



On the Lorelei rock, not with the Lorelei, but with our lovely courier Debbie.

(Photo: G. J. Turner)



Gruppenbild mit Drosselgasse in Rüdesheim.

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

demonstration of old instruments with Mr and Mrs Langford, a wine museum with Debbie and Mr Turner, and a further look round town respectively. We met up again at the foot of the chairlift; this was one of three very enjoyable chairlifts during our stay—Rüdesheim, Koblenz and Boppard, the latter being the most visually spectacular and the longest ride. At the top of the chairlift at Rüdesheim there was the German monument, a huge nineteenth-century nationalistic statue shaking its fist at France. Thank goodness things have changed now. We then went to a falconry with many talonned birds on display (*not* birds of prey, we were firmly reminded). En route back we stopped at a veteran car (“Old Timer”) museum which was rather over-rated, and at the famous Loreley rock where, according to German legend, a siren-like maiden lures unfortunate sailors to crash against the rocks below with her singing.

At Koblenz the chair-ride, which was much shorter than the one at Rüdesheim, took us up to Schloss Ehrenbreitstein, from which one could see the spot (das Deutsche Eck) where the Mosel flows into the Rhine. In Boppard the chairlift was twice as long, and led to views of “the bendiest bend on the Rhine,” the Vierseenblick, so called because the curves in the river make it look like four lakes.

On Friday, after Koblenz, we visited the wine cellars in Cochem, where one of the owners took us round with a bilingual commentary. Later on came the wine tasting, one of the most popular parts of the trip! But the highlight of Friday had to be the breaking down of the coach. We were meant to be going ten pin bowling that night, and the breakdown spoilt it all. We were stuck in the coach for three hours, but thanks to the splendid efforts of Fred, Debbie and finally a local garage mechanic we did make it back to the Hotel Erholung for a very late supper.

We finally went bowling on the Sunday. This was very enjoyable and well worth the visit. After that came the promised Rheinfahrt to Boppard, where we found a shopkeeper who offered to sell us pistols, knives, throwing stars, everything. I personally think he was an arms dealer for a shady foreign power! Sensibly, nobody bought anything from him! Then came the Vierseenblick, and a drive down to Bacharach with a conducted tour by Debbie.

That night we had a quiz set and presented by Mrs Langford, with a commemorative key ring as a prize. Small prizes for the bowling were also presented. We then retired early in anticipation of the early

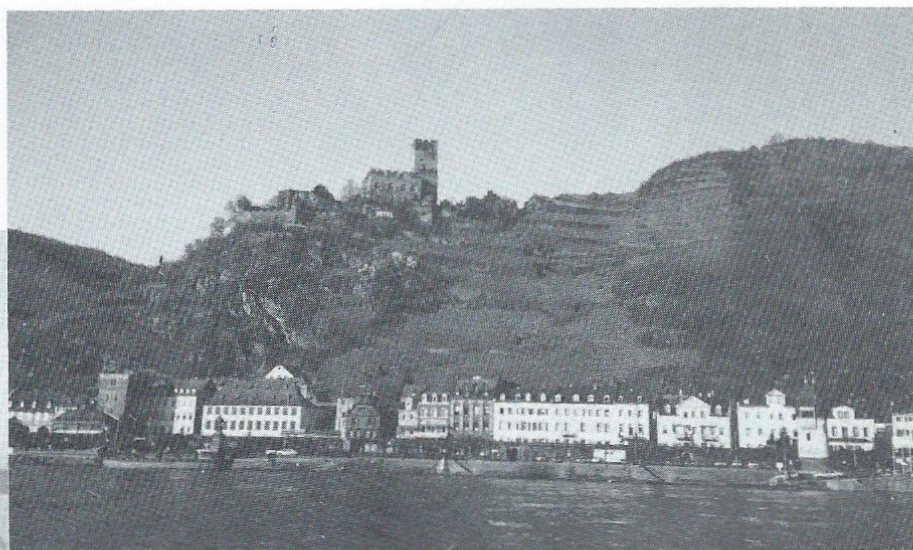
morning start back home.

On the Friday and Saturday evenings we had discos in the hotel. On Saturday the girls were a little small for us Fourth Years. On Saturday we also did our course work with the walkmen and cassettes, helped by the teachers and Debbie.

That's about it really; an enjoyable holiday with many organised excursions and spectacular views, clean air and a great hotel. Thanks must go to Mr Turner and Mr Langford for making this trip possible, to Fred and Debbie who were awarded presents from all of us at the end of the trip, to Mrs Langford for coping with us so well, to Rick Brooks for helping me compile this article, and to everyone else who helped.

Rob Merrell (4Y) and Dave Horner (4L)

One of the many castles in the Rhine gorge, with vineyards.
(Photo: G. J. Turner)



The Vierseenblick, overlooking Boppard.
(Photo: G. J. Turner)



Spoilt for choice in the Café at Ehrenbreitstein.
(Photo: G. J. Turner)



Not Siegfried's, but Richard Mattison's and Sanjay Hira's Rhine journey.

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

SKI TRIP TO MADESIMO, ITALY 1987/88

Although it is something of a tradition that the annual ski trip leaves the country at some wholly ridiculous hour, the booking of the 6.30 a.m. flight from Manchester really did surpass anything I had previously experienced. At this hour of the morning luggage seems strangely heavier than usual and negotiating everyday obstacles such as doors becomes a task requiring unwavering concentration. 35 members of the School, however, were able to drag themselves to the airport on time, and thus we were to set off for the small Italian village of Madesimo.

The flight was relatively uneventful; however, it was apparent from conversation amongst pupils and masters alike, that the weather reports were predicting the absence of a certain cold, white, crystalline formation, regarded as somewhat necessary in order to do what we were all planning to do, ski. The 'inflight' meal, mostly plastic and annoying little sachets, was not met with overwhelming approval, but it did provide a convenient contrast with the rest of the food throughout the trip, which was excellent!

There was the usual administrative delay at Verona airport, the Italian customs, comprising one man and a dog, not being the most efficient system imaginable. However once we were all through there was a short coach journey bringing us to the hotel 'Gran Baita', which was set in beautiful alpine scenery, but which was also entirely snowfree. The first evening was New Year's Eve, and although we were unable to find any other English parties in Madesimo, the evening still went well, with everyone clad in outrageous fancy dress.

Although there was no snow on the ground at the hotel, conditions in the mountains were such that a few of the key pistes were open, but the skiing on these proved rocky in the literal sense. Although the odd bruise was sustained here and there, the equipment took most of the abuse in what became affectionately known as a 'wipeout' (i.e. the victim, after several anxious moments of imbalance, falls at high speed as skis, snow, arms etc. fly everywhere in rapid and random motion, and eventually comes to rest, followed by a short period of intense embarrassment). No-one was seriously hurt, and, as they say 'falling is half the fun!' (The other half presumably being watching others do so).

The party spent many hours of *après ski* together, attending several discos, where traditional English *sang froid* was cast aside, and in the games room of the hotel, which was sufficiently stocked with facilities to keep the majority happy (although Mr. Moore was somewhat disappointed at the lack of Bob Dylan classics provided by the hotel juke box).

It did snow once whilst we were in Madesimo, and the skiing thus subsequently improved. Out on the slopes organisation ran fairly smoothly, although some confusion occurred when 18 of a group of 25 boys went missing for an hour or so on one of the harder slopes. However the leadership of Messrs. Moore, Seddon, and Moss in this particular event (and overall), was worthy of much praise, as the group was reformed, and guided safely throughout the rest of the trip.

With the inevitable luck of the Mancunians, on the last night it snowed very heavily, but the irony

of the situation did not spoil the evening's enjoyment. The whole party visited the local Pizzeria and then went on to another disco, where celebrations went well on into the night. Although this late night was to be followed by an extremely early morning, the spirit of the party remained high on the journey home, much of which was spent reflecting on what had, against the odds, been a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Peter Wilson L6A2

LA ROCHELLE 1988

This summer, several boys from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Forms, accompanied by Messrs Tim, Turner, Fisher, Bull and G. H. Jones, travelled to La Rochelle on the French Côte Atlantique. The aim was to fill a week with a variety of activities: acclimatisation (of every sort!), language assignments, excursions—and the occasional bout of sun-bathing. In addition to all this, each pupil was to keep a journal of the visit, which he could embellish with leaflets, photos, tickets and similar regalia gathered during the week. Instead of the customary retrospective account, therefore, an abbreviated version of one such journal, the work of a first-former, is reproduced below.

D. M. Fisher

Saturday

The coach on the way to Newhaven was comfortable, but the seats were quite hard. One could not get to sleep because of people telling jokes, but eventually, at about 2 o'clock, there was silence among us all. The earliest riser was me, at 7 o'clock. I think I was woken by the noise of an alarm.

At about 10 o'clock at night we all boarded the ferry. Many people, including me, were scared about standing on the boat, as it might sink, but to our relief, it did not. But the troubles were still not over: at three in the morning the ferry hit large waves, which made some of us sick. To take our minds off the rocking we played arcade games.

Sunday

We got on to the coach again and some boys were nearly left behind because they had not realised the ferry had stopped because they were still asleep.

I was amazed to see that France was just as the text-book had said: the numbers on the gates were strange and the shops were small. It was unfortunately very dear: a can of Coca-Cola cost 6 francs—around sixty pence! An amusement for us was watching *Crocodile Dundee* on the video.

At 2 o'clock we reached our destination, the Youth Centre which we would be staying in for the next week. It was large, and had common lizards running about in the gardens. All in all, it was a very pleasant place.

In the afternoon, after a filling lunch of crisps, French ham sandwiches, mineral water and an apple, we packed our swimming equipment and walked to the nearest beach at Les Minimes. There I did my first proper bit of French, asking a man for a chocolate ice-cream. Even that small item cost me 6F, and I lost half of it to a persistent wasp which kept flying around my head. Later on, long after I had dropped the ice-cream, I found out that it was after the lollipop in my other hand.

Monday

When Mr Fisher said we were going to the post-office to do some work I felt fed up as I had gone on the trip to get away from work. But it was not really work, just some simple exercises such as asking a person for a stamp. After I had said a few more things, such as, 'Je voudrais des pommes, s'il vous plaît', I began to become a lot more confident in myself.

After lunch back in the canteen, the coach-driver took us all to the beach again, and most of us caught a tan. After a long dip in the sea, we walked to the town to buy presents, and by 10.30 we had walked home and were sleeping quietly in bed.

Tuesday

Today the coach took us to the Camus distillery in Cognac. In there lingered a beautiful smell of brandy. Monsieur Léger, who guided our group round, presented us with four small sample bottles each, and an interesting booklet, but unluckily for us we were not allowed to keep the brandy for ourselves. We learned lots of interesting facts and figures, and the trip was really worth it.

This evening we again walked to the beach, but some people's heat blisters were getting worse, and one could not help cringing at the sight of them.



The Market Assignment.

(Photo: D. M. Fisher)



St. Martin de Ré.

(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

Wednesday

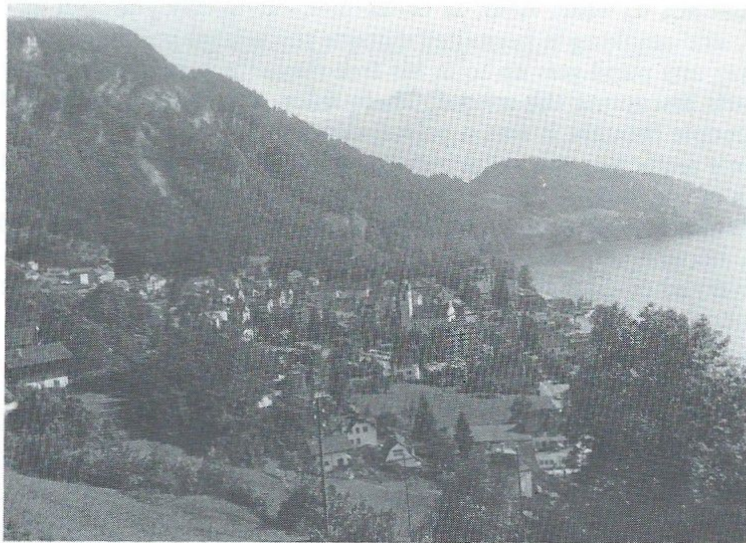
We were in the 'petit déjeuner' queue by 8.30, and then the first outing was to the market to do an assignment. In the market were two sharks, and some people took photos of the wretched animals. But the thing that made me feel sick was that the shrimps, prawns and crabs were crawling around alive out of water. Maybe it was to prove that they were fresh from the sea.

The rest of the afternoon was spent on the beach. Many boys were combing the beach for girls.

In the evening we went to the new aquarium. It is the biggest in Europe and has sharks. I bought two owls made of shells: absolutely beautiful. Then I took a wrong turning and it ended up that I was locked out and could not get back in. But it wasn't all sadness today, because I went and bought a small carton of chips: proper English chips.

Thursday

After breakfast, we went straight to an island called the Ile de Ré. When one says 'island', people immediately think you must go over by boat, but in this case it was not true. A huge new bridge had just opened, so we paid the toll and drove over. We had a picnic at the old port, St. Martin, then travelled to a long sandy beach and played beach games and swam.



Impressions of Switzerland by Timothy Burden (U6).

Friday

Today we went into La Rochelle and bought some presents. Everybody was pleased that they were going home so they could get a good night's sleep.

Later we went to the hypermarché. Here is a list of some very cheap items the French could buy there:

4 cans of Coke	8F50
1 litre of water	1F55
Family bag of crisps	4F50

At 5.30 we left the hypermarché and started the long journey back to Dieppe.

