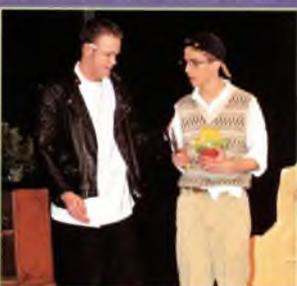




# The STRATHALLIAN

## 1999-2000





Sir Eduardo Paolozzi  
opening the new  
Art School on  
20th May 2000

# The STRATHALLIAN

## 1999-2000

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### CONTENTS

Captains of School	2
Staff Notes	3
Speech Day	4
Prizes & Examination Results	5
House Reports	6
Staff Valete	20
Music	23
Scripture Union	31
Electricity at Strathallan	32
Drama	33
Year in Focus	39
Art School Opening	44
Art	45
The Great Adventure	49
The Rugby Tour	53
Sports and Other Activities	56
6th Form Ball	76
Jigs	78
From Our Own Correspondent	80
Trips Abroad	83
6th Form Talks & School Website	85
Natural History & Careers	86
Contacts Abroad	87
Strathallian Club	88
Obituaries	89
Salvete	93

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# Captains of School

**Looking back on my year as joint Captain of School, my mind is filled with happy memories, and pride in the achievements of my fellow pupils.**

It is my feeling that it was on the whole, a good year for the school; the huge list of achievements I spoke of on Speech Day.

We tried hard, and succeeded, to prove Her Majesty's Inspectors wrong, with their suggestion that there is a problem at Strathallan with the relationships between boys and girls. Support for one another was excellent, with large numbers turning out in support of all teams. I believe Miss Smith was even pleasantly surprised to see so many boys down at the Astro turf after rugby practice supporting the girls in their early evening matches. It was a goal of mine to see as many pupils, parents and staff as possible supporting matches and concerts, and I found that some staff, not linked to any particular games option, were touched when pupils invited them to watch them play.

The role of Captain of School was a great experience, and I am sure I speak for Steph as well, when I thank Lucy for the example she set before us. My Housemaster, Chris and Doug, will remember my reaction when reading of my appointment. I was shocked to the point of being told to sit, before I fell, but also proud, that I had been chosen, along with Steph, to play a part in the responsibilities of Strathallan. I hugely enjoyed my year, and I'm sure that in the years to come, I will reap the benefits of the position I have held. Creating a happy atmosphere and a strong pride in the school has been my main goal as Joint Captain of School. I therefore would like to repeat the words Cosmo Fairbairn used when he retired in 1991; for they are words which present members of the school may not have read, but which I feel are very much the words I would use to sum up my feelings for Strathallan. "I have been very happy here, and I hope the same

is true for you. So my leaving wish is that you each may be proud of your school, for you have every cause to be, remembering that we all judge schools by the individuals we meet from them, both past and present members."

I would like to thank all the prefects, particularly the Heads of Houses for their contribution, and all the staff for their support and advice. Most importantly I would like to thank all the pupils for making my final year at Strathallan, happy and memorable. Finally, thank you Steph, for putting up with me. I had a great time, and I hope you did too. I wish Scott, Laura, and indeed all Strathallians, all the very best for an even more successful year ahead.

**Robert Mackenzie**



**My year as Joint Captain of School was by far my most enjoyable at Strathallan.**

In a year of changes, I found myself accepting a role traditionally held by one person, as the other half of what I think was a very successful partnership.

I certainly think that the decision to have a joint captaincy is something that should continue as I thoroughly appreciated Robert's advice and all his work throughout the year. It is very comforting to know that there is someone you can discuss ideas with before putting them to a member of staff. That said, the help and guidance of staff, prefects and other pupils was also invaluable - thank you.

Although the smaller tasks that come with the post are often hidden behind the more public aspects of the job, I think that the patience and administrative skills gained from such tasks are just as valuable as the confidence gained from public speaking. Communication skills are also tested and I hope that the past year has allowed me to further my own communication skills whether it be between staff, peers or visitors to the School.

For subsequent Captains of School, my advice would be to try to find a balance between the job, academic work and your own other interests that will allow you to contribute as much as you can to the School whilst still being able to enjoy yourself and gain valuable skills.

**Steph Dorward**



# Staff Notes

**At the end of Session 1999/2000 we said goodbye to a number of valued colleagues. John Ford, and his wife, Anne, have for more than a quarter of a century been a central part of the Strathallan community.**

John was for 15 years Housemaster of Nicol, a highly successful coach of the 1st XI Boys' Hockey team, during which time several players went on to gain international honours with Scotland, a Biologist and latterly Head of Careers. In addition, he was a remarkable Rugby referee, long time coach of the 2nd XI Cricket team and latterly a key member of the Girls' Hockey coaching staff; we also owe him a great debt for his organisation over many years of the Prep School Hockey tournament. John leaves us with the opportunity to spend more time on his particular enthusiasms: horticulture, fishing, and music. His commitment to Strathallan can have left few spare moments for these.

ANDREW WANDS, who has been with us for some 15 years is one of those members of staff who has always been there to help with a range of activities. Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, and latterly, in particular, the very successful Clay Pigeon and

Shooting teams have benefited from his commitment and sense of humour. Formerly Head of Geography, he has of late been helping with Careers and taken on the onerous task of Work Experience organisation and Gap Year placements.

The positive, close-working relationship enjoyed by BILL WEIGALL with the boys and families of Simpson House will be a lasting memory as his wife BELINDA's work as a vet takes him South. Bill also made a notable contribution as 1st XV coach and to the Scuba Diving section of the CCF RN in waters not quite like those to which he had been used in the past. The Royal Naval section loses another key figure in the departure, for the second time, of ADRIAN PHILLIPS, who has also moved further South. He returned to take over the Design and Technology Department and leaves to pursue a career outside education. The exodus South is continued with MARTIN WIGHTMAN, who has been Resident Tutor

in Freeland, latterly took over the Marine Section and has established canoeing in the extra curricular programme. His contribution to the staff band and musicals will also be much missed. Woodlands has also lost a Resident Tutor in the departure of MORAG VASS, only a little further South to Edinburgh; Morag has made an excellent contribution in the classroom and to Music and Drama as well. The infectious enthusiasm of JANE QUAN and her tireless contribution in raising the profile of Dance and Drama through productions and work with LAMDA will now be seen at Bryanston School and NICKY GLASSWELL, who was with us for only a short time this year, nonetheless had time to make a full contribution to the work of the ICT department and to join in with the CCF. CATHERINE BAKER left the post of Assistant Director of Music at the end of the Spring Term to continue her career as a professional musician and we are most grateful to GEOFF BOLTON, who stepped in and covered Riley Music, in particular, during the Summer.

During the course of the year DAVID BARNES took over as Second Master after nine years in Ruthven and ANDREW WATT took over as Housemaster there. ABI MASON also left the Residential Tutor post in Woodlands.

At the start of 2000-2001 we welcomed two new members of the Common Room, SINEAD NI RIAIN, who has been teaching in Falkirk and brings first class experience of Physics, high class involvement in Irish Dancing, and an interest in outdoor pursuits. She has become a Residential Tutor in Woodlands. Freeland also welcomes a new Residential Tutor in RICHARD WALMSLEY, who has just completed a Masters at Durham University. His musical specialities are French Horn and Organ although he confesses also to an extra curricular interest in Rugby and Rowing; he joins as Assistant Director of Music.

**BKT**



# Speech Day

## There can be few greater honours than to be invited to write a critique of the Strathallan Millennium Speech Day.

However, as the invitation arrived on the 30th January, maybe I wasn't first choice or was it a 25th Speech Day award. There is always an element of elision: - prizes, a eulogy from the Headmaster, an eminent speaker cajoling young hopefuls to further efforts, whilst admitting in a moment of populism, that school wasn't their finest hour.

However this one was different. The Headmaster had been "in situ" for a matter of weeks and the Chairman was new. What were we to expect? Cometh the hour - a miracle.

The Chairman, David Pighills was no rookie, with the experience of 17 previous Forgandenny Speech Days addressed behind him. With a not unfamiliar twinkle, the old Headmaster invited Robert MacKenzie, Captain of School, to address the Speech Day audience. Even he was a little non-plussed when the intrepid Robert wrote to him a few days later,

**DEAR MR PIGHILLS**

I don't know if you were serious..... I enclose a draft for your approval.

The plot was laid and the new Headmaster Mr Bruce Thompson no longer had to summarise a year which he had for the most part viewed from the fortress of Dollar Academy.

The Chairman opened proceedings with calm assurance and put the entire audience at their ease, talking positively about the future of Strathallan. He introduced Bruce Thompson, who in turn, gave a brief pertinent speech.

Robert MacKenzie then gave the summary of the year's events. Auntie Jean was going to say it was marvellous irrespective of fumble of faux pas. There was no need. A wide variety of aspects of school life were covered with humour and verve, and time was found to make references to his colleagues, like the irrepressible "Buddha". It was a polished performance and no wonder he was a valued member of the Skibo Castle staff in the summer.

David McLetchie M.S.P. was the Guest Speaker. Skilfully, he avoided the trap of using a captive audience to light the fiery cross and rouse the Tory faithful. Instead he demonstrated the urbane and understated wit, characteristic of the best of the Edinburgh legal fraternity, to make an entertaining speech about the foibles of Scottish Politics.

The quality of the speeches was such that most people could forget about the downpour outside. Stephanie Dorward, the head girl, was not quite so fortunate sitting under an air vent. However she made a most gracious presentation to Mr McLetchie in somewhat inclement circumstances.



David McLetchie, Headmaster and Chairman of Governors

# Prizes & Examination Results

The Smith Cup for Captain of School  
 The Houston Prize for All Round Merit  
 The Scanlan Cup for Merit  
 The Thomson Salver for Achievement  
 John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution  
 Strathallan Travelling Scholarships  
 Dux  
 The William Tattersall Art Prize  
 The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music  
 The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings  
 The William Pasfield Salver for Music  
 The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize  
 The David Bogie Prize for Economics  
 The Lord Kincaid Prize for English  
 The Richard Moffat Prize for History  
 The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics  
 CCF Prize  
 The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing  
 The McMaster Quaich for Piping  
 The Choir Prize  
 The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman  
 Best All Round Sportswoman

Robert MacKenzie/Stephanie Dorward  
**Hamish Forbes**  
 Kirsty Senior  
 Nick Gdula  
 Robert MacKenzie  
 Laura Morley/Sarah Mazur  
 Sergei Bazanov  
 Simon King/Suzi Harvey  
 Alex Lamb  
 Sarah Currie/Julia Rogers  
 Ruth Chalmers  
 Leila Arakji  
 Sarah Mazur  
 Elaine Johnson  
 Leila Arakji  
 John Coull  
 Neal Adam  
 Ben Dalley  
 Robbie Whytock  
 Euan Aitkenhead/Laura Morley  
 Andrew Moodie  
 Alison Roger

Music  
 Politics  
 Physics  
 Spanish

Laura Morley  
 Jindrich Zitek  
 Mark Stringer  
 Max Reynolds

## FIFTH FORM

Art  
 Biology  
 Business Studies  
 Chemistry  
 D & T  
 English  
 French  
 Geography  
 German  
 History  
 IT  
 Latin  
 Mathematics  
 Music  
 Physics  
 Spanish

Lois Hunter  
 Andrew Mack  
 Ksenia Podymakhina  
 Ksenia Podymakhina  
 Oliver Scott  
 Louise Lamb  
 Karen Moulds/Sam Gillespie  
 Laura Kotseroglou  
 Katrin Hoffman  
 Louise Lamb  
 Andrew Mack  
 Louise Lamb  
 Stuart Chapman  
 Harriet Hunt  
 Andrew Mack  
 Laura Kotseroglou

## UPPER SIXTH - A LEVEL

Biology  
 Business Studies  
 Chemistry  
 Design & Technology  
 Drama  
 French  
 Geography  
 German  
 Physics  
 Spanish  
 Theatre Studies

Rachel Dobson/Ruth Harbit  
 Esereda Musisi  
 Ruth Harbit  
 Fiona Hunter  
 Anna Watson/Richard Crawford  
 Sarah Mazur  
 Charis Robertson  
 Alex Lamb  
 John Coull  
 Sarah Mazur  
 Leila Arakji

## FOURTH FORM

Art  
 Biology  
 Business Studies  
 Chemistry  
 Computing  
 D & T  
 English  
 French  
 Geography  
 German  
 History  
 Mathematics  
 Music  
 Physics  
 Spanish

Howard Gray  
 Mathieu Gordon  
 Peter Mackie  
 Catriona Bisset  
 Stephen Wong  
 Clare Kelly/Joe Watson  
 Catriona Bisset  
 Clare Kelly  
 Kirstie Aitken  
 Howard Gray  
 Mathieu Gordon  
 Stephen Wong  
 David Chalmers  
 Amelia Lane  
 Sioned Bates

## UPPER SIXTH - HIGHERS

Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Computing  
 D & T  
 Economics  
 English  
 French  
 Geography  
 German  
 History  
 Mathematics  
 Physics  
 Philosophy  
 Spanish

Mike Wilson  
 Mike Wilson  
 Gill Greenwood  
 Mark Roger  
 Mike Wilson  
 Robert MacKenzie  
 Fiona MacFarlane  
 Mike Wilson  
 Fiona MacFarlane  
 Edward Willing  
 Nick Gdula  
 Neal Adam  
 Ashley Cameron  
 Fiona MacFarlane

## THIRD FORM

Tom Hine

## LOWER SIXTH

Accounting & Finance  
 Biology  
 Business Studies  
 Chemistry  
 Computing  
 D & T  
 Economics  
 English  
 French  
 Geography  
 German  
 History  
 Mathematics

Alasdair Gardner  
 Fraser Chisholm  
 Jindrich Zitek  
 Mark Stringer  
 Eleanor Wanless/Lynn Watson  
 Anneke Laux  
 Chris Wright  
 Laura Morley  
 Angus Spiers  
 Georgia Manson  
 Zoe Buchan  
 Neil Whiting  
 Jindrich Zitek

## Examination Results 2000

The examination results this summer have once again proved to be outstanding. The A-Level pass rate was 98.9% the highest pass rate in over three years with 59.6% of pupils gaining A-B grades.

Pupils sitting Scottish Highers also did well with a pass rate of 85% with 59.8% getting the top A - B grades.

The GCSE and Scottish Standard Grade results were also pleasing with 93.5% of pupils passing at A\* - C grades an increase of 2.4% on last year's results. The percentage of pupils getting the top A\* grade was maintained at 10.5%, (well above the national average).

# Riley

**The first teacher I ever came across was a lady called Miss Diet who took the youngest class at Sydney Street Primary School. She was around ninety-seven years old according to my best friend Martin, and lived in the Wendy house in the bottom right hand corner of the classroom.**

Here she was able to enjoy free access to the rocking horse when all the children had gone home, an occupational perk not then identified as taxable by the Inland Revenue.

The cosy, carefree world of that first year at school was shattered late in the summer term by the revelation that Miss Diet, like us, had a mother. We were confronted by the awful reality that she too, was a human being; in fact, simply a larger and older version of ourselves. For days we stumbled around the playground, open-mouthed and dumbfounded, unwilling to accept that teachers were, after all, ordinary people who led normal lives outside school.

Reluctantly, I held this to be true for many years. Until I came to work in Riley that is, where, once again, I had to revise my opinion. People who work in Riley are not at all normal. They live in the School and were a rocking horse available, would spend most of their time 'bunking' the younger pupils off it. They don't go home at night but spend endless hours challenging their charges at table tennis, hunting the lost sock, or trying to make sense of Pokemon. Watch Mr Fleming organise a strip room clearance and you will question how it was that Britain could lose the Empire. Did Mr Vallot really succeed in persuading hardened second formers to put their thoughts into poetry? The Burgess/England approach to camping has become legendary (and inevitably good fun), whilst no one could ever accuse Mr Keir of being in any way your 'regular' sort of teacher. And how was it, that after Matron retired way back in October, Mrs Colley and Mrs Fleming were able to keep things together until the end of the school year?

We all wish Freda well in her retirement and welcome aboard Sandra

Cartwright. No matter how smelly the rugby shirt, or how stiff the socks, the Riley Matron is always there to ensure that the mundane in life runs as smoothly as the rest.

The pupils who left Riley in June can look back with some pride on what was achieved during those busy final terms. Somehow, amongst the class plays and crickets matches, concerts, rounders tournaments, discos, water fights, musicals, tennis competitions, swimming galas, clay-pigeon festivals, divisional rivalry, LAMDA examinations and sponsored runs, there was time enough to produce an excellent performance in the classroom, where levels of success were unprecedented. As the Indian proverb goes, "Aim for the stars if you wish to reach the tree tops", and in the case of more than one individual, the ozone layer has just been passed, and Jupiter is under threat.

Those left behind, as the 'new' old lags, have quite an act to follow. The atmosphere last year was feverish and frenetic at times with barely a dull moment and performances to savour on games field, stage and elsewhere. Dron eclipsed their rivals once again in the divisional competition, thanks to the sterling efforts of Miss Breaden and Master Jack. Their success here may well compensate for a series of defeats on the table tennis table against Mr Keir and their Housemaster, who managed to counter the deft skills of their younger charges, with a gamesmanship so cynical that it occasionally defied belief. From the Dron div heads came fast shots and slow balls, square balls, drop shots, long balls, short balls, balls that floated, were chipped, chopped and slammed. The response was immediate and unforgiving. Tapping hitherto



unfathomed reservoirs of petulance and dishonesty, Messrs Colley and Keir fought back to win every game contested, punching the air and squealing with delight as they did so. Where the score appeared to be unfavourable, seasonal adjustments were added or deducted and tutor's coefficients applied. The teachers emerged undefeated, but for how long and at what cost?

Our rugby and hockey teams did us proud during that long autumn term, and although victory was elusive at times, a sense of fair play and of fun, were dominant throughout. Towards the end of term, a roar of greasepaint and the smell of a crowd, indicated that div plays were upon us once again, and the quality of performance rose once more above the dizzying heights of recent years. A busy first term then ended on the higher notes of another moving carol service. Thanks go primarily to Miss Baker for hours of hard endeavour in the practice sessions, but also to MF who stepped in at the last minute to deliver a very special reading. Miss Baker left us for a professional singing career, and we all kicked off our shoes and uncoiled our ties for a well-earned winter holiday.

The spring term is traditionally set aside for skiing and so inevitably there was no snow worthy of the long haul to Glenshee. Our hockey teams enjoyed a fine run of success, and a long uninterrupted season, but were nudged out in the Prep School Sixes at the semi-final stage, despite superb contributions from Kirsty and Ann-Louise. The cross-country team collected their usual haul of silverware with some fine performances and, on stage, Baron Bolligrew was thwarted in memorable style by our second form thespians.

Summer arrived with a shimmering wicket and parched outfield inviting fluent stroke play. Mr T. still wore his lambswool jumper throughout and perspired with sufficient vigour to keep the wicket lush, even though vultures circled overhead and an arid wind cut across the plains from the Western Ghats (Ochils) raising small whirl pools of dust. Our bowlers were clearly not amused. Having been coached throughout the close season in such



traditional techniques as swing bowling in horizontal sleet, and the art of extracting spin from permafrost, a genuine summer rather threw their plans and Mr Fitzimmon's aspirations. Extraordinary generosity on the part of our batsmen kept the opposition interested in most matches, but Benno stood firm on more than one occasion to deny victory when it had seemed all but inevitable.

Our rounders and tennis teams struck the ball with typical strength and accuracy, thanks to Mrs Fleming, to win most of their matches and always seemed to return with a sparkle and sense of fun that suggested that sport should not after all be taken too seriously once the final whistle has blown.

A fair degree of running, jumping and throwing of awkward objects, took place on and around the athletics track at various times, and much potential was realised during that busy final term. Inter-div finals in tennis, cricket, athletics and swimming, were won or lost at various stages, with magnanimity defeating triumphalism, on all occasions.

We camped in between the early summer showers, and barbecued anything that had once moved, and spent the long evenings on the paddock chasing balls, Frisbees, boomerangs and shadows. The girls seemed to giggle their way through those final days and the lads failed miserably in their attempts to appear uninterested in all that was going on around them.

The highlight of the term was a performance of Miss Quan's hybrid musical, which the cognoscenti judged to be the best ever. With over sixty pupils involved, it spoke volumes for her patience, enthusiasm and energy and epitomised all that we like to think that Riley is about. Energetic to the point of chaos, delightfully irreverent and humorous, and undeniably lodged in a child's world where teachers scramble ahead of their charges for first go on the rocking horse. We wish Miss Quan well in her new job and thank her for her efforts over the years.

Those sultry summer days drew the final term to a close and Riley emptied to Asia, Africa, Argyll and beyond. What strange tales must be circulating in those parts; of Mr Keir's breesks, campfire singing and illicit late night table tennis matches that should really not have taken place. A rather empty, hollow boarding house was left behind, and not a rocking horse to be seen.



WAC

# Freeland

## I have a picture on my desk of one of the less remarked-upon events in the Strathallan sporting calendar.

It is of the tug o' war, something that seems almost tacked-on to the end of Sports Day. It is interesting that a day on which so much emphasis is placed on individual performance should close with what seems an event almost singular in its team-centred nature. This tug o' war happens to be one of my favourite competitions and one in which Freeland has never succeeded. The team requires eight 'men' only two of which can be from Upper Sixth and the others must be representatives of all year groups. It is, therefore, something that needs the House to pull as one, a reflection of the Housemaster's ideal of unity, shared effort and collective responsibility. That is probably the reason why I can be seen working myself into an undignified lather urging the competitors to maximise their efforts and pull together.

The problem with such feverish support of the collective endeavour is that it not only lacks a little dignity - something I'm happy to sacrifice - but it also suggests the primacy of the team over the individual. Working for oneself, by one's own lights, and according to 'one's' own principles is also a goal, the striving for which should be nourished quite as much as its apparent opposite as embodied in the tug o' war team.

When I am urging the boys in Freeland to get as one, to express their collective unity and strength, in one breath and then, in another, telling them to make their own decisions and to be themselves and true to their individuality, they probably feel somewhat confused. Yet in the apparent

contradiction lies what seems to me to be the key to boarding school life. There are times when it's the easy and mistaken thing to do to follow others. At the end of the Summer term there seemed to be a rash of silly hair colours and curious styles and what turned the rash into a positive outbreak was the lemming behaviour of those who threw themselves into basins of hair wash and colour with a suicidal enthusiasm to obliterate their own identity. There are times when the desire to blend with the appearance and behaviour of others can be only stupid and undignified and times when following your own lights is difficult but a real source of strength, satisfaction and survival.

There is a modern fable by James Thurber about a young moth who sets his sights on a star. His moth family scorned him, telling him that flying towards a star was foolish for he would never get there. They felt that hanging around house lights and street lamps was much wiser than aiming for a star which was four and one-third light years, or twenty-five trillion miles away. The young moth kept trying, however, night after night, and lived to be a very old moth who began to think that he really had reached the star. The moth family had all been burned to death when they were really quite young.

There's a paradox here. For what does one strive? The remote personal ideal seems all too unattainable. The collective is somehow just too



commonplace. Nature has a peculiar way of solving the unsolvable, however, and you just need to look at the sky at night. If you look long enough the stars come to seem extraordinarily close, almost as if they were just lodged in the branches of an invisible tree. If we all looked together then all the different stars we were looking at might seem within reach. And if they did seem within reach then we might really believe they were in reach and if we believed they were in reach, then ...

I really did enjoy this year for both its individual and collective successes. There was a great effort - comprising many personal bests - in Freeland securing the Standards Cup for Athletics under the captaincy of Matt Boyd. The same applied in the Cross-Country where the juniors filled six of the first seven places and where we were, by the narrowest of imaginable margins, second. The same juniors, under Andrew Moodie's coaching, won both the Junior Hockey and Junior Cricket. Furthermore, with the help of Lamb and Ches, they won the Rugby also. The Seniors themselves won the Badminton Cup, where Eddie, Gervaise and Philip combined with Rennie. In the Inter-House Swimming Andrew Donald led an excellent team, which, once again, featured great efforts from the Constables. In the Inter-House Senior Sixes, Andrew Moodie and Hamish Forbes - our only members of the First XI - conjured-up a really resourceful winning team. Freeland does not often secure an array of trophies and I am, therefore, unashamed in saying that I was very proud of the efforts of both Juniors and Seniors.

I felt, in particular, that the Upper Sixth not only played as a team but deserve great credit for the individual efforts of its members. Not only have they all gained places in Further Education but some fourteen boys produced five School Prefects, the Captain of Hockey and Cricket, the Cups for best all-round contributions and best sportsman, the captains of Swimming and Tennis, three sets of full rugby colours, two full Hockey and Athletics colours, two sets of colours for general contributions, one individual music cup and two Prize Day academic awards.

They were a diverse bunch, full of firework eccentricities (both inside and outside), skilled corridor cricketers, interesting - if merry - carry-out eaters, door decorators, chronometer gazers and artists of various callings. They did pull together to produce one of the most enjoyable, entertaining and above all, achievement-filled years that I have ever had as a Housemaster. All the House staff and Freeland's Tutors are a fairly eclectic bunch and yet I feel that we too did rather more than our fair share of pulling together in our own different ways for the good of the whole. Hamish Forbes, the Head of House, was never anything but a Freeland boy - on the other side of a whole variety of fences to the Freeland staff - and yet not for one second did I feel that he had less than the best interests of the House at heart. Typical of his ability to lead was the House Music Competition where Robbie won the solo, You've Lost That Loving Feeling won the choir and yet the over-all trophy remains a star that we haven't yet grasped.

CNC



# Nicol

**After one year into my role as a Housemaster I have been impressed with the diversity of talents in Nicol, this being reflected in our showing in the wide variety of House Competitions this year.**

We kicked off with House Music and, ably led by Nils Michael and George Herd, we were just pipped at the post by Woodlands, although Nils and his jazz band were worthy winners of the Ensemble Trophy. Success was not achieved in the House Rugby but we did not go down without a fight.

The spring term brought enormous success to the House. Surprisingly enough we were very successful in the Hockey Competitions, winning the Junior Indoor and Senior Outdoor and being runners up in the Junior Outdoor. A five team effort saw Nicol crowned as Inter-House Cross-Country champions - much to the disgust of Mr Court. Success did not end here; Richard Crawford's fine stage adaptation of 'Pulp fiction' brought home the Senior Drama Trophy, with Richard picking up the Best Actor award. The Junior Debaters did their best but they have a lot to live up to if they are to emulate the success of their Senior counterparts - Messrs Lane, Speirs, Wardman and Williamson, picking up the fifth trophy of the term. Swimming was not our strong point but we did finish both competitions without anyone drowning. Although there were no competition wins in the Summer Term the boys gave their all in all they did. Second places were achieved in the Junior Football, Cricket, the Academic Challenge and the Golf competitions. Alan Martin won the Best Director award in the Junior House Drama and, under the captaincy of Ben Kass, the Clay Pigeon team avoided the wooden spoon for the first time. Although unsuccessful in the House Athletics, there were some fine individual performances, notably from Middle Victor Ludorumr, Tom Booth.

To achieve this success the House has very much pulled together and taken pride in what they have done. Credit for this must go to Nick Gdula, Head of House, who has led by example and really pulled the boys together. The House has been well represented in School activities, and I apologise now if I forget to mention anyone I should have. On the Sporting front, Nick, Fraser Chisholm, Gary Hutton, Fraser Maxwell, Colin Williamson and Richard have played for the 1st XV. Tom and Gregor Leslie captained the U16A and U15A XVs respectively. On the Hockey pitch we have seen Patrick Bennet (Player of the Year), Tom Booth (Scottish U16s), Fraser Maxwell, Colin Williamson, Euan Aitkenhead and Daniel Hoffman represent the 1st XI, with the two Nicks - Gdula and Common - captaining the 2nd and U16 XIs respectively. Tom, William Bowry (both Scottish Wayfarers U18), Gary, Nick Gdula, Nick Common, Robbie Stewart and Scott MacFarlane played for the 1st XI Cricket team with Alasdair



Gardner as their scorer. In the Athletics team Nicol has been represented by Euan, Colin, Fraser Chisholm, Fraser Maxwell, Alasdair Carmichael and Rowan Marshall. There has also been a good Nicol showing in the minor sports, Gary captained the 1st XI Football and Ben was a member of the very successful Clay Pigeon team.

In Drama and Music, Richard, William and Euan had major parts in 'An Inspector Calls' and 'The Little Shop of Horrors'. The latter two plus Alasdair Gardner were in the Chapel Choir and Nils has been ever-present in what has been another successful year for the Pipe Band. William was also successful in auditioning for the National Youth Theatre.

With all this going on it is hard to believe that the academic side of school life has been the priority, but this has very much been the case. All the Upper Sixth have obtained conditional offers for further education, notably, George has been offered a place at Cambridge to study Natural Sciences. The Lower Sixth have continued where they left off in the Fifth Form and have generally achieved good results with Angus and Euan being awarded Flying and Army Scholarships respectively.

The Fifth Form have generally performed very well. The next few weeks should confirm this. It has been a mixed year for the Fourth Form but they are beginning to get things right. The Third Form settled in tremendously well and found the right balance between work and play almost immediately. Without exception they have been a credit to both the House and the School.

The boys all deserve credit for all they have achieved this term and again I apologise if I have missed out on anybody's achievements. I know they would like to join me in thanking their tutors for the support that they have given them this year. To Mr Fitzsimmons, Mr Ross, and Dr Tod; I look forward to more of the same next year. Mr Kilpatrick, after a year of dedicated support moves to take over the helm of Simpson and we all wish him the very best of luck. After ten years dedicated service to the needs of the boys in Nicol, Mr Wands moves on to pastures new, we will miss him very much. Mr Ford has been attached to Nicol for over twenty years, fifteen as Housemaster. He now retires with our very best wishes.

Finally to Bess, Davina et al; we couldn't have done it without you.

## Nicol House - an alternative view?

Nicol 1999-2000. It was a year of drama, tension, Gdula's smelly socks, passion, glory, Johnny's All-Star shoes, and the regular occurrence of South Indian Garlic Chilli Chicken. Oh, and by the way, this tumultuous year also included the arrival of a new Housemaster (aka Mr G).

Of course we cannot forget Nicol's success on the sporting field. Not only did Johnny run the slowest ever time in the 100m, but Colin Williamson formed an admirable partnership in the Arsenal back four, with A Carmichael continuing to 'cripple' many unsuspecting nipples at rugby. Sadly, Winsey was unable to take part in a sporting event due to the excess fluid in his left knee. Thankfully, Tom Booth once again shone on the sports field, with the rest of Nicol ably assisting him.

On the Academic front F Maxwell continued to do his third year of Highers, with Nils and George Herd also veganing away into the wee small hours. George should be congratulated, firstly on getting into Cambridge, and also on withstanding the excruciating cackle that is Kirsty Roy's laugh. (PS: why did K Roy not pay house subs?) Nicol is also indebted to E O'Donnell for the wide-ranging bedtime literature he brought in.

However, possibly the highlight of the year (excluding seeing D Perrett running the Cross Country) was the Christmas Party and especially the sequel of the Nicol Video. Quote: 'Oh my God, where is Paul; the toasters work, so does the washing machine and ... Ah. The toilets are clean.' Ably directed by Cindy Crawford it was a memorable evening, although it was very unfortunate that Fitz had to wash his hair. Perhaps he may turn up to the Christmas Party one day? Cindy also deserves credit for his successful stage adaptation of 'Pulp Fiction'. The undoubted winner, if only for the dramatic vocabulary.

Of course this report could not miss out Nicol's greatest victory, that of Cross Country. Seeing various retired sportsmen such as Dominic Perrett, Robert Winsey and Alex Klein huff and puff for Nicol colours showed the spirit that exists in the House. And surely, seeing Mr Court's jaw drop as the Nicol boys crossed the finishing line, made the victory even sweeter.



And 'though there were some problems last year, moments such as Chisholm being chucked in the pond, Smurf on his Head of House campaign and Fitz being busted playing corridor cricket, make it all worthwhile. Of course, Nicol would not be complete without memories like these. Quote 'You know nothing Currie, you'll never be on my intellectual level.'

