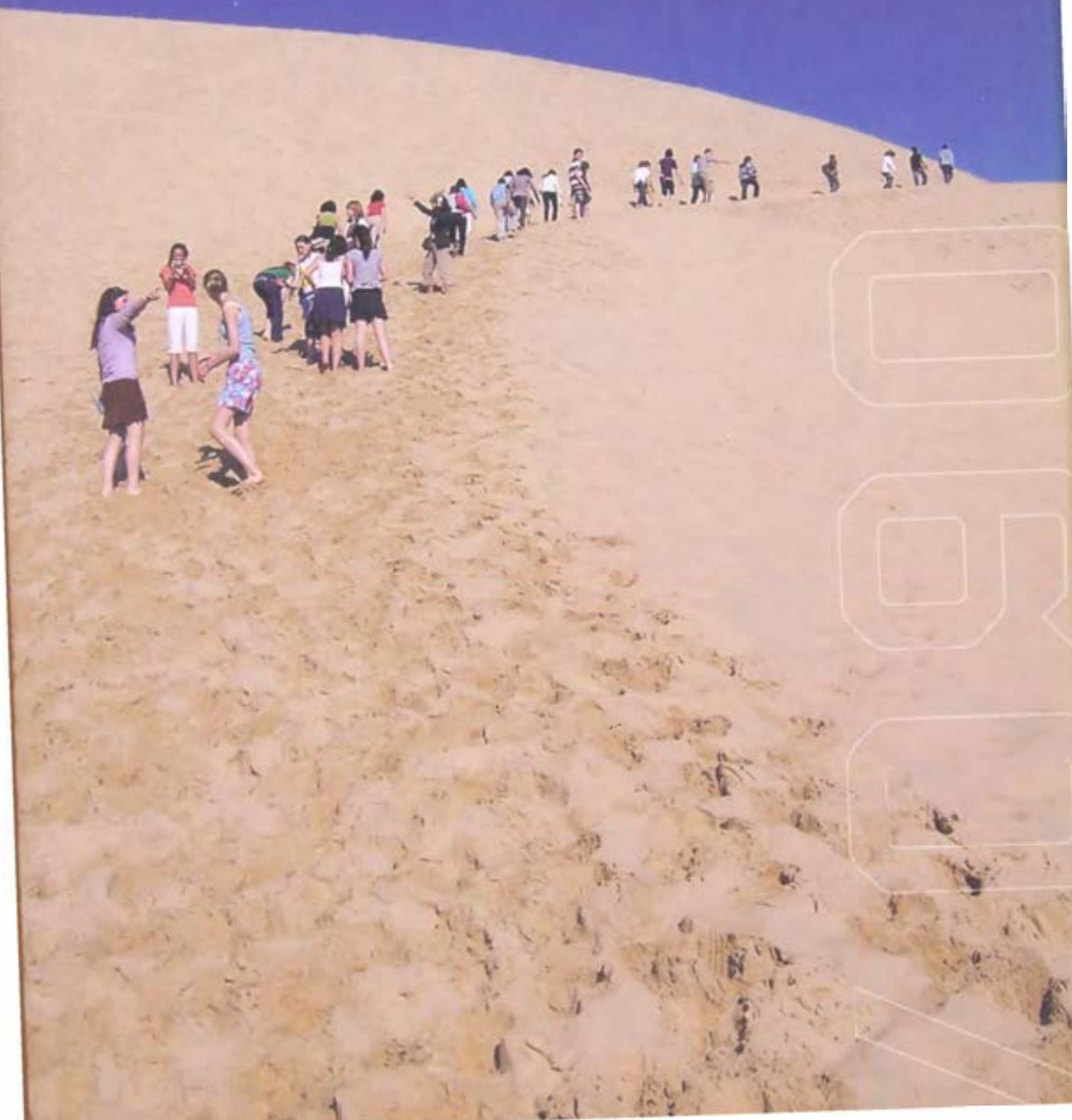




the Strathallian 06|07





There must be a better way of moderating my coursework



A theory for everything



And if you ever speak to Fitz like that again



Listen, Robbie, Finola's getting in the team before you are

School Captains

I advise people to try everything
they can before they leave



Well, in short, this year has been absolutely incredible. And I must reiterate that old phrase, 'this year has flown by'. Perhaps the year has gone so quickly because of how busy I was as Head Boy or maybe just because the final year is busy for everyone, not least with the 'big exams'. And it's just one of those little quirks that no one understands until you reach the last year. Time seems to speed up at Strath as you rise through the school.

I'm actually writing this at home (Mister K has been niggling at me for this for ages!) but, not long out of school, and already I'm really starting to reflect on all my years there. Strath definitely provides, 'opportunities for all to excel'. It's just up to each individual to exert him or herself and really try to grab as many of those opportunities as possible. I advise people to try everything they can before they leave; I know myself that I certainly could have given more things a bash. I don't like to single people out but I would like to give a certain U6th pupil a mention. Sam O'Brien travelled to Scotland from 'across the pond' and very quickly settled into Ruthven (and our quality banter) As well as keeping up three demanding A-levels, Sam strove to try out as much as he could in the short time that he was here; basketball, shooting, rugby, triathlon (record-holding team), Caledonian challenge, all house competitions including playing a somewhat cumbersome six-foot-five dwarf in Senior House drama, athletics (Bronze in Scottish schools) and even cricket (for a bit...). This is a great example of a pupil at Strath who really has given everything a shot. Of course, there are a great many such; Struan Dewar (Scotland rugby), Joe Lipworth (National Swimming success), Tom Fleming (Scottish athletics success), Annabel Niven (Scottish golf team), Alice Page (National Equestrian team) are just some of the names that spring to mind.

It was a privilege to be at the School and I am proud to have been the Head Boy. I'm positive that the skills I've learnt this year can be put to good use in later life. I mean, if I can get Michael Cachia to go to a 3-hour calendar meeting, I can do anything!

I was very fortunate with the hardy team of prefects this year and I owe a huge thanks to all you guys; you made life a lot easier for Catriona and me. Thanks also for all the support we received this year, from the entire year group and staff, including Mr 'Digger' Barnes and Mr Thompson. And finally, I'd like to give huge thanks to Catriona for all she's done this year; I think we've been a great team this year and couldn't have asked for a better colleague.

Well, we're handing over the reins now to Tom and Rachel, in whom I have the utmost confidence, and Catriona and I wish them the best of luck.

Olly Corlett, UVI Ruthven

Staff Notes

STAFF

The low turnover of staff which has characterised Strathallan in recent years has continued



The low turnover of staff which has characterised Strathallan in recent years has continued. There were only four departures last year with Charles Court slipping out quietly at the end of the Spring term after more than two decades of complete commitment to all aspects of the life of the School. Charlie is a true schoolmaster who ran Freeland House, taught English and coached a variety of sports with equal commitment and enthusiasm. Many generations of pupils will pay testament to his influence on their lives. Zoltan Biro and Nida Batchelder were with us for a much shorter time, each for a year, but each made their distinctive contribution to the life of the School. Nida taught Geography, coached games, and was Resident Tutor in Woodlands House and moves on to teach at Cheltenham Ladies College; Zoltan was quiet, practical and showed a huge commitment; the support he gave to pupils learning English as an Additional Language, to sport and in the boarding context in Nicol House was total. Stephanie Balent taught French for four years and was also involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as a Tutor in Woodlands, and willingly helped out with a variety of extra-curricular activities.

We are fortunate to have secured high-calibre replacements for those departing; Clare Flanagan joins the Modern Languages Department with a Degree in French and German from the University of Glasgow and a doctorate from Cambridge University. She was previously a member of the Modern Languages Faculty at the University of Bristol and brings, in addition, experience of Curling which we hope to reintroduce

to the school's array of sporting activities.

Elaine Harte was previously Head of Geography at Headington School in Oxford. A graduate of the Queen's, Belfast and of Cambridge University, she brings experience of boarding and CCF in addition to her subject speciality. Dumitru Marinuc replaces Zoltan Biro as our Eastern European teacher for the year. He has just embarked on his teaching career having graduated from Alexandru Ioan Cuza. Lovina Roe brings her experience to the English Department having taught at Perth Grammar School and she fulfils the part-time role in the English Department as Catherine Howett moves to full-time to take over Charles Court's timetable. In addition, we have two new members of staff. The introduction of a Primary 5 class to Riley has created the need for a class-teacher, a role which will be filled by Christine Menzies, a graduate of Dundee, who previously taught at Dunbarney Primary School. The ever-increasing activities programme and desire to improve further the support for all our athletes has led to the appointment of Andy Henderson as Director of Rugby and Activities. Andy joins us from the Scottish Rugby Union where he was Performance Development Manager. He brings with him experience of developing athletes at the highest level and is well known in the Scottish Rugby circles as a very experienced coach. We welcome these members of staff to Strathallan and are confident that they will further enhance the teaching and learning experience of our pupils.

BKT

Salvete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date
Anton P	Aanderud	S4	Simpson	1/9/07
Alexander J	Abbey	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Ignacio	Albinana de Pineda	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Eleanor A D	Allingham	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Jamie G	Arnot	S3	Freeland	1/9/07
Jill A	Bardon	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Emily L	Barnes	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Rory D L	Barnes	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Joanna B	Barrack	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Charles F C	Beamish	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Lauris A	Bernhart	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Jordan J	Black	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Jack S	Blackburn	S4	Nicol	8/1/07
Robbie M	Blackburn	S2	Nicol	19/4/07
Michael E	Brodie	S3	Nicol	1/9/07
Jemma C	Bryson	S3	Thornbank	1/9/07
Andrew W M	Burns	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Cathryn R	Bush	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Andrew R	Caldwell	S3	Simpson	29/10/06
Maihi E C	Cameron	S4	Thornbank	30/10/06
Roy S	Cameron	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Ewan	Campbell	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Stuart A P	Cantlay	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Jessica G M	Carson	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Nick	Cassella	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Sara A	Caves	S6	Woodlands	1/7/07
Kim	Chan	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Man C	Chan	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Sze H	Cheung	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Bradley T M	Clements	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Elliot C M	Clements	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Jonathan K	Clifford	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Laura B	Collins	S4	Thornbank	19/4/07
Rosalind D	Coutts	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Abigail J	Cowe	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Lindsay A N	Crowe	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Toby P D	Culham	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Lucas	de Gispert	S3	Simpson	1/9/07
Daniel C F	de Haer	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Philippe S L	de Haer	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Bianca	Dembke	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Fraser W A	Doig	S2	Nicol	1/9/07
Julian F	Essen	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Nicholas A G	Farrar	S2	Ruthven	1/9/07
Christina J	Finlay	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
William D	Frazer	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Jens-Christian M	Friedmann	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Lucy A	Garvie	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Johannes F	Geng	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Angus R A	Gibson	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Eilidh C	Gibson	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Rosie C	Gibson	S3	Woodlands	1/9/07
Elizabeth F	Gordon	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Linda	Gordon	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Charlie J D	Hall	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Elena B	Hall	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Freddie	Hamilton	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Flora M R	Hay	S2	Thornbank	1/9/07
Andrew J	Henderson	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Alberto M	Herrera	S4	Nicol	9/10/06
Cameron D S	Hirst	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Ivan	Ivoylov	S2	Ruthven	1/9/07
Dylan J	Izzard	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Natasha M	Jaworski	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Lauren	Johnson	S2	Thornbank	1/9/07
Shaun	Johnson	S4	Ruthven	1/9/07
Stuart A	Johnson	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Ainslie	Johnstone	S4	Woodlands	8/1/07
Hannah S	Johnstone	S2	Thornbank	1/9/07
Katherine L	Jones	P7	Riley	19/4/07
Gavin B	Keddie	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Jonathan G	Keddie	S3	Freeland	19/4/07
Eleanor B	Kemp	S2	Thornbank	1/9/07
Christopher J	King	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Liam R H	Kitchin	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Mariam O	Kudehinbu	S1	Riley	1/9/07

Kar C	Kwok	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Alison Y P	Lee	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Robert A J	Leverkus	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Paul-Wido	Linden	S4	Nicol	1/9/07
Cheuk M	Lo	S2	Ruthven	1/9/07
Chun K	Lo	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Harry	Loneragan	S4	Freeland	1/9/07
Maggie C	Luck	S2	Woodlands	8/1/07
Oliver J	Luck	S4	Freeland	8/1/07
Sophie P	Lyburn	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Kevin	McAlister	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Conor P	McCarthy	S2	Nicol	1/9/07
Logan A M	MacGregor	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Ashleigh L G	Macmillan	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Lorne J D	Macnaughton	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Anna C	McNeill	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Oscar W	Mansfield	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Fernando	Martinez-Turmo	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Christopher P	Maxa	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Catriona A	Mearns	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Charles F	Mearns	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Greig	Meiklem	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Henry D	Melville	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Christopher J R	Milford	S6	Freeland	22/8/07
Kerr M	Millar	S2	Simpson	19/4/07
Morven D	Miller	S4	Woodlands	1/9/07
Mira E M	Moran	S6	Thornbank	1/9/07
Patrick G	Morris-Eyton	S3	Nicol	1/9/07
Christopher K	Mutimer	S3	Ruthven	1/9/07
Frances R Y	Myatt	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Adeeb P	Naasan	S2	Nicol	1/9/07
Callum D	Nicol	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Sarah E	Nicol	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Alexandra J M	Niedner	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Mark M	Oldenburg	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Monty D F	Peeters	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Christopher J L	Pringle	S4	Simpson	8/1/07
Ashley	Purvis	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Fraser S	Ramseyer	S2	Freeland	1/9/07
Jack A	Rathborne	S2	Ruthven	1/9/07
Bradley R	Rizza	S4	Ruthven	1/9/07
Justin C	Rizza	S6	Ruthven	1/9/07
Tabitha E	Robertson-Barnett	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Cerrin H	Romeike	S4	Woodlands	1/9/07
Stephane F	Roux	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Juraj	Sabol	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Mark C	Saemann	S5	Nicol	1/9/07
Anita S	Schoberl	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Manuela	Schoberl	S4	Woodlands	1/9/07
Steven J C	Segaud	S2	Nicol	19/4/07
Christopher N H	Simpson	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Craig V	Small	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Harriet R C	Smith	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Robyn K	Somerville	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Samuel F	Steele	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Will O	Steele	P5	Riley	1/9/07
Undi	Stelzer	S3	Thornbank	1/9/07
Christina M	Stephenson	S3	Woodlands	1/9/07
Olivia J	Stephenson	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Katy A	Stevenson	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Rachael A	Stewart	S3	Thornbank	1/9/07
Maya L	Taylor	S2	Woodlands	1/9/07
Cameron J	Taylor-Smith	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Christopher P	Thomson	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Harry J	Thomson	P6	Riley	1/9/07
Sean M	Townsley	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Bradley F	Tracey	S1	Riley	1/9/07
Markus A	von Rudno	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Nicholas J M	Walker	S3	Ruthven	1/9/07
David	Walsh	S5	Ruthven	1/9/07
Angus Y	Watson	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Lewis R	Watson	S2	Nicol	1/9/07
Gareth L	Watt	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Michael D	Wells	S5	Simpson	1/9/07
Rosie	Williams	P7	Riley	1/9/07
Isla C	Wilson	S5	Woodlands	1/9/07
Chun H	Wong	S5	Freeland	1/9/07
Alasdair R T	Wood	S2	Ruthven	1/9/07
James T	Wordie	S2	Simpson	1/9/07
Jennifer A M	Young	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07
Sun	Yu	S5	Thornbank	1/9/07

Chaplain's report

CHAPLAIN

...we can even look at ourselves, and say not just *could do better* but rather *behold: it is very good*

We now have at least two Jedi Knights in school, and since the Chaplain must do his best to minister to all his disparate flock, he is advancing towards the degree of Jedi Master, as illustrated. This small, but doubtless significant, presence has long been suspected but only came to light as a result of a Chapel census held one Sunday before Easter.

The results are enlightening: if not in the Buddhist sense of that word, at least insofar as they aid our understanding of one another's beliefs. Those beliefs are increasingly diverse. Whilst about two-thirds of our pupils give their religion as Christian, over a fifth are agnostic or atheist.

Nearly 16% of the school follow religions other than Christianity, and are encouraged wholeheartedly to practise their faith: we have been delighted to have a pupil from Saudi Arabia talk in Chapel about his life as a Muslim. Readings from a variety of scriptures have been appreciated, providing as they do both an intrinsic spirituality and an educational experience in that spirit of welcoming enquiry which is so characteristic of Strathallan.

Asked to identify their favourite activity in Chapel, most were positive, and only one said that the part they most enjoyed was leaving. The sermon or – as one younger pupil charmingly put it, "The bit where the Rev goes up the wee steps." – was identified as the least enjoyable part by less than 10%. Even that might be disappointing, were it not for the fact that 27% said it was their favourite, which I think puts us ahead on points. In fact, we've even had requests for one or two homilies to be repeated: notably the *Advent Rap* produced by the Chaplain for one of his broadcasts.

Others sermons included *Fossils, Fish and Aberdeen*: "Some people call the Bible a *Roadmap for Life*. Now, when you know how to use it a map is wonderful. But not as a substitute for the real thing." Then we had *Theft and the Royal Ringtone*: "Yeah, but you're the Chaplain. You're not supposed to nick things. Oh really? And you are? You can't just project your virtues on to me. You can't get someone else to hold your conscience while you go off and do what you like. Because how you lead your life is ultimately your responsibility."

On Bonfire Night we considered *Justice, Guy Fawkes & Saddam Hussein*: "It costs about £40,000 per year to keep a prisoner in jail. So if your parents complain about the cost of school fees, you can always tell them it's half the price of keeping you in prison. And probably better for you."

And talking of school, we considered that deep theological mystery. *Are Reports created or do they evolve?* "...it's never too late. Never, ever too late to become everything that we were created to be, so that, in the end, we can even look at ourselves and say not just *could do better* but rather *behold: it is very good*."

Three pupils who certainly deserve a decent report are Nick Price, Rachel Scott, and Gemma-Rose Lansdowne who demonstrated this year that the duties of Chapel Prefect could be fulfilled in three equally effective but remarkably different styles.

To return to the pulpit, we heard the story of the *Big Round Red Dutch Jesus* and contemplated the gospel of the *Flying Spaghetti Monster*, and filled a jar with *Stones, Pebbles, Sand & Wine*.

But as we have laughed in Chapel; as we pray, and learn, and think, so we have wept, for Louise Wallace, and for others close to us who have died. It is, as it should be, a place to bring and express our deepest hopes and fears: and a place where we encourage others to do the same:

"Loving God is not a club. Truly being a Christian is not about condemning the rest of the world to hell. It's about looking for good in everything: it's about accepting that my way doesn't have to be yours.

Or as Jesus puts it:
"Whoever is not against us is for us."

That's how Jesus puts it. And this is how Robert Burns puts it:

My Son, these maxims make a rule,
An' lump them aye thegither;
The Rigid Righteous is a fool,
The Rigid Wise anither:

Traditionally, the prospect of both school Chapel and school dinners may be contemplated by pupils as unpalatable necessities; sermons and sausages equally indigestible. Once there, however, the fare turns out to be surprisingly enjoyable, and keeps body and soul together in a healthy and stimulating way. *Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.*

RAMTQ



Speech Day

We can overcome adversity and achieve our personal goals, no matter how steep the odds may be



The usual congenial atmosphere and high spirits of Speech Day were accentuated this year by both the glorious weather and the fact that nearly fifteen hundred people attended (oh yes, and there was the fast-approaching half-term break).

Far from what anyone had experienced in previous years, however, was the highly motivational speech delivered by Ben Saunders; a record-breaking long distance skier who not only has three North Pole expeditions under his belt, but is the youngest person ever to ski to the North Pole and holds the record for the longest solo Arctic journey by a Briton. He captivated us with an astonishing account of his past experiences at (quite literally) the top of the world, including an attack by a polar bear, frostbite and falling through ice, all of which he told with incredible honesty, humility and enthusiasm. Over all, Ben Saunders had a huge impact on us all, leaving us feeling that by persevering and pushing ourselves to the limits, we can overcome adversity and achieve our personal goals, no matter how steep the odds may be.

Following this was the much anticipated summary of the school year according to the Heads of School, Olly Corlett and Catriona Kelly. It was very well-executed and often humorous. The Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors, J. B. Gray, gave equally entertaining speeches which, despite slight technical problems with the microphone, still managed to be thoroughly informative. Of course, no Speech Day is complete without the annual prize-giving, and the formidably lengthy line of pupils who queued up to receive their awards seemed to confirm the message of the guest speaker very effectively.

By the time the official ceremony had come to a close we had worked up quite an appetite, and the delicious buffet lunch (particularly the strawberry tarts) prepared by the Sodexo team was gladly received by all, as was the impressive performance by the school Pipe Band on the lawn. Guests and pupils now had the chance to experience a showcase of the finest artwork and Design and Technology projects that Strathallan students had to offer, as well as musical performances by the choir and various instrumental soloists in the school Chapel, all of which were of an outstanding quality. All in all, Speech Day was thoroughly enjoyable and our sincere gratitude goes to Ben Saunders for a truly inspirational and fascinating presentation and to all who supported the event.

Naomi Miller LVI Thornbank







RILEY



USE

There were many impressive individual performances from our boys and girls

RILEY HOUSE

Cars rolled up to the Riley Paddock on Wednesday 6th September. Trunks were everywhere and little brothers and sisters got under everyone's feet. All the new pupils were welcomed by Mr and Mrs Bush, Gill the matron, and the tutors in the Common Room and after a few coffees, teas and cakes goodbyes were said and the Autumn Term was under way.

The set up of the House was quite different this year, two thirds of the pupils being boarders and the boys outnumbering the girls by two to one. By the Summer Term we had 70 pupils. With a large and mature II Form group there were many positive and successful contributions to our House events. The sport especially, on the boys' side, produced some good results. The A team were very competitive throughout the year and Ruairidh Hunter proved to be a great motivator as captain in all three major teams. The girls improved in confidence throughout the year but suffered because of numbers rather than a lack of talent against the bigger schools.

There were many impressive individual performances from our boys and girls – William Lyburn in tennis, Maggie Luck, Azlyn Edens, Emily MacLachlan, Yasmine Forbes and Jack Somerville in swimming. Ruairidh Hunter and Patricia Moyo in athletics, James Gray in Cross Country, Jenny Summersgill in showjumping and Daniel Adams, Alex Murray, Ben Lewis and William Lyburn who won the Perth Junior League premier division in table tennis to name but a few.

It was a good year for drama and music and we took part in the Perth and Edinburgh festivals. We enjoyed many performances from Kirsty Glasgow on violin, Murdo Elvis on accordion and Clare Sterritt on flute and clarsach. The divisional plays written and produced by the children in December were the best in our experience of Riley and we all thoroughly enjoyed the colourful and amusing *Alice the Musical* performed to a packed house at the end of the summer term. Not to be forgotten, the Leuchars trip, Halloween Party, Non-uniform day, Games' night, non-tuck day, divisional music, alternative concert, triathlon, II Form Camp, Sports' Day, Headmaster's music and the end of year BBQ. A busy and enjoyable year but one that was marred by the illness that forced our matron, Gill to leave her job during the Easter holidays. When the children heard about Gill's cancer they were keen to do something and came up with the idea for a sponsored run around the Paddock in aid of Cancer Research UK. It was super to see Gill at the event and over £5,000 was raised. Now that is impressive and shows how much the children and parents loved and missed Gill. Well done, Riley.



Award Prizes

The Riley Prize Giving took place in the Common Room after *Alice* on Friday 29th June 2007. The following were awarded prizes :

Best Form Orders – Effort Totals

1st	Finlay Kettles
2nd	Sophie Burdett Claire Mendelson
3rd	Mhairi Bannerman Ellie Campbell Kirsty Glasgow

Most Progress Azlyn Edens

Distinctions Grace Cochran-Patrick
Euan Gray
Olwyn Jenkins
Jenny Summersgill
Cosmo Galashan
Patricia Moyo

Music Kirsty Glasgow
& Clare Sterritt

Drama Ellie Campbell
& Charlie Rutherford

Games Yasmine Forbes
& Ruairidh Hunter

Art Molly Barnes & Henry Lee

DT Jack Somerville

Divisional Plays *Dupplin*

Chess Master James Gray

Divisional Music:

Best soloist Kirsty Glasgow

Best Division *Glenamri*

Novice Chanter Lewis Coutts

Equestrian Awards Jemma Battison
Emma Cheape
Emily MacLachlan
Jenny Summersgill

Divisional Swimming Balmanno

Divisional Football Dron

Athletics: Sports' Day

Victrix Ludorum Patricia Moyo
Victor Ludorum
Steven Segaud

Hewson Cup Ruairidh Hunter

Divisional Shield *Dron*



FREELAN

It has been a great pleasure to welcome a number of new pupils to Freeland House this year



The quality of the boarding experience is enhanced by the variety of experiences and backgrounds that people bring to the House and by their willingness to get involved. From just down the road to right across the world, people come together to share in a lifestyle which is both interesting and rewarding.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome a number of new pupils to Freeland House this year. Along with a fine group moving up from Riley we have been joined by Enoch Mak from Hong Kong and Jonny Bain and Steven Beckett from Aberdeen, Santi Gil from Barcelona and Surakat Kudehinbu from Kenya, Jamie Freiman from the US, Claus Burchards, Christian Wagner and Rene Palm from Germany, Oscar Huang from China and Radek Oborny from the Czech Republic. All have added to the rich culture of our House and school.

The Arts

House Music is always fun, but this year was particularly enjoyable as we carried away the overall House music trophy, the first time in many years that a boys' House has achieved this honour. Alex Beetschen took the solo performance trophy on the piano while being the driving force behind fantastic productions of *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* and the spectacular concert finale *The Final Countdown* performed by Alex, Oli Wale, William Campbell-Gibson, Josiah Bircham, Oliver Beetschen, Malcolm Fraser, Chris Milford and Sam Smith. Struan Gordon provided a different kind of music this year entertaining everyone with his DJ-ing at both 6th form and junior events while Adam Michie has continued to win awards across Scotland for his piping. William Campbell Gibson achieved the great honour of being selected for the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. We are fortunate to have some incredibly talented actors in the

HOUSE

FREE LANDHOUSE

House. Alex Beetschen, his brother Oliver, William Campbell-Gibson, Jamie Parker and Oli Wale dominated the cast of *Romeo and Juliet*. Malcolm Fraser directed our effort in the senior House drama, a series of Monty Python skits featuring many members of the Fifth and Sixth Forms. Radek Oborny promoted the Alternative Concert and played the trumpet while Peter Vine sang a classic. William played a magnificent lead role in Sweeney Todd wonderfully supported by Oliver Beetschen, Alex Beetschen, Sam Lipworth, Ollie Wale, Struan Gordon, Robert Jardine, Malcolm Fraser, Chris Milford and Marco Velasquez. Ollie Wale performed a season with the Pitlochry Theatre Company and won a number of awards performing in the Burns Competition and The Perth Festival.

Sam Lipworth has continued to represent the school at the highest level in debating while coaching and encouraging our junior debaters. It was great to see Surakat Kudehinbu present himself on the floor in a very forthright manner and to watch Jamie Parker jousting with his brother. Josiah Bircham partnered Jamie in the junior final. Others to represent the House included Jamie Freiman, Alex Beetschen, Radek Oborny and Marco Velasquez.

Sport

If there were a prize for enthusiasm it would go to Mr Goddard and the boys who head down to the astro every Friday night after prep for football, no matter the weather. Such devotion, of course, has had major spin-offs in other sporting arenas.

Our swimming team continued to excel, finishing second in the Gala and the standards, led by our Head of House, Sam Smith and aided by the timely arrival of our Australian from Norway, Oli Luck. Other swimmers to stand out included Jamie Freiman, Peter Vine, Radek Oborny, Greg Guthrie, Jonny Bain, Graham Ramsay and Marcus Adams.

Our performance in athletics was boosted by the arrival of Marcus Adams in Third Form. Not only did he perform well on the Strathallan track, winning the age championship, but he went on to achieve a silver in the Long Jump and a bronze in the Triple Jump in the Scottish schools championships. Steven Beckett, Surakat Kudehinbu, Oli Luck, Radek Oborny, Rory Gibson, Graham Ramsay, Jonny Bain and Rene Palm also impressed.

As has become tradition, Freeland was well represented in this year's triathlon. Peter Vine had the distinction of completing the gruelling event three years in a row while Sam Smith was part of the super team to break the record. Mauritz Hartgerink, Radek Oborny, Chris Milford, Alasdair Bissett and Jaimie Freiman all put in solid performances on the day.

In other sporting Highlights we came second in senior House basketball and beat Simpson in junior House cricket. Oli Luck and Jonny Dickson's attire on the tennis court came from a different era, but they did enjoy their inter-House tennis matches along with Santi Gil and Felix Keene.

Rory Gibson was in the winning team in the Scottish Schools' Shooting Championships and continues to undertake elite training, Greg Guthrie represented Scottish Independent Schools in football, Andrew Glover has competed at the highest level in equestrianism and Adam Piper has continued to train and ski in competitions in Europe.

Academics

Hafiz Hj Jaidi and Sam Smith continued our strong tradition of academic excellence, earning full academic colours for their achievements in the AS exams and going on to do very well in the final papers. A number of boys went on to win academic prizes at speech day including Malcolm Fraser (Thomson Salver for Achievement) and Josiah Bircham who won a very difficult to get Third Form prize. Other prize winners included Greg Guthrie, William Campbell-Gibson, Ian Ma, Greig Dempster, Alastair Smith, Allan King, Alex Beetschen, Robert Jardine, Sam Lipworth, Jamie King, Andrew Glover and Jamie Parker.

Other Activities

Radek Oborny has taken on the role of House eco-warrior, promoting recycling and discouraging electricity waste in an effort to help Freeland to reduce its impact on the planet.

Robert Jardine has made regular excursions to Dundee Airport and over the year has gone from flying solo for the first time to achieving his full pilot's licence over the summer.

William Campbell-Gibson did work experience with the conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Sam Lipworth undertook medical experience with the Scottish Rugby Union and in the Outer Hebrides.

I take this opportunity to thank our tutors Gavin Batterham, Geoff Goddard, Robert Proctor, Richard Walmsley and Angus Weir for the vital role they have played in the lives of the boys in our House. The quality of their relationships with the boys has helped many to overcome personal and academic hurdles throughout the year. I would also like to thank our matron, Diane, seamstress, Jeanette and cleaner, Nick who have worked cheerfully and tirelessly beyond what is expected of them to make the lives of the boys more pleasant. Finally, I would also like to thank Sam Smith, Greg Guthrie and Allan King for the key roles they played in the running of the House and to wish all of our leavers the very best for the future.

GH



NICOL HO



Aristotle said- 'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.' Although when Aristotle said this he had no clue that a Nicol House would ever exist, it somehow seems to sum Nicol up perfectly. The boys expect excellence, they strive for excellence and, most often, they achieve excellence. I will talk more of this attitude later as I feel it is this that makes Nicol so special.

To recollect this year I must begin, unfortunately, with a goodbye. This goes to Mr Biro who, although he leaves the House after only one year, made an invaluable contribution to it and exerted an influence on the House and on individuals that will last much longer. He will be especially remembered for his commitment to the infamous Monday Night Football, coming down every week without fail and playing some quality stuff at the same time. His presence in the House will be greatly missed and on behalf of Nicol I wish him the very best when he returns to Romania.

In the shadow of the House's most illustrious year, this one was always going to struggle to replicate the successes in inter-House competitions. However, in comparison with most years the trophy haul does not compare too badly. The great Nicol traditions of a hilarious House video and House drama were also kept up. Piers and Greg played important rôles in both acting and directing.

The video featured an epic struggle for power between Barnes' Angels and Bruce's Saints with the Angels eventually coming out on top by busting Fergus Bell. The House drama was based on Peter Pan and from Mark's all too real impression of Tinkerbell to Ollie's role as croc-hunter the play was very successful and many believed unlucky to not win. However, both Piers and Mark picked up best actor awards.

House Music under the new leadership of Mark was again an impressive spectacle. It was decided to vary our music more and the choir therefore performed a rocking version of *Highway to Hell*. Tom Esparon played a beautiful piece on his violin for our solo piece and Inane, led by Mark Garratt, played *I Miss You* by Blink 182. Again, unfortunately, we only managed second place but I am sure that our pieces will live on in the memory of those watching for many years to come. (Er, actually, no. Ed)

Nicol's finest hour in my time here has been on the sports field and although, as I have mentioned, the trophy cabinet is not brimming as it was last year there are many victories to recount. With no House rugby due to an extended cup run for the 1st XV the real House competitions started in the spring term, in which we retained House Swimming, Badminton, junior Basketball and both junior and senior outdoor hockey. Junior indoor was never finished but we were in a very strong position and, unfortunately,



could not add to our haul in the summer term although our performance at sports day was commendable. Not bad, really, and the fact that most people in the House are disappointed by this, pleases me, as it shows the House's insistence on excellence.

