



THE HULMEIAN

1977

The HULMEIAN

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SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

During the course of 1977 we bade farewell to Messrs. J.H. Crompton, J.R. Holland, E.W. Mitchell, J.-L. Revest, R.W. Slater, J.W. Worth, and to Messrs. G. Billington and E. Pratt who joined us temporarily in the Geography and Classics departments.

In the Midsummer Term we welcomed Mrs. V. Hempstock (Mathematics) and in September 1977 we welcomed Miss M. Green and Mr. C.H. Fogg (English), Dr. A.M. Wilson and Mr. C. MacLachlan (Classics), and Mr. A.C. Crane (Modern Languages).

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Clark and Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Mitchell on their marriages.

With regret we record the deaths of Mr. J. Perry, sometime school porter, and of The Rev. A.H. Ginever, a master at the School 1922-1955. (An obituary is printed below.)

We congratulate Mr. F.J. Smith on the award of M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List 1977 for services to the Combined Cadet Force. Captain Smith was first commissioned in 1930 and was still active as Administrative Officer in the C.C.F. until 1976.

Congratulations to P.B. Conway (L6A) on his election for the England U18 Chess Squad.

Founder's Day Service was held at Manchester Cathedral on 22nd March, when the School was addressed by The Rev. Brian L. Cordingley of the Greater Manchester Industrial Mission.

During the year the School was host to a number of concerts organised by Mr. Wilde. On the 29th January we heard the King's Singers singing Spirituals, English and Italian Madrigals, and music by Daryl Runswick and Clifton Parker. The Manchester Camerata and Johnny Morris visited us on April 29th with a programme of Britten's *Simple Symphony* Op.4, Mozart's *Symphony No.29 in A*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* Op.67, and Warlock's *Capriol Suite*.

The following Scholarships and Exhibitions were awarded last year: D. Coy, Exhibition in History, New College, Oxford; M. Dennis, Exhibition in Engineering, Christ's College, Cambridge, (Woollam Scholar); D.J. Manifold, Scholarship in Classics, Wadham College, Oxford; J.A. Owrid, Scholarship in History, New College, Oxford; T.A. Simpson, Exhibition in Mathematics, Peterhouse, Cambridge.

During the course of 1976-7 R.D. Bailey was appointed Head of School, and J.N. Gregson, J.A. Owrid, and N.M. Mitson were appointed prefects.

The Head of School 1977-8 is P.G. McNaught and the Deputy Head of School J. Beesley. The prefects are J.P.B. Sandy, N.M. Mitson, D.A. Campbell, R.K. Cox, D.S. Dodd, M.P. Heron, N.W. Hewitt, T.G. Jones, R.D. Leak, P. Maddocks, J.F. Morton, J.D. Tricker, M.R. Walker, A. Wibberley, B.M. Wilkinson, P.R.H. Wilson, S.D. Cordingley, R.C. Higham, A.M. Mills, M.D. Turjansky, and M.S. Hobbs.

OBITUARY

The Rev. A.H. Ginever

It is with deep regret that we record the death of the Rev. A.H. Ginever, a member of the Modern Languages staff from 1922 to 1955. He came to the School after seeing service in France and the Balkans in the First World War; he contributed whole-heartedly to the life of the School, taking parties abroad, playing in the School Orchestra, helping to run the Harvest Camps at Grange-over-Sands, presiding over the Christian Fellowship, as well as becoming House Master of Fraser House.

For many years he accompanied the C.C.F. to their annual camp as chaplain and welfare officer. Indeed, in his retirement this became his main link with new generations of Hulmeians and Corps officers, for he continued to attend camps until only four years ago, travelling first from his parish in Berkshire and then from Devonshire each summer to join the contingent. His last few years were spent in the peace of a home for retired clergy at Lingfield in Surrey. We extend our sympathy to his family (his sons and grandson are all Old Hulmeians) and express our gratitude for his many years of service to the School.

SPEECH DAY, 1977

The 13th July saw us gathered under the chairmanship of Mr. D.Ll. Griffiths to welcome Sir George Kenyon, our principal guest and speaker, and to hear the Headmaster's report on the School year.