And, as we approach next year, let's hope that Nicol under the guidance of Mr Giles can create the same warm spirit as last year. In the words of Nicol's resident tutor - 'Oh, please.'

**William Bowry**



# Ruthven

## “You can't have too many Chiefs and No Indians”

One of the first things I was asked in early January, with the boys having been back only a day or two was, "Sir, are you going to make more prefects?" asked Jonathan McDougall. My response was quite clear, and now legendary.

How the two terms have flown by and so much has happened in that time. Most significant were the trials and the eventual final exams for the GCSE, Higher and A level candidates. At this stage I must thank the Upper Sixth for making my first two terms of being Housemaster memorable and I will no doubt always remember them and this period of my life and my family's.

The year has been a mixed one for the House especially in term of Inter-House Competitions. In the autumn term the boys acquitted themselves well in the Music competition and in the Rugby 7s. The House Christmas party was the usual great success and this was when the House said farewell to the Barnes family. David and Tessa had served the House with distinction for many years and the change was always going to be difficult to adjust to for some boys. May I wish him all the best in his new position of Second Master. On a personal note, may I thank Dave for all the advice and support over the past six months. It has been greatly appreciated.

January saw many boys participating in the Inter-House Cross Country and the Indoor Hockey competitions. In the junior competitions we lost to

Freeland in the semi-finals but our senior team got through to the finals where they defeated a determined Freeland team in a penalty shoot-out. Well done to Euan Matheson (Capt), Jeremy McDougall, Max Reynolds, Fraser Mackie (who scored the deciding goal), Neil McIlwraith, Laurence Court and Ross Sutherland; a sterling effort. In the outdoor competition our juniors were once again eliminated by Freeland in the semi-finals while Nicol just managed to beat our seniors in the finals. At the same time our Junior and Senior Debating teams did very well in their respective competitions.

When it came to Speech Day and the academic awards Ruthvenites did very well. Sergei Bazanov, who left in Summer 1999 was awarded Dux of the School - a fine achievement. Simon King had his artistic talent rewarded with the Art prize while Mike Wilson walked off with four of the Highers subject prizes. Congratulations, Mike. An excellent achievement. Other prize winners included Max Reynolds, Oli Scott, Peter Mackie and Stephen Wong who received the Mathematics and IT prizes. Ruthvenites also made up a substantial part of the Pipe Band with 8 pipers playing at Speech Day and on Sports Day. Well done to Calum Emslie and Cameron Jack who won their first piece of silverware this term for piping.





Other achievements in the summer term of 2000 included winning the Inter-House Clay Shooting and the Tennis competitions and we were well placed in the Athletics standards and in the final results on Sports Day. It was very encouraging to see so many boys participating in the Standards competition in the run up to Sports Day. Our junior drama team did well with Calum Emslie receiving a performance award. Many boys have also excelled in other areas of School life and beyond School and I say well done to them as well.

Finally, the thank yous and good byes. Best wishes to the Upper Sixth leaving in the summer. For those going into further education, work hard, it's worth it and for those taking a Gap year, make the most of the break. Thank you to Euan and his team of prefects who I know found it difficult at times to adjust to the new Housemaster. To Max and his team of prefects coming in, best wishes for a successful year. Many thanks to Kate, our ever reliable matron, and her team of domestic staff, you all do a wonderful job which is so often taken for granted. To Morc Tod a big THANK YOU for the help and support in what I have tried to achieve in the House and I look forward to working with him and the other visiting tutors in the years ahead. We have a strong group of tutors who do an excellent job in the House, which is much appreciated. Finally, an even bigger THANK YOU to Ann for her support and for being there at midnight and beyond after a long day. I am told that it gets better in the second year and beyond; well we'll have to wait and see.

AW



# Simpson

**As AJP Taylor said. You only get as much from history as you are willing to put into it. In many ways the house system works very much on this give and take basis.**

In my five years' experience I have found that the house works in a unique way, and very agreeably. However, now we reach the end of an era. The end of 8 years of Antipodean, English teaching, rugby coaching control (give or take the 'Proctor Period'), and more significantly the end of the Weigall epoch.

The three years since Mr Weigall arrived in Simpson have seen a great deal of achievements, and the purpose of the house report is to detail those. Well, I don't actually know if that is the purpose of the house report - having no fixed format, consequently there can be no fixed purpose, but reports have evolved into being a review of the year from the point of view of the House. However, I will apologise now for what I know will be several omissions and people offended but I will try to remember as much as I possibly can. (Although those parts of the winter term seem so distant now it is hard to recall... perhaps a phone call to Mr Weigall would help...)

Phone call complete. Firstly we will start with the sporting achievements of the year. In the autumn term the Inter-House Sevens Competition resulted in Simpson Boys winning, then Simpson won the seniors' inter-house cross-country, but failed overall. Nonetheless congratulations must go to all that took part. In the summer term's Standards Competition congratulations were again due to the host of Simpsonians who took part, especially those who are not naturally athletes. A tremendous second place was well won. Then at Sports day the house athletes produced a string of superlative performances, with Scott McKinlay and Gregor Duncan winning the *Victor Ludorum* for their own classes, and Fraser Niven narrowly missing his on Scottish Thistle points. The efforts of all taking part allowed Simpson to win overall. To crown the

day, a storming victory in the tug-of-war put Simpson on a pinnacle above the rest. Outside of house events, in Scottish Schools Athletics Scott McKinlay, Neal Adam and Ivo Soot all performed successfully. With both Scott and Neal gaining National selection, and in X-Country, Neal Adam, Ivo Soot and Chris Johnson were among the members of the Silver Medal team.

Off the games fields, Simpson also fared well. The October House Music participants excelled, with the Choir singing *World in Union*, Robert MacKenzie on solo piano, and the obligatory rock band as the ensemble. In the Summer Term Junior House Plays, Kenneth MacKenzie and David Chalmers produced the play, winning best script, and Stuart Scroggie attaining an award for best actor. On Speech day Simpson collected a host of prizes, including a multitude by John Coull, Mark Stringer, Andrew Mack, and Mathieu Gordon. John Coull having previously set the standard for a year of outstanding academic achievement by becoming a reserve for the British Physics Olympiad team. It is no surprise that he is now awaiting the start of his first term at Cambridge!

As I mentioned earlier, the house only gives what you put in. This was shown no more clearly than on 20/21 June, with the 24-Hour Sponsor Run. The sense of 'togetherness' was very successful, and Simpson managed to complete the most laps both as a house, and by David Chalmers individually. It was a sterling effort by all that took part, even more so since the aim was to raise money for charity.

The above shows the successes of the last year. We wish Mr Weigall all the best as he leaves to join his wife down in Shakespeare-land and continues to discover more 'idle skiving wasters' down there. (I'm sure there will be someone willing to hear that bellow that has so often reverberated around the house over the last 3 years.) By the time you read this there will be an entirely different house. I have discovered in my time with three Housemasters that the mood and atmosphere of the house reflects the personality of the Housemaster. However, I feel that I must add that the mood has always been agreeable, but just different each time. We wish Mr Kilpatrick all the best with what the future has to hold. Finally I think a huge thank you must go to all the



others who have helped make the house the place it is: Mr Lunan, Mr DBoulay, Mr Streatfield-James, Mr Higginbottom, Mr Summersgill, Mr McCann, Grace, Anne and Ella. They have earned the gratitude of all the leavers, and those who will return.

**Douglas Forbes**

## The Last Word

In a fashion entirely typical of Housemasters, Australians in general and me in particular, I have reserved the final say in this, as in every other matter under discussion. Douglas has produced an admirable summary of what has been in every respect a tremendous year for Simpson and its inmates. Much as I would like to take the credit I am obliged to admit that the cohort of remarkable young men led ably by the sixth form and the Prefects in particular, would, in all likelihood have achieved the same success if I had spent the year on Sabbatical. In any event I am sure that the successes which began long before my arrival will continue indefinitely after my departure. It would be remiss of me not to record my gratitude to the guys for allowing me to participate, however vicariously, in their lives.

It is difficult to believe that three whole years have elapsed since I first arrived at Simpson and Strathallan. It is harder still to comprehend that my time there has ended. Naturally there have been some low points as well as the highs such as those documented above. On the whole though my recollections are overwhelmingly positive and my departing emotions were a mixture of pride and sadness in equal measure. As I write I am ensconced in a pleasant village in England and frantically busy with preparation for teaching at my new school. Life does indeed go on but I will continue to regard my time at Strathallan and at Simpson in particular as one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling periods of my professional life. If any member of the House or



the school should be passing through Staffordshire they will, in the words of A.B. "Banjo" Patterson, "be welcome around our fire any time." Mr Kilpatrick, Neil Whiting and the rest of the House have my very best wishes for the future.

**WDAW**



# Thornbank

**Thornbank was always set for a memorable year with no fewer than twenty-four in the Upper Sixth. With the House so full it certainly had a productive buzz to it and we did, without doubt, have a lot of fun.**

The Upper Sixth did well in their exams, Ruth Harbit convincingly getting those straight As to get her to Cambridge and Steph Dorward, Alex Lamb, Charis Robertson, Helen Stewart, Ashley Cameron and Anna Watson doing particularly well. Mary Hall's A in English caused a stir as she had kept her ability well hidden from the tutors. By far the majority got into the universities they aimed for and so justified the trips to Open Days and the agonising over UCAS forms. The Fifth Form approached their GCSEs so diligently that their success was always ensured. Congratulations especially to Louise Lamb and Karen Moulds on their results.

That the House has a collective acting ability was never in any doubt and it was good so many got the opportunity to demonstrate their talent in the School plays. Aimi Gdula and Kirsty Roy had numerous successes and Georgia Manson took the lead in the musical supported by all of her year group and a large number of Thornbank girls. Miss Quan's dance option was very popular and again the performances were a delight to see.

Ruth Chalmers led the chapel Choir and she and Sarah Currie had the task of organising our Inter-House competition entry. The House Choir is always so popular, so we practised some carols and raised some money for charity. Thanks are due to the many 'supporters' especially the Bush's grandparents.

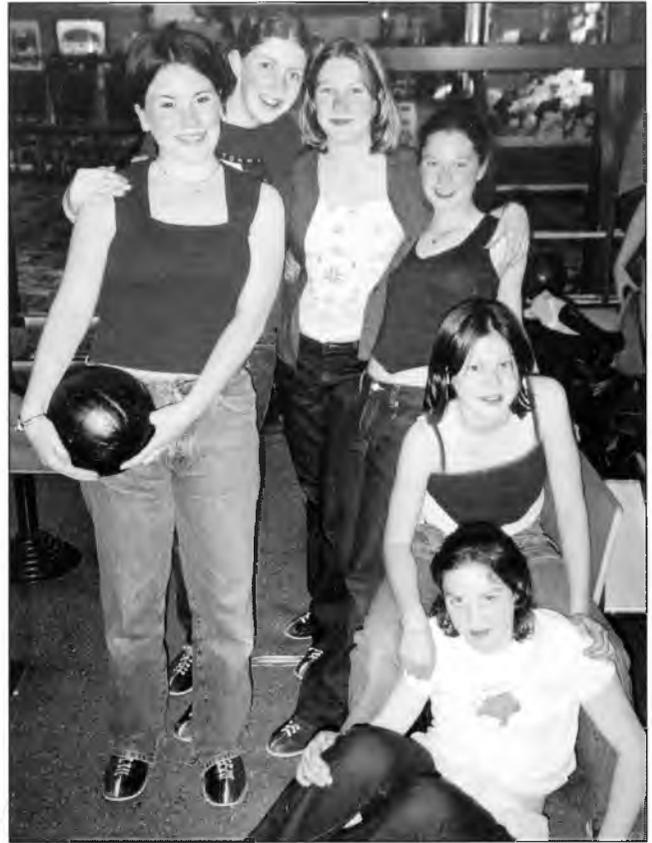
Our sporting prowess benefited from another intake of very talented juniors. In the junior Cross-Country we filled the first seven places, which bodes well for the future. Anna MacDonald's swimming took our breath away and Gayle Allardyce joined Katie Fleming and Karen McArthur to excel in Athletics. Fiona Roger captained the 1st Hockey team with Jenny Hay and Anneke Laux doing particularly well. Leila Arakji captained the 1st Netball team and Anneke, Mimi, Tisi, Jenny and Katie represented Scotland at Rounders.

Anna Watson and Helen Stewart did us proud in the CCF and Holly Harvey and Kirstie Aitken joined the Navy and passed all their diving exams. These are just a few of the achievements that marked a busy year, so there are many who will be justifiably aggrieved that they have not been mentioned in this report.

The House has had superb input from a terrific tutor team and vital support and care from Morag, Liz, Linda and Wendy. Well done to Charis and Sara for leading so well, and always keeping the girls interests at heart. I am sure that the Flemings will enjoy the unique experience of living in Thornbank. The pupils and staff will certainly always remain special to me.

DLR





## Thornbank House

It has been yet another hectic year in the Thornbank household. Out of everything that has happened we can only pick a few people and events 'though it is hoped the best and most memorable.

Firstly we need to congratulate Claire and Charley for actually surviving the Sixth Form. The House won't be quite the same without them screeching outrageously in the upstairs kitchen with the rest of their group. On the subject of noise, Thornbank had an injection of volume which came in the form of our enthusiastic, hyper Third Form. Some of us are still in shock at their endless amounts of energy. However, their hectic lives seem to catch them up at the convenient time of breakfast signing-in.... Coralie.

Our juniors managed to maintain a tradition of Thornbank, that of junior House drama. As always, our play was written a few days before the deadline and contained the usual winning story line, which surprisingly never seems to quite gain us the prize. In the end, everyone involved had fun and we're sure Lindsay and Stephanie's appearance on stage will be remembered. Our annual Christmas party displayed Thornbank's alternative talent unseen to all outsiders. A few members of the Upper Sixth stole the show with their rendition of Queen's 'I want to ride my bicycle' (the thongs and Lycra shorts were very tasteful). Another Christmas outing for Thornbank this year was busking in Perth for the Children's Hospice. £257.63 was raised whilst the evening was enjoyed by all - not that we're exhibitionists or anything but it was satisfying.

The year saw our academic House tutors excel in their departments (a true step forward for sisterhood). So congratulations to Dr Carr and Miss Morrison for being made Heads of Departments, leaving only Mrs Raeside and Mrs Higginbottom as mere subordinates. Continuing on the academic theme Thornbank received it's first ever victory in the Academic challenge. For a team assembled approximately four hours before the event took place a definite congratulations to Charis, Leila, Alex and Ruth is well deserved. On that note does anyone know where the trophy is...?

Being the athletic stars that we are in Thornbank, not only did we claim victory in hockey and athletics but for the first time in five years we won the netball ... HA HA HA.

This year saw the departure of Julia Rogers. She will be greatly missed and her outstanding musical talent and L-O-N-G hair will always be remembered. Good luck Juls.

We also have to say a massive thanks to Morag, Liz, Wendy and Linda. Not only would the House be a total and utter shambles without them, we would all miss out on the daily gossip session.

And last but by no means least we would all like to say a huge Thank you to Charis, Sara and Steph for making life in Thornbank as enjoyable and memorable as possible. Even if that does include ransoming a certain innocent young person's FLAT ERIC.

**Georgia Manson**

# Woodlands

Having said a tearful goodbye to last year's Upper Sixth who, should we say, enjoyed a last "night ex" at Strathallan, I had to face a new position and also contend with a new housemaster and housemistress, Mr and Mrs Evans. Looking back now it's hardly believable that a whole year has gone by which has been filled with a lot of different emotions, triumph, sadness and excitement.



Throughout the year there have been many events, not all of which we have triumphed in, leaving our trophy shelf looking very empty, 'though it wasn't for the want of trying with notable performances along the way. We started on a high note, with the choir in House Music winning and with the help of the solo and ensemble, consisting of Katie, Rosie, Fiona, Charlotte and Harriet, playing and singing Fields of Athenry we won the best overall house. Maybe next time the ensemble can play the tune in a more sober frame of mind. I would like to thank Laura and Katie for all their hard work that obviously paid off.

On the sports front, straight in at the deep end with inter-house swimming. We lost graciously to the boys although fronting a strong team well organised by Fiona Hunter and a notable performance by Caroline Frew. House hockey was interesting with a loss for the juniors and a win for the seniors. Unfortunately we could not make up the goal difference and the cup went to Thornbank. Next year will be our year...how long have we been saying that? Netball, Tennis, Athletics and Cross-country didn't go our way either but a mention must be given to Kirsty Senior for her running efforts, although we did show a bit of girl power in the badminton by coming second. Despite our not succeeding on the sports field we have the brains running through the house with Ishbel and Louise storming to the top in junior house debating and this was topped off by a huge and well-deserved victory in the junior house play written by Sioned, Sarah and Ishbel. Rachel and Laura took the director's chair. Maybe this was a glimpse of things to come. Unfortunately the seniors could not follow in the juniors' footsteps on stage by acting out a hen night in a nightclub... have they got experience already in real life??

House trips. Highlights, "Cookie" in 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'

certainly made the trip worthwhile along with the unforgettable karaoke by Laura and Hazel, maybe next time ear plugs need to be dished out. Take note, Mr Kitson, but thanks for organising it. The Third Years' trip to The Haunting certainly frightened some even if they now don't admit it. Go-Karting speeded things up and allowed people the freedom of the road without 'L' plates.

The house charity events have raised a good sum of money, £580 for Rachel House, through a sponsored sports day in teams. The games were certainly different. Well done to the whole house for taking part. The 24 hour sponsored run produced some different nocturnal activities. Well done to Laura and Lynn winning in three-legged style.

The Christmas party was eventful with Mr Kitson's magic trick being performed on Caroline Frew, which certainly won't be forgotten, along with the food and many other notable performances. The Sixth Form ball was entertaining with a hot line to the taxis in and out of Perth and everyone running around the house fretting, "Is my hair okay?", "Does my bum look big in this dress?" Eventually all the belles of the ball were picked up and headed off to a night never to be forgotten or is it remembered?

Thankfully there have been plenty of new additions this year. We have eventually got a new television for both common rooms only about 4 years too late. We have now also got a dimmer switch for the main common room that is used to its fullest after 6:30 and has caused many embarrassing encounters for certain people. It's amazing that we have received so much this year; I wonder where all this money has come from?

Sadly, we have seen the departure of Mary, our east wing cleaner, who





undoubtedly will not miss facing a flooded washroom every Monday morning and shouting at people to tidy their rooms so she can at least attempt to clean them. We would all like to wish Debbie a warm welcome and hope she does not have to face the same. We also say farewell to Miss Vass who has been a saviour for those taking Physics and without doubt she will not miss the night-before-exam nerves. Miss Quan also leaves us and she certainly will not miss the endless queue of people needing help with Drama. A big thank you for all their hard work and being able to put up with sixty screaming girls. Miss Mason has found it time to move out and settle for two nights a week, are we really that hard to control? Aileen has been working hard in North wing and has been inundated with crisp packets. Of course we cannot forget Janet who is our saviour for opening tuck shop and stocking up the toiletries so we can all be prim and proper to keep up Woodlands' reputation, or is there another reason? Many thanks must be given to the tutors who have put up with us for yet another year, thank you. Finally, many thanks to Mr and Mrs Evans who seem to have settled into a difficult position with few hiccups and no major disasters. They have produced a wide variety of fresh ideas and products for the house.

This year has been truly amazing with a large variety of events taking place that have been extremely memorable and eventful. Hopefully we can triumph over Thornbank next year, but only time will tell. As the year has come to a close a huge goodbye must be said to the Upper Sixth that have made the year a talkative one, and we wish them all the luck in the future wherever they end up.

**Catherine Frew**

## Woodlands House Annual Report 2000

August started at a hectic pace as we attempted to take on board an enormous amount of information and at least make it appear that we were ready for the year ahead. There was obviously much still to learn about the day-to-day events and there was nothing else to do but to live through the first few days and learn quickly. When we were in doubt there were always willing girls to fill us in on normal procedures.

Throughout the year we have been impressed by the friendliness of the

girls. There is a tremendous community spirit amongst them and they have given their all in House events. The way that the girls look after each other is a lesson to us all; the support for their peers goes beyond the call of friendship.

The House has been ably led by Caroline Reed, who has had the difficult task of being at the helm of the House during a change in leadership. Methods of procedure and attitudes can change with a new management and Caroline has been a superb middle person, relaying information about views both ways. All the prefects adapted to us and we thank them for their help and wish the leavers all the best for the future.

We have had great support from the tutors and would like to thank them for all that they have done. Special thanks must go to Miss Mason and Miss Vass, who as resident tutors, have been 'in the thick of things' with us. Janet, our Matron, has been a tower of strength throughout: she does a tremendous amount for the girls, all of which is very much appreciated.

There have been great times during the year and some fantastic achievements, many of which are now recorded by Caroline's account of the year.

**PME and LME**



# Staff Valete

**Angus William McPhail came to Strathallan in September 1993.**

**An Oxford Economics graduate, after four years with the Bank of England he had realised that his talents lay elsewhere.**

After his first teaching post at Glenalmond he was appointed Head of Economics at Sedburgh in 1985. He was a Housemaster there when appointed Headmaster at Strathallan.

A talented and enthusiastic musician, an able cricketer and a strong family man, Angus has made his mark in many areas during his time with us.

In these days of almost overwhelming regulations, 'transparency' and political correctness, he has initiated and introduced all the necessary procedures and processes essential for the proper management of the School, ensuring always that the policies adopted were in the best interests of pupils, parents and staff alike.

During what are ever faster changing times, he has had to face many challenges, whilst maintaining excellent educational standards and first rate facilities remained essential - the completion of the new Art Department building was a source of great satisfaction - the threat to numbers in a changing market place put the onus on good marketing and prudent finance management.

He leaves to take up his post at Radley College with our very best wishes and we know that he, Liz and his family will soon be thoroughly immersed in their new life south of the border.

## **Rex mortuus est; vivat rex.**

Angus McPhail's seven years as the eighth Headmaster of Strathallan School are over. After the Pighills era, the ensuing one was always going to be different if only because the outside considerations that determine the fortunes of boarding schools, particularly, perhaps, those in Scotland, assumed a considerably greater importance. He and his fellow heads, therefore, had to get accustomed to a plethora of outside advice, regulation and interest which, combined with the increasing demands of concerned parents to be fully consulted over all aspects of their children's lives here and the sometimes not too fastidious interest of the fourth estate in our affairs, made the headmaster's lot a less happy one.



Strathallan's building programme continued to blossom and flourish during these years, progressing from the previous solid and secure achievements. New buildings such as the Riley Extension and the Sanitorium planned dramatically to enhance the existing facilities, appeared, and other parts of the school were equally dramatically upgraded so that the wholesale removal of the English Department from the old classrooms into the refurbished top floor of the main building took place smoothly and efficiently, and there are now four major computing centres dotted around the school. But perhaps pride of place in this impressive catalogue must go to the new Art Centre so memorably opened by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi.

Moreover, Angus McPhail, no mean sportsman himself, certainly approved, on the one hand, of the upgrading of the historic pavilion in a sensitive way that retained its character, and the construction of the astro pitch which has contributed so much to the success of girls' and boys' hockey. He is equally at ease in the worlds of music and school plays, and he shared the general appreciation of the talents on display in his Headmaster's Music and the regular dramatic successes that took place in the new Theatre, another recent addition to the school's facilities.

Angus McPhail's career began as a professional economist at the Bank of England and as a housemaster and an academic schoolmaster at Glenalmond and Sedburgh so it was natural that he should put his strongest emphasis on the pastoral and academic development of the school. The six boarding houses continue to invite admiration and the broadening of the academic curriculum took place alongside a steady improvement in all that was achieved at all levels in public examinations. If, indeed, there was one guiding principle which informed Angus McPhail's tenure as Headmaster, it was that "failure" should not be part of anyone's vocabulary.

## Ian Jones

Ian Jones was an outstanding convenor of the Finance Committee before taking over as Chairman of the Board in November 1994.

The last five years have undoubtedly been amongst the toughest and most challenging which the independent boarding sector has had to face and Ian, ably and willingly supported by his wife, Christine, has given generously and freely of his time and talents to meet these constantly changing demands.

His legal training and Merchant Banking experience will both have contributed to his ordered and structured approach to problems whilst at the same time his ability to think laterally and progressively has proved invaluable.

Strathallan has been fortunate to have a man with Ian's qualities, calm yet decisive, at the helm to meet these challenges head on and it is gratifying to know that he is prepared to continue to serve on the Board for a year or two yet.

Sitting on the back benches should allow him more time to devote to his own business, to tend his beautiful garden at Craigowan and to make better use (everyone has an Achilles heel.) of his season ticket at McDiarmid Park to watch St Johnstone.

## Valete to Graeme Longmuir



On the basis of the fact that Jesus recruited some of his disciples from amongst a fishing community and that some of the best Bible stories involve storms on the Sea of Galilee and the casting of nets, I make no apologies for the fact that my memories of TGL are more connected with fishing than the

Chapel at Strathallan. The fact that I, furthermore, am Catholic rather than Church of Scotland may also have something to do with my connection with Graeme being more fish-like than liturgical.

Sometime in 1982 the peace of the area known as "Thorneyshades" was shattered by the roar of a throaty car - a Ford XR3 - as it scrunched into the drive of number 2, whilst we lived at number 3. Number 3, incidentally, is now known as "The Fankle" for my life and fishing tackle seemed always to exist in a state of disorder quite dissimilar to Graeme's neatly folded casts, carefully-cased rods and shining reels. The owner of the car emerged and a young and dashing figure met our collectively startled gaze. This, surely, could not be the new Chaplain - but it was. Somehow out of the confines of this sporty car emerged the grey, shaggy, angular beast that might have been mistaken for a horse. It, in fact, was an imposing Deerhound - a breed that Graeme loves and with which he is always associated in my mind. We were to be neighbours for the next ten years or so and that time is remembered with his kind gifts to and consideration of our two boys, doggy meetings of Staffordshire Bull Terriers and Deerhounds and our mutual battles (perhaps I should transpose the verb) with the Willow Herb that seemed to thrive in the "culture" of our gardens.

There are many memories of our times there but I shall confine myself to relating two of them. The first took place after one baking-hot day in late May when we decided to fish Glenfarg, and it reflected the fact that Graeme's fishing in the "soft" winds of Uist did not prepare him for the harsher elements of Perthshire. As it had been such a glorious day and Graeme had been playing tennis he decided that the shorts and t-shirt he was wearing would be all the covering that he needed that evening. Two figures, one scruffy and the other looking as if he belonged to the set of a Noel Coward

play, rowed out upon the glassy loch and, despite the sunshine we cast and fished and caught a fish or two. The best sport of the "day" would be after nine o'clock in the gloaming. The weather in Scotland at that time of year can be deceptive, however and at about eight o'clock the wind freshened from the East, the surface of the loch wrinkled and the surface of TGL's skin began to pucker. We fished on....., and on.....and on.....and the end of the boat where he sat began to shudder and the chattering of his teeth was audible even above the splashing of the oars. It was something that I will always remember - the fact that he did not complain once and, even though it was with a bad conscience, I fished till the bitter end.

The other memory of his time here took place at one end-of-term party. Several games of various sorts, such as the notorious indoor cricket, were being enjoyed in the old Masters' Common room. All was going well - though not smoothly - until someone remembered that their bicycle was parked outside. We started a game of Mountain Bike Skills - before mountain bikes had even been invented. A ramp of some sort - my memory is strangely hazy on some details - was constructed so that a competitor could ride out of one of the large, open windows. It was Graeme's turn and as he came to a juddering halt on the cusp of the window frame itself, with his head outside and his ramp inside, Mr Pighills made an entrance.

"Weeeh", cried the said Headmaster, "so we have a Chaplain who doesn't know whether he's inside or outside the body of the Kirk".

The bicycle made a slow descent back into "the Kirk", the sunset showed briefly redder than ever amidst a silence in which a solitary sparrow seemed to be singing like Pavarotti.

I miss bumping into Graeme and his dogs at 6.30 each weekday morning; boys who enjoyed his banter and his infectious laugh, who went on his ski holidays and enjoyed his help and confidence will miss him too. We seem to be having a decent fall of snow this year and the brightness of his ski-wear, missing from the slope of Glen Shee, make it a duller place. It is very much the same for the school and I wish him every success in his new post.

Put aside your nets - for I will make you fishers of men.

# Staff Valete

## Valete to Andrew JH Wands

Andrew arrived at Strathallan in September 1983 to take over the Geography Department. He had been teaching outside Edinburgh before moving to Merchiston Castle and then on to Strathallan. From the very earliest days Andrew was known as a hardworking and committed schoolmaster who expected a high standard of behaviour from all his charges. His commitment to the life of the School can be exemplified by the long list of extra-curricular activities in which he took part. These included being 2i/c of the RAF section, coaching rugby, hockey and cricket, running target shooting, and latterly helping to set up the Clay Pigeon Shooting Club.

Along with all this he tutored in both Leburn and Nicol, where he was Senior Tutor for five years. After giving up as Head of Department he continued to do all the above and added a few little extras to his portfolio. He looked after the Gap student applications, set up the Fifth Form work experience programme and continued to organise all the prizes for Speech Day. He also continued to work with JNF, as his assistant in the Careers Department.

This list of activities gives no more than a skeletal picture of the schoolmaster known by many as "Willie Wands" or "Wandsie". Andrew and his right hand man "Killer Kitson" (with whom he coached the 5th XV for several years) have always had a very keen sense of humour. Andrew's 'jolly japes' will be missed in the MCR; several of the more infamous spring to mind, including the would-be head magisterial letter to a young male member of the staff, asking for an interview regarding his flirtations with female staff, or the now infamous "Papal Bull" letter, (see Ed. for details). His annual sojourn

to a 'Survival Island' with his other sparring partner 'Glimm', also produced several anecdotes, eg the 'Chipper Clipper'. He always had a good story to tell and a joke up his sleeve. His gardening skills took up much of what little free time he had, and his 'Vapour Garden' in Rose Cottage became a talking point for all. A keen pianist, lover of all kinds of gadgets (especially gigantic torches) and famed for his Christmas Arboreal collection, he was never happier than when lighting a fire or BBQ and enjoying the outdoor life. He was a founding member of the staff pyromaniacs club which puts on the School firework display each year. As a friend and colleague he was always happy to lend a hand when necessary.

To think that Andrew managed all this despite being a single parent to his twin boys Richard and Christopher and daughter Olivia, says a lot about the commitment and organisational ability of the man. Andrew is a very private person and never let his domestic situation encroach upon his work. With his desire to see fair play and the high expectation he had of his charges in terms of their behaviour, he always felt very frustrated when the new "pupil centered" approach to education did not seem to work practically, however nice it was in theory. A conservative with a small 'c' he may have been, but he was always keen to keep up with changing times attending board and markers' meetings to give the best service to his pupils. Andrew has always been a true 'gent' producing flowers for his female guests and holding on to old-fashioned etiquette. Thus he would not stand for bullying or rudeness, nor would he suffer fools gladly. We wish him all the best of fortune in the future and thank him for his 17 years of service to Strathallan.

PMV



Andrew Wands at Speech Day

# Music Report 99-00

**Pupils have been involved in a profusion of musical events in a plethora of musical styles from numerous venues over the last year. A chronological list of the musical year reads as follows:**

House Music Competition  
Riley Concert  
Fifth Form Concert  
Remembrance Day Service  
Headmaster's Music (two performances)  
The Advent Service  
Riley Carol Service  
Senior Carol Service (two performances)  
Third Form Concert  
Associated Board Music Exams  
The Lent Service  
Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh  
Sung Grace and Entertainment at Headmaster's Leaving Dinner  
Little Shop of Horrors (4 performances)  
Riley Divisional Music Competition  
Choral Evensong at York Minster  
Choral Evensong at Ripon Cathedral  
A level practical exams (seven, twenty minute recitals of grade 7-8 standard)  
Perth Festival Lunchtime Concert at St John's Kirk  
Concert at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh  
Associated Board Music Exams  
Speech Day Concert  
The Ascension Day Service  
Late Night Concert (Laura Morley)  
Headmaster's Music  
Riley Musical  
VI Form Ball

Some of the bigger events- House Music Competition, Little Shop of Horrors, Headmaster's Music for example, demanded large numbers of pupils and huge amounts of time and energy, but all of the above included some highly memorable and proficient performances from a wide cross section of the school.