M. R. McMahon (1C)

EXCHANGE VISIT TO BARCELONA, 1988

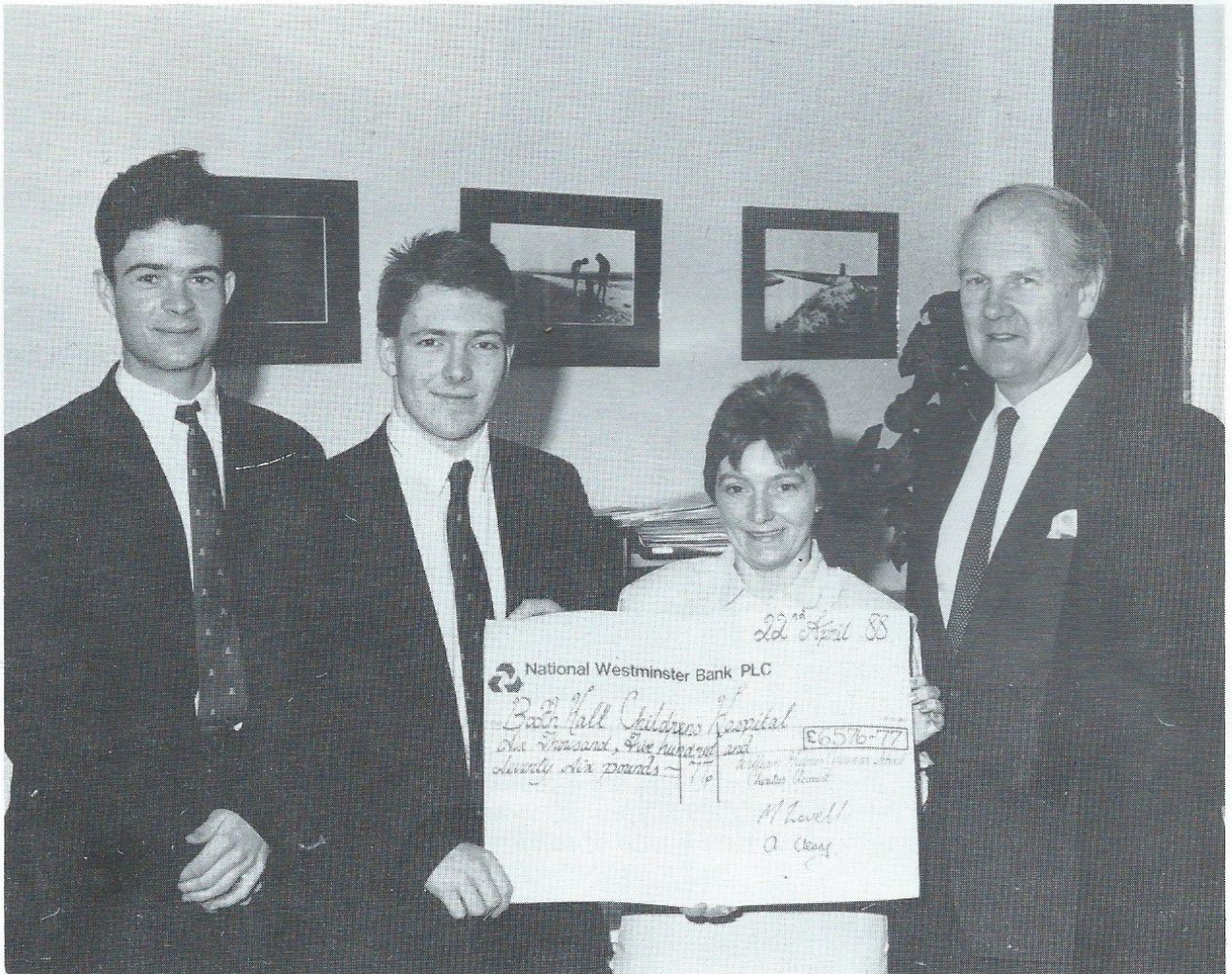
In early April last year, I was alone on an aeroplane heading for Barcelona for a fortnight-long exchange visit arranged by Mr Bull with IPSI, which is Barcelona's version of William Hulme's, but with more freedom! Three other boys in the School, Jamie Taylor, Nick Stoker and Lee Tilston were all scheduled to arrive in Barcelona to join me the following week, but they were unable to fly at the same time as myself.

My partner came to the airport with his father and the organiser in Barcelona, Senor Labay. My partner's name is David Rosal-Ricart (all Spanish people use one surname, but they all have their mother's premarital surnames as well as their family name).

Social, educational and family life differed somewhat, being far more enjoyable in some respects and less enjoyable in others. The first difference which I noticed was that the teachers have less authority over pupils, but enough to control troublesome youths. Senor Labay is called Carlos by the pupils, but never Senor Labay, so when I called Carlos, "Senor", the Spanish pupils were all laughing, and they asked me why I called him by his surname. When I explained, they were all shocked by the strict rules which I subsequently told them about. In the IPSI school, the rules were very relaxed indeed, and nobody takes advantage, because in the school, these concessions are normal, and not a new treat. There is no uniform at IPSI, and very few regulations about what not to wear. Also, at breaktime, everybody goes out and goes to the shops before their lunch sitting, and smoking is permitted outside the school building. Most importantly, though, is the way that whatever any pupil gets up to in his free time, the school mind their own business completely, unless anyone starts disrupting the school. These rules, among others showed me how strict our school is. The Spanish people thought it was a prison camp!

Also, family life is different, but I didn't really like one or two of the domestic changes. Instead of having dinner at 5 or 6 o'clock, and a snack late at night, the Spanish eat dinner at ten or eleven o'clock at night. There is, however, an irritating drawback to anyone unaccustomed to eating at such times, and especially people who like staying out late, because one has to be in on time for dinner.

Society in general is quite laid back, and rather than spend all their lives working like mad just for material gain, the Spanish appear to work at a steady pace and enjoy their lives while they are young.



A. P. Cleary and M. Lovell present a cheque to a representative of Booth Hall Children's Hospital, watched by the Headmaster.

(Photo: J. H. Thomson)

On the fourth day of the trip, I did an excursion to the Ramblas, a large parade of shopping streets all called "Rambla de _____", with a word in Spanish for something like birds or flowers, because that's what is mainly sold on a particular stretch of the enormous, beautiful walkway. I'm surprised there is not a "Rambla de Putas" because there were so many of them hanging around, waiting for a date.

We then passed all sorts of shopping stalls, including pigeon and animal stalls, flower stands and news-stands with tasteless magazines on sale next to radical marxist newspapers, until finally we came to "La Plaza de Colon" or Columbus' column, which is a sort of memorial to Columbus, who set off from Barcelona when searching for America.

Barcelona's political role is one of great importance and controversy in Spanish domestic politics. Catalonia, the region where Barcelona is situated, enjoyed independence before Franco ended it with his victory in the Civil War. Now once again Catalonia has a degree of autonomy. And whereas under Franco the Catalan language was suppressed, now it is officially recognised, and spoken openly and freely.

Overall, I enjoyed my visit to Barcelona. It is a beautifully built city, with the highlight being Gaudi's buildings, especially the Sagrada Familia (which will eventually have taken approximately two hundred years to build by the time it is finished).

I intend to return to the liveliness of Barcelona again, and I advise all 4th year Spanish pupils to take their opportunity and go.

Thanks to Mr Bull, the Rosal family and Sr Labay.

Marc Starr 4L

THE WAY WE WERE

(Extracts from *The Hulmeian* of 25, 50 and 75 years ago)

June, 1963

It was with profound shock and with a sense of personal loss that the School heard of the sudden death of Mr W. Taylor, the School Bursar, on May 11th. He served the School with loyalty and devotion, giving unstintingly of his professional skill, his warmth and generosity, his complete integrity. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs Taylor, with whom he fully shared his service to the School.

We were delighted to welcome back Mr D. M. Williams at half-term; he has made an excellent recovery from his operation at Christmas. At the beginning of this term we welcomed back Mr K. Hoskinson and hope that he will soon have fully recovered from his accident.

The Lent Term ended on a high note with the victories of the 1st XII in the final of the North of England Junior Flags and the Under 13 XII in the final for the Centurion Trophy.

On the last day of term, nearly the whole school voluntarily abstained from school dinner, the money thus saved, nearly £40, being given to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

One notable event of the term was the 50 mile walk from Manchester to Blackpool, organised by R. H. Roberts, and successfully completed by four boys and Mr C. E. Bryans.

During the Easter holidays, the annual School trip to Paris took place under the direction of Mr Collings and Mr Timm. Another party of boys, led by Mr Haynes and accompanied by several other members of staff, hiked in Yorkshire. Mr Travers took a party of Sixth Form geographers to East Anglia, and Mr Phillips and Mr Haynes led a party on the Norfolk Broads.

By the decision of the School Governors, the Preparatory Department will close in July, 1964. The "Prep." has occupied its present position, on the corner of Alexandra Road and Wilbraham Road, since 1918; before then it was part of the main School, being housed in what is now Room 7.

Current Affairs lectures during the Lent term included the following: *Music Since 1920*, by Mr Johnson; *Painting*, by Mr Malpass; *The Purposes of History*, by Mr John; *Manchester's Architecture*, by Mr Archer; *Industrial Design* by Mr Wainwright; *Crime and Punishment*, by Professor Cohen; *Migration within the Commonwealth*, by Mrs Cusworth; *Germany in the '60s*, by Mrs Northcott.

April, 1938

We congratulate Mr F. Bancroft Turner on his appointment by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to be Stipendiary Justice for the City of Salford. On leaving the School, where he was captain of football and cricket, Mr Turner read law at Manchester University. In the second month of the war he went to Egypt with the 8th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, later being moved to Gallipoli where he was wounded. He was twice invalided home. After the war he became a pupil of Sir Harold Morris, K.C., and then of Judge Burgess. Finally he practised in Manchester, and was appointed to the Northern Circuit on the common law side.

July, 1938

The Sacred Concert

For the second year there was only one performance of the Sacred Concert, and that was given on Monday, April 11th in the School Hall. Though it was a pleasant evening such as might have tempted intending visitors to remain out of doors, the audience was the best that has yet attended this School function, and so well filled was the hall that late comers had to stand, while there was a complete "sell-out" of programmes. The programme, though short, was varied and interesting, and, throughout, held the attention of the listeners, the performance of each item meeting with a ready appreciation.

In the opening number, Symphony No. 100 in G ("The Military") (Haydn) the Orchestra played in spirited fashion with some vigorous solos on the tympani, while the trumpets were heard to advantage.

Next came a clear-cut, pleasant rendering of a carol, "The Quest" (Brahms), by four boys together with Mr Dennis and Mr Williams. In the two Bach chorales, "Passion Chorale" and "Wachet auf!" the large choir was impressive, and there was a commendable precision about their performance. After the interval the concert resumed with a sextet (F. A. Stone, M. W. Barber, J. M. Gilliat, D. A. Hart, Mr Dennis, Mr Williams) singing a short Easter carol in which the voices of the performers blended pleasingly. Next a pianoforte quartet composed of G. W. E. Stark (pianoforte), R. Brown (1st violin), R. S. Mahomed (2nd violin), D. R. Wood ('cello) played William Boyce's "Sonata in A" with charm and dignity. This was followed by a choir of about fifty and a smaller orchestra combining in a performance of extracts from Mozart's Twelfth Mass in which the large forces of the choir and the orchestra were skilfully steered over a difficult course. The programme was briskly ended by all the performers taking part in the School Song.

December, 1938

We welcome to the School Mr G. P. Miles, The Queen's College, Oxford (Modern Languages), and Mr A. T. Parsons, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge (Geography).

A State Scholarship, value £100 per annum and tenable for three years, has been won by G. W. E. Stark, who is now up at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

Manchester City Scholarships, value £60 per annum and tenable for three years, have been awarded to F. Clarke, W. T. Curtis, D. H. Griffiths, G. W. E. Stark and G. A. Weeks.

Motoring in France, an Episode

In England we have cultivated the habit of concentrating our more dangerous lunatics in asylums or some such institutions, but in France they still continue to make chauffeurs of them. The degree of affliction can generally be gauged by the size of the vehicle given to them. Those in the early stages drive taxis, progressing as the malady develops,

to van and lorry drivers, until they become sufficiently dangerous and irresponsible to be turned loose on a camion and trailer, or perhaps a big char-a-banc. We left the hotel in one of the latter, with a chauffeur true to the type. Fifty yards from the hotel door we swung round a corner, naturally without any kind of signal or warning, and scattered a group of early moving workmen. One, a little less nimble than the rest, managed by some miracle to drag himself away from our front wheels. This initial failure appeared to annoy the man at the wheel. He shrugged his shoulders, turned up the collar of his coat, and stamped on the accelerator. From the mumblings from inside the collar I gathered that he was determined not to miss the next opportunity. Tearing along the cobbled streets we attained our maximum speed at cross-roads and blind corners, eventually reaching the suburbs with an empty bag. As we came to the open country a surly depression set in, until passing a cemetery, when the mutterings ceased, and the light of fresh inspiration came. If the local population were not going to play, why not take it out of the passengers.

Headlong down a steep hill we careered, maintaining an unsteady eighty kilometres, in spite of numerous blind bends which were, of course, taken on the wrong side. Then, on a straight stretch victory, in the shape of a small car coming uphill, came within sight. We pulled over the remaining three feet to our wrong side. Now, surely we had our man, but with only ten more yards to go the skunk pulled into the ditch! You might conclude that the ordinary lunatic would become disheartened by such a sequence of exasperating failures. Not so with our charmer. Ahead was a level-crossing; we lurched forward with renewed purpose, only to meet a further setback, for, as we approached, the barrier slowly rose, announcing that even the train was now safely across. This seemed to be just too much; depression set in again. The reason for this became quickly evident, for a little way ahead the airport buildings came into view, and the final chance vanished. Outside the customs house we pulled-up with a jerk and a parting snarl, without even a cur to our credit. Stepping out on to hard ground we congratulated each other, and once more I realised how safe is flying these days.

H. S. (O.H.).

April, 1913

The present number records the formation of the Old Hulmeians' Association and the success of the Old Hulmeians' Lacrosse Team in winning the North of England Lacrosse Shield. In the lacrosse match, North v. South, six Old Hulmeians played for the North team, and one N. Pearson, of Hampstead Club, for the South.