The Headmaster introduced Sir George, a prominent industrialist with interests in the export and import of engineering and textile goods who has held high office in the Council of Manchester University and has been High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of the County Palatine of Chester.

The Headmaster reported that after our first year of forced independence we would accept rather more than our usual 120 boys as new entrants and welcomed this fact as evidence of parents' continued confidence in the School and the education it offers. Five awards at Oxford and Cambridge were reported: two in History and one each in Classics, Mathematics and Engineering. Four boys obtained places, thus maintaining our usual numbers at the ancient universities. At 'A' Level 1976, 63 boys obtained 3 passes and 26 obtained 2. Our 'O' Level results were the best for five years: 76 boys passed in seven or more subjects, and twenty passed in six. Sixty boys went on to degree courses at Universities and Polytechnics.

Sports successes and activities were mentioned, among them a new venture: a Summer School of Sport in which two hundred boys and girls would be using the School's facilities for a week.

After commencing a wide variety of School activities, C.C.F., scientific, dramatic, and musical, the Headmaster bade farewell to the small number of Masters who were leaving or who had left during the year.

The Headmaster reported that as a result of the Appeal Fund launched by the Governing Body twenty-four boys of the new intake would receive substantial financial help, one scholarship being donated by the Parents' Association from the proceeds of their Garden Fête.

Finally the Headmaster thanked the Teaching Staff, the Clerical Staff and the Domestic Staff for their work throughout the year.

Sir George Kenyon distributed the prizes and addressed the School. He spoke of egalitarianism as a confusion of the notion of equality: it is right that people should be equal before the law, but quite wrong to suggest that people are, or should be treated as, equal in qualities, character and ability. People who show ability should be allowed to develop it, but egalitarianism suggests that people need not develop their talents since all will be looked after.

Sir George spoke up in favour of excellence and the glory that belongs to it, a position that has acquired the mischievous label élitism. The pursuit of excellence, he said, provided no excuse for arrogance, but was necessary to the preservation of personal independence.

Turning to industry and management Sir George spoke of the importance of a broad education as a preparation. In industry there were no easy sanctions available any more, no bullying, and hence skill in human relations was required of managers. It was not enough to learn one thing, constant adjustment and flexibility were required.

PRIZE LIST, 1977

First Forms: English—R.D. Hardern; French—M.J. Taylor; Latin—J. Sealy and I. Thompson; History—A.M. Zaidi; Geography—R.W. Barber; Maths—R.D. Hardern; Chemistry—C.B. Smith; Biology—J. Hogg and I. Thompson; Music—E.J. McHale; Craft—D. Waldon; R.E.—R.D. Hardern; William Taylor Memorial Prize—R.D. Hardern.

Second Forms: English—J.E. Entwistle; French—J.E. Entwistle; Latin—J.E. Entwistle; History—J.E. Entwistle and N.J. Firth; Geography—A.P. Booth and J.Q. Killip; Maths—J.E. Marland; Physics—C.J. Greaves; Biology—C. Cotton; Music—M.C. Drackley; Art—D.J. Hartshorne; R.E.—R.J. Furniss.

Third Forms: English—J.N. Hemy; French—K.P. Holdridge; Spanish—C.A. Gowans; Latin—S.J. McNicholls; History—K.P. Holdridge; Geography—G. Fish; Maths—N.D. Sandham; Physics—P.A. Barber; Chemistry—A.D. Burden and A.J. Moffatt; Music—D.M. Spence; Art—S.M. Bradshaw; Craft—P.A. Barber.

Fourth Forms: English—I.M. Smith; French—M.A. Krawiecki; German—T.A.M. Maula; Spanish—M.D. Greaves; Latin—I.M. Smith; Greek—J.R. Heaton; History—K.N. Hussain; Geography—M. Tucker; Maths—P.J. Latham; Physics—A.D. Hoffman; Chemistry—J.M. Adams and A.P. Leech; Music—M.A. Etchells; Art—D.C. Tucker; Craft—D.M. Hainsworth.