This has been an outstanding year for Music exams - 33 candidates, all passed including 4 distinctions and 17 merits. Hamish Forbes, Laura Morley and Ruth Chalmers are to be congratulated for their passes with merit at grade 8 level in their last year.

Many other occasions stay in the memory including some thrilling singing from the choir: (I shall long remember the opening of the Widor Mass in St. Giles' Cathedral, or the voices reverberating around York Minster). The letter following is typical of the numerous comments I have received about many performances over the year:

**FROM CANON PAUL FERGUSON PRECENTOR OF YORK MINSTER**

*Dear Mr Read*

*On behalf of the Dean and Chapter, Thank you very much for coming to sing on May 2nd.*

*We appreciate all the hard work that went into preparing the music, and we are grateful to the choir members for giving their time to sing in the Minster. I would wish to echo the many favourable comments I have heard about the music in the service you sang and what a pleasure it was to have you all here. We would be delighted to have you sing again.*

*Yours sincerely....*

It is also encouraging to note a greater number of younger boys in the choir. This bodes well for the future and will, it is hoped, be a continuing trend.

At the other end of the scale, mention must be made of the excellent concerts from the 3rd and 5th Forms during November and January when about 40 of our younger musicians took to the stage, in some cases for the first time, in a variety of solos, duets, ensembles and choirs.

It was also a pleasure to conduct the whole school, choir and vocal quartet in stirring performances of Stanford's Te Deum during Remembrance and Ascension Day School Services. The school is gradually building up a repertoire of anthems, which add much to our chapel services.

At the beginning of the year I was delighted to welcome Miss Catherine Baker to the department as Assistant Director of Music. An experienced musician and professional singer, she brought a welcome freshness of approach to the department and was a pleasure to work with. Sadly for us, the call of singing was too strong and as I write, she is appearing in Hamburg in a production of 'Phantom of the Opera'. We shall keep our eye on the footlights and wish her well.

We also say goodbye to a large number of dedicated musicians in the Sixth Form:

Charis Robertson; singer, clarinettist and bongo player extraordinaire, Sarah Currie; singer and accomplished violinist, Shuna Readman; violinist and alto (sometimes even tenor.) Alex Lamb; skilled oboist, pianist and singer, Tamsin Read; loyal alto, Robert Mackenzie; stalwart bassoonist and experienced pianist and organist, Ruth Chalmers; an extraordinarily good humored and energetic Head of Choir, pianist, and violinist, Fiona Crosthwaite; itinerant trumpeter and alto, Katie Smith; oboist and alto, Sarah Mazur; devoted cellist, Ashley Cameron; clarsach and soprano, Julia Rogers, who has delighted us so many times with her superb violin playing and Hamish Forbes, for so long the backbone of our cello section and leading continuo player. All of the above have contributed a quite exceptional amount to school music during my time here, which of necessity involves hundreds of hours of rehearsal time over the years, and for which I thank them.

# Headmaster's Music

**Music this summer must have seemed to the many active participants like a non-stop activity squeezed into an already frenetic term.**

All were involved, of course, in the musical reviewed elsewhere but the usual flow of concerts seemed to take place on an almost weekly basis. It was therefore, an enormous achievement for the traditional Headmaster's Music to take place let alone to adopt a new format and live up to expectations.

This took the form of a more varied diet than usual interspersed by recitations, which both tastefully broke up the flow of the music and added another part of the school's "creative arts" for the delectation of the large and appreciative audience. Thus, the Concert opened with Giles Sneddon's sensitive account of Caliban's speech in which, to paraphrase, he assured us that the concert would be "full of noises, sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not!". This led very easily into the Allegro in G major by Jean-Joseph Fiocco (1686-1746, another luminary to be added to the audience's list of Brussels-born composers), a charming piece mellifluously played by the old hands Laura Kotseroglou, Julia Rogers and Sarah Currie on violins, Catriona McCleery on the viola and the omnipresent Hamish Forbes making his last appearance with his trusted cello. By way of contrast, Laura Morley and Katie Smith, accompanied by Fiona Crosthwaite on the guitar, sang a tasteful version of a traditional song, Fields of Athenry; this has other more sporting connotations but this did not affect their moving rendition of a deservedly popular piece.

With the concert off to a good start, Jake Streatfield-James took up the cudgels with a recitation from *The Hobbit*; he read atmospherically with a special clarity that reached all parts of the Chapel and led very appropriately to the next item which was a shameless piece of publicity for the forthcoming Riley House production of the intriguingly titled *Six Characters in search of a Musical*. This turned out to be a *mélange* of old favourites like *Somewhere over the Rainbow* (Catriona Martin), *Favourite Things* (Emma Gordon) and *Pick a Pocket* (Ian Aitken), all expertly sung and backed up by a chorus and actors.



We were now approaching the halfway mark and we had enjoyed a variety of items in a varied and cleverly planned programme. In the central portion of the evening's entertainment, it was the turn of the unapologetic classicists to show off their talents. Alex Lamb began with Debussy's *Arabesque No.1*, an exceptionally demanding piece which required impeccable technique and a positive approach. She took it in her stride and her moving account was one of the highlights of the evening. It was then the turn of the Chalmers family to sing two folk song arrangements by Benjamin Britten. David's pure tenor was fully in control of the musical hurdles presented by the version of Yeats' famous poem *Down by the Sally Gardens* and Ruth coped admirably with the very different challenges of the spiritual *The Water is Wide, I cannot get O'er*.

It was then the turn of the clarsachs. Individual players had graced this Concert before but on this occasion no fewer than three took part, perhaps remembering Caliban's promise that "a thousand twanging instruments will hum about mine ears". Ashley Cameron started with the solo *Study* and then she was joined by Laura Morley and Ishbel McFarlane for Macdearmid's *O Luaidh Pi*, a lilting and emotional piece ideally suited to the combined skills of these talented players. It was then the turn of the swan song at Strathallan of that most seasoned of performers, Julia Rogers, who, alas, is destined for St. Mary's Music School in Edinburgh. For her last public appearance at Strathallan she had selected Beethoven's *Romance in G* and from their response there was no doubt that the audience were saluting a virtuoso performance.

The programme then returned to a recitation, this time of an extract from the hilarious concert in Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim*, which was cleverly read by Ben Dalley so as to bring out the full, humour and thereby provide a lead-in to the rather severely classical last section of the programme. This opened with the Chapel Choir's spirited performance of the Chorus of the *Hebrew Slaves* from *Nabucco*, which was followed by the deservedly less familiar *Adiemus*, composed, the programme assured us, by Jenkins, and *Wind Beneath my Wings* by the equally obscure and initial-less Henkley and Silbar.

The last two items on this diverse and entertaining programme were a delight. Kirsty Roy and Chris Wright took the parts of Amanda and Elyot in an excerpt from Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Perfectly cast, they relished their lines and were fully aware of the humour and tensions present in this modern masterpiece. Finally, we all left in rare good humour after a scintillating performance from the Nils Michael Sextet and an exhilarating *Drum Duet* from Nils and his teacher. They were a thoroughly professional group of proper musicians who reminded us that true talent can both entertain and allow us to appreciate skills at a high level.

But, although this ended the Concert, it was not the end of the evening's entertainment. This took the form of an open air performance of what was entitled *Our Day Out-Take Five*, in which sixteen versatile and well-choreographed dancers illustrated that the expressive arts are not exclusively musical and sent the audience away after another Headmaster's Music which was a tribute to the school's energy and talent.

## Headmaster's Music: Autumn 1999

The last Headmasters' Music of the 20th Century saw the customary *pot pourri* of sensitively programmed and performed musical items staged, as before, in the Strathallan Chapel. It is notoriously difficult to open any School concert with a brass group of whatever size, and the brass quartet which took the first bow of the night performed admirably in setting the tone for the evening's entertainment. The march from Handel's heroic opera *Giulio Cesare* was clear and crisp, if a little slow, but the tune was well kept by the lead trumpet and the harmonies were rich and deep. It is a less well-known piece of Handel, and deserves to be heard more if played like this.

There followed the well-known Polka from Smetana's *Bartered Bride*, which was done full justice by the School Orchestra under the leadership of Director of Music David Read. The balance and dynamics of the playing was judged rightly for the acoustics of the Chapel, and while the changes of mood may have been a little insecure, they were outshone by some rousing climaxes. School orchestras can sometimes be the Achilles' heel of any school performance night, but Mr Read and the various instrument teachers could be justifiably pleased with how well their charges carried off this piece.

A key part of Headmaster's Music, as in previous years, was the preponderance of singing voices, and this performance was no exception. Riley Choir, under Ms Catherine Baker, sang 'Master of the House' from *Les Miserables*, evincing good direction and obvious enjoyment from start to finish. Emma Gordon from Riley House then did what many older pupils could not do - stand in front of a packed Chapel audience and sing an entrancing piece by Schubert, *Seligkeit*. Young Emma sang with confidence and no little ability. We should be hearing a lot more of her voice in the future. A mixed group of singers presented the Finale from the School's production of J Larson's *Rent*, a 90's version of *La Bohème*. There was abundant dramatic effect with some very good tuning and assured solo singing. All promised a very good School show for the end of the autumn term. The last vocal contribution to the first half of the evening was Laura Morley singing five Betjeman songs, *A Bay in Angelsey*. Laura has a superb, mature voice which did full justice to the score and captured the imagination of the audience. Laura went on subsequently to take part in the National Youth Choir of Scotland's summer training and performing course held in 2000.

Two contrasting instrumental contributions brought the first half of the evening to a close. First up was Hamish Forbes playing Saint Saens' *Allegro Appassionato* on the cello. It is often the case that the cello can be exposed as a solo instrument, but Hamish's performance was both lyrical and passionate, capturing the spirit of the piece, and justifying his confidence in his abilities. Clearly here was a performer in full command of his instrument. There followed a string group to play Albinoni's well-known *Adagio* from his oboe concerto in G Minor, to be played by Alex Lamb. The oboe is a pretty distinctive instrument, so to take on an *adagio* was a very brave choice from Alex, and she carried it off with aplomb, bringing the first moiety to an end in polished manner.

The second half of the evening's entertainment was opened with the wind group playing two pieces; the first, the *Siciliana* from Handel's concerto for oboe and strings, and the second, the *Sinfonia* from *Almira*, one of Handel's Italian operas. Both were tightly tuned and teamwork was evident from the first bars of both pieces. In particular the *Sinfonia* was more assured, lively



and with good by-play between the various parts. Following this rousing start came another astonishingly mature performance from Julia Rogers on the violin. This time Julia took on Beethoven's *Allegro* from *Sonata Op. 24*. A sumptuous start showed Julia clearly in control of a beautiful instrument and the whole performance exuded class and ability from start to finish. Julia made her instrument sing, not always the forte of a school-age violin player.

The Chapel Choir made a belated appearance singing a contrasting trio of pieces. Liszt's *O Salutaris Hostia* was sung *a capella*, in sensitive and well-tuned manner. Stanford's *Te Deum* followed, again sung with precision and musicality, particularly good in the contrast between the solo voices and the unison sections. The set was completed by an altogether much more 'swinging' piece by Lewis, *Tears on my Pillow*. This had the audience tapping their feet in time and wishing that the music would never end. A real sense of enjoyment was evinced in the Choir's performance. For this reviewer, that is what music at schools like ours is all about.

The evening was brought to a close with a 'battle of the bands'. The Nicol House Jazz Band led by the inimitable Nils Michael on the saxophone, and the Whitelaw Six under the direction of Fraser Whitelaw on tenor sax, gave as good a performance of *Take Five* and *Tuxedo Junction* as you could wish to hear in a jazz club. In fact, I would not mind betting that plenty of people would have willingly paid good money to hear these talented groups. The saxophone improvisations of both leaders were musical and inventive, holding the members of the audience in rapt anticipation, and other members of the bands 'strutted their stuff' on their respective instruments. An outstanding climax to the second part of the evening's entertainment.

In all, this was probably the best Headmaster's Music of recent time. The evident enjoyment and talent of a wide variety of performers shone through each item. I would hazard a guess that not many secondary schools would have such a *cornucopia* of ability or skill to call upon, and we should not forget the splendid direction of David Read and his deputy Catherine Baker for making the evening one to remember for staff and parents.

# House Music

**We were pleased to welcome a Headmaster to adjudicate the music competition this year.**

Mr Brett Cert.Mus.Ed. M.Coll.P. of St Mary's Preparatory School, Melrose, began life as a musician and ran the music in several London schools before taking his present post. He in turn was pleased to be able to see some of his ex-St Mary's pupils performing. As usual this was one of the highlights of the school year, with well over 200 performers and a large, appreciative audience.

THORNBANK (always a force to be reckoned with on these occasions) opened the proceedings with an impressive baroque string ensemble playing Vivaldi's evergreen slow movement from 'Winter'. Continuing in baroque mode, this stylish account was followed by Ruth Chalmers (soprano) accompanied by Julia Rogers in Purcell's moving 'Lament' from Dido and Aeneas. Finally came the customary musical/choreographic feast that we have come to expect from this House in an exciting performance of 'Lean on Me'.

RUTHVEN ensemble, 'Stuck in Detention' was an energetic and pleasing rock 'n roll number. Vocals may have been a little swamped by instrumentalists but a good time was had by all. Ross Girvan's solo surprised many who perhaps did not realize that a bass guitar was capable of such sounds and virtuosity. 'Come as You Are' sung by the choir, was highly effective, mainly due to its simplicity and the intensity of the performers' delivery.

SIMPSON also began with a rock band, in this case 'Basket Case', and again we had some balance problems. Nevertheless it was a crowd-pleaser and notable for its energy and commitment. Robert Mackenzie was daring in his choice of the lengthy Allegro by C.P.E.Bach for piano solo, but he held our attention well with some finely controlled playing. The three part, unaccompanied choir singing 'World in Union' (an arrangement of Holst's fine tune from 'Jupiter') was highly effective with the close harmonies well in tune throughout.

WOODLANDS began with a subtle arrangement of 'The Fields of Athenry' featuring some tidy close harmony singing and well-chosen instrumentation expertly played. Harriet Hunt's Prelude by Norton was suitably controlled in terms of dynamics and phrasing resulting in an excellent performance. The large House Choir was bursting with energy and commitment from all its members. Choreography balance and presentation were all carefully thought out.



FREELAND began with the difficult 'Angels' as their ensemble. This was clearly carefully rehearsed and well thought out. There followed a stunning solo from piper Robbie Whytock to a backing track composed by him and executed to perfection. 'Lovin' Feeling' stole the show for the choirs: excellent backing harmonies, dynamics and pacing, accompanied by a very disciplined band.

NICOL started with a very impressive and enjoyable 'Take Five' on an interesting combination of instruments à la Dave Brubeck: a real jazz band. Nils Michael's drum solo brought the house down despite his losing his sticks just before coming on. Rhythmically spot on and well shaped overall, this *tour de force* was clearly the result of hours of work. Finally a large body of singers tackled 'Help from my Friends'. What was lacking in vocal quality was more that compensated for in dramatic presentation.

## RESULTS

Best Conductor	J.McDougall (Ruthven)
Best Accompanist	Julia Rogers (Thornbank)
Best Solo	Robbie Whytock (Freeland)
Best Ensemble	Nicol
Best Boys Choir	Freeland
Best Girls Choir	Woodlands/Thornbank shared
Winning House Overall	Woodlands



# Choir Trip to York

## For the fourth consecutive year, the Chapel Choir was invited to sing evensong at York Minster.

As well as a chance to catch up on some videos on the coach journey and miss some school, this has always been a privilege and a highlight of my time at Strath. As always, the new choir members were awed by the size and architecture of the building, even at first sight, five miles out of the city. On arrival, any fears of filling the building with sound were allayed as soon as we sang and the wonderful acoustic did its work: we decided anything would sound good in here.

This year the choir was larger than previously: nearly 45 singers working together to (dare I suggest?) produce an almost professional blend of voices. We tackled some challenging music that was perfected in very little rehearsal time in about three days at the very beginning of the summer term. The wonderful five part Byrd Responses sung unaccompanied in a building virtually unchanged since they were written over 400 years ago were especially rewarding. Two psalms, Charles Wood's Canticles in E flat and 'They that Go Down to the Sea in Ships' by Herbert Sumsion completed our contribution which turned out to include some of our best ever singing.

Following the service our next stop was 'Pizza Express' for the now traditional choir dinner much enjoyed by all. Then on to the Youth Hostel and the equally traditional scrap over who shares a room with who. Next morning after a relaxing morning shopping in York we headed slightly north to a new experience for all of us: the cathedral at Ripon. Although very different and smaller, this proved to be an equally stimulating building to sing in. By now,



well practised, we gave another very efficient performance wishing that our chapel flattered our voices as much.

As Head of Choir, I was proud of the hard work and dedication of its members and our thanks go to Mr Read for organizing the visit and preparing the music, to Mr Bolton for taking time out from chemistry to accompany us so superbly and to Mrs Read and Mrs McFarlane for their support on the trip. As I leave school, I take with me many happy memories of these trips: hard work, great fun, very rewarding.

**Ruth Chalmers, Head of Choir**

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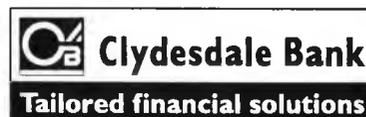
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# Pipe Band

**The Pipe Band has had another busy and successful year. The pipers have played at functions at school and around Perth, including Burns Nights and The Strathallian Dinner. Competitions and concert work have given them a wide range of experience.**

The first outing was to the Scottish Junior Solo Piping Championships. Nothing like jumping in at the deep end. Three prizes were won here. Carin Munro won the Open Dress and Deportment in the 13 to 16 years section where her prize was the Royal British Legion Carnoustie Shield, she also took second prize in the Intermediate section March, Strathspey and Reel. Cameron Jack won a medal and a book of music as his award for finishing second in the Chanter section for 13 - 16 year olds. A good day's work.

For our field day outing this year the band set off for The Piping Centre in Glasgow. The centre staff set up a day's activities for us including a quiz in the piping museum, where the band members had to find the answers from the exhibits. This took them an hour to complete and gave them lots of information in the process. They had a demonstration on reed-making, then had an opportunity to make a reed themselves.

Very entertaining.

Next was a talk from Dougie Pincock on playing other instruments; this was of great interest to our budding musicians.

A lovely meal at lunchtime and then an opportunity to play the bellows-blown Scottish Small Pipes for the pipers and a trip to the Band Room Drum Clinic for the drummers finished off a very interesting visit.

Robbie Whytock excelled himself to win the top solo prize at the house music competition. He did this by writing his own backing track to some traditional reels which he then played. His performance earned him a standing ovation. Well done Robbie.

The Scottish Schools' Quartet and Trio Piping Championships were next on the agenda. The seniors had one of those performances that are best forgotten in the quartet section. The juniors however rose to the occasion and marched off with The Headmasters' Trophy as third prize in the trio section, well done Carin Munro, Rory Whytock and Cameron Jack (in his first competition).

At the Solo Piping Competition at Blairgowrie (The Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, R.S.P.B.A.), Carin Munro won The Thompson Trophy as first prize in the under 14 years March section, she was also placed fourth in the under 16 years Jig section. Niall Robertson took third prize in both the same March and Jig sections. Nils Michael finished second in the 18 years and under March, Strathspey and Reel section.

Robbie Whytock again played the Lament on Remembrance Day.

The Craigmount High School Solo Piping Competition was our next competition. This is now one of the biggest junior events on the solo piping calendar. Three prizes were won here by Cameron Jack who took fourth prize in the under 18 years Chanter (from 36 competitors), Niall Robertson, fifth and Carin Munro sixth both in the 15 years and under March, Strathspey and Reel (from 29 competitors).

During the Christmas holidays a group of four pupils went to The Piping Centre in Glasgow to take the three-day School's Piping Project course. This gave the pupils some intensive work on other aspects of piping. They were filmed playing a short solo performance, which was then discussed. They had workshops on reed-making, maintenance, piobaireachd, computer software and use of the Internet. They had a visit to the College of Piping and some time in the museum of piping. At the end of the course they presented a





project which they had completed during their stay and then sat one of the Institute of Piping Examinations. Carin Munro, Niall Robertson and Rory Whytock all achieved "A" passes at the Junior Certificate level while Pipe Major Robbie Whytock Achieved a "B" pass at the higher Intermediate Certificate level. Congratulations to each of them.

After Christmas we set off for Pitlochry and the Vale of Atholl Solo Piping Championships. This was a very successful day for Strathallan. By the end of the proceedings we had won eleven prizes. These were Niall Robertson, Junior Champion, having been placed second in Piobaireachd, third in the March and third in the Jig sections, all under 15 years, Carin Munro, first in Piobaireachd and fifth in the Jig sections again under 15 years. Mark Stringer took fourth prize in March, Strathspey and Reel and fifth prize in Piobaireachd in the 15 - 18 years section. In the Chanter section Cameron Jack took third prize with Calum Emslie finishing with fifth prize. Cameron then went on to take fifth prize in the Novice Piping section. A memorable day.

Quartet Piping and Mini - Band competitions at Arbroath (R.S.P.B.A. Dundee, Perth & Angus Branch) was the next outing for the band. First in the Mini - Bands winning the P/M Henry Troup Shield and second in the Open Quartet winning the P/M Edward Rennie Memorial Trophy was the haul for the day. In the quartets, the only band to beat us was the MacNaughtons' Vale of Atholl (Grade 1).

Mark Stringer and Carin Munro were Strathallan's representatives at the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships held this year at the Edinburgh Academy. They did us proud with Mark taking second prize, a silver medal and Carin taking sixth prize, the only school to have two pupils in the prize list.

On the solo piping scene, the school's best result of the year came at the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Championship where Strathallan won all three solo piping events. Niall Robertson won the Senior Championship (at his first attempt.); he was promoted to the seniors after two wins in the junior event. Mark Stringer won the Intermediate Championship and Carin Munro won the Junior Championship with Cameron Jack taking third prize in the Junior Piping at his first attempt. This is the first time that any school has won all three events in the same year. In the band competition, a rather depleted band finished in fourth place.

Mark, Carin, Nils and Niall took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle, which went very well this year; all enjoyed the experience.

The Speech Day performance this year had to be played in the marquee as the weather was dreadful, with the rain pouring down. All our new members played well. It was a pity that most of the visitors missed the display. Perhaps we will have more luck next year.

Our outdoor season saw the band take second in Novice Juvenile and third in Juvenile at the Shotts Highland Games, second in Novice Juvenile and third in Juvenile at the Bearsden & Milngavie Highland Games where Strathallan were the leading band in the Chieftains Parade, quite an honour.

The Scottish Schools' Championships at Loretto saw the band walk off with The Loch Nan Eun Quach (In memory of Pipe Major Bert Barron) as the top school in the solo piping events at the championships. The individual results were, Carin Munro, first in the Junior Piping, Mark Stringer, second in the Intermediate Piping and Niall Robertson, third in the Intermediate Piping. Thomas Gray won the Junior Solo Drumming event. The band won the piping in the band competition but some problems in the drumming saw the band finish in second place.

The Bert Barron Memorial Concert took all our efforts at the end of term, a report on the concert can be found in a separate article.

Our own solo piping and solo drumming event took place in the last week of term, the judge for the day was Mr Greg Wilson from The Piping Centre who congratulated the competitors on a very high overall standard. The main prizewinners were, in the drumming events, Thomas Gray - Junior Drumming; Nils Michael - Senior Drumming, Most Improved Drummer and Best Contribution to the Band; Bass & Tenor Drumming - David Petrie and Novice Drumming - Howard Gray. In the piping events, Chanter Benno Rawlinson; Novice Piping and Most Improved Piper - Cameron Jack; Junior Piping, Piobaireachd and Hornpipe & Jig - Carin Munro; Senior Piping - Nils Michael.

We look forward to the challenges of next year.

JSRH

# The Bert Barron Memorial Concert

## Pipe Major R. A. Barron B.E.M., better known as Bert, taught for many years at Strathallan School.

His love of piping and his keen sense of humour endeared him to his vast number of pupils over the years. He always had a story to tell and enjoyed composing tunes for his friends. His collection of tunes has been brought together in a book entitled "A Piper's Legacy". I was delighted to help in this venture by typesetting and proof reading the book for publication.

The Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Association were looking for a trophy to be presented at the Scottish Schools' Championship for the top school in the solo piping events. I suggested that a memorial trophy for Bert would be appropriate and a fitting tribute to a wonderful teacher.

A fund was then started to allow all of Bert's friends, colleagues and former pupils to contribute. With donations arriving from around the globe, including donations from HM The Queen, HM The Queen Mother, The Edinburgh Tattoo and The Black Watch to swell the fund, it was soon very clear that this would be no ordinary trophy.

Mr Ross Peters, School Governor and "born again piper", whom I had invited to help with the appeal, suggested that the trophy be commissioned to Mr Graham Stewart, Silversmith of Dunblane. This proved to be a master stroke. The trophy is magnificent and a truly fitting tribute to Bert. The hand made silver quaich is beautifully made, having some bars of Bert's best known tune "Lonely Loch Nan Eun" engraved on the inside. The handles of the quaich are designed as two inverted fish tails to depict Bert's other favourite hobby. The trophy sits on a base turned from a piece of burr elm wood with a silver band round it for engraving.

The trophy is known as The Loch Nan Eun Quaich, In Memory Of Pipe Major Bert Barron B.E.M. (The Black Watch). A splendid memorial to a wonderful man.

The Bert Barron Memorial Concert came about as a thank you to all the people who contributed to the appeal. It meant lots of hard work by the school pipers to prepare for the show. With Ross Peters and his "Old Boys Quartet" contributing to the programme, the evening went very well.

Alastair Thompson acted as raconteur and introduced the items, giving many of Bert's stories an airing during the evening. Alastair was a pupil of Bert's who loved listening to his many tales.

The pupils played a wide variety of pipe music during the concert, ranging from piobaireachd to techno. The concert began with a quartet of pipers, JSRH, Mark Stringer, Niall Robertson and Carin Munro playing the Black Watch Tune "Wha saw the 42nd?" followed by a competition March, Strathspey and Reel, Pipe Major Willie Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow Police, Dorrator Bridge and The Brown Haired Maid.

Nils Michael then played Song for the Small Pipe (on the Great Highland Bagpipe) and Viscount Montgomery as his contribution to the evening.

The "Old Boys" were next giving a rendering of J.K. Cairns, The Dark Island, The Sweet Maid of Mull and Itchy Fingers on the Scottish Small Pipes.

Robbie Whytock (on full pipes) then raised the tempo by playing the hornpipe, Tam Bain's Lum and the jig, Bidy from Sligo. These tunes showed Robbie's tremendous finger dexterity as well as his musical interpretation.

Next on were our junior pipers who were placed third in The Scottish Schools' Trio Piping Championships, Carin Munro, Rory Whytock and Cameron Jack gave a spirited performance of The Brown Haired Maiden, Jenny's Bawbee, Mhairie's Wedding and The Sweet maid of Glendaruel.

Mark Stringer was our next soloist playing the ground and first variation of the piobaireachd Too Long in this Condition, a tune which won him the silver medal at the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships this year.

Mark was then joined on stage by JSRH, Robbie, Niall and Carin to play the selection of There was a Lad was Born in Kyle, Barbara's Jig, The Badger, The Roe's Among the Heather, The Lintie, A Cup of tea and Moving Cloud. This is a group of tunes ranging from Slow Air to Hornpipe, Jig to Strathspey and Reel, which shows the players' capabilities for changing style and time signature while keeping the music flowing.

Robbie was next with his Electric Air and Brenda Stubbert's Reel which he



# Scripture Union

played to his own electronic "Techno" backing track. This combined with some disco lights displayed the range of style possible on the pipes. Not to everyone's taste, but great fun nevertheless.

Back to the traditional with Niall Robertson's performance of the great competition marches, Mrs John MacColl and John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage. Niall has a great flair for this style of tune.

The full pipe corps which includes all of the pupils named above plus Calum Emslie had their first taste of playing along with a backing track. They coped with this very well and produced an item which was well played with good expression and a lovely sound. They had an enjoyable time preparing for this part of the concert. It is always good to try something new.

Carin Munro then took us back to the traditional music once more with the competition Strathspey and Reel, the tunes being The Caledonian Society of London and Lachlan MacPhail of Tiree which she played very well indeed.

The original quartet of JSRH, Mark, Niall and Carin then played three selections on the Scottish Small Pipes. The first was three marches with Jacobite connections, MacDonalds March to the Wars, Lochiel's Welcome to Glasgow and The Hills of Glenorchy. The second piece was The Loch Tay Boat Song played with a "water based" backing track and harmony also being added on the pipes. This gave the tune a haunting feeling. The last of the tunes on the small pipes was The Garb of Old Gaul, played with harmony and a strong backing track.

To finish the concert, we had "Bert's Big Blow" where everyone who had taken part came together to play "Lonely Loch Nan Eun" which is Bert's best-known tune. A fitting end to a concert in Bert's memory.

I had the distinct feeling during the concert that Bert was listening to every note. "I hope that we did not disappoint you Bert."

Winnie, Bert's widow, Roderick, Marion and Heather, his son and daughters, Stuart and Craig, two of his grandchildren and other members of the family attended the concert and the following reception.

The whole concert was recorded with the intention of producing a CD of the event. This should be available soon.

**(SU aka Opinion 8) has gone from strength to strength this year, particularly during the summer term. In the first two terms we had a number of successful trips, including one to the World Wide Message? in the Glasgow Barras**

A fantastic experience for all who went. In the summer term we started with the re-commencement of the early morning prayer meetings at 7.15 am in the Old Library on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. It was a fantastic experience to meet other Christians and be able to grow in our faith. The high point of this term was the Chapel Service led by Mr Lunan and the SU group, and involved SU staff workers, Michael Duncan and Chris White. Chris sang two powerful songs while playing the guitar, and Michael gave an encouraging sermon. This was added to by Kirsty and Doug. The term concluded with an 'alternative BBQ' (if you'd been there you would have understood why it was alternative) at St Andrews.

The group has been small but successful and will continue to meet under the name of 'Opinion 8' (that's opinion-ate for those like me who failed to understand it) in Miss Smith's Office at 8.30 on Tuesdays. A huge thanks from all of us to Mr Lunan and Mr Kitson.

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# Electricity at Strathallan

**For many years Strathallan had its own private electricity supply, totally independent of the public system.**

It was 100 volt direct current, powered from batteries, which were recharged daily by a generator (dynamo) both located in old classrooms in the quadrangle. The system was undersized - hence a single 25 watt bulb was the sole means of night-time illumination in Freeland's Bedroom "Q" which was my home for five years and which had been the dining room of the old Freeland mansion. To read in bed in winter a torch was necessary and a torch meant batteries. Suddenly, in September 1939, torch batteries were in short supply, due to wartime conditions, and so another source of personal illumination became necessary. This was achieved by creating a string of small (torch size) bulbs, one to each resident in bedroom "Q", which in turn were connected to Strath's 100 volt power supply. In order to prevent detection or observation of the system by Housemasters, or over-zealous Prefects, a switching arrangement was devised, so that this string of lights would cut off when the bedroom door was opened. This was achieved by connecting the circuit to two brass-headed drawing pins on the jamb of the door, these were mounted close together, one vertically above the other. A third drawing pin was fixed on the side of the door, so when the door was closed the door drawing pin made contact with the other two (fixed) pins, thus completing the circuit and the lights stayed on when the door was closed, but they were instantly extinguished when the door started to open. The writer was surprised that it worked so well.