As usual there were Nicol boys behind most successes that the school achieved. The House provided nine members of the 1st XV, large parts of the 1st X1 hockey and football and the majority of the badminton team. Alongside this there were Nicolites in leading roles in both major drama productions, many involved in all types of music from choirs to rock bands and we won the boys' prizes for sports, achievement and All Round Merit alongside subject prizes. Although this is a House report and I'm not a fan of naming individuals some have to be mentioned Freddie toured South Africa with Scotland U15's cricket and is now playing with the U17's as well, Joe Lipworth won medals at a national level for swimming and Struan Dewar capped off a brilliant season for the 1st XV by representing Scotland U18s and has now won a place in the National Academy.

Around the House it has been, as usual, an eventful and amusing year. Davina's constant shouting has annoyed everyone; one-hand-one-bounce has become a Nicol legend, Mr Ross' stories continue to amuse all listening and Fergus had a horrific shaving accident. We also had two exchange students Ollie and Greg, one from either side of the Tasman Sea. Both settled into the House very well, Ollie sharing a particularly close relationship with Fraser and making an impact around the school.

I highlighted at the beginning the attitude that defines Nicol and have always queried where this has stemmed from. It has become clearer to me throughout

this year that, as the saying goes, 'Attitude reflects leadership.' Nicol, this year as it is most years, has been testament to this saying. Lawrie our dedicated and diligent head of House and the House prefects have set the standard and others have followed. The overall credit must however go to Mr Giles and his tutors, who allow each individual to flourish but at the same time demand excellence both individually and collectively year after year.

Nicol's finest hour in my time here has been on the sports field and although, as I have mentioned, the trophy cabinet is not brimming as it was last year there are many victories to recount

How? This is an important question to me as it is easy to set goals but often difficult to achieve them. Again I will have to use some one else's words to explain 'The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.'- Vince Lombardi. Nicol is a team and every collective or individual success is a result of every bit of effort put in from Mr Giles to the tutors to the cleaners to the pupils. Everybody contributes in their own way and everybody makes an impact, each one as important as the next no matter how great or small.

This explains the atmosphere that allows everyone to fit in, enables great friendships to evolve and, of course, provides the foundations for excellence.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to live in Nicol these past five years and this House is host to many of my greatest memories. To my fellow leavers I would like to say thanks for all the good times and particularly their commitment, especially Lawrie. To those staying, preserve this great Nicol tradition of excellence and by combining the great friendships and the talent present in the House raise the standards even higher. I feel that in Fraser, your Head of House for next year, you have someone who you can trust to give his all in maintaining and raising this standard.

Michael Cachia

HOUSE

RUTHVEN HOUSE



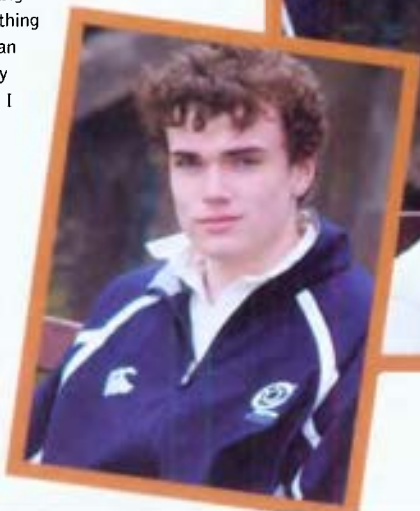
all other teams standing. Over the course of the term we also managed wins in Junior Cricket and House Golf and ensured Nicol did not retain the Tennis trophy.

The House continues to grow and evolve over time. The boys are now very accustomed to how I work and this does make life easier. To Harry and his team of prefects I thank and wish them well along with the other Upper VI leavers. To others leaving, Bruce, Cameron and James, we wish you well in your new environments.

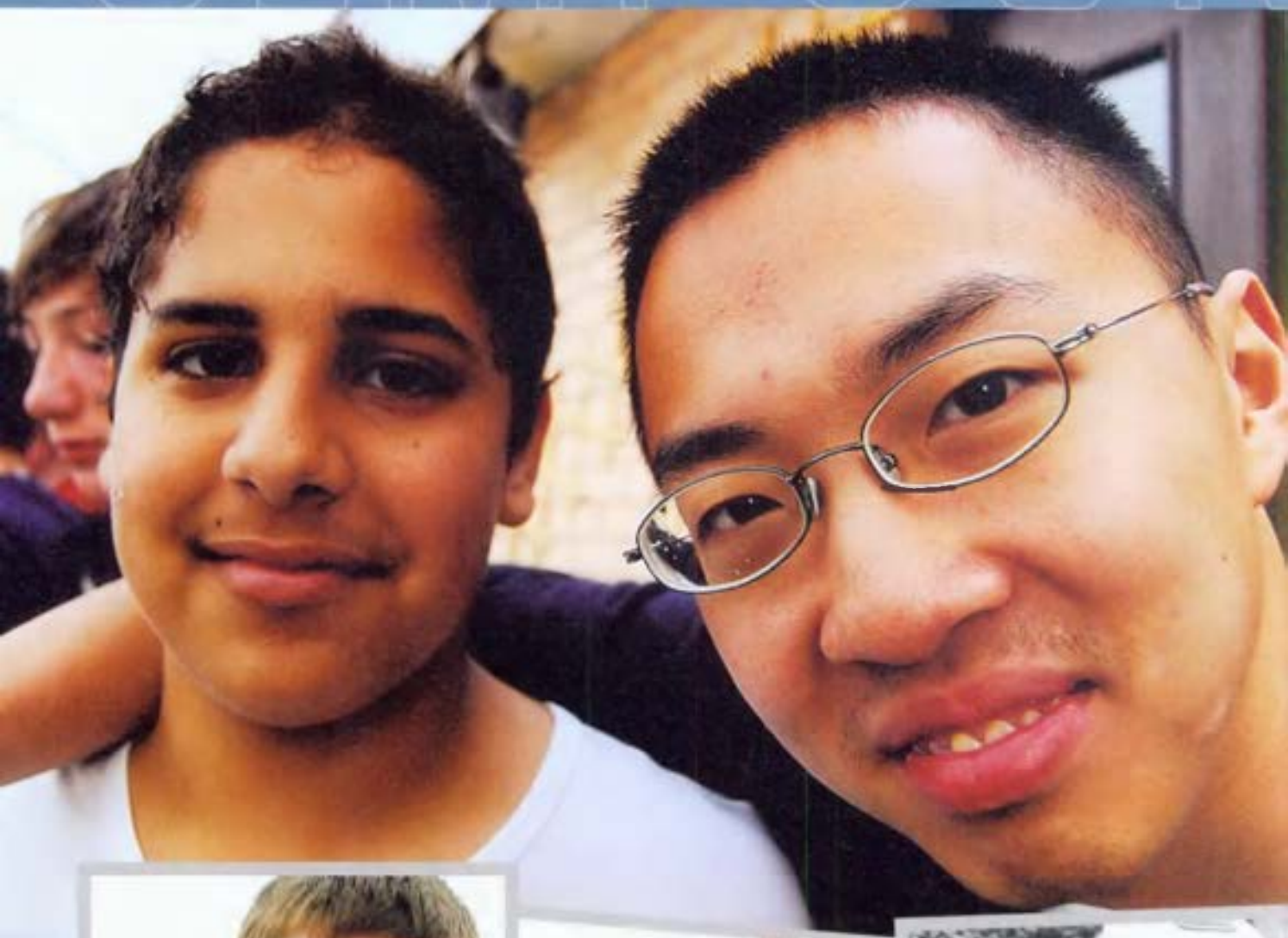
May I thank Matron and her team of dedicated staff who keep the House clean and tidy and also my Tutors for their invaluable help. Finally, to Ann and the family a big thank you for patience more than anything else. So often they have to cope with an absent father and husband and I really appreciate their tolerance - without it I could not do my job.

AW

The choir's rendition of The Way to Amarillo went down a treat with all but the judge...



SIMPSON



Charlie Harrison, scanned the prize as a memorable Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz!



THORNBANK

This year saw the introduction of the junior Saturday night events which proved to be very popular



As a new year dawned we welcomed not only our new girls but an extension to Thornbank House. The old telephone box was converted into the entrance to our splendid new day pupil accommodation which the VI and V Form day pupils quickly decked out in their own unique style which I think must be called floor-decoration. However, we soon got into routine and regular choccie rewards were received for the tidiest desks. Bribery always works.

With Scoobs and Jess at the helm, and Fiona organising all the sports teams, the new year began to take shape. The prefects organized their first pizza-night to get to know their III Form buddies, followed by the now annual go-karting trip to Perth. If the girls think that the sports field can be a dangerous place it's nothing compared with driving on the same circuit as Lauren, Zoe and Rosie Beetschen. Bruises were still being compared the following week

This year saw the introduction of the junior Saturday night events which proved to be very popular. With Mr. Fleming, Mme D and Miss Wilkinson in charge there was bound to be plenty of good, clean fun. Saturday nights also became games nights as Miss Wilkinson introduced the House to Jungle Jam.

Scoobs, Jess and Claire prepared the girls for House music with our rendition of the *Shoop Shoop Song*. This is always a hard undertaking but, although we didn't win any prizes this year, performances were up to their usual extremely high standards.

Laura, Zoe, Gemma and Suzie took charge of the House social events, their first party being the one at Halloween. Due to last minute shopping we had to make do with mini swiss-rolls instead of doughnuts hanging across the common room for one of the games –different. Flour, water and loo-roll were everywhere (don't tell Matron).



In fact, I think most of it was on Abbey. The scary video provided by the prefects was hilarious, Blair Witch – watch out.

The Christmas party always provides the best laughs of the year. Whilst Vicky and Hannah read the news, the Lower VI took us through an alternative school tour visiting a netball session, the Art School and the Headmaster's study. Is this how you got to be Captain of School, Rachel?

The Winter Term saw Thornbank win the Inter-House senior drama competition with their performance of *The Sound of Music* ably directed by Gemma Rose and her team; they all looked so cute. Other victories came in the swimming standards led by Stef Feld, in the Tug of War led by Lucy and her squad of elite athletes and for Maz in the Badminton.

But competition is not what the House is all about. It's about the pancake-making, the story-telling, and the Saturday night foyer hangman; going to events and finding a white top to turn into something beginning with P, being invited to the Marines' dinner or watching the girls leave for the dinner and admiring their dresses and shoes, kicking your shoes off after the ball and downing a large glass of Irn Bru.

It's also about encouraging and supporting each other, in the triathlon, at Sports Day. Going out on tutor meals, eating some of Aishah's brownies, building sofas (just ask Lauren and Zoe about that one), skipping double dutch in your flip flops and trying your skills at archery - without injuring our new III Form.

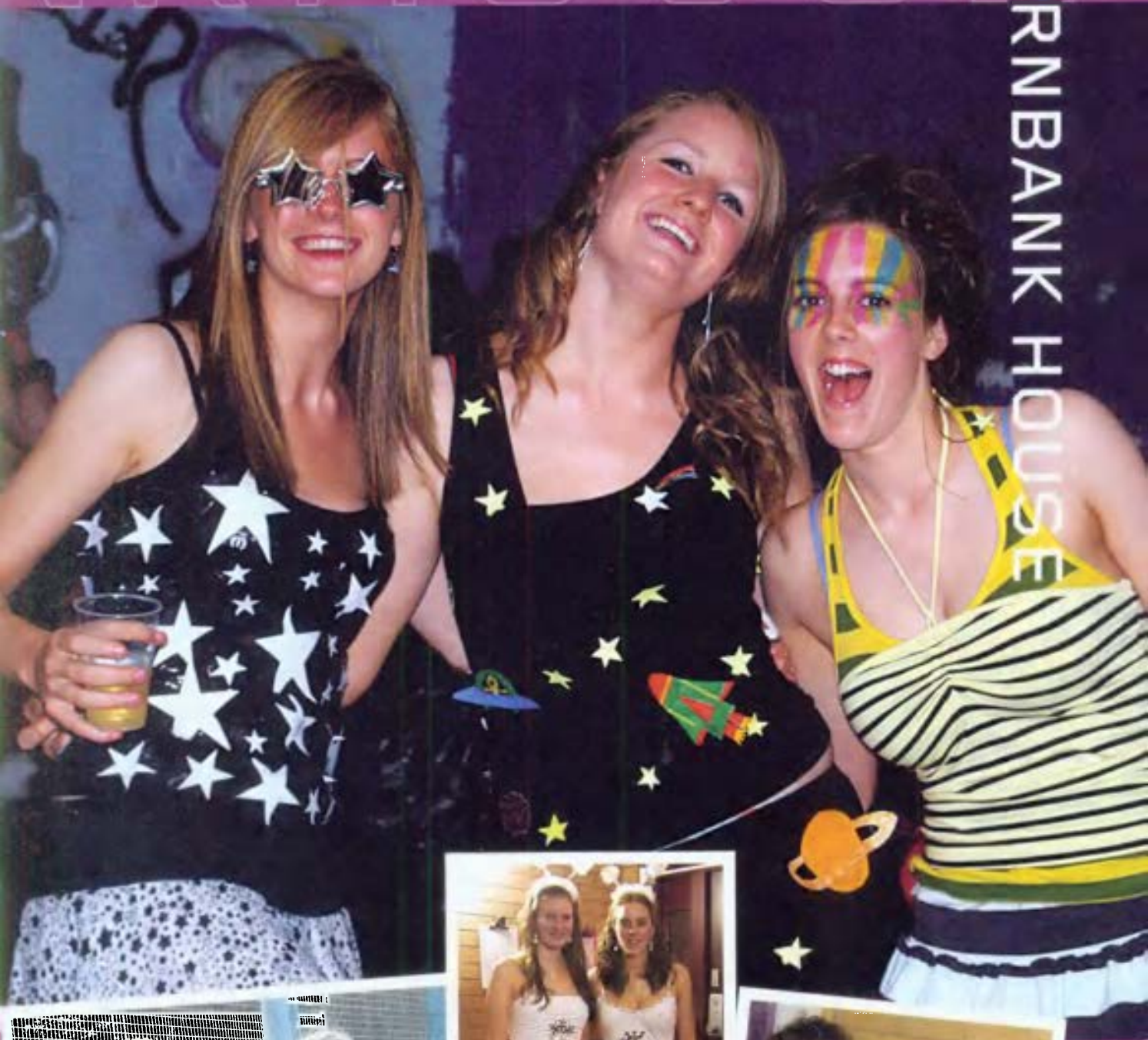
Thornbank is a special place that feels safe and comfortable, where we can all be ourselves, make mistakes, learn and grow. So on that terrible day in November when the 1st XI were involved in a minibus crash, it became the perfect place for the girls involved to retreat to; to help them heal and recover.

None of these things could have taken place without the support of the prefects, our tutors and Morag, Ros, Jennifer and Linda. Many thanks and here's to more fun and games next year.

SF & JRF



WINKHOUSE THORNBANK HOUSE



WOODLAND



With ninety girls singing their hearts out, we proved to be... untouchable



For Woodlanders another year ended as it began; spirits were high throughout the competitiveness of Sports Day, with girls competing for their House in everything from the gruelling 1500m to the always amusing Tug of War, the latter providing further proof of the ever increasing morale and support, as those who were not strong (or brave) enough to participate cheered their House on. In fact the enormous amount of team effort and encouragement in everything undertaken made me, and I'm sure others in my year extremely proud to be the UVI for the ninety-plus Woodlanders that make the House what it is today.

The determination and leadership skills of the UVI were put to the test almost as soon as we had settled back into the House, in the always amusing, but increasingly controversial House Drama competition. Determined to continue last year's success, Senior Drama was headed by Ennis and Kirsten in the production of Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. Ennis' transformation into the ever-so-slightly-creepy Willy Wonka provided hilarity for the hundreds of audience members. We got plenty more laughs when the Woodlands version of the Oompa Loompas, the Humpa Lumpas, performed their dance routines. Despite the huge amount of effort put in by all the aspiring actresses and the stage crew we were defeated. ('We was robbed' is the line that comes to mind). However, the giggles shared by the senior years and the huge amount of fun that we had putting it all together showed that morale could not be crushed.

Defeat would not be with us for long. With the arrival of the House Music Competition, Tori's organisational skills and patience with the House choir were to prove successful. Singers dutifully arrived every break time and lunchtime, (only after our daily trip to Ramsey St of course) and rehearsed Voices until we could stand it no more. On the day of the competition, all felt confident that all the hard work would pay off. Clad in fetching hula skirts and lays, with Big Booty Mama, Sara Chalmers, as conductor, Woodlands took the stage. With ninety girls singing their hearts out, we proved to be... untouchable. Winning Best choir this year was only possible due to Tori's effort, leadership skills and determination.

Coffee at break took a new turn when Mr. Tod's Coffee Mornings made an appearance this year. Every Wednesday morning, with coffee, tea, hot choc, and bowls overflowing with cakes, muffins and doughnuts, Woodlands VI Form were given a chance to chill out on the sofas to chat and giggle over the scandals of last week's event, whilst munching on enough sugar and caffeine to ensure that naps in spares, sorry 'study periods', became a thing of the past. The juniors also enjoyed yummy hot choc nights in pj's and slippers with the Tods, and the UVI were given chances to unwind with Ben and Jerry's and bubbly every now and again. House parties were a chance for everyone from all year groups to get together and have a blether and a laugh at the Christmas videos, with everything from Aliens invading Strath to the UVI's version of Big Brother.. (special mentions to Ginny and Amalina on that one...). The annual VI Form Chocolate Night again resulted in girls being reduced to chocolate covered chuckles with Sophie Stephenson's admission, 'Never ever have I been arrested..'





So we come to the Snug. The Snug has endured hours of Neighbours-watching, costume creations, attempted cooking, sleeping, tarot reading, emotional episodes of Desperate Housewives, and yup, our famous 'Year Breakdown', oh and a little bit of mould...(sorry, Janet). It has been the UVI's place to come together as a year and truly appreciate the friendship that held us together throughout the year and those nasty exams. (I'm now feeling slightly emotionally unstable). I'd just like to say what a wicked group of prefects we proved to be, although our 'sanctions' didn't quite justify the 7am bells. A special mention must go to Catriona as an awesome Head of School and J, Tors and Ennis for helping me make the right decisions and keep the House under control! The Woodlands UVI provided everyday entertainment and set a great example to the younger years, whilst continuing to be an extremely talented, hard-working bunch.

This report could not be completed without a special mention to the truly remarkable House staff. To Janet, thanks for supplying us all year with the beauty products necessary to keep us looking so damn good, and thank you for making us realise that cleaning is necessary every now and again. To Dora, thanks for fixing up the dodgy ball dresses and helping us out with our washing - we are all now set for life outside school. To Denise, thanks for always smiling and being cheery even when the juniors created frequent mess. And to Maggie, Mags, Margerote...chats with you always proved to be filled with banter and your nagging helped us to maintain cleanliness even after Sunday brunch fry-ups. You all help give Woodlands that homely feel and all gratitude is expressed to you.

The tutors this year were again an eclectic mix of characters who provided essential Chemistry, Art, Spanish and French tuition, and a huge thanks to all of them for providing a lovely in-House environment, each of them bringing their own qualities to it.

And to the Tods. What can I say? You have been truly amazing in every aspect of this year and all the years that us girls have been living in Woodlands with you as our House parents. The sleepless nights after the arrival of little Fionn, and the House proved to be no problem as you both provided all the support, advice and that 'family-feel' that is so important to those living away from home. Whilst there is still so much to say to you, I feel we often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. So, thank you for everything, and your care and advice have helped us prepare for the big wide world out there.

So a new bunch of UVI is now in charge, and I know that they will come to fill the big shoes left for them. Prefect duties are tough at times, but definitely a rewarding experience. Good luck to all of you and remember to work hard and play hard.

Kirsty MacGeoch

We must add our sincere thanks to everyone connected with Woodlands. There are so many achievements, academic, sporting, social and personal, that cannot be mentioned in such a summary of the year; daily there are times when we feel proud. Thanks to Kirsty for her characteristically laid-back leadership and we wish all those who have gone on to pastures new every success.

AT and MRAJBT



Headmaster's Music

The Bagpipe Quintet opened proceedings with their usual display of astonishing memory and military precision



Organising an event like Headmaster's Music is no easy task. Without even considering the hours of work required from the performers, conductors and tutors, creating a varied and balanced programme is difficult in itself. Luckily, there has been so much music going on from week to week that acts from a variety of genres and styles can be plucked seemingly out of thin air, to form a concert of genuine depth.

The large ensembles were all present and correct. The Bagpipe Quintet opened proceedings with their usual display of astonishing memory and military precision ('though not without, in addition, deafening a few violin players). The orchestra then continued with a stirring rendition of Holst's ever popular *Jupiter* theme, which forms the musical basis for the unofficial Strathallan anthem *I Vow to Thee My Country*. Later on, the Riley Band made a welcome appearance with an adaptation of the Beatles' classic *A Hard Day's Night*, and the Wind Band's vivacious medley of cartoon themes, *Prime Time 'Toon Revue*, raised a smile or two, concluding as it did with *The Simpsons* theme tune, a piece which would be nigh on impossible to play without having heard it first.

There was no shortage of soloists on hand to impress. On the piano, Alex Beetschen and Helen Summersgill gave sensitive and haunting interpretations of a Chopin *Nocturne* and a Brahms *Intermezzo* respectively, and Joanna MacLachlan portrayed Karen Tanaka's minimalist *Lavender Field* with great delicacy. On the violin, Tom Esparon and Megan Parkinson played two very contrasting pieces (a Vivaldi *Allegro* and a modern piece called, appropriately, *Dragon Dance*), both showing impressive command of the instrument.

Musical theatre continues in its popularity at Strathallan, and was well represented by Sam Burns, Eila Legge and Mark Bonington. These were heartfelt performances, showing not only a knowledge of the music but also of the characters behind it, and requiring some acting skill to perform successfully. They did this with style and verve, and their interpretation bodes well for the school musical later this year.

The Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and Choral Scholars were interspersed among these items, performing their usual mix of sacred and secular works. The latter, *Oh Happy Day*, presented by Alex Beetschen, *The Bare Necessities* and *Johnny Cope* were very lively, and beautifully contrasted with the Choral Scholars' *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee* and Claire Price and Gemma Chance's gorgeous rendering of Vivaldi's *Laudamus Te*. Finally, the full choir sang Chilcott's *Irish Blessing* to round off a highly energetic and eclectic evening.

Chris Charles, Ruthven LVI

House Music

HOUSE MUSIC

Simpson gave the competition a Scottish flavour by donning kilts and liberally applying red hair dye in order to belt out a version of what every member of the Tartan Army knows is Scotland's actual National Anthem, The Proclaimers' *I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)*



As the crowds filed into the Sports Hall anticipation for another high-quality competition was palpable. The audience was not to be disappointed as this year's House Music competition was, once again, to prove a highly entertaining contest with some very accomplished performances.

The morning got to a rousing start with Nicol House choir's rendition of AC/DC's *Highway to Hell*, including obligatory inside out blazers. Tom Esparon's beautiful solo performance of Vivaldi's *Concerto in A minor* was a change of direction and he produced an accomplished performance of a complex concerto. Back up to date the ensemble gave us a musically tight interpretation of Blink 182's *I Miss You*.

Thornbank had the difficult task of following this, but did so admirably starting with the choir's energetic and well-choreographed version of *The Shoop Shoop Song*. Following this was Stephanie Feld on the Clarsach who provided us with a delicate recital which was given an ethereal quality by the accompaniment of heavy rain on the roof. The House ensemble delivered a moving performance of *When She Loved Me* by Randy Newman, including Rachel McLean who played the flute despite having a broken jaw.

Audience participation was encouraged during Ruthven's enthusiastic interpretation of Tony Christie's *Amarillo* which, while not the most tuneful performance, was possibly the loudest. Harmony was restored by Chris Charles' exceptional and stirring performance of Brahms' *Rhapsody in G minor*. It was then time for rock-star-in-the making Chris Jaworski to take the stage and give a very spirited impersonation of Mick Jagger performing *Sympathy for the Devil*, ably backed by the Ruthven House band.

Simpson gave the competition a Scottish flavour by donning kilts and liberally applying red hair dye in order to belt out a version of what every member of the Tartan Army knows is Scotland's actual National Anthem, The Proclaimers' *I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)*. Dmitrii Misenin then gave a very earnest performance of

his own arrangement of a medley of current tracks which was followed by Charles Harrison and the rest of the band producing a very musically tight interpretation of *Mr Brightside* by the Killers.

Woodlands choir took a completely different direction starting with the ensemble who gave us an original and musically strong arrangement of *Legends of the Falling Feathers*, followed by Tori MacLellan performing an original composition on the piano and finishing with a colourful and uplifting performance of *Voices* by Dario G enthusiastically conducted by Sara Chalmers.

Europe's *The Final Countdown* as performed by Freeland House ensemble heralded the last performance of the day. The arrangement by Alex Beetschen was highly original and had a distinct classical influence. Alex then impressed the audience with a stirring performance of Rachmaninov's challenging *Prelude in C minor*. To ensure we left with an upbeat outlook Freeland's choir treated us to a very harmonious version of *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*.

The judge, Annie Smart, had a difficult job in deciding the victorious Houses, and after some deliberation she awarded the girls' choir prize to Woodlands and the boys' to Simpson. The accompanist prize was given to Nicol and Freeland won both the Solo and the Ensemble prizes as well as the overall trophy.

Despite the inclement weather the audience left feeling entertained and uplifted by the sheer quality and effort that had clearly gone into all of the Houses' performances.

FMB



Music

Another very productive year from a very talented, conscientious and team-spirited group of musicians

As another year rolls by, it always takes us by surprise that the Strathallian magazine is nearing its publication date (*Yes, it does, Neil. Ed*) and twelve months of performances and activities need to be committed to paper in a few short paragraphs. As ever, many pupils have contributed to the department's work over the course of the year and have provided entertainment in over sixty performances! Equally impressive is the sheer range of styles and genres given an airing at these events; from Gregorian Chant to contemporary composers, musical theatre, traditional music, jazz and our own home-grown student composers.

The Autumn Term has become extraordinarily busy over the past few years and began with an invitation to perform in St Ninian's Cathedral in a lunchtime concert as part of the national *Open Doors* scheme. Members of the Chamber Choir gave a spirited performance of a wide range of sacred music to a large and appreciative audience. This year the *Sixth Form Concert* took place in the very first few weeks of the term, putting our top performers on the spot after a long summer break. There were many outstanding performances at this event – particularly noteworthy were Alex Beetschen's performance of the slow movement of Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto*, Stephanie Feld's contribution on the harp of J. Molnar's taxing bravura piece *Sakura Sakura* and Chris Charles' impressive rendition of Jolles Mouquet's *Flute de Pan*. There were many others too, but these particularly caught the attention and did much to inspire those further down the school.

As half-term approached, of course House Music once more loomed. For many this is a highlight of the school year, and it once more lived up to expectations. Singer-songwriter Annie Smart has much experience with young performers and she was able to bring this to bear in her adjudication. Best ensemble prize went to Freeland for their very entertaining *Final Countdown*; Best Soloist also went to Freeland in the shape of the ubiquitous Alex Beetschen and his performance of Rachmanninov's *Prelude in C# Minor* on the piano; Best Conductor went to Ruthven's Sam O'Brian; Best Boys' Choir to Simpson and Best Girls' Choir to Woodlands (who could forget their costumed and choreographed extravaganza – Dario G's *Voices*). Overall winners were Freeland House who had been coached to perfection by Messrs Beetschen (senior), Smith and Fraser.

The latter part of the term saw the department host three visiting concerts. Firstly Robin and Kim Colvill gave a wonderful lecture recital entitled *Chopin's Scottish Tour*, during which they brought to life many of Chopin's best-known piano pieces which the composer would also have played during his well-documented tour of this very part of the country. We were particularly pleased that this was

the inaugural concert on our newly-gifted Boston Steinway piano in the Music Room. We also played host to the Scottish Schools' Orchestra and, towards the end of term, entertained guests at a fund-raising concert in aid of the charity Music in Hospitals where our own musicians played and sang alongside a professional group from Scottish Opera. Girls from the Chapel Choir took part in a performance of *Carmina Burana* at the Perth Concert Hall in a concert given with Perth Choral Society and we ended the term with a new venture; the Carol Service was given in St Ninian's Cathedral. This made available a host of new possibilities; one service in place of the usual three was most definitely to be commended from a



musical perspective and it allowed for Riley Choir, Chamber Choir, Chapel Choir and the Choral Scholars all to take part together, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the performers.

Along the way during the term there were also a variety of Riley Informal Concerts, a host of external music exams (not least of which were the London College of Music examinations in Music Theatre in which Sam Burns gained the schools seventh Associateship Diploma), Headmaster's Music (reviewed elsewhere) and the eagerly-awaited entertainment of the 3rd Form Concert.

The focus of the Spring Term is inevitably the senior musical production; this year *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim. It's a very taxing piece both

musically and dramatically and we were lucky to have particularly strong and experienced performers to tackle the complexities of the score. Although there is a review by Mr Fitzsimmons elsewhere, I would highlight the expertise we were fortunate to have in the shape of Miss Catherine Baker. As this year's guest director/producer she was able to give us an enormous and invaluable amount of advice and technical expertise on stagecraft and West End vocal production. We invited an examiner from the London-based Trinity/Guildhall exam board to mark the production as part of their newly-formed Musical Theatre syllabus and we were not unjustly proud to be told that our production was by far 'the best school production' the examiner had ever seen. Well done to one and all.

Aside from our endeavours on stage, the usual calendar of performances also took place. The increasingly popular Friday Lunchtime Concert series saw many pupils show their mettle in a number of 'themed' concerts. The Riley Divisional Music Cup took place to a packed audience in the Music Room (ably adjudicated by Ms Sarah Beaton). Many pupils won prizes in the Perthshire Musical Festival Competition. The 4th & 5th Form concert was remarkable in both its depth and exceptionally high standard; the likes of Sara Chalmers, Sam Lipworth, William Campbell-Gibson, Morag Elwis, Joanna MacLachlan et al are a strong force to contend with.

The Summer Term always brings its own stresses and strains in the shape of the many exams that have to be prepared for. I am, however, constantly amazed by the pupils' ability to juggle all of these commitments and still find time to produce countless musical performances of an extremely high quality. Speech Day and Strathallian Day provided many opportunities for our musicians to perform to a wide audience, as did our concert which opened the Lunchtime Concert Series in the Perth Festival which showcased a wide variety of repertoire from Haydn to Lauridsen. Gemma Chance's performance of the *Benedictus* from Haydn's *Little Organ Mass* drew particularly effusive comments. The Riley show - this year *Alice in Wonderland* - included every pupil in the House in its execution; Mrs Robertson-Barnett and Mr Walmsley deserve hearty congratulations for their efforts here, as do a host of others (Mrs Streatfeild-James, Mr Hume, Mrs Martin, and others) for putting such an ambitious project on the stage with such stunning success.

As the year draws inevitably to its close, those of our number who have contributed so very much during their time at Strathallian give their final moments to us. It was fitting then that in the last week of the term, the usual Concerto Concert took place. This year it featured Chris Charles (moving on to a music degree at Edinburgh University) and



also included Alex Beetschen. Their performances of movements of Shostakovich's *Second Piano Concerto*, Chopin's *First Piano Concerto*, Vivaldi's flute concerto *La Tempesta di Mare*, and Bach's *Concerto in C for Two Harpsichords* ended the year on a very high note.

Of course, all of this music-making would not take place without the many hours of input from the 'music team'. I mention in particular two of these folk; a warm welcome to Mr Matthew Beetschen who joins the piano department, and a very fond farewell to Mrs Angie Dagpunar who – over some 23 years at Strathallan – had given endlessly of her time and talents. We will miss her greatly, but hope

that she enjoys her extra day in the week which she is going to put to good use by... playing the cello.

All-in-all, another very productive year from a very talented, conscientious and team-spirited group of musicians, who also benefit from the expertise and support of a very dedicated team of teaching musicians. In ending this report it is to them I extend our thanks.

NRM

Raised largely under the banner of a Carlisle efficiency, PK has excellent body, a fine bouquet and one of the best mouthfuls in his price-range. He enjoys having lots of harmonious relationships and will make any barbers go with a bangler. When relating to PK be NOT ask him difficult questions.



A Night of Quality...



...was the description by adjudicator Brian Marjoriebanks of one evening at the Perth Competition Festival – *Perform in Perth* – in which our pupils scooped all the first places in the speech and drama classes. Amyce Smith-Bannister came first with honours for a speech by Juliet, showing the value of knowing the role so well, having played it in the school's production of *Romeo and Juliet* in December. She was also first equal for her recitation of Walt Whitman's *O Captain, my Captain*. Sophie Stephenson also achieved Honours in the William Soutar class for her age group. There were firsts, too, for Catriona Mackenzie in Bible reading and for Mark Bonington in the adult Shakespeare class with a speech by *Romeo*.

In the younger age sections, Ollie Wale won the trophies for Bible reading and for *Scots Wha Hae* by Burns. He also came first equal with Alice Inglis in the Shakespeare class. Rosie Beetschen won the English poem class with Wordsworth's sonnet *Upon Westminster Bridge*.