A. M. Tristram, Worcester College, Oxford, has obtained a Second Class in Honour Moderations (Classics) in the University of Oxford.

In the University of Manchester, J. S. Chorlton has passed the Second M.B. and Ch.B., and B. Browning the Third M.B. and Ch.B., in General Pathology and Morbid Anatomy.

Mr Douglas Knoop, M.A., Professor of Economics in the University of Sheffield, has written a book on the "Principles and Methods of Municipal Trading," which has been published by Messrs. Macmillan, and embodies the results of his work in the University of Manchester for the Warburton Essay Prize and the Langton Fellowship.

H. G. E. Williams, King's College, Cambridge, played again for Cambridge in the University Lacrosse Match this year.

First Team Football caps have been awarded to S. Irwin, A. L. Banton, L. Beck, B. Sutton, C. H. Travis, C. A. Humphries, and Second Team caps to E. V. Booth, G. W. Neill, W. L. Holden, A. D. Ray, J. L. Allison, E. H. Royce, H. Elly, N. S. A. Humphries.

First Team Lacrosse caps have been awarded to C. W. Murphy, F. E. Holmes, and R. W. Briggs.

Mr. A. W. Bradbury has subscribed £25 to the Building Fund.

C. M. Ford has obtained his Captain's Certificate, and is now fourth officer on the Cunard liner *Caronia*.

Some good work was done during the Easter Holidays in levelling part of the School field. E. Wilde, C. W. Murphy, and J. Calderwood were amongst the most industrious of the labourers. Mr Barber was the foreman in charge of the work.

To the list of Old Hulmeians' subscribers to the New Building Fund are to be added the names of H. S. Wihl and G. M. Van der Veen.

The Scientific Society

President: The Head Master. *Vice-President:* Mr Adams. *Secretary:* G. W. Neill. *Treasurer:* L. B. Timmis. *Committee:* E. Wilde, J. Calderwood, and the above.

A tea and concert were organised by the society for the final day of last term, to which the members were to adjourn at the conclusion of Hudson's lecture on "Photographic Enlarging." The bursting of a water-pipe, which flooded the dining-room and kitchen, spoilt all the arrangements. During the morning the committee waded about the flooded regions, and held several impromptu meetings to decide as to the disposal of the great store of provisions already procured. Immediately after the decisions were finally agreed upon, three members waded to the pantry, and re-purchased among themselves a choice portion of the feast and devoured it on the spot.

At the tenth meeting, on March 6th, Dr W. M. Tattersall, curator of the Manchester Museum, gave a most interesting lecture on "Fishes," with lantern views. The whole of the upper school was admitted, and the lecture room was quite full. The lecturer described firstly the wonderful and comparatively unknown habits of quite common fish, and then spoke of some of the rarer kinds, chiefly of deep-sea fish, possessing very peculiar abilities, adapted to the enormous pressure and almost absolute darkness in which they live. Of these, some have light-providing organs; others, apparatus resembling an angler's rod and line, to catch their prey with; while a slide was shown, depicting a fish which had swallowed another one, three times its own size. A vote of thanks to Dr Tattersall for his kindness was proposed by Mr Adams, and, having been seconded by Mr Smith, was carried with immense applause.

L.B.T.

The Literary and Debating Society

On Monday, January 27th, 1913, a debate took place. The following motion was placed before the House: "That this House disapproves of the extension of the franchise to women." C. A. Humphries opened. He admitted at the outset that all householders should have a vote. While acknowledging the good work done by women, he contended that the woman's place is the home. Royce, E. H., opposed the motion. He spoke about the rapid advance of women, and claimed that as women had been so successful, even although contrary to expectations, in other spheres, that they should be allowed to try in the Parliamentary sphere. Humphries, N., Lockhart, Roberts, H., supported the motion, and Calderwood, J., Palmer, W. H., opposed. The motion was carried.

Old Hulmeians' Dinner

The first annual dinner of the Old Hulmeians' Association was held on February 1st, 1913, at the Midland Hotel. The chair was taken by Dr Hall, the President of the Association, and about 60 members and friends were present. A letter of apology for absence was read from Professor Knoop, and a telegram of congratulation was received from the Association of Old Hulmeians in London. After the loyal toast, the Chairman proposed the memory of William Hulme, mentioning the fact that the ancestral home of our pious founder was still to be seen in Hulme Hall, now a farmhouse, near Heaton Chapel. Mr Sydney Payne proposed the "School," and the Chairman replied. The toast of the evening was the "Old Hulmeians' Association," proposed by Mr J. I. Franklin, who mentioned various ways in which the newly-founded body might benefit its members and the Hulme School. He was supported by the Rev N. L. Aspinall, Governor of the School, and by Mr A. W. Bradbury, who invited those present to supply him with the addresses of Old Boys beyond the seas, to whom he offered to cable greetings from the first festive gathering of the Association. The toast was acknowledged by Mr H. H. Vlies, who gave a most interesting historical retrospect of the Old Hulmeians' Clubs, now merged in the Association. The number of speeches somewhat curtailed the musical portion of the programme, but time was found for "Gaudeamus" and "Forty Years On," and Mr Somerset and Mr George Till gave enjoyable songs. The Chairman mentioned that during the evening he had received from Mr A. W. Bradbury a generous gift towards the New Buildings Fund. A large number

of cables were sent by Mr Bradbury to Old Boys in distant lands, and since the date of the dinner several acknowledgments have come to hand, showing how much gratified the recipients were to find that they were remembered by those at home on this occasion. The cable sent to Mr Stanley Jones at Pekan, in the Federated Malay States, was the first telegram to pass to that place over the new line, and Dr W. J. Young wrote to Dr Hall from the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Townsville, North Queensland, as follows: "The other day I received a very pleasant surprise in the shape of a cablegram of greeting from those Old Hulmeians present at the dinner in Manchester. Please accept my very best thanks for this kind remembrance, and please convey them to the other members of the Association. It is very encouraging to know that one is not forgotten by one's old School friends, both masters and boys, and I was very much touched and gratified by the message." Mr D. McNicol writes from Winnipeg to a similar effect.

December, 1913

**Prize Day
Dr Hall's Farewell**

As most of you know, my connection with the Hulme School comes to an end to-day. It is no easy thing to lay down the work which has occupied one's best efforts and thought for the past 27 years, and I do leave it with the greatest reluctance and regret. The establishment of a new school, the directing of its aims, the founding of its traditions, are great responsibilities, and I am more conscious of the things in which I have failed than of any small measure of success which has attended my efforts. But in one thing I rejoice to think I have succeeded—the raising of the status and importance of the School. It began in 1887, with a leaving age of sixteen; since 1909 it has been first grade in curriculum and leaving age. There has not been time to develop the full effect of this change, which will connect the School more closely with university and higher education in the future.

And so I say farewell, first and foremost, to my staff, surely one of the most constant and the best to be found anywhere. We have been long together—Mr Brice from the beginning, Mr Franklin since 1889, five others for over twenty-two years—a record probably unique among English grammar schools. I trust that the zeal and devotion they have all along shown in the service of the School will find due recognition under changed conditions.

To my present boys, who have already given me such touching evidence of their affection and esteem, and to all Old Hulmeians whom my words may reach, I say "Good-bye" with my heartiest wishes for their real success. I think it can be given to few Head Masters to carry away with them such pleasant recollections of their boys as I shall take with me.

And finally to the parents, some of them former pupils of my own, I beg to offer my best thanks for the kindly indulgence they have shown to my failings and mistakes, and for the kindly appreciation they have often shown of my efforts in their children's behalf.

After distributing the prizes, the Head Master addressed the boys on the subject of "What Constitutes Success." He said: "It is not winning prizes, in the first place, though that is an item in it—a small item perhaps. I think it is a pity that the one public occasion of the school year is devoted to this orgy of individualism, if I may so speak—for single boys who have been fighting more or less for their own hands to come up to receive appreciation; because there is quite a possibility that boys may come to think that is the end of school existence and the finest thing they can possibly do in it. I do not want to say anything at all to the disparagement of prizes. They act as a very valuable stimulus; they produce more work in the case of a certain class of boys. There are boys we know—they are not very numerous—who do their best whether they get a prize or not. There are those who work better under the stimulus and prospect of a prize, and there are others, boys of ready wit and great ability, who do not always work and do their very best, but at the same time succeed in coming to the top. Those last are, I think, the most unprofitable of all, and the prizes do them least good. I hope we have none of them in this school. Nor is the object and end of school existence merely learning. You know from the Founder's Prayer, we are here for the further attainment of godliness and learning—translated into a more modern language, character and conduct, which come far before prize-winning or learning. When a boy enters the school—and I am here addressing parents as well as boys—he joins a community, to the rules of which he subjects himself,

and to the interests of which he is bound to subordinate himself. He sinks his individuality in the greatest good of the institution to which he belongs, and the boy who is the greatest success in school is the boy who does the greatest service in it, the boy who devotes himself to the interests of the school and to those of his school-fellows in the most unselfish manner possible. Such a type of boy—I have known a great many of them, and we have them in the school—acts in all things with reference to his school. When he takes any step he asks himself, perhaps not altogether consciously, ‘How will what I am going to do affect the school to which I belong?’ He is very careful in all his conduct outside to recommend the school. He does not join organisations which divert his attention from the things which he ought to be cultivating in the school. Even in his games he maintains the honours of his school. He will not sacrifice them to do something which he may like better personally. That is the ideal which I want to leave you, the idea of service to the community to which you belong, and the subordination of your own wishes and ideas to the advantage of the school. Measured in that way, I may say I have observed many boys who have never got a prize, but who have my greatest esteem and admiration. They are probably not so clever as others. They do their best for the school because it is good for the school, and in other respects they think constantly of its advantages and service. I should like to leave you my last words with that thought and idea, and I hope you will try more consciously in future to carry it out. And to the parents I should extend the idea. I should ask them more and more not to regard the school so much from the point of their own boy as from the point of view of all. If that were thoroughly carried out a great many of the little vexations and troubles and worries of a schoolmaster would disappear at once. I will not labour the point any further, but leave it with you for your consideration.”

GAMES



RUGBY FIRST XV

Results Played 14, Won 9, Drawn 1, Lost 4

v. Marple Hall.....	Won	7-0
v. Bramhall H.S.....	Drawn	4-4
v. Birkenhead School.....	Lost	0-6
v. Poynton H.S.....	Won	32-3
v. Cheadle Hulme.....	Lost	10-15
v. St. Bede's.....	Won	12-10
v. Woodhouse Grove.....	cancelled	
v. Merchant Taylor's School.....	Lost	0-25
v. King Edward VII, Lytham.....	Won	7-3
v. Manchester Grammar School.....	Won	28-0
v. Bolton School.....	Won	66-0
v. Bury Grammar School.....	Won	46-3
v. Stockport Grammar School.....	Lost	6-9
v. Sale Grammar School.....	Won	27-0

This season was very much one of two contrasting half-terms. Initially the side felt the heavy burden of last year's record and lacked the confidence to really attack the opposition. The game against Marple Hall was a typical early season encounter with both sides struggling to produce any fluid play and whilst an away win was recorded there were ominous signs that finding a stable front row was going to be a problem.

After a somewhat lack-lustre performance against Bramhall confidence was low for the Birkenhead game and the team's first defeat since 1985 was recorded. However, the performance itself was a courageous one and it was technique rather than attitude which caused our downfall.

The performances up to half-term can best be described as erratic not only from match to match but also within matches. After a convincing win against Poynton H.S. the game against Cheadle Hulme was handed to the opposition on a plate with a succession of penalties for elementary offences in the first half. However, with time rapidly running out we suddenly came to life and scored two outstanding tries, and one was left with the thought 'If only we could produce this consistently!'

The following match against St. Bedes took a similar course with the team trailing at half-time. This time, however, the second half revival was more complete and a narrow but important victory was recorded.

The return of captain David Timm after half-term produced a new found confidence in the side as both Alex Kloss and Robert Bailey felt the burden of responsibility ease from their shoulders.

An excellent victory against King Edward VII Lytham put the team in fine spirit for the local derby against M.G.S., a match which was won 28-0. Not even this scoreline, however, truly reflects the gulf between the two sides as the Manchester Grammar team was first subdued and then destroyed by relentless pressure.

Two easier games against Bolton School and Bury G.S. followed before the important match against Stockport G.S., a side which contained six Cheshire county players. Whilst the game was lost 6-9 the performance was a brilliant one particularly by the forwards who destroyed a much bigger pack.

The final game against Sale G.S. was something of an anti-climax. However, a fine victory was recorded and one was left to ponder just how good the team would have been had they been given the opportunity to play as much rugby as many of their rivals. Indeed, it is with a little sadness that I write this article knowing that many of the team spend their Saturday mornings sitting at home rather than representing their School.

The following were regular members of the 1st XV in 1987.

R. Bailey (Full-Back): An excellent defensive player and a strong runner in attack.

A. Jackson (Wing): After a disappointing start he settled quickly into the pattern of play. He deceived many opponents with his long stride and deceptive speed.

A. Mallalieu (Centre): An excellent attacking player whose tackling improved throughout the season.

C. Willott (Centre): A very elusive if unorthodox player whose change of pace and direction created many gaps.

J. Bradley (Centre): A strong, straight running centre and possessor of a devastating crash tackle.

M. Lovell (Wing): A most determined player. His rapid acceleration created, for his centres and himself, several scoring opportunities.

D. Smart (Fly-Half): A cool, confident player with a devastating dummy and side-step which gained him several crucial tries.

I. Butler (Scrum-Half): A strong pass coupled with exceptional ability to break from the base of the scrum made him an ideal link between forwards and three-quarters.

J. Dobkin (Prop): A strong and mobile prop, his lack of confidence, however, was at times his downfall.

C. Chow (Hooker): An exceptional striker of the ball in scrums and a very mobile player in the loose.

N. Baynes (Prop): After a shaky start he settled into his new position well and played some excellent games after half-term.