Some of the boys had portable radios, which in the 40's required two batteries. One was the HT battery - about 100 volts or so, (which cost 10 shillings - 10 weeks pocket money then). The other was a 2 volt LT battery which was recharged (legally) in the Physics Lab. As my knowledge in Electrical Science grew, I realised that the HT battery could be replaced by Strath's electricity supply, thus saving the owner of the radio a vast sum of money. The radio in Bedroom "Q" was connected to the door drawing pin switch, so now both lights went out and the radio was silent whenever the door was opened. The result was that we were never caught by Headmaster, Housemaster or Prefect for reading or listening to the radio after hours.

The next enterprise was to run a telephone line between Bedroom "Q" and Bedroom "6" in Simpson, where my friend Fenton Robb resided. (Although this was not connected in any way with the electricity supply, I thought it worthy of mention). With this I could warn him when the Housemaster was making his rounds. Using some legally acquired Post Office Telephone surplus parts and a length of wire, we went to work laying the line. The route was from the door of Bedroom "Q", through nooks and crannies, past the shaving basins, outside a window, along the eaves at the wash corridor and a wall at Simpson, then into Bedroom "6" through the window. The outside line had to be protected from rain as well as being concealed from other hazards, such as Prefects and Housemasters. The parts available were only sufficient to make a hybrid system so we ended up with voice communication in one direction from Freeland to Simpson. From Simpson to Freeland we communicated by Morse code - the key was in Simpson and it operated a very faint flashing torch bulb in Freeland. This system operated for a brief time only, until there was an information leak to higher authority which was reciprocated by some "insider" information advising that a search would shortly be made for this

communication system. We quickly removed all the wiring, which caused one of the boys to cut himself while shaving when he saw us extracting wires from close to his mirror. We were just one step ahead of the law.

Another venture, which had limited success, was the creation of an electric hotplate. Made by using an asbestos mat and a heating coil (bought from Woolworth's) and a few odd pieces of wood and metal, it was used to make toast, heat beans and fry sausages. However, its success was limited. The source of these extra rations was the kitchen area (always well locked up at night and occupied during the day), therefore, night access was necessary. My friend Douglas Milne and I found it was possible to bypass the locked doors into the kitchen by climbing down inside the service lift shaft whose entrance was to the left of the shaving basins. A massive cauldron almost blocked our access from the shaft, but this was surmountable when it was not hot. Beans, Bologna slices (we called them cork mats) and sausages were sometimes available. Bread (by now no longer white) was available in the Servery. After a few mini feasts this hot plate disappeared from its storage place in the linen cupboard in Bedroom "Q". "Insider" information advised that it was in Mr Bain's Workshop (he was Clerk of Works and Maintenance Foreman). Strange to relate, this hot plate disappeared from the Workshop and, after a brief spell, disappeared into the annals of history.

I am forever grateful to Mr WE Ward, who was our Mathematics and Physics teacher, and later Headmaster, for my thorough education in Electrical Science, without which I would not have been able to make the "improvements" to the School electrical system which have already been described.

"The Boss", as we called Harry Riley, installed me in Bedroom "Q", which was one of the few rooms in the Freeland mansion which had a power plug, without which the success of these foregoing projects may have been in jeopardy.

Strathallan provided a good education, but I doubt if "The Boss" had envisaged that these forms of enterprise and resourcefulness were included in the curriculum. After Strathallan the Royal Corps of Signals got hold of me and this was followed by my enrolling in the University of Glasgow, where I eventually took a degree in Electrical Engineering, and the opportunity to become involved in other non-sporting events.

**Gavin HR Vernon (1938-1943)**



Angus McPhail with Gavin Vernon

# Little Shop of Horrors



Inside every reviewer there lurks a mean and wary beast like a hyena prowling around a fresh corpse. This sceptical creature will not be taken in by the producer's hype, glowing reputations or street gossip; above all it will resist with claw and fang when the cast attempts to beguile it into viewing a school production, especially of a musical, with critical faculties suspended.

It was in just such a wary mood that Strathallan's production of *The Little Shop of Horrors* was approached: a mood that swiftly evaporated from the brilliant opening to be replaced by one of almost complete admiration. It is both



a more subtle musical play than may appear at first sight and one that requires considerable talents if its complexity and attraction are to be recognised.

The plot is well-known and the principal characters are household names. They were well filled in this cleverly cast production which, to be convincing, demanded genuine acting skills allied to the ability to sing and dance so as to bring out well-rounded interpretations of characters who are far from ciphers.

Seymour, played by Euan Aitkenhead, was well cast as what the programme described as the gawky orphan who sweeps the floor of the flower shop. He convincingly made the transition from being seemingly destined for Skid Row, so rousingly sung at the start of the first Act, to fame and fortune. This entails a number of moral dilemmas - I did earlier describe this musical as subtle - and these were reflected in a performance of considerable sophistication in which he intereracted particularly well with his deeply flawed employer, Mr. Mushnik, played by the experienced William



Bowry, who was to spend part of the summer with the National Youth Theatre in London, in a performance that showed how well the proprietor of this ghastly shop in the process of moving from poverty to great commercial



success illustrates the pitfalls and perhaps the spirit of capitalism. Seymour's relationship with his fellow-sufferer in Mr. Mushnik's shop, the beautiful Audrey, is the other one whose character and warm personality is carefully delineated. Georgia Manson played her to perfection in the honoured line of dumb blondes with hearts of gold immortalised, perhaps, in *Some Like It Hot*. The inter-connection between these three is one of the most significant threads of the plot and it took a genuine sense of theatre, combined with a natural talent for the stage, to bring this out in such a realistic and convincing manner. Moreover, they tackled their songs with the gusto which was one of the features of the whole performance and made a brave attempt at what looked like some extremely ambitious choreographic movements; Mr. Mushnik's elegant *pas de deux* with Seymour, for example, brought to mind some of the more languid moments of *L'Après-Midi d'un Faune*.

But there is, of course, a darker side to this tale of boy meeting girl and Mr. Mushnik's temptation by the perils of instant wealth. Part of this is Audrey's menacing "date". This takes the form of Orin the dentist, whose extra-curricular pleasures mirror the pain he clearly delights in inflicting on his patients. This might have been written for Richard Crawford, whose brusque, domineering and palpably corrupt interpretation of this first victim, of what was described as the extra-terrestrial Venus Fly-trap, hit exactly the right note in a riveting performance that dominated the stage. As with all the performers, it was clear that he had been carefully coached in the nuances of the accents of downtown New York.

# Little Shop of Horrors



But there are, of course, to be other victims provided for this insatiable epitome of the excesses of the capitalist spirit and the cast showed themselves to be as adept in the darker side of the plot as well as the more light-hearted. Seymour has clearly been seduced by the prospect of the limitless wealth offered by the plant and in his response to the splendid song, Feed Me, he shows that he is fully aware that this will only come by ignoring what is right and pandering to this green monster's appetite for flesh. Mushnik is clearly doomed and he is the next to be devoured by what has become an enormous plant; throughout menacingly characterised by Alan Ferguson and adroitly manipulated by Max Reynolds. Seymour, as the old rogue's adopted son, takes over the shop and in a series of cleverly staged scenes first Audrey, (she who aspired to domestic bliss in her hit song Somewhere That's Green), rather surprisingly sacrifices herself for him, secure in her belief that his wealth guaranteed his happiness. Only briefly, alas, because he was next and a rousing final chorus underlined a gloomy future for all hinting at how cuttings from this evil monster aimed to dominate the world. We were urged Don't feed the plants.

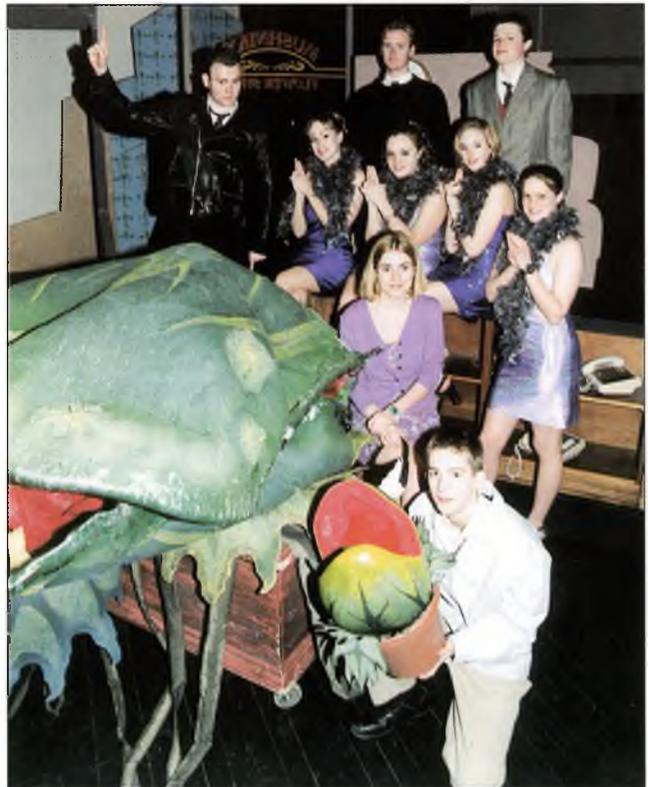


The merits of this excellent musical, therefore were clearly not lost on this reviewer and his appreciation of the musical, dancing and genuinely theatrical skills on display was shared by sell-out audiences. Cameo roles were played with adroit skill by Catriona Sutherland, Liam Ferry, Ben Dalley, and Alan Martin; Angus Spiers' entrance seemed to owe more to the Quikfit advertisement than the script and it was no surprise to learn that it was the muffled tones of Gerry Kennedy that portrayed the Voice of God. However, there are four members of this distinguished cast who might by this stage be surprised and disappointed that they have so far been airbrushed from this review.

They are Chiffon (Laura Morley), Crystal (Vicky Robertson), Ronnette (Ruth Chalmers) and Tammi (Fiona MacFarlane) and the reason they have been relegated to an appreciative paragraph at the end is because they were the outstanding feature of what, by general agreement, was a performance that superseded even the *Guys and Dolls* that was another *succès d'estime* five years ago. Their role was absolutely crucial because they acted as a sort of Greek chorus, introducing and commenting on the action. For this to work, they had to sing superbly, demonstrate acting and choreographical skills of the highest order and interact with the rest of the cast to bring out the nuances of a plot, which was perfectly capable of catching out the unwary. Their stage presence was immaculate and they blended seamlessly into the rest of the action taking place around them.

Everybody connected with this show, staff and pupils, front of house and backroom boys and girls alike, must have known from the first night that there was a marvellous atmosphere in the packed theatre as a full house appreciated that they were viewing a truly magnificent show. There was a definite buzz in the audience as the curtain fell; we knew we had been very fortunate to see that school performance that every once in a while gets everything just right. The possible exception was the chastened erstwhile hyena of a critic who did his best to persuade anyone who would listen that of course he knew it was going to be excellent. To mix theatrical metaphors, exit hyena pursued by a bear.

AMT





# Senior Drama

## Senior School Plays December 1999

**It was a surprise to walk into the theatre past the soaring, marbled pillars of a 5-star hotel restaurant, its top table for six diners enticingly prepared on the fore-stage with napery, silver, glass and bread-sticks rampant.**

Enter a black-velvet jacketed sophisticate, Titian hair swept back and up into a severe chignon - and the play began. Act One of *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill was an ambitious choice which allowed some fine acting from Leila Arakji, in particular, as 'Marlene', the ruthlessly competent Managing Director of 'Top Girls' Employment Agency, who had clearly crashed intact through several 'glass ceilings' to achieve her position.

At her invitation, one by one, five remarkable women from other historic times assembled, were introduced, began to order and then eat what both looked and smelt like a delicious dinner. Served with authentic waitressing confidence by Ruth Chalmers, who bustled in and out of the servery swing doors, the women shared their stories of the suffering and sacrifice they had accepted in order to make their mark on society.

Samara Johnstone as 'Isabella Bird' was every inch the intrepid Victorian lady-traveller. A clergyman's daughter, an intellectual, who had married without love and failed to find joy. Pain, too, had been the reward for duty endured by Charley Southcott, dignified as 'Lady Nijo', a Medieval Japanese Emperor's courtesan, mother of three sons, whose various fathers each removed his baby: "Nobody gave me back my children", she sighed, the picture of misery. Chaucer's 'Patient Griselda', played by Fiona MacFarlane also gave every sign of saintliness in her obedience to her husband's order that she, too, should give up her children but then help to prepare his second wedding to a young girl from France.

Far from saintly, however, was Catriona Sutherland's proudly confident ninth century academic, 'Joan', who masqueraded as a man in order to become Pope, then gave birth to a child and was stoned to death. The final guest, Isla Bernard's 'Dull Gret', a character out of a Breughel painting, provided a humorous contrast to the others as she devoured food with her fingers, stashed the table-silver away in her basket and shook her fists in anger at any perceived 'devil', maddened as she was by the memory of hunger and the killing of her family at the hands of an invading army.

The consummate skill with which Leila/Marlene managed her guests, while responding with interest to their tales of woe, was extraordinary in a school production. Indeed, the ability of all the girls on stage to create the genuine rhythm of excited dinner-table conversation - in which eating, interruptions, cross talking and non-sequiturs have their place - was remarkable. It was a tribute to their characterisation that many in the audience longed to know the impact of these five 'Top Girls' on Marlene in the rest of the play, especially after she announced "I'd like another brandy, please. Better make it six", in response to the intensity of it all.

However, it was probably just as well that comedy followed after the interval: *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard. A play about a play, a

parody of those third-rate murder-mystery repertory theatre productions. This performance had it all.

There was a 'hidden' corpse, intriguingly visible to the real audience as the stage set was turned back-to-front in order to face Birdboot (Chris Wright) and Moon (William Bowry), two hilariously pretentious and pedantic theatre critics attending the play-within-the-play. Needless to say, the body supplied a perfect opportunity truly to involve them in the drama as (after many amusingly unlikely twists in the plot) Moon discovered it was his senior at the office, murdered.

This is a play where the characters take over the story, none so effectively as Aimi Gdula's 'Mrs Drudge', the half-witted house-keeper who dusted, snooped, shuffled, limped and witnessed the 'goings-on' at Muldoon Manor, location of the murder. She was the lynch-pin of the production, connecting the debby-but-deadly rivals 'Felicity' (Kirsty Roy) and 'Cynthia' (Georgia Manson), the enraged suitor 'Simon' (Scott McKinlay) and the enraged disabled 'Magnus' (Philip Pillar) who made a spectacularly sudden wheelchair entrance, gun cocked and moustache bristling.

Of course 'Inspector Hound' (Richard Crawford), summoned to solve the murder, turned out to be bogus and fled, leaving Magnus to declare himself Cynthia's long lost husband - who lost his memory and joined the Force, rising by merit to the rank of Inspector, his past blotted out - until fate cast him back into the home he left behind as the real Inspector Hound.

Are you following? I'm not sure that anyone did but that was all part of the helpless laughter which swept from the audience in gusts at the machinations of Stoppard's plot, played with such panache by a fine cast.

What a wonderful evening's entertainment. Thank you, Miss Quan, producer par excellence and your enthusiastic team of actors and back-stage helpers.

EMA



# Verse Speaking



## 'Remember the Fourth Wall ...'

the seven girls in 1J were reminded by the examiner, on receiving the report for their LAMDA acting (Grade 1) exam. Eager to see what the examiner was up to during their performance of a section of "Anne of Green Gables", they had been unable to resist the temptation of having a peek or two in her direction, thus rather threatening the "suspension of disbelief".

More than 25% of our pupils took part this year in externally organised speech and drama competitions, festivals and exams. These began with the Association of Speakers Clubs (Perth and Kinross District) competition, which was won for the second year in a row by Douglas Forbes, who obtained a Trophy and £50. John Coull came third. Within days, Douglas, John and Andrew Mack entered the Rotary Club of Perth public speaking competition and were awarded best speaker, best chairman and best vote of thanks respectively.

The Fair City Speakers Club in Perth continues to provide our pupils with a very warm welcome and encouragement. Because of their participation, it has the largest number of junior members of any club in the association. Nils Michael excelled himself there, by achieving the Trophy for 'the most improved speaker of the year'. Particularly memorable was his speech enigmatically entitled, "The Phenomenon of the Slope".

In the Courier/Royal Bank of Scotland debating competition, Ishbel McFarlane and Louise Wallace reached the semi-finals. They also won for Woodlands the School's junior debating competition. Senior winners were Andrew Mack and Fraser Niven. The overall winning House was Freeland.

In the Perth Burns Club's annual festival's recitation classes, the 'Ruth Lumsden Quaich' for the primary age group was won by Lauren Giles and the 'Archibald Morrison Memorial Quaich' for candidates of secondary age by Ishbel McFarlane.

In the Perthshire (Competition) Festival in March we entered eleven classes and won nine, including, for the first time, all three of the major trophies.

Ishbel McFarlane achieved three firsts in the 12 to 14 age group: the 'Robert Burns Rosebowl', the William Soutar class and the Shakespeare class. Also in that age group, Tom Hine won the 'Year of the Bible Quaich' for Bible reading, and the English poem class. Catherine Rutherford won the 'William Soutar Tassie' (age group 10-12). In the senior classes, Ashley Cameron won the English poem class, and Louise Lamb, the Bible reading.

1J won the choral verse speaking (primary) Runners-up in Perth were Rachael Fergie, Gregor Duncan, Rebecca Johnstone, Melenik Forde, Ishbel McFarlane, Peter Hewitt, Chris Wright, Jake Streatfeild-James and Lauren Giles.

Two full coachloads of pupils headed south one Saturday in May, for the Edinburgh Competitive Festival. Here Aimi Gdula won the 'Mary Cameron Watson Cup' for a speech from 'The Two Gentlemen of Verona'. Aimi was also presented with a gold certificate for an 'outstanding performance' in this

class, as was runner-up Ishbel McFarlane, who also won both the Scots verse class and the 'Edinburgh and District Burns Club Prize'. Jake Streatfeild-James come first for solo verse speaking (12-14) and Form III set 1 won the choral verse speaking. Runners-up in various classes were Lindsay Holt, Louise Lamb, Liam Ferry and Lauren Giles. 1J came second for the 'group acting of a poem'.

We had four full days of LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams this year - one in December and three in June. One hundred pupils entered, some in as many as three classes.

Kirsty Roy achieved the top grade, honours, for the gold medal in acting. Other acting golds went to Jill Fishback, Richard Crawford and Leila Arakji. Douglas Forbes gained distinction in gold medal public speaking. An acting silver, with distinction, went to Sarah Currie, and bronze medals to Charlie Southcott and Rebecca Stevenson, for acting, and to Aimi Gdula for the speaking of verse and prose.

Our highest ever number of honours certificates was awarded this year. In acting, to Isla Barnard (grade 7), to Emma Gordon, Mary Shaw-Stewart, Natasha Smith, Stephanie Erdal and Sara Arakji (5), to Nicola Boyd, Mhairi Gillanders (4) and to Emily Roy and Amanda Brow (3). In spoken English, to Rebecca McBain (2). In the speaking of verse and prose, to Ishbel McFarlane (8), Emma Gordon and Rebecca Johnstone (7), Flossie Carpenter (6) and to Victoria Drummond-Hay (5). For improvisation, to Aimi Gdula and Helen Smith (4). And last, but not least, every individual in Form II set 1 went home with an honours certificate for choral verse speaking.

The Riley pupils who achieved the highest marks in the LAMDA exams were Victoria Drummond-Hay, and from the senior School Ishbel McFarlane.





## 4th Form German Sketch

This year's 4th Form followed the established custom by performing a sketch in German on the last day of the Autumn Term.

*Ein ganz normaler Morgen* presented, in the original language, what most of us are accustomed to regard as 'normal' - frenetic activity around the bathroom, family members of all ages rushing upstairs and downstairs in search of items the preparation of which had been neglected the previous evening, a mother whose tone of voice is becoming increasingly desperate and, in the midst of it all, a young daughter whose firmly established priority for her looks rather than for keeping good time is putting mother's efforts in perspective.

We all had an interesting time during the (usually) late-evening rehearsals. The IVth formers, though doing their best for the sketch, proved time and time again that mothers (and teachers also) can be successfully harrassed in the evening. However, 'all's well that ends well' - the performance was a success and the actors were pleased.

Lindsay Allan excelled in the role of mother, her proficiency in German increased steadily during the rehearsals. Gareth Everett, having taken on the main male part at very short notice, brought to the figure of the father his own, personal no-nonsense approach and struck a chord with the spectators. Jenny Hay was perfectly cast in the part of the lovely daughter, careful of her physical appearance - her acting was very good indeed.

That Peter Mackie was convincing in the role of reluctant pupil was hardly surprising, whereas Gordon Bujaud became, for a few minutes, a perfectly plausible Mr Goody - Two - Shoes. Duncan Bickerton and Stuart Scroggie, playing German electricians, succeeded in setting the stage alight through the power of their perfect German and Alan Martin's part of kind, gregarious and helpful driver of the School-bus seemed (and was, perhaps) written for him. Unfortunately for Adam Wallace, our small sketch offered no fitting opportunities for his customary wit, the entertainment value of which, not being able to cure, we were reduced to enduring.

We are indebted to Jane Ouan for her expert advice on matters theatrical, to the Department of Modern Languages for putting up with activities more fitting to a catering establishment or a removals firm and to colleagues for kindly permitting our actors to absent themselves at times from their lessons. Our thanks also to Tracey Oliphant and Ross Anders of the III Form, for charmingly helping the spectators to Christmas biscuits.

Above all - we thank the parents for coming to see the performance of *Ein ganz normaler Morgen*, thus encouraging the pupils in their effort of learning the German language. We are looking forward to the German sketch of December 2000.

## Review of Stratford Trip

It was a beautiful, sunny day when we left School at 8 o'clock in the morning with the hope of arrival in mid-afternoon.

Five hours later we were still in Scotland stuck on the motorway just south of Glasgow, having snowball fights across the blocked lanes. Nevertheless we did reach our destination and despite the cynical comments of Speirs, we were still talking to each other.

Having sat in the minibus for a total of ten hours thirteen minutes (yes, Colin set a timer when we left.) we went to sit through the first performance on our really well planned itinerary. In the Swan Theatre, a modern day version of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, we saw a performance of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*. With our relatively novice experience of Chekhov we still enjoyed the production. The thought of a curry afterwards was a sustenance through the second act, however.

Breakfast the next day was dominated by Mr Thomson's cries of, 'The sausages are awful, send them this way.' So having fuelled up on a proper English breakfast we hit Stratford and Charles hit the shops. The afternoon saw us backstage at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre on a tour and then it was on to the cunningly planned mystery tour of Stratford, devised exclusively for us by Mr Salisbury and Mr Kilpatrick. Surprisingly enough we went to see all the places of interest in regard to Shakespeare. Original.

That evening it was a performance of *King Lear* that was to whet our appetites for Shakespeare. Opinions of the production were mixed in the group, and the conclusion was that for *débutant* Shakespearean viewers, it was a baptism of fire.

Early morning saw the group set off for the minibus, anxious that the return journey should be uneventful. Across on the other side of town the minibus was eventually found and loaded, the engine started and the journey begun. Thankfully there were no hitches this time round and the group arrived back at Strathallan at the time predicted in the itinerary.

All in all the trip was a success and was greatly enjoyed. The real question is, please can we go to London next time?

Laura Morley L6

# Year in Focus



What Iceberg?



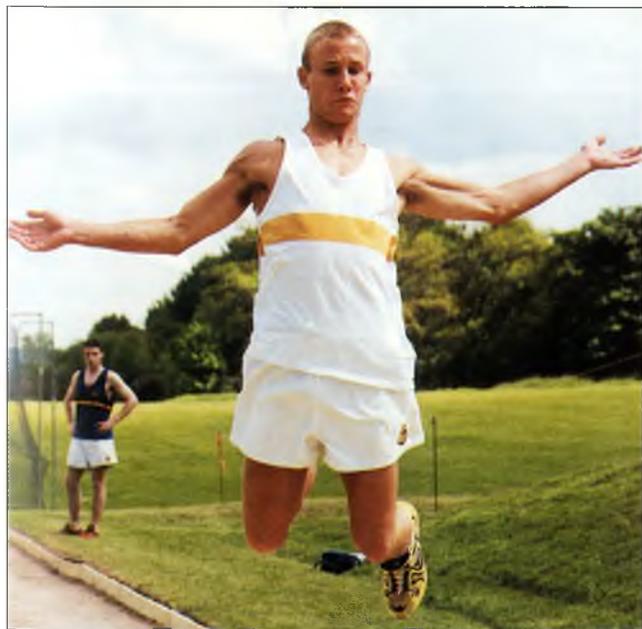
In the bleak midwinter



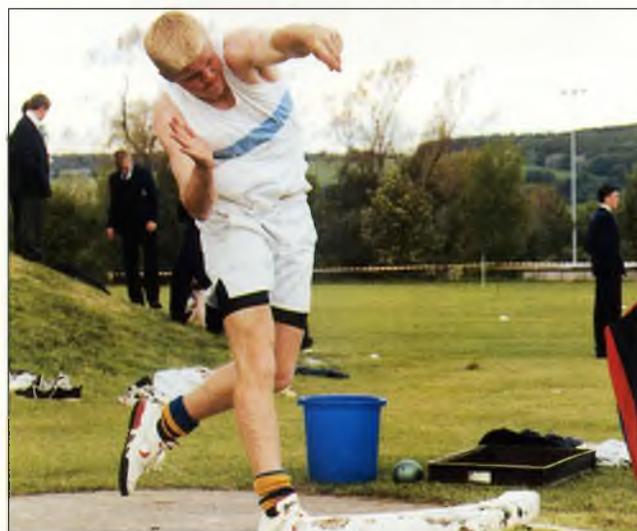
The loneliness of the long-distance runner



Five to four the field



Floats like a butterfly



Spot the ball

# Year in Focus



Plywood's playmates



New day-girls' extension unveiled



First appearance of GM salad at Strath



Do anything for three tenners



And apparently Buda's getting a prize



David Pighills intent on his speech



Pas de déjeuner sur l'herbe



Pillars of the art world



Ruthven's new beds don't quite measure up



The Sunshine Boys

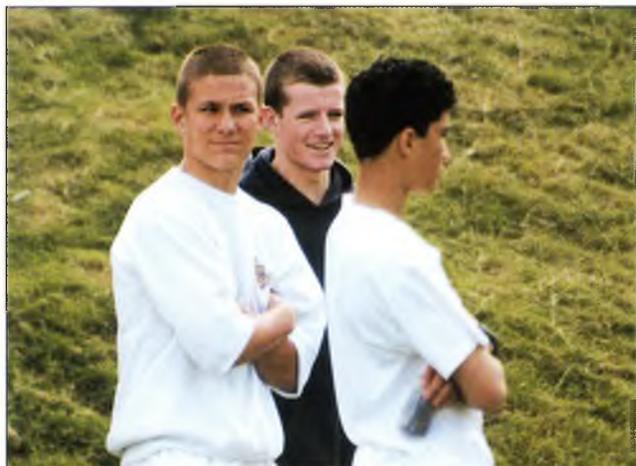


Freeland Dirty Protest



Two-step changeover

# Year in Focus



Music to watch girls by



Strath aliens



Simpson smiles better



It'll never fly



IJ celebrate victory



The race is on



Legs eleven



Ring o' roses



Woodland warblers



Cross-country dream team



Misery Chords



# Art School Opening

**On Saturday 20th May, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi officially opened the new Art School. The £500,000 investment has provided one of the finest Art Departments in the country and we were honoured by Sir Eduardo's interest and great kindness to us all.**

Sir Eduardo talked vividly of his artistic beginnings in Leith, of searching out the studios of Giacometti, Arp, Braque and Brancusi and of the key influences in the development of his own art.

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed his company during his over-night stay and his gift of over forty signed prints has provided Strathallan with an unique and important collection. The valuable and rich mixture of etchings and lithographs clearly reveal him as one of the major figures in post-war

British art. As a father of Pop Art, and a true visionary in his ability to bring art and science together, he left us with two quotations that will long remain in the minds of our young artists.

Thank you Sir Eduardo on behalf of the successive generations of Strathallians who will better understand the previous century through the richness of these images.

AECMcM



**"A sculptor in the urban world must concern himself with the contradictions of man and machine, with bizarre hidden currents of antiquity, religion and magic - he must use his vision to open wider views to others."**

**"Let your passions be the petrol to drive your art, let them drive you."**

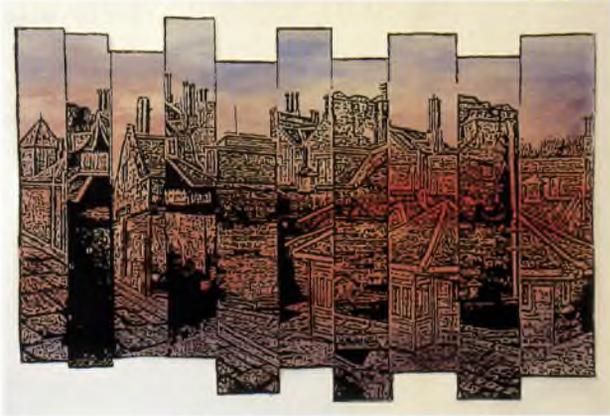


## Ceramics



- 1 'Basilicata'  
Alex Broadfoot, 5th form  
Smoke Fired Stoneware
- 2 'Classical Vessel'  
Isabella Chaussy, 5th form  
Stoneware with cobalt oxide and white glaze
- 3 'Japanese Light Box'  
Lois Hunter, 5th form  
Smoke Fired Stoneware

# Art



1



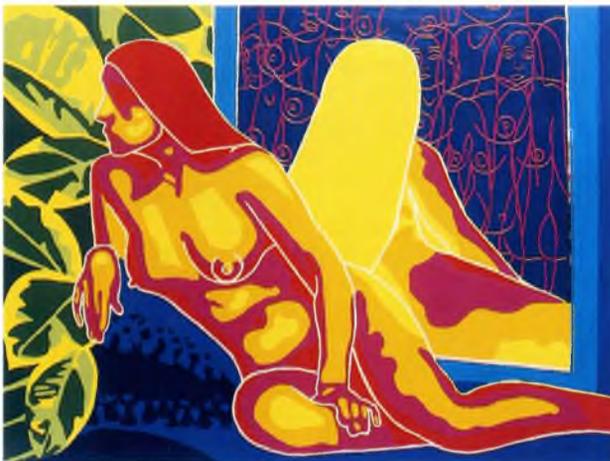
2



3



4



5

1 'Strathallan Skyscape' Woodcut  
James Hay, upper 6th form

2 'Self Portrait' Woodcut  
James Hay, upper 6th form

3 'Self Portrait' Mixed Media  
Thomas Gemmill, upper 6th form

4 'Self Portrait' Oil  
Suzi Harvey, upper 6th form

5 'Reflections' Oil  
Suzi Harvey, upper 6th form



6



7



8



9

6 'Vanitas' Mixed Media  
Fiona Hunter, upper 6th form

7 'Self Portrait' Oil  
Fiona Hunter, upper 6th form

8 'Natural Forms' Woodcut  
Laura Dover, upper 6th form

9 'Winter Landscape, Laggan' Oil  
Thomas Gemmill, upper 6th form

## Design and Technology



- 1 'Seating Project' Ash and Mild Steel  
Anneke Laux, Lower Sixth Form
- 2 'Seating Project' Ash and Mild Steel  
Lynsey Wallace, Lower Sixth Form
- 3 'Seating Project' Ash  
Stuart Oliphant, Lower Sixth Form

# The Great Adventure

Strathallan School opened for business in Forgardenny in September 1920. Harry Riley expected about 125 boys to arrive from around the country. Those from Bridge of Allan knew the ropes and would be expecting a great adventure as boarders under one roof, while the majority would be new: new to boarding and new to school. The central position of Perth provided opportunities to attract the interest of families all over Eastern Scotland, and Harry Riley was just the man to advertise the school with his wide range of interests and business acumen.

Everyone would have to live in the main building, Freeland House, as the only alternative, the coach house and stables, were in a poor condition, but the outhouses by the stables were turned into attractive classrooms. Harry Riley had the support of his sister, May, who took on the role of housekeeper. She was able to live in the one other house bought with the policies, the Lodge, and her time would be filled with the daunting task of providing for the welfare of 125 boys day and night. She never wavered from her support for her brother, with the assistance of two house matrons, and the famous Nurse McGuffie.



