



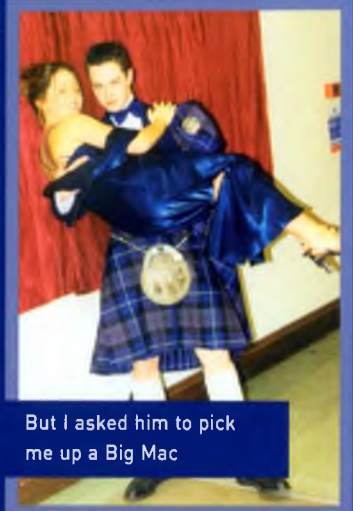
THE STRATHALLIAN

2003-04





PEER PRESSURE! Just say yes



But I asked him to pick me up a Big Mac



School Nurse seeks funds for staff special needs



JJ makes his mark on the school



In the Navy



Aha! And here comes Mini-me



No blushes - just blooming magic!



Exorcist called in to deal with emergency



And I was onto the green in five!



Not calves - cows!

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“ Well, hello there. Ishbel here.
Welcome to the contents page...
and this year's challenge is to
find a page in the magazine
that doesn't have *anything*
to do with me! ”



Volume XX No. 4

Strathallan School
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Editor: E G Kennedy

Photography: Special
thanks to I I Mc Farlane;
D J Barnes; A Smith;
and A Watt.

Design: Pointsize
www.pointsize.co.uk

CAPTAINS OF SCHOOL

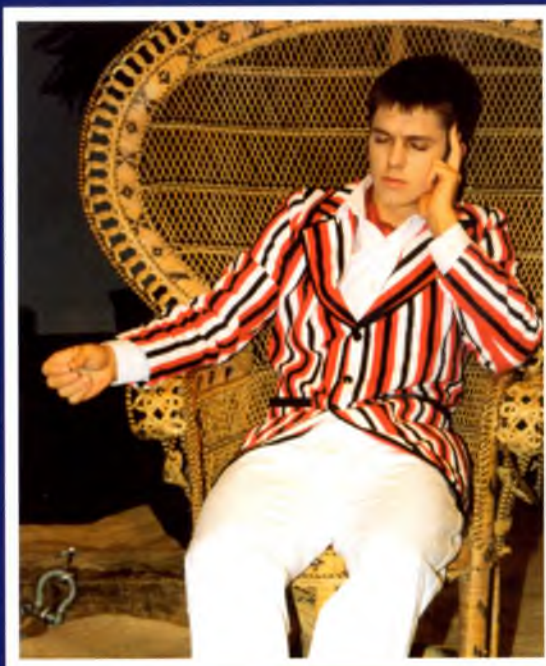
STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

I remember Mr. Barnes telling all the prefects at the beginning of September 2003 just how quickly our final year at Strathallian would pass. And the year certainly has flown by. Having been so busy with sport, music, drama and all the other activities which the school offers, on top of (most importantly of course) the huge workload which accompanied us throughout the year, it really has been a memorable final year for me. I'm sure I also speak for the majority of the Upper Sixth leavers. To have been in my position during this year has been a challenging and thoroughly rewarding experience, and it has been a privilege to do this in such a dynamic environment as Strath.

To everyone that has left with me, thank you for everything and good luck in the future. To everyone that is still at Strath, take all opportunities you get - do not let yourself pass through the school without making the most of it. It is a cliché to say that the more you put into something the more you get out of it, but this really is the case at Strathallian.

Thanks to everyone.

Tom Hine



My final year at Strath left no day unfilled and when I look back through my seven years it was this last one that I definitely got the most out of. On recalling when Mr Thompson first invited me to take on the position as Head Girl I was only able to stare back at him blankly saying "...You want

me?" I certainly hope that, over the year, I developed and grew into the job, facing a diverse range of situations with a new-found confidence. I have to admit I failed my very first task; to keep my appointment a secret, as once Tracey had heard the news it was common knowledge in seconds.

Being able to see how the school ran both from a staff and a pupil perspective was an invaluable experience and made me realise how fortunate everyone at Strath is. The weekly meetings Tom and I had with Mr Barnes usually opened with "So, folks. What's the word on the street?" but the fact that he already knew everything we told him proves the genuine concern staff have for pupils.

I could not imagine being happier at any other school over the seven years, but being Head Girl during your final year is no easy role. You have to face A levels, university applications and all the related decisions that come with the position. My advice to A-L and Malcolm is remember to be

yourself, help each other out and as long as you have the support of your friends they'll help when things are manic.

Throughout the year one thing I realised was that when pupils didn't enjoy Strath as much as most it was often because they didn't get involved with the many things that this unique school offers. So, to all the new pupils in Riley and Senior school I would say - just get stuck in and you'll find it impossible not to have some of the funnest years.

Having had the summer of my life in Australia with Strath hockey and having been at Uni now for a month I realise how much of a great start I had going to Strath. I'll never forget all my amazing experiences; from travelling to Venice to being able to gossip with pupils from all years, using the excuse "I'm finding the word on the street". I also realise that the friends I made I'll never lose touch with (so guys don't be too upset at Valedictory).

I cannot end without giving special thanks to Mr Thompson, Mr Barnes and Mr and Mrs Fleming who gave me so much kind advice when I was faced with complicated decisions. Mr. Keir, Mr. Ross and Tommo also helped me and looked out for me all the way through school. But mostly I thank my friends in my year. I had many a laugh with the prefects who were always so willing to read in chapel (well done, Cookie!) and I especially thank Anna, Tracey, Helen, Emma, Jo, Gayle, Lauren, Katie, Sarah and Rachel as I don't think I could have had nearly such a great time without their constant support and days filled with laughter.

Becky Johnstone

STAFF NOTES

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THE DEATH OF TREVOR STEVENS CAST A SHADOW OVER ALL STAFF ISSUES DURING THE COURSE OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2003/2004.

An appreciation of Trevor's contribution appears elsewhere in the Strathallian and it is clear that he has been and will be greatly missed. On a positive note, we congratulate Iain Kilpatrick on his appointment as Headmaster of Beaconsfield School. Iain has spent ten years teaching at Strathallian during which he has made a significant contribution to the English Department, and has for four years been Housemaster of Simpson where the boys have greatly benefited from his interest and commitment. In addition in his role as Expressive Arts Coordinator he has been central to the continued development of theatre at Strathallian and the recent series of Musicals, particularly *Les Misérables*, is clear testament to the major influence he has had in this area. Generations of Strathallians have benefited from Ken Dutton's wisdom, patience and understanding in the Chemistry Department. With his retirement he relinquishes the distinguished position of longest serving member of staff and his contribution has been much appreciated by pupils and staff. Mike Wilson has also been with us for some time and the support he has provided in the Design & Technology Department and in a more obvious way his outstanding contributions to the theatre and also to the Navy Section of the CCF have been much appreciated. The final member of a long serving triumvirate is Roy Sneddon who has made a major contribution to the Mathematics Department and latterly has put a huge amount of time and effort into planning and preparation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in his role as Award Officer. George Elliott, a Scot from New Zealand, taught in the Mathematics Department for two terms, also tutoring in Freeland and helping with outdoor pursuits.



Keith Legge's experience in the myriad demands of the Bursar's role at Strathallian should equip him well for his new role as Chief Executive of the Scottish Youth Hostels Association. The Bursar's role is one of the hardest to describe but any appreciation of Keith (and one appears

elsewhere in these pages) must acknowledge that his contribution went far beyond even the wide ranging remit which is normally seen in the role. He has been an outstanding supporter of all aspects of the school.

Major Anthony Glasgow joined us at the beginning of August as Bursar fresh from the Royal Engineers. Anthony attended Dollar Academy and Heriot Watt University before joining the Army. He is a qualified Civil Engineer. He was a Scottish Schools, Universities and Students International Rugby player who regularly represented the Army and the Combined Services as well as playing senior District rugby. Roger Quick who is a qualified teacher and has been a professional musician joins us from the parish of St Paul's, Ireland Wood as Chaplain. Roger has a degree in Music and a degree in Theology from the University of Leeds. We look forward to his contribution not only in Chapel but also to the Music Department. Richard Parker who has been Head of Design & Technology and boarding Housemaster at the Royal Russell School, Croydon has joined the Design & Technology Department and will take over Simpson House at Christmas on the departure of Iain Kilpatrick. Richard was educated at Exeter University, has a particular interest in outdoor activities and is looking forward to a wider range of opportunities in this area than was provided by Croydon. Fiona MacBain also comes from teaching experience in London via Glasgow to join the Chemistry Department. She took a degree in Bio-Chemistry from the University of Oxford and in addition to her teaching has recently run her own business. She will also be taking over the Navy Section. The Mathematics Department has two new members, Miriam Hanks and Elizabeth Duncan. Miriam has been teaching at Ratcliffe College and has a particular interest in outdoor activities. Elizabeth has just completed her first year of teaching at Boroughmuir High School and was previously a residential tutor at St Leonard's. She will also be helping with the swim team. Catherine Howett has moved from the world of Marketing and took a degree at Stirling University having decided to become an English teacher. She joins us to cover Abi Tod's teaching for the course of this year. Our annual teaching assistant from Eastern Europe this year is Ion Politu who is a teacher of English and Italian in his native Moldova where he has been teaching for three years after taking a degree at Moldova State University. He will be helping with EAL and will be resident tutor in Simpson House. We also welcome Marie-Noëlle Coates to the French Department where she will cover for Marie-Laure Crane during her maternity leave. On Iain Kilpatrick's departure at Christmas Mary Robertson-Burnett will take over his English timetable and also his role as Director of the Expressive Arts. Mary has a degree in English Literature from Oxford University and considerable experience in Drama and Music.

BKT

VALETE - A.L.K. DUTTON K.G. LEGGE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



A.L.K. DUTTON

KEN DUTTON CAME TO STRATHALLAN IN 1970 AND THE MATHEMATICIANS AMONGST US WILL BY NOW HAVE WORKED OUT THAT HE HAS BEEN AT THE

SCHOOL FOR AN AMAZING 34 YEARS, WHICH MUST MAKE HIM ONE OF THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBERS OF STAFF, IF NOT THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF STAFF, CERTAINLY OF RECENT YEARS.

He came to teach chemistry and junior science. His lessons have always been extremely well prepared, with painstaking effort given to the fine details of chemical processes, and a wealth of background knowledge built up over the years. Ken was the first member of the science staff to make use of computer technology in the classroom and his overhead projector slides have been an inspiration to many pupils over the years. However all those who were fortunate enough to have been taught by him will remember the amount of fun that he incorporated into his time in the chemistry department. (How many remember uncle bumping granules and constipated acid?)

Ken has contributed to the life of Strathallan in many other ways. He was a senior Tutor in Riley, working with Philip Hewson for many years. He has also tutored in Nicol and been attached to Simpson house.

He introduced electronics to the school and used his skill and knowledge to run a highly popular activity. As an extension to his flair in this area, he designed the lighting in the old lecture theatre.

There is no doubt that one of Ken's great interests was the Corps. He was in charge of the army section, before running the R.A.F. section with P. Barker. He regularly attended summer camps with the corps, which were enjoyed and fondly remembered by all those who attended them.

On the sporting field he was a rugby coach for twenty-five years and was considered an expert at "place kicking". He coached cricket for all of the thirty-four years he spent at school, concentrating on third form cricket for the last twenty years. How many first eleven cricket captains were given their love of the game by the expert instruction and guidance given to them in their early years by A.L.K.D.?

I am sure that all at Strathallan and generations who have left will join me in thanking Ken for all his hard work over the years. He has been a loyal and supportive colleague and will be missed, not only by the chemistry department but also by all his many friends on the staff. We wish both him and Christine a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

EWH



MAJOR K.G. LEGGE BURSAR 1995 – 2004

IF YOU WERE TO READ THE "JOB DESCRIPTION" WHICH WAS CIRCULATED FOR THE BURSAR'S REPLACEMENT YOU MIGHT BE FORGIVEN

FOR THINKING IT WOULD ALL BE TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN, AND SO IT MIGHT BE FOR A PERSON WITH LESS ENERGY, SENSE OF COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK THAN MAJOR LEGGE.

In nine years at the School there has been a cultural change in the way in which Bursars have to work, resulting in large part from government legislation and the expectations of parents and staff. One day the Bursar may be negotiating a building contract, and the very next day putting a case to a union representative; meanwhile the Health and Safety officer has unexpectedly arrived, his secretary put her head round the door to say that Mrs. Noodle has rung up yet again to complain that the knob on her front door has still not been fixed and to complete the day the janitor reports that the main boiler is about to run out of oil. All such happenings Keith seemed to take in his stride and deal with them cheerfully, efficiently and, where he thought appropriate, toughly.

The Bursar, whilst ultimately responsible to the Governors is, on a daily basis, accountable to the Headmaster. It is never easy to sustain the trust of both parties, but Keith has managed to do so and moreover has willingly stepped into any gap that he felt needed filling, particularly recognising the importance of the social aspects of living in such a community. Doubtless his wide experience in the Army and the ever willing and loyal support of his wife Felicity, made such undertakings second nature.

It is the oldest joke on the circuit, that of the teaching staff returning from their long summer holiday, looking bronzed and fit, (well, some of them anyway) and muttering about the Bursar for not having cut the grass in the back paddock. The Bursar has, of course, been trying to complete an impossible maintenance programme and at the same time fulfil the governors' policy of making maximum use of the capital plant by generating income from letting the premises for as many weeks as possible. Again Keith has done all this very successfully.

I have no doubt that Keith will be just as committed to his new position as Chief Executive to the Scottish Youth Hostels' Association and for which he leaves with our very best wishes. I also have no doubt that as a near neighbour to the School and with his wife continuing to work as Admissions' secretary in the School he will keep in touch. It takes a long time to find one's way around a Victorian estate and I bet it will not be long before the new Bursar is asking for Keith's help. I know it will be gladly given, for such is the nature of the man.

C.D.P.

VALETE - MIKE WILSON ROY SNEDDON

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



"THE CAPTAIN"

Mike and Eva Wilson arrived at Strathallan after Mike had retired as an engineer in the Royal Navy to take up a position as technician in the D.T. department. He had joined H.M.S. Ganges at 15 and some 25 years later it was our luck that he came ashore at Strathallan. He carried in his kit bag an enviable and impressively varied experience together with a whole range of talents and a personality which had been honed by naval discipline and tradition and which had been enriched by many a 'run on shore'.

It was not long before he was utilising his instructor's ticket by doing some teaching in the department and by assisting in the Naval section of the C.C.F. After the arrival of M.V. Strathallan, Mike was to be found, at all hours, stripping the engine, painting the bilges and whatever else a retired engineer from the Royal Navy does to a Captain's launch to get her purring up and down the Firth of Forth. Many pupils enjoyed their day out on board and many sailors and divers are indebted to Mike for the time the craft spent as their 'safety boat'.

During the past 10 years, Mike developed nothing short of a missionary zeal to get pupils to prepare the sets for the school plays. His stealthy way of persuading pupils who were, by and large, 'excess to requirement' on the games field to wish to learn how to build a set and then to take a fierce pride in what they had achieved was quite a trick to watch. Not only did many audiences enjoy these sets but also many stage hands experienced a sense of responsibility and satisfaction greater than they had found anywhere else.

Mike and Eva are a thoroughly decent and generous couple. Generations of Riley pupils will have enjoyed Eva's birthday cakes without ever knowing that they were of her making and many will remember Mike's patience and enthusiasm and have reason to be grateful. Whether climbing Munros, setting off on foot to follow the coastline of Scotland, sharing his D.I.Y. skills or having a couple in the bar, life for Mike has always been a series of opportunities. His retirement from Strath is just another one of these.

"Slip and proceed!"

AT

ROY SNEDDON

Roy joined the Maths department at Strathallan in 1987 from a remand home for young offenders at Lendrick Muir near Muckhart. (How long was his sentence? Ed) From the sublime to the ridiculous! Or should that be the other way round? He played a full part in school life here not least as a tutor in Riley. "Cool Roy" (he wore black shades in the summer) policed corridors of Riley for 10 years before hanging up his guns, and during that time he beat all that Riley had to offer on the chess board and most of the main school as well, largely due to the computer he used to practise against into the "wee sma' hours" at home. He was really quite a whizz at chess and passed on his enthusiasm to all who would take him on. He took over the running of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in 2001, a huge undertaking, and latterly ran it virtually unaided. Camping out in the wilds of Scotland seems a young man's game to me but I suppose in beautiful weather – it has been known up here – there is a certain attraction. Roy was happy to be there come rain or shine, even at the tender age of 60. He has also been running the badminton with me for the past seven years. In the Autumn term when I would be on the rugby field he organised the boys' badminton and did a great job of teaching them how to short serve and "threaten the net". We also did school duty together on a Wednesday night and I always looked forward to meeting up after prep and doing a wander around the grounds looking for wildebeest in the dark. Why wildebeest I hear you ask? Well, we could only get so close and then they would turn and run in the direction of the school pond. I got to know Roy quite well as a result of those Wednesday nights. He lived a very interesting life and without giving away any confidences, it is sufficient to say I was fascinated by his accounts of days gone by told with much humour and self-effacement. We still have the odd game of snooker where I duly get thrashed and he has recently bought a Taylor acoustic guitar – you need to remortgage to buy one of those – so I dare say he'll be an expert guitarist before long. He is also an avid reader of books, so there will be plenty to keep him occupied as the winter draws in. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

GCK

“He played a full part in school life here not least as a tutor in Riley.”

VALETE - IAIN KILPATRICK RICHARD CAVES

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



IAIN KILPATRICK

- 1995** Earthquake hits Kobe, Japan.
Jacques Chirac elected President of France.
Iain and Katrina arrive at Strathallan and listen to the sound of squirrels gambolling playfully behind the skirting boards in the Tutors' flat in Riley.
- 1996** Discovery of a new planet, the fourth closest star to earth. Clinton re-elected as US president.
Cocker Spaniel, Zak joins Kilpatrick household.
- 1997** Scottish researcher creates clone, Dolly the sheep. Labour Party under Tony Blair comes to power in UK.
IWK successfully completes teaching probation and starts M.Ed.
- 1998** Pope visits Cuba.
US president Clinton impeached.
IWK directs and produces Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in Riley.
- 1999** First around the world balloon flight.
Yeltsin resigns as Russian president – succeeded by Vladimir Putin.
IWK directs and produces his first senior school musical, Jesus Christ Superstar.

- 2000** DNA sequencing of human genome completed.
Bush barely wins US election by a few hundred votes.

IWK takes over as Housemaster of Simpson – directs and produces Little Shop of Horrors; completes M.Ed.

- 2001** Space probe lands on asteroid, Eros.
Mad Cow disease spreads in Britain.
Emma Hermione Kilpatrick born – IWK directs and produces Godspell.

- 2002** Euro becomes legal tender in Europe.
UN Security Council approves resolution to send weapons inspectors to Iraq.
IWK directs and produces Return to the Forbidden Planet and co-produces Bugsy Malone.

- 2003** North Korea abandons nuclear non-proliferation treaty. SARS epidemic spreads from Asia to America and Europe.
Miles Alexander Kilpatrick born – IWK produces and directs Cabaret.

- 2004** European Union expands to 25 nations.
Terrorists kill 190 people in Madrid train bombings.
IWK directs and produces Scottish Independent Schools' premiere of Les Misérables; appointed Headmaster of Beaconsfield School, Bridge of Allan.



RCC

Richard Caves joined Strathallan in 1994, after a number of years at Rydal School. Initially part of the growing Computing Department, he later moved to devote most of his time to the often difficult task of managing the school network at a time of rapid expansion. Ruthven Tutor, mountaineer, leader of the Royal Navy Section and captain of the Strathallan Motor Launch, he gave a great deal of his time to passing on his enthusiasm for the sea and for climbing to many Strathallians. We wish him and Eirian all the best.

OBITUARY - REVD TREVOR STEVENS (1965-2004)

STRATHALLAN 2003-04

REVD TREVOR STEVENS (1965-2004)

THE UNEXPECTED DEATH OF TREVOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER TERM CAME AS A DEEP SHOCK TO ALL OF US. TREVOR HAD BEEN WITH US FOR ONLY ONE TERM, BUT IN THAT TIME HAD TOUCHED THE LIVES OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HERE AT STRATHALLAN. HE WAS A DEEPLY COMMITTED SCHOOLMASTER IN THE WIDEST SENSE OF THE WORD WHO HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE TO OFFER BOTH IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE PASTORAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL.

As a historian he had read for his degree at Grey College, Durham and gained his PGCE there before taking up his first teaching post at Batley Grammar School. He had been a Lay Clerk at Newcastle Cathedral and organist of St John's Church whilst at university and, during his time at Batley managed to find an outlet for his prodigious musical talents as Organist and Choirmaster at Batley Parish Church – a combination of responsibilities he was to take to Rannoch School when he became Head of History and Chapel Organist there in 1989. His teaching style at Rannoch was legendary. Many of his pupils, inspired by 'Trev', went on to read History at university, and particularly pleasing for him were the many who read for the degree in Medieval History (his own preferred period) at St Andrews. As a Housemaster of Potteries House, Trevor moulded many young souls with his 'firm but fair' style and enjoyed something close to a cult status. He was of that generation of Housemasters who were to be found at the Rugby pitch, in the debating hall, at the school concert; in fact, there was no area of school life in which Trevor was not to be found – even, in one memorable expedition, stuck in the snow on Ben Nevis.

The call of the church had always been a part of Trevor's life and, eventually, proved too strong to resist. He left Rannoch to train for the priesthood at The College of The Resurrection in Mirfield, where he also found time to complete an MA researching the lives of the early English bishops. From there he returned to his Northumbrian roots to serve his diaconate as Curate of Alnwick Parish Church. After his priesting, he was appointed Vicar of St Salvador's, Dundee, serving his congregation there until Christmas Day last year. He took up his post of Chaplain at Strathallan at the beginning of Spring term this year and immediately made an impression with his friendly, jovial and approachable style.

Trevor possessed many gifts which he bestowed liberally and selflessly on all those who had any dealings with him. For many, a lasting memory will be that cheeky grin and glint in his eye. This is the spirit in which he left us. On the evening of his death, as he sat in the staff Common Room enjoying a pint before joining the girls in Thornbank for a game of bingo, I asked him if he was enjoying his time at Strathallan. 'You know', he said, 'I think I've come home!' Strathallan had worked its magic on him by allowing us to see the very best of him; combining his teaching, spiritual and musical gifts in a very special way. He is sadly missed.

NRM





SPEECH DAY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THERE ARE SOME THINGS INHERENT TO ALL SET-PIECE SCHOOL OCCASIONS SUCH AS SPEECH DAY: THE DESERVED CELEBRATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STAFF AND PUPILS ALIKE; A CONGREGATION OF THEIR PROUD RELATIVES; THE OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO VIEW THE SCHOOL AT ITS IMPECCABLE BEST; MRS. MCFARLANE'S CAMERA.



There are also things which make each one individually different, which will cause them to stand out in memory for years to come; on this occasion, it was Kriss Akabusi. For how many guest speakers warn the front-row audience of a tendency towards spitting out of excitement when speaking in public? Or leap across the stage in the manner of a gazelle to illustrate their point? Or choose to celebrate the achievements of the prize-winners by inviting them to stand on their (somewhat rickety) chairs for fifteen seconds of cheering, arm-waving, standing applause? Or end their speech with an invitation from the chairman of Governors to stand on the trophy table for a similar form of recognition? The answer can surely only be 'not many'. Kriss Akabusi acquitted himself with style, offering an irresistible display of showmanship which detracted in no way from the inspirational nature of his speech; few will forget his emphatically urging his audience to 'step into the arena' and Make a Difference, a motto which he claimed has sustained him both in his glittering career as an international athlete and in his worthy work for his African charity REACH. The overall impression is certainly not one which will be forgotten quickly.

Similarly enjoyable discourses were given by Heads of School Tom Hine and Rebecca Johnstone, who echoed the sentiments of most of the audience with their appreciation for the opportunities and memories Strathallan had given them, not just academically but socially and culturally as well. The Chairman of Governors David Pighills ably presided over the proceedings, ensuring that all ran smoothly and providing the audience with an entertaining speech himself. The Headmaster gave a thorough explanation of the advancements and improvements that the school, its staff and its pupils have made in all fields, and urged the pupils to aim as high in the coming years as those previously had done.

With the official ceremony over the entertainment could begin. Spectators satisfied by a selection of delicious nibbles and wine from the Sodexo catering team watched the renowned Strathallan Pipe Band put on an excellent display, the skill of which was in no way detracted from by the ubiquitous Scottish rain, and the Art and D.T departments both had exhibitions of the highly accomplished work of their pupils. An example of the high quality of music at Strathallan was also displayed through a chapel concert which boasted superb performances from both the choir and instrumental and vocal solos. All in all, every display showed an example of the exceptional standards that have come to be expected of Strathallan.

A most enjoyable day finally drew to a close, having accomplished its aim of displaying the merits of the school and those in it to parents, pupils and visitors alike. Thanks go to Kriss Akabusi, for a most exceptional and enjoyable performance.

Harriet Page, Upper Sixth Thornbank





RILEY HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AUTUMN TERM WE WELCOMED 33 NEW PUPILS INTO RILEY WHO JOINED US 17 'OLD HANDS' FROM LAST YEAR. THE 'NEW' WITH THE HELP OF THE 'OLD' SOON SETTLED INTO THE RILEY ROUTINE AND SURROUNDINGS AND PROMISED TO BE A GOOD BUNCH. A SATURDAY OUT AT THE LEUCHARS AIR SHOW PROVED MOST POPULAR AGAIN, MORE FOR THE SIDE SHOWS THAN THE PLANES! WHO CAN FORGET KIDNAPPED AT THE PERTH THEATRE? - WE ALL RATHER WOULD AND MR BUSH'S PHONE RINGING DURING THE PERFORMANCE AFTER HE HAD TOLD US TO SWITCH OURS OFF.

Halloween night - ghost stories, scary walks in the graveyard with the U6 prefects, lots of food, ducking for apples, making Dunstan and Henry Lee into mummies!

Pantomime, Mother Goose at the Perth Theatre was a great start to our Christmas Party followed by supper back at Riley and a disco in the Common Room. How we all danced including the Tutors but why do they only want to do the Twist?

Next day at 12 noon it was our Carol Service followed by mince pies and mulled wine in Riley and End of Term.

Spring Term started very early - 5th January - long cold dark days but with not much snow and no chance again to go skiing at Glenshee but we had a few good snowball fights on the Paddock. It was great that very few games days and matches were cancelled and we had a super time hosting Malsis School before the 6-a-side hockey tournament and the Cowichan girls' hockey side from Canada. As spring arrived and the days got longer interest was renewed down in the valley as groups planned their summer dens and Rachel decided which tree she would build her nest in. Even some of the older ones thought that it was all right to be having fun in the valley.

So to the Summer Term, cricket, tennis, golf and rounders and a chance to stay outside until bed time on the Paddock or up Scouts' Hill. An outing to Edinburgh Zoo on the Saturday morning before the Verse Speaking Festival at the Edinburgh Academy in the afternoon. Helping with the Activity Weekend for pupils at primary school, camping in Mr. and Mrs. Bush's garden, the Aberlour Junior Highland Games, athletics matches and our own Sports' Day and swimming gala. Practising for our end of year concert - the Exposition of the Arts which was held on the final Friday of the term before our Prize Giving. But the night before we had a great barbecue, tug of war and final play on the Paddock until late into the night. PK said it was one of the best and us leavers said it was a great way to finish the year and our time in Riley.

During the year we did work hard in the classroom and progressed well on the games' field. We were always polite, helpful and courteous and were a pleasure in and around School. Well that's what we say.

Henry, Joe, William, Chessca, Kirsty, and Robynne.

P. S. Most of this report is accurate but incomplete and it would be true to say that 2003 - 2004 has been a very happy and rewarding year in Riley. Let's hope that the positive atmosphere continues next year.

P B

“2003 - 2004 has been a very happy and rewarding year in Riley”





FREELAND HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

Writing a House report for the magazine is a daunting task. Especially when your grammar is as bad as mine. It is difficult to think of what to say, so much has happened so quickly. The members of the House remember the stuff that they want to remember. All of their families know what has happened through photographs, reports and The Freeland newsletter. So what do we say in this report when it would seem that all that needs to be said has already been said. Perhaps some words of wisdom stolen from someone else? I have procrastinated about writing for long enough and in doing so incurred the wrath of the editor.

So, here come the stolen ideas. As the holidays began I posted out a copy of Rudyard Kiplings poem 'If' to the leavers. Given that it was voted the UK's favourite poem in a national poll two years ago, I shan't oppress you by reproducing the whole thing here. Let it be enough to say that it is a cleverly put-together piece of doggerel containing a number of recommendations and observations on life in general and which ends with the resounding lines:

**IF YOU CAN FILL THE UNFORGIVING MINUTE
WITH SIXTY SECONDS' WORTH OF DISTANCE RUN,
YOURS IS THE EARTH AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT,
AND WHICH IS MORE- YOU'LL BE A MAN, MY SON.**



The poem in many ways sums up the ethos that we would like to instil in the members of Freeland. If the boys can read this poem and still manage to remember two or three of Kipling's suggestions they are far more likely to be more successful and more valuable members of society. If the staff within the House can be role models and mentors for the boys along the same guidelines then the boys will see this in practice, and can emulate it. This could inspire them to push themselves more in all aspects of their school lives. Many of the virtues extolled by Kipling have been evident in the boys' contributions to the School and House over the last year. In the Junior House Cricket, Senior and Junior House debating the boys performed with valour and determination, reaching the finals. The Senior House Cricket team drew in equal first place. Senior House Drama was won by Freeland with a fantastic effort by the whole cast.

In the swimming and athletics many boys pushed themselves to the limit. In the case of Sam Smith and Sam Graves the first competed in nearly every event and the other had just got off the plane from Australia. In the academic sphere half colours were gained by David Burgess and full colours by Tom Hine and Seb Schulz.

Seb didn't confine himself to this sphere, however, and also took half colours for fencing as did Bruce Lerman and Ross Anders for rugby. Tom Hine was also awarded full colours for cricket and drama; Sean Murray half colours for drama. Many other House members performed and starred in the School productions *Twelfth Night* and *Les Misérables*.

Boys from Freeland made up a large part of the successful School Shooting Team, and the Marines' Pringle team. This list is not exhaustive, but what it does is show the depth and breadth of the House members' commitment to the activities of the School and its academic programme.

The duty teams who have been taken out for meals and the winners of CD tokens for form orders, your effort and success has been both rewarded and celebrated. Keep up the good work. For those who have yet to be in this situation it is something to aspire to and work at. To the many Freelanders whose personal achievements have not been mentioned, don't imagine that your efforts and successes have gone unnoticed.

We were lucky enough to have Takanori Kashino from Japan and Sam Graves from Australia with us in 2003-2004. Both made excellent contributions to the House in their respective fields; Takanori in music, Sam in cricket and swimming. The way they were accepted into the House and made welcome reflects well on them and on the nature of the House.

As a House we had our first Father and Son outing, with dads coming from as far afield as Bermuda and Brazil. A great weekend was had by all; sons may have got to see their dads in a new light and vice versa. Many dads had the chance to meet each other for the first time and build contacts. This sort of parental involvement is something that we would like to encourage in the House; parents becoming a more active part in the broader community of the House and School. Plans for the next year include another Father and Son outing and, we hope, a Community Open Day.

To the young men who left the House this year I hope that you can find some useful advice in the words of Kipling. To those who remain, keep going as you are. Apply yourself fully to everything that you do, your studies, your sport and your friendships. Don't be satisfied unless you know you have put in your best effort, and filled 'the unforgiving minute / With sixty second's worth of distance run'.

SWS





NICOL HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

ONE NIGHT IN THE SUMMER TERM I COMPLAINED THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL PUPILS TO WRITE ARTICLES IN THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE. WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A SENSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE HOUSEMASTER IN NICOL, BECAUSE MR GILES LISTENED TO THIS COMPLAINT AND NOW I FIND MYSELF "ENTHUSIASTICALLY" WRITING THIS ARTICLE.

This academic year Nicol saw Adam Stephens as Head of House, greatly assisted by two very able deputies. Adam found that he was hugely involved in many of the House's activities and events, even House Music! He made his musical debut for the choir and Nicol found that they had to perform House Music twice. Not because there was a demand for an encore but because the electricity ran out. As usual, Nicol went for variety in the acts that they performed, Michael Seguad performing a great solo on the violin, accompanied by Clement Ip on the piano. The House Choir, boosted by Adam's presence, performed a rendition of "In the Jungle" and Paul Esparon led the House Ensemble's performance of "Pink Panther". We couldn't defend the House Music trophy but Clement Ip won the best accompanist award.