A. Kloss (Lock): A determined aggressive player who dominated the lineout and worked tirelessly in the loose.

D. Sproson (Lock): A very mobile lock who worked hard in the set piece and covered relentlessly in the loose.

R. Clark (Lock/No. 8): A strong fast running forward, he must work harder off the ball, however.

K. Stephenson (Flanker): Tireless in both defence and attack, he was always in support of the backs when needed.

J. Garner (Flanker): An old-fashioned knocker-down who never stopped running throughout the course of a game.

D. Timm (No. 8) Captain: David has led by example both on and off the field and has shown himself to be an excellent captain and No. 8 forward.

The following also made significant contributions to the team on their more brief appearances: C. Chudleigh, T. Alford, N. Taylor, A. Heaford, R. Ketteridge and M. MacNeany.

I take this opportunity of wishing all players success in their years of rugby ahead. Continued dedication in training, and enthusiasm, will reap plentiful rewards.

R. E. Lytollis

1st XV v. PORT MOODY HIGH SCHOOL, CANADA

For three days during the Easter Holiday, the School hosted a visiting rugby team from Vancouver, Canada.

Following the usual hospitality, the game was played at Broughton Park R.U.F.C. In a hard-fought contest the School emerged victorious by 33-3. A fitting climax to the season and a most suitable final School game for the Upper Sixth players.

C. H. Seddon



FIRST FIFTEEN

Top (left to right): Mr R. E. Lytollis, D. Sproson, J. Garner, M. MacNeany,
A. Kloss, N. Baynes, I. Butler, A. Jackson, D. Timm.
Bottom (left to right): C. Chow, R. Bailey, M. Lovell, C. Willott,
K. Stephenson, A. Mallalieu, D. Smart.



Scrum-Half Ian Butler moves the ball away from the scrum.

SECOND XV RUGBY

Results Played 13, Won 6, Lost 6, Drawn 1
Points for 201, Against 184

v. Marple Hall School.....	A	L	3-14
v. Bramhall H.S.....	A	W	17-16
v. Birkenhead School.....	A	L	0-34
v. Poynton H.S.....	A	L	4-10
v. Cheadle Hulme School.....	H	W	20-12
v. St. Bede's School.....	H	W	22-6
v. Merchant Taylor's.....	A	L	3-32
v. Woodhouse Grove.....	A	L	0-43
v. King Edward VII.....	H	W	19-0
v. Manchester Grammar.....	H	D	6-6
v. Bolton School.....	H	W	27-4
v. Bury Grammar.....	H	W	74-0
v. Stockport Grammar.....	H	L	6-7
v. Sale Grammar.....	H	cancelled	

A Coach's View

This being my first season with the 2nd team, I was pleased to see a good attendance at the pre-season training which ran for two weeks before the start of term. There were many players working hard to gain early selection. Once back at school we were quickly into the first game, allowing only a short time with the full team to develop some unity and a game plan.

The first game against Marple Hall proved to be hard work for the forwards, particularly in the scrums. Marple were technically superior and scored three push-over tries which were enough to win the game. Tackling was also highlighted as a problem area. However, the team worked hard on scrummaging and improved enormously. In fact we were never totally out scrummaged again and developed a very effective unit.

In the next match against Bramhall High we had most of the play but due to some rather basic errors in tackling and handling the score line did not reflect our dominance. At Birkenhead, on a day of torrential rain, the same errors were evident and they cost us dearly as the opposition capitalised upon them and won convincingly. Against Poynton, we were much the better side but lacked the determination and final pass which would have produced the score. As a result we lost a game that we should have won. At the end of the game the team were treated to a severe roasting which seemed to sink in, as in the next two games we won good victories over much better opposition, namely Cheadle Hulme and St. Bedes.

A side much depleted because of a field trip went to Merchant Taylor's and were beaten convincingly by a good team. The following week, at full strength again, we travelled to Woodhouse Grove School where we met what proved to be the best team that we played against all season; and they gave us a lesson on how to play the game. However we came back from this and finished the second half of the season in good form. In this part of the season there were two epic encounters against our close neighbours Manchester Grammar School and Stockport Grammar School. Every player gave his all to try and win in two extremely hard-fought and tight games in which the end results were a draw and a loss by one point. We too were able to show our skills and give out one or two rugby lessons, the most notable being against Bury Grammar School where we ran in thirteen tries.

By the end of the season all the players had improved as individuals, unit skills were developed in both backs and forwards, and as a result the team's performance improved. This was due to two major factors—the regular attendance at training and practice sessions and the good spirit that developed among the players as they began to believe in themselves and each other.

I would particularly thank D. Langton (captain) and M. McNeany (vice-captain) for their enthusiastic help in running the second team this year. Finally my thanks go also to the players for their hard work and to the parents for their support.

The following played regularly for the 2nd XV: T. Alford, B. Armstrong, J. Bellas, J. Babicki, S. Cherry, R. Clark, S. Dove, N. Eccles, S. Hayes, A. Heaford, P. Higginbottom, R. Jones, I. Jordan, R. Ketteridge, D. Langton, M. McNeany, A. Partington, N. Riddings, S. Roffey, R. Slowen, N. Taylor, N. Vowles, S. White, C. Willott, A. Wray.

N. P. Dunn

Second Team Rugby—A Captain's View

This was a well balanced season with the team winning fifty percent of the matches. The team varied from week to week but a regular group of fifth and sixth formers provided the nucleus of the team. After a poor start to the season, the team played well on a number of occasions and achieved an unbeaten record at home until the last game of the season.

In the front row T. Heaford, a new member of the school, proved to be a good hooker as well as being effective at rucking. M. McNeany played well before obtaining a place in the first XV. At second row J. Bellas and R. Jones won good line-out ball, although they were a little slow around the field at times. Both players proved invaluable, however, and showed great potential. In the back row a combination of players were tried, all of whom played well—in particular S. White and R. Ketteridge.

I. Jordan was reliable and showed much potential at scrum half, giving good service to B. Armstrong, one of the four upper sixth formers who joined the side during the season. S. Dove and N. Eccles also joined us late in the season and their skill and pace gave the three-quarters added strength and renewed encouragement. A. Partington and S. Hayes, although lacking in experience, learnt much from these two players when playing on the wings.

A. Wray was one of many players who played well at full back.

I would like to thank I. Jordan and M. McNeany for captaining the side in my absence and also those players who came into the side to cover for injuries and absences from the team. I would also like to thank Mr Dunn for putting time and effort into coaching the side.

D. Langton

UNDER 15 RUGBY

This may best be described as a season of mixed fortunes. There were some fine team performances as well as the odd appalling display. Injuries, absentees and occasional apathy did not help to mould a cohesive unit.

Set scrums worked quite well providing an ample amount of possession for the backs. Line-outs, however, and speed to the loose ball in effective numbers was an area where we were outplayed on many occasions. Individually the forwards worked hard with Mike Jones, Lee Tilston, Jonathan Johnson and Giles Davidson being to the fore. Cohesion was always the problem.

The back division clearly missed the services of Peter Davies and relied on good old English brawn rather than Welsh brain. The strong running of Andrew Hollingworth was the main feature of the back play with sorties down the wing from Nick Stoker. David Bradley at outside half had a fine season, but a player in that position shouldn't have to take so many knocks. Robert Goodall at centre was an effective link as well as goal kicker.

Lee Mather and Richard Hulse shared the problem scrum half position and whilst each had his own contribution to make to the team, neither could effectively get the ball away from the base quickly enough or often enough, to give the backs the time they needed. Gary Jameson looked a talented full back making many safe catches and penetrating runs.

The high spots of the season were the wins against Merchant Taylor's, Bury and Sale. Indeed, the efforts of the team against Sale were a credit to all those who played.

I wish the players good fortune as they progress to the Senior teams.

Record: Played 11, Won 5, Lost 6, For 114, Against 198.

Squad: Hollingworth (Capt.), Tilston, Johnson, Khan, Jones, Veitch, Noble, Segal, Hulse, Frost, Malik, Mather, Bradley, Goodall, Jameson, Rogers, Goodman, Davidson, Cassidy, Meadows, Stoker, Smith D.

J. Elliott

UNDER 14 XV

Played 12, Won 2, Lost 10. Points for 84, Against 322

v. Marple Hall School.....	H	L	8-18
v. Bramhall H.S.....	H	L	16-42
v. Birkenhead School.....	H	L	0-50
v. Poynton H.S.....	H	L	0-40
v. Cheadle Hulme School.....	H	L	6-15
v. Merchant Taylor's School.....	H	L	6-13
v. King Edward VII, Lytham.....	H	W	20-19
v. Manchester Grammar School.....	A	L	0-36
v. Bolton School.....	A	W	8-4
v. Bury Grammar School.....	H	L	4-14
v. Stockport Grammar School.....	A	L	4-47
v. Sale Grammar School.....	A	L	12-24

This was a disappointing season in terms of results. The team rarely played well for a full game, although there were periods in most games where they played rather better than the results would suggest. The scores were often exaggerated by a reluctance to make a decisive first tackle. However the players should be

congratulated on their continued enthusiasm when things were going against them. The following boys represented the School on a regular basis: M. D. Barnes, K. A. Blackshaw, P. M. Cain, I. Cope, A. C. Cunningham, J. C. Frost, J. B. Kim, A. R. Ladd, S. McConnell, D. J. Moss, N. Pagan, A. J. Scott-Gall, N. G. Sochovsky, P. A. Sutcliffe, C. R. Williamson and M. P. Wilson. The following also played: K. A. Ahmed, N. J. Burton, A. M. Dean, D. J. Lambert, J. S. Mason, R. C. Mattison, A. D. Rose, N. M. Samuels and M. A. Wystepek.

D. G. Barnes, M. R. Booker

UNDER 13 RUGBY

Played 12, Won 5, Lost 6, Drawn 1, For 194, Against 206

v. Marple Hall H.S.....	Lost	4-24
v. Bramhall H.S.....	Won	36-10
v. Poynton H.S.....	Drew	18-18
v. Cheadle Hulme School.....	Lost	12-36
v. St. Bede's.....	Won	14-12
v. Woodhouse Grove.....	Lost	0-18
v. King Edward's, Lytham.....	Lost	0-36
v. Manchester G.S.....	Lost	0-36
v. Bolton G.S.....	Won	42-0
v. Bury G.S.....	Won	56-0
v. Stockport G.S.....	Lost	0-4
v. Sale G.S.....	Won	14-12

The following boys represented the School: W. Mason (Capt.), F. Baama, A. Baron, E. Buckley, A. Bulwich, C. Bury, D. Connor, J. Daniel, T. Eckersley, A. Howarth, C. Jones, K. Jones, S. Jones, D. Marsh, N. Morton, P. Patel, C. Reichl, B. Rimron, M. Rhodes, M. Rudge, N. Scruton, A. Sharples, R. Smith, P. Sum, R. Turner, T. Veitch, J. Walmsley, M. Weedon, D. West, N. Whiteley, N. Wood.

A very satisfying season finished on a high note with a very close-fought and exciting game against Sale G.S. With very little to choose between the two teams the School finally emerged victors by 14-12. Although several other games were less close, all members of the XV gave 100% to the team effort and, whilst the team performance must be emphasised, several individuals deserve praise.

Mason, the Captain, led by example and was always to be found in the thick of the action; the back row of Patel, Sharples and Bury improved with every game, Patel in particular, having an outstanding game against Sale; Bulwich and Daniel formed an effective link between forwards and back giving Wood every opportunity to show his elusive style of running; at full back, Baama timed his entry into the line with great effect but will need to work on his tackling.

It would be wrong to suggest that the success of the team revolved around a few individuals, for it was very much a team effort. No one individual had the ability to win a game—it was up to the determination of the fifteen players on the field.

As the season progressed the XV began to develop into a unit. The forwards began to produce good ball from first and often second phase possession and although quick transference of the ball was not always possible, players did begin to look for the gaps in the opposing defence. Tackling was, however, our biggest weakness. But, having seen other junior sides develop, I know that this will improve in time.

During the season an excellent team spirit developed and I am sure that most of the boys enjoyed their rugby. Certainly the ever present, ever growing supporters' club on the touch line enjoyed the games, and the team and I are very grateful for their support throughout the season.

The second XV played only one fixture, against Manchester G.S. and this was a very close and exciting game. All the boys played well and with spirit, only to be defeated by the narrowest of margins, 4-8.

C. Seddon

UNDER 12 RUGBY 'A' & 'B' XV's

Playing Record

		'A'		'B'
v. Cheadle Hulme School.....	W	20-0		
v. Woodhouse Grove School.....	L	0-28		
v. King Edward VII, Lytham.....	L	0-22		
v. Manchester G.S.....	L	0-22	W	10-4
v. Bolton School.....	W	24-0		
v. Stockport G.S.....	W	10-4		
v. Sale G.S.....	W	38-0		

In the beginning there was a man. The man was unhappy. His rugby team had fought six battles last year—and in all six, his team had been beaten. His colleagues yelled and hooted at his misery for their teams had won many battles. The September drizzles came and the man was given new troops to train. "How many of you have played Rugby before?" he cried. Few troops answered "Yea". The man's brow furrowed. And so, for the next three weeks they were preached to at dinner time and after School and were issued with commandments—pass, catch, run, tackle, push, ruck, maul, drive, jump, score. A voice was heard to boom across the pitches; all wildlife ran for cover, for indeed, it was like the wail of a banshee. And the man was cursed for late homecomings and dirty washing every day!

After three weeks the team travelled to Cheadle Hulme and lo and behold! scored five memorable tries in a game of excitement and entertainment. The man smiled, but more importantly so did the team and its hordes of supporters.

Then, they journeyed afar, across mountains, to the wilderness called Yorkshire to play the formidable Woodhouse Grove School. Many had journeyed in the hope of seeing something approaching a miracle! They all shouted "Go forward, go forward", but the team went backwards and the experienced and disciplined opposition parted our defences seven times, despite valiant defence by our 'Davids' against their 'Goliaths' of forwards.