The school house before building begins in 1926



The classrooms



Rare photos of May Riley and Nurse McGuffie taken by Guthrie Reid on his leaving day 1926.

Harry Riley had three close friends who had shared those formative years at Forgardenny, C.E Eckersley, E.W Robertson and W.Amour, and a decision was taken to divide the boys into three groups, or houses, for which each master would take responsibility. They became the first housemasters at Strathallan, taking Freeland, Ruthven and Nicol respectively under their wings. Boarding accommodation used all the available space upstairs in the large house, each room placed near to washing facilities, and all centred around the dining rooms, now the Saloon and Computer Centre, which were used in the evenings for prep. Harry Riley lived in their midst having the same study overlooking the lawn as the present Headmaster.

The boys ranged in age from thirteen to eighteen, and many would leave the school after having completed their basic full time education, but most stayed on to matriculate, and then continue study for further certification. Harry Riley's organisation of prefects and sub-prefects provided the communication and discipline necessary for so many to live closely together. One such group of young boys who began in that first year of 1920 absorbed the atmosphere and warmth of the school, carefully prepared by Harry Riley and his staff, so completely that they helped create the early success that Harry Riley desired. The official photographs which Harry Riley had made into postcards were sent, proudly, all over the world, but it is the private pictures of one of those boys that show the real camaraderie that was developed at Strathallan.

# The Great Adventure

Noel Guthrie Reid, or Gussie as he came to be known, began at Strathallan in the summer, 1923, to complete his certification. He joined the group of young boys who had started in 1920, and soon settled, if still a little unsure about some of the customs that come from confidence. Those customs were well learnt by the following spring as shown on a spring walk after chapel with friends on St. David's Day, walking to Drumfin in the autumn, and a picnic by the Earn in the summer. That rugby season had seen the introduction of the sixteen year old friends as the 'flyers', one of their many shared interests, which surely must have filled their waking hours as much as it does for many today.



1923 A slightly awkward Reid and his friend, Donald, known as T.D. showing the traditional Strathallan pose.



1924 Reid with Alex and Ritchie Fraser on the Law,



a group of walkers take a break



1924 A photo taken by Ritchie Fraser of Sandy Cruikshank, Alex Fraser and Guthrie Reid .)



Matthew Cameron's 1924 team that showed such promise with Guthrie's friend Sandy far left 'T.D.' Donald already having won his cap stood next to him, Ritchie Fraser the fastest of the group, sat on the ground far right, and Guthrie Reid, who had introduced the drop goal to Strathallan sat behind him. Front centre is 'Tubby' Ritchie who played for Scotland

Rugby was a central part of the sports curriculum, and the new Gymnasium completed in 1924 went a long way to provide better training conditions, although the long runs into the hills were still part of each week's ordeals. Guthrie lost his close friends that year as he was the only one to stay on at school, but he had developed a very keen interest in cricket through Harry Riley and Willy Ward's enthusiasm, though the two masters no longer donned their whites to play for the school as they had done at Bridge of Allan. He became close friends with George Smith, now in his fifth year at the school, and to be School Captain in his sixth.



Other friends were Alan Porter, who led the rugby onto an unbeaten season in 1926, Alastair Lambie, one of the school's fastest bowlers ever, and Robert Barr, an all-rounder.



George Smith, known as 'George' when School Captain, showing the typical Strathallan prefects' pose - hands deep in pockets, jacket fully buttoned and tails swept back.



1925 Robert Barr and Ben Stirling showing the prefect's pose complete with dropped shoulders.



Alastair Lambie winning the annual swimming competition - across the Earn and back.

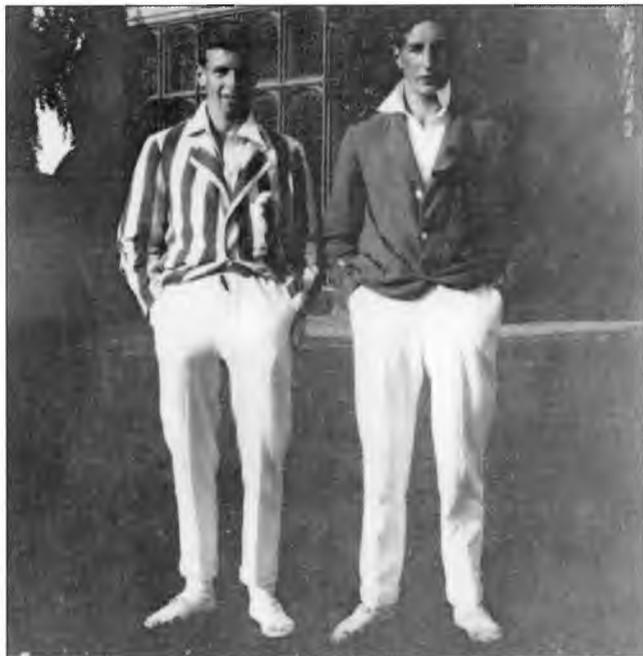


1925 Harry Riley with the definitive version



1925 The Housemaster of Ruthven leading by example on a July evening

# The Great Adventure



1925 Guthrie Reid, now wearing a summer blazer, and Alan Porter in summer dress.



T.M. Hart in the newer, relaxed pose.

The 1926 teams determined to put the new pitches to good use. The rugby side, led by Alan Porter, was unbeaten, and most of the players went on to play representative rugby after leaving school. Guthrie appeared as full-back for the Scottish Champions, Glasgow Academicals, in the year that they beat Oxford, but his playing career was cut short after a serious injury. Sadly, Alan Porter, who should have done as well, drowned while working in Rangoon. But it was the cricket that stirred the school's imagination.

Alastair Lambie entertained the school support with the ability to knock the stumps out of the ground, and the openers, Guthrie Reid and 'T.S.' Hart, were said to be unplayable. This is the year that they won most of their seven school and eight senior games in one match, allowing Auchterarder only one run and memorably defeating the annual Harry Rowan's Western XI.

All good things must end, but the leavers of 1926 remained in constant contact and provided the Thirties with nearly all their Old Strathallian Presidents. The leaving day appears to be as important today as then, and with that in mind, it only remains for us to thank 'Gussie' Reid for his work that has allowed us to share the pupils' perspective in a past era of our school as part of, as Harry Riley would say, 'the great adventure'.

GRMR



A nervous George Smith and Alan Porter prepare to face the world



'The forbidden run' - Harry Riley's trusted lieutenants prepare for leavers' day. The Captain of School on the right looks set to lead the way in time honoured fashion.

# Rugby Tour

## 30 days Down Under

Truly, an enjoyable Tour in all respects. This was no chance happening - the hard work (on and off the training ground) prior to departure and the collective high standards maintained during the month away resulted in a happy and successful experience for all.



Not the smoothest of starts for the tourists, who trying to fly via Frankfurt, had to endure a particularly turbulent landing at Munich in the midst of an electrical storm. After a couple of hours trying to establish what would happen next, they were herded onto a bus to spend the 5 hours between 2am and 7am hurtling down the Autobahn towards Frankfurt only to find on arrival that they had missed their flight to Singapore. Undaunted, new plans were hatched and, following a few brief hours in the Holiday Inn (particularly popular gym and sauna area,) the troops split into two groups and headed for an early evening arrival in the Far East, some via Heathrow.

After a couple of hours seeing the sights that evening, the boys were training at 6.30am the following morning on a patch of grass between the skyscrapers. It was hot, steamy and dark. The coaches can't be expected to get everything right. The acquisition of ludicrously cheap and glaringly obvious fake designer labels occupied the remainder of the morning. One victory and one defeat that afternoon (thanks to our excellent hosts at Raffles College and The Anglo-Chinese School) saw us heading for Darwin on the late night flight.

Arrival in Darwin at 4.30am was a shock to the system but the hospitality of our hosts was typified by the fact that Bruce Kennon, our Northern Territories contact, was there to meet us. The next two days were spent in the outback, Kakadu National Park to be precise, with the tourists swagging under the stars by the billabongs and mixing it with the salt water Crocs. The Aboriginal sites were breathtaking and the playing of the pipes at the 150m high rock amphitheatre of the Jim Jim Falls unforgettable. Hunter Safaris,

under the expert eye of the legendary "Harry" (Croc Dundee has nothing on this guy.) did us proud and the hours spent travelling in the back of those 4 x 4's were well worth it. It was good to renew old friendships in Darwin (we were there on tour in '94) and the hosting families could not speak highly enough of our boys. Victory over the Northern Territories U19 in the Opus Stadium had even the home fans cheering for us. Post match celebrations seemed a remote memory as, once again, we took the early morning (4.45am) flight to Cairns and Tropical North Queensland.

Our stay at the Colonial Club in Cairns saw the tourists scuba diving on the Barrier Reef and shooting the rapids of the Tully River, some with Japanese boat captains. We were treated to the use of facilities at the local Rugby League and Aussie Rules Clubs - so typical of the generosity of spirit demonstrated by the Australian sporting community. Unfortunately, this did not spill over on to the field of play and we suffered a narrow loss to a Cape York Peninsular XV in Innisfail. This was our only flat performance on tour but the disappointment was there for all to see.

On to Brisbane to be hosted by Brisbane Boys College and Alan Ball and his family. The boys had wonderful billets, some families being disappointed that there were not enough tourists to go around. It seemed a little unfair of us to win both our games here but, as usual, we learned a great deal from our opponents. Many thanks to Paul Carozza and the Rugby families at BBC.

The delights of the Sunshine Coast and Surfers' Paradise were sampled before heading inland to "the granite belt" and Warwick. Undefeated in the Queensland TAS Premiership, once more both the Senior and Development

# Rugby Tour

XV's emerged victorious. These were hard fought victories, particularly so in the case of the Development XV who played against 30 different players. Life in Warwick was certainly idiosyncratic and we owe a particular debt of gratitude to the local Lebanese cinema owner, without whom our stay would have been more challenging.

Hosted by Sydney Church of England Grammar School, we were accommodated in the Olympic City in the wonderful Shore "Boat Shed". This multi-million dollar facility is something that Messrs Redgrave and Pincet would give their right arms for. All the sights were seen, travelling on the Citycat Ferry seemed an obvious and enjoyable mode of transport and the Harbour was as stunning as everyone had believed it would be. Some of the tourists even "climbed the bridge", a 5 hour journey, clad in space suit and wired to safety ropes and radio microphones, over the top of the Harbour Bridge. A tremendous match against St. Joseph's (yes, the legendary Joeys.) saw us defeated 36 - 23 in a truly entertaining encounter, broadcast live on the internet.

Three days R & R in Thailand at the beach resort of Cha Am were spent reflecting on the wonderful experiences of the tour. There was plenty of time to bargain with the locals for those cheesy fake designer goods (yes, the ones required to replace those bought in Singapore which had by now fallen apart.), to catch some (more.) sun, to swim in the pools and, for a few, to spend their last few days with the School.

Thanks to all the staff for their hard work and support and particularly to the players, who were a pleasure to work with and a credit to themselves, their families and the School. So, Australia 2003?

DJB



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# Rugby Report

In many ways, it was a season of mixed fortunes. Pre-season matches at Gordonstoun allowed the squad to be put through its paces and the coaching staff were able to assess the potential of various combinations. In a series of closely fought encounters honours were pretty even.



The first home match and the first official fixture of the season saw the 1st XV in action against Rannoch. The game was dominated by Strathallan and, with early points on the board, it was evident that Strath were going to be victorious. **Won 45-5**

The next match saw Strath take on Glasgow Academy. In a closely fought game, Strathallan finally emerged the victors despite missing a relatively easy penalty in front of the posts, but outside centre, Neil McIlwraith, made up for his miss by successfully executing a longer-range effort in the closing minutes. This game provided much for the squad to work on particularly in the crucial areas of decision-making and the breakdown. **Won 8-9**

Strath's next outing saw the team pitched against a slightly depleted Loretto XV. The most encouraging aspect of the performance was the number of sweeping moves by a similarly depleted Strathallan team. Unfortunately, many of these moves were not converted into points because of a combination of some fierce Loretto defending and losing the ball unnecessarily. This was reflected in the score line. **Won 10-3**

The Scottish Schools Cup always provides a welcome and distracting change from the usual round of inter-schools rugby. Perhaps this distraction proved too much when, in an under par performance, Strathallan succumbed

to a strong, physical challenge from Perth Academy. Quite simply, their positive attitude and desire to win were more than a match for a lack-lustre and disappointing away performance, which led to the first loss of the season. It was a valuable lesson in the importance of teamwork and commitment. **Lost 10-8**



Another welcomed distraction was the arrival of the North Gautang South African side who provided an enormously stiff challenge. Physically bigger, faster and stronger, they were living proof of why Southern Hemisphere rugby is in the ascendancy. However, much to their credit, Strathallan showed the resolve and fighting spirit for which they had been searching. Indeed, Strathallan took an early penalty, which was successfully converted by Neil McIlwraith.

The next outing saw Strath against Fettes College away. The team started strongly but an inability to convert pressure into points made it difficult. Due to a lack of discipline and players continuously being off-side, early penalties were given and points conceded. Soft tries were given due to a lackadaisical defence. There was potential to win the game because of the team's strong running and determination but missed chances and poor line-out possession cost dear. **Lost 8-10**

The 1st XV's next match was a home game against Glenalmond College. A strong and physical Glenalmond XV proved to overcome Strath. Over-enthusiasm led to anxious mistakes and soft tries were conceded. Strathallan never gave up despite a number of injuries in key positions. This was a very disappointing loss against our close rivals. **Lost 3-12**



Strath's next outing saw the 1st XV against Merchiston Castle. Although this may seem a big loss on paper, the score line does not fully reflect the level of performance provided by Strath. Two tries and a conversion demonstrated that even against the strongest of oppositions, Strath were able to provide a competitive game for Merchiston. However, again sloppy defending and a lack of organisation proved to be our weakness as we conceded 8 tries. **Lost 12-54**

On the back of a number of disappointing results, the next match against Edinburgh Academy allowed Strath to set their season back on track. A strong display against the Academy saw Strath post four tries and a conversion. An enjoyable and hard fought game saw Strath hold on to the fruits of their early lead. **Won 22-17**

The next fixture saw the 1st XV away against Morrison's Academy. A morning match on a frosty pitch meant that good rugby would be at a premium. Despite conditions, Strath scraped to an 8-7 victory largely due to Euan McChesney's well-worked try in the opening moments. Again, determined defending saw Strath through to victory. **Won 8-7**

The final match of the season was against Dollar Academy. The game ended in a disappointing loss. Early points to Dollar were clawed back in an industrious fashion but sheer physical pressure saw Dollar victorious. **Lost 10-46**

The high points of the season were seeing Colin Thwaites, who captained the side with focus and commitment, selected for the Midlands U18 side along



with Matthew Boyd and Jeremy McDougall who were both regulars all season. Another honour to come Strath's way was Euan Matheson's selection to represent Caledonia U19's.

Despite a season of mixed fortunes there was plenty of evidence that a strong 1st XV could be built out of this young developing side. With eleven players returning to the squad for next season, there is hope that next year Strath will realise its full potential.

**Full Colours** were awarded to Colin Thwaites, Euan Matheson, Nick Gdula, Alistair McMillan and Mathew Boyd.

**Half Colours** were awarded to Chris Johnson, Gary Hutton, Jonathan McDougall, Mark Roger, Jeremy McDougall, Jonathan Stone and Fraser Chisolm.

**Jeremy McDougall (Lower Sixth Form)**

# Sports Day and Athletics

The House championships were won by Simpson and Thornbank. Whilst the girls' competition was as close as in previous years, the boys' competition was very tight throughout. Indeed only ten points separated Freeland (third), Ruthven (second) and the winners, Simpson.

Exciting races this year turned out to be the senior boys' 100 metres (Iain Allardyce holding off Alastair MacMillan), middle boys' 200 metres (Fraser Niven beating Gareth Everett), senior boys' 400 metres (Jonathan Stone getting the better of Chris Johnson) and Kirsty Senior edging out Rachael Dobson in the senior girls' 1500 metres and thus attaining a maximum for Woodlands in the event.

The individual championships were generally less close affairs than in previous years, with only the middle boys' championships stretching the calculating powers of Mr Giles. At the conclusion of Sports Day the winners were presented with their trophies by Mrs Fabienne Thompson and were as follows:

**Junior Boys V L ..... G Duncan ..... Simpson**

**Junior Girls V L ..... K Fleming ..... Thornbank**

**Middle Boys V L ..... T Booth ..... Nicol**

**Senior Girls V L ..... K McArthur ..... Thornbank**

**Senior Boys V L ..... S McKinlay ..... Simpson**

In the House Standards competition for the Rowan Cup, Freeland held off a spirited challenge by Simpson and last year's victors, Ruthven. There were year wins for three different houses and despite failing to repeat last year's Form 3 victory, Thornbank noticeably closed the overall gap on the boys' houses.

After some rather cold and at times damp May weather, this year's fixtures again provided some fine performances and team successes.

Despite the over 17 boys' team being racked with injury to several athletes, notably Ewan McChesney and Chris Johnson (both previous national schools finalists) they recorded a couple of wins over Rannoch and Queen Victoria School. However, the rest of the matches were lost and the team generally failed to reach the high standard of the previous season.

The over 16 girls' team defeated Kilgraston, Queen Victoria School and Glenalmond but lost to Fettes and Rannoch.

The under 17 boys' team struggled throughout the season but they did pull it together in the final event of the year, finishing third in the multi schools event and in the process beating Dollar and Queen Victoria School.

Once again the top school team proved to be the under 16 girls who despite failing to maintain their 100% record from last year (losing away to Rannoch), defeated Kilgraston, Queen Victoria School, Fettes and Glenalmond and retained their title in the multi school event beating Queen Victoria School, Glenalmond, Fettes and Dollar.

The Riley girls' team had a clean sweep against Rannoch, Kilgraston and Lathallan and although the boys were well beaten by Rannoch, they were only just pipped by 1 point by Lathallan. The Riley divisional sports were shared by Dupplin and Dron and there were fine boys' performances recorded by Andrew

O'Donnell, Malcolm Jack, Stuart McDonald and Ewen Wardman whilst the top girls athletes were Kirsty Hay, Sophie Barton, Ann-Louise Breden and Sarah Fleming.

In the senior school the top individual performer was undoubtedly Scott McKinlay. Scott retained the 400 metres hurdle title at the National Schools' Championships and showed his range of talent by winning silver in the sprint hurdles and bronze in the 400 metres having already picked up a pentathlon national championship gold the week before. He was joined in the Scotland team for the season's internationals by Neal Adam, who through sheer dedication and a never say die approach to his training and performance, won the silver medal at "the Scottish" in the senior boys' steeplechase. I believe that it was some years ago that the School last had dual internationalists in the Scotland team. It could have been a trio of internationalists had our team captain Ivo Soot squeezed out a further 31cm in the senior javelin. As it was Ivo missed bronze by a mere 4 cm, having been in 2nd place going into the final round of throws. Melanie Kotseroglou, Kirsty Hay, Carin Munro, Katie Fleming and Gregor Duncan also competed in the Scottish schools this season, with varying levels of success.

The School continues to develop the ability of a number of potentially talented athletes and certainly more than a few equally talented and keen staff coaches. My thanks go to Morc Tod for his personal support and his work with the sprint groups and Jacqui and Mark Higginbottom for the hours spent with the middle distance groups, and to the field team of Morag Vass, Debbie Carr and Paul Shields (jumps), Paul Summersgill, David Barnes and Bill Weigall (throws) and not forgetting the work done by Carol Duncan, Audrey Ingram-Forde, Abi Mason and Sandra Fleming with the juniors. I have also appreciated the help and encouragement shown by our gap student, Cameron Hemming.

Finally, credit should go to Alison Roger and Ivo Soot for their help as captains and all to the Athletes for their effort during training and matches. The future remains bright.

Full Athletic Colours were awarded to: ..... I Soot / E McChesney / A Roger / C Johnson / N Adam

Half Athletic Colours were awarded to: ..... M Boyd / A MacMillan / J Stone

JRF



# Results

## GIRLS' RESULTS

EVENT	AGE	WINNER	TIME/DIST	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100M	J	A MacDonald	14.15s	13.00s	Streule,K	1982
100M	S	K McArthur	13.8s	2.12s	Edmunds,A	1990
200M	J	A MacDonald	30.20s	27.79s	Reid,S	1988
200M	S	K McArthur	29.57s	25.20s	Edmunds,A	1990
400M	J	K Fleming	67.57s	65.7s	Fleming,K	2000
400M	S	L Kotseroglou	70.18s	60.00s	Reid,S	1990
800M	J	K Fleming	2m 55.97s	2m 26.2s	Fleming,K	1999
800M	S	S Harvey	2m 58.56	2m 25.06s	Taylor,R	1993
1500M	J	C Sutherland	5m 48.22s	5m 14.09s	Barlow,A	1992
1500M	S	K Senior	6m 11.08s	5m 05.10s	Meiklejohn,C	1990
HIGH JUMP	J	R Johnstone	1.20m	1.45m	Orr,K	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	A Duncan	1.30m	1.55m	Rutherford,R.	1987
LONG JUMP	J	K Fleming	4.10m	4.46m	Gordons,S	1985
LONG JUMP	S	A Roger	4.10m	4.58m	Carruthers,C	1989
SHOT	J	C Munro	6.48m	10.23m	Sang,T	1992
SHOT	S	L Morley	7.50m	9.49m	Edmunds,A.	1990
DISCUS	J	R Johnstone	18.84m	25.10m	Chapman,R.	1995
DISCUS	S	G Greenwood	18.15m	26.60m	Chapman,R.	1998
JAVELIN	J	J Hay	17.01m	23.39m	Buchanan,K	1995
JAVELIN	S	L Dover	20.19m	22.42m	Bruce,M	1995
4X100M	J	Thornbank	57.20s	55.6s	v Glenalmond	2000
4X100M	S	Thornbank	57.76s	54.54s	Thornbank	1990
4X400M	J	Thornbank	4m 57.25s	4m 39.37s	Thornbank	1992
4X400M	S	Woodlands	5m 01.16s	4m 43.83s	Thornbank	1993

## BOYS' RESULTS

EVENT	AGE	WINNER	TIME/DIST	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100M	J	G Duncan	12.75s	12.00s	Ling,T	1971
100M	M	G Everett	12.30s	10.90s	Ogilvie	1978
100M	S	I Allardyce	11.70s	11.00s	various	
200M	J	G Duncan	27.29s	24.00s	Wallace,R	1993
200M	M	F Niven	26.30s	23.20s	Ling,T	1973
200M	S	S McKinlay	24.50s	22.80s	Ling,T	1973
400M	J	G Ward	61.57s	56.50s	Cook,C.	1987
400M	M	F Niven	58.60s	52.50s	Millar	1977
400M	S	J Stone	55.04s	50.30s	Roger,R	1982
800M	J	P Hewitt	2m 30.15s	2m12.90s	Lawrence,C	1984
800M	M	J Woodrow	2m 28.12s	2m 03.06s	Lawrence,C	1985
800M	S	S McKinlay	2m 14.98s	1m 55.02s	Roger,R	1982
1500M	J	P Hewitt	4m 51.12s	4m 32.07s	Lawrence,C	1985
1500M	M	A Carmichael	4m 47.16s	4m 14.05s	Bond,R	1988
1500M	S	N Adam	4m 36.23s	4m 09.02s	Bond,R	1989
HIGH JUMP	J	M Forde	1.45m	1.63m	Holmes	1965
HIGH JUMP	M	T Booth	1.50m	1.77m	Cuthbertson	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	J Stone	1.60m	1.95m	Colquhoun	1999
LONG JUMP	J	G Duncan	4.45m	5.55m	Lear,C	1967
LONG JUMP	M	T Booth	5.05m	6.17m	Lawson	1967
LONG JUMP	S	N Walker	5.11m	6.52m	Smellie,D	1978
SHOT	J	M Woodrow	11.23m	12.83m	Walker,L	1992
SHOT	M	I Robb	10.64m	14.73m	MacKenzie,G	1973
SHOT	S	G Davidson	11.39m	12.90m	Callander	1979
DISCUS	J	O Perrett	19.91m	36.27m	Knox,S	1974
DISCUS	M	P Brown	30.25m	42.00m	Knox,S	1976
DISCUS	S	S McKinlay	30.79m	40.26m	MacKenzie,G	1974
JAVELIN	J	C Jack	23.51m	49.81m	McBride,J	1969
JAVELIN	M	S Scroggie	31.56m	49.81m	McBride,J	1969
JAVELIN	S	I Soot	40.18m	57.07m	McBride,J	1971
4X100M	J	Freeland	55.17s	50.50s	Ruthven	1987
4X100M	M	Freeland	no time	46.60s	Simpson	1972
4X100M	S	Ruthven	no time	45.50s	Freeland	1981
4X400M	J	Freeland	4m 31.03s	4m 09.07s	Simpson	1995
4X400M	M	Freeland	4m 05.66s	3m 53.49s	Simpson	1995
4X400M	S	Simpson	3m 50.50s	3m 41.03s	Freeland	1992

## STANDARDS

FREELAND	1ST	2077 POINTS	NICOL	4TH	1529 POINTS
SIMPSON	2ND	1974 POINTS	THORNBANK	5TH	1125 POINTS
RUTHVEN	3RD	1923 POINTS	WOODLANDS	6TH	1056 POINTS

## 1st XI

**The 2000 season began with a telling quotation from a member of staff playing for Perth Northern in the first game. He said, 'they (the players) don't realise how good they could be'.**

Looking back at the end of the season, I can conclude that the 1st XI finally realised how good it could be, and erased the memory of a rather dismal season the year before. This is all the more remarkable for the fact that all the players had played at some stage in 1999, and most of them are back for at least one more year.

So, we began in April with an inexperienced side under the leadership of Andrew Moodie and a couple of 'old hands' in Colin Thwaites and Hamish Forbes. All three of these players were to have outstanding seasons, and all played a notable part in our six victories. Perth Northern should have been beaten comfortably, especially as we scored nearly 200 runs and they held on for the draw at 62 for 9. Draws were indeed our speciality in the first few games, as we could not quite bowl sides out. Loretto batted for over four hours for 164-7, Dollar collapsed to 136-7 after their Barbadian had threatened to take the game away from us. Already, however, the resilience of this side had begun to shine through: sheer determination not to be beaten, and the first glimpses of how focused we could be in the field.

This resilience was to be tested to the full in the Fettes game at home. On a wearing pitch we collapsed to 108 all out. The fact that we reached even this paltry total was down to some judicious strokeplay from Neil McIlwraith and James Phillips against the left-arm spinner Jackson who spun us out with 6 wickets. We began the Fettes innings with two wickets in the first over and then watched as the next two batsmen went to 54 for 3 in ten overs, before an astonishing turnaround began with two outstanding catches by wicketkeeper Tom Booth. Fettes crumbled to 57 for 7 and then to 80 all out, Hamish Forbes taking 6-34. The Fettes professional commented at the end about the intensity of the fielding display being the best he had ever seen from a schoolboy side. Praise indeed from a former internationalist.

The last game before half-term was the traditional game against the Old Strathallians, usually another keenly-fought encounter. The Old Boys batted first but, apart from Eddie Anderson's 70, they struggled against Colin Thwaites who took 7-37, his best figures for the XI. In the School's reply most batsmen got going, but William Bowry and Neil McIlwraith deserve praise for their long stand against some good fast bowling, which set us up nicely in the last hour for the chase with wickets in hand. It was Andrew Moodie who got the momentum going before James Phillips saw the XI home, chasing 170. So, we entered the half-term holiday unbeaten and looking forward to the harder games to come.

Two games immediately followed half-term, against the XL Club and Occasionals. The first of these, played on a rain-affected wicket, resulted in the XL Club's setting a fair declaration and the 1st XI's winning by four wickets thanks to entertaining innings from skipper Moodie (55) and Lawrence Court (21). On the Saturday, the victory over the Occasionals was even more comprehensive, by 10 wickets, as William Bowry (35no) and Tom Booth (89no)

put on 151 unbeaten for the first wicket, after Hamish Forbes' 5-51 had earlier bowled the Occasionals out.

After the match against Edinburgh Academy fell victim to the weather for the third year in a row (incidentally the only one cancelled in 2000), came the big challenge - Merchiston at Colinton. This was a game of missed opportunities. A decent start was squandered before Andrew Moodie's powerful striking saw us lunch at 126 for 4. Forty minutes after lunch Strathallan was all out for 130, a collapse almost of English proportions. This left Merchiston with the task of scoring at just over two an over to win the game, a task that should have been well within their capabilities. But not for the first time this season, the Strathallan players fought back hard. After an early wicket for Thwaites, it took James Phillips to snare three wickets either side of tea to put the pressure back on Merchiston. At 90-5 things did not look so rosy for Merchiston, but the heat and long time spent in the field eventually took their toll on the Strath players and Merchiston beat us without losing any further wickets. A disappointing loss, but the players realised it would have taken a herculean effort to win the game after such a major collapse.

The following day saw the XI in the field once more with a strong MCC batting line-up to contend with. Steady bowling from Thwaites and Forbes in the morning pegged back the MCC scoring rate, before Neil McIlwraith's fast emerging all-round talent induced a declaration at 190-9. For this game, 2nd XI 'keeper Robbie Stewart stood in for Tom Booth who had injured his knee at Merchiston. He did a good job at short notice. James Phillips was promoted to open in the absence of Booth and he, together with William Bowry, put on 78 for the first wicket in reasonable time, setting up, for the other batsmen, a platform from which to launch a victory charge. It was a ferocious innings from skipper Andrew Moodie (78 no) that sealed a good victory by 5 wickets, our first victory over MCC for some considerable period of time.

Our penultimate fixture was a game against St Philip's College from Alice Springs in the Northern Territory of Australia. This young Aussie side won the toss and elected to bat on a low, slow wicket, and were made to pay for it with some accurate Strath bowling. All the main bowlers got in on the act to bowl them out for 66 runs, Hamish Forbes taking his fourth haul of five or more wickets in an innings for the season. In reply, only Tom Booth batted with any assurance as we lost five wickets, overhauling the Australian total.

And so, to Glenalmond for the final fixture against our traditional and closest rivals. Yet again, we lost the toss away from home and were sent into bat by the Glenalmond skipper. Against some wayward early bowling we rocketed to 32 from the first five overs before both openers were removed in quick succession along with the captain, first ball. A minor crisis ensued which meant that Neil McIlwraith (45) and Lawrence Court (40) had to get their heads down and rebuild the innings. They did so very successfully, Neil

# Cricket

in particular looking like the fine player we knew he could be before not getting the benefit of the considerable doubt of an LBW decision. All the middle-order players contributed valuable totals to leave an all-out score of 172 half an hour before tea. What happened next was cricketing drama at its best, as Strathallan reduced Glenalmond to 11-3 before tea, all three wickets to a hostile McIlwraith. After this the Glenalmond players shut up shop somewhat, but two further wickets for McIlwraith and two for Forbes reduced the opposition to 74-7 with twelve overs to go. Alas, we could take only one further wicket through Thwaites before time was up and Glenalmond reached the safety of 95 for 8. This was a game we should have won if we had attacked more in the last hour, but it was not to be. Perhaps next year is the time to lose our Glenalmond hoodoo.

The success of the team this year was due, in no small measure, to a number of impressive all-round performances. In fact, teamwork was the major strength of this young Strathallan side. Six batsmen scored over 120 runs with Andrew Moodie (305 at 33.89) and Tom Booth (289 at 32.11) the leading lights. Newcomer Lawrence Court managed 151 at nearly 22, and even veterans Forbes and Thwaites chipped in with runs at important stages. The bowling was good throughout the season, Colin Thwaites (29 wickets at 10.28), Hamish Forbes (32 wickets at 12.88) and Neil McIlwraith (18 wickets at 8.44), making sure than no team ever really got on top of our attack. The way Colin and Neil came roaring back at teams to knock over opposition tails was particularly impressive, whilst all three were well below 3 an over in economy throughout the season. The fielding was outstanding on many occasions, with a good spread of catches being held across the team. Any side with as many players with good flat arms in the field has to be seriously competitive, the more so with an excellent wicketkeeper behind the stumps in Tom Booth, who marshalled the troops in the field behind the captain and led the aggressive fielding effort. His catch down the leg-side against Fettes off Thwaites, which sparked Fettes' collapse, had to be seen to be believed.

