's Music. In November, nearly one hundred musicians decamped to Perth Concert Hall for what was to prove a mammoth, yet truly awesome, Headmaster's Music. Under the sub-title 'Strathallan's Musical Showcase' they performed an incredibly broad programme of music, poetry and dance, to a captivated audience of a thousand. This whole-school event proved to be a complete success, and will now feature in the annual musical calendar.

Whilst the rest of the school was winding up for exams, and then winding down for the holidays, the music department's attention turned to the Christmas Carol services and Carols in the City, performed by the combined Chapel and Chamber choirs in St Ninian's Cathedral. The wonderful ambience of both the Cathedral and candle-lit school Chapel, combined with the beautiful music and atmospheric singing of the choirs provided a fitting end to a busy term.

But not for all. In addition to their termly commitments at the Cathedral, the Choral Scholars are invited to perform at the Christmas and Easter services. So on the 23rd of December when all over Freeland House, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, the Scholars returned to perform an evening carol service, carol-singing in the St John's shopping centre on Christmas eve, Midnight Mass and a service on Christmas Day morning. In recompense the Scholars were not only rewarded by Womble's experimental cooking, but also got an early visit from Father Christmas, who was very appreciative, (*Of what, Richard? The cooking? Surely not. Ed*). They also freely entered into the party spirit themselves, for which thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Martin Price for their gracious and boundless hospitality.



At the end of every academic year, we must say thank you, goodbye and good luck to our leavers for their contribution to the musical life of the school.



If the Autumn Term feels like the longest in the year, then the Spring Term feels, musically, like the shortest as attention turns towards the School Show. For along with the academic trial and preliminary exams, music exams, the Lunchtime Concert series, the IV and V Form Concert, as well as the Riley Informal concerts, we also have to find time in the schedule to audition and rehearse the soloists, chorus, dancers and band for the school Musical, which, this year, was *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. With a pupil-based band and Alex Beetschen at the helm as MD, Gemma Chance in the lead, ably supported by a young and vibrant cast that uncovered Jonathan Keddie, Marcus Adams and Hannah Cox among its stars, it proved a runaway hit, and provided the Drama department with food for thought.

Riley, meanwhile, were equally absorbed by the Inter-Divisional Music competition, one of the biggest musical events in their calendar. Held just before half term, Miss Harriet Hunt returned to adjudicate this year's hard-fought competition, and to be thoroughly entertained by Balmanno, Dron, Dupplin and Glenearn. Every division did themselves proud, although special mention must go to Murdo Elwis for his excellent accordion solo; Dupplin and Glenearn choirs for teaching the rest of Riley some songs from what was to be the Riley show (more later), and to Dupplin ensemble for their inspired use of Lewis Coutts' crocodile costume.

Upon returning to a freshly-painted blue music department for the start of the Summer Term, and the hope of warm weather, our spirits were quickly subdued by the serious business of national exams and, in particular, the A2 Public Recital. For this, each of the three candidates, Alex Beetschen, Gemma Chance and Claire Price, had to prepare a 20-minute, themed solo programme for an examiner to assess and mark accordingly. For the audience, they provided a wonderful evening's entertainment of chamber music. And for the candidates, their performances earned them the grades they needed to go to their first choice universities. However, the department's work wasn't all serious; there was also time for some lighter forms of entertainment in the shape of the Speech Day concert and the Headmaster's

Music in the Chapel. In Riley, their musical attentions fell to the Riley show, held on the final day of term. Many of the pupils having watched a certain programme on BBC1 on Saturday nights, they were most keen to perform Lloyd-Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Again, as for their senior counterparts, rehearsals for the principals, chorus and dancers had to be fitted in around pupils' school exam timetables. However, by the final week of term, for the first time ever, we were on schedule for the show. And what a show it was. Congratulations to Mrs Howett and Mrs Tritton-Wheeler for their direction and production and to the whole of Riley for their individual and group performances.

At the end of every academic year, we must say thank you, goodbye and good luck to our leavers for their contribution to the musical life of the school. Alex Beetschen's final contribution came in the form of a wonderful Concerto Concert, where he performed Mozart's Piano Concerto in A major, K.48, accompanied by a professional Chamber group. To him, Gemma, Claire, James Balfour, Mark Garratt, Eila Legge, Mhairi McKenzie, Naomi Miller, Lauren Murray, Richard Parker, Megan Parkinson, Phoebe Shaw-Stewart, Sophie Stephenson, Helen Summersgill and Marc Zwetsloot must go our thanks for all their support and musical contributions over their time at Strathallan. Thanks should also go to the music staff, who have helped and honed all musical performances throughout the year. The biggest vote of thanks, however, must go Neil Metcalfe, who left us at the end of the year in order to pursue, once again, his career as a performer. Music at Strathallan has gone from strength to strength under his directorship and events this year should demonstrate just how far we've come. To all musicians, thank you very much for your performances. You've been superb. And a short message for all leavers... "By all means, crack on."

RCAW



Speech and Drama

From Bad to verse....

..or should I say from the ferocious weather of a Friday in February, 2008, to the speech classes day at the Edinburgh Competition Festival in the hall of St Cuthbert's Church. The closure of the Forth Bridge meant that Mrs Roe's plan of driving the school mini-bus to Edinburgh with the dozen pupils entered, proved impracticable. Determined that the project should not be abandoned, we enlisted the help of the ever-obliging Eddie, and, with Mrs Roe's car, we transported the pupils to Inverkeithing Station where we caught the train. A hasty sprint from Haymarket brought us to St Cuthbert's where we received a standing ovation from the organisers for managing to get there at all.

And a successful day it was too. Sophie Stephenson won the A B Harley Medal for her 'outstanding' performance in the adult verse-speaking class. She was also judged to be the best performer in the entire speech and drama day, and was invited to take part in the final concert in the Queen's Hall.

Morag Elwis achieved 'outstanding' awards for prepared reading of prose and for bible-reading. She also won the drama medal. The Junior Verse-Speaking medal went to Laura Glasgow for her recitation of *Sarah, Fed Up* by Janet Paisley. There were firsts, too, for Amyce Smith-Bannister and awards for 'excellent' performances by Josiah Bircham and Joanna Barrack.

Mrs Roe took the younger pupils for a visit to the museum during the senior classes. The wind having fortunately abated, the return journey was not so traumatic and the Chaplain was able to collect the pupils at Inverkeithing Station. It has to be said they were not in the least perturbed by the traumas of the day, regarding the whole thing as an adventure.

The change of timing of the Edinburgh Festival from May to February has meant that, unfortunately, we are no longer able to enter the huge number of pupils we entered before. This is because it now takes place too close to *Perform in Perth* (the Perthshire Competition Festival) where we have also always had very many entries. This was the case again this year.

The Robert Burns Trophy was won by Christina Stephenson for the recitation of *Willie Wastle*. Sam Lipworth won the Senior Public Speaking class for his speech entitled *Golf Balls*, and Sarah Hellewell, the junior, for her speech about horses. Ollie Wale achieved firsts and very high distinction marks in the senior Shakespeare class for the prologue from *Henry V* and in the Robert Burns class for the *Epistle to J Lapraik*.

Morag Elwis came first in the Senior Bible-Reading class and the Soutar class, while Josiah Bircham won the Prepared Reading. I set 1 won the Choral Speaking class, with distinction. There were other distinctions for Murdo Elwis, Joanna Barrack, Katie Jones, Catronia Mackenzie and Sophie Stephenson.



Our pupils achieved four trophies at the Perth Burns Club's Annual Schools' Festival in November;...

As a result of his performances in *Perform in Perth* Oliver Wale was invited to do recitations at a concert at the British and International Federation of Festivals annual conference in October. Ollie has had a busy year. On March 27th he performed the role of Welsh (minor) in the Radio 4 afternoon play, *The Death of Magnus Sweet* by Alastair Jessiman, a play set in a Scottish boarding school in the 1960s.

Our pupils achieved four trophies at the Perth Burns Club's Annual Schools' Festival in November; Murdo Elwis won the senior accordion cup, Tom Esparon the secondary rosebowl for fiddle playing, Joanna Barrack the quaich for primary verse speaking and Sophie Stephenson the secondary verse rose bowl.

LAMDA (the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) entries remained as strong as ever over the two days in October and three days in May. William Campbell-Gibson, Alexander Beetschen and Amyce Smith-Bannister achieved our best ever marks for acting (Grade 8 Gold Medal). All three have worked up through the grades from their time in Riley. Likewise, our other successful gold medal actors, Gemma Chance and Phoebe Shaw Stewart. Gemma and Phoebe delighted the audience at the Headmaster's Music in the Concert Hall with *Hannah and Hanna*, one of their LAMDA duologues.

A public speaker who has worked up through the grades is Sam Lipworth. He gained distinction for gold medal. David Cameron achieved distinction for the silver medal in the speaking of verse and prose and Oliver Wale in bronze medal acting. Merits in medal exams went to Sophie Stephenson (verse and prose silver), Morag Elwis (public speaking silver) and Hannah Cox (acting bronze).

Another LAMDA entry which went on to perform in the Concert Hall was Form II set 2's choral speaking. Who will forget Henry Melville's kicking of the ball (thankfully softly) in an enthusiastic performance of Robert Garioch's poem *Fi'bwaw in the Street*.

Other high distinction marks in grade exams went to Joanna Barrack (verse and prose grade 2), Katie Jones (spoken English grade 2), Josiah Bircham (verse and prose 5) and Ashley Purvis (acting 2). Form I set 1 had a very successful time, gaining, as a whole class, distinction for choral speaking, while the boys did equally well with a devised piece about a robbery attempt by a burglar (played by Ewan Campbell) which was foiled by Grandpa (Rory Barnes) and his two grandsons (Euan Gray and Finlay Kettles).

The highest mark (a massive 92%) went to the three Gents, Murdo Elwis, Henry Melville and Josh Morris, in group acting. But particular credit must go to Frances Myatt who is new to Strathallan this year and has never taken LAMDA exams before. She achieved triple distinction for grade 2 acting, and grade 3 in both verse and prose and reading for performance.

IIMcF



The Changeling

Last winter's drama production, *The Changeling*, ably directed and produced by Irene McFarlane, showed Strathallan's thespians at their best.

This traditional tale (set in 1600 in the time of the Border Reivers) of the wily tenant outwitting the local landowner pressed all the right comedy buttons. Erchie, sublimely played by Ollie Wale, was the naughty boy in question to the distress of his anxious wife, Kate, played by Catriona Mackenzie and the equally nervous Jean, played by Sophie Stephenson. The Landowner (David Cameron) and his henchmen (Ollie Beetschen and Morag Elwis) pursued Erchie to his homely cottage determined to catch him with the stolen goods in his hot little hands. But no! "Little wist he Erchie's mettle" (to paraphrase Burns): Erchie lifted the baby out of the cradle and hid the incriminating sheep in its place and hey ho, the evil landlord was thwarted and natural justice - that it is in the nature of locals to outwit the landowner - was restored. Hooray!

The play's being written in broad Scots, presented many challenges to the actors, but they rose to the occasion. The set, designed by David Hume and built by the stage crew, under the watchful eyes of Dr Salisbury and stage-manager, Steph Feld, was a beautiful and very realistic version of a country cottage in the 17th century. The rough "stone" walls (made entirely from plaster) were so effective that the Headmaster, when he came to a rehearsal, went round to the back of the set to check they were not real! The costumes were well chosen to represent the period and each part of a performance: script, set, costumes and excellent acting, combined to make *The Changeling* a very enjoyable and entertaining play.

An innovation was the At Hame at the end - a ceilidh provided, in costume, on fiddle, clarsach, whistle and bodhrán, by members of the school's ceilidh bands, Sophie Stephenson, Sam Lipworth, Morag Elwis, Alice Inglis and Christina Stephenson.

Lovina Roe

An innovation was the At Hame at the end – a ceilidh provided, in costume, on fiddle, clarsach, whistle and bodhrán, by members of the school's ceilidh bands,...



Joseph

and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



Riley House's production this year was Andrew Lloyd-Webber's well-loved comic musical, *Joseph*, and the young performers of Riley under the highly capable direction of Catherine Howett and Kara Tritton made a really magnificent job of playing both for the laughs and the well-merited applause that greeted the medley of musical pastiches that the show comprises. Alex Bannerman charmed his audience as the unfortunate Joseph doomed to wrinkle his way out of a number of sticky situations with a song on his lips. Henry Melville's Elvis-a-like Pharaoh wouldn't have looked, or sounded, out of place on stage at Caesars Palace and Murdo Elwis's louche, Cajun-style goat-herd, Reuben, was an inspired piece of performance. Jenny Summersgill looked positively dangerous as Potiphar's scheming, lascivious missus and Potiphar himself, the very talented Oliver Tritton, wowed the audience with a sterling performance. Michael Milford was exceptionally well-cast as Judah, from the Rastafarian branch of Joseph's extensive family, and everyone involved can feel satisfied that they have produced a set of performances that could easily have graced the professional stage.

EGK





THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

In the weeks leading up to the annual musical, anyone visiting the theatre auditorium and corridor on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday afternoons would think Strathallan had employed an entire firm of painters & decorators. During these times, the stage crew pupils, under the supervision of Master Tradespersons, David Hume, Dr Jim Salisbury and Stephanie Feld, transformed the theatre area into the world of Art Deco and the nineteen-twenties, using carefully researched colours and motifs.

For this was the world of the flapper girls of New York in the "roaring twenties" and of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.



The atmosphere was further enhanced by Kate Streatfeild-James who set herself her biggest challenge yet, and, with a team of Strathallan mothers and teachers, created no fewer than 70 dresses, all in the style of the period.

The whole show was fun, bright and lively and involved the usual large numbers of pupils from the senior school. Three of our "old stagers", Gemma Chance (Millie), Amyce Smith-Bannister (Mrs Meers) and Eila Legge (Miss Flannery) produced performances of the high quality we have come to expect from them. Gemma, in particular, deserves praise because shortly before the performance she had an injury to her foot, which involved its being bound up. But with artistic determination and a love for

this particular musical, Gemma performed the role. Much credit must go also to Jenny Wood, her understudy, who filled in admirably for the later rehearsals, whilst continuing to rehearse her actual role which included producing a delightfully authentic Southern States accent.

But many of the leading roles were played by younger pupils. This bodes very well for the future of musical theatre at Strathallan. Marcus Adams (Trevor), Jonathan Keddie (Jimmy), Hannah Cox (Miss Dorothy Brown) and Sara Chalmers (Muzzy) performed with the maturity of many an older actor. A particular delight was provided by the "Chinese Laundry Boys", Jonny McCashin, Keith Wigley, Ben Melville and James MacAllister, who had dialect training from our Chinese counsellor, Tao Zhou.

For the many beautifully-choreographed 1920's tap-dance routines we are once again grateful to our dance teacher, Kimberley Stewart.

For the first time ever, our music director was a pupil. In his sixth and final year at Strathallan, after involvement in every aspect of the musical life of the school, Alex Beetschen took on the role of leading the songs and the band of thirteen players. As in all his other activities, Alex showed his dedication to excellence.

And last, but not least, thanks must go to director Mary Robertson-Barnett who put this whole spectacular show together.

IIMcF

ART



BRONWYN LEAR
GCSE
V Form



ANDREW GLOVER
GCSE
V Form



KIRSTY SANGSTER
GCSE
V Form



ELIZABETH McMORRIS
GCSE
V Form



KATE COCKBURN
GCSE
V Form



GROUP WORK
1JJ



LAURA COLLINS
GCSE
V Form



CATRIONA MACKENZIE
AS
LVI Form



ELIZABETH McMORRINE
GCSE
V Form

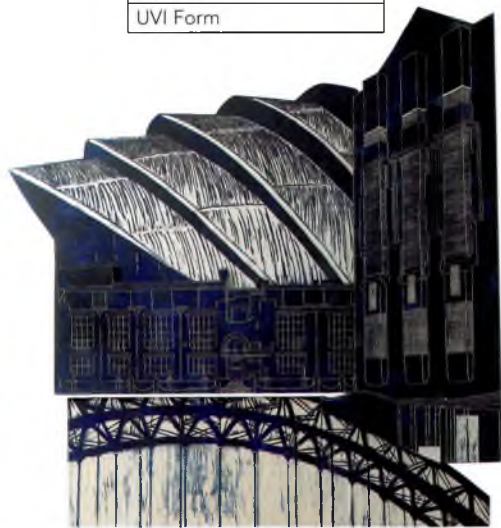


GROUP WORK
I Form

STEPH HARRISON
GCSE
V Form



CHARLOTTE GARVEN
A2
UVI Form





LAURA GLASGOW
Il Form



MARIAM KUDEHINBO
Il Form



CONNOR McLEAN
Il Form



JENNY SUMMERSGILL
Il Form



JASMINE MORRIS
A2
UVI Form



JENNY SUMMERSGILL
Il Form



CHARLOTTE EVANS
Il Form



RORY BARNES
I Form



MAIRI MACKENZIE
A2
UVI Form



EMILY McLAREN
A2
UVI Form



AILSA TURNBULL
A2
UVI Form



EMMA HOWELL
AS
LVI Form



ROSS MCGARVIE
I Form



MURDO ELWIS
II Form



ALEX BANNERMAN
II Form



STEPH McNAUGHTON
A2
UVI Form



KIRSTY SCOBIE
AS
LVI Form



ALEX RAESIDE
A2
UVI Form



CHRISTINA FINLAY
AS
LVI Form



KATY MARSHALL
GCSE
V Form



RUAIRIDH CLARK
GCSE
V Form



HEATHER MITCHELL
AS
LVI Form



PIPPA SCOTT
A2
UVI Form

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

RACHEL McLEAN

LVI Thornbank

A2 Product Design

Seating system for 'The Royal
Hotel', Blairgowrie





KIRSTIN LAMOTTE
V Thornbank
GCSE Resistant Materials
Contemporary standard lamp



WILLIAM FARMER
LVI Simpson
AS Product Design
Sculptural coat stand



FINOLA LUNDGREN
LVI Thornbank
AS Product Design
Contemporary coffee table



IAN MCKENZIE
LVI Freeland
AS Product Design
Scottish elm coffee table



KATIE BATTISON
LVI Thornbank
AS Product Design
Recycling system for home use



TOBY CULHAM
LVI Ruthven
AS Product Design
Contemporary table



ROBERT COOKE
UVI Freeland
A2 Product Design
Scottish elm garden seat



LUCY DRUMMOND-HAY
UVI Thornbank
A2 Product Design
Curved garden bench



TOBY CULHAM
LVI Simpson
GCSE Resistant Materials
Oak garden bench

Cricket



One might be forgiven for thinking that, when looking at the statistics, the 2008 season was mainly spent watching Freddie Coleman batting. He scored a superb 679 runs at an average of 97 runs per innings, and this despite missing several matches through either injury or Scotland U19 commitments. Had he played all the matches it is not inconceivable that he would have reached the magical thousand run barrier.

However, this season's record of seven wins from thirteen matches conceals the fact that this 1st XI was far from being a one man team. This was a team steadily maturing, not without the odd hiccup on the way and, crucially, with the ability to welcome new players into the team without upsetting the balance or their determination to do their best. Several of the other batsmen in the side produced crucial half-centuries in large run-chases, particularly in the matches against Fettes and Glenalmond Colleges. Calum Donald scored a superb 88 against Fettes and another important half-century against Glenalmond; Jamie King scored half-centuries against Loretto and Glenalmond; Andrew Whitelaw, pushed up to open in Coleman's absence, scored an excellent 75 against a good MCC attack; Chris McClelland, although here to keep wicket, made an invaluable unbeaten 55 against the Scottish XL Club to take us to victory. Amongst the bowlers, although no one took a five-wicket haul during the season, Robbie Cachia and Duncan O'Reilly shared the honours with eighteen apiece, with Toby Culham and Jamie King not far behind.

The first half of the term saw some contrasting fortunes for Jonny Dickson's side. Three victories were just about balanced by two defeats. We beat Perth Northern relatively comfortably by 70 runs, Freddie Coleman scoring an unbeaten 142, and both Jonny Dickson and Jamie King snaring three wickets apiece. Then we lost two matches on the bounce: against Dollar Academy on a soft slow home track we only totalled 123 all out, losing Coleman to a shoulder injury when well-set, and then shelling a number of crucial catches. Had those catches been taken, then we would have restricted Dollar to fewer than our total, but it was not to be as they beat us with four wickets in hand. Against the Edinburgh Academy we batted appallingly to score 98-9 in our 45 overs. I felt at the time some players were coasting along content to let Coleman do all the run scoring and, as in this game, when he was not there, no one would stand up to the plate. The first step towards recovery came in the field when our fielding was lifted a notch and Duncan O'Reilly bowled superbly without any luck.

It was therefore vital that our next home match, against Loretto, should be won and preferably convincingly. Our opening bowlers were excellent in restricting the initial run rates but the back-up bowling was less convincing as Loretto totalled 168-7 in 40 overs. Clearly they were happy with this total and thought they could beat us for the first time in nearly ten years. However, a withering assault from a returning Coleman (93 from 68 balls), in conjunction with Jamie King (57 not out), saw us to an eight wicket victory with over 15 overs to spare. This victory gave us the fillip

we required heading into the weekend's fixture against Fettes College. Fettes had beaten us for the previous three years and so this was an important test for the side. Winning the toss, Fettes batted first and, in the face of some determined bowling from Robbie Cachia, Toby Culham and Duncan O'Reilly, they eventually totalled 248-6 declared, leaving us ninety minutes and twenty overs to chase the total. This was going to be a tough assignment but Coleman went off like a train and we took tea after half an hour with the total on 45 for no loss. Upon the resumption King was adjudged caught behind, bringing Calum Donald to the crease. It was Donald who, with his first half century for the side, held the innings together. Losing Coleman (64) at 100, he then put on partnerships of 35 with Culham (19) and 91 with McClelland (28). It was this latter partnership which began to shake the Fettes fielders and bowlers, and give the Strathallan team the belief that they could chase down this large total. Donald departed for a superb 88 with the score at 222, leaving captain Jonny Dickson and Andrew Whitelaw to score 27 off 24 balls to win the match. They scampered some hectic singles and hit the odd boundary to take us to the last over requiring 4 to win. On the second ball Andrew Whitelaw drove over extra-cover for 6 to win the match with 4 balls remaining. For me, as coach, this has to be the most outstanding run-chase I have witnessed, surpassing even that against the MCC several years ago. I am not normally prone to hyperbole, but I think on this occasion that anyone who witnessed the run-chase might forgive the indulgence.