On the Sports field Nicol were particularly successful. Both the Junior and Senior Indoor Hockey teams won their respective competitions showing great resilience in doing so. In both games the boys found themselves two-nil down and fought back to win. The Badminton was also a notable success with the team being made up of Hwasu Kim with Clement Ip and Bufan Huang with Vito Huang. Both pairs were undefeated and Nicol were crowned overall Champions. Another great success was the House's victory in the swimming gala where the Dewar brothers, Rory and Struan were the best swimmers in their respective age groups. Although not an inter-house competition, Nicol entered a team for the School Triathlon. It was made up of Hian Stark on the rowing machine, Rory Dewar swimming and Adam Stephens running. Each member of the team won their respective leg and the team won the competition overall.

Nicol also won the Basketball competition which saw Joël Moll as the highest points scorer and in the Senior Cricket competition there was a 3 way tie for first place. The juniors fared better as they were overall winners with two great wins. However the greatest sporting performances were saved for Sports Day. Ewen Wardman won the Middle age group Victor Ludorum and Adam Stephens was pushing for the senior award with wins in the 800m and 1500m. At the start of the last event Nicol were leading the overall points tally by a single point but in a close Senior 4x100m final Nicol finished third in the race and third in the whole competition. It was the closest competition for years and all competitors performed well. Well done to all those who took part.

One thing many people tell you about Nicol is that it is consistent. Nicol are always there and thereabouts in most things we do. This was highlighted in the House Debating competition and for the 3rd successive year no team from Nicol has made in to the final of the competition.

Nicol also revealed its acting qualities in two different and unique ways: the Inter-House Drama and the INFAMOUS Nicol House Video. On the stage Nicol performed a scene from "Flavio's Disgrace". It saw JJ Watters do an "all too real" impersonation of a young woman and Andrew O'Donnell as a "suave" knight. Douglas Gillen picked up the silverware with one of the awards for best actor. But the greatest performance was saved for the House Video. It is a Nicol tradition that has continued since Christmas of 1998. This year's blockbuster was "Barnes' Angels II" which was directed by Oliver Perrett and Hian Stark. It was the most ambitious video for a long time and was shot on location in many reputable places like the school's front hall and Cheeky Monkey's in Perth. The premiere was held in the Nicol Common Room during the Christmas party and many tutors were surprised to see that they were watching younger versions of themselves with Gordon Alexander playing a large, balding Irishman to great effect.

The Christmas party also saw Mr Kitson's magic tricks as part of the Talent Contest. Although he was more Paul Merton than Paul Daniels, there was no hiding the comedy value. Mr Kitson's Astounding Shirt Trick was a highlight as he, at first, effortlessly took off Michael Seguad's shirt but when it came to Mr Giles' shirt the magic wore off and the shirt was "magically" ripped to shreds. However Mr Kitson spared his own blushes with his levitation trick performed on Mr. Gordon. After the magic tricks standards both the standards and the tastefulness took a severe nose-dive as the Philip "Sisters" performed a notorious drag act.

The Leavers BBQ was also a great talking point as after our food, alternative awards were handed out by Hian Stark and Oliver Perrett. There were some nice, not so nice and frankly awful awards handed out. But the awards I can mention were "Most likely to be in a boy band", which went to Hwasu, and the "Shotgun" award, which was taken by Douglas Gillen. However a number Nicol Boys won some real awards: Daniel Hoffmann achieved the rare success of gaining full colours for sport in Rugby, Hockey and Cricket. As if this wasn't enough, Daniel also gained full academic colours. Paul Esparon took full academic colours. Finlay Wallace won the "Lets Get Ready To Stumble" award.

This year has been highly enjoyable. I have had lots of fun and had a great time doing and supporting activities within the school. Thanks to all the House Prefects and the School Prefects in the House. They have made Adam's, Danny's and my job a lot easier. Also I would like to thank the tutors for the work they have put into house especially Mr Giles who has had to put up with a lot, and to say thanks to Marion, Davina, Caroline and Charlotte. It has been a great last year and I wish everyone good luck for the future.

Hian Stark

“This year has been highly enjoyable.”





RUTHVEN HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

INTER HOUSE COMPETITIONS WON:

TENNIS; CROSS COUNTRY; JUNIOR RUGBY; JUNIOR BASKETBALL;
SENIOR CRICKET (TIE); SWIMMING STANDARDS; ATHLETICS STANDARDS
GOLF; TUG-O-WAR; JUNIOR HOCKEY

Having had the luxury of a head of House in 2002/3 who wrote reports, I now have to try and piece together a summary of the year that was. With me now nearly half-way through my stint in Ruthven, I feel that the House is starting to resemble something of what I would like it to be. The Upper Sixth were a particularly strong group who managed to really lead the House through thick and thin. I have never come across a group of boys, young men, who were so loyal to each other and the House as a group. Yes, they had their moments, as we all do, but they were generally positive ones which I hope will have a positive effect on the years ahead.



As with teaching in general, where good results are due to the hard work of pupils, and poor results are caused by bad teaching – so too is House Mastering judged. A few years back the boys told me that I was failing and we had lost all the silverware – now as we heap it all up for a second consecutive year it is down to the boys' efforts. On this point I must agree, as all have done well in the year's Inter House competitions. It is testament to the efforts of all the House as the boys do it for themselves. The Upper Sixth were very supportive and full of encouragement to all team members and I believe that it is this type of ethos that must, and I trust will, continue in the House in the years ahead. We are all there to support each other in all aspects of our time in Ruthven and Strathallan.

As always the Third Form Retreat proved to be a great success and prefects and juniors alike enjoyed the canyoning activity at Calvine. Socials within school are always a welcome break from the mundane routine of prep on a Friday evening and these were all well supported throughout the year.

We are a sociable bunch and sometimes we even welcome members of Thornbank and Woodlands into the Common Room. The Sixth Form events always bring out the best in "Dress" and this year was no exception.

Ruthven boys played major roles in many key sports teams with the 1st XV dominated by house members (was this the reason there was no Senior Inter House rugby??) We were also well represented in the 1st XI cricket and hockey teams as well as making up half the school's tennis team. Our efforts in Drama and Music have also improved significantly of late with Michael Woodrow landing a lead role in *Les Misérables*. Mark McCutcheon also shone and the stage crew couldn't have done without its Ruthven contingent.

Peter Takac, our HMC Scholar from Slovakia, made valuable contributions to the House Drama production and proved to be a valuable member of the stage crew as well. Richard Harris joined us for a short part of the year on exchange from St Andrew's College – Christchurch, New Zealand. He was hosted by Kit Hayward who had enjoyed the Summer of 2003 with Richard in New Zealand.

The Summer term did not get off to a good start. The shocking death of Revd Trevor Stevens left a huge void in the House and School. He had spent such a short time with us yet he had been able to make such a huge impact on so many people. As with all things we manage to move on and the rest of the Summer term went well. A number of boys received academic prizes at Speech Day, Jamie Wisbey earning special mention for receiving fully four subject prizes – a good year's work well done.

Goodbyes are always difficult and for me this year was always going to be an even more difficult one. The Upper Sixth leaving were Third Form when I arrived in the House – they were my first year all the way through. To them as a group I owe a big thank you along with my Tutorial Staff. Dr D in House does a great job along with all the visiting tutors, PMV, CNC, JDS and EGK. To them thank you for all the time and effort put into the boys – it is really appreciated.

Matron and her team do a great job on the domestic front and finally to Ann and the Kids – thanks for your tolerance. I trust that the years ahead will be as good as the one just passed.

AW

“We are all there to support each other in all aspects of our time in Ruthven and Strathallan.”





STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

SIMPSON HOUSE

One of the many pleasures of Housemastering is starting a new year with all the expectation and excitement brought by returning pupils. As the House fills up at the beginning of the Autumn term there are new faces appearing for the first time, at times unsure and nervous at entering an unfamiliar community, who combine with old hands moving into a new year group with added pressures and expectations, particularly those who are taking public examinations. However, there is a common thread which quickly emerges in both these groups; a sense of engagement and participation in the various activities and competitions that punctuate the House year. This has never, in my experience, been more the case than this year in Simpson. All the boys came to the new academic session with a clear sense of purpose yet, unlike many New Year resolutions that are broken shortly into January, there was a momentum which continued all the way through to the final moments of the summer term.



In the sporting arena [to borrow a phrase from our speaker at Speech Day], there were many notable performances put in by House teams over the course of the year. Whilst never setting the heather truly alight, we seldom disgraced ourselves in any of the competitions: hockey, basketball, rugby, badminton or swimming. However it was more the turn of individuals to take the honours and this was done with distinction. Richie Duncan has continued to carve a piste for himself in the world of skiing. He is already a member of the Scottish Alpine Ski Team and will be eligible to join the GB Senior Olympic squad in a couple of years' time. As well as notching up a string of victories throughout the season, Richie was named as Highland Spring Young Sportsman in recognition of his contribution to the sport thus far. In the inter-house cross country competition, Ben Braithwaite was the best Simpsonian home, coming second in the Junior Boys' race. Tom Fleming came top in his section in the Charity Triathlon, which took place in the Summer term and involved the disciplines of swimming, running and rowing (a distinctly Strathallian take on the traditional triptych of sports). In the same competition, our senior boys, George McWilliams and J-J Chalmers dominated their age group and our team of Richie Duncan and Harry Workman, in combination with Tom Sproat from Freeland, came second in the team division.

In the Scottish School Athletics Championships that took place in June, the House was well represented by Melenik Forde who won a Bronze Medal in the high jump competition and Gregor Duncan who took Silver in the long jump.

It was, indeed, to be on the athletics track that Simpson had its proudest hour, as Sports Day dawned at the end of the first half of the Summer term. House Standards had gone well, a good deal of willing support from all members of the House meaning that we were able to put out a strong team in all events. A combination of solid performances in all areas added to wins by Melenik Forde in the High Jump and our junior four hundred metre relay team, and second places by Gregor Duncan, Greig Brownlie and Richie Duncan in the long jump, discus and javelin respectively, left some three points between us, Ruthven and Nicol going into the final event – the senior four by one hundred metre relay. I cannot remember a Sports Day final filled with so much tension and anticipation as our team of Tom Reid, Robert Henneberg, Melenik Forde and Gregor Duncan as anchor, took to the blocks. In a scene redolent of Chariots of Fire, there was little between all four final runners at the turn into the final hundred metres. However, Gregor Duncan summoned up every last drop of energy to carry the hopes and anticipation of the entire house across the finishing line in first place – securing victory for Simpson for the second time in four years. Junior Victor Ludorum was Tom Fleming and the Senior Victor Ludorum title was shared between Gregor Duncan and Michael Woodrow of Ruthven.

Victory at Sports Day was not only a testament to the skill and commitment of the athletes who took part, but also a positive litmus test of the *esprit de corps* that prevailed throughout the year. This was also every bit in evidence in the performing arts. Senior Drama, which took place in the Autumn term, featured Simpson performing an excerpt from John Godber's comedy Teechers. This was an ambitious piece, involving in excess of a dozen of the Sixth Form both on and back stage. As ever, there was a great degree of teamwork in evidence and, although the piece was not entirely to the adjudicator's taste, Josh Wright won an award for best actor. Also in the Autumn term is the House Music Competition, the standard of which seems to get higher each year. In an ambitious programme, which saw Jake Streatfeild-James performing a vocal solo by Brahms, and the house ensemble presenting a number from Disney's The Little Mermaid, it was the house choir's rendition of the Londonderry Air that took the prize for best boys choir. In addition to these set pieces, members of the house took part in a whole range of concerts and recitals over the year: George McWilliams led the school orchestra with distinction and was joined by Jake Streatfeild-James and Melenik Forde in a Music Scholars' Concert in the spring term.

There were two main theatrical productions this year, both of which relied considerably on the performing talents of Simpson boys. Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, appropriately staged in the run up to Christmas, featured Jake Streatfeild-James, masterful in the role of Malvolio, Tom Gray giving a hilarious comic performance as Sir Toby Belch. Stage management of the production was by Neil Wright, aided by a crew of Simpsonians, namely: J-J Chalmers, Alex Smith, Colin and Donald Skinner, Andrew Bennet and Martin Jones. This strong showing was repeated in Les Misérables, in the spring term, where leading roles were taken by Jake, Roddy Walker, J-J Chalmers, Tom Gray and Duncan Clark; with sound engineering by Greig Brownlie and George McWilliams. Once again the production was overseen by Neil Wright as stage manager, for which he received full colours.

In a year which has been packed full of opportunities for pupils to perform, it has been particularly pleasing to see members of the house give freely of their time and talents in such diverse ways. Tom Fleming was successful in the Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Championships, where he won the intermediate drumming competition; Edward Lawther, George McWilliams, and Jake Streatfeild-James all performed in the Perth Festival of the Arts and Robert McMorris and Duncan Clark continued their success in the field of debating by winning the junior inter-House competition. Proof positive, I feel, that the boys of Simpson are both interested and interesting individuals.



We are often reminded that academic work is at the core of what we do at Strathallan and it has once again been pleasing to see many members of the house achieving success in this area. George McWilliams was named Best in School in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge, putting him in the top three percent of mathematicians in the country. Jure Miodic-Stosic was awarded a place at Cambridge University to read Natural Sciences and Howard Gray, who left last year, returned at Speech Day to be named Dux of School as a result of his outstanding academic performance at A Level.

As I come to the end of what will be my last House report, I crave the indulgence of the editor to offer my thanks to those who have helped contribute to the year. To Peter Fialek, who came to us for the year from Slovakia, thanks for your energy and enthusiasm, you leave as many happy memories with us as I am sure you have taken home. To Gregor and his team of deputies and prefects – thanks for maintaining and nurturing the spirit of the house over the year; to all those who leave for new challenges you take with you our thanks for your contribution and best wishes for the future. To the hard working and dedicated team of tutors and domestic staff, you are the unsung heroes who provide the stability and continuity that has made Simpson such a stimulating environment to be part of.

And so as I sign off for the last time, I would like to wish my successor, Mr Parker, and his family all happiness and success as they take over the House in January. For Katrina, Emma, Miles and me our time in Simpson has been an unforgettable experience, the memories of which will last us a lifetime. The final Housemastering pleasure I leave you with is to be found in the people one meets and shares time with. I have been fortunate in working with a fantastic group of boys and parents over the course of the last four years. The pride I take in the house is merely reflected from the pride individuals take in their own achievements and that parents take in the development and successes of their sons on that part of life's journey taken in Simpson. I know that I will look back on this part of my journey with great affection and gratitude.

IWK



THORNBANK HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



Next year I will definitely try to remember to ask the head of House to write the House report before she leaves school, therefore avoiding this attempt at partial recall from 2003 -04.

So as I sit at the computer at this late stage and before my ailing memory completely lets me down I shall try to record the things that have stuck in our minds about this year.

The highlight of the first term was the House Music competition which was so ably put together by our new head of school Becky Johnstone. She took charge of the whole production with passion and a great degree of professionalism, resulting in a well deserved overall win.

Miss Morrison and I ventured down the A9 with our tutor group on a trip to Glasgow to see the excellent production of "Stomp". No sooner had the show finished than we were all learning to make music wherever and however we could. Our new found skills allowed the Lower Sixth to produce a most original Christmas video.

The spring term brought the magnificent production of Les Mis with many of the girls involved; Claire Leslie, Catriona Martin and Claire Price taking some of the lead parts.

House Drama is something that Thornbank has done well at in the past and this year the girls decided on a pantomime theme of "Cinderella". However as the day of reckoning approached it was felt that this production was not really working. So, at the eleventh hour the girls changed to do a piece from the Crucible (only a slight change there, then). The piece they put together was magnificent and moving with amazing performances by Anna Macdonald and Sarah Robb. Both John and I felt particularly proud of all the girls that evening. OK so we didn't win but it truly did not matter.

As well as the usual mix of athletics Standards, tug-of-war and Sports Day, the summer term brought us a brand new challenge in the form of the Triathlon. Many of the girls signed up to take part as a member of a team but Sam Stark and Vicky Drummond-Hay took up the individual challenge. They met it with courage and determination and completed the course exhausted yet elated.

At the beginning of this year our personal friend Trevor Stevens became part of the Strathallan family and a friend to all of us in Thornbank. He came to support our charity bingo night and took part as a very professional caller. That night provided us with a great deal of fun and laughter and we all now have some wonderful memories of Trevor as we all were totally devastated to learn of his sudden death during that night. We all lived through a numbness that weekend, but the sense of togetherness and support was palpable.

InterHouse competitions continued through the year, some we won and in some we came second. Girls continued to participate in their sports at House, school and national level.

Many thanks go out to all our tutors, Morag and her team and also to Anna Macdonald who was an outstanding head of House. We shall miss all our Upper Sixth as they move on into the real world. Fun, laughter and tears have all been part of life in Thornbank this year, here's looking forward to next year .

PS Sam could you start early with that report for 2005?

SF





WOODLANDS HOUSE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

"WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF MY DATE DIDN'T ARRIVE FOR THE BALL?"

"WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF WE DYED OUR HAIR BLUE?"

"WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...?"

Poor Mr Tod was unceremoniously grilled by the forthcoming Upper Sixth at what was supposed to be an innocent social BBQ before we officially took up the reins of Woodlands. Having then spent the entire summer racking himself and me as to whether he had "passed", we faced the mass of expectant faces on our first evening as Housemaster and mistress. Fortunately there weren't quite as many questions on this occasion but the prospect did not become any more auspicious when we mistook our Head and Deputy Head of House for members of the Third Form on the first evening's hot chocolate get together. (In our defence those who know Lisa and Louise will understand how this could happen).

This year saw the inaugural Third Form retreat. The weekend is spent getting to know one another whilst climbing fifty foot trees, balancing precariously atop crates, paddling through rapids and telling the best joke you know in a bid not to be thrown out of the boat. Ironically the only injury resulted from a pillow fight – an adventurous and dangerous pursuit.

The major event of the autumn term is House music. The House choir encompasses the oldest lag in the Upper Sixth and the newest recruit in the Third Form; the accomplished performer and the stage novice, those who can sing to those whose efforts are normally reserved for the shower. This year the choir, comprising approximately two thirds of the girls in the House, met under the artistic direction of Emma Gordon and under the energetic attentions and choreography of Mel Kotseroglou. To see so many involving themselves and the fun that was obviously had along the way was sufficient reward in itself although the House choir prize on the day was also most welcome. The preparation for House music also provided one of our personal high points of the year. Chen Jin was determined to perform well in the solo to give something back to the House in her final year. The dedication with which she practised was incredible but to be treated to a private, personal performance of her piece in the chapel was a pleasure we will always cherish.

Hot on the heels of the House music competition was Senior Inter House drama. Woodlands' performance of *Our Day Out* by Willie Russell provided notable performances by Pamela Garratt and Ishbel McFarlane. The directors, Nicola Boyd, Alison Drane and Mhairi Gillanders found the diplomacy, command and sensitivity required to direct and produce the piece a significant challenge, but their perseverance won through and produced a strong play.





The silverware that now bedecks the Woodlands Common Room is evidence of the skill, commitment and determination that the girls put in to both the sporting and artistic competitions. There are simply too many to list them all. Wins in hockey, swimming, netball, debating and rounders are but a few. However, particular mention must be made of cross country and athletics Standards. Notoriously unpopular, organising the teams for these competitions is a poisoned chalice, but this year both were effectively and efficiently organised by Anne Kelly and Erin Morison respectively. These events are fundamentally important and although many reluctantly take part, the fact that many girls do it solely for the House is a testament to their character and goodwill. Our successes in winning the junior cross country and in producing the closest Standards result in recent memory (the Third Form winning their year group outright) are a credit to each and every one of the girls who pitched up. Any team is only as good as its reserves and the sporting "stars" of Woodlands have been very ably supported by a host of keen sports players.

This year we initiated a House music evening and were most pleasantly surprised by the success that it proved to be. Lisa and Louise hosted the occasion and contributions ranged from solos to groups and duets. Many who do not normally grace the stage took part and our Big Spenders rounded the evening off spectacularly if a little anxiously for Mr Tod. The art of busking also had its Strathallan inauguration that evening with Mary Shaw Stewart adding to her own charitable feats. The particularly ambitious marathon running of Anne Kelly, not to mention our Fun Run participants and abseilers have all done their bit to ensure that Woodlands maintains its reputation for thinking of others.

Inevitably an article such as this can only highlight a few areas and mention even fewer of the girls who have all given so much to making a success of our first year in the House. Here, we have celebrated the public successes but there are many private moments in the House that deserve to be recorded; the Lower Sixth offering to take responsibility for naming the "todlet"; the fervour and excitement of ball preparations (Madame Crane being the most excited of the lot); the chaos of kitchen painting (apologies for all the clothes that got covered instead of the walls) and the uncanny ability of the girls to devour bacon rolls or ice-cream at a frightening speed are all firmly etched in the memory. Woodlands is a happy and homely place and this would not be the case were it not for the efforts of our dedicated tutors; Janet and her hardworking team and Lisa, Louise and a thoughtful group of prefects, who even braved breakfast to sign in the juniors. Ultimately it is the girls themselves who have made our role so much easier. We feel a genuine pride in the regard and compassion the girls show for one another. The House's tirelessness, its generosity and, indeed, its spontaneity has proven to be invaluable. Thank you.

AT





HEADMASTER'S SUMMER MUSIC

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THERE IS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE IN ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE HEADMASTER'S MUSIC CONCERTS IN WINTER AND IN SUMMER. ALTHOUGH SHOWCASING TALENT OF EQUAL QUALITY THE JUNE CONCERT HAS A LIGHTER FEEL WITH A GREATER PROPORTION OF PIECES FROM A MORE POPULAR REPERTOIRE.

It, also, in recent years, has come to contain spoken pieces. In this context Amyce Smith-Bannister gave a very lively and amusing rendering of Hilaire Belloc's cautionary tale, *Jim, who ran away from his nurse and was eaten by a Lion*. Ishbel McFarlane and Flossie Carpenter presented a piece of physical theatre from *Hannah and Hanna* by John Retullack, a contemporary two-hander about the issue of asylum seekers.

Musical items were spread across the huge range of instruments taught at Strathallan. The most natural instrument of all, the voice, was well represented. Philip Ross, sang *Panis Angelicus*, Tony Pellicci, Elton John's *Your Song*, and Jake Streatfeild-James, in his duet from Don Giovanni with Becky Johnstone, showed that boys' singing at Strathallan is flourishing. They were matched in quality by the girls' performances from Emma Gordon and Vicky Drummond-Hay in *A Boy Like That* from West Side Story, the Musical due to receive the Strathallan treatment during the coming term; by Becky Johnstone in her solo, *Run to You* by Whitney Houston and by Catriona Martin with *Somewhere over the Rainbow* in which she was ably accompanied by Natasha Smith and Rebecca Chalmers.

“...the future of Strathallan music is in good hands.”

In choral singing both the chapel and chamber choir revealed in performances of *Zadoch the Priest* (Chapel) and *O Be Joyful in the Lord*, *Bohemian Rhapsody* and the *Cantique de Jean Racine* (Chamber) that their regular appearances in concerts throughout the term has led to an improvement in quality of voice and confidence of performance.

Michael Segaud in an extract from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* displayed great technical and artistic virtuosity. Shortly after this performance he joined Helen Summersgill, Lisa Bull and George McWilliams in Pachelbel's *Canon in D* in a version for string quartet.

This assured performance was one of a number examples of fine ensemble playing. The Riley Band with *Loch Lomond* showed that the future of Strathallan music is in good hands. The Jazz Band under the skilled leadership of Jim Morrice played one of his own pieces, *We've got something to say*.

Two popular ensemble pieces made a stirring and fitting finale to a very enjoyable evening, *Schindler's List* played by the Wind Band and *Moonlight Serenade* by the orchestra.

IMcF

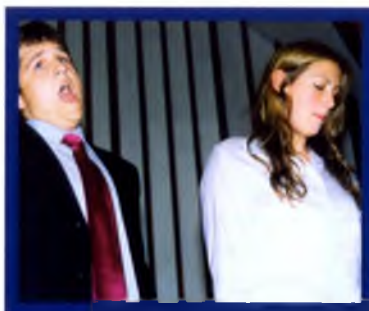




“ Goodness, she's changed a bit and... who's that bouncer on the sofa?!! ”

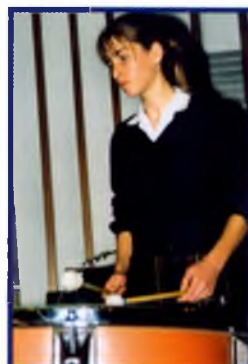
MUSIC

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



Anyone who has had a brush with the music department over the last year will have that phrase 'Les Mis... get over it' ringing in their ears. Yes, it was a year in which we grappled, toiled, wrestled with and – eventually – conquered, that Everest of Musical Theatre productions; Les Misérables. Blood, sweat and tears aside, this was in every way a full school production, with pupils, staff, relatives and friends involved in many long days (and nights) of rehearsals, set painting, stage design, vocal coaching, make-up workshops, choreography... and the like. So enormous was the contribution of everyone who took part that the end result was, quite frankly, emotionally overwhelming and entirely unexpected. Mr Fitzsimmons' review, elsewhere in this magazine, gives a much more detailed account of the production, but it would be remiss of me to pass up the opportunity to congratulate wholeheartedly and thank all of those who had some role in making this the production of a lifetime. Friendships were made, lessons were learned, latent (and prodigious) talents emerged and all of our expectations were exceeded in a quite spectacular way. Writing this now, some months on, I am continually struck by aspects of the department's work which have been affected by the experience of Les Mis. Long may it continue.

Our focus for the year was not, however, entirely tied to Les Misérables; lesser mortals in other educational establishments would perhaps be happy to put all their energy into a major production of this sort but Strathallians, we know, cannot resist the cut-and-thrust of having myriad projects on the go at once. So, an ambitious schedule of concerts in and out of school (over 60 in all), alongside competitions, masterclasses, performing and theoretical examinations gave them something to channel their energies into. A major part of our work was a series of concerts in, and with, the local community: in the Autumn term the Chamber Choir gave a concert at Portmoak near Kinross, later in the term joining forces with Pitlochry & District Choral Society to perform Benjamin Britten's St Nicolas in Dunkeld Cathedral. Alex Beetschen (Form 3) distinguished himself as Young Nicolas, singing his ethereal solos from the organ gallery. The Pickled Boys were brought to life by members of the Chamber Choir, and all were accompanied by the Strathearn Sinfonia – our very own Chamber Orchestra made up of music staff and pupils. This ensemble was at work again shortly afterwards in a concert at school where they performed Mozart's overture to The Marriage of Figaro, his Clarinet Concerto (featuring our woodwind teacher Mr Neil Hamilton as soloist) and Beethoven's Symphony No1. Other events included Masterclasses by Mr Robin Collvil (piano) and Miss Catherine Baker (Music Theatre), the House Music Competition (review elsewhere), Carols in the City at St John's Kirk and the usual round of concerts; 3rd & 4th Form, Riley Informal Concerts, Headmaster's Music.





In the Spring term, alongside rehearsals for the musical production, the popular series of Friday Lunchtime Concerts, the Music Scholars' Concert, an Orchestral & Ensemble Concert, and a recital Sooner or Later given by Catherine Baker and her band (The Gordon Cree Ensemble) enhanced our musical experiences, as did a visit by students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Junior Academy). Our own musicians who attend the Junior Academy played alongside their contemporaries in a varied concert of instrumental and ensemble music.

We began the Summer term by opening the Perth Festival of the Arts lunchtime concert series to a packed audience in St John's Kirk. More Form Concerts (5th & 6th Form), the Riley Expo, another Headmaster's Music and a clutch of 'informal' concerts made up a good portion of music-making this term. However, the crowning glory of the term has to be the Choir Tour to Bolton Abbey in Yorkshire and Newcastle Cathedral. A packed audience in Bolton Abbey welcomed the Chapel & Chamber Choirs who gave a concert as part of the Abbey's 850th Anniversary celebrations. The highlights of this concert were many and varied and the very obvious warmth of the audience's appreciation was testament to our musicians' dedication and professionalism.

There are always new ventures on the agenda, and this year was no different; Mr Walmsley prepared a series of services of Choral Evensong in Chapel, celebrating a number of important liturgical events over the course of the year and culminating in the Chapel Choir's singing Choral Evensong at Newcastle Cathedral as part of the Summer tour. These were well received and of a quality that was quite outstanding, using music ranging from plainsong and renaissance polyphony, through the 18th and 19th centuries, to contemporary settings of the canticles. Also, many pupils enjoyed great success with the new London College of Music Music Theatre exams. Over two dozen qualifications were gained by a variety of pupils across many age groups. Particular congratulations go to Rebecca Johnstone (U6th) and Josh Wright (U6th) on being awarded the Associate diploma (ALCM).

Thanks, as always, go to the outgoing Upper 6th who have, over their time at Strathallan, given unstintingly of their time and talents; especially to George McWilliams (Leader of the Orchestra) and Jake Streatfeild-James (Head of Choir). Also to Mrs Laura Young and Miss Sara Beaton who leave our team to take full-time posts with Perth & Kinross Music Service.

On a final note, we were privileged that, for a large part of the year, Trevor Stevens took up residence in the hallowed quarters of the Music Department. Trevor was a consummate and eclectic musician who gave much to us all in the department over his time with us – not least his good counsel, good humour and friendship. We are the better for having had him among us.

NM & RCAW



“the very obvious warmth of the audience's appreciation was testament to our musicians' dedication and professionalism.”

THE CHAPEL CHOIR TOUR OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

I'm sure people have fun on sports tours. I'm sure that the hockey girls had a fantastic time in Australia. I am not sure, however, that they have as much fun as is inevitable on a choir tour. Whether the trip is to somewhere monumental like Venice or quietly beautiful like Bolton Abbey, people who sing Byrd have more fun.

After the perfect enjoyment of the Italian trip in 2003, it was probably best that the tour this session was 'something completely different' slipped in at the end of the year. It also ensured that we all worked right to the very end of term. Thank you, Music Department.

Though we travelled to the North of England, for one reason or another (one reason being York Minster double booked us and another being we didn't want to go there anyway, so there), this year we sang in Bolton Abbey and Newcastle Cathedral. In order to remind us that Mr Metcalfe knows everyone in the world (a situation that continues to be true even when you leave Strathallan) both places of worship contained lots of people who knew our choirmaster and were willing, though not quite as willing as we had hoped, to tell us stories of the strange non-Perthshire life he once led.



Our two performances, though they were held on consecutive days, were very different from one another. We sang in Bolton Abbey in the evening, having travelled all the way from Forgandenny that day. We had been invited to sing as the culminating piece in their anniversary celebrations. After a rehearsal we could be found on the lawn admiring the view depicted by artists such as J.M.W. Turner, John Bird and William Mellor, over the top of piles of yummys laid out for us by local ladies.



As for the performance, it was Olympic in scale and ability. The programme contained a huge variety of musical styles including our favourite Fauré and John 'it might be cheesy but you know you love it' Rutter. Still riding on the 'Les Misérables' wave, there were solos, duets and whole chorus pieces from the musical, as well as songs from 'West Side Story', in anticipation of next session's big show. Huge problems (like, erm, lack of sheet music) were simply converted into stepping stones onto higher things. Those suffering from end-of-term post-exam flu managed to execute pieces with the sympathy and character required to reduce the audience to tears. Someone was even mad enough to get up and do a Scots poem in front of dozens of English faces, all of whom thought it was 'very good. Of course I didn't have the foggiest what you were on about'. It is fair to say that all nine of the Muses graced the Abbey that night.

With such talent on offer and the continued enjoyment of the audience it is easy to understand why the concert, including interval, lasted about three hours. This was not a problem; everyone had a great time show-casing Scotland so wonderfully. However, we did have to go back to York that night and then to Newcastle the next morning (Bolton Abbey - York - Newcastle is a short-cut little used by holiday-makers, mainly because it's not short).

After a run-through of our favourites in the Abbey, in Newcastle Cathedral we were singing an evensong with all the fixed pieces and psalms that that includes. As a service had been held in the building for Rev. Stephens only weeks before, we were proud to present the sacred programme before a congregation of the faithful.

The tour was very short but very sweet, our enjoyment simply more concentrated rather than reduced. The only disadvantage was that just as we somehow managed to become even more attached to our fellow choristers some of our number, through the misfortune of being Upper Sixth, were forced to leave school.

Oh dear, I'd better stop before I start to overtake Mr Rutter on the corn scale. I don't think I can pull it off the way he does.

Ishbel McFarlane, Woodlands Upper Sixth

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR OF SCOTLAND

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



BLOWN AWAY BY THE WINDY CITY

Chicago is absolutely enormous in every way possible, but no fun if 75% of your belongings are lost due to the breakdown of a Heathrow baggage carousel. Unfortunately this was exactly what happened to half of the National Youth Choir of Scotland when we toured to Chicago to perform an assortment of choral works including Benjamin Britten's 'War Requiem' and William Walton's 'Belshazzar's Feast'. Our first cumulative experience of the United States was the immigration desk, a simple obstacle to tackle, which yours truly managed to cock up. Having arrived at the Youth Hostel we trudged off through the city in search of our restaurant, La Strada. Finally, at what felt like five o'clock the following morning I fell asleep, only to wake up three hours later when my body clock decided that it wasn't two in the morning, but in fact eight. Over the following week we worked hard at improving our rendition of Belshazzar's Feast along with the Grant Park Festival Chorus, our hosts.