All three members of the Elwis family were successful over the speech and music classes at *Perform in Perth*. As a threesome they won the chamber music class with a flute trio. Ciara won the Soutar class in her verse speaking age group. Morag won the Burns class with honours and two other verse speaking classes. Murdo won the accordion and saxophone classes and achieved a distinction for Bible reading.

Other firsts in the music classes were achieved by Joanna MacIachlan in the Intermediate Piano Recital class. Chris Charles won the flute trophy. Alice Inglis, by the end of the festival, achieved three trophies for singing, including the overall Best in Festival.

The Perth Burns Club Festival also covers verse and music. Murdo Elwis came first in the accordion class; Ollie Wale took the junior secondary prize and Morag Elwis the senior verse and the overall secondary trophy. Sophie Stephenson won the fiddle trophy and Alison Ramsay the junior singing. Because of her

Perth success Morag was invited to take part in the Burns Federation schools' finals for the whole of Scotland. This took place in Kirriemuir. Morag was runner-up in this with her recitation of Burns' *Tae a Mouse*.

Riley, as well as seniors and staff, headed to the Edinburgh Academy on the first Saturday in May for the Edinburgh Competition Festival Speech and Drama Day. The Riley classes all took part in the choral speaking class. II set 1 came first. Many Riley pupils also enjoyed the group acting class, but in Edinburgh this is not a competitive event. It does, however, give them an opportunity to perform, with comments from the adjudicator, pieces which they will do in LAMDA exams later in the term.

In solo classes, Lucy Grieve won the senior verse speaking medal and was first in prose reading. Ollie Wale won the drama medal and came first in prose reading, under 15. Morag Elwis won the Bible reading medal and Josiah Bircham and Alison Ramsay won the verse speaking medals in their age groups.

A substantial number of pupils who have been doing LAMDA exams since Riley and have been working steadily up the grades have now reached medal level. Malcolm Fraser started LAMDA in 1J. In October he and Duncan Clark achieved Gold Medals in acting. Acting Silvers went to Alex Beetschen, Gemma Chance, Phoebe Shaw- Stewart and William Campbell-Gibson. Rebecca Clephan, Amyce Smith-Bannister and Ollie Wale gained Bronze in acting, David Cameron, Bronze in the speaking of verse and prose and Sam Lipworth in public speaking.

In the grade exams, the highest distinction mark was achieved by Sophie Stephenson in grade 5 verse and prose. Other very high marks went to Form 1J in choral speaking, and to Laura Glasgow, Jenny Summersgill and Jamie Parker, Ollie Wale, Jamie Schofield and Ollie Beetschen, in acting exams.

IIMcF

Senior House Drama

SENIOR HOUSE DRAMA

One production suffered from being quite possibly the longest piece of theatre that I have ever seen
In my life. Ever.



Omigod it's that time of the year again. Mrs R & B has snuck up on the blind side of Mr K and he's found himself unaccountably saying 'yes' in answer to the question, "Do you fancy becoming even more unpopular than you already are and adjudicating Senior House Drama?"

Well, here we go. Ruthven were once again first up (is there some kind of coin-tossing or are they just unlucky?) with a production of *Snow White* that owed more to Jackass TV than it did to the Brothers Grimm. Sam O'Brien introduced fairly calmly but I could definitely have done without seeing Mark Brebner half-naked in a wheelbarrow. There was some tremendous on-stage whistling and even some half-decent acting, though only from Niall (Wicked Queen) King, it's true. Tom Cargill proved a steady if not exactly dashing Prince Charming but it was when the skipping (and eventually stripping) be-kilted dwarfs came on the scene that the production really came into its own, and casting Kirill as the most unlikely dwarf in the universe started to look like a good decision.

Simpson's *Wizard of Oz* kept up the PORG theme by introducing the most hideous set of Munchkins I have ever had the misfortune to see. Charlie Harrison managed to surprise me by remembering almost all of his lines and Toby Robertson by filling the role of the fairy pretty convincingly. (*Is there a fairy in the Wizard of Oz?*). Bob McMorrine's shouty, pointy witch was hilarious and Cookie's Scarecrow song was genuinely affecting.

I thought that the star of Nicol's *Peter Pan* might well have been Harry Iroegbu's pork-pie hat but then...on came Piers Ranger expertly playing himself and *ta ra!* Mark Bonington (one n!) as an amphetamine-fuelled Tinkerbelle. Could it possibly get any better? Apparently, yes. Josh Lipworth's manic Hook and an especially disturbing performance from Ian Lyburn as Smee were a remarkably good double-act. In all it was a good production but perhaps next time, lads, we could have fewer gay-jokes. Thornbank's *Sound of Music* had almost been upstaged by its splendidly-produced programme but survived even Stage Manager Malcolm Fraser's intervention (to make an announcement about

a pane of glass) by racing straight up the Alpine slopes. Katie Scobie's Maria was an exemplary performance and Zoe Hayward's re-interpretation of the decidedly anti-Nazi Captain von Trapp as a goose-stepping Gauleiter a comic device too far (but still very funny). Lauren Giles once again demonstrated that she has a great deal of natural acting talent by playing a suitably dim five-year-old Gretl and Ailsa Turnbull also provided a convincingly manic Marta.

It was occasionally a little difficult to work out exactly what Freeland were doing on stage at any given moment. It was billed as a Monty Python sketch set in Sudbury College!?! But it seemed chiefly to be another opportunity for Willie C-G and Alex Beetschen to get up on stage and, er, do stuff. There was an inordinate amount of fruit-based humour and ornithology and, yes, Les Dawson would have been proud of the lads' rendition of the hymn. Nick Millar's Highland-French accent was a lark and, not unexpectedly, as soon as the Marines made it onto the stage it was time for the chaps' kit to come off. Mystifying.



The *Lanterne Rouge* was carried by the redoubtable Woodlands House who smeared us in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Kirsty MacDonald's spoiled brat Veruca Salt was alarmingly convincing and J Whitelaw's appearance was, if brief, really rather good. Top of the range, however, was Rachel Ennis as Willie Wonka himself, and yes, she had paid a visit to the Keith Richards/Johnny Depp School of Acting. The Humpas Lumpas were frankly appalling and this production suffered from being quite possibly the longest piece of theatre that I have ever seen. In my life. Ever. Or maybe it just seemed that way.

EGK

Alice's Adventures

The floating chess board and outsized doors played with the audience's sense of perception

"Alice, Alice, is this not a wonderland?" was the rhetorical question posed by the whole of Riley to our eponymous character, played beautifully by Kirsty Glasgow.

The set had taken stage crew months of careful planning and execution (the pun is entirely unintentional although Callum Kettles' executioner was unforgettably efficient in his annihilation of the cards and the chess pieces), the floating chess board and outsized doors playing with the audience's sense of perception from the very moment of their entering the theatre. This beautiful illusion was continued in the opening number, with Patricia Moyo and the Riley Dance Troupe encouraging all to suspend disbelief and enjoy the enchantment that followed.

Charlie Rutherford was the Reverend Dodgson, a rôle he performed with sensitivity and ease. Steven Segaud's caterpillar was another highlight and, oh my ears and whiskers, Alison Ramsay's splendidly twitchy White Rabbit managed to be on time for her very important date. Ellie Campbell proved herself to be an excellent Duchess and also pretty handy with a rugby ball, and

Murdo Elwis' Cheshire Cat grinned capably throughout. The Walrus and the Carpenter were brought to life by Josh Morris and Sandy Cook, a lovely cameo performed for the young Alice played by Kirsty Newell. Alex Murray was quite unforgettable as the Mock Turtle, tweaking the pots in the shape of Alex Vine and Henry Lee with an exquisite sense of comic timing, much to the delight of the audience, and Henry and Alex are to be applauded for keeping their concentration!

Olivia Streatfeild-James had excelled as the wardrobe consultant, providing the audience with a finely wrought ~~caavas~~ – flowers greeted Alice's entry to wonderland, the mock turtle ~~was~~ complete with shell, and each character's ~~costume~~ was enhanced by imaginative face-painting – the lizard, especially, being a tour de force.

A well-received and much enjoyed performance. Well done, Riley!

MR-B





Romeo and Juliet

I've never seen Romeo and Juliet before, but now I have



Romeo and Juliet was our third Shakespeare play in four years. Unlike Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream which we set in the 20th Century, this production was set in Verona in the 1500s. It was an ambitious venture. Every one of the costumes was designed and made by Jackie Martin, Kate Streatfeild-James and Olivia Streatfield-James. Olivia was solely responsible for Amyce's beautiful red dress for the part of Juliet. One young member of our primary school audience later wrote to us saying, "I liked the costume Juliet was wearing the best." Another observed, "The costumes were really clean and the make-up didn't smudge at all." And another, "I liked the way you put the Capulets and Montagues in red or blue. It made me understand who was in whose family."

Our pupils are becoming really proficient at handling Shakespeare's language. One youngster remarked, "It's amazing they remembered all these difficult words." "There was good and skilful acting", said another. Other comments included, "My favourite characters were Romeo (Oliver Beetschen) and Juliet because their acting was great." "The actors and actresses were like professionals." "I liked Tibbles" (sic, William Campbell-Gibson) best. He was funny." "I thought it was funny because the boys had to wear tights." "My favourite character was Juliet's Dad (Alex Beetschen)" "The nurse (Phoebe Shaw Stewart) was very funny." "My favourite bit was when Juliet stabbed herself." "The three men singing (Ollie B, Alex, and William) were excellent. It must have taken ages to get that perfect."

We are indebted to Ishbel McFarlane, a Strathallian, who came into the school several times and did workshops with the cast. She also attempted to help Romeo and Juliet overcome their reluctance to kiss in the Capulet party scene! We are also indebted to David Clift for spending weeks training the sword fighters. There were a few scary moments with that. One of our young critics commented, "The sword fighting was great. It's very hard to sword fight. The sound they made was fab." Thanks, Josh Lipworth.

The set and props were, once again, a tribute to the skill of David Hume, assisted by Malcolm Fraser, the Producer, and the stage crew. That was one of the main things that impressed our primary school audience. "The balcony was amazing. I thought it was made of cardboard. But I was proved wrong." "I like the balcony because people could stand on it without falling through."was there a touch of regret there?

The working fountain in the centre of the Verona square fascinated many of the youngsters especially because, as one observed, "I did like one bit. It was when the fountain fell over."

It was heartening to receive so many complimentary letters. "It was the best play ever," said one. The abridged Caryl Press versions, with linking narrations, which we use are very accessible to young audiences, most of whom have probably never seen live Shakespeare performances. A final note from one boy, "I've never seen Romeo and Juliet before, but now I have."

IIMcF (director) and Perthshire Primary Pupils.

Stage Crew

STAGE CREW

Since a lot of our experienced stage crew left at the end of last year we were pleased to welcome Cara, Megan, Stefanie, Oli and Gemma who helped to build sets and props throughout the year

This year started with the challenge of transporting a small piece of Verona to Scotland. Mr Hume came up with a fantastic set design inspired by his recent trip to Tuscany with the school's Art and DT departments. We had the two households (the Montague's and the Capulet's) arranged around a central piazza in the middle of which lay a plinth and fountain which later transformed into the lovers' death bed. Overlooking the piazza was Juliet's balcony and through a large archway at the back of the set was a handsome view designed and painted by Cara Duncan.

Since a lot of our experienced stage crew left at the end of last year we were pleased to welcome Cara, Megan, Stefanie, Oli and Gemma who helped to build sets and props throughout the year. Cara, Megan and Stefanie joined Jordan and Milf to crew for both Romeo and Juliet and Sweeney Todd.

As I have already mentioned, this year's musical was Sweeney Todd. When director, Catherine Baker, came to us asking for a set that had several levels with ramps between them and a pit in the middle, most of us were perplexed but Mr Hume managed to turn her idea into a design with apparent ease. It was an ambitious

build with a lot of lighting effects used. The set was abstract but there were "key pieces" that were brought on to create the scene. We had a fairly long and complex props list which included shaving equipment, a Bible, a whip and suet which *really* began to smell towards the end of the run.

The Riley show brought a fun break from reality with a giant warped chess board floating in the air painted on the floor and a painting of Alice herself at the back. A group of Riley pupils helped to *papier mache* and paint the giant Fantasy Fungi for the Caterpillar and Henry, Alex and Jazz helped backstage for the show as well. Unfortunately, I was unable to stage manage Alice but Oli Beetschen stepped up to the plate and had everything prepared and organised when I turned up on the day to crew.

I would also like to thank Dr Salisbury whose enjoyment of shopping at B&Q kept us supplied for all the sets this year, and Mrs Howett and Mrs R-B, who helped to keep order and peace backstage during all the shows.

Malcolm Fraser UVI Freeland

The Christmas Event

CHRISTMAS

As usual, the food was great, and for many people the highlight of the night was a huge chocolate fountain!

Christmas is always an exciting time of year, and so it follows naturally that the Christmas event always has a really good atmosphere.

Without a doubt, it is the one time when everyone pulls out all the stops when deciding on a costume. This year was no different, with cotton wool snowmen, green Christmas trees covered in baubles, snowflakes, reindeer and at least a dozen elves.

As usual, the food was great, and for many people the highlight of the night was a huge chocolate fountain!

I, personally, thought this was the best event of the year. It was a really good mix of food, fun and dancing, and I think everyone will eagerly anticipate next year's even more!

Hannah Cockburn LVI Thornbank



Tiny but perfectly-formed, Catherine is quite simply a lovely, lovely, lovely person.

At times, events can overwhelm her and she may find it almost impossible to say "No", even when the demands are unreasonable. When relating to Catherine DO NOT be harsh.



Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd,
his skin was pale and his eye was odd.
He shaved the faces of gentlemen,
who never thereafter were heard of again.
He trod a path that few have trod
did Sweeney Todd
the demon barber of Fleet Street.

Sweeney Todd

Demon Barber of
Fleet Street



Catherine Baker's wonderfully suggestive and atmospheric staging of *Sweeney Todd* was the highlight of the evening. We were immediately transported back to the mist and murk of 18th Century London; warts, meat pies, cut throat razors and all (Mrs Miggins please take note) for this year's production of Stephen Sondheim's story of miscarried justice, a displaced daughter and wife presumed dead, an amoral pie-maker, and vengeance achieved at a price. We heard some delightful singing and saw really committed acting from a young cast of performers, backed by a superb band under the leadership of Maestro Neil Metcalfe. What really stood out for me was the degree to which each actor really believed in their role, and managed to make us feel sorry, or happy, emotional or indifferent to their plight. This was great story-telling which drew the audience in and made them realise that, far from being the villain of legend, Sweeney was perhaps the most wronged man on stage. Yes he was guilty of foul deeds and murder, but then he had lost everything he ever cared about, and was seduced and eventually overwhelmed by desire for revenge and retribution.

On the ingenious raised-level staging we saw played out the fictional tale of Benjamin Barker, aka Sweeney Todd, the eponymous 'anti-hero' of the piece. Driven by a lust for revenge on the Judge (Duncan Clark) who had him transported to Australia for a crime he did not commit, Benjamin (William Campbell-Gibson) returns to London to discover that Judge Turpin's retribution had also extended to the abduction of Barker's wife (and her subsequent suicide), and to the wardship of his daughter Johanna (Claire Price). She is now in Turpin's care, though in truth she is in mortal danger, so hard does the Judge find it to restrain his lust for the young woman. Barker, adopting the persona of the barber Sweeney Todd plots and waits, anxious for a chance to confront the Judge and his villainous henchman the Beadle (Alex Beetschen). Hand in hand with his new accomplice Mrs Lovett (Sam Burns), whose meat pie shop has rather fallen on hard times, Todd

embarks on an orgy of killings which give him the chance to improve the flick of his razor, whilst also improving Mrs Lovett's takings, as the popularity of her human meat pies soars. Against this horrific backdrop is a burgeoning love story between young Anthony (Oliver Beetschen) and the beautiful Johanna, as well as the brutalising of young Tobias (Sam Lipworth), eventually drawn into the maelstrom of throat-slitting and mincing of bodies.

I hope the rest of the cast forgive me for saying this, but the two stars of the evening were undoubtedly William Campbell-Gibson as Sweeney, and Sam Burns as Mrs Lovett. They had by far the most time on stage, and their sheer acumen as actors made us a part of their story. William's voice, with chameleon shades of light and dark, lyricism and guttural menace, brought Sweeney to life for us. We could believe that he could charm the socks off anyone, and at the same time, instantly transform himself into a cold-hearted killer. Sam Burns, on the other hand, showed all the matronly vigour and mischievous devilment of a born saleswoman, intent on selling as many pies as she could and to hell with the consequences of the murder and mincing.

*For to seek revenge may lead to hell
But everyone does it, and seldom as well
As Sweeney Todd,
The demon barber of Fleet Street*



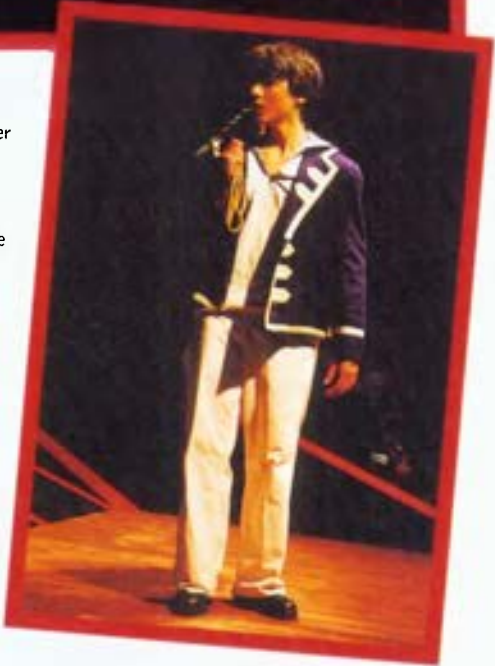
Pivotal as these two parts are, let us not forget the supporting cast. Duncan Clark had the right blend of pomposity, menace and downright sleaze that befitted the unprincipled Judge Turpin. His pursuit and abuse of Johanna and the beggar woman (Mairi Mackenzie) who later turns out to be Johanna's mother and Sweeney's presumed dead wife, was as savage as it was unexpected. What could have been caricature was believable and suitably disgusting. The Beadle, played in exemplary fashion by Alex Beetschen, was cockney I-know-it-all smarm to a tee. And we did not really feel any sympathy at all when he fell under Todd's knife.

Sam Lipworth's portrayal of the young Tobias was most believable. His voice is not one of beauty, or heard to best effect here, but he, together with the small chorus, was the engine of the production from the opening chorus of Sweeney Todd, to his own denouement in the cellar. It was his street urchin qualities, though, upon recognising his former master Signor Pirelli's purse in Mrs Lovett's hands, that sealed his fate. Condemned to process the bodies below the barber's shop, it is his fate eventually to take revenge on Todd for the murder of Mrs Lovett. Tobias loses his mind and is unable to stop grinding the meat grinder.

Mr Pirelli (Mark Bonington) and his miracle elixir for hair growth provided some light relief, and competition for Sweeney's barber's shop, until he too fell under the razor and ended up in one of Mrs Lovett's beautiful pies – 'And you know the secret that makes the pies so sweet and tender? You must put the meat through the grinder three times...'

The sub-plot was concerned with the young love of Sweeney Todd's daughter Johanna (Claire Price) and of sailor boy Anthony (Oliver Beetschen), and of his determination to save her from her plight – the lecherous hands of the odious Judge Turpin. Claire sang beautifully her one song of the caged *Greenfinch and Linnet Bird* and her lyricism was more than matched by Oliver's heart rending *Johanna*, wanting, as he did, to snatch her from her gilded cage. Having aided Johanna's escape from the asylum the Judge had imprisoned her in when she spurned his advances, Anthony finally gets the girl.

All in all, and despite the rather complicated relations between the main characters, this was a superb evening's entertainment. We had believable characters, gore, unexpected twists, a few meat pies at the interval, and some terrific acting. It doesn't matter really, whether you believe Lovett's career to be an allegory of capitalism, or that Sweeney Todd had lost his humanity through killing for killing's sake, or that Tobias is a symbol of man's corruption and loss of innocence; Catherine Baker and her team deserve the highest praise for telling us the story.



RHF

Art



UVI	A2	Robert McMorris
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LVI	AS	Olivia Porritt
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UVI	A2	Joss Beharrell
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UVI	A2	Robert McMorris
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UVI	A2	Victoria Maclellan
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UVI	A2	Jessica Stewart
-----	----	-----------------



UVI	A2	Charles Harrison
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UVI	A2	Olivia Streatfeild-James
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UVI	A2	Jiaxin Sun
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UVI	A2	Ben Braithwaite
-----	----	-----------------



LVI	AS	Emily MacLaren
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UVI	A2	Olivia Streatfeild-James
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LVI	AS	Annabel Farquarson
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LVI	AS	Ailsa Turnbull
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LVI	AS	Cara Duncan
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V	GCSE	Henry Jones
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V	GCSE	Suzy Braithwaite
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V	GCSE	Oliver Bain
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V	GCSE	Lizz Vine
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V	GCSE	Heather Mitchell
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V	GCSE	Emma Howell
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V GCSE Jayne Carmichael



III Rosie Beetschen



II Sophie Fraser



II Molly Barnes



III Katie Vallott



III Lisa Crossan

Design & Technology

V GCSE Francesca Fraser





UVI	A2	Nik Harvey
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LVI	AS	Lucy Drummond-Hay
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LVI	AS	Rory Gibson
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UVI	A2	Catronia Kelly
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V	GCSE	William Farmer
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V	GCSE	Tom Cargill
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V	GCSE	Suzy Braithwaite
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Rugby

1st XV Rugby 2006-07

The Rugby Dinner at the excellent Royal George Hotel in Perth saw the 1st XV players, their parents (to whom many thanks for their loyal and consistent support) and coaches enjoy a convivial and reflective evening on the Sunday prior to the end of term...



Pre-season training in August followed a highly successful and fulfilling tour to Singapore and Australia in July, during which the Senior XV had won all six of their matches. That XV had included a number of leavers playing in key positions and thus, as ever with a School XV, there was a considerable amount of rebuilding, re-evaluating, assessment and experimentation to be done.

The competitive season began with the larger 1st XV Squad playing at the Madras College Tournament in St. Andrews. The Strathallan boys won all their pool matches and faced the High School of Dundee in the final. Despite losing their talismanic hooker, Ryan Matthews, to an unfortunate, accidental facial injury in the earlier stages, the 1st XV Squad overcame some early hesitation to emerge victorious and claim the silverware in a well-contested match.

Two days later, North Berwick High School were the visitors to Forgandenny and their powerful and well organised 1st XV gave the Strathallan team a great deal to think about in the first half of the match. The home side raised the tempo and demonstrated flexibility in their tactical approach in overcoming a significant points deficit to secure a well earned but very hard fought win.

The vagaries of the fixtures list saw a somewhat depleted and match-weary Strathallan playing for a third time in six days away at Dollar Academy the following Tuesday. Dollar, who were ahead in their team development cycle having started their term in mid-August, were on imperious form and dismantled a very weary and injury-depleted Strathallan team. It was an experience that would provide considerable motivation throughout the season and one from which the boys emerged as a much more resilient, determined group of players.

Four days later, Glasgow Academy came to Forgandenny and played their usual brand of open and entertaining Rugby. In a well-contested and exciting encounter, the Strathallan boys overcame their spirited visitors with a late score securing a psychologically important win.

The High School of Dundee, who had defeated Dollar a matter of weeks previously, provided the next challenge. Dundee always play a 15-man game and this was an exciting and entertaining affair. In securing a well-deserved victory, the 1st XV players demonstrated not only the progress they had made but the characteristic honesty and total commitment that defined this group throughout the season. Spiritually, and in the context of quality of performance, this was a hugely important win. Three days later, the newly-created and somewhat bemusing Caledonia District U-18 10-a-side Tournament was the 1st XV squad's next appointment. Dollar Academy were the excellent hosts and the Strathallan boys gave a good account of themselves, with victories over Glenalmond College and Robert Gordon's College seeing them secure third place behind winners Dollar Academy, to whom they had lost narrowly in the pool stage.

A trip to Edinburgh and Fettes College is always a competitive and exciting affair and this season's visit was no different. The opposition were robust and physical and combined this approach with not inconsiderable skill. In a tense match, injuries deprived Strathallan of key players and Fettes secured a narrow victory. Michael Cachia, the 1st XV Captain, was typically lucid and accurate in his analysis of the match and, despite the strong Fettes performance, he identified key areas where the Strathallan players had made poor decisions which had ultimately defined the outcome. Characteristically, these issues set the training agenda for the forthcoming week.



Glenalmond College are the traditional pre half-term opponents and their geographical proximity in addition to the healthy rivalry between these Perthshire neighbours guarantees an entertaining afternoon. Both sides played with passion and commitment but, on this occasion, the Strathallan boys' ability and team work prevailed and they secured a well-crafted victory.

The Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools U-18 Cup has become an important feature of the School Rugby Year in recent times and our first venture in the 2006 – 07 competition saw the squad (significantly different to the full 1st XV squad) head north to play Montrose Academy on the day before the mid-term break. Our hosts featured a number of talented players and the match, played in glorious sunshine and perfect conditions, required the U-18s to overcome some tenacious resistance before emerging as comfortable winners.

Playing Merchiston Castle School immediately after half term has never been the best of ideas and, fresh from their successes in a tournament in England over the break, our Colinton visitors demonstrated their power, pace and tactical acumen in what was a competitive and exciting match on Big Acre. The Strathallan boys produced some outstanding work and well-crafted scores, emerging with their reputation enhanced but the visitors were the better side, on this occasion, and fully deserved their victory.

Edinburgh Academy were the next opponents and this proved to be a frustrating afternoon in the Capital, indecision on the opening minute of the match gifting the home side a score and an uncharacteristic lethargy culminating in the home team's earning a deserved win. Five days later and the Cup Squad were back in Edinburgh with the opportunity to redress the balance at Fettes College. This was a tremendous afternoon's Rugby

during which the Cup Squad really came together and demonstrated that the whole really can be greater than the sum of its parts. This was synthesis and the victory was sweet indeed. It was across the Forth Bridge again but this time to Loretto for the next 1st XV match, one which saw a great deal of open and exciting Rugby, a greater than usual number of errors, the Strathallan boys demonstrate considerable patience and tenacity but in the end Loretto emerge as narrow victors.

Boroughmuir High School were the mid-week opponents for the Cup Squad and were welcome visitors to Strathallan. Since they had beaten Peebles High in the previous round, we knew that they would provide a good test and this they did, with the home team drawing on the hard work and tactical preparation in training to create a clear winning margin. Three days later and the 1st XV were in Glasgow and playing Hutchesons' Grammar. This was not a straightforward victory and the combination of the long journey, early morning kick-off and preceding mid-week match resulted in a shaky start for the Strathallan team, one which the talented Hutchesons' boys took advantage of. Typically, for this group of players, the Strathallan boys, under the outstanding leadership of their Captain, Michael Cachia, dealt with the specific situation in which they found themselves and crafted a well-deserved win. For a minority of players, this was their last time in Strathallan colours and it was an appropriately emotional occasion.

The Rugby Dinner at the excellent Royal George Hotel in Perth saw the 1st XV players, their parents (to whom many thanks for their loyal and consistent support) and coaches enjoy a convivial and reflective evening on the Sunday prior to the end of term and everyone was aware that the Scottish Schools Cup Draw had landed us at home against an in-form High School of Glasgow on the

day before the commencement of our Christmas holiday. In near perfect conditions and in front of a large crowd, the Cup XV put on a fine performance in controlling the pace and style of this match and secured Strathallan's second consecutive appearance in the semi-finals of this national competition.

We learned over the break that our semi-final opponents would be Dollar Academy at the neutral venue of Mayfield. Having not seen each other for a month over Christmas and given the negative experience at Dollar back in September, the Strathallan players could have been excused for anticipating this fixture with some trepidation. Not so, and when the day arrived in mid January and in unusually gentle conditions and in front of a large vocal crowd, the semi-final Rugby was worthy of the occasion and the Strathallan players pushed their opponents all the way before the Dollar boys secured their well-deserved victory. The nature of the encounter was a barometer of the progress made by the Strathallan players over this five-month season and typified the combination of resilience, commitment, honesty and skill which defined this group of boys.

Michael Cachia and Struan Dewar went on to play for the Caledonia Independent Schools team which took on the North of England in Sunderland. Both boys made it into the Inter-District Champions hip-winning Caledonia U-18 squad, Struan being an ever-present in the back row. On the basis of his performances, Struan Dewar was invited to join the Scotland U-18 squad, having previously been overlooked, and went on to play in the Scotland U-18 victory over France in Paris and in all Scotland's matches in the RBS U-18 Six Nations Festival.

038

Cricket

Dollar has been our traditional school opener for some time now. It is never an easy fixture as, with several Scottish age-group players in their side, Dollar have the potential to surprise anyone on our circuit



1st XI

The story of 2007 was one of 'what might have been'. For all teams the season was savaged by some bizarre weather which culminated in the wholesale abandonment of fixtures against Glenalmond, Gordonstoun, Merchiston and Loretto, the apocalyptic flooding of The Lawn towards the end of June, and the total loss of the new Festival for the 1st XI. The majority of matches were played on damp and slow surfaces which obviated fast run-scoring, and led to some tedious play at times.

The 1st XI was mostly made up of Fifth Formers under the leadership of Michael Cachia once more, with only one other Upper Sixth Former in the side. Several players from 2006 had decided not to play, but instead to concentrate on their examinations, thereby giving opportunities to one or two players who might not otherwise have made the side. In the end, though, we only played eight from fifteen matches, including an A XI match against Perth Northern when we put out a side made up primarily of under-16 players. We won four of these matches including a remarkable run chase against The Edinburgh Academy, and a Captain-inspired recovery against Dollar Academy, but lost to Fettes and the MCC. The match against the Strathallians turned into an exciting draw, but the less said about the XL Club match, the better.

Our first match, as always, was against Strathmore Union side Perth Northern. Put in to bat in a 45 over match we scored 203-9 with most of the top order contributing scores in the 30s or 40s, but no one going on to make a major score. With Joss Beharrell and Aussie Matt Hughes taking a combined total of 8 wickets for 24 runs, Perth Northern were never in with a chance of achieving a winning total, but our support bowling fell short of normal standards and many easy runs were given away. This was a concern going into the first school fixture, away to Dollar Academy.

Dollar has been our traditional school opener for some time now. It is never an easy fixture as, with several Scottish age-group players in their side, Dollar have the potential to surprise anyone on our circuit. On this occasion, despite a couple of threatening partnerships, our bowling fired as a unit for the first time. Matt Hughes and Robbie Cachia were the mainstays here, taking five and four wickets respectively, bowling Dollar out for 144 runs. Jamie King ought to be mentioned here also as he bowled his eight overs for a paltry fourteen runs, enabling us to establish control in the innings' middle overs. In reply, we lost crucial wickets at awkward times, and there were few significant partnerships as the younger players betrayed their lack of experience. Andrew Robb and Freddie Coleman, alone of the upper order players, scored some vital runs but it took an unbeaten captain's knock of 44 from Michael Cachia to see us home with a couple of overs to spare. His partnership with Henry Jones, which steadied some later order nerves, was the major difference in the end.

Next up came The Edinburgh Academy who had had a shaky start to their own term. We lost the toss on one of the few decent days in the term, and found ourselves in the field. We then proceeded to bowl like plonkers in probably the worst session I have seen in ten years as 1st XI coach. The bowlers and fielders really let themselves down severely, a point the Captain was not slow in putting across at lunchtime when some home truths were communicated to the players. The post lunch session was a revelation, and showed that the side's capability to recover from a disastrous session was considerable. From a position of 156-1 at lunch The Edinburgh Academy subsided to 218-7 when their captain declared to give his bowlers enough time to dismiss us. This remarkable turnaround was due to two excellent bowling spells from Duncan O'Reilly on his debut, and the captain himself. Some excellent catches and ground fielding were in evidence. The first two sessions were as chalk and cheese. In reply Freddie Coleman and Michael Cachia both got into the 60s before getting out, but the lower middle order led by Matt Hughes (34) set about the change bowling with gusto and pushed us over the finish line in the penultimate over to win by 2 wickets. It was fitting that Duncan O'Reilly delivered the coup de grace with a crunching cover drive, having previously been a major reason why we had managed to stay in this match. The captain and his players deserve great credit for the way in which they dug deep into their reserves of determination to pull off this remarkable victory.

Our next three fixtures fell victim to the appalling weather in mid-late May, so we returned from half-term to play three games in four days on some very wet and dodgy pitches. At this stage a repeat of the 2001 season was looking likely, so we decided to play in less than ideal conditions, to ensure we actually got some cricket after the mid-term break. Against the XL club we fielded for nearly four hours on a painfully slow and wet pitch, limiting them to a declaration on 170-7. In reply we subsided to 92-7 with only Freddie Coleman scoring any meaningful runs. Lack of experience against canny medium pacers, as well as a lack of cricket, led to a tedious draw. We then moved on to Fettes College in a

rearranged match where the toss proved crucial. As two years ago, we found ourselves inserted, scoring only 151 all out. In this innings Jamie King batted superbly, at the top of the innings, for 34, before he joined Coleman and Cachia in getting a grubber which ran all along the floor to terminate his innings. Matt Hughes and Johnnie Dickson scored some useful middle-order runs to give out bowlers something to bowl at, but the total proved insufficient to challenge Fettes. They knocked off the runs, on a wicket which had by now settled down, to win by a deserved 8 wickets.





