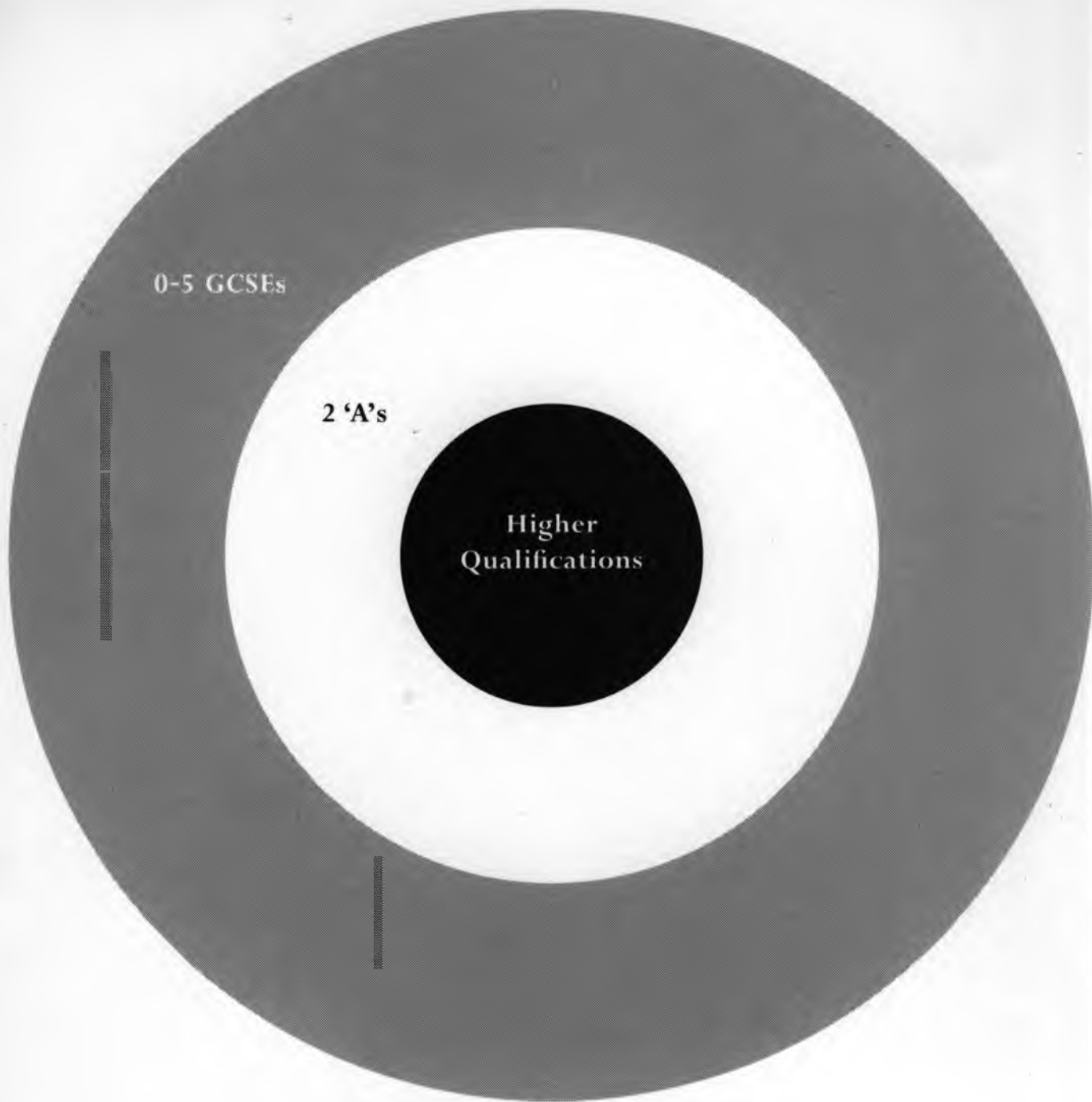


The STRATHALLIAN

95
96





AIM HIGH

Score:

0-5 GCSEs. There are dozens of jobs within the RAF. Many of them require no exam passes at all. However, for some of the more specialised trades you'll need up to five GCSEs in relevant subjects.

2 or more 'A' levels. This is the minimum qualification for commission as an officer. With these you could also qualify for sponsorship through university while you study for your degree.

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To find out more, ask to see the RAF Careers Liaison Officer who can be reached through your Careers Teacher, or contact the nearest RAF Careers Information Office (address in the telephone book under Royal Air Force).



ROYAL AIR FORCE

The Strathallian

1996

Vol 17, No 1

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Front Cover: Winners of Perth Schools Junior Curling League

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Dundee
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Housemaster Ruthven
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Housemaster Freeland

Housemistress Thornbank

Head of Department

Head of Department

Chaplain

Head of Department

Head of Department

Head of Department

Dir. Studies (Science)

Head of Department

Second Master

Head of Department

Head of Department

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A S Gardner, A Harbit, D S MacLennan, D
H Perrett, H R Pyke.

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Girvan, C P Howarth, J A Phillips, A M G
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M J Nicolson, S A Oliphant, N Taylor,
N D Whiting.

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Oliaro, A Lamb, C E McFarlane,
V E McIntyre, H F Thomson.

WOODLANDS

S S Harvey, H L Johnston, C M Mackay,
K Mitchell, J E Murdoch, LV Panther,
C A Peattie, S-J Skinner, K A Wilson,

SCHOOL AUTHORITY

ACADEMIC YEAR 1995/96

Captain of School
Head of Freeland
Head of Nicol
Head of Ruthven
Head of Simpson
Head of Thornbank
Head of Woodlands

N C D Morley
A L Robertson
G R McMillan
E A Mackay
A D Reekie
K G Lawson
A C K Blair
Oliphant

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K L Hodgson, D W Macleod, S L Murray,
N R Scales, L R Walker, A R J Chown,
S M Connell, B J Martin, H M Ross,
R A Connell, C L Macdonell,
J C Matheson, G C Wood.

ACADEMIC YEAR 1996/97

Captain of School
Head of Freeland
Head of Nicol
Head of Ruthven
Head of Simpson
Head of Thornbank
Head of Woodlands

A O Sutherland
R E Wands
M R A Morley
M G Honig
C A Stevens
L Duncan
K A Wilson

School Prefects

S A Catto, D A C Horsfall, N E Grosset,
D J Osborne, R D Wallace, A I D Grieve,
K E McFarlane, T P Turner, F Hamilton,
L H Allison, C L Ketcher, L E Kitson,
D I Matheson, C J Wands.

EDITORIAL

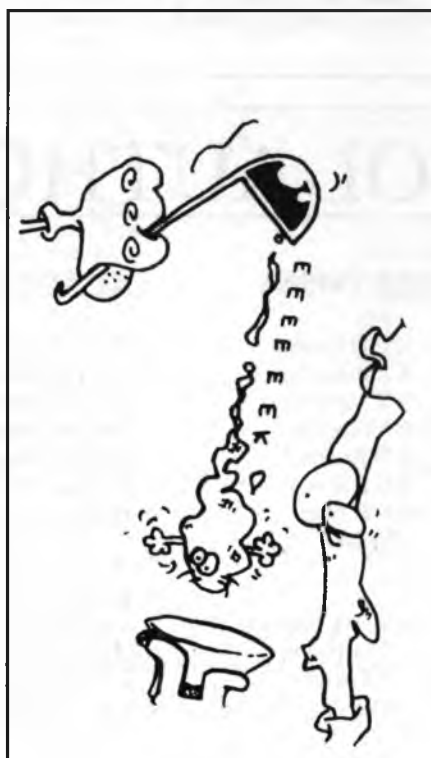
Labor omnia vincit - yes, at Strathallan work conquers all but - as any Old Strathallian will tell you - only once the rugby's been dealt with! 1995/6 was truly the year of the 1st XV. In September we sent out a team of young, large, strong men and Kim Parker, to beat the best as well as annihilate our key rival and they did so with style. Now, I watch rugby for the thighs not the tries but even I could smell the reek of the 1st XV's relentless single-minded devotion. It permeated everywhere so that many students were left to ponder a new 'eternal question': What came first, the School Prefect or the 1st XV player? These victores ludorum recorded an unbeaten season against Scottish schools and were fittingly rewarded as Scottish Independent Schools Champions. It was a sublime season that could not be sullied, not even by Mr Green's apparent defection, and shall go down in all our memories in a blaze of yellow stripes and glory.



However, soon our blazers saw a new, vital, go faster stripe than even the yellow: a blue stripe for the artistic elite beyond even the reach of Bru. The "about time" School Colours stripe brought deserved recognition for artistic, musical and dramatic excellence but also, as the School goose-steps towards a new millennium, the possibility of an entirely new dimension to Strathallan. Can you see Strathallan - proud, staunch (probably with a paunch) blinking in the dawn of a new era? Perhaps we'll see a day where blue stripe wearers overwhelm those of the yellow. It's debatable (let's not forget the weight ratio) but bodes well for the future.



This year the Dining Hall evolved, albeit from primeval to medieval, but the 70's swimming pool aura is finally beginning to fade. Now in our comfortable surroundings we can sit and wallow in nostalgia. Do you remember the good old days when breakfast was subtly minimalist, lunch was interesting, tea was a challenge and we all knew twenty synonyms for mince? Now the dining Hall's almost too new.



Occasionally, sitting eating, I'm hit by flashbacks: sweat trickles down my neck (polyester does that), my panic upgrades to hysteria as I spot a server - not even medicated - smiling, and suddenly it's all too suspiciously perfect. The walls are too bright, the trays are too blue, the knives are kept blunt. Is the furniture nailed to the floor in case we throw it? I shudder, believe me. Our dining room is an institution just waiting to happen.

These are all signs of a radical overhaul which has only just begun. All around me, Strathallan is metamorphosing, shaping up and pumping iron, (new Biology blocks, new sanatorium, new astroturf, new assault course) but while the new lean education machine advances, the Immortal still stays the same. Our winter sky is still polluted by one solitary street lamp, wave upon wave of blue nylon shadows still rustle in the undergrowth and summer in Woodlands smells, as always, of cut grass and Immac.

However, back to the glory. The success of 1995/96 on rugby, hockey, cricket field, netball court, on stage, in exam or concert will doubtless be recounted, in excessive and possibly excruciating detail, within. So for a carefully selected sample of Strathallian life - read on

Claire Duckworth

1986-1996

Before I sign off - with my favourite old red pen - I would like to break my own editorial rule and thank all those who have supported me:

- my dogs, who never complained when their dinner was late;
- my cats, who waited patiently to be allowed in after dark;
- my sheep, who baa-ed as usual, even if I neglected them;
- my children, who apparently didn't realise I had anything much on;
- my husband, who suffered my despair when reports failed to come in on time (you know who you are!);
- Margaret Band, who typed heroically
- and of course, all my regular contributors who put pen to paper and eye to camera so willingly for the last ten years.

EMA

STAFF NOTES

The full time staff at Strathallan has expanded in number to over 60 in recent years and, during the course of the year, we have seen the departure of six full time and one part time member of staff.

Paul Elliott leaves for Malaysia, where he will relish the challenge of establishing a Design Technology Department at the Alice Smith School. His work in establishing our highly-regarded Design and Technology Department and his leadership of School canoeing and the Post-Highers programme will be sorely missed.

Another Paul - Paul Crosfield, is also leaving to join the Modern Languages Department at Oakham. His work as a House Tutor and with cross-country, mountain biking and French exchanges, will be a great loss. He joins Peter Green in moving to Rutland, Peter having taken over as Head of Geography at Uppingham in January - after enjoying a wonderful final season with the 1st XV.

Leslie O'Neill is also departing to become Head of Technology at Chesham School and his work in the department, his singing, his creation of a Japanese Society but, above all, his inspirational work as Stage Manager will be sorely missed. Les's wife, Maureen, who has taught so effectively on a part-time basis in the Economics and Business Studies Department goes with him.

Finally, Keith Taylor, Physicist and canoeist, leaves for a post at Perse Girls' School and Deborah Kaye moves on after a brief, but I hope enjoyable stay in the Design and Technology Department.

We also say farewell to two experienced members of our Administrative team. Derek Pentland, School Accountant for 13 years and Ian Eades, whose job description has included work on the School Stationary Stores, CCF Stores and endless trips with pupils to the hospital, both retire and we wish them well.

David Read arrived as Director of Music in January 1996. After taking his degree at Sheffield, Mr Read worked as Organ Tutor at the University before Directorships at West Buckland School and King William's College. Mr Read has already made a great impact, in particular through the growth of the Chapel Choir and the successful re-introduction of the House Music Competitions.

Dr Deborah Carr replaced Peter Green at the same time. Dr Carr studied at Aberdeen University and did her doctorate at Edinburgh, and then worked for Mobil Oil before training as a teacher.

She has already contributed greatly to girls' games and outdoor pursuits and is a House Tutor in Thornbank House.

Adrian Philips, who taught at Strathallan from 1989 to 1995, returns to head the Design and Technology Department and, as before, will also be involved with School sailing and the Naval Section.

Two other staff join the Design and Technology Department, Sandy Lunan who took his degree at Glasgow University and was heavily involved in voluntary work overseas before training as a teacher, arrives with an interest in games and music and he will be joined in the department by Julia Morrison who also trained at Glasgow and will bring considerable sporting expertise, as a tennis and badminton player and golfer, to girls' games.

Keith Taylor's place in the Physics Department is taken by Martin Wightman who followed a degree at Manchester University with teacher training at Newcastle and has considerable experience in canoe and climbing instruction. His expertise as a trumpeter and singer will also be most welcome.

Paul Crosfield is replaced by another Paul, Paul Shields, who read Languages at Glasgow University where he also trained as a teacher. Mr Shields comes with 8

years experience of teaching in Spain and a broad range of interests.

Finally, Maureen O'Neill's position in the Business Studies and Economics Departments is taken by Mrs Audrey Ingram Forde who studied at the University of Luton and whose background as a county netball player will, no doubt, be invaluable.

We wish a warm welcome to all the new staff and hope that they enjoy their time at Strathallan greatly.



Dr. Carr



SPEECH DAY

A new Bursar, a new Marketing & PR. Consultant and a nearly new Headmaster combined this year to provide a slightly different format to the traditional Speech Day.

The main formalities remained the same, the tent, the lawn location, the pipe band, an extended prize winners list but this year, the post-proceedings concert was held in the Chapel and the Art Exhibition in the Music Room. Lunch on the lawn was a popular addition to the day, pupils being invited for the first time - but no doubt not the last.

The Headmaster paid tribute to the hard work of all pupils this last year, our high and rising position in the examination league tables, our unbeaten 1st XV, our outstandingly successful 1st XI Hockey and Netball Teams, the record number of participants in the Headmaster's Music, House Music, Drama, Art and Verse Speaking. With a full trophy cupboard, the Pipe Band drew special mention and performed to standard, as expected, at the end of the morning.

The principal speaker, Tom Farmer, Chairman and Managing Director of Kwik Fit, certainly sees life both as a challenge and as fun and he entertained and motivated pupils and parents alike,

often to spontaneous applause, with his philosophy of life which was: "provided you do your best, you'll achieve recognition" - the 'can do' attitude overcomes everything. He informed us that you learn nothing until after you think you know all the answers. This struck a chord with most adults in the audience but the irony was lost on most of the rest! To laughter, he backed up his 'can do' attitude by assuring us that he couldn't wait to go to bed at night because it meant tomorrow came more quickly and with it, the chance to get on with life.

He attended the concert and showed great interest in the Art Exhibition before returning to Edinburgh by helicopter, no doubt exhausted.

AW



The Headmaster and Mr Tom Farmer

THE HEADMASTER'S MAIN POINTS

The expectations of parents, pupils, universities, employers and the like have grown dramatically. Boys and girls are encouraged and, at times, driven to make the most of their abilities. I believe this School is in a wonderfully strong position to compete in the league tables and to hold its head up.

But the success of the School for parents here today really concerns the way we develop the abilities and the confidence of their sons and daughters. How do we measure this? We look at the grades achieved in public examinations, the success and enjoyment that come from a diverse range of sporting and cultural activities and, above all, the happiness that comes from living in a caring and supportive community.

I am proud of the remarkable achievements of boys and girls at Strathallan over the past twelve months.

As well as last summer's public examination results, sporting successes have also been cherished.

Beyond the more traditional team games, the range of outdoor pursuits have broadened to include climbing, wind-surfing and water-skiing. The revision of the activities programme has provided more for all.

The Expressive Arts remain a great strength of the School and the introduction of School Colours as an award for those who have made an outstanding contribution in this area of School life has given them due recognition.

We are committed to improving the quality of education and this can be measured in our continued development of facilities. Last year's projects such as the new Biology Labs and AstroTurf pitch have had a tremendous impact on the

lives of many pupils as will the new Medical Centre. We are also using our financial strength to improve the intangibles - the broadening of the curriculum with the growth of Spanish, re-introduction of Latin and Greek and the introduction of Computing and Business Studies and Politics at various examination levels.

We have also increased the size of the staff which means we have a full-time staff/pupil ratio of 8 to 1. Our relationships with the boys and girls here remains our greatest strength. My thanks go to all staff for their dedication and expertise.

I believe that it is a strength of this School that we work with boys and girls to set realisable goals and that we encourage them to see life as challenging, but also as fun.

PRIZES 1996

UPPER SIXTH

THE SMITH CUP FOR CAPTAIN OF SCHOOL	.....	NICHOLAS MORLEY	COMPUTING	.....	CLAIRE KETCHER
THE HOUSTON PRIZE FOR ALL ROUND MERIT	.....	DAVID MACLEOD	ART	.....	KIRSTY GLIMM
THE SCANLON CUP FOR MERIT (GIRLS)	.....	KIRSTINE LAWSON	ECONOMICS	.....	NEIL FOWLER
DUX	.....	PETER WATSON	MATHS	.....	KAY BRETZ
THE WILLIAM TATTERSALL ART PRIZE	.....	ROBERT DUNDAS	BUSINESS STUDIES	.....	CHRISTOPHER WANDS
THE ROBT BARR MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR MUSIC	.....	ANNE WILSON	M I S	.....	GARETH GREENWOOD
THE PATRICK GRANDISON PRIZE FOR STRINGS	.....	ANNE WILSON	POLITICS	....	MATTHEW MORLEY
WILLIAM PASFIELD SALVER FOR MUSIC	.....	NICHOLAS MORLEY			
THE WILFRED HOARE SENIOR READING PRIZE	.....	LUCY KITSON			
THE RICHARD MOFFAT PRIZE FOR HISTORY	.....	CLAIRE DUCKWORTH			
THE DAVID BOGIE PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS	.....	EUAN SOUTHCOTT			
THE LORD KINCRAIG PRIZE FOR ENGLISH	.....	CLAIRE DUCKWORTH			
THE ROBERT RANKIN PRIZE FOR MATHS	.....	DOUGLAS PATTERSON			
THOMSON SALVER FOR ACHIEVEMENT	.....	NICHOLAS SCALES			
JOHN FULTON PRIZE FOR OVERALL CONTRIBUTION	AMELIA BLAIR			
	OLIPHANT and ANDREW CHOWN			
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ENGLISH	GORDON DUNCAN			
HISTORY	ANDREW CHAPMAN			
GEOGRAPHY	KIRSTY BUCHANAN			
FRENCH	.....	GORDON DUNCAN			
GERMAN	.....	CAMERON WOOD			
MATHEMATICS	.....	ELIZABETH WATSON			
CHEMISTRY	.....	ELIZABETH WATSON			
PHYSICS	.....	NICHOLAS MORLEY			
BIOLOGY	.....	NICHOLAS MORLEY			
ART	.....	CARLA NICOLSON			
COMPUTING	.....	DOUGLAS PATTERSON			
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	.....	RICHARD KING			
BUSINESS STUDIES	.....	JOHANNA MATHESON			
MANAGEMENT & INFORMATION STUDIES	.....	ROBERT HORSFALL			

LOWER SIXTH

HISTORY	.....	JENNIFER MALCOLM/ HELEN NESBITT
GERMAN	.....	COLIN PERRY
FRENCH	.....	RICHARD WALLACE
ENGLISH	.....	JENNIFER MALCOLM
SPANISH	.....	JOHN OSBORNE
GEOGRAPHY	.....	KAY BRETZ
PHYSICS	....	ALAN SENIOR
CHEMISTRY	.....	ALAN SENIOR
BIOLOGY	.....	KAY BRETZ
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	.....	JONATHAN GOODY

FIFTH FORM

ENGLISH	CRISTIANJ ROGERS
HISTORY	JONATHAN BUTLER
GERMAN	DUNCAN McCREDIE
FRENCH	EMMA READMAN
GEOGRAPHY	JONATHAN BUTLER
MATHS	JENNIE PERRY
COMPUTING	JENNIE PERRY/ JAMES HENDERSON
	JONATHAN BUTLER
	ANDREW McMULLAN
	LISA FINDLAY
	EMMA READMAN
	TIMOTHY ELLIOTT
	RUTH MAZUR/ EMMA READMAN

FOURTH FORM

ENGLISH	ADAM RACKLEY
HISTORY	PETER WILKINSON
PHYSICS	JAMES PATTERSON
CHEMISTRY	HAMISH CAMPBELL-JACK
FRENCH	RUTH SHARP
GERMAN	RUTH SHARP
SPANISH	MICHAEL CHAUSSY
GEOGRAPHY	ADAM RACKLEY
MATHS	JAMES PATTERSON
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	CARRICK ALLISON
COMPUTING	HAMISH CAMPBELL-JACK
ART	REBECCA BOOTH
BIOLOGY	REBECCA PERRETT
MUSIC	RUTH SHARP

THIRD FORM

SARAH MAZUR

RILEY

When writing for *The Strathallian*, they have always said, start with the bad things first - so here goes.

New Staff coming into Riley this year include Mr Iain Kilpatrick, the new resident House Tutor. He has moved in with his wife and dog, Zac. As well as being a House Tutor he also teaches English and Drama further up the School.



Hello Kilpatricks!

A large number of pupils enjoyed a fascinating trip to RAF Leuchars in the Autumn Term. In the Spring Term pupils travelled to Dundee to the Zap Zone and Bowling. Riley thoroughly enjoyed the trip but couldn't wait to get to Glenshee skiing.

Some of the second formers went to Anstruther and the Glasgow Transport Museum on different days to see the art and take sketches and notes. Riley has also been to see *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Boyfriend*. All these trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Next were the Divisional plays, another success (considering they were written by the pupils in the 4th Division) and outstanding acting. Balmano's play was about making friends and sticking with them and no back-chatting about them. The Dron play was about the life of pupils in Riley (slightly over-exaggerated) while Dupplin play's revolved around the story of Cinderella (with the title *Wellyella* who, instead of losing the glass slipper loses her welly boot. In the end Dupplin's play was judged as the best. Another drama event this term was the class plays. There were good performances all round.



Owls & Pussycats

Another major event in Riley was the 'official opening' of the new building on the last day of the Autumn Term, 25th November 1995, by Mr C D Pighills, the previous Headmaster (1975-1993). Along with a flashy plaque on the wall there is now a clock dedicated to Mr Philip Hewson, who was House Tutor then Housemaster of Riley from 1951-1975. After all the speeches there was brief entertainment from the Riley Production Company who produced their own version of *Scrooge*.



Stuart Myers



New Age Traveller hits Forgandenny

The **girls' sport** has had its ups and its downs but the **hockey** went amazingly well and the girls played hard for their wins. The **netball** team had a rather disappointing season. However they saved the best till last and beat Kilgraston. The **tennis** team have had a brilliant season, only losing to their Crieff competitors, Ardvreck. They won their match against New Park 6 sets to 3, this was the first time that Riley has beaten them since 1991. The couples reached the quarter finals. The **rounders** team has had another good season, only losing to a couple of schools, Fettes and Ardvreck. They won all of their other matches against Lathallan and Craigclowan.

Music in Riley has taken place in various forms this year with the Jazz Band, Riley Orchestra, part-singing group and the Chapel Choir which went to Glenalmond College for a singing event with other schools. At Headmaster's Music the Choir and Orchestra have sung and played a variety of music from classical to the modern pop.



Winners of Prep School Hockey Sixes

Riley boys have had a varied season. They have had some good wins and some bad losses. The **rugby** was not as good as expected, or hoped for! They had lots of close matches but all in all they failed to win any.

However, after all this bad form the scales evened out as the **hockey** came into play. The team had won all their matches until they faced Cargilfield. We were 3-1 up at half time but were beaten 4-3. The climax of the whole season was the hockey 6's competition when Fraser Mackie scored 3 goals in the final against St Mary's. This was a glorious win for Riley.

The summer then came and the **cricket** got off to a flying start. With 3 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses, the team had some good scores and some good fielding and some excellent individual performances. The **football** team has had another good season. They played 3 matches and 1 tournament against Rannoch and they also beat Rannoch at other venues. Unfortunately, they also had their losses and this time Merchiston was the better side.

The junior boys' **clay pigeon shooting** was another success with good shots all round. Lawrence Court came a superb 1st place high gun with 18 hits out of 25 shots in blustery conditions. Allan Hay and Ross Sutherland also had good scores with 14 and 15. A good year all round, I think you'd agree.

Riley also sent a mixed **swimming** team to Scot Splash '96. They participated well considering they had had no practice. Luckily they did not come last! They did not go away empty handed, though, as they came back with the prize for the loudest and best dressed school, with help from their official cheerleader, Georgia Manson. Surprise, Surprise!!

This year also there was a team from Riley sent in to play at the Aberlour Games. There were some good wins with

Fraser Mackie tossing the caber and the team obstacle relay. There were also some unfortunate losses - one of which belongs to Neil McIlwraith who slipped up on the slippery pole! The team, after having great fun doing all the sports and dancing, came third - only 4 points away from Aberlour in 2nd place. They finished the weekend in the Loch Morlich campsite, where they stayed overnight. The bravest three, Jo Coaton, Laura Langlands and Laura Morley, attempted to swim, failing miserably as the loch water was too cold!!

The Edinburgh Verse Speaking Festival was another great event for Riley in the Summer Term. A bus load of keen competitors set off for an enjoyable day to St Margaret's School where the Festival competitions were being held. Riley second choir said and acted a poem which they successfully won against another but slightly smaller group. They were taken to the Commonwealth pool where they had a brilliant time which was followed by a trip to the cinema. Those who went from Riley would like to thank Mrs McFarlane and other members of staff who made such a great day possible!

The interest in the Pipe Band this year has been truly spectacular with Riley pipers and drummers reaching higher numbers than ever before. The whole Band consists of 20 pupils, 9 of whom are in Riley. Under the professional leadership of Pipe Major Hutcheon, the Band has been led to many victories, even the world mini-band championships which were held in Stirling.

Compiled by editors of the
Gnominal News



Can they see us? I don't care!

THE NEW BOYS

Having been a witness to two generations of Third Formers, I have been able to separate their year long activities and astonishing personality changes into three simple stages:

- 1) The "Please could you show me to the Geography Department?" stage.

This stage of the Third Former's development is right at the start of the year when the Third Former seems about as self-confident as a penguin floating south on an iceberg. He is chronically homesick in the first week and seems to be permanently confused even in the simplest of matters.

- 2) The "All right, Alex?" stage.

This is the longest and, typically, most painful stage in the development of the Third Former. It begins about three weeks into the start of the year and lasts until about three weeks away from the end of term.

This is the stage where the Third Former has begun to find out he is part of a very large family within the House and, as the baby of any family will, the Third Former will do what can only be described as "taking the 'mick' under the cover of innocence." This, as one can guess, is a very frustrating period for everyone else in the House, even the most seasoned.

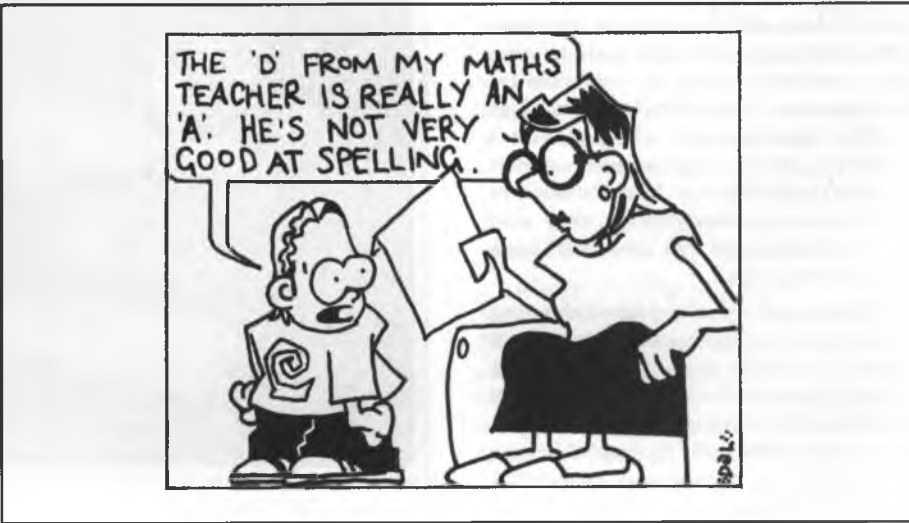
- 3) The "Oi! Alex, chuck that cricket ball back, mate" stage.

This is perhaps the most gob-smacking stage of all. It is the final flourish in the development of the Third Former. He has transformed from a wide-eyed helpless little bunny rabbit to an insolent little whipper-snapper. Thankfully, this stage does not last long at all as it can successfully be treated with a strong dose of fatigues - which recreates him as a resentful Fourth Former.

Alex Sheal



A newly hatched Fourth Former





A Third Former at the earliest stage



A Third Former at the middle stage

FREELAND

When Freeland Third Form went on a weekend's camp to Torgoyle in Inverness-shire, on the Sunday we took the walk over the hills, along General Wade's road, to get from Glen Moriston to the Great Glen. Some set off at terrific speed, hurrying as if the journey could be completed before lunch. They were unencumbered by the rucksack that their partner carried and that contained all that the two of them would need. Mr Mayes and I brought up the rear, carrying a large bergen each. These, as we were playing at soldiers and had all read *Bravo Two Zero*, came to be known as the 'ammunition box' and the 'medical supplies'. Our first stopping and check point was about one quarter of the way there and the hares were impatiently waiting as I came panting and tortoise-like into the rest area. There followed a rather fatuous briefing about the necessity of sticking together, or using the strengths of the group as if it were one. I then loaded two gadabouts with the 'ammunition' and 'medical' burdens. It would keep the group closer together and I would be able to keep up. It didn't take long for the newly handicapped to join me at the rear and for the majority to realise that if they stuck somewhere anonymously in the middle, then the group's main burdens would not fall to them. There were two, however, who appeared too foolish to have realised the best and most economical way to get through the walk and they rushed ahead eagerly once again. Another two stops had passed (the original hares now desperate to shed their loads) when I looked more closely at the two that kept sprinting ahead and realised (they were probably even more foolish than I first thought) that they actually wanted to carry the bergens, even the 'medical', the heavier one that contained drinks and packed lunches and a strip of elastoplast. They were duly loaded with the bergens and we set off once again. One of them continued at break-neck speed. He wasn't that big. He couldn't possibly maintain that pace, I thought. But after another mile or so, above me on the hill, was the figure anxious to keep ahead. At the next stop I realised he actually wanted to carry the 'ammunition' as well and I then knew that he would go much further, in the future, than the distance between Glen Moriston and the Great Glen.

Pete Watson won this year's Dux. He achieved four A's at A level and was quite clearly a swot. Except that he played goalie for the 1st XU football, second row (wearing a head-protector, since it was the only way that the medics would allow him to play rugby) for the 2nd XV, opened



Pete Watson, Dux

the bowling for the 1st XI and spent a huge amount of time in the nets with Freeland Third Form. He also dabbled vaguely in drama, taking a major part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in his Sixth Form, as well as making an excellent Caliban in the House performance of an extract from *The Tempest*. If he had been able to play at soldiers and carry the 'ammunition', he probably would have done that too for if Caliban is a hunchback then a bergen under a fishy-smelling cloth would have provided a good representation. It would have gone against the spirit of the play, though, for Caliban was desperate to get rid of his burden of firewood and intent on a spurious freedom.

There was one of my Upper Sixth this year - the one who is likely to have done least well at Higher - who, when I approached him to run the Standards

competition, informed me that he was 'far too busy', that he had his 'Highers' round the corner and cricket to practise. He wasn't alone in the Upper Sixth, but the ones who like to carry bergens because they're there to be carried, turned up and the House won the Standards Cup by the most ridiculously narrow of margins. I felt it a great shame that the boy who wouldn't run in the Standards hadn't learned better during his time in Freeland. In a world that likes to be ever-more compartmentalised, in a world that sets store increasingly, by the motto, 'What's in it for me?', he didn't have the strength to go in the other direction, carrying burdens in a way that others would mock.

My respect goes to those who would appear foolish, who don't compartmentalise their lives, who would like to carry two bergens - and a third or fourth if they were there - despite the incredulity of the crowd. Always give the job to a busy boy. Funnily enough he's the one nearly always thinking for himself as well as about others.

It remains for me to thank all those that worked hard in Freeland this year, to say goodbye to the Prefects, who did an excellent job, and to wish Les O'Neill, who will be sorely missed, happiness and success at his new school. The winning of the Cross-country and Standards Cups (which need whole-hearted effort from a lot of people) were memorable moments. I hope those going on Operation Raleigh will find enough bergens to carry.

CNC



Junior Rugby Team

"In a world of fugitives," T S Eliot wrote in *The Cocktail Party*, "the one taking the opposite direction will be seen to be running away." Too much we live amongst those who refuse moral burdens, who see other's troubles as other's responsibilities, who see that getting first to the next stopping place is properly rewarded with the satisfaction of sitting on one's backside whilst regarding the discomfort on the faces of the stragglers.



Alastair Turner



Mr Court



Hamish Campbell-Jack and Chris Appleby



Christopher and Richard Wands

NICOL

As one of the Lower Sixth put it in the now termly **Nicol House News**2 down and 13 to go." This purely chronological assessment of my second year at the helm is **not** one that I subscribe to! This year the House grew and matured in a very positive way under the leadership of Ross Macmillan aka 'Chooks' and Nick Morley aka 'Magainlay'. Nick took over from Andrew Scott as School Captain, while Ross took over from Iain Macdonald. Nick proved himself to be an excellent, selfless and committed Captain of School, while Ross took a firm but relaxed approach to his leadership of the House. All the Prefects developed into trusted and responsible young men and I thank them for their help. Just as the boys (who make Nicol the vibrant and positive place that it is) developed, so then did their Housemaster. I am sure that by the end of the year I was greyer and wiser, but even more convinced that life is never dull in this job and that I too am - and must always be - learning.



Nick and Matthew Morley

In last year's report I was proud that another Nicolite had achieved entry into Oxford or Cambridge. Well, this year we were trebly blessed with three Upper Sixth leavers (Nick Morley, Ken MacKay and Doug Patterson) all gaining offers for one of the above. Congratulations and I hope that your results reflect the effort you have put in. I hope that this is a tradition that will continue for a long time; looking at next year's Lower Sixth, there may be some aspirations in this direction. I base this thought not just on the numbers that went on the Oxbridge trip at the end of term, but also on the excellent GCSE results that last year's Fifth form achieved. Of the leavers last year (Andrew Scott, Iain Macdonald et al) I am equally proud to report that all bar two achieved the grades needed to enter

their first choice course at university, while the two who did not, did achieve their second choice. This year's Upper Sixth have been a close-knit and hard-working group throughout their time in Nicol. They were the first year group to come into this building as Third Formers, thereby becoming a new breed of Strathallian, a group that did not hark back to the old dormitory set-up. On Speech Day the House was again well-represented on the prize list, Nicolites picking up no less than sixteen prizes!

On the sports front, the House again competed with enthusiasm and determination, even when the odds on victory were high. I remember an epic junior cricket match against Freeland, in which we pushed the opposition down to the penultimate over, after setting them a low target. The effort and desire to do as well as we could was a joy to watch. The individual efforts of Ben Smith, Andrew Turner and Chris Stewart were very pleasing, but the whole team played with a very positive attitude. I equally remember two very competitive indoor hockey matches in which both the junior and senior sides performed well against very strong opposition, with great pride. Away from the major House sports, it was pleasing to see such excellent individual performances in School teams: Chris Burnett, Ross Macmillan and Nick Morley all represented the 1st XV, the former two also representing the President's XV;

Andrew Hall's recovery from injury to play for the 2nd XV and his selection with David Russell for the junior President's XV squad session and finally, a large number of the House playing for the 3rd XV captained by Struan Fairbairn. The hockey season saw a large Nicol contingent in the 2nd XI with many of them going to South Africa in the summer.

I was very pleased with the excellent attitude and approach shown by the House to both the Standards and Sports Day Competitions. The new format suited us and we were unlucky to be pipped at the post by Freeland and Simpson respectively. James Camilleri did go on to win the Junior Victor Ludorum on Sports Day which was some reward for all his hard work. The other highlight of the day was the inaugural House Tug-of-war Competition, which we won by showing a depth of spirit and drive that surprised all the opposition. In the minor sports, we continued to dominate the House swimming and for the first time triumphed in the Badminton Competition, Mark Hunter and Barry Corbett being the mainstays of the team. In the tennis, Struan and Ross joined Barry and Mark, but they were drawn against a very strong Ruthven team, who won in the end. David Taylor, Neil Grosset and Neil Hutton performed well to finish second in the House golf competition..



Nicol UVI off to the Ball

On the cultural front, the House had a much more successful year. In the Senior House Drama Competition Colin Perry and Neil Hutton swept the boards, ably supported by Andrew Hall, Mark Hunter, Chris Charlier, Simon Heslop and Struan Fairbairn. The former three went on to success in the Senior School Play, along with Andrew Morris and Euan Southcott. The Junior Play was pitched at the wrong level and thus a very topical and clever script on 'conflict' went unrewarded. In the Junior School production of *The Hunting of the Snark*, Richard Crawford again showed that he has the talent to hold an audience in his hand. Richard, along with Nick Gdula and Greg Mouat also performed well in LAMDA exams. All of the above stage productions had input from the backstage crew in the form of sound and lighting controlled by Fraser Currie and Tristan Ranger, among others. This year saw the re-introduction of the House Music Competition. The House performed exceptionally well in this event and my thanks to Messrs Reid and Dutton for their work with the teams, but also to



Nicol Jazz Band

Nick Morley and all the boys in the various sections for their hard work and effort. Both the House and the staff involved with the House were very proud of your efforts. The success of the competition spawned the now infamous *Nicol House Jazz Band* comprising Nick Morley, Peter Wilkinson, George Herd, Fraser Currie, Mark Hunter and Chris Bradley. They were well liked by everybody and I hope that there will be those that will take over the mantle from Nick and Mark next year to continue this Nicol tradition (originally inspired by Raj Arumugam two years ago!) Also on the music front, Iain Miller and Carrick Allison continued House involvement in the Pipe Band.

Nicol boys continued to excel in the services, with Geoff Wheeldon gaining an RAF Flying Scholarship and Mat Morley and Euan Gillies performing well in the Marines Section. In the Army Section, Ian Crooks, Andrews Bishop and Morris, with James Wright all represented the Section at various events. David Taylor continued to keep his eye in at target shooting, as well as golf; while Mark Lowe, Mat Morley and Gavin Baillie all shot for the School's newly-formed Clay Pigeon Club at the various competitions held.

My one hope for next year is that all those involved in Nicol can show the same enthusiasm as those who took part in the House Music, or tug-of-war, or who wanted to get into a particular course at a particular university - and show that same enthusiasm in all they do.



Andrew Hall

PMV

RUTHVEN

Robert Frost wrote in his poem *The Road Not Taken* "Two roads diverged in a wood and I took the one less troubled by and that has made all the difference". In any institutional organisation, there is an opportunity for individuals to lose the very essence which makes them unique. Safety in numbers and fear of being different provide comfortable excuses. These excuses were not used by this year's Upper Sixth - a more diverse characterful group one could not wish to encounter: We have enjoyed watching the group and will miss them.

Euan MacKay was perhaps not a universally popular choice as House Captain but did a fine job to balance the demands of House and School responsibilities, academic work, selection for the Scottish Schools Under-18 Rugby XV and a good season with the 1st Cricket XI with considerable aplomb. We wish him luck with his gap year at St. Kentigern College, Auckland.

David Macleod won the Houston prize for All-round Merit, took on a fourth A level and richly deserved his four A grades - our loss will be the medical profession's gain!

Andrew Chown astonished everyone - including himself! - by playing in the 1st Team in all the major sports, was an outstanding School Prefect and a popular winner of the John Fulton Prize for Overall Contribution.

Bruce Martin had a fine season with the 1st XV, was dogged by injury but returned to captain the School Golf Team and to tour South Africa with the hockey boys. His performance in the House choir was memorable!

So much for the School Prefects - the mere mortals included the magnificently intransigent Birdy (Good luck in Durham University); the opinionated Struan, the confrontational Culliford, the unshakeably optimistic Gordy (good luck at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and well done with the Flying Scholarship), the torpid Gemmill Senior, the indecisive BJ, the artisan Kinger, the energetic Dupes, the cutting wits of Peeps, the truncated, less than prudent Frankie (Well done on the straight A's at Higher), the bilingual Miranda, the tireless campaigning of Smithy and Gillian's Junior Ward.

Ruthven put on a fine show in the new-look House Music Competition, winning the trophy for the best House Choir. We won the Junior Debating Cup with a fine squad lead by J-M. Court, had the best actor in Thomas Gemmill in the Junior Drama Competition and strong representation in the outstanding Senior

and Junior School Drama productions. Gordon Duncan won a magnificent trophy for the best performance of Scots Verse in the Open Age category at the Edinburgh Festival Competition of Speech and Drama, having already been the overall winner at the Perth Burns' Club

Annual Festival. We had a fine representation in the Choral Society, School and Chapel Choirs and the Barber Shop, a small but significant presence in the Orchestra and a key role in the Pipe Band - particularly in the person of Pipe Sergeant Tim Elliott.