Millennium Park, built on top of a giant marshalling yard contains three main features. First is the fountain: two giant cuboids, standing on end facing each other with thirty metres separating them, water pouring down the sides into an underground reservoir, leaving half an inch on the ground. On the facing sides of these cuboids are projected giant faces, which periodically spit water onto the expensive cameras of Japanese tourists. The mercury blob, or the coffee bean as it is officially known is fairly self explanatory, it's surface highly polished so as to reflect the city and passers by. The outdoor stage itself, our concert venue, was panelled with highly polished stainless steel and built in such a way as to suggest a piece of tin foil, crumpled up and thrown in the corner of a room. The strange offshoots around the stage were apparently designed to reflect white noise back into the city. The outdoor theatre was built with seating for five thousand, seating for a further seven thousand being on the grass behind. This Titanic stage made for hair-raising performances of 'Belshazzar' and 'War Requiem', the combined symphony orchestra and one hundred and forty singers producing an unforgettable sound.

Still, it wasn't all hard grind, Andy, Katriona and I spent a whole afternoon in the Lego shop where we constructed a scale model of the Forth Road Bridge, and helpfully informed people that we weren't in fact from San Francisco but Scotland. Another gleeful day was spent going round

the zoo, and commenting loudly that the Armadillo specimens were impressive, but not as large as the ones found natively around Birmingham and Manchester. As we had to provide for ourselves during the evenings we toured a selection of restaurants including an Irish Pub, Beggans, whose sirloin steak I heartily recommend. It was, like many things in America, enormous. Special mention must also go to Rachel who, tired of shilly shallying around in the retail paradise of Michigan Avenue, decided to visit lots of museums.

On our departure, kindly, helpful types from the 'Department of Homeland Security' made sure that baggage check-in was a stress-free and happy experience. For Rachel, discovering that BA had cancelled our flight was one thing, but having her bag opened and her new make-up checked for hidden plastic explosive was quite another. Our Flight was cancelled due to strike action in Heathrow, so BA quite courteously transferred us onto a direct American Airlines flight to Glasgow, without telling the other passengers. We arrived home to find Scotland reassuringly overcast and dreary.

Jake Streatfeild-James





PIPING

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THE PIPE BAND HAS HAD ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR, WINNING A TOTAL OF 46 PRIZES AND AWARDS. THE AWARD WINNING BEGAN DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH PIPE MAJOR CARIN MUNRO WINNING BOTH THE MARCH AND THE STRATHSPEY AND REEL SECTIONS AT GLENISLA HIGHLAND GAMES. ADAM MICHIE WON A TOTAL OF SEVEN PRIZES (INCLUDING THREE FIRSTS) AT THE HALKIRK HIGHLAND GAMES, THE BIRNAM HIGHLAND GAMES AND GLENISLA HIGHLAND GAMES.

Carin was chosen to represent the Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association in the national William Fergusson Memorial Competition against the best young players from all over the British Isles, she performed very well to finish in sixth place overall.

Lachie Stewart did his bit for Ruthven House when he played as solo performer for them at the House Music Competition.

The band then won third prize in the Scottish Schools' Quartet Piping Championships, held this year at Glenalmond.

Carin again made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day.



At The Blairgowrie competition, The Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, eight prizes were won. These were Carin with The Kemp Trophy, first in the senior march, Strathspey and Reel; she then went on to win The Royal Hotel Shield as first prize in the Open Jig Competition. Tom Fleming won The Bullionfield Cup as first prize in the Junior Drumming. Nick Millar won The 51st Highland Division Trophy as first prize in novice drumming, Kit Hayward was placed sixth in novice piping, Duncan Lawson, having moved to the open events took a well deserved second prize in the Intermediate March, Strathspey and Reel. Adam Michie continued his winning ways with second prize in the Junior March and fourth in the Intermediate Jig sections. A good day's work all round!

The Craigmount High School Solo Piping Championship came next, four prizes followed. Carin was named Champion Lady Piper, winning The Mina Hutcheon Memorial Trophy as her prize, she won this by taking third prize, The Polkemmet Shield, in the Senior Piobaireachd and fourth prize in the Senior March, Strathspey and Reel. Adam won fifth prize in the 13 -15 years March, Strathspey and Reel section at his first attempt in the senior classes.

In January, sixteen prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Carin took four of these, second in the Piobaireachd, fourth in the March, Strathspey and Reel, third in Dress & Deportment and sixth in the Jig section. Adam was third in the Junior Jig and fourth in the Junior Piobaireachd. Lachie Stewart was placed sixth in the Novice Piping and Andrew O'Donnell won sixth prize in the Chanter competition at his first attempt. Our drum corps decided not to let the pipers take all the glory on the day!

Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming won The Fishers' Hotel Shield as first prize in the Junior Solo Drumming, then having been invited to play in the senior event; he won that as well, his prize being The Erhard Penker Cup! Nick Millar, following Tom's example, took third prize in the junior event, then went one better, to take second prize in the Senior Solo Drumming. Laura Mackie and Oliver Stevenson, not to be out done, took four prizes in the Tenor Drumming sections. Laura took second prize in both the Novice section and in the Senior section while Oliver won fourth prize in the Novice section and fifth prize in the Junior section. The pipers' had better "watch their backs!" Another good day's work!

Second prize in the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships for Carin kept Strathallan's name to the fore.

At the competition organised by George Watson's College, Strathallan won two prizes in the solo piping events; Adam took second prize in the Junior Section while Carin was placed fifth in the Senior Section.





At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year, we were not in a position to put the band into the competition due to a lack of experienced pipers. We did have some soloists though who kept our name "in the frame". Carin again played very well to win fourth prize in the Senior March, Strathspey and Reel.

The band was able to compete at The Scottish Championships at Dumbarton this year, but with a very small band in terms of numbers. They played well to finish in eighth place from an entry of twenty two bands. This was remarkable considering the minimum number of players we could field and that Ian Tourney was playing in his first competition, having only started learning in September 2003. Well done Ian! Speech Day this year saw a good display from the band on the lawn. A large group of new pipers marched on to show off their new skills, for a spirited rendition of The Piper's Prayer, The Skye Boat Song and Loch Rannoch as our tribute to the late Reverend Trevor Steven. With lots of practice, we hope most of them will be able to play the whole display next year.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships held this year at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh. Carin won a shield for taking second prize in the Senior Solo Piping Championship. Drum Sergeant Tom Fleming went "one better" by winning The George Braid Memorial Cup and being named Intermediate Solo Drumming Champion. He won The Junior Championship last year, are we on the way to another treble? (Carin won the junior, intermediate and senior piping championships in consecutive years)! Congratulations Tom!

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



Bass and Tenor Drumming – Oliver Stevenson; Most Improved Piper – Angus Stephenson; Most Improved Chanter Player – Samantha Gray; Chanter – Kirsty Hay; Novice Piping – Michael Cachia; Junior Piping – Adam Michie; Senior Piping, Piobaireachd, Hornpipe & Jig – Carin Munro; Best Contribution to the band – Richard Quibell.

The solo contest finished with us saying goodbye to a number of players who have been loyal to the band throughout their time at Strathallan. They are Carin Munro, Laura Mackie, Richard Quibell and Lachie Stewart. Carin in particular has almost single handed kept our name to the fore, winning prizes at almost every contest in which she has taken part. Laura has been our bass drummer for many years with Richard and Lachie doing their bit to keep the band ticking over for a number of years. We wish them every success in the future.

We look forward to the challenges of next year.

JSRH



TWELFTH NIGHT OR WHAT YOU WILL

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

SO WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

**'NO PROBLEM!' SAID THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN (SAM SMITH)
AS DOUGHTY NARRATOR, 'I'LL TELL YOU.'**

In Illyria-on Sea circa 1959, love-sick Duke Orsino (Tom Hine) of beach hut number 31 adored virginal Lady Olivia (Ishbel McFarlane). She, however, had taken a shine to evasive Cesario (Vicky Drummond-Hay), who happened to be a girl, Viola, disguised as a boy. This cross-dressing made it deliciously awkward to handle the passion he/she developed for Duke Orsino, while trying to fend off Lady Olivia...

As if that weren't enough, first Feste, the flighty Fool (Alex Beetschen), then outrageously drunken Sir Toby (Thom Gray), ridiculous Sir Andrew (Jamie Morrison) and finally Lady Olivia herself thought that newly-arrived stalwart Sebastian (Sean Murray) was Cesario, as he and Viola looked so alike (being, as they were, long-lost siblings).

You get the drift? No wonder Sebastian exclaimed 'Or am I mad, or else this is a dream' as Olivia hurried him to the altar!

Just to add to the confusion, Olivia's beach hut (number 13) was the source of a hilarious sub-plot in which her feisty maid, Maria (Flossie Carpenter) tricked magnificently pompous Malvolio (Jake Streatfeild-James) into thinking that Lady Olivia, his employer, would take him to her bosom if he changed his image just a tad by putting on smiles and (yes!) yellow cross-gartered stockings. Fabian, the cheeky chef (Malcolm Fraser), could hardly contain his glee as Maria's 'love-letter in the sand' took effect and the amorous butler was certified insane.

Laugh? I nearly wept!

Yet soon, in contrast to the simpering happy-ever-afters (Olivia n' Sebastian; Orsino n' Viola), the mercifully reprieved Malvolio went storming out with 'I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you'. This brought the play to a sobering end, deepened by the haunting singing of Feste's farewell, 'The Rain It Raineth Every Day'.

The festival of fun was over and real life was on its way...

Shakespeare might have been a little surprised by the innovations made to the text by Tracey Irish, who wrote the adaptation for the Caryl Press, and by Mrs. MacFarlane's imaginative seaside setting, but the actors conveyed characters true to the originals and the theme of the play was intact. Indeed, the convincing 1950s' costuming, plus Mr Thompson's ton of sand on stage and fine comic performances by such a large cast, made the play accessible and enjoyable for both old and young, as the appreciation of invited primary school audiences revealed. Congratulations to all for putting on such a worthwhile evening's entertainment as this year's school play.

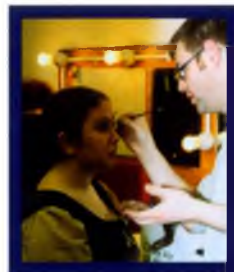
EMA





LES MISÉRABLES

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



It is hard to believe that the story of Jean Valjean, Eponine, Marius and Javert, and the struggling poor of Paris is but a sprightly 142 years old. Its tale of good and evil, triumph over adversity, and the innate kindness of one man is just as relevant today as it was for the people of post-revolutionary France and America of the 19th Century. When *Les Misérables* was published by Victor Hugo in Brussels in 1862, the critics panned it, the French government banned it, but popular adulation made it a best seller, not only in Hugo's native France, but also among the Confederates of the American Civil War who apparently 'read it voraciously'. Hugo was initially surprised by the book's runaway success, though he had written 'I don't know if it will be read by everyone, but it is meant for everyone. It addresses ... the republics that harbour slaves as well as empires that have serfs. Social problems go beyond frontiers...'

The first stage performances of the work, put on in Paris at the Palais des Sports after an initial demonstration recording by the composers Alain Boublil and his partner Claude-Michel Schönberg, were seen by over 500,000 people before an English language production in the mid-1980s brought the show to London's West End.

Most adults dread attending (and reviewing!) school shows and concerts because they think they have to be polite about well-meaning amateurs, and callow youths and lasses who think they can both act and sing like pros, or because they have to keep colleagues happy with finely-turned phrases of praise. Not, however, on this occasion. Strathallan has earned something of a reputation in recent years for high-calibre performances of well-known West End shows, and this performance of *Les Misérables* was no disappointment. From the time that the chain-gang entered uttering the old lags' mantra 'Look Down! Look Down!', to the final encore chorus of 'One day more', the capacity audience was entranced by the eloquence and passion that abounded in the performance. This was no ordinary production – the acting and characterisations were utterly believable, the look was absolutely stunning, and the overall production values the best yet produced by Iain Kilpatrick and Jim Salisbury's backroom staff of Adam Streatfeild-James (lighting), Alastair Thomson and Mike Wilson (stage-crew and set builders), and Tom Gray and George McWilliams on sound. These workers are always the unsung heroes of productions and here deserve their place in the adulation.

Where to start? With a cast of over 50 individuals in the chorus and multiple parts, not to mention 10 principal roles, this was a monumental undertaking by a School – indeed it was only the second performance of the *Les Misérables* Schools edition attempted by any School in Scotland – and so we were (almost) in ground-breaking territory.

The hero of the show is Jean Valjean. He is on stage most of all, deals with the most varied of music, and is the key character that knits together what might otherwise have been some very disjointed scenes. The part was passionately pulled off by Captain of School Tom Hine who played with the words and notes, leaned on phrases and words for dramatic effect, and who sang two scenes in a very brave falsetto which was very effective at getting across the emotional and inner faith of the convict Valjean. Valjean, a man who rose to be town mayor until discovered as a convict on the run (prisoner 24601), and whose humanity and self-effacing sacrifice to atone for his past were convincingly portrayed by an actor whose dramatic stature increased as the evening wore on.

Valjean's nemesis, Javert – police inspector and bloodhound – was played by Jake Streatfeild-James who maturely captured the right amount of pomposity and hubris of the thwarted officer of the law. This is a man who in the end admits his fault, repents of his unbending attitude to the law, and acknowledges Valjean's kindness by throwing himself off a cliff. This would have been a very easy part to ham up, but Jake invested it with just the right sort of menace and doggedness.

Student revolutionary leader Enjolras was played by Michael Woodrow who had great stage presence and authority in his performance as the leader of the student rebels manning the barricades, and plotting the revolution all over again. Here was a real leader and hero who died defending his comrades in battle.

Eponine – Catriona Martin – put in an intelligent and committed performance as Marius' frustrated admirer, and the daughter of the villainous Thenardiens. Her emotional performance of 'On my Own' brought a huge and deserved ovation, and not a few tears from the audience. Her final scene, dying in the arms of her love Marius – 'A little fall of rain' – was heart-rending.





As Marius, the vulnerable voice of young Andrew O'Donnell had the mixture of power, emotion and innocence that captured the role superbly. His scenes with Emma Gordon's Cosette tingled with passion and chemistry, and were among the several highlights of the evening. This was an outstanding debut.

Cosette was played by two young female singers Claire Price and Emma Gordon, at different stages of her development. Each captured the sweet and delicate nature of the abused youngster who is left an orphan on the death of her mother, the factory worker and erstwhile prostitute Fantine, and who is used as a pawn in the villainous machinations of the Thénardières. Emma's duet with Andrew O'Donnell, 'A Heart full of Love', was one of many poignant moments in the evening's entertainment

Fantine, played by Claire Leslie, was in many ways one of the pivotal characters of the show whose plight gives Valjean a reason for continuing his disguise, and who provides the vehicle for his redemption – looking after her daughter Cosette. Claire Leslie's delicate and rather vulnerable turn of voice was just right for the part. Her tenderness and emotion again came through in two of the show's more intimate and poignant scenes 'I dreamed a dream...' and with Valjean just as she dies and he vows to remain true to his promise to take Cosette under his protection.

The Thénardières - Sean Murray and Rachel Davies - all but stole the show in their two set-piece scenes - 'Master of the House', and the 'Wedding Chorale' scene near the climax of Act 2. Both acted with great assuredness in their 'character' parts, portraying the worst characteristics of the thieves and wretches 'on the make' with every dodgy scheme going, from child slave labour to inn-keeping, to running a street gang of thieves, and then conning their way into the wedding celebrations of Marius and Cosette - trying to put a damper on festivities, and con one last payment.

Inevitably one picks out only highlights of the evening, but the commitment and energy of the performers (and let us remember that they are all school pupils) belied their inexperience. The acting was nothing if not utterly convincing in the emotions they intended to impart to the audience. This was real story-telling in both action and music which would put many another production to shame and, apart from clapping at the end of the show-piece songs, the audience sat as if transfixed by the enormity of the undertaking, and the achievement, of this fine Strathallan Company. Messrs Kilpatrick and Salisbury, together with music director Neil Metcalfe and his band, not to forget vocal and dramatic coaches Catherine Baker, Heather Boyd and Andrew Jenkins, are to be congratulated on this monumental achievement in Strathallan's musical drama history. This was high-quality music-making which will take some surpassing in the future – as they say - 'Follow that!'

RHF



SENIOR HOUSE DRAMA

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



This competition shows that a fine evening's entertainment can be provided at short notice and with limited time for preparation, bearing in mind how busy a large number of the participants are with other commitments. It is also a showcase for the dramatic talents of many who would never consider auditioning for the major school productions.

Each house is required to perform an extract of around 15 minutes from a published play or screenplay. Plays from a variety of eras and styles were chosen. Simpson House selected "Teechers" by John Godber. This is a comic piece which entertained the audience so much that the laughter almost drowned out the actors' voices. Roddy Walker used good comic timing while Alistair Mather displayed strength and confidence in his performance and Josh Wright seemed very much at home in a girl's role. In Woodlands' version of "A Good Day Out" there were fine performances from Rosie Stanford and Mary Shaw-Stewart. Lisa Bull, too, displayed good stay and presence. In this scene, with a large cast, there was slick communal playing.

It is brave of pupils to tackle a very serious scene because there is always a temptation to choose something that will get laughs. Thornbank did this with a powerful and sincere rendering of the trial scene in "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. There were fine performances from, amongst others, Flossie Carpenter, Sara Pattinson, Sarah Robb and Jo Greer.

Nicol's piece was in the *commedia dell'arte* tradition with an extract from "Flavio's Disgrace" by David Griffiths. Fraser Philip played *Arlecchino* very well, with a well-projected voice and a good Italian accent. There were other commendable performances from Douglas Gillen, Andrew O'Donnell and Hian Stark.

Where some scenes might not have been familiar to many in the audience, that surely cannot be said of Freeland's choice, "Fawlty Towers". Tom Hine managed to out - Basil Basil and Jamie Morrison with his great talent for comic performance made a wonderfully unselfconscious Sybil. But full marks must go to Takanori Kashino, a Japanese pupil playing a Spanish Manuel.

Ruthven chose "The Life of Brian". David Coaton did suit his long wig! Marc Best made an imposing narrator and was equalled in quality of diction by Mark Croal.

The adjudicator gave "Best Actor Awards" to Flossie Carpenter, Josh Wright, Douglas Gillen and Pamela Garratt. Ruthven won "Best Direction" and Freeland "Best Production". (An unofficial award of "Best Narrator" was made to Marc Best.)

The adjudicator summed up the evening by saying, "We've had fun tonight".

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SPEECH & DRAMA

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

ISHBEL HAS WINNING WAY WITH WORDS...

was the headline in *The Courier* after Ishbel McFarlane's outstanding national success in a speech and drama competition. After her honours results in the Gold Medals of The Speaking of Verse and Prose, Public Speaking and Certificate of Merit in Reading for Performance she was invited to LAMDA in London as one of the top 5 scoring candidates in the UK and Ireland in advanced communication skills. Following the morning's competition where she performed her gold medal verse and prose poem *Two Look at Two* by Robert Trust, she was placed first, and in the evening, along with winners in the intermediate and junior categories, performed the poem in front of a packed audience in the MacOwan Theatre in Earls Court. She was then presented with a certificate and a cheque for £500 by actress, Anna Chancellor, well known for her roles as Miss Bingley in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* and Duck Face in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Ms Chancellor praised Ishbel's performance of the poem, describing it as transfixing.

The competition, which is sponsored by the Allied Irish Bank (GB) is run annually and Ishbel is the first Scot to win in any category.

She is also the first Strathallan pupil to have gone through the grades and medals, having taken 28 in all, and to have achieved one of LAMDA's diplomas, the ALAM in public speaking. Let's hope she will be the first of many.

“Ms Chancellor praised Ishbel's performance of the poem, describing it as transfixing.”

From the successes of the summer holidays, we return to last Autumn and the annual Burns Club Festival. Here, once again, Catriona Martin won the Secondary School trophy for Scots Song. Bronwyn Lear achieved the primary age group trophy with her rendering of Perth Poet, William Souter's, poem about a marsh bee *The Drucken Fugie Toddler*. Secondary age group runner-up was Tom Fleming, while trophy winner was Ishbel McFarlane who was awarded 100% for her performance of a section of *Tam O'Shanter*. She has now won The Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich 5 times.

Once again Strathallan pupils were the recipients of all the major trophies at the Perthshire (Competition) Festival (now called *Perform in Perth*). The Perth Burns Club Trophy went, fittingly enough, to Samantha Burns; The William Soutar Tassie to Jonathan McCashin and The Year of the Bible Quaich to Amyce Smith-Bannister. Marc Best achieved 3 distinctions for Bible, verse and Shakespeare (in which he came first). There was a first in Soutar recitations for Phoebe Shaw Stewart. The combined force of Forms I and IJ won the choral verse speaking class. Ishbel McFarlane achieved honours and firsts for Bible reading and Burns recitation and distinction for Shakespeare.

Other distinctions in speech classes went to Duncan Clark, Henry Jones, William Campbell-Gibson, Lucy Grieve, Lizzie Sinclair, Oliver Bain, Kathryn Sutherland, Joe Corlett, Natasha Potts and Natasha Porritt.

In music classes Claire Price achieved honours and 2 trophies, The M T Thomson honours and 2 trophies, The M T Thomson Memorial Trophy for Scots Songs and The Joan and Stewart Tennant Quaich for the best individual competitor in vocal classes (under 18).

Alex Beetschen's musical versatility gained him The Challenge Medal for Boy Trebles and a distinction in piano solo. Two other music honours went to Clement Ip in open piano recital and Gemma Chance in Scots Songs.

On Saturday May 1st, two Earnside coaches set off in convoy to Edinburgh Academy for the Edinburgh (Competition) Festival speech and drama day. Every pupil in Riley took part in at least one class. Certainly all did the choral verse speaking. II set 1 came first with W H Auden's *Night Mail*, equal second were Forms I & IJ with *Little Red Riding Hood* and the *Wolf* by Roald Dahl and II set 2 with *A Mile and a Bittock* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Riley pupil, Jamie Schofield, won the story telling class. In Burns (under 17) Joe Corlett came first with Jonathan McCashin runner-up. Other distinctions went to Lucy Grieve and Sam Lipworth.

Ishbel McFarlane in the over-17 age group classes achieved 4 firsts and a second. Two of the firsts in the prepared reading of a poem and own choice recitations gained her honours for an outstanding performance. A similar accolade went to Amyce Smith-Bannister in verse speaking (12 to 14 age group).

Never one to resist a challenge, Alex Beetschen entered the English song competition which involved singing a piece (Alex chose *The Roadside Fire* from *Songs of Travel* by R L Stevenson, set to music by Vaughan Williams) also reciting it as a poem. Although in the younger age group Alex was the overall winner and qualified as the Edinburgh representative to attend the national English Song final, which is yet to take place.



ESSAY COMPETITION

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

Another one never to resist a challenge is the headmaster who decided that LAMDA exams were such an achievement that he would hand out all certificates in chapel. He thus landed himself with the task of presenting 160 certificates, in total, throughout the year, 78 with honours, 67 distinctions and fifteen passes (no-one failed). It would be impossible to list here all the results so I shall mention only the highest achievers.

In grade exams the highest achievers were Amyce Smith-Bannister with a massive 90% for verse and prose grade 6 and another honours for junior acting medallion. Joe Corlett and Henry Jones achieved honours for both acting and mime and both were part of II set 1's honours success in choral verse speaking. Both boys added a distinction to their achievements in spoken English. Another double honours achiever was William Campbell-Gibson in acting and reading for performance. He, like Joe and Henry, also gained honours in choral speaking.

“In grade exams the highest achievers were Amyce Smith-Bannister with a massive 90% for verse and prose grade 6 and another honours for junior acting medallion.”

Other high honours marks went to the boys of IJ in group acting, Forms I and IJ in choral verse speaking, Bronwyn Lear, Jonathan Dickson and Kirsty Niven in acting. Lucy Grieve in reading for performance, Sam Lipworth and Oliver Bain in acting, Chloe Lindsay in verse and prose. Natasha Porritt and Rachel Terrell achieved very high marks for acting. Various groups of actors and improvisers from Riley to Form IV also gained honours.

In medal exams, apart from Ishbel's communication results, there were other achievements. There were distinctions for Flossie Carpenter and Ishbel in gold medal acting. Other medals went to Mhairi Gillanders, Nicola Boyd, Marc Best and Sara Pattinson (acting silver) and Alison Drane and Abby Riley (acting bronze). Emma Fairlie achieved silver medal in the speaking of verse and prose and Jake Streatfeild-James, bronze medal in public speaking.

One final memory from LAMDA this year – Henry Lee achieved 2 honours certificates in group exams, once for being a hedgehog's wife, and the other time for being a chair!

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PAISLEY UNIVERSITY SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION

HAVING COME THIRD LAST YEAR IN THIS COMPETITION, ISHBEL MCFARLANE TRIED AGAIN, AND WAS PLACED SECOND.

The title of the competition was "Books for Scotland". The task was described as follows:

"Starting from the assumption that, in Europe at least, books and literature are vital ingredients of a national culture, competitors were asked to nominate what book or books helped define life in Scotland for themselves".

The judges commented on Ishbel's work as follows:

"A well documented discussion of a local poet, William Soutar and his "Diaries of a Dying Man", won second prize for Ishbel McFarlane of Strathallan School. Her essay combined personal background with a wide-ranging and well argued discussion of the author in the context of defining Scottish culture."

The prizes were presented by Alexander Stoddart, the prominent sculptor whose studio is in the grounds of Paisley University. This was an extra stroke of luck for Ishbel as she had been studying his work as part of a project for A-level Art. He made a perfect day even more perfect for Ishbel by inviting her to visit the studio. As part of her prize she was presented with book tokens, £30 for herself and £100 for the school. Ishbel requested that the £100 be used to buy books of Scottish literature for the school library.

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SALVETE 04

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	YEAR	HOUSE	ADM DATE	LEAVE DATE
Sam R	Graves	S5	Freeland	20/04/04	03/07/04
Dick J	Hartgerink	S6	Freeland	01/09/04	
Matej	Janecek	S5	Freeland	01/09/04	8/10/04
Jamie D	King	S2	Freeland	01/09/04	
Ian R	McKenzie	S2	Freeland	01/09/04	
Nick	Morris	S5	Freeland	01/09/04	
Adam D K	Piper	S2	Freeland	01/09/04	
Rafael S	Plesmann	S5	Freeland	01/09/04	
Fergus J	Bell	S4	Nicol	02/06/04	25/03/04
Robert Ford	Cachia	S2	Nicol	01/09/04	
Hugh	Crawford	S3	Nicol	01/09/04	
Ross M	Howie	S2	Nicol	01/09/04	
Shahid	Khalfan	S5	Nicol	10/10/04	
Jonas S	Koslar	S5	Nicol	05/01/04	
Yue Fai	Lau	S5	Nicol	01/09/04	
Alexey	Levin	S2	Nicol	06/06/04	
Felix	Luttge	S5	Nicol	01/09/04	
William H H	McLean	S6	Nicol	01/09/04	
Jamie C	Noakes	S2	Nicol	01/09/04	
David J	Stewart	S4	Nicol	01/09/04	
Mark S	Walker	S5	Nicol	01/09/04	
Andrew A	Whitelaw	S2	Nicol	01/09/04	
Di	Zhu	S5	Nicol	01/09/04	
Ashlee J	Barnett	S1	Riley	01/09/04	03/07/04
Iain D W	Bonn	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Elizabeth S	Cachia	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Ellie E M	Campbell	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Jack C	Chartres	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Torquil J	Curran	1	Riley	22/04/04	
Torii P	Douglas-Song	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Azlyn E C	Edens	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Lawrence D	Elliott	S1	Riley	08/03/04	
Ciara G	Elwis	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Tom C	Esparon	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Victoria Rose	Evans	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Alexander E R	Falconer	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Siobhain J	Forbes	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Yasmine A	Forbes	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Lucy M	Garven	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Kirsty A	Glasgow	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Jasper B H	Gray	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Stuart G	Gray	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Sophie A	Howell	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Fiona J	Johnston	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Skye G	Johnston	1	Riley	22/04/04	
Callum J	Kettles	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Kirstin L	Lamotte	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Heather A	Larson	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Kizzy	Lindsay	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Mark	McAlister	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Etienne	Mace	S1	Riley	02/06/04	
Joanna E	MacLachlan	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Katy R M	Marshall	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Joanna	Meiklem	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Hamish W	Mitchell	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Samuel	Nicholson	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Danielle	Owen	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Olivia M W	Quick	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Graham C	Ramsay	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Charles Alasdair	Rutherford	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Gina K	Taylor	S1	Riley	01/09/04	

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	YEAR	HOUSE	ADM DATE	LEAVE DATE
Katie F	Vallot	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Oliver D	Wale	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Keith G J	Wigley	1	Riley	01/09/04	
Paul G E	Wigley	S1	Riley	01/09/04	
Chun San	Wong	1	Riley	01/09/04	
James Frank	Wright	0	Riley	01/09/04	
Paul M	Bilan	S4	Ruthven	09/05/04	
David R	Cameron	S2	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Johann F C	Harms	S5	Ruthven	01/09/04	
John S	Harrison	S2	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Justin N	Javier	S5	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Jack A	Kemp	S3	Ruthven	22/04/04	
Ben D T	Quick	S2	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Zhi Yuan	Tan	S4	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Jile	Zhou	S5	Ruthven	01/09/04	
Mohammed	Abdo	S3	Simpson	01/09/04	
Fergus I W	Baird	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
James W	Espie	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
William H	Farmer	S2	Simpson	05/01/04	
Alastair J	Hunt	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
Brendan	Jennings	S5	Simpson	01/09/04	
Alexander	Korsik	S2	Simpson	22/04/04	03/07/04
Stephen J	Lyons	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
Scott A	Marshall	S3	Simpson	29/09/04	
Etienne P	Melville	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
Magnus E	Olafsson	S2	Simpson	01/09/04	
Andrew	Peat	S5	Simpson	01/09/04	08/10/04
Maximilian C	Schirmer	S5	Simpson	22/04/04	03/07/04
David J	Taylor	S5	Simpson	01/09/04	
Steven Richard	Turnbull	S6	Simpson	01/09/04	
Lin Xiong	Wu	S5	Simpson	01/09/04	
Anne	Alnor	S4	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Victoria Louise	Bell	S4	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Emma C	Campbell	S4	Thornbank	22/4/04	
Yuliya R	Filonenko	S3	Thornbank	22/4/04	03/07/04
Natalie M	Hay	S2	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Rosanna M S	Innes	S5	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Lifen	Li	S5	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Finola D	Lundgren	S2	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Caitlin E	Lyons	S2	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Isabell J	Mastall	S5	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Joanne R	Peek	S5	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Catherine	Rutherford	S5	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Daniela	Velasquez	S3	Thornbank	01/09/04	
Suzanna Moira	Braithwaite	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Julia	Kupfer	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Sara E	Lundgren	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Lorna J	Lunney	S5	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Mardi M M	MacGregor	S5	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Catriona M	MacKenzie	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Emma P	McNeill	S3	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Heather J	Mitchell	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Katherine L	Mitchell	S3	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Josephine Clare	Roscoe	S5	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Rachel E	Scott	S4	Woodlands	22/04/04	
Jiaxin	Sun	S5	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Lauren	Sutherland	S2	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Rebecca Jane	Taylor	S3	Woodlands	01/09/04	
Ekaterina A	Ustinova	S2	Woodlands	06/06/04	03/07/04
Xixi	Wang	S5	Woodlands	01/09/04	



ART & DESIGN



KATIE GIBSON

'Life Painting' acrylic
LVI



CHARLOTTE TRACEY

'Natural Forms' poster colours
II



JUDI CARGILL
 'A Highland Dance Triptych' oil on canvas
 UVI



FRASER PHILLIP
 'Dualchas' woodcut
 UVI



LIZZIE SINCLAIR
 'Natural Forms' poster colours
 Il Form



MICHELLE LESLIE
 'Ages of Beauty' mixed media
 UVI

ART & DESIGN



JIN CHEN
'Rituals' pastels
UVI



KIRSTY HAY
'The Viewing Public' constructed woodcut
LVI



EUAN CONNELL

'Mask Painting' poster colours
III Form



STEFAN PRETTY

'Mask Painting' poster colours
III Form



GEMMA CHANCE

'Mask Painting' poster colours
III Form



EMILY MORRISON

'Mask Painting' poster colours
III Form



KATIE GIBSON
'Rituals' tempera
LVI



RILEY HOUSE
Mask Project
I Form



OLIVIA HALVORSEN

'Prague Forms' mixed media
LVI



EUAN ALLARDYCE

'Heritage'
V Form

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KATIE GIBSON
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MICHAEL WOODROW
Hardwood block bench
AS Design and Technology

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



FINLAY WALLACE

Flat-pack dining room unit
GCSE Resistant Materials



MATTHEW BREBNER

Scandinavian style coffee table
AS Design and Technology



KIT HAYWARD

Coffee table in the Scandinavian/British style
AS Design and Technology



ROSIE HUNT

Modern coffee table
AS Design and Technology



LIAM CARRAGHER

Stereo storage system
GCSE Resistant Materials



CRICKET

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

The success of 2003 was always going to be hard to live up to, but the 1st XI of 2004 did so in many ways. The vast majority of the side remained the same, but their dedication to achieving higher standards, particularly in the fielding, comfortably surpassed earlier efforts and those of most of our opponents throughout the season. One other factor that ought to be mentioned at this stage is the tremendous team spirit engendered by Ross Anders and his deputy Tom Hine, ably supported by our fielding 'general' Danny Hoffman, which saw the side through some harrowing times in the Festival at Dulwich. I am sure that Nick Du Boulay would want to join me in thanking the departing Upper Sixth players for their superb attitude. It has been a privilege to coach them.