Fifth Forms: Parents' English Prize—D.M. Platts; Caiger French Prize—H.S. Davies; German—M.A. Puddephat; Spanish—A.C. Evans; Latin—R. Jones; Greek—J.P. Marland; History—G.L. Lowe; Hewlett Geography Prize—D.N. Fox; Maths—S.J. Bedford; Physics—J.G. Evans; Chemistry—J.G. Evans; Music—D.N. Fox; Art—J.G. Evans; Craft—M.J. Sandy.

Lower Sixth Forms: English—D.R. Tracey; French—T. Lyons; German—D.R. Tracey; Latin—N.R. Pond; Greek—G.J. Davies; Anc. History—N.R. Pond; History—J.B. Friedler; Geography—J.B. Friedler; Maths—F.L. Chaudhri; Further Maths—M. Standring and N.J. Roberts; Physics—I.M. Wallwork; Chemistry—J.D.P. Kissack; Biology—A.K. Bose; Music—R.K. Cox; Art—T.M. Batchelor.

Middle Sixth Forms: The Forrest English Prize—J. Beesley; The Hawley French Prize—A.M. Mills; German—J.P.B. Sandy; Latin—P.G. McNaught; Greek—R.N. Morris; Anc. History—J.I. Sherman; History—D.R. Blagden; Geography—S.A. Jay; Maths—G.D. Roberts; Further Maths—N.M. Mitson; Physics—N.M. Mitson; Chemistry—N.J. Bradfield; Biology—P.M. Kennerley; Art—J.M. Gowans; Craft—N.J.J. Manning.

Upper Sixth Forms: The Knoop English Prize—J.N.B. Bennington; Vlies Modern Languages Prize—P.A. Kelly; Dorrington Latin Prize—S.J. Wild; Dorrington Greek Prize—S.J. Sherman; Dehn History Prize—J.A. Owrid; Lymer Mathematics Prize—C.J. Davies; Allman Further Mathematics Prize—T.A. Simpson; Palmer Physics Prize—A.R. Marlow; Old Hulmeians' Biology Prize—R.W.H. Parry.

Special Prizes: D.L.L. Griffiths Prize—M.S. Hamilton; Original Verse Prizes—D.A. Campbell and G.L. Lowe; Powell Scripture Reading Prize—R.D. Bailey; Anderson English Essay Prize—K.H.S. Swanson; Watkins Prize—R.D. Bailey; Graham Johnson Memorial Prize—P.G. McNaught; Eric Barnes Memorial Prize—J. Beesley; J.A. Barber Prize—J.P.B. Sandy; Woollam Scholarship—M. Dennis; Caswell Scholarship—T.A. Simpson; James Gozzard Prize—K. Wilcock; Halpin Prize—P.D. Boyle; Gradus Latin—M.P. Evans.

LEAVERS, 1977

It would be appreciated if leavers would inform the School of their post-Sixth Form careers.

U6A

R.D. Bailey, Southampton University, History.
J.N.B. Bennington, Swansea University, English.
G.J. Blair, Manchester Polytechnic, Economics.
P.D. Boyle, Durham University, History.
D. Coy, New College, Oxford, History.
R.G. Morkot, London University, History.
J.A. Owrid, New College, Oxford, History.
S.F.G. Skinner, Manchester University, History.

M6A-1

G.K. Beeson, Trafford B.D. Treasurers' Dept.
P.R. Benfield, Huddersfield Polytechnic.
A.S. Firth, Manchester Polytechnic, Law.
T. Hunt, South Trafford College.
I.M. Jefferson, J.F. Wilson & Co.

M6A-2

I.S. Balcombe, Family Business and Manchester Polytechnic.
S.J. Prior, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
A.P. Waring, Manchester University, Law.

M6A-3

D.E.N. Harris, Liverpool University, Psychology.
G. Jones, South Wythenshawe College of F.E.
N.J.J. Manning, Manchester Polytechnic.
D.W. Spragg, Preston Polytechnic, English.

U6C

G.M. Davies, Jesus College, Oxford, Law.
D.J. Manifould, Wadham College, Oxford Law.