Just after half-term we played two of the remaining club matches, resulting in two victories over the Scottish XL Club and the Strathallians. Against the XL Club we bowled and fielded well, although David Johnston scored yet another century against us, setting us a target of 198 for victory. In the chase Coleman (77) went off like a train but it took a

Chris McClelland half-century (55 not out) to shepherd us to a three wicket victory after a middle order collapse. Against the Strathallians we bowled and caught superbly, on a bouncy track, reducing them to 116 all out which would have been significantly worse but for a typically belligerent 57 from Ed Anderson (S92). Our reply, in increasingly wet conditions, was dominated by Coleman who smashed his way to an unbeaten 88 runs as we ran out eight wicket victors.

The one major disappointment of the second half of term was a thrashing from Merchiston in a 50 over match. Although we contained them to 130-4 at lunchtime off 32 overs, we wilted under a withering attack from their South African opener who batted superbly for an unbeaten century in a huge total of 271-3. For us, Robbie Cachia bowled his 10 overs for a paltry 35 runs, taking two wickets. Not for the first or last time in the season, Robbie's competitive spirit enabled him to put the lid on opposition batsmen. He had bowled without much luck this season as batsmen were reluctant to take risks against him. In reply only Coleman with an unbeaten 70 and Chris McClelland with 20 redeemed themselves as we were all out for 111 just as the rain came.

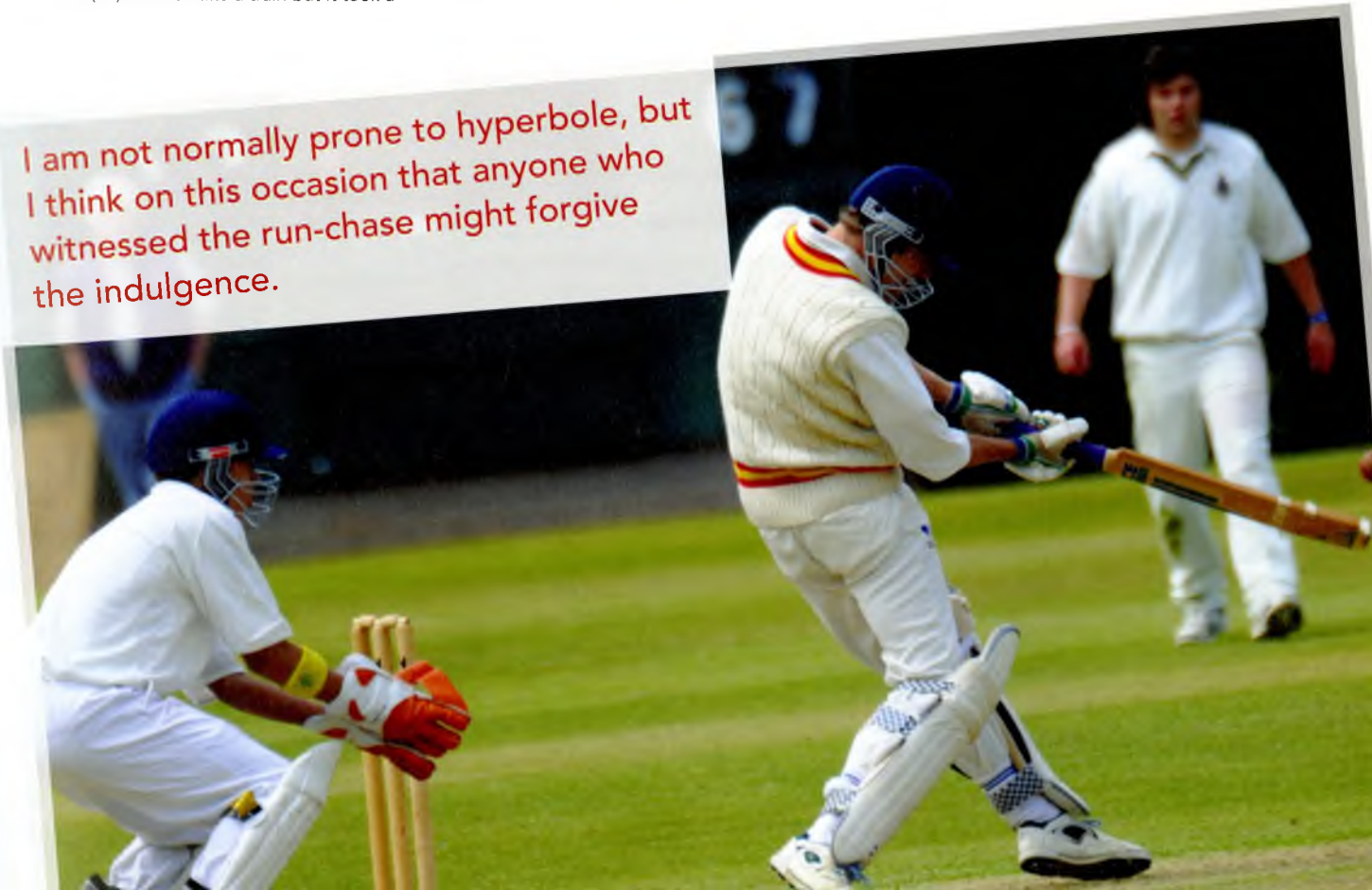
The day after the Merchiston match brought fine conditions and a strong MCC side to challenge a team which was lacking both of its opening batsmen, but which also gave opportunities to new players Paul Wigley and third-former Nick Farrar. We bowled and fielded with spirit against a strong batting line up with Robbie Cachia and Nick Farrar to the fore, restricting them to a competitive 212-5 declared. With Coleman missing due to Scottish commitments, it was Wigley who opened with Andrew Whitelaw against two probationer opening bowlers who were both National League players for their respective clubs. They batted superbly, with Whitelaw in particular looking a class act in

scoring his 75, but a middle order collapse again removed any momentum, so that when the rain came we were hanging on at 160-9 to gain a fortunate draw.

The highlight of this second half of term came with the match away to Glenalmond. The last couple of years had seen either arid draws or rain interruptions so it was nice finally to finish the regular season with a full game. For the first time in ages we dropped our standards in the field enabling Glenalmond to reach a declaration at 200-8. Toby Culham managed to take 4-60 and peg back the scoring rate after lunch, but no other bowler really distinguished himself. But, this was a fair declaration which left us plenty of time to score the runs, the more so as again Coleman, although hampered with a hamstring injury, smashed a very quick 45 to get us on our way. The rest of the innings was dominated by a superb second wicket partnership of 130 from Jamie King (67 not out) and Calum Donald (53). They batted watchfully to start with but then began to take the attack to the Glenalmond bowlers with Donald being particularly severe on loose balls. We sprinted across the line with 8 overs of the last 20 still available, to win by 7 wickets.

The final three matches of the term came in the Festival, this year held at Pocklington School near York. We took down a full strength squad and acquitted ourselves very creditably. On an interesting track on day one, against QUEGS Wakefield, we fielded reasonably to restrict them to 229 all out in their 50 overs, Toby Culham taking an excellent 4-32 and Robbie Cachia again bowling superbly for 2-40. In reply out top order was blown away by a series of shooters and unplayable balls. When the rain arrived we were 41-5 and we certainly got the best result we possibly could on this day. Day two saw the beginning of a mini heat-wave, and we found ourselves stuck into bat on a better track. Coleman (77), hampered by a back injury,

I am not normally prone to hyperbole, but I think on this occasion that anyone who witnessed the run-chase might forgive the indulgence.



batted superbly as wickets fell at the other end, although Andrew Whitelaw (28) did well to hold the late order effort together, as we totalled 198-9 off our 50 overs. We felt the final total was probably 50 runs short of a really competitive total but we then proceeded to bowl and field the best we had all term. All the bowlers put the Pocklington batsmen under pressure as did the tight fielding of our 'ring' fielders. Both Duncan O'Reilly (3-31) and Robbie Cachia (3-26) showed their leadership of the attack with superb spells which set the tone for the rest of the innings. In the end we won by 70 runs in our most impressive performance of the season. This victory made the end of season dinner that evening taste all the better. Day 3 saw a much more muted performance, given the total commitment of the day before in hot conditions, and we allowed Stewarts-Melville to compile a decent total at 220-9. Our only real bowling star here was young Nick Farrar who blew away the top order with 3-26. In reply, our back-to-back fielding efforts finally had an effect on our concentration and we succumbed to 120 all out. The only two batsmen who performed were Toby Culham (35) and Andrew Whitelaw (27).

So, the season ended on somewhat of a low note but the players can be proud of the season as a whole. Interestingly we had one really bad performance in each half of the term, but of concern is the ease with which the middle order could, at times, succumb and put pressure on the bowlers with lower than anticipated totals. However, there was evidence from each of the middle order players that they were capable of batting for long periods with good returns, and the top order looks settled and strong. On the bowling side, newcomers Toby Culham and Nick Farrar more than played their part with strong performances, and the competitive spirits of both Duncan O'Reilly and Robbie Cachia were an example to all in the field. They finished joint top wicket-takers with 18 apiece. All of this side are back for the 2009 season and it is reasonable to think that the successes of this year could be surpassed.

As always I accumulate a number of debts throughout the season. To Sandy Scotland and Tony Mason go thanks for stepping in to umpire a large number of matches. That we managed to play virtually all our matches to a conclusion this season was due to our new covers, and to the re-laid pitches on the Lawn being better able to cope with the, mercifully rare, monsoon rains. Our groundsman, John Newall, and his staff worked hard to produce good batting pitches throughout the season on all our grounds. To them go our continued thanks. Thanks also to Sodexho and Earnside for their stoicism in the face of fluctuating demands. Graeme Robertson took over the burden of administration and organisation, a task I have been trying for twelve years to give up, and the smooth running of the season is in no small way due to his efforts. To Graeme, as well as Robert Proctor and Nick Du Boulay, I also owe a considerable debt for their help with the coaching and their sage advice over selection. I know that the 1st XI players respect and value their contributions to their success.

RHF

1st XI results 2008

Played 13

Won 7

Lost 4

Drawn 2

Strathallan Perth Northern	239-6 dec: F. Coleman 142 n.o.; T. Culham 27; C. McClelland 25 169 all out: J. Dickson 3-20; J. King 3-35; T. Culham 2-24	Won by 70 runs
Strathallan Dollar Academy	123 all out: J. Dickson 23, C. Donald 20, F. Coleman 19 124-6: D. O'Reilly 2-26, J. King 1-29	Lost by 4 wickets
Strathallan The Edinburgh Academy	98-9 (45 overs): 99-0 (30 overs):	Lost by 10 wickets
Loretto Strathallan	168-7 (40 overs): A. Whitelaw 2-17, R. Cachia 2-40 169-2 (25 overs): F. Coleman 93, J. King 57 n.o.	Won by 8 wickets
Fettes College Strathallan	248-6 dec: T. Culham 2-28, D. O'Reilly 2-45 251-5 C. Donald 88, F. Coleman 64, C. McClelland 28	Won by 5 wickets
XI. Club Strathallan	197-8: D. Johnston 120, R. Cachia 3-67, J. King 2-32 199-7: F. Coleman 73, C. McClelland 55 not out	Won by 3 wickets
Strathallians Strathallan	116: E. Anderson 57, D. O'Reilly 4-13, J. Dickson 3-14 117-2: F. Coleman 88 not out, J. King 15	Won by 8 wickets
Merchiston Castle School Strathallan	271-3 (50 overs) R. Cachia 2-35 111: F. Coleman 70 not out, C. McClelland 20	Lost by 160 runs
MCC Strathallan	212-5 dec: R. Cachia 2-43 160-9: A. Whitelaw 75, T. Culham 29	Drawn
Glenalmond College Strathallan	200-8 dec: T. Culham 4-60 203-3: J. King 67 not out, C. Donald 53	Won by 7 wickets
QEGS Wakefield Strathallan	229 (48.2 overs) T. Culham 4-31, R. Cachia 2-40 41-5 (11 overs)	Match drawn - rain
Strathallan Pocklington School	198-9 (50 overs) F. Coleman 77, A. Whitelaw 28 128 (45.5 overs) D. O'Reilly 3-31, R. Cachia 3-26	Won by 70 runs
Stewart's-Melville College Strathallan	220-9 (50 overs) N. Farrar 3-26 120 (39 overs) T. Culham 35, A. Whitelaw 27	Lost by 100 runs

1st XI Batting averages 2008

Initials/surname	Inns	Not Outs	Runs	Highest Score	100s	Average
F. R. J. Coleman	10	3	679	142*	1	97.00
C. D. McClelland	11	2	227	55*	-	25.22
J. D. King	11	2	204	67*	-	22.67
A. A. Whitelaw	11	1	191	75	-	19.10
C. D. R. Donald	13	0	224	88	-	17.23

1st XI Bowling averages 2008

Initials/surname	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
D. J. P. O'Reilly	141.2	29	406	18	4-13	22.55
T. P. D. Culham	91.3	13	367	15	4-32	24.46
J. D. King	87	8	354	14	3-35	25.28
J. D. F. Dickson*	56	5	281	11	3-14	25.54
R. F. Cachia	116.1	15	471	18	3-26	26.16

* captain

Senior Colts Cricket - 2008-11-04

In terms of results and statistics, this was a disappointing season. Only two wins out of nine matches and no batsman averaging as much as 30 does not make for particularly good reading. Nevertheless, real progress was made and the season ended on a high. Hampered by injury the captain, Keith Wigley, had a disappointing season with both bat and ball until his real ability was shown in the final match. Ben Melville showed great resilience throughout and demonstrated the value of occupying the crease. The most consistent performer with both bat and ball was Ruairidh Watson and Jonny Bain left his performance to the very end. Important contributions were also made by Tim Heaney and other players had their moments. What was really pleasing however was that a side that frequently struggled to score over a hundred in total in the early part of the season managed to score 169-3 (Melville 51) whilst losing to an excellent Merchiston side and then pull off a remarkable 8 wicket win against a Glenalmond team (which had thumped us earlier in the season) by scoring 217-2 (Bain 87, Wigley 70*). It may not have been a vintage season but it was a great way to finish.

RJWP



Junior Colts A

So, congratulations to all those that represented the School for the A team, learning and improving their game as the season progressed.

Played: 9 Won: 3 Drawn: 2 Lost: 4

On balance the results for the season do not reflect the true picture. We lost several matches but can only be said to have been out-played on two of these occasions. If the season were to be separated into two halves, the defeats came early on, and the wins came after the mid-term break.

Nick Farrar captained the team, always leading from the front. He amassed 300 runs with the bat at an average of 37, whilst also being the leading joint wicket-taker with 15 wickets at an average just below 9. Fraser Doig, Vice-Captain, proved himself equal to the task of sharing the new ball with his Captain, and picked up 15 wickets also. The rest of the wickets were shared out between the bowlers, with notable performances from Ruairidh Hunter (9), Chris King (7), Charlie Beamish (6), Ben Lewis and Jack Rathborne (both 5).

Nick shouldered much of the batting responsibility scoring two unbeaten half centuries, but was ably supported on occasion by Charlie Beamish, Fraser Doig and Ruairidh Hunter. Credit should be given to Nick since, more often than not, he put his team first and played for them and not himself, overcoming his natural strokeplay to ensure that he anchored the batting and let those around him score runs.

Highlights of the season were wins against Gordonstoun, Glenalmond, and King Edward's School on tour from Stratford-Upon-Avon, never an easy fixture.

So, congratulations to all those that represented the School for the A team, learning and improving their game as the season progressed. For me it has been a very encouraging season with many of the squad showing vast improvements in not only their own game, but also in their contribution to the team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nick on being selected to represent the school at the 1st XI cricket festival at the end of term, and performing so well. Furthermore, my congratulations go to Nick for being both selected for the National U15s and for his contribution to the team's winning the European Championships.

My final thanks as always go to those members of staff that support Junior Colts cricket at Strathallan. Greg Ross and Jeff Goddard have over many years made an invaluable contribution to the development of Strathallan Cricket teams and the players that represent the School. My gratitude goes to you both for your time, effort and enthusiasm.

GSRR



Rugby



Pre-season in August started for me as my first opportunity to work with the players who would make up the squad for the rugby season ahead.

There was great enthusiasm during the sessions, both the players and I trying to impress. Some key players having left, it was crucial that the vacated berths were filled as best we could.

Our first competitive games were at the Madras College Tournament in St Andrews. We took an extended squad giving the opportunity for players to demonstrate they were good enough to secure a place as a regular 1st XV player in the team. There were strong displays against Perth Academy and Kinross High School, but the game against High School of Dundee demonstrated that the opposition were ahead in terms of their preparation and were "match fit" and much sharper to game situations. The loss to them meant we were second in the group and made no further progress to the final stages of the tournament.

Glasgow Academy Strathallan 1st XV

8
19

What a difference a few days can make. The players demonstrated from the start of this game that they did have the desire to perform. Backs and forwards produced some fine simple rugby to show a confident Glasgow side that it was going to be our day, three tries to one also proved we could attack with purpose and defend when under pressure. Fraser Rawlinson led by example and telling runs from the sniping Andy Pyle and the power of Michael Niven brought the curtain down on this first match.

North Berwick Strathallan 1st XV

5
0

The long journey south to North Berwick brought different emotions to the team come the final whistle. A howling gale along with the long sloping pitch should have seen Strathallan totting up a points total to chase. This was not the case and turning round at nil-all after struggling to put any rugby together was always going to be a tall order. The defence was strong throughout the half but it was inevitably a mistake that led to a scrum close to the Strathallan line and the one defensive mistake of the day that allowed the opposition the one try at the end of time to win. The journey home was quiet with lots of time to think about what went wrong. Rugby is kind in a way as it does give you seven days to fix it for the next game.





There was great enthusiasm during the sessions, both the players and I trying to impress. Some key players having left, it was crucial that the vacated berths were filled as best we could.

High School of Dundee 17
Strathallan 1st XV 0

With more games under our belt Strathallan took the field more confident of reversing the result when these two sides last met. A late call-off from the referee required Mr Heaney to officiate this match. It was a strongly-contested game in which the Strathallan players would again take pride in their performance but would rue the simple mistakes which offered chances to a sharp and clinical Dundee side.

Strathallan 1st XV 10
Fettes College 14

In perfect conditions we took the field with a real belief after some very focused training during the week. The players did not let themselves down. Fettes were a very strong side up front with plenty of pace in behind. Strathallan matched them in every department, showing real belief in themselves and their team mates. Messrs Walsh and Cassella, our exchange students, now proved their worth in the side and demonstrated they had now settled in to the team and provided worthy additions to it. It would prove to be a lapse in concentration that allowed the Fettes team to score and rob the players of the victory that they deserved. I remind the players of how proud I was of their efforts on this day.

Glenalmond College 5
Strathallan 1st XV 0

Looking like a re-run of the North Berwick game, nothing could be further from the truth. The Strathallan team out-gunned their local rivals in every department. The amount of possession and field position was enough to win three games of rugby. Held up over the line on no fewer than three occasions, a series of missed attempts at penalty goals, the bounce of the ball leaving players frustrated at what they had to do in order to get some points on the board. No words could describe the players at full time with Glenalmond players coaches and spectators equally bemused at how they won.

Strathallan 1st XV 108
Culloden Academy 0

Straight after the return from half term the Bell Lawrie Cup match against the unknown Culloden Academy. Although the loss of a few senior players due to age would change the look of the team the players who came in played very well. Culloden did not offer a huge amount in terms of challenge but even with a score line that was constantly increasing at no time did they give in. They were a credit to their school and themselves.

Merchiston Castle School 29
Strathallan 1st XV 5

Always one of the toughest fixtures for any rugby-playing school in Scotland, this was to be again a very good performance with a fairly unjust score-line. Strathallan started well and opened the scoring demonstrating we were here to play. Solid efforts up front by Oli Luck in the lineout and Etienne Melville and Fraser Rawlinson in the broken play ensured that the Merchiston team were kept under constant pressure.

This game hung in the balance all the way to the last 10 minutes where a very lucky bounce of the ball wrong-footed the Strathallan defence allowing the opposition backs to break the line and score. Two other scores followed and put the game out of reach. It was a lesson for all that the game requires full concentration for the 70 minutes and that good sides are capable of punishing you when your focus lapses



Strathallan 1st XV High School of Dundee 5 38

Drawing High School of Dundee in the next round of the Bell Lawrie Cup was greeted with a confident air that we now could take them on, get the victory that we had been looking for in our last two meetings against them and make progress in the tournament. This was not to be our day. The desire and accuracy that Strathallan had played with in our recent games sadly deserted the players and the win that the players so badly wanted was not to be. This had been a tough day and the team needed to rally and pick themselves up for the next game.

Strathallan 1st XV Edinburgh Academy 24 48

This was to be a highly entertaining game with lots of tries scored. Edinburgh Academy boasted two of Scotland's brightest players in Alex Blair and Tom Brown. It was the skills of these two that were to be a telling factor in the outcome of the game. Despite their best efforts our opponents found it inordinately hard to replace their injured prop quickly enough for the game's flow to continue uninterrupted but it was hard-fought throughout and some very well worked tries graced the match. The talented backs of the opposition would test the Strathallan defence time and time again. Strathallan's pack were not faring any better in the exchanges apart from the scrums where the opposition were under great strain before a lengthy period of uncontested scrums ensued until a suitable player was restored to the opposition front row.

Howe of Fife Strathallan 1st XV 5 26

This side the previous season had won everything on offer to an U18 team – National 7s, Club and School Cup winners a feat I do not think will ever be matched. The side still retained three National players and six District players. This would be a measure for the Strathallan players on how far they had come this season. In what was some of the best rugby the players produced all year the Howe team could not cope with the pace, accuracy and desire of the Strathallan team. Michael Niven enjoyed a great return to form and ran hard

and fast at the Howe defence breaking it with ease at times due to great angles of run and getting his reward crossing the line twice. David Walsh controlled the game at stand-off with great service from Andy Pyle. Fraser Rawlinson showed great strength in the contact; Oli Luck and Nick Cassella soaring in the lineout to win ball. Over all every player produced a performance that gave Strathallan the result they had deserved in a number of games.

Strathallan 1st XV Loretto 38 19

Strathallan opponents today took the field with some of the most powerful forwards they had encountered all season. This was evident when their big fast tight head prop broke from the 22m line on two occasions with Strathallan attempts to tackle him swatted away, both of these breaks resulting in scores. We would now find out other things about the players during this game. There was no sense of panic at half time but some strong words were used to stimulate the reaction needed to take the field for the second half. Strathallan straight away took control of the game and the fast aggressive rucks became the difference. Strathallan backs were now on the front foot and attacking with pace and movement. Four tries in the second half proved to the team how good they could be when they wanted to be.