On the sports ground, we competed with outstanding spirit and commitment. We won the Junior and Senior Cricket (Smithy's dismissal of the 1st XI Captain was something to behold!), Junior Outdoor Hockey, Tennis, Junior and Senior Football and were runners up in the Junior Rugby, the Senior Indoor Hockey, the swimming and the cross country. Other highlights included having five members of the 1st XI Cricket Team, half the 1st XI Hockey Team and an Under-18 Rugby Internationalist (E A MacKay) and Under-15 Cricket Internationalist (I Stewart) in our midst.

Despite the popular myth, there are painful memories of this year scattered amongst the pleasant ones. The tiny minority of individuals whose insistence of repeated selfish, sometimes spiteful behaviour at significant cost to others and our community, will not be tolerated. We all make mistakes but there is a bottom line - we must be honest and learn to grow together. Therefore we look forward to next year with great enthusiasm.

The Kings are dead - long live the Kings!

DJB



Marcus Honig



Bruce Martin

Three expulsions, two babies and a new House Tutor have all contributed to an action-filled year in Ruthven. A couple of years ago DJB was more of a new boy amongst Housemasters but now could be considered a veteran (not that anyone would suggest he is getting old, of course), since he has seen Mr Ford, Mr DuB and Miss Smith leave their posts in recent years. but still he has remained loyal to his cause. Mr Barnes places emphasis on contribution and effort rather than just results and insists that "you only get out what you put in". No one could do more for a House than he.

Our new resident Tutor, Mr Tod, started his career at Strathallan as a part-time teacher in the Art Department before acquiring the position previously held by Mr Armitage and, before that, another Mr Todd. He has been described as "liking his rules" but at other times is relaxed and friendly towards us all. Being below the average age for a Strathallan master means that we can look at him more as an equal rather than just another teacher telling us what to do.

In order to obtain an up to date view on world-wide affairs, broaden our horizons and watch a great deal of football, Sky TV was installed in the main common room last year. It has proved to be a great success, especially now that terrestrial television is losing sports coverage weekly, and it is a wonder that more Houses haven't followed suit. Sky is largely funded by profits from the House Tuck Shop and we are all thankful to Mrs Barnes for running it and to Molly for passing us freebies under the counter.

In the past, Ruthven has been somewhat unfairly labelled, due to general brilliance on the sports field and elsewhere. It was not uncommon to hear the words "Ruthven Robot" uttered in an equally derogatory sentence. This image seems to have faded away slightly which could, perhaps, be due to an average year in terms of achievement, which leads to less resentment amongst our enemies. This is not to say, however, that Ruthven has under-achieved, having won the Senior House Football, despite a vicious assault upon one of our players, and defeating the overall winners of the House Music Competition in at least one category.

Neil Fowler and Richard Wallace



Mr and Mrs Barnes, Molly, Emily and Rory



Junior Rugby Team

SIMPSON

In Australia over the summer, many friends asked me 'What's it like running a Boarding House?'. That my response on each occasion was 'Great fun!' (laconic lot, us Aussies), is due solely to the calibre of the boys in my charge. Last year, I was struck by the energy and goodwill of so many Simpsonites.

In the Autumn Term, our junior thespians retained the Junior House Drama trophy they won last year. The boys' version of *Braveheart* was, to say the least, entertaining. With Harry Crump unable to participate in the production, the path was clear for new talent to be unearthed. In Princess Bjorn, something was certainly unearthed!! A great deal of effort was expended by all of the boys involved with the play - especially the production team of Nic Stark, Rory Gove, and Alasdair Grieve. The Junior House Drama competition is an excellent way for the new Third Formers to assimilate into the body of the House and I look forward to seeing next year's juniors on stage. Congratulations must also go to Nic and Rory for their performances in the Senior School production of *Our Country's Good*.

In Inter-House sporting competitions, Simpson had mixed success. At the end of the Summer Term, the House golfers regained the trophy they had lost to Ruthven last year, and Andy Milne won the Stroke Play trophy. In other competitions, magnanimity characterised Simpson's performances, as we gave away the trophies we had won in Junior and Senior Football, as well as Senior Cricket. In other events, Simpsonites gave their all - the juniors showing much promise for next year. Again, the effort in the Inter-House Cross-country improved, and we should have a real tilt at the Freeland Juggernaut next year. Congratulations to Ewen Adam who won the Senior Cross-country event in record time and to Roddy Murray for winning the Individual Middle event.

Athletics continued to be Simpson's strength. But for a lacklustre performance from Upper Sixth on their night of Standards, we would have won the Rowan Cup. However, all was forgiven when Sports Day arrived, and all levels of the House performed superbly. Simpson's dominance of both the track and the field events stood us in good stead by the time of the relays - again, Simpson's strongest suit. The team won five of the six relays contested! It was particularly pleasing to see the Third Form 4x400 team of Duncan Broadfoot, Ben Bartlett, Colin Thwaites, and Douglas Forbes do so well. The junior performances certainly augur well for next summer. Leon Webb won the

Middles Victor Ludorum, whilst Lee Walker and Roddy Murray shared the senior trophy with Gus Macdonald from Freeland. Simpson won the day.

Whilst trophies act as palpable evidence of various members of the House's success, I must also acknowledge the other significant achievers from the year. The House Music competition was a new event in the School, and whilst there were superb performances from other Houses, our musicians were certainly not disgraced. Harry Crump's dedication and organisational skills ensured that Simpson would have a musical 'team' on the day. Apart from his performance (without sheet music) which was excellent, the junior members of the House performed a stirring rendition of *Tie Me Kangaroo Down*. Rolf Harris would have been proud of them. Significant other performers on the day were our rock group of Andrew McMullan, Andrew Kettle, Leon Webb, Lil Thapa, and Alex Sheal. Andrew's rendition of *Wonderwall* was memorable. It was certainly an impressive feat in front of the entire school. I am sure that the fledgling musical society within the House will continue to develop over the coming year.

We had three internationalists in the House. Gareth Trayner and Scott Mitchell represented Britain in skiing, and Stewart Connell is a member of the Scottish Schools Under 18 rugby squad touring South Africa this summer. Simpson was

also very well served by its Head of House, Alistair Reekie, and his deputy, Lee Walker. Both set fine examples to our junior members of the House. I am grateful indeed for their loyalty and commitment to the House this year.

I am also indebted to our tutorial staff. Without their contribution, the House would not function. Sages all, they kept this Housemaster in touch with reality during the 'frantic' times. Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Mr Tod when he assumed the post of Resident Tutor in Ruthven in January.

One thing remains to be said in this report, and that is to acknowledge formally the contribution made to Simpson by Paul Crosfield. Paul's help, energy and absolute loyalty to the House, its ethos, and the boys' welfare characterised his time in Simpson. Certainly, he has added to the enjoyment I have had as Housemaster. He leaves very big shoes to fill! Caitlin loses 'Uncle Paul', and we have lost a devoted tutor and friend to Oakham. Words can't adequately express my thanks. Our very best wishes go with you, Paul.

I look forward to another successful and enjoyable year in the House. Simpsonites continue to impress across the broad spectrum of school life and their vitality gives the House its momentum and its character.

ARB



Ross Paterson, Nick Stark and Scott Mitchell



Chaussey, Webb, Sheal and Culbert

Mr Crosfield has become well-known and well liked in his time at Strathallan. Perhaps this is due to his rather conservative dress sense as well as his dedication to the ever-hopeful Cross-country Team, not to mention his enthusiasm and good humour.

Continually trying to convince pupils that his car is actually British

(it's a Rover) and that they, like him, should love the Royal Family, he is often the butt of pointless argument simply put to test his steadfastness

It never wavered. His ability as a teacher was recognised by everyone and he will be missed by many, especially in his House.

Richard Wallace



Mr Crosfield (in his house) welcomes a visitor

..... Tveit, Trayner, Thwaites. Ah! Andrew Thwaites, or 'Tucker' to his many friends. To the innocent passer-by Andrew may appear to be the proverbial 'couch potato'. But not so, this is merely a cunning disguise to hide his real identity as 'Simpson Armchair Commentator'. With such powers of observation and that remarkably unflappable humour of his, Tucker is the only Simpsonite worthy of this title. Andrew reigns predominantly in the Simpson Foyer along with the Daily Express, spreading his worldly knowledge.

..... Gove, Edwards, Crump, Chaussy. Here we have stumbled across one of the strangest creatures ever to surface in Simpson. Michael Chaussy. His dress sense is legendary - flares and jewellery all included - and quite unique. Of ever more interest is Michael's claim to hold the House record for least showers over the year and, quite frankly, who would argue against it!

So into Fifth Form Sheal, Robbie, Narchi, McMullan. If Andrew McMullan turned out to be Robin Hood then Michael Chaussy would be Little John and almost inevitably Alex Sheal would be Maid Marion. They form a trio so potentially mischievous that Mr Ball has panic attacks at the very sight of them.

..... Gove, Gilbert, Forster. Thomas Forster or 'Foz' perhaps epitomises the likeable atmosphere of Simpson. However, by sheer misfortune 'Foz' has been handicapped for life with size 14 feet. He painfully describes shopping in the 'King-size section' of any shoe shop as quite an 'ordeal'. However, this does not excuse his persistence in removing his shoes and socks every evening. This selfish act causes much distress and pollution of the air throughout the House, for which he can hardly be forgiven.

As our 'role' call climaxes, we uncover our 'model' students, Walker, Scott, Reekie etc. This is where we find our four musketeers. Ali 'Am I really Head of House?' Reekie, Ross 'Watch the hair?' Connell, Stew 'Where's the rugby ball?' Connell and Ben 'Why am I not in the 1st XV?' Scott. Perhaps you will never discover the harsh truth about our 'model' pupils until you witness them racing around the corridors in mobile office chairs.

Above the din I can hear Mr Ball's "Bins and Beds" phrase which concludes our day, long after morning roll call. Perhaps now you have some insight to the strange, yet addictive, life within Simpson.

Finlay Nicolson

THORNBANK

The Autumn Term began much as usual in Thornbank. Miss Smith was in charge and there were twenty-five new girls and a new residential tutor, Miss Kaye, to settle in. In addition, Mrs Higginbottom, Mr Walker, Mrs Cairns and Miss Hutcheon (to be succeeded by Dr Carr, Geographer and sherbet dip fanatic) joined the tutorial team.

The Third Form contingent made itself felt early on in more ways than one, notably in a hugely enjoyable "Blind Date" sketch in the Junior House Play Competition. The audience and judges appeared to appreciate all that they saw of Alice Laing to the extent that she won a Best Actress Award while, should Cilla Black ever feel like a holiday, they could substitute Leila Arakji and no-one would notice.

Headmaster's Music showed off many Thornbank stars. Ruth Sharp's piano playing was so good one parent asked Miss Smith who had been the professional from Perth who had opened the concert. Agnes Bradley played her violin to much acclaim, Sarah Currie and Charley Southcott's composition was performed and Helen Nesbitt soloed in the Jazz Band. Shona Dickie entertained us during the interval with her own songs - a recording career doubtless beckons. Many others were involved in the Choir and Orchestra. Later in the year the depth of musical talent within the House was rewarded with second place in the Inter-House Music Competition.

The end of the Autumn Term saw a lot of goodbyes. A "surprise" party was organised for Miss Smith and many were the farewell gifts. Miss Smith is still curious to know just how the birdbath made it into Thornbank unnoticed by her eagle eye.

New Year came and different sounds were to be heard in Thornbank. A lot of boxes and furniture were shifted and then for a while it fell quiet without Yani's barking. Then came the ominous swish of water as the cold snap ended, the thaws began and the West Wing pipes and water tank burst. Though not as bad as Ruthven, Thornbank can at least claim the accolade of three floods - the final one being on the day term began - and the hum of dehumidifiers became a feature of the Spring Term. The amount of soapsuds chased down the stairs bore witness to there gularity with which Liz shampoos the carpets and Miss Smith had by this stage so successfully distanced herself from her Housemistress' responsibilities that the Bursar's son asked her if she was a cleaner...! I, meanwhile was wondering if I really wanted to take over this sodden (careful how you pronounce that)

building. Many thanks to all who helped tidy up, especially Kate Streatfield-James who spotted the water coming out of the windows in time to avert major catastrophe.

So the Spring Term began with a new House mistress who stood nervously in the common room on the first day of term wondering if she could turn all the skimmed milk before her into the *crème de la crème* of which Miss Smith had so eloquently written the year before. I had, after all, been informed by one of the Fourth Form that: "We're the rebels in Thornbank." However the psychic powers which some of the girls believe me to possess have undoubtedly helped me through my first terms in charge:

"Dear Miss England,
We're baby-sitting for the Colleys tonight. Hope this is okay."
(No signature)-
Well it might be, but who are you?
or
"Miss England, could you book me a taxi for my train?"
"Certainly, what time does it go at?"
"I don't know"
Useful!!

Well, there are a few rebels in Thornbank but I was delighted to discover that not all seemed hell-bent on steering me towards a major sense of humour failure - all the time! The sports stars were there in their multitude, representing School teams in all sports from hockey to fencing, netball to athletics. It was good to see enthusiastic turn-outs for some of the one-offs like the Football Tournament and for all House Competitions. Well, most of the time: the Third Form cannot really be said to have looked as though they enjoyed the cross-country. Of so much talent, it would be difficult to pull out individuals but Sarah Murray, Gillian Anderson and Lyndsey MacEachern as School Captains of Hockey, Tennis and Athletics stand out, as do Kim Finlay (Midlands Hockey), Fiona Elder (Junior Victrix Ludorum) and Kirstine Lawson (winner of the Senior Cross Country, half an hour after completing an A level Chemistry module exam).

On other fronts, Thornbankers were doing their best to overcome another worrying comment to come my way soon after taking over; "It's not cool to do activities in Thornbank." Well it might not have been cool but there were a lot of people out there doing things in their

spare time. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme saw Kirstine Lawson and Helen Nesbitt heading for Gold and numerous others for Silver and Bronze Awards. Debating saw Leila Arakji and Steph Dorward winning the Junior Inter-House Competition, with Alison Roger and Fiona MacFarlane proving that Thornbankers can certainly argue their point by getting through to the final after only 24 hours notice to prepare for their heat. Out with the School, Leila and Steph got to the semi-final stage of The Courier and TSB Junior Debating Competition. Arlette Lafayedney was so successful in her Verse Speaking that she won the Bronze Medal for Verse and Prose in her LAMDA exams- something almost unheard of in a fifteen year old, Jillian Fishback also did well.

On stage Arlette, Steph and Christina Breden had major roles in the Junior Play, Claire Ketcher and Sammy Bowen, likewise in the Senior production. Carla Nicolson and a huge band of Fifth Formers painted scenery to great effect after Nicola Edwards and Anna Watson had helped to make it.

With so many "outdoor" minded tutors connected with the House, it was inevitable that some sort of expedition would occur at some point. With luck the success of the sailing weekend will encourage others to take up similar challenges. Perhaps Anna, who literally went overboard in her enthusiasm, is the one to ask about how much fun it was.

And so my first two terms in charge are over. No doubt in this article I have omitted many a personal highlight - music exams passed, prizes and distinctions gained, team places achieved. It was not easy to change House but the "high" for me personally was the way I was never made to feel unwelcome. My thanks must therefore go to everyone involved in Thornbank; to the Prefects who could have made life awkward, but didn't; to the tutors for their unstinting help and words of advice (like: "Go away and have a break, we can manage") and to Morag, Liz, Moira and Linda who have done their best to keep the House tidy, clean and smart - not an easy task by any means; I'll never forget the astonishment on Liz's face the time there was a rare sighting of Josie's floor.....

Lastly a big thanks to Lyn Smith who left everything in such good order and then calmly stood by as I created chaos but was on hand for advice when I needed it. To her in her new post, and also to Miss Kaye who will by now be enjoying the Malaysian heat - Good luck.

EAE



Linda



Camilla Macdonell. Claire Halliday, Kirstine Lawson and Fiona Nicolson



Miss Carlisle on her Wedding Day



Kirstine Lawson heads for the top



Mrs Summersgill and Morag



Arlette Lafayeedney



The tug o' war team

WOODLANDS

The end of the fourth year of a Housemaster's tenure is an important point, as it marks the departure of the last year group who were in the House when he took over. Just how important this year may be, I am not sure: perhaps the rumour going round the juniors was true, in which case I shall be leaving in a year's time and the Shores and Higginbottoms will jointly be taking over Woodlands.

Starting off with sporting achievements, Woodlands is generally seen as being second best: perhaps this is because we have never won the Hockey against Thornbank. However, the match this year was closer than ever - we now have a strong Juniors side who were a bit light on Fourth Formers but managed to hold the opposition to a draw (I think it was 3 all, but it was a long time ago now), and the Seniors were really very unlucky to concede one goal, so House honour was more than upheld and next year might see our first win. On the other hand Miss England's Netballers made no mistake, the scores being 27-6 and 34-7.

We have always had a strong swimming team, and although we lost Heather Scott and Heather Swinn, both of whom have completed for many years, we did gain some very good competitors in Julia Scales, Laura Dover and Fiona Hunter. The team not only beat Thornbank but also Simpson!

An unexpected win in the House Cross-country race last term - I think that this was our first win too, saw excellent performances from Susan Balfour and Caroline Reed (1st = Junior Girls), Kirsty Partridge (1st Intermediate Girls) and strong supporting performances from Claire Duckworth, Amelia Blair Oliphant, Louisa Graham-Campbell, Kate Hodgson, Amy Little, Shuna Readman and Jenny Littleford. This isn't the most popular event of the year and it was very good to see so many people putting in a lot of work, better still for them to win the Girls' Trophy by three points.

Woodlands' finest hour was certainly Sports Day. This was the first win by Woodlands since Thornbank was created seven years ago, and although the margin was very healthy (20 points or so) the sense of competition was never stronger than in the Senior 400m relay where Alison Hunter, Heather Scott, Amelia and Claire ran the most exciting race of the whole day. Heather Scott also won the Victrix Ludorum Cup, for the second year in a row, and would certainly have had the unique distinction of having her House Colours re-awarded if she had attended the House Meeting on the first

day after Half Term That said, everyone who took part had a hand in the win, and all 28 of them did well.

Some have gone beyond the confines of the School in representative sports: Hilary Ross has been selected and has played for the Scottish Netball Team; Fiona Hamilton, Jenny Littleford and Nicky Malcolm have shot for the Scottish Schools' Rifle Team against England and Wales, and Elise Rankin, Alison Hunter and Philippa Blair Oliphant have played for the Fife Netball squad.

Sitting in Housemasters' Meetings discussing arrangements for the House Music Competition it was brought home to me just how many in Woodlands learn an instrument: since Kirsty Glimm took up the tuba this term the number has gone up to forty. A staggering number of the Third Form are musicians. Emma Readman and Ruth Mazur in addition to their usual musical commitments gained the Fifth Form Music Prize, Lisa Brüderlin performed a piano concerto this term, Alix Trench has played the organ for Riley Chapel on several occasions, Anne Wilson is going on to music college, Fiona Lamont sang a solo with the House Choir and lots of girls who would probably claim that they cannot sing a note proved that this was quite wrong when they too sang.

Five of last year's Upper Sixth are abroad doing GAP projects: Catherine Jones in China, Kananu Kirimi in Nepal, Christina Gilliver in Morocco, Catriona Maclean in Vietnam and Suzi McPherson in Botswana. The House is supporting SOS Children's Villages as the chosen charity of the year (in particular the village in which Suzi is working); Rebecca Haverson raised £80 with a pyjama party, Kirsty Glimm persuaded many of the Third, Fourth and Lower Sixth to go on what turned out to be a very wet and cold walk this term, raising in the region of £300, and Kate and I rashly decided to chip in with a parachute jump in the holidays, which at the time of writing has over £500 pledged. We would like to get into 4 figures.

Quite a few played important parts in School productions: *The Hunting of the Snark* (Tabitha Combe, Kirsty Partridge and Lyn Gemmell) and *Our Country's Good* (Lyndsay Allison, Lucy Kitson and Karina Combe), mention too to those who worked very hard behind the scenes, notably Fiona Hamilton, Jennie Perry and Susan Miller. We did not win the Junior Play Competition, but the writers (Kerry, Kirsty and Tabitha) were congratulated on their tackling of the theme of "Conflict"

and all the 20 plus juniors who acted in some capacity enjoyed the experience. Thanks, too, to Fiona Hamilton and Lucy Kitson for directing. There are still a number of fine Verse and Prose Speakers in the House too: this year has seen Lucy Kitson and Lindsay Allison do very well in Public Speaking competitions; Lucy has continued to compete with great success at carious forms of verse and prose speaking, as have Lyn Gemmell and Katie Dutton. We used to have more

We gained two new Tutors this year, Miss Abigail Mason and Miss Brigitte Gnanou, who joined the English and Modern Languages Departments respectively, and since Christmas both have been resident in the House. Christmas, of course, marked the department of Miss England to take over Thornbank after seven and a half years' as a resident Tutor in Woodlands, most of these as Senior Tutor, too. She has done much to make Woodlands a success during her time here with the Forsters and with us, and I am sure that she will make the same impression on Thornbank. Mrs Hamilton has taken over the role of Senior Tutor, so that the pleasure of Wednesday House Meeting (or Saturday, under the new system) has been preserved. Lastly, we said goodbye to Mrs Betty Hoey towards the end of the Spring Term, after many years of service, and wish her the best of luck.

Best wishes, too, to all those who have left this year, and we all hope that you will be successful.

ACS-J



Karen Wilson after the water fight



Nicky Malcolm and Rebecca Haverson

Looking back, it's hard to believe that it's been twelve months since the excitement of moving into the New Year (which began stiffly with the cold). However, once things started to heat up in the House - thanks to the Bursar for the heating being put on early - we really got going and smiles returned. Activities included sponsored walks, pyjama parties and barbecues - they were the official ones anyway! However, what Mr S-J will probably not include in his report of the House are the water fights (take a bow Lower East Wing); toast-eating competitions (Janet is still wondering why there were eight girls all feeling sick at the same time!) and corridor races (no, it wasn't to try and sneak past the tutors 10 mins after bedtime, honest!). Moments also to be remembered include the end of the 10 mile walk - you have never seen 24

girls so happy to see their Housemaster (mind you, it could have been the amount of food he was standing in front of!); the look on everyone's faces when we found out that Woodlands won the athletics competition (it was the first time, but definitely not the last); the look of woe on Mrs S-J's face when 10 people came down with flu in the middle of summer (!) and as for Zenka's face when faced with 40-odd kilts needing pressed the night before Speech Day, it wasn't a pretty picture I can assure you!

Obviously, the year hasn't all been 'peaches and cream'. There have been a few poor incidents like having to put up with Thornbank's sour faces after we beat them in the netball, athletics, badminton and, of course, the football!! It was a shame no, really! But seriously, this year has seen the sad departure of Miss

England across to Thornbank the word 'traitor' never crossed our minds honest! She is greatly missed, but her position has been successfully filled by Miss Mason and Mademoiselle Gnanou.

Mademoiselle Gnanou has been a saviour for those taking French exams this year - I'm sure she will dread the night before French orals for the rest of her life! As for Miss Mason, what can we say? The football team could never have triumphed without you (not just because you organised the match but because of the amazing skill you've passed down to us!?).

The rigmarole of everyday school life has inevitably brought about both good and bad in the Woodlands' girls. From roll call through to lock up the House is a hive of activity. Okay, so that phrase doesn't primarily spring to mind at 7am when you see us all crawling out of our beds! Laura is the most awake at that time, usually due to the fact that she is up for some punishment or other! By Chapel everyone is up and at it - bar Gonzo, who has to be commended for her record 10 appearances this year. However, by break time, the initial 'get up and go' enthusiasm for the day has worn off - whether Karina ever had it is debatable - and everyone is in dire need of refuelling. This is where Janet plays her Trump card - whether to open House Shop or not. From past gruesome experiences she has learned that it is in her health's best interest to open the door to the chocolate. If she doesn't open, she sensibly makes sure she is at least as far away as Perth. I could go on to describe House Shop as the most significant aspect of the House, but I reckon that that is obvious considering it contains 10 different types of chocolate and we are a bunch of stressed, pre-exam, and hungry, teenage females! Anyway, to carry on, the day continues with M-J begging for House Shop to be re-opened 10 minutes after it shuts; Gillian using the phone 12 hours a day; Gemma waiting for the phone 12 hours a day; Ducky pretending the corridors are the 100 metre sprints and M-J again begging for House Shop to be re-opened 2 hours after it has shut! To end the day there is always the mad rush to get the juniors into their beds and the seniors into the House. From this, all that can be said is Fiona Hunter - just wait until you're in Sixth Form, I hope there are 15 Third Formers like you that you have to try and get to their rooms! However, we were all pretty impressed with the excuse of . . . can't remember one, there have been so many!

Jenny Littleford

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



School Chapel in February

In temporal terms Dunblane is far removed from the publication of this issue of *The Strathallian*, but in emotional terms it is still close to the hearts of every pupil and member of staff. All who were present in the Chapel on Mothering Sunday sensed the immediacy as well as the poignancy of both the day and the setting. In front of the altar stood a simple white cloth-covered table. To one side of the table was a bowl of gold and yellow freesias. In the centre of the table stood seventeen candles, one for every pupil slain and one for their murdered teacher.

As the service began a gold embossed book was carried through the School and placed open at the first page on the table. This was the School's *Book of Condolence*. After the service, it was taken, along with the flowers and a candle, to the Dining Hall. It remained by the High Table, the candle burning day and night, for pupils and staff to write their messages of sympathy or just simply to sign it. Queues of pupils and staff waited quietly and reverently to sign the book at every meal. Page after page was filled with messages too private even to read, never mind repeat, in these columns. On the last night of term I sat in a crowded Dunblane Cathedral with the book closed on my lap,

before taking it to one of Scotland's senior clergymen's house, just yards away from Dunblane Primary School, as the flowers outside the gates were being removed. Our book is being bound, along with St John's Kirk of Perth's book and the Cathedral's book. This will be passed from family to family and will serve as a tangible sign of our hurt, sympathy, concern and care for our close neighbours in Dunblane. Lord Cullen is presently compiling his findings, and many of our community have signed *The Snowdrop Petition*.

The arrival of our new Director of Music has consolidated the tentative work that his Assistant and I endeavoured to provide during the interregnum. The Choir and School have responded magnificently to his "low key" but firm leadership. Anthems and choral items have contributed immeasurably to our worship and for me, the two high points were Choral Evensong in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling and the Taize Service in Chapel.

The vigour of the Headmaster, Director of Music and Chapel Prefect - as well as the support of House Staff - have (perhaps unwittingly) made my role so much easier and enjoyable, as has the

seemingly unnoticed help of the Housekeeper's staff.

I must also record that two generous gifts were made to the Chapel. Firstly, a beautifully leather-bound lectern version of *The Revised English Bible*. In style it complements the lectern *Authorised Version* (King James) and in content supports the work of the Kirk's Panel on Worship which commends the public reading of the REB. This gift was anonymous, but the donor of both Bibles was present when the second Bible was dedicated! Secondly, the Processional Candlesticks were appropriately dedicated on Candlemas. These candlesticks are carried either side of the Bible in procession and placed either side of the Lectern for all services. They were "turned" by Gordon Stewart - one of our chefs - and gifted by him. It is encouraging that folk should be so moved to make gifts like those to the Chapel.

Perhaps the vision of former-pupils in raising funds for and building a Chapel in the middle of the school as a tangible sign of their beliefs and hopes for the School back in the 1950s is being realised half a century on, *Deo Gratias!*

TGL

Autumn Term Preachers: The Revd Alasdair Macdonell, MA, BD, Haddington, St Mary's; The Revd Carleen Robertson, BD, Eassie and Nevay linked with Newtyle; The Revd Tom Balfour, MA, BD, Department of Ministry and Mission; The Revd Andrew Scobie, MA, BD, Cardross; The Revd Maxwell Craig, MA, BD, Mth, General Secretary ACTS, Chaplain to HM the Queen; The Revd William McLaren, MA, BD, Polbeth Harwood.

Spring Term Preachers: The Revd C R Williamson LLB BD, Aberdalgie and Dupplin linked with Forteviot; The Revd

W D Stenhouse MA BD, Dunbarney linked with Forgandenny; The Revd C Robertson JP MA, Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh; The Revd A D MacLeod, Cleish linked with Fossoway St Serfs; The Revd W Uist Macdonald JP MA BD, Perth; The Revd Carleen Robertson MA BD, Newtyle.

Summer Term Preachers: The Revd W Uist Macdonald JP MA BD, Perth; The Revd Callum T O'Donnell MA BD, Troon; The Revd Canon Bob Fyfe MA, Rector St John's Episcopal Church, Perth; The Revd David D Ogston MA BD, Perth.

I Looked out the window and I saw

..... The golden sand glistening in the sunlight
As if untouched by human might,
The waves crawling up the beach,
Splashing back as if they were too weak;

..... No children, no noise to mess it up,
Just an old man walking along
As if moving his feet to a song,
His dog black as crotchets running round him,
Barking to his beautiful tune;

..... The sea-gull paddling along
searching for worms
Where the old man looked for tins,
Tidying the beach all by himself,
To keep God's Earth healthy and strong;

..... The rocks which were shaggy,
pointy and salty,
Where you thought the boys nearby
would come to be naughty,
But no one else was there enjoying the beach;
Only the old man and his dog.

Bjorn Tveit

FUNERAL

Late afternoon sun filters through green
And the leaves throw shadows on graves
Stretching forever.
The sun warms my skin
By my soul is cold,
A tunnel where no light shines.

A wrinkled hand.
The sprinkling of ash falls to the soil,
Carried away by the wind
And the sweet piercing voices of choirboys
Soar with the birds.

I try to remember your face
But all I can see is a tiny coffin,
The innocent beauty of the red rose
Marred by the dust.

Life and death?
It haunts me.
The unknown can scare the fearless
And I've seen it now.
I can feel it in my stomach,
The emptiness agonising.

The shadows are growing longer
And the sweet voices have gone.

Tara Laing

SCRIPTURE UNION

SU remains in a healthy state after this year. On numbers alone we are in excess of thirty pupils when all are present, but the quality and variety of the meetings have also been improving.

There have been many outside speakers and guests - Lyndsay Honeyman and his Folk Band who sang their own Christian message as well as giving testimonies; Direct Aid Bosnia; Harry, James and Ella Bird's Great Aunt who talked to us about how she came to know the Lord, and how her experiences abroad had contributed to this; Mrs Mazur; Bob Ockenden from Teen Ranch;

Alan McCulloch from Prison Fellowship and someone we will never forget, Billy Gilvere from Scripture Mission Scotland, who had us all in fits of laughter as well as spell-bound by his life's story from Glasgow Gangland tearaway to the Lord's representative for Scripture Mission.

Our thanks go once again to Andy Bennett from SU Headquarters who is always a great encouragement and back-up to us as well as coming along and taking the Friday night meetings on occasion. Also to San Sister Isobel Stead who invariably puts an enormous amount of time and energy into the group. Thanks

must also go to the musicians, Alan, James, Harry and David, who have led the praise sessions so well.

Our best wishes go to our leavers, James, Harry, David, Duncan, Mike and Tenyon who have always (well, nearly always) set such a good example to the younger members of the group.

Finally, all that remains for me to do is to thank everyone who has taken part, wish them all a good holiday, and welcome them back in September as well as any new faces who want to find out what The Lord has in store for them.

GCK

MUSIC

During this academic year, music has undergone much change and many new initiatives. For the first term it was under the direction of Stephen Dutton and so my first experience of music at Strathallan was during this time when the Headmaster invited me to attend Headmaster's Music on two consecutive evenings in November. For me this was a splendid introduction to the School's musical talent and perhaps the last chance I would have to sit back and enjoy it without being involved. My thanks go to Stephen Dutton for undertaking a very full teaching timetable, increasing the School's musical activities and generally keeping things running, as well as organising these two impressive concerts at which 150 musicians performed.. Also, during this term, Geoff Bolton kept his hand in by conducting Choral Society rehearsals culminating in two concerts consisting of Haydn's Nelson Mass together with Christmas Music. These were performed in the Chapel as well as Perth. Following this, the Choral Society provided the music for the Senior Carol Service.

Music in Riley is well-established and following performances at Headmaster's Music and Riley Carol Service, the choir has sung in a variety of styles as well as leading the singing at Riley Chapel services each week. The large choir shows great potential through its enthusiasm and commitment. Other groups meeting regularly have included Riley Orchestra, Jazz Band and String Quartet.

A series of mini-concerts has continued to run during Friday lunch-times. These have ranged from Orchestra to soloists, Riley Jazz Group to Chapel Choir and Vocal Group to String Quartet. These are a valuable opportunity for our pupils to gain experience of performing in public but with a small audience.

Orchestral numbers have risen encouragingly to 35. All the sections have shown potential and the strings have been particularly strong although we continue to lack an orchestral double bass player. Two concertos have been performed - Ruth Sharp and Lisa Brüderlin have been the soloists in Gordon Dale and Alec Rowley's piano concertos. On both occasions the excellent soloists were accompanied sensitively by the Orchestra.

At the end of the Easter Term, a highly successful lunch-time concert as given at Aberdeen University by twelve of our musicians including the String Quartet, Jazz Band, Ruth Sharp (piano), Agnes Bradley (violin), Anne Wilson (viola) and the Vocal Quartet. The music-making was



The Choir

of a very high standard and there was a good-sized and appreciative audience in the wonderful Elphinstone Hall.

During the Summer Term, following House Music (mentioned elsewhere) the Choir visited the impressive Church of the Holy Rude at Stirling. Here they sang Choral Evensong following the Anglican rite. A variety of unaccompanied and accompanied music was sung including *God be in my Head* - Rutter, *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in *D minor* - Walmisley and *Ecce Sacerdos* by Elgar. Followed by a McDonalds, this was a most enjoyable event and it is hope to repeat such outings on a larger scale in the future.

The Choir has, in fact, undergone considerable change over the year. Beginning as a girls' choir, it has now become established as a four part, mixed choir numbering 35-40 with the intention that this number will rise in the future.

An anthem is now sung at every Sunday Chapel Service with music ranging from *The Rose* and *Love Changes Everything* to unaccompanied Latin motets.

Before the Summer Half Term, the Perth Festival gave over 50 musicians the chance to experience a wider public at a lunch-time concert. As well as orchestral pieces, including the March from Tschaikowsky's *Sixth Symphony*, the Choir's performance of Rutter's *I will sing with the Spirit* and Bruckner's

unaccompanied *Locus Iste* was described by one newspaper critic as "some of the most beautiful choral singing I have heard in my years reviewing the Festival lunch-time concerts".

Spread over the year there have been a number of concert visits including the annual Choral Day at Glenalmond College and visits to St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh to hear Choral Evensong, to Perth City Hall for the Russian State Philharmonic Orchestra and to St John's Perth where our pupils were stewards for the concert by the Russian State Choir. Over 180 pupils learn musical instruments and our team of 15 peripatetic teachers is kept busy each week. My thanks to them for all their behind-the-scenes work.

There have been a good number of Associated Board examination entries including the following notable successes:

Agnes Bradley	Grade 8
Nicholas Morley	Grade 8
Anne Wilson	Grade 8
Ruth Sharp	Grade 6
Alix Chenevix-Trench	Grade 5

Piano (merit)
 Tenor Saxophone (merit)
 General Musicianship (merit)
 Clarinet (distinction 134)
 Organ (distinction 138)

DGR

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

Adjudicator: Mr Christopher Tambling - Director of Music, Glenalmond College

Strathallan has not had such a competition since the 70s and its revival at the beginning of the Summer term was very successful: some Houses prepared carefully, well in advance and undertook regular rehearsals, whilst others were more cavalier in their approach and perhaps therefore did not realise their true potential. Early preparation and choice of the right music are essential.

It was seen as important that the whole School should enjoy the competition, so the decision was taken to erect a stage in the Sports Hall. The event owed much of its success to the attentive and appreciative audience, the willing participation of over 200 performers and efficient stage management.

Nicol House were the winners and the Adjudicator's comments can be summarised as follows:

Freeland House

There was a strong start from this House. The choir was well accompanied and words were clear in *Stand By Me*. Hamish Forbes' unaccompanied Bach Cello Solo was secure and held the audience's attention, whilst Julie, from the Rock Band, with Jonathan Dalley as vocalist was sensitive and well-placed.

Nicol House exuded energy and professionalism in all items. The House choir chose a simple but highly effective arrangement of *This Old Man* and delivered it with panache and humour. Nick Morley's clarinet solo was an uncompromising piece and a brave choice: he held our attention with a musical performance. The Jazz Ensemble was outstanding and achieved the highest mark of the competition.

Thornbank House produced a magnificent sized choir but the sound produced did not match its numbers and many did not look sufficiently involved to communicate the music of *Let it Be*. Agnes Bradley's *Czardas* was a superb performance marked by musical contrasts and virtuosity. *Canon* by Pachelbel was a good choice by displaying the considerable string playing talent in the House.

Ruthven House began with a tricky barbershop arrangement of *To the Bitter End*. This was secured and then 'took off' when the choir moved and smiled. We then enjoyed a well thought out performance of Brahms *Capriccio* by Kay Bretz who captured the spirit of the piece

well. *Autumn Leaves* was perhaps the most varied of the ensembles. Beginning almost imperceptibly, it built up to a tremendous climax.

Simpson House again proved that a simple choice of song can be effective. Chosen in deference to their Housemaster, *Tie me Kangaroo Down* was spirited, and what it lacked in finesse was compensated for in enthusiasm. Harry Crump's *Scotch Fiddle* medley was impressively memorised as well as secure in intonation and bowing. In *Wonderwal*, the ensemble did well to capture the spirit of the piece but it sometimes suffered from imbalance.

Woodlands began with an attractive and well co-ordinated performance of *Grandfather's Clock* for wind ensemble with double bass. Anne Wilson's viola playing was accomplished with good tone and effective double-stopping but it would have benefited from an accompaniment. The choir gave us secure three-part singing in *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. There was good contrast in the solo section but we had to wait until the last chord to hear the full potential of the choir's tone.

All the accompanists are to be congratulated on their choir accompaniments.



Kay Bretz (helped by Richard Wallace) plays for Ruthven

HEADMASTER'S MUSIC

This year, in response to the demand, not only were there two Headmaster's Music concerts, in November and June, but there were two extra concerts to help avoid disappointment. In the event, full houses were privileged to hear excellent programmes which reflected the many different forms of music-making that take place throughout the School.

The first brace of concerts began and closed with performances of the highest quality from Ruth Sharp. She opened with a breathtaking performance of Katchaturian's *Toccata* and it was her mastery of the piano role in Gordon Dale's *Miniature Concert* that brought proceedings to a resounding conclusion. She is still only in the Fourth Form and one gathers that her principal instrument is the clarinet, so there is clearly a great deal of musical entertainment to be anticipated in the years ahead.

The same quality of musicianship was displayed by two Sixth Formers, Anne Wilson and Agnes Bradley, who in recent years have graced many a School concert and it was exciting to hear them in numbers that showed their talents at their best. Agnes played exhilaratingly in a work that was familiar to many of her audience even if I suspect that few could correctly identify it as Czardas' *Monti*. Anne's violin solo was Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* and it was clear from everybody's response that her assured performance was another highlight of the evening.

Here then were three individual performers whose skills graced what was already an evening to remember. They were joined by two younger pupils in a string quartet that, although we were informed it had only rehearsed for six weeks, played with great composure and effect; we can look forward to deriving much pleasure from their future concerts. Sarah reappeared in the programme as the joint composer with Charlotte Southcott of a piece, *Sarah's Song* played by the String Orchestra and Laura Morley did the same for Riley Choir. Perhaps the most effective piece of choral singing was the Girls' Choir in the *Domine Deus Gloria* by Vivaldi in which Vicky Bolton's obligato oboe accompaniment was both sympathetic and full of poise.

It was good to see how many faces, voices and instruments that were by now quite familiar were turning up in different items. There was a constant stream of movement in between the pieces so that String Orchestras, various choirs, an excellent Jazz Band and a melodious Barber's Shop group could demonstrate their different but complimentary talents

and it was plain that a hugely enjoyable evening had been had by all those fortunate to attend.

It was evident from the varied and ambitious programme in June that the musicians had not been letting the grass grow under their feet. Proceedings were inaugurated by some spirited and enthusiastic singing from the Riley Choir. This was an effective start and it was followed by an arrangement of the Albinoni *Oboe Concerto* in which Nick Morley's soprano saxophone ingeniously masqueraded as the oboe. Claire Ketcher played the piano part which effectively held everything together and the four string players, Agnes Bradley, David Macleod, Anne Wilson and Kirsty Buchanan, who have given such service to Strathallan music, played with their usual expertise. These players also performed in Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* from his String Quartet, another moving and well executed piece.

There were also the polished individual performances we have come to expect. Anne Wilson played a lovely *Elegy* by Glazanov which proved to be an incredibly soulful Russian piece performed with great effect. Kris Burr had always had the ambition of playing the slow movement from the Mozart *Clarinet Concerto* and a very good job she

made of it too. Agnes Bradley produced a bravura and exciting version of Edward German's *Bolero*, that was much appreciated by an audience which had had plenty of opportunity to relish the musical skills on display. Mr O'Neill who has sung semi-professionally with many opera companies, sang two Verdi arias, one from *Un Ballo in Maschera* and the other Pere Germont's deeply moving aria from *La Traviata*. He sang each extraordinarily well and it was plain that some of the younger members of the audience had decided that this would be an area of music worthy of further exploration.

As in all Headmaster's Music, there was a great variety of musical talent in the concert which showed that there was breadth as well as depth in the department. The Barbershop sang with their customary gusto and clearly enjoyed every note. Chapel Choir were superb in a lovely and comparatively unknown but recognisable work by Faure, the *Cantique de Jean Racine*, which was certainly one of the highlights of a memorable evening. Yet, perhaps for most of the audience, it was the Dixieland Barbecue's *Sidewalk of New York* that provided the ideal ending to the concert.

AMT



David MacLeod and Agnes Bradley

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT



Sixth Form dancers on St Andrew's Night

St Andrew's Night changed shape this year. Temporarily set aside were the days where the Music Room once played host to an assortment of Scots poems, plays and laments, performed by both staff and pupils alike. One suggestion for the change was to honour the legacy left by Mr Macleod - his legendary performances live on in our memories: *O! Rowan Tree*.

This year's Upper Sixth were the guests at a redesigned St Andrew's Night that still encapsulated essential Scots ambience: "They reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit. Till ilka carlin swat and reekit", and a richt guid hoochin an' choochin (or ceilidh) was enjoyed by all.