M6C

I.D. Bryce, Manchester Polytechnic, HND/HNC course.
P.L. Ross, Marks & Spencers, Jnr. Management Trainee.

U6L

J.D. Hannabuss, Bradford University, Business Studies.
D.W. Hoey, Exeter University, Modern Languages.
P.A. Kelly, Keble College, Oxford, Modern Languages.

M6L

A.N. Frost, Liverpool Polytechnic, Law.
J.A. Gubba, Warrington Guardian Newspapers, Trainee Reporter.
H.P. Keeney, Birmingham University, Law.
C.H.A.J. Wallace, Manchester University.
A.C. Winterbottom, Banking.

U6M

M.K. Bradbury, Brasenose College, Oxford, Physics.
D.J. Davies, Durham University, Mathematics.
M. Dennis, Christ's College, Cambridge, Engineering.
A.R. Marlow, Keble College, Oxford, Physics.
T.A. Simpson, Peterhouse, Cambridge, Maths.

M6M

C.D. Lightfoot, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.
A.F. Mottram, Bradford University, Mech. Engineering.
C.D. Parkyn, Nottingham University, (1978), Electrical Engineering.
M.C. Plant, Sheffield University, Civil Engineering.
J. Raby, Sheffield University, Civil Engineering.
S.T. Saw, Leeds University.
A.C. Vaughan, Manchester Polytechnic (1978), Business Studies.

U6S(MPC)

I.P. Caldwell, Leeds University, Electrical Engineering.
M.J. Cox, Salford University, Civil Engineering.
N.I. Duncan, Birmingham University, Geology.
J.N. Gregson, Merchant Navy.
P.A. Howarth, Nottingham University, Mechanical Engineering.
D.I. Smith, Manchester University, Physics.
L.J. Wharton, Durham University, Chemistry.

M6S(MPC)—1

R.A.C. Buchanan, Manchester University, Physics and Computer Sciences.
A.L. Chaudhri, U.M.I.S.T., Civil Engineering.
S.W. Cumming, Manchester University, Physics.
J.C. Grammer, East Anglia University, Mathematics and Computing.
R.A. Heaton, Nottingham University, Engineering.
S.A. Jay, Southampton University, Environmental Science.
D.J. Leinhardt, Manchester University, Medicine.
D.R. Lloyd, Nottingham University, Civil Engineering.
C.S. Manning, Leeds University, Colour Chemistry.
T.J. Peet, Bradford University, Civil Engineering.
S.E. Postles, U.M.I.S.T., Electrical and Electronic Engineering.
G.D. Roberts, University next year.
N.G. Webb, Durham University, Physics.
J.G. Williams, University next year.

M6S(MPC)—1

J.L.V. Beressi, U.M.I.S.T.
M.C. Hallas, U.M.I.S.T., Physics.
K. Wilcock, Salford University, Civil Engineering.

L6S(MPC)—2

R.A. Aspden, Merchant Navy, Officer Cadet.
H.W. Evans, School in London.
J.S. Hay, Stockport F.E., Art.
D. Stubbs, Accountancy.

U6S(PCB)

D.M. Aslan, Salford University, Chemistry.
M.S. Hamilton, Bristol University, Medicine.
R.W.H. Parry, Leeds University, Biological Science.

M6S(PCB)

N.J. Bradfield, Bristol University, Veterinary Science.
R. Byrne, Liverpool Polytechnic, Sports Science (Degree).
D.J. Eaton, Manchester University, Dentistry.
P.M. Kennerley, Manchester University, Medicine.
C.M. Lea, Manchester University, Medicine.
A.R. Pope, Newcastle University, Biological Science.
S.G. Tarpey, Nottingham University, Biological Science.
S.V. Tindall, Sheffield University, Mechanical Engineering.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

C.C.F. NOTES

The outstanding event of the year as far as the contingent is concerned was the award of the M.B.E. to Capt. F.J. Smith for services rendered to the Combined Cadet Force. Everyone at school was very pleased when he went to Buckingham Palace to collect his award from the Queen Mother.