What of the results? Well, seven wins more than balanced the three losses we suffered towards the end of the season when inclement weather broke up our momentum, and the tie with Fettes will not easily be forgotten by anyone who watched a pulsating match that finished on the last ball of a seven hour game. Wins were achieved against Perth Northern by 7 wickets as we bowled them out for 80 (Jono Becks 5-20). Loretto, whom we bowled out on the stroke of lunch for 63 runs (Charlie Leadbetter 3-16), were beaten by 7 wickets in 14 overs; Glenalmond were bowled out for 114 just after lunch with all the bowlers contributing, before we made heavy weather in overcoming their score in the face of some good bowling on a difficult track. Had it not been for a captain's innings of 26 not out from Ross Anders then we may not have managed to win at 'Coll' for the first time in nearly thirty years.

Sandwiched in between the Glenalmond match and the game against the Scottish XL Club was an astonishing match with Fettes College. Put in to bat on a steamy May morning, on a greenish track, we totalled 212 for 2 declared about an hour after lunch. Tom Hine and Jamie Cachia put on 127 for the first wicket – Cachia scoring his first half-century – before Hine and Graves took us towards the declaration, Hine scoring a superb unbeaten 102. In reply Fettes got off to a quick start after tea with Forsyth and MacLennan smashing our bowling around the park. At 143-3 the game looked over for us, but a fortuitous run-out and some tight bowling by the change bowlers, Graves and Stephens, let us back into the game. Charlie Leadbetter took two wickets in his last two overs, and with a run-out on the last ball as their last pair turned for the winning run, our comeback was secured in a frantic and confusing finish watched by a large crowd of supporters from both schools. This was a superb match played in a great spirit, but one that we probably felt the happier about.

The Scottish XL Club came, scored 189 before declaring (Jono Becks 4-34), then watched as our top three scored the lion's share of the runs (not for the last time in the season) before Jamie Cachia hit the winning boundary in only the 43rd over. We managed to dispatch Dollar for a paltry 64 (Jono Becks 5-8) on a wet wicket in mid June in notching up another 7 wicket win, but our two best victories came against The Edinburgh Academy and the Strathallians with our top order batting proving to be outstanding.

Against a good Strathallian side, we bowled poorly and lost Malcolm Jack for the rest of the season with a torn back muscle, but rallied successfully to bowl the Old Boys out for 190. Although we lost Tom Hine to the second ball of the innings, Jamie Cachia combined with our resident Australian, Sam Graves, to knock off the runs without further loss. Sam scored an unbeaten 103 and Jamie once again got into the sixties in a superb and mature run chase. Against The Edinburgh Academy we again bowled poorly on a good batting track, but had the fortune to be in the game when we bowled them out for 214 (Ross Anders 5-40). There was still plenty of time left to grab a positive result, and after the fall of Cachia at 82, we proceeded to bat superbly with Tom Hine unbeaten on 106 and Sam Graves unbeaten on 56. This was all the more remarkable as the score was reached in only 36 overs.



“Hi there, you guys. It's me and Danny here in the outfield. Has Fitz finished those pies yet?”





Our first defeat came at the hands of an MCC side eager for revenge after our victory in 2003. Whilst we rather spoiled the script by bowling them out for 183 (Ross Anders 4-49), they had too much firepower on a sporting wicket, and we subsided to a disappointing 128 all out in one of the few games in which our lower order had to bat.

“When the rain came with Ampleforth on 68-1 we had rather recovered some pride, and wondered what might have been if the match had gone the natural distance.”

After the end of our regular season, we travelled south to Dulwich College for our Festival with the hosts, and new opponents Taunton School and Ampleforth College. I think it is fair to say that we were thoroughly outclassed by both Taunton and Dulwich, 'though we did rather redeem ourselves in the field with some outstanding catching from Danny Hoffman and Robin Snape. The trip also saw the debut of some younger players, and Joss Beharrel can be pleased with his comeback after an initial mauling in the Taunton match. On both the first two days it was, ironically, our batting that let us down on good tracks, but our domestic circuit does not prepare us for such hostile speed, or the turn that a good leg-spinner can extract. The last day saw us put up a much better performance against Ampleforth. Although the top order failed once more, with the honourable exception of Sam Graves, we totalled a competitive 186 all out, with old hand David Coaton shining in an innings of 61, helped by old 'lags' Hoffman and Stephens. When the rain came with Ampleforth on 68-1 we had rather recovered some pride, and wondered what might have been if the match had gone the natural distance.

Inevitably one picks out highlights of the season, but what is above can only be a snapshot of what was still a very good season. Our bowlers generally did not perhaps do themselves full justice over the season, though we did bowl out all our school opponents in Scotland. Jono Becks, with 28 wickets at 13.36 and three hauls of five or more wickets in an innings, was the spearhead of the attack, ably abetted by Charlie Leadbetter (16@16.81) and Ross Anders (20@15.9).

In the batting department, Sam Graves finished top with 375 runs at just under 42 per innings, Tom Hine scored two unbeaten centuries to average just under 40 with the most runs (392) of any batsman, and Jamie Cachia in his first full season as opener did well with 259 at an average of 37. Hardly anyone else had the opportunity to make many runs, so well did the top three bat. In the field I have to mention our 'offside-trio' – Danny Hoffman, Robin Snape and Adam Stephens - who were predatory and gave many an opposition a scare, not only with their ground fielding, but also their outstanding catching. The side was well-led by Ross Anders and, in his absence following injury against Dulwich, by Tom Hine.

Over the course of a long season one incurs a series of debts. To Earnside who fulfilled all our travel needs go our thanks for their unrivalled service. Thanks are also due to Carol Duffy and her staff at Sodexho who provided the best lunches on the circuit. Finally to John Newall and his staff, thanks for their sterling work on our pitches and outfield. In what was a far from easy summer for pitch production our grounds were full of runs, quickly scored.

Amongst the teaching and coaching staff, thanks are due to Robert Proctor for keeping me sane during the Festival and quietly accepting his team's being devastated by players being nicked for the 1st XI. A special word of thanks goes to Nick Du Boulay who continues to dispense wisdom to our batsmen. One hopes his dodgy ankles allow him to continue to play a part with the 1st XI next season. With half the team leaving, next summer will largely be one of rebuilding, but the bowling attack all returns and much will depend on returning players' experiences of this and last season.

RHF



CRICKET

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

BATTING: (QUALIFICATION 150 RUNS AND 3 COMPLETED INNINGS)

INITIALS	INNS	NOT OUTS	RUNS	HIGHEST SCORE	100S	AVERAGE
S. GRAVES	12	3	375	103*	1	41.67
T. W. F. HINE	12	2	392	106*	2	39.2
J. D. CACHIA	10	3	259	66*	-	37.00
* not out						

BOWLING: (QUALIFICATION 10 WICKETS)

NAME	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	WICKETS	BEST BOWLING	AVERAGE
J. F. BECKS	122.3	21	374	28	5-8	13.36
R. ANDERS•	89	12	318	20	5-40	15.9
C. R. LEADBETTER	82	15	269	16	3-13	16.81
S. GRAVES	53	1	295	10	4-59	29.5
•captain						



2ND XI

Gordon Alexander led a very successful team through an enjoyable season where we lost only one match, away to Fettes. The return fixture saw us gain revenge ! With Iain Aitken behind the stumps taking several catches and our bowlers, Alexander, Richie Duncan, Lachie Stewart, Rory Carmichael and Kit Hayward all taking wickets, and consistently managing to put the opposing batsman under pressure.

We opened our season with a strong performance against Dollar winning easily in the end. We then moved onto Glenalmond who batted a little too long, the game ending in a dull draw. After the first Fettes game came Loretto, whom we overcame eventually, but we never looked like the side that defeated Dollar. Edinburgh Academy visited after half term, but despite a poor batting display by us we ran out winners by 3 wickets, thanks in large part to Kit Hayward's runs. Merchiston, bolstered by some senior players who had dismissed us cheaply last year, were strong but their reasonable total was finally overtaken in the third but last over, Corbett staying at the crease for a good knock. Benno Rawlinson worked hard to keep his wicket throughout the season, but only let loose once. Richie Duncan played his way into the 1st XI for one match but returned to us and took wickets and scored runs on a consistent basis. The revelation of the season was Kit Hayward who changed from slow spin bowling to medium swing bowling with great effect.

All in all, good season which was blessed with some good weather and pleasing results.

PMV

JUNIOR COLTS

An early season win against Dollar Academy by 4 wickets provided much needed confidence for the side, before embarking on the local derby game against Glenalmond. Fielding a weakened side due to other school commitments, those that stood in epitomised the side's eagerness to compete and not throw in the towel. Restricting Glenalmond to 114, Strathallan went about the task of a run chase knowing that they had ten less overs in which to overcome the College's total. Valiant attempts to keep up with the required run rate came at the expense of falling wickets. At 65 for 7, hope running out, valuable contributions from those covering for absentees got us to the last over -needing 2 runs to win. Tight finishes unnerve the most experienced players and having scored a single off the first ball to level the scores, an attempt to scramble the winning run off the next ball led to confusion amongst all on the field, an unfortunate slip by Rory Mclellan, and the resulting run-out by centimetres! A tremendous game enjoyed by all those watching.

Lifted by our tie with Glenalmond, Gordounston came to Strathallan with the home side confident of posting a sizeable total. Contributions from many throughout the batting line-up (James Balfour 34, Fraser Rawlinson 23, Andrew Marshall 27n.o) meant that a total of 138 proved too much for the visiting side, eventually being bowled out for 88. Of the eight bowlers used, all added to the pressure being applied to the visitors, notably Fraser Rawlinson who finished with 4 wickets for 8 runs.

Fettes arrived with a reputation of being a formidable side and so they proved to be. Batting first, a mammoth total of 193 for 4 left the side a little shell-shocked and despite some lusty blows from Andrew Marshall (30), a rearguard action from James Balfour (13), the Fettes attack controlled the game from the start and dismissed Strathallan for 80.

Battered and a little bruised, Loretto followed on the back of our mauling by Fettes. Opting to bat first, Strathallan went about the task of posting a competitive score with some gusto. Not only did the team post an impressive score of 173 but also managed to score these runs very quickly. The main perpetrator was again Andrew Marshall, scoring a run-a-ball 53, with contributions from Felix Keene (33) and Nick Giesse (26). Loretto, having been afforded additional overs due to the speed in which Strathallan batted, put up stern resistance and held on for the draw. Andrew Marshall completed his Man of the Match performance taking three of the six wickets to fall.

Our return match with Fettes in Edinburgh was a much better performance. Putting the home side into bat, Strathallan restricted the score to 118 for 8 with some good bowling from Fraser Rawlinson and Toby Robertson. Sadly we could not capitalise on this low target, and were bowled out for just 58.



With confidence a little low after succumbing to Fettes, it was to be a tall order in raising our game for the trip to Edinburgh Academy. Batting first on a lively pitch, we struggled to 59 all out, with only Fraser Rawlinson being able to battle it out for a belligerent 17 runs whilst wickets fell at the other end. Set only a small target to win, the Academy surpassed the 59 runs to win, losing only 3 wickets in doing so.

What proved to be our last match due to the weather was against King Edward VI School from Stratford-upon-Avon. Batting first, the Tourists reached 140-9 in their allotted 35 overs. Accurate bowling from Toby Robertson, Nick Geisse and Ashley Paledi kept the visitors at bay, whilst an excellent spell from Fraser Rawlinson, claiming 5 wickets, ripped out the middle order. With 30 overs available to bat, Strath took to the task of chasing the total as the rain came down. In poor conditions the tourists took the upper hand and at 25-5 hopes of a final win were being dampened by impressive bowling and deteriorating weather. Enter stage Fraser Rawlinson (20), Felix Keene (28) and Nick Giesse (53 n.o.), all of whom showed true grit in attempting to fashion a highly unlikely win. Indeed, such was their character that the game swung full circle, requiring 9 from the last over. Alas, this proved too much with the game finishing in heavy darkened rainy skies with Strathallan falling short by 4 runs, but claiming a hard fought draw.

Felix Keene (Captain) ably assisted by Toby Robertson (V-Captain) managed the team from the front, always showing leadership, competitiveness, encouragement, realism and a sense of gamesmanship - my thanks to them both.

And finally - to the other members of staff who gave up their time to support cricket in the third form, namely Greg Ross, Jeff Goddard and Ken Dutton. I am truly grateful for your efforts and encouragement. Particular thanks go to Ken Dutton, who has tirelessly supported cricket at Strathallan for 34 years and to which I owe, in no small part, my love of the game. Our best wishes go with him and I trust that he will enjoy his retirement.

GSRR



RUGBY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

One of the main highlights of the successful 2003 tour to Australia was the commitment demonstrated by many of the Lower Sixth pupils who we hoped would make up a large part of this season's 1st XV. Always eager to learn they were both an exciting group to work with and a talented bunch of young sportsmen. The memories of Australia had hardly diminished by the onset of pre-season camp and the returning pupils were selected from the three senior years. Our on-going relationship with both Perthshire Rugby Club and the Scottish Rugby Union Caledonia Academy allowed us the opportunity of some top level coaching in the guise of Sam Keleta and Jono Phillips. Both coaches presented the boys with some interesting and effective techniques and we were able to assimilate some of these key aspects into our training. The four days spent at pre-season allow both coaches and players the opportunity to highlight a suitable playing style and we were able to observe the progress made during a very competitive match against Stirling County U18s. Although both teams were in the early stages of their seasons this was an absorbing encounter and through a well drilled advantage at set piece we were able to record a 12-10 win. It was pleasing to see a strong team spirit emerging throughout the squad and the defensive efforts from all involved was a particular strength.

The first Saturday back presented us with a home game against High School of Glasgow. Although a relatively new fixture on our card it is apparent that this is a good early season match for both teams. There were certainly several mistakes made but with both squads trying to play running rugby there was much to be enjoyed. The boys felt that they could have taken more from this match but a 10 - 5 win reflected the old mantra that you must take your chances when the opportunity arises.



Having met the High School of North Berwick in the Scottish Schools' Cup last year all involved felt that a return fixture would be of benefit. The hard work undertaken by their voluntary coaching staff has paid off and with several of their players involved in the district set up this was once again never going to be an easy match. Through some well organised defence we were able to contain their running options and as the match developed our ascendancy in both scrum and line out began to take effect. The winning score line of 20 - 0 was achieved through a combination of powerful driving and good handling throughout the team. With the important link at half backs functioning well the outside backs were given the opportunity to run.

Leaving Strathallan for an early morning start in Glasgow often creates a difficulty in focusing on the game ahead. Recent encounters with Glasgow Academy have been well contested affairs and the squad knew that they would have to arrive ready to play from the off. The competition for places presented the coaches with a couple of difficult decisions and this match saw the promotion of Jamie Cachia to the role of outside centre. Any concerns regarding weariness from the journey were soon dissipated as the starting team were quick to adapt to the damp conditions underfoot. There is the old adage that the forwards spend all day producing excellent ball for the backs to spill, over-run and generally squander but there was a real zip to the backline passing and all credit to the Glasgow defence as they kept the lid on some effective running and support play. This group of boys were always thoughtful at training and although a 15 - 0 victory was recorded you could sense that they felt that far more could have been taken from this match.

Loretto came to Strathallan on the back of some close fought matches and the 1st XV soon realised that this would be a match that would require that all team members work to their full potential throughout. Once again the combination at half back and the understanding between Danny Hoffman and Rory Carmichael presented the opposition with several problems to contend with. For the spectators this was proving to be a frustrating encounter as the Strathallan 1st XV were just failing to capitalise on the hold they had upon the match. A well worked score seemed to be the catalyst for the team to step up another gear but injury to Ewan Templeman resulted in the match's being stopped for a long period before both teams moved camp to Little Acre for the final twenty minutes. With the focus somewhat lost neither team was able to put together any significant passages of play and the score-line remained at a 7 - 0 win for Strathallan.

The establishment of a fixture card with the High School of Dundee has been welcomed by all involved and with several of the boys already acquainted through representative rugby this is an engaging encounter. Quick second and subsequent phase ball is seen by most to be the platform a handling team enjoys playing from and the pack and half backs linked very well to achieve just this. With the ability to keep possession through several passages of play Strathallan were able to move the opposition around and utilise the gaps created. The tries scored out wide were an indication of the strength of handling throughout the team and although a soft try was lost just before half time the team seemed to be well in control. Again an injury forced a long delay and indeed a change of pitch but this time the focus was maintained and a three try lead was quickly established. The last few minutes became slightly too close for comfort and the boys need to remember to finish teams off when they are in the ascendancy. In the end a score line of 22 - 17 to Strathallan did not do justice to the possession and territory that the team had enjoyed but it presented the squad with a focus for forthcoming training.



With the weekly results displayed in the newspapers it became apparent that our next match against Fettes College would require a significant step up in terms of performance. Fettes away is always a tough task, but the team warmed up in a relaxed mood and started the match well in all the early exchanges. Good lineout work supplemented by careful control at the contact point allowed the team slowly to gain the upper hand. Turning round with a two try lead this time the boys ensured that they did not allow their hosts in at all and with Alistair Mather running in three tries whilst playing at prop this was an afternoon that would take pride of place in many scrap books. Eventual 28 – 0 winners this was the best example of an industrious and supportive group playing towards their potential.

Up until this point the 1st XV strip had a slightly different style to it as we waited for the delivery of the normal design. Much has been written about sportsmen and their obsessive routines before matches and there developed much discussion as to whether the squad should stick to the “winning colours”. Sadly, we opted for a change and met Glenalmond College at home in the regular colours. Potential was mentioned in the preceding paragraph and to achieve at a high level consistently you must play at or at least around it at all times. Always a tough encounter this is a match that requires the competitive edge in all areas. After a series of set pieces it became apparent that an issue had arisen in the front row and the referee decided that Bruce Lerman playing at loose-head was driving up through his opposition. At a crucial moment in the game Bruce was carded for this perceived infringement and the resulting scrum presented Glenalmond with a score. A second late try left the hosts walking off with a 12 – 0 loss and the video analysis showing that we did not take the opportunities offered us. Training on Tuesday was dominated by that rueful feeling.

Because we’d finished in the last sixteen of the Scottish Schools’ Cup in 2003 our reward was a bye through to the last thirty two and the draw presented us with another fixture against Glasgow Academy. Playing on Big Acre the squad, involving a few new faces, played with conviction and determination throughout and were worthy 23-3 winners across the piece.

The trip down to Collinton to meet Merchiston Castle was a subdued affair with the low lying cloud hardly allowing the sun to break through for the afternoon kick off. I have mentioned before that you often get a feel for how the game will progress by the manner in which the warm-up is undertaken and today it just was not quite sequencing. Both teams struggled to play any enterprising rugby and with the sound of the final whistle the teams had a rather resigned look that summed up the feelings of the touchline. A 15 – 3 loss was reflective of a lack of urgency around the park but the backline should be commended for their effective control in defensive duties.

With Big Acre playing well through due to the attentions of Head Groundsman John Newall we welcomed Edinburgh Academy onto an excellent surface for running rugby. Although disappointed by recent results the 1st XV started the match strongly and were asking the opposition several difficult questions. The combination of powerful driven ball off the ground and Rory Carmichael’s putting his outside backs through a variety of gaps in the defensive structure ensured that the score board started to tick over. At three tries to one up the backs were starting to get through at will but sadly an injury in contact to Rory Carmichael ended his afternoon with 15 minutes to go. With Fraser Philip following Rory off to the Medical Centre two minutes later the spine was starting to go from the team. All credit to Edinburgh Academy for putting the pressure on in the closing stages and with not far off the traditional “last kick of the game” they pulled a 15 – 17 win to take back south.

The injury at the pivotal position of stand-off required Jamie Cachia to move infield and the re-jigged team prepared well for the visit of Dollar Academy. Overnight rain was the first sustained period of bad weather for many months and John Newall and his assistants must be congratulated on ensuring that the match went ahead. The opening exchanges were evenly matched with Dollar just getting ahead through some precise kicking from their scrum half. The Strathallan pack was starting to get the upper hand when injury to Jamie Cachia resulted in Danny Hoffmann’s stepping into stand-off and a reshuffle once again to the back line. Disrupted, we managed to pull the scoreline to just a converted try but the sustained pressure was well defended. The final score of 5 – 14 was Dollar’s closest of the season and whilst the boys felt proud of their effort they also knew how close this one had been.

Through to last sixteen of the cup we were drawn against Edinburgh Academy once again but with a depleted squad the journey south was always going to be difficult. On a wet and rather dreich day Edinburgh Academy were worthy winners.

The final match of the season saw a weakened 1st XV head to Glasgow to play Hutcheson’s Grammar. With the hosts also unable to field a full strength team due to Duke of Edinburgh Award commitments it was a rather mixed affair. Robin Snape stepped into the inside centre position and his powerful running proved to be a constant problem for the home defence. The final score of a 7-32 win to Strathallan was a fair reflection of this “A” match and it gave the new faces in the team something to build upon for the arrival of our first touring team to Strathallan.

Oakhill College, Sydney had been the heaviest defeat on our own tour to Australia and whilst the squad were keen to play we knew that this was going to be a very hard afternoon. Throughout this match the commitment and passion the boys played with could not be faulted and the home crowd was entertained by a thrilling encounter.



RUGBY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

The final score of 11 - 8 left the tourists shell shocked and gave the Strathallan boys a great end of term win.



The established links with several schools abroad allowed us to welcome Danny Pueta and his squad from St.Andrew's Scots College, Argentina at the beginning of the Spring Term. Once again this was a powerful looking group of players but the Strathallan squad played with thought throughout this match and came from behind to ensure an impressive 18 - 10 win. During our Rugby Dinner we talked about the maturity that had been evident in so many matches this year and this was the key to the success of the squad this season. Danny Hoffman must be highlighted as a very effective captain who played at the highest levels throughout and I hope that the players can look back upon this year with a great deal of pride. They played hard, trained well and were an excellent group of role models to all who encountered them. With many continuing to play in clubs across Scotland next year I am sure that they will continue to impress and gain enjoyment from this sport. The leaving group will be a tough act to follow but they have set the standard for those who follow to try and emulate.

MRAJBT



2ND XV RUGBY

This was a very good season. As so often happens, the more mature and experienced a side, the greater their success. We started the season with a tough match at home against High school of Glasgow from which we emerged with an 11-0 win. The following Thursday we had a comfortable away win against North Berwick HS, 53-0 and breached the 100 points mark with a 56-3 win over Howe of Fife. This opening run culminated with a 56-0 victory over Glasgow Academy. Traditionally these opening games allow us to build a squad before the start of the more traditional fixtures. A plucky Loretto team competed well, but we managed to overpower them up front and came away with a 10-0 win. The next Saturday saw us beat Dundee HS 12-0 and with a closely fought and competitive game against Fettes finishing 19-14 to us we went into half term unbeaten.

After the break we always have a tricky match against Glenalmond, but we managed to emerge from this towsey match with a 17-10 win. Our season had thus far been built on a solid set of forwards who had the height and strength to win a lot of quality ball, supported by a set of running backs that had as yet not quite fired on all cylinders. The next fixture was always the toughest of the season, away to Merchiston. After losing an early score we held our own for most of the first half, but a drop in concentration early in the second half saw them stretch their lead and they ran out eventual winners 25-5. In the past this has proved to be a turning point of the season, but the strength of this team allowed them to bounce back the following week and beat Edinburgh Ac 14-0. The next match against Dollar at home proved to be a classic end to end encounter. After a disallowed try to each side Strathallan just managed to hold off a late surge from a good Dollar team to win 3-0. We finished the season with a 26-0 victory over Hutchesons GS. This left us with season figures of:

PLAYED 12
WON 11
LOST 1

The team was well captained by Chris Tracey from No 8, aided by vice-Captain Sean Murray at Scrumhalf. Leadbetter, Reid and Gavin supplied Wardman, McDonald and Forde with the quick ball they needed, while the front five of Wallace, Alexander, Workman, McLaren and Walker all dug deep to win ball, and the back row of Terrell, Sproat and Duncan kept the opposition half backs in check.

PMV



MARATHON WOMAN

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

I AM A RATIONAL PERSON AND I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE PEOPLE I ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH ARE OF A SIMILAR CHARACTER. PERHAPS THIS IS WHY I FEEL SO DISTURBED WHEN I THINK OF MY GOOD FRIEND, ANNE KELLY, RUNNING OVER 26 MILES IN LONDON'S COLD, SMIRRY RAIN BY CHOICE.

But on Sunday the 18th of April, Anne joined the tens of thousands of other runners to take part in the London marathon, running it in not much over four hours. This itself is solid proof that she did not decide to run those muscle-freezing, lung-collapsing, bone-pounding miles on a whim. In fact Anne tells me that she decided to run the marathon way back in April 2003,

AK "When Paula Radcliffe won it I thought, I want to do that".

IMcF This statement intrigued me. I too had watched the marathon and yet felt no corresponding inclination. Anne tells me, however, that she had extra motivation. Knowing that the school hockey team, in which she had been playing for a year, would be going on tour to Australia, she felt it would be a good way to raise money for when they were out there.

AK "I've had a great time in the first XI and I wanted to give something back to the team, as a thank you".

IMcF Again, this comment struck me as noble, but insane. Nevertheless I continued, asking her how she went about preparing,

AK "I had already been running quite a lot on top of all the exercise Miss Sime gives us in a normal hockey session. By the time of the marathon I was running six days a week. Until I got ill."

IMcF Now this illness was something that I could remember. Just as her fellow Upper Sixth had started to wonder if she was, in fact, super-human, managing three hockey sessions and six running sessions as her all-important Higher prelims approached, it was then that Super-Anne showed that she was mortal after all. She got the flu. Luckily, Miss Kelly has more self-will than I'll ever have and, after a fairly significant break, she attacked her training with even greater vigour. She said of the last weeks,

“Again, this comment struck me as noble, but insane”

AK "One of the main things was getting fed up of pasta. But by the 18th I was glad of running just so I could eat something else!"

IMcF In the week of the marathon, our runner's daily mileage was well into the teens and so she set off for London, using her free days to do some research for her A level art project (!). Sadly the day of the race did not dawn bright and clear, more dark and dismal but, in Anne's words,

AK "I was there to do the marathon so that's what I did. There was so many runners that I just got rushed to my starting line and before I'd even warmed up, we were going".

IMcF And so off she went in conditions rather opposed to anything Athens has ever seen. On being asked about the infamous pain-barrier she was incredulous,

AK "I didn't really ever hit it, I just carried on running. Everyone warned me about the cobbles but, even though it was sore, it was so cold that I was glad when I got to them as they forced my leg muscles to move in some way other than the up-down, up-down, movement they were frozen in."

IMcF Not willing even to hear about something that painful I swiftly moved on to the end of the race, thinking that this tale would be much easier to deal with.

AK "I sprinted as fast as I could to the finish line. I was so cold and stiff that I could barely move my arms to cheer. But it wasn't as bad as the next morning. I had huge blisters and my muscles were aching so much I had to roll out of my bed and crawl to the bathroom."

Next time, Editor, give me an interview that doesn't require a government health warning.

And so to money. Was her sponsorship aim successful? Successful to the tune of £500 to be spent as her teammates desired. Before we ended I joked with her,

IMcF "And so do you intend to have any more similar experiences in the future?" assuming she would now rest easy, having passed this test of endurance with flying colours. Anne's reply is four words that show me that her madness runs deeper than I thought.

AK "The New York Marathon".

Ishbel McFarlane





CROSS COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS 2004

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THE CROSS COUNTRY SEASON WAS NOT OUR STRONGEST; A LACK OF CONSISTENT AND SPECIFIC TRAINING MEANT THAT, DESPITE SOME GOOD INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES, WE STRUGGLED TO COMPETE. UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH THE OTHER SPORTS WILL PROVIDE FITNESS TO ALLOW GOOD "MIDDLE ORDER" RESULTS, TO WIN THE MATCHES WE NEED RUNNERS AT THE FRONT OF THE RACE. AS EVER, WE WILL BE LOOKING TO OUR JUNIOR COMPETITORS TO SHOW THE PERSISTENCE TO BECOME THE MATCH WINNERS OF THE FUTURE.

At Scottish Schools we were reasonably good at all levels, with Ailsa Turnbull 37th in the Under 15 girls, and Katie Scobie 33rd, and the Under 15 girls and Under 17 boys taking 8th team place. In either competition a top ten finish could propel us into the medals: two top ten finishes would win it.



The joy of the Athletics season is that it is always impossible to know where our strength will be, and who will discover a new and unforeseen talent. At our strongest, we were a difficult team to beat, and the girls preserved their unbeaten record. Known athletes like Ewen Wardman and Gregor Duncan (sprints and long jump), Stuart Macdonald (400m and long jump), Kirsty Hay and Anna Macdonald (sprints), and Mel Kotseroglou (throws) formed the core of our teams, and rarely lost.

Other performances were equally impressive. We finally persuaded Adam Stephens to run 800m, and wondered why we hadn't done it a long time ago. Michael Woodrow successfully filled as many gaps on the team list as he was allowed, discovering on the way that, together with Robin Snape generously on loan from the cricket team, he was a 40m+ javelin thrower. Sadly, this realisation came too late for our Scottish schools entry. Mark Richards ran capably over the middle distance, Rory Philip and Keith Brown threw the shot an impressive distance, as did Gael Welstead. Lauren Giles ran strongly over 300m, Ailsa Turnbull and Gayle Allardyce showed promise at 800m, Tom Fleming improved in the 1500m, and Jayne Carmichael was disturbingly quick over the 100 and 200. With many of these still young, we can only look forward to even better results in the future.

Robin Snape won a javelin gold medal at the Scottish Schools Championships. Gregor Duncan was second in the long jump. Sarah Fleming also won a silver in the pole vault. Bronze medals were won by Stuart Macdonald in the 400m hurdles, Mel Kotseroglou in the javelin and Mel Forde in the high jump.

Athletics colours were awarded to Gregor Duncan, Anna Macdonald and Michael Woodrow; half colours to Melenik Forde, Sarah Fleming, Kirsty Hay, Melanie Kotseroglou, Stuart Macdonald, Robin Snape and Ewen Wardman.

THE HOUSE STANDARDS CUP WAS WON BY RUTHVEN; SIMPSON WON SPORTS DAY, AFTER A THRILLING SENIOR RELAY.

DMH

“To win the matches we need runners at the front of the race”



VICTORES AND VICTRICES LUDORUM:

SENIOR	GREGOR DUNCAN	ANNA MACDONALD
INTERMEDIATE	EWEN WARDMAN	
JUNIOR	TOM FLEMING	LAUREN GILES





BOYS' HOCKEY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

1ST XI HOCKEY 2003/4

With an experienced 1st XI squad there were always going to be high expectations for the season. It began with solid wins indoors against Glenalmond followed by 7-1 and 7-0 victories against Loretto and the Edinburgh Academy.

After a disappointing match against Fettes College the team bounced back to defeat Glenalmond away. This was a fine team performance and particular mention must be made of the fine display given by our own international goal keeper, Jamie Cachia. This was followed by a much closer victory against a much improved Loretto side in which we came from 2 nil behind to win 4-3. The highlight of the season followed with a fine performance against Gordonstoun resulting in an 8-0 victory at home. The level of play in the remaining 3 fixtures never quite matched the Gordonstoun game but then team remained unbeaten with draws against George Watson's, the Strathallians and a touring team from South Africa.