Our last two matches were against two clubs – the Strathallians and the MCC. We were unusually put into bat by the Strathallians on a (yes, you guessed it) rain-affected pitch. Wickets fell at regular intervals as several players essayed good wicket shots on a pudding of a pitch. The last wicket partnership between Robbie Cachia and Duncan O'Reilly was crucial in setting a competitive total at 175 all out. In reply, the Strathallians were coasting nicely with three wickets down for 110 but an excellent catch by Freddie Coleman, offered by Jamie Cachia (1st XI 2003-6), sparked a collapse of middle-order wickets as the Strathallians pursued quick runs. John Coleman (1st XI 1980-2) was dismissed just short of a deserved half-century, so it fell to Strathallian captain Graeme Robertson (1st XI captain 1986) to see out the last three overs in company with Duncan Brown (1st XI 2006) to salvage a draw for the Strathallian Club.

What turned out to be the final match was against the MCC. On 10th June, John Everett brought a strong and unusually youthful MCC side to Strathallan, departing with a convincing win, but one which should have had our young 1st XI thinking hard about the experience. In the field our opening bowlers gave the MCC batsmen somewhat of an easy ride until Joss Beharrell bowled an unplayable cutter to Everett. Thereafter former Scotland 'keeper Alec Davies played some excellent drives to take the game away from us, in concert with a couple of young MCC probationers. The declaration came after lunch, the MCC on 236-5 dec, opening up the game nicely for both sides – we had over three hours to score the runs, they had a long time with three spinners in the side to bowl an enormous number of overs. In reply, Freddie Coleman got off to a flier 'though, apart from him and Michael Cachia, the rest of the batsmen



struggled to come to terms with the excellent and varied MCC bowling attack. There were a number of dismissals to excellent and flawless close catching by the MCC fielders, though our batsmen needed to dig in a little more to ensure that partnerships were built and that we did not lose wickets in clusters. In the end we rather tamely subsided to a disappointing 121.

And that was that. It was to the appalling weather that we lost matches against Loretto, Glenalmond, Gordonstoun, the High School of Glasgow, and the Festival. It was not the ideal end to the careers of Captain Michael Cachia and opening bowler Joss Beharrell, who had offered so much and who had both played in the side for four years. I and Nick Du Boulay would wish to thank both of them for their sterling service to Strathallan Cricket. Both set a good example to the younger players with their attitude to practice, and the Captain, in particular, was inspirational in driving and cajoling but also in praising when it was due. He is easily the most impressive leader the 1st XI has had during my time as coach.

In a season which was far from ideal, on account of the unusual weather, I owe a debt of thanks to a number of people. To Sodexo catering manager Gordon Stewart who coped with a number of cancellations of catering requests, and to Earnside Coaches who often had a forlorn phone call early on a Saturday morning announcing yet another cancelled coach, go my thanks for their continued good humour. To the Head Groundsman thanks also in a nightmare term for preparation. At least we got some cricket in, albeit in far from ideal conditions. One hopes for covers for next season, or at least for some sunshine! Finally, thanks go to Robert Proctor, Nick du Boulay and Graeme Robertson for the huge amount of time they all put into cricket, taking the pressure off me somewhat with individual coaching of senior players. We also had the Forfarshire professional Cameron Miers with us for the term, and we owe him a lot of thanks for revolutionising our fielding practices, showing players just what they were capable of, and demonstrating to younger players the sort of standard we expect at 1st XI level.

RHF

2nd XI

Under new management, the 2nd XI was somewhat weaker than it has been for several years, and it suffered by having some of the easier matches cancelled, and the more difficult ones retained. Sod's Law with the weather prevailed! Heavy defeats came at the hands of Fettes College (79 runs) and The Edinburgh Academy (8 wickets). A much closer match ensued with Dollar Academy 'though we also lost here by three wickets. The best match of the term came against Merchiston Castle, at home in early May. Strengthened with a couple of 1st XI batsmen we managed to total 171-8 in our 35 overs, a genuinely competitive total for the first time. At first Merchiston looked to be running away with the match but some canny bowling from Greg Stewart, Nick Millar and Toby Robertson curtailed the scoring rate and provoked a clatter of wickets towards the end of the innings. Merchiston held out in the last over to total 166-9.

BAH

Senior Colts A

It was a deeply frustrating season. After a good first half of term with several good results and only one defeat, the weather only allowed one more match, a rather disappointing draw. There were some encouraging individual efforts, nevertheless. Callum Donald was a highly effective opening bat, scoring two good fifties and rarely failing. Other good scores were made by Gregor Campbell, Oli Luck and Ian Tournay, whose rather eccentric captaincy provided excitement if not peace of mind. Oli Luck and Gregor Campbell provided an effective opening bowling partnership well-supported in particular by the spin of Iain Bonn and Jamie Schofield. Other important contributions were made by Paul Wigley, Michael Brown, Declan Ferry and Chris Greer. This is a group with an excellent attitude and a lot of potential.

RJWP

1st & 'A' XI results 2007

Played	8	Won	4	Lost	2	Drawn	2	Abandoned	7
Strathallan	203-9 dec (M. Cachia 47; J. Dickson 41 n.o.; F.Coleman 38)							Won by 71 runs	
Perth Northern	132 all out (J. Beharrell 5-12; M. Hughes 3-12)								
Perth Northern	126-7 (40 overs) (S. Lyons 3-42; J. King 2-33)							Won by 5 wickets	
Strathallan 'A' XI	129-5 (M. Hughes 34 n.o.; J. King 24; O. Luck 22 n.o.)								
Dollar Academy	144 all out (M. Hughes 5-27; R. Cachia 4-27)							Won by 2 wickets	
Strathallan	145-8 (M. Cachia 44 n.o.; A.Robb 25; F. Coleman 21)								
The Edinburgh Academy	218-7 dec (D. O'Reilly 3-40; M. Cachia 2-31)							Won by 2 wickets	
Strathallan	222-8 (F. Coleman 69; M. Cachia 62; M. Hughes 34)								
Scottish XL Club	170-7 dec (D. O'Reilly 2-25; M. Hughes 1-32)							Drawn	
Strathallan	92-7 (F. Coleman 30; M. Cachia 14)								
Strathallan	151 all out (J. King 34; M. Hughes 31; J. Dickson 26)							Lost by 8 wickets	
Fettes College	152-2								
Strathallan	175 all out (M.Cachia 35; F. Coleman 32; J. Dickson 23)							Drawn	
Strathallians	149-9 (J. Coleman 46; G. Robertson 22 n.o.; M.Hughes 4-28)								
MCC	236-5 dec (D. O'Reilly 2-52)							Lost by 115 runs	
Strathallan	121 (F. Coleman 36; M. Cachia 28)								

1st XI Batting averages 2007

Initials/surname	Inns	Not Outs	Runs	Highest Score	100s	Average
M. G. Cachia *	7	1	238	62	-	39.67
F. R. J. Coleman	7	-	238	69	-	34.00
M. Hughes	8	3	141	34 n.o.	-	28.20
J. D. F. Dickson	7	1	115	41 n.o.	-	19.17

1st XI Bowling averages 2007

Initials/surname	Overs	Maids	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
M. Hughes	73.3	17	215	15	5-27	14.33
D. O'Reilly	48	4	179	9	3-40	19.89
J. A. Beharrell	58	15	177	7	5-12	25.29
M. G. Cachia *	43.3	4	155	6	2-31	25.83
R. F. Cachia	66	8	287	9	4-27	31.89

* captain

Junior Colts A

Keith Wigley captained the side, leading with both bat and ball. In the five matches he was able to play he collected 22 wickets at a good economy and opened the batting with maturity and patience

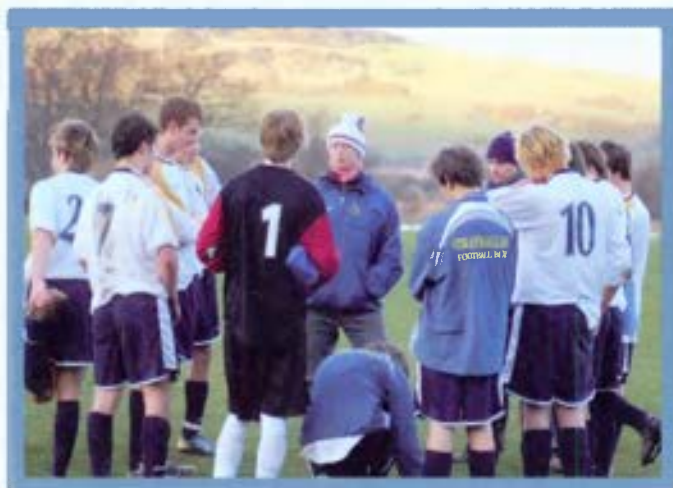
On summer reflection, we were only able to finish six full games of cricket, the inclement weather proving our undoing. There were highs and lows to the term, the high points being reached as the season drew to an end. Early defeats to Dollar, Glenalmond, and Merchiston were matched by strong performances against Edinburgh Academy, Fettes and King Edward's School from Stratford.

Keith Wigley captained the side, leading with both bat and ball. In the five matches he was able to play he collected 22 wickets at a good economy and opened the batting with maturity and patience. Johnny Bain contributed with both bat and ball, as did Dan Cowe. Michael McKenzie and Ben Melville supported Keith as Vice-Captains, providing both inspiration and motivation for teammates.

So, another season passes with poor early form giving way to more accomplished performances. I thank those who represented the team for their efforts and commitment to both practice and matches. The stop-start feel to the season with the weather did not lessen the players' enthusiasm for learning, and this was proven no more so than with a comprehensive win against Fettes, a first in my five years with the Junior Colts.

As always my thanks go to my colleagues who help support Junior Colts cricket, namely Greg Ross, Jeff Goddard and Brian Heaney. Your efforts go a long way in shaping the future of cricket at the school.

Football



The team dug deep and held on to seal a place in the Semi-final of the Scottish Independent School Cup



We all returned from the Christmas holidays looking forward to the new football season. After the success of reaching the quarter finals of the SISFA cup last year, the season began with eager anticipation as the majority of that squad were still with us. The addition of some very talented players further enhanced both our ability and our expectations of the season.

After several matches were cancelled due to bad weather, we were well prepared through many weeks of training for our first match. It couldn't come soon enough and we were determined to start the season with three points. A 5-0 win away at St Leonard's was the perfect start with goals for two debutants; Steven Beckett with two good strikes, and Adam Piper coolly finishing off a well-constructed move. The scoring was completed by a twenty five yard rocket from Euan Connell and a headed goal from captain Harry Williamson.

The weather again took its toll and more matches were cancelled. Training was disrupted with many sessions taking place in the gym, despite Tom Cargill's thunderbolt through the window. On a more positive note, our Header Tennis skills were at an all-time high.

An away trip to Glenalmond gave us plenty of shooting practice. We managed to convert nine out of about thirty chances created (so, only about 30% success rate and it was back to the practice pitches for us). Strath's defence were hardly troubled with all the action taking place in Glenalmond's half and we came away with a comfortable 9-0 victory. It would be remiss of me not to mention Andy Pyle's "up and under" from the halfway line that somehow found the goal. Despite protestations from the player, it wasn't skill that spotted the goalkeeper off his line (it was a fluke Andy, get over it - Mr B).

With only two days rest from the previous match and our top striker Struan Dewar unavailable due to Scotland Rugby commitments (he's got talent), our preparation for the visit of current league leaders Gordonstoun was not as we'd intended. The highly-contested match finished in a goalless draw. With defences coming out on top, we were

happy with the points being shared as we knew it would be our toughest match. This meant we had accumulated seven points out of a possible nine which led to a very positive team attitude. We were beginning to believe.

Due to the postponement of the games earlier in the season we were faced with our third match in six days. The opposition were Dollar who we knew were a strong side, though we were the wrong end of a 7-2 thrashing the previous season. A poor start, with the team conceding a sloppy goal, turned our thoughts to the year before. However, the team dug deep and were rewarded with an equalising goal from Struan Dewar. Spirits were immediately lifted and Strath began to dominate the match. Struan Dewar scored a further two goals and we won the game 3-1.

Our further group matches were against QVS and The High School of Dundee. We took maximum points, with 3-1 and 3-2 wins respectively, putting us top of the Northern Region group with sixteen points from a possible eighteen.

Coincidentally, our Quarter-final fixture was against the same opposition as last year, with St Aloysius returning to Little Acre. A feisty (bit of an understatement Harry - Mr B) encounter saw the teams heading to extra time with the scoreline 2-2 at ninety minutes. The game was decided when Strathallan were awarded a penalty. Michael Niven's surging late run was ended when he was brought down in the box. With all eyes on Struan Dewar, he calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner of the net. The team dug deep and held on to seal a place in the Semi-final of the Scottish Independent School Cup.

After the Quarter-final success the team were thrilled at the prospect of a Semi-final draw against their league rivals Gordonstoun. After a long wait for the match to take place it was scheduled to be played at Banks O' Dee in Aberdeen, at the start of the summer term (sorry Fitz). After returning from our Easter break, we prepared with lots of hard work and we were confident of getting a result.

The game started nervily and both sides made mistakes. Gordonstoun took advantage of the strong breeze and snatched an early lead. Strathallan conceded an unfortunate goal when a misjudged, wind-assisted bounce, allowed the ball to find its way into the net. The team then had to withstand lots of Gordonstoun pressure and battled bravely against the long ball attack. The second half was edged by Strathallan but we could not beat an inspired Gordonstoun keeper. Two saves he made from Greg Guthrie and Steven Beckett were exceptional. Unfortunately, luck was not on our side, and the game ended in a 1-0 defeat.

Although the season ended in disappointment, this was our only defeat, it was the most successful season by far in Strathallan's recent footballing history.

Five team members, Harry Williamson, Greg Guthrie, Greig Dempster, Steven Beckett, and Ryan Martin, were named in the Northern district team. These took part in matches against East and West representative teams. From these matches Harry and Greg were selected to be part of the Scotland Independent schools team. They both travelled to Manchester to play in the inaugural Scotland vs. England game. Both players gave excellent performances and represented both their country and school with distinction.

The season was brought to an end with the whole squad going out for a meal. Here Harry Williamson was voted Players' Player of the Year and Greig Dempster won the Manager's Player award. Jack Workman also received special praise, having only recently returned to competitive sport having suffered a serious knee injury two years previously.

Big thanks to both Mr Batterham and Mr Weir for all their support and coaching throughout the course of Season. Also to Mr Smith and Mr Fleming our resident referees. A huge thank you to all members of the twenty-two man squad.

Good luck to all the future teams of Strathallan.

Harry Williamson (Captain) UVI Ruthven & Greg Guthrie (Vice-Captain) UVI Freeland



It would be remiss of me not to mention Andy Pyle's "up and under"



Aged for a minimum of 25 years in Californian oak barrels, Prac is of a sunny disposition and makes every social occasion go with an easy, even-tempered nonchalance. His major goal is to create and maintain good feeling and harmony among the people he relates to. When relating to Prac **DO NOT** suggest that it very much is his period.



Netball

This year's inter-House matches were played in less than ideal conditions, but everyone kept their heads and a good standard of netball was maintained



Netball this year really reached an all-time high at Strathallan with successes in all age-groups. All junior teams competed well, several players being selected for the Perth and Kinross District team. The future looks encouraging as there are many skilled juniors. Sophie Beamish [Woodlands IV Form] was awarded Most Promising Junior Player of the year.

This year's inter-House matches were played in less than ideal conditions, but everyone kept their heads and a good standard of netball was maintained. Thornbank won the junior competition whilst Woodlands won the senior.

The Firsts were unbeaten in all school matches played for the second year running and retained the Independent Schools title for the fifth. In the tournament we played Kilgraston, Fettes, Gordonstoun and Kilgraston again in the final where we won 17-11. The sponsors, Aitken + Niven were kind enough to award us with £200 to spend on new kit.

Following our performance in the Scottish Schools Final last year the whole team was invited to Scotland trials. Sophie Workman was selected for the U17 Scotland Development squad, and Catriona Kelly, Fiona Campbell and Katie Scobie were also selected for the U19 Scotland Development squad.

Every Wednesday evening the 1st VII travelled to Perth to play in the Perth Ladies' Netball League. The team used these matches for development and training, which really paid off as you can see from the results this year. At the start of the year we didn't think we would be able to reach as high a level as last year - when we came second in the Scottish Schools Tournament - but this year we managed to take it one step further and actually win the title of Scottish Schools' Champions.

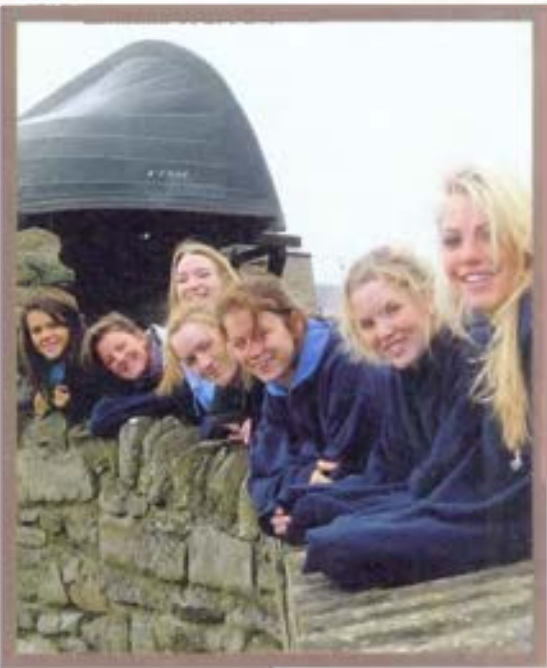
Cup matches started in September and initially we played five group matches against teams from all across the country such as Woodmill, Auchmuty and St.Columba's. Having won all of these matches we were through to the quarter final. This was against Gryffe B, where we won 43-25.

After returning from the Easter holidays we took an unexpected ferry ride up to the Shetland Isles to play the semi-final against Anderson High school. This was certainly an experience none of us will ever forget, with the choppy seas to get there and the different landscape when we arrived. The match was definitely the toughest of the season, but with the back-up of our lone supporter, Mrs Raeside, we were victorious and our place in the final against Robert Gordon's of Aberdeen was secured.

The final match was played in Glasgow a few days after our return from Shetland. Unfortunately, five of our players had been ill with food poisoning just before the match, so the majority of the team were not feeling 100% for the game. But having come this far, we were determined to pull through and put up a great team effort. Having been behind for the entire game we managed to reach a score of 46-46 by full time. The tie meant we had to go into 5 minutes of extra time and in the last second of this period, on the final whistle, we managed to score the winning goal - making us this year's Scottish Schools Champions!

Catriona Kelly, Captain of 1st VII and Fiona Campbell, V-C, would like to thank the whole squad for all their efforts this year. With every great team there is a great coach and we would like to thank Mrs.Ingram-Forde for all her support this year. Her good coaching certainly paid off. We wish all of you the best of luck next year. Keep it up, guys.

Catriona Kelly UVI Woodlands
and Fiona Campbell UVI Thornbank



Swimming

As well as Inter School events Strathallan now have four swimmers who regularly swim under the banner of Dundee City Aquatics Team at District and National events

2006 -2007 was an excellent year for Strathallan swimmers. The swim squad numbers were further boosted as the scholarship programme continued to attract swimmers and the attendance at training throughout the year surpassed any previous year. The training programme continued to develop helping the swimmers reach performance levels way beyond where they had been.

Fixtures

The Senior Team had four inter-school Matches against Fettes, Glenalmond, Merchiston and Robert Gordon's College. All four matches provided many great races and Strathallan were winners in three out of the four. We were narrowly beaten by RGC in what was an extremely close contest.

Riley Swim Team continued to develop in 2006 -07 and they had their annual inter-school match against local rivals Craigclowan. For the second year in a row they won convincingly.

Tayside Schools and Scottish Schools Swimming Championships

November 2006 saw a total of twenty-four swimmers represent Strathallan at the Tayside Schools swimming Championships in Dundee. There were a number of outstanding personal best swims and a total of six Gold medals and twelve Silver medals won over the Championships.

GOLD MEDALS

Joe Lipworth 200 backstroke
Stefanie Feld 200 freestyle

Girls 17+ freestyle relay:

Kirsty MacGeogh, Isobel Hale,
Stefanie Feld and Rachel McLean

SILVER MEDALS

Stefanie Feld 200 backstroke
Joe Lipworth 100 breaststroke
Kirsty MacGeogh 100 breaststroke
and 200 breaststroke

Boys 13/14 freestyle relay :

Joe Lipworth, Alex Vine, Ruairidh Watson,
Charlie Black

Boys 17+ freestyle relay:

Sam Smith, Andrew Whitelaw, Struan Dewar,
Jack Workman

As a result of their performances in the Tayside event Kirsty MacGeoch, Joe Lipworth and Stefanie Feld all qualified to swim at National Schools Finals in Glasgow in February 2007. This event produced Strathallan's first ever National Champion in swimming when Joe Lipworth won the 200 backstroke in a personal best time. Kirsty and Stefanie also produced excellent personal best performance swims.

Scottish Schools Relay Championships – June 2007

Due to exams only a few Strathallan teams were entered in this event but once again they produced some fine performances.

Junior Girls team :

Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck, Yasmine Forbes and Emily MacLachlan finished in the top 5 teams on both the Freestyle and Medley events.

Intermediate Boys team:

Joe Lipworth, Ollie Luck, Ruairidh Watson and Jack Sommerville finished 9th and 10th in their team events.

Open Girls team:

Stefanie Feld, Carla Crossan, Sarah MacLachlan and Maggie Luck finished 18th and 19th in their events.

An excellent representation from Strathallan at National Level once again.

Inter House Competitions

Swimming Standards 2006 -07

1st	Thornbank	340
2nd	Freeland	327
3rd	Ruthven	301
4th	Woodlands	297
5th	Nicol	293
6th	Simpson	269

Inter-House Swimming Gala, March 2007

The standard of this event rose significantly again this year with many closely-contested races and many records being chased. There were 20 school records broken on the night, further evidence of the rise in swimming standards over the past 12 months.



Girls' Championship:

1st	Thornbank	94
2nd	Woodlands	82

Boys' Championship:

1st	Nicol	70
2nd	Freeland	58
3rd	Ruthven	33
4th	Simpson	32

Again a Sprint event was included in the Senior Gala for a selection of Riley Girls and Boys. For the 3rd year and her final year in Riley Yasmine Forbes was the Girls winner and, for the first time, Jack Sommerville won the boys event

As well as Inter School events Strathallan now have four swimmers who regularly swim under the banner of Dundee City Aquatics Team at District and National events. They are Azlyn Edens, Maggie Luck, Ollie Luck and Joe Lipworth. All four swimmers recently represented DCA in national Swimming Championships and produced significant personal best swims.

Special mention must be made of Joe Lipworth who achieved a national qualifying time for British Swimming Championships in Sheffield in July.

Team Captains for 2006 – 2007 were Sam Smith and Kirsty MacGeogh. Thanks to them both for their hard work and assistance.

Elaine Johnston, Strathallan Swim Team Coach

Boys' Hockey



Every member of the team performed well throughout with the majority of the team scoring goals

1st XI Report

It is customary to begin a report by reference to the start of a season but I have decided to begin this year's at the end. George Watsons are normally one of the best teams on the circuit so protecting our three-and-a-half year unbeaten home record looked a daunting task. At the end of the game I walked with a feeling of complete contentment, in fact utter joy for I feel that the way we disposed of a strong Watsons' side was the best team performance I had ever been involved in and perhaps the best our pitch had ever seen. We won 4-0, not the greatest margin of victory but it was the beauty of our play that made this match so special, the way the ball would switch from left to right with two crisp passes, the right back driving up the line to release the right midfielder who first time would smash a dangerous ball across the D to the incoming central midfielder, who again first time puts the ball into the roof of the net. I have just recounted one of the goals but this type of play was a constant through out the match. Possession was never given away cheaply, the movement was shrewd, the work rate immense and the passing impeccable.

Why, though, have I given such a detailed account of this game? The answer is simple. This game defined our season as everything that we trained for and worked for came together. After this match every bit of hard work and sweat felt worthwhile, all those frustrating training sessions spent showing how the game must be played seemed so valuable. Unfortunately, this was our second-last game of the season and therefore we couldn't really build on this performance. I am not trying to hide from the early part of the season where we only lost one 1st XI and two cup matches but this match against Watsons signified the individual and collective progress that we had made and to me progress is the most important thing. For it shows that we have learnt from our mistakes, corrected our weaknesses and built on our strengths and therefore we as a team and individuals have bettered ourselves.

The school season is, however, too short to turn this progress into more success on the pitch. Our only game after George Watsons was a fairly strong Strathallian team which we dispatched 7-3. Again, progress was notable as some breathtaking hockey was played, characterised by quick movement of the ball through one-tuos, Freddy Coleman scoring a masterful chip.

So to the start of the season, which can only be described as frustrating with four 1st XI games being called off before half term. The games we did play were therefore mostly in cups. In the U18 Scottish Cup we came up against one of the biggest clubs in Scotland, Dunfermline Carnegie and with about 7 debutants we struggled. However some spirited play gave us some positives, scoring 4 goals but going down 9-4. There was little time for rest as we were soon on the bus to Loretto to play our first 1st XI game reinforced with some more experience from our older players ineligible for the cup. We played the better hockey for the majority of the game but gave away a two-nil lead late in the game. We did rally to score two late goals and win 4-2, again though our inexperience was notable in sacrificing our lead.

The Schools cup again gave us a hard draw with Robert Gordon's first up. It seemed we were learning, though, and we beat a quality side 3-1 to set up a quarter final with Fettes. We did not step up as required however and were defeated 6-2. This was our most disappointing performance of the season mainly due to the fact that too many people went into their shell and did not rise to the challenge although Andrew Marshall must take particular credit for what was a tireless performance. Here our season stopped until just after half term with the visit of Glenalmond.

We found it very hard to break a fairly average side down. However, we did take the lead thanks to a well worked short corner from Andrew Robb and held this until the second half when they equalised.

As we blitzed forward in search of a winner we invariably left big holes in our defence and a last ditch saving tackle and a world class save from Joss and Alan respectively kept us in the game. Then with two minutes remaining we won a short corner and the rest will live with me forever. A miscued shot from Andrew M was poorly cleared by the Glenalmond keeper and landed at my feet, I had the easiest of tasks of lifting the ball over his despairing dive. We won 2-1 deservedly and this is a victory that will live with the leavers for a long time

We then travelled up to Gordonstoun where, in an extremely entertaining game for the neutral but not for Mr Giles, we lost our 1st XI game 9-6. We started terribly and went 3-0 down very quickly having got back to 3-2 we then turned back to our sloppy ways and lost another two goals. Again we fought to equalise at 5-5 mid way through the second half they then powered away again due to some excellent short corner hitting. The better team on the day won but I feel we had learnt a lot from the game and Nik Harvey's four goals must receive mention. Our last game before Watsons came against Loretto who we beat 3-1 helped by about 3 world class saves from Alan King.

It has been an immense honour and a pleasure to captain the 1st XI and I would like to thank Mr Giles for all his work he has put in over this year, the three years I have been involved and previous years. His dedication has played a huge part in the progression of hockey as a major and successful sport. Also to Fitz for umpiring as although we may not always see eye to eye over decisions they are usually correct and the time he has given up is greatly appreciated, and also Miss Sime for her words of wisdom through the term. Finally my last job is to pass on the mantle of Captaincy, Jamie King although only in L6th next year was the easiest of choices, his commitment is unquestionable and his attitude exemplary. I have no doubt he will be a superb captain and with the foundations of the majority of this years team the future looks very bright if his fellow players can match his ethic of hard work.

Michael Cachia, 1st XI Captain 2007

4th Form A Boys Hockey 2007

The 4th Form team had an excellent and rewarding season building on the foundations started in the 3rd Form, and this without Freddie Coleman who was selected for the 1st XI. The team performed well and gave 100% winning all but 2 matches which were the ones against Loretto School. Our best performance must have been the away match against Fettes where we won 2 - 1. The other highlight of the season was the convincing 4 - 1 home defeat of Glenalmond College. The Indoor team did well in the U15 Fettes



tournament, seeing off the opposition in the group stages only to be beaten in the semi-finals by the eventual winners of the tournament. George Watsons only managed to beat us with a penalty flick in a game which we had dominated agonisingly hitting the post on two occasions.

Every member of the team performed well throughout with the majority of the team scoring goals. Well done to Gregor who turned out the top scorer. The mid-field held our game together and we able to move the ball around successfully playing some very good attacking hockey, ably led by our vice-captain Andrew Lyons. Congratulations to the defence and our goal keeper Douglas Britton who were invariably rock solid. Dominic worked hard at right back and ended the season with a goal from a short corner strike. Paul Wigley had an excellent season at left back a new position for him, but one into which he grew very quickly. Paul was a solid defender and was awarded the Most Promising Junior Player award.

Ian Tourney played in the victorious U16 side which won the Chameleons tournament and managed to score a few goals, leading by example. Thank you to Mr Watt who coached us through the 2 year period and best wishes in the coming seasons.

Ian Tourney, Captain:4th Form A Boys

Junior Results

Riley boys hockey continues to grow and develop and it was good to see the team having good results at the Strathallan Sixes Tournament. In their pool they had a 2- 2 draw with St Leonards, 1 - 1 draw with Fettes and a 0 - 0 draw with Loretto. They finished 2nd in the pool and were beaten by the eventual winners Belhaven in the semi- finals. Murdo Elwis was successful in being selected for the Midlands U14 district team who went on to win the inter district tournament.

Congratulations also to Iain McKenzie who was selected for the Midlands U16 squad.

Thanks to all the coaches, catering staff, grounds staff and, of course, all the players for all their hard work throughout the season.

GR



Junior Results

	3A		3B		4B	
Glenalmond	2 - 2 (D)	2 - 1 (W)	1 - 2 (L)	1 - 4 (L)	1 - 3 (L)	1 - 0 (W)
Loretto	3 - 4 (L)	0 - 2 (L)	2 - 6 (L)	1 - 1 (D)	7 - 0 (W)	3 - 1(W)
Fettes	2 - 0 (W)	2 - 1 (W)	1 - 5 (L)	1 - 1 (D)	2 - 2 (D)	0 - 0 (D)
Gordonstoun	4 - 0 (W)					

4th Form A Boys Hockey

RGS (H)	W	4 - 2
Glenalmond (H)	W	4 - 1
Loretto (H)	L	2 - 3
Fettes (A)	W	2 - 1
Glenalmond (A)	W	5 - 3
Gordonstoun (H)	W	4 - 0
Loretto (A)	L	0 - 3
Fettes (H)	W	3 - 2
George atsons (H)	W	1 - 0

Riley boys hockey continues to grow and develop and it was good to see the team having good results at the Strathallan Sixes Tournament.

Senior Results

	2nd XI		3rd XI		4th XI
Loretto	1 - 4 (L)	5 - 0 (W)	1 - 2 (L)	3 - 0 (W)	0 - 0 (D)
Fettes	2 - 4 (L)	3 - 2 (W)	2 - 1 (W)	0 - 5 (L)	0 - 3 (L)
Glenalmond	3 - 1 (W)		1 - 2 (L)		0 - 1 (L)
Gordonstoun	6 - 3 (W)				

Girls' Hockey

After a long summer holiday the time came for pre-season to begin. Good weather meant the early morning runs weren't quite such a purgatory. For most of us it was great to start playing hockey with one another again...



1st XI

Last year I was delighted when Miss Sime asked me to Captain the 1st X1 Girls Hockey team, it was a great honour. Nothing, however could prepare me for the highs and lows in what was to come.

After a long summer holiday the time came for pre-season to begin. Good weather meant the early morning runs weren't quite such a purgatory. For most of us it was great to start playing hockey with one another again and to welcome new players into the team and develop as a squad. Soon we all got into playing mode and were lucky enough to have an early match against Perthshire Ladies Hockey Club

Then the season began in earnest with the annual Madras tournament in St Andrews. As this is played on grass, it is never the most appealing of tournaments. We played well enough to reach the final, beating Perth Academy and Waid Academy but, unfortunately, lost to Madras on penalty strokes. Nevertheless, it was a good start to the season. Shortly afterwards it was 1st X1 Midlands tournament. We had a slow start, with nil-all draws against Morrison's and High School of Dundee, however, after some wise words from Miss Sime and Mr Giles, we got the kick up the backside we needed and got our heads into the game. From then on we played some excellent hockey, working so well as a team that we beat St Leonards and Glenalmond, and went through to the Semi finals against Madras. At full time it was still nil-all, therefore it went to penalty strokes, and we were not going to let them get the better of us this time; with some excellent saves from Jess we came out victorious, winning 3-1. In the final we faced our rivals Dollar; unfortunately, we struggled to score and lost 0-2. This was one of our major problems throughout the season... a lack of goals.