Strathallan 1st XV Hutchesons' Grammar 8 5

A big physical pack and some clever backs were to test the Strathallan team all the way to the final whistle. This was a very evenly matched game and could have gone either way. Strathallan pulled on lots of things that had been learned during the rugby term and kept the Glasgow side out for most of the game while they led by the one try. After the opposition scored it seemed to inspire them and a real siege was laid upon the Strathallan defence time after time. Showing great patience and control Strathallan rallied and continued to play rugby which resulted in an infringement within kicking distance taking the score to how it finished. Hutchesons' again made steps to win the game but the Strathallan players were not giving in and hung on for the win.

Strathallan 1st XV Perth RFC U18 29 14

With High School of Dundee on Cup duty a fixture was taken to play Perth Colts. This proved to be extremely enjoyable for both sides as they would not normally have the chance to play in the season. The game was highly entertaining and bruising up front with the big Perth forwards relishing the physical rucks and mauls. It was Strathallan's superiority in the broken play that was to be the telling factor. None more so than the try of the season beginning with a turn-over on the Strathallan 22m line from ruck ball, this was quickly shipped away into the midfield where some great passing found the Strathallan backs round the outside of the Perth defence and Henry Jones racing all the way to the try-line for a fantastic score.

The group of players this year were eager to play well in every game they played. It was a great privilege to work with this squad of players and watch them develop as players and people. Every school side is very special as are each of the games that they play. For them all at some point it will be the last game they ever play together as a side and each game should be played as if this were the case. I hope there will be opportunities at some time in their lives to recall the good times playing for Strathallan 1stXV striving together to find success on the field, as it will be one of the many things that will link this unique group of players. Someone once asked me how I acknowledged a successful playing career. I pondered all the goals I had achieved, the medals and titles, playing for my country, travelling the world playing and coaching. I thought these were the important markers but when I really looked hard for the answer I decided it was the relationships with the people I had met along the way that meant most to me and stand above all as the greatest reward for being involved in such a great sport. I am sure this year's squad will remain friends forever no matter where they end up.

As for next year I look forward to the next group of players who will take on the responsibility of the 1st XV jersey and hope they will be as determined as this one.

ADH

Football



As a season draws to an end it is always sad to say goodbye to the senior members of the squad. Thank you to the Captain of Football, Andrew Pyle, and the Vice-Captain, Euan Connell.

After a semi-final appearance in last year's cup competition the pressure to perform well was felt by all the members of the football squad. The nucleus of the team had left as the Upper Sixth moved on to pastures new (surely parks. Ed). As is fast becoming traditional, the first weeks of the season were lost to the weather. The small gymnasium is certainly not conducive to the principles of finding space and running off the ball. It was looking more likely that the trusted "route one" was going to be employed.

The first match was upon us and a very inexperienced team was picked. Many players were playing in a new position for the first time. The fact that the match was a local derby versus Glenalmond did nothing to dispel the nerves. After a slow start the team ended up on the right side of a 5-0 score line. A disappointing 1-3 home defeat to Robert Gordon's followed but we were soon back to winning ways defeating St Leonard's 4-2. A long away day to Gordonstoun was rewarded with arguably our best performance of the year, a 4-1 win.

This placed Strathallan in a very strong position to qualify for the quarter-final stage of the Scottish Independent Schools Cup but the temperamental Scottish weather began to play a part. Despite the sterling work of Mr John Newall and his ground staff we were unable to finish our league quota

before the 1st of March deadline. After a great deal of negotiation the weather-affected matches were all awarded the score line of nil-nil. This was enough and Strathallan had qualified for the knock-out stages. However, again the weather prevailed and an away trip to George Watson's College was postponed until after the Easter holidays.

It was late April before a well-rested Strathallan team travelled to Edinburgh to play the quarter-final. The small pitch did not suit our expansive game, the one we had practised in the small gymnasium earlier in the season, and very physical Watsons approach never let us play the "total football" we preferred. A disappointing 1-0 loss had us reflecting that maybe, as a squad, we had spent too much time on examination preparation and too little on keeping our football skills sharp.

As a season draws to an end it is always sad to say goodbye to the senior members of the squad. Thank you to the Captain of Football, Andrew Pyle, and the Vice-Captain, Euan Connell. Other leavers were Michael Niven, Ryan Martin, Rory Menzies, Robert Leverkus, Justin Rizza, and "Super-Sub" Niklas Giesse. I must mention Mr Weir, his shrewd tactical switches will of course be missed, also Mr Smith and Mr Goddard for passing on their expertise to the Second XI (Expertise? Have you seen who these gentlemen support? Newcastle and Wales?). Good luck to Toby Culham and the rest of the team in 2009.

GJB



Swimming



We achieved outstanding results winning 33 medals in total with Strathallan fielding 4 out of the 6 finalists in one race.

Strathallan Swim Team had another excellent year in terms of development and performance. Squad numbers increased again with the addition of further swimming scholars which in turn raised the performance levels in training throughout the year.

The team continued with their regular inter-school fixtures against Fettes, Glenalmond, Merchiston, Robert Gordon's and Mary Erskine and won against Fettes, Glenalmond and Merchiston whilst narrowly losing to Mary Erskine and Robert Gordon's. Much improved results compared to those of previous years.

Tayside Schools Swimming Championships

Strathallan had a team of 28 swimmers taking part in the Tayside Schools Event this year, ranging from swimmers in Riley through to Upper VI Form. We achieved outstanding results winning 33 medals in total with Strathallan fielding 4 out of the 6 finalists in one race.

Gold Medals

Girls' 13/14 200 IM & 100 fly
Maggie Luck

Boys' 15/16 100 b/c
Joe Lipworth

Boys' 15/16 Freestyle Relay
Joe Lipworth, Ruairidh Watson, Mike Wells, Nick Walker.

Girls' 17/19 Freestyle Relay
Stef Feld, Carla Crossan, Lizz Vine, Isobel Hale.

Girls' 17/19 200 IM
Stef Feld

Boys' Open 400 f/c
Roy Cameron





Silver Medals

Girls' 13/14 Freestyle Relay

Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck, Emily MacLachlan, Eilidh Gibson.

Girls' 13/14 100 b/c & 200 b/c

Eilidh Gibson

Girls' 13/14 200 br

Azlyn Edens

Boys' 15/16 200 IM

Joe Lipworth

Boys' 15/16 100 b/c

Nick Walker

Girls' 17/19 200 b/c

Stef Feld

Girls' 17/19 100 f/c

Rachel McLean

Boys' 17/19 100 f/c

Roy Cameron

Boys' 17/19 freestyle Relay

Oli Luck, Roy Cameron, Fraser Rawlinson, Radek Oborny

Bronze Medals

Boys' 15/16 100 b/c

Mike Wells

Girls' 17/19 200 f/c

Isobel Hale

Boys' 17/19 100 br & 100 f/c

Oli Luck

Scottish Schools Swimming Championships, January 2008

Following all the regional Schools events the fastest twenty swimmers from all the regions were selected to compete at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships in January 2008 at Tollcross in Glasgow. Strathallan had its highest number of representatives qualifying for this event with seven swimmers achieving selection.

Roy Cameron –	400 f/c & 100 f/c
Joe Lipworth –	200 b/c & 200 IM
Maggie Luck –	200 IM & 100 fly
Stef Feld –	200 IM & 200 b/c
Oli Luck –	100 br
Azlyn Edens –	200 br
Rachel McLean –	100 f/c

All swimmers produced personal best times in their events.

Scottish Schools Relay Finals – June 2008

Strathallan sent three teams through to Glasgow to compete in the National Relay Championships and for the first time the swimmers came back with medals. The events were all very closely fought and swimmers did exceptionally well to perform the way they did.

Silver Girls' Freestyle

Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck, Emily MacLachlan and Yasmine Forbes

Silver Intermediate Boys' Freestyle

Chris MacClelland, Joe Lipworth, Mike Wells, Nick Walker

Silver Open Boys' Freestyle

Chris MacClelland, Joe Lipworth, Andrew Whitelaw, Roy Cameron

4th Girls' Medley

Tasha Jaworski, Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck and Emily MacLachlan

4th Open Boys' Medley

Chris MacClelland, Joe Lipworth, Roy Cameron, Andrew Whitelaw

5th Intermediate Boys' Medley

Chris MacClelland, Joe Lipworth, Mike Wells, Nick Walker

Inter – House Competitions

Swimming Standards 2007 -08

1st	Thornbank	374
2nd	Ruthven	331
3rd	Woodlands	330
4th	Nicol	321
5th	Freeland	310
6th	Simpson	222

Inter – House Swimming Gala, March 2008

Both the Girls' and Boys' competitions were extremely exciting again this year with many very fast races. There were 15 school records broken over the event which was tremendous and again emphasises the development of swimming over the past 12 months at Strathallan.

GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st	Thornbank	127
2nd	Woodlands	115

BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIP:

1st	Nicol	75
2nd	Freeland	72
3rd	Simpson	55
4th	Ruthven	53

The Riley Girls' Sprint event was won this year by Eilidh Gibson in a new record time and the Boys' event was won by Charlie Mearns.

Strathallan continued its relationship with Dundee Swimming Club DCA and have a number of swimmers that compete locally and nationally for them. The swimmers have over the past twelve months won many medals at regional and national level. Joe Lipworth was one of only a few Scottish swimmers to qualify for the British Age-Group Championships in Sheffield in July 2007 and finished a creditable 6th in 200 b/c in a new personal best time. Maggie Luck, Azlyn Edens, Joe Lipworth, Eilidh Gibson and Roy Cameron all competed in the District Championships winning medals and achieving numerous personal best times.

Thanks must go to Isobel Hale, Swim Captain and Annabelle Gow, Vice Captain for their help over the past 12 months.

Elaine Johnston Strathallan Swim Team Coach



Boys' Hockey

With many of last year's 1st XI returning to the side and an exciting injection of talent from overseas, it looked to be a very promising season and one which I was very much looking forward to captaining. Unfortunately, it must be said that we did not meet the high expectations we set ourselves nor play to our full potential week in week out and only managed to show what we could really do in glimpses. It was quite evident that frustration crept into our match play all too often, and if a few decisions had gone our way instead of going to our opponents the season may have had a completely different outlook. However, that's hockey, and I would like to make it clear that the team's commitment was exemplary throughout, despite these "what if" moments. They continued to give their all and I am extremely grateful for this.

1st XI

I would like to start the report proper at the end of our season with what are, in my opinion, its two major highlights; First of all Fettes, normally one of the strongest teams on the circuit. After putting them out in the cup in dramatic fashion via penalty flicks we knew it was going to be a daunting task to repeat the feat. Having started the game disappointingly we quickly found ourselves two goals down at half time but knew it wasn't above us to try and scrape a result. We came out in the second half all guns blazing, moving forward with some intricate passing and breathtaking movement. We scored two goals in quick succession, both from penalty corners, thereby pulling the game level. We managed to hang on, absorbing wave after wave of attack from our opposition. For me, this was quite an achievement as we were the first Strathallan team for some time to remain undefeated by Fettes in an entire season.

Our final game of the season came in the cup against Balerno. We picked up right where we left off against Fettes. Our passing was crisp, we never gave away possession of the ball cheaply and work ethic was immense putting a stop to every attack which we encountered, tirelessly working to try and get the victory we so dearly deserved and after Robbie

Cachia saved a penalty flick in normal time it seemed luck was on our side. Unfortunately, we went out in the most brutal fashion in an extremely tense shootout.

But why am I starting with the end of the season? For me the answer is simple. These two games epitomised all that we had worked for in training. Yes, we did not win, but everything came together and it was evident that we had made progress and that individuals had learned from their mistakes and worked hard to eliminate them from their game. As captain of the team I derive great personal satisfaction from seeing my players develop, since improvement and development are the most important factors of anyone's game. Also, however, we had adopted the "never say die" attitude, an essential attribute for success and I commend the team on this. Unfortunately, these two games came at the end of our season giving us no time to build upon our success.

And now I return to the start of the season, our first opponents being Glenalmond; perhaps not the ideal opponent so early on in the season. Nonetheless, we felt prepared and had the home advantage, so we were eager to get revenge after they had knocked us out of the cup competition at the end of the previous term. Unfortunately, the result was not the outcome we wanted. We were eventual losers, 3-1 despite playing the majority of the hockey in the second half and being subject to two disallowed goals. It also must be said that the Glenalmond keeper was flawless in all that he did.

It was not long after this bitter defeat that we welcomed Loretto, eager to make amends for our frustrating loss. Once again we played the better hockey throughout, creating a handful of fantastic chances which would have secured the win. We went ahead through a well-worked move which saw Tim Dickson adding the final touch, sweeping the ball into the back of the net. However, our naivety in front of goal was notable and our inability to finish our opponents off came back to haunt us as we conceded in the second half. The game ended as a disappointing draw, a match we certainly should have won was squandered, leaving us without a victory to our name after two attempts.



Once again we played the better hockey throughout, creating a handful of fantastic chances which would have secured the win.

Next was the high-quality outfit of Robert Gordon's. The long trip up to Aberdeen was certainly apparent in our performance. We did take the lead into half time with two strikes from Johannes Geng and Andrew Marshall. However, in the second half we appeared all too sluggish, giving possession of the ball away far too easily and as a result went down 4-2 by the final whistle. For me, this was our most disappointing performance of the season. We did not see any of the attacking creativity nor the defence solidarity we had shown in shades in the previous 2 games but fortunately this was the only performance of this sort for the rest of the season.

We then played Gordonstoun either side of half term looking to get our season back on track. We did this in tremendous fashion. In the home encounter, we blew away our opponents smashing in seven goals (Julian Essen 2, Ian McKenzie 2, Johannes Geng 1 and Freddie Coleman 2) and probably should have notched up several more. It was unfortunate that we conceded two goals but it was a win and one we were in desperate need of. In the return leg at Gordonstoun we disposed of our opposition with ease, bettering our home fixture by scoring nine goals and only conceding one. Shrewd movement, defence-splitting passes and masterful aerials were a commonplace during the full 70 minutes.

Our final game before Fettes and Balerno was Loretto away and again we were subject to a good deal of frustration. After another disallowed goal tempers flared our hockey seemed to disintegrate and we were unable to break down a relatively average team. The majority of our players did not seem to perform to their highest ability and we suffered from this losing the encounter 2-1.

Despite all the disappointments over the course of the season it was still an immense honour and pleasure to captain the 1st XI and I very much look forward to returning to the post

next year in the hope of improving further. With the majority of the team returning next year, the foundations are set and I am excited at the prospect of what we can achieve. Most importantly, I would like to thank Mr Giles who has put in a huge amount of effort over the year. His attitude to the game is exemplary and his knowledge second-to-none and it is because of these attributes that the team was able to develop and progress throughout the season. I would also like to thank Fitz. He has given up a large proportion of his time to umpire our games and although we may not have agreed with every decision, he did an impeccable job and his efforts are hugely appreciated. And finally to Miss Sime who was always there to offer her words of wisdom and immense knowledge of the game. Thank you.

Jamie King – 1st XI Cpt LVI Freeland

IV Form

With a good record carried forward from the previous year, the IV form approached the season with a great deal of optimism. The squad was strengthened by the addition of Jamie Arnot, Lucas De Gispert and Patrick Morris-Eyton, all of whom brought different attributes to the team; Lucas his silky skills and ability to inspire the team when morale was low, Jamie his competitiveness, and Patrick his calm and composure in defence.

In total we played nine fixtures winning all of them whilst scoring forty-four goals and conceding only eight. Marcus Adams was top goal scorer with thirteen, Jonny Bain eleven, and Lucas De Gispert six. The team played very well together gelling from the very first training session and throughout the season, the highlight being an 8 - 1 win against Glenalmond.

On paper this year's team has been one of the most successful in recent years completing an unbeaten season as well as a number of the squad representing the School to victory in the Chameleons' Under-16 Tournament, winning all four of their matches. Keith Wigley (Vice-Captain) and Michael McKenzie (Captain) also played for the Strathallan under-18 Cup squad in the Scottish School's Cup on a number of occasions.

Overall it was a fantastic season for the IV form A's, boding well for the future of Boys' Hockey at Strathallan. Our thanks go to Mr Robertson for all his time and commitment over the season.

Michael McKenzie – Cpt IV Form Nicol

III Form

We have played nine matches this season winning seven, losing one and drawing one. It has been a very successful season with forty-nine goals for and only six against, a great achievement. We had three players scoring over ten goals: James Gray (16), Jack Rathbone (14) and Nick Farrar (13).

We also had the U14 Chameleons' Tournament at Glenalmond in which we were runners up. We beat Glenalmond and Fettes but lost narrowly (1 - 0) to Loretto.

One of the highlights for me was our draw with Loretto later in the season; we played well as a team and created quite a few chances. We also had a few high scoring games and certainly improved as the term went on. Thank you to Mr Watt, our coach; we would certainly not have been able to do as well without him.

Nick Farrar – Cpt III Form Ruthven



Girls' Hockey

1st XI

As in all sports there are always highs and lows to go through. This year for the first XI, has been no exception...

The amazing summer spent in Australia, on tour, showed huge potential for our developing first team. We arrived back for pre-season, with great excitement and expectation for the season ahead and what better way to start it off than with the one and only bleep test.

Our season officially kicked off with an away match to St. Columbus. Although we lost 2-1 in a close game, we remained confident about the matches that lay ahead.

We had the annual tournament at Madras where we did well, not losing any of our section games. However, it was apparent that the slower grass pitches made it difficult and we were unable to make the semi-finals.

Our next tournament and a massive highlight for the year was the Midlands 1st XI tournament. In our section games we defeated both St. Leonard's and Bell Baxter 4-0 but lost to Dollar 0-1. This took us through to the semi-finals as runners-up against Glenalmond. We went on to win on penalty flicks after a nil-all draw at full time. The final was played against High School of Dundee who had put out Dollar and after a gritty performance we were presented with the trophy after a 1-0 win. This was a great, early achievement which definitely helped the entire squad's confidence and showed that we were all able to work well together as a team.

Our next match after the Midlands tournament was a tough one against Mary Erskine and we hit our first 'low' of the season. However, at our next encounter, we turned this around by putting seven past Gordounstoun and conceding none up in Elgin the following week.

The Independent Schools' tournament (which we had won the previous year) was a great experience in which some outstanding hockey was played. We didn't lose any of our matches in the whole tournament and had some good results against Glenalmond and Gordonstoun. However, we didn't manage to acquire the necessary points against Fettes and Loretto, as we drew both games. This meant that our final game against our old rivals Dollar, was all-decisive. It was an exciting match which ended in a nil-all draw that put us into 3rd place overall on goal difference- a chance missed.

In the U-18 Scottish Hockey Union (SHU) cup, we played against Dollar and went on to achieve a 3-2 victory. Meanwhile, in the Midlands knock-out cup match against Madras we played well in a convincing 7-1 victory.

At this stage in the season we were doing well, training hard and we were gelling well as a team. Another fixture a couple weeks on against Loretto proved this point as another good performance resulted in a 6-1 win. This was achieved despite both Jayne Carmichael & I being away at U-18 Scotland training.

The indoor season began in the second term and concentration and focus is required to combine both indoor and outdoor hockey. We won all our matches convincingly at the Midlands Indoor tournament, conceding no goals during the entire day. This put us through

for the second year in a row to the National Indoor Finals at the Bell sports centre in Perth. We had two good wins against Kelburne and Hawick but ended up 3rd in our section, therefore not making it to the semi finals. However, at this stage in the season Strathallan were both the indoor and outdoor Midlands 07/08 champions.

Our run in the SHU outdoor cup continued with the game against Robert Gordon's. We played some good hockey and managed to score a couple goals from our new short corner tactics but this was not enough to over power a strong RGC side as we went down 5-2 and out of the cup.

Our final match of the season was played against a touring side from Hertfordshire and Essex where a good performance was rewarded by a resounding 6-1 win; it was nice to end on a high!

It has been a good year for the girls' team; we worked hard and well together, showing good spirit through a season of both highs and lows. From my own part, I can only say that I have thoroughly enjoyed leading a group who have had great fun and tried hard all through the season. A thank you goes to all the ground staff for all their hard work, all the coaches and umpires (especially Fitz). To our own coaches; Miss Sime and Mr Giles there is huge appreciation from all of us for all their support and the relentless effort that they put our way and this is reflected in the fact that teams from Strathallan consistently challenge for the top placing. Good luck for next year- the new pitch and the new team.

Rachel McLean 1st XI Cpt UVI Thornbank



The amazing summer spent in Australia, on tour, showed huge potential for our developing first team. We arrived back for pre-season, with great excitement and expectation...

Senior Hockey

Girls' Hockey is a popular choice for games with the senior girls and, as a result we were able to field four senior teams. The 2nd XI had a fantastic season, recording eight wins, three draws and four losses. Highlights were the 9 – 1 win over Loretto and 6 – 1 against Morrison's. Team work and team morale were key to the victories and it was good to see so many players developing throughout the season. Katy Stephenson had an outstanding season as centre striker and finished the season as the 2nd XI top goal scorer. The 3rd and 4th XIs were hard-working and committed in their training and again it was good to see so many players improving as the season progressed.

Junior Hockey

3rd Form

The hockey season this year went well – the defence did a great job and without them, there was no way that we would have done so well. The midfield worked hard and the strikers made great progress. We had 3 wins throughout the season and many of the matches were extremely close and competitive. The first game of the season was against Kilgraston, winning 2 – 1. We played a touring team from Moreton Hall and although we played well we went down 0 – 2. In November we had two great wins, against St Leonards (2 – 0) and Morrisons (4 – 0). We had a great team spirit and all improved on all skills and fitness.

Mhairi Bannerman – Cpt III Form Thornbank

4th Form

The 4th form had a mixed season and some would say that the 'A' got off to a slow start and then finished the season in top form by winning the Junior indoor tournament. There were good results against High School of Dundee, Gordonstoun, Kilgraston and Loretto and it was good to see so many of the players improving as the season progressed. Thanks so all our coaches who worked hard to help us and congratulations to Hannah Cox, Phillipa Orr and Ciara Elwis who were all selected for the Midland U15 team in May 2008.