The event gave the ladies a chance to dig out and de-crumple their ball dresses while the gentlemen brushed the cobwebs off their kilts so that the Upper Sixth could almost have been mistaken for a

group of celebrities heading off to the Oscars. Even the staff, usually grey and crumbling under the pressures of the Strathallan routine, transformed themselves into enthusiastic party-goers, "hornpipes, jigs, Strathspeys and reels / put life and metal in their heels" and the pupils were enormously impressed. Indeed, Mr Ashmore's performance of the Military Two Step gave an entirely new meaning to the concept of ballroom dancing. The ladies looked on with jealousy as he kicked his legs above his head (strange to imagine where that particular dance-step originated from in Scottish culture).

Entertainment was provided by Lucy Kitson and Gordon Duncan whose silver-tongued poetry reciting was, as usual, perfect in capturing the spirit of the occasion although encore suggestions for some rendition of that inspiring work by

the master of Scots poetry, Mr William McGonnagal, were sadly declined.

No dancing evening would be complete without Mrs Hamilton's patient instructions. We are grateful to her and to Mr Bolton for performing some of the more complicated moves for us. Unfortunately, I suspect choreography is even more problematical to teach than Chemistry, and, indeed, I can vaguely remember some people (who, for their own sakes, will remain anonymous) having press-up competitions during that pressure period of an eightsome reel - or, perhaps my memory is failing me?

It was, with a shadow of a doubt a "braw, bricht moonlicht nicht" and Mr Broadfoot is to be congratulated for putting on such an unco happy aathgether.

Amelia Blair Oliphant

PIPE BAND

The Pipe Band have had a very busy and successful year, playing at a large number of events and competitions. They have worked hard to improve their technique and to master many new tunes, while a group of "Riley" pipers who are making remarkable progress, is giving some of the older players something to think about!

The first outing for Pipe Major Ewan McMaster and Pipe Sergeant Tim Elliott was to play the teams on for the opening of the Astroturf. Both Ewan and Tim played at local weddings in Bridge of Earn where their services were much appreciated by the happy couples and later, on Remembrance Sunday, Ewan played the lament. Other engagements followed all winter long: Burns' Suppers and the Old Strathallian Dinner among them.

On CCF Field Day the band took off en masse to invade the premises of Inveran House where the owner, Mr Craig Scott, gave them a very interesting talk and demonstration on the art of making bagpipes which resulted in five of the pipers now owning sets of pipes made by Mr Scott.

The Scottish Schools' Quartet and Trio Piping Competition was held at Strathallan in November. The Quartet representing Strathallan was Ewan McMaster, Tim Elliott, Carrick Allison and Robbie Whytock (Riley) all of whom had spent most of the week in bed with flu! They did very well in the circumstances to put on a creditable performance. The remainder of the band worked very hard on the night handing out programmes, directing teams to their tuning rooms, acting as stewards, runners, welcoming party and collecting score sheets. Without their help the evening would have been rather chaotic; as it was, it ran very smoothly. Fettes and Glenalmond were the major prizewinners but our 'Lads and Lasses' deserve a lot of credit for the success of the evening.

On Monday the 8th January came the sad news that Pipe Major Bert Barron had passed away peacefully at home in St Andrews, after a long illness. He will be sadly missed. Bert gave many years of tuition, help and encouragement to pupils at Strathallan. A group of his pupils and staff attended his funeral service in St Andrews to say their own farewell to one of Scotland's best pipers and teachers. I was given the honour of playing at the end of the service one of Bert's best loved tunes *Lonely Loch Nan Eun* (The Loch of the Birds), a difficult task, but one which I was pleased to tackle. Donald

MacPherson, probably the most successful piper today played the *Lament for the Children* at the graveside as Bert was lowered to his last resting place. It was a fitting tribute to one of Scotland's finest Pipers. Later on, on Speech Day, the Pipe Band played a Tribute to Bert followed by *Bert Barron's Farewell to Strathallan School*, a retreat march written by J.S.R. Hutcheon.

The full band were invited again this year to play at the Dewars' Ice Rink for the Scottish Curling Championships. This was the first outing as a full band but later, during the summer term they played at a number of events, the first being the Forth Road Bridge Crossing for Christian Aid.

Their Speech Day performance included some marching into and out of formation, which they coped with quite well, as nobody got lost during the exercise, while our 'B' squad players showed their newly-acquired skills with a lively rendition of *Mhairie's Wedding*.

The band also performed at Rossie House at the opening of their gardens in steady rain on a typical Scottish summer evening and Ewan, David Smith, Jennie Perry, Susan Miller, Aisla Stringer and Carrick Allison took part in the Scottish School's Beating the Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House, the latter in the presence of the Princess Royal.

On the competition front the band has had a remarkable year, winning 25 prizes in external competitions, ranging from solo awards to quartet piping, mini band and full band.

Ewan McMaster won the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy 1st prize for marching and deportment at the Craigmount High School Competition. Niall Robertson won the Mary Montgomery Memorial Trophy and the 18 and under Novice Piping at the Aberfeldy Mod, quite an achievement for a 10 year old! Mark Stringer Won the under 14 Chanter at the RSPBA Shotts Competition.

The Band awards were the Caledonian Cup, being the prize for 3rd place in the Open Quartet Piping at the RSPBA, Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch Competition; the D.E. Whyte Shield - 2nd prize in the Mini-Band Competition at the same contest; the Craigmount High School Trophy - 2nd prize in the Glasgow Highland Club School's Competition; the Grangemouth Advertiser Cup - 1st RSPBA, Stirlingshire Branch Mini-Band Competition; the RSPBA Trophy - 1st prize in the World Mini-Band Championships - Strathallan "A" team of

Pipers JSRH, Tim Elliott, Robbie Whytock and Niall Robertson and Drummers David Smith, Aisla Stringer, Jennie Perry and Robbie Gemmill.

They also won the Jean Miller Trophy as 2nd prize at Shotts Highland Games for the full Band; the Past President's Rose Bowl 1st prize at the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games, where they beat the current Novice Juvenile British Champions Renfrew and District and, finally, they then played in the Juvenile Grade winning the Robert McCreath Trophy as 2nd prize. The band also took part in the Chieftain's Parade to open the games and welcome the Chieftain for the day, Alison Shepherd, the Olympic Swimmer.

The final event of the band's year was the School Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Thirty one pupils took part in eleven events which were keenly contested. Everyone gave a good account of themselves with the young Pipers from Riley playing particularly well.

JSRH



Miss Hutcheon



The Pipe Band with their trophies

A WRITER



The MALT



The MACALLAN. *The* MALT

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

Timberlake Wertenbaker's play is about the redemptive power of theatre, its ability to transform the lives of those who contribute to its production, of those who watch attentively and thus, perhaps, the world in which we live. Yet, one of the characters, the scientist Lieutenant Will Dawes, arriving in Australia with the First Convict Fleet, an officer interested in mapping the stars, would certainly throw cold water on that kind of claim:

"Put the play on, don't put it on, it won't change the shape of the universe."



Cameron High

His words also were strangely prophetic because when Mr Murray fell ill with Mumps on the Friday preceding the opening night of the School's production on Monday, the question of whether or not *Our Country's Good* would be staged at Strathallan was put in the balance. Much more than fine tuning had to be done and the centre of the whole thing was in quarantine - he might as well have been in Australia!

In the play a group of convicts, directed by Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark and under the patronage of the Governor of the new colony, Captain Arthur Phillip, stage a production of George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer* whilst various of them are flogged, put in chains or under sentence of death. It was, simply, very difficult to present an entertainment that questioned the nature of the military whilst a band of soldiers administered the penal colony that contained the cast. Some of the Marines, having suffered set-backs in the newly-liberated America, were only too keen to tyrannise a group of people they were eager to treat as base creatures beyond

redemption. Well, the School's cast faced a problem with its producer in the chains of a virus. Suddenly Art and Life began to share one of those graced moments in which they become fruitfully similar. I would like to say how greatly impressed I was with the efforts of the entire little republic (for republics do not need political monoliths of cast and production team in their determination to see the play staged). Colin Perry and Alastair Sutherland, in particular, provided a sense of direction and motivation that ensured I was able to see a performance of *Our Country's Good* that owed something to the recent production in Edinburgh's Lyceum, fell short of the latter's neatness (particularly between Old Worlds and New Worlds and the division in Ralph between worship of Betsey Alicia and passion for Mary Brenham) but beat it, hands-down, for warmth and humour.

I should, here, say something of the performances. I obviously can't mention all the cast but I would like to pick out a handful for particular praise. I thought Colin Perry handled the transformation of Ralph Clark, from a self-seekingly ambitious and empty young man wrapped up in various icons - rather than values - to a man capable of real feeling and humanitarian commitments, particularly well. The pairing of the vivacious Lucy Kitson, as Debby Bryant, against the quieter but deeper Mary Brennan, played by Claire Ketcher, was the source of some really touching drama and humour. Jon Butler played Captain Arthur Phillips and gave a formidable figure, one almost unbelievably erudite, selfless and perceptive, a kind of fragility and humanity that rendered a two-dimensional figure life-like. Cameron High's showmanship was beautifully exploited in his role as Robert Sideway and Duncan McCredie gave a life to Harry Brower's obsession with his hanged victims that was very much missing in the Lyceum's professional production. Andrew Hall played Major Robbie Ross, an embittered and entirely repressive soldier, with real spite and sadism. Timberlake Wertenbaker's play has been performed by drama groups in various of Her Majesty's Prisons. The rich vein of artistic and social comment thus exploited in the parallel between early convict and present-day prisoner has been rewarding and very few teachers could be blind to the link between that and school. There are few enough occasions in school life that liberate the creativity and autonomy of the pupil and when they have to manage very much on their own then we can glimpse the empowerment that

creation can give. Governor Phillip saw the play as an alternative to the 'theatre' of hanging. I might see it as an alternative to many different kinds of 'direction'.



Sam Bateman

Phillip: "I want to rule over responsible human beings, not tyrannise over a group of animals. I want there to be a contact between us, not a whip on my side, terror and hatred on theirs."

It was a memorable production, in all sorts of ways.

It would seem that I have worked myself into the trap of making Mr Murray and other teachers redundant. Why not simply hand over the production of such events to the cast? Why not abandon the notion of direction altogether and surrender to pupil-centred or pupil-directed learning? Don't forget, though, the struggle between the wisdom of Captain Arthur Phillip and the many Major Robbie Rosses that would step into

his shoes. Mr Murray should not only be congratulated on selecting such a play (and it does contain scenes of human debasement and depravity that serve to high-light the regenerative power of drama) and in handling such difficulties really well. Much of the original would have shocked, but it was edited in a tactful way that did not emasculate its message or weaken its drama. It's difficult to argue for Bowdlerization of any text - especially when you're young and idealistic - but here it worked, here something of the shockingly dehumanised was retained and I hope its message was clear. In *Apocalypse Now* the tension between the fact that young American airmen were able to napalm women and children but not allowed to graffiti the sides of their aeroplanes with profanities was rich in irony. The fact that the producer of *Our Country's Good* managed to retain so much that was dangerous, still remain true to the text, risk offending for the sake of mending, did him great credit.

The parallel of modern prisoner and convict clearly extends to some of the school 'criminals' that found outlet for their expressive and creative powers in performing the play. To take part in theatre is to transcend an old self, go beyond the environment we either find ourselves in or have created for ourselves. John Anscott, a penal colonist, has found a kind of liberation:



Colin Perry and Andrew Hall in command

"I don't want to play myself. When I say Kite's words I forget everything else. I forget the judge said I'm going to have to spend the rest of my natural life in this place getting beaten and working like a slave."

What is easy to forget, however, is the extent to which others provide the environment and medium in which to express this other self. All the criminals grow to respect the elegance and beauty of Farquhar's dramatic text, their world

transformed by his words. Similarly the cast of the School's production must not forget the debt they owe to the vast amount of work by those who provided the lighting, the staging, the sound that were essential to their performances. Officers like Ralph Clark, or Mr Goody, or Mr Kilpatrick, or Mr O'Neill, or Mr McMorrine, or Mrs Hunter, or Mr Broadfoot, have to decide whether or not to make such events not only possible but powerful.

CNC

THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK



Nick Coaton explains a point

The Hunting of the Snark was the junior dramatic production for 1996. It followed the great success of last year's musical, *Bugsy Malone* and therefore had a lot to live up to. Its accurate historical portrayal of wartime London and serious, yet at times comical, tone contrasted nicely with the lively and jovial *Bugsy*.

The play is set on a bomb site somewhere in London during the Blitz and follows the relationships within a gang of children. They are constantly motivated by the thought that they might perhaps find a 'Snark'. This is, for them, an unexploded bomb, but the word is taken from a nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll, which the play follows very closely. One of the strongest relationships is that which exists between Beaver, the boy with the hare-lip, and Baker, a German-Jewish refugee. They are both outcasts from the group and find their

friendship in this. Unfortunately, this friendship is broken up when Beaver becomes friends with the bully Butcher, and forsakes his true friend for the security of Butcher. Bellman is the leader of the group: he decides who does what and where they do it, but his position is taken from him towards the end. There are many more characters present: Beryl, Boxer, Blagger, Brains, Banker, Barrister, Boots and Barmy, all of whom show characteristics of their own. They are named as such (all beginning with the letter B) to be short for "Britons": - the Bs. The play is at times very moving, but also has a lot of characters arguing and fighting with each other with a few deceiving the others, using their positions or jobs to their own advantage.

The play integrates with the nonsense poem on which it is based very effectively and really does achieve the impossible - to make sense of the nonsensical!

John-Matthew Court

The first day of rehearsals and all pupils present, even after auditions, are still none the wiser as to what this oddly titled play is all about. The Hunting of the what? maybe it's a misprint, maybe it's meant to be shark? (see Perthshire Advertiser). Luckily for us, the omniscient Mr Broadfoot was there to relieve us of our naivete, but explaining what the play was about was simply a dump compared with the mountainous task of turning the fifteen or so degenerates (no offence meant) in front of him into Actors. A mountainous task it may have been, but the right man had been picked for the job: John Broadfoot, famous for such productions as *Bugsy Malone*. Anyway, enough Brownie point collection. The next three weeks were spent arduously reading and re-reading the script and hoping that Kirsty might actually turn up for a rehearsal before performance night.

At last the time came when we could set foot in the theatre and begin some acting. Unfortunately, the skills of the majority were hindered by the fact that they were still carrying books. Not a recommended pastime if you want to stay on the kinder side of JLB. However, as soon as all books were banished from the theatre during rehearsals, it was amazing how quickly we sorted ourselves out.

Now lines had been learnt and each performer could reel them off in perfect order, the real task began: teaching a cast full of Scots to speak Cockney. Considering I was the nearest we had to a Londoner, I felt it was my duty to offer my services, however unwanted, as a Cockney linguist.



John-Matthew Court discovers the "Snark"

I must admit everyone made an admirable effort, except Adam's cat which ain't cum back yet (dodgy Yorkshire accent). You could have **almost** been in London.

So with our newly acquired accents, characterisation and polishing of lines was next. Unfortunately, after being told to give each character his or her own mannerism, the entire cast seemed to have suddenly obtained a lot of ridiculous looking itches, twitches and speech impediments. Eventually, though, we each managed to be individual without being a member of the Ministry of Silly Walks.

At long, long last the play was complete and all that was left was to smooth out a few creases, such as Jamie and Tommy's singing voices and then to admire the work of Mr McMorrine's GCSE students working beaverishly on painting the amazing set built by Mr O'Neill and his team.

Almost a term and a half's work later and the first night finally (for some) arrived. You could tell the tension backstage was mounting by the once perfectly manicured cuticles now falling, chewed, to the floor. Anxiety reached its maximum about two seconds before the curtains opened, but, for me, as soon as we started and I realised that I couldn't actually see anyone in the audience, I was 'cruising'. Every night was better than the previous one, and personally, I could have kept on performing for another month, it was such an enjoyable and educating experience.

Nick Coaton

GUILT TRIP

I dropped the bomb.
Do you admit it?
I killed thousands.
Yes?
Yes! Now quit it!
How many for sure?
I don't remember.
What month was it?
July to September.
What did it look like?
The bomb or the city?
The bomb, and did you have no pity?
The bomb was big, the smoke was dark: it swallowed the people like a hungry shark.
As for pity?
There was none.
But the innocent people, what wrong had they done?
None as far as 'I' knew but it was my job and my job would I do
Why so keen on killing others?
I had no choice.
What thoughts had your mother?
She said live and let live.
Is it true that your brother ...
Yes, he died in the war. God, his life did not give.
I now see your point clearly, I now understand.
You made me re-live my nightmare.
Shall I go?
That I demand!

Jillian Fishback

HOUSE PLAYS

The **Junior House Plays**, written and designed entirely by the participants, were based this year on the theme of conflict. The evening demonstrated clearly the wealth of talent which will emerge from Strathallan in the future. Excellent performances, powerful scripts and innovative ideas combined to make this year's event a success.

The Best Production Award was deservedly won by Simpson House for their portrayal of the 'auld enemies' battling this time for live in *Love Heart*. The play emerged as an enthralling piece of theatre with engaging characters, subtle touches of humour, and dancing to make John Travolta jealous. Performances that stood out were Duncan Edwards as Wee Willie Wallace, Andrew Thwaites as a matriarchal Queen and Robert MacKenzie's portrayal of a flirtatious lady-in-waiting which won him a Best Actor award. Ruthven were strong contenders for the Best Production award but instead had to settle for Best Original Script. They skilfully dealt with the theme of conflict in two ways: classroom conflict and war. Strong performances from Tom Gemmill as the class swot and John-Matthew Court's subtle caricature of his father were supported by good set pieces and costumes to make an all-round strong performance.

Thornbank's contribution showed a clear awareness of this theme, with two children arguing about which 'emotionally charged' channel to watch. Their parodies of Stars in Their Eyes and Blind Date gave ample opportunity for Leila Arakji to star as Cilla and for Shona Dickie to demonstrate her obvious talent. Strong supporting performances were given by all but particularly Alice Laing who was the over-the-top *Blind Date* hopeful.

Woodlands' performance of *Naughty, Naughty, Very Naughty* saw Kirsty Partridge in a sultry, central role. The theme of conflict was thoroughly examined, with peer group, parental and marital conflict all being presented. Notable performances were given by all of the family - Amy Little as the Mum, Kerry Martin as the Dad and Caroline Reed and Ella Bird as the baby and dog (!) respectively.

Freeland's pythonesque *Quest for Sartridge* lead to a Best Actor award for John Dalley. A surreal and at times episodic play, the Quest did produce a good team piece of theatre with strong support in both acting and dancing. The stage design and costumes also demonstrated the excellent effort Freeland

had made to produce a piece of quality entertainment.

Nicol's House play had many good ideas. A topical portrayal of marriage conflict, including a cameo O J Simpson, used humour and asides subtly to engage the audience. Although it lost its way, it did produce fine performances from Jonathan Greenhalgh and Richard Crawford.

The quality of the scripts, acting and staging of the plays was a credit to everyone involved but a trial for the judges, who expressed the greatest difficulty in deciding this year's winners.

AM

The **Senior House Plays** were held in the New Theatre which once again proved its worth as an exciting and appropriate venue. Each House had undertaken quite elaborate preparations with costumes and sets and all contributed to the success and enjoyment of the evening. In retrospect, perhaps it was unfortunate that four Houses elected for the same play from the list of options but the interpretations were sometimes quite dramatically different. In the end the prizes all went to the most convincing performance of *Quarter maine's Terms*, whose pedagogic setting perhaps made it more possible for those in the audience blessed with short concentrations to follow the action. Nicol's imaginative and carefully thought-out direction won Colin Perry the award for Best Director and, to complete the double, his playing of Windscape, the old experienced gas-bag of a pipe-smoking teacher, was adjudicated the best performance of the evening. Bonus marks were earned by his masterly improvisation when other members of the cast fluffed their lines. The other award was to be for the best actress but, alas, and in the experience of this reviewer, most unusually, although there were delightful cameo pieces like that of Claire Duckworth, there really was nothing to compare with the impressive acting of John Butler in a scene from *The Madness of King George* (Freeland earned praise for their enterprising adaption of some of the material) or the robust humour of Neil Hutton as Meadle, the new teacher in the Nicol play. In the end the latter got third prize thereby making it a clean sweep for Nicol.

AMT

BACKSTAGE

Another year had gone by and the time came for yet another School Play to be produced: there were actors and actresses to be auditioned; a script to be censored and suitably adjusted to cater for all tastes (which proved to be more time consuming than normal this year with *Our Country's Good*), but more importantly, a set had to be planned and built and all the backstage running had to be practised to perfection. This required the skill and dedication of the backstage crew under the keen eye of Mr O'Neill who master-planned the whole operation. Many hours were spent hauling trees (what would we do without David Christie alias Geoff Capes!) and goodness knows how many sacks of sand were raked onto the stage as numerous artists toiled over intricate detail.

However, this was not all the job entailed; we were required to make sure the actors were dressed in costumes (preferably their own!) and make-up had to be cemented on, courtesy of Mrs Hunter and team. Most proved to be successful even though it was Helen's first attempt at make-up and maybe the fact that Nick refused to be done by her more than once illustrates her success (or not!) Yes, the make-up artists seemed to be determined not to go unnoticed as they and certain members of the cast decided to celebrate Jenny's birthday. This only caused a minor upset - well what harm can a birthday cake do other than set off the fire alarms and cause the evacuation of the whole theatre? (All thanks to those candles on the cake!)

Surprisingly, the performance was plain sailing, although it was only due to Fiona's alertness that everyone got on the stage at the right times - well, apart from a few exceptions (we'll call no names Colin!) Other aspects which must be mentioned include Mr O'Neill's 'delicate' fashion of getting people to be quiet (will our eardrums ever be the same?!) and the endless trips made back to Woodlands to make jammy pieces and toast so as not to upset the temperamental, pre-performance actors.

So, after months of preparation and hard work from everyone, it was all over within three nights. Until this time next year we'll just crawl back into the woodwork, but there's always the incentive that when the curtains are lowered on the last night - the party begins!

Fiona Hamilton
Susan Miller

CREATIVE PILGRIMAGE

Colonsay, the breathtaking island of Colonsay (pun intended!) X miles of moor land and beaches, a community soaked in Hebridean culture, and timelessness one road, one pub and 17 city kids! Boy, were we in for a shock! We'd been given the history, taken back to the first settlers and even had the rock strata explained to us, but nothing had or could have prepared us for the life of an islander!

The week was such an experience that it would take the entire magazine (plus a lot more if we didn't censor) to describe each day in detail. Instead, here are a few prominent memories from the trip.

It all started at 9 am on Monday, 16 October. We all loaded ourselves and our junk into the minibuses and set off for Oban when, naturally for a school trip, the singing started and two hours later we arrived - still singing until we all piled into the ferry terminal to find that the ferry was delayed by five hours! It's hard enough finding something to do in Oban at the best of times, but on a wet, cold, windy Saturday afternoon it's even harder. Nevertheless, half of us set up 'camp' (watching a video in the terminal) while the rest of us, much to Helen's mum's dismay, trooped up to Helen's house!

However, finally, we made it to Colonsay, after spending the entire ferry trip persuading Kirsty Glimm that it would NOT be a good idea to put her Navy skills into use by trying to navigate the boat! The first stop was instinctively our eating place for the week - 'The Pantry' for an interesting blend of Highland charm and plain Scottish/Italian culinary delights (macaroni and cheese to be more precise!) Our houses, Toberoran and Balarumin Mhor, were ideal for a week on the island.

On the first morning we were greeted by a wet, overcast sky. Nevertheless, we started out in our trusty bus. As we drove across the island the weather cleared so we took a detour to the historic caves that saved many settlers on the island from the pillaging Vikings. Mr McMorrine took us to see some of the island heritage - at least that's what he told us, but we got a little suspicious as he tried to persuade us to crawl through orifices the size of badger holes! We all survived and made for the idyllic Kiloran bay. Here our drawing started - and didn't end till the following Monday! We took the island for everything it had, scouring its beautiful scenery and intimate detail. Nothing was left undrawn. We even took the perilous journey across the strand to Oronsay, where our resident damsel in distress,

Helen, had to be saved by the local hero, Henry! After nearly being swept away by a tidal wave and Lucy nearly drowning (at least that's the story the boys fell for!), we benefited from the small island's artistic treasures. The main attraction was the old priory (and its inhabitants) which provided a great source to draw from. It was a very productive day - in all respects!

Other sites we visited included the deserted fishing village of Riasg Bhuidhe where we encountered a hauntingly beautiful atmosphere and Cable Bay, a

picturesque little beach a few hundred yards from the boys' accommodation.

The week certainly had its ups and downs, mercifully more ups than downs. Everyone came away with memories that will no doubt make them laugh for years to come. A few of the more prominent ones include Mr Murray's attempt at driving us several hundred yards over what Mr McMorrine swore wasn't sinking sand (good one Sir!). Mr 'Macaroni' instructed him to drive straight onto the beach with the advice "Keep at a steady speed; stay on the left-hand side of the



Drawing by Euan Southcott

THE SILENCE OF RISG BUIDHE

stones; whatever you do don't stop the bus - and girls, on my command, jump and roll when you hit the ground!" Ho Ho, we thought, obviously some island jest. Alas, it was no joke. We didn't keep a steady pace, we didn't jump and we didn't roll. We did however grind to a halt and yes, the bus did sink! In Mr McMorrine's desperate attempt to avoid phoning the Headmaster with the information "Your new school minibus is sinking rapidly in sand as I utter these very words" he decided to 'borrow' a tractor from a nearby farm of which he swore he knew the owner. However, as he chugged into Scalsaig after failing to retrieve the bus, the actual owner of the vehicle spotted him and questioned his motives (especially the 'girls, roll when you hit the ground' part) and yet he somehow managed to emerge still smelling of roses - well, literally, diesel - anyway, wiser and two pints down; (don't you just love the way these island folk work!) while, unfortunately, the bus still remained in deep sand.

Other moments which must be mentioned include Mrs Hunter's experiences with wrinkle bags (!!!!!) and Mr Murray's bonding sessions; Finlay 'Moosehead' Nicolson's new nickname and his sister Carla's strange obsession with her camera and - never to be forgotten - Marcus' little accident at the phone box which we'll leave to your imagination. Each member of the group at one point or another ended up in a ditch or the tool shed (some more than others!) and the Tods, father and son, ended up skinny-dipping in the sea!

Much to everyone's dismay, however, the morning of our departure soon arrived (we won't elaborate on Jenny's state of mind, or Nick's, and as for Roni's) and after a small exhibition of our work, everyone and everything was packed into the ferry.

It was a great week and we owe thanks to all the islanders for putting up with us and for their warm hospitality (especially Henry's) and to Mr McMorrine for putting his reputation on the line by taking us to his native land. Congratulations must go to Mrs Hunter and Mrs Evans for putting up with a houseful of girls (or should that be to the girls for putting up with Mrs Hunter and Mrs Evans), and of course to 'The Pantry' for feeding and watering us for a week. We hope everyone enjoyed it and we recommend Colonsay to anyone who is considering going in future years!

Helen Miller
Jenny Littleford

The mist lay there like a dewy blanket over the village, muffling all sound save the squelching of our footsteps on the marshy ground, and the rasping swish of our plastic waterproofs. The moss underfoot sucked thirstily at our boots and left gaping holes that were soon flooded with peaty water when we extracted them.

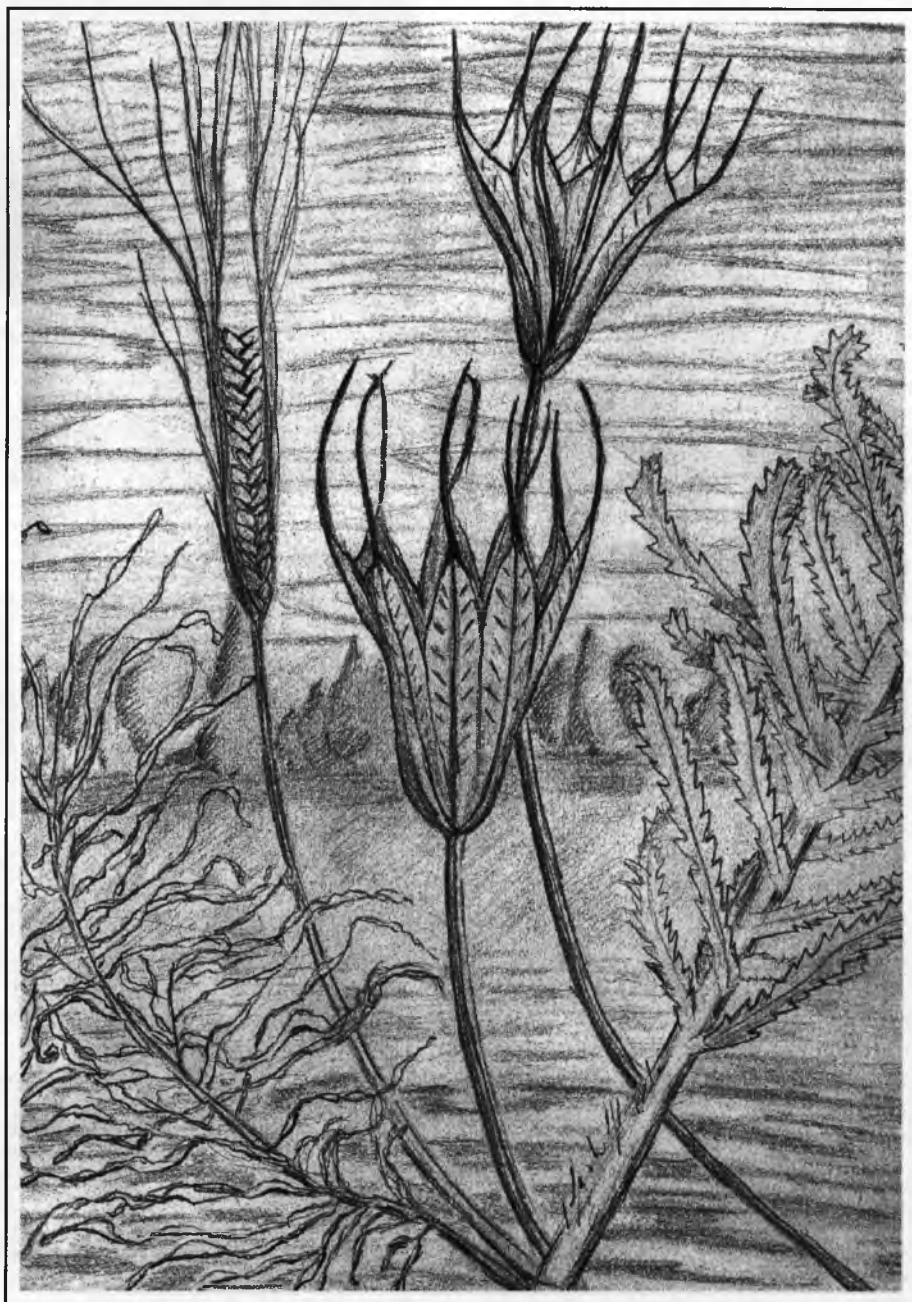
Overhead, a leaden sky sank low to merge almost imperceptibly with the sea in a smoky horizon. The wide, oily expanse of water was mottled with shadows and its ruffled edges, which broke gently against the rocks of the inlet,

were fringed with a soft white foam. Save this, everything was still. The fronds of bracken, hanging limply, made no quiver as we passed and though the wiry heather spang back into place after us, the movement seemed deadened; there was no life in it.

No raucous gull broke the unearthly silence; the only sign of sheep a whitened skull amidst the heather roots.

The damp air around us dulled every step and over the muted landscape hung an eerie shadow of waiting, of anticipation.

Helen Nesbitt



Drawing by Nicky Malcolm

SUIL DHAN IAIR *(An Eye to the West)*

An exhibition of writing, paintings, prints and ceramics by pupils who had enjoyed a trip to the Hebridean Isle of Colonsay was mounted in Scalasaig, Perth and within the School for Speech Day.

LONG AGO

Men lived here once, many years ago,
Fish to catch and crops to grow.
But now the houses sit here bare;
A wildcat's home, an otter's lair.

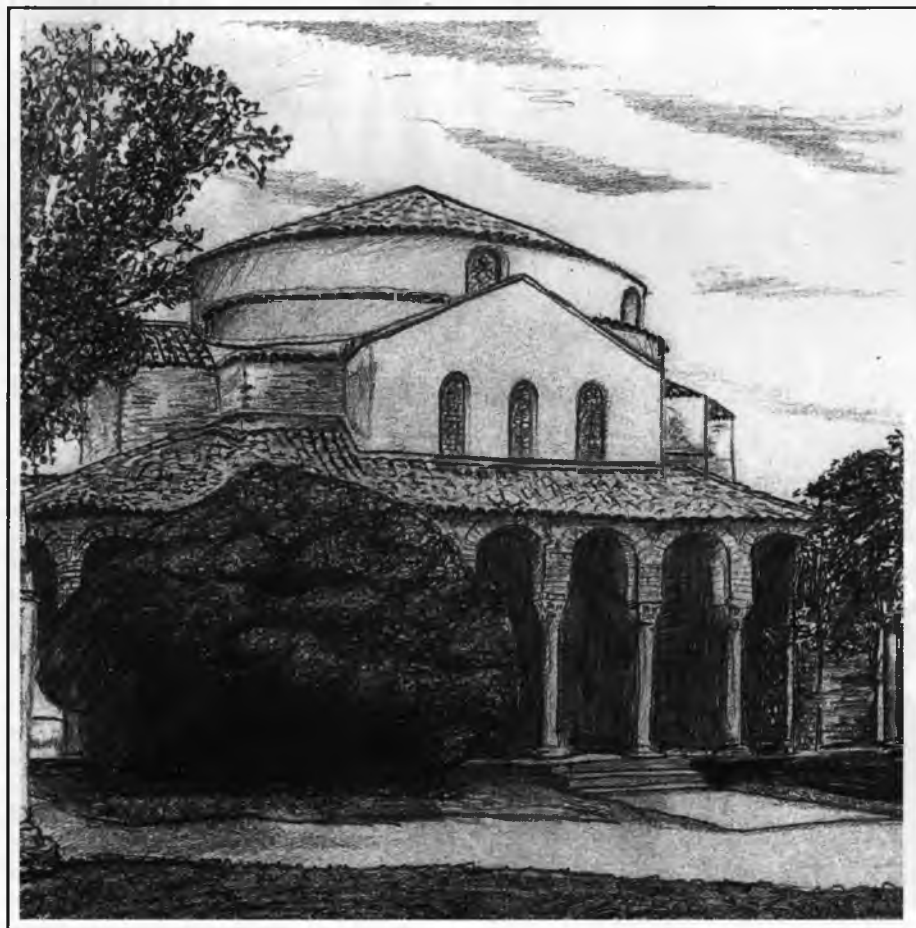
No one lives 'tween these stone walls.
Empty lie nature's lofty halls.
A single stone, a human grave,
An ice cold well, deep in a cave.

Crumbling walls are all that stand.
Shellfish, dropped by human hand;
The remnants, lying on the floor
Of folk who were, but are no more.



Stuart Catto

Drawing by Gregor Nims



Robbie Gemmill - Torcello

THE VENETO

This summer we visited Verona, Padua and Venice on a working field trip that involved drawing and painting al fresco. Jason Buchan, Tabitha Combe, Nick Dalley, Robbie Gemmill, Gillian Green, Nicola Milne, Catriona Pringle, Clare Proctor, Ruth Sharp, Lucy Sproat, Duncan Walker and Natalie Young were accompanied by Mr McMorrine and Mrs Hunter. The Aims of the trip were: to look at and begin to analyse style and expressive content in Art and Architecture; to see, at first hand, key Renaissance sites and paintings; to begin to understand and identify the influences that have shaped contemporary European culture - Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque - and to produce an exhibition of drawings, prints and paintings that convey vividly impressions of these most extraordinary cities.

ALCM



Robbie Gemmill - Venice



Robert Dundas - Self-portrait



Kirsty Glimm - Torsos

LITERARY NATTERS

It had long been felt within the English Department that a **Literary Society** would be a valuable addition to activities within the school. The notion was that twice a term a book, normally a modern novel, would be read and discussed by staff and pupils in congenial circumstances.

Black Dogs by Ian McEwan was the text chosen for the first discussion. Chaos ensued in the inaugural meeting as Mr Court tried to read the entire novel at one sitting. He was rather sharply informed by the Second Master that, while nothing would give greater pleasure "had we but world enough and time," this was not an episode of Jackanory and "would he desist forthwith." When the discussion finally got underway, Strathallan's Manchester United supporting economist (and amateur projectionist), suffering from a passing sense of disorientation, managed to make a number of penetrating remarks by virtue of confusing Tarantino's *Dogs* (of the reservoir variety) with McEwan's dogs (black). Despite this unpromising opening, after Mr Court had duly desisted and Mr Mayes sorted out his canines, the VI Form finally embarked on a worthwhile discussion of the novel and the consumption of an infeasibly large number of sausage rolls.

Our second meeting, chaired by the that venerable scholar Dr Tod, centred on a discussion of Evelyn Waugh's *Men At Arms*. At least this was the intention. Sadly, literature took second place to impassioned theological speculation as James Bird demanded to know who believed in God. Meanwhile "Neepe" Macleod wailed "What is the point of all this?" Since it was never clear as to whether "all this" referred to life, the universe and everything or the attractive "spread" kindly laid on by Mrs Court, the discussion became rather difficult to follow. The meeting ended in considerable confusion as the Chair woefully failed to maintain order (a fact in no way obscured by his enigmatic "hand-out", a sea of incomprehensible names and quotations that appeared to be culled from a different book). Nonetheless, it was generally agreed that, as the old cliché has it, "a good time was had by all" and that the process was worth repeating. Though it has to be said some of those referred to above are unlikely to have their subscriptions renewed by the management.

Nevertheless, thanks are due to solid citizens like Gordy, Birdy, Neepe and Ducky for their valuable contributions to debate and to those younger comrades who will, hopefully, be central figures in



Fourth Form debating

their final year at Strath. To all pupils who attended it might reasonably be said that their pointed contributions to discussion provided a poignant and instructive contrast to the interminable meanderings of the Careers Master and the aimless twitterings of the evidently beleaguered Head of English. We therefore intend to follow Dr Johnson's injunction about "the triumph of hope over experience" and to repeat the dosage twice a term while the symptoms (the tendency to enjoy a good natter in pleasant company, the appreciation of a good read) persist.

AM

Junior Debating came a few steps closer to being an activity treated with both a sense of fun and some seriousness this year. Two teams entered the competition run by the *Dundee Courier*. Hamish Campbell-Jack and John-Matthew Court were, I felt, a little unlucky to be knocked out in the first round held here at Strathallan. If they had a fault, it was that they were rather too well-prepared and veered on the wrong side of the judges' sense of political correctness in arguing (they were proposing the moment that "This House Believes that Poetry is Dead") that the only reason Semus Heaney was awarded

the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature was that he was a representative of an underprivileged and endangered species. Leila Arakji and Stephanie Dorward, a year younger, debated superbly and got through to the semi-finals. There they had to open for the proposition - a tough place from which to remain in the judges' eye - and were beaten in a debate that included both the winners and runners-up of the entire competition.

In the Fifth Form, Sam Bateman and Jon Butler debated extremely well, as a pair of novices, in the English Speaking Union's competition and then, entirely on their own initiative, at a Schools' Debating Competition held at Dundee University.

In Riley, Laura Morley and Emma Irving took part in a novices debate at Kilgraston and "spraffed" brilliantly when they realised, only as the debate began, that their two minute speeches needed to last for five. I was very impressed with their performances.

In the Inter-House debating, Leila and Stephanie won the Third Form section with some excellent performances and Nick Coaton and John-Matthew Court won in Fourth Form. Ruthven took the Inter-House Debating Cup.

CNC

NEW CLASSICS

It is difficult to see how Latin and Greek can ever be 'new' subjects: as languages they framed the thoughts that became the foundation of Western civilisation; as subjects they have both enthralled and appalled schoolchildren for almost as long. Long before the collapse of the Roman Empire, children were chanting their way through the first declension: *insula, insula, insulam...*

But age is hardly a good reason for keeping or reintroducing a subject into the curriculum - we do not encourage early morning runs and cold baths at School, after centuries of use, so why Latin, which, as many children will witness, is not much better?

Perhaps one might approach from the other direction. Why should Classics be expelled from the curriculum after so many years' service? Because one cannot find many careers that include a detailed knowledge of Iambic Pentameters in the job descriptions? If this is the case, then how many other subjects across the curriculum must be quaking in their boots? How many of the arts subjects, or even sciences can claim that their post-GCSE courses are strictly vocational? Surely if much of education at School is a stepping stone to further and more vocational training, a cross-curricular arts foundation course such as Classics fits the bill with distinction. If a child learns to hit a ball with a bat, then any number of more specific games become easier to

learn; moreover, the more difficult the skills that are learned the easier it becomes to develop new skills within this new framework of learning. Latin as a language has left a strong legacy in Europe: Spanish and Italian have not changed a huge amount from their parent; German retains the strict grammatical rules that bring thrills and enjoyment to so many Latin students; and the confusion of English, its strange spelling, its more complicated vocabulary and its idiomatic structure are usefully clarified by reference to its antecedents (eight of the last fourteen words are Latin or Greek based).

So much for the language, yet Classics is more than just a language. What else? There is the history of the two founder civilisations of the Western World: the first and possibly only real democracy (and why it was considered such a bad idea!); the detailed chronicles of an Empire that lasted seven hundred years and saw the introduction of social, legal and moral codes that form the basis of today's civilisation (and it might be disturbing to see how little has changed). Classics also offers the opportunity to study in detail human actions and their outcomes by reading eye-witness reports and contemporary comment on events that changed not only the classical world, but ours as well.

In addition, the fine arts of the Greeks and Romans are as vivid today as they

ever were. (Except for the statues - the graceful and elegant, pure and white marble that stands so clearly in the mind's eye against the blue of the Greek sky - which were originally painted with the brightest, most garish colours available to the Ancient Greeks.) There is scarcely a public building that has no Graeco-Roman echo, and much of our literature, history, drama, poetry, is based on Classical ancestors: from the *Clash of the Titans* to *Spartacus* (a personal favourite); and from Shakespeare to Eliot, content and structure are generated from Classics.