With most of these players, and others who made their debut in the term, available for at least another year, prospects look bright for next season. We are due to host the Festival, and possibly tour either Ireland or Holland. A good depth of players is essential and players on the fringes in the 2nd XI should set their sights high and aim to get into the side next season.

My thanks, as always, go to Earnside coaches who had fewer cancellations than for many years, and to SODEXHO, for producing the catering throughout the term. An extended word of thanks goes to Nick du Boulay for his coaching of the batsmen and umpiring, and to the players for making the season so successful after the trials of last year. Can it be that I am looking forward eagerly to next season already?

RHF

## 1st XI Results 2000

Played 11    Won 6    Lost 1    Drawn 4

Strathallan    197-5 dec (T. Booth, 50; A. R. Moodie, 46; F. M. Whitelaw, 46no)  
Perth Northern    62-9 (C. A. Thwaites, 6-10; H. D. Forbes, 2-19)

**DRAWN**

Loretto School    164-7 dec (C. A. Thwaites 5-35)  
Strathallan    98-7 (W. Bowry 30, J. A. Phillips 14 no)

**DRAWN**

Strathallan    173-6 dec (L. V. Court 34 no, W. Bowry 23, N. J. McIlwraith 22)  
Dollar Academy    136-7 (M. Forde 38; H. D. Forbes 5-27)

**DRAWN**

Strathallan    108 all out (N. J. McIlwraith 27, J. A. Phillips 28; R. Jackson 6-44)  
Fettes College    80 all out (Murray 34; H. D. Forbes 6-34, N. J. McIlwraith 2-9)

**WON BY 28 RUNS**

Old Strathallians    170 all out (E. Anderson 70; C. A. Thwaites 7-37, N. J. McIlwraith 2-19)  
Strathallan    174-7 (A. R. Moodie 33, N. J. McIlwraith 28, W. Bowry 25)

**WON BY 3 WICKETS**

XL Club    124 for 6 dec (G. McLaren 34 no, H. D. Forbes 3-52)  
Strathallan    128 for 6 (A. R. Moodie 55, L. V. Court 21)

**WON BY 4 WICKETS**

Occasionals    150 all out (S. Ives 70, H. D. Forbes 5-51)  
Strathallan    151 for no wicket (T. Booth 89 no, W. Bowry 35 no)

**WON BY 10 WICKETS**

Strathallan    130 all out (T. M. Booth 24, A. R. Moodie 57)  
Merchiston Castle    131 for 5 (J. A. Phillips 3-18)

**LOST BY 5 WICKETS**

MCC    190 for 9 dec (D. Pooniah 57, C. A. Thwaites 3-52, N. J. McIlwraith 3-30)  
Strathallan    196 for 5 (A. R. Moodie 78, W. Bowry 35, J. A. Phillips 34)

**WON BY 5 WICKETS**

Strathallan    141-9 dec (T. M. Booth 55, H. D. Forbes 33)  
St. Philip's College    66 all out (N. J. McIlwraith 3-7, C. A. Thwaites 3-14, H. D. Forbes 5-18)

**WON BY 5 WICKETS ON 1ST INNINGS**

Strathallan    172 all out (N. J. McIlwraith 45, L. V. Court 40, E. Matheson 26)  
Glenalmond College    95 for 8 (N. J. McIlwraith 5-38, H. D. Forbes 2-20)

**DRAWN**



## 2nd XI

We went 'on tour' before half-term with a succession of away fixtures. In the first Scott MacFarlane bowled tightly against an over-zealous Loretto side. Restricting them to under a hundred gave hope, but two good seamers, and a lot of unnecessary 'talk', demoralised the batting and we were skittled. At Dollar, always an easier fixture, we cruised to a big total on a small ground. They had no answer to Philip Scales' leg-spin and were soon 'hitched'.

At Fettes we were forced to fight for runs against a South African who could have fathered most of our team, but we bowled equally tightly. Their batting lacked technique and we came near to a win. In the return game (at home) with Fettes, Adam Robertson batted shrewdly and a few others chipped in to mount a modest total. As before, Fettes' batting was weak and good spells by Gary Hutton and Philip Scales, together with positive fielding, secured a narrow win.

Sound batting by Nick Common and Jamie Cameron in constant drizzle got us to a satisfactory total at Glenalmond. We were just getting the measure of their batting when a downpour finished off the game.

The ground at Edinburgh Academy was small. Wayward bowling and mounting extras cost us dear. Two good players smacked it around and we were left an impossible task. A large 1st XI bowler soon had us in trouble but some aggressive batting posted a good reply. Only when the quickie reappeared did we fail with 10 balls to go.

In the game against Merchiston Castle an outstanding innings, at first patient then dominating, by Nick Gdula and some late big hits from Euan Matheson allowed a declaration. Lack of real penetration in the bowling, however, enabled them to bat out the draw with some comfort.

In the final match against Glenalmond we struggled to 118, a spell of rain forcing a declaration that gave both sides chance to win. Some awful fielding and leg-side bowling to a short boundary meant they were soon over 60 for 1 wicket down. After another interruption for rain we came out with more purpose against a long tail, but the catches kept on going down. It was a game we should have won.

This was a youthful side, but it never lacked enthusiasm. Occasional imports of sixth formers helped, but our inexperience was often all too evident. John Davey, new to full-time captaincy, got better as the season went on and he generally marshalled the side well. He also had late success with the bat. Before his inevitable promotion to the 1st XI, Scott MacFarlane was the outstanding bowler, always accurate and tantalising in length. Philip Scales was not far behind, but needs to bowl a lot more practice overs to be effective at a higher level. Ian Robb could produce fiery spells but found it hard to sustain his aggression. Andrew Donald never found the rhythm and line which undid Glenalmond last season. Injury and illness deprived us of Nick Common too often: he looks a fine cricketer in the making. Robbie

Stewart quickly became a more than competent 'keeper and batsman. Adam Robertson showed good technique, Stuart Chapman smashed it around and Greg McKerracher had a good eye but, except during Nick Gdula's exceptional knock against Merchiston, no batsman was able to dominate.

Thanks to all the 2nd XI cricketers who, down the years I have been taking the side, have given me so much commitment, pleasure, and even amusement.

JNF

## 3rd XI

The 3rd XI under the Machiavellian leadership of Messrs Court and Streatfeild-James was a mixture of 'old lags' and some youngsters, beating Fettes twice by 99 runs and 8 wickets, and playing what can be more accurately termed 'social' cricket. Stars here included former 1st XI player Euan Matheson making a comeback after a rugby injury, together with bowlers Alan Hay, Jamie Laux and Mark Roger who all took 4 wickets in a match. Efforts will be made to obtain more fixtures for this side next season.

### SENIOR COLTS

The Senior Colts teams were going to find success hard given their track record from the previous two years. Real quality of players was lacking, and the spine of the side was prone to buckling at crucial moments. That said, there were a number of encouraging performances from Marcus Read (who scored most runs and captained the side), David Stewart, Peter Mackie, Ken Mackenzie and Gregor Leslie, which may suggest that there will be some development of their skills in the senior sides. A good win against Loretto began the season, but alas this was the only success, though draws were achieved against Glenalmond and Merchiston. The B side had a number of very low-scoring games, but seemed to enjoy their participation.

### JUNIOR COLTS

In the Junior Colts there was a good deal of talent available for the first time in several years, reflecting a very good Riley U13 side the previous season. The A side had a reasonably successful season winning three out of seven games, with another three drawn. Wins were recorded over Fettes (twice) and Merchiston. The only loss came at the hands of Glenalmond College in the return fixture. Star performers here were the captain Tom Hine, Ross Anders, Daniel Hoffmann and David Coaton, all of whom produced regular runs. Wickets tended to be shared around amongst both spinners and seam bowlers. The one disappointing aspect of this year group was their commitment in the field. They would have benefited enormously from watching the 1st XI and seeing how aggressive fielding can liven the game up. The B side was a happy band losing only one game out of five played, the outstanding player here being Ewan Templeman, and a number won selection for the A side as the term went on.

RHF

# Hockey

## 1st XI Girls Hockey Report

**After a hugely enjoyable tour of Australia during the summer holidays, the astroturf in freezing September was something of a let down.**

Still, the team quickly found their feet again and began what culminated in another successful season, despite a lack of silverware. Comfortable victories were achieved over Glenalmond, Gordonstoun, Fettes, Loretto, Albyn and Dollar, with many goals being scored against each team. We had many touring teams which visited us over the season, including South Americans and Canadians, and we remained undefeated to them. Our Midlands Cup run, however, was not so successful, since we were defeated away to Morrison's, and the Indoor Cup did not see us progress past the first tournament. Four players were selected to represent the Midlands District in the Inter-District Tournament in November; Anneke Laux and Alison Roger at U18 level, and

Hazel Whyte and Laura Kotseroglou at U16 level. Special congratulations must be given to Hazel, who gained a place in the Scottish U16 team which took part in the Home Countries and European Championships over the Easter period. Perhaps one of the most pleasing things this season has been the participation in the team from all years, even Riley, and this can only prove promising for the future. I would like to thank, on behalf of the team, all those who have helped with the Girls 1st XI this season, in particular Mr Giles and Mr Armitage, and Miss Smith for all the help and time which she has given to us.

**Alison Roger**



# Hockey Report

## INDOOR

After wins against Rannoch (5-3) and Glenalmond (4-2), we approached the Glenalmond Tournament in good spirits. With a narrow loss to Perthshire (3-4) we finished the Tournament in second place, having defeated Rannoch (4-0); Loretto (5-0); Edinburgh Academy (3-0) and drawn with Glenalmond (1-1) in the process.

## OUTDOOR

Pre-season preparation and our training with the SHU U16 squad had left the 1st XI squad well prepared for the rigours that were to lie ahead.

An opening 3-1 victory against Gordonstoun was well deserved. We started well and maintained a good level of concentration throughout the game. This was followed with a similar convincing win against Loretto (4-1) with the team rally beginning to gel together. This was reflected with a well earned 3-3 draw against the SHU U16.

After an 8-0 thrashing of Rannoch we were unfortunate to lose Euan Matheson for the remainder of the season, but the squad showed their strength in depth with a 4-1 victory away to Glenalmond and a 9-1 defeat of Inverness HC U18's.

The first disappointment of the season came against Fettes. We started strongly and were 3-0 up going into the second half. A passage of slack play allowed Fettes to get a goal back, but with less than five minutes to go things still looked good at 3-1, but this was not to be and we allowed Fettes back into the game to steal a 3-3 draw. This was followed with another 3-3 draw in the return against Loretto and, although we never looked like losing, a certain sharpness was missing in our play. Away to Robert Gordon's we were determined to put the disappointment of the last two games behind us. A 3-0 victory was well deserved especially as we had an under-strength side.

Back to full strength the final School game of the season was against Aberdeen Grammar, the Scottish U18 Cup finalists: Coming from behind twice, we went into the half time 2-2. We dominated the exchanges in the second half to run out 4-2 winners with all four goals coming from the stick of Grant Davidson.

The season ended with the annual Old Strathallian encounter. At 3-0 down the Old Boys looked dead and buried but in using all their experience they got back to 4-4 only for Grant Davidson to seal it at 5-4 with another four goal haul. There have been many memorable moments this season:- Captain Andrew Moodie's words of encouragement and powerful back play, Tom Booth's finally scoring from a drag flick against Loretto, and Patrick Bennet's goal in the same game to name a few. But this has been a squad of character and teamwork without which an unbeaten season would not have been achieved. With seven of this year's squad returning we definitely are looking forward to next year.

## 1ST XI SQUAD

N McIlwraith	GK	(Half Colours)
H Forbes		(Half Colours)
F Mackie		(Half Colours)
A Moodie		(Captain)(Half Colours)
E Matheson		(Full Colours)
J McDougall		
S McKinlay		(Half Colours)
A Hay		(Secretary)
T Booth		(Full Colours, SHU U16)
P Bennet		(Half Colours)
G Davidson		(Full Colours)
S Chapman		
R Sutherland		

## ALSO PLAYED

F Maxwell  
C Williamson  
E Aitkenhead  
D Hoffman  
L Court  
J Cameron

Stats: P11 W8 D3

Goals: F48 A19

Goal Scorers: 18 G Davidson  
6 A Hay, P Bennet  
5 A Moodie  
4 T Booth, R Sutherland  
1 E Matheson, J McDougall, E Aitkenhead, S Chapman, J Cameron

## Vintage Year For Boys' Hockey

With Mr Giles back from his Australian jaunt, the Boys' Firsts remained unbeaten and played some great hockey under Andrew Moodie's captaincy.

Amongst their fine wins were a demolition of Glenalmond away, never an easy fixture, and in the final school match a comprehensive defeat of Aberdeen Grammar, the Scottish U18 Cup finalists. However, in any major sport it is not only the first team that brings credit to a school and Strathallan teams across the age groups in general had a very successful season. The 2nd XI and the promising U15's in this respect deserve much praise for all their effort, play and promise. In fact few schools of our size can boast the fielding of eight sides and it is sometimes difficult to find enough fixtures for everyone.

The eight sides cannot be put out without the dedication of several members of staff and it will be hard to replace Mr. Wands and Mr Wightman who have turned out faithfully to oversee the U15C and 3rd XI respectively-we wish them well. It will also be difficult to replace Mr Ford who has worked tirelessly for Strathallan and Chameleon hockey over the years and we wish him a very happy retirement.

My own thanks go to all other involved staff, without which we would not be the force we are, together with the Grounds staff, Catering staff and Earnside coaches, whose help is much appreciated in the smooth running of a short, but hectic season.

DA

# Netball Report

A season of fartleks, fitness, hill sprints, drills, wins (and occasional losses) was over. It was hard to believe that all this had been crammed into just two terms. But it wasn't all hard work. The annual netball dinner to Paco's was perhaps the highlight of the season, Vicky K introduced us to the kick-boxing delights of Tae Bo and who can forget Eleanor's singing in the minibus every Wednesday on the way to Bell's Sports Centre (no I didn't join in, honest).

With such a young team, it was always going to be interesting to see how well we performed together, especially at the start of the season. Of the nine league squad players, two were in Fourth Form, three in Fifth Form. You would have been forgiven, therefore, for thinking that this team would need a season to gain the experience needed to become a formidable and unbeatable side. Not so. The younger team members, all fresh from tour to Barbados, proved to be blessed with skill and determination and the team gelled instantly.

The season started well for the Firsts, with wins against Gordonstoun at home and Glenalmond in the Perth League proving to be the most notable successes. The relatively light fixture list of the winter term was balanced with the veritable plethora of matches arranged for the spring. Gordonstoun were again beaten, 18-15, away this time but their Seconds proved too strong for ours. The match against Madras proved challenging for the Firsts, but with some great defensive work we maintained a 19-18 victory. Hutchesons were well beaten by the Firsts (33-5) and by the Seconds. The high point of the season lay ahead: the Independent Schools' Netball Tournament.

With Dundee High pulling out, we hosted the tournament, and we couldn't have been more prepared, despite the fact that I consistently lost the toss (every time- it must have been a global conspiracy). The First squad won all their group matches, despite a close call with our own Third Form team. Needless to say we hung our heads in shame after a narrow 3-2 victory. The Thirds to their credit progressed to the semis along with us, but the prospect of an all-Strath final was thwarted by Glenalmond, although the Thirds, most notably Sarah Robb as GD, gave a valiant performance against a

very strong side. The Seconds, in by far the harder group, narrowly missed out on a semi-final place too. With a win against Rannoch in the semis, we found ourselves in a repeat of last year's final - a showdown against the auld enemy Glenalmond. The first half of the match was tight and with the score of 5-5 at half time there was everything to play for. We made the second half ours with instinctive defending, fluid movement and sublime shooting - a real display of teamwork. We won our seventh title in a row 13-9.

House netball was also keenly contested this year. Thornbank managed to overturn the 13-4 deficit suffered by the juniors and won the senior competition 23-6. For the first time, at least since I've been at Strath, we had stolen the silverware from Woodlands' trophy cabinet and (at the risk of a little self-indulgence) what a marvellous feeling that was.

I must praise the commitment of the league squad for giving up their Wednesday evenings for two and a half terms despite looming exams and endless coursework. I was truly proud to captain such a determined and dedicated team.

Thanks must also go to Miss England, Miss Mason and Mrs Ingram-Forde, not just for pushing us to achieve our goals but also for actually making wet training sessions on the all-weather fun. Special congratulations also to Miss Mason and Mrs Ingram-Forde for conveniently disappearing every time the hint of a fartlek was mentioned.

I would like to wish next season's team the best of luck, not only with their matches but also with the unavoidable hill sprints. It will be interesting to see if Lindsey is still allergic to umpiring, and if Kirsty and Mimi will ever miss their target. Good luck to Jo too. I hope she has as much fun as captain as I did.

Full Colours: Leila Arakji

Half Colours: Jo Coaton, Eleanor Wanless, Lindsey Chisholm

**Leila Arakji**



Another strenuous training session for the Perth League squad.

# Tennis

## Boys' Tennis

**With a fairly inexperienced team taking to the courts this year it was going to be a sharp learning curve for all.**

The courts were once again fully occupied during each training session with some 34 senior boys opting for the Tennis option this year. It was also good to see the courts well used on other days as well.

The training sessions with the professional coach, Peter Derbyshire, once again proved very popular especially amongst the Riley pupils, but we did have some senior boys taking up the opportunity as well. This is a very valuable part of the development of the game at Strathallan as when the pupils come to the senior school they have a good grounding in the game and the needed techniques and skills.

Every year the Girls' and Boys' captains have a mixed doubles tournament. The Girls hosted this year's event and the following is an account of the event by Philip Kuhn, the Boys' captain:

'The mixed doubles tournament between Philip Kuhn's team (capt. of Boys' Tennis) and Stephanie Dorward's team (capt. of Girls' Tennis) took place towards the end of the term with final exams looming very close. Although there was a lot of work to do, all players put a lot of effort into the matches which contributed greatly to a very nice day. The weather did not promise much when both teams arrived at the astro-turf, but no one was even thinking of having a break because of the rain showers. Philip's team consisting of the pairings Philip-Mimi, Scott-Catriona and Blair-Tisi just won with one set ahead (5-4) against Steph's team which consisted of the following pairs: Steph-Edward, Anneka-Max and Jo-Andrew.

Our thanks go to Miss Smith for her organisation and encouragement'.

Our matches against Rannoch and Edinburgh Academy were both close in results and very entertaining to watch. Merchiston and Stewart Melville's

proved to be our toughest opponents and showed that regular Club tennis definitely does benefit a school team. The match against Glenalmond College included a Junior team which did very well to win 5-4. Having never played as a team before the boys did very well to secure a win. The matches against Loretto and Dollar were unfortunately cancelled.

In the Inter-House competition Nicol were drawn against Freeland and Simpson against Ruthven. Freeland won their tie 4-2 but the other tie went to 3 sets all and the games won had to be counted leaving Ruthven the winners. The final between Freeland and Ruthven was also 3 sets all and again in the games count Ruthven won 26-22. The boys team against the Master's Common Room were only just able to clinch a 5-4 win. Regular team players this year included Philip Kuhn (captain), Max Reynolds, Ed Willing, Scott Galloway, Blair Chalmers, Andrew Mack and Guthrie Whyte.

Thank you to all the boys for their enthusiasm during the term and to Mr John McCann and Mr Roy Sneddon for their time assistance on and off the courts.

### BOYS' TENNIS RESULTS 2000

Strathallan	v	Rannoch	.....	won 5-4
Strathallan	v	Edinburgh Academy	....	won 6-3
Strathallan	v	Merchiston	.....	lost 1-8
Strathallan	v	Glenalmond - Seniors	...	lost 2-7
Strathallan	v	Glenalmond - Juniors	...	won 5-4
Strathallan	v	Fettes	.....	lost 3-6
Strathallan	v	Stewart's Melville	.....	lost 1-8
Strathallan	v	MCR	.....	won 5-4

## Girls' Tennis

**The Girls' tennis teams have enjoyed mixed success this season. Although most scheduled fixtures remained unchanged, the same cannot be said of the team and its members.**

The usual summer term exams and various Duke of Edinburgh expeditions gave every player the opportunity to experiment with their style and game as they moved around the other five members of the team at some point during the season.

As always the Kilgraston Tournament was an enjoyable occasion with other junior entrants progressing to a high level within the competition. The mixed doubles matches both within School and at the Glenalmond Tournament allowed the girls involved to lift their game to the faster and stronger level of the boys'.

Speed and strength were the cause of some of the more light-hearted moments on the courts this season. Laura Langlands' wild yet successful style saw her hurdle over the net on more than one occasion. The partnership of Anneke Laux and Jo Coaton was somewhat violent as both were determined to serve into one another rather than across the net which proved highly amusing to onlookers though not to the unsuspecting receiver.

On behalf of Girls' tennis I would like to thank the numerous members of staff who coached and encouraged the team, also the players themselves for making it such an enjoyable season.

# Cross Country

As tends to be the pattern, a number of runners enjoyed the social element of running during the term; on match days an often completely different group competed for the school.

It is, however, most noticeable that the most successful team was that of which the members covered most miles in training. As most ageing runners know, in this sport the amount of running done can make up for a shortfall in speed and talent.

The season started with a well contested and entertaining inter-house competition, with Peter Hewitt, Alasdair Carmichael and Ivo Soot the individual boys' and Katie Fleming and Claire Marshall the girls' winners.

We then hosted the Strathallan short course event, again excellently organised by Mr Fleming, and well supported by local schools. All home teams performed well, with the junior, intermediate and senior girls, and the junior and senior boys posting wins. Similar results unfolded at Glenalmond, with the senior girls and boys, and intermediate girls winning their races on this testing course.

After a good season there was much anticipation for the National championships at Irvine, and the senior teams both put in good team performances: Mike Wilson, Neal Adam, Chris Johnson and Ivo Soot won a well deserved Silver medal, and Claire Marshall, Rachel Dobson, Suzie Harvey, Ashley Cameron and Kirsty Norris worked hard for their Bronze. At the same meet, Kirsty Hay's 14th in the under 14 girls was an excellent performance, and one on which to build.

Overall, this has been an excellent season; as ever, the rewards have gone to those committed to put in the effort, and to those for whom the importance of the team's doing well has overcome the pain and discomfort of this exacting sport. Once again, most thanks should go to Mr Fleming, without whose administrative abilities athletics would be very much weaker.

DMH



# Golf Report

**It is pleasing to report on another busy and successful golfing season. Individual honours must go to Allan Hay who won two prestigious external competitions against some very good golfers.**

His first victory came in the Golf Foundation Team Championship Qualifying round, at The Open qualifying course of Leven Links. He also was victorious in the PKSGA Individual Championship at Muckhart, later in the season, when his victory qualified him to represent the County Schools team in the Scottish Schools Team Championships, where he played well but without success.

The future of the School's golf team looks to be in good hands as we saw for the first time in my ten year tenure as master i/c. The winners of our major internal competitions were both Fourth Formers. Many congratulations indeed then to Marcus Read for his success as the Individual Champion in the Inter-House Golf Competition and to Gordon Bujaud for winning the 36 hole St Columba's Trophy. Both boys played with success and some distinction throughout the season. One example will illustrate the competitive nature of Gordon when, against Perth Academy, he found himself 5 down after 6 holes against a lower handicapped golfer. Many might have been tempted to just throw in the towel at this point, but not Gordon. He fought back to go all square at the 17th and even had the chance to win the match at the last hole when he narrowly missed a four foot putt. Marcus' dedication to his game was exemplary and he was arguably the player who made the most improvement this year.

Freeland won the Inter-House Golf Competition this year, finally wresting it away from Simpson, where it has resided for a number of years, with a strong line-up of Allan Hay, Marcus Read, Joe Watson and Hamish Forbes. In addition to the names already mentioned, a number of other younger players represented the School team and if they continue to work on their games, then there will be healthy competition for places in the future. Credit then to Douglas Bennet, Robbie Stewart, Peter Lyburn, Joe Watson and Daniel Hoffmann for their contributions during the season.

All the School matches were evenly contested and the four man PKSGA League team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final of this event. A highlight was a 3-1 win against last years' winners, Perth Academy, who had a team full of single figure handicaps. Although the team lost more matches than they won, the games were invariably keenly contested and defeat was often by the narrowest of margins.

Mr Kitson and I are really looking forward to the next two/three seasons when, hopefully, the experience gained by the younger players in the last couple of seasons will bear fruit.

The three man team of Allan, Marcus and Gordon finished a creditable 3rd in the Scottish Independent Schools Championship at Glenalmond. Our highest ever finish in this event

A highlight this year was the playing of a Staff v Pupils match at Auchterarder where, in a combined stableford competition, the staff team, led by Captain Kitson, secured victory by 163 points to 160 in a very close finish. Top individual points scorer was 'Tiger' Keir with a very impressive 38 points. I'm sure the boys will be looking for revenge next year, particularly as they also lost to the staff and the Old Boys in our annual match at Panmure.

Captain of golf, Grant Davidson, found his appearances restricted due to external examination commitments, so it was hardly surprising that he could not quite maintain his form from last year which earned him the two 'domestic' trophies. However, he always managed to entertain us with his swashbuckling approach and prodigious length - his 8 iron on the 18th at Auchterarder in the match against Perth Academy, which was uphill and against the strong wind will long live in the memory, as it sailed over the green and the hedge at the back. He contributed significantly to team morale through his approach to the game, as was exemplified at Leven Links where, playing in ill-fitting, borrowed shoes, he soon found them too uncomfortable to bear, discarded them and played the majority of his round in his stockinged feet, for the benefit of the team.

As ever, I am indebted to the enthusiastic and willing assistance of Mr Kitson to share the load with me, especially during the exam season. His approach to the game should be an example to all of us of the pleasure (and pain) that can be gained from this game of ours.

I must also thank our visiting professional, Mark Pirie, from Crieff Golf Club who has patiently been coaching some of our less experienced golfers, and the Secretary and Committee at Auchterarder Golf Club for their generous support in allowing us to play our competitive matches on their course.

Without this support we would not be able to play anything like the number of games that we do.

NS



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# Clay Pigeon

## The Clay Pigeon Club continues to flourish and the number of pupils wanting to shoot has developed into a significant group of stalwarts.

The school continues to support the club very well and this year we are very proud to announce that the school now has its own "Skeet Range". I believe that we are the only school in Scotland, if not in the whole of the UK, to have such a facility. This has made training much more effective and fun.

### COMPETITIONS & REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Grant Davidson, our club Captain, has again been chosen to represent Scotland in the Olympic Skeet Home International Championship. Grant, an excellent shot and coach, lately has also helped coach some boys from a visiting prep school, as well as Strathallan pupils.

Our involvement in the British Championship (held each year in Stafford) started three years ago with a creditable fifth place and a H.G. trophy for Hamish Allan. In 1999 we improved by two places, finishing 3rd in the competition and showed that the first year's result was based on a depth of skill, and that Scotland could compete with the best from down south.

This year our six man team proved themselves to be the second best team in the UK by improving one place on their previous year's standing, finishing second to Bloxam School with a score of 220/300. Hamish Allan again shot well and finished with joint top score, narrowly losing to the Bloxam Captain by one clay.

The junior teams entered for the first time and shot very well, finishing sixth & eighth out of sixteen schools, Benno Rawlinson coming an excellent third equal in the H.G. challenge.

Strathallan's six-year dominance of the Scottish Schools Championship continued this year with a powerful display of shooting by our two senior teams at Cluny Clays, near Kirkcaldy. Our A-team scored a very impressive 129/150; with Grant Davidson beating Hamish Allan in the shoot off for the High Gun (H.G.) prize after they both scored 45/50 while Lawrence Court scored 39/50. The B-team; of Ben Kass, Allan Hay & Jo Watson; came second with a score of 101/150, Ben taking the High Gun prize for the side-by-side competition.

The Junior team from Riley House; Digby Legge, Benno Rawlinson, Andrew Campbell & brothers Matthew & Alex Smith; came second to Heriots Juniors by one clay and Alex lost the junior H.G. prize by the same margin.

In the Inter-House competition held on Wednesday 17th May, the Ruthven team of Lawrence Court, Hamish Allan, Fraser & Peter Mackie, held onto the Trophy they won last year beating the Simpson challenge by six clays; this was despite Grant Davidson's scoring an impressive 24/26.

With the breadth & depth described above, along with the support of my colleagues CNC, AJHW and the Bursar, the sport at Strathallan looks well set for a bright future.

My thanks to Grant Davidson and all the staff for another successful year.

PMV

# Swimming

## The swimming team goes from length to strength

With a new pool cover inserted and large windows at the deep end of the pool, we hope that the plans for refurbishing the changing room will go ahead very soon. At the end of last season we were sad to see ex-coach Klaus Glimm leaving the swimming team on such a high note of achievement. His position was taken over by Dr McDougall and Madam Duncan who were able to push on with some pretty intense training and developing a stronger team than before. The newly appointed captains, Fiona Hunter and Andrew Donald worked together well and managed to produce a team and efficiently defeat both Fettes and Rannoch but were unfortunate to have lost to Glenalmond in a very close match.

With the girls team on such a high note of ability, their future in the swimming team looks strong, as more and more girls try to take part in the competitions. As for the boys not so many but enough to keep their team going strong in future fixtures.

On behalf of me and Fiona Hunter, I would like to say thank you to Dr McDougall and Mrs Duncan for all the hard work they have put in, with the training sessions and also the fixtures they organised, the swimming team would not be the same without their help. Good luck for the future.

Andrew Donald

STRATHALLAN SCHOOL FOR SALE	
Item	Price £
New Old Strathallian Ties pure silk, broad gold and navy diagonal stripes	15.50
Old Strathallian Scarves	15.50
Old Strathallian Cufflinks double ovals with enamelled stripes	9.00
School Sweatshirts with Embroidered Badge, M L XL	15.00
Box of 6 Melamine Placemats black on white, School from Lawn	18.00
Coasters black on white melamine with School Crest	each 1.50 set of six 8.00
Black Leather Key-Ring with Enamelled Crest	2.00
Tiny Crest on Pin Badge	2.00
Print of School (View from Lawn) by T J Macleod	2.00
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Golf Umbrella gold, navy and royal panels - navy School Crest on one gold panel *only available by personal collection from School Shop.	16.00
All orders to School Shop Manager, Mrs Jennifer Wilkie Tel: 01738 815008 Cheques made payable to Freeland Services Ltd	

# Sub Aqua

The Strathallan School Sub-Aqua Club has a thriving membership of pupils from Fourth Form upwards. The trainee divers are instructed in the School swimming pool by qualified Instructors before embarking on diving expeditions around Oban and Largs, usually from the School hard boat, Strathallan.

With four of us trying to obtain our Club Diver Award, the past two terms have been busy for us in the Scuba-Diving fraternity. Regular visits have been made to Oban for training dives and Max, Matt, Mark and I have been very grateful for the great tuition from Mr McCann, Mr Weigall and advice from Miss Vass.

*With Mr Walker and Mr Wilson having put many hours of hard work into FML Strathallan she has become available for dives more recently. On the last trip three dives off the boat were made in the one day and a good time was had by everyone. Especially on the last dive where conger eels, a small octopus and lobsters were seen by all three of us. With Max, Matt and I going to Australia in the summer we hope to further our experience in slightly warmer waters.*

#### ANGUS SPEIRS U6 FORM

Our last trip to Oban in the first week of July saw the departure of Bill Weigall and Morag Vass, the backbone of the club for the past few years. We wish them every success and a speedy return to rejoin our expeditions, possibly to the Red Sea. Congratulations also go to Stevie Smith who gained his 'Club Diver' award, and a fantastic penultimate 20m dive on the wreck of the Breeda.