Midlands Junior Indoor Tournament

At the Midland Indoor tournament we beat both Bell Baxter and Dollar 2 – 0 to qualify for the semi finals. We played High School of Dundee and were triumphant 1 – 0 which meant we were up against Dollar in the final. It was a tense competitive match that ended in 0 – 0 and so it went to penalty strokes. Lynne Howie and Sophie Howell and GK Sally Lungmuss made 4 excellent saves to ensure that Strathallan were the junior indoor champions for 2008.

Heather Larson – Cpt IV Form Thornbank

District Hockey

Strathallan have always been strong in Midland District and it was great to see so many of the players selected to represent the district.

U18	U16	U15	U18ndoor
Jayne Carmichael	Alice Farrar	Hannah Cox	Rachel McLean
Rachel McLean	Lynsey Knowles	Ciara Elwis	Jayne Carmichael
Robynne Smith	Elizabeth Cachia	Phillipa Orr	Robynne Smith
Claire Price	Sally Lungmuss		Kirstin Lamotte
Emma Howell	Jenny Wood		Finola Lundgren
	Kirstin Lamotte		Elizabeth Cachia
	Ciara Elwis		Emma Howell
			Ailsa Turnbull

Rachel McLean was selected to Captain the district U18 squad and Alice Farrar had the honour for the U16s. After the inter districts Rachel, Jayne, Alice and Elizabeth were all invited along to Scotland training. Well done to all the girls.



Boys' Tennis

The Boys' 1st team lost only to Merchiston during the term, recording some very impressive wins. The 9-nil scores on five occasions are testament to this.

Boys' Tennis continues to thrive at Strathallan with an ever-increasing number of boys opting to play in the Summer term. This year was again a very successful one for the team as witnessed by the results.

The Tennis Academy Programme, which started this year, can claim much of the credit, but some goes down to hard work and training on the part of the players as well.

We entered a number of different competitions with noticeable success at the National Mixed Doubles Competition. Here we made it into the trials which were held at the Bolton Arena in March 2008. Mark Oldenburg and Alasdair Cameron (Capt) made up the boys in the team, Claire Price and Ailie MacGeoch represented the girls. The team gained much experience from the weekend and look forward to the coming year.

At the Glenalmond Mixed Doubles Tournament in May, Mark, Alasdair and James made up the boys in the Pairings. Again the team were successful with Mark and Ailie winning Section A, Alasdair and Claire winning Section B and James and Sophie (Beamish) being placed in Section C. This meant that Strathallan won the overall Team Competition, defeating High School of Dundee, George Watson's, Glenalmond, Loretto and St Leonard's.

The Boys' 1st team lost only to Merchiston during the term, recording some very impressive wins. The 9-nil scores on five occasions are testament to this.

Once again the House Competition was a closely-contested affair with Simpson and Ruthven qualifying for the Finals. Since Simpson House provided most of the 1st team it was an inevitable win for them, making it two years in a row. The School Singles Championship is proving to be an ever popular event with more than thirty boys entering again this year. The seedings worked well and it was eventually down to Mark Oldenburg and William Lyburn to contest the final. Mark played an impressive game and eventually won 6-2, 6-0, William being runner up for the second consecutive year. Well done to all who played.

Regular 1st team players were Alasdair Cameron (Capt), Mark Oldenburg, William Lyburn, Michael Wells, Ruairidh Watson, Alastair Hunt and James Balfour. We managed to field a 2nd team on a few occasions but we still struggle to find them regular fixtures.

Finally the Annual Staff-versus-Pupils match proved again to be a very popular and interesting afternoon. In a close-fought tussle between youth on the one hand and age and experience on the other it was the latter that succeeded. The staff team eventually won 5-4 much to the dismay of the pupils. Alasdair Cameron was awarded Full Colours for his contribution to Tennis at Strathallan over the past 5 years.

AW

Results 2008

Dollar Academy	Glanvill Cup	Won 4-2
Gordonstoun	1st	Won 7-1
	2nd	Drew 2-2
Morrison's Academy	1st	Won 9-0
Fettes	1st	Won 9-0
	2nd	Lost 1-8
Glenalmond	1st	Won 7-2
	2nd	Lost 2-7
Dollar Academy	(H)	Won 8-0
Loretto School		Won 9-0
Merchiston	Tennis Academy	Lost 3-6
St Leonard's		Won 9-0
Stewart's Melville		Won 9-0
Dollar Academy	(A)	Won 8-1
Boys' InterHouse Champions		Simpson
Singles	Champion	Mark Oldenburg
Runner-Up		William Lyburn

...both the 1st and 2nd teams played with Scottish spirit and gave it their all....



Barbados Tour

Well what can I say about our Barbados tour? I think all of the girls would agree with me in saying that it was one of their best experiences at Strath.

After a somewhat interesting flight we were relieved to touch down on Barbados soil. Arriving at our apartments we noticed that the talent within our neighbouring cricket tour was disappointingly lacking. The following morning was our first experience of many early rises to come. After a supposed "5 minute walk" we arrived 30 minutes later at rather basic courts, which we would spend all of our challenging training sessions at.

Although we were not very successful in all our matches, both the 1st and 2nd teams played with Scottish spirit and gave it their all. From these matches we learnt determination, will-power and the capacity to work better together as a team. The location of our matches ranged from the national stadium to the back streets of Bridgetown, each one as enjoyable as the next.

Although training beforehand in Strathallan sports hall with the heater on, we were still not fully acclimatized to the blazing sun of Barbados. However, with the handy help of factor 50 and Mrs I-F's Aloe Vera, we all managed to survive the lobster stage (Steph & Kirsty). Although we went to Barbados with as our main objective playing netball, the teams quite easily got into the Barbados lifestyle.

Cruising around the island in a catamaran, swimming with turtles and music blaring was the majority of the girls favourite day. The other main highlight would have to be training with one of the very best coaches in Barbados, although she is nothing compared to you Mrs I-F.

Many thanks have to be made for all our memories. Thanks Mrs I-F for arranging the whole tour, without you it wouldn't have been possible. Thanks Miss Laurie for all of the laughs and keeping the boys away from us. Thanks Miss Wilkinson for letting us use your many Lilos and helping us cross the road.

There is always one saying which we will always remember, "Bless you baby girls!!!"

Heather Mitchell LVI Woodlands

After five years of netball at Strathallan I have many very fond memories; and overall, my last netball season, when I captained the first VII, was successful and eventful. The friendships that we developed within the team helped team spirit, even when the games or training were really tough.

After conquering nearly the whole of Scotland's senior school netball teams entered for the Scottish Schools Cup, we were astonished to find that we were drawn against a school based in the Shetlands for the semi-finals, for the second year running!

This time, however, we travelled in style – well, a tiny aircraft with propellers. The journey took only a few hours, rather than the 15-hour ferry crossing we experienced last year. When we took off the only things you could hear were the sounds of the rattling engine and our coach, Mrs I-F, screaming with fear as if she was on a roller-coaster. The game was a lot tougher than we anticipated and victory eluded us by only 5 goals. The Shetland team went on to win the Cup in the finals.

For most of the year, girls had been busy making cakes, biscuits and doing errands to boost the funds for the netball tour to Barbados.

Netball

We had an early morning start to Manchester airport, and nearly left Miss Laurie behind. The tour was great fun and apart from playing against some formidable opposition, we were also able to tour the island on a catamaran, enjoy eating out in the warm Caribbean evenings and play "scabby queen" to death with Miss Wilkinson in between games. We played 10 games (of netball, I presume. Ed) overall, winning a couple, drawing a couple but losing most. It was fantastic experience though and will prepare the team for next year's games.

I wish all the best to next year's team – I know that you will continue the tradition of being a successful team as well as enjoying the games.

Sophie Workman UVI Woodlands

Girls' Tennis



This year the standard of the senior girls' tennis rose to higher levels with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd teams competing in regular fixtures.

1st VI - Unbeaten season Need I say more?

Many members of the tennis team returned early to start training at pre-season with our coaches Tommy Oglivie and Jane Morrison. There is always the small competition between the Captain of girls and the Captain of boys to kick-start the season. My team managed to defeat Alasdair Cameron 5-4 in a closely-contested competition.

This year the standard of the senior girls' tennis rose to higher levels with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd teams competing in regular fixtures. There were a lot of V Formers who had improved greatly when moving up the years, players such as Hannah Mather, Lynsey Knowles, Sara Chalmers and Sophie Beamish. As I have already pointed out the 1st VI had an unbeaten and very successful season, with Ailie Macgeoch and I as first couple, Rachel Mclean and Sophie Lyburn as second couple and Hannah Mather and Lindsey Crowe or Emma McNeil as third. Some of the highlights for the senior girls' teams throughout the season were the 7 – 2 victory against Kilgraston and 9 – 0 against Morrisons for the 1st team. The 2nd team's highlight would have to be the 8 – 1 victory against Loretto.

The junior teams have had a mixed season with a good result against Glenalmond, a 7 – 2 victory for the IV Form A team. This year we once again managed to get 3 teams to play for the majority of each school fixture and it was good to see so many of the younger girls playing so well and competing. The Riley girls had many fixtures against other Schools and it was good to see the improvements they made from start of season to the end.

This year we ran a Riley mixed doubles tournament and Mrs Dorward donated a trophy for this to be competed annually. In the final Robyn Somerville and Daniel Adams beat Jenny Summersgill and Murdo Elwis. It was great to have so many entries for this and we are really grateful to Mrs Dorward for donating the trophy and, of course, for all she has done for tennis at Strathallan. We wish her well in her retirement.

It was great to see so many entries for the Strathallan singles championships this year. In the senior event the final was contested by Tennis Academy players Ailie MacGeoch and Sophie Lyburn after they defeated Sophie Beamish and Sara Chalmers in the semi finals. Ailie went on to win the Cup. In the junior event the semi finals were between Sophie Howell & Ciara Elwis followed by Eleanor Kemp & Mhairi Bannerman. It was Ciara v Mhairi in the final with Ciara winning a closely-contested match. Well done to both Ailie and Ciara.

This year we entered two cup competitions, the Aberdare Cup and the Scottish Schools Cup. In both cups only four girls were to play so Ailie, Sophie and Rachel and I made up the team. In the Aberdare cup we managed to reach the quarter-finals defeating Glenalmond in the first round by a deciding doubles match that included a tie-break played by Ailie and me which we won 10 – 6. In the quarter-finals, as the only Scottish School left in the draw, we unfortunately went down 0 – 4 in the singles.



In the Scottish Schools' Cup our first round opponents were Robert Gordon's College. In the singles Rachel, Sophie and I all won our matches, meaning that only one doubles match needed to be won. In the event, both Ailie & I and Rachel & Sophie won our doubles giving us a comfortable overall victory. This meant we would play Dunblane in the next round. We eventually lost to a team who were undoubtedly stronger and who went on to win the whole competition.

The Glenalmond Mixed Doubles Tournament took place at the beginning of May and three couples were entered. Strathallan competed against five other Independent Schools in this annual competition. Ailie MacGeoch and Mark Oldenburg were unbeaten in Section A of the tournament, defeating Glenalmond, High School of Dundee, St Leonard's, Loretto and George Watson's.

In Section B playing the same schools Alasdair Cameron and I won all but one of our matches, recording three wins of 7 – 0 against High School of Dundee, Loretto and St Leonard's. In Section C James Balfour and Sophie Lyburn won three of their five matches against High School of Dundee, Glenalmond and St Leonard's. In the team competition all the matches were added together and we emerged victorious in both the A and B competitions and were comfortable winners overall. Congratulations to everyone.

The highlight of the tennis season for both juniors and seniors was the Kilgraston Tournament. A total of eleven couples took part over the course of the two days. In the U-12 group Emily Barnes and Robyn Somerville played extremely well, especially against Kilgraston B defeating them 4 – 2 and qualifying for the knock-out stages, where they were beaten by Kilgraston A. Nina Mearns and Francis Myatt gained valuable experience and continued to improve.

In the U-14 section Eugenia Ramos & Clare Sterritt, Eleanor Kemp & Flora Hay all finished 3rd in their section. The U-16 section saw Hannah Mather & Sara Chalmers qualify for the quarter-finals after finishing 2nd in their section. They lost to Dollar who went on to win the overall group. Sophie Beamish and Lynsey Knowles were the other couple who managed to win their section convincingly, with 19 games, and progress to the quarter-finals where they met and defeated Glenalmond 6 – 1. Unfortunately, in the semi finals Dollar were victorious beating them 3 – 6.

The senior group Emma McNeill & Lindsay Crowe got twelve points but did not qualify for the knock-out stages. They had a good win against Dollar (5 – 1) and a draw against Glenalmond (3 – 3). Sophie Lyburn and Rachel Mclean played extremely well and came top of

their group, thus progressing to the quarter-finals to play Fettes where they won 6 – 3. Beating Glenalmond 7 – 5 in the semi final meant they were through to the final. Meanwhile Ailie and I were also first in our group and played Glenalmond in the quarter-finals beating them 6 – 2. It was a very tough match against our next opponents from St Leonard's in the semi-final but we managed to defeat them 7 – 5 to progress to the final where we met Sophie and Rachel. This was an amazing achievement and having both couples in the final is a first for Strathallan.

It is evident from all of this information that it has been a very successful tennis year and I would just like to say a big thank you to Tommy Oglivie for coaching us throughout the season and a huge thank you to all the staff for coaching and organising matches. I hope that this success continues in years to come. Good Luck!

Claire Price UVI Thornbank



Equestrianism

Strathallan riders have completed an exceptional year with some fantastic results to report on. The school teams came away with an armful of rosettes, sashes and a trophy at the Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships. Several pupils have been selected for Scottish Dressage teams and others have achieved National success in the sport of Eventing. Four out of the eight Scottish Dressage Team members were pupils from Strathallan; quite an achievement.

Dressage, National team members

Alice Page

After several years of being in Scottish Dressage teams, Alice gained selection for the British training squad. She has won several major competitions throughout the year and she came 2nd in the British U25 Championships.

Andrew Glover

Andrew has risen through the ranks of the Scottish Dressage Teams and has recently been selected to ride for the U25 British A squad. He was 2nd in the U21 International in Ireland and 3rd in the British U25 Championships.

Morven Miller

Morven represented Scotland at several events this year, achieving an individual 3rd place at the International in Ireland.

Rosie Williams

At the very early age of 11, Rosie represented Scotland in the U21 International in Ireland in which she was placed 3rd. She was also 2nd in the Pony Club National Novice Dressage Championships.

Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships 2008

The Junior team started off the day brilliantly with a fantastic round of showjumping which gave them an exciting win. The Riley team was one of the first to go, so we had an agonising wait while the other 10 teams competed. It soon turned out to be a close competition with two other schools putting up a good challenge. It was a delight to see Mr Barnes getting so involved, (and working out how close it all was!). Needless to say a big cheer came from the Strathallan supporters when the result was announced. The team should also be congratulated on achieving a 4th place overall (Dressage/Showjumping). Well done to Jenny Summersgill, Emma Cheape, Rosie Williams and Robyn Somerville.

The Intermediate team had a good day. It was the biggest class with seventeen other schools, and a real pleasure to see the girls taking a 5th place for their overall Dressage/Showjumping scores. The team members were Corrie Stewart, Emily MacLachlan, Jemma Battison and Flora Hay. Congratulations go to Flora for getting the best overall score in her first year on the team.

The Seniors came next and I knew we had a strong team but the eventual results were just amazing. Fergus Baird and Andrew Glover gave excellent performances in the Dressage and Showjumping, so they came away with two sashes each for individual Dressage and combined Dressage/Showjumping titles. Stephanie Lyon and Katie Battison supported them well and helped the team to win both the team Dressage and the overall Championship. This is the first time in Strathallan's history that any team has won the trophy for the overall Championship in any class, and since the team won six out of a possible eight titles this was a tremendous result.

JRS



Other news and results

BHS Equitation

Stephanie Lyon Stephanie won the U17 Regional Scottish Qualifier BHS Equitation Competition, which qualified her for the Nationals. She has passed her BHS Stage 1 exam and is working on her Stage 2. She is also Strathallan's first "Captain of Riding."

Dressage

Gareth Watt Gareth has been selected to train with the British Young Riders

Dressage Scheme He achieved two first places in large classes at the Brechin Castle Dressage Festival.

Emma Cheape Emma qualified for the Dengie Dressage Area final in which she came 5th.

Eventing

Heather Larson Heather achieved great success at the Area Pony Club championships, winning the Open Team Eventing and Showjumping. She went on to the Pony Club National Championships in which she came 8th in the Open Showjumping. She came 6th in the JRN British Eventing class in Wiltshire, and was asked to join 20 other riders in Ireland for the Team GB Junior Eventing selection trials.

Fergus Baird Fergus qualified for the Pony Club National Open Eventing Championships where his team came 6th, and he was 9th individually.

Rosie Williams Rosie won the Pony Club Novice Eventing Championships at Area Interbranch and then went on to win the final at the National Championships.

Emma Cheape Emma competed at Area Interbranch in Novice Eventing and helped her team to come 4th in the Dressage and 7th in the Showjumping.

Showjumping

Corrie Stewart Corrie has completed a successful year over BSJA courses, gaining lots of first places in speed classes. She came 6th in the 90cm Discovery class at the Scottish Home Pony International.

Jenny Summersgill Jenny has competed in BSJA classes over 90cm-1.10m fences, achieving several firsts and high places. She finished the season 4th in the 90cm league, and was placed 7th and 8th in two classes at the Scottish Home Pony International.



This is the first time in Strathallan's history that any team has won the trophy for the overall Championship in any class, and since the team won six out of a possible eight titles this was a tremendous result.

Sailing



The uncertainty of booking space at Port Edgar for an unknown number of sailors is one of the joys of the job, and this year we were lucky to fill all the available spaces – unusually, with a high proportion of Upper VI pupils who had not sailed previously, but we also welcomed back the seasoned participants from 2007 who made up half the numbers.

With the incursion of exams into the games programme we were always short of numbers in the second half of term, but happily most of the beginners were able to get their RYA Level 2 Dinghy qualification by the end of the term. The old hands took some time to decide on what direction they wanted to pursue: they began with the Start Racing course, but quickly tired of that (as Sam pointed out, he had completed it the previous summer holidays) and ended up taking the spinnaker sailing course (which Sam had also completed in the previous summer holidays). Radek, Sam and Jan had many happy, windy hours racing up and down, occasionally upside down, with their kite, while amongst the beginners Helen Summersgill, Sean Mendelson and Andrew Heaney patiently learned the art of sailing a small boat and eventually remembered the Five Essentials. We shall need some new blood next year – only Sean, Sam and Andrew will be left from this year's sailors – but there are few better ways to spend a games afternoon!

AS-J

The old hands took some time to decide on what direction they wanted to pursue: they began with the Start Racing course, but quickly tired of that

Badminton



Shen Shan Lu captained the side and we again managed to beat Edinburgh Academy but were not really strong enough to compete against an impressive Fettes side...

I finished off last year's report by saying that we would be starting from scratch again this year as all the strong players were leaving. Well, that is exactly how it turned out, but we did have some notable successes.

Shen Shan Lu captained the side and we again managed to beat Edinburgh Academy but were not really strong enough to compete against an impressive Fettes side and went down heavily there. The girls were captained by Toto Chow and narrowly beat St George's in their annual fixture. In the Perth and Kinross Schools' Championships, Toto reached the final of the girls' U18 singles and lost narrowly in a match she could easily have won. She then went one better when she and Shen Shan won the U18 mixed doubles in an excellent final.

We again played in the Perth Division 2 League against adult opposition and, although we did not win any matches, we did win some games, and everyone who played said they learned a lot from the experience.

In the annual House competition, Nicol took the boys' trophy for the fourth year running – an impressive achievement. The team of Shen Shan, Kris Yao, Gary Lee and William Chan had too much experience for the opposition, but had to work hard against both Ruthven, who finished second and Simpson for victory. In the girls' event, Thornbank were far too strong for Woodlands and ran out 9-0 winners. Toto, Wanda Wong, Sunny Sun and Anastasiya All impressed and with Sunny and Anastasiya returning next year, the girls will have at least some experienced players.

Special thanks go to Shen Shan and Toto for captaining their sides and organising league teams so well and to Mme Duncan and Dr Flanagan, who continued to help with games afternoons. Let us hope that we see as much enthusiasm at next year's games sessions and active nights as we have this year.

GCK

Ski Digest



In the winter term, a sigh of relief could be heard in every Scottish school, when the snow, of which we had been deprived last season, returned in decent quantity.



Once again, our team members were prepared to give up the last day of their half-term break in order to compete at the Scottish Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships which takes place on the challenging slope of the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. The sprinklers were in full action to ensure that the slope was fast and unforgivable of any mistake. As ever, competition was fierce and our racers can be proud of their achievement. The Strathallan Girls (Lucy Drummond-Hay, Kate Cockburn, Sophie Workman and Jenny Wood) finished 11th and our boys (Andrew Whitelaw, Fraser Rawlinson and Alasdair Wood) 13th.

In the winter term, a sigh of relief could be heard in every Scottish school, when the snow, of which we had been deprived last season, returned in decent quantity. This allowed the Scottish Schools Ski Championships to take place on the 29th of February at the Lecht. Our Girls' and Boys' Teams turned up in their newly acquired navy Strathallan Ski Team hoodie and tackled the daunting giant slalom without fear. Our Boys (Duncan O'Reilly, Andrew Whitelaw, Michael McKenzie and Fraser Rawlinson) finished in 9th position.

Our Girls (Lucy Drummond-Hay, Kate Cockburn, Sophie Workman and Jenny Wood) left nothing to chance and came home with Bronze medals. Lucy Drummond-Hay herself finished 3rd girl overall, giving her team a crucial advantage in this tough contest.

Let's hope that the snow keeps returning to Scotland so that the buzz of ski racing remains alive!

Fabienne Thompson



Basketball

The team has certainly seen plenty of Scotland with cup matches in Dundee, Eastwood, and Cumnock.

Basketball enjoyed a strong season at Strathallan, driven in particular by the enthusiastic commitment of our overseas students. This year has seen us field players from Hong Kong, China, Germany and Slovakia in a busy schedule of Scottish Cup and regular fixtures.

The team has certainly seen plenty of Scotland with cup matches in Dundee, Eastwood, and Cumnock. The lively chatter on the way to a match in the mini bus usually gave way to near silence on the way home as the team fell asleep with exhaustion.