It was time to go back to the drawing-board. After some hard training sessions and team discussions we began to work on our weaknesses. Our progress was soon evident after an excellent match against Gordonstoun, the proof was in the score as we won the game 6-0.

I don't think anyone of us will ever forget the trip to Loretto. The minibus crash left us all in shock, but each player came through showing great courage and the situation could have been much worse if it had not been for the way in which we all acted... Most of us were extremely lucky to escape with a few minor bruises and scrapes, unfortunately Jess did not come out of it so well as she broke her arm... Due to Jess's injury we were left without a goal keeper, Elizabeth Cachia took the big step up and joined the team, she was thrown right in at the deep end as her first match for us was against Fettes. Although we lost the game, Elizabeth managed to rise to the occasion with some marvellous saves, I don't think we will ever forget her superb diving saves during the game... she was fearless.

The Independent Schools tournament was a big day for us, we had trained hard and were ready, there was no reason why we could not go out and win. We had a good start beating Glenalmond, St Leonards and Fettes and we drew against Kilgraston and Loretto, the last game was against Dollar... What a surprise! From the moment the whistle was blown you could see how determined we were to win the game. With one minute left to go it was still nil-all, then in the last few seconds an infringement in the D led to a penalty stroke being awarded. Under immense pressure Catriona stepped up to take it and she did us all proud as the goalkeeper had no chance of saving it, we were Independent Schools Champions, it was a major achievement for us all, every single person in

the team contributed to our win, a wonderful team effort.

We also played well enough to reach the Midlands Cup outdoor final. We played against Madras in the semi Final, after a poor first half we got ourselves together and won the match 2-0. It came as no surprise then that we were up against Dollar in the final. We travelled to Glenalmond as the match had to be played on neutral ground and were lucky enough to take a lot of support. Dollar got off to a good start although we did play some superb hockey in the second half it was not good enough. Dollar won the game 3-0. We were devastated that we would not be going through to the National Finals; however we could not keep our heads down for long, as we had the start or the indoor season to look forward to.

We trained extremely hard for the indoor season. In a match against High School of Dundee we played extremely well and beat them convincingly 7-2 and went into the Midlands indoor tournament extremely confident. We came second in the tournament which meant we would be competing in the National Indoor finals along with the winners of the tournament, Morrison's. At the National Indoor Finals at Bell's SC, we performed well although it was the same story again... we struggled to score goals

I know that all the squad will have a wonderful time in Australia and would like to thank Mr Giles, (thanks for the yellow card, Dad) and especially Miss Sime for seeing us through a great season.

Lauren Giles, UVI Thornbank



2nd XI

This year the team was particularly young, consisting of nine V Formers who were all new to the 2nd XI. From the very start of pre-season we all got on extremely well and went on to create an 'immense' team. When it came to matches everyone was always enthusiastic and determined to do well. Throughout the season we achieved many victories against teams such as Mary Erskine, St Georges, Albyn, Loretto and Gordonstoun, some actually against 1st XI teams.

At matches we certainly knew how to intimidate the opponents with our 'Be Aggressive' chant before every match. And after half time Suzy B's tactic of shouting out 'Are you ready? 'Cause we are ready' turned many a head.

Both individually and as a team we all performed with great skill which obviously couldn't have happened without our superb coach, Mr Watt. A special mention must go to Lucy D-H who was our top goal scorer and congratulations to three of our key players, Jayne Carmichael, Ailie MacGeoch and Robynne Smith who were all asked to join the U18 Cup Squad.

Over all, we have all had a great time playing for the 2nd XI this year, with some awesome results and a really good team effort. After coming to watch one of our matches Mr Fleming was heard to have said that we were one of the best 2nd XI sides he had seen at Strathallan. Keep it up.

Fiona Campbell, 2nd XI Captain UVI Thornbank

3rd XI & 4th XI

The 3rd XI progressed really well throughout the season and finished the season on three good wins; over Glenalmond (1 - 0), Kilgraston (5 - 0) and Albyn (4 - 0). Our top goal scorer was Rebecca Dalgetty. For the first time in many years we were able to put out a 4th XI team although we struggled to get many fixtures. We did manage

a match against Glenalmond 4th XI which ended in a 1 - 1 draw. A big thank you to the 'dream team' coaching staff: Mr Proctor (our technical and chief coach), Mr Court (our tactical coach) and Mr Gardiner (our fitness coach). They worked us hard and we are all really grateful for all their hard work.

Juniors

This term the IVth Form team has performed well, a special mention must go to the team captain, Alice Farrar, who impressed the selectors at the inter district tournament in November and was selected to play for Scotland under 16 team, this was an excellent achievement for Alice as she still has another year left in this age group. We wish her the very best of luck for any international matches she plays over the summer. The IV form performed well against Gordonstoun with a 3-0 victory and played some good hockey at the U15 Midlands tournament, beating Dollar and Morrison's to go through to the final. However, they lost to Glenalmond on penalties in the Final.

The III Form have also had a good year, captained well by Heather Larson, they have had some excellent wins against Gordonstoun, Glenalmond and Albyn. The Riley teams have improved with every match and there are real signs that there is a lot of potential for the future teams at Strathallan with many of the Riley girls beginning to develop as players.

AS

District Hockey

This season the quantity of players who have made it into the District teams has been phenomenal. A number of us were put forward for trials where we were closely watched by the selectors and, eventually, some were picked for the final squads. The following players who did well enough to get through were - U15: Lynsey Knowles and Elizabeth Cachia (who captained the team); U16: Alice

Farrar, Robynne Smith, Elizabeth Cachia and Jayne Carmichael; U18: Lauren Giles, Emily Fraser (who was vice-captain) Jennifer Whitelaw, Rachel McLean, Emma Howell and Helen Summersgill.

A number of players also made it through to the Midlands Indoor Squad - Elizabeth Cachia, Finola Lundgren, Rachel McLean Lauren Giles and Jennifer Whitelaw (who captained the team).

Top goal scorer of the year for the 1st XI was Kirsty McGeoch, scoring a total of 15; and Ciara Elwis was top goal scorer for the IIIrd form team scoring a total of 5 goals

It has been an absolute pleasure to captain the 1st XI girls' hockey team. I would like to thank all the girls for making it so enjoyable, we have some great laughs and I have loved every minute of it. Not everything has gone the way we wanted it to this season but we have all had a great time and it has been a great experience for us all. The squad will travel to Australia soon for a 3-week hockey tour and I wish them every success as they deserve to do well.

We could not have had such a good and enjoyable season if it had not been for the support and guidance of Miss Sime and Mr Giles; they have coached us extremely well and motivated us when we needed it. Thanks for everything; we couldn't have done it without you. Also a huge thank you to all the coaches/umpires and helpers involved in the girls' hockey at Strathallan, you all do a great job in developing players and teams.

Finally, I would like to wish all the teams next year the very best of luck for the forthcoming season. The new 1st XI looks to be a promising squad and I hope they perform well. I'm sure they will.

Lauren Giles, 1st XI Captain, UVI Thornbank

Boys' Tennis

In our regular school fixtures we had a really mixed season. We had some good wins against Gordonstoun, Morrison's and Dollar and some close matches against the other schools



Ruairidh proved too strong for the top couple and emerged 12 – 10 winners. We then went on to meet Madras College in the semi-finals of the Scottish section of the competition where we lost after some tough games.

In our regular school fixtures we had a really mixed season. We had some good wins against Gordonstoun, Morrison's and Dollar and some close matches against the other schools. Regular 1st Team players included Alasdair Cameron (captain), William Lyburn, James Balfour, Ruairidh Watson, Nick Price, Alistair Hunt and Cameron Adam. We were able to play 2nd team matches against a few schools with the 2nd team winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 1 of their matches. A number of matches were lost to the weather including the annual Mixed Doubles tournament. The inter-House competition was, as always, fiercely contested. Ruthven comfortably defeated Freeland, and Simpson just managed a win against Nicol in the semi-finals. In the final round Simpson just managed a win over a determined Ruthven edging them out 5-4 in the final.

With a young team and much building to do this was always going to be a tough season for the team. We started our season back in October 2006 playing in the Scottish Schools Tennis Team Championships. This was a first for the boys and our first round match was against a strong Jordanhill School team. We travelled to Glasgow not knowing what to expect as we do not usually play any teams from the west of Scotland. We came up against very tough opposition, played our best but we went out the competition at that stage. The team consisted of Alasdair Cameron, James Balfour, Ruairidh Watson and William Lyburn. William is only in 2nd form and is a young up-and-coming player with great potential.

During the winter months we were able to continue training once a week at Kinoull Tennis Club under the guidance and coaching of Jane Morrison and Tommy Ogilvie. This has proved very valuable in the past and really prepared the players for the season ahead. Once again we ran a most popular and rewarding Pre-season Tennis camp at the start of the summer term. Twenty players enjoyed the three days of hard work and fun and got both the boys and girls teams off to a good start to the season. The summer term started with the annual Captain of Girls vs Captain of Boys match where Alasdair's team proved just too strong for Kirsty's winning the match by the closest of margins. The following week we came up against Glenalmond College in the National Glanvil Cup competition. After some very close matches we were 3 rubbers apiece and it was down to a championship tie-breaker to decide the winner. Alasdair and

As this report is prepared we are putting in place the necessary arrangements for a Tennis Academy at Strathallan. With players identified and new players coming in to Strathallan, they will benefit from a dedicated programme of training and fitness throughout the year. This programme will run throughout the year and should provide a good foundation on which to build in the years ahead. Captain Alasdair Cameron was awarded Half-colours for his leadership and contribution to the team this year and in the recent past.

Match Results:

Vs	Glenalmond College – Glanvil Cup	W 4-3
	Gordonstoun	1st W 6-3
		2nds D 3-3
	Fettes	1st L 4-5
		2nds W 4-2
Madras College – Glanvil Cup Semi-final		L 4-0
Dollar (A)		L 4-5
Morrison's Academy		W 6-3
Dollar (H)		W 8-1
InterHouse Finals		
Simpson beat Ruthven		5-4
Stewart's Melville College		L 4-5
Staff vs Pupils		Pupils won 5-4

AW

Girls' Tennis

Senior girls tennis continues to be popular and the standard of tennis continues to rise every year



The tennis season got under way with the players coming back from Easter holiday early for pre-season training with our coaches Tommy Ogilvie and Jane Morrison.

The first event of the year was the annual mixed doubles match between the Captain of girls team and Captain of boys team.

At the end of the first round Alasdair's team led 2 – 1. In the 2nd round of matches my team put in a gutsy performance and managed to win all 3 matches. The match was tied at 4 – 4 and the final match went to a tie break. Alasdair's team won the tie break (8 – 6) but it was a great competition to start the season.

Senior girls tennis continues to be popular and the standard of tennis continues to rise every year. The senior 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams had regular fixtures, recording some good wins but also some losses. Some of the highlights were the 3rd VI winning 6 – 3 v Glenalmond and 5 – 4 v Fettes. Camilla Rhodes and Phoebe Shaw Stewart had an undefeated season for this team. Well done to them. The 2nd VI had good wins against St George's School and Fettes. The 1st VI were successful against St George's, Morrison's and Fettes and all the other games were extremely close.

The Junior teams have had another good season, in particular the 4th Form 'A' team, who had convincing wins over Kilgraston, Loretto, Fettes and Morrison's. We managed to get fixtures for three teams in both the junior age groups and it was great to see so many girls out playing. The Riley girls had their usual mixture of results and it was good to see them having a good win against St Leonards New Park.

In the British Schools Cup we were drawn against Waid Academy in the quarter-finals. The team consisting of Ailie MacGeoch, Helen Summersgill, Claire Price and Rachel McLean won the match 4 – 0 and were then drawn against Glenalmond in the semi final. After the singles matches the game was tied at 2 – 2 but the team were really up for the game and went on to win 4 – 2 with Helen & Ailie and Claire and Rachel winning both doubles matches. We had made the final. Due to exam commitments Helen was replaced by Amy Marwick in the team and we headed off to Edinburgh to play the final of the Scottish section competition. Unfortunately Ailie had an exam and so was late in coming through to the match. After the singles we were 2 – 1 down. Rachel & Claire were particularly impressive in the doubles match

and after the doubles we were then trailing 2 – 3. Unfortunately, we were unable to play the final singles match and the tie went in favour of St George's. All five girls who took part in the competition played really well and we were all proud of what they had achieved.

The big highlight of the tennis season was the Kilgraston tournament in which a total of 24 Strathallan girls took part. In the U16 section Lynsey Knowles and Sophie Beamish beat Dollar, Fettes and St Leonards to come 2nd in the section and qualify for the quarter-finals. They played tough matches but kept their cool and went on to beat Fettes in the semi-final to qualify for the final against Dollar 1st Couple. Unfortunately they lost 2 – 6 but both can be very happy with their performances. Well done to both for being runners up at this tournament.

In the senior section all 3 couples got through the group stages to the _ finals. We were the only School to get all 3 couples through to the knock out stage of the competition. Rachel McLean & Claire Price and Emma McNeill & Daniella Velasquez were narrowly defeated in their _ final matches but Helen Summersgill & Ailie MacGeoch were to go even further in the competition. Helen and Ailie defeated Dollar 7 – 5 then Fettes 7 – 4 on a tie break set to get into the final. It was a great final match against Morrisons and again Helen & Ailie should be very proud of their runners up medals. They were defeated 5 – 7 in a fantastic match.

The Inter house competition gave the opportunity for 6 couples to compete against each other. Unfortunately due to torrential rain the junior match was postponed and although all girls did persevere the staff intervened to postpone the match until the following week. Woodlands were victorious and retained the trophy at junior level and they were also victorious in the senior competition.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Tommy Ogilvie who has coached the Senior teams throughout the year and also to all the staff who have coached, organised and helped with all the teams this season. It seems that we get stronger every year and a lot of this is due to the commitment of the staff and, of course, all the players.

Kirsty MacGeoch, Captain of Girls' Tennis

Equestrianism

The teams that represented Strathallan at the Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships (KSSEC) had a great time with Strathallan gaining two individual titles



This has been a fantastic year for Strathallan pupils in the equestrian world. Alice Page has represented Scotland in the Scottish U25 squad with great success, and has won three major titles individually. Andrew Glover and Heather Larson were awarded first places at the Pony Club National Championships, with Fergus Baird also qualifying for this prestigious event.

The teams that represented Strathallan at the Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships (KSSEC) had a great time with Strathallan gaining two individual titles, and one first, two seconds and a sixth place in the team sections. These are by far the best results we have achieved.

Strathallan Equestrian Stars

Alice Page

Dressage: Member of the U25 Scottish Dressage Team. Won two British titles :Advanced FEI Championships, and the Junior FEI championship. Won the Advanced Scottish Championships. Only Scottish rider to be selected to work with a judge at an International Training Seminar.

Andrew Glover

Pony Club National Championships – represented Strathearn Pony Club team which won the Intermediate Dressage and came 3rd in the Showjumping. Individual places : first in his arena, and second overall. British Eventing – placed 2nd&3rd at Intro & Pre-Novice BSJA – qualified for Welsh Masters championship.

Heather Larson

Pony Club National Novice Championships – representing Whyte Valley Pony Club she won the eventing, came 3rd in dressage and 8th in showjumping. British Eventing – lots of high places at Intro and Pre-Novice & won Novice Championships in Staffordshire.

Senior Dressage/Showjumping Team

KSSEC results:

Team ShowJumping 1st (12 teams)
Individual S.J. 1st Overall (dressage/S.J.) 6th

Olivia Streatfeild-James

Performed successfully in her 6th and final year representing the school. Won several rosettes and a shield at the Central Scotland Highland P.C. Show. Competed at Blair IHT in Novice Working Hunter.

Helen Summersgill

Won individual S.J. Championships at KSSEC. in her 6th year representing the school. Completed final year in Junior BSJA with many wins and top placings in several classes.

Stephanie Lyon

Performed really well in both dressage and S.J. in her 3rd year representing the school. Trained with Mark Todd in New Zealand this summer. Fergus Baird Completed his 3rd year on the team with a good dressage score and a double clear in the S.J. A member of Bennachie P.C. Intermediate Eventing team which won the Area Competition, (placed 2nd individual). At the Nationals the team finished 8/28 teams-placed 14/110 individually.

Intermediate Dressage/Showjumping Team

KSSEC results:

(14 teams) Overall dressage/S.J. 8th

Heather Larson

Performed really well in the dressage and gained a fast double clear in the S.J.

Corrie Stewart

Completed a very fast round in the S.J. Has achieved lots of wins and high places in BSJA classes including coming 3rd in the British Novice at Champions of Scotland. Qualified for the 90cm Discovery final in Yorkshire.

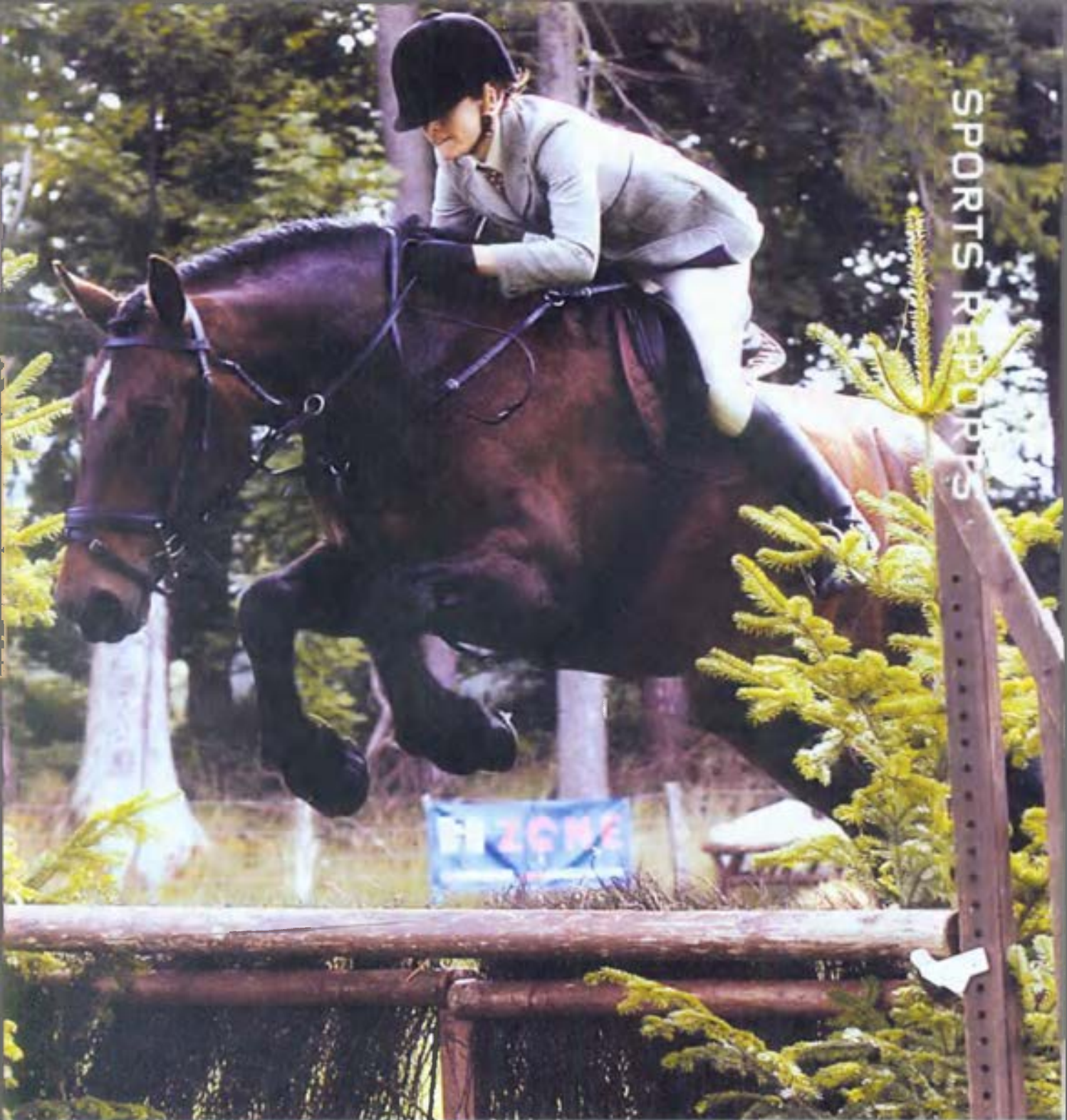
Sarah MacLachlan

Performed well in the dressage finishing on a commendable score.

Sara Pugh

As this was her first show, she should be congratulated on achieving results of a high standard in both dressage and S.J.





Junior Dressage/Showjumping Team

KSSEC results :

(13 teams) Team Showjumping :2nd
Individual S.J. 1st Overall dressage/S.J. 2nd

Emily MacLachlan

Performed well in the dressage and achieved a commendable result in the S.J.

Jemma Battison

Gained good results in the dressage and performed well in the S.J.

Emma Cheape

Gave a sound performance in the dressage and finished the S.J. with a fast double clear. Member of Fife Hunt games team:qualified for National finals in Ireland.Jumped clear in X-country in Interbranch tetrathlon.Won U12 ODE.

Jenny Summersgill

Won the individual junior showjumping title. Has won and been placed in several BSJA classes.Won PC S.J. league. Qualified for POYS (in Essex).AtChampions of Scotland came 6th in the National New Recruits Final & 3rd (out of 65)in the 90cm Open.

Riding Lessons

A number of pupils attend weekly riding lessons at Dabbs and Kilgraston Equestrian Centres. These lessons cater for all standards and are always approached with great enthusiasm and good humour.

JAS

Sailing

Sailing does make particular demands on the nautically-inclined Strathallian, for example the need to be resistant to cold water, mud, damp wetsuits and so forth



Last year there was insufficient interest in sailing to make the bookings viable, but in 2007 we were able to re-start the option with a healthy number of participants.

Seven of our nine sailors started the term as beginners, with only Jamie Freiman and Jasmine Morris claiming prior experience. We had intended to sail every Saturday, thus providing a tantalising target for progress towards the Level 2 certificate, since only with this can one sail without an Instructor, and sure enough there were sufficient numbers in this category by the end of May to get us on the road on Saturdays as well, and everyone was qualified by the end of term - no mean achievement.

Sailing does make particular demands on the nautically-inclined Strathallian, for example the need to be resistant to cold water, mud, damp wetsuits and so forth. More importantly, he or she needs to be prepared to eat three cheese and ham baguettes a week, to leave School within seconds of Period 6 ending (quite a few seconds in the case of Radek), and to take almost everything Jan says with a pinch of salt (naturally).

Outstanding memories of the term? Good company and good humour (from the pupils that is); Sam's steering, Jan's and Radek's diffidence, Jamie's self-effacing nature, Jasmine's quick changes, Oscar's natural understanding of sailing, Frankie's

kayaking, Hieronymus' impulsive moments and Amelie's overt enthusiasm. It really was enjoyable, of course. I hope this group will continue next year - no more boring certificates to do - and that more will join them.

AS-J

CCF-Sailing

On Monday the 3rd of July, twelve of us navy recruits set sail from Kyle of Lochalsh (Skye Bridge) on a 70ft double-masted Ocean Youth Trust yacht. After fighting over who got which beds, we got our 'oilies', had a safety briefing, and got a tour of the deck. We also distinguished who was who and we had to have one syllable nicknames so Hels the skipper could remember them - OI, AI, you get the picture. But no-one forgot Will's "Totally Carla". We also got split into groups called watches which meant that we took turns being on watch (on deck). Basically, it was two hours on, four hours off. It was a relief to be off watch and we often slept as it was quite tiring. We also took it in turns to be on meal duties. First port of call was Portree on the Isle of Skye, where we stayed one night and then had a long day's sail to South Uist in the Outer Hebrides. That was the only sunny day, and everyone was out on deck. On the way, off the north coast of Skye, we saw two basking sharks, two minke whales and loads of porpoises. They were amazing! We found a wee group of islands and anchored there for the night. Uh-oh, anchor watch... We had to do this to

make sure that we weren't drifting and we weren't going to sink by crashing into a rock (no joke). The next morning we got abandoned on an island for an hour, and Ilona was freaked out by the amount of spiders, positive they were crawling over her. Ilona, Bronwyn and Ainslie started complaining the about the lack of a shower on the boat, so when we reached Barra the next evening after some fun drills in tacking and gybing, it was a relief to hear that we could get a shower in the local hostel the next morning.

By this time we all had our own duties that we preferred, and in Sam's case, it was completing the log ('logging'). We also had to take it in turns to clean the deck, heads (toilets) and galley, which was always the most dreaded part of the day. The only CD that worked on the boat was The Fratellis, so we ended up singing it until we were sick of it for the rest of the trip. The other 'favourite' song on the boat seemed to be Go down Moses (the remix) by Brrrronwyn (nickname) and Ainslie.

The next day we went to Vatersay beach, and played rounders and buried Sam in the sand. As we had anchored by the beach, we had to use the dinghy to get onto it. The tide was going out (fast) and the weeds by the pier seemed to stand out more than they had before, so the propeller was at risk of getting stuck in them. No danger there then, as the engine cut out as Ali was steering. Next thing we knew Sam had jumped off the pier and had started

The next day we had planned to go to a wee loch on the Isle of Mull but, as is usual with sailing, plans changed

swimming to go and 'save' Ali. Of course he didn't need saving "Sam. Go away!!! I'm fine!!! You're only going to capsize the boat if you try and get in it!!! GO AWAY!!!!". Later on we did a highly amusing man overboard drill, with Ilona, as bosun, dressing in the bright orange inflatable suit being lowered over the side in order to pick up the buoy. After this Sarah had fun practising her equestrian skills on the life rafts along with Kirstin!

That night we sailed to Tobermory, which took forever, and arrived at 4 a.m. We didn't all have to be up on deck though, as we were in our watches. So some people got a better night's sleep than others (Pip's watch!). The wind the next day was probably some of the best we had, and we sailed down past the Corryvreckan Whirlpool and Abbey, being Abbey, made a fuss about the boat yawing so much. Then back up to Craobh Haven, where there

was a perfect wee "Duloc" village and, guess what, the showers were great! That evening Carla and Kirstin left the boat to go home... they never had to do the final clean-up! We had a sing-a-long that night, and Cliff was right in there, singing along with his eyes closed. Everyone stared in disbelief – it was so funny.

The next day we had planned to go to a wee loch on the Isle of Mull but, as is usual with sailing, plans changed. So we took a detour to Kerrera and the sights of Oban, including Sam walking around in what looked like a bright red baby-gro. After we'd had fajitas, we played a game of "Pick up the ever-disappearing cereal box with your teeth without using your hands...". Sounds of Cliff screaming at the cereal box "Oi, I'm going to get you, I'M GOING TO GET YOU" rang in our ears for the rest of the last night.

The last day finally arrived, and we had to do a massive clean-up of the boat before leaving to go back to school.

We all had an amazing time and learnt a lot about sailing, and also gained our RYA competent crew certificates. Thanks to Mrs MacBain for organising the trip and giving us someone to sing about. All together now (to the tune of (We are) Sailing);

Fee is reading
Fee is reading
In the corner
By the log...

Joanna MacLachlan, IV Form Woodlands

Badminton

It has been by far our most successful season ever. Eight very strong boys led by our captain Michael Boyd were ably supported by the girls with Amalina Daud leading the way



We finished last year by saying that this year's squad would probably not have the same strength in depth as last year's. How wrong could we have been!

It has been by far our most successful season ever. Eight very strong boys led by our captain Michael Boyd were ably supported by the girls with Amalina Daud leading the way. In representative matches the boys won their annual match against Edinburgh Academy and experience really told against Merchiston boys where we won heavily. A mixed team performed impressively and took the honours against Fettes although the girls didn't manage to beat St Georges.

In the Perth and Kinross Championships we dominated proceedings with Michael beating Greg Stewart in the U18 singles final. Michael and Ali Smith beat Sanny Choo and Tidus Wu in the boys doubles final where we provided all four semi-final pairs. Sanny and Amalina went on to win the mixed doubles final.

Michael, Ali, Sanny, Tidus and Amalina all represented Perth and Kinross schools in the Scottish Schools championships with Michael getting through 2 rounds of the singles and Sanny and Tidus making the second round of the boys doubles. The standard was as high as ever and all enjoyed the experience immensely.

In the Perth League Division 2, playing against adult opposition, we became stronger as the season went on and won the Campus Sports Knockout Trophy, a handicap tournament for Division 2 teams.

On the home front Nicol retained the boys' house trophy for the 3rd year in succession with Michael Boyd, Greg Stewart, Nick Price and Shen Shan having too much fire power for their nearest rivals, Simpson. Toto Chow and Wanda Wong led Thornbank to a comprehensive victory in the girls' event.

So, all in all, it has been a wonderful season. Apart from all the success at representative level we have had a sports hall full of enthusiastic participants at every activities night and I can only congratulate all concerned for making it such a pleasurable experience for me.

Special thanks go to Michael and Amalina who captained their respective teams so well and to Nick Price for being in charge of equipment. As always Madame Duncan and Mademoiselle Ballent were a great help in running the games sessions and were unstinting in their support. All good things eventually come to an end and we'll be starting again from scratch next year.

Skiing

Melissa PIPER (05) has been selected for the British Senior Ski Team after two years of intensive training and full-time skiing

The season started off in September 2006 with the Scottish Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships at the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. In spite of the event's taking place within our half-term break, four hardy girls took the challenge on what is known to be the steepest artificial ski slope in the U.K. Jennifer Whitelaw and Sophie Workman both secured good runs but Lucy Drummond-Hay and Jenny Wood were less fortunate and our team were disqualified.

Despite the occasional and, at times, spectacular snowfalls in the winter, all snow races had to be cancelled for the first time in the history of Scottish Schools ski-racing. Ski Centres were, unfortunately, struggling to open and if the snow was at times sufficient to ski on, it was never there in great enough quantity to let two hundred racers perform safely.

The situation was hardly better on mainland Europe, where most Junior races had to be cancelled. However, Adam Piper kept his place in the Scottish Junior Ski Team, thanks to his outstanding past performance.

Fabienne Thompson

Cycling

Strathallan has a cycling team?

Have they ever done anything? These are just some of the difficult questions (well, two, in fact, Alex. Ed) and challenges faced by those who don't like cricket or love it, and to whom the word athletics means something to be unconditionally avoided. Yet still at every third, the gears begin to shift up as the attending numbers slowly go downwards. The cycling team, which I am not sure it is, is made up, on the teachers' part, by Mr Kennedy and Mrs MacBain (plus occasional appearances by Mr MacBain) and the bulk of the pupils (and I use bulk in the loose sense of the word, and I say loose in the literal, physical sense of the word) by me who by virtuous default was

this year made Captain/Head of Cycling (Hmm, not too sure about this, Alex. Ed) and even though still recovering from the bitter shock and horror of having no mention of himself and his status within the school calendar still battles on with zeal despite the nasty Tibet-ish-ness of his situation. Following his lead with well-oiled and lubricated obedience was Liam Stelzer on his über byke which, while worth more deutsch marks than his liver, kidney and pancreas still manages to weigh slightly less; along with the actual captain (deposed) of cycling, Malcolm, and a host of extras.

And so the cycling team was going places, stunning Dunning being said, by Liam, to be "charming and mandatory". Chiefly we talked Zombie Philosophy and the summer days were wound down by the debate 'If zombies attacked you right now what would you do?' and follow-up debate, 'Well, what about now?' And though the debate turns mostly on the calibre of zombie involved, philosophy is still going strong. On that note the cycling team would like to send their kindest regards to cycling alumnus, Mr Thompson. Dismount.

Alex Raeside. LVI Nicol

We would go out cycling in all weathers from glorious sunshine (yes, it does happen occasionally in Scotland) to freezing gales

There was general interest and intrigue when Liam turned up at the beginning of the summer term with his Cannondale Lefty, a bike which, to the untrained eye, looked as if it was missing part of its suspension forks (well, it is. Ed); Liam assured us however, that it was designed like that. At the opposite extreme to Liam's fully adjustable, full suspension mountain bike was Lucy on her rigid-frame bike. No matter what style or form the group's mounts took, all tackled Mr Kennedy's well-planned routes with enthusiasm and gusto.

We would go out cycling in all weathers from glorious sunshine (yes, it does happen occasionally in Scotland) to freezing gales. Unfortunately, we were hampered on a couple of occasions by Scotland's notorious horizontal driving rain. Mr Kennedy and Mrs MacBain led us on many adventures around the local countryside and Mrs MacBain would sometimes drag her husband along too.

As usual, the number of pupils joining the group would vary as our excursions were interrupted by such trivial events as exams and university interviews. Trips along to Dunning and up to the ruined fort opposite the school remain amongst Mr Kennedy's favorite routes although even he has to push his bike up one of the particularly steep slopes which only Mr MacBain's determination would not give in to.