In many societies there is a call for function and vocation in education: for many years the Romans considered Greek, at the time the language of culture and learning, as unsuitable for young Roman aristocrats, who should expect foreigners to speak Latin. (They probably overcame this problem when they met foreigners by speaking Latin very slowly and very loudly.) Socrates, who created a system of logical questioning that changed the very nature of philosophy and reasoning, was executed by the ultra democratic Athenians for "corrupting the young". Classics now faces the same battle. (Although I would like to point out that no Socratic reasoning whatsoever is used in my teaching.) To start Classics again in a school is remarkable; I hope that pupils can be persuaded to make the most of this opportunity.

MH

GEOGSMILES

"To begin with the globe was all spread out flat at the bottom of the sea."

"We know that the climate has changed because in the Sahara there are cave paintings of chamois - little yellow creatures made of leather - surround by miles of dessert."

"Men seem to have a slightly denser population than women ..." (- so that's the problem! EAE.)

"The fertiliser that was sprayed on mosquitoes now has no effect - they have become immune to such methods of prosecution."

HISTORY HOWLERS

Exam Answer (by IV former) - An example of lateral thought!

iii) Describe how flooding might cause problems for farmers.

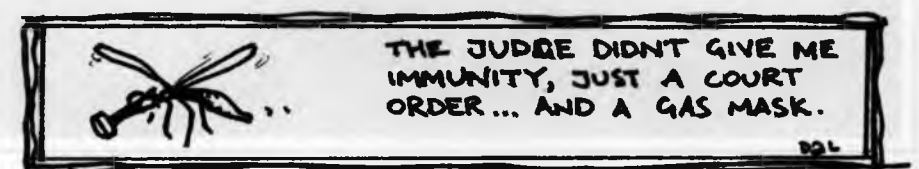
"It would flood there land, farm, houses, sialage pits, slurrypits, leantoo's, dairy, sheep dipper, Garden, Dairyman's house, tractorman's house, roads, barley tower, ferterlyser tower, sheds and it would wet the calves beding it might also make the motor byke float away because of air in tyres."

"Thomas More had a play fight with the duck of norfolk."

"Q What evidence suggests that Perth also faced man-made hazards?

A The taxis were a bit high."

"The Feudal System: King, Barons, Earls, Knights, Tennent Farmers + Scrufs."



STRATHALLAN HISTORY CONFERENCE

This took place at the start of the Summer Term and, as on the three previous occasions it had been organised at Strathallan, the intention was to provide a series of lectures on mediaeval and modern history that would stimulate the historical imagination as well as providing a forum that would help with last-minute revision for the Higher and 'A' level examinations that were lurking just round the corner. There was a very good response from the schools who were invited and close on two hundred and fifty pupils and teachers were present at the opening lecture, after which everyone dispersed to a mediaeval or modern option.

We were very fortunate to have been successful in gaining Edward J. Cowan (University of Glasgow's recently appointed Professor of Scottish History and Literature) as the opening lecturer. He spoke on "Scottish History and Scottish Folk" and in a far-ranging, witty and challenging talk, that had something in it for everyone, covered a multitude of issues from Scottish, English and European history. The mediaeval option before lunch was a lecture on the Crusades by Michael Kennedy, also from the University of Glasgow; this area is the special subject for the Revised Higher syllabus followed by some of the schools attending, so his excellent talk was very much, and successfully, geared to their

needs. At the same time Lord Bullock, the celebrated biographer of Hitler and author of a recently published comparison between Hitler and Stalin, spoke on this topic under the title of "Personality and History: the strange cases of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin." This really was, for most who heard him, a unique occasion to savour the wisdom of a lifetime studying these topics and his audience left him in no doubt that they richly appreciated the privilege of hearing one of the biggest names in British history analyse the characters and significance of two of the men who have moulded the history of the Twentieth Century. Rather more mundanely, there were others in his audience who appreciated the richness of the ideas that no doubt within the month were eagerly put down on paper to help bolster flagging arguments in the exams.

After lunch we had another two lectures designed to offer fresh insights to topics which, for the purposes of the conference, were planned on the grounds that they were likely to feature large in exams. Christopher Given-Wilson (University of St. Andrews) produced a superb talk on "The Black Death" which certainly persuaded many candidates to alter their revision plans and Conan Fischer (University of Strathclyde) spoke on "Nazi Elites and the Rise of Nazism", again in a manner designed to help those facing examinations as well as appealing

to pupils and staff who attended out of interest. The final talk was intended to be a concluding address that would sum up the main themes of the day and suggest ways in which history at University not only acted as an excellent and rigorous training but prepared the way, in these days of uncertain graduate employment, for many interesting and rewarding careers. Two of our speakers gallantly agreed to hold an informal seminar where some of these ideas were discussed. It had already been a demanding and pretty challenging conference so at this point most schools decided to call it a day.

From the responses of all who attended, both pupils and staff, it was evident that most thought that this was far from a wasted day at a critical time of their school careers. That so many should indeed be enthusiastic about what they had heard is a tribute to the quality of the speakers whom we were fortunate to attract and in whose debt we all so clearly became. There was considerable discussion about the virtue of holding other such conferences, perhaps at a different time of the school year, and that in itself might be seen as a measure of the success of an occasion that seems to have earned its title of the **Strathallan History Conference**.

AMT



Lord Bullock, Dr Tod (extreme right), the HM and the other lecturers

POLITICS

Our visit to London in February very nearly did not take place at all. The weather was appalling and there were reservations expressed by the more faint-hearted about our chances of even reaching Perth; these were naturally treated with extreme contempt by the Second Master particularly as they were voiced most vociferously by Dr Tod, the other teacher accompanying this intrepid band. It may well be "better to travel hopefully than to arrive" and we were to have plenty of time to ponder this maxim during our journey to London.

We were not fully to appreciate just how ghastly the weather conditions were but it was clear that we were making but the slowest of progress when a casual glance out of the window at breakfast-time revealed not only that we were stationary also but also that rather than being at Euston, we were still at Carlisle. It is true that this provided Douglas Gilbert with the opportunity of regaling us with an interminable series of reminiscences about his home town but even this palled after a while. The first day's programme clearly needed to be adjusted and the long-suffering secretaries of the various public figures we were scheduled to meet to discuss some of the burning issues of the 'A' Level Politics course were (expensively) telephoned from the train and fresh arrangements were made. We were extremely fortunate that one of them (an obviously very disgruntled Sir Russell Johnston) was on the train and he very readily agreed to come and help while away some of what was still to be a long day's journey. Two of our party live in his constituency so Alasdair Sutherland and Stuart Scatto [sic.Ed](who asked some penetrating questions about haulage and the environment in the highlands) were able to thank him in person for helping us with the perennial problem of getting tickets for Prime Minister's Question Time.

It was not until the early evening, after some eighteen hours travelling, that we reached the bizarrely named New Ambassadors' Hotel, which had the advantage of being strategically situated in Bloomsbury. We salvaged something from the day with a visit to the House of Commons where, after explaining our plight to sympathetic attendants, we all managed to make the first of several visits to the Strangers' Gallery, witnessing what turned out to be a lively and well-attended debate.

Thanks to the kindness and co-operation of those who had agreed to

meet us, we were able to put together a full programme and squeeze it into the remaining two days. We started with an extremely interesting meeting with Robert Anderson, the Director of the British Museum who gave us many insights into the organisation and funding of great national institutions in these difficult times. It was very much the icing on the cake to be shown round the Elgin Marble and the Rosetta Stone on our way out by the Director himself. We then proceeded to Westminster where, in the first of several visits, we were shown round the upper house by Lord Perry on, by coincidence, the day that the Liberal Democrats' proposals for its reform were published. Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, who had visited Strathallan last year to talk about his work as Minister, managed to meet us at lunchtime and, in addition to talking about the work of the Commons, managed to get us all into the deliberations of the Select Committee on Defence, which gave us further valuable insights into the governmental system. We could not have had two more helpful and informative guides to the mysteries of both houses. The afternoon was spent in the offices of the parliamentary draftsmen learning about the processes that lie behind the production of an act of parliament, a vital and often neglected part of the constitutional process.

One of the aims of the tour was to visit institutions associated with the exercise of "power" in today's society and we were privileged to visit in the evening (after the more voracious of the party had temporarily satisfied their appetites) Flemings', the merchant bank. Some years ago it had taken the enlightened decision to establish an art collection that would reflect its Scottish origins and a very impressive building was constructed within which such a collection of top-class nineteenth and twentieth paintings could be established. One of the senior partners is responsible for the whole operation, so it was useful for us to have the chance of asking about such far-sighted patronage by one of the great financial institutions of the City. Our final port of call was to see Oscar Wilde's political (well, "part-political": Ed.) play *An Ideal Husband*, which, although it came at the end of a long day, seemed to be tolerated, if not even appreciated, by everyone.

On the last day we had further insights into other institutions that are part of the "corridors of power." In the morning we visited the merchant bank division of Barclay's Bank (BZW) where

we had the good fortune to spend an hour with David Band, the managing director of an institution that employs eight thousand people and Martin Smith, who runs a small company offering the specialist services upon which it depends. It was very instructive and as well as offering us another view of the inter-linked worlds of politics and business, it was clear that some of our party now had fresh ideas on career possibilities. Mr. Proctor amused himself by calculating what each of our speakers would have earned in the hour they devoted to us; but then he was probably not contemplating a mid-career move. Next, it was on to the German embassy where, in addition to being treated to an excellent lunch, we heard a useful talk on a united Germany's role in the European Union and learned about the different perceptions there are about the part the United Kingdom might be playing in current European developments. We still had to visit Dover House, the headquarters of the Scottish Office in London and it was our great good fortune that one of the recently appointed junior ministers, George Kynoch, was able to be present to describe his experiences during his first year in office. Thanks to the efficiency of the secretaries of the various MPs who had helped us plan the expedition, we were all able not only to attend Prime Minister's Question Time that afternoon but also to view this most gripping part of the parliamentary day from the front row of the part of the House reserved for Distinguished Visitors; it was not clear that Sir Martin Gilbert, the historian, and the Brazilian ambassador appreciated their good fortune in sitting alongside us.

For once in a crowded few days, there was the opportunity to enjoy a relaxed meal while discussing our varied experiences before heading for the station and, thankfully, an uneventful journey north on the sleeper. The roads were still diabolical but, thanks to Mr. Proctor's Herculean efforts, everyone was transported to their final destinations after what was deemed to have been a successful and worthwhile venture.

AMT



THE MOON'S ON THE PIANO

The number of pupils taking part in verse speaking and drama exams and competitions continues to rise - approximately 20% of our youngsters were involved this year.

Once again, we began with the Perth Burns Club Festival. The Under 15 class was won by James Duncan, with Andrew Donald and Garry Hutton coming second and third. In the Over 15 Section, Lucy Kitson was narrowly beaten this year by Gordon Duncan, who also won the Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich for the best overall performance by a secondary pupil. Gordon and Lucy, who were described by the adjudicator as "seasoned performers", were honoured by the Burns Club in being invited to do recitations at the Burns Bi-centenary Dinner in January.

The next major event in our calendar is the Perth Competition Festival in March. Every pupil in Forms I and II was involved in choral verse speaking classes. I Set 2/II came first in the miming class and I Set 1 was second in the no movement class. Distinction marks (85% and over) were achieved in solo classes by Jean-Louis Lafayeedney, Hazel Whyte, Niall Robertson, Gregor Leslie, Arlette Lafayeedney, Alistair McMillan and Leila Arakji (Bible reading), Douglas Forbes and Lyndsay-Gail Broadfoot (Soutar poems) and James Duncan, Jillian Fishback and Annabel Turner (English poems).

James Hay won the Soutar poems (12-15) class and Arlette Lafayeedney came first in the Shakespeare class (narrowly beating Max Markus) and in the English poems (12-15) class. But magnificent honours marks went to the "seasoned performers", Gordon and Lucy, who won the Burns and Soutar classes, respectively, in the 15-18 age group.

May brings the "darling buds" and the Edinburgh Competition Festival. Here distinctions in Bible reading were awarded to Hazel Whyte and Annabel Turner, and for English poems to William Bowry. James Duncan won the solo verse speaking (12-14) and Richard Crawford and John-Matthew Court came first in the Dramatic Scene (under 17) class with a duologue from *The Hunting of the Snark*. The Riley Second Choir won the group acting of a poem class with their version of *The Owl and the Pussy Cat*. There was a moment of panic when one of the props was lost just before they were due to go on stage. "Where's the moon?" "The moon's on the piano", was the reply.

By Edinburgh Festival methods of calculation, Gordon and Lucy are adults(!)

and they therefore competed in the adult classes against people two or three times their age. Lucy came a close second in the Burns class for her performance of *The Rights of Women* and Gordon won The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama Trophy with Soutar's *Birthday*.

In this, our second year of presenting pupils for LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams in speech and drama, our entries increased to 33. For the first time we tried "improvisation", At Grade 1, David (Doc) Stewart and Niall Robertson achieved Distinction (75% and over) and Hazel Whyte and Annabel Turner Honours (85% and over). In the Speaking of Verse and Prose there were distinctions for Annabel Turner and Robert Clarke (Grade 4), Georgina Philip, Jillian Fishback, James Hay and Hazel Whyte (Grade 5), Robert Mackenzie (Grade 6) and Lyn Gemmell (Grade 8). In acting exams, distinctions were achieved by Helen Smith (Grade 4),

Greg Mouat and Nick Gdula (Grade 5) and by Richard Crawford, John-Matthew Court and Arlette and Jean-Louis Lafayeedney (Grade 8). Aimi Gdula gained Honours in Grade 4 acting and Arlette Lafayeedney a Bronze Medal for the Speaking of Verse and Prose.

The LAMDA examiner declared herself to be impressed with the overall standard of work at Strathallan and particularly by the pupils' sensitivity to, and interpretation of, poetry.

Lyndsay Allison, Lucy Kitson and Andrew Morris reached the quarter finals of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. Sadly, they were unable to proceed with the competition as the finals coincided with the week of the School Play. Such is the pressure on talented pupils within the School. Lyndsay also came second in the Perth Speakers' Club Competition for pupils from Perthshire Schools.

IMcF



Gordon Duncan with the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama Trophy

STARS



The moon, photographed from school

An Astronomy Club was started last year under the guidance of Mr Summersgill. Although telescopic use was much hindered by bad weather and poor seeing conditions, our search highlights were: the Aurora Borealis; Saturn's rings (which are not visible this year due to the angle of the planet); Sirius, the brightest star (which appears to flash different colours due to interference from the atmosphere) and Orion's constellation containing Rigel the blue star, Betelgeuse the red star, and M42 the gaseous nebula in Orion's Sword.

Eleanor Wiseman and Jemma Hepworth sat Astronomy as an extra GCSE. Part of their coursework involved mounting a camera on Mr Burgess' Newtonian Reflector telescope to take photographs of the moon's phases.

There is already a lot of interest for next year's Astronomy Club but it is a shame that the Astroturf lights ruin the sky viewing conditions in the whole valley. A petition for light shades is under way!

Jemma Hepworth

Eleanor Wiseman

LOVE

Seemingly perfect, it flies worries away
But I'm crashing to earth as he's running astray

Creeping slyly through shadows of lies
Which are twisting the meanings of adieus and goodbyes

How can a person lose feelings so fast?
Just as snakes shed their skins, so his morals are cast.

Soon it is hate that swells in my mind
As his morales character starts to unwind.

Falseness of beauty can no longer hide
The growing darkness of the monster inside.

Deluding himself that money is power
As it drips away every treacherous hour.

Abusing the loss of benevolent life
Slashing the trust with malevolent knife,

I'll wait till his weakness has grown to its peak,
When his once-strong will is crumbling and weak.

When his constant gaiety is stunned into fear
When death's all around him and mine seems too near.

Showing no mercy, I'll tear him apart,
My chilling stare burning caves in his heart.

The heat of my love which lighted the night
Now freezes my soul and engulfs me in fright.

The deity, possessed, is flying away
Far down to where the darkness is day.

His haunting face renders every night sleepless
The love I still feel is my dominant weakness.

Bearing the pain, yet he feels no ill
Even as I lie helpless and still.

Love is the only thing stronger than pain
And we gamble our lives chasing it again,
and again.

Tabitha Combe

MONTBRISON

Spring may have been late to breathe life and warmth back into Scotland this year, but the sun shone merrily in Montbrison as the fourth of our Third Form exchanges with College La Madeleine got under way.

Being met by a grinning barrage of complete strangers and promptly smothered in a tidal wave of elaborate Gallic kisses is, I suppose, somewhat daunting for the average 13 year old, but these introductions heralded the beginning of twelve very happy days in relaxed, welcoming families who bent over backwards to make their guests feel at home.

Looks of blank incomprehension and even panic on the Strathallan pupils' faces soon dispersed and, after a few days, they were much more at their ease, conversing in French without too many visible signs of torture.

Families tirelessly organised trips and entertainment for their guests, and we all met up as a group on several occasions. A much-vaunted foray down a recently closed mine in St Etienne (now a museum) started promisingly as we all plummeted down several hundred metres in a rickety lift, wearing wobbly safety helmets. The walkman commentaries in English had thoughtfully been provided for our benefit to complement the French version which emerged from half a dozen television screens. Unfortunately, these great aids to bridging comprehension gulfs immediately lost all credibility when the French voice boomed out of the television and promptly rendered the walkmans totally inaudible. This, combined with a chronic synchronisation problem, meant that the tour became bewildering in the extreme and I suspect that some of the walkman tapes were, in the sepulchral gloom of the underworld, exchanged for something more along the lines of Oasis or Blur.

Alice de Bengy, co-founder of the exchange and stalwart supporter of all things to do with Strathallan, kindly gave the group the run of the grounds of her chateau and there the afternoon slipped away as the French and the Scots played football, chatted and munched their way through vast quantities of French gateaux.

As we said protracted good-byes in the steady, incessant rain on the last day, those who had arrived looking so apprehensive were genuinely sorry to leave (and not just because school beckoned!). I wish the exchange all the very best in future years.

PJC



Third Formers in Montbrison

ALÈS

It may look as if it has been designed by an architect with a vin de table-induced hangover, but behind the streaked grey concrete facade of the Lycée Bellevue in Alès there lies a lively school whose pupils were barely able to contain their joy at seeing Strathallan Sixth Formers once again. Last year, the pioneers from Strathallan blazed the trail, forming strong links between the two schools. Now the second year of the exchange was well under way and the tradition was set to continue.

Contrary to the assumptions of jealous friends left in the icy grips of Winter back at Strathallan, the South of France was not soaked in warm, golden sunshine for the whole of the fortnight. The sun was soothing and gentle when it did come out, but it proved to be rather shy, preferring instead to sulk behind tantalising cloud cover. Indeed, a planned hike across some of France's most spectacular and unspoilt countryside had to be cancelled because of snow.

Attending lessons at the school enabled our pupils to find out a little more about the way French classes are conducted and to reel at the prospect of tackling the amount of work regularly

dished out. Interesting comparisons were made between the two education systems, but French jaws tended to crash to the tiled floors when they learned that many of their Scottish counterparts were being taught in groups of 5, not 35. When it came to two solid hours of Physics followed by a gruelling Maths test, most of our number decided that they could usefully broaden their cultural and linguistic knowledge elsewhere and made ample use of the school's little cafe.

The successes of last year were repeated as the sights and attractions of the area appeared on the programme. These included the legendary Pont du Gard; a vast, seemingly indestructible Roman aqueduct which crosses the tempting turquoise waters of the Gard river. One or two had designs on plunging into the refreshing depths of the river, realising some latent desire to be in a Timotei advertisement. The currents were too strong at the Pont du Gard, but when the sun came out during a visit to St Jean du Gard later in the week, Matthew Morley and Andrew Forbes attracted a little crowd of local spectators by hurling themselves into the icy water. It was difficult to tell if the audience was

COLOGNE

genuinely awe-struck at this folly or was merely interested to see how long it would take the intrepid swimmers to turn blue; not long is the answer. Other highlights were a trip to the Roman town of Nîmes, sadly shrouded in mist this year, but impressive nonetheless, and a trip round the unusual bamboo park where the warm micro-climate allows all kinds of bamboo to grow in great profusion. Beaming cheerfully from ear to ear, a local wine producer took us round his distillery and then eagerly ripped the corks out of a dazzling array of bottles, urging us to try everything from paint-stripper to the mellowest of oak-aged red. He was certainly a good salesman as nearly everyone left with a bottle or two under their arm.

Ewen McMaster moved our hosts to frantic cheering and whistling as he officially launched our farewell banquet by playing majestically on the pipes. Most of the boys had dressed in kilts, which triggered off a barrage of flashing cameras and appreciative noises from the rest of the hall. The ad hoc choir which groaned its way through Scotland's adopted anthem was perhaps a little less than elegant and sounded as if it had been transferred from Murrayfield in its natural, untamed state. However, the 100 or so pupils and former pupils there were soon giggling away happily on the dance floor, partying well into the small hours of the morning.

Judging by the hours it took to say goodbye and by the theatrical gesticulations of the French girls who came stumbling after the cars as we sped off to the airport on the last day, pleading with the occupants not to desert them, solid friendships had been made and genuine regret at returning to Old Blighty was evident.

Sadly, Mado Benoit, my counterpart at Bellevue, was involved in a horrendous car accident in February and so could not be with us whilst we were in Alès. However, we look forward to welcoming her and her pupils to Strathallan in October, by which time she should be back in action. Marie-Laure Crane remained a great source of energy and support throughout the trip and I am indebted to her and her family in Alès for making the trip so enjoyable and trouble-free. Finally, my thanks go to all those in Lower Sixth who came to Alès; they were most entertaining company and kept me constantly amused. They were excellent ambassadors of their School and, into the bargain, came away speaking respectable French.

PJC

After many grumbles from the ten Fifth Form pupils on the German exchange about how conspicuous we looked in our full kilt dress and a rather hectic search for Gillian's passport which was, thankfully, still in her bag, we stepped off the plane into Dusseldorf airport not quite sure as to what the next ten days were going to bring. Mr Glimm had the usual grin on his face as he hurried us along, making vain attempts at persuasion to tuck in shirts and straighten ties, to meet the awaiting correspondents and their parents.

The German lessons seemed daunting to us at first and there were numerous attempts to try and convince the teachers that we were Scottish and not English! We were given a daily timetable to follow in Liebfrauenschule, but most days we were dragged along to extra English classes or to classes with different hosts on the exchange. The worst lesson must have been French, as we were urged to participate, but thinking from French to English and then into German was, to say the least, rather confusing!

The main sight in Cologne was the cathedral, or the 'Dom' as it was more commonly known there. On Tuesday night, Mr Glimm took us, and our German hosts for a tour around the building, and even right up to the top in a

workman's lift which was a pretty amazing experience for most of us, apart from maybe Siobhan who had a slight case of vertigo! We even managed to get a rather interesting photograph of Catherine Gdula holding a rather large spanner!

On the various trips we took from place to place, David's pack of cards and Jennie's Gameboy proved very popular when Mr Glimm wasn't paying attention. Also Duncan and David's large supplies of chocolate from the chocolate museum didn't seem to last too long either Gillian and Catherine seemed to have a need to enter every single clothes shop we passed in the city centre and Kimberley's correspondent, Harald, didn't seem to let her stray far from him! And congratulations must go to Michael on how well he coped (and stayed calm!) when his host Oliver's mother managed to 'kindly' clean his kilt by bunging it in the washing machine! Thankfully it still fitted, although it was a little tight!

This was a first-class, well-organised and thoroughly enjoyable exchange to Cologne but most of us were glad to be rid of the long journeys we had to take into town and to school as the bus and tram journeys seemed extremely complicated compared to our usual walk across the causeway ...

Jennie Perry



Sixth Formers in Alès

I WANT A PACIFIC BEACH

"I want a set that will collapse!"

Not the usual sort of requirement for a stage production but, then again, we at Strathallan Theatre Company are used to such unusual requests and *The Hunting of the Snark* was no exception: a complicated set we had to blow up on three separate occasions and arrange to have bits falling off so that the insides of a building were exposed. (With a great deal of difficulty I discouraged the stage crew from putting one of their number on the exposed WC and we settled for an arm holding a loo roll instead.)

"I want a Pacific beach for *Our Country's Good*."

Sure, Mr Murray, no problem! Three tonnes of sand, nine real trees from Land Management's clearing operation, a tent and voilà we had one Pacific beach.

I will miss the team that put these two shows together; for after five shows in the new theatre we do have a team that has demonstrated mutual respect for the work involved in all aspects of performance. I would like to thank the stage crew and actors for some of my most memorable moments at Strathallan. It has been a great personal pleasure to watch this production team develop and grow over the last few years. David Christie has proved to be a most competent and level-headed Assistant Stage Manager; Ray Duffy must be one of the most consistent characters that I have ever had the pleasure to meet, tackling every grotty job there is with wit, charm and panache and Tom Hayward is a natural successor to David as Assistant Manager as he has served his time as a superb Properties Manager. There are a few more in this crew who only joined us this year: in them lies the next generation of crew. To Mr Sneddon - thank you for being an enthusiastic helper.

I set out three sessions ago to build a team of pupils who could run the show. Gradually, I stepped back and let them do just that. My successor has inherited a superb team capable of running a production in a professional way. However, I would advise you being prepared to take the flak when they empty the swimming pool by setting off the fire alarm with the smoke machine (or was that me?) or set the collapsible flats so that they just miss Mr Proctor in the front row.

LAO'N



Mr O'Neill, man o' pairs

JAPANESE SOCIETY

The Society operated in two tiers this year: the Fourth Form with Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Hunter and the Fifth Form with Mr Ball and myself. There were also several visiting martial arts exponents in Mrs Duncan, Mrs Ninham and Miss Mason without whose assistance the Aikido class could not have operated. *Domo arigato* ladies, or thanks very much.

Mr Ball taught the Fifth Form language class, building upon the introductory course last year, while the Fourth Form made kites with Mrs Hunter. Mrs O'Neill made one that looks like a demented poodle which she assures me is a demon poodle, common to Japanese mythology in the 14th Century. The language and culture segments of the programme went off without a hitch. I will never cease to be amazed at the pupils' lust for the more gory aspects of Japanese history in the 15th and 16th Centuries.

We were fortunate to have living at the School Dr Yamazaki, an Associate Professor at Joetsu University in Japan. He

gave a talk on how teachers are educated in Japan - a most enlightening evening.

Our only excursion this year was to an exhibition of Japanese culture and martial arts in the Japanese Studies Department of Stirling University, renewing our acquaintance with Professor Moran, who visited us last year. Our students witnessed displays of Taiko drumming, Aikido, Judo, Karate and Japanese archery. It was only at this exhibition that I became aware of just how often Ray Duffy was the 'willing' participant in my Aikido demonstrations. When asked what he thought of the techniques on display he responded, as only Ray can, "Very interesting. I hadn't seen it from this perspective before". I was most impressed that he had understood the concepts so well. He then added "I usually only saw it from floor level, *after* you had thrown me there"! The group then participated in some of the side attractions like eating and origami.

LAO'N

ARKWRIGHT AWARD



Fifth Form pupil, Jennie Perry, received an Arkwright Scholarship in recognition of her achievement and ability in design and technology.

Arkwright Scholarships provide support for students aiming for the

highest qualifications in engineering, design and technology. This year 55 scholarships were awarded throughout the UK from more than 400 applications, of which only two went to students in Scotland.

Jennie had to sit exams in design and problem-solving and complete practical tests covering management, leadership and technology skills. This is the second year that a pupil from the School has received an Arkwright Scholarship.

SIXTH FORM TALKS

There were a number of general talks arranged, as in previous years for the Sixth Form, with the intention of introducing us to important areas of the contemporary work that are not necessarily part of the syllabus of all that is studied. Politics classes were extremely lucky to benefit from two tutorials from Professor Daniel Kobil, whose chair of Political Philosophy is at the University of Columbus, in Ohio. Professor J P Barber from the University of Durham spoke as a South African recently returned from his first visit to his homeland for some years, about the momentous changes that have occurred there since the collapse of Apartheid. His talk had an added relevance for those who were to go on the Hockey Tour to South Africa in the Winter. John Corrie, who is an MEP and has been a Westminster MP, spoke about the contrast between the two systems and the significant developments talking place in Europe today. Paul Wilkinson, who is Professor of

International Relations at the University of St Andrews, provided a fascinating analysis of the world of International Terrorism today. In addition to the History Conference, which was the main focus for our outside speakers, we were fortunate enough to hear Andrew Pettie grew from the University of St Andrews, talking on "Luther and German Artists". Patrick Cadell, the Keeper of the Records of Scotland, described the work of the SRO and its importance. Garry Dickson from the University of Edinburgh organised an afternoon's seminar for us devoted to the Crusades, which proved very valuable to those offering this as a special subject. Finally, Charles Parton CBE, formerly of the Embassy in Beijing, but now working on Bosnia, in London, spoke on 'The Life of a Diplomat'. Our thanks go to them all for so kindly giving up their time to come and speak to us.

AMT

EXAMS

Strathallan's pupils have once again achieved outstanding exam results. This year's A level pass rate was 98% with almost 70% of entrants gaining A and B grades - more than twice the national average. Achieving straight As has secured Nick Morley and Douglas Patterson places at Cambridge, whilst Gordon Duncan will take up his place at Oxford. Congratulations also go to David Macleod, Kirstine Lawson, Claire Duckworth and Elizabeth Watson who all achieved A grades in their choice of A level subjects.

The results of the Scottish Highers exams paints a similar picture with 84% of the entrants achieving A-C grades. The progress at GCSE continues with 36% of all results being at A* or A grade; the pass rate edged up further to 91%.

CAREERS - A CAUTIONARY TALE

It's the Friday lunch queue. A bright-eyed and bushy-tailed new Third Former greets me:

"Hello, sir. I'm James Fauntleroy. What do you do?"

"I'm the [kindly] Careers Adviser."

"Oh, is there a Careers Department?"

"Yes, I showed you round on the first day of term."

"I'd forgotten; it was all so exciting. What's there for me?"

"There's a database called Microdoors, a card index called Signposts and a comprehensive Careers Library - all of which can give a good idea of what's involved in many different careers."

"Oh, great. I'd like to be an astronaut or fly Tornados, and if I can't do that I'll play football for Scotland [The Fantasy Stage], although Mum wants me to be a solicitor like Dad."

It's now the first morning of James's second year at Strathallan. There is a knock on the Careers Office door:

"I've come to see what subjects I should take for GCSE." He's now called Jimmy and has forgotten 'Hello' and 'Sir'.

Not quite so kindly Careers Adviser: "But didn't you discuss this with your Housemaster last term?"

"Yes, but I forgot what he said."

"Have you looked at the Fourth Form choices booklet your parents were sent last year?"

"Never seen it. I think Mum said the dog ate it. Anyway, I'm not going to do English, Maths or French. I hate them."

"I'm afraid you have to do all those subjects." "Oh, God!" [Realism Dawning]

Gazza [previously Jimmy, hair cropped and curiously fair and now in the Fifth Form] is trying to fill in the Morrisby Questionnaire. He arrived late and has already asked ten stupid questions; the eleventh is about to come:

"Sir, why are we doing this?"

Slightly irascible Careers Adviser:

"So we can get a profile of your career interests."

"Can't see the point. I don't want a job anyway. What happens next?"

"Your parents were sent a leaflet outlining the ISCO Careers Guidance

Scheme. Didn't you see it?"

"I think it got thrown away 'cause the cat messed on it." [Hopelessness Arriving]

Gazza has now done the Morrisby Tests [during which he broke his pencil four times, lost his rubber, fell asleep twice and asked at least twenty even more stupid questions] and is being interviewed by the definitely irascible Careers Adviser:

"You've got a very odd set of results here, James. You seem to have few interests, huge powers of reasoning and no verbal ability."

"I couldn't be bothered with all that c--. 'Sides the night I did the questionnaire I was due down East Drive with my mates, and when we did the test I missed double F-----.' Careers Adviser, a trifle annoyed, but still grasping at straws: 'Ah, you really enjoy F----- do you?'"

"No, I hate it but we have a good mess around."

Somehow Jazz [ex-Gazza and now a typically robust and unsophisticated Sixth Former] is taking five Highers and considering university entrance. As he hasn't seen James for a while the Careers Adviser has reverted to kindly mode: "Well, James, have you decided what subject to read?"

"I thought about Social Anthropology or Psychology" [Fantasy Returning].

"Do you know anything about these subjects?"

"Not really but they sound great and I've got a second cousin doing one of them, I'm not sure which, and she's a cracker."

"Perhaps you should look at some of the books and prospectuses in the Careers Library, and use the ECCTIS database."

"I haven't got time for all that. I'm training for the House football team and seeing Samantha."

"Have you studied the Course Finder report you got last year?"

"The goldfish had it."

James has left School. It's late September. The phone rings in the Careers Office:

"Hello, sir. I wonder if you could be awfully kind [robustness and unsophistication are wearing off] and tell me how to apply for Clearing."

"James, we went through all that last term." "I'm terrible sorry but I don't think I was there. I was probably panicking over my English dissertation."

"I'm terribly sorry, too [even Career Advisers sometimes lie] but you're far too late to get a university place this year."

James replaces the phone, a sadder but wiser Old Strathallian. Is James/Jimmy/Gazza/Jazz, are his parents, are YOU getting the best out of the School's Careers Service?

JNF



Prefects training to co-operate



In the bleak mid-winter.



Stewart Connell - SSRU player.



The recruiting officers?

The YEAR IN FOCUS



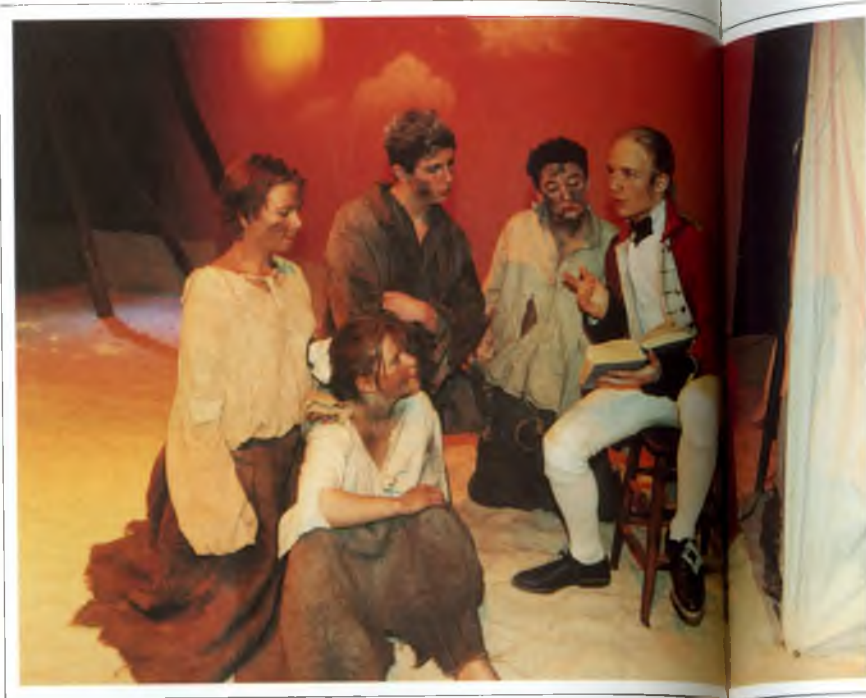
Anne Wilson earned the new blue stripe.



Sun-god Philip Price.



"Au revoir, chaps!"



Colin takes charge, as usual.



"Wait for it . . ."



Chris Burnett takes on a Zulu.



Girls' houses are that-a-way!



The stars of Speech day.



Another hard day at the office?



Nick Scales collects Freeland's cup.



Worried? You should be.



Louis Ma proudly presents. . .



"Gravity's a bit strong here!"



Hilary Ross, played for Scotland.



Chariots of water.



Strathallan go for it.



International playboy.



Gareth Trayner - slalom winner.



The girls take a break.



Jonathan Ward - renowned dribbler.

BELLES AND BALLS

"Who's got my sporran?"

"Where's my lipstick?"

"Has he arrived yet?"

These questions are asked year after year of the ever-patient Housemasters as the whole of the Sixth Form get ready for the event of the year - the Sixth Form Ball. It sends shivers down the spine of some members of the Upper Sixth as they recall events from the previous year but for the new members of the form, grins and excited giggles are all that can be heard echoing down the corridors as they prepare themselves for the night ahead. In the end, however, the girls looked stunning in their gowns with their hair immaculately groomed and the boys weren't far behind as hair was perfect - due to the inch thick layers of 'Brillcream' most had smoothed on!

This year, the ball began with an appetising buffet meal which was greatly appreciated, although minds were more set on getting onto the dance floor. Mrs Hamilton was as persevering as ever and her directions for the *Eightsome Reel* were no doubt terrifically accurate, but it was discovered that the majority of Lower Sixth, much to her dismay, have two left feet! Carla and Ben, however, proved to be true professionals and the question must be asked: Did they ever sit down?!

The next part of the night was the 'Disco!' *Saturday Night* and other true classics were spun on the decks (!) and when it came to the Twist we discovered that Ross Paterson could really move! We then returned to more traditional dancing and yet more arms were pulled out of their sockets as *Strip the Willow* played. Eventually, exhausted, we (and the staff!) returned to the Houses after a great night out. Certainly, a few shocking couples emerged from the events in the hall. We'll not go into too much depth as to who paired who but Lesley and Kim unfortunately needed surgical removal and as for Fi and Marcus, exactly how long were they in the hall? And Gill, did you and Jonny ever go and dance?!

Thanks must go to all the staff who came to the ball and, in particular, Mrs Hamilton, the Band, and to the Kilgraston girls who attended (especially appreciated by Nick Winsey!) And one last word - where **did** you get that feather boa Jenny?!!

Helen Miller



Sarah Murray, Carla Nicolson, Kirsty Buchanan, Kirstine Lawson



Nicky Soave and Jane Baillie



Chris Burnett, Ross McMillan, Struan Fairbairn

RUGBY

1st XV

RECORD FOR OFFICIAL FIXTURES: PLAYED NINE, WON NINE.

TOTAL POINTS FOR: 282

AGAINST: 70

TRIES SCORED: 44

The season began with a great deal of anticipation and expectation as we looked to improve on the form we displayed last year. Much was expected of the 'dream team' that had wended its way through the years, and, with the infusion of some new blood, promised to be one of Strathallan's most successful teams in recent years. What started with scratchy pre-season performances at Glasgow and Gordonstoun, soon appeared as a season of strength, power and domination.

We decided to work hard from the outset to capitalise on the team's skill level. Fitness was going to be crucial to our success, so a conscious decision was taken to work extremely hard to gain a level of fitness unequalled amongst our competitors. Monday night was the 'night from hell' for many of the boys early in the season, but as their level of fitness increased, so too did their willingness to work harder - and with focus - in preparation for their matches. The fitness factor would prove to be instrumental in some of our late-season successes.

An immediate feature of this team was the camaraderie amongst its members - a feature which made the players a delight with which to work. Ably led by Lee Walker, the team's campaign began at Glasgow Academy.

Immediately, the strength and pace of the team were evident in Glasgow. With a dominant forward pack ahead of them, the talented backline was given loads of room and time to work their moves. The first of eight Stewart Connell tries for the season got the team moving. Robert Barr managed to drop a 'sitter' within metres of the line, and still won the best and fairest award for the match! The 41 -10 score line (seven tries) proved the 1st XV's power, but sadly, it was marred by Donald Matheson sustaining a broken leg in his debut match.

Our next game would be our sternest early test - against Loretto. Beating them would be an important psychological boost to the players, as Strathallan's 1st XV's had not had an enviable record against them in recent years. As our first home encounter, the boys did not need too much to be said to them in order for them to be ready to take on the boys in red. It was a tough game, but our determination, defence, and skill in the three-quarters assured our 18 -3 victory (two tries). The Rubicon had been crossed!

We hosted St Aloysious to a match that started slowly, but developed to



Stewart Connell on his way to gaining a blue jersey - Scottish Schools U18

allow our slick backs room to move. Strong performances by Ali Reekie and Ross Connell put constant pressure on Aloysious in both defence and attack. The power of Lee Walker in the tight, combined with Euan Mackay's accurate boot, saw us run out comfortable victors 37 -7 (six tries).

Our trip to Fettes began as a horror, when our blind side defence fell asleep and the other team was allowed a soft try. Unwilling to lie down easily, Fettes had to be deprived of ball up front, whilst we relied on Robert Barr's kicking game to put our backs within striking distance. Fitness and skill again proved their worth as we were able to grind to a 21 -11 win (3 tries). Fettes had given us a fright, and we would need greater clarity of purpose if we were to dominate our remaining games.

We hosted Glenalmond on the weekend before half term. Preparation for the match was tough (a bit too tough for ARB who tore his medial meniscus cartilage on the Thursday session). With

some perverse grins on their faces, the team approached the match with grim determination. Bruce Martin's demolition of the Glenalmond number four jumper ensured a huge glut of possession for the team. Outstanding performances by Bruce, Lee Walker, Euan Mackay, Stewart Connell, and Alistair Reekie left Glenalmond with no options. Strathallan won convincingly 23 -0 (four tries)

Following the half term break, we travelled to Merchiston - the memory of our two most recent encounters clearly etched in our minds. The preparation for the Merchiston match was our most focused - the Monday fitness session was deliberately the hardest all season. There was a real willingness to win at Colinton, and this fact was obvious from the defensive burst that thwarted Merchiston's first attempt at counter attack. Combined with accurate kicking from Euan Mackay, Robert Barr's kicking game set up some incisive attacks from the Strathallan backs. Bru himself scored a great try from a 'blue ball'. Merchiston had no answer to the power and fitness of the Strathallan XV, and a 31 -3 victory (three tries) was thoroughly deserved, and sent a clear message to our remaining combatants that Strathallan rugby was a formidable force.

Edinburgh Academy travelled to Forgandenny and, after a sluggish first half, the Strathallan flood gates opened. A seven try onslaught, including a hat trick to fullback Stewart Connell saw the team win 42 -10. Having been lulled into a false sense of security by the previous match, it took a belligerent Edinburgh side to awaken our forward pack. Donald Matheson, returning to the team after breaking his leg, played strongly. Once possession became assured, it was left to the backline to vex the Academy.