The team has been a pleasure to coach because the boys have been so enthusiastic about the game. They laugh a lot and they enjoy each other's company. They displayed some wonderful ball skills, with Jackie Wong being the stand-out player. His passing, shooting and directing of play has been inspirational to the team. He helped coordinate training drills and he was top point scorer in every match. He was awarded half-colours for his efforts and was ably supported by Jayco Sun, Oscar Huang, Shen Shai Liu, Herman Wong and Chris Yao. Results this season have been pleasing with wins against Eastwood, Grove Academy, Merchiston and St Leonard's and narrow losses to Fettes and Glenalmond.

I would like to thank Mr Marinuc for his assistance with the team throughout the season.

Brian Heaney

By 2007 Andrew was ranked No1 in the Kinross adult men's team and was the 2nd best player in the Fife leagues

Squash

a.k.a. the Charmin' report

Andrew Marshall leaves Strathallan this year having made a big contribution to squash in the School. Since 2000 Andrew has been the No.1 ranked player in the Scottish Midlands region and is currently the No.1 ranked U19 player. Over the years he has rarely been out of the top 4 or 5 rated players in Scotland in his relevant age group i.e. U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19.

Andrew has played in countless regional domestic open competitions e.g. East of Scotland, West of Scotland, Grampian, Central and Tayside as well as the 'Armetis' competition in Edinburgh and several Scottish National Championships at the Centre for Squash at Heriot Watt University. He finished 5th in the U17 age group in 2006. He also has played in 3 Scottish 'Open' competitions that are open to players from all over the world including Thailand, Malaysia, Pakistan, New Zealand, India and Australia. In 2005, he played in both the English Open and the British Closed Championships where he reached the 3rd round.

In 2006, he finished 4th in the Heriot Watt Junior Open and won the East of Scotland Boys U17 and was 2nd in the U19 event.

By 2007 Andrew was ranked No1 in the Kinross adult men's team and was the 2nd best player in the Fife leagues where he won both of his games convincingly to help the team finish as runners up in the Fife Cup.

Andrew has made a huge contribution this year helping the 4th Form Squash active with Mrs Raeside. They have benefited hugely from his expertise and we are very grateful to Andrew for giving up his time in order to develop squash with the younger pupils.

AS Director of Sport

Athletics & Cross Country



In all the events the runners ran exceptionally hard, and were rewarded especially for their teamwork. For the elusive gold medals, we need to have at least one runner pushing into the top ten:

The sun did not often shine on Cross Country, and another term of poor weather meant that although we were training well, we were struggling to find the necessary competitions to bring the team to race fitness. We did manage to run the House Cross Country: Nicol and Thornbank romped home for easy victories.

The potential of the squad became apparent at the Fettes relays. The girls' open team responded well to competition and recorded an excellent win; the senior boys proved that they were certainly in the running for a medal at the Schools' championship the following week.

In the end we surprised ourselves. The continuing improvement among the levels of running fitness further down the school won us 5th and 8th places for the Under-14 and Under-15 girls, with the equivalent boys' teams coming 11th and 7th. Olwyn Jenkins scored a fine 14th in her race, and James Gray came in at 29th in the very competitive Under-15 boys. At Under-17 level, we won bronze medals in both boys' and girls' races, and the senior races brought us two well deserved silver medals, led home by Tom Fleming in 13th, and Amy Marwick in 11th place. In the girls' event we were beaten by a point by the Fettes team we had beaten the week before.

In all the events the runners ran exceptionally hard, and were rewarded especially for their teamwork. For the elusive gold medals, we need to have at least one runner pushing into the top ten: it is important that the "body conditioning" programme, which is allowing our athletes to train all year round, can go a step further with the talent that we have in the school.

In many ways, the athletics season was the reverse of the Cross Country. We proved to be a difficult team to beat, and uncovered some promising talent at all levels in the school. Narrow defeats by Fettes, despite a healthy margin of victory in the Senior boys', and Merchiston showed the growing strength of the squad: it was to be our performance in the field events that let us down, especially at junior levels. It was good to see the team win against QVS, and our subsequent I to IV Form meeting against them was an excellent and highly enjoyable afternoon of athletics.

Ultimately, however, our performance at the Scottish Schools proved to be a little disappointing, possibly due to the large number of our athletes who are still very much a "work in progress". Excellent performances from Tom Fleming, Ben Quick and Rory McLellan secured a silver and two bronzes in the 800m, the shot and the discus. Further down the list our younger athletes learned sharp lessons in just what they need to do to take their school success to national level.

Many thanks are owed to all who support Athletics at Strathallan. We still provide a level of staffing at training and matches that others struggle to emulate, and the enthusiasm and work ethic of the training groups (even the sprinters) is impressive. It will be interesting to see whether the next few years can realise their potential as successfully as our leavers have.

DMH



GIRLS

Event	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J 13.00	Streule, K.	1982
100M	S 12.12	Edmunds, A.	1990
200M	J 26.73	Giles, L.	2003
200M	S 25.20	Edmunds, A.	1990
300M	J 42.30	Fleming, K	1999
300M	S 41.72	Fleming, K	2002
400M	J 63.65	Giles, L.	2004
400M	S 60.00	Reid, S.	1990
800M	J 2.26.2	Fleming, K	1999
800M	S 2.23.2	Fleming, K	2002
1500M	J 5.14.09	Barlow, A.	1992
1500M	S 5.05.10	Meiklejohn, C.	1990
3000M	J 10.59.2	Elwis, C	2008
HIGH JUMP	J 1.45	Orr, K	1984
HIGH JUMP	S 1.55	Rutherford, R	1987
LONG JUMP	J 4.49	Fraser, E	2003
LONG JUMP	S 4.64	Macdonald, A / hay K	2004 / 05
TRIPLE JUMP	J 7.80	Elwis, C	2008
POLE VAULT	J 2.20	Fleming, S	2003
POLE VAULT	S 2.45	Smith, R	2008
SHOT	J 10.23	Sang, T.	1992
SHOT	S 9.49	Edmunds, A.	1990
DISCUS	J 25.10	Chapman, R.	1995
DISCUS	S 26.60	Chapman, R.	1998
JAVELIN	J 23.44	Kotseroglou, M	2002
JAVELIN	S 27.33	Drummond Hay, L	2007
4X100m Relay	J 53.73	at Scottish Championships.	2003
4X100m Relay	S 52.63	at Scottish Championships.	2006
4X400m Relay	J 4.39.37	Thornbank	1992
4X400m Relay	S 4.32.36	Thornbank	2007

BOYS

Event	Record	Holder	Year
100M	J 12.00	Ling, T.	1971
100M	M 10.90	Ogilvie	1978
100M	S 11.00	Lochart / Ling / smellie / Kirkland	1971-78
200M	J 24.00	Wallace, R.	1993
200M	M 23.20	Ling T.	1973
200M	S 22.80	Ling, T.	1973
400M	J 56.50	Cook, C.	1987
400M	M 52.50	Millar	1977
400M	S 50.30	Roger, G.	1982
400M HURDLES	J 64.41	McDonald, S	2002
400M HURDLES	M 60.80	McKinlay, S	1999
400M HURDLES	S 57.70	McKinlay, S	2001
800M	J 2.12.90	Lawrence, C.	1984
800M	M 2.03.06	Lawrence, C.	1985
800M	S 1.55.02	Roger, G.	1982
1500M	J 4.32.07	Lawrence, C.	1985
1500M	M 4.14.05	Bond, R.	1988
1500M	S 4.09.02	Bond, R.	1989
1500M S-CHASE	M 4.51.11	Fleming, T	2006
2000M S-CHASE	S 6.37.48	Fleming, T	2008
3000M S-CHASE	S 10.44.44	Fleming, T	2007
3000M	S 9.24	Fleming, T	2007
HIGH JUMP	J 1.63	Holmes	1965
HIGH JUMP	M 1.77	Cuthbertson	1984
HIGH JUMP	S 1.95	Colquhoun, O	1999
LONG JUMP	J 5.55	Lear, C.	1967
LONG JUMP	M 6.17	Lawson	1967
LONG JUMP	S 6.52	Smellie, D.	1978
TRIPLE JUMP	J 10.68	Adams, M.	2006
TRIPLE JUMP	M 11.29	Adams, M.	2007
TRIPLE JUMP	S 12.49	Duncan, G.	2004
SHOT	J 12.83	Walker, L.	1992
SHOT	M 14.73	McKenzie, G.	1973
SHOT	S 12.90	Callander	1979
DISCUS	J 36.27	Knox, S.	1974
DISCUS	M 42.00	Knox, S.	1976
DISCUS	S 40.26	McKenzie, G.	1974
JAVELIN	J 49.81	McBride, J.	1969
JAVELIN	M 49.81	McBride, J.	1969
JAVELIN	S 57.07	McBride, J.	1971
4X100m Relay	J 50.50	Ruthven	1987
4X100m Relay	M 46.60	Simpson	1972
4X100m Relay	S 45.50	Freeland	1981
4X400m Relay	J 4.09.07	Simpson	1995
4X400m Relay	M 3.53.49	Simpson	1995
4X400m Relay	S 3.41.03	Freeland	1992

Cycling



A previously-undiscovered Zombie church was unearthed in a locally-accessible meta-climax woodland. Mark, as usual, documented our routes with his handy digital camera...

The cycling group, complete with its newly (self-) appointed captain, Alex Raeside, set off on the usual lung-bursting, quadriceps-burning round of on and off-road circuits once again this summer. Some of the highs of last season, including everyone's favourite Stone Age fort, were re-visited in fine style and at maximum wheel-revs.

A previously-undiscovered Zombie church was unearthed in a locally-accessible meta-climax woodland. Mark, as usual, documented our routes with his handy digital camera, but clearly was dissatisfied with his efforts since he hasn't sent me a single one of them. Morag deigned to join us on a few occasions and found any combination of Shakespeare/Chaucer/S Club 7 and her i-pod to be better company than any of the team. Roy led languidly from the back. In the absence of Mrs MacBain, who had found something better to do (and welcome to Little Nell, by the way, your dad's already got you a small, pink Stiffy on order), there was even a guest appearance from Mr Barnes; little did the hapless troops know what they were letting themselves in for when instead of that pallid excuse for a cyclist Mr Kennedy, whose preference for a race to the nearest tea-room is well-documented, the iron-thighed ex time-triallist turned up and decided to go right overboard on the adenosine triphosphate front. Alex and Mark are still in the recovery position. In the dark days of November the summer seems an awful long way away, but we all know it's just around the next bend really.

EGK

Table Tennis

Strathallan had three teams competing in the Perth & Kinross Junior League, the 1sts and 2nds in the Premier Division and Riley in the First Division.

Continuing in similar manner to last year there were noteworthy successes this year. The School had six representatives from Riley House entered in the Scottish Primary Schools Championships held at Bells Sports Centre in November in Perth. All had victories to celebrate but none managed to progress beyond the group stages of the event. There were credible performances that held promise of better things in 2008-09.

Strathallan had three teams competing in the Perth & Kinross Junior League, the 1sts and 2nds in the Premier Division and Riley in the First Division. The 1sts (Cameron Mack, capt., Josh Henderson and Greig Meiklem) were not able to emulate the achievements of the previous years team by winning the Premier Division but finished, very respectably, middle of the table, notwithstanding high calibre opposition. The 2nds (Kevin McAlister, capt., Finlay Kettles, Connor McCarthy, Connor

McLean and Jackie Wong) managed, creditably, to avoid the relegation spot thanks to some sterling performances! The Riley team (Jordan Black, Capt., Angus Watson and Harry Thomson) did win the First Division to retain the trophy won the previous year.

At the Perth Championships held in April, Josh Henderson became our youngest ever champion by winning the Under Eleven's Event and in so doing gave promise if even greater future achievements. Daniel Adams won the Under Thirteen's (Minors) Event for the third successive year, the only time that has been attained in the long history of the championships. As if that were not sufficient, he also won the Under Fifteens (Cadets) Event, and, playing in the Adult League, helped his team achieve promotion to the Senior First Division. He also competed in open tournaments and Scottish National Assessments at Minors Level enabling him to obtain national ranking. In addition Ben Lewis played in the high standard Adult First Division with some unexpected successes.

In June Strathallan entered a team in the Scottish Primary Schools Championships held in Glasgow. This team, composed of Josh Henderson, Cameron Hirst and Duncan Cook reached the quarter finals but that match was so close that they were just within one point of reaching the semis!

Throughout the year there are assessments held at the School (usually five in all) in which individual players compete for a placing within the entry group for each assessment and receive points accordingly for the position achieved. The cumulative totals give the final positions. In all, there were 30 competitors with Greig Meiklem finishing runner-up and Josh Henderson the outright winner, for which they both received well-earned trophies.

The Strathallan Table Tennis Club is well-equipped and each year is attracting more participants, welcoming players of all standards to enjoy their sport. Those with talent and ambition will be given opportunities of advancement to national level.

Alan Kitson.

Karate



The Karate club has seen one of its best years. The twelve pupils involved have trained every Tuesday at 6pm with optional sessions at the Perth Karate Club.

Each of the Karate students took part in two gradings this year. Everyone excelled and gained a pass getting one step closer to their eventual goal - to become a black belt.

Two of the older Karateists were accepted to compete in the Scottish Championships. They were Isobel Hale, competing in the Brown and Black belt event, and Ben Quick, competing in

the Red and Yellow belt event. Both competitors came home with numerous Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

A competitor can compete in two different events, both can be competed as individual events or in teams:

- Individual Kata: a routine that consists of several moves which must be done 'to perfection' in order to merit any marks.
- Individual Kumutai: in which two competitors meet each other on the floor and fight for first place.

These two events can also be competed in teams where in Kata they must keep in time and in Kumutai they fight against another team (one at a time) and the points are added up at the end.

The Karate team also took part in a school karate competition. This event was fun as well as a good learning experience and provided the opportunity for others within the school to get a taste of what our karate students have been learning all year.

Isobel Hale Upper VI Woodlands

Michael McKenzie was the bright spot on the golfing scene as he won both the School Championship at Auchterarder and the Pitlochry Cup.

The season began most promisingly with victories against Morrison's Academy (4-0) and Blairgowrie High School (3-1) in the Perth and Kinross League. This was followed by an emphatic (5-1) win against Fettes at Bruntisfield Links which raised our hopes for a successful season.

However, the examination season soon "kicked in" and we lost most of our leading players for a large number of fixtures. Andrew Marshall, our captain this year, and Tim Dickson, who have been regulars in the team for a couple of years were busy with their Highers, plus our new no.1, Annabel Niven, was busy with her GCSEs. These three were the mainstays of our side and without them we were much weakened.

Indeed the fact that the exam season is starting earlier now also meant that we had to cancel some fixtures as we were unable to raise a side. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs and probably means we shall have to scale down our fixture list in future years.

The league team managed one more win but struggled against some of the stronger local sides, eventually finishing third (out of 7) in the local competition. Michael McKenzie was the bright spot on the golfing scene as he won both the School Championship at Auchterarder and the Pitlochry Cup. This was quite some achievement for a Fourth Former and augurs well for the future. One notable scalp for the school team this year was a hard-fought win against the staff (2-1) which meant that for the team at least the season ended positively.

The most improved golfer of the year was Johannes Geng who had not picked a golf club up before joining the school and by the end of term was able to make his way around an 18 hole golf course in a very respectable score with his "Langeresque" attention to detail. His progress and that of many others is due in no small measure to the coaching of Messrs Kitson and Weir at the Strathallan Golf Academy on games afternoons. We will all miss Angus Weir's infectious laugh and invaluable guidance but wish him well in his new position. Killer Kitson has, as ever, given his time unstintingly and without hesitation meaning that all the golfers involved are able to enjoy a very full golfing programme during the season. I thank them both for their support.

Golf

Clays



The new sponsors of the competition had decided to change the format of the event and extend the number of targets shot. The result was that teams shot the same course and this, along with an increase in targets by 50%,...

The year started, as always, with a rush to get organised for the Scottish Championships held again at Cluny Clays. The teams performed well; individual scores appear below in brackets.

Scottish Clay Pigeon Championships Cluny Clays 30th Sept 2007

A-Team B-Team

(43)R. Gibson	(44)I. MacKenzie
(41)F. Rawlinson	(40)S. Lipworth
(39)R. Jardine	(16)F. Fraser
(41)R. Cooke	(29)F. Lundgren

C-Team D-Team

(29)M. Abdo	(27)J. Schofield
(29)A. Abdo	(28)D. Ferry
(16)D. Cameron	(30)M. Brown
(29)N. Ronald	(30)F. Coleman
	(22)G. Campbell

The team results of the above competition were as follows (best 3 scores to count). There were over ninety entries including several adults in the parent and child and FP competitions, so the performance of the teams was all the more remarkable.

A Team Competition. Strathallan avenged last year's loss to the Gordon School from Aberdeen beating them by six clays. Rory Gibson was only 2 shots off the high gun score of 43/50. Fraser Rawlinson scored 41, Robert Cooke 41 and Robert Jardine 39. Other teams in the competition included Dollar Academy, George Heriot's, Merchiston and, from England, Millfield.

B Team Competition. Merchiston B won their competition, but Strathallan filled the next 3 places, the D team finishing 2nd with 88/150, the Strathallan C 3rd with 87/150 and Strathallan B finishing 4th with 86/150. Iain MacKenzie won the overall high gun in the B competition with a score of 44/50, while Sam Lipworth scored 40/50 and took second place.

After the Scottish championships, the club then focussed on preparing for the British Championships held, as always, on the first Sunday in May. Once again we made the long trip to Derbyshire with four teams and supportive parents.

Teams for British Championships

A Team	B Team	C Team
R. Gibson	W. Fraser	P. Morris-Eyton
F. Rawlinson	G. Murdoch	L. De Gisbert
R. Jardine	A. Brown	M. MacKenzie
R. Cooke	M. Brown	H. Mitchell
I. MacKenzie	J. Schofield	S. Watson
S. Lipworth	D. Ferry	D. Cameron

Girls Team

F. Fraser
F. Lungren
H. Larson

The competition was held again at Doveridge Sporting Clays in Derbyshire. The weather was not promising and the rain duly arrived as we started our shoot. Mr and Mrs Watson along with Mrs. Lundgren and Mrs. Larson accompanied us and helped with organisation and shepherding, many thanks to them all.

The new sponsors of the competition had decided to change the format of the event and extend the number of targets shot. The result was that teams shot the same course and this, along with an increase in targets by 50%, resulted in a very long competition which affected our guns' ability to maintain concentration between stands or build up any momentum. Despite this the teams performed well and I was proud of their efforts under such conditions. (Spending 30-40 minutes between stands is never fun).

The A team finished fourth over all and Rory Gibson was sixth in the High Gun table; a creditable result, despite our feeling rather frustrated by circumstances.



Rifle Shooting

Small Bore Target Rifle Shooting was introduced into the School several years ago and has developed into a very popular sport. It is the only sport that is open to all ages and genders, and it teaches you self-control, determination, concentration and organisational skills.

The club teaches you how to shoot legitimately, correctly, safely and be competent in handling firearms. Successful shooters will be given the opportunity to represent the School in local, national and international competitions. If you are good enough you could be selected to represent Great Britain in the Olympics.

Season 2007/8 was very successful for the club with many individuals winning several medals and the Team winning some Silver Trophies.

The club currently compete in the Perthshire Small Bore Association League, the British Schools Small Bore Rifle Association League and several national competitions.

In the PSBRA the A team comprising Hiero Deutsch (Captain), Kirsty Glasgow, Frankie Hao, Isabel Morris- Eyton and Patrick Morris - Eyton won medals and silver for coming 1st. The B team comprising Torri Douglas- Song(Captain), Newton Lo, Jennifer Young, Fernando Martínez Turmo and Molly Barnes came in respectable runners up.

For our younger shooters the BSSBRA run an under-15 league and that team comprised Chis Thompson(Captain), Eleanor Allingham, James Wordie and Lucas De Gispert. This team also came first in the league.

Chris Thompson shot the highest individual score in the league which included the Highest Possible score of 100. He was awarded with a blazer badge. Well done, Chris.

The Club was captained by Hiero Deutsch who worked very hard to motivate and encourage the members of the club to achieve individual and team successes and was awarded School Colours for his outstanding contribution to the club.

The club meets on the following days:

Tuesday from 4.30pm to 6.00pm when we run a beginners course.

Thursday from 3.30pm to 6.00pm when we run an intermediate and advanced course and compete in our competitions.

If you are interested in giving it a try why not come along on Tuesday and have a trial shoot to see if you like it.

Bill Kilmartin Shooting Coach

The B Team finished fourth in their group, while the C team were eighth. Patrick Morris-Eyton and Grant Murdoch shot very well for the B team and deserve a mention.

The girls finished eighth in their group and acquitted themselves well for a young, inexperienced team. The experience that has accrued to them will be invaluable next year.

Thanks again to Iain McGregor for his help and to Ben Kass who stepped in help coach when I was left understaffed at the start of the year.

Thanks to Rory, Fraser, Bobby and Rob for their efforts over the last few years and I wish them continued success in the future.

School vs Strathallian Club

Strathallian Day saw the now annual School vs Strathallian Shoot. The weather resulted in fewer participants than usual, although we still had a lot of people trying shooting for the first time. The Strathallian team beat the School by 3 clays and regained the John Lascelles Shield; Nick Schneeberger pipping Ben Kass to the high gun prize. The School team was weak due to the many other activities going on.

The inter-House competition was well-contested and although they did not have their strongest team out, Freeland and Nicol fought out a close competition, Freeland winning in the end.

The Girls' houses were busy and so that trophy remained uncontested.

Thus the year finished with a feeling of success, but also one of what might have been. My thanks again to Iain McGregor and Ben Kass for their continued support. I would also like to thank the Mr Watson for his great help in drumming up sponsorship for the Shooting Academy which, although delayed, will be going ahead; both he and the Bursar have been instrumental in driving the project forward. We look forward to the launch of the Academy in the near future.

PMV



CCF



One of the most encouraging developments over the last few years has been the growth of both the Army and the RN Sections. The latter has now stabilised at just under 40 cadets and is establishing itself as one of the largest and most enthusiastic in Scotland. It is good to see that there are Sixth Formers who are prepared to put in the time and effort to train younger members: Robynne Smith and William Campbell-Gibson have managed a good deal of the training for the Fourth Form over the past year and will go on to maintain the momentum into their Upper Sixth year, while Abbey Kemp and Oliver Beetschen will be assisting them in turn. The programme of sailing and power-boating at Port Edgar was, as usual, very successful, particularly for the Fifth Form – I think all of them achieved their RYA certificate in one of these two disciplines. The Fourth Form power-boat group were perhaps less focussed on their training, and will have to wait until September to complete their courses.