The team went home to lick their wounds and to think about their defeat. And that week, they scrummaged and scrummaged and tackled and tackled in practice since that was the lesson of Woodhouse Grove. The team journeyed far again—to the Desert Sands of Lytham. The man and his friends shouted "Go forward!" and the Forwards drove forward and won every scrum. The assembled multitude shouted "Give the ball out in the backs!" but it came to pass that the backs did NOT 'pass' and were knocked down by a host of avenging blue and white hooped Wing Forwards from the start to the finish. Panic-filled faces were everywhere on the field. The team left the park like a pack of beaten dogs and were quiet in the changing room and coach, for a cloud had descended upon them.

The weekend 'refreshed' everyone, and the team worked hard for five dinner times and five evenings for there were two battles to be fought the next weekend against the ancient foes from Manchester Grammar School. The 'B' team 'roared' and were worthy winners and the man smiled as he walked over to the 'A' team game. The troops were confident and they pushed Manchester all around the park in the tight, but stood like pillars of salt in the loose, where they were engulfed by a plague of fastmoving Backrow Forwards who devoured all in their path. They fed their backs with good ball which they ran at us at speed, punishing us for our ways in the loose, scoring five tries and even a conversion!

So 'The Wise Sage of the First XV', who has since left these shores, was quizzed, for the Sage had seen the team play. The Sage uttered two words—'Second Phase', and the man saw the light! A switch of position moved the most forceful Forward to flanker where he shone like a beacon and wrought havoc and destruction upon all in his way.

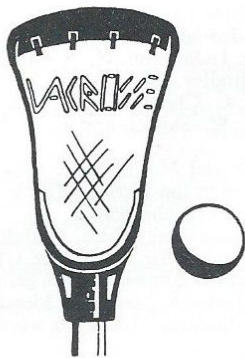
A large but raw Bolton team were overwhelmed by our experience and then an evenly fought battle against Stockport saw the team win narrowly with several players finding the form they had displayed earlier in the Season.

And so it came to the final conflict—three wins, three defeats with one to play against the black-clad team of Sale. This was a game in which many of the unsung heroes enjoyed a share of the limelight. It was an excellent team performance, one in which the forwards dominated from the start and the backs ran with pace and purpose and there were great celebrations in the land as we scored nine tries.

This has been a hugely enjoyable Season. The team has developed into a well balanced unit, with strong mobile Forwards and fast, hard-running Backs, a result of their total commitment and effort in training. Everyone who has represented the School this year in the U12 XV has given their all. The team has played some exhilarating Rugby at times and shows immense promise. I am somewhat reluctant to single out individuals for 'special mention', but I am sure everyone connected with the team will allow me to serve special thanks to Mark Sellers—who was an inspiration as Captain, coupling a mature head with electric pace, and Chris Armstrong—pack leader—who was quite outstanding throughout the Season in all areas of play.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all the parents and families who watched us week in—week out, home and away, providing tremendous support and the occasional shoulder to cry on as the opposition ran in their umpteenth try!

G. H. Jones



FIRST TEAM LACROSSE

Played 15, Won 11, Lost 4
Goals for 163, Against 105

v. Cheadle U19's.....	A	W	9-3
v. Heaton Mersey 'B' (Lancs Cup)...	H	W	12-5
v. Mellor 'A'.....	H	L	10-11
v. Old Hulmeians 'A' (Lancs Cup)...	H	W	12-11
v. Sheffield University.....	A	L	8-9
v. Oxford University.....	A	W	15-4
v. Cambridge University.....	A	W	13-5
v. Kenton L.C.....	A	L	7-8
v. Sale 'A'.....	H	W	9-4
v. Cheadle U19 (Floodlit).....		W	9-7
v. Old Waconians 'A'.....	H	L	9-10
v. Stockport G.S.....	H	W	19-5
v. Urmston 'A' (Lancs Cup Final)...		W	14-9
v. Trafford U19's (Floodlit Semi)....		W	9-7
v. Mellor U19's (Floodlit Final).....		W	8-7

Despite a tremendously successful season in 1988, I am sure that the Senior Lacrosse Squad will remember the term mostly for the miserable weather which wreaked havoc with the whole Lacrosse programme, from start to finish. The practices in December, in the holiday took the now familiar pattern of morning sessions on Timperley's all-weather (theoretically to avoid cancellations due to snow and ice!) and a final workout at Old Hulmeians as guests of the Old Boys and with a ploughman's lunch to round it off. The First Team's fixture at Cheadle was played in thick mud at Broadfield Park—a notoriously heavy pitch, but we could not have imagined that these conditions would worsen throughout the month of January, with the almost daily rain that followed.

In the whole term the First Team practised on the School Field only four times and the regular games lesson was usually on the tennis courts where we were confined to handling skills and stickwork practice.

Bearing this in mind the progress which the team made was exceptional by any standards. Savage joined last year's settled front six and Cleary added some flair to midfield, but the essential ingredients of the attack were really those of the 1987 side. The defence was an untried unit with Griffiths staking claim to his place alongside a rather inexperienced Jordan and Herring, whose tendency to throw in heavy side-arm checks only exacerbated the back three's main fault, that they overcommitted too far, too often, and gave opposing attacks too many chances to dodge. In goal Jones began in excellent form, but went through a very sticky patch while adjusting to his new glasses, before regaining his old form and winning a place on the England U19 Team, alongside his main School rival Mullins.

In the attack Savage settled in nicely, content to use his head and get on the end of fast breaks and man-up plays. Loveland, always unselfish, made space and chances for the rest of the attack, and early in the season, was the only player to read the ride well, without having to be constantly chivvied. Hindley started the season promising much but not really delivering, apart from the occasional burst of spontaneous if ill-disciplined play. It was the midfield which provided the strength, power and goals which got us over the early season difficulties, with Jackson and Meech outstanding, on ground ball and fast break, particularly.

The success of the season hinged on one game before half-term. We had lost to Mellor 'A' Team by a disputed goal in the last minute, and disposed of Heaton Mersey 'B' without too much trouble but without overimpressing in the quarter-final

of the Lancashire Cup. The last game of the half-term was the Semi-final. If we won, the Half-term Tour would be a celebration; if we lost we would simply be trying to salvage something from the remnants of our ambition. The match was against Old Hulmeians 'A' Team. There can rarely, if ever, have been a more exciting contest on the School field. The team had worked hard on their fitness and handling, in the absence of proper practices, and this was to prove a vital factor in the end. The game see-sawed, the lead changed six times in the second half, and with scores level Savage coolly put the winner away with seconds to spare. This game was a watershed in several ways. The Old Boys spelt out to our defence very clearly what their weaknesses were; Cleary took a real grip on the attack and showed how he could dominate proceedings when he was on the field and be real play-making; Hindley began to show what strength of character he has when he is determined to show it; Chudleigh staked his claim to place in the side, despite good performances from Chow and Clark in previous games; and as the Old Boys midfield started to go down with cramp, the power and commitment of the midfield of Meech, Jackson and Sproson showed a class that was never bettered by any of our opponents, all season.

The Tour proved a great success. The narrowest of defeats at Sheffield, where we played our best lacrosse of the season, and at Kenton when we were suffering "four-games-in-five-days" Tour fatigue, (and a goalkeeper who wished he was still in bed, and played as though he still might have been), and comfortable victories at Oxford and Cambridge, gave us the chance to develop as a team, and to get the pattern and control in attack, that had not quite been there earlier on. The defence made the biggest improvements in this time, however, and transformed themselves from a rather hesitant trio into a real unit which was to be the cornerstone of victories in the latter part of the season.

The second half of the season was essentially a build-up to the Lancashire Cup Final, but we had the unusual distraction of progress in the Timperley Floodlit Competition to cope with. After beating Cheadle in the first round, our semi-final was to be against a strong "Trafford" side, and it was to be the day after the Cup Final against Urmston 'A'.

Preparations for the big weekend went fairly well. A hard game with Old Wacs 'A', our vanquishers in last year's final (an omen?), ended in a one-goal defeat (our fourth defeat of the season, and all by one goal). This showed us where work needed to be done; tightening up the ride, getting more mobility and communication into our man-down play, getting a bit more crispness into our passing, and looking to create more opportunities out front through picking and screening.

A mid-week match against Stockport G.S. looked to have fallen victim to the weather but further use of the Timperley "astroturf" rescued the fixture and allowed us to put all our plays into operation and have a full work-out. In a game where everything went well, including Jordan scoring our only defence goal of the season, it was strange to come out of it with a major problem. Kloss, third choice goalie at the start of the season, had come into the team for this game at short notice, and played so well that a flue-ridden Jones would have to prove himself one hundred per cent fit to win back his place. In the end, with Kloss, true team man to the end, wishing Jones luck, the final team assembled in the form it had been in the Semi.

The mixture of experience and youth which Urmston had assembled for this match was to prove a real test for the School. Despite a superb start and constant pressure on the Urmston goal, the scores remained close, mainly thanks to the brilliance of Yates in the Urmston goal. Jordan was playing a superb game on Roberts the ex-England attack man but he still managed to get away and score a couple of crucial goals, and after half time when Urmston levelled the scores at six-all it was obvious that the game was entering its decisive phase. It was the School, however, who were to prove equal to the task, and with every player in the team, from goal up to straight attack, producing a top class performance, they brushed aside the Urmston threat. The defence took the ball off Urmston on the back-line, the ten-man ride won possession back, the attack cut through Urmston's despairing defence, the man-up plays ended in successful shots, and the power of the midfield again drove us on to victory, this time with Chudleigh making the biggest impression in winning the groundball.

With a victory under their belts and an inescapable sense of anti-climax the day after, the team showed their tremendous character by lifting themselves for another big game within twenty-four hours of the Lancashire Cup victory. This time the brilliant goalkeeping performance keeping them at bay was by Mullins, but once more the discipline and commitment of the side lifted them above the level of their opponents, with Sproson having, decisively, his best game of the season, Loveland reproducing the confident performance of the final and Slown

coming into the side to score two excellent and crucial goals. As the temperature of the match rose, it was good to see the straight defence maintain their composure, and especially to see Arundel improving on his fine performance in the Cup Final to dominate the groundball in midfield and clear the ball so effectively.

More anti-climax was to come the following week, as the matches against the Old Boys fell victim to more appalling weather, and so the last game of the season would be our second Final in eight days against Mellor U19's ably coached by the fifth-columnist Mr Hodgson.

However, the stars in the Cheshire team were not to be able to match the all-round team effort by the School. The experience gained in so many close matches in the season bore fruit in this Final game, and Meech and his team rode out the tremendous storm and pressure put on them by the full County players in the Mellor side, to win by a single goal.

The School First Team was: R. L. Jones, J. Griffiths, P. F. Herring, I. R. Jordan, S. M. Arundel, A. P. Cleary, C. J. H. Chudleigh, A. J. Jackson, N. A. Meech (Captain), D. P. Sproson, N. J. Hindley, D. Loveland and B. C. Savage.

M. E. Beggs, C. Chow, R. J. B. Clark, A. W. Kloss, A. S. Partington, R. W. Slown and K. J. M. Stephenson also played.

Jones, Meech and Mullins were selected to play for the England U19 Team in the World Series in Australia. Hindley was reserve for the England attack.

These players and three others, Arundel, Savage and S. D. Hayes were selected for the Lancashire U19 Squad.

An unprecedented number of boys gained School Colours: Cleary, Hindley, Jackson, Loveland, Meech and Sproson, and the Andy Brown Memorial Shield was won, in its first year, by Anthony Jackson.

I. J. S.



First Team Lacrosse.
Winners of Lancashire Cup and Timperley Floodlit U19 Trophy.

SECOND X

Played 3, Won 0, Drawn 0, Lost 3
Goals for 18, Against 32

v. Stockport G.S. 1st X.....	A	L	4-14
v. Stockport G.S. 1st X (Cup).....	A	L	8-10
v. Mellor U19.....	A	L	6-8

The 1988 season was a disastrous one for the School 2nd Team, not because of their results or the way that they played, because they performed with great credit despite not winning, but because the weather, the unremittingly foul weather in the Lent Term, left their pitches underwater on the bad days, and just quagmires on the more pleasant weekends.

The results in the only three matches played may seem disappointing, but the opposition was very strong, and the Stockport G.S. first team had to play at their very best to defeat us on the second occasion, in the Norman Barber Trophy, and then only with the help of a disallowed goal which would have put us within one goal of them, had the referee seen it enter the goal.

In practice the players worked hard and stickwork developed well although lack of match practice meant that tactically many players did not make the progress that might have been expected. However, the weekly routine seemed to be, practice on Tuesday, train on Wednesday, team selection on Thursday, hopeful anticipation on Friday as the weather seemed to fine up and tease us into expectation, and then telephone calls to players on Saturday morning to inform them of the latest deluge and subsequent cancellation.

The second team's lack of matches meant that Mullins never really had the opportunity to displace Jones in the First Team goal, despite his having been selected for England Under 19's in front of him. (Playing in a pair of old rugby boots with no laces in the first game against S.G.S. didn't help his cause. . .). He did, however, add some experience to a rather "green" defence, and helped Naylor, Partington and Bellas to make excellent progress in the games which did take place.

In midfield Chow, Clark, Hayes, Beggs and Sheriff were the powerhouse of the team. Their attributes of aggression, strength, good stick-handling, speed and leadership, respectively, proved to be a fine combination of qualities, and they all made team selection for the First Team midfield very difficult indeed.

The attack provided the most exceptional individual performances, with Ginger, the least prominent of the three, but adding a left-handed dimension which the rest of the team benefited from. Roden and Slown showed skills that would have graced the first team in other years, and they must set their sights on making those places their own next year. Against Stockport they showed how small is the gap between School 1st and 2nd Teams, as they tore through the opposing defence.

Sheriff proved to be an excellent captain taking his responsibilities seriously and my thanks are due to him and to Dr J. A. Clark for their efforts in this unrewarding season.

The School 2nd Team was: P. Sheriff (Captain), M. E. Beggs, J. Bellas, C. Chow, R. J. B. Clark, N. Ginger, S. Hayes, G. Mullins, R. Naylor, A. Partington, J. Roden, R. Slown and K. Stephenson.