The weather provided an unwelcome rest the following week as the match at Morrison's was cancelled due to frost.

There was no frost the following week at Forgandenny. Remembering our dismal performance from the previous year at Dollar, the team was keen to make amends. However, it was not going to be an easy task. Dollar was a good side. Undoubtedly, they were the toughest opposition we faced over the course of the year. With their big, fast backs firing, Strathallan were on the ropes. A couple of quick Dollar scores saw us really on the back foot for the first time. Trailing 10 -19 at halftime, the team was looking down the barrel of losing everything they had



Welcome to the engine room

worked so hard to achieve. That realisation instilled a sense of urgency in defence that thwarted all of Dollar's advances in the second half. Meanwhile, an excellent try by Alistair Reekie put us within a converted try of the lead. Concerted pressure led to a penalty on the Dollar line, and cool heads saw a tap ball converted into Cube's hands and he powered over for the try which took us ahead of Dollar for the first time in the match. Euan converted his own try, and Dollar was reeling. A Connell quinella

then tore the heart out of Dollar when Stewart made an outstanding run, supported by brother Ross who took Stewart's pass to score the try that put the match out of Dollar's reach. This was undoubtedly one of the most exciting schoolboy rugby matches I have seen, and it was a credit to the skill, determination, and fitness of the boys, who, when faced with the prospect of losing it all, reversed the trend and powered their way to victory. An outstanding game of rugby!

Hutchesons' were our next guests, and

having acted like turnstiles in the face of Hutchesons' attack the previous year, there was a great deal of pride at stake in this match. The rebound from the Dollar match was obvious as the Strathallan players appeared determined not to concede anything to the Glasgow team. Euan Mackay proved why he had been chosen for the Scottish Schools' team, dominating the loose. A seven tries to one victory was as comprehensive as any of the team's performances over the year, and confirmed Strathallan as the most



The team of the season

electric team of the competition.

Our Rannoch fixture was frosted off, so there was no finale at Forgandenny.

We had three internationalists this season. Lee Walker was a member of the SRU's Under 19 squad, but was unable to participate after Christmas due to a nagging shoulder injury. Stewart Connell (Fullback/Wing) and Euan Mackay (Tight Head) were both selected for the SSRU's Under 18 team. Both boys played against France and Wales, but ironically, Euan, who had worked so hard on his fitness, lost his place in the team as a result of increasing his fitness and reducing his bulk! Sod's law! Stewart remained in the squad and will tour South Africa with the Schools' squad in the summer.

Euan Mackay, Chris Burnett, Tom Forster, Ross McMillan, Donald Matheson, Robert Barr, Alistair Reekie,

Robert Horsfall, Ross Connell, Stewart Connell, Andrew Chown, and Richard Wallace all managed to play for the Presidents' XV at some stage during the season. The Best and Fairest Award was won by Lee Walker, whilst the Best Tackle award was won by Stewart Connell.

Full Colours were awarded (or had been previously won) to: Lee Walker, Chris Burnett, Euan Mackay, Donald Matheson, Ross McMillan, Andrew Chown, Robert Barr, Alistair Reekie, Harry Hensman, Robert Horsfall, Ross Connell, Stewart Connell, and Richard Wallace.

In a fitting end to a fabulous season, the SSRU named Strathallan as the 'Bell & Scott' Team of the Season. Lee Walker accepted the crystal trophy from one of the Bell & Scott partners, and each player received a medal honouring the team's achievement.



Captain Lee Walker receives Scottish Schools Rugby Team of the Season Award



Euan MacKay and Stewart Connell

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

Lee Walker	SRU Under 19 Squad (Tight Head)
Stewart Connell	SSRU Under 18 XV (Fullback/Wing)
Euan Mackay	SSRU Under 18 XV (Tight Head)
James Donald	SSRU Under 16 XV (Hooker)
Colin Eadie	SSRU Under 15 XV (Flanker)

It has been a long time since a Strathallan 1st XV enjoyed the success and the headlines of this year. The tortuous Monday nights, the endless 300 metre drills, hundreds of Honan drills, combined with a willingness to be the best, made this season the success it was. It is a season that all of those boys who were a part of the 1st XV squad will remember forever. Congratulations on a truly magnificent effort!

We said farewell to Peter Green at Christmas. PRAG had been involved with the 1st XV since 1992, when he assisted Brian Raine. He succeeded Brian as MIC Rugby in 1993, and together, we coached the 1st XV until his departure for Uppingham. Pete's great love of the game was evident in most things he did at Strathallan. Certainly, his enthusiasm was infectious, and his work with the backline this season was instrumental in our success. "Taff Pete's" legacy to Strathallan has been to help establish Strathallan rugby as a force to be respected on our circuit. I can only imagine that the base Pete helped build over the past season will act as a catalyst for the future success of Strathallan rugby. Many, many thanks, Pete. We wish you well at Uppingham.

ARB

SENIOR RUGBY

The strength of any good 1st XV can accurately be measured by the depth of talent in the ranks of senior players. We were blessed with a wealth of talent throughout the senior ranks this year, as was evinced by some tremendous results. The 2nd XV under the stewardship of CNC and PJSK lost only three matches. They were very able reserves for the 1st XV, and when called upon, performed strongly. This was notably the case with players like Nick Morley and Struan Cochrane. The 3rd XV won ten of their twelve matches. Players worthy of note include Alasdair Grieve, John Osborne, Matthew Morley, and Andrew Hall who, by season's end took the pitch for the 1st XV against Belgrano Day School, Buenos Aires. The 4th XV also played well. They won eight of their ten fixtures, with strong performances throughout the year from Alex Blackstock, Edward Philips, John Butler and Richard Wands. Again, the dedication of Messrs Wands and Kitson prepared the 5th's/6th's thoroughly for their season, and although they had some tough encounters, the players stuck to their task admirably.



Andrew Wilson

JUNIOR RUGBY

The junior ranks performed well throughout the season. The U15A's worked very well as a unit and had a most memorable victory over Merchiston. Colin Eadie was the outstanding player of his year group, going on to represent in the SSRU's U15 team. The U14's also had a successful season, peaking against Hutcheson's. Players to watch in years to come must include Andrew Potter-Leung, and Alistair Macmillan. As a senior coach it is very gratifying to hear of the enthusiasm for the game exhibited at the junior levels. Such news augurs well for the continued strength of Strathallan rugby. Sincere thanks to all of the coaches for their energy over the season. The success of rugby at Strathallan depends on their willingness to elicit the best from their players. We can deservedly approach the new season with confidence borne of success and enthusiasm. Vivre le rugby!



Gareth Trayner in possession

HOCKEY

The outdoor season began with a great deal of anticipation, the new pitch ensuring the team were better prepared than ever before. In our first game on the Astroturf we faced Aberdeen Grammar. Two early goals put us firmly in control and but for some lapses in concentration a 5-0 victory could have been increased.

After Half Term we faced Cranleigh School from Surrey, a school with a strong hockey tradition. Perhaps a little unlucky not to be in front at half time, we were under pressure in the second half, ending up losing 1-0, in our only reverse of the season.

The next game brought on local rivals Glenalmond. Played on their hard pitch, this was always going to be a tough game. We immediately took the game to the opposition, with a flowing move down the right allowing Robert Horsfall to give us an early lead. We failed to capitalise on this and Glenalmond equalised. However, the remainder of the game was played in a blizzard which obviously suited Philip Price who scored two well-taken goals, bringing us victory 3-2.

At home to Fettes, although we comfortably won 7-2, we put in what was probably our poorest performance of the season which gave us plenty of food for thought before the tough Northern Tour ahead of us.

The first leg of the tour was against Robert Gordons. Their side contained three Scottish internationals but with Richard Wallace in fine form on the right wing and playing some excellent flowing hockey, we came out 3-1 winners with goals from Jonathan Ward (2) and Robert Barr. From Aberdeen we travelled to Gordonstoun where the game was played in the evening in front of their whole school. The highly-charged atmosphere seemed to raise our game to new heights and two first-half strikes from Jonathan Ward put us in control. We soaked up everything Gordonstoun could throw at us and although they got a goal back - and a missed penalty flick from Ward kept their hopes alive - we controlled the later stages of the game, keeping our heads to win - a game that our players will remember for a long, long time. The next morning we were back in Aberdeen for our second game against a much improved Aberdeen Grammar. After the previous night's endeavours we found it very difficult to lift our play but with Ward in fine form from the penalty spot, two penalty flicks gave us a 2-0 victory.

After our highly successful trip up North, full of confidence we travelled down to Edinburgh to play Loretto on

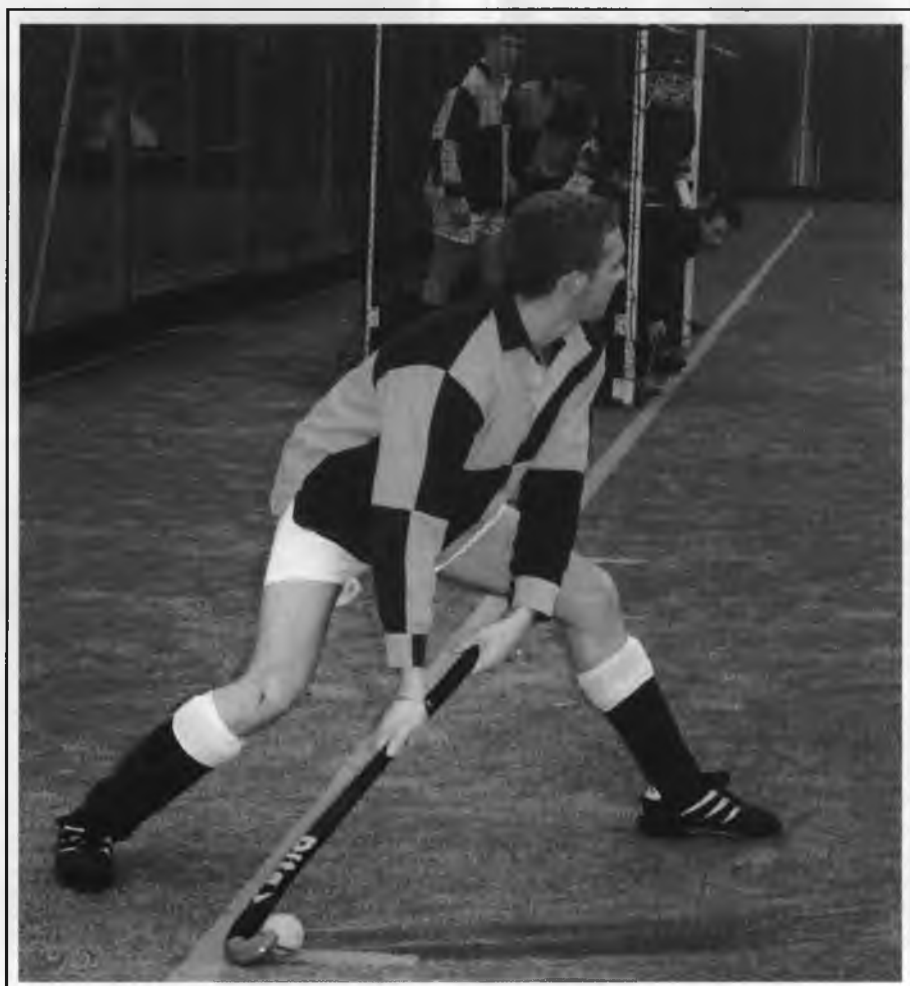
their new pitch. We took the lead from yet another Ward PF but Loretto were soon on level terms. Unfortunately for Robin Dicke he did not finish the first half - losing a tooth in a freak accident. With Horsfall already injured this left us short of fire-power up front. In a tense second half, both teams went in search of the winner. Andrew Chown was in fine form at sweeper, stemming the flow of the Loretto attacks. With minutes left on the clock, Robert Barr broke forward: beating three players, he found himself at the top of the D from where he unleashed a reverse stick shot which flew into the top right-hand corner of the goal before the goalkeeper had time to move. This goal was worthy of any match and a 2-1 win was richly deserved.

Back at School the next day, we faced the Old Strathallians and in a game played in a relaxed atmosphere, a 5-2 victory was achieved.

Our final game of the season was against Grove Academy. We wanted to finish on a high, but after taking the lead we gave Grove far too much room in mid-

field and the game finished a disappointing 1-1 draw.

This has been a successful and most enjoyable season. A record of played 10; won 8; drew 1 speaks for itself. The players have listened, made every effort to improve and shown an excellent attitude on the pitch. Credit must go to Robert Barr who has led by example and, along with vice-captain Jonathan Ward, Jack Finlay and goalkeeper Kim Parker, has a real future in the game. They will be missed. Andrew Chown provided a level head in defence giving full backs Marcus Honig and Angus MacDonald the confidence to go forward. In mid-field Donald Matheson has admirably supported Finlay and the skilful Ward, giving the forwards Richard Wallace, Robert Horsfall, Philip Price and Robin Dicke plenty of ball to work with. A final mention must go to Mike Smith who as sub has had to adapt to playing in various positions. With six of the team back next year, the base is there for, hopefully, more success. A big thank you must go to David Armitage who has not only



Marcus Honig, penalty corner expert



Rannoch keeper saving from Jack Finlay

umpired but has helped with the coaching of the First XI this year.

Of the other teams, Paul Vallot has coached a large 2nd XI squad of youth mixed with experience to some very respectable results against mainly 1st XI opposition. The 3rd XI, despite injuries and illness, have given coach Greg Ross his problems but he has always managed to produce a team against more experienced opposition. Messrs Proctor and Court have again worked wonders with the U16s, the As just missing out on another unbeaten season, with players that should make the First XI next season.

On the whole, the U15 A/B have held their own, their enthusiasm reflecting that of coaches Ford and Tod. Andrew Wands, ably assisted by 'new boy' Mark Ashmore, has ensured the U15C have had a feast of hockey.

Finally, thanks to the Headmaster and Governors for providing us with the facility to help ensure our success continues into the millennium - and, with national sides using our facilities, putting Strathallan firmly on the hockey map.

P.S. Pitch No 2, please !

DRG

Colours were awarded to:

- Full: Andrew Chown, Robert Horsfall, Kim Parker, Jonathan Ward.
- Half: Marcus Honig, Angus Macdonald, Donald Matheson, Richard Wallace.

Representative honours - Scottish Chameleons:

- U18: Robert Barr (Captain), Marcus Honig, Angus Macdonald, Kim Parker, Richard Wallace, Jonathan Ward.
- U16: Alex Blackstock, Harry Bird, James Donald, Jean-Louis Lafayeedney, Ian Stewart, Lil Thapa.

GLENALMOND INDOOR HOCKEY SIXES -

WINNERS FOR THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR !

The 1st VI entered the tournament full of confidence, having not lost an indoor match since 1993. With comfortable victories over Glenalmond, Robert Gordons and Stewarts Melville we finished top of our group to face Loretto in the semi-final. A calm team

performance led to a 2-0 victory, Kim Parker ensuring our goal was not threatened.

Glenalmond came through in the other semi, but although they put up a spirited performance they had nothing to match the defensive skills of captain Robert Barr, or the attacking prowess of Jonathan Ward, and the trophy was retained with a well-deserved 5-2 victory.

SOUTH AFRICAN DIARY

BOYS' HOCKEY TOUR 31 JULY to AUGUST 17 1996

Day 1

Despite nearly losing Johnny and Jimmy at Heathrow ['wrong channel'], an engine on the SAA *Rainbow Warrior* over the Kalahari ['faulty compressor'], party of 31 players and 5 staff reach Capetown, at midday, intact. Great views coming in, less good sights of concrete-fenced shanty housing [first culture shock]. By now Jack had left most things behind. Meet with Sharon and Sharon [no sign of Tracy yet] at hotel to hear that our first school could only host for one, not three nights. Free lunch and supper sub by way of compensation. Joey, our ace coach driver, takes us to Waterfront complex for first taste of South African cuisine and night life. Not safe in centre of Capetown [second culture shock].

Day 2

Awake to Scotch mist and no chance of a cable car trip up Table Mountain. Brief gaze over the Test cricket ground, and excellent tour of Newlands rugby stadium [President Mandela's box, old photos half recognised by JNF and stunning bargains in the shop]. Lunch back at Waterfront. Only damp by the start of matches with Wynberg H S [Allan Lamb's old school of 1300 day boys] on university astro with backdrop of mountain, zebra and gnu. Opposition fast running, close passing and skillful with two U16 and one U18 national players. Only Kim's superb saves keeps score to 3-1. Second squad have equally hard game with their U16 side with same result. A pity we play these teams first. Meet hosts at the school.

Day 3

Early start - pupils have to be in by 7.30 in SA schools. Transfer to Riverside Lodge and friendly welcome. Hour's unproductive training at nearby Harleyvale astro where GB ladies recently played. [Olympic qualifiers!] Some resistance to trip to Stellenbosch vineyards, quickly dispelled by tastings. Lots of presents for Dads and Mums. Back to the Waterfront for evening.

Day 4

9.30 start for games with Oude Molin Technical School - young and inexperienced, but friendly and determined. We romp home 13-1 and 6-1 but Bruce contrives to get hit on head. Dash back to hotel in hope of cable car ride, but wind too high. Drive to Hout Bay for fish lunch, then to superbly



James Dinning in control at Capetown

situated pitch to play local H S. Terrific enthusiasm and skills from the coloured and black players. Coarse grass pitch a leveller. Fielding a 'mix and match' side, we struggle to win 2-1. Back to school in midst of new, but overcrowded township [complete with drug baron in Rolls Royce] for mini reception. Harry B hit with the locals. Beautiful drive back over Chapman's Peak to Capetown.

Day 5

Lovely day but no time for Table Mountain as we fly to Durban. Dreary weather on arrival. Met by Mick Dawson [OS] and family, and Paul Bird [Group Sports Travel] who 'looks after' us for rest of tour. Paul takes us to university for fine, completely obscured, view over Durban, and then on to Northwood H S [Robin Smith's alma mater] to meet next hosts.

Day 6

Another early rise for formal welcome in school assembly. Training at Crusaders club, playtime at Umslanga Beach and back to same ground in time for the oldies, despite Ross's assault on the Lady President's car, to play bowls beneath weaver bird colony. Rich does two things right and we win a tight game with

Northwood 2-1. Seconds too strong for their U16 group, winning 6-2. Visit from another '60s OS - Professor Michael Laidlaw. Keith Hosken, ex Natal cricket and hockey and now i/c games at Northwood, continues to be charming host.

Day 7

Surfing and lounging on Durban beach in Scottish summer temperature. Brief meeting with Glenalmond rugby squad on their way back to UK. Evening with hosts, staff enjoying a 'leisurely' and discounted meal at yet another waterfront.

Day 8

To Scottburgh, retirement town with superb beach, 40 miles south of Durban, and first contact with Essex girls [Brentwood School hockey tour]. Lots of macho behaviour from James D and Barry. Then to excellent grass pitch and smell of a 'braai' [barbecue] cooking since early morning. Seconds play local development side and win handsomely [6-1]. Firsts play their best hockey to date and overcome a competent Port Shepstone XI 4-0. Only spoilt by Robin's hand injury, which needed trip to local casualty (horrific) and eventually treatment at Durban hospital

through kindness of Mick Dawson. David Whitton, who left Strathallan in 1941, pays us a nostalgic visit. Joined by girls for meal. Due to leave at 8 but electrics on bus explode so stuck in the bar with 22 girls [how awful] and sprinkling of locals, amongst whom backwoodsman 'Rat' and club president Buck provide the best entertainment. Bus mechanic arrives at Midnight. Buck ferries the 'gels' back to their accommodation. We reach our grotty, cockroached Pavilion hotel for 2 am bed.

Day 9

Better than expected breakfast and then off to Shakaland, a Zulutheme village 2 hours north. Boys stunned by greeting from topless Zulu girls. Essex girls there too [but more discreet]. Presentation by Richard 'the Man is always Right' on native life. Evening of dancing in the 'big hut' where Phil blends with the scenery and Flower of Scotland receives its Zululand premier.

Day 10

Zulu minstrel and hand maidens call to breakfast. Spear making and throwing, with DRG proving star. Wearisome journey back to Durban with stop for horrible accident and diversion for arms search of 'combis' [white minibus taxis for blacks, always full, always speeding]. Hotel full of Cardiff University RFC and crates preparing for 'fines' night [Harry H and his brilloed chest excel here later]. All in bed early - Zulu/Essex' experience' must have been good!

Day 11

Glad to leave hotel [but it was only R7 per night] for flight to Jo'burg. David Whitton, Keith Hosken and friend [laden with yet more gifts] see us off. Travel with Durban contingent of SAPara-Olympic team on way to Atlanta. Rush lunch and longer than expected drive thro' city centre [litter strewn and a no-go area for whites] to Hoerskool Jan de Klerk in Afrikaans mining area. Val Pollock of Group Sports Travel on hand to organise efficiently. First play poorly against Bastion H S on bumpy surface [not to Johnny's liking] and draw 0-0. Seconds show more bite and win 4-1 against host school. Excellent braii with speeches and presentations and night with hosts.

Day 12

Sunday with hosts. Jimmy gets the short straw and long 'chapel'[5 hours].

Day 13

Two and a half hour drive to Pilansberg game reserve. Midway stop too near to liquor store and funeral parlour resulting in action by 'authorities', but excellent lunch on arrival under thatched sun shades. Settle into mezzanine floored cabins. Partying on the patios after tasty chicken and veg supper.

Day 14

At Sun City by 9.30. Extraordinary complex set in middle of bush and with every conceivable entertainment. Favourite is artificial lagoon complete with surfing wave [and Essex girls]. Staff 'lads' buggy round golf course, the rest laze and fraternise. Tearful departures for James [x 2], Harry and Rich. Return to Pilansberg for game drive in rattling Bedford trucks with armed guide. Number of game disappointing [even by spotlight] but see occasional rhino, elephant, giraffe, hippo (backs only) and spoor of lion. Move to return to Sun City scotched. More patio parties.

Day 15

Return to Jo'burg via scruffy diner to meet hosts at Christian Brothers College [private school in Boksburgh]. Rest of day with hosts. Staff enjoy braai in and around school 'Social Room'.

Day 16

Chilly training at Old Boys' club before seconds game with CBC, which we win easily [7-2]. Brief stop at school for

tuck shop and long drive to astro in Randberg for firsts game. Brew gets an early shower but inspires team to excellent 7-0 victory. Visit from Hamish Laing (ex-Scottish School internationalist) and Dave Watson, OS now living in Jo'burg and still playing hockey.

Day 17

Gold Reef City (sub-Alton Towers) in the morning with short trip [250m] down 3000m deep gold mine. Cricket with CBC after lunch. Staff plus 'also rans' get walloped by Transvaal batsman, and 'first eleven' contrive to throw game despite the Captain of Cricket's first 50 of season.

Day 18

Ellis Park penetrated [PMV scores try]. Official party lunch with excellent [possibly Scottish] steak. Pizza wins diplomacy award, Harry H gets the empty bottle and Jimmy is most morally improved. Gus and Hessie win serious team prizes and Jack voted 'top tourist' for leaving everything everywhere. Inevitably, DRG wins 'stop of the tour' tranquillisers. Shop for souvenirs in flea market and watch Springboks lose again to All Blacks in an 'English' pub, before boarding dreaded Rainbow Warrior again for smooth flight home. Nobody wants to leave.

Postscript

Many thanks to David Giles for hours of organisation and planning.

JNF



The lads posing on Durban beach

CRICKET

After the relatively good weather of the last couple of summer terms, the traditional Scottish rain was back to hamstringing our early season preparations. The 1st XI pre-term practice sessions were heavily disrupted outside, though we were able to take advantage of our excellent indoor facilities to make some use of the time. Over the first month of the term it always seemed to rain on Games days, although eventually only the matches against Fettes were cancelled. The second half of term proved much more amenable, though all three days of the 1st XI Festival were curtailed somewhat by the return of rain.

This season was, apart from the weather, one of optimism both in terms of facilities and quality of play. The 1st XI pavilion extension provided much needed extra space and very comfortable facilities: showers, an enlarged tea-room and dressing rooms, a well-appointed kitchen. The New Field pavilion was also refurbished after the battering it took during a wet spring and the Garden square, which had been ripped up last August, showed signs of a pleasing improvement in bounce and safety. However, for various reasons, the results were disappointing across the various year groups. In the Senior and Junior Colts there were players of obvious talent but who, when faced with situations which required a bit of patience or grit, fold with little concern for "The Team"; it might be a start if some of these individuals realised that a team game ends when the team is all out and not just themselves. That said, there were some notable performances, in particular Gareth Traynor's unbeaten century against Glenalmond for the Senior Colts. The Senior sides' results were again disappointing and for the first time in a few years we struggled for strength in depth.

A great deal has to be packed into each summer term and this would be impossible without the contributions of many people. This term we had fourteen members of staff actively involved in coaching senior sides. Hearing the complaints of my counterparts in other schools I am very grateful for the countless hours which my colleagues put in coaching, travelling and umpiring to Robert Proctor, Nick du Bouley, John Ford, Stuart Myers, Charles Court, Mark Ashmore, David Giles, David Armitage, Ken Dutton, Andrew Wands, Paul Vallot, Greg Ross and Iain Philip many thanks indeed. As always it takes more than the coaching staff to make cricket possible; thanks are also due to Ed. MacDonald and

his groundstaff, Craig and Carmel Young for their bounteous match teas and Earnside coaches who have to cope with my weather-induced fluctuating demands.

RHF

1st XI

This was always going to be a difficult season, with a lot of inexperience and uncertainty. On the whole, results were better than expected but there were some disappointing performances, particularly in the festival. Throughout the season the batting was fragile but some fine innings were played, notably by Robert Barr, Harry Hensman (in his own bizarre fashion) and Jonathan Ward (who missed almost the entire season through illness). The bowling was rather better than expected and a well balanced attack emerged. Malcolm Elder put in one or two superb performances and was backed by the steadiness of Drew Chapman and Robert Barr. Some excellent spin bowling came from Ian Stewart who has another three years to go. The fielding was generally very good.

I know that Richard Fitzsimmons has thanked all those connected with the cricket. I would like to add my thanks to Nick Du Bouley for his hours umpiring and to Richard himself for taking over the burden of administration as well as coaching.

RJWP

2nd XI

The 2nd XI, led by the mercurial James Bird and under the tutelage of the evergreen Mr Ford, had a mixed season. The early games against Fettes and Glenalmond were abandoned because of the miserably wet weather in late May. The first completed game therefore came after half-term against Edinburgh Academy and secured a first victory. A further victory was achieved in a remarkable game against Dollar Academy: Strathallan bowled out for 63, Dollar out for 52. The game against Merchiston was drawn with their last man at the crease needing 27 for victory and the second game against Glenalmond was lost in a tight finish. The best performances of the season were by the bowlers: M. Elder 5-9 against Edinburgh Academy, N. Telfer 5-7 against Dollar, A. Robertson 5-18 against Merchiston and 5-36 against Glenalmond.

Senior Colts

In common with other teams, Gareth Traynor's side suffered with lack of practice in the early part of term. Notwithstanding this, the ledger of played 7, won 2, lost 3, drawn 2 was a creditable achievement. The captain led from the front, scoring an undefeated 108 against Glenalmond in a tight-run chase which resulted in victory, and 50 not out against Dollar in the second victory. The bowlers also had success with Jamie



Another 'straight' drive from Harry Hensman

Partridge twice claiming hauls of five wickets (5-33 v Loretto, 5-37 v Dollar) and both Jonathan Dalley and Scott Harvey chipping in with valuable wickets. The spinners, Ian Smith and Chris Appleby, had less success on the slow early season wickets. With a little more application and patience on the pitch this could have been an excellent season, but grit, determination and considerable talent were strong characteristics of this side - which bodes well for next year.

Junior Colts

An exciting season looked in prospect as the result of the decisive victory over Merchiston in the opening game but, although there were some good individual performances in the other matches, the Junior Colts only rarely put it all together as a team. Had the bowling against Loretto in the second match been as accurate as in the Merchiston game, the result might have been much closer. In the heavy defeat in the first of two matches against Glenalmond, wickets (particularly run-outs) were given away needlessly and the prospect of batting on a pudding of a pitch against a sizeable total appeared to meet with little enthusiasm. More resolve was shown in the return game and, although finally losing, with 20 overs to go we were still in with a chance. Alastair Macmillan's 51 was the highlight of the drawn game against Edinburgh Academy whilst Duncan Broadfoot's 61 and Fraser Whitelaw's 4-9 contributed greatly towards the second victory of the season at home to Dollar Academy. Duncan Broadfoot (5-33) bowled well against Merchiston in the return match but their total proved to be 4 runs beyond our capabilities on the day. Top scorer for the season was Fraser Whitelaw with 154 runs, Mike Wilson finishing top of the batting averages. Fraser was also the leading wicket-taker with 14, Scott Galloway slipping ahead of him in the averages with 11 wickets at 12 apiece.

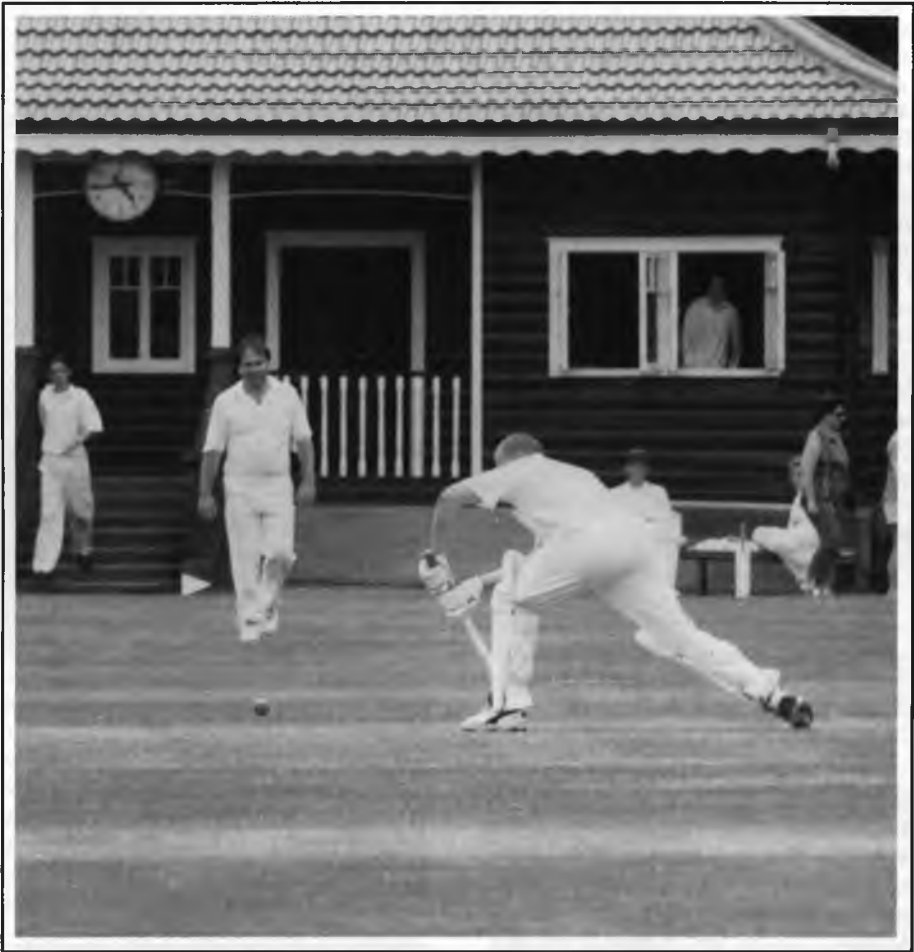
Iain Philip

I noted in last year's report that we had been pleased to have the services of Iain Philip, the Scotland opening batsman, in a coaching capacity. This year it was felt that employing Iain on a full-time basis, both to coach and to look after our four grounds, would be a valuable investment for the future of Strathallan cricket. In addition to his coaching duties during term, Iain has been busy preparing practice and match pitches on each of our grounds, not only for the inter-school

matches, but also for the prestige 1st XI games against the Forty Club and M.C.C.. Visiting players have commented very favourably on the increased pace and bounce of the Lawn pitches in what has been a far from ideal season for pitch

preparation. Iain will be responsible for the continuing renovation of our squares over the summer, the priority this year being given to the Paddock square, home of Riley cricket.

RHF and RJWP



Euan Matheson strikes out for Ruthven against Simpson - Junior House Cricket

Results

Strathallan 185-5 dec (Ward 90*, Barr 45)	Perth Northern 98-9 (Ward 4-20)	Drawn
Strathallan 154 (Hensman 41, Parker 32)	Occasionals 155-4	Lost
Crieff 134 (Chapman 4-43)	Rain	Drawn
Strathallan 152 (Parker 31, Hensman 32)	Loretto 158-8 (Stewart 4-59)	Lost
Fettes 94-4	Rain	Drawn
Stewart's Melville 86 (Stewart 5-25)	Strathallan 87-5	Won
XL Club 157 (Chapman 3-27)	Strathallan 130-7 (Hensman 80*)	Drawn
Strathallan 116 (Mackay 36)	Edinburgh Academy 117-3	Lost
Dollar Academy 120 (Elder 6-49, Stewart 3-32)	Strathallan 53-5	Drawn
Strathallan 167-9 dec (Barr 80)	Merchiston 136-7 (Stewart 3-36)	Drawn
Strathallan 154-7 dec (Barr 51, Dickie 40)	Old Strathallians 65 (Elder 8-35)	Won
Strathallan 167-8 dec (Barr 38, Sutherland 40)	Glenalmond 106-2	Drawn
MCC 205-7 dec (Hays 113, Elder 4-70)	Strathallan 173-7 (Hensman 87*)	Drawn
RS Dungannon 67 (Elder 3-31, Ward 5-16)	Strathallan 68-2	Won

GIRLS' GAMES

Girls' sport has been at its usual high level this year and I see no reason why there will not be further success in the future. There were seven very successful hockey teams, all at some point training on our fantastic AstroTurf pitch; the unbeaten netball side played on an upgraded all-weather surface. Sadly, we will lose the majority of our badminton team but those remaining will uphold an unbeaten record, while tennis on the astro improved movement and resulted in silverware at the Kilgraston Tournament. The girls have much to be proud of and I am proud of them. The majority continue to give of their time and energy. We are very fortunate that sport features highly in the lives of so many girls of school age. The norm is for it not to be 'cool' to be seen being involved in team sport if you are a girl in adolescence. However, due to the enthusiasm and motivation of the Staff who work with the girls over the session, this has never been the case at Strathallan and so girls' sport will be going on. It will continue to produce excellence, hopefully silverware but above all, enjoyment in sport which will last a lifetime.

LJS

HOCKEY

This report, true to form, will be a blow by blow account of how the 1st XI did this season. There are many other girls who play hockey and I am aware they have worked just as hard on their fixtures and tournament runs both outdoors and indoors. One day, and it may come soon as many of the 1st XI leave this year, it will be your Cup run, your fixture record and tournament success. Meantime bear with me as I recount the 1st XI season.

Our first hurdle was to be four days into the start of the Autumn term, the Midlands 1st XI Tournament! With a newly picked team that was to be one of the youngest yet, including two fourth formers, we gaily looked forward to proving ourselves. To our disappointment, due to the typical Scottish weather, it was cancelled. This poor start seemed to dampen our spirits but as the season began to pick up, so did our morale.

The fixtures were to be, unknown to us then, the best part of that season with some very high scoring wins due to the change in the off side rule. This rule works for both teams of course and as a result we had teams score many goals

against us - some as many as 7 and 8 - 0. This prompted the remark "Do Strathallan actually know what they are playing at?" The reply - yes as we only lost 3 out of the 15 fixtures.

No matter how embarrassing the 3 defeats, it allowed the team to see that although we had the potential, there was still a lot of work to be done. Every member of the team pitched in and to Miss Smith's delight we set about turning our potential into winning qualities.

In October the district Under 18 and Under 16 sides were picked. Sarah Murray and Kate Hodgson secured places at U18 with Kim Finlay and Tamsin Stevens playing well in the trials. No one made the final cut at U16 but Rhona Chapman, Alison Roger, Miranda Harington, and Christina Breaden all worked hard in their trial.

By the end of the Autumn term, the next event was to be the Independent Trophy. Having beaten all competing teams in earlier fixtures, we hoped to lift the quaich and hold our unbeaten record since the tournament began 10 years ago. However Fettes had other ideas and beat us in the final in the second half of extra time.

After a welcomed break over Christmas, the indoor squad set about their preparation for the Midlands Tournament. However, on the day our tentative start meant we did not qualify for the latter stages. Team morale hit a low again as our performances at tournaments was not as solid as teams in the past. A touring side from Belgrano Day School, Argentina gave us our toughest game, but

with the bad weather on our side - we play better in the rain- we won 1 - 0. Our Midlands Cup run was going well with wins at home and away including the famous victory at Dollar in front of their whole school. The most nerve-racking part of that match was actually braving the crowd on leaving the dressing room. At the Heriot's 7's on the last weekend of the season we played on one of the coldest mornings experienced and reached the semi-finals. Our tournament jinx again!

Our season nearly ended without lifting any trophies. After many postponements, we played the final of the Midlands Cup in May. The winner of this Cup qualifies for the Scottish Finals but, sadly, we had to let the other Cup Final team go through as we would be touring in Ireland when the postponed Scottish Finals were to be played. The team played the best hockey anyone had seen; every move came off: every pass an accurate one. We beat Madras College 3 - 0. Madras had reached the semi-finals of the Scottish. We will never know where we may have been placed. But there is a trophy in our possession.

Efforts over the season were to be recognised with Sarah Murray, Kate Hodgson and Johanna Matheson receiving Full colours: Tamsin Stevens, Kim Finlay (who both played in the Midlands Indoor team, with Kim scoring the winning goal to win the league). Half colours: Lisa Finlay, Karen Wilson and Morag Bruce.

Sarah Murray



NETBALL



Miss England with the winning Independent School's Team - minus Claire Halliday

It would NOT be a gross error of judgement if it was stated that Strathallan has seen its most prolific Netball Team ever. The 1st XI goal difference in School matches was an astounding 228-33 in their favour. Therefore, if it seems that at any stage this report cannot possibly be accurate - and the information is the fabrication of an insane and biased captain, then I would have you know the comment of the St Margaret's coach who, after her side was beaten by Strathallan 19-1 in an eight minute match, said "Well, I think you showed us how to play Netball today!"

The U15 team have produced reasonable results, with two wins and two defeats. The girls beat Kilgraston (13-7) and Loretto (11-9) but succumbed to the pressures of Rannoch (19-10) and Gordonstoun (11-2).

The Methodist Ladies' College, who flew all the way to Strathallan from Australia, seemed invincible. Both the U16 A and B teams were beaten. Another touring side, St Dunstan's, visited, this time from London and were convincingly beaten by the 1st team 49-3.

Foreign influence has definitely enhanced the team's playing capabilities. the Nicola Jones (New Zealand Internationalist) coaching evenings have helped us three fold: 1) the bombardment expert tip-offs; 2) the fun injected into the exercises (some of which even included closing your eyes - yes! it's true); 3) the realisation that the best players in the world aren't necessarily enormously tall or butch (this gave particular promise to the finer physiques).

Philippa Blair Oliphant and Alison Hunter should both be mentioned for representing Fife. This is a tribute to the dedication shown by both girls. Hilary Ross (vice-captain of Netball) should also be made known for not only passing selection to be in the U18 Scotland squad, but also for making it into the team as Goal Shooter in a recent match against Ireland.

As always, Perth League has provided fun and fitness for both staff and pupils alike. Many of the matches fell in the holidays which resulted in dubious team formations. Miss England and Miss Mason are not typecast Goal Keepers and

Goal Defenders, but they both did their jobs as well as any 6'5"-er could have (and, naturally, with ten times more efficiency).

The results compiled from School matches associated with the 1st XI are as follows:

Dundee High School	Won	15-7
Gordonstoun	Won	34-11
Kilgraston	Won	22-4
Dundee High School	Won	20-5
Fettes	Won	52-1
Loretto	Won	36-3

The Independent Schools' Trophy was also won to make a hat-trick. Strathallan met its rival of old, Gordonstoun, in the final only to beat them 13-8. In the U18 Scottish National Tournament Strathallan came top of their group.

It is hardly surprising that another unbeaten season has been tallied for the first netball team against other independent schools (Oh, and that includes touring teams). The girls have all shown an advanced and mature technique - even if they do wear bibs at 18.

Amelia Blair Oliphant

TENNIS

BOYS

The summer made a late appearance and April and May were cold, windy and wet. Not a great start to the tennis season. Besides affecting training afternoons, our match at Rannoch was halted midway by a drenching downpour and at Portlethen all matches were affected by a biting north-easterly gale. Only Richard Wallace was able to master the swirling conditions.

Although we have, once again, depended on the huge talent of Richard to carry us through many matches, the general standard of our best six has been very high. In friendly matches, our first pair of Wallace and Blackstock have won eighteen of their twenty sets. The second and third pairs, very competent individually, were less secure in the tactics of doubles' play.

In the major tournament of the season, the Scottish Schools' Trophy, we lost in the third round to Robert Gordon's College. This is the second successive year that they have stopped our progress, but this year the match was much closer and featured some fine tennis. After the first round of the singles we were leading by 3-1, but they levelled the score after the second round and were just too strong in the final doubles matches. As most of this team will still be eligible next year, we should be able to progress further.

A feature of all our matches has been the high level of sportsmanship which was a credit to our senior players and captain, Richard Wallace. New colours were awarded to Struan Fairbairn, Ross Macmillan and Alex Blackstock. The team was selected from Richard Wallace, Alex Blackstock, Struan Fairbairn, Ross Macmillan, Robert Dundas, Barry Corbett, Mark Hunter and David Macleod.

DJR

GIRLS

The standard reached by the teams this season was considerably higher than expected of them at the start of the Summer Term. The crushing defeat inflicted on the 1st VI at home against Fettes was worrying but turned out to be the only loss of the season.