The Army has benefited greatly from a more organised and structured programme for the Fifth Form: after the usual flurry of activity preceding the Military Skills Competition we ran a First Aid and a Range Course in the Autumn, followed by an introduction to patrol orders and section leadership in the Spring. This culminated in a short exercise to put the lessons into practice, and allowed budding NCOs to test themselves in the field. The take-up for Fifth Form into Lower Sixth is much the highest we have seen for many years, and bodes well for the future.

The Military Skills Competition was held at Garelochhead, only two weeks into the Autumn Term – fine for those schools whose term starts three weeks earlier than ours, but we only had one training day in which to prepare! The team was potentially a good one, all the same: Christopher Milford and Nick McKee must have had experience of at least four competitions (surely about seventeen in Milf's case, Ed), and Nick had recently completed the Cadet Leadership Course at Frimley Park. As things turned out, though, we were short of a full team at the start of the competition, and both

Christopher Milford and Natasha Potts fell ill during it. All the same it was not without its value as a training exercise and it did have its highlights – Nick's patrol orders, however, were not among these! There are two ways of looking at the result: we came 6th out of 6 schools – or 6th out of all the CCF schools in Scotland, of which there are some 15....

The relative gloom was soon lightened by the second Annual Mess Dinner, well attended this year and enlivened by the presence of the senior RN cadets. A good occasion for team-building and bonding, I feel that the presence of this event in the calendar has much to do with the growing esprit de corps of the Army Section.

40 per cent of the training time for any CCF is supposed to be spent on Adventurous Training, and with the help of Mr Higginbottom we have done our best to ensure that this happens. All of the Fourth Form have been introduced to rock-climbing, either at AVertical World in Dundee or outside in the real world at Benny Beg, and we have some enthusiastic climbers. We had a good take-up for the Spring AT



The take-up for Fifth Form into Lower Sixth is much the highest we have seen for many years, and bodes well for the future

Camp at Aviemore, building on the success of the two previous years in North Wales, and Mr Higginbottom has plans for even more next year.

Turning to the Recruits Section, we took in around thirty Fourth Formers and they were trained according to Mr Lindsay's new Master Training Plan – for the first time in many years we all knew pretty well exactly what was going to be happening for each Wednesday afternoon of the whole year, and it worked out very well. The Recruits impressed Mr Lindsay from the outset: their Drill was soon as good as that of the Seniors (and not long after that, rather better), and once those who had not really thought about their option had moved to other activities, we were left with a very keen bunch of potential cadets – as was shown by their efforts on Annual Camp. One of the most successful events of the training year was the Recruits Exercise in late April: in past years we have been frozen in our sleeping bags at Barry Buddon at this time of year, but not only did a light drizzle at School allow all the Colts cricketers to leave in good time, the weather at Barry was superb. A number of junior NCOs, mainly from the Marines, came along to help out and Mark Brebner, Nick McKee and Sara Lundgren provided invaluable support.

This leaves us with Annual Camp. Certainly for all of my time at Strathallan we have always attended the Scottish Central Camp, but a straw poll amongst the adults suggested we go to Warcop instead. This turned out to be a very good decision: the training was excellent, the camp was much more comfortable than Barry Buddon, the scenery was stunning and the Army personnel were first rate. All of this added up to happy cadets, and I must say that they all worked together to make the week fun. We even ended up with a decisive win over Dollar Academy in the prestigious March and Shoot competition on the last day.

I always follow with interest the activities of the Royal Marines Troop, and once again

this year had the privilege of accompanying them to Lymstone in Dorset for the Pringle Trophy Competition (or I drew the short straw, depending on one's point of view). This was a team with a good deal of experience and a lot of talented individuals, and they had high hopes of bringing back at least some of the prizes. On the bus back, they were pretty despondent – they had not done as well as they expected and were wondering how they could possibly improve on their performance. The answer is: through leadership, teamwork and organisation. The team seemed to have decided not to have a leader at all, which proved to be a great disadvantage. They also need to think ahead and prioritise their training: the balance of time which goes into practising Drill and into polishing boots as opposed to map reading, first aid, command tasks, weapon training and all the other skills tested in the competition, needs attention. They have some good cadets available for the 2008 competition, and can be serious contenders.

The CCF could not work without staff, and I have, on behalf of the School and the cadets, to thank a number of people. The Senior NCOs – William Campbell-Gibson, Robynne Smith, Mark Brebner, Nick McKee and Etienne Melville in particular – but not exclusively – have made a huge difference this year. Mrs MacBain continues to cope with improbably large numbers of RN cadets and to keep them all smiling. Mr Higginbottom has organised and conducted a comprehensive package of adventurous training; Miss de Celis Lucas and Mr Lindsay have produced a fine Recruits programme, aided this year by Miss Harte; Mr Walmsley, despite increasing calls on his time from the Choral Scholars, continues to inspire the Royal Marines. We have also been fortunate in our support from outside the School: Iain Caskie and J.J. Chalmers have regularly turned out to support us with First Aid and RM training respectively, and we have been supported by Sgt Karl Sanderson and 21 Cadet Training Team both in School and on the Adventurous Training Camp. And of course, Mr Lindsay has kept us all going.

Spring Adventurous Training Camp.

After two successful years of training in North Wales we decided to move a little closer to home and base ourselves at Rothiemurchus, near Aviemore, for the 2008 camp. This gave us the options of hillwalking, sailing at Loch Insh and mountain biking at Laggan, and we were able to draw on the support of John Belsham and Karl Sanderson of 21 Cadet Training Team for many aspects of the training. As things panned out, hillwalking was not possible due to the amount of snow – but Cairn Gorm was fully open and so everyone was able to have a day on the ski slopes. Numbers were up this year, from 8 to 15, and the Tuesday and Wednesday were split between sailing and canoeing at Loch Insh, and the unusual opportunity to explore the area on snow shoes. We were all squeezed into a fairly small part of Rothiemurchus Lodge, with two Army cooks doing their best to feed over twenty people from a kitchen which would not have been out of place on a medium-sized yacht, but the four days were made by the quality of the activities and by the good company of staff and cadets alike. Thanks to all who took part.

AS-J



Tignes les Brévières



With feet getting sorer and everyone beginning to feel more and more tired, the week continued. However, this certainly didn't take away from our enjoyment.

'The best snow in over 20 years.' Being told that just before leaving school far too early on a rainy December morning got us all excited about the week ahead. Yes, we had a long journey and, sadly, we had Stevie, but soon we would be in some of Europe's best snow in over 20 years. Those who ski will know how hit and miss December can be in Europe, but we couldn't have asked for better conditions in which to learn, practise or just enjoy a week's skiing.

After a long journey in the faultless company of Mr Parker's children, we arrived deep in the French Alps in a small village called Tignes les Brévières. Here we were met by our hosts and shown what was to be our chalet for the week. We were extremely lucky to be staying in such a beautiful place, surrounded by snow-covered mountains that we couldn't wait to get out onto. After collecting all of our equipment, we had the first of many excellent meals in the chalet before a few games with Miss Wilkinson and a bit of sledging down the piste that ran straight to our door. Thankfully, our warm, comfy beds weren't too far away.

First thing the next morning we were introduced to our French instructors (with the help of Mrs Parker's language skills), and divided into groups of 'similar ability'. The groups went their own ways, the more advanced amongst us

being thrown headfirst into a couple of tricky red runs. The beginners were left behind to get their balance. With the sun shining and the snow metres deep, conditions were perfect and continued to be so for almost the entire week. A few falls and many hours later, everyone returned to the chalet for some tea, a quick snooze and some more fun and games.

With feet getting sorer and everyone beginning to feel more and more tired, the week continued. However, this certainly didn't take away from our enjoyment. Even the beginners managed parallel turns inside a couple of days, earning them the new rank of intermediates. Evenings were spent either on excursions to Val d'Isère, bowling and swimming, or just relaxing and messing around in the chalet. Particular favourites became Articulate and Miss Wilkinson's strange and rather dangerous card game, Jungle Jam. With great food, comfy beds, amazing skiing, fantastic weather and some great company, the week quickly came to an end. Of course not forgetting Grant's little 'mishap' on the last night. You can't have it all...!

Particular thanks go to all the chalet staff, to our instructors and, of course, to both Miss and Mr Wilkinson and Mr and Mrs Parker for making both the whole trip possible. Let's hope the snow is as good next year. Anyone interested in taking us will be very welcome.

Ali Hunt Simpson LIV

One feature of our stay was that we were continually losing Jonny on his many missions to find bakeries selling his new found love, Pretzel.



Ausflug nach Trier

German Exchange Trip

Last October members of the lower 6th form German Higher and A level classes set off from "Pure Dead Brilliant" Prestwick Airport, courtesy of Ryan Air, for Frankfurt Hahn, a former American airbase, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, but actually only one hour's drive from Trier.

We were staying with our exchange partners and their families in the environs of Trier. (All except Jonny Clifford, who was banished to a small village in the hills) The first day was spent discovering Trier. We had a guided tour of the city and especially its many Roman remains. Trier was 'European City of Culture 2007' and as a result there were lots of excellent exhibitions to visit, explaining Trier's many links with the Romans and especially 'Konstantin der Grosse'. A highlight of our trip was a guided tour of the amphitheatre, in the company of a gladiator, who brought the Roman games to life for us. We also enjoyed a visit to the Karl Marx House, where there was a detailed exhibition on the history of Germany during the 20th century which prompted heated debate on the advantages and disadvantages of communism.

One feature of our stay was that we were continually losing Jonny on his many missions to find bakeries selling his new found love, Pretzel. Indeed, Jonny's love of food became legendary during the trip. He would wax lyrical about the Germans' fourth meal of the day, a magical time, "heaven's hour", when 'Kaffee und Kuchen' were order of the day, "so much cake...". And we made sure that we experienced this hour at least twice daily.

We spent some time in the Max-Planck-Gymnasium, a large secondary school in the centre of Trier where we found some striking contrasts with our own school environment. We felt that the size of the school and the classes made it feel much more impersonal and somewhat daunting. However, the general agreement was that school food does not appear to be any different across the channel.

Meanwhile, Mrs White suffered the indignity of watching England lose the Rugby World Cup in an Irish pub, surrounded by South Africans, in the middle of Germany! A very lonely experience. Whilst Jonny found that the benefit of being stuck in a small village in the middle of nowhere was that the Oktoberfest continued for days. And we all developed a taste for German beer....

Our German friends returned to Strathallan in April and brought with them the now traditional sunny weather, especially during our day trip to Edinburgh, when we discovered that Frau Keck knew far more about Edinburgh than any of us. The German pupils helped us revise for our German orals and took part in various school activities. We all hope to return to Trier next autumn.

Anna Dove, Morag Elwis LVI Woodlands

Jonny Clifford, William Campbell-Gibson LVI Freeland

Pipe Band



The Pipe Band has had another busy and very successful year, winning a total of 25 prizes and awards.

Pipe Major Adam Michie played well for Freeland House at the House Music Competition.

The Award-winning began at the Scottish Schools' Quartet Piping Championship where our senior team of Adam, Pipe Sergeant Sean Townsley, Pipe Sergeant Etienne Melville and Piper Alice Inglis played very well to win second prize. Our two junior trios played well but were unplaced; they gained lots of experience from taking part.

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

At the school concert in November, Adam and Sean were joined by Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming, Pipe Major J. S. R. Hutcheon and Mr N. Metcalfe (playing the organ) to open the concert with a new setting of the old favourite Lochanside, written by Pipe Major John MacLellan from Dunoon. To close the concert Adam, Sean, Etienne and JSRH played a mixed selection including hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, reels and a slow air which was very well received. Our junior pipers played a selection of marches during the interval.

Sean was our next big prize-winner, when he won the Dundee, Perth and Angus Intermediate Solo Piping Championship at Edzell, walking off with the top prize from 27 competitors.

At the Craigmount High School Solo Piping and Drumming Championships, in December, Adam became runner up to the senior champion when he won two of the main prizes, third in both the Piobaireachd and the March, Strathspey and Reel sections. In the same sections, Sean took fourth prize in Piobaireachd and sixth prize in March, Strathspey and

Reel in his first attempt at the senior section. Alice Inglis was placed ninth in her heat of the junior March, Strathspey and Reel from an entry of 46 competitors. This is one of the top competitions for junior pipers in the country.

In January, at the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships, Adam Michie won a silver medal as second prize in the senior event. Ten prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Alice Inglis won the Novice Piping event at her first attempt in this section. Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming won the senior drumming for the fifth time with Nick Millar taking fourth prize in the same event. Sam Gray was placed fifth and new piper Fraser Doig was placed sixth in the chanter event. Adam Michie won four prizes in the Senior Championship event, third in the Dress and Deportment, Fourth in both the Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel and sixth in the Jig.

Adam Won the senior solo piping event at the George Watson's College competition this year, the band finished in sixth place in the senior mini-band competition from 16 teams, including 3 teams from George Watson's who are current Juvenile Grade World Champions. This was a great achievement in their first attempt at this level of competition.

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

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



At the beginning of the summer term, Ryan McEwan arrived on an exchange from New Zealand. He arrived full of enthusiasm and wanted to join in the band events, firstly as a Drum Major. He was soon swinging the mace with great gusto after a spell of square-bashing with JSRH and Tom Lindsay of the CCF and formerly the Black Watch.

He thoroughly enjoyed the various events which took place in the summer term.

The band also took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle this year, the young pipers in the band soon got into the swing and performed very well in their first try at the event. All of them appeared to enjoy the experience and are looking forward to next year. Ryan took his place at the front of the massed bands at Edinburgh Castle, a wonderful experience for him.

Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn. A group of new drummers marched on with the band to show off their new skills. The performance also featured Nick Millar and Justin Wong (drummers) laying down their drums to pick up their pipes and join in one of the selections to show their versatility.



Our contribution to Headmaster's Music in the summer term was Tom playing a competition standard selection of March, Strathspey and Reel on the snare drum, accompanied by Adam and Sean.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships held this year at Loretto School. The band finished in fourth place in the band competition, third place in drill and turnout and fourth place in drumming. Sean excelled himself to win the Intermediate Piping Championship. Adam took third prize in the Senior Piping. Tom took third prize in the Senior Drumming. Ryan took part in the Drum Majors' Competition and also played tenor drum in the band competition. Congratulations to all.

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming event. The major winners were as follows: Most Improved Drummer – Justin Wong; Novice Drumming – Cameron Mack; Junior Drumming – Cameron Mack; Senior Drumming – Tom Fleming;

Bass and Tenor Drumming – Ryan McEwan; Most Improved Piper – Sam Gray; Most Improved Chanter Player – Jordan Black; Junior Chanter – Jordan Black; Chanter – Sam Gray; Novice Piping – Jamie Parker; Junior Piping – Alice Inglis; Hornpipe & Jig – Adam Michie; Senior Piping – Adam Michie; Piobaireachd – Sean Townsley; Best Contribution to the band – Nick Millar and Oliver Stevenson.

The solo contest finished with us saying goodbye to Tom, Nick and Oliver who are off to further their careers and to Ryan who is off home to New Zealand along with Etienne who is going as an exchange student for the summer. We wish them every success in the future.

We look forward to the challenges of next year.

JSRH

Salvete & Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Anton P	Aanderud	S4	Simpson	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Alexander J	Abbey	S5	Freeland	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Ignacio	Albinana de Pineda	S2	Freeland	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Lauris A	Bernhart	S5	Nicol	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Nick	Cassella	S5	Nicol	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Paul L	Champion	S3	Freeland	15 06 2008	28 06 2008
Lucas	de Gispert	S3	Simpson	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Julian F	Essen	S5	Simpson	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Jens-Christian	Friedmann	S5	Freeland	01 09 2007	20 03 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Johannes F	Geng	S5	Nicol	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Freddie	Hamilton	S5	Simpson	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Ivan	Ivoylov	S2	Ruthven	01 09 2007	24 05 2008
Robert A J	Leverkus	S5	Simpson	01 09 2007	20 03 2008
Paul-Wido	Linden	S4	Nicol	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Lorne J D	Macnaughton	P7	Riley	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Fernando	Martinez-Turmo	S2	Simpson	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Christopher P	Maxa	S5	Freeland	01 09 2007	20 03 2008
Christopher D	McClelland	S5	Nicol	17 04 2008	28 06 2008
Kaitlin S	McCluskey	S4	Woodlands	01 09 2007	10 09 2007

Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Mohammed A	Abdo	S6	Simpson	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Gordon T	Abercrombie	S3	Ruthven	01 09 2005	24 05 2008
William J	Aitken	S4	Simpson	20 04 2006	28 06 2008
James A R	Balfour	S6	Nicol	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Alex	Beetschen	S6	Freeland	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Mark	Brebner	S6	Ruthven	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Alasdair L	Cameron	S6	Simpson	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Ewen D	Cameron	S6	Ruthven	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Sara A	Caves	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2000	13 12 2007
Gemma	Chance	S6	Woodlands	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
To To	Chow	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Hannah J	Cockburn	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Euan	Connell	S6	Nicol	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Robert M J	Cooke	S6	Simpson	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Hugh	Crawford	S6	Nicol	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Rebecca E	Dalgetty	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Hieronymus	Deutsch	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Timothy C N	Dickson	S6	Ruthven	05 02 2001	28 06 2008
Lucy J	Drummond-Hay	S6	Thornbank	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Cara	Duncan	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Annabel	Farquharson	S6	Thornbank	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Stefanie D	Feld	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Danina M	Ferry	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Thomas R	Fleming	S6	Simpson	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Mark E C	Garratt	S6	Nicol	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Charlotte A	Garven	S6	Woodlands	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Victoria J	Gerrie	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Rory H	Gibson	S6	Freeland	24 04 2003	28 06 2008
Niklas M	Giese	S6	Freeland	04 09 2002	28 06 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Santiago	Gil	S4	Freeland	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Annabelle L	Gow	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Isobel L	Hale	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2005	28 06 2008
Peter	Hall	S5	Nicol	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Angus J	Hannah	S6	Nicol	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Lin X	Hao	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Natalie M	Hay	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Alberto M	Herrera	S4	Nicol	09 10 2006	28 06 2008
Yihua	Huang	S6	Freeland	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Harry M	Iroegbu	S6	Nicol	01 09 2005	28 06 2008
Yasmin	Izzard	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Robert J	Jardine	S6	Freeland	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Felix F	Keene	S6	Freeland	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Jack A	Kemp	S6	Ruthven	22 04 2004	28 06 2008
Niall R A	King	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Bronwyn	Lear	S4	Thornbank	06 01 2003	28 06 2008
Yuk H	Lee	S4	Nicol	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Eila R P	Legge	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2000	28 06 2008
Joshua T C	Lipworth	S6	Nicol	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Shen S	Liu	S6	Nicol	30 01 2006	28 06 2008
Wanming	Lu	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
John U D	Lyburn	S6	Nicol	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Lorne D	Macadam	S6	Simpson	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Claire	McDonald	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Nicholas A	McKee	S6	Nicol	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Mairi L	MacKenzie	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Emily A	McLaren	S6	Thornbank	18 04 2002	28 06 2008
Rachel C	McLean	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Rory C W	McLellan	S6	Nicol	01 09 2003	28 06 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Ryan P	McEwan	S5	Simpson	17 04 2008	28 06 2008
Morven D	Miller	S4	Woodlands	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Mira E M	Moran	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Alexandra J M	Niedner	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Marc M	Oldenburg	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Fraser S	Ramseyer	S2	Freeland	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Justin C	Rizza	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Stephane F	Roux	S5	Nicol	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Mark C	Saemann	S5	Nicol	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Christopher N H	Simpson	S2	Simpson	01 09 2007	28 06 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Craig V	Small	P5	Riley	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
Louise A	Thomson	S2	Woodlands	01 09 2007	18 10 2007
Oliver S	Tritton-Wheeler	P5	Riley	17 04 2008	28 06 2008
Markus A	von Rudno	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2007	28 06 2008
David	Walsh	S5	Ruthven	01 09 2007	13 12 2007
Isla C	Wilson	S5	Woodlands	01 09 2007	28 06 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Stephanie L	Macnaughton	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Emma P	McNeill	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Declan S	Maloney-Drummond	S6	Simpson	01 09 2006	18 02 2008
Andrew	Marshall	S6	Ruthven	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Ryan L	Martin	S6	Simpson	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Amy C	Marwick	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Rory P	Menzies	S6	Nicol	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Christopher J R	Milford	S6	Freeland	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Kerr M	Millar	S2	Simpson	19 04 2007	28 06 2008
Nicholas G	Millar	S6	Freeland	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Naomi C	Miller	S6	Thornbank	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Katherine L	Mitchell	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Jasmine E	Morris	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Isobel R	Morris-Eyton	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Emily	Morrison	S6	Thornbank	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Lauren M	Murray	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Michael	Niven	S6	Ruthven	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Radek	Oborny	S6	Freeland	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Danielle	Owen	S4	Thornbank	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Alice K	Page	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Richard D O	Parker	S6	Simpson	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Megan	Parkinson	S6	Woodlands	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Natasha A	Porritt	S4	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Olivia F	Porritt	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Stefan L	Pretty	S6	Simpson	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Claire J	Price	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Christopher J L	Pringle	S4	Simpson	08 01 2007	28 06 2008
Sara M	Pugh	S3	Woodlands	01 09 2006	28 06 2008

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Andrew D B	Pyle	S6	Freeland	01 09 2005	28 06 2008
Thomas J	Rae	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Alexander	Raeside	S6	Nicol	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Fraser M	Rawlinson	S6	Nicol	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Victoria D	Reid	S6	Woodlands	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Camilla M C	Rhodes	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Toby W	Robertson	S6	Simpson	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Kirsty E	Sangster	S4	Woodlands	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Philippa M	Scott	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Phoebe	Shaw Stewart	S6	Woodlands	04 09 2002	28 06 2008
Margarita Y	Shevchenko	S6	Thornbank	07 09 2005	28 06 2008
Kirill A	Shilin	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Amyce C A	Smith-Bannister	S6	Woodlands	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Sophie M	Stephenson	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Oliver M	Stevenson	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2001	28 06 2008
Archibald A	Stewart	S6	Ruthven	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Helen R	Summersgill	S6	Woodlands	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Janet K	Sutherland	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Rebecca J	Taylor	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2004	28 06 2008
Charlotte E	Tracey	S5	Thornbank	01 09 2003	13 05 2008
Ailsa	Turnbull	S6	Thornbank	05 09 2001	28 06 2008
Gordon D	Tweedie	S6	Freeland	01 09 2005	28 06 2008
Jan	Vohryzek	S6	Nicol	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Christian A	Wagner	S6	Freeland	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Heng	Wong	S6	Simpson	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Wing-Chi	Wong	S6	Thornbank	01 09 2006	28 06 2008
Sophie M	Workman	S6	Woodlands	01 09 2003	28 06 2008
Chuiming	Yao	S6	Nicol	07 09 2005	28 06 2008
Marc	Zwetsloot	S6	Simpson	05 09 2001	28 06 2008