I. J. S.

THIRD X

It had been intended to put out a School Third team this season, with a limited fixture list. Just how limited the fixture list turned out to be was a result of the weather conditions already referred to in earlier reports. In the end a mixture of Fifth Form youth and Upper Sixth experience did turn out in two matches to beat a Stockport Grammar side convincingly, and then to lose to a Boardman & Eccles team in the Nigel Wayne Trophy. The younger players did maintain their link with School lacrosse in what often proves to be a year of limited opportunity for Fifth Formers, and they did make some progress towards Second Team places next year.

The following players enabled us to put out a Third Team: B. Armstrong, R. D. Bailey, A. Crowther, A. Daley, P. Heathcote, S. Howell, D. Howells, S. Kapadia, J. Lee, A. Rash, P. Sheriff, R. Slown, D. M. J. Timm, and K. Stephenson.

UNDER 15 LACROSSE

The 1988 Fourth years have approximately 25 keen and competent lacrosse players. They play at School, Old Hulmeians and numerous other clubs and will thus provide a healthy new crop of players for lacrosse. Several players have already played international lacrosse both in the States and against touring sides. Opportunities such as American tours, coaching camps, summer lacrosse and international tours are all available to the young lacrosse player—surely the game is healthier than it has ever been.

The 1988 season was badly affected by the wet weather and only six games were possible—three of these in the Juniors and Schools Cup. The season got under way in the mud at Wilmslow. Difficult conditions were overcome and a 10-1 victory resulted with Buckley scoring 4 goals as a 'crease' man and Sherratt (another reliable goalkeeper) only conceding a goal in the last minute. The next match was a close game with Mellor U15's. Veitch and Hardman scored goals in a 2-1 victory. The unusual score was caused by two powerful defences and a lack of team work attack. The quarter final of the Cup against old rivals Stockport Grammar School was a more lively affair with the team showing an improvement in attack and great determination before winning 5-2 (Veitch 1, Jameson 2, Hardman 2). The strength of the team is in midfield with Jones, Jameson, Veitch, Cleaver and F. Williams all working very hard.

The cup semi-final against Mellor was the closest game for several seasons. Mellor had a strong team and were hoping for success at Under 15 level to complement the success of their senior teams. The first quarter ended with a two goal deficit. A determined effort from the midfield and improved cutting enabled Veitch and Jameson to equalise the score by half-time. Veitch put School ahead early in the third quarter, however Mellor equalised and may well have won the game but for some sterling work by John Sherratt in goal. The game went into extra time with two halves of four minutes each. Steve Veitch scored his third goal of the game and with continued possession School held on to win the match. The following week Stockport Grammar School were beaten 6-3 in a bad tempered match in which team work and lacrosse were of secondary importance.

The sixth game of the season was the cup final in which the School hoped to defeat Heaton Mersey Juniors in order to record our fifth successive retention of the trophy. Numerous grounds were too wet and so the game was played at Heaton Mersey Guild—several spectators failed to find the ground though they were the fortunate ones. Heaton Mersey had done their homework and put two or three players on Veitch to prevent him scoring. Unfortunately the team failed to compensate for this tactic though the game could have been won with better handling in front of goal. Heaton Mersey had a strong attacker who was allowed too much freedom and consequently scored most of their goals. Mersey went ahead 6-4 with five minutes to go and despite valiant efforts School could not score. The best team won on the day and strong club junior sides can only be for the good of the game. One of the heroes of the Mersey match was goalkeeper Richard Bone—in our Third Form. Our problems included a lack of real teamwork and a failure in front of goal on a heavy pitch, but the major problem was the lack of games—six games in a season does not help the development of teamwork. With continued practice at two-handed play and a willingness to integrate into a team, many of these players will do well in senior lacrosse. My thanks to Giles Davidson who was a well organised, reliable captain and to the rest of the squad who regularly attend practices.

H. N. Veevers

Squad: Sherratt, Noble, Davidson, Walker, Bell, Rogers, Johnstone, Williams N., Williams F., Veitch, D. Jones, Cleaver, Hulse, Doney, Buckley, Jameson, Hardman, Davies.

Results

Wilmslow U15's.....	A	10-1	
Mellor U15's.....	H	2-1	
Stockport G.S. U15's.....	A	5-2	(Cup)
Stockport G.S. U15's.....	A	6-3	
Mellor.....	A	4-3	(after extra time)
Heaton Mersey Juniors.....	A	4-6	(Cup Final)

UNDER 14 LACROSSE

The following boys represented the School: A. R. Ladd (Captain), K. A. Blackshaw, R. D. Bone, M. A. Bratt, A. C. Cunningham, J. C. Frost, D. W. Hayes, N. J. Holder, A. K. Hollingworth, J. B. Kim, A. S. Mehta, D. J. Moss, A. J. Scott-Gall, D. Stansfield, P. A. Sutcliffe, N. J. Williams, M. P. Wilson.

Results:

v. Cheadle Hulme School U15.....	H	W	8-3
v. Timperley U14 (Juniors and Schools Cup).....	H	W	9-3
v. Heaton Mersey U15 (Juniors and Schools Cup).....	A	L	3-13
v. Stockport G.S. U14.....	H	W	4-2
v. Egerton U15.....	H	L	2-5
v. Timperley U15.....	A	L	3-10
v. Moorthorpe U15.....	A	W	13-9

The Under 14's, like all other School teams, had a season that was badly disrupted by the weather. In spite of this, seven matches were played and a win in the final match gave the team a winning record. The season started well with two good wins including one against Timperley in the Juniors and Schools Cup that went some way towards avenging last year's Centurion's Trophy defeat against the same opposition. Our run in the Cup came to an end against the eventual winners, Heaton Mersey U15. From this point on the season seemed to lose its momentum for two reasons: some matches were postponed and key players were unavailable for a variety of reasons. As a result of this lack of continuity the team did not develop to its full potential through no fault of the players. Much work will be needed next season if the team is to regain the Cup for the School.

I would like to thank all the players for their efforts in a difficult season but would like to give special mention of two players. Kim was very impressive in defence and used his strength to clear well. It was unfortunate that we were unable to give him an extended run in midfield because this is where I feel he will be of most use to the team. Ladd was a quiet but effective captain. As is often the case his value to the team was only really appreciated when he was unable to play. My thanks also go to the many parents who supported the team well and also to Mr Hodgson for his help with the coaching.

A. Simkin

UNDER 13 X

1st Team: Played 7, Won 6, Lost 1

v. Cheadle Hulme School.....	H	W	18-3
v. Poynton.....	H	W	21-0
v. Timperley 'B'.....	A	W	23-1
v. Stockport G.S.....	H	W	10-3
v. Timperley 'A'.....	H	L	5-7
v. Mellor.....	A	W	11-0
v. Rochdale.....	A	W	9-7

2nd Team: Played 5, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 3

v. Stockport.....	A	D	3-3
v. Rochdale.....	A	W	5-4
v. Old Waconians.....	A	L	3-11
v. Urmston U15.....	H	L	4-10
v. Timperley 'A'.....	A	L	4-15

The main problem with the 1988 season, apart from the weather which forced several cancellations and lost us much practice time, was the lack of really stiff opposition to give serious practice to the first team before the difficult Centurion Trophy semi-final against the well-drilled Timperley side who went on to win the competition for the second successive year. In a match

full of effort but short on real skill and, particularly, control, we just failed to hold our early lead and gave away a desperately unlucky goal in the end.

Apart from this and the unfortunate mis-matches which the 2nd team had to contest (in which they emerged with great credit, it should be said), the season was very successful, particularly in terms of the number of boys representing the School. I am especially glad that it has become accepted that there are two teams at this level, and I hope that this practice can be extended into other teams; what is most encouraging, of course, is that one can always rely on finding enough boys keen to play and also the necessary colleagues, parents and friends to help out—special thanks to David Barnes of Old Hulmeians here.

So the boys' attitude was splendid, and so also was the best of their play, equal in fact to the very best that previous year's have produced. The first team has a very fine sound defensive unit in which the skill and poise of Paul Foster was always outstanding; midfield and attack had vast reserves of pace and fitness, not always however allied to the necessary standard of handling. Tom Veitch is likely to be an outstanding player in this area in future years, and the consistently whole-hearted contributions of Chris Reichl and Nick Whiteley also augur very well for their future in the game. I was very impressed too by the improvement in standard shown by a large number of second team players who could gain promotion and also get a great deal of fun out of club lacrosse in future seasons.

The boys who represented the School were: T. B. Veitch (Captain), E. F. Buckley (Co-captain), S. Arora, O. S. Asgher, F. J. Baama, A. V. Bulwich, C. Bury, T. D. Collins, D. B. Connor, T. B. Eckersley, P. D. Foster, T. Foster, A. J. Howarth, C. R. Jones, K. W. E. R. Jones, M. B. Jones, S. M. Jones, W. Mason, M. C. N. Maunder, C. Reichl, N. J. Scruton, A. J. Sharples, D. Smart, A. G. Smith, A. M. Sunderland, R. F. Turner, P. D. Warren, M. A. L. Weeden, D. M. West, N. A. Whiteley, and N. T. Wood. (This, in fact, is 30% of the whole year group, which is, I think, an achievement in itself!).

C. P. Langford

UNDER 12 X

Played 4, Won 1, Lost 3
Goals For 16, Against 34

v. Stockport G.S. U12.....	A	L	3-16
v. Timperley U12.....	A	L	3-8
v. Cheadle Hulme U13.....	H	L	6-8
v. Timperley U12.....	H	W	4-2

The team was usually selected from: M. D. Sellers, S. D. Bates, J. M. Hall, A. M. Watkins, A. C. Kniveton, B. S. Jones, C. Bell, J. R. H. Metcalfe, M. R. C. Woolley, B. R. Howells, H. A. Newlove, L. P. Brown, D. A. Ormerod, M. J. Musgrove.

Over the Christmas holiday, coaching and practice sessions were held for any first year who wished to attend, and many took the opportunity to learn a sport that was new to most. We were fortunate to have the assistance of R. L. Jones, the School 1st X goalkeeper, at these and the early season Saturday sessions. Enthusiasm was much in evidence, and a large number of boys attended the voluntary practices, soon gaining the basic skills of catching, throwing and picking up.

Bad weather prevented the scheduled practice game taking place prior to the first match. Hence, the only way that the squad was able to learn the essentials of team play was in a classroom, and this proved to be totally inadequate against Stockport Grammar School in the first match. A pitch that was total mud proved to be major obstacle to the Under 12's, who could not pick up the ball, or run with it. The only encouraging performance was from the first-half goalkeeper, J. Hall, who saved well despite having a weak defence in front of him.

Practice for the second match, to be played on Timperley's all-weather surface, took place on the tennis courts at School. The small area prevented adequate team play at the lunchtime sessions, but greater confidence in handling started to appear. A good performance was shown in the match, especially the harassing in attack of H. Newlove, L. Brown and B. Howells. However, once we threatened, the opposition used their more experienced players to build up a lead. Too often, our team failed to give a good final pass, and the opposition won, although not as comfortably as the score suggests.

After Half Term, we entertained a tall Cheadle Hulme team, whom we were capable of beating. Good centre play from S. Bates and unselfish play in attack and defence from M. Sellers helped us gain much possession. However, our final thrusts were not sufficiently dominating, especially against a weak goalkeeper,

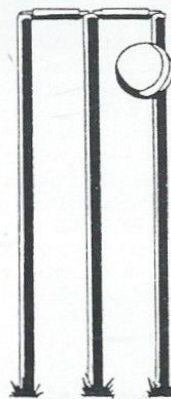
and only L. Brown appeared to be sharp in front of goals. Lack of goals and slack play in defence produced our third successive defeat.

An Under 12 team took part in the North of England Under 13 6-a-side tournament, and enjoyed the experience, winning one match comfortably. The players needed to build on that experience.

In the final match, at home to Timperley, R. Jones offered to referee in order to allow the team to be coached from the sidelines. The players started much more confidently, passing the ball accurately and working together. Although chances were created in attack, shooting was poor, and few goals were scored. Fortunately, the defence was seldom tested, and our only victory of the season was gained.

The very bad weather throughout the season caused the cancellation of several matches and coaching sessions, and so the squad still needs practice in tactical play. Use of the body check, the zone defence and cutting in attack all need to be perfected by training together. I hope that all who are able take the opportunity to be coached and to play before the School season. Finally, thanks to the parents who supported the team, and to R. L. Jones for the help he readily gave.

M. D. Wood



SCHOOL CRICKET

There is no doubt that School Cricket has suffered this year from problems which have manifested themselves in our results. The practise of recent years, of having frequent winter nets and also a concentrated period of preparation in the excellent Sports Hall facilities over the Easter holidays, has meant that, in the past, we have begun the season with School Teams at all levels reaching a state of readiness for the School's major summer sport, which has been the envy of some of our opponents. Pressure on the Sports Hall's facilities, in winter, however, and outside use of the nets at Easter meant that this year our preparation was lacking, by our own high standards, and ultimately performances and results have suffered. It is to be hoped that, having identified the problem, efforts will be made to effect a remedy in 1989.

Notwithstanding these setbacks and, meteorologically speaking, another miserable summer, School Cricket has still managed to thrive. That it has done so is due, almost entirely, to the small number of colleagues who regularly defy the prevailing Westerlies and North Atlantic Depression Track, motorway traffic jams, and pressures on their time from the increasing burden of public examinations in the Summer Term, to give up Saturday after Saturday, to enable boys to play The Game. My thanks are due to Messrs. Maudsley, Langford, Bull, Timm, Veevers and Simkin who give up their time frequently and regularly, as well as to several other colleagues who stand in on occasions, to drive vans and/or umpire odd matches throughout the season. I am very conscious that the pleasure which I derive from taking the First XI is due directly to the work which they have put in in encouraging, teaching, and enthusing boys lower down the School.