For the first time this year the Club participated in 'National Try-dive Week', and many pupils were exposed to the experience of being neutrally buoyant and breathing under water for the first time. Many thanks go to

Stevie Smith, Kirstie Aitken and Holly Harvey for helping to prepare the fearless try-divers.

Any staff or pupils who wish to experience a try-dive in the coming terms, or indeed join the club and become a fully-fledged 'rufty-tuftly' diver should contact Mr McCann for further details.



# Sailing

**Both new and old hands assembled this year, ready to experience once again the delights of sailing at Port Edgar under the direction of Helen Stewart as the new captain of sailing.**

As usual, most of the sailors opted to do some sort of sailing course, (as this probably is the main focus of Strath sailing) but this year, when we got there, the sun was often shining for some unexplainable reason, and so, as no one in their right minds would pass up a pleasure sail in Scotland when the sun was out, we put our lessons on hold.

This year, Helen managed to get down to Port Edgar after exams to do her instructor's course, whilst Charlie and Texas took up the mantle of "Rulers of the Waves," speeding across Queensferry Bay in the ever popular Dart 16 catamarans. The rest of us were content enough in single handers, and when we did venture out on the Darts, we found that sailing a performance dinghy was definitely not as easy as it seemed... The wind lived up to all expectations, providing an immensely unpredictable factor, with winds ranging from nil all the way up to levels where sailing becomes slightly less orthodox, with instinct taking the place of the finer points of technique, sometimes accompanied by a plethora of abuse when something went wrong.

Thanks must go to Mr. Walker, who organised the sailing games option, to all the School staff, who gave up their time to take us down to the sailing school, as well as to the sailing team at Port Edgar itself.

**Mark Stringer**

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# Horse Riding

**The Strathallan riding group have once again spent Thursday afternoons at the Dunvegan Equestrian Centre in Newburgh.**

They have enjoyed lessons on flatwork, jumping and lots of hacks out in the countryside around Newburgh. The seniors group of experienced riders have improved dramatically, having enjoyed riding a variety of horses which the stables produce for us. Lindsay Bickerton joined the group and soon became quite proficient. At the end of the summer term, Lindsay was presented with a shield for being the most improved beginner while Katie Smith won the award for the most improved advanced rider. This was awarded to Katie, as she will take on any horse the instructress chooses for her.

We will miss Katie next year but wish her every success in her chosen career.

Kate Streatfield - James has been taking the Riley pupils to Newburgh on Friday afternoons. They have also enjoyed their riding this year and have made good progress.

With the groups changing at half term, a large number of Riley pupils have been able to go riding this year.

The conversation on the way to the stables centres around who is going to ride Tilly or Willow and who is not going to ride Pernod. The girls are encouraged to tack up their ponies by themselves, although Stella and Zoey (from Dunvegan) are always on hand to help. The girls are then divided up into two groups, one group having a lesson and the other going out for a hack. The last outing of the year for Riley pupils saw them tackling various pony club games. Tilly, ridden by Rachel, proved to be the fastest (and the most difficult to stop.) and Cathy the most dangerous. Ricki decided he'd had enough of waiting for Cathy to pick up her crop and zoomed off down the school, at which point Cathy deliberately fell off. This was the high point of the conversation on the way home. After the games, prizes were awarded to all but especially to Ginny and Jenny for making the most progress in the beginners group and the advanced group respectively.

Our thanks go to Lisa, Max, Stella and Zoe at Dunvegan, as well as to all the horses and ponies. We look forward to returning next year.

**JSR Hutcheon**



# 24 Hour Sponsored Run

Some 300 members of the School Community participated in the First Annual Strathallan 24 Hour Sponsored Run that took place on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st May 2000.

This was very much a community affair, with pupils, staff (teaching and non-teaching) and their families and parents taking part. Adding spice to the occasion was a Carnegie Harriers Club "5 mile road race" that was incorporated into the main event.

Typical of Strathallan's efforts to support identified charities, there were plenty of volunteers to help with the time keeping, marshalling and safety and provision of food, this last seemingly on tap all night long.

The 5 mile course was testing but provided a variety of terrain and wonderful Perthshire scenery. Some of the competitors wore fancy dress, others went around as "three legged" teams and some went on unicycles. At one stage, we even had a horse taking part.



Our thanks go to Bill Duff for the massive amount of work he put into the organisation of the event and the highly successful raffle. Thanks also to those companies who sponsored the various trophies awarded to the category winners.

More than £3,000 was raised for the charities "Get Kids Going" and The Scottish Childrens' Hospice Association. An impressive effort and so... On to next year.

Corrie Shield (Best Boys House)	Simpson	152 Laps
Balendrick Shield (Best Girls House)	Woodlands	112 Laps
The Laundry Shop Trophy (individual boy)	David Chalmers	13 Laps
Sodexo Challenge Trophy (individual girl)	Laura Morley & Lynn Watson	12 Laps
Strathallan Shield (Riley Girl)	Vicky Drummond-Hay	12 Laps
Carnegie Harriers Shield (Riley boy)	JJ Chalmers & Liam O'Neill	13 Laps
Best Member of Staff	Cameron Hemming	13 Laps
5 Mile Road Race Winner	L.Lawson (Carnegie Harriers)	



# CCF Army Section Report

**I take up the story in June of last year when, after ten years in the Army Section I was thinking more of resigning gracefully than of taking over as the boss, which was how things panned out.**

Recruitment to the Section made up in enthusiasm for what it lacked in numbers: the annual options meeting produced three potential Fourth Formers in Timothy Law, Catriona Sutherland and Isla Barnard.

The first major event was the Highland Cadets' Tactical Competition in late September. We were unable, due to a change in the rules, to enter a mixed team and so borrowed three Marines (Adam Arakji, Stuart Chapman and at the very last minute Mark Roger) to make up the Boys' team along with Euan Aitkenhead, Fraser Chisholm, Douglas Bennett, Gervaise Henry and Andrew Donald, whilst the Girls (Kirsty Senior, Tamsin Read, Mimi and Tisi Bush, Angela McLaren, Lindsay Chisholm and Sarah Eddie) went one under strength, meaning that they were not eligible to win. The course was a complete change to that of all previous competitions, being a two-day exercise at Gairloch in which the aim was to escort "U.N. Observers" through hostile terrain to safety. Carrying webbing and bergens up the side of the hill overlooking the loch was not fun, but there were compensations in the fast boat rides and the final helicopter flight. In the end there were heated discussions about attending the prize-giving (compulsory), but the consolation of having both teams come in ahead of our nearest local competitors.

Field Day saw everyone on night exercise at Barry Buddon, the first time out for the Recruits, and a fantastically clear night - followed by a very wet, cold and windy morning. Mrs Rick proved the real value of mobile phones by getting the coach to collect us an hour early.

Training over the Autumn and Spring Terms went on as usual, with the Recruits aiming for their Army Proficiency Certificate (now obtained) and the

Seniors for their Advanced Certificate and a pass in the Cadre course. Rifle drill, not seen at Strath for at least ten years but a part of the Seniors' syllabus, has made a modest comeback and the standard of drill and marksmanship has risen satisfactorily. We managed a second overnight ex. at the end of the Spring Term, rounding off patrolling skills for the 5th Form and qualifying most cadets on the LSW. There is precious little time available in the Summer Term before the Fifth and Upper Sixth start their exams, and so for most of the term we were reduced to a very select group: the balance of the year has been filled out mostly by adventure training culminating in an abseil from Glen Lednock dam.

I can report that the Upper Sixth were of enormous help in the training programme: Helen Stewart was promoted to Cadet Sgt. Major (outranking Neal Adam of the Royal Marines), Kirsty Senior, Shuna Readman and Anna Watson to Colour Sergeant, and Gervaise Henry to Sergeant. Many thanks to them and to Tamsin Read and Andrew Donald. Next year's leaders will be Fraser Chisholm and Euan Aitkenhead, both now Sergeants, and Corporal Alasdair Gardner.

I leave things as they stand just short of the end of term: we are looking forward to the annual Camp at Cultybraggan, recruiting figures show an upturn, the Fifth Form are all intending to stay on next year ..... and I am moving on, to our long-standing opponents the Royal Marines. I wish the Section all the best in the future and I urge 3rd Form readers to join up because I know how much enjoyment and experience can be had (for practically no money) in the CCF - you can even do your Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the CCF. Go for it.

ACWS-J

## Cultybraggan

**A full section of cadets went to the Army training camp at Cultybraggan near Loch Earn to spend a week putting into practice the skills which they had learnt over the past year.**

The first night was spent on survival where we were taught to gut fish and rabbits and obtain clean drinking water from the surroundings. Day 2 we honed our seamanship and built a raft. In the evening we took a shot at clay pigeon shooting. Day 3 was spent on the ranges at Barry Buddon with best shots coming from Calum Emslie and Alasdair Gardner. Day 4 we were involved in field formation and honed our close quarter battle drill. In the evening an elite six conquered the assault course and were only eight seconds behind the leaders but with a very young team we performed to very high standards. Day 5 was spent out of uniform on the Glenogle trail using

our leadership and teamwork skills to complete each task. In the afternoon we went climbing at Hadrian's Wall Centre or canoeing at Lochearnhead. Day 6 was spent in camp completing activities against the clock in which we were top. Overall the standards set were very high and we came back after each day with positive remarks from the training instructors. Thanks must be given to Captain Rick and Lieutenant Streatfield-James as well as 21 Cadet Training Team for their organisation.

Alasdair Gardner.

# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

## Debbie Carr, my predecessor as Award Officer,

once commented in the pages of the Strathallian that a fundamental aim of D of E is to introduce pupils to 'a challenging programme of activities'. When I took over from Debbie in January, the challenge of organising the Award Scheme gave me a strong feeling of empathy with the pupils. However, my feelings of empathy were quickly converted into alarm when my own programme of activities looked like getting a bit more challenging straight away. The first letter that I received from Award HQ informed me of their decision to give the Award a comprehensive makeover. Fortunately for me, the changes have actually led to a simplification of the Award requirements and it is now much easier for pupils and staff to figure out, and remember, precisely what candidates have to do in order to satisfy the Award's requirements. Parents will be pleased to know that this has been achieved without lowering the standards and quality of the Award.

The Award remains popular in the school and we currently have 28 Bronze, 21 Silver and 5 Gold candidates. For many pupils, the most memorable part of their D of E experience has been the Expedition Section. Not all of these memories will be entirely fond ones. Small but crucial pieces of kit have been forgotten, resulting in some candidates spending a night or two under a tent which looked like an oversize punctured tyre. On the other hand, large non-essential items have been carted around remote glens by a few candidates - one Sixth Form boy insisted that he would die without the 6 litres of Irn-Bru he had secreted inconspicuously on top of his rucksack (yes, I checked, it was just Irn-Bru). During the past year there have been successful training and assessment expeditions to Glencoe, Glen Nevis, the Cairngorms, Glen Tilt, Glenn Affric, Glen Artney and Knoydart. Judging from the comments from pupils and

staff, I am sure that all those who have taken part in the expeditions this year have enjoyed them hugely. The fact that these expeditions have been so enjoyable, as well as safe and instructive, is due to the guidance and commitment of a very experienced team of expedition staff and I would like to thank Geoff Bolton, John Burgess, Debbie Carr, Richard Caves, Liz England, Jacqui & Mark Higginbottom and Sinead Ni Rian for their support. Parents and pupils can find comprehensive information on the Expedition Section at the Award's website [www.theaward.org](http://www.theaward.org) and this site also contains all the details of the other sections as well as an archive of the Award Journal.

For their Service Section, Form IV Bronze candidates spent quite a bit of their spare time organising a variety of charitable activities in the school. Several hundred pounds was raised and beneficiaries included the charities SHIP, CHAS, PADS and also the Inyathi School.

Silver and Gold candidates have been very active in fulfilling the service requirements of the Award both in and out of school. A significant number of these candidates have chosen to serve the school community by helping other pupils to improve their English through paired reading. The other Silver and Gold candidates have chosen to serve the local community through voluntary work in charity shops, nurseries, nursing homes and schools for the mentally and physically handicapped. Such voluntary work is not only worthwhile in itself, but it also gives pupils an important new perspective on life. I would like to thank Mr. Kitson and his community service team for their vital contribution to the Award Scheme in the school. I must also record my thanks to the numerous staff who run the many games and extra-curricular activities on which the success of the Award Scheme so much depends.

DRS



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# 6th Form Ball

## March 1999

There's no time like the present and preparation begins early for the girls scouting high and low for that perfect dress.

## Friday 26th February 2000

Titivation begins, moisturised, conditioned, varnished and a quick trip to Costa del ...'fake tan' for most.

## Saturday 27th

2.00 PM

It seems there has been a sudden outbreak of jaundice, throughout the female Sixth Form population. Also dramatically increasing demand for 'off-games chits' to pop into Perth for a quick hair do. Tension is high within the boys' houses, as rugby chat is interrupted to inform the boys of a strange ritual called the ball ... and that roses could be a good idea.

4.00 PM

Final proceedings begin in Thornbank and Woodlands ... including lessons on how to walk, and attempt to dance in stilettos. The Housemasters realise where the boys' priorities are, and that they will have to purchase 60 something roses very soon to avoid unnecessary emotional outbursts later on in the evening.

7.00 PM

Panic starts to mount, as fake nails ping off in all directions, and the girls' Houses' foyers begin to resemble a cross between the entrance to the Oscars (OK not quite), and a flower shop with a chorus of blinding camera flashes.



7.15 PM

After a long trek to that exotic location 'the Dining Hall' the now unrecognisable sophisticated Sixth Form enjoy an *apéritif* of fruit punch, whilst others attempt to pose for the photographer. Christmas has come for the singleton males as they swarm round the Kilgraston clan like bees.

7.45 PM

A buffet meal was enjoyed by all before an entertaining presentation of raffle prizes was performed by Master Crawford. This was swiftly followed by the reels and disco, where a variety of fantastic music was provided by both professional and School bands, under the extremely impressive balloon canopy (which lasted approximately 15 mins). The pace remained (for most) for the majority of the night, with a few highlights, but all in all it was thought to be a 'smashing' night by all.

A big thanx to Mr Kitson and Mme Crane who put in loads of effort to make it all come together and be a great night for everyone involved. Thank you also to all the other teachers and pupils who helped out before, during and after the Ball.

**Suzi Harvey U6th**



# Jigs 'n' Salsa

## Saint Andrew's Night

**We all arrived at 7.30 prompt (the girls that is) to find the theatre transformed beyond all recognition.**

We were greeted at the door by Mrs Hamilton and Douglas Forbes, who was later joined (much later) by the rest of the guys. You could tell that for the guys this was just another Saturday night but for the girls it was a major event in the social calendar.

With the theatre filling up, the music started to play and the dance floor began to sway. The lively ceilidh band was accompanied by the sweet tones of Mrs Hamilton's voice calling dance instructions over the microphone.

## 4th and 5th Form Ceilidh

Deciding what to wear was the most challenging part of the evening but once we were there Mrs Hamilton made sure everyone was spinning so much, it didn't matter. There was a slight shortage of Fifth Form boys but the Fourth Form more than made up for them and the night was a success. The band was thoroughly enjoyed by all and with the excellent catering skills of the kitchen staff how could we fail to enjoy the evening?

**Sioned Bates & Sarah Lyburn**

With a break for a meal to recharge our batteries, we were supplied with a beautifully prepared Scottish dish of chicken stuffed with haggis. Shortly after, the band began to play and we hit the dance floor again. Thanks must go to Mrs Hamilton for organising and running a super night, that certainly lived up to more than its expectations and will be remembered fondly by all.

**Ruth Chalmers & Kirsty Roy**

## Third Form Reels

The Third Form were a bit apprehensive about Third Form Reels Night. "I'll feel silly dancing", "No one will want to dance with me" "I've forgotten all the dances", were the most common quotes. These fears were soon dispelled when the band started and everyone was up on the floor dancing. Sets for every dance were made up with amazing speed and the Third Form rarely stopped to draw breath. The smiles on the faces said it all - a memorable night.

**EH**

## A Performance of Speed, Skill, Acute Lighting and Bizarre Music - Salt

On Friday 17th March, Miss Quan asked me if I would like to accompany her and some others to a contemporary dance performance. The group, La, la, la, Human Steps (a contemporary dance company renowned throughout the dance world) was performing a piece entitled Salt at the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh. Having never attended a serious performance of contemporary dance before, I was enthusiastic to get my name on the ticket list.

The curtain went back. A serious, hot, intense spotlight cut through the air and fastened to a very petite but muscular lady in her late teens, or early twenties. The music started. From what I figured out, it was a recorded minute of a tearoom, blurred, with added gain distortion and cut treble, but on repeat. The girl started to dance. It was almost a ballet, but furiously, painfully fast. She spun and moved in a series of violent movements, going faster than the eye could pick up, and leaving a blur behind her.

A second spot lit up, this time onto the bald head of a man. The music changed to an offbeat piano piece, played on a beautiful grand piano to one side of the stage. After a few more frantic ballet steps from the girl, the man also danced. He, unlike the girl, twisted and took very large steps. He then grasped her firmly on the hips and spun her, quicker than an ice skater spins.

A succession of performers came on throughout, dancing in much the same style as the previous couple. Throughout, the virtuosity and technical control was almost inhuman. The music changed, through the tea-room noise and piano section, to cello and distorted electric guitar, all the musicians playing in spotlights on the stage.

Effects consisted of two lollipop shaped screens, which dropped down to show figures or faces projected onto them, with an occasional heart beat accompaniment.

The storyline (if there was one) was essentially esoteric, but at the end of the show, the small group deserved a standing ovation, and they got one.

**Giles Seddon 5th**



## Cuba comes to Strath

Last September Modern Languages invited the Grupo Cutumba, four dancers from Cuba, to participate in sixth form language classes in the morning, and to give a dance workshop followed by performance in the afternoon. This visit was arranged through Caledonia Languages Abroad, whose Director, Kath Bateman, is very keen to promote Cuba, its language and culture.

What really appealed to everyone was of course the dance workshop. A good 30 pupils and some of the more energetic members of staff turned up that afternoon. They were taught the basic salsa steps and even those

without a word of Spanish found they could say, with an impeccable accent, "Uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco." by the end of the session. To relive the experience, speak to Lynsey Wallace who will give you a wonderful impression of the teaching style.

The performance after the workshop was all you imagined Cuban dance to be - lively, colourful, energetic. Transformed by their traditional costumes, the four dancers whirled through their routine; their audience spellbound. How they were to find the energy for a repeat performance in Edinburgh that evening we'll never know.



# From Our Own Correspondent

## The other side of Europe

**When I was returning home to the Czech Republic before the Easter holiday, I was a bit surprised by the question of one of my schoolmates.**

He asked me whether I had a fear of going back home while a guerrilla war was taking place. After he explained his suspicion I found that, according to him, the Czech Republic is just beside Chechnya. The geographical distance between the Czech Republic and the UK is actually fairly insignificant compared to the one between the South East end of Europe and Central Europe, where the Czech Republic actually is. This moment came back to my mind in the middle of the Easter holidays when I was shocked at the big differences that exist nowadays between countries of Central-Eastern and Eastern Europe, countries that were still behind the Iron Curtain ten years ago.

With two other members of the team we had planned, since Christmas, a journey to Estonia and the other Baltic states. The goal of the whole expedition was to find as many facts as possible which would enable us to finalise our project for the European Youth Parliament, describing various political, economic and social changes in these two new post-communist democracies. We have found there are many similarities between these two states, including the fact that both of them quickly abolished the old Constitution, introduced plurality of political opinions and basic freedoms. They are at the moment making last preparations to join the European Union.

Tourists coming from western Europe usually measure the development of these countries according to the number of McDonalds in the streets of capitals etc but it is necessary to mention that the standards of living in the most developed Eastern European countries have increased significantly since the fall of communism. On the way back we were supposed to travel through Belarus, where we should have stopped for about two hours, changed train and continued directly to Warsaw, the capital of Poland. We knew that it was impossible to book an advance ticket from the Czech Republic on the train going to Belarus. However, none of us, two guys and one girl, expected that we would probably remember the day spent in Belarus until the end of our lives.

In the middle of the night, somewhere on the Belarussian border, the train was stopped for more than an hour and a half. Belarussian Customs Officers asked us to leave our luggage in the compartment and go into the corridor. Immediately all our clothes were taken out of the suitcases and a cross-examination started. We had to show all of our tickets since we had left the Czech Republic and explain that we were really not interested in staying in Belarus more than two hours. As we found beforehand, Belarus was preparing to introduce a visa policy for Czech citizens in about two week's



time after our visit. Nevertheless, the Belarussians checking our luggage were prepared to demand visas already. Fortunately, one of the conductors confirmed that we had been checked by Lithuanian officers already and we really did not need any. Nevertheless, this still was not sufficient proof that we were not going to threaten the dictatorship of Lukascenko who has been ruling in Belarus for the last decade. Strongly disadvantaged because of the language barrier (only one of us was able to speak at least a bit of Russian) we had to insist that the girl travelling with us was not a member of the Russian Mafia. By the way, she was suspected only because of the fact that she has a completely new passport. We ignored their demand that she get off the train while the others remain aboard. After we stated that either all or none of us with our luggage could leave the train, we were finally allowed to enter the country.

It is necessary to say something more about the present regime in Belarus. The basic human freedoms are suppressed, people cannot express their personal opinions and anybody who seems to be an opponent to the man who fills the role of both President and Premier, in one person, can expect to meet serious hardships. Mr Lukascenko is at the moment trying to restore the previous federation of Belarus and Russia. Since the division of the Soviet Union, the Belarussian economy has found itself in hopeless crisis and, in contrast to all other post-soviet countries you would not find a single private company or firm in the whole country. People earn on average a few pounds a month and for most of them it is a luxury to buy an orange or banana.

After arrival, we found that the train we were supposed to travel by had been cancelled. None of us believed that it could be true, for we had properly verified all of our connections beforehand. We received a simple answer to a simple question: 'It is going only sometimes. It might go tomorrow. Do you want to buy a ticket?' After our initial shock we started to think how to get out of the town in the north of Belarus. We quickly realised that we did not have a chance to find the phone number of the Czech Embassy in the capital. Neither could we phone or e-mail home. Later we found the connection back to Lithuania, the only way now to get out. However, the purchase of tickets in Belarus is not such an easy thing as we had imagined. The price of the same ticket is different at each counter and foreigners might book tickets only one hour before the departure of the train. The price of a single ticket was between 90 and 140 mil rubles (about £6). However, when we returned to the same counter for the second time to make the real purchase the price had risen by a few US dollars.

Finally, after more than one day spent in Vitebsk, we had started our journey back to the north. Surprisingly on the way back the Customs Officers were not so strict any more. Furthermore, after they checked us they asked whether we could find them any jobs in the Czech Republic. It was difficult to find words when they told us that their children had nothing to eat. The empty shops with one kind of washing powder or TV stuck in our minds. When we addressed ordinary people in the streets, they seemed to want to avoid us. At first sight we appeared extraordinary and suspect to these Belarussians because of the nature of our clothing. Only one, an old man who was apparently drunk, approached us. This drunk started to criticise the regime, claiming strongly that everything had been better under the Bolsheviks.



The picture of Belarussian streets and shops is still in my mind and I now see my country in a totally different way. We returned home after fifty-two hours travelling, totally exhausted but glad that we were back. The first shock had gone and we found that this involuntary addition to our trip was actually a worthwhile experience. However, twenty-four hours and a lifetime in the country must be rather different from one another.

**Jinrich Zitek Freeland**

## Vee liket id werry mutch, ja?

### "Oh, by the way where about is Estonia? Do they have electricity there...?"

"What, you are German and you don't drink beer...?"

"Are you from Africa? Do you know John Smith? He is from Africa..."

"is your hair real? Does it come off? What colour is it really...?"

"No, Nairobi is in Kenya, and that's where I live...No, Nigeria is nowhere near Kenya...No, I don't have a gold mine..."

These are just a few of the comments that we, Ivo Sööt (from Estonia), Esereda Musisi (from Kenya) and Nils Michael (from Germany) have had to respond to as our new Scottish friends have been coming to terms with living and working with classmates of other nationalities, over the last two years. Now that we are almost leaving UVI we have decided to take some time to consider the experience from our point of view.

Many people are interested to know why we came to Scotland at all, two years ago. Ivo and Esereda won Scholarships whilst Nils came mostly for the language and the bagpipes. We all missed family and friends and the food of our native countries.

Esereda, needless to say, has missed the warmth and the sunshine. The language, obviously, for Nils and Ivo proved a major culture shock, particularly the different accents. This wasn't such a problem for Esereda who regards haggis as a more serious stumbling block. For Ivo, rugby was an alien experience

at first, but he overcame his prejudice and ended up playing in the First XV.

Everyone has been eager to know if the teaching is very different from what we were used to. We've all found the teachers to be friendlier and more approachable than those we had at home. They take part in all activities with us, including sport. Esereda's main problem has been trying to work out if Mr A Thomson and Mr Court are joking, or not.

Being foreign made us a bit of a curiosity at first, but we settled in and were accepted quite quickly. The curiosity element can actually help in starting friendships.

In summary, Ivo says he'd definitely recommend the experience. He has made a lot of new friends, learnt new sports and speaks Scots now.

Esereda says the cold made her hibernate. But she has also enjoyed learning new words, even tiny, but highly significant ones like "ay". Nils has gained a great deal from the academic and musical side of the school. It has been unforgettable, especially meeting Cindy and Fraser Maxwell.

All three of us would like to thank all the staff and our friends for two very enjoyable years.

**Esereda Musisi, Ivo Sööt, Nils Michael (UVI form)**



# Trips Abroad

## The 2000 French Study visit to Brest

It was with a great measure of relief - after last year's small coach and cramped conditions - to see a luxury coach arrive at School for our annual study visit to France.



Eighteen Third Formers, one Fourth Former and two members of staff enjoyed a pleasant and trouble-free trip to Plymouth - so smooth was the journey in fact, and so sleepy were we all after the hard work of term, that we were astonished to discover on arrival at Birmingham Services on the M6 that we had changed drivers en route. A very early morning crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff saw Brittany Ferries' annual profits benefit from a spending spree on board ship - never was so much consumed by so few in such a short space of time. It is a short bus drive from Roscoff to Brest but it was noticed by the staff how the atmosphere on the coach became subdued and slightly anxious as we approached the school where the families were waiting to greet us. In no time, our pupils were taken away in pairs to their host homes. It is at this point in the study visit that we do wonder if we will ever see them again, as they do have to negotiate their own way to school each morning, using various vehicles of the Brest City Transport system - Graham and Mark had to change buses three times on each journey from Plougastel-Daoulas in order to reach the school. They were wonderful. Mel and Peter, although living quite far out, near Brest Airport, were fortunate indeed as their host drove them in to school every morning in the family car. On the first morning, Katie and Louise were missing at the first head count. It transpired that they had negotiated the traffic system anti-clockwise and had turned a 30 minute bus trip into a 90 minute epic. It was one way of enjoying an early view of the sights of the city. At this juncture, it has to be said that Gregor and Hian missed the bus every single morning - on one occasion they actually turned up early for the bus, thought they had missed it, started to sprint to school only to be overtaken by the bus a few minutes later. To their credit, they were not ever late for school, as they timed their sprints and tried to beat their record each morning.

Once again, the pupils really appreciated the food at the school. They were amazed at the number of choices in the school restaurant and at the high quality of all that was on offer. The boys tried to be first in the queue for lunch to have the complete choice of tartes aux fraises, éclairs au chocolat and crèmes brûlées. Morning lessons were from 9 am to 12 noon and all our pupils found that time flew. They enjoyed the lessons so much that time passed too quickly for most of them. All pupils passed the elementary language test and they all received their certificate. The staff of the school thought they were such a wonderful group that they were invited to participate in other language classes where the Strathallians gave presentations in both French and English to other nationalities - they were well complimented on the level of their French, on their willingness to take part in lessons, and on their general joie de vivre.

A visit to Oceanopolis at the harbour in Brest introduced us to various forms of sea life. We were enclosed in a glass elevator which lowered us into an enormous tank of sharks which swam around us with only a few millimetres of glass between us and "jaws". The weather was so warm and sunny that we made two trips to Quimper and Benodet, where the children let their hair down on the beach and we had the unforgettable sight of the intrepid James and Anna swimming in the sea - in June it is still icy cold. Our excursion to Concarneau coincided with market day there. Flossie and Coralie worked their way through all the stalls looking for bargains. At every corner of the walled city of Concarneau we encountered Strathallians with various assortments of crêpes, ice-creams and beignets. Stephanie and Judy are virtual chocaholics. Gregor was seen with a 20-scoop cornet in which no two flavours were the same. Mme Crane and I enjoyed a meal in a restaurant at the walled city, and we had a fine view of the courtyard through which each member of our group passed. We marvelled at their purchases and at their capacity to devour French food - they were completely unaware of our presence. The whole group loved the clothes and fashions, particularly in "Blue Box", a designer shop where Dave and Stormy must have tried on every article of male clothing.



# Trips Abroad

On most evenings in Brest, there was a France v Scotland football match in which Strathallians showed that, thanks to Richard's coaching, Scotland might soon threaten the French grip on the World Cup.

The Headmaster thanked us all once again and expressed a wish that we would return again. The host families were very complimentary, especially the older couple who looked after Becky, Anna and Kerry who put on a musical concert for their French hosts every evening after dinner. The couple were very touched by this and will guard precious memories forever. The Entente Cordiale lives on.



## Trier - Ancient Roman City in Germany

The Easter Holidays 2000 offered the pupils of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms an opportunity to see this oldest of all German towns.

Situated in the heart land of ancient armed disputes between Germanic Tribes and Romans as well as, later, between the Germans and the French, we gained some insight into the Continentals' reasons for wishing to avoid - be it even by the power of the Euro. - any future bloodshed.

A grey early morning saw our small group of Fourth, Fifth, Sixth formers on the school's bus, being driven to Edinburgh Airport by kind Mr. Duff. After a short flight to Frankfurt am Main we were faced with less than perfect organisation in Frankfurt Railway Station - under repair - and we must thank Fiona MacFarlane's sharp hearing combined with her instant and clever interpretation of muffled loudspeaker - German for reaching Trier that evening. The train we had booked seats on three months before had been cancelled, so we had to jump aboard another one and were reduced to sitting on suitcases. However, we alighted in the late afternoon, hired a taxi for our luggage and another one for the most tired in our group (they shall be nameless), the rest of us taking a walk along one of the main streets of Trier, towards the youth-hostel. On the way, we indulged - under Laura Dolan's guidance - in such amusements as counting (16) pharmacies.

The youth-hostel proved to be much more cosy than the stark advertisements had led us to believe. The bedrooms each had their own shower-room, radiator and large window overlooking the river and the bunk-beds were comfortable. Their self-service cafeteria offered healthy breakfasts and plentiful suppers, which had all been booked in advance.

I can say without any fear of exaggeration, that the first day in Trier was dedicated entirely to SHOPPING. Having lugged huge suitcases into Edinburgh Airport, then onto the train and finally into the rooms, we naturally felt the obligation of filling them, especially as Frau Pillar had given us prior notice of good value for our GBPs in Germany. So we hastened to buy trousers, T-shirts, hats and belts, in the fashionable pastel colours. Sunday offered Lindsay McCulloch and her chums Lindsay Allan and Jenny Hay the opportunity of setting a new trend in fashion. Having bought some Italian ice-cream, they used the colourful tinsel to decorate their hair. The German girls looked really drab in comparison, in their far too sober greys and browns.

Next day part of our group decided to follow Mr. S-J to the Spielzeugmuseum (toy museum), whilst Frau Pillar's group visited the two Historic Museums. For lunch we all went to - you have guessed - MacDonalds, after which the rain and cold drove us back to the youth-hostel at an untimely early hour. Monday dawned equally dismally, which forced us to cancel our bike-trip to a medieval castle. The group decided to visit Roman Trier instead, the well preserved ruins of the baths - with their maze of subterranean corridors and ducts, their mosaics and astonishing proportions - and the amphitheatre. As the weather improved so did the mood and a good day was had by everybody.