The new astroturf was to be used solely by the girls but there were complaints. The bounce was poor (even when using new compression balls) and the constant rain throughout May kept washing the lines away, making calling suspect. The argument for the astro was that the low bounce made us move our feet and bend our knees. Proof of our improved footwork was the successful record in fixtures and Wendy and Elise Rankin's winning the U18 Tennis Tournament at Kilgraston when they beat

our own first couple in the semis and Fettes in the final.

The Junior teams were not quite as successful at this tournament as in the past but their record in matches speaks volumes: several 9-0 victories over the term.

I am pleased to say that tennis for girls, where 42 play for teams and 50 are involved in non-team practice, has been recognised as a major sport and Full Colours were re-awarded to Gillian Anderson and Wendy Rankin, Half Colours to Sarah Murray, Elise Rankin, Kirsty Walker and Louisa Graham-Campbell.

Our thanks go to all the girls involved and also to the Staff for getting us to and from matches on time. I hope that next season will prove to be even more of a success despite talk of all tennis players having to do a session of athletics each games afternoon. And is there any truth in the rumour that a coach may be coming to help?

Gillian Anderson

BADMINTON

This has been a successful year in the sense that many pupils took part and all, without exception, improved greatly. Elise Rankin and Aisla Stringer, Tim Elliott, John Cameron and Michael Narchi all caught the eye and we look forward to seeing them join the Sixth Form group next year.

The Sixth Form themselves came in their droves (well quite a lot of them anyway) and my special thanks to Mark Hunter, Struan Fairbairn, Louis Ma and Robert Dundas who always led the way with some quality performances and helped out with organisation on many occasions. We only had one inter-school event when we convincingly beat Rannoch but this year's House tournament provided a wealth of competitive games. Nicol prevailed in the end with Mark Hunter and Nick Morley leading the way, but Barry Corbett and Chris Bradley also caught the eye. Ruthven came in a close second with Kay Bretz, Tim Elliott, Alex Blackstock and Russell Gibson all performing well. Louis Ma and Robert Dundas shone for Freeland and the Woodlands' girls, Liz Watson, Aisla Stringer and Elise and Wendy Rankin finished a creditable fourth.

JK



Wendy and Elise Rankin with the U18 Kilgraston Tennis Tournament Trophy

BASKETBALL

The basketball has benefited from two areas of development Firstly, the seniors have become a settled side and for the most part are learning to work together under pressure. This togetherness enables a side to trust each other and isolates the greedier player, both necessary for the team to think and act as one. It has been pleasing to see more court action this year and the development work has begun to pay off. Secondly, the juniors are covering more basics in the PE lessons with Mr Shore and a good group of skilful enthusiasts are pushing for team places next year. Their performances in the House matches were the best to be seen for many years. In addition, a group of girls have been working on basic skills with Mr Ashmore as part of the activities programme.

The future looks secure with so much talent coming through and the seniors returning to their usual Monday night slot for training. With the improving skills of both the girl and boy juniors, there will be a need for more regular evening activity slots and it is hoped to add girls' fixtures to the current list.

This year the Senior Team managed a few more matches in the run up to the main tournament but we still had a lot of cancellations through bad weather. The Senior Captain, Laurent Gibb, has begun to use his experience to lead the team well and he will be looking forward to his continued role next year. We came up against a very physically strong Glenalmond side who were not blessed with a lot of finesse as we were to discover more abruptly later. Kinross High School came to us late on in the season to squeeze a narrow victory after a very enjoyable game, and our match against Morrison's Academy one evening was lost in the very last minute. We had a last minute cancellation for a small tournament against Rannoch and Morrison's later in the year.

Laurent and the team were surprised by their improving levels of fitness and team play and were heartened when John Grant, the Scotland U16 coach and his Arbroath side came over for a joint coaching session in the Spring Term. The Strathallan boys have a lot of respect for the Arbroath boys and worked hard on a series of skills sessions and joined in some of the more intricate team sessions, rounding off with a combined game. Everyone was pleased with their performance and Laurent Gibb and David Heslop were singled out by John for special praise.

The House matches were held for

juniors and seniors in the run up to the Strathallan Tournament and again, as appears to be the case each year, the standard of team play has gone up. All the School team players were involved with the junior sides leading to some fierce pre-match rivalry. They all did a splendid job with the Ruthven boys coming through in the end to pip Freeland at the post after an excellent match. In the seniors, the experienced and very well drilled Simpson team were excellent value as final winners under the guidance of a refreshed David Heslop. David has been our most improved player of the year and earned his School Colours with Colin Miller. David and Colin leave School this year and their talents will be sorely missed next year. In the Senior Girls' match a very confident Woodlands side was eventually beaten by a determined Thornbank team.

However, the improvement in the younger players like Magnus Webb, Stephen Scales and Rod Murray came to the fore in the 9th Strathallan School Invitation Tournament. Seven school sides from the region competed in two initial groups with Strathallan getting through to the crossovers after some hard fought matches. They surprised themselves in the opening match against Arbroath, the eventual winners, by coming close in the end. Strathallan played well against Rannoch to take the individual Fagerson Cup with a good score. In the crossover, Strathallan were drawn against a good Kinross side and the 14-all score with minutes to go was through everyone's determined defence and the excellent attack work of Gregor Nim. But the side were very tired and could not prevent the loss of three quick baskets to the fitter Kinross side in the end.

In conclusion, this has been a very busy year and a lot has been achieved. This has been possible through the commitment of staff and players who contribute to basketball on top of their usual work. The extra involvement of the girls and the move back to a Monday night look to be making the future of basketball in the School. Thank you to everyone.

GRMR



FOOTBALL

Once again the football season took up most of the Spring Term and, as usual at this time of year, a number of matches had to be cancelled or postponed. A large group of boys opted for football and, with an increasing number of Independent Schools playing football, it was possible to arrange enough matches for everyone to have competitive games. As usual, however, it was the 1st XI which got the most matches, but it is encouraging that more schools can now offer 2nd XI and U16 fixtures.

1st XI

Stuart Connell had to miss a few games and this rather left Strathallan's attacking numbers a bit short, but the 1st XI still managed to score 34 goals over 9 matches. David Stone did not appear on the score sheet for most matches, but his support play and incisive running at opposition defences resulted in a number of goals from other players. It was late in the last match against Glenalmond that David really showed his worth by scoring a superb late goal to bring the match, which we looked like losing, to 1-1, the winning goal then coming from Ross Connell. We conceded more goals this season than last, but this was more due to the improved standard of playing by many of our opponents, than to weaknesses in defence. There were some good performances in defence from Daniel Crowe, Finlay Nicolson and Alasdair Grieve and very few teams we played managed to get past the back four with any regularity. The mid-field stalwarts of Andrew Robertson, David Macleod, Ross Connell. Colin Miller and Graham Cochran controlled this vital area of the field and more than once contributed to the goal tally.

GAB

RESULTS

Edinburgh Acad.	6 - 0	Won
St. Serfs	9 - 2	Won
Edinburgh Acad	4 - 1	Won
Merchiston	5 - 3	Won
Q.V.S.	1 - 7	Lost
Stewart Melville	2 - 1	Won
Merchiston	3 - 3	Drew
Q.V.S.	2 - 8	Lost
Glenalmond	2 - 1	Won

SPORTS DAY AND ATHLETICS

This year all the events were on one day which was moved from mid-week to a Friday and led into the Speech Day weekend. This proved to be very successful and both the parents who attended and the rest of the School who were spectators, had an enjoyable afternoon and witnessed a good standard of Athletics. We were very fortunate in having Ian Mackie present as our guest. Ian is the current Scottish Men's 100m Champion and also a Gold Medallist in the 4x100m and a Bronze Medallist in the 200m, at the World Junior Games. Ian subsequently reached the semi-finals of the 100m at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July and became the first Briton to defeat Linford Christie since Alan Wells.

Simpson once again proved to be too strong for the other Houses, but there were some notable performances from J Camilleri (Nicol), D Stone (Ruthven) and A McDonald (Freeland). No School records were broken on Sports day, but towards the end of the season and after months of determination, Heather Scott finally managed to break the Senior Girl's Discus record.

The Athletics match results were very mixed with most age groups winning some of their fixtures, whilst others lost and vice versa, but from an individual point of view some extremely talented performers came to the fore. Many personal bests were achieved and the athletes trained hard to achieve these standards.

The number of girls opting for Athletics this year was very low, despite the School having quite a wealth of talent. Two teams were scraped together to compete against Fettes and did extremely well, running them very close. The Senior Girls followed this with a win at Rannoch and both groups were winners against a limited team from Glenalmond.

From the squads that trained throughout the season, Nick Scales (Captain of Athletics), Angus Macdonald and Roddy Murray were fortunate to train with some high calibre athletes in Tayside Harriers. Kirsty Partridge and Susan Balfour also ran for The Harriers and both performed very well in their events.

Roddy Murray entered the Scottish Schools' Pentathlon Championships and as a young, first time competitor, did remarkably well to come away with a Bronze Medal.

Susan Balfour was unbeaten all season in Schools fixtures at both 800m and 1500m and had a fine run at the Scottish

Schools' Championships, yet again lowering her personal best time.

Thanks go to all the Athletes who stuck at their training throughout the season and let's hope others can be encouraged to come out and 'give it a go' next year.

The following were awarded during the '96 Season:

Full Colours	R Murray
Half Colours	S Balfour

PS

TUG-OF-WAR (Boys)

1st	Nicol
2nd	Freeland
3rd=	Simpson/Ruthven
***	Boys' Team beat Male Staff Team

TUG-OF-WAR (Girls)

1st	Woodlands
2nd	Thornbank
***	Female Staff Team beat Girls' Team

STANDARDS

1st	Freeland	1966 points
2nd	Nicol	1964 points
3rd	Simpson	1955 points
4th	Ruthven	1805 points

SPORTS DAY RESULTS

BOYS INTER-HOUSE CUP

1st	Simpson	187 points
2nd	Nicol	132 points
3rd	Freeland	128 points
4th	Ruthven	121 points

GIRLS INTER-HOUSE SHIELD

1st	Woodlands	133 points
2nd	Thornbank	113 points



Roddy Murray, Andrew Kettle, Ewen Adam and Alasdair Grieve - Simpson 4x400m relay winners

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Junior Boys	Victor Ludorum	James Camilleri (N)
Junior Girls	Victrix Ludorum	Fiona Elder (T)
Middle Boys	Victor Ludorum	Leon Webb (S)
Senior Girls	Victrix Ludorum	Heather Scott (W)
Senior Boys	Victor Ludorum	Angus Macdonald (F)

BOYS

AGE	EVENT	TIME/DIST.	NAME	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
J	100m	12.85	Camilleri J	12.00	Ling T	1971
M	100m	12.27	Webb L	10.90	Ogilvie	1978
S	100m	11.58	McDonald A	11.00	Lochart/Ling/Smellie/Kirkland	1971/8
J	200m	27.95	Camilleri J	24.00	Wallace R	1993
M	200m	25.52	Webb L	23.20	Ling T	1973
S	200m	24.14	McDonald A	22.80	Ling T	1974
J	400m	64.74	Potter P	56.50	Cook C	1987
M	400m	57.45	Stone D	52.50	Millar	1977
S	400m	57.19	Grieve A	50.30	Roger G	1982
J	800m	2.27.20	Gibson R	2.12.90	Lawrence C	1984
M	800m	2.17.45	Stone D	2.03.06	Lawrence C	1985
S	800m	2.07.08	Murray R	1.55.02	Roger G	1982
J	1500m	5.10.48	Gibson R	4.32.07	Lawrence C	1985
M	1500m	5.11.58	Beaumont A	4.14.05	Bond R	1988
S	1500m	4.30.92	Murray R	4.09.02	Bond R	1989
J	L Jump	4.31m	Camilleri J	5.55m	Lear C	1967
M	L Jump	4.99m	Thapa L	6.17m	Lawson	1967
S	L Jump	5.25m	Wallace R	6.52m	Smellie D	1978
J	H Jump	1.45m	McKenzie R	1.63m	Holmes	1965
M	H Jump	1.55m	Wilson A	1.77.5m	Cuthbertson A	1984
S	H Jump	1.60m	Lowe M	1.89.5m	Roger G	1982
J	Javelin	23.36m	Davidson G	49.81m	McBride J	1969
M	Javelin	32.85m	Trayner G	49.81m	McBride J	1969
S	Javelin	41.00m	Idler M	57.07m	McBride J	1971
J	Shot	10.63m	Gdula N	12.83m	Walker L	1992
M	Shot	11.53m	Russell D	14.73m	McKenzie G	1973
S	Shot	11.77m	Walker L	12.90m	Calender	1979
J	Discus	24.77m	Gdula N	36.27m	Knox S	1974
M	Discus	28.16m	Hall A	42.00m	Knox S	1976
S	Discus	31.50m	Walker L	40.26m	McKenzie G	1974
J	4 x 100m	57.73	Ruthven	50.50	Ruthven	1987
M	4 x 100m	51.79	Simpson	46.60	Simpson	1972
S	4 x 100m	48.59	Simpson	45.50	Freeland	1981
J	4 x 400m	4.56.43	Simpson	4.09.07	Simpson	1995
M	4 x 400m	4.05.78	Simpson	3.53.49	Simpson	1995
S	4 x 400m	3.51.93	Simpson	3.41.03	Freeland	1992

GIRLS

AGE	EVENT	TIME/DIST.	NAME	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
J	100m	14.11	Reed C	13.00	Streule K	1982
S	100m	13.18	Finlay K	12.12	Edmunds A	1990
J	200m	30.07	Partridge K	27.79	Reid S	1988
S	200m	29.12	Finlay K	25.20	Edmunds A	1990
J	400m	74.14	Little A	66.00	Reid S/Taylor R	1987/90
S	400m	70.78	Finlay L	60.00	Reid S	1990
J	800m	2.41.86	Balfour S	2.32.10	Taylor R	1990
S	800m	2.49.40	Lawson K	2.25.06	Taylor R	1993
J	1500m	6.25.90	Balfour S	5.14.09	Barlow A	1992
S	1500m	6.28.96	Murray S	5.05.10	Meiklejohn C	1990
J	L Jump	4.25m	Partridge K	4.46m	Gordon S	1985
S	L Jump	3.55m	Wilson K	4.58m	Carruthers C	1989
J	H Jump	1.25m	Hall M	1.45m	Orr K	1984
S	H Jump	1.25m	Ross H	1.55m	Rutherford R	1987
J	Javelin	17.36m	Dover L	23.39m	Buchanan K	1995
S	Javelin	20.66m	Buchanan K	22.42m	Bruce M	1995
J	Shot	7.01m	Martin K	10.23m	Sang T	1992
S	Shot	7.52m	Scott H	9.49m	Edmunds A	1990
J	Discus	18.42m	Martin K	25.10m	Chapman R	1995
S	Discus	22.38m	Chapman R	24.59m	Krannenburgh H	1995
J	4x100m	60.70	Thornbank	55.65	Thornbank	1995
S	4x100m	56.99	Thornbank	54.54	Thornbank	1990
J	4x400m	5.02.65	Woodlands	4.39.37	Thornbank	1992
S	4x400m	5.02.00	Woodlands	4.43.83	Thornbank	1993

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The departure of Mr Green signalled the arrival of a new era in Strathallan athletics. Gone were the days of touch rugby and avoiding the haphazardly parked Fiat Tipo at the finish line. In swept a new force: Mr Shore with his revamped athletics programme and the Higginbottoms who arrived to help the inestimable Mr Crosfield train up the middle distance chicken-chasers, while the sprinters continued to enjoy splendid inactivity while laughing at the absurd antics of Mr Higginbottom's warm-up exercises.

There was much-needed new equipment available, which included starting blocks for the sprinters, new

javelins and high jump equipment but to everyone's chagrin the track was increased to the full 400 metres instead of about 385 metres. which resulted in deep depressions, sore legs and soaring PBs!

There was altogether a more professional air to the proceedings as Mr Shore's superlative organisational skills ensured smooth running of both training and events. He arranged an exchange with Perth Harriers running club who agreed to tap our reservoir of talent in return for some professional coaching and he is looking to the future with his ideas of team track suits and re-establishing athletics as a major games option to rival cricket. This can only be good for

the sport.

The universally-dreaded 'standards' was revolutionised by each year group doing all the events in one evening. This was received well since the competition was not dragged out through the term. Sports Day also had a facelift, with pipe bands, marquees, and a tug 'o war competition to liven up the afternoon.

'Veteran' coach, Mr Crosfield, will be remembered affectionately for many reasons, not least his 'old school' shorts and his curious running style. We will miss him but there is surely a bright and innovative future for Strathallan athletics.

Matthew Morley

CROSS COUNTRY

"Have you cancelled the race, Sir?" After a week of glorious sunshine, the heavens opened on the morning of the Inter-House Cross Country race and a string of reluctant participants' hopes were raised. But neither rain nor snow ever prevented runners from taking to the open fields and this year's Inter-House competition saw some of the best times and fiercest competition yet. There was much speculation over who would come first in the different age groups: in the end, Alastair Christie was first home in the Junior section, Roddy Murray romped home to win the Middles in a very fast time of 22.40 minutes, despite having a nail sticking into his foot and Ewen Adam galloped over the finishing line in the Senior race, with a record breaking time of 24.54 minutes, over a minute inside the old record. Freeland won the overall competition for the second consecutive year, but there were many memorable performances from all houses and the number taking part increased again; well over half of the Senior School was out there, making their way round the course in one way or another.

This term's Under 17 team has proved to be quite a challenge for other schools and they have many miles and successes under their belt. At Sedburgh, in late February, we competed against 8 top English and Scottish running schools and came in 5th place. After a gruelling course over dales and through icy streams, our team turned in some very respectable performances. Roddy Murray ran exceptionally well, coming in 17th out of some 70 runners, despite ripping most of



James Dinning in the cross-country race

the skin off his knees by stumbling in the stream and Russell Gibson, still only 13 years old, surprised and delighted everyone by keeping up with the pack and fending off competition from runners several years his senior.

The Under 17 team was also victorious at Rannoch, gaining 1st, 2nd and 4th places in the race. Even the frantically quick pace of the Fettes Relays (nee Merchiston Relays) did not dampen the enthusiasm of our runners, who came 2nd out of 6 teams.

No Cross Country season is complete without the traditional pilgrimage to St Andrews to weave in and out of the waves on the beach. The circulation soon returns to initially numbed toes, but once the running has been accomplished, all caution is thrown to the winds and a dip in the sea is considered *de rigueur*. We ended with a final party which was an opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make this season yet another enjoyable and successful one. Colours were awarded to Ewen Adam, Roddy Murray and Christopher and Richard Wands for their determined and swift performances. I am especially grateful to Paul Summersgill and Mark Higginbottom for all their help and inspiration and to Nick Scales, Captain for two years running. He has been unstinting in his loyalty has led the team with humour and enthusiasm. It merely remains for me to wish everyone the best of luck for next season when the team, will undoubtedly continue to thrive and expand.

PJC

SWIMMING

Nowadays there seems to be a distinct difference between Girls' and Boys' swimming. Whilst the girl swimmers look upon it as an alternative to other games and, as a consequence, follow a training programme designed to improve both stamina and technique, the boys regard swimming in the main as either a soft option or as an extension of physiotherapy, to be undertaken only if you are no longer fit for rugby.

The results of this are fairly clearly seen when we have matches against other schools. On more than one occasion it has been the Girls' Team and the Junior team that saved the day and turned a potential disaster into either a creditable second place or even a victory. The Inter-House swimming seems to be another case in point as year after year the two girls' Houses provide ever stronger teams and are beginning to present a serious challenge to the boys.

This year the honours went to Nicol, but when we look at some of the individual times we can see that in the not too distant future a victory by one of the girls' Houses may well become a reality. My thanks go to the Captain of Swimming, Sally Burnett, for her efficient organisation of teams and her support throughout the year. I would also like to thank those members of staff who have so generously agreed to supervise early-morning swimming and to the technician who keeps the pool in shape.

KG

FENCING

On the 25th February the Fencing Team took part in the Scottish Public Schools' Championships at George Watson's College. It was attended by over 20 other entrants, many of whom were members of the British or Scottish Schools' teams.

Alan Senior, who has only been fencing since September, managed to make it through to the final elimination round and came sixth. Louise Duncan, after winning in her pool of six, came tenth after being knocked out by Alan in the elimination round. Liz Watson, having succeeded in beating one of the Scottish School team members in her first pool, was placed eleventh. Jamie Henderson also did extremely well, finishing in twelfth place after defeat at the hands of another Scottish team member. Tim Elliott, Ailsa Stringer and her brother Mark all did remarkably well considering that all participants from other schools have been fencing for much longer and at a much higher level. It must also be mentioned that this was our first competition. Mark, who was the youngest by at least three years, managed to score several hits off even those who made it to the finals.

Overall the whole team enjoyed the day greatly and are proud of their achievements. Our thanks to all who participated, and especially our coach, Mr Titheradge.

Liz Watson

Louise Duncan

SAILING

We got off to the usual start this summer with the bustle of transporting the School's fleet of Enterprises, Lasers, Toppers and a Bosun to Lochore Meadows Country Park near Loch Leven. Once the boats were on the water, the sailing began in a frenzy of near misses, shouts of "Starboard!" and confrontations with windsurfers. A new sailing team was formed with three crews to race Loretto but this was unfortunately called off due to high winds.

The weather varied greatly during the term from slashing squalls of icy rain to oppressive sunshine hammering down on the scattered hulls spread over the length and breadth of the plate-glass water. One Force 8 storm cast the Captain of Sailing, Nick Morley and Doug Patterson into the water only thirty seconds after leaving the pier. The rest of us watched their antics from the shore while being bombarded by an onslaught of waves.

Mr. Broadfoot and Mr. O'Neill dutifully instructed the newcomers on the ways of sailing while Mr. Goody criticised the rest from his 'floating sand-pit' motor boat. Unfortunately, during the term one Topper was lost when blown off its trailer and the Enterprise "Vital Spark" was holed after a collision with the pier. These losses will be hard felt due to the severe lack of workshop space available for repairs. All too soon the term was drawing to an end and the boats had to be returned, ending a very enjoyable break from school life.

Edward Phillips



Foil practice in the gym

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

It came as a bit of a shock at first, with reactions like "You can't be serious!" and "Oh my word!" flying at us, but the minute the poster went up there was a horde of willing participants. The lads looked on in dismay, hoping they were just dreaming but no, they weren't. After a little (okay, a lot) of gentle persuasion, Miss Mason agreed to supervise our new venture. The next challenge was to find two willing members of the boys' 1st XI a lost more difficult than it seems no really! Excuses were abundant, but not very convincing, so under intensive interrogation (or is that intimidation okay, seduction!) Finlay and Roni were the first to crumble. From that moment

forward we had an official girls' Squad and coaches, no doubt a force to be reckoned with.

However, our first session resulted in Miss Mason lying on the ground clutching her knee, tears rolling down her cheeks - a mixture of both pain and laughter (we hope!). Finlay, at the other end, was winded - with Rhona running off, swearing it wasn't her. Not to be forgotten was M-J our local handballer, Gill A our resident squealer and Christina Breaden - our local prodigy. Unfortunately, on his debut our so called 1st XI 'roll'-model (with the waddle) had a little mishap and is now commonly referred to on the pitch as Coach Finlay "own goal (x2)!" Nicolson.

As for Roni "Cantona" Stone and his interesting tricks to impress well, at least he tries!

We have no doubt that there is a strong future for girls' football. We have matches in mind and even a 'strip' planned (any willing sponsors would be gratefully received so we can get our shocking pink shirts and baby pink Gazelles). We hope to see you on the sidelines of our debut match (that will, hopefully, be more successful than our coaches!) cheering on the first official Girls' Football Squad!

Any future applicants welcome to - SSGFS

Jenny Littleford

RIDING

We started as usual last September with a mixture of girls from both Woodlands and Thornbank. Perth Equine Centre supplied us with a huge variety of horses and proudly showed off their new indoor school which proved to be invaluable in the bad weather.

Fiona Elder rode with us throughout the year and congratulations must go to her for her vast improvement over that time. Along with all the seniors, we enjoyed good hacking and excellent instruction on the flat and over the jumps in the school situation.

The summer brought 11 Riley girls all eager to participate. All heights and standards came along on a weekly basis. Again, Lois Hunter was thought to have shown the most improvement within the Riley group. I don't think we will ever forget the look on her face when competed her first jump, having stayed on AND in control. Her beaming smile will stay with us for a long time. Well done, Lois. Georgina Philips must also be worth a special mention for spending most of her time on the ground ... minus her pony! She always got straight back on and with a smile. The year ended with Pony Club Team Games in which all participated and had great fun.

CGV



Beginners



Winners

CANOEING

This year's canoeing was mixed, broadening our knowledge of new and different aspects of the sport. Sea kayaking around St Andrews in the heat of the sun, with only buoyancy aids and spraydeck was one of them. It wasn't long before we were "burnt to a crisp" by the strength of the sun as even the sun cream didn't help due to the constant splashing of sea water on our arms. For the brave-hearted, "seal launching" off the pier was an option, throwing ourselves off a sheer vertical drop of 15 feet above the water with a canoe attached to us. It's the buzz I think, which makes us do it, but also anything to be 'on camera'. Unfortunately for Mr Taylor's "amazing waterproof camera" it wasn't good enough as the shutter speed was too slow and so getting on the photographs "a pier, a splash, but no canoe". Stupid camera. Others who were less experienced just threw themselves off the pier. Comments such as "This water is damned cold!!!" then after resurfacing from the sea, "bloody is!!!" were phrases which came from Kate McFarlane frequently. Others such as "This water is f-f-f-f-f freezing" coming from Kay Bretz after falling in after the "Campsie Linn waterfall".

At the beginning of the season we regularly visited our own stretch of water at Stanley, trying to go every games' day when possible. This year the river was at winter level, nearer spate, which is unusual for this time of year so, with the experience of the groups that we had and because we haven't sat in a canoe for a long time we were a bit "rusty", we went up river to shoot the "Campsie Linn" waterfall, which can only be shot at this level. This was exciting to do and a thrill to watch. Later on during the term when the level had dropped a wee bit we went down the river which gave us some exciting and challenging water. Trying to stay upright was harder than usual due to the extraordinary power of the water and so plenty of "bang-outs" and rescues were happening which kept the instructors busy.

Most people in the club were familiar faces this year and had canoed before which was good to see. The less experienced paddlers were a good laugh to be with, with all the humour and catch phrases which surrounded us. As well as enjoying ourselves being on the river the group's confidence and experience is improving dramatically all the time, proving this by showing off the skills they had achieved throughout the year and now looking like impressive canoeists.

When the group heard that the river was in spate they went straight in the pool to learn to roll, not wanting to fall into the river as it was extremely cold. Ask Kate, she knows well! People were begging for wetsuits to keep them warm and away from that fast flowing chilled water. The lack of instructors did not alter this, although two girls managed to "hand-roll" the boat without a paddle in one session - that's determination for you. I was glad to see the team working together. People who had learnt to roll were out teaching their friends also, and so established a nice atmosphere in which to canoe.

Finally this year, three pupils passed their 3 star award: Tim Elliott, Stephen Mears and Jennie Perry - congratulations to them. It's now time for them to push on to qualify as Trainee Instructors like myself. I hope to become an instructor at the end of the Autumn Term and so hopefully we can do a lot more, such as competitions.

Many thanks to Mr Elliott and Mr Taylor who set up and managed to build up the club so well through the years. Hopefully myself and the rest of the team who are remaining can continue this next year. Our thanks also to Mr Burgess and Miss England who helped Mr Elliott through the years as well, and to all the instructors who made this a very enjoyable sport to do. I just hope we can continue this pleasant, worthwhile, popular sport for future years so others can also enjoy it.

Jonathan Goody

CURLING

Strathallan Curling has been a success this year: we have had a cracking season. The Juniors have been outstanding, winning the Perth Junior League and only losing one game to Perth Academy by one shot. Juniors also went to Greenacres to represent Strathallan Senior Team in the Miller Drummond Trophy. The Seniors had a good season in the Perth League only losing to the two teams that finished above them, Dollar and Perth Academy.

An addition to the Senior Curling Team at the beginning of the season was Daniel Crowe from Pitlochry, but the Seniors had trouble getting going because there were so many injuries which meant the team kept changing. This year twenty seven people started to take up Curling in the middle term, including Bjorn Tveit who joined the Senior Team in the Perth League, playing lead to Struan Cochrane.

Another find this year was Harry Crump who was taught the basics on the floor of a study in School so that he could make up the numbers in the match against the Old Boys. Harry became a key player, joined the Junior Team and played second to Andrew Reed.

Two other good new players, Lucy Sproat and Caroline Reed, joined Andrew Reed, Duncan Edwards and Harry Crump in the Perth Junior League. The Juniors went to Greenacres and came back first equal with two other teams on games won, but lost out as overall winners because their 'shots up' difference was lower. They only lost to the eventual winners, Craigholme.

Andrew Reed



Jonathan Goody playing in the 'boils' of Grandtully

LAND MANAGEMENT

The Coventrees area was affected badly in the 1995 Spring with a lot of tree damage due to high winds, and the extreme cold taking dormant shoots off many of the new plants. Despite the setbacks, September began with the group in good spirits and Murad Ibrahim led his team to put some of the damage right by setting up protection barriers for shrubs and clearing broken wood from the whole area. The strimming from the summer had kept the undergrowth in control and the group continued this work through much of the term and everyone managed to contribute to the traditional blaze. Many thanks go to the consistent efforts of Malcolm Elder and Finlay Nicolson for much of the work. By Christmas, the main area had been brought back to shape, but plans were afoot that would change the layout of the area and so we have kept the usual work over the rest of the year to a minimum until we can see the final effect of the changes.

The other team, led by Fraser Currie, began the eternal task of clearing the track by the stream and mending the stream barriers. These were put in place to prevent the flash flooding over the winter from moving any more soil down to the pond. This has been successful and the speed of the water has been controlled by a series of weirs. However, the group were continually dismayed by the amount of rubbish that was being dumped over the edge into the valley and the clearing of this rubbish became a weekly task through the Autumn Term. The animal and bird covers have been successful in attracting more wildlife and so more covers have been created by the group along the valley.

The ecology of the stream and the woodland areas has become much more balanced and, thankfully, the 'amateur' shooters have kept away so the larger animals are able to move and breed more freely. We have seen many more red squirrels down towards Coventrees and migrant birds like long-tailed tits, tree creepers, just about every type of finch and the larger redstarts and fieldfares have joined the more regular residents. The colonies of warblers have kept us all entertained and we are pleased that we have left the brush willow areas uncleared. It is hoped that the dead wood that has been collected together will be left alone for all the wildlife this year and the 'shady crowd' find somewhere else to gather their logs.

The 1996 spring has been very cold but the amount of damage has been minimal and the evergreens, especially

the Scots pines, have benefited enormously from the long wet period. This summer we were able to take out some of the sycamore to allow other trees to grow and the find of another two very rare 'curly' willows with the regeneration of the old one has been a high spot. We must thank Major Legge and Ed McDonald for all their help and interest over the year in this area.

The year we have begun a new venture with a start to the reconstruction of the greenhouse area. The area was badly damaged in the past and left unmended for so long that the inevitable happened with its demolition. Mr Targowski has been instrumental in motivating and funding our efforts this year. We began with a long look at the costs of the venture and a business plan was drawn up, at the second attempt. Mr Bushell directed the purchase of the greenhouse and then, thankfully,

organised the erection after our initial site clearance. The end result has been very satisfying for us and for the stream of golfers, footballers and cricketers who have 'missed' the old target.

All spring we have been sowing and preparing the more usual annual plants. This has become an almost religious ceremony in that Robbie Gemmill and Nick Seume stand quietly with heads bowed over a hot seed tray for over an hour. All of this hard work was to contribute to a full sale of goods and barbecue on the last working Wednesday of term which was supported by so many people from the School and the village. I have never seen a group of boys work so long and hard in the preparation and I would like to end by thanking them all for a very enjoyable year and especially Fraser Currie who has been a very creditable and reliable leader of the group.

GRMR

GOLF



Practice on the School course

With some of the established players missing during the season, it gave us the opportunity to observe the other golfers in pressure situations. Cameron High found life difficult playing at number one in the side, but did very well on occasions and usually ran his opponents close. Neil Grosset, too, developed well, despite some inconsistency in his play and Stuart Winter showed promise. There were brief appearances in the team from David Taylor, Daniel Crowe and Michael Smith, each of whom never let the side down. Bruce Martin's form was a little disappointing compared to previous years

and Andrew Milne managed only one (winning) appearance.

An innovatory three-sided match was played against Blairgowrie and Glenalmond over the Lansdowne Course at Blairgowrie. The result saw us finish second, beating a strong Glenalmond side who, earlier in the season's league match had beaten us most emphatically. This was a most creditable performance, showing the golfing strength that we have at the School.

It is also pleasing to report the growing number of girls playing the game. Indeed, such has been their progress that they now have a team who played their first match against Blairgowrie. I was impressed by the skills and determination of Sam, Karen, Fiona and Kirsty et al and if they continue to work hard at their game we should be able to arrange more matches next season. My thanks to Mrs McPhail for her assistance with the girls this year.

Internally, the Inter-House Golf Trophy was won by Simpson and the Individual Trophy by a fit again Andrew Milne. Bruce Martin produced two steady rounds to retain the St Columba's Trophy. The Seniors Match Play Competition was won by Cameron High, but the Juniors unfortunately could not manage to complete their competition and their trophy was not awarded!

NS

WIND SURFING

Most of the 15 pupils who chose Wind Surfing as their Tuesday afternoon activity in the Summer Term were complete novices (Teacher included), but the progression from the initial encounter with a wet suit to some nifty manoeuvres on the board has been remarkable. The instructors at Lochore Meadows got all of us on the boards and moving on the water the first day - although we scarcely dared to follow in the wake of Jonathan Hepworth who had obviously done a spot of Wind Surfing before. Close encounters with the cool murky waters of the loch have been frequent, with Kate McFarlane and Anna Watson competing for the loudest shriek of pleasure (?) at hitting the water.

The art of sailing across the wind has been mastered by most, although sailing *with* the wind was achieved effortlessly on the second session when a fresh breeze caused a few luckless folk to lodge their sails in the trees on the island downwind



of the centre, hence requiring a tow back to base - only to be back on the island five minutes later! A day of complete calm one week was followed by a day of squalls and gusts the next when the surf "babes" retreated leaving the surf "dudes" to sit out the squall on the water whilst the instructor showed how it was supposed to be done: fast and apparently effortlessly!

Wind Surfing is one of those sports where it takes patience and determination to reach a reasonable standard, but the thrill of moving through the water under some degree of control is more than worth the effort that has to be put in. I suspect some of the pupils will be putting their new-found skills to good use in warmer climes during the holidays whereas the rest of us will have to persevere with the cold and wrestle with wet suits in order to make the most of a good breeze, the open water and the thrill of the surf - YeHaa!

DJC

WATER SKI-ING

Apparently pupils of the School have tried for years to convince the teachers to have water ski-ing as an option, but to no avail. I didn't know this when I approached Mr Longmuir with the idea but the Rev answered with a "yes" immediately. So obviously the previous attempts had been made at the wrong people!

The next day the Rev and I were on our way to Dunfermline to inspect a place that we thought would be good. As it turned out, the place we visited was the National Water Ski-ing Centre for Scotland, so we thought that we didn't really need to look any further. The manager convinced us by saying that they were about the only water ski-ing centre with warm showers! We didn't know then that the warm showers would be a blessing but decided to book the rest of the Thursday afternoons of the term for a very good price before they could change their minds.

The next Thursday didn't come quickly enough. The afternoon arrived and off we went for the beginning of Strathallan's water ski-ing option which promised to be different and probably exciting. The four of us arrived: all willing victims of the excitement, but the instructor had said that the water was "positively warm". We took this to be

positively as in 'very', but what he meant was obviously that the water was not frozen. Being willing beginners, Tyrie Turner and Kirsty Glimm jumped into the boat, just longing to get into the water but the first splash was accompanied by screams of "It's sooo cold." We just laughed thinking that the girls couldn't take it. When the boys' turn arrived we were keen to show them that we men could take the cold water and at the same time be good at water ski-ing. Little did we know the water was a mild eight degrees centigrade. We now realised that the girls could handle the water a lot better than the boys could. As soon as we were ready we shouted for the boat to go so that we could get out.

After my ski-ing was finished I literally had to unhook my fingers from the bar so that Alex Macmillan could enjoy his ice-cold bath next. After emerging from the blissfully warm shower (having been under for a good twenty minutes) we were nearly thawed out. The words "Never again" were uttered to the Rev, but the next week we were just as keen to try again!

Stephen Scales

SHOOTING

This year has had both its 'ups' and 'downs'. The 'ups' were excellent: the 'downs' are practically unmentionable!

We began with the Perthshire Winter League Competition which saw two teams from Strathallan being entered. Surprisingly, the 'A' team, despite not shooting all their cards in each round - due to certain unreliable members of the team (namely, our Captain, Amelia!) did not come altogether last - we were, in fact, 8th. The 'B' team, however, were not quite as successful (!). They **were** last. (Well, somebody had to be!)

Enough of the bad news and on with the good: Jenny, Fiona and David were all members of the Scottish 'A' squad in the British Schools' International when Scotland won, beating England and Wales for the first time in about 15 years. Strathallan also won the Strathcona Shield, beating holders, George Watson's, by a considerable margin. Jenny took the Perth Open by storm. The rest of us didn't do particularly well, apart from AS-J who, having not shot for a whole year, still managed to win an impressive £3.25.

Fiona Hamilton



SNOWBOARDING

In January, Strathallan's snowboarders approached the master in charge of skiing with a proposal to launch a championship competition to complement the programme for alpine skiing. Mr Longmuir took this suggestion to the Scottish Schools' Ski Association committee meeting. As a result, the first ever Scottish Schools' Snowboarding Championship was launched in the Cairngorms on 21 April - in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Ski Association.

The competition itself took place on a misty Sunday. Arriving at the practically deserted Cairngorm car park we bought our tickets and tried to make out just how much snow there was. The summit area seemed pretty well-covered but the only way down to the mid-station was via the thin and heavily mogulled White Lady. As the rest of the buses began to arrive, we took the first chairs up to the snow.

We were all thrilled to be back as most of us hadn't expected to snowboard again until next season. The morning was spent riding about on a medium-sized kicker by the mid-station until it was time for the boarder-cross.

There were nine schools and 60 competitors attempting to register on the day. It took a while to make sure referees, judges and competitors were fully briefed. Eventually, all the riders were ready; the starter, gate judges, finish referees and race referee were fully briefed and so the first heats began.

The course was demanding with two big banked turns, a small gap-jump, several small rollers and a final big roller about twenty yards before the finish line. However, Andy Gooday (Cairngorm snowboarding instructor and course setter) had ensured it was quite tight, leading to a lot of cutting up and some pile-ups at the end. Eventually the field was narrowed down to eight semi-finalists and then to the final four. Magnus Bjerland (Charleston Academy) showed the form that had made him clear favourite from the earlier rounds and stormed through to win.

With plenty of time left and the weather steadily improving, the decision was made to run an unscheduled big-air (free-style) contest. A quick radio call unearthed a piste-basher which constructed another "hit" in front of the final boarder-cross roller. With help from Paul Jeremiah of the British junior squad we soon had a big, smooth gap-jump in front of us.

The judges were keen to begin, so practice was limited to one or two jumps

each. Everyone was judged on take-off, magnitude, style and landing. The size of the gap forced us to go big and there were quite a few slams. No one took it too seriously though! Magnus Bjerland won again with a huge front-flip and Euan Southcott and Barry Corbett (both from Strathallan) came second and third respectively with some big, stylish moves.

The Championship had finished but with the skies still clear and the sun breaking through, a small crowd stayed on to practice jumping until the T-bars shut.

The minibuses took us back down to the shores of Loch Morlich where a barbecue had been laid on for competitors. Winners were announced and prizes presented. Charleston and Grantown shared the top boarder-cross places and Strathallan finished a strong third.

The event certainly achieved its aim of raising the profile of snowboarding in Scottish schools, and the fact that so many who were not members of SSSA (or had allowed their membership to lapse) were actively expressing an interest in next year's competition bodes well for the future.

Euan Southcott

SKIERS

Stateside

Novel it certainly was. Prudent it proved to be, for the ten pupils and Chaplain to venture "Stateside" ~ a first-ever for Strathallan pupils, boys and girls ~ for the January skiing trip. Europe was devoid of snow. The Western Seaboard (Colorado et al) had balmy weather but the East suffered "The Blizzard of '96" as all the TV newscasters and weathermen termed it. The day after we arrived, Washington, New York and Boston ground to a halt beneath six feet of snow, and so it continued ("... both day and night. Nowell! Nowell!").

The blizzard just 'clipped' us, but the temperatures eclipsed even the West of Scotland's levels of -22° only a few days before. We endured three days of -45°. Flying from Glasgow to Boston (via JFK) over the Outer Hebrides, Southern Greenland and the wastelands of Canada to Killington, USA, our arrival at the base station 'Snowshed' (aka Snowflake/drop) at 9.00am was greeted by mysteriously-clad skiers, neoprene masks covering noses, mouths and necks, goggles shielding eyes and hats protecting heads and ears.

"What wimps!" cried our spiritual adviser, "They should ski in Scotland."



Euan Southcott on his knees

At 10.15, after two runs, the entire Strath Team descended on "Snowshed/flake/drop" to buy, yes, face masks, turtle-necks, hand warmers and boot warmers. Even when it became warmer (-30° and, better still, -27°) hand and boot warmers were the first purchase of each day.

Our induction into American culture was relatively skin-deep - breakfasts: maple syrup with waffles; cholesterol-friendly bacon; supper: *The Great Fish Soup* in a certain bowl which resembled the widow of Zarapheth's oil jar (the boys and girls surreptitiously replenishing a certain adult's bowl with the contents of theirs, when he wasn't looking); the memorable visit to the nearest liquor store (involving a bus journey of 35 minutes) deserted by the young who were beginning to display the first signs of hypothermia after waiting at the bus stop for ten minutes in breath-grabbing and face-freezing sub-Arctic temperatures; and, of course, American TV with its appallingly bad "chat shows", news bulletins that devoted ten seconds to President Mitterand's death and fifteen minutes to traffic jams at rush hour on the Interstate Highway.