The team can be very pleased with the achievements throughout the season but particular mention must be made of the fine captaincy and play of Danny Hoffmann ably supported by David Coaton who between them had 8 years service to the team. There is much to look forward to in the young squad for the forthcoming year under the captaincy of the experienced Malcolm Jack.

AW and DRG

2ND XI HOCKEY

The season was punctuated by some great individual performances and a couple of howlers. We seemed to make life difficult for ourselves, at times, and a lack of concentration allowed the opposition to capitalise at crucial points. Oli Perrett captained well after a quiet start and helped mould the squad into an effective team. We were pleased to make use of Jamie Cachia, who lost his protective kit and played outfield for us on several occasions. Euan Davey matured into a solid full back and Tom Reid worked consistently hard over the whole season to supply our front men with quality ball. Jono Becks finished the season with his hattrick against Fettes supplying the coup de grace against a side who had outplayed us earlier in the season. Stuart McDonald, Duncan Brown and Tom Sproat enhanced their chances of promotion to the 1st XI by out-pacing their markers, reaching the back line and either scoring regularly themselves or setting up their compadres. Hian Stark along with Cameron Terrell were the foundations of our central defence and Dick "the cat" Hartgerink continued to play solidly in goal. Not a bad season overall, but too many draws meant that our overall tally was less good than it should have been.

PMV



GIRLS' HOCKEY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



This year the standard of girls' hockey has remained extremely high throughout all age groups, although one suggestion for next year's training program is a bit more practice at those crucial penalty flicks.

Returning to School is never anyone's favourite thing after having had two months devoid of any extreme exercise. So coming back four days before the start of term for a mixture of early morning runs, fitness testing, and pitch sessions reminded us all that it was once again the beginning of the two-term-long hockey season.

The 1st XI had a busy but successful first half to the season with wins against schools such as Mary Erskine, Glenalmond, Fettes and Gordounston and were the first school in the Midlands tournament and gained a place in the Scottish Schools Finals at Peffermill, Edinburgh in March. As Scottish Schools Champions in 2003 we had to host and organise this tournament and the pressure was on to retain our title. We qualified first in our section and won the semi final match against St Columba's on penalty flicks, but unfortunately had to settle for runners up. It was a highly competitive final which again went to penalty strokes but in the end Glasgow Academy came out on top. Player of the tournament, voted by all the coaches, was awarded to our vice captain Ann-Louise Breden.

Our indoor season was also highly successful, and we qualified as first school in the Midlands Indoor Tournament which allowed us to qualify for the Scottish Indoor Championships including both club and School teams. We reached the semi-finals and although we were beaten by a strong Dundee Wanderers side we were the only School team to get that far.

The future of senior hockey looks highly promising with the talent and potential that the junior girls have shown. The teams made up of III and IV Formers brought back trophies for the Midlands indoor and outdoor tournaments after highly commendable performances on both occasions.



Amongst all this the number of girls playing district hockey was the highest yet. Lizi Bush, Jane Cargill and Karina Mclean played at U16 Midlands level and there were six representatives (over half a team's worth!) at U18 level; Mel Kotseroglou, Claire McArthur, Kirsty Hay, Ann-Louise Breden, Gayle Allardyce and Anna MacDonald.

The inter-district tournament is when the talent spotting occurs and Mel Kotseroglou (GK) and Ann-Louise Breden (midfield) obtained U18 trials for the Scotland training squad and have been attending training sessions monthly since February. Being selected in your first of two years in the U18 age group is a major achievement, congratulations and best of luck with the final selection.

The Midlands U15 squad has just been selected and again we have good representation there. Jessica Stewart, Catriona Kelly, Frankie Grieve, Emily Fraser, Lauren Giles and Helen Summersgill have all been selected and I am sure they will go on to play well at the Inter District Tournament.

Riley girls have had mixed results but they have worked hard throughout the season and it is good to see how enthusiastic they are about their hockey.

The end of the hockey season was marked with a selection of Sevens tournaments. We were semi-finalists in the High School of Glasgow Sevens and finalists in the Hutchie Sevens, losing only on penalty strokes. Currently we are training once a week for our tour of Australasia that will take place during the summer holidays. Our 1st and 2nd XIs will be visiting Singapore and Australia (Brisbane, Cairns and Sydney) for three weeks. A large amount and wide range of fundraising has been carried out including car washes, home bake sales and a London marathon run by Anne Kelly. On behalf of all the girls I would like to thank Miss Sime and all the hockey staff who have contributed to such a great season and to the organisation of this tour. We all cannot wait until Summer and hope we will be just as successful down under as we have been at home this year.

Anna MacDonald
1st XI Captain 2004



GIRLS' HOCKEY TOUR 2004

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA

AFTER A LONG JOURNEY FROM EDINBURGH AIRPORT WITH NOT A LOT OF SLEEP, WE ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE JOURNEY WAS MEETING A STAR FROM NEIGHBOURS AT SINGAPORE AIRPORT. BECKY SPOTTED HIM AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT TWENTY FIVE GIRLS HAD SURROUNDED HIM AND WERE TAKING PHOTOS AND ASKING FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH. THE STAFF, OF COURSE, HAD WALKED RIGHT PAST HIM.

The hotel was lovely and the girls (though not all of them!) were up in the fitness room at 7.30 on the first morning. Shopping took on a whole new meaning in Singapore and the girls seemed to be enjoying spending all their money

We were up at 5.30 as the 2nd XI played at 7am and the heat was unbelievable – Emma was heard to say at half time "I have never been so hot in all my life!". Strathallian went down 1 - 0 but played very well and were really unlucky not to score as they created quite a few chances. The 1st XI played at 8am and won 4 - 0. It was a good start to the tour and all the girls really enjoyed the match. Afterwards a plateful of garlic noodles was served for post match teas. The girls were so hungry they ate it all up.

We arrived in Brisbane very early in the morning after a night flight. I don't think any of the girls slept on the flight so they were very tired indeed. We were not expected at our first Wavell Heights School until 3pm so went up Mount Coot-than to get a panoramic view of Brisbane - we also got hot chocolate and chocolate cake up at the café - more important for the girls than the view.

Next we headed to the Koala Park to cuddle the koalas. Well, Helen was overcome with emotion and she cuddled every koala that she possibly could and cried at the same time as she was so happy. It was a great few hours where we fed the Kangaroos by hand in between cuddling the koalas. We then arrived at Wavell Heights and the girls departed with their billets. A nervous few minutes while they headed off but most of them were so tired that they probably slept most of the night.

We all met up in the morning with exciting new stories to tell each other before we went to the Gold Coast to body surf in the waves. We played our matches in the afternoon and we knew we were in for a tough match as Wavell Heights were the state champions. The 2nd XI played extremely well and they won 3 - 1. It was a great game and the goals were very well worked goals. The 1st XI girls were drawing the match

3 - 3 with 30 seconds left on the clock. Settle for a draw - no the girls scored to make it 4 - 3 with 5 seconds left. We were all delighted. We then went on to play at the Queensland State Hockey Stadium in Brisbane which was most impressive. The 1st XI played Moreton Bay College and it was a very close game 1 - 1 at half time but 2nd half we took our chances and went on to win 5 - 1.

The 2nd XI played Ormiston College 1st team and that also was 1 - 1 at half time. They lost a late goal and went down 2 - 1 but another good performance from everyone.

We spent a day at Dreamworld and the staff ventured onto the steam train and the log flumes whilst the girls were on the roller coaster, 'wipeout' and many of the other exciting rides.

We then went to Surfers Paradise for two days - the girls getting some 'r & r' at the beach and spending more money in the designer shops - 'roxy' seemed to be the in gear.

On A-L's birthday the early morning run worked well as a set up to get everyone together for the birthday girl. A-L turned up in her running gear - I think feeling a bit upset that she had to run on her birthday but as she came down to reception a chorus of "happy birthday" greeted her- and not another bit of running gear in sight.

We flew to Cairns and had a lovely meal all together to celebrate. We were up at 6am the second day in Cairns to head out to the Great Barrier Reef for the day. What a fabulous day we had. Gorgeous weather and snorkelling out at the Reef was just unbelievable. The girls had an absolutely fantastic day - swimming with the fish and the turtles. It really was amazing.





Our match in Cairns was against a district side and it was also extremely hot to play in. The 1st team played and we went 1 - 0 up much to the surprise of the opposition. We eventually lost the game 5 - 1 but it was a respectable score and a good game of hockey where we also created a lot of chances. The 2nd team lost 2 - 0 and defended particularly well with both Jess and Mary playing really well.

Arrived in Sydney with great excitement - went to Opera House, Harbour Bridge, shops, more shops, markets and we organised a surprise tour of Sydney Harbour on a chartered boat for our last night all together. It was a lovely evening and I am sure the memory of Kirsty piping us under the Harbour Bridge, will stay with the girls for a very long time.

We also managed to fit in a trip to the Olympic Stadium, Manly and Bondi Beach. Our matches v Pymble Ladies College were good - the 1st XI won 5 - 2 (the first time Pymble had been beaten this season) and the 2nd XI drew 0 - 0. One of the billet families put on a BBQ in the evening for all Strathallan and Pymble players and staff. It was a lovely end to a great day.

Our final matches were against Monte Saint Angelo and it was a bit of a shock for the girls as they had to play on grass. The 2nd XI drew 2 - 2 while the 1st XI had a 3 - 0 victory. Overall on the tour both teams played some excellent hockey and produced very good results.

I can only think of one word to describe the whole trip and as Mel would say we had a "FANTASTIC" time.

AS



SWIM TEAM

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

STRATHALLAN SWIM TEAM

THE SCHOOL CONTINUED THEIR COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THIS YEAR WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF ELAINE JOHNSTON AS SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT COACH. ELAINE WAS A DOUBLE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FINALIST IN 1986 AND ASSISTED WITH PERFORMANCE MONITORING WITH THE BRITISH OLYMPIC SWIMMING TEAM THEREAFTER.

The swimming development programme has become more structured and it was easy to see the development and change in attitude of those attending training on a regular basis. This has been complemented by the School's purchase of new anti-turbulence lane ropes which made a huge difference to the swimming training.

FIXTURES

The Swim Team regularly has fixtures against other schools most of which were very closely fought contests. The first fixture was against Dollar where we were beaten 238 points to 206. Things did progress however and at the next gala Strathallan beat Morrison's convincingly 210 points to 138. Early in 2004 we met with Fettes College and again with training paying off we won 165 to 125. The final fixture was a boys only competition against Merchiston which came down to the final event and we were narrowly beaten by 91 points to 82.



TAYSIDE SCHOOLS/SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

Last year also saw a large number of entries going to the Midlands and Tayside schools competitions from Strathallan. The team finished with a number of medals.

17-19 YRS BOYS RELAY	BRONZE
15/16 YRS GIRLS RELAY	BRONZE
13/14 YRS GIRLS 100 BR <i>AILIE MACGEOCH</i>	BRONZE
15/16 YRS GIRLS 100 BR <i>KATHRYN SUTHERLAND</i>	BRONZE

Following the Tayside Schools Championships each swimmer is put forward for consideration for the Scottish Schools Finals, the fastest 16 times being selected to swim in Glasgow in February. Rory Dewar qualified to swim in the 17-19 Boys 100 freestyle and acquitted himself very well finishing in 8th place overall.

SPONSORSHIP

As a result of the Swim Team's improvement and continued success, local businessman Frank Ewen of Campus Sports sponsored team T-shirts for the first time. Team swimsuits, trunks and caps were also ordered thus ensuring that it was an extremely professional looking team that represented the school at all swim meets.

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

As well as competitions outwith the school there are also two inter-House swimming events. The House Standards event took place in January. Each House enters three swimmers in each event and points are awarded on a sliding scale for fastest times recorded. Ruthven were the winners at this event.

With a slightly changed programme the Inter-House gala took place in May this year. Many of the races were extremely close and it led to a very exciting event with many of the times recorded being significantly faster than previous years. Nicol House were victorious at the Gala with Ruthven a very close second.

The Swim Team Captains for 2003-2004 were Rory Carmichael and Emma Fairlie and they both did an excellent job and provided motivation and team spirit at all times.

AS

BADMINTON

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

BADMINTON

BADMINTON REMAINED AS POPULAR AS EVER THIS YEAR. APART FROM THE THREE GAMES AFTERNOONS IN THE AUTUMN AND WINTER TERMS, ACTIVITIES NIGHTS FOR BOTH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM WERE HECTIC.

We entered a mixed team in the Perthshire League and competed extremely well against more experienced adult opposition. Finding other schools to play has proved difficult but the girls did win twice against St Georges, Edinburgh and the boys won convincingly in their only game against Edinburgh Academy.

In the house championships Nicol ran away with the boys' trophy, both pairs winning all their matches (a first in 17 years if my memory serves me correctly) and Thornbank won the girls trophy from Woodlands on countback after games were tied.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Bufan and Benson for their contributions to Strathallan badminton over the last 3 years. The Chinese influence continues to be strong with some exciting new additions. Nick Lau and Shawn Ng are already impressing and should do well. We will be entering a team in the local league for the 2004-2005 season and hope to increase the number of inter-school matches.

Finally, thanks again go to Mr Sneddon, Mrs Duncan and Mme Crane for their commitment to the cause and we all wish Mr Sneddon a very happy retirement after his long service to the school and, more especially, to the badminton.

GCK



SAILING

We started the year with the Scotland and Northern Ireland CCF Sailing Regatta at Port Edgar: in the Pico class, Jan-Christian Hashagen and Rachel Ennis came third and seventh respectively, whilst in the Bosun class, Strathallan's B team (Jake Streatfeild-James and Sebastian Schulz) were third. Our A team (Chris Watson and Richard Quibell) won all their races and therefore won the Bosun class shield for the second year in succession. Chris and Richard went on to gain seventh place in the Bosun class of the National CCF Sailing Regatta in Portsmouth, out of a field of 35. The racing was very close and this was our best result ever against some of the country's top sailors in this age group. Finlay Wallace came fifth out of 15 in the Q pool of the Pico class; another good effort against some exceptional sailors.

The summer season at Port Edgar attracted a full complement of 16 sailors, once again including a number of young ladies as well as various members of Woodlands. On the serious days – Tuesday and Thursdays – we used sensible boats and the three groups studied nautical skills appropriate to their level: the beginners worked towards the basic qualification (RYA Level 2), the intermediate group, the Seamanship certificate and the advanced group, the Performance Sailing course.

Almost everyone passed, though Sarah still has one part of the Level 2 certificate to finish and will therefore start her third year as our most experienced beginner. On the less serious days – Saturdays – we had to battle our way through the tailbacks on the Forth Road Bridge to get any sailing at all. However, there was more variety in the type of boat on offer: JC and Sebastian developed a teutonically regulated passion for the Topper Buzz, most others were happiest on the catamarans and Laser 2000s, almost everyone got wet and all enjoyed themselves.

Many thanks are due to all the participants, especially to JC Hashagen for his sense of humour and to Paul Brown for donating his packed lunch to the rest of us on a large number of occasions. I hope that there will be plenty of new faces next year: there will be gaps to fill, as we say goodbye this year to: Chris "Dinghy Instructor" Watson, Richard "It's not pronounced Quibble" Quibell, Jake "Javert" Streatfeild-James and Sebastian "Are we going to MacDonald's" Schulz. Thanks also to the instructors at the Port Edgar Sailing School for putting up with us for another year.

AS-J



GOLF REPORT 2004

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

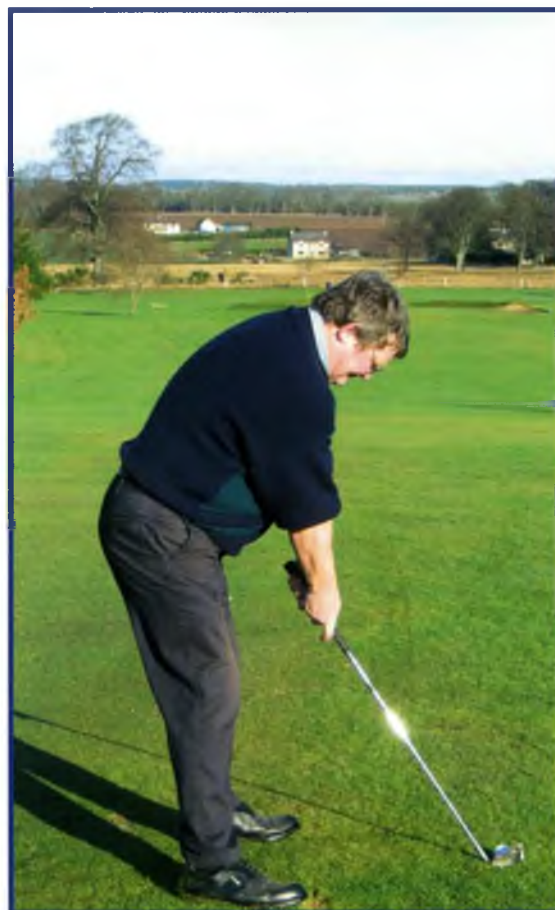
DESPITE ARRANGING A VERY FULL PROGRAMME THE SEASON PETERED OUT INTO SOMETHING OF AN ANTI-CLIMAX FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

We began on a high note with vice-captain Cameron Jack winning the best individual prize at the Alyth Juniors Invitation Day although the team finished down the field. Unfortunately for Cameron, he couldn't maintain this form in the defence of the St. Columba's Trophy at Auchterarder as Chris Dickson showed that his game had improved over the summer with two steady rounds of 78 and 75 to win the competition by three strokes from Cameron.



Captain of golf, Danny Hoffmann struggled to reach his best form, although he always tried his best and was a constant source of encouragement to the younger golfers. The Inter-House competition was retained by Ruthven with Cameron showing a return to form with the best individual score of the day (72). We played a new event this year - The Pitlochry Cup which was won by Liam Carragher. This event is played annually and is a stableford competition based on handicap.

There was a new format for the Perth and Kinross Schools competition this year - a knockout cup instead of a league based event. We managed to draw the holders and strongest team in the competition, Morrison's Academy, in the first round and as a result our interest in the competition was soon over. Usually we play 4 or 5 matches against local schools but our early exit meant that this was severely curtailed this year. We were also unfortunate that two of our Independent School rivals also had to pull out of their fixtures against us on the day of the match, leaving us with a much depleted fixture list. We did manage two trips to Edinburgh where we lost heavily to the very strong team of Loretto at Craighielaw but managed to beat Merchiston at Mortonhall. Some good golf was played by a number of players but Liam Carragher and Alasdair Cameron look to be the best prospects for the future of Strathallan golf. A fifth place finish in the Scottish Independent Schools Golf Competition about summed up the team's season whereas in the last two years we have finished 3rd and 2nd.



“Liam Carragher and Alasdair Cameron look to be the best prospects for the future of Strathallan golf”

It is really pleasing to see the way that the school golf course has continued to improve this season. Credit goes to our groundsman, John Newall and his team. They have made a huge difference to our facilities in the past few years and the staff and pupils are very appreciative of the work done. The golfing schedule grows ever longer and without the help and support of George Kitson and Angus Weir we would certainly not be able to offer as much to our growing band of golfers. My thanks to them for their respective effort to Strathallan Golf.

NS

Credit goes to our groundsman, John Newall and his team

The football season is one which as I'm sure all the other footballers do, I look forward to every year. However, when celebrating New Year, knowing I only had a few days until it all kicked off, I managed to injure myself through some over-indulgence in town-centre type celebrations. This has always been a crucial part of the life of a professional footballer, so maybe I still have some hope of playing on the world stage (and that wasn't a sly dig at Blair's report last year).

Mel Forde and I were both put forward to try out for the district team, but we never actually made it to the try-outs. Whether it was due to the weather, the time of the try-outs, or just down to Mr Bolton's, good old organisation, I'm not sure. So after I was told I'd miss up to a month of football, I thought that, according to the fixture list, I would miss at least 4 matches, nearly half of the already short football season. However, in actual fact, through a combination of games being snowed off, other teams cancelling matches (probably because they heard we were undefeated), and finally because we were unable to put out a team due to clashes with exams, I didn't even miss the first game of the season.

“...the team showed their strength by immediately bouncing back to beat St. Leonards and end the season on a high.”

After nearly half a term of football/volleyball, indoor football, fitness, and some of the team still wondering if we were really going to play on Big Acre, we finally had a match, and a 2-1 win against Fettes. Despite the positive start to the season, including Stevo's leg-breaking tackles in training, and the team's skills, (Yeah, get on with it, Pinkie. Ed) spirits were soon dampened after 2 losses were recorded to both Glenalmond and Dundee High, although some promising displays were shown throughout the team. We then had a series of home and away matches lined up for the following Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, so were preparing ourselves for a tiring week. Not surprisingly, some of the matches got cancelled, and we lost the others, 'though one of them was to Dollar, the strongest team in the circuit, and the other to Stew-Mel. Nonetheless, the team showed their strength by immediately bouncing back to beat St. Leonards and end the season on a high.

At the end of the season I think we played one match out of 12 on the scheduled date. However most matches were played eventually, including games against the staff team, and the old boys. Both of these matches are always a good laugh, which is helped by the supporters. The old boys are

often a tough side, so after drawing with the staff, we thought we'd try finishing the old boys game off, as we hadn't done for most of the season. After an early lead and when the scores were level at half time, things were looking good, but our season was summed up when we fell asleep in the second half and lost a couple of goals and the game at the final whistle. So, though we may never know why a football pitch was marked out on Big Acre, we would like to thank the groundsmen for giving us the best pitch we played on; Mr. Bolton, Mr. Batterham, Mr. Weir, Mr. Smith, Mr. Goddard for their time and commitment, and most importantly, the team themselves.

Richard McLaren. UVI Nicol



“OK so the only way I was going to make it onto the football pages this year was by wearing a kilt and smiling.”



STRATHALLAN 2003-04

SKI SEASON 2003-2004



THIS YEAR AGAIN, OUR SKIERS HAVE REPRESENTED STRATHALLAN WITH DIGNITY AND STYLE AT NUMEROUS EVENTS.

Back in September, the Scottish Schools Dry Slopes Ski Championships took place at the Midlothian Ski Centre, Hillend. Our boys' team (Richie Duncan, Harry Workman, Piers Ranger and Jack Workman) finished in 8th position and were thus selected for the British Championships. The girls were less fortunate. With Melissa Piper unable to finish, the team, (Vicky Drummond-Hay, Jennifer Whitelaw and Sophie Workman) was placed 10th overall. Thank you, Mr and Mrs Workman, for producing three such useful offspring.

Having said last year that winters in Scotland could only get better snow-wise, the ski season we have just experienced has virtually been free of any snow, and many regional races were cancelled. Still, the Scottish Schools Ski Association kept a weather eye on the forecast and, rather than cancelling all events, after many attempts it finally gave us two decent races on THE white patch at the Lecht. The Scottish Minors Race saw our girls (Sophie Workman, Phoebe Shaw-Stewart, Robynne Smith and Hannah Cockburn) finish in 12th position. The Strathallan boys' team (Duncan O'Reilly, Jonathan Dickson, Joseph Corbett and Tom Cargill) were placed 19th.

The Scottish School Ski Championships took place on even thinner snow. The girls (Lucy Drummond-Hay, Vicky Drummond-Hay, Jennifer Whitelaw and Katie Lyburn) were 9th overall and our boys (Richie Duncan, Harry Workman, Fraser Rawlinson and Jack Workman) finished 4th out of eighteen teams.

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

The highlight for the school was probably our girls' results at the British Schoolgirls' Races in Flaine, France. Over two days of intense racing (and non-stop fall of giant snowflakes), Melissa Piper, Vicky Drummond-Hay and Jennifer Whitelaw defended their team up to the quarter final in the Dual Slalom and were awarded Bronze medals for their third place in the British Schools Combined event.



BEYOND THE SCHOOLS' CIRCUIT, THE FOLLOWING RESULTS DESERVE A MENTION:

Melissa Piper won a bronze medal in Giant Slalom in the Austrian National Championships. She has spent much of the season travelling from the British Olympic base in Lofer, Austria, to international races elsewhere in Austria, France and Slovenia. She competed at the Senior British Land Championships in Mèribel, France, winning the Ladies' Challenge Cups in Slalom and Giant Slalom for the 1st non-British team member. She also came 1st in her age category and 3rd overall in the Scottish Championships in Mèribel. Melissa is a member of the Scottish full-time Team and the British Team Development squad. She is an elite athlete with the Highland Institute of Sport and was nominated as Highland Spring Young Sports Person of the Year.

Vicky Drummond-Hay had a very good season in spite of a nagging knee. She competed in Italy and Austria against experienced athletes. She won a Bronze medal at the B.A.R.S.C. slalom races for being 3rd British girl in the Junior II category.

Richie Duncan had a rather splendid season, too. He won the Mèribel Slalom Cup. He was Gold medallist twice in the North of Scotland Ski Road Ski Race at Aviemore and was awarded the Cairngorm Cup for being best skier overall. At the British Championships in Mèribel he grabbed the Gold medal in Slalom and Silver in Giant Slalom in the Junior 1 Category. He was Bronze medallist in the Giant Slalom of the British Seniors' Race. Richie has been training and racing with the Scottish Alpine Team, competing in France, Italy, Austria, Norway and Canada.

Considering the quality of our athletes, competitions on the Scottish scene and abroad could be very exciting indeed over the coming winter months. Racing on Scottish mud does guarantee that one returns from the Lecht with exceptional memories but we keep our fingers crossed for a generous fall of the cleaner, whiter stuff next winter.

Fabienne Thompson



GIRLS' TENNIS

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

GIRLS' TENNIS REPORT 2004

Girls' tennis at Strathallan has always been a popular games choice and we believe this is due to the great camaraderie of the teams and the serious and competitive nature in which the sport is approached (although I've heard that the alternative option, running around a track seven times in an afternoon trying to keep up with Mr Higginbottom, might have something to do with it).

As so many girls played tennis this season the teams from all age groups have been of a high standard. Wins for the first six were achieved against Fettes, St George's, Kilgraston and Loretto. Tommy Ogilvie who coaches the girls twice a week would like to claim this was down to his expertise, but when you have six budding Sharapovas, success is to be expected.

The Riley girls have also performed well this year and it was good to see Ailie McGeogh and Sara Chalmers getting to the semi final of the New Park Tournament. Ailie McGeogh also went on to win the Riley singles championships that was run at the School for the first time this year.

The Kilgraston Tournament takes place at the end of the season and this year our junior team was extremely successful. Frankie Grieve and Kirsty McGeogh reached the semi final in the U16 age group eventually losing out in the tie break. Rachel McLean and Ailie McGeogh won the U14 section by beating St Catherine's, Belfast in a fantastic final. The senior team saw Judi Cargill and Tasha Smith reaching the quarter-finals and Claire Leslie and Anna MacDonald reached the semis.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable season and thanks must be given to Tommy for all his help and expertise and to Miss Sime and Mrs Dorward for organising all our matches and games sessions and for putting up with us. Next years team has a lot to live up to and might be quite depleted with the departure of many members of the Upper Sixth. I am sure Tracey's graceful play, Michelle's eagerness on court and Katie's catchphrase 'I think I broke my nail' will be greatly missed by all.

Anna MacDonald, Captain Girls' Tennis



Rachel McLean & Ailie McGeogh winning the Kilgraston U14 Tournament June 2004

“ When you have six budding Sharapovas, success is to be expected.”

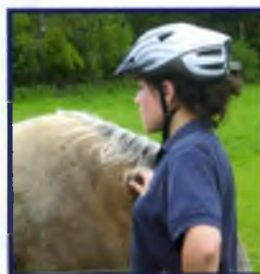


CYCLING

Well, here we go riding bikes again. The chain gang this year were a splendidly determined bunch and Pamela (Garratt), Martin (Jones) and Angus (Stephenson) were up for just about any day-trip particularly if it involved a visit to a castle or, in Pamela's case, anywhere that had a sniff of horseflesh. OK so we didn't make it to Perth Races but we did catch a glimpse of Perthshire's (and maybe Scotland's) only white telephone box and, in stark contrast, the inside of some railway tunnels so dark and dripping that they even frightened the Marines. Disused tunnels. Right? Disused. All right, so I'll fill in a risk assessment next time.

I enjoyed myself, anyway, and the gang were exceptionally good value. Enjoy the singletrack and the tarmac. Keep the wheels turning.

EGK





BOYS' TENNIS

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

WITH AN UNBEATEN 2003 SEASON, 2004 WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A TOUGH ONE, BUT THE TEAM DID WELL IN THEIR SCHOOL MATCHES.

The season started with a hard-fought cup match against Merchiston Castle School. Having never played indoors before, we travelled to the David Lloyd Centre in Edinburgh to experience the indoor courts for the first time. After the round of singles it was 2-2 and so it was to be the doubles that would decide the outcome. Our two couples knew what was required of them and we ended up 4-2 victors over an experienced team. The core of our team for the season was to be made up of 6th Form pupils, namely Captains David Coaton and Rory Carmichael, along with Alastair Mather and Andreas Corbett. The second round of the competition was to prove a little more difficult and we departed having lost to Glenalmond College.

Our season against school opposition proved to be most successful with 2 very convincing 9-0 victories against Morrison's Academy and Edinburgh Academy.

In the annual Mixed Doubles Tournament our three couples all won medals and trophies, with Rory and Anna runners up in Section 1 and Strathallian runners up overall. As always, it was a good day's tennis with Boys and Girls supporting each other very well.

The season ended with the annual "Battle of the Titans" – SMCR versus pupils match. It is now becoming tradition for girls to join the boys in what was originally a boys' match against the SMCR. The staff, in their usual manner, ploughed through the opposition to emerge 6-3 victors.

Once again we have been fortunate to have the services of Peter Darbyshire and Tommy Ogilvie. Peter does outstanding work primarily with Riley pupils and Tommy was in twice a week this year working with the Boys' and Girls' teams. Tommy continues to play a major part in the improvement of our team players and, I believe, has contributed greatly to our success over the past two years.

This year we say goodbye to three Upper Sixth players, two of whom have played 1st Boys' Tennis since 4th Form. David and Rory have played a vital part in our recent successes and they will be difficult to replace in the years ahead. This next year will again be a building year but will, I hope, include some successes as well. We do have some promising young players and we all look forward to their future contributions.

Full Colours were re-awarded to David Coaton and Rory Carmichael with half Colours awarded to Alastair Mather.

Regular team members were:

DAVID COATON	ALASTAIR MATHER
RORY CARMICHAEL	ANDREAS CORBETT
ALASDAIR CAMERON	JAMIE MORRISON

Inter-House Tennis was won, yet again, by Ruthven, beating Nicol into 2nd place.

Results were as follows:

GLANVILL CUP MATCH VS MERCHISTON	WON 4-2
FETTES COLLEGE	WON 7-2
GLENALMOND COLLEGE (SNRS)	LOST 2-7
MORRISON'S ACADEMY	WON 9-0
ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL	WON 6-3
MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL	WON 5-4
GORDONSTOUN	LOST 7-2
EDINBURGH ACADEMY	WON 9-0
STEWART'S MELVILLE COLLEGE	LOST 4-5
SMCR	STAFF 6-3





STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

A HAWK IN WINTER

THE BIRD

After a short time as a member of this school it was soon clear that I wanted to do something that nobody had ever done before, I wanted to keep a bird of prey in the school and train it for falconry, one of the oldest ways to hunt prey in its natural state and habitat. I wanted to use for this purpose a Harris Hawk, an American raptor from Texas and Arizona.

I just needed to get permission. So who could help me with that? I asked the teacher who has the most to do with that subject, Mr Court. On one of our Wednesday clay pigeon shooting sessions I told him what I wanted to do. Surprisingly, he told me that it was possible, I would just have to ask an awful lot of people for permission and help, starting with my Housemaster, Mr Shepherd, the Bursar, Mr Legge and the Headmaster, Mr Thompson. Mr Court offered to talk to them and ask them all during the next few weeks. They all gave their permission.

The next task was to find the right place to keep the bird. It was more difficult than I'd thought. No place seemed to be secure enough for the animal. So Mr Shepherd offered to talk a second time to Mr Thompson to ask him if he had any ideas where the bird could be kept. And Mr Thompson came through making a suggestion that would have never occurred to me. He offered his garden and his garage and a small shed in his back yard.

Preparations were now complete. But you may wonder where do you buy such an animal? Definitely not in a pet shop. When I arrived in Scotland, a week before the beginning of the school year 2003/2004 I visited some Falconry and Raptor centres around Perth. The first one was a centre in Comrie called Highland Falconry. The Head Falconer there, Craig Stewart, is very experienced and breeds some really good Harris Hawks. When I was looking to buy a Hawk I decided to get the young of one of his breeding pairs.

Before I could bring the bird back I had to find a place where I could store its food. Hawks only eat fresh uncooked meat, what means that a lot space in a freezer is required. I'm grateful to Mr Vallot for giving me a space in his freezer. Mrs Vallot was particularly enthralled at the arrival of a pile of blood-soaked flesh in the household.