Prizes

Dux	Syazana Hassan
The Smith Cup for Head Boy	Tom Fleming
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl	Rachel McLean
The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Boy	Andrew Pyle
The Draper Cup for Deputy Head Girl	Helen Summersgill
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	Alex Beetschen
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	Helen Summersgill
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	Megan Parkinson
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	Phoebe Shaw Stewart
The Hayward Award for Citizenship	Jamie Carragher
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	Fraser Rawlinson
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	Rachel McLean
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Cara Duncan
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	Mark Garrett
The Lord Kincaid Prize for English	Richard Parker
The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize	Shen Shan Liu
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	Richard Parker
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	Helen Summersgill
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	Amyce Smith-Bannister
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	Jenny Wood
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	Megan Parkinson
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	Alex Beetschen
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	Gemma Chance
The Choir Prize	Claire Price
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Adam Michie
Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Music)	Josiah Bircham
Strathallan Travelling Scholarship (Modern Languages)	Jack Chartres Joanna MacLachlan
The Haviston Broadsword Prize	Nick McKee
Quaich CCF Prize	Nick Millar
Royal Navy Section Prize	Robynne Smith
The Rick Trophy Army Prize	Christopher Milford

Upper Sixth – A level

Biology	Megan Parkinson Rita Shevchenko
Business Studies	Mark Garratt
Chemistry	Stefanie Feld
Classics	Alex Beetschen
Computing	Robert Jardine
Design & Technology	Jasmine Morris
French	Mark Garratt
Geography	Ailsa Turnbull
German	Mark Garratt
Music	Alex Beetschen
Physics	Helen Summersgill Rita Shevchenko

Upper Sixth – Higher

Biology	Marc Zwetsloot
Business Management	Oliver Stevenson
Chemistry	Claire Macdonald
English	Danina Ferry
French	Danina Ferry
Geography	Danina Ferry
Higher Craft & Design	Niall King
German	Jack Kemp
History	Danina Ferry
Mathematics	Angus Hannah
Physical Education	Sophie Workman
Philosophy	Danina Ferry
Spanish	Claire McDonald
Computing	Marc Zwetsloot
Economics	Andrew Marshall
Music	Sophie Stephenson

Lower Sixth Prizes

Art	Catriona MacKenzie
Biology	Robynne Smith
Business Studies	William Farmer
Chemistry	Juraj Sabol
Classics	Katy Bush
Computing	Sara Lundgren
Design Technology	William Farmer
Economics	Juraj Sabol
English	Victoria Gow
French	Alistair Hunt
Geography	Lindsay Crowe
German	Juraj Sabol
History	Morag Elwis
Mathematics	Markus von Rudno
Music	William Campbell-Gibson
Philosophy	Anastasia Musiyachenko
Physical Education	Jayne Carmichael
Physics	Markus von Rudno
Spanish	Alistair Hunt
Young Enterprise	Elizabeth Vine

Examination Results

Fifth Form Prizes

Art	Jenny Wood
Biology	Andrew Glover
Business Studies	Callum Donald
Chemistry	Andrew Glover
Computing	Andrew Glover
Design Technology	Oliver Beetschen
English	Andrew Glover
French	Bronwyn Lear
German	Bronwyn Lear
History	Andrew Glover
Latin	Jenny Wood
Geography	Bronwyn Lear
Mathematics	Andrew Glover
Music	Oliver Beetschen
Physics	Andrew Glover

Fourth Form Prizes

Art	Anna Olafsson
Biology	Josiah Bircham
Business Studies	Corrie Stewart
Chemistry	Keith Wigley
Computing	Joe Lipworth
Design & Technology	Fiona Johnstone
English	Hannah Cox
French	Michael MacKenzie
Geography	Alice Inglis
German	Eleanor Parkinson
History	Sarah Hellewell
Latin	Ben Melville
Mathematics	Michael MacKenzie
Music	Rosie Beetschen
Physics	Sarah Hellewell

Third Form Prizes

Adeeb Nassan	Mhairi Bannerman
James Gray	Lauren Johnson

While this year's A Level results did not quite live up to those achieved last year they are, nonetheless, one of the best sets of results we have had.

At A Level **46%** of entries were graded A, **74%** A-B and **91%** A-C. There was a **100%** pass rate A-E. Again the alternative qualification of Highers plus a combination of A Levels and Highers provided a range of opportunities for pupils and a number gained places at top universities including Oxford and Cambridge, a number of Russell Group universities, and all the main Scottish universities. There were also a small number of pupils whose A Level results gained them places abroad. Again the diversity of course choice reflects very well on the individual profile of pupils at Strathallan. There is no sense of driving pupils into one particular area of study and we have been particularly pleased to hear of notable academic success from a number of former pupils including prizes in areas as diverse as Fashion, Architecture and firsts and university prizes in Psychology, History of Art and English Literature, Sport and Exercise and Chemistry.

GCSE results were again solid with **36%** at **A*-A** and a pass rate of **91%** A-C. These results represent a good advance on the baseline testing which is undertaken when pupils come to school.

BKT



1st official photograph of Old Strathallian Club

Leburn

To many of you newer members of the school, the name Leburn may not mean anything, but to others it will conjure up many images and memories of places and people. Some of you Strathallians will remember your Boarding House and Housemasters while those a little older will remember the person and his considerable contribution to the school. So here I hope to rekindle those memories while showing that we all should remember the name of Leburn.

William Gilmour Leburn was born on 13th July 1913 at Gateside in Fife. His father, George Cheape Leburn, managed the family business founded by his father in whose honour William had been so named. In 1880, William senior had returned from India and taken possession of the former lint mill at Gateside. The Gateside Mill Company was then formed to produce wooden bobbins and shuttles for the wool and cotton industries in Yorkshire and Lancashire as well as the hessian and jute industries which, although important in Scotland, were booming in India.

George started out in banking with his brother Alexander. He then travelled with his brother John to Arizona to work on the new irrigation scheme at Phoenix; banking in that area and those days was a hazardous venture but they came through the experience intact and had returned by 1910. The eldest brother Patrick was not coping with the business so John took over the manufacturing while George looked after the business side. Now settled, George married Mina Watt, the daughter of the Cupar seedsman William Watt, and bought Edenshead as their home in 1919.

Gilmour, or Gil as he preferred, went to the local school until the age of twelve when he was moved to Strathallan. At such a young age, he already displayed the easy manner and confidence that would make him companionable and authoritative and by the age of fifteen showed his prowess in sport, reaching the last four out of sixty-eight entrants in the junior tennis competition. At sixteen he won his place in the 1st XI as the opening batsman proving to be a polished batsman and a sound fielder. His record opening partnership of 140 against Glasgow High School followed by a century the following year, when he topped the batting averages, was just a prelude to his century in the last game of the season. He was certainly fortunate that Harry Riley saw fit to employ the Yorkshire player Vickerstaff whose changes to the Lawn ground were forever known as Vickerstaff's Velvet.

In his last year at the school, Gil became a school prefect and Captain of Ruthven; positions only given to those in whom Harry Riley had complete confidence. He led the House teams to victory in the rugby and cricket winning the Melville Cup: to this can be added the captaincy of the 1st XI, a season with the 1st XV as a reliable fly-half with an encouraging touch kick, and representation on the new School Tennis and Golf Teams. But it was not just on the sports field that he excelled; he took an active part in the drama having a clear voice and excellent presentation, so it was no surprise that he became a founding member of the Debating Society formed in the spring.

Gil's last year was also the first for his brother Watty who was to achieve similar honours in cricket, though more with his bowling, and developing a strong school tennis team. His surprise success in table tennis at a young age kept him in the public eye throughout his school career. Watty would have been witness to his older brother's first efforts for the Strathallian XI which played at the end of each June. Gil left to join his father as an apprentice in the family business, no doubt able to reflect on Harry Riley's famous business classes. The business grew very rapidly and was employing nearly eighty men by 1947. Wood was brought to the sawmill by train, a practice kept until the closure of the line in 1956 when the majority of the produce was exported to India.

Gil never forgot the school and was a regular visitor with Harry Riley. He took over the Strathallian sport's committee from Guthrie Reid and joined the Territorial Army Signals Corps under the guidance of David Bogie and Alex Fraser who became firm friends. There were many Strathallians playing cricket and rugby for their local clubs; Messrs Reid, Dunn, Gillanders, Forrest, Hart and Ritchie were Scottish trialists, the latter three all being selected. Gil was no exception becoming captain of Cupar Cricket and Rugby Club in 1935 as well as playing cricket for the side at Falkland in the company of David Bonthron, the Newton of Falkland maltster, who brought a team each year to play at Strathallan. Sport amongst the Strathallians grew over the years and by 1938 David Bogie and Gil held the inaugural club golf tournament at Western Galles Golf Club. That summer, Watty followed in his brother's footsteps as the 1st XI captain in what was one of the fullest



Lord Provost Thomson officially opens new dining facilities and Leburn House as part of school expansion.



Cricket Group - 1st XI, 1930



Gilmour Leburn, Chairman of Governors

fixture lists of any season. Gil produced an Old Crocks Team to play the school one evening in June during a period in which the school played eight games in two weeks. The Old Crocks played what was referred to as hit-and-miss, happy-go-lucky cricket but took a more serious attitude a few days later in the formal Strathallian fixture.

Despite his sport and business commitments, Gil still found time to accompany Harry Riley to the World Exhibition in Paris in 1937 and was settling down with the Strathallian Club as a popular speaker. He was called to propose the toast to the guests at the 11th Annual Dinner held in Glasgow that year. His speech was referred to by Ex-Provost McGregor of Glasgow as the "best after dinner speech I have ever heard", a compliment well earned as the assembled company were still recovering and drying their eyes at the time. It was not so much what he said as the nature of the implied suggestions and the grave-faced manner in which he delivered the sequence of events attached to each story. The incoming president, David Bogie, took note for the future.

On the last day of November 1938, the Strathallians and Harry Riley organised the celebrations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the school. Gil was convenor of the Sports Committee. Such was the mood of the club that they voted to hold the 1939 Annual Dinner in Perth to accompany the school celebrations. They were not to know that this would not go ahead though they may have had some foreboding as this occasion would have been the 13th.

Gil, like David Bogie and Alex Fraser, joined the Signals Corps of the 51st Highland Division and was in France by the following January. On 13th May, German troops entered France and David, along with Ian Wood and David Thomson, became trapped with the Division on the beaches of St. Valery facing the force of General Erwin Rommel. 8000 men of the Division surrendered on 12 June 1940 and spent the next five years in captivity. Gil and Alex Fraser had the fortune to be Brigade Signals Officers of the 154th Brigade which had been assigned on the 9th June as a relief force in the

defence of Le Havre and were able to make an escape. On travelling eventually to the beaches at Dunkirk, Gil realised that he stood no chance of escape at that late hour and made his way to Cherbourg and safety; the next meeting between the 51st and General Rommel was to be a different affair.

Gil faced an even more serious situation back home. His brother Watty was safe at Glasgow University studying engineering but their father fell ill and Gil was left with much of the business organisation and the support of his mother Mina. There was a serious fire at the Gateside Mill in 1940 and all production stopped; Alex Fraser's firm were given the job of rebuilding the mill. Gil's father was diagnosed with a brain tumour although he was able to keep working. It was also clear in early July that Harry Riley was not at all well and the school was struggling to survive with the loss of many staff and Strathallians to the forces.



One of several photographs of school dining room under construction



Gilmour Leburn, M.P.,
Under Secretary of State



Colin Addison, Housemaster of Leburn



First Leburn House photograph



Andrew Sinclair – last and current Head of Leburn

In June 1941, Major General Douglas Wimberley took command of the reformed 51st Highland Division and Gil was posted as Captain and promoted to Staff Officer for the 154th Brigade. It was a long year of preparation before the Division disembarked at the entrance to the Suez Canal on 14th August 1942 and took up a position for the defence of Cairo. Gil put his outstanding organisational skills to good effect during the practice necessary to take up the position with Montgomery's 8th Army on 9th September and learn the details of desert warfare from the veteran Australians. The 51st were to secure the approaches in a night attack so that the armoured brigades could move into action; the target was Rommel's force and the rest is history.

General Wimberley had promoted the Scottish nature of the Division and so the 154th Brigade was led into the attack on the night of 24th October by Pipe Major Malcolm MacLachlan of the 7th Argylls along side Alan Watters and William Davidson of the Black Watch. That night MacLachlan was killed and Gil was seriously injured and could take no further part, although Alex Fraser came through safely. Gil was eventually evacuated to South Africa where he took a year to recover from his injuries at Baragwaneth Hospital in Johannesburg. Such losses suffered by the Division caused Wimberley to utter the words, "Never again."

While recovering in South Africa, Gil became close friends with Geordie Highland, a captain in the Seaforth's of the 152nd Brigade, who had also received serious leg injuries at Alamein and occupied the adjacent bed in the hospital; their friendship was to last for their lifetime. Gil took no further part with his infantry brigade but was certainly not forgotten. On returning home with Geordie in the spring of 1944, he was promoted to Major and given a place on the course at the Staff College, Camberley. Later that year, he became personal assistant to General Wimberley who had been appointed Commandant. Much of the effort at that time was given to the organisation of the campaign known as Overlord. Gil was to suffer further loss when his brother, a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, was killed near Caen on the 3rd August while clearing a minefield.

Gil's staff post proved to be a political link with the War Office and contacts with Anthony Eden, Churchill's right hand man at the time, brought Gil into contact with Eden's secretary Barbara May. Barbara's lifelong friend, Liz Layton, was personal secretary to Churchill from May 1941. Gil and Barbara had met briefly before the war through a mutual friend, Joyce Ruthven, in Broughty Ferry. Barbara had been secretary to Eden's predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Edward Wood. She was with Wood in November 1937 during his first meeting with Hitler. Wood nearly caused an international incident that day by handing his coat to Hitler believing him to be a footman. Barbara's younger cousin Peter was a member of the famous Charterhouse U16 XI that had risen

to public acclaim through the work of George Geary. Being near Camberley, it was no problem joining the crowds that were attracted to the matches. Gil and Barbara married at Reading on September 15th 1944.

Strathallan was going through a critical time following the death of Harry Riley and with both David Bogie, still a prisoner of war, and John Maitland Cowan with the 1st Airborne. The Second Master Willie Ward took over as headmaster and managed as best he could under the wartime conditions. Gil returned to Edenshead on leave for a while and took the time to coach the 1st XI for the first half of the season in 1945. His father was seriously ill and retired from the business; he died in February 1946. Gil invited his friend Geordie Highland to take over the management of the mill. He accepted as well as catching the eye of Gil's sister Dorothy. Geordie became managing director and took over the firm after Gil's death in 1963.

The return of David and John came as a great relief to Strathallan and they set about reforming the school links and setting up a Board of Governors. David, aware of Gil's authority and experience, lost no time in inviting him to become the third trustee. Gil was more than happy to return and also continued with the management of the Strathallian sporting activities, especially the golf. He organised the first Founder's Day for October 5th 1946 and, after a lapse of seven years and in spite of food-rationing, the 13th Annual Dinner was held in Glasgow on December 14th.

Gil was elected Vice-President of the Old Strathallians for 1947 and became President the following year. Business problems meant that he had to go to India in 1947 but the firm lost ninety percent of its business nevertheless and had to find a new direction if it was to survive. This was at a time when he entered politics and joined Fife County Council, a position which would see him lead the Progressive Party on the Council and become Vice-Convenor. As if that wasn't enough, David invited Gil to take over as Chairman of the Board of Governors for 1948. It was said that he was able to bear heavy responsibility with greater ease, confidence, dignity and distinction. No-one can say that Gil did not have his hands full as he and Barbara were also settling with a new family at Edenshead. But he still found time on Founder's Day 1948 to set up and administer the War Memorial Fund; a cause that was very close to his heart as a Scottish soldier. And it was through his auspices that speakers like the local MP, Colonel Gomme-Duncan came to give talks to the school.

Willie Ward retired after 25 years service, leaving the school to be run by his assistant, John Shaw, but it was clear that the school needed a new broom to cope with the peacetime demands and the recruitment of suitable staff. On 27th November 1948, Gil reported that, out of eighty applications, Anthony Hamilton of Clifton College, Bristol had accepted the position of headmaster and would begin on 1st January 1949. On October 2nd, Gil unveiled the new war memorial which was placed on the south wall of the refurbished chapel, and the following Saturday, Founder's Day made a new departure with poppy wreaths laid at the memorial. The

Strathallian Memorial Scholarship Fund was complete and was ready for publication. So it was with some feeling that the Annual Dinner was held at the Salutation Hotel in Perth for the first time with a record attendance. Anthony Hamilton made an excellent speech which indicated to all that the school was in safe hands. However, his tenure only lasted two years and both he and John Shaw had left by the following winter.

Gil spent the autumn term of 1950 leading the search for a new headmaster, personally interviewing the prospective candidates. Gil was made aware that Wilf Hoare, a forty year-old Housemaster from Fettes who had been with the Royal Scots Regiment, was the kind of steady hand that was needed by the school. Gil met and interviewed him with success. Wilf began work on the 1st January and immediately began setting about the structure of the school. Gil agreed that the increasing number of younger boys should be given their own accommodation, so the old sanatorium was converted to become Riley House and the boys left the main building a year later. The construction of a new study block and common rooms for the four senior Houses also relieved the pressure on the Boarding accommodation in the main building. Gil turned to Alex Fraser, now also on the Board of Governors, to take control of the building work. This was the last project overseen by the factor, Robert Bain, who retired having been with the school since it moved to Forgandenny, as did the faithful school horse, Major.

Gil and Wilf built a sound relationship which was to last many years. Their changes to the school set the foundation for a rapid expansion and the next years brought about improvements in discipline and academic standards. The presence of Henderson Stewart, the Under Secretary of State for Scotland, at the Strathallian Dinner and Speech Day in 1954 school was portentous, for Gil was elected Member of Parliament for Kinross and West Perthshire the following year. He passed the Chairmanship of the School Governors on to his old friend George Smith but remained a governor for the rest of his life, never missing a meeting.

Gil never ceased to support the Strathallians and played a part in the formation of the Branch Clubs. His preliminary London meeting was held in the House of Commons on 28th November 1957. The Dinner was held the following February in one of the House of Commons' rooms overlooking the Thames. Being a Friday, it was reported that the traditional shout of "Who goes home," was not made and the attendants had some difficulty clearing the House. That year, Gil became parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary of State for Scotland and, following the 1959 General Election, he became Scottish Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for agriculture; his maiden speech had been on country bus services. In his last year he was responsible for planning for the new industrial Scotland.

His death on 15th August 1963 while on holiday was a great shock to all who knew him. In his school obituary it was recorded that he was one of the outstanding members of his generation at School. The qualities which impressed

themselves on all who knew him well were his integrity, his unflinching devotion to duty and his loyalty to his friends and school. Further, it had been his sound judgement, unflinching devotion and cheerfulness which had guided the school through its most difficult time.

In 1966, steps were taken to begin a development campaign over a period of years. The intention was to create a new dining facility, thereby liberating the old room to be turned into dormitories for a fifth House. It took three years for Alex Fraser's firm to complete the programme and the new dorm was opened by Mrs. Barbara Leburn on 4th October 1969 at which time the new Boarding House was officially named Leburn in honour of her husband. Within two years there would be a study block for the new House but until then the appointed Housemaster, Frank McNamara, would oversee fifteen junior boys and settle more with each new intake, so reducing the numbers of boys in the other Houses. Barbara Leburn gifted a portrait of her husband to the new House and presented a new House shield. Barbara kept regular contact and continued to invite groups of Leburn boys to Edenshead.

Frank had been a tutor in Ruthven for three years as well as coach to the 1st XV. His House tutor was John McKinlay who had been Captain of Nicol 1960-61 while the two prefects were Graham Gall, Captain, and Andrew Stirling although they continued to represent their own Houses in House matches. At the beginning of term 1970, they were joined by two more prefects, David Whyte who became School Captain, and Michael Finlay, from Ruthven and Simpson respectively. A new study block, known locally as the Strathallian Hilton, was completed for Autumn 1971 when sixteen senior boys joined Leburn from the other Houses to make up a full complement; in fact to make the largest House in the school. A large number of Simpson boys were relieved they no longer had to make the trek each morning from the Coven Trees Dorm. Frank left in 1975 to take up the post of Vice-Principal at King William's School on the Isle of Man and was replaced by Colin Addison and a new tutor Nick Du Boulay (Yes, Nick, I know you started in January).

Colin had to wait four more years for the completion of the Housemaster's House next to the study block. He and Anne completed fifteen happy years and with Andrew Sinclair, the scrupulous and sometimes sickeningly fair head of House, the twenty first anniversary of Leburn House should have been a joyous occasion and I am sure many expected something special. Instead, the 29th June 1990 marked the closure of Leburn as a result of the school development. Colin's last wish was that school should have a Leburn Room to keep the memory of the House alive. As Colin said, "I am very sad that circumstances dictated that the House should be disbanded at this time. I feel sad too for the late Mrs Leburn who christened the House in memory of her husband, Gilmour Leburn. I hope that the House and the name of Gilmour Leburn will now never be forgotten."

Note: I should like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Dorothy Highland for her help and company during the production of this article.