Malcolm Fraser, Freeland UVI

Squash

Andrew received full sporting colours for his achievements in squash this year

Andrew Marshall, 5R continues to perform on the squash court despite playing between rugby, hockey and golf matches for the School. He reached the final of the Kinross Club Championships and won the match 3 – 0 to become the Club Champion. He also played No 1 for the Kinross team who reached the final of the Fife League KO competition. Andrew also competed in the Midlands Junior Open tournament at Bells SC in January and after a difficult draw took a very creditable 5th place.

The next tournament was the U17 National Championships at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. Andrew played well and finished 5th in the U-17 age group. He played particularly well in his last game which lasted 80 minutes coming back from 0 – 2 down to win 10 – 8, having saved a match ball at 7 – 8. Andrew has a Scottish ranking now at U19 level and always performs well against players who train five times per week specifically for squash. Andrew represented the

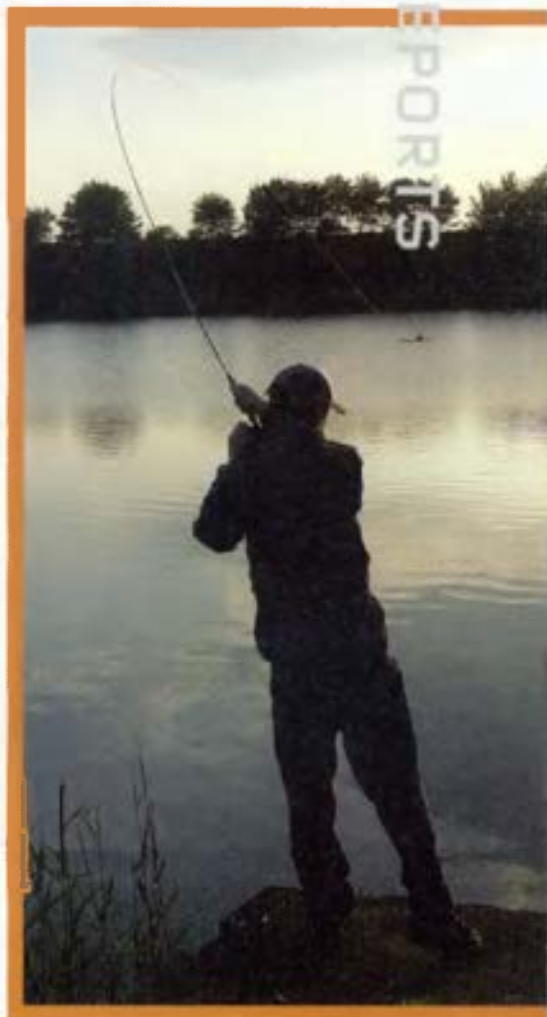
School this year in rugby, hockey and golf and it is to his credit that he is still performing well in squash.

Andrew received full sporting colours for his achievements in squash this year.

AS, Director of Sport

Angling Club

The morning looked decidedly 'fishy' but the bright afternoon sun was not to the anglers' liking and Heatherford did not give up its inhabitants easily



Whether or not Mr Court has some influence with the Almighty over the weather is not yet clear, but as a meteorological talisman for the School Angling Club his departure on retirement spelt suffering for the young anglers of the School. The Inter-House, as well as the Strathallian v School competitions were both beset by truly awful weather. No fisherman's excuses these: on the day of the Strathallian v School competition, walkers were being rescued from the surrounding Ochils and yet the anglers - forced onto the bank by the conditions - continued to fish albeit wet to the skin, chilled to the bone and with no fish to any pupil...but that's fishing isn't it?

The 30th of April saw the Club's first visit to Frandy, set amidst the glorious Ochil hills in Glendevon. The night, alas, did not fulfil the day's promise, and the strong, chill easterly wind made casting difficult to fish that clearly weren't on the feed. With only two fish banked all night, a halt was called at 08.45pm with not even a pull to the competent rods of the pupils.

The 6th of May saw Robert McMorris, James Espie and Grant Murdoch join forces with the Bursar, Mr Batterham, Mr Goddard and Mr Melville against an 'all-star cast' of Strathallians and Guests. The conditions made boat fishing out of the question and so the decision was made to bank fish. The weather proved foul with, at one point, the whole loch under a hail storm that reduced visibility to a matter of feet. Fish were caught however - but, sadly, the catch return favoured the Strathallians rather than the School with their eight fish beating our six.

The 14th of May saw us at Frandy again in the hope that conditions would be right for the School Inter-House Competition. No surprise when arrival at the loch showed a blustery, cold and wintry wind (what happened to Spring?). With again only two fish banked - both brown trout to the rod of the Bursar - another poor night was endured by anglers whose skill deserved better conditions and perhaps some luck. In an effort to reach a result in the competition, Heatherford was booked for the 11th June. The morning looked decidedly 'fishy' but the bright afternoon sun was not to the anglers' liking and Heatherford did not give up its inhabitants easily. With two fish to the Bursar's rod and Mr Batterham hooking three and landing one, it looked as if there would be, once again, no resolution to the competition. Robert Cooke had already lost a fish and James Espie had moved a couple...could there be a winner yet in the last half an hour? Yes! - Cookie's rod bent into another fish which this time stayed on and the evening was his - Simpson had triumphed for the third year running. Congratulations to our young anglers who never gave up trying despite conditions that defeated many adult anglers with years more experience. There's always next year. Global warming? Tell that to the Frandy trout...

Anthony Glasgow

Athletics and Cross Country

There can be no doubt that the winter training programme is paying off. It is to be hoped that more children will be able to see what can be achieved if they put in the long-term effort



The cross country season passed quietly, with a surprising number of competitive fixtures succumbing to freak climatic conditions, but mainly to rain. By the time the Schools' Championships arrived we had teams in place, but were still just lacking the competitive edge. If we are to compete in this event at the level to which we aspire, we need to push more runners into the top 20 of their age group; although good performances came from Ciara Elwis (20th), Charlie Black and Jamie Addison Scott (30th and 31st), Amy Marwick and Fiona Roy (23rd and 25th), and Tom Fleming (20th), it is the grouping of the rest of the term that determines the medals.

Our Athletics season was, in marked contrast, both mainly sunny and successful. Our early-season trip to the Edinburgh Academy is traditionally our annual low point. This year we saw no reason to disturb the form book, and a slightly confused-looking athletics team limped to a poor performance.

A week (or two) is a long time in Athletics, however, and our results quickly picked up. Against Fettes our Senior boys won their competition, and with the other three very close, the final total score went the wrong way by the narrowest of margins; the boys did well to win the QVS match; against Glenalmond, three of the four teams won, the Senior girls' victory being particularly emphatic; and at the Glenalmond three way competition, we won both the boys' and girls' competitions. Our final trip to Merchiston suffered, as many away trips do at this time of the exam-laden Summer term, from a mild shortage of playing staff, but the teams performed very well, and a very good-natured meet was enjoyed by all: Athletics was, very much, the winner.

With so many good athletes developing, Sports Day had much to live up to, and when it did take place, it was a cracker, with a wide range of very competitive events. When the dust settled, Ciara Elwis and Jayne Carmichael had won the girls' Victrices Ludorum, Marcus Adams, Magnus Olafsson and Nick Harvey were the Victores. Ruthven won a close boys' House competition, also winning the Standards competition, and Woodlands won the girls'.

We sent a large squad to Scottish schools': Marcus Adams won a silver and bronze medal for triple and long jump, setting a new school record in the former; Jayne Carmichael was 6th in the final of both 200 and 100 metres; Magnus Olafsson was 9th in the javelin; Ben Quick was 6th and 9th in the shot and discus respectively; Lucy Drummond-Hay was 5th in the javelin; Tom Fleming won a bronze medal in a fast 2m.00.2; Nick Harvey took silver in the Javelin with a 48.56 throw, in which competition Sam O'Brien was 4th with 41.56m.; Sam then won a bronze medal in the discus with 30.32m.; Andrew Robb won a bronze medal in the shot, throwing 11.69m., and Niall King jumped to 4th place in the long jump.

There can be no doubt that the winter training programme is paying off. It is to be hoped that more children will be able to see what can be achieved if they put in the long-term effort. Enormous thanks are due to those who organise, measure and encourage to ensure that this sport can take place.

DMH



Boys

Event		Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	12.00	Ling, T.	1971
100M	M	10.90	Ogilvie	1978
100M	S	11.00	Lochart/ling	1971-
			Smellie/kirkland	1978
200M	J	24.00	Wallace, R.	1993
200M	M	23.20	Ling T.	1973
200M	S	22.80	Ling, T.	1973
400M	J	56.50	Cook, C.	1987
400M	M	52.50	Millar	1977
400M	S	50.30	Roger, G.	1982
400M HURDLES	M		Mcdonald, S	
400M HURDLES	M		Mckinlay, S	
400M HURDLES	S		Mckinlay, S	
800M	J	2.12.90	Lawrence, C.	1984
800M	M	2.03.06	Lawrence, C.	1985
800M	S	1.55.02	Roger, G.	1982
1500M	J	4.32.07	Lawrence, C.	1985
1500M	M	4.14.05	Bond, R.	1988
1500M	S	4.09.02	Bond, R.	1989
HIGH JUMP	J	1.63	Holmes	1965
HIGH JUMP	M	1.77	Cuthbertson	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	1.95	Colquhoun, O	1999
LONG JUMP	J	5.55	Lear, C.	1967
LONG JUMP	M	6.17	Lawson	1967
LONG JUMP	S	6.52	Smellie, D.	1978
TRIPLE JUMP	J	10.68	Adams, M.	2006
TRIPLE JUMP	S	12.49	Duncan, G.	2004
SHOT	J	12.83	Walker, L.	1992
SHOT	M	14.73	Mckenzie, G.	1973
SHOT	S	12.90	Callander	1979
DISCUS	J	36.27	Knox, S.	1974
DISCUS	M	42.00	Knox, S.	1976
DISCUS	S	40.26	Mckenzie, G.	1974
JAVELIN	J	49.81	Mcbride, J.	1969
JAVELIN	M	49.81	Mcbride, J.	1969
JAVELIN	S	57.07	Mcbride, J.	1971
4X100M	J	50.50	Ruthven	1987
4X100M	M	46.60	Simpson	1972
4X100M	S	45.50	Freeland	1981
4X400M	J	4.09.07	Simpson	1995
4X400M	M	3.53.49	Simpson	1995
4X400M	S	3.41.03	Freeland	1992

Girls

Event		Record	Holder	Year
100M	J	13.00	Streule, K.	1982
100M	S	12.12	Edmunds, A.	1990
200M	J	26.73	Giles, L.	2003
200M	S	25.20	Edmunds, A.	1990
300M	J	42.30	Fleming, K	1999
300M	S	41.72	Fleming, K	2002
400M	J	63.65	Giles, L.	2004
400M	S	60.00	Reid, S.	1990
800M	J	2.26.2	Fleming, K	1999
800M	S	2.23.2	Fleming, K	2002
1500M	J	5.14.09	Barlow, A.	1992
1500M	S	5.05.10	Meiklejohn, C.	1990
HIGH JUMP	J	1.45	Orr, K	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	1.55	Rutherford, R	1987
LONG JUMP	J	4.49	Fraser, E	2003
LONG JUMP	S	4.64	Macdonald, A / Hay K	2004 / 05
POLE VAULT	J	2.20	Fleming, S	2003
POLE VAULT	S	2.40	Fleming, S	2004
SHOT	J	10.23	Sang, T.	1992
SHOT	S	9.49	Edmunds, A.	1990
DISCUS	J	25.10	Chapman, R.	1995
DISCUS	S	26.60	Chapman, R.	1998
JAVELIN	J	23.44	Kotseroglou, M	2002
JAVELIN	S	25.43	Kotseroglou, M	2004
4X100M	J	53.73	at Scottish championships.	2003
4X100M	S	52.63	at Scottish championships.	2006
4X400M	J	4.39.37	Thornbank	1992
4X400M	S	4.42.36	Thornbank	2003



Table Tennis

Three teams represented the School – Strathallan 1sts, 2nds, and Riley, the 1sts and Riley coming away with full honours



The successful inaugural appearance of the Strathallan teams in the Perth & District Junior Table Tennis League took the Perthshire table tennis community by complete surprise.

Three teams represented the School – Strathallan 1sts, 2nds, and Riley, the 1sts and Riley coming away with full honours. The 1sts, with Daniel Adams (c), Alex Murray, Ben Lewis and Will Lyburn in the squad, became champions of the Premier Division, remained unbeaten throughout the season from October to April and finished with maximum points. Daniel Adams achieved the top player award with the best average and consistency and only one loss throughout.

Daniel also enjoyed a major achievement in becoming Perth & District Minors (under-13) Champion for the second year in succession. The 2nds, with Hamish Mitchell (c), Mike McKenzie, Ian Mitchell, Stuart Gillespie and Callum Kettles in the squad, finished middle of the Premier Division, just missing out on 2nd or 3rd spot.

In the First Division the Riley squad of Alexander Falconer, Luca Man, Charlie Rutherford (c) and Cameron Mack, finished top and unbeaten, although there were some very close encounters! Alexander Falconer took the best player award in this division with a 100% record.

Five Strathallan players represented the Perth & Kinross region in the Scottish Schools Championships and competed well at this level. Upper Sixth Former, Sanny Choo, at that time the current Brunei Junior and Senior Champion, reached the quarter final of the boys over-16 event despite being strongly committed to his studies at the time. He was beaten by the eventual winner, Craig Howieson who went on to win the British Secondary Schools event. Sanny was an inspiration to many of the Strathallan players. In the previous year he had represented Scottish Schools in the British Secondary Schools Championships.

The Strathallan Table Tennis Club was enthusiastically supported throughout, from September till May. During that time five separate assessments were held in which each player competed for a positional placing within the entry group for each assessment and earned points accordingly. After the five assessments Will Lyburn had achieved the highest points total and was rewarded with a treasured trophy. A total of 28 players competed in these assessments. Players of all abilities were made welcome and found an environment in which they could participate fully and enjoy their sport.

These outstanding achievements of the Strathallan players will be a tough act to follow in 2007 – 08.

Alan Kitson.

Girls' Hockey Tour – Australia & Singapore 2007



The rain was pouring down so the early-morning run was cancelled (the girls were very disappointed!) and we headed off to get the ferry over to the Zoo

It was a sleepy but excited group that got together at 4.30am to start our journey Down Under. After a long check in at Edinburgh airport we just managed to catch our flight to Heathrow where we also caught our breath and spent a little time in the shops. We arrived in Singapore at 8.30am and somehow managed to make our connection at 9am. Amazingly, our luggage was there to meet us in Perth, Australia. We arrived at the hotel where we were staying for only one night and after having a nice meal we all headed off to bed - extremely tired but in good spirits.

The rain was pouring down so the early-morning run was cancelled (the girls were very disappointed!) and we headed off to get the ferry over to the zoo. After a morning there we headed, rather nervously, to Santa Maria College our first billet School. By the time we all came together the next day everyone had enjoyed their first night in their 'Aussie homes'. Fremantle was our first sight-seeing trip – shopping and the markets were very much on the agenda. After some (more) shopping we went to the hockey field for our first matches





Matches v Santa Maria College

1st XI	0 – 1	2nd XI	1 – 3
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The 2nd XI played first in the worst of the weather - they battled against the wind, rain and thunder and found the going tough in the 1st half. At half time they were 3 - 0 down. In the 2nd half they played extremely well, Robynne Smith getting a consolation goal from a penalty corner late in the game.

The rain went off in time for the 1st XI match which turned out to be a highly competitive game. The Strathallan girls had most of the pressure, but unfortunately they were unable to turn the pressure into goals and at half time the score stood at 0 - 0. In the 2nd half Strathallan pushed for the winning goal and managed to win a few short corners. However, with a minute and half on the clock Santa Maria scored a breakaway goal to win the game 1 - 0. A disappointing result but a very encouraging start for both teams.

Tuesday we spent the morning at Caversham Wildlife Park - feeding the kangaroos and taking pictures of the koalas. We even managed a ride on the camels, which was very exciting. On the way back from the wildlife park we went into the chocolate factory - very happy girls.

Matches v Wolves HC, Perth

1st XI	1 – 2	2nd XI	1 - 5
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Wolves Hockey Club is the biggest club in Perth with over 100 teams. Both Strath teams were ready for tough matches and they were not disappointed. The 2nd XI played at 10am and found the going tough right from the start going a goal down very early on in the game. After a slow start the girls started to create chances and they grew in confidence and started to play some good hockey. Unfortunately, the Wolves pressure was turned into goals. Ailsa Turnbull scored for us after a good move by the girls. The final score was 5 - 1 but the scoreline did not reflect the end-to-end game that it turned out to be.

The 1st XI got off to a dream start against a very good club side. Jennifer Whitelaw stole the ball on the 25 gave a great pass to Rachel McLean. Rachel found Jayne Carmichael out on the right wing who ran with the ball and gave a precision pass to Kirsty MacGeoch who fired the ball into the back of the net. The score stayed like this for the first half although Wolves did create a lot of chances only to be denied by Elizabeth Cachia in the goal. In the first minute of the 2nd half Wolves scored from a well-struck penalty corner and 3 minutes later scored from an excellent individual goal. We pushed to get the equaliser - Fiona Roy hitting the post with one shot and then it was Fiona again who got on the end of a cross but denied by an excellent save by the Wolves GK. Final score stayed at 2 - 1.

On Sunday morning we gathered - saying farewell to our billets. We had a trip to Kings Park to admire the views over the City, then an overnight flight to Cairns.

Cairns

Getting to Cairns at 4.30am Monday morning we had breakfast together at 6am before finding the swimming costumes and heading to the poolside and Jacuzzi by 7.30am. A lazy day by the poolside was a great way to recover from the long journey. On Tuesday we took a trip to the Great Barrier Reef - I was not prepared for the boat journey out - very choppy. Fortunately, I had taken the sea-sickness pills and we were all delighted when we got out to the Reef. It turned out to be fantastic day, snorkelling, swimming and sun-bathing. The next day we had a training session in the morning followed by a trip white-water rafting. I have never laughed so much in an afternoon - really great fun.

We all have some fantastic memories to be going home with and the girls have been great ambassadors for the School and their families



Sydney

We arrived in Sydney on Thursday at tea-time – after checking into the hotel we all headed to Circular Quay to take some pictures of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. It really is quite spectacular and the girls were delighted to be in Sydney

1st XI v Western District Rep Side 0 – 3

They were strong opposition who had just finished in 2nd place at the State Championships and were also bolstered by an Australian U17 National Player. Some great defensive work particularly from Zoe Hayward and Jessica Stewart in Goal kept us in the game and although we had created some chances we went into half time all square 0 – 0. In the 2nd half they stepped the pace and we struggled to match this. Despite some continued outstanding saves from Jess we went down 3 – 0 to a very good side. The work- rate throughout was excellent and although we had lost again there was a really positive attitude in the squad.

Singapore

We had a lovely day on the Island of Sentosa. The cable car journey was scary for those without a head for heights. On arriving at Sentosa, Emma, Katie, Kirsty and Jess all rose to the challenge of getting a picture with a 'massive yellow native snake' around their neck. Of course after the beach it was essential we went to the local markets to get the bargains. Elizabeth Cachia became a master at getting us a 'good price' and in fact I took her shopping with me. Some great bargains.

Matches v Singapore U19 National Team

1st XI 1 – 3

The matches were played at the Delta Stadium and the 1st XI were playing first. We always knew it was going to be tough and after many heroic saves by Jess the score-line at half time was 0 – 3. The heat and humidity were something the girls had never experienced and we drank litres of water throughout the match. The 2nd half was an extremely impressive performance with Rachel McLean scoring a great goal from a Penalty Corner strike by J Whitelaw. Eliz Cachia replaced Jess in the 2nd half and

everyone made a big contribution to an excellent team performance. The final score was a respectable 1 – 3 which is great for a School team playing a National team.

As we waited for the 2nd XI opposition we soon realized that they were to be playing the same team that the 1st XI had just played!! A series of outstanding saves by Finola kept the score-line down to 0 – 4 at half time. In the 2nd half the girls battled on and found the heat extremely difficult to play in and unfortunately conceded a few more goals.

On our last day we had our final tour meeting with lots of tears being shed already! (mine included) All the girls have been an absolute joy to be with and it is hard to believe that Tour is coming to an end. We have all had an excellent trip and I do not think I have laughed so much in a long time. We all have some fantastic memories to be going home with and the girls have been great ambassadors for the School and their families.

Thanks for the memories

AS, Director of Sport



Martial Arts

Laura fought extremely well and gained enough points to ensure that the team from Perth finished in a very creditable third place



Karate Club 2007

The Karate Club continues to develop on a Tuesday evening under the watchful eye of Coach, Mike Clifford. At the most recent grading the following pupils successfully achieved their next belt.

Red	Ruaridh Clark
Yellow	Duncan Cook
	Grace Cochran Patrick
	Cameron Mack
	James McAllister
Green	Sarah Hellewell
Purple	Laura Glasgow
Brown	Isobel Hale
	Jamie Parker

Laura Glasgow, Riley, was invited to take part in the British Junior Karate Championships in Blackpool in April 2007. She achieved a bronze medal in the team Kumutie which is a fighting event. Laura fought extremely well and gained enough points to ensure that the team from Perth finished in a very creditable third place.

Judo Club 2006/2007

Andy McInroy runs a successful Judo club on a Friday evening in the small gym. Crawford Paciej, Aaron Purvis and Ben Giles all took part in a grading competition in Kilmarnock. Ben and Aaron received their Green belts and Crawford was successful in achieving his Brown belt. Crawford also took part in the Scottish Schools tournament and achieved a silver medal after his fights.

AS

Navy Section

Caitlin, Morag and Heather were pleasantly surprised when, on the first session back, they found they actually did know what they were doing



The year started on a successful note when the Navy section managed to steal more cadets from the army than ever before, with the biggest intake for a long time.

While the new recruits learnt the essentials such as drill and “the rôle of the royal navy” in exciting classroom sessions, the V Form were off to Port Edgar to finish their sailing and power-boating courses.

Caitlin, Morag and Heather were pleasantly surprised when, on the first session back, they found they actually did know what they were doing, and that, unlike last year, they weren’t going to have to just duck while the sail and boom swung round and round.

The power-boaters, on the other hand, were not so lucky. While attempting to complete their “safety-boat course” with Anna, the fiery Port Edgar head instructor (believe us, if you have been there you will know who we mean.) they had to up-right a sailing boat. This sounded fine in theory, but the fun began when someone...naming no names... (ok, it was Will and Ali) managed to capsize the boat completely and drag the mast along the bottom of the Forth, crashing it into the Forth road bridge. While Anna’s face grew redder and redder, they

went on to lose the rudder and someone else... (that’s Robynne, in fact) managed to drive the power-boat into the bottom of the sailing boat. Thankfully, it didn’t make a hole as Anna had suspected when she was shouting “I’m going to get fired”...

Despite these adventures both groups managed to gain their RYA level 2, and also, after half term, to pass their Able Seamanship test and were promoted to that rank.

The year continued with the IV Form continuing their lessons on navigation and basic seamanship with the V Form on a first-aid course. All agreed that the highlight of this was the last session when we got to try laughing gas...none of us will ever forget Ali and Will’s irrepressible fits of giggles.

Soon it was the summer term again and time for more trips to Port Edgar, including for the IV Form. Due to the size of the section they had to be fortnightly trips this year, as although Mrs MacBain was trying very hard to learn to drive a minibus, I don’t think some of the orange cones she hit will ever recover.

Morag Elwis and Robynne Smith V Form Woodlands

Clays

The Strathallian Day shoot saw the school regain the trophy despite the club fielding a team containing an ex-Internationalist in Nick Schneeberger



to field their strongest team. I hope that next year the clash can be avoided as this will allow these individuals a "opportunity to excel" at a national level!

Strathallians vs. School

The Strathallian Day shoot saw the school regain the trophy despite the club fielding a team containing an ex- Internationalist in Nick Schneeberger along with Ben Kass (Strathallians' high gun) and Ken Mackenzie (Snr + Jnr). Fraser Rawlinson, Robert Cooke and Sam Lipworth outshot the Old Boys by 3 clays.

House Match

The House Match took place on a warm Wednesday afternoon and despite a good showing from Nicol, Freeland (Rory, Robert and Sam) retained the John Lascelles trophy. Ruthven and Simpson were joint 3rd.

The girls never managed to synchronise fielding complete teams at the same time, so the trophy stays with Woodlands.

I would like to thank Kate Wilkinson for all her help and support over the year and Iain McGregor for his advice and coaching. I would also like to make a special thanks to Charles Court who retired at Easter and who had been an integral part of the club since its inception. Charles gave so much to the Club over the years that it is hard to quantify, but as a typical example of his commitment the following may suffice.

One particularly cold Wednesday afternoon in February, I was struggling to motivate myself to go out and Charles pushed me to do so saying that the weather would clear. We did go out, and the weather did not clear, but through his humour and skill as a schoolmaster, he single-handedly turned the afternoon into one of the best of the term. He helped make shooting fun and could judge the temperature of a group so well. He even missed races during Cheltenham and made do with listening to the race result on his "portable" radio. I thank him for all his support over the years and hope he enjoys his fishing-rod.

PMV

The year started with the usual rush to prepare for the Scottish Schools Championship. Rory Gibson was appointed captain and we set about shooting with gusto.

Scottish Schools & Young Shots Championship
Sunday 24th Sept 2006 Cluny Clays.

The results of the above competition were as follows:

A Team Competition

Strathallian finished second to the Gordon School from Aberdeen by 2 clays, scoring 102/150. Rory Gibson was only 3 shots off the high gun score of 41/50. Fraser scored 35, Iain 30 and Robert 24. The team tied with Dollar, and beat Kimbolton, Heriot's, Merchiston & Millfield.

B Team Competition

Strathallian B won the B competition, beating all the above in their competition. The whole team shot well and deserved their victory. The two Nicks shot well both scoring 36, Struan 35 & Sam 33.

Girls' Team Competition

The Girls team lost to Millfield Girls but shot well and Cara and Rebecca deserved to win the Scottish title; Rebecca, especially, scoring 30 and Cara 26. Both were noteworthy.

C Team

Sam O'Brien (having only shot once before) did really well scoring 24 in his first competition. Mohammed also scored 24, while Jamie and David scored 21 and 20 respectively.

During the latter stages of the winter term, all the new members took the SCTA safety course and all passed allowing them to use traps and load for themselves. Well done to all.

British Championship

We made our now annual sortie to Doveridge SG in Derbyshire to take part in the British Championships, a competition where the cream of schools' clay-shooting meet to test their skills. The teams were focused and the weather windy but fair. In the A competition Rory Gibson scored 35/50 and Fraser Rawlinson shot 34/50 in difficult conditions where our score from last year would have won the competition. The A team scored 197/300 leaving them 3rd out of over 20 schools and were only 13 clays behind Bloxham who were in 2nd place and 16 behind the eventual winners, Warwick. Out of over 150 individual entries, all our A team finished in the top third, an excellent showing considering the field included adults and FPs!!

The B & C teams performed well, but were not at full strength due to the block fixture of cricket over the w/e. The challenging, swirling wind made some of the targets very inconsistent and this dropped everyone's score.

The girls acquitted themselves well and Cara held her own in a strong field to finish in the top 6 individuals, with Francesca only two behind. The new youngsters that joined the club this year showed a lot of promise and it was unfortunate that the annual competition, always held on the first Sunday in May, clashed with cricket fixtures and the Young Guns (Mike Brown, Freddie Coleman, Jamie Schofield, Declan Ferry et al were not able



Army Section

This is how the year went...

For a variety of reasons the Section was the only element of the Contingent to go out on exercise for the Field Day in the Autumn Term - but go we did. Of course, even the best plans don't survive contact with the enemy: in this case, the enemy was Jamie King's Pot Noodle ® - surely in the annals of military history no simple convenience food has caused so much havoc. All the same, harbour drills were practised and we did a cracking ambush on the following morning.

The first half of the Autumn Term is manically busy for the CCF, and hot on the heels of Field Day came the Military Skills Competition, located at Garelochhead this time. We took a reasonably experienced and very dedicated team - for the record, Peter Watson, Jordan Raitt, Chris Milford, Robert McMorrine, Ailsa Turnbull, Annabel Farquharson, Nick McKee, Danny Anderson, Etienne Melville and Robert Cooke. The two days' worth of exercises and tests included some hilarious highlights, none more so than the First Aid Stand. The team were rather short on practical experience of First Aid in any shape or form, and, faced with four gruesomely-injured car accident casualties, the chaos was pretty well total. I'm not sure whether the casualties were meant to scream for the entire 20 minutes of the test, but then they probably would have done in reality given the treatment meted out to them in this instance, and that included the dummy. However, the team performed otherwise with real guts and gusto (rather than imitation guts? sorry!), and improved from 7th position last year to equal 4th this time. I was very proud of them.

Partly to celebrate the achievement of the Military Skills Team, but mostly because I felt it was time to do so, the Section held its first Mess Dinner shortly after Half Term. The RM Troop have a well-established routine for their equivalent event, and with a healthy number of the Army Section now *au fait* with how to reply to an invitation, appropriate dress codes and how to pass the Port, I am sure that next year's Dinner will be an even more splendid occasion. Many thanks here to the Headmaster, the Chaplain and the Bursar for supporting the event so loyally, and to Gordon for the superb catering. (*You haven't mentioned your spurs or your sabre, Adam. Congratulations. Ed*)

There have been a number of new departures in the training programme this year; with the Recruits moving much earlier through the Weapon Training phase we were able to combine them into the Army Section in January, under the auspices of newly-promoted V Form Junior NCOs. This worked reasonably well, and gave the V Form an early taste of responsibility to which a good number responded positively.

We should also thank Iain Caskie (OS) for his invaluable help with First Aid training: Iain rang me up, quite out of the blue but at the time of the year when I was wondering how on earth I could find a good First Aid Instructor, to ask if he might be allowed to help... Iain is a paramedic by profession, and he has worked wonders with this important aspect of our training. No excuses for shortcomings next year in the MiSkills Competition!



Adventurous Training this year was extended to include a trip for all Recruits to AVertical World in Dundee, and Mr Higginbottom still insisted on running the usual Summer Term weekly outdoor climbing and orienteering trips - many thanks!

Lastly, the Contingent attended Central Camp at Barry Buddon - by my reckoning at least the 12th year in a row we have been to the Scottish Central Camp. It was, as it usually is, good fun from the hill walking to the overnight exercise. I was very impressed with the conduct of all our cadets, senior and junior, and grateful, as always, to the staff (Mr Lindsay, Seniorita de Celis Lucas, Mr Higginbottom) who made things possible by attending in their holiday time. Next year, we are finally going to ring the changes - we are heading a few clicks down the A1, to Warcop.

The Army Section has grown this year both in numbers and in proficiency, and with the prospect of more pupils moving from Recruits to Army as well as an increase in the number staying on into the 6th Form it should not be tempting fate to predict a really good year.

Contingent Commander's Report

The Contingent continues to prosper. I can never be sure from one term to the next exactly how many cadets we have, but provisional numbers for 2007-8, without any new intake, show us at over 130 in total, again with the Royal Navy being the single largest Section, but very healthy numbers in the Royal Marines Troop and the Recruits Section.

The CCF is subject to a two-yearly inspection by the MoD, and September 2006 was my first experience of this process as the Commanding officer. We were reviewed by the Captain of HMS Neptune and could not have asked for a more interested officer.

We could achieve nothing were it not for the time and dedication of the CCF staff, and as always I would like to thank them personally and on behalf of their Cadets. There have been some developments this year: I think I have finally solved the mystery of why Mr Higginbottom was still a 2nd Lieutenant, and am pleased to report that he is now officially Captain Higginbottom. 2Lt "Seniorita" (who may well now be "Lieutenant" Seniorita) has taken increased responsibility for organising the weekly training schedule while I was away at Port Edgar sharing the load of the RN training with Lt. MacBain. And as always, Mr Lindsay has excelled himself in the Stores, the Drill Square and in the field - not many people would know this, but our inspection reports for all the areas he deals with are regularly



rated as Excellent, and we are the only Contingent in Scotland which has this distinction. And Captain Walmsley R.M.R (CCF) has, of course, continued to inspire the RM Troop and to support all of us.

Lastly, thanks to the Senior NCOs. Malcolm Fraser, Oliver Corlett, Alasdair Bisset, Greg Guthrie, Peter Watson, Jordan Raitt and Christopher Milford all have their own individual ways of doing things, but all have contributed greatly to, and, I hope, benefited equally from, their long service as CCF Cadets.

AS-J

We were reviewed by the Captain of HMS Neptune and could not have asked for a more interested officer



Elementary Iceland

It was here that Laura's highlight of the trip took place when, in the glorious, sub-arctic isolation and splendour, she found Coronation Street on Icelandic television



At the beginning of the Easter holidays, some of the VI Form, along with Mr Barnes and Miss Wilkinson, embarked on a five-day trip to Iceland. When we arrived in Iceland we were met by our bus driver, Hali, who then took us to the stunning Blue Lagoon, an unforgettable experience for two reasons known only to those who were there. Next, we went on to our hostel in Reykjavik for dinner (eventually), and a good night's sleep to prepare us for the busy day ahead.