Everything was ready for the bird's arrival. I'd told a couple of people that I was going to bring a bird of prey to stay at Strathallan, but I don't think they believed me. There was a distinct look of surprise on their faces when I took Chica out of her box. She was at this point fully grown and because of her natural fear of humans she spread out her wings and went into a defensive position. Quite impressive.



Her training started straight away. I first, though, had to win her trust. So I had to spend at least two hours with her every day. The first step was to get her feeding on the fist. For that I had to offer her food as she stood on the falconry glove each day. It sounds simple but it is one of the most important parts of training. In the first three days she didn't feed on the fist and so quite simply could not be fed. On the fourth day hunger won out over fear and she started eating. This is difficult for the bird, because she had to lower her head and take her eyes off me. From then on I let her jump for food from a perch to my fist. All the time she was tethered with leather anklets and leather strips called jesses and a long nylon leash. Every day I increased the length of the leash until we got to a 15 metre nylon line called a cr ance. From then on every thing went quite fast until I could let her fly free. I did not have to teach her how to hunt rabbits and other animals; hawks are natural killers.

I would like to thank all the teachers, staff and pupils that helped me with my work. Especially the Thompson family, Mr Vallot and his wife, Mr Shepherd, Mr Court, Jamie Morrison and particularly Mr Proctor who helped me a lot by driving me around and giving up his time.

Moritz Dapprich

“I'd told a couple of people that I was going to bring a bird of prey to stay at Strathallan, but I don't think they believed me.”



EQUESTRIANISM

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

This year Strathallan has some exciting equestrian results, including news of three riders who have qualified for national finals held in England. They have also competed for their Pony Clubs at "Interbranch" this year which is a great achievement since it is one of the Pony Club's premier events.



DRESSAGE

Many congratulations go to Alice Page who has been selected to ride for the U21 Scottish Dressage Team. She came 2nd at the N.E. of Scotland dressage festival at Novice level and 3rd at Prelim level, and she has qualified for the Scottish Championships. She has also qualified for the "Best of Scotland Dressage Festival", and she is riding in the Scottish international individual dressage event. In addition, she was placed at the trailblazers national dressage championships at Stoneleigh Park.

She represented Strathearn Pony Club in their Senior Interbranch Dressage team, and came 2nd in her arena which won her the "Best Junior" award.

CROSS-COUNTRY / JUMPCROSS

Helen Summersgill won the 3ft "Hunter Trials" at Bachilton run by Strathearn Eventing, and Stephanie Lyon won the 3ft Jumpcross twice at the same venue. Congratulations go to Stephanie who has also qualified for the B.H.S. cross-country championships in Bedford.



SHOWJUMPING

Helen and Stephanie have completed a successful year showjumping. They have both cleared some very big fences – Stephanie won at Gleneagles by clearing 3'8" in a "Chase me Charlie" competition, and Helen came 2nd at Dabbs Equestrian Centre by clearing the Puissance wall at 4'8". Helen has completed her first year in the B.S.J.A. and has progressed through five rounds in order to qualify for the National finals of the British Novice 3'3" (1m) competition. She won one of the qualifying rounds, and she has competed regularly for Fife Hunt Pony Club Senior Open showjumping team which has won 2 competitions this year, including Elmwood College's "Kingdom Cup". She has also been a member of the Fife Hunt Open Interbranch showjumping team. Stephanie won the Gleneagles Nursery Novice winter showjumping league and came 4th in the Novice league. She has competed regularly for Strathearn Pony Club showjumping and tetrathlon teams, and represented her pony club in their Intermediate Interbranch Event Team this year.

KILGRASTON SCOTTISH SCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Strathallan School entered 2 teams in this highly competitive event this year.

The senior team riders were Harriet Page, Helen Summersgill, Pamela Garratt and Cara Duncan. They all put in a great effort on the day, and although they weren't placed, congratulations go to Harriet Page for performing very well in the dressage, and to Helen Summersgill for getting the best result for the team in the showjumping.

The intermediate team riders were Alice Page, Olivia Streatfeild-James, Rachel Leslie and Stephanie Lyon. Good performances in the dressage were achieved by Alice and Olivia, and Olivia also gained the best results in the showjumping.

The competition was intense with over 190 competitors, and all our team members deserve praise for their perseverance and determination throughout the event. My thanks go to all the riders, and a huge "thankyou" must also go to their parents and helpers.

J.A.S.



SHOOTING



Oxford (and the CLA Gamefair at Blenheim Palace) is a long way from rural Perthshire and Strathallan School. The Scots have, even before the Clearances, been a well-travelled and adventurous people and we were happy to pack our guns and kilts and a little of the money that proudly carries pictures of the likes of Robbie Burns in our sporrans. We noticed, whilst in England, the long and admiring scrutiny these banknotes were subject to and the extraordinary courtesy with which they were returned.

Practised travellers always go well-provisioned and shod, and Victor Chandler gave us some generous sponsorship that carried pictures of the Forth Road Bridge. Virgin Trains offered us free tickets and thus seven innocent Scots laddies and their well-scrubbed ghillies marched south on July 22. Arriving at Oxford we found our way to a sleeping/eating/shopping complex that would have entirely blotted out Forgandenny.

On Friday morning, at eight o'clock we were on the road to the CLA Gamefair. It was about six miles door-to-door, about an hour and a half in boots and carrying a thumbstick. Three hours later our hired minibus had queued its way there, accompanied by a huge flock of four-wheel drive shopping trolleys and some invective that would have made a fence post blush.

The boys shot a 50 bird sporting layout by way of a practice for the next day. Had they been real pigeons the farmer would have been looking for other ways to protect his crop. We had finished fourth in the British schools in May and were wondering how on earth we were going to compete with such teams as Rugby or Millfield or Kimbolton. Saturday would give us our answer.

Almost before the melodic puttering of the first chrome-plated exhaust pipes could be heard we were on the road. Determined not to be caught in the traffic again, we arrived

early. In the quiet of morning the sheer size and scope of the gamefair was a bit daunting. Would many be watching the schools' "Champion of Champions" shoot?

We made our way to a pay-as-you-go compact stand and shot much better. Our reserve, Alan Garratt, shot best of the lot but our selection procedure had been such that he was not to count as part of the team unless there were an injury – or perchance, a casualty. I thought carefully; considered buying the boys a round of soft drinks; realised I'd not packed the syrup of figs in the medical kit and then returned the carefully-folded note to my sporran.

Once at the competition layout we learned that some of the Rugby shots had not made it and that it was to be a three-cornered affair between Kimbolton, Millfield and us. After a closely-fought eliminator we found ourselves in the final against Millfield. They beat us by a two-clay margin. We could now travel home honourably and we duly offered our congratulations to the winners whilst plotting their demise. It's an old Scottish custom and one of our more quaint characteristics.

Our chance came in the Scottish Schools Championship in September. It was again a very close thing between Strathallan and Millfield. The atmosphere was tense and the one clay that separated the two teams – and that saw Strathallan win – had probably cracked up in fright.

The Strathallan team – Benno Rawlinson, Keith Brown, Matthew Smith, Alan Garratt, Struan Gordon, Rory Gibson and Fraser Rawlinson – have many thanks to make; to CLA, Victor Chandler, Virgin Trains and Cluny Clays. Iain MacGregor and Douglas Barr had offered us some great coaching. Best thanks, though, go to Millfield for being so sporting as to make the journey north for the competition this side of the border.

CNC



SUB AQUA

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

YET ANOTHER NEW FIRST, ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING...

Diving becomes increasingly difficult to manage at a School, but luckily the club is very well resourced and the pupils who opt to take it are resilient and dependable (this is English for rufty-tufty). A case in point are the four pupils who were involved in the diving expedition to the Red Sea just last October. As well as having lots of fun (as you shall read in a moment) it should be noted how hard they worked and how well they looked out for each other in what can sometimes be a fickle & dangerous environment (and that's just the swimming pool). Robert, Fergie, Sam and Tasha made the experience fun for themselves and for others around them and even managed to survive being harangued by the local Hurghada merchants. The Edinburgh Academy boys who we teamed up with were equally impressive and I would look forward to another joint trip were we to share the same half term holidays again.

There wasn't as much pool activity as in past years, however there are a large number of the III Form who are interested in discovering the wonders of the underwater world next session and it looks like it will be a busy year for the section. As always in a School club we must say some farewells: so, goodbye to 'Captain' Mike Wilson who retires this year. I know he will be sadly missed by colleagues and pupils alike. Our diving experiences over the past 5 years would have suffered without him.

One last word before you enjoy Tasha's unique account of our Red Sea experience. A warning: **STAY AWAY** from Black Henna – it leaves a nasty rash.

EGYPT 2003

AFTER TRAINING US UP TO BE "RUFTY TUFTY" DIVERS IN THE ICY DEPTHS OF OBAN, MR MCCANN DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO TAKE A NEW PLUNGE – AWAY FROM MURKY, SEAWEED-INFESTED WATERS – AND TAKE US ON A DIVING TRIP TO THE RED SEA OVER THE OCTOBER HALF-TERM 2003.

The trip really started the night before we left, when we went to see Finding Nemo at the cinema, and as divers felt a bit guilty when he was kidnapped (Nemo, that is. Not Mr. McCann!) We left for the airport far too early, and met up with the rest of our group there. There were 13 of us altogether – Sam, Robert, Alex and I, plus seven guys from Edinburgh Academy, Mr McCann and Dr Carr.

We arrived in Hurghada on a hot Arabian night, and the next day we were glad to be on the boat by 8am after a lavish breakfast, a feature which continued throughout the week. The boat took us to many amazing off-shore sites where we experienced two scuba dives a day, lots of snorkelling, and a fantastic lunch with as much water and fizzy-pop as you could drink. The heat was intense and the dives were really spectacular. The Red Sea has a lot to offer and we had some close encounters with evil clown fish, rays, eels and turtles. On this occasion we only encountered the dolphins who surfed on our bow waves.

After soaking up the Egyptian sun or snorkelling on the many shallow but stunning reefs, we would arrive back at the rear of the Hotel where we could wash off the salt and get ready for an interesting night out in the little town of Hurghada. The restaurants were varied and the food tasty but best of all were the array of brightly lit shops where you could buy just about anything for a well-contested price or, if really desperate, a kiss on the cheek!



On our last day we were joined on the boat by an underwater cameraman who captured a day's diving experience: from kitting up, special boat service precision penguin flops off the back of the boat into the greeny-blue water (on one occasion fancy dress style), unusual "Zoltan" hand signals and other underwater antics, lunchtime laziness, and lots of people just having fun (not least Mr. McCann who was told off for climbing onto the top deck awning and throwing himself out into the air to be quickly swallowed up by the sea, seemingly never to re-appear again – yet again our hopes were dashed at the last). The return journey back to terra firma was always a quiet time as people reflected on the day's experiences – writing up their log books and taking in the breathtaking sunsets which lit the sky up ever so briefly with vivid reds, blues and yellows before surrendering to the light grey of evening.



Since we weren't allowed to dive on the last full day of the holiday to allow us to de-gas before getting airborne, and not satisfied with a mere six days' worth of underwater adventure we raced off into the desert (strange for a bunch of water babies I know) on quad bikes for half a day. Definitely another highlight of the trip despite the sand blasts, near collisions (just the staff again) and sweltering heat. We arrived at a 'dry' oasis well into the desert and were met by a local some 20 minutes later with three or four small bottles of coke. This did come as a bit of a surprise but we managed to get back to civilisation and litres and litres of cool water – indescribable pleasure!

From metre-wide pizza-eating competitions to banana boating with cunning drivers, the whole trip was a huge success thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We made lots of new friends and it was an experience I'm sure none of us will ever forget. Especially since we all have DVDs of our last day's diving. At Strath we are now helping Mr. McCann to train up the eager new 4th form recruits in the pool and there are already rumours of a return trip to Egypt in October 2005. I hope you guys have as much fun as we did.

Tasha Smith
Woodlands Upper Sixth





PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDING OF THE OLD STRATHALLIAN CLUB

Harry Riley welcomed readers to the first Strathallian Magazine with the following address:

MY FRIENDS

To many of you it will come as a great surprise to learn that this is not the first School magazine which has been issued from Strathallian.

Sometime during the season 1916-17, several of the younger boys ran an edition which was entirely written by hand and which contained many really creditable compositions. It was obviously for private circulation among a limited number, for many of the older boys came in for rather humorous criticism, and the Staff, myself included, were by no means let off lightly.

The next attempt was more ambitious: the Magazine had one issue and was printed, the whole being carried through by two or three junior boys in the School, and there is no doubt that it was a most creditable production; and it is a great pity that it was allowed to lapse.

Now, with this issue I think that we have placed the Magazine on a proper basis, thanks to the energies of the English Department; but it must always be borne in mind that the boys themselves, not excluding Old Boys, will be expected to take over to an ever increasing extent the editing management of the "Strathallian".

May it ever flourish!

Yours sincerely,

H. RILEY



Riley and Guests outside the New Pavilion

The editors added – *To those Former Pupils to whom this venture may come as a surprise, we send out an invitation for their co-operation by literary contributions, and by items of interest about themselves, and their activities, social or business, in the form of F. P. Notes, so that through this organ old School friends may keep in touch with one another.* George Baker, who successfully sat an entrance exam for Brasenose College, Oxford, was the first such contributor, and he and Tommy Hart, a quite humorous writer, became the first pupil editors of the Magazine released in the Spring Term 1827. The first reference to an Old Strathallian was that to Sam Dow who had left the previous year and had won the Vintner Scholarship from London University, which involved a study tour of many European cities. Rugby matches had been played at the end of September against Former Pupils and the Edinburgh 'Varsity Union, won and lost respectively, as part of the social calendar against the School XV captained by Tommy Hart. Some mention was made of the likelihood of a similar competition for the School Cricket XI, also to be captained by Hart.

The Magazine was to have been released at the end of the winter term as the first of three termly productions, but problems with the final editing and printing delayed release until the spring, by which time was added the content of the planned second Magazine. So the actual second Magazine was produced at the end of the summer term and successfully each term from then on to the end of 1830; a total of twelve Magazines that made Volume One. It was over this period that the Old Strathallian Club was conceived and established.

Strathallian School was a private establishment which lacked the Board of Governors that necessarily graced the better known Public Schools. Not being a Public School, Strathallian was unable to compete on the sports field against the established educational names in Scotland, but still managed what many considered to be a more competitive fixture list against other schools and clubs. Harry Riley knew that this situation would change as the school became more successful. His plan was that the school would be left to the care of former pupils though there was no official grouping of the many former pupils whom he met informally each year, some of whom already wore a special blazer created by Rowans; Royal Blue with a tinsel badge and coat of arms buttons.



Commemoration Day 1932

Each summer term was marked by a Sports' Day, which had become one of the accepted times that many former pupils returned to the school, so the one held on 7th June 1927 was more unusual for two reasons. Firstly, the rain conspired to fall heavily throughout the day for the first time in ten years, considerably dampening the spirits of competitors and spectators alike. Secondly, Harry Riley met all those former pupils in attendance at a lunch when they witnessed the inauguration of the Old Boys' Club for which Harry Riley agreed to act as temporary secretary and treasurer. Allan Robertson, from the Bridge of Allan days, was the first ever enrolled member of the Club. Riley was soon to be supported by A. W. James, a close friend, who took the role of General Secretary, and J. B. Morrison who became Treasurer. James always accompanied Harry Riley to the various meetings and dinners, and was ever ready to give an account of the formation and development of the Club. He always insisted that his position was a temporary appointment, even at the end of 1932 when he resigned to allow an Old Strathallian to take up the post.

The Strathallian Magazine of Summer 1927 that summer contained a membership form to be returned as quickly as possible as 'invitations to the Annual Dinner at Xmas will be issued to members only. I expect a good turnout and intend to use the event to create office bearers. I also intend to make the Club a real live one which will not only facilitate performance of social functions, but one which will be a very real help to "O.S.'s" in business and life as a whole'. Harry Riley also intended the Magazine to act in the interests of Club when he added that he will be pleased to receive from "O.S.'s" items of personal interest with a view to publication. He produced twelve items on Old Boys himself for the magazine, a feature of the Magazine for many years, as well as highlighting Sam Dow's European progress as the Vintner Scholar, a success of which Harry Riley was very proud.

It is with great pleasure that we watch the Former Pupils rallying round their old school by joining the newly formed Old Boys' Club, which promises to be a really living bond of union. We understand that up to the time of going to press 106 have enrolled, which, though an excellent beginning, is a comparatively small proportion of eligible members. We hope that many will make their New Year's resolutions, and will see that it is not broken. Thus, Harry Riley began the third Strathallian Magazine, with the assistance of the new editors; A. M. Moodie and E. W. Hart. This time the Magazine included the first account of the annual trip around Europe that Harry Riley made with his senior prefects; and an article on life in Burma written by Tom Ferguson, a former pupil from the Bridge of Allan days. The latter was the first of many accounts on businesses around the world run by Old Strathallians, which were to encompass every continent. Harry Riley provided an expanded "O.S." Notes, as part of his plan to record and advertise the success of former pupils in business, academic and sporting life. He was especially proud of Dan Smith and W. S. Scott who were part of a representative Scotland XV in India.

The editors were beginning to recognise the enormous part that the former pupil contributions played in the magazine, and the success that this imparted, but were equally aware that existing school members were not as involved as they would have liked. "The Strathallian" is the official organ of the School: and the whole School reads it and enjoys it; and as it represents each member of the community, each member should feel it his duty actively to support it and have a finger in its production. Those boys who were responsible for the first number realise that they began something of which they may be proud, and are still contributors. Is the School to stand by and let the number of F. P. contributors surpass that of the present pupils?



PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



Sam Dow, third president elected in 1934.
He attended the School from 1921-27 Member
of the first XV and XI for several years



George B. Smith, fourth president elected in 1935.
He attended the School from 1920-26 Member of
the 1st XV and XI 1925-26; Captain of School 1925-6.

Of course, as 1927 drew to a close, the crowning event for Harry Riley was the Old Boys' Dinner. This was held by about fifty former pupils at the Central Station Hotel, Glasgow, on the 16th December following an informal meeting of the Club when the proposed rules for the Club were confirmed and plans were laid for a future meeting to be held at Forgandenny on 19th February; the date agreed for the official opening of the new Simpson House. The dinner was highlighted by the exchange between Tom Ferguson, who reminded the assembled company of the spirit encouraged at Bridge of Allan by Jimmy Gowans, David Nicol, Allan Harley and George Mollison. Harry Riley observed that Tom had rightly divined the true source of Strathallian's success and that the various generations of Strathallians had broadened and strengthened these foundations until now it could be seen the vital part of the school was neither bricks nor mortar, neither flesh nor blood but spirit. Further exchanges between Gavin Morton, recognised as the founder of the school rugby club, and Tommy Hart, the last year's games captain, neatly pointed out that there existed in the school teams a splendid esprit de corps which was really the first essential of a successful team. Unfortunately, a bulletin of the evening with a photograph of the assembly, which we know was circulated due to a letter received from Hamish McPherson in Alberta, has not survived.

Harry Riley must have been delighted at the success of his move towards the formation of a secure link between the School and the former pupils. The practical mechanisms for the implementation of the scheme were well constructed and had withstood the tests. It is no coincidence that all this occurred at a time when the school roll broke 200 for the first time, a School song had been written, and a considerable investment had been made in new buildings and substantial new lawns for cricket. The three Houses; Nicol, Freeland and Ruthven, were to be complemented by a fourth to be named Simpson - Harry Riley's mother's maiden name. Like the publication of the first magazine, the opening of the building was delayed for a while. During this last summer, we have had a record number of Old Boys visiting the schoolthis is most gratifying, as it shows not only an increasing bond of fellowship coming into being, but the growing interest of Strathallians, generally, in the doings of the School.



Robert Barr, President 1939 and 1st Old Strathallian Representative Governor of the School. He was at School 1921- 26 Member of the 1st XV and XI for several years.

Harry Riley took the opportunity to save his beloved Alvis from the exigencies of the annual European Tour with a cruise instead around the Norwegian Fjords. It is clear that the presence of the School Captain Hamish Kay and the Magazine editors Moodie and Hart on the cruise would have meant that magazine number three was discussed in some comfort. The fourth edition, edited by Mr. M. Norton of the English Department with the assistance of Willie Thomson and Leonard Galloway, was a much more balanced publication which intelligently covered Sports, Scouting and Drama at home along with topics like dairy farming in New Zealand, and included several humorous articles. It was noted that Tommy Hart, W. J. Walker and W. H. Reid who all played first-class Scottish cricket over the summer season were worthily upholding the tradition of Strathallan as a cricketing school. At the same time, Guthrie Reid, whom some of the best Judges of Rugby Football had openly predicted to receive International honours in the Scottish side at Murrayfield, was compelled by doctors to give up the game; he continued to give to the sport as the organiser of the Old Boys' matches.

**THE BOSS HAD ACHIEVED HIS GOAL:
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAST
WAS COMPLETE.**

During the Christmas break a frozen pipe had caused damage to the ceilings of the new building and the proposed February meeting at Forgandenny of the Old Strathallian Club was postponed and held instead on 11th March 1828. Harry Riley was able to mount a tour of some of the new boarding rooms, not all occupied until September, and the new dining rooms. There were several proposals made at this, the first formal meeting of the Old Boy's Club. The blazer came in for some discussion and very colourful suggestions, although use of the existing version produced by Rowans was to continue for the present. Invitations were to be sent for an Old Boys' Commemoration Day on the last Saturday in June, and the next Annual Dinner would be in Glasgow on 21st December at a cost of about fifteen shillings a member.

Fourteen former pupils met Harry Riley at an informal dinner in London in April with a view to forming a London Branch of the Club, and Glasgow former pupils arranged a special game for the School on the last day of April against a Glasgow University XV that boasted four Old Boys and a guest Old Boy from Oxford, and was lost only by three points to nineteen. The London representatives invited Harry Riley to referee a game of rugby between the firms of Steel Brothers and Balfour Williamson, which teams involved ten Old Strathallians. The expertise of the London "Strath" Club came to the attention of London Scottish, having available some of the best of the School fifteens about four or five years ago. Alan Porter who worked for Steel Bros was playing for 'Scottish at the time.

Many were present, as usual, at the Annual Sports Day on June 15th 1928. Harry Riley had invited Lady Grant of Monymusk, a former occupant of Freeland and one of the daughters of the previous owner, Collingwood Lindsay Wood, to present the prizes. One of the new prizes was a silver cup given by Mr and Mrs Dow for the champion House at rugby; first winner was Freeland. A second cup given by the Dows for Cricket went to Nicol, presented at the end of the season by Harry Riley on July 10th. Other dates were established on the calendar. Interest was kindled in a grand tennis tournament which culminated in semi-finals and finals on July the 5th and 6th, and a swimming championship was held on Monday July 9th in the swimming pool only made available some four days earlier: little regret was expressed that the annual dip in the River Earn was a thing of the past. Harry Riley officially opened the pool on the evening of Friday 26th October. This meant that on the occasion of the Old Boy's Annual Rugby match held on 1st December there was also a swimming relay competition between the School and former pupils; victory to the latter through the formidable efforts of George Smith, A. Moodie, and Alan Lambie, hot from the Rugby field.



PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



Simpson House

The second Annual Dinner was held on Friday 21st December 1828 in Glasgow. The majority of members were still in favour of the venue but the selection of a future venue was the subject of diverse opinions, so much so that a Dinner Committee was established with Sam Dow and Guthrie Reid to look at the situation seriously, while Tommy Hart and J. B. Morrison were appointed to act with Harry Riley in drawing up rules and regulations regarding the formation of Branch Clubs at home and abroad. The membership had increased from one hundred and five to one hundred and forty four over the year, and there were fourteen life members on the roll. The Committee announced that they would like very much to have at least fifty Life Members by the end of this year, and the parents of boys who are about to leave have been approached with a view to their making their sons a present of life membership. Harry Riley felt that experience shows that where joining the Club is left to the boy himself he often delays so long that he loses touch with his old school and school friends.

Eighteen London Strathallians led by James Motion held their first annual dinner at the Kenilworth Hotel, Bloomsbury, with Harry Riley as their chairman. Riley gave the members a detailed account of the progress made by the Club since its inception, adding that he regretted that there had been some difficulty in tracing some of the members who are known to be resident in London. He knew at this time that there were plans for Branch Clubs at Dundee and Edinburgh through George Smith and Jardine Stuart respectively. Riley had intended to keep the Club together as one body but now found a serious divergence due to location, which he was trying to negotiate in the best way. In the end he gave his approval to members to link themselves up with the parent body through their Local Branches. One of the first 'collective' issues of the new branches was to decide on the final form of the Old Strathallian Blazer – plain or striped? The latter was selected by a majority of only three votes, and Guthrie Reid led a 'blazer committee' to decide on the final colours

On 3rd February 1929, the Dinner Committee met at Forgandenny. The sundry expenses of the Dinner had always been met by Harry Riley, but the committee wanted a more formal arrangement and were aware of the costs to members. They decided to hold the Dinner on Saturday 1st December with the interests of Old Strathallians living at a distance from Glasgow at heart. D. Oliver Melrose, Strathallan's most successful goal kicker ever, personally offered such members to arrange to stay with old Strathallians in Glasgow for the night of the Dinner. A second innovation was the intention to invite a guest of honour to be present at the Dinner and bearing in mind that he is sure to tell us a good deal about ourselves, we trust we shall be proud of seeing ourselves as others see us. News was received of an impending dinner to be held in Rangoon from Alan Porter who stated that there are many Strathallians in this district now, and we suggest that they should get together and have a Strath. Dinner and send an account of it for the Magazine. There was also a 'Strath' Colony settling down under the wing of Clydesdale Cricket Club with five Old Strathallians in regular attendance, one of whom, Tommy Hart, had already arranged a School versus Glasgow 'Varsity XV match at the end of the 1928 season.

The Dundee Strathallians' Dinner held at Kidd's Restaurant in early February was a proven success with a good turnout through the work of George Smith, the Dundee Local Secretary. This was despite the serious Influenza outbreak that wrecked similar plans by the Edinburgh Strathallians: their first dinner was not to be until Saturday 7th December at the North British Hotel. Harry Riley attended in Dundee yet again as the honoured chairman and was accompanied by Mr. M. Norton, the editor of the Strathallian. There were also a large number of unofficial dinners due to the 'coming of age' of several Club members throughout the year, the largest gathering of which was for Sam Dow and required a substantial Glasgow ballroom.

The first Commemoration Day fell on Saturday 29th June 1929 as planned but the date of Sports' Day was changed to become the day before. This year, no invitations were sent as they know that they will be heartily welcomed and the more of them there are present on these occasions the more pleased we shall be. As might have been expected, fewer former pupils than usual attended Sports' Day for which the prize giver was Mrs Murray of Taymount, the sister of the previous year's guest. Commemoration Day began with a chapel service at three o'clock in the afternoon for about thirty members and the Senior School; another twenty former pupils arrived later. Harry Riley specifically selected the hymns "Fight the Good Fight", and "We Love the Place" and gave one of his expected addresses, emphasising the ideals of the school and the greatness of its spirit. On such a day with present upholders of that spirit mingling with those of the past, all might benefit; particularly those who had left, and in the whirl of business lost some of that idealism, are afforded an opportunity of recapturing their schoolboy fervour and public spiritedness and can go back to their work with a new faith and a renewed strength. The service was followed by the annual twelve-a-side cricket match between the School and the Old Boys; the latter fielding nine first team blazers. This strength proved not to be enough when the School, probably invigorated by the close contest with H. B. Rowan's XI only the previous Wednesday, came out victors as they passed the Old Boys total with 131 for eight wickets. In the evening was held the second ever Swimming Relay Race.

The magazine was to lose Thomson and Galloway after two years service as editors; both heading for Scottish Universities like many of their fellows. They were replaced by D. Walker and J. T. Johnston, a tricky scrum-half and good opening bat. The undoubted success of Strathallians at many Universities made the annual reunions doubly important. Old Strathallian Dinners were to be held now in Glasgow, Dundee, Edinburgh and London; this last to coincide with the England – Scotland International at Twickenham and expecting a large Strathallian attendance. Foremost amongst the representative honours was Tommy Hart who secured Strathallan's first International cap at Murrayfield, with the support of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd School XVs and a very large contingent of Old Boys. Dan Smith had been selected some three years earlier but had been unable to take his part, and the next would be Tubby Ritchie, on the bench for the French game in 1830 but played against England the following season; and Ronnie Dunn, a trialist in 1931. Such was the wealth of expertise amongst the Old Boys that Guthrie Reid became convenor of a new committee with Robert Barr formed to take charge of future Old Boys matches against the School.

The third Annual Dinner was held as planned on 21st December 1929 at the Grosvenor Restaurant and a large gathering from the now 179 members, including representatives from each Local Branch, was present to hear an address from the guest Lieutenant Colonel A. D. MacInnes Shaw, D. S. O. If your school can combine education, and first class commercial education at that, with the esprit de corps I see tonight, your school is second to none. But there is even more than that; one makes at school friends, and these friendships are greater than any other friendship that we can form throughout life. Harry Riley could not have wished for a more complimentary endorsement of the course of action that he had started just two years previously through the Magazine. Further speeches that night showed the affection felt for him by the Old Boys. James Dow emphasised with more than a little self-deprecation the schemes and enormous expenditure on the School which would not, I am sure, have been authorised by any Board of Governors. One story told of Harry Riley was of the time he met a U. S. Senator and his wife on a train journey on the Riviera. The American, a great traveller, spoke of places all over the world, to which Riley replied almost every time: "Oh, yes, one of my boys is there!" The American's wife turned eventually to Riley and said in a mystified voice, "Say! You've got a boy in Shanghai, another in Chile, several in America and many in London. Gee! You must have an enormous family." Harry Riley's protestations that he was but a bachelor only served to complicate matters further.

THE BOSS HAD ACHIEVED HIS GOAL: THE BRIDGE BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT WAS COMPLETE.

He confided to the assembled company just how much work he had done unnoticed on their behalf. We are now in close touch with business concerns all over Britain who are very anxious to take our boys who earn the school's recommendation and train them eventually for executive posts. Now this part of school life takes up a lot of my time, since I visit not only the boys in these firms, but also their directors who keep me posted not only with the progress that the boys are making, but with their own exact requirements. There is a tremendous advantage in this to the boys, to the School, to business and the country. He added significantly, in explanation of the bond he continued to form with his senior boys, I have drawn my prefects much closer to me than ever they were in the history of the school – and I have done this on the advice of some of you here tonight. We had the first of a series of prefects' dinners this last term, where after the usual formal toasts, we had quite a useful exchange of views, and I was delighted to find that they were able not only to make useful and constructive suggestions, but they showed an increased keenness to do anything in their power to further the interests of the School.



PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

John B Maitland Cowan, first permanent Secretary and Treasurer of the Old Strathallian Club, elected in December 1933. He attended the School from 1922-25; one of the first former pupils to attend Glasgow University and one of the most successful lawyers ever from the school. Harry Riley came to rely on his friendship and advice, and he continued to serve the school for many years following H.R.'s death.



The contacts that Harry Riley had made over the years, and the numbers of former pupils in successful businesses as a result, now led to an extraordinary rugby game held at Forgandenny on March 12th 1930. The previous December, the Old Boys Rugby XV had managed their first victory against the school for some years, due to the preparation of Guthrie Reid and Robert Barr. Now, nine Strathallians, of whom all worked for the India Tyre and Rubber Company of Inchinnan, brought several of their colleagues for a rugby game against the School. The School, however, reverted to type as on many of these occasions, and, captained by T. F. F. Docherty, made up for the earlier lapse by soundly beating their challengers India of Inchinnan. Revenge was achieved by the latter a year later against an unbeaten School XV captained by George Moncur, said to be the most elusive attacking centre and defensive tackler ever.

A. M. Melville, the President of the India Tyre and Rubber Company was, however, more partial to cricket, and was present when an India of Inchinnan XI played the School XI on 24th May. India lost for the removal of only three Strathallian wickets and the demands on the School of some fourteen runs in the last over to win. However he was also the guest of honour at Sports Day on May 28th when he officially opened the new Cricket Pavilion. In front of a large company of Old Strathallians and parents, he paid tribute to Mr. Riley's work and to the type of boy the School was sending out into the world. He also made a personal presentation of the Melville Cup to be awarded each year to the winning house at Cricket; the first being Freeland in 1930. This was the last year when Old Boys versus School events would be held on Sports' Day. Henceforth, they - running and tug-of-war - would be held on Commemoration Day with the cricket, swimming relays and water polo. A tennis match was introduced the following year, and golf on the Glenfarg course a year later.