GRMR



Staff Valete

Neil Metcalfe

In 2002 a fresh wind swept through the Music department, and deposited Neil Metcalfe on our doorstep. He immediately set about promoting his ethos of music education, making music accessible to everyone, and the results were instant. The breadth of musical activities was considerably widened, with innovations that include the Chamber Choir and Musical Theatre programme, aspects of the department's work that are now firmly established. All of Neil's skills had been very finely honed through a wide range of experiences. After graduating from Edinburgh, he enrolled on the répétiteurs course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and thereupon took on his first full-time professional engagement with Scottish Opera. He has worked in major opera houses around the world, with directors including Dr Jonathan Miller and Baz Luhrmann. However, in 1991 he decided to move into teaching and was appointed as Assistant Director of Music at Loretto School. In 1995 was appointed to the post of Director of Music at Rannoch School, where he also served as Housemaster of Potteries House. He spent seven wonderful years in the idyllic scenery surrounding Loch Rannoch, and became fully integrated in the school's working ethos, including voluntarily running the New York marathon! Following

the school's unfortunate demise and closure in 2002, he weighed up his career options: simply move to a new school, or move on to a new career? Possibilities included paramedic and pilot! Luckily for us, Sir Richard Branson's loss was Strathallan's gain. Under his leadership, our department has been transformed into one of the foremost in the country. His musical vision and openness have encouraged increasing numbers of pupils to study music at an advanced level, as well as uncovered hidden talent. His deep interest in music theatre led directly to Strathallan's being the first school in Scotland to produce the highly successful landmark show *Les Misérables*, closely following that production with *West Side Story* and, more recently, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. He oversaw the immensely successful production of *Headmaster's Music* in the Perth Concert Hall last year, a concert that has become both a permanent fixture in and highlight of the musical calendar. Through his guidance and consummate musicianship the department has gone from strength to strength, each year building on the successes of the last. As he returns to his first love, performance, he leaves the department more healthy, wealthy and, hopefully, wise. We thank our dear friend and colleague, and wish him well for the future.

RCAW



Angus Weir

Angus Weir arrived at Strathallan in September 2002 as a fresh-faced head of department. His 31 years belied a steely resolve to lick the Maths Department into shape. He was presented with a baptism of fire when it was announced that we were to be scrutinised by Her Majesty's Inspectors in December 2003, with the Maths Department being one of the main subject areas. In 2002 he had taken over a department that ran perfectly well, producing impressive results, but which required the application of Angus's particular genius to bring it perfectly into line with the Inspectors' rigorous requirements. It is to his great credit and due to exceptional hard work that, by the time of the Inspection, he had got us to a point where, although there were many developments still in progress, the Department could be presented successfully to the Inspectors. By the time he departed this year, he had brought us well and truly into the 21st century with all systems up and running.

He was a House tutor in Freeland and soon earned the nickname 'James Bond' for his suave and sophisticated manner. 'Mr Cool' he certainly was, according to many of the girls he taught (and many he didn't) and I suspect that a lot were very sorry to see him go.

His coolness was also noted at Head of Department meetings where, I quote:



Jackie Martin

'He was cool, calm and collected, a voice of reason when the discussion became heated, as it sometimes did, bringing everyone back down to earth and focusing on the solutions'.

The only area where his temperature rose above 0oC was sport. He was an enthusiastic coach to the U15Bs at rugby, and the 2nd and 1st XI footballers. I have it on good authority that, although he tried to keep quiet on the touchline, it was often a lost cause and his frustration could be heard across Perthshire. In the Summer terms he joined the golf squad and gave many would-be golfers his best advice, which was actually worth listening to as he came to us with a handicap of 1. However, I witnessed the odd chink in his armour at first hand when occasionally – very occasionally – his ball would veer off the fairway into the trees and he would cringe and convulse on the tee. It didn't seem to make any difference though, as I was mostly on the receiving end by the 18th hole.

Over the last six years he has coped well with all the demands at Strathallan, but I wonder whether his cool demeanour will survive the 3am nappy-changing. By the time this goes to press, he and Bronagh will be proud parents and we wish them and the baby health and happiness. We also wish Angus the very best as he takes up his new post of Deputy Head at Beaconsbury, under an old colleague, Ian Kilpatrick. I know his experiences at Strathallan will stand him in good stead and I am confident that he has the qualities to do an excellent job.

GCK

Jackie Martin arrived at Strathallan in September 1997 and immediately imposed her disciplined, imaginative and highly-organised style on her area of the Computing Department. She set extremely high standards for those around her and pupils were well aware that they had an exceptionally proficient and capable educator in their midst. This was not, however, the only context in which pupils, parents and other members of staff had the opportunity to witness Jackie's expertise being given an airing. She and I worked together for many years preparing and making costumes for school shows. Jackie had an amazing ability to sew anything you can think of; from silver a all-in-one suit for a robot to a Victorian frock coat. She was never fazed by any challenge and would often stay up into the small hours to finish a costume that was needed for the next day's performance. One of the high points for Jackie was the school's production of *Les Misérables*. Costumes were hired for this, over two hundred of them, which required an incredible amount of organisation and the taking over of one of the English classrooms for a week. The fact that it all ran smoothly and despite the pupils' best efforts no-one went on stage in the wrong costume is a credit to Jackie. She was in her element; emergency repairs of ball gowns, taking costumes in, letting them out, nothing was too much. Throughout it all Jackie remained calm, essential when surrounded by highly strung actors and actresses.

I know I speak for staff and pupils when I say that Jackie will be sorely missed. I hope her new school realise what a treasure they have acquired.

KS-J

Ann Dorward

When John and I arrived at Strathallan back in 1997 I was offered the position of teacher of Riley Games. Having not been involved in the teaching of sport for over fifteen years I approached the new term with some trepidation. However, when September arrived I was introduced to my new working partner, Ann. She helped me learn the ropes of Strathallan life and kept both the girls and me in order.

Every term began with a kindly reminder about what to wear and what not to wear, everything regulation, even down to the hats and gloves; woe betide anyone who turned up to games incorrectly kitted out. But Ann was not just about rules and regulations. She was a great coach of all the major sports, also bringing her experience and expertise to the senior school, where she held responsibility for various netball, hockey and tennis teams.

Ann gave up many hours at various tennis tournaments yet would always offer a helping hand if it was needed. The girls appreciated this along with the generous supply of jelly babies and, in the summer term, ice cream!

Ann has been a great colleague and friend to many people over the years; we miss her already but look forward to catching up and hearing all about her European adventures very soon.

SEF

Obituaries



Denis Young

My father Denis Young died on 15th February 2008, following a short illness. He taught at Strathallan School from 1951 until 1979, and was housemaster of Simpson House for much of that time.

Denis was born in Ceylon in 1926, the third child of Sir Mark Aitchison Young, Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, and later Governor of Hong Kong. His father's career in the Colonial Service meant that Denis spent his early childhood in Ceylon, Palestine and Barbados, before attending Winchester College in 1939. In 1944 he was called up and served briefly in the Fleet Air Arm, although the war ended before he completed his training as an air engineer. As children, we liked to think that maybe the war ended sooner because the forces of the Axis were terrified that our Dad was about to be sent out against them.

Immediately after the war, Denis went up to Cambridge and studied Music and History at King's College. On graduating, he took a job with the British Council in Singapore, but budgetary cuts in the late 1940s meant that he was laid off after a year, along with many recent recruits to the Council.

His post at Strathallan was never intended to be long-term. Denis was employed through a London teaching agency, and went to Forgandenny in January 1951, thinking he would stay until the end of the year. The school was going through a period of transition at the time, with the new headmaster, Wilf Hoare, determined to implement changes. It quickly became apparent that there was a role for Denis in helping to take the school forward, and after a short time he was offered the position of housemaster.

Although he had been employed as a history master, Denis was involved in teaching a range of subjects in those early years. He subsequently became head of history and helped many boys to achieve excellent results at 'O' and 'A' level. It was a great source of pride to him that so many of the young people he taught were able to achieve places at Oxford and Cambridge.

I was one of my father's pupils for a brief time. His style of teaching was lively and eccentric, peppered with frequent diversions. His classes would sometimes start before he even got through the door, with the sound of his voice bellowing in from outside as he came round the corner. Attending a school where your father taught had its disadvantages, but I'm glad to have experienced the energy and intensity of his teaching style.

Denis enjoyed writing right up until the end of his life. He had an outlandish sense of humour, which meant that he was a frequent winner of competitions in *Punch* and the *Spectator*, while his brain teasers were often accepted by *The Times* or *The Daily Telegraph*. As an accomplished bridge player and problem setter, he had many articles published in British and American bridge journals.

One of his passions, which originated when he was still in his teenage years, was for Chinese porcelain. His appetite for this grew over the years, and he was incapable of passing an antique shop without going in for a quick look. He developed a great deal of knowledge in this area, as well as an ability to spot a bargain, and in 1979 he embarked on a second career as an antiques dealer. By the time he left teaching his hearing loss had grown progressively worse and he was beginning to feel that he had lost some of his thunder in the classroom.

The same year, Denis left Forgandenny to live in a highland manse in Glenlyon, bought four years earlier. This idyllic spot was my parents' home until 1997, when they moved to Bath. Denis brought the same level of enthusiasm to his business as he had to the classroom and greatly enjoyed the years he spent as an antiques dealer.

WSE Young Freeland (81)



Donald McColl

b 1920: q Glasgow 1943 BSc, MB,CHB)
died 30th August 2008.

Donald was admitted to Strathallan School just before his 10th birthday in 1930.

During his time at boarding school he won numerous sports medals and in 1936/37 was awarded a 1st XV rugby cap. He also did well academically - passing the Cambridge entrance exams allowing him to leave at the age of 17 in 1937 and enter Glasgow University where he took a BSc in Pure Science prior to studying medicine, graduating in 1943 at the height of the war.

While at University he played rugby and golf. He represented Glasgow University at golf and won the Strathallian Bogie Golf Trophy in 1939 at Western Gailes and at Stirling Golf Club in 1946

After qualifying at Glasgow University, Donald joined the R.M.A.C. in 1944, was posted to Nigeria in West Africa where he served for 18 months with a final rank of Captain.

On his return he did a Post Graduate Medical course at Glasgow University and then worked in Larkfield Hospital in Greenock where he obtained a clinical MD. He then worked in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in 1948.

From 1949 - 1963 he then was employed as the Works Medical Officer, at ICI, Ardeer Factory, Nobel Division, Stevenson, Ayrshire. He helped to set up the Physiotherapy Unit there and weight handling was taught to the employees

based on the Tom Anderson Physiotherapy School's "Human Kinetics". As a result of his work at Ardeer the idea of preventative physiotherapy was taken up by the Dock Labour Board, the National Coal Board, Unilever and others. ICI then made a film "Human Kinetics"

On leaving Ardeer, Donald was appointed as Company Medical advisor at Blackwood and Morton and Son's Limited in Kilmarnock. When working for BMK Donald was a member of the Executive Committee of the Ayrshire Occupational Health and Safety Group from 1964 - 1979 and Chairman of the Group from 1973 - 1979.

During his 30 years in Occupational Medicine he had numerous papers published. His prolonged cold water treatment of burns was never formally published but this effective method is still employed by the family.

In 1978 Donald was made a member of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, a newly formed branch of the Royal College of Physicians in London.

In 1980 Donald became a part-time partner in a General Practice at the Townhead Health Centre attached to Glasgow Royal Infirmary in 1982 which covered Central Glasgow and the East of the city. He remained there until his retirement in 1986

He leaves a wife, Moyra and three children Marie Carol and Don

Carol Fell (Daughter)



It was a spectacular show, the glitch-free appearances of the models on stage belying the frantic rush backstage.

Charities

Determination: *NOUN* a strong intention to achieve something even though it is difficult.

Determined: *ADJECTIVE* having your mind firmly made up

Over the year there have been many examples of determination at Strathallan;

the determination of Peter and Adam to get their message across in Chapel; the determination of the pupil committee to make the Fashion show succeed; the sheer guts and determination of Craig, a 1JJ pupil, to complete the whole of the triathlon on his own.

We need people with determination, we need people who want to change the way things are, who want to make life better for others, who want to make a difference. Sometimes we forget what is happening outside the comfortable place that is Strathallan. We need people to make us sit up and listen, to encourage us to help others.

Peter and Adam did just this when they spoke very movingly in Chapel of their personal experiences of losing a parent and their subsequent wish to do something positive for others. They chose to support the work of The Children's Society which "provides help and understanding for those forgotten children who are unable to find the support they need anywhere else." This became the autumn term charity with money being collected at the House Music Competition, the Showcase Concert in Perth and on Fancy Dress Non-uniform day where the theme was Peter Pan. A total of £3057 was raised and presented to the Charity by Peter and Adam.

Kilt and Rugby shirt days give pupils an opportunity to wear their kilts and make a donation to charity. These take place on St Andrew's Day and Burns' Night. This year a total of £1061.20 was raised and divided between, UNICEF, CHAS and The Sandpiper Trust. A donation was also made to Capability Scotland where the staff quiz team took the top prize for the fourth year in succession.

In one of the initial meetings of the Charities Committee a sub-committee was set up to research and set up a Fashion Show to take place just prior to the February half term. William Farmer (S6) and Jill Bardon (W6) agreed to chair this committee. This group demonstrated clearly just what determination can achieve by doing much of the hard work themselves. They had a meeting with representatives of HSBC and persuaded them to donate over £2000 to cover expenses for the show. They visited numerous shops in Perth to arrange for the loan of clothes; arranged for Charlie Taylor to come in and do the models' hair; booked the sound technicians and the lighting technician. They even managed to cajole Miss Laurie (someone with previous experience of putting on a fashion show) into helping. They had goodie-bags printed and filled with leaflets and freebies.

It was a spectacular show, the glitch-free appearances of the models on stage belying the frantic rush backstage. The highlight was the first sighting of the new Strath tartan designed by ANTA. The show also made it into the pages of Scottish Field. A total of £1736.04 was raised for Cancer Research UK with a further £769.30 going to SQWIDD.

Olivia Giles, one of the co-founders of the 500 miles charity, was the guest speaker on Speech Day. Olivia, a quadruple amputee, spoke eloquently about what determination had helped her achieve.

It had been decided before Speech Day that the annual triathlon should become a sponsored event to raise money for this charity. The aim of the day was to complete 500 miles as a school. On a gloriously sunny day pupils, staff and a dog (on a lead, I trust. Ed) ran or walked laps of the school grounds whilst the more athletic swam, rowed and ran. The total number of miles covered collectively, in the end, was seven hundred and eighty-six. A collection for this charity was also made on Speech Day. In total £3793.99 was raised.

How do you react when someone says to you "You'll never be able to do that, I wouldn't even try if I were you. It's not worth it."? Do you give up then or do you go out and show that person just how wrong they were?

At the triathlon it was the determination of a 9-year-old that took many by surprise. Craig wanted to do the whole of the triathlon event by himself. Several people tried, unsuccessfully, to dissuade him from this, suggesting that he should be part of a team. Craig would have none of it. Watching his concentration on the rowing machine during the first part of the triathlon I realised that he had would complete the event through sheer will power and dogged determination.

I hope his determination and that of Peter, Adam, the Fashion Show committee and Olivia Giles will inspire you to do something for others.

K 5-J

Reels



This has been an exceptionally busy year for Strathallan Reelers. The first Reels Night of the session was for the LVI and served as an excellent way for the new LVI Form pupils to get to know the old hands. Experienced dancers helped to lead the new pupils through the dances and the less experienced quickly realised that they had nothing to fear by trying out the dances but had lots of fun by "going with the flow".

The next event was participating in the BBC radio Scotland recording of "Take the Floor". The V Form took part in this, joining in with local dancers and enjoying the experience of seeing the BBC outside broadcasting unit at work and also the chance to dance to The Simon Howie dance band.

In November the St. Andrew's Night ceilidh was held for the UVI. We never quite manage to celebrate this on the actual evening of St. Andrew's day but non-the-less we celebrated our patron saint in style. A young local pair of musicians joined us for the evening and the UVI certainly enjoyed the upbeat tempo of their music.

The V Form allowed the IV Form to join them for their January ceilidh. The V Form relaxed and danced the night away and soon forgot about the pressures of their trial exams. It was wonderful to see the dance floor so full of dancers for every dance.

During the summer term, it was the turn of the III Form to try out the dance floor. Some of them took part in a short reels session with their correspondents who were visiting from the Collège François Truffant. The French pupils

were keen to join in and learn about our culture and picked up the patterns of the dances remarkably quickly. This was followed by the III and IV Form summer ceilidh. The III Form, as usual, approaching the evening with some trepidation but by the end of the first dance, they had let their guard down and were soon into the swing of things.

As always a big "Thank You" must go to Gordon Stewart and the kitchen staff for providing the food and drinks for these evenings and for Tom Lindsay and C-J for clearing the tables from the dining room. I would also like to thank the bands who provide us with top class music and all of the teaching staff who came along and joined in the dancing, helped count the dancers into sets and served the refreshments. Without you all, these evenings would not have been the successes they were.

EWB



St. Andrew's Night Ceilidh

As November arrived our attention was, as always, drawn to the annual Upper Sixth Form St. Andrew's Night Ceilidh. It took place in the dining room this year, which gave us lots of extra space to dance. We were lucky enough to have a live band, the Simon Howie Dance Band to dance to and some excellent cooking provided by the dining room staff.

As always, the evening began back at the Houses; preparation being vital to the performance of our immense dancing skills! Approaching the dining hall, the sound of high heels clattering rang out through the school (only from the girls, of course). The crowds grew and tables were organised by the time the band started up and we all took to the dance floor. Beginning with the customary dashing White Sergeant, then the Gay Gordons, Mrs. Hamilton guided us

through the first half of the evening until hunger got the better of us and the food appeared.

The traditional Scottish meal was gulped down in record time and we were soon back to the dancing, where we saw a number of teachers showing off their dancing skills! Thank you, Mr. Kitson, for your helpful demonstrations. The dancing continued until the end drew upon us and the last dance was called, our favourite, Strip the Willow. We twirled and spun round the dance floor until our feet were raw and our legs weary but thoroughly enjoyed the evening and I'm sure that its memory will remain in our minds for a long time to come.

Charlotte Garven UVI Woodlands



The Ball

Once we'd forced down what I am obliged to call dinner with two glasses of wine, the band struck up...

The Sixth Form Ball, where do I start? Usually with a double Tesco vodka (a delectable mix of acid and petrol) and high juice; perhaps some gin smuggled in using the old Lucozade bottle ruse (but sir, I'm really thirsty...). I'm joking, of course. This year saw a new dawn in sobriety amongst the Sixth Form amidst warnings from the powers-that-be.

Even the smokers felt the iron-shod foot of the headmaster stamping on their freshly-lit cigarettes. If you're caught smoking – you won't go to the ball. It's like a sordid Cinderella story with Mr. Barnes playing the ugly stepsister. So, labouring under a burden of warnings about imminent cancellation – go ahead it did.

The usual protestations from the females of the school, "Yeah, well I'm not even going, because it was so, like, rubbish last year." mingled with tired anecdotes about Niv's 'performance' the previous year. The ladies, like sitting ducks at a poultry market, waited for their invitations from the hormonally carnivorous yet oddly tentative boys.

As the whole charade began its gradual crescendo the general Ball chatter built up. Flowers were bought, girlfriends acquired or dumped, tuxedos ordered, booze hidden (joking), cameras formatted – Facebook readied, Dr. D talking about the Hacienda, the Ball 'please-don't-drink-but-we'll-turn-a-blind-eye' Assembly. And so as the pupils sat in their rooms 'getting ready' the tireless efforts of the ball committee swung into action.

The 'Vegas' theme was an intriguing idea, and the décor was pulled off remarkably well. The table decorations a wonderful cliché of the city that never sleeps (erm, I think you'll find that's New York, Josh. Ed) – but then that's what Vegas is all about! With Proc lurking near the red wine table, the Headmaster exaggerating his 'wide-boy' swagger and Dr D still telling anyone who would listen about the Hacienda (I tried to but his 'guns' got in the way), everything was as it should be. But who's the shifty guy with the zoom lens? Mr Watt? No it's the official photographer. Oh, that's ok, then

Once we'd forced down what I am obliged to call dinner with two glasses of wine, the band struck up; a fantastic round of Ceilidh dancing to raise the tempo. Mr. Kitson didn't disappoint. Strathallan's original Casanova had the ladies swept off their feet all night and together with his protégé, Dmitri, kept the females woo'd. Then, as the lights dimmed to the soundtrack of *The Last of the Mohicans*, and a flurry of smoke choked the already intolerable air, Dr. D and Sandy began to work their magic behind the decks. Like butch versions of Ant and Dec they worked the crowd; and whilst it's true that Norman Cook isn't going to be running scared just yet, their song selection was pretty cool and I, like others, dripped sweat until the early hours.

The curfew overstretched and Fitz tearing his hair out, the last few reprobates traipsed through the door, dishevelled and satisfied that this year was another to remember and put in the photo album. If they ever came.

Josh Lipworth UVI Nicol



VI Form Events



Having had several events in the past year, the games night with a multitude of bouncy castles was the one that all of us really enjoyed.

Strolling down to our first Sixth Form event feeling somewhat uneasy; we wondered what to expect having endured many dull junior events. To say we were dumbstruck doesn't do it justice....beers, beats and bad behaviour were among the many things to enjoy at the Sixth Form centre.

Having had several events in the past year, the games night with a multitude of bouncy castles was the one that all of us really enjoyed. Our Aussie exchange students made the most of the Strath talent at the rave and Christmas events at which Grant Murdoch's inflatable Santa suit was a memorable sight.

A huge thank you to Mr.Vallot and his team of staff who are always there to help and join in the fun!

Etienne Melville L VI Simpson

Burns Supper

The annual Sixth Form Burns supper in the Music Room was declared "the best yet" by guests who attend regularly. Chairman, Mr Andrew Henderson invited Josh Lipworth to address the haggis which was piped in by Etienne Melville. Mrs Irene McFarlane proposed the Immortal Memory where she concentrated on Burns' song- writing, illustrating her speech with musical excerpts. Sam Lipworth gave a very humorous Toast to the Lassies to which Morag Elwis replied in equal measure. Tom Fleming toasted the school and Mr Barnes replied. The school is fortunate to have in the Sixth Form a number of pupils gifted in Scots recitations and in Scottish traditional music. Morag Elwis and Sophie Stephenson performed two poems, and both girls took part in the ceilidh band of 10 players which Sophie co-ordinated. There were also songs from Alex Beetschen, Eila Legge and Mairi Mackenzie. Rachel McLean gave the vote of thanks before the evening rounded off with Auld Lang Syne.

IIMcF



The school is fortunate to have in the Sixth Form a number of pupils gifted in Scots recitations and in Scottish traditional music.





So I tried playing without the racquet and it was much better.



One hundred not out.



1 Down. Little white dog. Wears sunglasses.
S-N-O-O- space Y. Any ideas guys?



Dave's pulled.



Scandal as SFA
ref is caught
pocketing bung.



Best pals.



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