On the following morning we woke up to a very wet and cold Reykjavik. Not all of us were fully prepared for the rain (were we, Stef?!). We met our tour guide, Cristophe, who took us to see a geothermal power station at Nesjavellir, and many other geographical features such as geysers and volcanic craters.



I think it is safe to say that we all had a great time and everyone left with a few good memories

Whilst in Iceland we had the opportunity to walk behind a waterfall and see many spectacular landforms, including Gulfoss waterfall which involved negotiating a slippery ice slope if you wanted to get up close. Not everyone was quite that ambitious. Also included in the trip was one night out in rural Iceland which consisted of a night filled by Monopoly, Jungle Jam and cards. Fun, fun, fun! It was here that Laura's highlight of the trip took place when, in the glorious, sub-arctic isolation and splendour, she found Coronation Street on Icelandic television.

Not far from Vik in rural Iceland was Dhyloeay beach where we saw volcanic ash sands, basalt columns and other coastal landforms such as arches, stairs, stumps and a cave. After this excursion we were lucky to leave with the whole group intact as Cristophe and Mr Barnes had a lucky escape from some deceptive quicksand.

During our trip we even had the chance to stand on an existing glacier where Tricky made sure he got plenty of photos to add to the others taken at every opportunity. A few people found the ice a little slippery. Whoops!

On the last day we had the chance of shopping in Reykjavik and having a look around although some of us decided that shopping in Iceland didn't quite match up to what we have here in the UK. To finish the trip off we went out for a meal, though a few people half of it whilst they were taken on an exclusive, involuntary hike around Reykjavik in search of the restaurant by our resident Mrs Know-it-all.

I think it is safe to say that we all had a great time and everyone left with a few good memories. There were many unforgettable moments including Cristophe and his never-ending stories about trolls, but the funniest moment of all had to be when Mr Barnes got a little over-excited during a game of Jungle Jam and fell off his chair!

I would just like to thank Miss Wilkinson and Mr Barnes for a very enjoyable trip.

Zoe Hayward LVI Thornbank



Third Form en France!

On a chilly April morning in the wee sma' hours (quelle horreur!) thirteen Third Form pupils, plus Mr Barnes and Mademoiselle Balent, clambered on to the Strath minibuses and headed off to Edinburgh airport. From there we flew via Gatwick to Bordeaux where we were reunited with our exchange partners from the College Ste Clothilde. After being greeted by our French friends, we were taken back to what was to be our home for the next 9 days.

Our stay in France was split between school, sight-seeing and French home life – tres intéressant! On the first day we went to a lesson which happened to be English – a subject most of us found we had a particular talent for... Then in the afternoon we enjoyed a walking tour of Bordeaux. It was our first time in the big city, and I was impressed by all the beautiful monuments and statues that we saw, especially the awesome large statue which told the story of the French Revolution. This particular monument was a great help in preventing us from getting lost (while we were shopping!), as it was so tall it could be seen from most parts of Bordeaux.

The next four days were a Bank Holiday weekend for the French students, so we were alone with the French families. This meant that we spent the majority of our time doing the unthinkable: speaking French! Food came as a surprise to us, as quite a few of us were under the impression that French cuisine consisted of frogs' legs and snail salad. The fact that this was not the case did not, however, come as a disappointment to us...

German Exchange

At February half term five VI Form pupils set out from a very wet and windy Prestwick, "Pure Dead Brilliant", airport for Trier, in southern Germany. We spent five days staying with our exchange partners and their families. The first day was spent at our exchange school, the Max Planck Gymnasium, in the centre of Trier, experiencing the differences between the German and British school systems. In the afternoon we visited the home of Trier's most famous son, Karl Marx, and learnt something about his life. On Saturday the weather was glorious and we had a guided tour round the town's fine Roman remains. Sunday was spent with our host families. There were visits to Luxemburg, the vineyards of the Mosel (Mrs White's idea!) and local sporting activities.

The weekend of our visit was the beginning of Karneval and some of us attended village festivities, where most of the locals were in fancy dress and large quantities of free alcohol were dispensed. On Monday we watched the large Trier Rosenmontag parade through the town and tried to catch the sweets, cakes, sandals, brillo pads and other random objects that were being thrown into the crowds to promote local businesses. On our last day we visited the catacombs, an amazing display of thousands of well-preserved Roman sarcophagi in vaults. Although the visit was brief, it gave us the chance to practise our German before our oral exams and experience something of German life, such as Wurst, Schwarzbrot (Peter) and Weizenbier. Our German friends returned to Strathallan at the end of the Easter term and were greeted with

It's the experience
that counts

Although we enjoyed the time spent with our French families, it was great to see our Strath friends once again. On the Thursday we visited the small and picturesque village of St Emilion for some wine-tasting (!). Then on Friday we finished off the French experience with a visit to Arcachon, where we climbed up the biggest sand dune in Europe, the Dune de Pyla. For many of us, this was the highlight of the trip and the French students who came with us on that day seem to have had a fantastic time too. After a short visit to the beach, we shook all the sand out of our shoes and boarded a boat to tour the Bassin d'Arcachon. Magnifique!

On Saturday we waved good-bye to our French companions and set off for home after a fantastic 9 days. Thanks go to all our French host families for making us so welcome, to Mr Barnes and Mademoiselle Balent for looking after us so well, to Mr Fleming for kindly ferrying us to and from the airport and, of course, to Monsieur Kennedy for organising the exchange. It was an experience of a lifetime and, as Mr Barnes said (just a few times!) during the trip: "It's the experience that counts..." We all had a fantastic time and I'm sure none of us will ever forget our séjour en France.

Ciara Elwis, III Form Woodlands



heavy snow when they tried to visit Glen Coe! They too experienced a mix of life in school, with our families, and some trips to Stirling Castle, The Famous Grouse Experience and the delights of Perth.

Mein Besuch in Trier von Jack Kemp

Letzte Woche bin ich nach Trier, Deutschland gefahren und habe meine Brieffreundin Esther besucht. Ich bin für fünf Tage geblieben. Esther und ihre Familie waren sehr nett und freundlich. Sie wohnen in einem Vorort von Trier, in den Bergen. Wir haben den Dom besichtigt und die Kirche, die im vierten Jahrhundert von Kaiser Konstantin gegründet wurde. Wir haben den Faschingsumzug gesehen und die Leute auf den Wagen haben Bonbons geworfen. Das Wetter war immer sonnig und ein bisschen kühl. Das Essen war lecker. Wir haben jeden Tag Wurst gegessen.

Jack Kemp LVI Ruthven

Im Februar machten wir, nämlich Emily, Mark, Peter, Jack und Michael, und unsere Deutschlehrerin Mrs White einen Besuch nach Trier, der zur Sorge der betreuenden Lehrer auf Karnevalsferien fiel. Nach einer etwas verspäteten Ankunft am Flughafen Hahn bot sich uns am Freitag die Gelegenheit, einen deutschen Schultag live mitzuerleben. Die vielen Schüler und das kompakte

Schulgelande schien den an weitgehend bekannte Gesichter und weitläufige Schulanlagen gewohnten Briten am Anfang etwas fremd. Wir begleiteten unsere Austauschschüler in deren regulären Unterricht, wobei die meisten in Frau Kecks Englisch-LK den trotz Karnevalstimmung wissbegierigen Schülern Rede und Antwort stehen mussten. Besonders die Schilderungen unseres Schulalltags stießen auf großes Interesse.

Natürlich bekamen wir nicht nur das MPG, sondern auch Trierer Sehenswürdigkeiten gezeigt. Eine sehr enthusiastische Stadtführerin ließ die Ruinen der Kaiserthermen vor unserm Auge wieder auferstehen, anschaulich schilderte sie die Palastaula aus den Augen eines römischen Audienzbesuchers und erklärte uns die Besonderheiten der Porta Nigra. Ein weiteres Highlight war der Besuch des Rosenmontagszugs in Trier, für den wir uns am Hauptmarkt positionierten. Einige von uns genossen die Vorzüge des teilweisen lockeren deutschen Jugendschutzgesetzes in vollen Zügen: Bier und seltsamerweise auch Schwarzbrot erfreuten sich großer Beliebtheit. Was die deutsche Sprache betraf, zeigten wir uns äußerst lernbereit, die Kehrverse der Karnevalslieder lernten wir im Handumdrehen und sangen fleißig mit.

Michael Cachia UVI Nicol & Michaela Parlasca



During the summer of 2007 I took part in the exchange programme that Strathallan has with St Andrew's College, Christchurch, New Zealand.

I was lucky enough to be staying with an amazing family, the mother of which was a teacher at St Andrew's (StAC) and so I settled in extremely well. The family were a true insight into Kiwi culture and really gave me an idea of what Kiwis are like - laid back, funny, rugby-obsessed and, at times, completely insane. In fact, almost everyone I met fitted that description.

As I was on exchange, I had to go to school. Unlike Strath however, we only had to go for five days a week, all of which were considerably shorter than the days that we have back home. Although the school had boarding facilities, most of the pupils were day and all lived relatively nearby. The school is almost right in the centre of the town and so the grounds are a lot smaller than Strath's but there are almost three times as many pupils - incredibly scary when standing up in front of them all in assembly. The curriculum is a lot more varied than in Scotland and they have a wider choice of subjects. For example some of the subjects that I took were Agriculture, where the class gets a trip to the school farm once a term, Food Technology, where the class puts on their own "restaurant" for the parents, and Television Production where all the classes produce and broadcast their own shows. The school, like Strath, does a lot of sport and I was able to play netball for one of the school teams, playing matches every Wednesday and Saturday.

However, as everyone knows, going on exchange isn't just about the school work. It's about experiencing the culture and lifestyle of people in a different country. The Kiwis are famous for being rugby mad and this was proved when on the first night that I arrived in the country, we all headed off in a large group to watch the All Blacks play the Springboks in a tri-nations match at Jade Stadium. They are also well known for being one of the most laid back groups of people in the world, hence the reason that I got various days off school (organised the night before.) to go skiing, or to the Antarctic centre. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly and it's so easy to talk to people and to have a good time, even if you've never met them before. Everyone was interested in my Scottish background and were fascinated by my accent, with people constantly asking me to repeat things since, to them, it must have sounded as if I was speaking a foreign language. *(So, no change there then, Steph. Ed)*

One of the highlights of my trip was the senior college Formal, the equivalent of our VI Form Ball. It was the thing that everyone in the whole of the senior college looks forward to and I was lucky enough to be there when it was taking place. The theme for it this year was "007 Casino Royale" and it was being held in one of the function suites at Jade Stadium. The VI Form organised almost everything and the venue was set out in the style of a James Bond movie. Everyone had an amazing time and I was amazed at how professional the whole thing was. The Kiwis certainly know how to have a good time.

I would highly recommend the exchange programme to anyone and I would like to thank Mr Barnes and Mr and Mrs Fleming for helping make my trip possible. I've learnt a lot from my experience in New Zealand and I think it has taught me a lot about myself and about life. I've become a lot more independent and self-confident. I've met people who are truly inspirational. I've done things that would never have been possible anywhere else. I've made friends that will stay with me for life and, most importantly, I've got memories that will stay with me for ever.

Steph Lyon V Form Thornbank

One of the highlights of my trip was the senior college Formal, the equivalent of our VI Form Ball

Charities

I would like to thank the Charities Committee pupils who organised their Houses and collected all the money as well as every one who took part and made a donation



The Charities Committee organise a number of fund-raising events throughout the year; the first being the very popular Non-Uniform Day. This year money was being raised for three charities: Breast Cancer Campaign, Bobbi Bear and Childline. The theme for the Senior School was "Wear it Pink!" Riley, raising money for Childline had a "Wear it Scare!" theme.

It was wonderful to look out from the Yellow Corridor on the Thursday morning and see a tide of pink making its way to lessons instead of the usual sea of navy blue. It was a great day for the exhibitionists amongst us!

The atmosphere in lunch on Non-uniform Day is something very special, difficult to convey in photographs or words. The dining room is full of smiling, happy faces and voices, everyone is there to see or be seen. Even the Headmaster was seen to be sporting a pink tie, having managed to be away at meetings in previous years.

Riley pupils threw themselves wholeheartedly into Non-uniform Day. A pack of second form witches, various ghosts, ghouls and skeletons, two American footballers, and PK, complete with pink hair and beard, emerged from Riley on Thursday morning. Torii's Demon Samurai Warrior costume was most impressive and won him a prize later in the day.

Riley raised a total of £183 for Childline. The Senior School raised over £1300, including donations from the collection at the end of the House Music Competition. This will be shared equally between Breast Cancer Campaign and Bobbi Bear. (Bobbi Bear is a charity based in Africa working with children affected by the AIDS epidemic.) I would like to thank the Charities Committee pupils who organised their Houses and collected all the money as well as every one who took part and made a donation.

Capability Scotland were, once again, the beneficiaries of the Strathallan staff and pupils' charitable instincts as the school sent two teams to compete in the charity's annual quiz. Mr Kennedy, the Reverend Quick, Mrs MacBain and Mr Batterham scooped the top prize for the second year running, while Duncan Clark, Richard Parker, Ali Hunt and Will Campbell-Gibson took a respectable place (but still have a good deal to learn from their elders).

In the spring term the committee decided to hold a concert for charity with the money going to Rachel House, a local children's hospice. This involved a huge amount of organisation but was worth the effort (although for many pupils a football match on Sky was more inviting.) A total of £281 was raised. I would like to thank Apex Acoustics for their work with the sound and Stefan Pretty and Premier Pre-Cast who sorted out the loan of a generator so we could have lighting for the performers. We had a wide variety of performers; from the 1 Form and 1J Dancers to the Magic Trombone; The Sound of Braille; to Patricia Moyo's beautiful rendition of *Amazing Grace*. Thanks go to all the performers who so generously gave of their time.

Also during the spring term Mr. Barnes organised a kilt and rugby-shirt day, which raised £500 in aid of the Sandpiper Trust. This proved to be a popular fund-raiser and will be repeated next year.





At the start of the summer term Riley pupils received some sad news, over the holidays Gill, their matron, had discovered she had cancer. There was a very strong feeling from the pupils that they wanted to do something constructive to help Gill which is how the sponsored run came to be organised.

The event started with a warm-up at 5.15pm with Mr Gardiner and then pupils were set loose on the course with Mr Bush acting as starter. They had an hour to run their PE run, which is 1km in length, as many times as they could. Apart from those away at swimming and athletics matches all Riley pupils took part along with several members of staff. Lap counters were kept busy keeping a tally of the laps as pupils ran, walked, hobbled or rolled (Bradley!!) past the checkpoint. The high point of the event was the appearance of Gill herself. The children were delighted to see her and crowded round to talk to her, she was very moved by the warmth of their welcome. The ravening hordes soon cleared the BBQ of anything eatable and then it was on to the raffle. We had a variety of prizes kindly donated by parents and staff.

At the end of term we were able to announce the final total. The pupils had raised a staggering £5,828. This is more than we normally raise as a whole school at one event and gives you an idea of the depth of feeling amongst the pupils for Gill. Special mention should go to Azlyn Edens who raised over £1000 and to the runners: Jemma Battison, James Gray and Toby Schofield who were rewarded with medals for running the most laps in the time allowed.

I take my hat off to the Riley pupils; I think they were amazing and a fantastic example to the rest of the school.

KS-J

Comedy Night

Two Guys and a girl in a Pizza Hut

This year was the first year the VI Form Common Room was host to no fewer than six professional comedians, all on the same night.

Mr Vallott's idea for a Comedy Night once again proved to be a very popular fixture on the Common Room agenda and we hope it will prove as successful next year. Having never been to a comedy night before, many of us weren't sure what to expect but we were definitely not disappointed.

It was good to know that we can just stroll down to the Common Room but many people our age would have to wait till University or go to the Edinburgh Fringe to see a show like this.

Lucy and Rachel!



Film Club

In October, we filmed House Music. This is never an easy event to film, but the camera work of Oliver Beetschen, Jamie Dodd and Struan Gordon was first class

Film Club has been as busy as ever this year.

At the start of the school year, DVDs were distributed of the excellent Riley production *Around the World in 1000 Years*.

In October, we filmed House Music. This is never an easy event to film, but the camera work of Oliver Beetschen, Jamie Dodd and Struan Gordon was first class.

Sam Lipworth helped to film a promotional video for the school band *Inane* using a jib and video lighting set. This was later included on a DVD of the Christmas play, *Romeo & Juliet*. Thanks again to Mrs McFarlane for allowing our cameras to follow the actors and actresses behind-the-scenes.

On a more personal note, I must thank Lucy Grieve for providing the narration for my own award-winning film 'Guardian of the River', a year-long study of dippers on the rivers of Highland Perthshire.

We look forward to filming more events next year. Any pupils who are interested in helping in any way, please see Mr.Goddard.

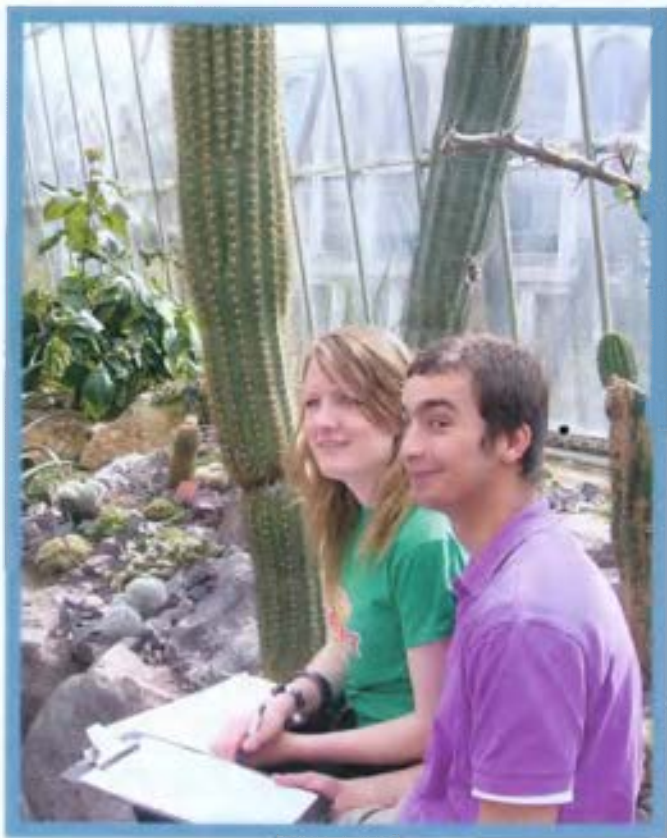
JG

Salvete & Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date	Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Alejandro	Alarco	S2	Nicol	29/11/06	30/6/07	Joanna A	Lovatt	S5	Woodlands	1/9/06	30/6/07
Steven B	Beckett	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07	Amanda M	Lyon	S5	Thornbank	1/9/06	30/6/07
Sam	Broad	S5	Freeland	19/4/07	30/6/07	Robert	Mardus	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	15/12/06
Claus M	Burchards	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	15/12/06	Dmitrii	Misenin	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	30/6/07
Bruno	de Blois	S3	Simpson	1/6/07	30/6/07	Gemma E	Mossman	S2	Thornbank	1/9/06	15/12/06
Greg S	Freeman	S5	Nicol	19/4/07	30/6/07	Kirsty S	Newall	S1	Woodlands	16/10/06	30/6/07
Jamie W	Freiman	S4	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07	Isabella M S	Niendorf	S5	Thornbank	1/9/06	22/3/07
Zheng	Guo	S5	Simpson	8/1/07	4/5/07	Sam	O'Brien	S6	Ruthven	1/9/06	30/6/07
Matthew	Hughes	S4	Ruthven	19/4/07	30/6/07	Rene P	Palm	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07
Sebastian A	Kremer	S5	Nicol	1/9/06	30/6/07	Arsenio	Sanchez	S4	Ruthven	1/9/06	15/12/06
Ross O	Lawrie	S2	Simpson	1/9/06	30/6/07	Amelie A	Schmid	S5	Woodlands	1/9/06	30/6/07
Oliver M	L'Estrange	S5	Nicol	1/9/06	15/12/06	Kevin T	Siri	S6	Ruthven	1/9/06	30/6/07
Julius O K	Leverkus	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	15/12/06	Theresa	Wiebold	S5	Woodlands	8/1/07	21/2/07

Valete

Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date	Name	Surname	YG	House	Ad date	Leave Date
Khairul	Abdullah	S6	Ruthven	1/9/05	30/6/07	Ross O	Lawrie	S2	Simpson	1/9/06	30/6/07
James M	Aitcheson	S2	Freeland	31/10/05	8/1/07	Gemma	Lear	S6	Thornbank	6/1/03	30/6/07
Alejandro	Alarco	S2	Nicol	29/11/06	30/6/07	Rachel M	Leslie	S6	Woodlands	1/9/99	30/6/07
Domagoj	Baresic	S6	Nicol	7/9/05	30/6/07	Oliver M	L'Estrange	S5	Nicol	1/9/06	15/12/06
Steven B	Beckett	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07	Julius O K	Leverkus	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	15/12/06
Josslyn A	Beharrell	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07	Lifen	Li	S6	Thornbank	1/9/04	30/6/07
Fergus J	Bell	S6	Nicol	2/6/04	30/6/07	Joanna A	Lovatt	S5	Woodlands	1/9/06	30/6/07
Alasdair J	Bisset	S6	Freeland	1/9/99	30/6/07	Amanda M	Lyon	S5	Thornbank	1/9/06	30/6/07
Mark	Bonington	S6	Nicol	1/9/99	30/6/07	Yiu H	Ma	S6	Freeland	9/1/06	30/6/07
Michael A C	Boyd	S6	Nicol	1/9/00	30/6/07	Laura W	McDonald	S6	Thornbank	1/9/99	30/6/07
Ben G	Braithwaite	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07	Malcolm S	Macdonald	S6	Ruthven	1/9/03	30/6/07
Suzanna M	Braithwaite	S4	Woodlands	1/9/04	30/6/07	Kirsty L	MacGeoch	S6	Woodlands	1/9/03	30/6/07
Sam	Broad	S5	Freeland	19/4/07	30/6/07	Rualridh I L	MacKenzie	S2	Freeland	1/9/05	30/6/07
Craig J A	Brow	S6	Freeland	4/9/02	30/6/07	Stefan J	Mclean Toremar	S3	Simpson	7/9/05	30/6/07
Edward	Brown	S6	Freeland	4/9/02	30/6/07	Victoria G	MacLellan	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05	30/6/07
Claus M	Burchards	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	15/12/06	Robert A C	McMorrine	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07
Samantha	Burns	S5	Thornbank	1/9/03	30/6/07	James H	Mair	S4	Ruthven	4/9/02	30/6/07
Michael G	Cachia	S6	Nicol	4/9/02	30/6/07	Robert	Mardus	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	15/12/06
Bruce D	Campbell	S4	Ruthven	1/9/03	30/6/07	Ryan M	Matthews	S6	Nicol	5/9/01	30/6/07
Fiona	Campbell	S6	Thornbank	1/9/00	30/6/07	Thomas N	Mawtus	S6	Simpson	7/9/05	30/6/07
Pang Y	Chan	S6	Freeland	1/9/05	30/6/07	Dmitrii	Misenin	S5	Simpson	1/9/06	30/6/07
Christopher D	Charles	S6	Ruthven	7/9/05	30/6/07	Ian A	Mitchell	2	Ruthven	30/10/05	30/6/07
Yu T	Chiu	S6	Simpson	9/1/06	30/6/07	Suzanne M	Morrison	S6	Thornbank	1/9/00	30/6/07
Zi L S	Choo	S6	Simpson	1/9/05	30/6/07	Gemma E	Mossman	S2	Thornbank	1/9/06	15/12/06
Duncan A P	Clark	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07	Thomas A	Myles	S5	Freeland	1/9/03	28/5/07
Oliver	Corlett	S6	Ruthven	1/9/00	30/6/07	Kirsty S	Newall	2	Woodlands	16/10/06	30/6/07
Bruno	de Blois	S3	Simpson	1/6/07	30/6/07	Isabella M S	Niendorf	S5	Thornbank	1/9/06	22/3/07
Greig W	Dempster	S6	Freeland	7/9/05	30/6/07	Sam	O'Brien	S6	Ruthven	1/9/06	30/6/07
Struan D	Dewar	S6	Nicol	1/9/03	30/6/07	Crawford W G	Paciej	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07
Christopher	Dove	S2	Freeland	1/9/05	30/6/07	Rene P	Palm	S5	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07
Kelly D	Drane	S6	Woodlands	1/9/99	30/6/07	Steven C	Peaston	S6	Ruthven	1/9/00	30/6/07
Rachel H L	Ennis	S6	Woodlands	1/9/03	30/6/07	Katherine E	Potts	S6	Woodlands	1/9/99	30/6/07
James W	Espie	S4	Simpson	1/9/04	30/6/07	Nicholas P J	Price	S6	Nicol	4/9/02	30/6/07
James W M	Fairlie	S6	Ruthven	1/9/99	30/6/07	Lawrie B	Quibell	S6	Nicol	1/9/00	30/6/07
Emily	Fraser	S6	Woodlands	5/9/01	30/6/07	Jordan A S	Raitt	S6	Simpson	1/9/03	30/6/07
Malcolm S	Fraser	S6	Freeland	1/9/99	30/6/07	Piers F	Ranger	S6	Nicol	1/9/00	22/3/07
Greg S	Freeman	S5	Nicol	19/4/07	30/6/07	Andrew F	Robb	S6	Ruthven	1/9/99	30/6/07
Jamie W	Freiman	S4	Freeland	1/9/06	30/6/07	Fiona C	Roy	S5	Thornbank	1/9/00	30/6/07
Rachael	Gerrie	S6	Woodlands	4/9/02	30/6/07	Mazveen K	Saggu	S6	Thornbank	1/9/05	30/6/07
William	Gibson	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07	Arsenio	Sanchez	S4	Ruthven	1/9/06	15/12/06
Lauren	Giles	S6	Thornbank	1/9/99	30/6/07	Lisa J	Sangster	S6	Woodlands	1/9/00	30/6/07
Kerry	Gillespie	1	Ruthven	7/9/05	30/6/07	Amelie A	Schmid	S5	Woodlands	1/9/06	30/6/07
Struan D S	Gordon	S6	Freeland	1/9/00	30/6/07	Katie M	Scobie	S6	Thornbank	18/4/02	30/6/07
Thomas G	Gordon	S6	Simpson	24/4/03	30/6/07	Rachel E	Scott	S6	Woodlands	22/4/04	30/6/07
Lucy R	Grieve	S6	Woodlands	1/9/03	30/6/07	Kevin T	Siri	S6	Ruthven	1/9/06	30/6/07
Zheng	Guo	S5	Simpson	8/1/07	4/5/07	Mark F	Slorach	S3	Freeland	20/4/06	8/1/07
Greg J A	Guthrie	S6	Freeland	18/2/03	30/6/07	James A	Smith	S6	Freeland	5/9/01	30/6/07
Leif M	Halvorsen	S6	Ruthven	1/9/00	30/6/07	Samuel G	Smith	S6	Freeland	1/9/00	30/6/07
Charles	Harrison	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07	David J	Stewart	S6	Nicol	1/9/04	30/6/07
Maurits	Hartgerink	S6	Freeland	1/9/99	30/6/07	Greg P	Stewart	S6	Nicol	5/9/01	30/6/07
Nicholas J A	Harvey	S6	Ruthven	1/9/00	30/6/07	Jessica L	Stewart	S6	Thornbank	1/9/00	30/6/07
Syazana N	Hassan	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05	30/6/07	Olivia	Streatfeild-James	S6	Woodlands	1/9/99	30/6/07
Zoe M	Hayward	S6	Thornbank	1/9/00	30/6/07	Jiaxin	Sun	S6	Woodlands	1/9/04	30/6/07
Kirsten J	Henderson	S6	Woodlands	7/9/05	30/6/07	Daniela	Velasquez	S5	Thornbank	1/9/04	30/6/07
Mohammad H	Hj Jaidi	S6	Freeland	1/9/05	30/6/07	Marco	Velasquez	S3	Freeland	31/5/06	30/6/07
Siti A	Hj Md Anas	S6	Thornbank	1/9/05	30/6/07	Peter J A	Vine	S6	Freeland	8/1/01	30/6/07
Amalina D	Hj Mohd Daud	S6	Woodlands	1/9/05	30/6/07	Peter R	Watson	S6	Nicol	1/9/99	30/6/07
Ross M	Howie	S4	Nicol	1/9/04	30/6/07	Victoria M	Watson	S3	Woodlands	19/4/05	20/11/06
Matthew	Hughes	S4	Ruthven	19/4/07	30/6/07	Jennifer J	Whitelaw	S6	Woodlands	4/9/02	30/6/07
Catriona	Kelly	S6	Woodlands	4/9/02	30/6/07	Theresa	Wiebold	S5	Woodlands	8/1/07	21/2/07
Allan	King	S6	Freeland	4/9/02	30/6/07	Harry B	Williamson	S6	Ruthven	7/9/05	30/6/07
George	Knowles	S5	Nicol	8/1/01	30/6/07	Virginia A F	Woollven	S6	Woodlands	1/9/99	30/6/07
Sebastian A	Kremer	S5	Nicol	1/9/06	30/6/07	Jack C	Workman	S6	Simpson	4/9/02	30/6/07
Gemma-Rose R P	Lansdown	S6	Thornbank	7/9/05	30/6/07	Lin X	Wu	S6	Simpson	1/9/04	30/6/07
Kenn A	Lau	S6	Simpson	7/9/05	30/6/07	Jile	Zhou	S6	Ruthven	1/9/04	30/6/07



Biology Trip

In May 2006 the UVI Higher Biology classes visited the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh to have lessons with the expert staff who run the Gardens. We were given access, during our visit, to greenhouses which are not normally open to the public and we saw the work being done on promoting biodiversity by the energetic staff.

After our tour of the Gardens themselves we were accompanied by the staff on a visit to Edinburgh zoo. Even Mrs Raeside, who isn't a big fan of zoos, really quite enjoyed herself. There, we were taught aspects of our Higher course by the Botanic Garden staff again, 'though, in fact, what we were all waiting for was the all-important Penguin Parade.

Lisa Sangster UVI Woodlands

With his large, soulful eyes and winning demeanour Bec Jimmy would make a valuable addition to any loving household. He is really keen to learn new tricks and just loves to be out and about exploring, having bags of potential. When relating to Bec Jimmy he NOT be ironic, especially in a Prince of Denmark style.



Examination Results 2007

94%

of candidates gaining **A-C**

This year's A Level results were the best on record with a particularly impressive 54% of all results being graded at A.

The figure for A/B was 77%, with over 94% of candidates gaining A-C. Highers were also achieved in significant numbers and provided further opportunities for Sixth Formers to take an alternative approach or to mix these with A levels. The success was spread across the range of subjects and reflects the diversity of choice available at Strathallan and the willingness of individual pupils to choose subjects which suit them. The same approach is clearly evident in the wide range of universities to which our successful Higher and A Level candidates are going at the start of the academic year. Once again there is clear evidence of Strathallan pupils choosing courses which suit them in particular areas. The A*/A pass rate at GCSE remained at over 40% with a pass rate (A*-C) at 92%.