Professor J. Steggall of St. Andrews presented the Sports' Day Prizes. Professor Steggall was an old friend of Harry Riley, and a representative of the academic contacts that Harry Riley had made and maintained over the years. The two men had first met when Professor Steggall administered the first examinations at Bridge of Allan. He had performed this function for Harry Riley ever since, and had overseen the growing number of University scholarship examinations. Harry Riley was never to forget the contributions and support made in this area and, although firmly dependent on his Old Strathallians, later insisted on a wide academic representation in any future Board of Governors. Professor Steggall was also the guest of honour at the Dundee Local Branch Dinner held on 6th December. In proposing the toast of 'The School', the professor agreed to what extent the School occupied a warm corner of his heart, and emphasised how much the School owed its position and success to the driving force of Mr. Riley, whose name he coupled with the Toast as being inseparable. Riley replied that without the spirit shown by the Old Boys during their schooldays, I would never have dared to put into practice the aspirations which are my share in the School's growth.

Harry Riley was very happy with the huge turnout on Saturday 28th June for the second Commemoration Day, with at least doubled numbers of Club Members in attendance, although he did wonder where the next service would be held if numbers continued to increase at the present rate. He then summarised his position for the Old Strathallian Club at the Annual Dinner on the evening of Saturday 20th December 1830, exactly four years after he had published that first address in the Strathallian Magazine.

When I speak of the School I mean the whole corporate body, not only at Forgandenny, but in a larger and greater degree in the outer world.At School, those of you who have paid us a visit within the last three months cannot but realise the very great improvements that have been made since we last met here.



N. Guthrie Reid, second president elected in December 1933 He attended the school from 1923-26; member of 1st XV 1924-26 and was Captain 1st XI 1926 that defeated the famous H. B. Rowans XI. He was advised to give up Rugby while full-back at Glasgow Academicals and his understudy was selected to play for Scotland

In sport, the Strathallian records speak for themselves, and they have spoken so loudly that they have awakened that somnolent body, the Executive of the Scottish Rugby Union, to a realisation that we are to get our full quota of international tickets a year.

At the Universities, we are gaining honours degrees. There are some present here tonight who have been guilty of the old Scottish offence of raiding across the border, and the 'traditional enemy' is being relieved of several hundred pounds per annum, won in the face of the keenest competition in the world.

In business life, great international companies, such as Shell Oil, Rand Mines, Hudson Bay, have Strathallians on their staff and they invite invitations from others.

In the Civil Service, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has now included us in the list of public schools to be solicited from entrants to the higher branches, and I may say that we have at least ten or twelve boys who are serving in responsible positions in our Crown Colonies. I tell you it is a very significant sign of the times that Old Boys' organisations of Scottish public schools have quite recently invited us to co-operate with them in the formation of a Joint Club in those parts of the world where individual clubs are impracticable.

Thus, Gentlemen, at last we are gaining that recognition for which we have long striven, and I believe the future holds in store for us even greater things and I appeal to you to stand 'four square' by your fellows so that we might show a united front, and to fight your own battle in life in the way in which I have seen you fight on the playing fields at Strathallan.

**THE BOSS HAD ACHIEVED HIS GOAL:
THE PAST AND PRESENT WERE LINKED
IRREVOCABLY WITH THE FUTURE.**

GRMR



D. Oliver Melrose, first president elected in December 1932 in place of Harry Riley. He attended the school from 1920-24, and was a member of the Rugby 1st VX 1922-24; Cricket 1st XI 1924, and Captain of Nicol House 1924. Harry Riley's close friend A. W. James resigned also in 1932 after five years as General Secretary to be replaced by Stephen Brand



Cricket 1st XV 1930



ARMY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

ARMY CCF REPORT 2003-4

This has been a busy and successful year for the RM and Army side of the CCF with a number of highlights as well as some new developments which are likely to have an impact on the future of the organisation here at Strathallan.

Building on the success of the Recruits' Section last year, we extended the programme so that all 27 4th Formers have spent the entire year in the Section rather than specialising early - this has allowed us to get through the basic training without the distraction of wondering who wanted to join the RM Troop. As things have panned out, numbers are almost exactly even between the take-up for the Army and RM at present. The Recruits have been an excellent and reliable group on the whole, and 'though some have struggled to cope with the demands of remembering their uniform or learning Drill, most have overcome these hurdles and all should be able to confirm that the more effort you put in, the more enjoyment you derive.



The senior part of the Army Section, in the form of RSM Chris Watson and CSM Jake Streatfeild-James, has provided the leadership for the Contingent, a role more often falling to the RM Troop. What has been particularly pleasing, is the way in which the 5th Form and Lower 6th cadets have combined their own training (map reading, fieldcraft, preparation for next term's HCTC) with passing on their skills and knowledge to the Recruits: James Lawson, Rebecca Elliott and Alex Smith all successfully followed the Methods of Instruction course which qualifies them for further promotion. A new initiative this year was the BTEC First Diploma in Public Services: this course allows all cadets with 2 year's service to gain official recognition for the skills they have acquired in the CCF. From about ten starters, those who have completed the various tasks as I write are James Lawson and David Burgess (David will be the first from Strathallan to receive a certificate); nearly there are Digby Legge and Chris Watson. My experience of administering the award and helping cadets with the paperwork, is that the amount of extra work needed to gain certification is not too challenging.

Out in the field we have run the usual training days - October Field Day was at Barry Buddon and consisted of a (new) tactical exercise, Exercise Magnum (I say "new" in case anyone thinks that the same scenarios are trotted out year after year - for shame!). The Recruits also had their own exercise in May rather than March, due to commitments to rehearsals for "Les Misérables". The only problem with night exercises in May, is that there is precious little darkness - First Light was officially at 7am, but most of the cadets were up and about rather earlier. Rumour has it that the Thornbank girls did manage to apply their makeup after a night in the field.

Wednesday afternoons have been a tad difficult to staff, with the 5th Form programme losing out on occasions to allow resources to be channelled towards the Recruits. I hope that from next September the course (APC Advanced) which forms the backbone of this second compulsory year of CCF service, will be more interesting and better coordinated - plans are afoot to make it so. An accommodating lot, the 5th Form have worked hard and clearly take a pride in what they are doing. They should be able to put together a very reasonable team for next term's HCTC, and have impressed the Training Team.

The year has had some indisputable highlights: The Royal Marines Visibility Team visited us in February to teach camouflage and concealment and enjoyed themselves so much that they asked if they could return the following week. On the 5th May we were visited by Capt. Pickering of the Army Air Corps, who gave twenty-four cadets a flight in his helicopter - good publicity for the CCF - and almost left part of the aircraft with us as a souvenir. He did say he will be back before the end of the year.





Adventurous Training is an important part of the CCF experience, and again I am indebted to Mr. Higginbottom for the time and enthusiasm he has brought to his role as our AT expert. Thanks to him, the senior Army Cadets were able to go out to do some live navigation. The Recruits received First Aid training as well as proper Map and Compass instruction, and were able to go orienteering, climbing and abseiling in June. We have also made a start on the integration of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme into the CCF, with well over half of the Contingent opting in.

The last event in the year is always Central Camp – for a change this year, we went to Cultybraggan. To those in the know, of course, this is a joke – we always go to Cultybraggan. Apparently not in future, though: the MOD is seriously considering closing the camp. Anyway, we took thirty-three cadets to Cultybraggan this year, a record number in this day and age, and had a thoroughly good week in which we were able to kayak, build rafts, abseil and walk a Munro as well as a whole day on the ranges and a day of survival and military training. Friday was Competition Day, and in keeping with team spirit every Strathallan cadet took part in at least one competition. We had a formidable Tug of War team, and under the expert coaching of Mr. Lindsay they were able to clinch second place overall, defeating a massive team from Felsted on the way. In the March and Shoot we achieved the fastest time for the run (roughly 9 minutes 45 seconds as opposed to the winning time of over 12 minutes set in the previous week) and ended up with 3rd place when the shooting was factored in.

Looking forward to September, we have almost 40 new recruits joining us and should number over 80 cadets between the Army and RM. The new Service (Public Service or Military Service) element for all 4th and 5th Formers should be well established, Teniente de Celis Lucas should really be a Teniente and (above all hopes!) there should be someone to run the Army Section who wears the same cap badge as they do.

The CCF depends on the input of many people, both adults and pupils. This year I would like to register my thanks to Mr. Walmsley, Señorita Teniente de Celis Lucas, Mr. Lindsay, Captain Walker, Mr. Higginbottom, Mrs. Legge, Captain Ian Waddell R.M.R, Sgt. Templeton and 21 Cadet Training Team, also to the Royal Marines Visibility Team and not least to Captain Pickering of the Army Air Corps. Pupil support has been of the highest calibre; special thanks go to Chris and Jake for their leading role in the Contingent as well as in the Army Section, but mentioned in dispatches should also be: James Lawson, who has not only worked harder this year than almost any other cadet but has also by now been to the Cadet Leadership Course at Frimley Park, the Headquarters of the CCF; Pamela Garratt for her enthusiasm over the year and her help with the Recruits; lastly to the Army Section seniors as a whole for the continued revival of their esprit de corps. Keep at it.

AS-J



TABOR

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEETS 3 TIMES A YEAR AND IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 16-22 YEAR OLDS THROUGHOUT EUROPE TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT TOPICAL EVENTS CONCERNING EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT - TABOR 2004

Perhaps the most memorable thing about our trip was how incredibly tired we all were by the end of our ten days in the Czech Republic. I think Tom, Danny and I managed to take not eating and sleeping to an extreme, averaging about 2-3 hours of sleep a night (if we were lucky) and about one meal a day (due in large part to the horrible food they tried to feed us, so much worse than meals at Strath!). There is no doubt that we were looking forward to going home, to our beds and to proper Scottish food. However, this isn't to say that we didn't have a good time at the European Youth Parliament, just that it was absolutely exhausting and probably a good rehearsal for university.

“The most enjoyable part of our trip was going out at nights with the other delegates, this included sampling the excellent and very cheap Czech beer.”

The European Youth Parliament meets three times a year and is an opportunity for 16-22 year olds throughout Europe to discuss important topical events concerning Europe and the rest of the world. They get a chance to represent the youth of Europe and one of the benefits of this is showing the European Parliament what the youth of today and the future of tomorrow want to happen. It is, however, a very inclusive event and tries to promote relations within all European countries, not just those within the EU, a fact clearly indicated by the presence of delegates from countries such as Russia and Turkey.

On arrival at our hostel Danny, Tom and I all felt a bit daunted by our complete ignorance of anything to do with EYP. Everybody else seemed to know everyone else and exactly what was happening and we realised later that this was because all the other delegates had all been to regional and national selections followed by a winter EYP session. Not only did we manage to skip the selection process because the organisers were so eager to have Scottish delegates, we also got to skip the winter session, which apparently is a lot more serious and contains much more work.

After being split up into our committees on Sunday morning we spent a day team-building, which was interesting to say the least. From Monday to Thursday we worked with our committees on our resolutions. On Friday and Saturday we had a General Assembly, at which each committee presented their resolution and the rest of the parliament voted on it. Danny was on the Industry committee, Tom on Economic Affairs II and I was on the International Trade committee in which I had to discuss free trade and agricultural subsidies. Fortunately, we all had our resolutions passed without too much debate or controversy. Those on the committees discussing the proposed inclusion of Turkey in the EU and homosexual rights had a slightly harder time; many people made attack speeches to try to persuade others to vote against the proposals. In the end, however, and after extensive discussion both passed.

The most enjoyable part of our trip was going out at nights with the other delegates, which included sampling the excellent and very cheap Czech beer. We had particular fun with the Irish delegation, all of whom we got on with very well, and trips to Belfast and Dublin are definitely in the pipeline. It was the nights, of course (excessive dancing and even a hint of drinking), that caused us to be so tired by the end, but if we were to do this again I don't think we would miss out on them. It was a good experience, a tiring one, but a worthwhile one nevertheless.

Louise Wallace



VISITING LECTURERS

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

GEOGRAPHY TALKS

DR DOWNHILL ONCE AGAIN DIPPED INTO HIS LITTLE RED BOOK AND CAME UP WITH A BRACE OF VISITING LECTURERS.

Dr Fiona Smyth from the School of Geography, University of Manchester, came to talk to members of the Strathallan Sixth Form. After having apparently enjoyed an interesting discussion over dinner Dr Smyth spoke on the topic of "expressions of identity in times of challenge and crisis" in order to broaden our geographical understanding in this subject. She clearly illustrated through a variety of media her thoughts about the experience of migrants and the ways in which they are stereotyped in society. Dr Smyth analysed and highlighted in depth the representations of immigrants, drawing closely on examples from the US and paying particular attention to asylum seekers in the UK. This talk was particularly informative and thought-provoking in terms of looking at both our own identity and that of the people around us.

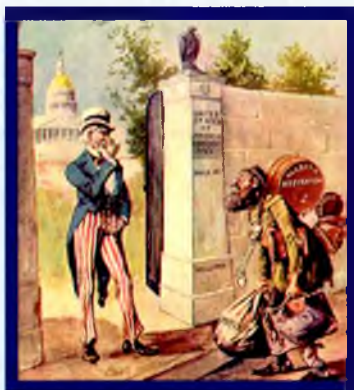
Dr Phil Porter of the Geography and Environmental Sciences department of the University of Hertfordshire kindly came and spoke to the Strathallan geographers on the subject of his field exploration in the Himalayan & Arctic environments.

He began by highlighting the research and development his team carried out on glacier motion in the Arctic environment. This involved utilising innovative measuring devices to analyse the glacier movement patterns. Key findings from this investigation were that sediment accounts for over 60% of forward motion.

Following his success in the Arctic, Dr Phil Porter's passion for geographical progress led him to the heights of the Himalayas. Predicting the availability of glacial water resources was the topic area he concentrated on and illustrated to us through a variety of visual images. After many months of intensely examining glacial processes he concluded that the relationship between air temperature and altitude is not simple and that spatial and temporal variability are vital, although further calibration is required before application to other glaciers and basins can be made.

Dr Porter provided us all with a knowledgeable insight into his areas of research and findings, and we all thought it was a jolly good show.

Ann-Louise Breaden and Annabelle Gordon





PRAGUE

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

"I BEND OVER FORGOTTEN CORNERS,
PRAGUE, WOVEN BY YOUR GLOOMY SPLENDOURS
SMOKE OF INNS IN WHICH THE CHIRPING OF BIRDS IS LOST
EVENING LIKE A HARMONICA PLAYER MAKES THE WEEPING DOORS CREAK
LONG FAT KEYS LOCK UP INDECIPHERABLE THINGS
AND FOOTSTEPS SCATTER LIKE A BROKEN ROSARY."

Vit_zslav Nezval

DURING THE LAST WEEK OF THE EASTER BREAK A PARTY OF STRATHALLIAN ARTISTS, DESIGNERS AND HISTORIANS WITH A SMALL GROUP OF WATSONIAN ARTISTS SPENT SIX ENERGETIC DAYS IN AND AROUND PRAGUE, THE 'CITY OF A HUNDRED SPIRES' AND 'LITTLE MOTHER' TO ALL CZECHS. WE PREPARED FOR THE TRIP THROUGH THE EASTER TERM WITH SLIDES AND LECTURES ON CZECH ART AND HISTORY BUT THE REAL EXPERIENCE WAS TO BE THERE.

GOthic ART

Walking through the ancient city surrounded by a vast diversity of styles, evidence of a unique, rich heritage, there was one style that truly caught and held my eye. Gothic art and architecture appeared in Bohemia around 1230AD and remained dominant for many years until around the mid 16th century when Renaissance ideals appeared.

Based on ribbed vaulting which allowed mason-architects like Peter Parler to raise and point the arch and create one of Gothic art's most recognisable features, the late Gothic style of Bohemia was known as 'Sondergotik'. This we saw and admired in Prague at St. Vitus and most dramatically at St. Barbara's at Kutna Hora. These achievements owed much to the Parler family who excelled in the creation of filigree pinnacles and a sense of great loftiness and high tension in all their architecture.

The strength and depth of Gothic art is everywhere evident in Prague, the style seems to haunt the Old Town from the humble convent of St. Agnes to the dramatic cathedral of St. Vitus which dominates Prague's skyline – you can't help but appreciate the impact of this in the words of Abbot Sugar ... "urging us onward from the material to the immaterial."

Sarah McCusker

A LATE BAROQUE SHOCK, A VISIT TO ST. MARY'S KUTNA HORA:-

In Prague we experienced side by side a wide and extraordinary variation of movements and styles but the sight which still stands out most vividly for me, solely because I have never seen anything like it before as Scotland had no counter – reformation, was the ossuary at the monastery chapel of St Mary's.

I found it initially revolting – because it was a 12th century chapel I didn't expect anything particularly revolutionary, but some 18th century readjustment had made a most astonishing interior transformation – I walked in and walked straight back out, as if I had been hit between the eyes before returning to observe more closely with Scots' horror.

The chapel was about 400 metres north of the church and had been converted into the ossuary after one of the great plagues which recurred from 1318 onwards. In the lower crypt of the two-storey chapel all the furnishings, altar, candelabrum, coats of arms etc. were made of bones. I later found out that one wall consisted of 10,000 bodies and was referred to affectionately as 'the pile'.

I found it vulgar yet breathtaking, impressive, alien, and almost surrealistically powerful.

Danni Menzies

MODERNIST PRAGUE

"Cubism is the celebration of everyday life" and in essence involves what Juan Gris called "a new way of representing the world". Cubism was the most extremely inspirational and influential aspect of Prague for me. We made a special tour of 'cubism' with a dear friend of Mr McMorrine's, Dr Jan Krekule, who guided us through the bustling streets and on and off numerous trams – an experience for all – and

took us to look at the architectural cubism of Josef Chochol; Prague being the only city in Europe to attempt a Cubist architecture.

With Chochol's use of sharp lines to create a very obvious division between light and dark he was incorporating the theories of famous artists such as Braque and Picasso. Initially I wasn't too sure what I thought of the buildings but after studying cubism more closely I now appreciate the art of these buildings

and their unique style. It was also of great interest to see Frank Gehry's contemporary cubist interpretation, the newly constructed 'Dancing Building' which Jan considers to be the only recent building to reach the 'International' architectural standards of the best of Prague's rich tapestry. My sketchbook designs owe them all a great debt, as Picasso said 'If something needs to be stolen, I steal it.'

Olivia Gerrie



PRAGUE OLD AND NEW

A memory of Prague that stands out is the astronomical clock in the Old Town Square. Made in 1410 with later Renaissance and modern renovations and changes, its face has the earth in the centre and the planets circling around it. When the hour is reached this, already intriguing, piece comes to life. In the mechanical procession, first Christ and the Apostles emerge one by one, then when they have disappeared, the skeleton of death emerges. Finally the cock flaps his wings and crows, the vain man gazes into his mirror and the hour is struck. A Czech 'vanitas'.

"DEATH PULLED THE CHORD AND RAN BY NODDING ITS HEAD, OTHER SMALL STATUES STIRRED WHILE THE COCK FLAPPED HIS WINGS AND THE TWELVE APOSTLES GLANCED IMPASSIVELY DOWN AT THE STREET THROUGH OPEN WINDOWS."

Guillaume Appollinaire c.1913

Although we spent every day taking in the vast array of architectural styles we still had time away from the sketchbook to explore Prague for ourselves. In the evening we headed into the city to sample cultural beverages (herbal of course) and the local cuisine (sadly more often than not MacDonalds). A staggering variety of western traders were available with Subway, Pizza Hut and shops such as Mango and Zara plus an incredible array of Irish Pubs in this greatest of brewing cities. Part of what Jan in resigned fashion called 'Globalization'.

Katie Gibson

IN CONCLUSION

Wandering around the streets with Jan and Gabriella constantly and concernedly warning us of the pickpockets I managed to pass the week buying and enjoying really good food without my money coming into contact with any thieves.

We were lucky to see many famous sights but we also managed to capture many hidden beauties due to Jan showing us around, not least the Wallenstein garden, only open once a year and such gems as the Romanesque palace of the Lords of Kuntat and Podebrad. This encouraged our own exploring of the city but often we would simply stumble across another incredible piece of architecture without needing to search for it. Prague had such a variety of culture, entertainment and art that I feel that one week was definitely not long enough to experience all that is contained in one city. I know that I and probably many others from the trip will return to Prague, this most intriguing and amazing city.

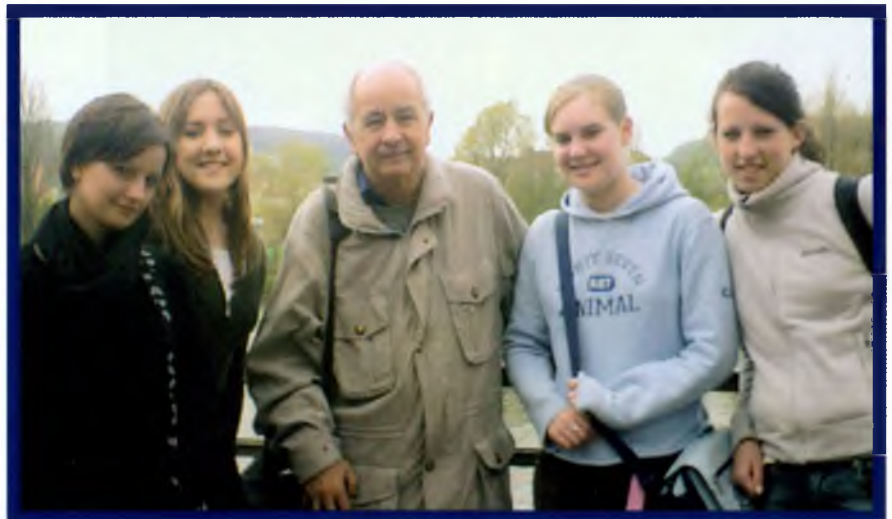
Anna Rawlinson

"CITIES EXERT A STRONG, STRANGE FASCINATION AND NONE IS STRONGER THAN THE PULL OF PRAGUE UPON THE HEART OF THE HOMESICK TRAVELLER - SICK THAT IS FOR THE CITY ON THE VLTAVA THAT HE HAS LEFT BEHIND. RETURNING THERE, HE FEELS HE HAS NEVER BEEN AWAY AND YET HE FEELS GUILTY, TOO, OF FORGETFULNESS, NEGLECT, INFIDELITY."

as said by the writer John Banville

Great thanks are due from us all to Jan Krekule, Gabriella Kalinova and to Zuzka Podmelova, survivor of the Terezin camp and our most valued guide to Jewish Prague: all gave so much time and friendship to us and we were so lucky. As the Jan Huss memorial says 'Pravda Vít_zi - truth prevails'

AECM





MONTPELLIER

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



AS PART OF OUR FRENCH COURSE WE GOT THE CHANCE TO JET OFF TO FRANCE WITH MME. DUNCAN, FRAU YOUNG AND MR KITSON. WITH THE IDEA OF AN EARLY SUMMER HOLIDAY AN EXCITED GROUP OF III AND IV FORMERS WITH PACKED SUITCASES LEFT SCHOOL AT THREE IN THE MORNING AND ARRIVED TIRED AND BAKING IN THE EARLY SUMMER HEAT OF MONTPELLIER.

Amazed at the fact that all the flights had gone smoothly, Mme Duncan soon became stressed (again) as we walked through the arrival gate expecting to find a large group of French families – but all everyone could see was an empty arrival gate. This was due to a misunderstanding in arrival time resulting in a long and sticky 2 hour wait in Montpellier airport. This was not the best start to a holiday we had all been looking forward to. Something else was bound to go wrong.

Eventually French families began to arrive. We all sat curious to see which family was ours and what we had let ourselves in for.

On Monday morning one by one our French families dropped us off at a local school where we had 3 hours of tuition. Everyone looked exhausted as we sat outside and waited for our teachers to arrive only to find that Kirsty and I had had the pick of the families. We discovered we had ended up in a luxurious house with a swimming pool next to gorgeous vineyards.



That afternoon, we travelled to the remote and beautiful villa of Clermont – L'Herault, where we had the chance to relax after our first day of lessons. We were lucky to have the opportunity to see wonderful sights of a typical French village as we wandered up and down back alleys looking

for the nearest water fountains and gasping for a drink in the scorching heat. We then returned to our families excited about telling them about our day, or at least attempting to.

On Tuesday we again had tuition in the morning which seemed to go on longer than the day before due to the heat. In the afternoon we visited the famous town of Avignon and we went to the Château des Papes. The castle displayed many artefacts from erm... some century or other, and it was interesting to see how French people had lived in the past. That evening J and I went for a well-deserved swim in our family's pool and attempted another bonding session with our hosts around the dinner table.

The next day was our final morning of tutoring. Everybody was pretty knackered due to the intense heat and humidity of the French summer.

The IV Form pupils were given the opportunity to join a classroom of French students (all male!!) who studied at the college. We were introduced to them all, then split into groups of two or three to indulge in fast, flowing French conversation. We saw this as a very rewarding experience as we were able to see how young people in Montpellier lived. That afternoon, we went on an excursion to the Camargue. There was a beautiful bridge that towered over the many tourists visiting this amazing sight.

On our final day, we were given a guided tour of Montpellier. We were shown around the city centre and told about its interesting past.

After the tour many people went shopping while others took the opportunity to cool off in the Olympic pool.

We all returned to our families weighed down with hundreds of presents (especially Mme. D who had at least 3 extra bags of luggage on the way home) for our final evening in France, when Kirsty and I had our final swim in our pool and our last chat with our families before returning home extremely early the following morning.

The trip was excellent and we all got the chance to see how the real French live (some more than others). Without great organisation from Mme Crane who arranged the trip it would not have been possible. Although Mme Crane was unable to join us on our journey we would like to thank her, Mme Duncan, Frau Young and Monsieur Le Baron Kitson for making this experience possible. Thanks!!

Kirsty MacGeoch and J Whitelaw

STRATHALLIAN DAY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

COMEDY NIGHT

With your beer in one hand and your copy of Livy in the other you could not be anywhere else but the Sixth Form Common Room; the particular evening being one of the new Comedy Nights conjured up by the fertile imagination of Mr Vallot (Ok, so he nicked the idea from somewhere). This year we were fortunate enough to have not just one but a brace of visiting comedians, Barry Hall and Warren Hill. Both had travelled from England to amuse and abuse us for the night.

Barry Hall was in fact performing his new act for the first time and I think we'll all agree that his new jokes were very successful.

A hilarious evening for anyone who wasn't Andreas or Digby but, hey, they're both big lads and they can handle it. We were all saddened when the night came to an end and Ruthven took their turn to Hoover the Common Room. We all look forward to the next evening to see what hilarious adventures the next comedians will take us on. Cheers, Mr Vallot. Good shout.

JJ Chalmers



STRATHALLIAN DAY

STRATHALLIAN DAY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER TERM, AND PROVIDES THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR FORMER PUPILS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO VISIT THE SCHOOL.

The event now has a regular position in the calendar, the first Sunday in June, and once again this year we were blessed with good weather. With a programme that included cricket, football, golf, tennis and netball, the fine weather was certainly a bonus and enhanced the relaxed atmosphere of the day. Strathallians were also able to enjoy a concert in the Chapel, and view Art and Design Technology displays demonstrating some of the most creative work of our current pupils.

As well as welcoming back so many former pupils, it was good to see such a range in ages, with recent leavers mixing with Strathallians who left as long ago as 1936. While much remains familiar, even to those in the older age groups, there are changes and improvements made to the School every year, and those who left most recently were interested to see how things had developed in the short time since they left Strathallan.

The next Strathallian Day will be held on Sunday 5 June 2005, when we look forward to welcoming many former pupils back to the School.

My thanks to the Strathallian Club as I retire as Club Secretary. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to occupy the post. Best wishes to the Club and to my successor.

David Williams

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

STRATHALLIANS WILL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS THROUGH THE NEW STRATHALLIAN WEBSITE.

An important part of the site, launched at the end of 2004, is the Strathallian Online Community section. This includes a Directory where former pupils can enter their own details, choosing to show or hide various parts of their entry, and look up others. The database can be searched by home location or former boarding house, or by a text search which enables the user to search by name, date of leaving, interests, occupation and a number of other fields.

So not only can you find former friends and acquaintances from your schooldays, but you can also find out who is in the area for a game of squash or a round of golf.

Obviously the usefulness of the Directory will depend on the number of people using it, so Strathallians are encouraged to have a look at the website, enter your own details in the Directory, and see who else is already there.





SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM REPORT 03-04

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

The Sixth Form CR began the year with its now traditional welcome back B-B-Q. The music was loud, but inoffensive to all as the staff had come along to support and Mr. Kitson was happy to display his dancing skills. The film nights proved popular with a hard core of boarders, but it was the theme nights that caught the imagination of the majority. The effort that went into the costumes was obvious to all. The games night, a chance for all of the Sixth Form to be kids again, was as successful as in previous years, although Joël Moll was nearly strung up for frightening those who were in the zap-zone when he entered with his "scream" outfit. Thanks again to Donald and his team for all their hard work.

The Christmas party was a big success, with the many outfits on display capturing the theme of the night. We had Christmas trees, gifts, dwarves and fairies to name but a few. As usual the girls' Houses made the most effort en masse, but the prize for consistency of effort must go to Nicol, who seemed always to dress up and look good. Thanks, Danny, Hian et al.

The Easter term saw us in limbo for a while due to trial exams, but the troops all stored up their energy for the Sixth Form Ball and the themes after half term. The Comedy night with the now regular Mr Barry Hall was again a success, although several of the UVI said they never got the jokes last time. To show the quality of act that we provide in the Common Room, one of last years acts, Sarah Kendal, was the first woman short listed for the prestigious "Perrier Award" at this year's Edinburgh Festival. You saw her here first! J.J. Chalmers was so into the mood that he volunteered to do a set next year, so watch this space.

The summer started with our "Staff Invitation" roast pig B-B-Q, which was again a success, although there weren't as many staff this year. The summer is always a slightly lower key term with exams punctuating the calendar and on the whole the Sixth Form seemed to be focussed on working hard, although they still managed to find time to play. The committee decided to invest in a digital camera, hence the great pics!!

My thanks again to the committee, especially Mark Croal who co-ordinated most of the events and the finding of DJs. Dr. Downhill and "Sandy" surprised the Sixth Form as "guest DJs" during the Easter term and made a welcome return during the summer. My thanks to them for all their efforts. Most of all I would like to thank Mrs. Hunter and Mr. Proctor for their continued consistent support in running the CR and all the staff (DJB, EGK, GRMR and others) who turned out to help at various times.

PMV



SIXTH FORM



“ Omigod. I can't belieeeeeve I've made it onto the committee! Coooeeee, Mr Vallot. Thanks!!! ”



TRIATHLON

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

THE 2004 CHARITY TRIATHLON

STRATHALLAN'S FIRST EVER TRIATHLON WAS HELD ON THE 9TH OF MAY. MISS SIME'S INITIATIVE PROVED A HUGE SUCCESS.

Around 100 pupils, staff and parents took part in the challenge in order to raise money for R.E.A.C.H. Every athlete came to row, swim and run for a team or as an individual. From the youngest age group in Riley to the most senior pupils of the school, there was a challenge to be faced, with distances varying according to category. We were lucky to be blessed with a clear sky but no extreme heat, and were therefore able to display the rowing machines on the patio of the Sixth Form Centre where spectators cheered and watered the tough competitors.



A huge amount of physical effort and sweat was generated throughout the day. The First overall boy was George McWilliams whilst Vicky Drummond-Hay won the Girls' prize. The 3rd and 4th Form prizes were won by Tom Fleming and Charlotte Garven. James Mair finished first Riley boy and Robynne Smith first Riley girl. The splendid barbecue lunch, carefully prepared and gracefully served by our Catering Team, was enjoyed by everyone. The second edition of the Kiddies' Race was a success, with 20 future Strathallians, aged 2 years _ to 10 years, taking part. Ryan Johnston won the boys' prize and Maryth Hunter was first girl overall. The under-eight's prizes went to Aurélie Thompson and Finlay Stewart and the under-fivess to Seren Gordon and Jake O'Mara. The 5 mile Road Race, which took place the night before, attracted 34 local athletes and provided some exciting entertainment on the campus. John Hargreaves and Tracey Stamp, both from Energy Zone Carnegie Harriers, were the respective Male and Female winners. We are grateful to all the athletes for their generous donations.

Around £3,000 was raised by the triathlon alone whilst the ever popular raffle generated about £400. Many thanks to those who donated prizes or cash and to parents, relatives and friends who sponsored the athletes.

Fabienne Thompson

IV AND V FORM REELS

Before I started writing this piece, I looked up the meaning of 'reels' in the dictionary. It said: "A lively folk or Scottish dance"; the IV and V Form reels night definitely lived up to this definition. The whole night was a whirl of music, dancing and general fun. The minute everyone arrived, most of the girls had already removed their shoes to save their feet from the morning after blisters.

The brilliant band kept the music flowing all night, playing traditional melodies throughout to keep everyone dancing.

It was good to see almost everyone on the floor for each dance, and it was obvious that everyone was having a great time, although there were many bleary eyed, sore-footed members of the IV and V Form wandering around school the next day.