And the skiing? The snow-making facilities were gargantuan. Piste preparation perfection. Queues quiescent (on the few occasions that more than ten people were waiting in them); Snowboard parks with *waffles, loaves*, and all that attracts the "dodgy boarders" (*unquote*) sublime. Our exploration into the "Fusion Zones" (unpisted forests with trees two feet apart) brought the following comment from an expert skier: "Rev! As if there weren't enough dangers inherent in skiing and we find ourselves in here!" The Black and double Black Diamond runs on "Bear Mountain" and even "Outer Limits" were a joy for the mogul-bashers and challenging enough for the others who skied the well-groomed left-hand side of the pistes. Almost all the party went snowboarding on one day and *most* succeeded, though "Racer's Edge" was better on skis. Nevertheless, the snow flakes and mogul mice were around, catching not just the wary but also the unwary.

The classic American conclusion to a conversation was echoed by us all as we just managed to find one clear runway at Boston for departure: "Have a good day." We had nine good days. It is rumoured that Canada is on the cards for January 1997.

Struan Cochrane

Austria

This season's Austrian Ski Trip in March was noteworthy for the phrases it engendered before, during and after the trip, as well as for the cunning stunts on the slopes.

Originally it was "Ski Kitzbuhel - 1996" but having "surf'd the Internet" [www.anorak.co.uk] the snow reports proved dismal in the extreme. With a month to go, a change of resort was speedily negotiated. It was to be Zell am See *aka* "Zell am Zee/Kaprun", one thousand and ten metres higher than Kitzbuhel, and had glacier skiing. With ten days to go it was 'all change' from an hotel to sole occupancy of a chalet with sauna, solarium, stuberl and the pokiest room for 'His Sublime Reverenceness' whilst the Captain of School luxuriated in his large double en-suite palace.

Countdown, minus 36 hours, the Captain of skiing, fresh from his BASI success, reneged and went off to Avoriaz, leaving the disparate party of twelve (two Third Formers, one Fourth, two Fifth, five Lower Sixth and one Upper Sixth plus 'himself') to assemble at Glasgow Airport where the fun began - one missing passport, one ticketless pupil ... Would Chris Roberts survive his solitary journey from Gatwick South?

"Attitude Check? Oi!" resounded loud and clear myriad times and in myriad places. It was enough to make the wayside Coke machines disgorge their cans. Even Robin Wallace's 'Dwarf buses' trembled then stopped for the Strath party *aka* Glennie whether at a 'Dwarf bus' stop or not.

Our chalet-persons, Lesley and Duncan (formerly of "Here's one I made earlier") succumbed to the Wands' wiles, ceased attempting to clean rooms and bowed to the inevitable: buffet breakfasts, self-service, (full marks to the Willies for the microwaved scrambled eggs) at 7.00am. We were, after all, there for the skiing/snowboarding.

The Kitzsteinhorn Glacier, though not terribly challenging - possessing only one short black run - proved to be our salvation. There was an off-piste bowl which the boarders frequented, frequently! And there was a terrifying mile-long walk through a tunnel, emerging onto what we were assured by "November India Charlie Kilo" was the blue run, but with a runaway ski and a sheer drop of 2,000 metres, the oldest member of the party and Max (he with the runaway ski) declined the offer and returned, via the sewage pipes, to safer

territory.

"Over and Out!"

"Bravo Alpha Zulu, it is 'Zulu' not 'Zebra'!"

"State your position."

It was an inspired move to have radios with us. Firstly, on the Tuesday when mist and snow hit us, the Strath party were safely talked down off the hill. Secondly, when the senior group went off to ski Zell we were able to maintain radio contact across the Valley, 35 kms away. Thirdly, as the senior party had discovered, there were radio blind spots in Zell.

Our last day - the extra one - proved to be the *creme de la creme*. Up to our thighs in dry, deep, devastatingly desirable powder. Max and Charles were observed skiing backwards. The Boarders were in their element. The sun shone, and all gave vent to their sno/skiing/riding aspirations. Ewen, having sold his own and the Rev's ski passes to some unsuspecting skiers in the Bus Park, we left to pack, break Easter eggs, re-allocate hair brushes, combs and shampoo and to muse upon the non-events: the Church Service which we all raced to attend - which wasn't; the Quiz Night which was definitely dodgy and the infamous night visit to Zell which zapped all.

For the snow, sun and silliest arrangements, whereby the first missing passport became the second, and for pinging the pingers, without a doubt this was the best.

Richard Wands

Christopher Wands

Nick Morley

ORIENTEERING

This year has seen an attempt to introduce the Fourth Form to the skill of orienteering. Despite using implements of torture such as map, compass and the weather we have failed to lose any pupils but have been successful in giving most a better idea about the purpose of a compass, if not how to use one!

Next year will see the opportunity for pupils to develop the skills they have acquired and for new Fourth Formers to attempt to master the simultaneous physical and mental challenge that this demanding sport requires.

JMH

STRATHALLAN CLAY PIGEON CLUB

The 4th Scottish Schools' Championship took place at Castlandhill Farm, North Queensferry, on Sunday, 15 October. The BASC sponsored event was organised by Donnie Allan. The competition involved five stands of sporting clays which tested all the teams. Strathallan had three teams in the event. Mike Smith and Struan Cochran (both Ruthven Upper Sixth) and Mark Lowe (Nicol Lower Sixth) were the Senior A Team, while the B Team was Matthew Morley (Nicol Lower Sixth) along with Richard Wands and Tom Hayward (both Freeland Lower Sixth and Fifth Form respectively). The Junior Team comprised Mike Wilson and Andrew Potter (both Ruthven Third Form) and Gavin Baillie (Nicol Third Form). The Strathallan A Team pipped the Junior Team to the overall prize with the Senior B Team finishing 4th. Individual prizes went to Gavin Baillie as Junior High Gun and Mike Wilson as runner-up. Strathallan's success was down to the hard work and training of both the boys and John Lascelles (Shooting Sports) at Balmachie. John Lascelles (OS left '78) provided all the cartridges and coaching on the day of the competition. John's shooting ground is set to be Strathallan's home venue, now that clay shooting is an official minor sport.

John Lascelles continued his generous support for the School by sponsoring a Midlands Independent Schools' Competition and a Prep Schools' Competition for the Spring and Summer Terms. The Senior Competition was planned for 17 April at Balmachie but unfortunately the weather caused its postponement until the start of the Summer Term. On the day, three teams from Glenalmond and one from Dollar joined three from Strathallan in a 50 bird competition of both sporting and skeet targets. Strathallan B won the Senior Competition with Chris Wands replacing Tom Hayward, while an unchanged Junior Team won the Junior Competition.

Four Prep Schools braved the appalling weather conditions to take part in the inaugural event: Belhaven Hill, Croftinloan, Loretto Nippers and the hosts, Riley House from Strathallan. Although the rain was virtually non-stop, it did ease from the persistent and torrential downpour of the morning. All the competitors showed a praiseworthy attitude to the conditions and the scores from all were very good in the windy conditions. The competition was cut to 25 sporting bird targets and the best three scores from each school went forward to the Team Competition. This allowed

everyone to compete and have a chance of registering a good score for the team event.

Croftinloan brought a group of four shooters and their best three shots combined score was 27; Belhaven Hill had nine pupils and were 3rd overall with a score of 35; Loretto's team of three were 2nd with a total of 39 and Riley won the event with a score of 45. The individual High Gun Competition was won by Lawrence Court from Riley, with an excellent score of 18 out of 25. The other Riley competitors were Ross Sutherland, Allan Hay, Joseph Watson, Robert Hawkes, David C Stewart and David R

Stewart.

I would especially like to thank John and Vivian Lascelles who again supplied the prizes, the venue and all the equipment that Riley used, as well as the expert coaching of Stuart Elder.

With a new School range opening next term (again supported by John Lascelles) and three boys being asked to go forward to Scottish selection shoots, the future of the sport at the School looks sound. Mr Wands and I now look forward to next term when we defend our Scottish Schools' crown.

PMV



Midlands Independent Schools Clay Pigeon Competition: Junior Winners



Midlands Independent Schools Clay Pigeon Competition: Senior Winners

Phil Shore started the year as our SSI, but has now gained a TA commission, (one of the first to do so from the PT Corps). He now takes over the positions of: Training Officer, Adjutant and Unit Security Officer. As you can see, we are using his talents to good effect.

The SSI slot has been filled by TQSM Tam Lindsay (Black Watch) who has taken over responsibility for all stores from Mr Ian Eades, who has earned himself a well deserved retirement. This allows us to streamline the stores organisation as well as giving much needed technical support to the armoury and magazine.

We have at last been allocated a RN Parent establishment, 45 Commando Brigade RM Condor and welcome Major Hugh Worth RM as our Parent Establishment Liaison Officer (PELO). We look forward to a fruitful relationship.

We welcomed S/Lt Mark Ashmore into the Navy section and he has managed to set up a Diving Section within the RN Section for Sixth Form pupils with the help of Ian Ross as our British Sub Aqua Club Instructor.

We also welcome back S/Lt Adrian Phillips from Birkenhead School and he will take over the Pre-Marines Section of the RN section (a section he founded previously).

On a more internal matter, the School has now re-organised the Wednesday afternoon activity period and we are thankfully back to a whole afternoon for the CCF. Also, at Fourth Form level, we mean to pool staff resources for Adventure Training Taster courses in the Autumn Term.

The Army section had a good camp in North Wales and only managed to damaged one member of staff. (A low level missile in the car park, I believe!) Unfortunately, the greenfield Navy camp could not happen due to Pentaren, our 18' launch being taken out of service for a major yard refit. Gladly, she is back with us now and is fully seaworthy. 1996/97 should see some exciting training for all sections and with cadets going to Cyprus and hopefully Germany, we may even manage a trip to Norway in the not too distant future.

By the time this is in print, Commodore Duncan Ellon RN (NROSNI) will have conducted our biennial review and presented a small token of our appreciation to Ian Eades, who was our storeman who liked to issue things and managed to get them back again! Ian, our sincere thanks.

CNW

The term was hardly under way and the new Recruits were still working out how to put on their uniforms, when the Senior Section were off to Cultybraggan for another Highland Cadet Tactical Competition (HCTC). This year's team were relatively inexperienced, led by Cpl Robert Dundas, who had only been on one of these competitions as a reserve. The commitment and enthusiasm displayed by the team during the week-end was commendable and although they finished quite low down in the competition, the experience gained will stand them in good stead for next year. (I believe some are actually training during the School holidays!)

The new Recruit intake was smaller than in previous years, but those pupils who did opt for the Army Section did not lack enthusiasm and energy, with only one actually leaving and five opting to change across to a Pre-Marine intake. Recruit training proved to be difficult, since a large amount of knowledge was required before the Recruits could receive their Army Proficiency Certificates, but there was only limited amount of time available on a Wednesday afternoon. A great deal of progress was made, however, and a successful Range Day took place at Cultybraggan Training Camp. This was then followed by a Recruit Night Exercise which took place on Glenearn Hill.

The training for the Senior Section took on a slightly different look with 36 Cadet Training Team (Perth) taking over from 23 CTT (Stirling). Despite a few early shocks due to the direct approach of the new team, Section members now have a good rapport with their Trainers as they have made the training interesting and varied. 36 CTT have also used their contacts to make available 2 places on a 17-day Cadet Exercise to Cyprus and Egypt (Messrs Bishop and Constable being the lucky recipients). The Senior Army Section have worked tremendously hard this year, with Sgts Scales and Dundas looking after the training of the HCTC Team, Cpls Duncan and Graham-Campbell working hard in preparation for taking over this coming year and L/Cpls Bateman, Crow, Crooks, Constable and Bishop doing continuation training in preparation for Methods of Instruction and possible Leadership Courses later on this year.

We were most fortunate to have the Royal Engineers here, at the end of June, building an Assault Course. They did a great job in providing a small but

demanding facility which can only serve to improve the standard of training available through the CCF.

This year's Summer Camp saw a mass exodus to North Wales to enjoy the delights of Snowdonia. Everyone canoed, climbed, scrambled and caved in the first four days but were still able to muster enough energy for the odd evening trip to the Cinema or Bowling Alley. (Louise Duncan showing signs of a mis-spent youth by emerging as the champion bowler.) The activities on the fifth day were washed out by appalling weather and so, as a last ditch effort, we all had to endure an awful day out at Alton Towers! The sixth day proved to be quite eventful. Firstly, Richard Caves achieved a first by getting 27 staff and pupils up and through Lockwood's Chimney (a Classic Scramble and Chimney climb) and secondly, but on a rather more sombre note, Jackie Higgin bottom broke her ankle, ironically not in the middle of a difficult climb, but in the car park afterwards.

On a lighter note, one of the classic moments of the trip was seeing the faces of the inhabitants of a small Welsh village as they saw seven similar 15/16 year old children getting out of a Previa and apparently having such young looking parents (Mr Shore and Miss Mason)!!

Staffing has changed slightly this year. Lt Mark Higginbottom has been added to the numbers, mainly to give the CCF a greater depth in Outdoor Pursuits experience. We are also grateful to Lt Lee Rick (Bursar's Assistant), who has been lending some valuable experience to the training on Wednesday afternoons as well as helping cover week-end competitions and night exercises.

Plans are well under way for this year's Biennial Inspection which happens just before half term and for next year's Summer Camp, which hopefully will take place in Germany and should involve some work with Helicopters and Armoured vehicles.

My thanks go to all the members of the CCF for their hard work this year and to all the staff who have given up a lot of their own time to make sure that things have gone well.

Finally, and on behalf of everyone involved with the CCF, I would like to say farewell and thanks to Ian Eades for all the hard work that he has put in over the years in keeping the store and equipment in such a good state. His commitment to the CCF has been invaluable.

PS

FEAR!

Have you ever been alone, and frightened?

I sat down with a squelch. The oozing mud seeped into my clothes, but I didn't care; I was wet enough already. Now I had an hour of sentry duties before I could clamber into my rotting sleeping bag and attempt to get a little bit of sleep.

I thought back to the start of the exercise. Excitedly I had got my things together at school the night before: sleeping bag, bungees, rope, poncho sheet, rations, hexamine cooking stove, mess tins, gloves, waterproofs and spare clothing to name but a few.

The next day, I hectically got the last things together before donning my kit, like some medieval knight of old. Soon I was up at the Combined Cadet Force parade ground. The cold, harsh, black gravel brought back memories of drill; marching back and forth in front of a demon of a drill instructor. I often wondered as I paced along under the hammering sun, concentrating like an Olympic sprinter at the starting blocks on my timing and position, how he ever got out of hell in the first place. There we were split into two groups, one British, and one the supposed 'enemy'. The 'enemy' set off and we received our briefing. I hurriedly jotted down co-ordinates, navigation landmarks and positions. The 'enemy' was expected to attack around 03:00 hrs !

I woke up. The poisonous rain slashed at my upturned face. Where was I? Above me, through the canopy of trees, the morbid clouds scudded low in the screaming wind.

Then I saw the flimsy poncho shelters of my fellow team-mates, tearing at the tent pegs which anchored them to the soggy earth. I had fallen asleep on sentry duty! Instantly I rolled over in the liquid mud and grabbed my 5.56 mm GP Cadet Rifle. What time was it? My watch read 03:24, the attack should have happened by now. The attack! My mind was instantly overcome with fear, fear of being responsible for our impending doom, fear of what the others would say and, most of all, fear of the enemy. My heart leapt, as if trying to break free from the captivity of my rib-cage. My mind raced, trying to find logical answers. Why had I suddenly woken up? What had woken me up? My eyes strained into the gloom ahead to find the enemy. They must be out there. What else could have woken me up? Should I call the CO? What if I was wrong? No, I would stay where I was and search for definite confirmation. Again my eyes stared out into the abyss ahead of me, like

a space telescope probing for new star clusters on the edge of the known universe. Every tree-stump was a crouching person, every wet, glistening stick a gun barrel, every sinister shadow someone standing behind a tree. My imagination exploded in an ecstasy of images. I got a sickening sinking feeling of being totally blind to the satanic watchers all around me. My nerves drew as taught as an anchor chain in a hurricane, reaching a climax of terror.

Then all the watchers broke free from the captivity of their senior officers.. The dark, gloomy wood was instantly lit up by the irregular muzzle-flashes of enemy guns. Amid the chaos and confusion I sub-consciously cocked the rifle, bringing a round from the magazine to the breech. I made a futile attempt to repel the invaders, firing hopefully into the gloom. I did not need to wake the others, the enemy did that for me. Already people were scrambling out of the shelters, instantly wide-awake, guns in hand. I quickly got down to the task of repelling the other team, adrenaline hammering through my blood-stream. The rhythm of cocking and firing came as second-nature.

Then, with a clunk the gun stopped working altogether. A jam! Instantly I performed the Emergency Action Drill to make the weapon safe. The enemy were all over us as I fumbled frantically trying to free the two rounds that were simultaneously trying to enter the firing block. Meanwhile the unnerving clatter of the fight continued around me. By now the other team were swarming like termites into our camp, overrunning the shelters which were quickly torn down.

The call came, "Retreat!" and I picked up my jammed gun, now nothing more than a metal dead-weight, before painfully getting to my feet and sprinting off into the darkness. I kept on running, pounding, struggling to get as far as possible away from my fear, a fear that stuck with my every stride. The distant popping ebbed away as the fight subsided, the enemy the victor. Now my fear was of another sort, that of failure and feeling the whole mess was my fault, I plodded off towards the first hopeful rays of a sun that was clawing its way up the black, lifeless sky.

Edward Phillips



New Assault Course builders with 39 Regiment Royal Engineers

This year has been a funny mix of activity - some of our cadets were extremely busy and made a tremendous effort to obtain their Power-Boat Certificate Level 2, qualifying them to drive power-boats and instruct other cadets in the handling of such craft. Congratulations to Alex, Douglas, Gus, Johnny and Kirsty - well done. Some younger members of the boating section also made a lot of progress and are likely to qualify in the very near future.

Sub-Lieutenant Ashmore has now joined the Section and will take on the newly-formed Diving Division which will be open to all members of the Naval Section, but will not turn away volunteers from the Marines. Likewise, the power-boats will be accessible to any member of the Marine Detachment who wishes to be trained up to the necessary level of proficiency to handle power-boats.

Lt Philips will rejoin the Section after a year's absence and we are delighted to welcome him back. He has volunteered to take on the Pre-Marines/Navy Recruits and will be assisted in this task by two RN NCOs.

I would like to say a sincere "thank you" to Mr Wilson who has again given up his time and has worked like a Trojan in his role as Captain Walker's Assistant. The two of them never tired in their efforts to get the boats ready and keep them running - only occasionally beaten by adverse weather conditions. May I also take the opportunity to thank CPO Kay who has again assisted us most ably and has provided us with many vital items of equipment.

KG



Sub-Lieutenant Ashmore

Writing the report on the RM Detachment, I am often strangely aware of the fact that this report presents things only from my point of view and that the 'lads' who make it all possible don't seem to have much of a voice in it.

With this in mind, I asked a few members of the Detachment to jot down some ideas - what they thought of the RM, of our work in the Detachment, of the things we had done over the last year. The accounts which follow are unchanged (except for some standardisation of spelling) and will, I hope, explain why I enjoy working with boys of this calibre.

Marine 1:

"To me, the most appealing thing about the Marines is the trust and friendship that is built from the many tasks set for us, from basic drill to pond crossings, and from ambushing tactics to brewing up on night exercises. Rarely is anyone a loner and where one goes another follows. Every order is carried out to the bitter end, no matter how brutal or simple. Being able to stand back and watch how everyone co-operates with each other when a little team effort is needed, you can really see how we are so effective as a group.

Marine 2:

The Marines are a great laugh, with a serious theme. I mean, how many people would be taken seriously when they say they deliberately got hypothermia crossing the School pond? The atmosphere is always humorous and no-one's left out. The highlight of the Marines is when a top notch comes to see the Corps and he/she always praises the Marines. This is a definite morale booster which makes everyone work even harder. The one thing which makes the Marines so successful is that everyone does their work with great pride, which is a recipe for success."

Marine 3:

"The Marines, a corps where the keen, fit and dedicated guys are always found. The tight corps leads to a place where achievement, success and fun is always found and it is fun like absailing down a massive viaduct that keeps us keen. On a warm, sunny day we clamber into the minibus, throw in some rope and billets and shoot off to the biggest bridge around! Once there, we set up the kit and hurl ourselves off the safety of the bridge and down into the valley. It is an

experience that is always safe, exciting and useful and it is in the Marine Corps that things like this can be done."

Marine 4:

"We started the year in November with the Pringle Trophy. Having worked hard to cover and revise all the cadet manuals we flew down to Lymptone for a weekend of harsh competition. Down in CTCRM (Cadet Training Corps Royal Marines) we found that the minutes felt like hours, the hours like days and a short weekend turned into a year! In any case, and despite our relatively poor result amongst such high competition, we enjoyed ourselves and learnt a lot from the course. We can only improve for the following year."

Marine 5:

"Throughout this year we have seen the training and steady improvement of yet another set of keen cadets. We saw much enthusiasm and encouragement in the final Marines' test at the end of their course. With an all-pass score the Marines Section has remained as popular as ever and yet another batch of Fourth Form hopefuls have already expressed an interest.

It appears that when maybe other sections of the corps are not so popular, the Marines Section is as always thriving. I often wonder - up to my neck in cold, muddy pond water, or submerged in the Lymptone sheep dip - why this is. One has to join to find out."

I would also like to mention some of the people whose support throughout the year has enabled us to do our work as efficiently as possible within the confines of budgets and manpower limitations.

Warrant Officer Bell was the main-stay of this support group and we were sad to say goodbye to him in December 1995. We thank him for all he has done for us and wish him a long and happy retirement. We welcome his successor, Warrant Officer Martin. In the relatively short time that he has spent with us, it has already become clear that we have got ourselves another good 'un here.

May I also thank the ladies in the Sewing room who have, once again, ensured that my lads appear on parade in good order, buttons in place and trousers mended. Finally, a word of thanks to my departing Senior NCO, Neil Telfer, who filled the top slot with tremendous enthusiasm and unflinching effort.

KG

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This year sees the departure of several colleagues and friends who have helped with the scheme over the years: Paul Elliott and Keith Taylor have contributed much to Expedition and First Aid Training; Paul Crosfield has guided many people through their Community Service and John Blore during his brief stay has been a great help with the expedition work while Dougie Elder, our volunteer lifesaving instructor, has put many pupils through Bronze Medallions over the years and now leaves us to marry and move to 'England-shire'. It was good that in his last term with us Nick Morley, Jonathan Goody and Tristan Ranger all passed the Award of Merit as part of their Gold Awards.

As ever, pupils have been able to choose their Skills and Physical Recreations from the wide variety of activities and sports which are available at the School and my thanks go to all those colleagues who have helped with these.

The range of service opportunities has increased this year largely due to the work of the team who organise the Community Service group and those who have been involved in the various fund-raising efforts. As noted above success was also gained in Lifesaving examinations and twenty-four Fourth Formers passed the St Andrews Ambulance Junior First Aid Certificate.

Expeditions have again taken us far and wide and often got us wet. Those involved in the Gold Training in the Lake District will long remember the name Angle Tarn though admittedly only one tent was completely demolished. Five of the same people braved a deluge which would have impressed Noah to complete their Gold expedition on Mull at the end of the Easter holidays. The Summer Half Term found another seven pupils and one duck (from whom Tyrie was inseparable) enjoying slightly better conditions on the island so in total twelve people

successfully completed Gold Assessments. Silver trips went to the Cairngorms and Lochaber with a total of fifteen pupils completing this section of the award. Bronze expeditions near Blair Atholl and Nethy Bridge resulted in twenty-two successful candidates.

Finally, congratulations go to David MacLeod, Kenneth MacKay, Duncan MacDonald, Michael Govind and Nick Morley who gained their Gold Awards; Simon Heslop, Geoffrey Wheeldon, Kirstine Lawson, Alan Senior, Lyndsey MacEachern, Katie Butler and Fiona Nicolson who completed their Silver Awards; and Shaun Buchan, Emma Readman, Jemma Hepworth, Eleanor Wiseman, Tenyon Latter, Alison Hunter, Claire Proctor, Jenny Maxwell, Gillian Armstrong, John Cameron and Stuart Watson who now have their Bronze.

JSB



Gold Medal Winners at Holyrood

MOUNTAINEERING

Over the Easter holidays an inter-school trip, comprising Strathallan and Campbell College, Belfast, was made to Glen Affric near the west coast of Scotland, adjacent to the Five Sisters on the way to Kyle of Lochalsh.

We met on a Friday evening at Loch Lochy Youth Hostel. This provided us with the opportunity to sort out equipment, some of which was brought over to us by the Campbell party.

On Saturday we completed the final leg of the journey in the minibus before heading off into Glen Affric on foot with five days' food plus all the mountaineering equipment. We were staying at Glen Affric Youth Hostel, the most remote Youth Hostel in the UK - a 12 mile walk in.

On our first day we headed off to the top of the highest mountain north of the Caledonian Canal, Carn Eighe at 1169m. A dip and an uphill slog before Carn Eighe was Mam Sodhail where half of the group rested while the other half continued on to Carn Eighe.

On Monday we aimed for a ridge route from Mul lach Fraoch Chorie on to A'Chralaig. However, we only made it to the top of Mulach Fraoch Chorie because of adverse snow and ice conditions on a narrow pinnacle-crested ridge.

We took our last day at the Youth Hostel quite easy, by only going up a small ridge not far from our base, from Beinn-an t-Socaich to Sgurr-nan Caethreamhnan.

On Wednesday we walked out through the Gates of Glen Affric with weary bodies, some more so than others, but we all had had a great time. The weather was generally uncharacteristically good to us, allowing us to take pictures with an 'alpine' feel to them.

Robert Dundas

The Strathallan Mountaineering Club lived up to the reputation of its more illustrious initials with a wide range of expeditions to various crags and mountains.

After a day's snow and ice training with Mr Caves in the frozen wastes of Glenshee, an elite party of Nicks Scales and Morley, Simon Heslop and Robert Dundas enjoyed swirling mist and near perfect snow conditions on Ben Vorlich and Stuc A'Chroin, via its steep and exciting North ridge. Simon and Robert went on to join Mr Caves in a joint expedition to Glen Affric during the



Duncan Edwards

Easter, again in near perfect conditions.

The Summer Term repaid us with the poor weather we had escaped at Easter, and it was not until late May that the first outdoor rock climbing took place at Dunkeld. In the meantime a challenging development from the school climbing wall, which has stimulated interest throughout the winter, was found at Alien Rock in Edinburgh. With luck, a balmy September will allow the club to keep off the walls as long as possible next term, and its members to continue to learn the many skills that are needed to enjoy this sport safely.

The first mountain trip of the summer saw the Easter group charging around the Ben Lawers ridge with good humour and breakneck speed, and six Munros were ticked (had we been counting; but, of course, we were not) in a very enjoyable (and short!) day.

The second trip of the summer saw a more relaxed but equally pleasant tour of the Ben Cruachan horseshoe, with Jennie Perry, Susan Miller, Lisa Brüderlin, Matt Morley, Ewan Adam, Robert Mawdsley, Graham Tyldesley, Simon Heslop and his walking sticks all enjoying tremendous ridge walking and superb views up to the southern end of Glen Etive.

Having spotted a gap in the good weather, Mr Caves then took a soggy trip to the Aonach Eagach, where Jonathan Goody joined the now seasoned walkers (and Jenny's giant rucksack!) for this outstanding scramble. Despite the fact that Glencoe was the only part of Scotland with bad weather, this day was a resounding success, and a real eye-opener, in every way, to the delights of the Scottish hills.

Unfortunately, the last trip of the year, with a group running the Buachaille Dash, a run across Rannoch Moor, while a second climbed Curved Ridge on the Buachaille itself, had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control; this challenge must await next year.

With many of the club's active members still at the School next year, we look forward to further expeditions, as hopefully more pupils realise that this is not an elitist activity for the very fit, but one for the well-motivated and the natural use of one of Scotland's greatest resources. I don't think the SMC would disapprove.

RCC

SURVIVAL

To sleeping Survival cognoscenti the sound of water cascading through the patchwork roof of 1 Seaview Cottages, Fladda brings instant wakefulness, alertness and three questions: 1) Is it me? 2) Who is getting it this time? 3) Am I next? Sighs of relief, remedial or preventative measures then follow. So sums up the nights of Survival 96. The days were a mixture of mercifully hot drying sunshine and horizontal showers of North Wind-driven ferocity-testing defences, human and shelter, to the utmost and making everyone wish they were somewhere else, even back at School!

As usual, however, everyone and everything survived and, as usual, some better than others. Sea-food Surprise dominated the menu, the surprise element often being the easier and possibly the wiser to identify. The phrase "2 birds with one stone" took on a more fundamental meaning as day after day the hunters took to the hills with the battle cry "We're going to eat like kings!" echoing round the island in much the same way as "Freedom!" recently echoed round UK cinemas. Sorrel and wild garlic grew plentifully, crabs took an average of three days each to catch and the sea was completely empty of fish of any sort. A

whale skeleton, grounded on the island since our last visit, held momentary appeal but we silently 'passed' on the possibility of whalebone soup.

Highlights included the sign of Mr Wands' face, burnt, peeling and unshaven, peering up from under a battered straw hat, as he sat dressed in white towelling bath robe and hiking boots after his daily dip in the North Atlantic, with Mr Glimm, similarly attired in hanky hat and with a roll-up cigarette, sipping a communal cup of lemon and ginger tea as if a pair of Colonial toffs had just popped down from Poona for the week; and the ongoing joke about a fictional floating fish and chip emporium the 'chipper clipper' played on, swallowed by the hapless Heppy - even to the point of his standing on the highest promontory in pouring rain, waving his luminescent waterproof trousers like some latter day Robinson Crusoe, in a vain attempt to lure bemused passing yachts into the bay to sell him 50p worth of chips. The sight of the RNLI minutes later brought anxious consternation to the administration, fearing Heppy had innocently started a major rescue alert. Luckily, this was not the case and he saw the same boat moored in Oban on our return, but by then he had taken his business elsewhere.

A few low points were recorded in people's diaries kept, presumably, in case they didn't make it: Chowny's appalling jokes, discussions of what people would ideally like to eat, apart from Chowny, the rapid and long-lasting change from being warm and dry to the exact opposite when the roof leaked, the difficulty of getting wet wood to burn and, of course, the poor eyesight of those aboard the 'chipper clipper'.

Most agreed there were worse ways to spend a week. Some of us were glad to lose weight, catch up on some sleep and know there were no nasty letters from the Bank Manager lying on the bracken carpet to greet us in the morning. We were a happy group and while waiting for the pick-up boat we tried one last wind-up and told them we had miscalculated by 24 hours and the boat wasn't coming - they all laughed. The joke was on us, for once - previous groups would have eaten us!

A Survivor

Survivors:

Ewan Adam, Andrew Chown, Lesley Crow, Alan Gibson, Kirsty Glimm, Jonathan Hepworth, Alex McMillan, Steven Scales, Neil Telfer, Tyrie Turner. Christopher and Richard Wands, AJHW and KG.



Prize winning drawing by Finlay Nicolson

THE LEAVERS

We do indeed have a sense of unity, albeit a vaguely Yugoslavian one. The various factions in our year are known to all - but for those in doubt as to which group they belong, why not try this quick and revealing quiz to find out if you are a Bufter, Beesh, Mellow - or other.

Sport is for you ?

- a) somebody else's problem
- b) life
- c) a form of aggression
- d) other

Did you -

- a) refuse to buy
- b) fail to notice
- c) write
- d) feature heavily in
- the yearbook ?

Who would you most aspire to spend your time with?

- a) Bob Marley (if available)
- b) Gavin Hastings / Mr Ball / The Connells
- c) Carl Cox
- d) others

Where would you go for a good time?

- a) a "peachy sesh" in the Library
- b) Big Acre
- c) The Barn
- d) Thornbank

How would you describe your taste of music?

- a) tribal/hardcore
- b) The Carpenters
- c) OASIS (just to be different)
- d) other

Do you have more than one tie/stripe?

- a) don't be stupid
- b) yes, 2
- c) yes, 3-4
- d) I've lost count

The grass is green. Do you ... ?

- a) roll on it
- b) chuck a ball about on it
- c) sit on it
- d) burn it

How would you describe your taste in clothes?

- a) Adidas
- b) sports team influenced
- c) ethnic
- d) other

The quiz does not actually work and has absolutely no marking scheme but, believe us, your answers will have given a good enough indication.

We would like to take this opportunity to praise Nick Morley - you know, the solitary commanding figure at high table. His term as Head of School has been authoritative and productive - but did he really stick drawing pins in the soles of

his shoes to give his strides more definition? Honestly Nick, you need no more definition.

"The yearbook is a concise and thorough summary of our year!" We beg to differ Grunter: there are surely some key prizes that have gone unawarded. Here is a final list of achievements and characters that could not and should not be forgotten.

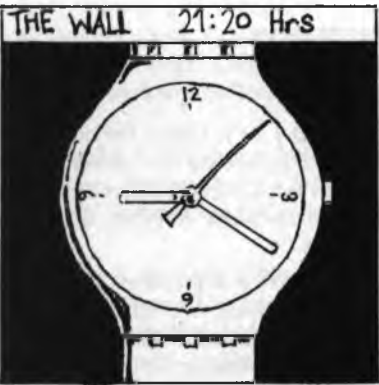
Most likely to

- be a Strath Governor Scuggles
- get out his zoom lens Berbs
- be heard (of) again Sarah
(if she remains in Europe!)
- be worshipped by Robin
women Tammy
- be gagged Cockie

Claire Duckworth and
Amelia Blair Oliphant



Nick Morley aka



VALETE

FREELAND

UVI

BARR J D: Came 1989; I; House Prefect (Colours); Campbell Award; XV; Hockey XI (Colours); Cricket XI (Colours); Australian Tour; Cameleons U16 XI; Midlands U15 XV; Wayfarers U16XI; Junior House Plays, CCF Royal Marines. 41 Station Road, Killearn, G63 9NZ.

CHAPMAN A A: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); History Prize; 1st XI Cricket (Colours); Shooting VIII; 2nd XV Rugby; 1st XI Football; Cross-country Team; Junior House Play; CCF Army. 2242 EL Wassenaar, The Netherlands.

CHRISTIE D G: Came 1990; II; House Prefect (Colours); 2nd XV Rugby; Scottish U16 Squad; Midlands U15 XV; Drumming; Pipe Band; School Plays (Manager). Williamston Farm House, Guildtown, Perth, PH2 6AE.

DUNDAS R W B: Came 1991; III; HM Colours; House Prefect; W Tattersall Art Prize; Badminton Team; 2nd XI Soccer; Tennis; Drummer; Edinburgh Festival; House Plays; D of E Gold; CCF Army UO. Comrie House, Comrie, Perthshire, PH6 2LR.

FINLAY J A R: Came 1990; III; House Prefect (Colours); Hockey XI (Colours); South African Tour; 2nd Rugby XV; 2nd XI Cricket XI; House Plays; CCF Army Corporal. 11 Barnton Avenue West, Edinburgh, EH4 6DF.

HORSFALL R H C: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; MIS Prize; 1st XV (Colours); Midlands XV Captain; President's XV; Hockey XI; 2nd XI Cricket; Hockey Tour Spain; Australian Tour; House Play. Dalchosnie Farm, Kinloch Rannoch, PH15 5QD.

LEE R J G: Came 1994; LVI; House Prefect; School and House Plays. 27 Cleveden Drive, Kelvinside, Glasgow, G12 0SD.

MA L H M: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); Art Exhibition. Flat 4/F 73A, Evergreen Villa, 73A Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

PARKER K R: Came 1989; I; House Prefect (Colours); 1st Cricket XI (Colours); 1st Hockey XV (Colours); 1st XV Rugby (Colours); Hockey Tours: Spain and South Africa; House Plays; CCF Royal Marines. c/o SIPM, EPO/6, Carel van Byandtlaan, The Hague, Netherlands.

ROBERTSON A L: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House; 3rd XV Rugby; 1st XI Soccer; 1st XII Cricket; Basketball; Swimming Team; Land Management. 618 Perth Road, Dundee, DD2 1QB.

SCALES N R M: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; House Colours; Library Prefect; Thomson Salver; 2nd XV Rugby (Captain) (Colours); Athletic Team (Captain) (Colours); Bassoon; D of E Gold; CCF Army UO; Survival Course. Operation Raleigh. 1127 Philip Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, LA 70130, USA.

TELFER N: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; 2nd XV Rugby; 2nd XI Cricket; CCF Royal Marines Sergeant. 7 High Street. Sandhaven, Fraserburgh, AB43 4EQ.

WOOD G C: Came 1989; I; School Prefect; House Colours; German Prize; 1st XV Rugby; Rugby VII; Midlands U18 XV; U15 Hockey XI; Athletics Team; Australian Tour; Pipe Band; House Play; CCF Royal Marines. Buchenstrasse 14, 82402 Seeshaupt, Germany.

V

LAFAYEEDNEY G L: Came 1993; III; Athletics; Chameleons; Choral Society; School Plays; LAMDA; D of E Silver. The Old Rectory, Dupplin Terrace, Perth.

LATTER T F: Came 1992; II; Swimming; Perth Festival; D of E Bronze. 8 Lochside Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8AE.

SMITH M A S: Came 1992; II; Golf; Badminton; Swimming; Saxophone; School Play - Backstage; D of E Bronze; First Aid. 35 Mackenzie Gardens, Brechin, DD9 6DG

NICOL

UVI

ADAM J S: Came 1994; LVI; 2nd XI Soccer; House Play. 3 Park Place, Thornton Hall, Glasgow, G74 5AU.

BURNETT C J: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); 1st XV Rugby (Colours); President's U18 XV; Midsummer XV; 2nd Hockey XI (Captain); Cameleons U16; Athletic team; Swimming Team; Squash Team; Australian Tour; CCF Army L/Cpl; Life Saving. PO Box 43500, Nairobi, Kenya.

FAIRBAIRN S R: Came 1989; I; 2nd XI Hockey; Tennis Team; Violin; Clarinet; String Orchestra; CCF Army. Mosswood, Glenmosston Road, Kilmalcolm, PA13 4PE.

HESLOP S J: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); House Skiing; Canoe-Kayak; Fishing; House Play; CCF Army; D of E Silver; First Aid. Boghead Farmhouse, Johnshaven, By Montrose, Angus, DD10 0PU.

HUNTER M E: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); Shooting Team; Badminton Team; Tennis Team; Swimming Team; Cello; String Orchestra; Jazz Band; Headmaster's Music; CCF Army; D of E Silver. 11 Queensberry Brae, Thornhill, Dumfries, DG3 5AQ.

MACKAY K A: Came 1991; III; House Prefect (Colours); House Play; CCF Army; D of E Gold; First Aid; Life Saving Bronze; Charity Walk. c/o Unocal Corporation, Locked Bag Service No 3, Tampines General Post Office, Singapore.

MAWDSLEY R G S: Came 1991; III; Scottish Schools Athletics Championships; Cross-country; Pipe Band; D of E Silver; First Aid. 239 Queens Road, Aberdeen, AB1 8DL.

McMILLAN G R: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House (Colours); 1st XV Rugby; President's XV; Midlands XV; VII's; Tennis team; Australian Tour; Athletics Team; Swimming Team; Saxophone; CCF Army; D of E Bronze. Upper Curtecan, Chalmers Road, Ayr, KA7 2RQ.

MORLEY N C D: Came 1991; III; Head of School (Colours); 1st XV Rugby; Cross-country Team; Swimming Team; House Skiing; Sailing RYA5; Saxophone; Clarinet; School Play; Headmaster's Music; Orchestra; Jazz Band; Tenor Saxophone; CCF Army; D of E Gold; Life Saving Bronze Instructor; Mountaineering. 9 Burnside Road, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5JL.

PATTERSON D R M: Came 1991; III; Sailing; House Plays; Pipe Band; Creative Writing Prize; CCF Army (MT). Kilchoan, Manor Close, Penn, Bucks, HP10 8HZ.

LVI

SEUME N W: Came 1995; LVI; House Golf; Cricket. 16106 Red Cedar Trail, Dallas, Texas 75248, USA.

RUTHVEN

UVI

BIRD J St J: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; U16 Hockey XI; Cricket XI; Senior House Play; Choral Society; D of E Gold. 51 Comely Bank Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 1ES.

CHOWN A R J: Came 1990; II; School Prefect; 1st Rugby XV (House Colours); President's Trial; 2nd XI Hockey; 2nd XI Cricket; Australian Tour; D of E; CCF Royal Marines. West Lumbennie, Woodriffe Road, Newburgh, Fife, KY14 6EX.