What can we say about the city of Luxemburg, which we visited next? A moderately interesting town, its inhabitants busy working in brand new European Institutions. The trip through the Eiffel was wonderful, the tiny hidden villages which we saw giving us an excellent impression of this beautiful country.

The last full day of our visit was dedicated to our friends at the Eiffel - Gymnasium in Neuerburg, a day-cum-boarding school, of similar size to Strathallan. We were greeted in the most friendly way by the Rector, Herr Klar and by the English teacher Frau Gabriele Keck, who will head the return visit of German pupils to Scotland next year. The Strathallan pupils had the opportunity to see the Gymnasium in action, each year group taking part in their German counterparts' lessons. We had an excellent and plentiful lunch at the school's canteen and were surprised to see the pupils themselves serving at table. The Germans were very interested in our school and asked many questions - some in German. It was encouraging to see our pupils able to understand and to answer.

The last afternoon was spent visiting the medieval Neuerburg, an ancient fortress on the brow of wooded hills which had been conquered by Louis XIV of France and which had an altogether colourful and fascinating history.

We were spared any hitches on the return trip and arrived tired but satisfied in Scotland. Next year's German trip will take place in the Spring half-term and will take us to the splendid city of Munich, in Bavaria, home of not only the BMW, but of much culture worthy to be sampled.

CVP

# 6th Form Talks School Website

**“To follow a Star”**: Mr George Spenceley first sighted the “star” he was to follow when, in his teens all of sixty years ago, he became engrossed in books on polar exploration.

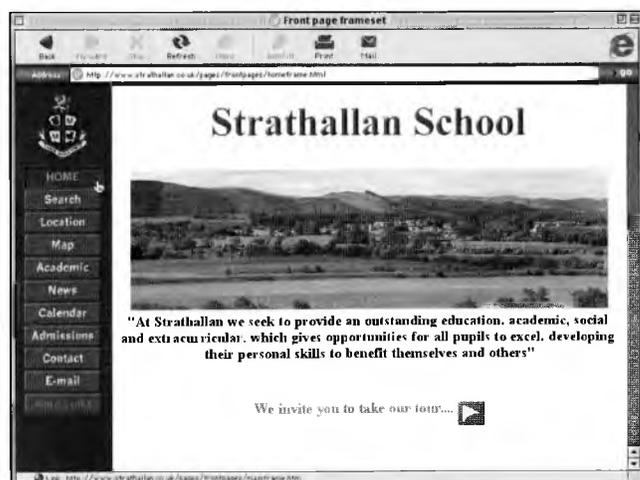
He never lost sight of his ambition and after years of preparation - mountaineering both in Britain and the Alps, learning photographic skills - he finally went on survey expeditions out in the polar regions, narrowly escaped death in a Himalayan avalanche and later “went native” in Ethiopia and West Africa for many years.

This lecture was an inspiration: Mr Spenceley’s modest delivery, his outstanding photography and his intrepid attitude encouraged us all to travel with a purpose, to learn about other cultures and peoples, to appreciate the beauty of the wilderness and to seek adventure. He finished by giving helpful practical advice to those planning Gap Year itineraries.

“A Year at Holyrood”: The experiences of Mr Nick Johnston MSP could hardly have been more of a contrast to Mr Spenceley’s - and struck a comforting chord for many in his audience. His early working years were an amusing muddle of indecision - casting around in this job and that job, being sacked or leaving or changing tack - but finally he found a focus in the motor trade where he rose to being Managing Director of a prestigious company in Edinburgh.

However, it was only eighteen months ago, as he approached 50, that Mr Johnston found his “star” - Conservative Party politics. Despite the huge drop in salary he was taken to be elected as a member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife, he has clearly thrown himself into important social issues with energy and commitment.

A brisk and informative question and answer session followed Mr Johnston’s eye-opening lecture on his first year as an MSP. He finished by inviting anyone of us to contact him at the Scottish Parliament where he would be delighted to show us, at close quarters, how it works.



We are please to announce that the new web site ([www.strathallan.co.uk](http://www.strathallan.co.uk)) is now well established.

We warmly encourage you to make regular use of the site: it is intended as a means of keeping you up to date with what is happening in the School and it is added to on a weekly basis. It is much bigger and more ambitious than those run by most schools, already encompassing around 400 pages of pictures and information. At the same time it is designed to be easy to get around and it should be a very fast way of finding out what you need to know.

#### ON THE SITE YOU WILL FIND:

- The Tour: .....The School's online prospectus, supported by admissions pages.
- How to get to Strathallan: .....a series of maps and a complete interactive guide to the School grounds.
- Academic: .....Central information page for academic departments; details of 4th Form and 6th Form courses including careers advice, Departmental home pages and (when the time of year comes round again) links to revision and research sites.
- News: .....Regular news bulletins and pictures, urgent announcements and reminders.
- Calendar: .....The School Calendar.
- Contact: .....School phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- House Pages: .....Each House has a home page for prospectus purposes and for House News.
- Games: .....Each sport has a home page.
- Activities: .....Each extracurricular activity has a home page.
- Art Gallery: .....Recent work by pupils.
- OS Club: .....The Old Strathallian Club's pages.
- Publications: .....School newsletters, extracts from the Strathallian magazine and frequently used forms in downloadable format.

We intend to include video and audio clips in the very near future. At present the site requires only a recent internet browser (Internet Explorer 3/ Netscape 3 or later) and a reasonably quick internet connection, although a basic version of the site will automatically load for earlier browsers.

We hope that you will find this service useful and informative: if you have any suggestions for, or criticisms of, the site we would very much like to hear from you.

# Natural History & Careers

## The Birds Of Strath

**Every day we wander through the causeway and play around the pitches and pond, but do we notice the twittering songs of the Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*), the loud fluty notes of the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) or even the distant haunting calls of the Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)?**

Over the years I have become aware of the diversity of birds in our school. Maybe their presence has become more obvious due to the fact that the sports fields are constantly cut enabling birds the easy access to dig out worms, or is it because the pitches are rarely fertilised with pesticides and herbicides, or could it just be the dumping of our unfinished food that attracts all these new and different birds.

The varied landscape around our school seems to attract many different species particularly the Valley, which seems to be the perfect habitat for many different birds that breed in these dark woodland areas. Our main resident is the beautiful Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) that nests and breeds in small holes in trees or in old nests of other large species. They feed on small mammals and also take birds, insects and worms. The valley also attracts many small birds that breed in the trees, like the starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), robins (*Erithacus rubecula*), the occasional sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and often the woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*). The valley has become an increasing bird haven, it is undisturbed letting a wide variety of vegetation left to grow wild making it an attraction to the breeding birds.

The school buildings have also got the constant spring residents, they nest in small cracks under the roofs and feed on insects that they catch in spectacular flight. The birds that are most common around the buildings are the small sand martin (*Riparia riparia*), the many starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and the swift moving Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Their favourite site seems to be the old Art Block.

The main pitches and mud flats seem to have become more of an attraction to the winter and summer visitors. The reason being maybe because the pitches are constantly cut attracting the birds that mainly eat on the fat juicy worms and insects, as they have easy access to them. The mown grass can also be attractive to the grass-devouring Geese that are suited to short grass. This year we have had a mixture of birds, in the early autumn we were lucky to see a few Pink Footed Geese, who migrated from Iceland, Greenland and Spitsbergen where they breed. The smaller summer visitors of the pitches are the small Sedge Warblers who come from the Mediterranean and the Sahara where they stay for the winter. The more permanent residents are the common oystercatchers, rooks and the greedy crows.

The pond is also an important area for breeding birds, especially waders. The pond is quite sheltered and is covered by rushes, so there is protection if the birds feel threatened. So for many birds the Pond is the perfect habitat. For the last 6 years we have had a pair of Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) successfully breeding each year, and have had 4 signets this year. There are also many breeding coots (*Fulica atra*) and Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) that feed on the vegetation matter and small insects.

Last year we were lucky enough to have a rare and spectacular male Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) hunting for the brown trout, though due to the decrease of the fish the Osprey has progressively moved down to the River Earn.

Even though we are not that conscious of the birds around us their presence seems to make the school a tranquil and peaceful place to be around.

**Samara Johnstone**

## **The Careers department would like to build up a directory in the following areas:**

"Strathallians in their 20s" who would be prepared to come and talk about finding a job, their early career and give practical advice in their specific field. The aim is that they would talk to a small group on their visit.

"Parents and Strathallians" who would be willing to offer work experience to members of the School.

"Parents and Strathallians" who would consider giving graduate Strathallians traineeships in their firms.

If you can help, please contact Nick Du Boulay on: School 01738 812 546, direct 01738 815 018, Email (about to be changed ).

# Contacts Abroad

## Strathallan Club Contacts Abroad

### Australia:

Iain S. Gray (1961)  
Unit 5, Sutherland Crescent, Darling Point,  
NSW 2027, Sydney

John A. McArthur (1970)  
19 Binalong Street, West Pymble, NSW 2073, Sydney

Gordon Reynolds (1980)  
18 Letitia Street, Katoomba, Australia 2780

### Botswana:

David J. Watson (1980)  
PO Box 655, Gaborone

### Canada:

Ian D. Lewis (1970)  
420 Coach Light Bay, SW Calgary, Alberta, T3H 1Z2

Rahul Suri (1983)  
942 Logan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 3E4

Angus Wighton (1974)  
Toronto, captainangus@hotmail.com

### France:

Andrew Elliot (1986)  
Moulin Rateau, 89260 St Martin sur Oreuse,  
Tel: 33 (0) 3 86 97 69 92

### Italy:

Mrs Fiona Magoni (nee Mowat) (1991)  
Loc. Le Fonti, 50020 Pansano, Firenze  
Tel: 39+ 055 852 914

### New Zealand:

Iain S. Cree (1961)  
Omaha Flats Road, RD6, Warkworth

Robin A. Taylor (1965)  
35 Chamber Street, Havelock North

### Nigeria:

R. Gary Walker (1978)  
c/o Chevron Nigeria Ltd, PMB 12825, Lagos,  
Tel: 260 0600 ext 8377 (work) or 7649 (home) Fax: 260 0395

### Singapore:

Thomas A. Kerr (1952)  
82 Grange Road, Les Colonnades, Singapore 1024

### South Africa:

Michael I.M. Dawson (1964)  
459 Currie Road, Durban 4001

William B. Melville (1966)  
72 Catherine Road, Fontainebleau, Randburg 2194

Tommy R. Taylor (1961)  
9 Uve Road, Kloof, Natal

Richard Williams (1986)  
c/o SPILA Marketing Services, 2 Nautica, The Water Club, Granger Bay,  
Cape Town 8001

### USA:

Michael J. Dobbie (1983)  
The Coca Cola Company, One coca Cola Plaza,  
USA 1305, Atlanta, GA 3031  
Tel: 1+ 404 676 2446 Fax: 1+ 404 515 1702 mdobbie@na.ko.com

Stephen W. Geddes (1987)  
315 West Franklin Avenue #219, Minneapolis, MN 5540

Scott R. Gibb (1990)  
4425 I-2 Laurel Street, New Orleans, LA 70115,  
Tel/Fax: 1+ 504 897 1203

Richard H. Lester (1978)  
5450 Sterling Way, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035

Walter J. McFarlane (1978)  
931 Shattuck Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois 60194  
Tel: (H) 1+ 708 885 3367 (W) 1+ 708 428 7171

Roderick A.D. Powrie (1974)  
Merrill Lynch, 101 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302, Tel: 1+ 201 557  
3054 Fax: 1+ 201 557 4285

David E. Uprichard (1984)  
148 Lafayette Parkway, Rochester,  
New York 14625

# Strathallian Club

Chris Reekie takes the chair as President of the Strathallian Club for 1999-2000. Chris attended the School from 1968-73. His son Alistair was Head of Simpson (91-96), Chris also had a niece and nephew at the School.

Having attended college in Aberdeen and Dundee to study Business Management, he joined the family firm, distributing Agricultural Machinery, Forklift Trucks and Motor Vehicles. He is now a Director of the company. He is married to Alison and also has two daughters who attended Kilgraston School.

Chris is a dedicated rugby enthusiast, having represented his club, Howe of Fife in more than 550 1st XV games scoring 251 tries. A major

highlight was appearing as the 1st XV Centre partnership with his son at the age of 42. Chris has coached Caledonian Red U18 and U19 age groups, delighting in the international recognition of players like, Jason White, John Petrie and Simon Taylor who have played in those teams. Chris spent two years coaching Dundee High FPs before returning to Howe.

Chris is a founder member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Howe of Fife. What spare time he has is spent relaxing on the golf course coming to terms with the unpredictable nature of the game. His ambition for 2001 is an attendance of 200 at the Annual Dinner of the Strathallian Club where friendships can be renewed.



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*29 - 31 Bank Street*  
*Dundee*  
*DD1 1RW*  
*Tel: 01382 200934*

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

## Professor John Parsons

For many years the University of Aberdeen's nominee on the Board of Governors, died earlier this year.

John, a BSc graduated in Agricultural Chemistry, joined the staff of the Soil Science Department in Aberdeen in 1960 after completing a PhD at Reading and a post-doctoral at Delaware. As a second year student at the time I well remember his early shyness as he first faced his students. More particularly I remember the great honesty that came through his teaching and which was to characterise every action in his long and successful career. He soon proved to be an able scientist, making a very real contribution to our understanding of the chemistry of soil organic matter. His career was unusual in that at various times he was head of three different departments, first the department of Soil Science, then the head of the newly created department of Plant and Soil Science, then filled in on a temporary basis as head of the Department of Agriculture. In 1989 he was appointed Dean of the newly created Faculty of Biological Sciences in the university, an unusually demanding position in that the role of the faculty was new and had to be moulded under John's sympathetic guidance. Always ready to listen, and academics are not noted for mincing their words, John fought hard for his staff and the strain undoubtedly took its toll. When in 1994 the university next decided to reorganise John happily opted out into retirement.

As well as coping with all the rigours of his job John was very active in many spheres. He was at various times on the boards of the Agriculture and Food Research Council and the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, as well as a range of committees within and on the fringes of Government. The appointment that he initially found most quizzical was undoubtedly that as a Governor at Strathallan. As a grammar school lad from the Wirral he was, with typical modesty, very doubtful whether he could make any useful contribution. However, he soon got caught up by the enthusiasm of the staff and his fellow governors. Strathallan came to mean something very special to him. He was particularly pleased to have seen the admittance of girls and the appointment of lady governors. He revelled in the sporting success of the School, notably in cricket, a game for which he felt some affinity even if his playing skill was not always very evident.

Professor Parsons was quite simply a very decent man. He is remembered with great affection by the many students he taught and by all those who worked with him.

**Professor Hugh G Miller**

## Robert S Hill (Bobby)

Bobby was born at Burnside, Glasgow, and died on 13th December 1999. He was a pupil at Strathallan from 1944 to 1949.

He was a member of Simpson House and his talent and enthusiasm contributed much to the sporting success of Simpson House during his time at school. He gained his colours for the 1st XV and 1st XI and was tennis champion in his final year.

On leaving school, he was accepted for the University of Glasgow Veterinary School. He played rugby for West of Scotland, until sadly he suffered a multiple fracture of his leg, and spent a year on crutches. This injury was to prove stressful for much of his life.

Bobby did National Service in the Army and was commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps.

He later joined the family business of Builders and was widely known and respected in the construction industry in the West of Scotland.

His great sporting love was salmon fishing, mainly on the Spey at Fochabers and also the Tay. He shared his sporting activity with driven shooting, mainly at Fotheringham and Auchmar, and also clay pigeon shooting at his beloved Wardshill.

He is survived by his wife Edie and their daughters Wendy and Mhairi, son in law David, and their four grandchildren.

## Thomas Macfarlane

**DIED 23RD AUGUST 1999**

Tommy was a popular and staunch athlete - 1st XI and 1st XV, Captain 1937-1938.

Like a few of his contemporaries the influence of the "Boss" convinced him that the war was imminent so to ensure that he got into the Navy he joined the lower deck of the RNVR and after some months at sea he underwent an intensive training course and was among the first 50 RNVR ratings to receive a commission.

After a distinguished naval career Tommy returned to business in Glasgow where, in "William Porteous", the warmth of his personality and his extensive knowledge of books and magazines endeared him to a wide circle of friends and customers.

Tommy was looking forward enthusiastically to his eightieth birthday and the Millennium when he had a massive stroke.

He leaves a widow, Margaret, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

## William Anderson

**WILLIAM ANDERSON DIED ON 7TH MAY 2000, AGED 80.**

He and his twin brother John were at Strathallan from 1931-6 and were members of Harry Riley's 'business class'.

On leaving school, their father sent them off to the West Coast of the USA to learn all about the growing and exporting of fruit. Only then were they allowed to join the well established family firm of fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

As a member of the T.A., Mr Anderson was called up in 1939 and commissioned in the Border Regiment. However, an accident put paid to the opportunity of front line action and he became adjutant of the Home Guard battalion in North Wales.

Demobbed in 1945, he rejoined the family business, and on the death of their father in 1949, the brothers became the Joint Chairmen and Managing Directors of the firm. They developed it to an extent that it had depots in both the South of Scotland and the North of England and supplied supermarkets over a wide area. In 1976, the fruit and vegetable business was sold to West Cumberland Farmers in order to concentrate on property and form a development company.

His chief interests were skiing, golf, gardening, badminton and especially sailing; he was a founder member of the Bassenthwaite Sailing Club.

He is survived by his brother, two daughters and four grandchildren.

## David J Whitton

The following information was provided by J T Keighley, a school friend and contemporary, who acted as his host during many school holidays.

David Whitton died on 5th November 1999 within a week of his beloved wife Sue.

He was brought up in Alexandria, where his father was chairman of the Bank of Egypt. After Strathallan, he read Oriental and Middle Eastern Languages at Cambridge. On graduation, he joined the RAF achieving the rank of Squadron Leader.

He retired to South Africa, where he had a series of novels published. He leaves two daughters, a son and twelve grandchildren.

## Professor J King

**GOVERNOR 1970-1995**

**CHAIRMAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE 1975-1995**

**HONOURARY GOVERNOR 1995-2000**

The first time I met Professor King was in the Station Hotel, Perth in 1974 when the Governors were looking for a successor to Duncan McCallum, the then Headmaster. I remember very well the one question Professor King asked me, but that is another story; suffice it to say it was a searching one and we were both amused by it and the answer it elicited. Jim had a good sense of humour and, as might be expected from a former scholar of Jesus College Cambridge and someone who had been the chief scientist to the Naval Research Establishment in Fife on the way to becoming the Regius Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Edinburgh University, it went straight to the point. It not only reflected Jim's natural concern for the academic welfare of the School but it also showed a real interest in the people of the School.

For 20 years Jim chaired the School's Education Committee and did so with wit, wisdom, masterly tact and endless patience. However much we wandered, and he did allow everyone to have their say, he always brought us gently back to the essential point under discussion. When the serious business of the evening was concluded he never let meetings drag on, he would always enjoy what he called the real purpose of the evening, a drink or perhaps two or even three drinks and an informal chat with the staff in the Common Room, when there was never any limit on his time. How he always managed to give such a clear and concise report the next day at the full Governors' Meeting must continue to be his secret.

The second time I met Professor King was shortly after the first but in rather different circumstances. It was in a Safeways car park where we were both struggling to unload the week's shopping out of one of those wretched trolleys into our respective cars. As a single man I had to shop out of necessity and was still at the stage in life when one never imagined Professors went shopping, let alone with a trolley in a supermarket and for a moment I just hoped that I would not be recognised and thus avoid any possible embarrassment. This Professor certainly was not embarrassed and immediately said "hello", though to this day I don't know whether he actually remembered my name. However, I was soon to learn that Jim was very much a family man and that his wife Pam, prior to her illness, was also to become involved in Strathallan, never missing a Governors' Party or Speech Day and indeed organising her own functions in their Edinburgh flat to promote the interests of the School. We are grateful to Edinburgh University for first introducing Professor King to Strathallan as their nominated Governor and, of course, to Jim for allowing his name to continue to be put forward. As a result of the high regard in which Jim was held by his fellow Governors in 1983, he became the first male non-Strathallian to be elected to the Board in his own right and thereafter in 1995 as an Honourary Governor. Jim, for all his academic brilliance, enjoyed teaching and whilst he never formally taught at Strathallan those who were lucky enough to meet him usually learnt a great deal. We are grateful to him and to his family for allowing him to give up so many weekends in Strathallan's interest.

## Gordon West

"I'm still playing quite a lot of chamber music (not publicly) and the viola in the Perth Symphony Orchestra".

This was the opening sentence inside the Christmas card I received from Gordon only a few weeks before the sad telephone call announcing his death. The previous year I visited him in Perth in his new house where, over a morning coffee, and with much mischievous humour, he related the protracted sale of Sparrowmuir Cottage, and his satisfaction in finding a new home so conveniently situated. In short, apart from a very minor limp, there was Gordon as I had always known him - full of questions, eager to catch up with the latest news, bubbling over with happy holiday memories and as keen as ever to discover and play new music. In fact when I left him, many hours later, it was only after he had given me the title of a piano trio he had heard on the radio without managing to find the score in the UK in the hope that I might be able to run it to earth in some far-flung continental city.

It was also, no doubt, not only because of his very genuine kindness and capacity for making one feel welcome, but also his scientific acumen which enabled him to converse with a sense of authority and a perception of human values so often lacking in the musical world.

His professional contribution to Strathallan spanned an impressively long period. During that time the School moved away from being an austere single-sex institution with compulsory boxing and very conservative disciplinary methods to its present form. When boys turned up for orchestra rehearsals in the early 1970s with staved thumbs after boxing sessions, one simply could not imagine that the present refined and welcoming atmosphere would eventually supplant the old order, bringing its inevitable and long overdue advantages to the pursuit of artistic excellence.

Visits to the Pitlochry and Edinburgh festivals, concerts at Gleneagles and St Giles' Cathedral, a policy of coaxing 350 boys' voices, broken and unbroken, into performing major choruses from Haydn's 'Creation' during chapel services, his diligence in obtaining the services of some very capable peripatetic musicians, especially Jack Begbie (former leader of the BBC Scottish) for string tuition, staging Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and many more besides, in addition to the 'A' level and Associated Board exam results one just took for granted - all these achievements point to a man extremely single-minded about music-making. Gordon was a very well-informed and discriminating listener, an accomplished sight-reader, an excellent teacher not only of higher mathematics but also the piano, a very sensitive accompanist and a teacher with a keen interest and legitimate sense of pride in the later achievements of his former pupils.

He was a man to whom I (and certainly many others) owe a great deal, and for whose example of encouragement and friendship we remain extremely grateful.

**GEOFFREY MARSHALL**

**GORDON WEST'S ASSISTANT FROM 1968-71**

**ORGANIST OF RENNES CATHEDRAL**

**ACCOMPANIST OF THE MAÎTRISE DE BRETAGNE (A STATE-SUBSIDISED CHOIR SCHOOL)**

## Frederick Longstaff

The death occurred on 9th September 2000 of Fred Longstaff (Tu-Tu), aged 89, at Colchester. Fred was an energetic English teacher, who joined the staff in 1941. His brother, who was Head of the English Department, was called up in 1940. Fred was himself called up in January 1942 and returned in November 1945. His enthusiasm for Shakespeare stimulated the interest of many a Strathallan boy and helped them to appreciate the finer points.

He was in charge of the Scout troop along with the late Douglas Silver for a number of years when Scouts flourished at Strathallan with a Troop of over forty boys. Many memories of the large Scout Hut up in the Scout Wood came flooding back with Fred's firm voice controlling the enthusiastic boys with compassion and discipline.

He moved on to Forrester High School, where he was later to become Assistant Headmaster, in 1951.

He will be remembered by many Old Boys with affection.

He was a talented games player, excelling at Hockey, at which he loved to coach the 1st XI. It was he who put Strathallan Hockey on a serious footing. He also performed to great effect in the annual staff versus pupils cricket match.

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## Robert A Robertson

Actor Robert Robertson, best known for his role of the pipe-smoking pathologist, Dr Stephen Taggart, in the television detective series *Taggart*, suffered a fatal collapse during a performance at Perth Theatre on January 16th 2001. He was 70.

At Strathallan, Robin, as he was known at school, took a keen interest in the Dramatic and Operatic society, appearing in Arthur J Shaw's memorable production of *Night Must Fall* (1946). A tenor, he performed in school productions of *The Mikado* (1946) as Nanki-Poo, and in Merrie England (1947) as Sir Walter Raleigh; the latter role requires some vocal address.

Robin played out a distinguished theatrical career. He began acting at Manchester Rep, performed in various regional theatres, also in West End productions, before becoming the Artistic Director of Dundee Rep from 1976 to 1992. At Dundee he commissioned various award winning plays as well as presiding over the development of the theatre's Tay Square premises. He laid the foundations for the company's present success. Over the years, Robin appeared in numerous television productions.

For his talent, his professionalism, his courtesy, and the warmth of his personality, Robert Robertson earned the esteem of his peers.



## Riley

Beetschen E R, Boyd M A C, Campbell F, Bush E C, Caves S A, Chalmers R R S, Corlett O, Gordon S D S, Halvorsen L M, Harvey N J A, Hayward Z M, Jardine J M, Lawther A J, Legge E R P, McCulloch R J A, MacDonald C A C, Miller R A, Morrison J S D, Morrison S M, Moyes C P, Paledi M K, Peaston S C, Quibell L B, Ranger P F, Roy F C, Samba F, Sangster L J, Smith S G, Stewart J L, Ward B, Welstead G F

## Freeland

Dalgetty N I, Gan L, Grosskreutz V, Hueck C W, Koulakov A, Robertson E D, Sproat T D R, Yao P

## Nicol

Alexander G G, Anton A, Carmichael E D, Dickson C J, Ebell M, Garratt A J R, Kaut H C, Patterson A R, Quibell R B, Roy G

## Ruthven

Alkhulifi E, Brown K A, Lawson D R C, MacLellan J S, Pender J

## Simpson

Bsteh R S P, Ding X, Erdal S, Kerr J A, Reid T A, Walker R J C, Workman H J

## Thornbank

Cameron S R, Chambers H M, Chambers I L, Ferry A, Gerrie O J C, Giles R L, Leslie C, Mack K R, Piper M J A, Read R S, Schumann S K M, Scroggie S E A, Weston P L

## Woodlands

Booth A A R, Chen J, Chen N, Daniels A M, Lamont J H, McWhirter E F, Percival K F, Riley A, Ross I J, Wang N

## Freeland

### UVI

Adam N C: Came 1996  
EPOD A/S Norske Shell, Exploration & Production, POB 40 N-4056  
Tananger, Norway.

Boyd M C: Came 1998;  
30 Crichton Road, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 9JR.

Davidson A L: Came 1996;  
27 Newstead Way, Wimbledon, London SW19 5HR.

Donald A S: Came 1994;  
c/o Mrs G S Golson - Paraguay, Lloyds Bank Plc, Hays Lane, London SE1.

Forbes H D J: Came 1995;  
8 Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh. EH12 5EQ.

Hay J T: Came 1993;  
Raesmill, Inverkeillor, Arbroath, Angus DD11 5SN.

Henry G H A: Came 1997;  
Beauty & Massage Salon, c/o Tryall Golf Resort, Sandy Bay, Hanover,  
Jamaica W I.  
Kuhn P: Came 1998;  
Eintuachtstr. 109, 45478 Muhlheim a.d.R. Germany.

McChesney E: Came 1996;  
Juniper Lea, The Ross, Comrie, Perthshire PH6 2JU.

Macmillan A D: Came 1992;  
PO Box 3243, Salmiya, 22033 Kuwait.

Markus M C: Came 1995;  
1 West End Cottages, Pitcairngreen, Almondbank, Perth. PH1 3LU.

Moodie A R: Came 1994;  
Corbiere, 45 Nutfields, Redwell Lane, Ightham, Kent TN15 9EA.

Roger M A G: Came 1995;  
The Smiddy, Kemback Bridge, By Cupar, Fife KY15 5TP.

Whyte I G: Came 1994  
The Bent, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire AB30 1EA.

Willing E J D: Came 1994;  
78 Ravelston Dykes, Edinburgh EH12 6HF.

### LVI

Lauterjung T B: Came 1999;  
Mittenwalderstr 39, 81377 Munchen, Germany.

Whytock R C: Came 1994;  
Kinnaird Cottage, Kinnaird Farm, Forgandenny, Perth PH2 9ES.

### IV

Balfour Paul F J: Came 1999;  
Eskadale, By Beauly, Inverness-shire IV4 7JR.

# Valete

## Nicol

### UVI

Anderson I J H: Came 1996;  
Bldng 14 Schlumberger, Res & Completions Centre, 14910 Airline Rd, PO  
Box 1590, Rosharon Texas 77583 USA.

Bennet P C G: Came 1995;  
North Blairs, Auchencblae, Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire AB30 1TX.

Crawford R: Came 1994;  
5 Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh. EH7 5DD.

Gdula N J: Came 1991;  
Shell Egypt DM, Expat Mail, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA.

Herd G A: Came 1995;  
Thornton Lodge, 21 Chalton Road, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire FK9 4DX.

Hutton G S: Came 1994;  
26 Almond Grove, Huntingtowerfield, Perth PH1 3NA.

Kass B W: Came 1995;  
The Old School House, Rhynd, Perth PH2 80G.

Michael N: Came 1998;  
Kirchhofstrasse 43, 40721 Hilden, Germany.

Mouat G A: Came 1993;  
c/o New Hampshire Insurance Co, PO Box 846, Bangkok 10501 Thailand.

## Ruthven

### UVI

Baxter G C: Came 1995;  
Hydroturf LLC, PO Box 27643, Dubai, United Arab Emirates U A E.

de Meza-Aslan J S: Came 1995;  
Flat 1, 15 Alexandra Street, Perth PH2 8EU.

Dover T J: Came 1995;  
12 Jedburgh Road, Dundee DD2 1SS

Ferguson A R: Came 1998;  
PO Box 25502, Awali , Bahrain.

Gemmill T A: Came 1992;  
8 Cunningham Court, Lowhoughton, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3LT.

Irving L M: Came 1998;  
15 Lomond View, Blairmont Gardens, Symington, Ayrshire KA1 5QS.

King S P M: Came 1994;  
Ladywood Lodge, Rhu-na-Haven Road, Aboyne, Aberdeen AB34 5JB.

McDougall J: Came 1995;  
28 Blacket Place, Edinburgh EH9 1RL.

Matheson E C: Came 1992;  
BPX HCMC Office Vietnam, c/o Britannic House, 1 Finsbury Circus, London  
EC2M 7BA.

Roy A: Came 1996;  
Glenisla, Craigieknowes Road, Perth PH2 0BX.

Walker N: Came 1996;  
Quittlehead House, Lumphanan, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 4QL.

Whitelaw F M: Came 1995;  
13 St Dunstan's Park, Melrose TD6 9LF.

Wilson M R: Came 1995;  
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Davidson G P: Came 1995;  
The Lilacs, Mundole, Forres, Morayshire. IV36 OTA.

Forbes D R: Came 1995;  
Dalldorch, Stair, Ayrshire. KA5 5NT.

Galloway S W: Came 1993;  
The Old Dairy Cottage, Townhead Dairy, Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1JG.

Johnson C: Came 1997;  
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McKay F: Came 1996;  
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Soot I: Came 1998;  
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Thwaites C A: Came 1994;  
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Fowler S A: Came 1995;  
Shell Egypt - DM, Expat Mail, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA.

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Harbit R M: Came 1998;  
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Robertson C: Came 1995;  
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Roger A F: Came 1995;  
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Southcott C A: Came 1992;  
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Stevenson R T: Came 1999;  
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Dobson R A: Came 1998;  
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Dover L P: Came 1995;  
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Frew C A: Came 1998;  
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Greenwood G E: Came 1995;  
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Harvey S S: Came 1996;  
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Hunter F C: Came 1995;  
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Musisi E L N: Came 1998;  
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Norris K H: Came 1998;  
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Senior K R: Came 1995;  
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