54%

of all results being graded at **A**

The A*/A pass rate at GCSE remained at over

40%

Prizes 2007

Speech Day Prizes

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	Oliver Corlett
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl	Catriona Kelly
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	Lawrie Quibell
The Scanlan Cup for Merit	Zoe Hayward
The Thomson Salver for Achievement	Malcolm Fraser
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution	Nick Price
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman	Michael Cachia
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman	Lauren Giles
Dux	Bryan Tsang
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Joss Beharrell
The David Bogie Prize for Economics	Amalina Hj Mohd Daud
The Lord Kincaig Prize for English	Kirsten Henderson
The University of Dundee English as an Additional Language Prize	David Chiu
The Richard Moffat Prize for History	Lucy Grieve
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics	Domagoj Baresic
The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize	Lucy Grieve
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing	Alice Page
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings	Victoria McLellan
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	Christopher Charles
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	Victoria McLellan
The Choir Prize	Alex Beetschen
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Etienne Melville
Strathallan Travelling Scholarship	Alastair Hunt
	Morag Elwis
The Haviston Broadsword Prize	Oliver Corlett
Quaich CCF Prize	Greg Guthrie
Royal Navy Section Prize	William Campbell-Gibson
The Rick Trophy Army Prize	Peter Watson

Upper Sixth – A Level

Biology	Syazana Hassan
French	Thomas Gordon
Business Studies	Ian Ma
Geography	Harry Williamson
Chemistry	Syazana Hassan
German	Michael Cachia
Classics	Lucy Grieve
Music	Christopher Charles
Computing	Greg Stewart
Physics	Domagoj Baresic
Design & Technology	Gemma Lear
Spanish	Zoe Hayward

Upper Sixth – Higher

Biology	Duncan Clark
History	Nick Price
Business Management	Greig Dempster
Mathematics	Alistair Smith
Chemistry	Duncan Clark
Physical Education	Allan King
English	Rachel Scott
Philosophy	Domagoj Baresic
French	Greg Guthrie
Spanish	Struan Gordon
Geography	Nick Price

Lower Sixth Prizes

Art	Cara Duncan
Geography	Ailsa Turnbull
Biology	Megan Parkinson
German	Mark Garratt
Business Studies	Robert Jardine
History	Richard Parker
Chemistry	Stefanie Feld
Mathematics	Helen Summersgill
Classics	Alex Beetschen
Music	Alex Beetschen
Computing	Robert Jardine
Philosophy	Helen Summersgill
Design Technology	Rachael McLean
Physical Education	Sophie Workman
Economics	To To Chow
Physics	Helen Summersgill
English	Megan Parkinson
Spanish	Daniela Velasquez
French	Amyce Smith-Bannister

Fifth Form Prizes

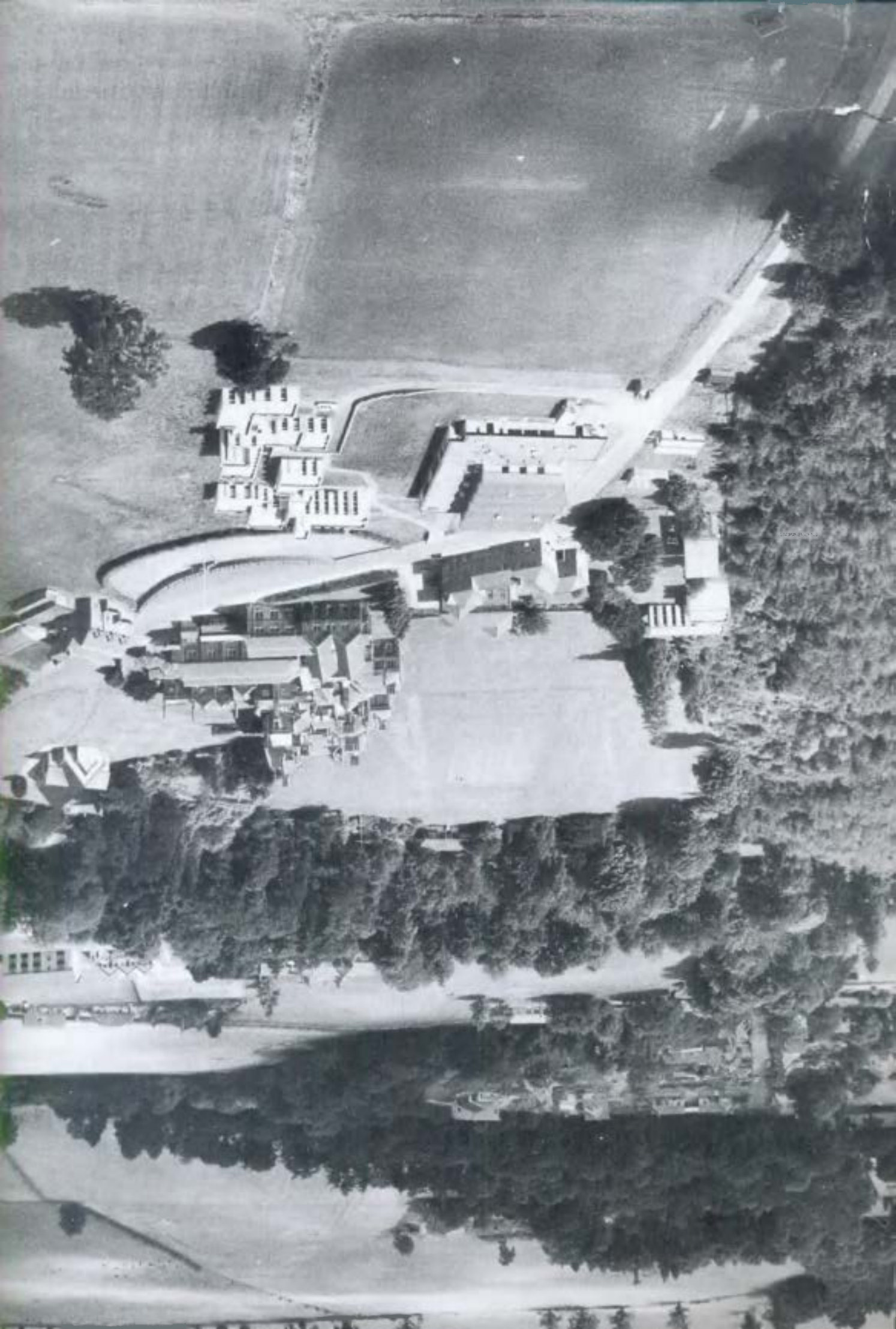
Art	Heather Mitchell
German	Morag Elwis
Biology	Sam Lipworth
History	Morag Elwis
	Hugh Lungmuss
Latin	Etienne Melville
Chemistry	Sara Lundgren
Law	Sara Lundgren
Computing	Sam Lipworth
Mathematics	Robynne Smith
Design Technology	William Farmer
Music	William Campbell-Gibson
English	Morag Elwis
Physics	Sara Lundgren
French	Jamie King
Spanish	Victoria Gow
Business Studies	Hugh Lungmuss

Fourth Form Prizes

Art	Cara Crossan
Geography	Andrew Glover
Biology	Jenny Wood
German	Bronwyn Lear
Business Studies	Callum Donald
History	Jenny Wood
Chemistry	Andrew Glover
Latin	Jamie Parker
Computing	Andrew Glover
Mathematics	Andrew Glover
Design & Technology	Rachael Duncan
Music	Joanna MacLachlan
English	Andrew Glover
Physics	Andrew Glover
French	William Farquhar
Spanish	Jamie Parker

Third Form Prizes

Josiah Bircham
Ben Melville
Sarah Hellewell
Corrie Stewart





William Smith Nicol

Harry Riley was a young schoolmaster working at Kelvingrove in Bridge of Allan when he first met William Smith Nicol. The young Harry had not, long previously, arrived from his first school in Shrewsbury and was only in his early twenties. He made an instant impression on William with his enthusiasm and interest in his pupils. William was to find out that Harry, like himself, came from a close, supportive family that had risen from humble origins in just two generations, both men being descended from weaver families; the one in Perthshire, the other in Yorkshire.

Harry had been destined for a career in the civil service as a Post Office telegraphist like his father, Horatio and uncle, Frank. Instead of studying for the civil service exams in Bradford, having matriculated from his school in Manningham, he pursued his desire to join the Royal Navy. This, however, was thwarted by his colour-blindness so, following the lead set by his cousin Alfred Midgley in Cheshire, he moved into education qualifying as a teacher with the dogged determination that was later to characterise his approach to schoolmastering. He became a Licentiate of the College of Preceptors at the age of twenty sometime around 1907 and began teaching at a small school near Shrewsbury. A year later he became the Junior Form Master at Kelvingrove; an established private school in Bridge of Allan run by Benjamin Dilworth.

Harry would have taken charge of, among others, the eleven-year-old boarder David Nicol, the only son of William Smith Nicol. David remained at the school during Harry's tenure and probably left after about five years. We have no record of events during David's time at the school or of his relationship with his housemaster but such was the affection that William felt for Harry Riley we can be sure that David left the school a successful and happy pupil. Little did the men know at that time that their bonds of respect and affection were to constitute the basis of the formation of Strathallan School.

William Smith Nicol was born on the 7th of May 1862 at the Aberlady United Presbyterian Manse to the minister David Nicol and Agnes Horn. Interestingly, William's birth was also entered into the Free Church register at Methven in Perthshire by the minister John Wilson. The Nicol family held Methven and its people in great affection. In fact, David Nicol was Methven born, the son of a local weaver, William, and his second wife, Mary Scott. David began his working life as a weaver with his father in the small weaving community of nine cottages in East Methven alongside the weaver families of Ritchie, Brown, Sword, Young and Alison; Ann Alison was, at 97, the oldest resident of the long-standing community. Such cottage industries were the mainstay of rural businesses at this time. David was strongly influenced by the dramatic consequences of the formation of the Free Church and was one of the many hundreds of young men who became scholars and schoolmasters over the next few years. At the age of 32 he was a scholar at St Andrews on course for a career in the church.



William's mother, Agnes, also had connections with Methven. It is possible that she met David there as her father Thomas had moved to work and settle in Methven with his third wife, Helen Murie some five years after the death of Agnes' mother, Agnes Smith, in 1832. In 1851 Thomas, a hedger, was living at Burnside Hamlets in the cottage next to David's older brother, James Nicol and his wife, Catherine. Agnes was brought up with her brother, Thomas at her uncle, David Smith's farm Dove's Loans in Ceres but she later moved with Thomas and his family to Methven. David and Agnes were married on the 13th of January at Collessie in Fife where David was the assistant minister. Their marriage was in advance of their move to David's first, and eventually only, charge as minister in Aberlady, and within the year the couple were living at the manse on the High Street near the new church. Agnes Nicol died at Aberlady on the 25th of March 1893 and David retired, a widower, to Methven with his younger son, Thomas Scott Nicol. However, their new tenure was to be short and William lost his brother Thomas on the 18th of October 1893 at Methven and his father on the 10th of June 1894.

William had lost all his immediate family within a short period. He was living, at the time, in Edinburgh where he had trained in law at Edinburgh University staying with his first cousin, James Nicol and Catherine, his wife. The pair had married in Catherine's home town of Newburgh, in Fife, and then moved to Edinburgh where James ran a house-painting business. By the time of his father's death, William was an actuary working for the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company in their head office at 22 George Street. Here he had seen and met Jessie Hutchison Gibb, named after her mother, who worked next door at the George Street umbrella shop of her father, Alexander. Alexander Gibb had taken over the manufacturing business from his father, John, who had moved to Edinburgh from Dundee some years before to expand the business. The business was a genuine family affair, involving Alexander's uncles and brothers, but he had risen to take overall charge. In 1898 the business had to be moved to 49 Hanover Street by Alexander's son, John, for the construction of the new Assurance building on the old site.

It is clear that the relationship between Jessie and William Nicol began through the proximity of their work places; the families had no other known connections. William proposed to Jessie soon after his father's death and they married in Edinburgh where their first child, Jessie, was born. William was prospering with the firm and moved soon after Jessie's birth to become General Manager of the Edinburgh Assurance office at St Vincent Street in the heart of Glasgow. The family settled at 7 Belhaven Crescent, a prestigious development on the corner of Renfrew Street and Hope Street, where David and Agnes were born just before the turn of the century.





By early 1913, possibly the year that David Nicol finished school, Kelvingrove had ceased to be a viable business for Mr. Dilworth. At the end of the Easter term Kelvingrove was bought by Thomas Braidwood, the owner of Stanley House School in partnership with Lord Moncrieff of Tullebole and the two schools amalgamated under the name of Stanley House. Riley, in common with many of the other Kelvingrove staff and pupils, went over to Stanley House for the summer term.

Harry Riley's unexplained resignation from Stanley House after only one term, in September 1913, led to his move to a half-villa called Glenbrae in the Sunnyside district of Bridge of Allan with his sister May and seven boarding pupils. William Smith Nicol was on hand to provide the loan which secured the birth of Strathallan School. How much was borrowed is not known but it was sufficient for Riley to take out a lease on Glenbrae at the top of Blairforkie Drive. Later, after the move to Forgandenny in 1920, William Nicol's contribution was saluted with the naming of one of the boys' Boarding Houses after him.

William Smith Nicol retired from the Assurance Company in 1918 around the time of the takeover by Commercial Union. He and Jessie moved back to Edinburgh and settled near her family in the leafy suburb of Coates Gardens in Haymarket. He died at home in the evening of 28th April 1925 following a worsening heart condition. Harry Riley made no mention of William's passing but I am sure that he would have been present at the funeral held three days later in Edinburgh. This would have been his final salute to the man who, more than any other, helped him lay the foundation of Strathallan School.

GRMR



Obituaries



John Anderson

1919-2007

The man who played a major part in the operations of the well-known Carlisle-based fruit and vegetable business, WB Anderson and Sons Ltd has, sadly, died.

Strathallian John Anderson (36), a son of one of the company's founding brothers was 87 and leaves his wife of sixty years, three sons, six grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

It was while attending Strathallian that John made the monumental journey to Prague by car. This is quite an adventure even now but it was a positively epic journey in the 1930s. After leaving School he worked for Fyffes before joining the family business. Knutsen shipping line then invited John and his brother to visit the west coast of the USA to learn about picking and packing fruit. This fantastic opportunity also took them through the Panama Canal to California, Oregon, Washington State and Virginia and also into the Canadian province of British Columbia. The trip effectively enabled them to complete their apprenticeship in the perishable food industry.

John and his brother, Billy became joint managing directors of the company and they enjoyed many years of a successful partnership. In 1978 John retired but the name still lives on in business circles as when the fruit and vegetable side of the business was sold, the property side was retained. Today, W B Anderson Properties Ltd is run by John's son, Phillip.

It was just two years ago that Mr. Anderson attended a reunion at Strathallian School. At the time of his death he was still a director of W B Anderson Properties.

Tessa Howard-Vyse



Bruce Crerar

1938 -2007

Upon leaving Strathallian, Bruce did National Service in the RAF, developing an interest in electronics. He then went to Ferranti in Edinburgh, where building weapons of war was not for him. Outrage at the unfair treatment of women workers ensured that he left his next job, going on to have a successful career in mental health nursing, before joining a Salvation Army project in Birmingham.

As a young man Bruce was a key figure in setting up Cephass, a very successful long- lasting project run by the West End Churches for the many young people who spent their evenings hanging around central Edinburgh.

Bruce had a great knowledge and love of computers and gadgets. Combining this love with his strong Christian faith, the last years of his life were dedicated to setting up and co-ordinating the Amos Scripture Care Trust (www.amos-sct.org.uk) which produces credit card sized cards with a picture on one side and an appropriate text on the other. These words of encouragement have reached people worldwide, and the team of volunteers who produce the cards were as precious to Bruce as the cards themselves. Such was his commitment to this, that in his will he has left funds to employ a volunteer-co-ordinator.

Helena Cant



John Hall

1956-2007

All involved at Strathallian School will be saddened to hear of the death of the President of the Strathallian Club, John Hall, who suddenly passed away in July 2007 aged 51 whilst on holiday in Singapore.

John was at Glasgow Academy and Ardvreck before attending Strathallian between 1970 and 1974 a pupil in Nicol House for that time.

Over the years since he left Strathallian he kept in touch with several Strathallians primarily from Nicol and they are still a close-knit group.

He was a genuine and friendly person who believed in the strength of family and friends and always strove to help others. A devoted father to Peter, (Lower Sixth/Nicol), John was very proud to have attended Strathallian School and to have been the President of the Strathallian Club since 2005 – he was very enthusiastic and committed to this task and was always full of ideas to encourage the maintenance of contact between Strathallians.

John was also a passionate follower of national, club and school rugby and was heavily involved in the coaching of mini-rugby at Glasgow Hawks. As well as this, he was always seen on the touchline as a keen supporter of any Strathallian rugby team but particularly those in which Peter played. Over the last few years, part of the Strathallian Day was the touch rugby game on Little Acre, and John very much enjoyed participating in this, still showing a good turn of speed although he told me that the recovery period was becoming longer and stretched into the following week!

A genuine person and caring father who will be missed by a great number of people who are proud to have known him.

Alan Marshall (Nicol 1966 -1973)



Thomas Gordon Piper

19th April 1947 to 11th July 2007

Born in Edinburgh, Tom went to Strathallan School in 1958 and was in Simpson House until he left in 1964.

After leaving Strathallan he qualified as a chartered accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and remained in Edinburgh for two years before deciding to venture abroad in 1970. He moved to Nigeria, with Peat Marwick, with his wife and two children, Joanna and Gordon. He was made partner with the firm after two years and moved to Sierra Leone, remarrying in 1976 and having a third child, Catherine, in Freetown.

In 1980 he decided to go home to Edinburgh to try and save his father's business and stayed in Romano Bridge near Peebles before once again moving back to Africa, first briefly to Liberia and then Zambia. Afterwards he worked in the Middle and Far East before finally being recruited to Botswana as the senior partner of KPMG in 1990.

After eleven years he decided to start his own business working with his daughter Catherine providing specialised financial services, focusing primarily on insolvency, mediation and corporate recovery.

He was highly respected in the liquidation industry in Botswana and Southern Africa for his professionalism and integrity. He was known throughout his career for providing straightforward advice and for the commitment to doing things properly which arose from his strong belief in doing what was right.

From his very first days abroad he was committed to developing and strengthening the capacity of local employees as well as ensuring the integration of expatriates within the community. He is remembered by many friends

whom he helped socially when they first went to work abroad and who still remember him today because of the gracious and warm welcome he gave them after they first arrived.

Tom always had a genuine interest in others, was willing to engage meaningfully with any person that crossed his path, had a lively spirit and strong sense of humour. He was always willing to discuss any topic under the sun with great zest and with a surprising level of knowledge.

He also enjoyed a good party and had a great affection for a cold beer, sampling many a brew in many a country with many a companion and was, as a friend recently said, "a legend in his own lunchtime".

Tom had a passion for sports and games, both playing and watching (emphasis on the watching in the past few years), which began during his time at Strathallan. He played golf and tennis as well as being the goalkeeper for the first XI hockey team whilst there. He also played rugby both at school and during his early days in Africa; latterly returning to the more sedate pastime of golf. Although increasingly he thought of Africa as home he remained a Scottish patriot and a fierce supporter of Scotland whenever they took to any sporting field.

Although not musically gifted he took a keen interest in music, owning an eclectic music collection, but remained loyal to many of the artists he enjoyed in his youth including the likes of Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Dave Brubeck.

One fundamental lesson Tom learnt from his father and that was reinforced during his time at Strathallan was the importance of education and working hard at whatever you do. He firmly believed that a good education was the most important gift you could give a child.

Gordon and Catherine attended Strathallan as did his step-son, Louis Blanshard. Gordon was in Ruthven House (1984-1989) and Louis (1984-1986) was in Leburn. Catherine attended the school from 1987 to 1990. He was intensely proud of all his family and their achievements.

Tom died very unexpectedly of a heart attack in Gaborone on 11th July 2007 aged just 60. He is survived by his wife Jenny who currently lives in Malta; his three children Joanna, Gordon and Catherine who all still live in Botswana; his step-children Jane, Suzy, Louis and Alicky; his grand-children Thijs, Iain, Rhys and the latest addition to the Piper clan, Ruairidh plus his sister Pat who resides in Edinburgh.

Piper Family

Staff Valete



Cathie Grieve

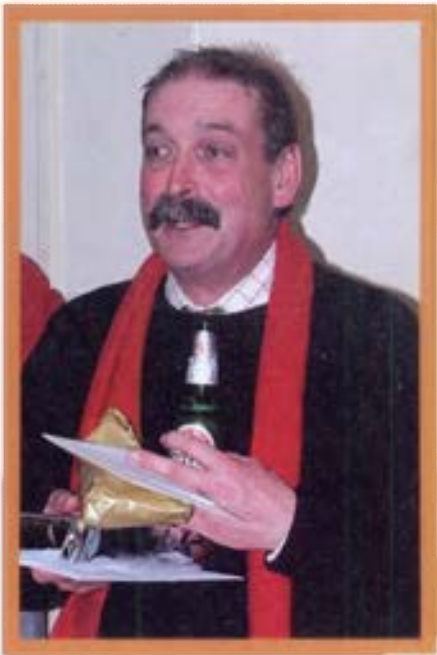
Cathie Grieve began working as a cleaner at Strathallan in August 1991. She retired in June of this year.

She will be sorely missed by everyone and especially those of us who worked in the main building. She is warm and friendly with a lively sense of humour which she combines with a capacity to work exceptionally hard. Whenever you asked for Cathie's help with any task it was immediately provided without complaint. Dust found no hiding-place in the English department when Cathie was on duty.

Her son, Charlie, says that she is thoroughly enjoying her new life. At the time of writing she has already made it away on three holidays! Cathie, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

IIMcF

She will be sorely missed by everyone and especially those of us who worked in the main building. She is warm and friendly with a lively sense of humour which she combines with a capacity to work exceptionally hard



Charles Court

In the late summer of 1982 a slight, moustached and, indeed, rather dapper figure arrived on the Strathallan scene. Fresh from teaching at the Abbey School, Fort Augustus and from television fame in a Loch Ness monster documentary, Charles Court had arrived to the English department and Freeland tuition. Passionate about his subject, particularly poetry, Charles taught with originality, care, enormous integrity and an abiding contempt for "educationspeak". To Charles the original text was all-important; short-cut synopses and selected gobbets were anathema.

A loyal, hard-working and enthusiastic tutor, Charles became Housemaster of Freeland in 1982. For over a decade and with the invaluable assistance of his wife, Lesley, he ran the house in a deeply caring and individual (some might say eccentric) manner.

Always willing to help those in need, Charles, nevertheless, had a fairly direct manner with those who were unwilling to get involved. He and Lesley made a particular effort to make Freeland a place in which bullying had no place and in which the vulnerable could gain confidence and thrive. Many have strong reason for gratitude.

Charles was and, of course still is, an intensely loyal person. His family, the school, his teams and Freeland have all benefited from that loyalty

In many other areas Charles made a significant contribution. As a rugby and hockey coach he inspired many. As long-term mentor of Third XI cricket he netted for hours and exchanged kit all over Scotland. Drama, debating, fishing, fly-tying, clay pigeon shooting... ..the list could be endless; but in all he helped others to succeed. Recently he has helped with girls' hockey and has even served as a (dare I say it?) tutor in Ruthven.

Charles was and, of course still is, an intensely loyal person. His family, the school, his teams and Freeland have all benefited from that loyalty. At times it could make him not quite the most impartial supporter (House cross-country or swimming nearly always promoted an interesting debate) but there was no doubt that his heart was in everything. He was loyal also to his ideals. One was left in no doubt of Charles' opinion and it was not likely to be that of a woolly liberal. Political correctness go hang. Yet that was the essence of his integrity and much that made him such a good teacher and housemaster; an all-round schoolmaster in the best of traditions.

Perhaps not so dapper now; perhaps a trifle threadbare in places; Charles (and Lesley when she gets a chance) deserves a long and happy retirement. A challenging era is dawning for the trout of Scotland.

RJWP

IV & V Form Reels

IV and V Form reels

The IV and V Form reels night was an enjoyable occasion in which the rhythmic notes produced by the superb ceilidh band only just covered the flapping sounds of the kilts and the clattering of heels. Mrs. Hamilton's steady flow of instructions guided us through our steps, though many of us were blinded by the neon glow of Ross's orange kilt. I particularly enjoyed Strip the Willow and felt that the dance spun by at an even greater pace than usual, fuelled by an energy that, for the V Formers, was sourced from the closure of their GCSE prelims.

Catriona Mackenzie V Form Woodlands

The night finally arrived. We spent the whole evening "dolling" ourselves up. There was even a queue for the iron as everyone was trying to perfect their outfits.

III and IV Form Reels

June arrived and we were greatly looking forward to III and IV Form reels. We had never had a reels night before, so were not quite sure what to expect. However, it did have the reputation of being one of the best evenings of the year, so we were all very excited. Earlier in the year the IV and V Form reels had taken place. Everyone came back talking about what a great time they had had and now it was our chance. The night finally arrived. We spent the whole evening "dolling" ourselves up. There was even a queue for the iron as everyone was trying to perfect their outfits. Everyone looked really good, all nicely dressed in their kilts. A live band provided the music and this really put us in the mood for dancing.

It was great as everyone was dancing, even the teachers. Half way through we stopped for something to eat. The food was really good and boosted our energy so that we were able to return and keep dancing for the whole evening. We all had a wonderful time and we would like to say a big "Thank you" to Mrs. Hamilton and all the staff who organised the evening.

Alice Inglis and Claire Simpson
III Form Woodlands

St. Andrew 's Night Ceilidh

Armed with our dancing shoes, which were highly impractical but very stylish high heels, we made our way to the theatre

The annual Upper VI Form Ceilidh took place on Friday the 17th of November. Although it was very unfortunate that we had to miss valuable prep-time, we were undoubtedly excited about the event as it provided us with the opportunity to mingle with other VI Formers and show off our dancing skills. Armed with our dancing shoes, which were highly impractical but very stylish high heels, we made our way to the theatre, where the ceilidh took place. The theatre was graced with the presence of many well-dressed ladies and kilt-wearing gentlemen, all enjoying the refreshments served by members of staff, who had kindly volunteered to help out, and chatting to each other.

The theatre was beautifully decorated and there was abundant space in the middle of the theatre to act as a dance floor. The overall atmosphere that night was very relaxed as we were temporarily relieved from the burden of schoolwork and were able to enjoy each other's company outside the classroom. Before we had the chance to sit down,

the band struck up the tune for the first dance of the evening and everyone immediately assembled on the dance floor. As we were foreigners new to this country and its culture, the Scottish traditional dance was still very foreign to us even though we had had the chance to take part in the ceilidh at the VI Form Ball the previous year. The one thing we had noticed though was the difference between Scottish traditional dancing and Brunei's traditional dancing. The Bruneian version is very slow and gentle whereas Scottish traditional dance is more upbeat. It was so upbeat that most girls had taken their heels off by the end of the first dance. We also found Scottish traditional dancing easier to follow and it can be enjoyed by absolutely everyone, which sets it apart from Brunei's traditional dance. Nevertheless, both require one to have a considerable amount of dancing skills and talent which, unfortunately, we lacked. Luckily, Mrs. Hamilton was there to provide helpful instructions in time to the music. It also helped to be in the presence of a fellow pupil

(Thank you, Malcolm.) who knew exactly what he was doing. Thanks to their help we were experts in no time at all. After a few dances, there was a short break which allowed us to enjoy the delicious Scottish meal provided by the school's caterers. After everyone had finished their desserts, the ceilidh continued and everyone (the girls anyway.) was relieved to be able to burn off the recently consumed calories. The joyous evening concluded with the customary dance, *Strip the Willow*. By the end of the night, everyone was tired (The ceilidh was a true test of stamina.) but extremely happy. All in all, it was an unforgettable night filled with laughter and wonderful memories, including torn tights and broken heels, which we will treasure for a very long time. More importantly, we also made a resolution to wear appropriate footwear the next time round.

Aishah Anas and Maz Saggi UVI Thornbank

VI Form Burns Supper

Ninety pupils and staff filled the music room for the celebration of the works of the Bard



The annual Sixth Form Burns Supper was pronounced "the best yet" by staff who attend every year.

Ninety pupils and staff filled the music room for the celebration of the works of the Bard. The haggis was piped in by Fergus Bell and addressed by Sophie Stephenson. Ollie Corlett (Head Boy) gave the Selkirk Grace. The Chaplain, Rev Roger Quick chaired the evening, and introduced the Bursar, Mr Anthony Glasgow, who proposed the Immortal Memory. Showing a clear love of the works of Burns he gave an introduction to the life and writings of the poet, punctuated with much wit and humour. Other speeches were delivered as follows:

The Toast to the Lassies and the Reply, by Alex Beetschen and Amyce Smith-Bannister and the Toast to Strathallan and the Reply, by Duncan Clark and Mr David Barnes. The poet's namesake Sam Burns sang *Comin' Thro' the Rye* and Mairi Mackenzie, *The Dark Island*. Lauren Giles recited *Willie Wastle*. Mrs Irene McFarlane recited, then sang, *Sic a Parcel o Rogues in a Nation*, marking the tercentenary of the Act of Union.



Sparkling fiddle selections were provided by Sophie Stephenson, Victoria Maclellan, Megan Parkinson and Emily Morrison. Catriona Kelly gave the vote of thanks and the evening was rounded off with *Auld Lang Syne*.

IIMcF



In a jolly-hockey-sticks type of way, Fi has been enjoying simply lashings of chemical formulae since graduating from the Nice oooh, easily five minutes ago. She is prepared to attempt almost anything, but her work needs to be active rather than theoretical especially if any actual science is involved. When relating to Fi DO NOT mention that Newcastle United are not ...erm, all that good really.

VI Form

The VI Form centre enjoyed, yet again, a successful year. Everyone from Santa's little helper to a bunch of hillbillies have graced its dance floor



Hypnotism without hypnosis' claimed Martin Taylor. I remained unconvinced as one of the leading hypnotists in Britain, famously having Derren Brown as a pupil, set us all up for a surprise. With a beer on the way down, a short comedic interlude with Taylor was well on the way to breaking the ice. Somehow, I found myself walking on stage and despite being completely aware of what I was doing I ended up under the hypnotist's influence. It was more of a controlling feeling than being in a 'trance'. Indeed, I knew that I wasn't being hypnotised because I was thinking clearly. However, a combination of peer-pressure and suggestion made me believe I saw an elephant although, well, there wasn't one there. I left the VI Form centre that night with a greater understanding of hypnotism and a feeling of having been had.

The VI Form centre enjoyed, yet again, a successful year. Everyone from Santa's little helper to a bunch of hillbillies have graced its dance floor. The centre has remained committed to providing quality professional entertainment with Edinburgh circuit comedians and a leading hypnotist on the stage. There was no shortage of choice in either drink or food, with every carry-out exhausted, and a selection of drinks to please even the most refined of palates (but where's the Lambrini?). A special mention must go to DJ Struan Gordon and his able assistant MC Tricky, who always kept the party going. The events themselves have been enjoyed by all, even managing to brighten the darkest of November nights. And with a major refurbishment plan in the pipeline, things can only get better.

Josh Lipworth, LVI Nicol



A special mention must go to DJ Struan Gordon and his able assistant MC Tricky, who always kept the party going

Hypnotist Night

For one of the VI Form socials this year, we welcomed the comedian and hypnotist, Martin Taylor. He demonstrated his overwhelming power to control Josh Lipworth especially, as he took away his voice and made him cower in a corner because he was 'seeing' an elephant. Rory McLellan had the hilarious obsession of having to put on a tie every time Martin Taylor stamped his foot – he ended up looking like a tie-rack.

Martin involved the whole audience, too, and it was an extremely wonderful event, enjoyed by everyone, and we hope to have him back at some point ('though maybe his previous volunteers don't').

Rebecca Dalgetty LVI Woodlands

'Prejudice and pride'

My memories of Strathallan



One of the legacies of the Communist era that is still around in Eastern European countries, in my opinion, is that we never really know what to expect from the future and we tend to think about it rather pessimistically. This is the result of 40 years of Communist brainwashing and pressure, an era where you would always expect the worst and not even dare to think about a brighter future. This is sad, but I think I belong to one of the last generations that was brought up this way. These are, unfortunately, the thoughts that prevail in my mind before I set out to do something new and these were my feelings before coming to Strathallan also.

I was one of the 25 lucky teachers from Central and Eastern Europe to be chosen by the HMC to take part in this work-experience. I had previously been teaching English in the school I attended as a pupil and chose to come here because I thought (and still think) that teaching something that you don't experience yourself is worthless.

After a few days of introductory courses in London and Cambridge, I set off as 'the most northerly-situated teacher' of the 25.

There was nothing I could compare Strathallan to, because there aren't any boarding or independent schools in Romania. So, everything I experienced here was completely new. One of the first things that made a big impression on me was the site with its picturesque valley, grounds, woodland and buildings. The technical support (laboratories, computers, projectors, etc) that teachers get here is something that we can only dream of in some schools in Romania.

Teachers were welcoming and made me feel like I had always belonged to this community. I think that teachers here are extremely devoted to and passionate about what they are doing

and I was pleasantly surprised to find that everyone is doing an extra-curricular activity, something that is not true for most of our teachers in Romania. I would say that all of them are true professionals and pupils should be very proud of them. There is something universal about pupils and I consider that I found the same variety here that I had got used to back home. There are talented, skilled, ambitious, intelligent pupils and some that need special care and attention. The difference is that this school is doing everything to give everyone opportunities to excel and this is not just a promise. One of the downsides I experienced is that some kids are very much under the influence of the media and the world they live in seems not to be the real one. Being part of this system gave me the opportunity to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of our own and maybe to collect examples of how things work in Scotland.

I have always thought of Scotland as a mysterious, remote place, with a rich and tumultuous history. I wasn't wrong as this is how I actually experienced it. I managed to visit lots of places, except the west, but I guess you can't have it all at once. There is so much to write and to talk about that I feel I could write a novel. My experience here has definitely been a positive one and I am looking forward to using it all back home. I am proud of having been a teacher at Strathallan and thank you all for giving me the opportunity to excel.

Zoltan Biro

There are talented, skilled, ambitious, intelligent pupils and some that need special care and attention

Who'd a' thought PSHE
could be this much fun!



The Scottish Conservative and
Unionist Party - in safe hands



Shetland Shopping Mall
security on red alert



No, Fairlie, I think you'll
find it's more the Platonic
ideal of a leaf



Macdonald's first
chat-up line was
from Kieran

Nutkin is a splendid little chap
whose colour-signature is red all
the way. His strengths are
dashing up and down trees and
neatly evading the wheels of
the increasing number of SUVs
being introduced to the school
grounds. When relating to
Nutkin **DO NOT** mention
Wise Owl.





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