Our numbers have stayed much the same as in previous years, with an intake of thirty plus recruits last September. This kept the total within the contingent to just below one hundred.

Easter camps took on much the same appearance as last year: one party to Malta and one to the Yorkshire Dales. The Malta trip was hampered by extremely bad weather which caused us to change the training programme somewhat. We were lucky enough, however to, complete everything asked of us including a gruelling thirty-six hour exercise with the Marine Commandos which culminated in a very hard assault course. There were a few bumps and bruises but I am sure most people found it most enjoyable.

Firing on the open range was to a very high standard. It was interesting to note, however, that the Northern Ireland contingent was by far the best. Their shooting was outstanding.

C.S.M. S.J. Prior was the senior cadet at camp, and having only just heard that he had passed for Sandhurst, the experience that he gained in the following twelve days I am sure was very valuable to him. He seemed to enjoy his command, and I must say he carried out his duties extremely well. I am sure that he will do well in his chosen career.

Summer camp this year is once again back to the Isle of Man: a camp that in the past everyone has thoroughly enjoyed. The training facilities at this stage look even better than we have had in the past, with three Army Youth Teams and two Cadet Training Rooms at our disposal. We will be taking two long-wheelbase Landrovers with us, that have been loaned to us by the Royal Signals T.A. and the Royal Artillery T.A. This will be a great asset to us with the training, because of the lack of military transport on the Island. We wish to express our thanks to these two units.

During the year we were lucky enough to send eight cadets on attachment to the King's Regiment stationed at Colchester, to join in with Company training. By all accounts this was a very strenuous week but certainly worthwhile. Cadets returned very tired but well satisfied from their venture.

Another very interesting visit was to Woodvale Airfield for a military display.

This year we are free from the normal M.O.D. inspection. However Lt. Col. Burnip of the King's Regiment has kindly accepted our invitation to inspect the unit on Friday July 1st, and as this goes to the printer, we are preparing for this parade.

J.F.C.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING

The School Play, 1976

By the time I had seen the School Play, *Conduct Unbecoming*, on three evenings, I had developed two conflicting attitudes: admiration for the production, the cast, the general spirit of enjoyment in performance which came strongly across the footlights; and an insistent doubt about the quality of the play I had seen.

Let me explain further. When I saw a copy of the text, I was naive enough to accept at its face value the blurb about the play's being "not a tragedy, but about honour". Whatever that may mean, it does imply a play which involves such serious considerations as tragedy and honour. I expected a play with some depth. I ought to have known better. It took only one evening's viewing to realise that such blurb is (as usual) exaggerated and affected, and that the play was no more than a well-constructed, rather overworked, detective story, complete with extended trial scene, in which I was required to respond to nothing more demanding than the contents of a cornflake packet. It is a glib account of a minor difficulty in a regiment; none of the characters has any depth, and it is a mistake to expect any. All the climaxes of the play were heavily signalled, and while one might admire the theatrical expertise of the author, Barry England, in arranging his episodes very effectively, one is strongly reminded of Sir Terence Rattigan's glossy effusions in which serious problems are so veneered that their potential for worthwhile drama is destroyed. Such a superficial play can succeed only by a good deal of sophistication in the acting and in the production generally.

By this standard the production was a great success. I have only admiration for the way in which the cast went about the play. There were many ingredients to applaud. To specify one: the set was excellent, and the fact that there was no curtain helped the action to flow smoothly, aided by the actors N.S. Crossley, K.D. Murray, and M.J.P. Jeffries, who, as waiters, in fact brought on and arranged the props, and organised the scene-changes. These were boys unused to the stage, and indeed, the producer was working with several inexperienced actors. It was gratifying to see how many "unknown" boys came off in the event. I am thinking especially of those who played the various military officers: A.J.C. Sidebotham, N.A. Jackson, A. Johnson, B.J. Kumeta, D.M. Goodman and G.A. Rogers, as well as D.C. Howarth as the Doctor. All these helped to keep the general run of the production lively and interesting. There were others who, while not vastly experienced on the stage, could draw on some confidence to help out. C.S. Rogerson and G.L. Lowe come to mind immediately in this category. Their parts were strongly projected. I am sure I have missed some who deserve a mention, but I hope they can forgive me if, in the space of a short review, I pass on to the major roles in the play.