We all had a wonderful night, and thanks once again must be given to the Scottish band for the excellent music, but especially Mrs. Hamilton and the other members of staff who gave up their evening to ensure that reels was a success. I am sure that all the members of IV and V form would agree with me in saying that the reels night was lots of fun and an occasion that we will certainly not forget in a hurry.

Pamela Garratt



WOODFAIR



This year at the Scottish Woodfair we experienced a range of new and exciting products manufactured by many different professional craftsmen. The products exhibited ranged from tables, chairs and toys and even included Nimbus 2000 broom sticks! Every professional designer/manufacturer there was very passionate about their work and were happy to answer any questions about the profession that we had.

This is the second year that the School has been invited to submit works for exhibition and once again we displayed a number of high quality products from the GCSE, Higher and A level coursework. We were the only school invited to display our work, were given a prime stand next to the ASHS group and were involved in a specific press release with ASHS and the Green MSP for Perth and Kinross, Mr. Mark Ruskell. ASHS (Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers) is a foundation which supports Scottish wood retailers and craftsmen who manufacture artefacts from Scottish timber. The reason we were asked to be involved with them this year is as a direct result of Strathallan's

connection to the Woodschool in the Borders, who are members of the ASHS group.

The high quality of the products the School had on display surprised many members of the public and professional craftsmen in the exhibition. When the Provost of Perth, Mr. Bob Scott visited our stand we had the opportunity to discuss our work with both him and Mr. Ruskell. They were both very impressed and interested and they made us feel proud of what we had achieved. Overall we were given much encouragement and support to maintain the standard of high quality products which have been displayed on the two occasions that the School has attended. Some of our pieces were also photographed and may appear in next year's promotional literature.

Attending the Woodfair and displaying our work alongside professionals gave us all a lot of enthusiasm and encouragement towards Design and Technology and we very much look forward to attending again next year.

Matthew Brebner and Digby Legge

SIXTH FORM BALL 2004

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

SIXTH FORM BALL 2004

It's amazing what a difference a year makes. Last year my peers were constantly struggling to suppress a giggle of excitement when it was, at last, their turn to go to the ball (and by 'constantly' I mean in the twelve months preceding it). By contrast, as Upper Sixth, we sagely commented on the innocent pleasure that the young whippersnappers of Lower Sixth were taking in the run up to the social event.

Sadly, our older, wiser and more sanguine demeanours were not solid enough to last 'til the final weeks or to stop us gathering in eager huddles to view the dresses and make-up that everyone intended to wear. And that was just the boys. Boom boom.



With the high standards set last year, our huge enjoyment in the evening was proof that Mr Walmsley and his team really excelled themselves. Much of the difference resulted from small but divinely-inspired changes, such as drinks in the music room and a beautifully lit pathway to the chamber of delicacies (which lives a double life as the dining hall for 364 days of the year). As is traditional, staff and pupils had a disgusting amount of fun flinging about to both "The Dashing White Sergeant" and Van Morrison.

But the organisers outstripped expectations in the picturesque fall of pure white snow that stopped just before we all departed. Thus no ludicrously expensive dresses were sacrificed in the name of turning the February-grey Strathallan into a winter-wonderland. If only we Upper Sixth could find a university which paid that much attention to detail.

Ishbel McFarlane

“staff and pupils had a disgusting amount of fun flinging about to both “The Dashing White Sergeant” and Van Morrison”



SIXTH FORM





STRATHSTOCK 2004

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

The school's rock festival "Strathstock" made its long-awaited return this year at the end of the summer term. A lot of careful organisation and planning was put into the event. The bands were finally given a new place to practise in the main building (much to the dismay of the people that lived there, sorry about that). Alex Smith was given the position of head fundraiser and promised not to let us down. In the space of just under a year he managed to raise £84.00 (with a bit of help from Chris Maguire and Bruce Lerman, might I add). Bruce was very keen to help wherever he could and even took the liberty of ordering a 2 metre high stage for that authentic stadium feel. Unfortunately, due to strict rules on safety it had to be returned and we were forced to resort to the normal one. Despite this colossal disappointment the event still turned out to be a huge success.



Over two hundred tickets were sold and as an increasing number of people poured into the theatre there was a strong feeling of apprehension backstage. Tony Pellicci and his band Potential were given the duty of warming up the audience as the opening act. This was never going to be an easy task but they turned out to be a huge crowd-pleaser with various covers ranging from Travis to Enrique Iglesias. They certainly caught the hearts of a few young girls in the crowd that night. Bruce and Chris took the spotlight between each set as DJs, keeping the spirit alive.

The stage was then taken by Strathstock legends Fecal Matter (or the artists formerly known as The Midgets in Bikinis). Their new guitarist Steve-O knew that he would have to shine to be accepted by Fecal Matter's dedicated fan base, but he proved himself a band member to be proud of. They performed a wide variety of punk songs which resulted in a battle between security and a frenzy of moshers in the crowd. The security eventually gave up and joined in, only increasing the mayhem.

Fecal Matter surprised the audience half way through their set by inviting death metal rockers Hell Live on stage to perform two songs. They first performed one of their own ballads "Sausages" that had only been written one week prior to the event. The audience greatly appreciated this one as it was a song that they could all passionately relate to. It was also inspiring to Mr Barnes' kids who left the event with a skip in their step.

Alex Smith sang his heart out and they totally rocked, apart from a slight hiccup in the axe solo department. They then did a Darkness cover and, needless to say, sent an already wild crowd into orbit.

Euan and the lads then re-took the stage to finish off their set. Highlights of this included their protest against authority with Rage Against the Machine's "Killing In The Name Of". The atmosphere in the crowd had without doubt reached a high.

The Licks were next on the programme. This was to be their only gig at Strath as they would all be leaving at the end of the year. Takanori set them off to an incredible start with a performance of Van Halen's guitar solo Eruption. Not only did they have the crowd jumping, but they also managed to get a few of the teachers dancing with a couple of Rolling Stones covers (no names will be mentioned). Along with these rock classics they also treated the audience to some modern numbers including By The Way by The Red Hot Chilli Peppers. Major respect has to be given to Mark McCutcheon who had played with every band so far and was still rocking hard on the drums right to the end of the set.

Four bands had just given storming performances and the headliners had no choice but to give it everything they had. As if that wasn't enough, James Bonham had just taken the stage to pull off some remarkable dance moves to the theme of Indiana Jones. His explosive act of style and charisma left the crowd in a stunned silence.

Paradox now took the stage. The heavy grunge vocals of Robbie Girvan, the melodic guitar playing of Max Stewart, along with the outstanding bass playing of Lindsay Whitelaw and the mind blowing drumming of Ewan Allardyce was unquestionably a combination that was sure to produce an amazing show. And so they did right through to the end. They began their rock-out with Surf Galore, one of their own head banging ballads. This was well received by the crowd, a fact made apparent by how crazy the mosh pit was. They followed this with a range of rock/metal covers, amongst them Black Sabbath's Paranoid and Jim Hendrix's Purple haze. During their set Katie Gibson took the opportunity to crowd surf. Not surprisingly there were quite a few willing helpers in the crowd. The rest of Paradox's set consisted of all their own songs, popular ones being The Machines Are Coming to Destroy You and Vanilla Sky. The band ended the show with the audience screaming for more and then provided an encore. By the time they were on the last verse the stage had been invaded by half the crowd as security looked on in amusement, (great job, guys.)

One thing that we have all learnt from this event is that even without the use of drugs or alcohol at a rock fest, you can still have one hell of a time.

Live life loud, vote Green Party and save the penguins.

Iain Greig



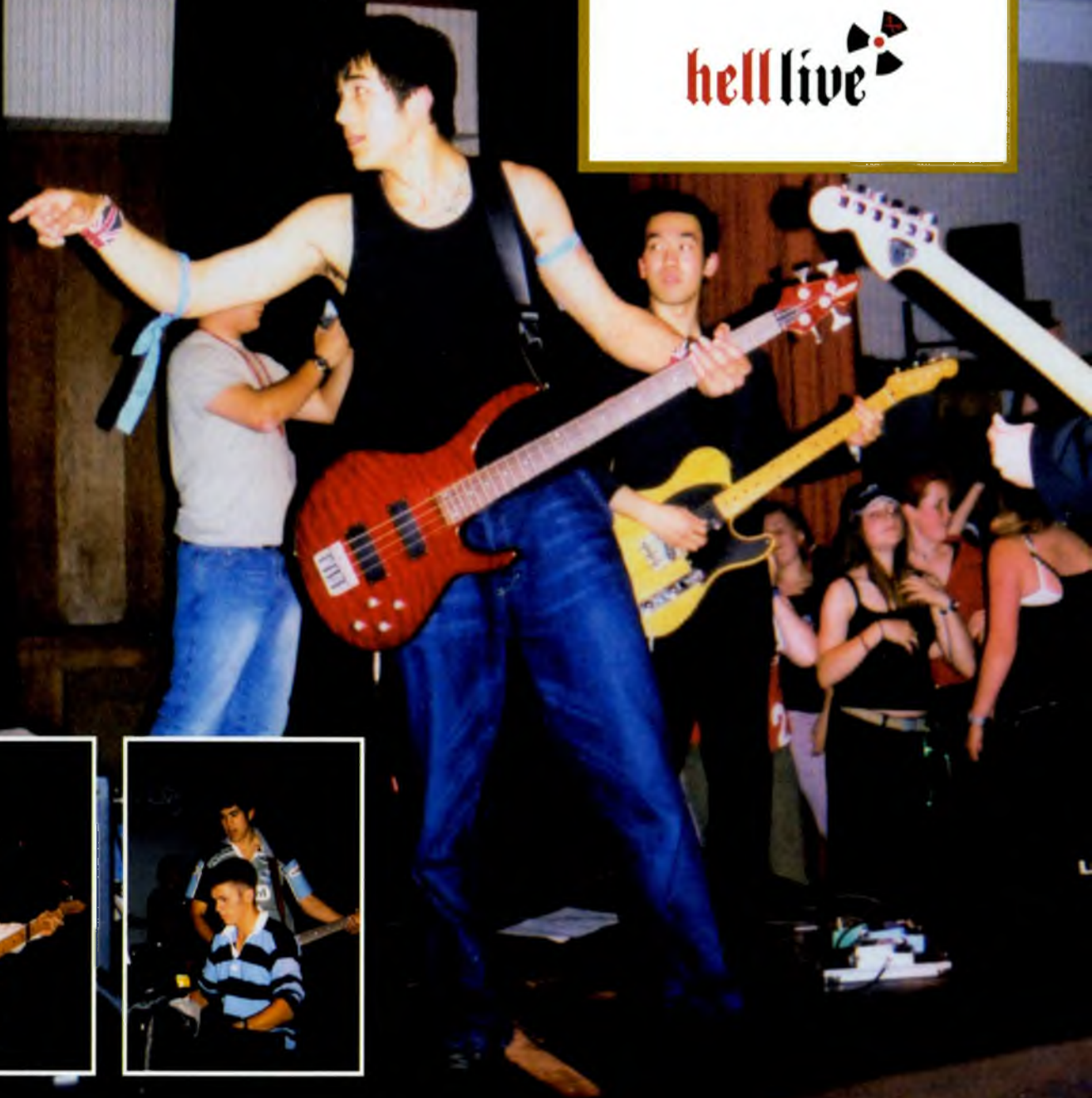
paradox
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potential

THE LICKS

FECAL MATTER

hell live





ART SHOW

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

STRATHALLAN UPPER SIXTH ART SHOW

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT BUDDING YOUNG ARTISTS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OR LUCK TO GARNER ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND ACCLAIMED ARTISTS OF THEIR TIME, BUT THIS WAS EXACTLY THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED THE STUDENTS OF THE ART DEPARTMENT AT STRATHALLAN SCHOOL, WHEN UP-AND-COMING YOUNG PAINTER, PAUL REID, OF SCONE, AND WELL ESTABLISHED SCULPTOR, ALEXANDER STODDART, WERE PRESENT AT THE SHOWING OF THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL'S A LEVEL PUPILS.

The exhibition was opened by Mr Stoddart who gave a speech concerning the philosophy and ethics of artistic endeavour to the audience of pupils, parents and staff of the school. In it, he expressed his views that the deliberate shock-mongering tactics of many modern artists were a corruption of the true purpose of art.

Quoting Picasso, who said, "I spent my early years trying to draw like an adult, and all my life since then trying to draw like a child", he reasoned that contemporary painters who may follow this premise "fail in the aim they purport to follow" as drawing like a child necessarily means attempting to draw like "an adult".

He went on to talk of the works that he had seen, including not only those by the Upper Sixth pupils but also by younger colleagues sitting 'AS' level and GCSEs, and remarked that they showed an "admirable and moving attempt to throw off childish ways" which led him to express the hope that their creators would go on to continue their objective search for perfection through art.

Alexander Stoddart is about to commence a commissioned sculpture of economist, Adam Smith, to stand opposite the City Chambers in Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Paul Reid, who was the subject of an A level project by pupil Ishbel McFarlane, is currently exhibiting new work at Edinburgh's Scottish Gallery, Dundas Street.

Pictured are Alexander Stoddart, Paul Reid and Ishbel McFarlane beside Ishbel's A-Level coursework woodcut of the view of Edinburgh from Calton Hill.

Ishbel McFarlane



FASHION SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

On Wednesday, February 13, 2004, Strathallan pupils delivered fun, flash fashions during the Valentines Fashion Show Extravaganza at Strathallan School. The night was full of glamour and excitement professionally produced and organised by the incredibly talented Miss Laurie.



Pupils of all ages became models for the night strutting down the catwalk wearing fashions which included everything from casual to formal, along with some incredible Ball gowns and some mismatched clothes thrown in for fun.

Fashions and accessories were provided from a number of local clothing stores. The participating stores were: McEwen's of Perth, Burtons, Dorothy Perkins, New Look and Bay Trading. The girls of Woodlands and Thornbank also created some dazzling outfits for the night along with knitting scarves all of which sold out.

To add more excitement to the "Valentine" Fashion Show Extravaganza, immediately following the break there was a chance to purchase raffle tickets with prizes being donated by a number of sources. All money raised from the evening was given to Rachel House, a charity that Strathallan holds close to its heart.

CL





BURNS' SUPPER

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

BURNS' SUPPER

With only 2 hours notice Dr Salisbury stepped into the void left by Mr Kilpatrick who had been called away. Dr Salisbury's hilarious, off-the-cuff jokes were well received by all, and rivalled even Kilpie's theatrical talents.

Mr Du Boulay astounded us, yet again, with his hilarious jokes and even managed to slip in a reference to Elvis Presley and Jimi Hendrix during his immortal Memory of Robert Burns. Thank goodness it wasn't an immoral memory. As Mr Du Boulay unravelled Burns' womanising ways and complex intelligence one couldn't help but draw parallels with the famous Scot and the speaker himself.

Duncan Lawson gave a polished performance as he piped the haggis in and Gregor Duncan produced a fine Address to the Haggis.

Jake's evident experience of the female race shone as he toasted the Lassies. He imparted his words of wisdom to us females, who, angered by any criticism, greatly appreciated Louise's witty reply. Louise listed many rules of the female, along the lines of "when a woman says no thank you she really means yes please". She left all the girls in the room in stitches as she finally put Lachie Stewart in his place, and left the other gentlemen in the room more than slightly bemused.

Catriona Martin, Mrs McFarlane and Josh Wright's stunning voices gave our sides a rest as goosebumps took the place of laughter.



Tom Hine made a personal toast to Strathallian giving us an insight to some of Freeland's more unusual characters (chiefly McGruff) and allowed us some time to reflect on how lucky we are to be a part of such a lively community.

Then there was Mr Barnes Mr Barnes astounded us with some unusual gossip about Tom and a certain kitchen worker (which turned out to be an amusing hoax) and continued the trend of amusing speeches. His, however, had an underlying message that we should all embrace our commitments.

George McWilliams, Tasha Smith, Mel Forde and Michael Segaud played a musical rendition of a Scots song on their fiddles accompanied by the musically talented Lisa Bull, and Ishbel McFarlane rounded off a perfect evening with a flawless, entertaining recital of Tam O'Shanter.

Becky Johnstone

STRATHMORE CHALLENGE 2004

As usual, the event was well attended by about a dozen teams from schools in the Tayside, Angus and Fife regions. This year, the challenge had a space theme and teams had to build "space rovers". These robots then had to be programmed to break out of a landing platform and navigate an obstacle-strewn terrain towards a light source using only sensors to guide them.

Strathallian entered three teams this year, Team A consisted of Ashley Paledi, Rudi McKay, Tom Myles and Oliver Stevenson. Team B comprised Mark Brebner, Ailsa Turnbull, Phoebe Shaw-Stewart and Lucy Drummond-Hay. Team C's members were Stefan Pretty, Rebecca Dalgetty, Gemma Chance and Nick Millar.

It was an exciting day in which Mark Brebner calmly led his team to the position of Runners-Up. Team A also achieved a special mention by the judges for their excellent focus and teamwork.



Here are the runners up:-

Ailsa Turnbull, Lucy Drummond-Hay, Mark Brebner and Phoebe Shaw Stewart

FORENSIC SCIENCE TASTER DAY

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



FORENSIC SCIENCE TASTER DAY: THE STAG NIGHT MURDER

Fingerprints, hair samples, cement dust and suspicious chemicals in the wine. These are some of the clues that eleven pupils had to examine during an afternoon at Abertay University in Dundee, getting a taste of what forensic science is all about.

The mock murder was staged during a stag night party and red herrings along the way included someone else's saliva traces on the lips of the victim, a wine allergy and a complex set of relationships and motives. Despite all this, the pupils did a great job in breaking down the evidence and came up with some interesting answers to the problems posed by the case.

JG

LOWER SIXTH FORM BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO THE ISLE OF CUMBRAE

The hushed excitement during the 2 hour journey to Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae was not entirely due to the anticipation of counting periwinkles, nor the nightly doses of statistics. The literary event of the year had occurred overnight; the release of the next Harry Potter book.

Soon enough, however, we were out on the shore. Jure's passion for all things slimy forced Joel out of his dorm for the entirety of the weekend. This didn't apply to everyone, though; James managed to lock himself into his room for part of one experiment. Ollie, his room mate, insisted he had nothing to do with it.

Early starts were not eagerly anticipated by everyone, PMV included. But on Sunday, following investigations on sheltered and exposed shores, the traditional cycle tour of the island commenced. Some of the more adventurous pupils made the trip by tandem. Even Mr and Mrs Goddard took this romantic option for part of the way.

The last day saw us board a research boat to trawl the bottom of the sea for all things living. All of us poked around in the sprawling mass of fish, sea urchins, starfish and crabs. One fish even assaulted Ollie as it was given its freedom by Helen.

Tennis from Wimbledon on the radio accompanied us on the return journey back to Strath before we finally collapsed, looking and smelling worse than the Gold D of E trekkers.

6th Form Biology Pupils



OBITUARIES

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

ALLAN ANDREW ARNEIL

ALLAN ARNEIL, AN HONORARY GOVERNOR OF THE SCHOOL, DIED OF A BRAIN TUMOUR IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

He came to Strathallan in 1948, having completed his primary education in Egypt where his father's work had taken the family in the post war years.

At Forgandenny he was able to indulge to the full his love of sport and he represented the school at every sport except swimming. He was House captain of Freeland, vice-captain of Rugby and captain of hockey and tennis. Clearly this does not leave too much time for academic affairs and, with an impish grin, he would admit that he generally scraped through with 51%. Suffice to say he was awarded the Houston Medal for all round achievement.

Based in Edinburgh, Alan qualified as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. After gaining experience elsewhere he joined the well known building contractors, Peter Walker Group, with whom he was to spend the remainder of his career, retiring as managing director of Peter Walker Construction Ltd. During this time he went through the chair of the Edinburgh District Master Builders Association and served on the board of Telford College for nearly twenty years.

He retained his interest in rugby throughout his life, playing for many years as a member of a strong Edinburgh Wanderers XV in the late 1950's and 60's. So comprehensive were his skills he was selected in every position in the backs at some stage!

His playing days over, he, typically, served on committee, culminating with three years as President of the club. He golfed keenly at Bruntsfield and at Elie, a town for which he and his family had a particular affection.

Allan was appointed to the Board of Governors of Strathallan in 1984 and became Convenor of the House and Grounds committee subsequently. The benefit of his professional skills and commercial experience was freely given and of inordinate value to the school during what was a particularly active phase in the development and upgrading of the built estate. He was delighted to be appointed an Honorary Governor on his retirement from the board in 2002.

Allan was blessed with a very strong Christian faith and was much involved in his local church in Corstorphine where he was an elder for thirty years.

In such an extraordinarily full and busy life, one could have expected Allan to be constantly rushing or have difficulty in fitting all his commitments into place and to give each of them the attention they required. The opposite was true.

He was always prompt; he was courteous, cheerful, reliable – and great fun. There weren't many dull moments when he was around! With Allan's passing we have lost a gentleman in every sense of the word and a good friend.

He is survived by Katherine, his wife of forty years, and by a son and a daughter.

J W Dinsmore

ROBERT CHISHOLM STARK.

Bob Stark died of cancer, aged 49, in July 2004. He left Strathallan in 1972, having been house Captain of Nicol, School Captain and Dux. He went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he read History and then Archaeology and Anthropology. After Cambridge, he went to Sandhurst where he was awarded the Commandant's Medal. He took a Short Service commission with the Duke of Wellington's regiment, serving in Northern Ireland, Germany and Canada. He then trained as a lawyer in Chester College of Law and in 1986 joined a firm of solicitors in Bury St Edmunds. He leaves behind his wife Jo and his children Annabel[16] and Henry[13]. Both his father John and his brother Ian are Strathallians.

TCGF.

SRP LYLE.

SRP Lyle, known as Syd or Pat, died this year. He was one of the kindest of men; one of three brothers, all Strathallians and, at one stage, all at Strathallan at the same time.

On leaving school in 1942, he became a Naval officer, serving in destroyers, mainly in the Adriatic. Afterwards he qualified as a CA., but preferred to work in commerce.

He became an enthusiastic skier and is much missed by his friends.

I.F.



COLONEL TOM DODD

Tom was born in Galveston, Texas in 1923 and brought up in Alabama. When his father was posted to Lloyd's of London Tom accompanied his parents and was sent to Strathallan in 1936,

remaining there until they were evacuated on the outbreak of war. He described his time in Forgandenny as among the happiest years of his life.

On returning to the states, he enrolled at Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee and was commissioned in 1941.

His first taste of action was to be landed on Omaha beach on D-Day +11. At the age of 19, he took command of his Company and was promoted to Captain. During the German retreat to the Moselle he was wounded by shrapnel. On his return to the front he was reconnoitring the area in front of his company's position to establish a well concealed route for the morning's attack and,

spotted by a German patrol, he dislocated his shoulder jumping from a balcony to avoid capture. He made good his escape, issued his plan of attack and executed it effectively before being evacuated to the Rear. He remained in command of the company until the end of the war. At the age of 21, not only was he a Captain, but had been awarded two Purple Hearts.

After 6 months convalescence in El Paso, he returned to Service. In the early 1950s he was appointed to Military Intelligence Duties in Japan, where he and his wife of 52 years, Kathryn Grace, were married. A variety of Intelligence jobs followed. After Staff College he had two tours of duty in Vietnam, commanding the Lam Son National Training Centre, now with the rank of Colonel. He retired after 28 years of service in the US Army.

He then took a degree at South West Texas State University. He graduated in 1976 and took a teaching post at Madison High School in San Antonio, Texas. There he became an enthusiastic supporter of the "Lady Maus" an all girl soccer team, until his retirement in 1990.

Tom leaves his wife, three sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.



JAMES A. MCINTYRE

James McIntyre died in August 2004 aged 77. He was born into a farming family near Stranraer and attended Strathallan from 1939-1944, where he distinguished himself by playing for the 1st XV for two years and becoming Athletics Champion in

1944. He was selected to do a short University Course for potential officers and attended Queen's College, Oxford. Commissioned into the 12th Royal Lancers in 1946, he saw service in Palestine. The offer by Lord Stair of the post of Farms Manager at Balke proved irresistible and he returned to Wigtownshire on demobilisation in 1948. Subsequently he accepted the tenancy of Barbeth Farm, which he later bought in 1956. A herd of 120 milking cows eliminated the possibility of a 'lie-in'.

Never one to shirk a challenge, he served on the National Farmers Union for Scotland from 1962-1973, serving as President in 1969/70. During this time he advised

Government Ministers on the effects on agriculture of joining the EEC and was heavily involved in the campaign to eradicate Bovine Brucellosis. He was a director of the NFU Mutual Insurance society and a key figure in the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. His managerial skills were utilised by the Dumfries and Galloway Health Board of which he became chairman; similarly he was a key figure in the Enterprise Network.

For his many contributions to society, he was created a Knight of St John.

He was a lifelong ardent curler, having also captained Wigtownshire RFC for two years prior to marrying Hilma in 1953, who survives him as do their three children, Helen, Karen and Ian, this last an outstanding member of the excellent Strathallan XV of 1975, and seven grandchildren. McIntyre was an accomplished and witty after dinner speaker, a talent which he used to good effect when he was President of the Strathallian Club in 1977/8.

Latterly he was involved with the Order of St John, raising funds for the Palliative Care Unit in Stranraer. His widely attended funeral was held at Kirkcolm Parish church, where he had been an elder for 45 years and had served as a session clerk.

OBITUARIES

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04



DR LYNDSAY JAN MACLENNAN (NÉE GRANT) MBCHB MRCGP DRCOG DFFP

**(THORNBANK '92), DIED TRAGICALLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY
ON THE 14TH JULY 2004 DURING HER FIRST PREGNANCY.**

From a Services background, Lyndsay arrived at Riley in 1985 a shy and reserved young girl who would later leave Thornbank in 1992 having made the transition to successful Head of House and having gained 3 As in her A levels. At that time she had headed a team who were described by Lyn Smith in her House report of that year as "an excellent group throughout their time at Strathallan, and as the women of the future with their forthrightness, intelligence and personalities, they will be a force to be reckoned with". Thereafter, Lyndsay was always to acknowledge that she had thoroughly enjoyed her time at the School and, despite her self-confessed dread of any form of outdoor sporting activity on a cold Perthshire day, nevertheless, she had participated fully in a wide spectrum of other activities and had even gained membership of the 3rd XI hockey team! Strathallan had done her proud and she had done likewise for Strathallan.

There followed 5 years at medical school in Glasgow from where she graduated in 1997. During those student years she undertook 2 elective periods in mission hospitals in Saba (Malaysia) and Durban, experiences which subsequently kindled a love for worldwide travel and adventure. Following graduation, Lyndsay completed her postgraduate training in and around Stirling before entering GP partnership in Bathgate in 2001 where she was to inspire the respect and deep affection of her patients and colleagues. She worked doggedly to improve standards of training in the Practice as well as assisting to push towards the qualification of a Quality Practice Award.

Of even greater importance during those post-school years Lyndsay had met up again with Graham MacLennan (Head of Ruthven 1992). Their relationship blossomed into love and was finally cemented by their marriage in 2002.

Those, then, are the facts but they do little to describe Lyndsay as an individual, for it was her personality and personal attributes which made her stand out from the crowd, a star but without the glitter. She remained throughout her life unassuming, quiet and modest but she also possessed a calm determination to see things through to their appropriate conclusion. Moreover, her perpetual smile, dignity, clarity of thought and profound common sense encouraged optimism and confidence in those around her. Lyndsay's attitude and demeanour touched everyone she encountered and we are all changed for the better by the experience of knowing her. The extraordinary number and quality of entries in her book of condolences at her Practice bear testimony to the love she engendered in her short time in Bathgate.

As a loving wife, devoted daughter and sister (Euan – Ruthven 88, Ailsa – Thornbank 98) and extended family member, Lyndsay was just that wee bit special. Her sense of humour, caring nature and thoughtfulness shone through in everything she did and she was the most loyal and trustworthy of friends and colleagues. Quite simply, she was a lovely lady in every sense of the word and we were privileged to share her life. In her marriage to Graham and within her family she found her own blessings of true love and devotion and for that we give thanks. Lyndsay will be truly missed and will always be remembered with love and affection by all those who knew her.

Euan J Grant (Ruthven 88)

Married to Aisling and with twin 2 year old boys, Euan was appointed Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course at St Andrews on 1 April 2004.

GAVIN VERNON AND THE STONE OF DESTINY.

THE DEATH OF GAVIN VERNON, AGED 77, IN MARCH 2004 BRINGS INTO FOCUS ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING ESCAPADES OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

In 1296 Edward Longshanks removed the Stone of Destiny, upon which the High Kings of Scotland had been crowned and had it taken to London. Recovering the Stone was regarded as a matter of national pride.

In 1950, four young Scots decided to take matters into their own hands. Three of them were Glasgow University students. Ian Hamilton, later to be an eminent QC, invited Gavin Vernon to join him, who in turn invited a fellow Strathallian Alan Stuart. The fourth member was Kay Matheson, a domestic science teacher, who later confessed a deep admiration for Hamilton. Vernon was a character to whom a challenge was irresistible. At school, he had built radios, which were strictly forbidden, for use in his dormitory, as well as equipment to pre-empt detection by approaching authority. He went on to read Electrical Engineering, having done his National Service.

Although all four belonged to 'The Covenant', a Home Rule Society, none of them became involved in the Scottish Nationalist Party, even though their action was to be a symbol of it. They felt that something had to be done and they enjoyed the thrill of such an affront to the English Establishment.

Having been funded by a Glasgow businessman sympathiser, they set off for London in two cars. They visited Westminster Abbey and inspected the Coronation Chair, which housed the Stone of Destiny, after which they adjourned for a council of War in Lyon's Corner House. All agreed with Vernon that they should "have a bash".

In the late afternoon, Vernon and Hamilton returned to the Abbey and hid until it closed at 6.15. Hamilton was discovered by the night watchman but managed to talk his way out. The next morning, Christmas Eve, Vernon and Stuart returned and got into conversation with the Archdeacon during which they fortuitously gleaned information about the night watchmen's shifts.

Early on Christmas Morning, the three men entered the Abbey via a builder's yard and used a jemmy to enter Poet's Corner. Having reached their target, with considerable difficulty, they extracted the 400lb stone from the Coronation Chair but in the process dropped it, breaking it into two pieces. Hamilton carried the smaller piece to the car in which Kay Matheson was waiting, whilst the two Strathallians dragged out the larger piece on Hamilton's coat. The smaller piece was planted in the boot. Meanwhile Matheson had seen the glint of a policeman's helmet under a gaslight, so to divert attention she engaged Hamilton in a lovers' clinch. The kind hearted policeman came over, engaged the 'lovers' in conversation and offered them a cigarette. Noises in the abbey diverted the attention of the law, but he accepted that nothing was amiss. The car then drove off. Hamilton got out in Victoria and left Matheson in the first car whilst he walked back to the Abbey. Having re-established contact with the Strathallian duo, between them they heaved the larger part of the stone into the second car which sagged alarmingly.

Two many clues had been left for comfort so Vernon headed for Rugby; Hamilton and Stuart deposited the larger stone in Kent, whilst Matheson deposited the smaller with a friend in the Midlands.

For the first time for 400 years the Scottish border was closed; George VIth reprimanded the Dean for such an outrage and considerable political pressure was put on the Police Inspector responsible for the case to find the felons. Ultimately no charges were pressed for fear of creating political martyrs. Meanwhile, it would appear that Hamilton retrieved the two parts of the Stone, had it repaired and returned it in secret to the High Altar in the ruins of Arbroath, scene of the Declaration of Arbroath.

The search for both the culprits and the Stone went on for several months. The cunning Highlander Kay Matheson, when being questioned by the police at her home in Wester Ross, was asked where the stone was hidden. She replied that it was in the Peat Bog. The police failed to find the Stone but the Mathesons did not have to cut any peat that year. Rather more graciously, Gavin Vernon returned to Westminster Abbey on Christmas Eve 2000; the Abbey was opened specially and he was greeted with the words 'Welcome back Mr Vernon!'

VALETE 04

STRATHALLIAN 2003-04

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	YEAR	HOUSE	ADM DATE
Amanda A	Brow	S4	Woodlands	03/07/04
Lisa	Bull	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Rachel M	Davies	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Lauren	Dempster	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Lana K	Garriock	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Xiao	Hu	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Chen	Jin	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Anne	Kelly	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Jennifer Helen	Lamont	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Michelle B	Leslie	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Katie B	Lyburn	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Ishbel M	McFarlane	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Laura L G	Mackie	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Tanya L	Reid	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Emma C	Rhodes	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Helen G	Scott	S3	Woodlands	20/01/04
Rosemary E	Stanford	S4	Woodlands	03/07/04
Rhianna F A	Terrell	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Ekaterina A	Ustinova	S2	Woodlands	03/07/04
Louise P	Wallace	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04
Lina	Weng	S6	Woodlands	03/07/04



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