Out of the mass of runs scored, wickets taken, catches held, have come some outstanding performances and individual achievements of great merit. Maiden centuries for the School by A. K. Doney and N. T. Wood are detailed in the Under 15 and Under 13 reports respectively. Along with these two boys, A. K. Hollingworth, M. Ekstein, L. E. Tilston and A. J. Scott-Gall represented the City Boys team at levels up to Under 15. As well as playing for Manchester, Hollingworth and Wood played for Lancashire in their respective age groups.

Hollingworth went on to play in the H.M.C. Final Trial for the North, where his performances brought great credit on him and his School.

D. M. J. Timm, the 1st XI Captain, broke the School record for the highest number of runs scored in a season by amassing 791 at an average of 61, and when he scored his unbeaten 144 against K.E.S. Lytham he also took his brother's record for the highest individual score on the First Team, by one run. I think I will refrain, this year, from making any prediction as to how long this record might last. (Last year's Hulmeian records, of C. W. Timm's 143 against Q.E.G.S. Wakefield, It is unlikely to remain in the record books . . . any less time than J. F. Wilde's 126 v. Birkenhead, which preceded it by twenty years!).

Timm also gained County representative honours and was honoured with the Captaincy of the Lancashire U19 side on occasions. In progressing through the preliminary matches of the trials, he also went on to make the last twenty-two in the selection of the M.C.C. Schools XI at Oxford. This is unprecedented in the School's cricket history and is a tribute, not only to his undoubted ability, but also to his family's tremendous support and encouragement in his pursuit of excellence. It is impossible to calculate what contribution the Timm family have made to School Cricket in their various ways, but somehow they epitomise so much of what is good about School sport and we are grateful to be blessed with such families in the School as we are.

Finally the thanks of the boys and Staff alike are due to John Taylor and the ground staff (it is no coincidence that both the Timm brothers' scores were made at home!), to Mrs McQueen who handles all our transport requirements so efficiently and cheerfully (who could have thought that Mrs Clarke could be replaced so ideally . . .), to Mr and Mrs Gregson and the ladies in the kitchen for their continuing efforts, and to Mrs Mattison (who must be deeply saddened to be approaching her last year of organising the tea rotas) and all the mums who give up their time on Saturday for the School teams. I hope School cricketers continue to realise how much they owe to so many people for their enjoyment of the sport.

I. J. Shaw

FIRST XI CRICKET



D. M. J. Timm, 1st XI Captain, after scoring 144 n.o. against King Edward VII School, Lytham. This is a new School record, beating the previous highest score set last year by C. J. Timm, by one run.

(Photo: I. J. Shaw)

- Played 20, Won 8, Lost 8, Drawn 4, Abandoned 2
- v. Cowley High School (H)
Cowley 105
School 106 for 1
School won by 9 wickets
- v. Arnold School, Blackpool (H)
School 142 (Timm 43, Kloss 38)
Arnold 143 for 6 (Cleary 3 for 44)
Arnold won by 4 wickets
- v. King's School, Macclesfield (H)
King's 204 for 5 dec.
School 133 (Timm 48, Partington 33)
King's won by 71 runs
- v. Queen Elizabeth G.S., Wakefield (A)
School 88
Q.E.G.S. 89 for 9 (Jordan 5 for 21, Hollingworth 3 for 5)
Q.E.G.S. won by 1 wicket
- v. King Edward VII School, Lytham (H)
K.E.S. 197 for 8 dec. (Jordan 4 for 43)
School 201 for 2 (Timm 144 n.o.)
School won by 8 wickets
- v. Parents XI (H)
School 157 for 2 (Ridings 57, Wood 53 n.o.)
Parents 103 for 9 (Mr Blood 41)
*School won by 54 runs
- v. Birkenhead School (A)
Birkenhead 219 (A. Partington 3 for 66)
School 220 for 5 (Butler 49, Ridings 42, Timm 42, Kloss 34, N. Partington 30)
School won by 5 wickets
- v. Shrewsbury School (A)
School 146 (Timm 50, A. Partington 30)
Shrewsbury 150 for 4
School lost by 6 wickets
- v. XL Club (H)
School 232 for 4 dec. (Timm 75, Ridings 78, N. Partington 31)
XL Club 191 for 8 (Kapadia 3 for 65)
Match drawn
- v. Stockport Grammar School (A)
S.G.S. 230 for 9 dec. (Kapadia 7 for 75)
School 142 (Timm 40)
Stockport won by 88 runs
- v. Sedbergh School (A)
School 134
Sedbergh 135 for 2
School lost by 8 wickets
- v. Rydal School (A)
School 197 for 9 dec. (N. Partington 47, Timm 40)
Rydal 198 for 5
Rydal won by 5 wickets
- v. King's School, Chester (H)
King's 27 for 1
Match drawn—Rain
- v. Merchant Taylors School, Crosby (H)
M.T.S. 144 for 7 dec. (Loveland 5 for 50)
Match drawn—Rain
- ON TOUR
- v. Pocklington School (A)
Pocklington 115 for 8
School 116 for 3 (Jordan 61 n.o.)
*School won by 7 wickets
- v. Hymers College, Hull (A)
Hymers 88 (A. Partington 3 for 38)
School 91 for 0 (Timm 45 n.o., Sayyid 38 n.o.)
School won by 10 wickets
- v. Bradford Grammar School (A)
School 102 (Sayyid 30)
Bradford 103 for 8 (Cleary 6 for 38)
Bradford won by 2 wickets
- v. Bolton Abbey C.C. (A)
School 131 (Timm 41)
Bolton Abbey 94
*School won by 37 runs
- v. Masters XI (H)
School 186 for 3 dec. (Timm 56, Ridings 51, Jordan 33)
Masters 137 for 5 (Mr P. D. Briggs 62, Mr C. J. Maudsley 37)
Match drawn—Rain
- v. Old Hulmeians C.C. (H)
School 233 for 2 (Ridings 88 n.o., Timm 85)
Old Hulmeians 166 (Benson 34, A. G. Cleary 37, Timm 4 for 49, Loveland 3 for 45)
*School won by 77 runs

*Denotes limited overs match

The School 1st XI comprised: D. M. J. Timm (Captain), I. D. Butler, A. P. Cleary, A. K. Hollingworth, I. R. Jordan, S. V. Kapadia, A. W. Kloss, D. Loveland, N. J. Partington, N. J. Ridings, A. J. Sayyid and A. K. Scott. Also played: B. J. Allen, C. Chow, C. J. M. Chudleigh, A. K. Doney, A. Khan, I. Hussain, D. J. Rathbone, A. J. Scott-Gall, N. F. Taylor, L. E. Tilston and N. T. Wood.

With eight Upper Sixth cricketers in the 1st XI and the increasing demands which seem to be made on 'A' level pupils, it was clear that the season's results would be determined in great part by the level and degree of commitment that the senior players would display in the face of their academic pressures. That the team developed into a coherent and cohesive unit and that players produced some excellent individual contributions reflects well on them. There were eight wins despite exams and weather, and this is a creditable tally, although one or two hiccups along the way, sometimes with depleted teams, reflected the difficulties of maintaining standards in the summer game.

The School's bowling attack was never going to present a major threat to good batting sides on good wickets, as it lacked real pace and variety. The number of seamers in the team was a result of circumstance not policy, but it seems a long time since the 1st XI has had a leg-spinner or a slow left-arm. The seam attack did have its moments, however, although too frequently we found ourselves chasing two hundred runs against sides who were not troubled sufficiently by our bowling. Kapadia's seven wicket haul at Stockport and Cleary's six at Bradford were outstanding, but both these bowlers will reflect on their lack of consistency over the whole season. Loveland was, perhaps, under-bowled, (Timm usually took the off-spinner's spot, striving to recapture his pre-injury form) and his performance against Merchant Taylor's might well have been a match-winning one but for the intervention of the rain.

The backbone of the team's bowling was A. Partington. That he took only twenty-one wickets seems a travesty after some of his outstanding performances. His beating the bat three and four times in every over at Sedbergh, while conceding only ten runs in his first eight overs must rank as the best piece of bowling of the season, and his attitude and determination in the face of bad luck and seeing poor balls take wickets at the other end was a fine example to all School cricketers.

Sayyid's bowling was never consistent enough, even though his 'Spedigew's' did break the occasional stand, and Scott bowled sensibly and steadily whenever called upon as the third off-spinner.

The batting looked strong, potentially, with the experience of Kloss and Butler at the top of the order. The potential was never fully realised, however, only Birkenhead feeling the full weight of the authority with which they can both play. This match summed up our season in many ways. The bowlers worked hard, with Partington's line and length getting scant reward and Kapadia taking wickets at the other end, Jordan bowling steadily but without penetration, Timm taking wickets and then losing his rhythm and length, and Loveland coming on to bowl tidily. Birkenhead recovered from 59 for 5 to get 219 as we failed to press home our advantage. Our reply saw each of the first four wickets put on fifty, with excellent running between the wickets from N. Partington and fine stroke play from all the batsmen, especially the rapidly improving Ridings. We won by five wickets with ten overs to spare and looked a very powerful side.

In subsequent matches at Stockport Grammar and Rydal our bowling was simply not accurate enough to prevent us losing and the batting side that had looked so strong at Birkenhead, at Stockport looked very fragile indeed. In between these two matches, at Sedbergh, our performance was belied by the result. The batsmen fought their way to a respectable total against the best bowling attack we saw this season, and then we bowled and fielded superbly in the hour before tea, restricting Sedbergh to 23 for 2. Then we saw the two Sedbergh batsmen ride their luck to take them to an eight wicket win after the interval.

The next matches against Crosby, M.G.S. and Chester were all drawn, falling victim to the English "summer", and we set out on the Tour with a dismal week of results and weather behind us and fearing the worst from both those quarters.

It was in the Tour environment that team eventually came together so well and produced 1st XI Cricket of the highest calibre. At Pocklington we were indebted to Mr Nuttall that we played at all after the lunchtime downpour, but we did manage a game and our bowling and fielding was as ungenerous to our opponents as it could have been. Jordan opened the batting and led the side to comfortable victory. At Hymers, Partington's accuracy and our increasing sharpness in the field, were the main features of their innings, as we bowled them out for 88, and then Sayyid played some excellent shots as he and Timm saw us to a ten wicket victory.

At Bradford last year the bowlers had the better of the contest and we lost by a single run. This year the match was to be very similar except that we batted first, and struggled to just over a hundred with Sayyid batting sensibly on a difficult pitch against hostile bowling. Bradford's 64 for 3 looked a solid start chasing a modest score, but 66 for 7 didn't look quite so promising for them as Cleary controlled his wayward direction to cut through their middle order. The eighth wicket fell, to a brilliant Jordan catch at long on, and the finish was bound to be exciting. So it proved, with Bradford scrambling the winning run from a leg-bye with only one ball remaining.

The limited overs game at Bolton Abbey C.C., where the beautiful setting was only matched by the wonderful hospitality we were afforded, was another match on a damp slow wicket on which runs were to be hard to come by. Ridings and Timm were once again the main contributors with the bat, but it was our out-cricket which was to be the decisive factor. The bowlers bowled a good length, and to their fields, but the fielding had become so sharp that four run-outs took our tally of dismissals of this type, on Tour, to nine.

The final match of the season saw Timm and Ridings plunder a moderate bowling attack to make a large total. The Old Boys had a powerful batting line-up, however, and Benson and Cleary turned the clock back a couple of years as they gave the Old Hulmeians the start they wanted. From 103 for 2, however, they were eventually bowled out for 166 as Loveland and Timm pinned the batsmen down. Excellent ground fielding, and seven excellent catches ensured our eighth win of the season with five overs to spare.

School colours are awarded to S. V. Kapadia who has taken eighty wickets in his career on the 1st XI.

Colours are also re-awarded to D. M. J. Timm who, without doubt, is the most talented cricketer that has represented the School while I have been associated with Senior Cricket. His aggregate of almost 800 runs for the season, overtaking John Beasley's previous highest total for the School, was collected at an average of over 60. He must have been very close to selection for the M.C.C. Schools XI after batting well in the final trial matches in Oxford, and we wish him every success in the game where he could play at the highest level if he continues to progress. The example of sportsmanship and application which he has given to all School cricketers while he has been 1st XI Captain could not possibly have been bettered.

SECOND XI CRICKET

Played 12, Won 2, Drew 6, Lost 4

- v. Cowley High School (A)
Lost by one wicket
School 62, Cowley 63-9 (Scott 5-26, Allen 4-22)
- v. Arnold School, Blackpool (A)
Match drawn
School 136-4 (Abrahams 78 n.o.), Arnold 113-3
- v. King's School, Macclesfield (A)
Lost by eight wickets
School 82, Macclesfield 83-2
- v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield (A)
Lost by forty runs
Wakefield 107 (Malone 5-23), School 67
- v. King Edward VII School, Lytham (A)
Match drawn
Lytham 174 (Scott 5-40, School 48-7)
- v. Birkenhead School (H)
Match drawn
Birkenhead 142-3, School 139-7 (Allen 52, Chudleigh 47)
- v. Stockport Grammar School (H)
Lost by nine wickets
School 94 (Miller 37), Stockport 95-1
- v. Sedbergh School (A)
Match drawn
Sedbergh 170-4, School 47-8
- v. Rydal School (A)
Won by twenty-one runs
School 103-7, Rydal 82 (Kapoor 4-14, Taylor 3-19)
- v. King's School, Chester (H)
Match abandoned as a draw
School 77-1 (Daley 49) Rain stopped play
- v. Merchant Taylor's School, Crosby (A)
Won by eighty-four runs
School 131-7 (Chudleigh 41), Crosby 47 (Cleary 4-12)
- v. Bradford Grammar School (H)
Match drawn
Bradford 146-5, School 71-6

The following boys represented the School: B. J. Allen (Captain for the first eight games), D. J. Rathbone (Captain for the last four games), J. P. Abrahams, E. A. Bembridge, I. N. Bhattacharyya, J. Bradley, C. M. Brown, C. J. H. Chudleigh, R. J. Clark, A. P. Cleary, A. P. Daley, R. A. Dunn, A. J. Edwards, M. Ekstein, A. J. Hall, N. J. Holder, I. Hussain, M. Kapoor, A. Kotecha, R. M. Malone, B. A. Miller, R. S. Mohil, B. C. Savage, W. J. Schofield, A. K. Scott, J. Y. Sheikh, N. F. Taylor and L. E. Tilston.