M.D. Turjansky, as Drake, had a difficult job, in that he had to establish one personality as an orthodox subaltern, and then become, by the gradual destruction of his illusions, a rebel against the central ethos of the Regiment. In this sophisticated role he succeeded very well. The only reservation I have is that he has a tendency to repeat facial expressions so that they become mannered rather than significant. On him rested a good deal of responsibility for sustaining the tension through a protracted trial. He was not helped by the banal dialogue provided by the author, and it is a measure of Turjansky's quality that the tension was for the most part maintained.

D.M. Platts, as the Adjutant, gave one of his best performances in School plays. His suggestion of subdued authority, but of fundamental weakness of character, was most impressive.

It is always interesting to note in any cast those boys who seize their chances of making even an apparently casual part assume a memorable stature. I was struck by T.A.M. Maula as Pradah Singh, and J.E. Hytner as Mrs. Bandanai. Each of them revealed acting qualities which contributed immensely to the life of each evening's production. Their polish and persuasiveness augur well for the future. G.R. Smallwood, as Mrs. Hasseltine, gave a fine female impersonation. Perhaps there was not quite enough of the slightly disreputable nature of the lady, but I shall long remember his delivery of her final line: "It has taken me too long to accept what I have always known. You are scum."

Every producer of School drama in recent years has known that he can count on the services of one or two really experienced actors. I am sure that Mr. Callaghan would be the first to admit that the success of his play owed a lot to R.D. Bailey and G.J. Blair. I was interested to see what Bailey would make of his part as Millington, the "bad egg", ever since his virtuoso performance in *Hadrian VII* the previous year. He did not miss a trick. He dominated the stage whenever he was on, and it was fascinating to watch him seize his chances in the earlier scenes of the play, for the part fades out a bit later. One of the most demanding and effective moments in the production was his singing *Plaisir d'Amour* in a state of drunkenness. For once, the playwright's pretentious stage direction and the actual performance corresponded to make a moment of real pathos. Bailey is to be congratulated on a very fine job.

If I keep my last detailed comment for G.J. Blair, as the Colonel, it is because I have only twice before seen such a splendidly sustained character in a school play. Blair managed to maintain the mannerisms, both of movement and speech, of a rather incompetent Colonel throughout the production. Timing, accent, walk: all were there. It was an acting performance to remember, and in its conviction helped me on three evenings to forget (almost) that the actual play was nothing more than a glossy bauble.

In all, then, my thanks and congratulations to all concerned: producer, stage-staff, sound effects, make-up, and all those whom I, as a thankfully resting producer, know to have given inestimable help behind the scenes to make a splendid production, which the audiences and your critic thoroughly enjoyed.

D.E.B.G.

HOUSE PLAYS, 1977

As the two play evenings progressed, it became increasingly obvious that success or failure in House Plays is to a large extent dictated by the initial choice of play. Some of those selected not only did not succeed on this occasion, but could never have done so. Heywood's "*Death on the Line*" was one such. It was tragic to see so much effort put in by D. Nicholson and J. Marland to so little effect. Perhaps the producer was impressed by the name of Charles Dickens on the title page, but he should have been warned off by the fact that the recent television production of this play, with all the expertise, manpower and financial resources offered by that medium, was slack and unconvincing. Such tension as the play possesses is entirely in the dialogue, and though Nicholson and Marland knew their lines, they did not know how to deliver them to good dramatic effect. Excitement is not just a matter of speed or volume; all too often key lines were gabbled unintelligibly, leaving the audience to deduce for itself what was supposed to be happening. The stereotyped movements and gestures and limited range of vocal expression of all five of the actors did nothing to clarify the situation. Even the set was unimaginative, showing too little detail to give any real sense of the location. Timetables, charts and lists on the walls would have helped, as would a convincing-looking set of control levers. Four or five broom-handles just aren't good enough for a "prop" which is central to the whole conception of the play.