COCHRANE S A: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; 1st XI Rugby; 2nd XI Cricket; Australian Tour; Scottish Schools Clay Pigeon Championship team (Capt). CCF Royal Navy NCO. **Ford Cottage, Ford, Pathhead, Midlothian, EH37 5RE.**

DUNCAN G I M: Came 1992; IV; House Prefect; Choir; Choral Society; Verse Speaking; Senior House Play; Perth Burns' Society winner; D of E Gold. **22 Sauchope Crescent, Crail, Anstruther, KY10 3SW.**

GEMMILL G J: Came 1991; III; Rugby. **8 Dowding Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 6DD.**

GOVIND M P: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; Badminton; PipeBand; Choral Society; D of E Gold; Community Service; CCF Army. **56 St Andrews Road, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray, IV30 3PU.**

KING R S: Came 1994; LVI; House Prefect; Comm. Sports Leader; Climbing; Skiing. c/o ADMA-OPCO, PO Box 303, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

LARKIN P: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; Rugby; Hockey. **1 Roscobie Park, Banchory, Kincardine, AB31 3RE.**

MACDONALD D H: Came 1989; I; Rugby; Orchestra; Oboe; Wind Band; D of E Gold. **Woodlands, Wyvis Drive, Balloch, Inverness, IV1 2HP.**

MACKAY E A: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House; 1st XV Rugby; Midlands, President's XV; Scottish U18 Trial; Basketball Team; Athletics Team; Australian Tour; Saxophone. **58 South Beach, Troon, Ayrshire, KA10 6EG.**

MACLEOD D W: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; 2nd XV Rugby (captain); Midlands U15 XV; U15 Hockey XI; Australian Tour. Orchestra; Violin. **4 Ness Way, Fortrose, Ross-shire, IV10 8SR.**

MARTIN B J M: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; 1st Rugby XV (Colours); Hockey XI South Africa Tour; Australian Tour; Golf Team (Capt), Perth & Kinross Schools' Trophy, Perth & Kinross Team, Scottish Championships. **Galagate House, Norham, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2JZ.**

MIRANDA C A: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; Rugby; Art; CCF Army. **Grey Gables, Station Road, Carrbridge, PH23 3AN.**

SMITH M A W: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; U15 Hockey XI; Athletics Team; Golf Team; CCF pre Royal Marines; Sixth Form Committee. **4 Deams Park, Dunkeld, PH8 0JH.**

WARD J: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; 1st Hockey XI, South Africa Tour; 1st

Cricket XI; Golf Team. **Eastwood, Bellevue, Delgany, Co Wicklow, Ireland.**

LVI

BRETZ K G: Came 1995; LVI; House Badminton; Piano; Running; Canoeing; Scuba Diving; Basketball. **Bodelschwingh Strasse 7b, Cologne 50859, Germany.**

V

BIRD D H M: Came 1993; V; Rugby; 1st XI Hockey; Scottish Chameleons; South Africa Tour; 1st Cricket XI; Pipe Band; Clarinet; Choral Society; House Plays; CCF Royal Marines, Flt Tender. **51 Comely Bank, Edinburgh, EH4 1ES.**

LARKIN C: Came 1991; I; Rugby; U16 Hockey XI; U14 Cricket XI; Golf; Oboe; Drums; Piano; House Play (Backstage); CCF Royal Navy. **1 Roscobie Park, Banchory, Kincardine, AB31 3RE.**

MONCUR C D: Came 1991; I; Rugby; Soccer; Cricket. **3 Broadlands Gardens, West Hill, Aberdeen, AB32 6LB.**

IV

SILVER P L S: Came 1994; III; Rugby; Orchestra; Jazz Band. **Leyden, Kirknewton, Midlothian, EH27 8DQ.**

SIMPSON

UVI

CONNELL R A: Came 1994; LVI; School Prefect; House Colours; 1st XV Rugby (Colours); President's XV; Soccer XI (Colours); Cricket; Basketball; Athletics Team (House Colours); D of E Bronze. **10B Glendale, 10 Deepwater Bay Drive, Hong Kong.**

CONNELL S M: Came 1994; LVI; School Prefect; House Colours; 1st XV Rugby (Colours); SSRY U18 XV; SSRU to South Africa; Athletics Team; Soccer XI Capt. (Colours); Basketball; D of E Bronze. **10B Glendale, 10 Deepwater Bay Drive, Hong Kong.**

HENSMAN H J: Came 1991; III; 1st XV Rugby (Colours), 1st XI Cricket (Colours); 2nd XI Hockey, South Africa Tour; Midsummer XV; Squash Team' CCF Royal Navy; D of E Bronze. **365 Perth Road, Dundee, DD2 1LX.**

HESLOP D S: Came 1988; I; Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Basketball (Colours); Canoeing; Life Saving Medal; South Africa Tour; Pipe Band; D of E Bronze; CCF Royal Navy. **Lorne, 4 Pincrest Circle, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB1 9FN.**

KENNEDY W N: Came 1990; II; House Prefect (Colours). **The Wickets, 14 Donibristle Gardens, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 5NQ.**

McDONALD A R L: Came 1990; II; Basketball; Volleyball; House Tennis. **170 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0LY.**

MILLAR C C: Came 1994; LVI; Rugby; Basketball Team; Soccer XI. c/o The Continental School, PO Box 6453, Jeddah 21442, Saudi Arabia.

MILNE A D: Came 1989; I; House Prefect (Colours); Rugby; 1st XI Hockey; Golf VIII (Colours); House Tennis; Inverness District Golf Team; CCF Royal Navy. **53 Drummond Road, Inverness, IV2 4NU.**

REEKIE A D: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House (Colours); 1st XV Rugby (Colours); President's XV; Cricket; Australian Tour; Junior House Plays; CCF Royal Navy; Sixth Form Committee. **Auldwell, Blebo Craigs, By Cupar, Fife, KY15 5UF.**

SCOTT B M P: Came 1990; II; House Prefect (House Colours); 2nd XV Rugby; Soccer XI (Capt. Colours); 1st XI Cricket; Golf Team; CCF Royal Navy. **Balnaha, Fearn, Ross-shire, IV20 1TN.**

WALKER L R: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Deputy Head of House (Colours); 1st XV Rugby (Capt. Colours); President's XV; Scottish U18 Rugby; Squash Team; Australian Tour; Scottish Schools' Athletics (Shot and Discus) (Colours); Pipe Band; CCF Royal Marines. **3 Vantage, Dairsie, Cupar, KY15 4RT.**

V

NEIL R A: Came 1995; V; **Wayside Cottage, The Causeway, Carlton, Bedfordshire, MK43 7LU.**

IV

TRAYNER G P H: Came 1994; III; Ski Team; Scottish Ski Team; U15 Rugby XV; U15 Cricket XI; U16 Hockey XI; Golf; Athletics; Soccer; Tennis; Drums; CCF pre Royal Marines). **Dunnottar House, 3 Church Lane, Ladybank, Fife, KY7 7LY.**

THORNBANK

UVI

BAILLIE J A: Came 1991; III; Ski Team; Tennis Team; Edinburgh Festival Verse Speaking; Keyboard; Cirencester & Notts University Courses: Countryside and Veterinary. **Colliston, Glenfarg, Perth; PH2 2PE.**

BARKER K: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; Hockey; Lacrosse Team; Rounders Team; House Play. **11 Kingseat Road, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 0DE.**

BUCHANAN K: Came 1989; I; House Prefect (Colours); Hockey XI; Barbados Tour; Orchestra; Choir; Choral Society; Cello; Piano; House Play Backstage. **The Village, Dunbeath, Caithness, KW6 6EB.**

BURR K M H: Came 1991; III; Ski Team; Badminton Team; Rounders Team; Orchestra; Choir; Clarinet; Edinburgh Verse Speaking; Headmaster's Music; Wind Band; LAMDA; D of E Bronze; French Exchange. **Newbarns, 18 Mainholm, Ayr, KA6 5HE.**

HALLIDAY C M: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; Netball Team (Colours); Hockey; Clarinet; Edinburgh Festival Competition; House Play; D of E Bronze. **Bellevue, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 4DH.**

HOLLIDAY Z N R: Came 1994; House Netball; Piano; House Play Director; D of E Bronze. **Mauchline Castle, Ayrshire, KA5 5BU**

LAWSON K G: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House; Hockey XI; Cross-Country; Athletics Team; Rounders Team; Lacrosse Team; Ireland Hockey Tour; Piano; Organ; Edinburgh Festival Verse Speaking; House Plays; CCF Army (Sgt); HCTC; German Exchange; D of E Gold. **The Beeches, Kippen, Stirling, FK8 3JB.**

MacDONELL C L: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; House Colours; 2nd Team Netball (Capt); Orchestra; Choir; Violin; Harp/Clarsach - Perth Festival; Drama - Edinburgh Competition; Headmaster's Music; School Play. **Am Fasgadh, Ferintosh, Conon Bridge, IV7 8TA.**

MATHESON J C: Came 1989; I; School Prefect; Hockey XI (Captain); Hockey Tours Barbados and Ireland; Athletics Team (Colours); Cross-country Team; Choral Society; House Plays; Editor Strathallian; D of E Bronze; CCF Army (Cpl); HCTC. **2 Uplands Drive, Oxshott, Surrey, KT22 0JD.**

McMULLAN L A: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; Choral Society; D of E Bronze; CCF Royal Navy;. **22 Bucklerburn Drive, Peterculter, Aberdeen, AB1 0XJ.**

MURRAY S L: Came 1994; LVI; Hockey XI (Captain; Colours); Tennis Team (House Colours); Hockey tour to Ireland; D of E Silver. **Thornton Park, Thornton Hall, Glasgow, G74 5AG.**

NICOLSON F C: Came 1990; II; House Prefect; 2nd Hockey XI; Lacrosse Team; Piano; Flute; Choral Society; House

Plays; CCF Army (LCpl); HCTC; D of E Bronze; Silver. **Tigh na Bruich, Forgebraehead, Canonbie, DG14 0SZ.**

SOAVE N M C: Came 1994; LVI; Hockey; Tennis Team; Teaching Ri & III Form Netball. **Lacorna, Kinfauns Castle Gardens, Perth, PH2 7JZ.**

V

GRAY A: Came 1993; III; Swimming; Canoeing; Wind-surfing. **Ardneil Hotel, 51 St Meddans Street, Troon, Ayrshire.**

GRIFFITHS C R C: Came 1993; III; Hockey Team; Tennis Team; Athletics Team; House Play, Japanese Society. **Dornoch Lodge, Highlandman, Crieff, PH7 3QL.**

YOUNG N A: Came 1991; I; 2nd Hockey XI; Swimming Team; Tennis Team; Piano; Flute; Choral Society; House Play. **Greenacres, Forgandenny, Perthshire.**

IV

WALLACE G R: Came 1993; III; Junior Swimming Team; Piano; School and House Plays Backstage; **Castle Hill, Longforgan, DD 2 5EU.**

WOODLANDS

UVI

BLAIR OLIPHANT A C K: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; Head of House (Colours); Fulton Prize; Shooting A Team (Captain) (Colours); Scotland v Ireland, England, Channel Isles, Germany, Britain Cricket XI (Vice Captain); Netball XI (Captain) (Colours); Fife U16 Netball (Captain); Tennis Team; Curling; Singing; School Plays; Verse and Bible Speaking Perth & Edinburgh; House Plays (Directing and Acting); Debating Society President. **Arblair Castle, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6SA.**

BRUCE M J: Came 1989; I; House Prefect; Hockey XI Barbados Tour; Athletics Team; Lacrosse Team; Edinburgh Drama Competition; Debating; House Play. **c/o Standard Chartered Bank, PO Box 186, Bandar Seri Begawan 1901, Negara, Brunei, Darussalam.**

DUCKWORTH C L: Came 1991; III; Moffat Prize; House Colours; Athletics Team; Lacrosse Team; Junior Netball Team; Clarinet; Guitar; D of E Bronze; Top of the Form (Captain). **Dundarroch, Finty, By Glasgow, G63 0YD.**

ELLIOTT N: Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; D of E Gold. **c/o Strathallan School.**

FALCONER L M: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; Tennis Team; Junior Netball Team; Senior Badminton Team; House Play; D of E Bronze; CCF Royal Navy. **Dail Na Coille, 21 West Moulin Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5EA.**

HODGSON K L: Came 1989; I; School Prefect; Deputy Head of House; Hockey XI Dublin, South Africa; Midlands U16 Hockey XI; Swimming Team; Athletics Team; Tennis Team; Choral Society; House Plays; D of E Bronze; CF Royal Navy. **High Barn, Farlam, Brampton, Cumbria, CA8 1LA.**

KERRY E K: Came 1991; III; IV Lacrosse Team and Badminton Team; Junior House Play; Piano. **The Beehive, Dolphinton, By West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HH.**

LAMONT F J: Came 1995; LVI; House Prefect; House Play; House Choir and solo. **Craigview, Abernethy, Perthshire.**

RANKIN W L: Came 1991; III; House Prefect; Rounders Team; Netball Team (Colours); Tennis Team; House Skiing Team; Choir; Choral Society; Piano; House Play; Art; D of E Bronze Paramedic; CCF Royal Navy. **12 Hamilton Place, Perth, PH1 1BB.**

ROSS H M: Came 1991; III; School Prefect; House Colours; Netball Team; Fife U16 Team, Scottish Team; Cricket XI; Tennis Team; Athletics Team; Flute; House Plays; D of E Bronze. **Daltonburn, Dalton, Lockerbie, DG11 1DT.**

SCOTT H F: Came 1990; II; RAF Flying Scholarship; House Colours; Cross-country Team (Scottish Schools); Hockey 2nd XI (Captain); Athletics Team (House Colours); House Skiing Team; Vitrix Ludorum; Clarinet; Jazz Band; Junior House Plays; Choral Society; D of E Gold; CCF Army (Sgt). **Hadley, Prieston Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3AW.**

STEVENS T E: Came 1991; III; House Colours; Hockey XI (Indoor Colours); Perth and Edinburgh Festivals; House Plays; CCF Royal Navy. **c/o 18 Cott Green Road, Tweedbank, Galashiels, Selkirkshire, TD1 9EP.**

STEWART H E: Came 1994; V; House Plays. **Tofthill, Glencarse, Perth, PH2 7LS.**

SWINN H J: Came 1989; I; House Prefect (Colours); Swimming Team (Captain); Tennis Team; Piano; Flute; House Plays; Verse Speaking Edinburgh Festival; Year Book; Community Service. **c/o Mailroom (Mail for the Philippines), Coats Viyella plc, 28 Saville Row, London, W1X 2DD.**



Amelia Blair Oliphant's farewell

WATSON E A: Came 1992; IV; House Prefect; Librarian; Chemistry and Maths Prizes; Fencing (Captain); Flute; Organ; House Plays; D of E; 1st Aid. 5 Winn Court, 1 Winn Road, Southampton, SO17 1UZ.

WILSON A C: Came 1990; II; House Prefect (Colours); Grandison and Barr Music Prizes; Junior Rounders and Netball; Badminton Team; Orchestra; String Orchestra; Messiah; Choir; Gael Choir; Choral Society; School and House Choirs; Piano; Viola; Double Bass; Instructor Riley Music; Headmaster's Music; D of E Bronze; CCF Army (Cpl). Rockdale Cottage, Kinfauns, Perth, PH2 7SZ.

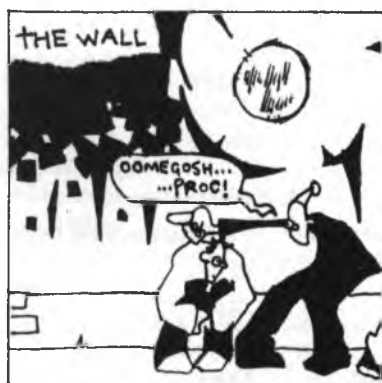
LVI

BRUDERLIN L H: Came 1995; Piano, Perth Festival. Blumenthalstrasse 15, D50670 Cologne, Germany.

V

ARMSTRONG G S: Came 1995; Hockey XI Ireland Tour; Tennis Team; Piano; D of E Bronze. Firlands, Upper Colquhoun Street, Helensburgh, G84 9AQ.

KERR G S F: Came 1993; III; Hockey, Junior Tennis Team; Athletics Team; School Play; Flute; Saxophone; Singing. Twomerkland, Moniaive, Thornhill, Dumfries, DG3 4EN.



Magazine cartoons by Nick Dalley

STRATHALLIAN CLUB

PRESIDENT J MICHAEL LOW

Michael attended Strathallan in Nicol House from 1952-56 where he achieved success in shooting and athletics.

After a short period in industry he joined the Glasgow stockbroking firm of Campbell Neill & Co., becoming a Partner and director of that company, but he is now an Associate Director of Tilney & Co. and his career in broking has spanned over thirty years.

A past Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners, he is also a member of the Incorporation of Bonnet Makers and Dyers and has served with great diligence, making valuable contributions over many years to these important Glasgow Trades.

For summer relaxation, Michael can be spotted most weekends on the Clyde on his yacht *Wind of Gare*. He is Commodore of the Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club and a Steward and Convenor of the Royal Northern Yacht Club. In the winter months he engages in pheasant shooting with a local syndicate.

Michael is married to Patricia and they have a daughter, Frances who attended Strathallan from 1985-1992. They live a Shandon, Dumbartonshire.



FOR SALE:



Nick Du Boulay

New Old Strathallian Ties, Pure Silk, broad gold and navy diagonal stripes	£15.50
Original Old Strathallian Ties (multiple badge)	£7.00
Old Strathallian Scarves	£15.50
Old Strathallian Cufflinks (double ovals with enamelled stripes)	£9.00
School Sweatshirts with embroidered badge M L XL sizes	£15.00
Box of 6 melamine Placemats (black on white: 6 different views of Strathallan)	£18.00
Melamine Cheeseboard (black on white: School from Lawn)	£7.00
Coasters (black on white melamine with School Crest)	£1.50 each or 6 for £8.00
Blue leather Key-ring with Crest in gold	£1.00
Black leather Key-ring with enamelled Crest	£2.00
Tiny Crest on Pin Badge	£2.00
Print of School (view from Lawn) by T J Macleod	£2.00
All including postage. Apply to Matron at School.	

Golf Umbrella - gold, navy and royal panels - navy School Crest on one gold panel (Personal collection only from Matron)	£16.00

STRATHALLIAN CLUB NEWS

ALLINGHAM M J de G (1983): Michael is teaching at Fettes College and, once again, played cricket for Scotland.

BARLAS A D (1979): Alasdair is farming in Aberdeenshire and his brother, Richard is in property development.

BEATON-BROWN P C (1985): Congratulations to Butch who married Caroline Villaar in June 1996.

BELL K née SCANLON (1985): Congratulations on the birth of her third son, Max, on Christmas Eve 1995.

BINNIE A G (1986): Andrew is working at Harrods as the Food Safety Advisor to the Chairman, responsible for managing all the Quality Assurance and operations of all twenty-three restaurants

CAMPBELL A D K (1989): has retired from the RAF active list. He is now RAF Regional Liaison Officer for the South West Counties based at RAF Lyneham.

CLAYTON G V F (1984): Jenny and Guarin had a son, Jamie, on December 8th 1995.

CLAYTON L (1987): Congratulations on Lara's marriage to Tim Bryant. The wedding took place in the School Chapel on 27 July 1996 and amongst those present were, Guarin Clayton, Nikki Tyson, Claire Niven and Caroline 'Titch' Campbell (née Batchelor).

COOKE C (1990): Cameron graduated from St Andrew's with a 2i in Psychology in 1994. In his year out he went to the World Cup in South Africa and also worked in Japan and Australia. In Sydney, he met Russell Grieve (1990) in a pub and shared a flat with Chris Clarke (1990) who is now travelling in Russia. He spent some time with G G H Gordon (1960) in Queensland. In South Africa he stayed with T R Taylor (1961) and family and met M I M Dawson (1964). At the Scotland v France game in Pretoria he bumped into Gordon Piper (1989) who is living in Namibia. He is now doing articles with Ernst & Young in London. His sister, Katie (1988), who also got a 2i in Psychology from St Andrew's, is working as a recruitment consultant for Price Waterhouse and lives in Wimbledon.

CORBETT G S B (1983): Congratulations on Grant's marriage to Louis Withen Green.

CORBETT G R F (1984): Gavin is engaged to Rhona Smith. He is running 'Sippers' in Leith.

CORBETT N L (1987): Nicola is in charge of the Corporate Client Department of DX Communications.

CRABB J R M (1982): Mike is involved with an oil field diving team

management project on the Bomay High field.

CUMMING A H (1977): is living in Czechoslovakia with his wife and two children - unfortunately last year's report about Sandy was inaccurate - apologies!

DINSMORE D (1986): David is Scottish Bureau Chief of the *News of the World*. He has also become the proud father of Jamie.

DUNCAN R J (1980): having retired from international skiing, Ronald has, with his wife, Lyn, started a company called 'Cambridge Blues' which specialises in sporting corporate events. They also run a computer consultancy firm called 'Calleva'. Meanwhile, they have two young children.

DUNN R W (1919): visited the School with his nephew, son of Norman S Dunn (1923).

FAIRWEATHER C D (1984): retired from the Royal Navy in November 1994 and is now working with Halliburton of Montrose in their offshore operations. Colin reports that his brother Gavin (1983) married Linda Parnell in July 1995 and is working on the advertising side of Grampian Television.

FERGUSON D G O (1995): played for the Scottish U19 Cricket XI, once again.

FLEMING Lt Col J N (1958): Nick has retired from the Army after 36 years' service. He is now working as a Property Manager at HQ Scotland for the Ministry of Defence. He plays for the Strathallian Golf Team in the Grafton Morrish and in the Seniors.

GILCHRIST G A J (1985): having worked in a number of fields, including restaurant management and teaching English as a foreign language, Andrew has gone to the University of the Americas in Mexico to study Art History.

GOODBURN (1981): has established an independent business partnership specialising in kitchen hygiene for restaurants in London and the Midlands.

GRAY J M (1951): John has recently retired as Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

HADDLETON D (1986): having graduated with a 2i at Trent Polytechnic, David is now Financial Accountant for the contractor consultancy division of Oracle UK.

HARLEY I J G (1983): Ian has qualified as a doctor and is practising as a houseman in a Belfast hospital.

HENDERSON D (1947): emigrated to Western Australia in 1948. After working on a number of farms Douglas bought

some land around Donnybrooks. He now has an orchard enterprise and has a beef cattle herd. He married Vinna in 1961 and has two children and three grandchildren. He looks forward to Douglas Boyd (1950) visiting him.

KILPATRICK N D (1985): Nigel is working for Mosaic Technologies.

KILPATRICK R W N (1983): Russell is a Director of Encon, Underwriters. He is lodging with Debbie Cave née Bullough (1984)

KNOX S (1976): Stuart is farming in Perthshire, still playing rugby and provided the site for the Nicol Fourth Form camping weekend.

LEIPER E S (1990): Suzie graduated at the University of Northumbria in International Business with German. She now lives in Germany and works as a buyer for a family-owned Import/Export Company.

LEIPER J A (1991): graduated from Newcastle University with a BA in Accounting and Financial Analysis. Johnnie is now working for Seacat Scotland Ltd.

LEWIS I D (1970): Ian works in Calgary as a senior planner for Talisman Energy Inc., a Canadian oil and gas producer.

MACDONALD G (1983): Congratulations on her marriage. Gillian is now Mrs Dewhurst. Congratulations also to Katie MacDonald (1985) who is now Mrs William Keen.

MACDONALD M J (1974): is a Surgeon in Atlanta, Georgia.

MACDONELL A J (1995): has done a gap year at Scots College, Wellington, New Zealand. Alasdair has coached and played hockey, cricket and rugby, the latter for Oriental Rongotai (John Gallagher's old Club). He is also a member of the Scots College Pipe Band.

MACPHERSON W T (1957): William works in the computer business and has been back in the UK since 1979.

MANSON M T (1977): had a second son in January. Mark lives in Oxfordshire and still works for Saudia-Saudi Arabian Airlines at Heathrow.

MARNOCH I A (1957): after 30 years of banking around the world Ian has retired to Andorra.

MCCAUSLAND I (1981): Iain was sighted in Bombay en route for Goa, Mombasa and the USA. He is planning to enter the adventure training business.

MCDONALD C F (1992): Colin is working in the USA for a year as part of his course at Robert Gordon's.

McDOUGALL N L (1981): is a director of Revival Developments Ltd, a firm of Property Developers. His brother, **Blair (1979)** has returned to Perthshire.

McLAY C T (1989): Craig has a commission in the Royal Anglian Regiment and is currently a Training Officer at Catterick.

McMILLAN L-J (1983): Linda-Jane is a Director of Hoare, Goret Associates in Indonesia.

MILLAR Major C J (1982): Colin is on his way to Staff College. He has served in Belfast for 2½ years, Berlin for a year, a year as ADC in Cyprus as well as spells at Fort George and the Virginia Military Institute. He reports that **Simon R Bell (1982)** has left the Black Watch, and now works for Martin Currie Investment House in Edinburgh.

MITCHELL C F (1994): Colin reached the 3rd Round of the Scottish Amateur Golf Championship, qualified for the knockout stages of the British Amateur and plays off scratch at Blairgowrie.

MITCHELL D (1970): Doug visited Strathallan in September 1996 when he told us he is in the Australian film industry working for Kennedy Miller Film Productions. He produced Babe and is now engaged on the sequel. He would be happy to host anyone or any teams going to Sydney or help arrange gap years. Doug's home address is 173 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, Sydney 2068. Tel: 612 9958 1852; Fax: 612 9958 8743.

MOORE M K (1982): Michael is the prospective Liberal Democratic MP for Selkirk, Peebles and Roxburgh.

NICOLSON A (1979): Adrian is working in a sales position for a hospital and as a Stockbroker part-time in Chicago. He plays rugby for the West Side Condors and has toured in Africa, Hong Kong, Thailand, New Zealand and Fiji. He would be delighted to be visited by any Strathallians passing through Chicago.

NIVEN P D (1990): Peter finished fourth in the National Hunt Jockey's table with 84 winners.

PHILP S (1985): Simon is Regional Sales Manager for General Accident Life based in Newcastle.

PICKETT I W (1981): Iain has moved with his wife Debbie and their three daughters; he work with Hoare Govett Asia Ltd.

PROCTOR C (1992): Chris announces his engagement to Nicola Pamphlett and plans to marry in Summer 1998.

QUINN N B (1991): Nicholas graduated with a 2i from Glasgow University.

REID R (1982): Robert, with his co-driver Richard Burns, now driving for Misubishi, won the New Zealand rally.

RENTOUL T S (1962): Thomas came over from Minnesota and visited the School whilst on a golfing holiday this summer.

ROSELLE C (1959): is working for South West International Inc. in Rio Rico, Arizona. Charles would be delighted to see any Strathallians passing through Southern Arizona. His brother Stuart lives in Springfield, Illinois.

ROSS M K A (1993): Malcolm is working on a sheep farm in Australia and playing them the bagpipes.

RUSSELL P (1981): Patrick left Singapore in January 1995 for a posting with S G Warburg in Bombay. Subsequently he rejoined W I Carr and is their company representative for Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. A second son, Cameron was born in October 1995. He reports on the following Strathallians: his brother **Martin (1978)**, tired of being an employee, has started his own computer systems management business, Allanbridge Consultants, based in Edinburgh. His younger brother **Peter (1982)** has been working on a computerisation project with Anderson Consulting for the London Stock Exchange and is currently pursuing his fortune in South East Asia.

SHEDDON R (1975): Robin has given up farming and now runs 'Cluny Clays'. This provides archery, .22 shooting, clay

pigeons and a play area.

TOMLIN C L (1992): Claire has graduated in Law at Cambridge and is starting as an oil trader in August, initially in London then the Bahamas.

WATSON D J (1980): David has moved to South Africa.

WATT W A (1983): Willie and **Sandie (nee Mackie - 1986)** celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary in June and have a son called William. Sandie reports that her brother **David (1985)** is married with two sons and owns a pub/disco in Kilmarnock and a watersports centre in Dunoon.

WHITTON D J (1941): His latest novel 'Neptune's Children' is about a group of South African school-leavers who join an Outward Bound venture to sail a 100ft vessel from Durban to Mauritius. It is due to be published at the end of August. He looks forward to hosting the Strathallan Hockey Tourists in Natal.

WILLIAMS R H (1986): married Claire in Cape Town in March. Richard is a manager of Lloyds Bank in Dubai. He reports that **Peter Rochow (1986)** has moved to Bahrain.

WILSON P (1991): Paula graduated from Strathclyde and is now working for Cheshire Community Healthcare Trust in Crewe as a Speech and Language Therapist. Her brother, **Ian** is working for a Computer Data Base Company before going to College.

The London Dinner, 14 June 1996

Guests

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Mr & Mrs Michael Low
Nick Du Boulay

David M Anderson
David R Anderson
Ronald B Blanche - Hong Kong
Alistair J Booth
Mr & Mrs Gordon S Caldwell

Debbie Cave
Vivien C Cornish - Hong Kong
David A Cranston
Alastair M Cumming
Ian Eastwood
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Evan M Grant
Russell Grieve
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Angus Houston - Australia
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GAP STUDENTS 1995/96

James D'Ath, browsing through *The Financial Times*, found his interest aroused by the Headline "Sail to the Arctic on a voyage of true exploration with Sir Robin Knox-Johnston aboard the 200-ton schooner, the *Malcolm Miller*." The opportunity to sail a three masted schooner to the Svalbard Archipelago was not to be missed.

A crew of fifty left Aberdeen on the 1st June and reached the Arctic Circle on the 6th, to be almost half way to their destination. Eerie fog, accompanied by dropping temperatures and schools of whales, gave way to open sea dotted with large 'ice cubes' - their density and size increased alarmingly.

The *Malcolm Miller* was not designed to crash through ice. Every chunk shuddered the boat from bow to stern. Crew began to pore over their insurance policies. Tom Woodfield, ex-Director of the British Antarctic Scientific Survey, the navigator, ordered retreat and to seek a safer passage. James, in his own words, naively, volunteered to be a 'pathfinder', i.e. to be perched up the foremast for 3 hours looking for anything other than white. His vigil was ended by a Russian cargo ship being kind enough to smash a route through the ice. A bluer and wiser James returned to deck, pretending to have enjoyed every minute.

The Archipelago was reached on Day 10. Mountains and valleys were unsullied by trees or any visible signs of life other than hundreds of birds hovering menacingly above the boat.

Intrepid James was one of five volunteers to join the survey. A trek through thick mud, shingle, ice and deep snow brought them to the *Malcolm Miller's* next anchorage.

Without the benefit of an 'icebreaker', the Captain decided to drift out of the ice pack. James, wiser now, did not join two colleagues in an Arctic swim at -0.4c. It took 23 hours to drift the 12 miles to the open sea.

The return journey was excellent sailing! The schooner with all 14 sails up and an ample brassiere at the mast head reached 13.66 knots, whilst the ship rolled as much as 40°. The captain ordered the 15th sail to be lowered as it was not catching enough wind. After nearly a month at sea, James returned to his office exhilarated by memories of joy, pain and sheer discomfort.

~~~~~



*The Malcolm Miller*



*James d'Ath, the 'pathfinder' for safe passage through Svalbard ice*



**Suzi McPherson** worked for Project Trust near Gaborone, Botswana in an SOS village. SOS Botswana provides a permanent home for 136 orphans and abused children as well as a kindergarten for the local community. The village had its own farm 14 km away. Relying on treated sewerage water, the farm provides grazing for cattle and goats and grows, in particular, spinach and oranges. All produce is sold to local supermarkets and the money used to improve the farm and the village.

Suzi found three mornings a week picking spinach, washing spinach, packing spinach and tidying spinach beds wearisome. Sorting the Christmas sponsorship mail at Head Office was a welcome relief.

She revelled in looking after the children. She helped with the pre-primary class teaching them children's songs and rhymes and reading to them. Her main job was to look after the children out of school, assist with their homework, improve their English and give them a better chance of further education. Among the many activities she and her partner, Anne, set up were Maths and English groups, using games and puzzles to stimulate interest, an Art Club and opening the library every week day. At weekends four or five of the older children were taken to a nearby hotel, free of charge, and taught to swim, eventually unaided in the deep end. Trips and picnics were arranged to the Gaborone dam of the lion park. Inter-house rounders became a high point and Suzi and Anne helped in many other trips including a visit to the Metropole Museum, where the children learnt about the Kalahari bushmen and Botswana's part in the First and Second World Wars.

In October the visit of Princess Alexandra to the village, was a high point as was Independence Day on 30 September. The children loved the marching and the military bands - the President's speech, less so. The local council gave some money for a party, although in true Botswana fashion, it was held a month late. Suzi and Anne were not impressed by raw pounded goat meat and mealie meal or, worse, intestines, stomach and lungs, mixed together and served with sour porridge. They were relieved not to qualify for kidneys (the over-60s), ears and hooves (males) or noses (the married).

The visit to the HQ provided the sad background stories to the SOS children. When you read all these heart breaking stories it really does amaze me that the children are so friendly and loving. All it

takes to win them over is just a little bit of attention, like a hug, to pick them up or even just a smile. The reward is to see them smile back and laugh and that is enough to make anyone's day."

Suzi, in her breaks, hoped to visit Cape Town, Johannesburg, the Okavango Delta, the Victoria Falls and some of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

**George Aykroyd** went on a Raleigh International Expedition to Zimbabwe with 138 colleagues and 32 staff members to carry out a variety of community and environmental projects over a 10 week period.

After initial training, George and his diverse group of colleagues, including a lady from the Inland Revenue, began their first project. It was October, the suicide month, and their task was to build a second accommodation block at an old people's home at Gatsi. Picks were the equipment used to remove 70 tonnes of earth in 10 hour shifts; Alphabet games improved the fun to be gained from the day. On one occasion, George and a colleague, Martin, went to do some teaching at a local school. The emergence of Martin's camera produced 'a thousand eyes and a thousand giggles' consistent with the complete fascination that anything, that they did, induced.

The group then went on a trek in Nyanga, six hours hiking from Gatsi. The week took them through the Pungwe Gorge to Inyangani Town. The expedition took them through spectacular 'rain forests with huge leaves and trees that tower above you, swaying slowly in harmony with the wind, while the water pounds its way down the gorge narrowly negotiating thousand year old rocks'. On Day 5 they climbed Mount Inyangani, the highest in Zimbabwe, from where they saw the sunrise over Mozambique and the Indian Ocean over 200 km away.

A visit to the Mana Pools National Park provided the opportunity to watch animals at very close range in the flat bare valley of the Zambezi River.

George joined a new group and their task was to do a soil erosion survey in the Chimanimani Mountain Range. The previous group had completed this, so instead they went to the Northern part of the Park to create a footpath map for tourists. This required considerable detailed exploration and cryptic names were added to the map, such as Marmyte Pass (Marmite craving), Explorers

Paradise (a hidden rock pool), Tom Thumb (a thumb-shaped hillock) and Matt's Dilemma (Matt spent an hour attempting to locate where he was).

George's last project was in the Hirange National Park on the Botswana border. To reach it required a two day rail journey right across Zimbabwe. The task was to construct, repair and plumb artificial water pans which provided drinking water for animals in the dry season. On one occasion, seven bull elephants saw the group as intruders and charged. A subsidiary task was to clear elephant rock-hard 'donuts' from around the pan. (Bull elephants fight around the pans to impress females) and any stumble can cause broken ribs or tusks.

Finally, the whole group reconvened at Harare. As the logistically minded Rupert Fitzmorris, who led the expedition, said, "It is a country with no motorways or convenience stores. On Expedition Zimbabwe 951; 1 tonne of Mealie meal (maize porridge) was consumed; 90,000 boiled sweets sucked or crunched; 500 scourers were used for scrubbing, 300 tonnes of earth were moved by hand and two Mercedes trucks had each gone round the world once!"

**Catherine Jones** worked as an English teacher in Guangdong in the People's Republic of China and wrote in January, the fifth month of term. She was looking forward to the Spring Festival in February when she planned to travel to North East China to visit Harbin and the famous ice festivals; Beijing for the Chinese New Year; Shanghai and Shantaignan where the Great Wall meets the sea.

She wrote a trifle disparagingly of the guacheness of Westernisation and revelled in Chinese culture. She wrote the following about her studies and teaching:

"Over the past four months I have been kept busy teaching and learning. It took us three weeks to "master" Tai Chi - learn a few movements is a more accurate description. Tai chi is an ancient Chinese exercise routine, consisting of a series of slow, smooth motions which mimic actions, such as 'stroking the horse's mane' or copying the movements of the crane. It demands complete concentration. Not only must you remember the steps, you must also control your breathing and follow your hands with your eyes, remaining focused throughout. The complete routine lasts about five minutes. It is then repeated.

Early every morning dozens of Taishan's senior citizens gather at the reservoir to perform Tai Chi in silent unison. A good "Tai-Chi-er" can finish at the exact same spot as he began.

As well as Tai Chi, we have been learning Putonghua, or Mandarin. This is very difficult. It has four tones, so a word can have four different meanings, depending on how it is said. For example, 'ma' may be said four ways and mean 'horse', 'mother', 'hemp', and 'to scold or curse'. The four tones have caused much confusion! Bargaining in the market we tell the vendors that we are English teachers at the No. 1 Middle School (this usually ensures a reduction). Lao Shi is 'teacher' - however, many times we have told them we are Lao Shi in a different tone which means 'mice'! Usually though

we are understood.

While Putonghua is the official language of China, there are countless local dialects. Most people can speak Putonghua in Guangdong Province, but Cantonese is more widely understood; it has seven tones! Taishanese, a kind of customised Cantonese, is also spoken in this country.

I have also started to learn calligraphy. It takes years to master the numerous complex characters using a bamboo brush with wolf-haired tip; the jet black ink is made from pine resin. Chinese characters have evolved from pictures over thousands of years.

In my four months of teaching I have marked some very interesting homework. When my Senior I students (aged 16) were

asked to write what they thought about Britain, the overwhelming response was that London was covered in a perpetual, thick fog; the British are polite, intelligent and hard working; and everybody has blonde hair and blue eyes. I was the first foreign teacher many of the students had ever met and they were amazed that I was left-handed, and assumed that all westerners write with their left hands.

On another occasion I asked 'Senior I' to write about music. After an entertaining lesson playing recordings from the British Top 40 (it was the week Blur and Oasis were battling for number one), a student described the members of Blur as "... all from the family of the middle capitalist class. They all have a sound foundation and a good education."

## OBITUARIES

**ALLISON Rev N J (1922 R):** 'Norm' Allison died of pneumonia on 31 October 1995, having suffered a severe stroke in July. A native of Paisley, he served his apprenticeship with a number of local firms and then became an Engineer Officer with the Blue Star Line. In World War II he rose to the rank of Commander in the Royal Indian Navy. Latterly he worked with the Anglo Iranian Oil Company and later joined Interprovincial Pipe Line Inc. becoming Manager of its Western Division. Having taken early retirement in 1968, he studied theology and was ordained a Presbyterian Minister. He served congregations in Whitehorse, Yukon and Kingston and Amherst Island, Ontario. He also served as Chaplain to a number of prisons in the Kingston area. In his later years, he lived in Ontario. He is survived by his wife Georgina, a son David, a daughter Margaret and seven grandchildren.

**BOYD Dr A (1942):** Alexander died on 9 May 1994. He attended Glasgow University and was a General Practitioner in Dumbarton until his retirement in 1986. He is survived by his wife.

**BURDEN D W (1949):** David died on 23 August 1995. He emigrated to Western Australia in 1980, taking his family. He worked in real estate in Bunbury until entering semi-retirement in the late eighties. He leaves a wife, Catherine, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

**HARRINGTON Dr G (1936 R):** Gordon was at Strathallan from 1930-36. He was Head of Ruthven, a member of

the Cricket XI and Fives Champion. He graduated from Glasgow, gaining his MB, ChB, MFCM in 1941. During the war he was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving with the Black Watch in Ceylon. He also served with the Chindits and the Indian Parachute Brigade before being badly hurt. After the war he married Mary in 1948 and became Deputy Medical Superintendent of Glasgow Royal Infirmary. In 1954 he was Area Medical Superintendent of Stirling Royal Infirmary. He retired early, mainly through disagreement with the re-organisation of the NHS. Gordon was very much a Scotsman, enjoyed being an Elder of the Church of Scotland, had a strong personality and showed great courage in facing his disabilities. He had a sharp mind, concern for others and a determination to do what is right. After his retirement he and Mary moved South to be nearer their daughter and two sons.

**MENZIES G (1924):** George died in New Zealand some years ago.

**PEPPER R M (1928):** Robert died at Ayr on 25 December 1995. He is survived by his wife, Moira.

**REEKIE J A G (1993 S):** James died suddenly in February 1996.

**SEMPLE J E (1948 S):** John died on 15 February 1996, having suffered from cancer for several years. He was senior partner in the Accountancy firm of James Kirk and McVeay in Dumfries until his retirement in June 1995. He is survived by his son Rodney, who was also in Simpson.

**THOMSON C M L (1941 R):** 'Mitch' died in August 1991 in Lanark. After studying accountancy, he flew Lancasters in World War II. After the war he returned to finance and became Company Secretary to Edward McBean of Kirkintilloch until his retirement in 1989. He was very fond of classical music and opera. He enjoyed sailing at Strathclyde Park and the club created a Cup in his memory. He was predeceased by his wife, Audrey, by three weeks. They had two daughters, Anne and Hazel and four grandchildren. They also fostered over 70 babies and children in the course of a long and happy married life.

**THOMSON J N L (1938 R):** John died in March 1996. He was a well-known figure in Kent, where he was a self-employed driving instructor. He specialised in teaching those with a disability. He was predeceased by his wife, Judy, who died in 1974. They had no children.



# CONTACTS ABROAD

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

## Australia:

Iain S Gray (1961)  
Iona House, 10 Yarranabbe Road,  
Darling Point, 2027, Sydney.

Eric W Hamilton (1979)  
1 Airdrie Corner, Kinross 6028, Perth,  
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John A McArthur (1970)  
10 Jenolan Close, Hornsby Heights,  
NSW 2077.

Gordon Reynolds (1980)  
18 Letitia Street, Katoomba, 2780.

## Canada:

Ian D Lewis (1970)  
420 Coach Light Bay SW, Calgary,  
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Stephen W Geddes (1987)  
100 Lamont Boulevard, Winnipeg,  
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Rahul Suri (1983)  
942 Logan Avenue, Toronto,  
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## Italy:

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

Patrick D Russell (1981)  
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## Nigeria:

R Gary Walker (1978)  
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## Singapore:

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## South Africa:

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

Tommy R Taylor (1961)  
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David J Watson (1980)  
PO Box 783676, Sandton 2146

## USA:

John Brough (1956)  
29142 Dean Street, Laguna Niguel, CA  
92677. Tel: 714 495 3376. Fax: 714 495 2004.



*Ben Agnew and Charlie Adam met Fiona in Siena*

Michael J Dobbie (1983)  
1761 Coventry Road, Decatur, Georgia,  
USA, 30030.

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

Walter G McFarlane (1978)  
931 Shattuck Lane, Schaumburg,  
Illinois, 60194. Tel: 708 885 3367.  
Work: 708 428 7171.

Stuart R Roselle (1960)  
2029 S Lowell, Springfield,  
Illinois 62704

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



*The Club President visited Hong Kong and enjoyed a Strathallian dinner hosted by John Gray. Patricia Low, Tui Orr, Michael Low, David Gault, John Gray*



*Cosmo Fairbairn and Alastair Nicol at Speech Day*



*Harry Hensman chills out*



*Euan McMaster tuning up at Holyrood House*

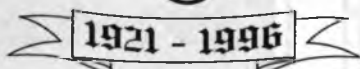


*A D Stephens and his father watching Calum playing for the 1st XI in June*



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