The fact that no fewer than twenty eight players were used during the season gives a clear indication of the problems that the Second XI had in trying to raise a side. First XI calls, injuries, plus the demands of 'A' levels and G.C.S.E. meant that there was never an established team nor even a core of regular players. At full strength the Second XI was, by recent standards, a relatively weak one. When key players were missing the team was, at times, woefully weak. In spite of this the team usually performed to the best of its ability and often made much stronger teams fight hard for success.

The task of captaining a cricket team is a difficult one but when the team is a weak one the task becomes a nightmare. This heavy burden was carried by B. J. Allen for two thirds of the season before he left School. He did an excellent job in organising the team: trying to ensure that there were eleven 'cricketers' for each match was often a chore in itself. Although there were times when the frustration of having a weak side got to him, Allen always bounced back to raise morale and sustain team spirit. In the match against Birkenhead Allen almost won the game with a captain's innings, but was out last ball trying to hit the boundary that was needed.

When D. J. Rathbone took over for the last four matches, the fortune of the Second XI changed and two matches were won. Without taking any credit away from Rathbone, he was fortunate to have strengthened teams for both these matches. Against Rydal the team was strengthened by the inclusion of some Under 15 cricketers, while against Crosby the team was strengthened by the presence of A. P. Cleary, available after his exams. It was good for the team to have success near the end of a difficult season but it was a little unfortunate that Allen could not share in this success.

I would like to thank all the players, especially the two captains, for their efforts in the season and also Mr Chudleigh and Mr Seddon who both umpired when I was unavailable.

A. Simkin

UNDER 15 CRICKET

Played 11, Won 6, Drawn 1, Lost 3, Abandoned 1

- v. Arnold School, Blackpool (H)
Won by 2 wickets
Arnold 110 (Hollingworth 3 for 25)
School 114 for 8 (Tilston 71)
- v. King's School, Macclesfield (H)
Won by 3 wickets
King's 145 for 7 dec.
School 146 for 7 (Hollingworth 41, Ekstein 34)
- v. Bury Grammar School (H) 25 overs
Won by 6 wickets
Bury 79 for 8 (Tilston 4 for 40)
School 83 for 4 (Doney 31 not out)
- v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield (A)
Lost by 50 runs
Q.E.G.S. 115 (Kapoor 3 for 27)
School 65
- v. King Edward VII School, Lytham (H)
Won by 197 runs
School 241 for 6 dec. (Doney 104, Kapoor 46, Khan 35 not out)
Lytham 48 (Khan 4 for 16, Brassell 3 for 1)
- v. Shrewsbury School (A)
Lost by 7 wickets
School 78 (Ekstein 27)
Shrewsbury 81 for 3
- v. Birkenhead School (A)
Match drawn
Birkenhead 158 for 5 dec.
School 124 for 9 (Tilston 46, Hollingworth 30)
- v. Stockport Grammar School (H)
Lost by 8 wickets
School 121 for 8 declared (Khan 50 not out)
Stockport 124 for 2

- v. Rydal School (A)
Won by 7 wickets
Rydal 75 (Khan 4 for 13, Scott-Gall 4 for 19)
School 76 for 3 (Scott-Gall 36 not out)
- v. Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby
Match abandoned
Crosby 114 for 8 dec. (Khan 4 for 25)
- v. Bradford Grammar School (A)
Won by 7 wickets
Bradford 63 (Khan 5 for 22)
School 64 for 3

The following players represented the School: A. K. Hollingworth (Captain), A. A. Khan (Vice-Captain), I. N. Bhattacharyya, D. Bradley, I. A. Brassell, D. A. Cooper, G. T. Davidson, A. K. Doney, M. Ekstein, N. H. G. Frost, R. W. Goodall, R. N. Hulse, O. F. Islam, M. Kapoor, J. J. Meadows, A. J. Scott-Gall, C. P. Tesseymann and L. E. Tilston.

This will be remembered as rather a disappointing term, not only because bad weather led to the cancelling of four matches and the abandonment of another, but also because the side possessed sufficiently talented players to achieve even better results than six wins out of eleven matches.

In the first half of term good wins were recorded against Arnold, Macclesfield and Bury and Lytham were defeated by almost 200 runs. The only blemish was a poor batting display in the defeat at Wakefield. After the examinations, however, we were less successful, just avoiding defeat at Birkenhead and being well beaten by Shrewsbury and Stockport. The side then rallied again with emphatic wins at Rydal and Bradford.

Hollingworth captained the side but only played half the games as a result of his selection for the First XI and County Trials. He led the side well, setting an enthusiastic example. He batted well but his bowling was a little less effective than one might have hoped, though in fairness to him and the other bowlers it must be said that most of the wickets were very soft. Khan acted as captain when Hollingworth was away and led the side with a quiet, effective maturity. He bowled well too, keeping the ball up to the bat and achieving the excellent figures of 5 for 22 at Bradford. Of the other bowlers, Kapoor often looked dangerous. He has a good, smooth action but he had some difficulty with wides and no-balls. Brassell did well until he tried to bowl too fast and Tilston was capable of producing the unplayable ball. There was not enough slow bowling. Doney tried his left-arm wrist-spin but never achieved the necessary accuracy and there was no off-spin until Meadows appeared in the last game to show that he would have been a real asset to the side all term. This was a pity because in Ekstein we have a wicket-keeper of high potential who would have combined well with good slow bowlers.

The batting seemed to lack depth and quality but perhaps the fact that we only batted first on three occasions is significant in that we seldom had the chance to build an innings. There were, however, one or two performances of real merit. Doney's century against Lytham was the highlight of the term but he did not manage to recapture his form again, Tilston batted very well against Arnold and again at Birkenhead, Khan was reliable, particularly in a crisis, and valuable contributions were made by Kapoor and Ekstein. Hollingworth batted soundly in his five innings and added an air of quality. With a little more application a number of these players will develop into good cricketers. I hope they will be prepared to work at their game and look forward to seeing them play their part in the School's senior teams in the coming seasons.

H. W. Timm

UNDER 14 XI CRICKET

Played 12, Won 3, Drawn 5, Lost 4

- v. Arnold School, Blackpool (A)
Match drawn
Arnold 138 for 6 dec. (Cunningham 3 for 44)
School 32 for 0
- v. St. Bede's (A)
(1st round, Harold Bailey Trophy)
Lost by 8 runs
St. Bede's 113 for 6 (Scott-Gall 3 for 18)
School 105
- v. King's School, Macclesfield (A)
Match drawn
Macclesfield 173 for 8 dec. (Cunningham 4 for 36)
School 93 for 2 (Scott-Gall 39 n.o.; Sutcliffe 31 n.o.)

- v. Bury Grammar School (H)
Lost by 116 runs
Bury 152 for 3
School 36
- v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield (H)
Lost by 49 runs
Wakefield 162 for 6 dec. (Ladd 3 for 30)
School 113 (Scott-Gall 47)
- v. King Edward VII, Lytham (A)
Lost by 6 wickets
School 82
Lytham 84 for 4
- v. Shrewsbury School (A)
Match drawn
Shrewsbury 148 for 5 dec.
School 64 for 5 (Scott-Gall 30 n.o.)
- v. Birkenhead School (H)
Match drawn
Birkenhead 178 for 8 dec. (Ranawickrema 3 for 34;
Cunningham 3 for 5)
School 156 for 6 (Scott-Gall 61; Sochovsky 40 n.o.)
- v. Stockport Grammar School (A)
Won by 2 runs
School 144 for 8 dec. (Bone 47)
Stockport 142 (Scott-Gall 3 for 24; Ladd 3 for 36)
- v. Rydal School (A)
Won by 2 wickets
Rydal 58 (Ladd 4 for 19; Cunningham 3 for 6)
School 59 for 8
- v. Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby (A)
Match drawn
Crosby 133 for 4 dec.
School 76 for 3
- v. Bradford Grammar School (H)
Won by 7 wickets
Bradford 125 for 3 dec.
School 126 for 3 (Ladd 35 n.o.; Scott-Gall 31;
Cunningham 31)

LEADING AVERAGES

Batting

	M	I	NO	R	HI	Avg
Scott-Gall	10	10	4	292	61	48.7
Sochovsky	10	8	3	78	40*	15.6
Cunningham	12	11	0	150	31	13.6
Bone	11	11	1	118	47	11.8
Mehta	8	8	1	80	20	11.4
Ladd	12	10	1	94	35*	10.4

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	BB	Avg
Scott-Gall	63	14	141	11	3-18	12.8
Cunningham	72	6	308	19	4-39	16.2
Ahmed	75	11	270	12	2-13	22.5
Mehta	46	2	155	6	2-19	25.8
Ladd	127.3	16	413	15	4-19	27.5

A degree of progress was made during the season although this was scarcely evident at the half-way stage when we had lost four, drawn two and failed to win any of our matches. Some of the players, notably K. A. Ahmed and M. Ayooob, had worked hard since January (in the indoor nets) to improve their performances but the distressing pattern of the two previous seasons seemed likely to be repeated: not only were batting, bowling and fielding sub-standard but—alarming for the long-term—too many players lacked the necessary personal qualities of determination and ambition. The lowest point was at Lytham; this was followed by a three week suspension of cricket for the School examinations, fortunately timed as it allowed some minor adjustments to be made to the composition of the squad as well as a chance to recover lost confidence. Shrewsbury were contained to 60 for five off 30 overs until we lost our grip and our batsmen had no difficulty in saving the match (admittedly with the help of Under 13, N. T. Wood) against very good bowling. The next match (against Birkenhead) resulted in a draw which would surely have been a victory if we had conceived a win as possible in the early stage of our innings: we had not yet, at this point, acquired sufficient self-confidence. Two wins followed in successive days against Stockport and Rydal, the latter played without the assistance of captain A. J. Scott-Gall; then there was a rain-affected draw against Crosby, with an impressive victory over Bradford concluding a much more successful second half of the season.

Some twenty players were given an opportunity to represent the School, with three or four others under consideration. The

most outstanding were Scott-Gall, Cunningham, A. R. Ladd, R. D. Bone, N. G. Sochovsky, A. S. Mehta and Ahmed: these, with the unfortunate exception of Scott-Gall who is leaving the School, should form the backbone of next year's Under 15s. Cunningham and Bone formed a successful opening partnership, once the former learned to concentrate better; Bone plays a shot backward of square-leg which earns him many runs, but also eventually gets him out because he plays it in the air—he needs to develop more scoring shots. Ladd still has too poor concentration to reach his potential, but will surely soon score copiously because of his wide range of powerful strokes. Mehta has a good technique but lacks confidence as yet; Sochovsky had two excellent innings against Birkenhead and Stockport, showing a particular strength on the front foot.

Ahmed opened the bowling, usually dependably, but has yet to reduce the number of balls he bowls short or wide. He has the right attitude as regards practice and therefore should eventually solve this problem. Ladd bowled considerably more overs than anyone else, often when the opposing batsmen were at their most menacing, and made good progress. Mehta, the only spinner in the side, bowled well enough although he tends to lose control if a four or two is hit off him: once he overcomes this weakness he will be a much greater wicket-taker. When things were going badly Scott-Gall only had to bring on Cunningham and there would certainly be a few wickets falling, usually to quite poor balls. He did also bowl well fairly often and should continue to do so in the future.

Only towards the end of the season did the fielding begin to seem efficient, with players remembering where they should be and walking in as the bowler approached the wicket. The throwing-in was usually too short or otherwise inaccurate but the main problem was inadequate concentration, just as it was in the batting. Bone kept wicket well all season and made an important contribution to the team. Best among the out-fielders were Sochovsky (with a memorable catch against St. Bede's), Ladd and C. J. Hyland.

The absence of Alastair Scott-Gall from the team next year will create a huge gap in the team: his batting is technically superb and a fine example to everyone; he bowled with surprising speed for his size, occasionally with an extra dose of venom which made him into a match-winner; not least, however, he already shows such knowledge of the game that as a captain he is superior to most for his age. He felt unhappy with his form mid-season due entirely to the heavy responsibility he shouldered and, once he relaxed a little, scored freely. Although he will obviously be missed as a player, such is the improved confidence of the team that I believe they should continue to make progress in terms of results.

Apart from those already mentioned, the following also represented the School: C. A. Ranawickrema, D. J. Moss, R. D. Hill, P. A. Sutcliffe, A. M. Dean, N. J. Jackson, N. J. Holder, A. M. Salam, D. J. Lambert, D. W. Hayles and N. J. Burton.

Moss is to be thanked for his neat and efficient scoring during the first half of the season when he was injured and unable to play; Mr M. R. Booker, too, for substituting for me when the match at Crosby took place and I was unable to umpire.

P. M. Bull

UNDER 13 XI

Played 14, Won 9, Lost 5

- v. Arnold School (H)
Won by 32 runs
W.H.G.S. 119 all out (Wood 41, Warren 34)
Arnold 87 all out (Wood 4 for 21, Warren 4 for 23)
- v. King's School, Macclesfield (H)
Lost by 75 runs
King's 107 all out (Baama 6 for 32)
W.H.G.S. 32 all out
- v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield (A)
Won by 7 wickets
Q.E.G.S. 134 for 8 dec.
W.H.G.S. 137 for 3 (Wood 94 n.o.)
- v. Bury G.S. (A)
Won by 83 runs
W.H.G.S. 204 for 4 dec. (25 overs) (Wood 126 n.o.,
Arora 31)
Bury 121 for 7 (25 overs)
- v. King Edward VII, Lytham (H)
Lost by 7 wickets
W.H.G.S. 127 all out (Wood 46, Howarth 30)
Lytham 128 for 3