The Gaskell play, *The Oyster and the Pearl*, seemed similarly half-doomed from the start. One problem underlying the whole play was the American accent: they are notoriously difficult, even for professionals, and this cast would certainly have done better not even to attempt them. Much of the play seemed to suffer from the lack of a clear theme or story-line, and D. Lloyd and K. Hussain only made matters worse by delivering their lines inaudibly; though in Lloyd's case it was hardly surprising that he could not concentrate on his lines when he was also performing a sophisticated juggling act with a pipe, an oyster and a pair of spectacles! The set represented a very fair effort at filling the large and rather barn-like stage, but the use of the available acting space was unimaginative, and the movements of the actors lacked careful planning and organisation. Too often, as in the case of Moody and Greaves, actions distracted attention from the words.

The Railwayman's New Clothes, the Dalton play, had several moments of intentional humour and a few of unintentional. Despite taking over his acting part very late in rehearsals, R. Bailey was able to fall back on his long acting experience and make something of an unpromising

part. In this instance again, the weaknesses were at least as much in the play itself as in the production of it. Its point — the discomfiture of the Branch Manager in front of his junior assistant — is very slight, and seems to take an inordinately long time to be reached. The action lacks pace and variety, and the dialogue becomes boring and repetitive toward the end. G. Lowe as Lumley, the Branch Manager, had good variety of intonation, but too often faded into inaudibility. His appearance did not fit the part well — if he could have sacrificed a few feet of spare hair he would have looked vastly more convincing. P. Bowers made a valiant effort as Hartigan, the junior assistant, but was too small and youthful for the part. His pleasure at Lumley's failure should have provided the climax of the play, but he did not know — and had not been shown — how to project any expression of this impudent satisfaction. D. Lister as Edward Henshaw grew into his part. He was awkward and stiff at first, and threw away several potentially amusing lines by rushing; but as he relaxed, he took his lines more slowly and got better value from them. It was R. Bailey as Charles Henshaw, the Railwayman of the title, who redeemed the play. He was always acting, and though somewhat preoccupied with his lines — of which he was understandably uncertain — he added a great deal of humour by his movements and facial expressions. Acting ability like his deserves a better vehicle than this play could ever provide.

Of the three more successful plays, which were placed by the Judges in order of merit, Byrom's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mazarin Stone* was placed third. This was a well-chosen play and a worthy production of it. Its success depended very heavily on a few characters, most of whom carried off their parts with distinction. P.G. McNaught's Sherlock Holmes developed into an identifiable and attractive personality, within the format of the established character, as the play progressed. He maintained interest during some fairly lengthy explanatory passages by his excellent variety of tone, expression and movement, and his decisiveness of word and action inspired confidence and allowed the audience to relax and enjoy the story in a way not always possible with amateur dramatics. M.R. Walker as Dr. Watson was a little less satisfactory, and his weaknesses perhaps showed up more clearly by contrast with McNaught. Though he looked the part, Walker was often difficult to hear, and his repertoire of movements and gestures was limited. He seemed to settle down as time passed and to draw reassurance from McNaught; with more experience he could doubtless become a very competent actor. C.S. Rogerson as Holmes' adversary, Count Negretto Sylvius, was a strong foil to McNaught. The exchanges between the two, with each trying to outwit the other, had pace and excitement, and never faltered. A.B. Polding took a comparatively small part as Lord Cantlemere, but it was a part that, badly acted, could have detracted seriously from the play's conclusion. Polding gave a very sound performance which did all that was necessary, but left the limelight to Holmes. A. Dowdall gave an excellent caricature portrayal of the dim crook, Sam Merton, which added a welcome touch of humour; and A.C. Tippman as Billy, Holmes' manservant, also added some realistically lively bustle at several points.

A small but experienced cast made Fraser's play, *The Deterrent*, a thoroughly amusing romp. They had the audience with them from the beginning, and like experienced comics, never allowed them to stop laughing as one ludicrous situation developed into another. G.J. Blair and M.D. Turjansky as Muriel and Joseph Flinch realised that the only way to play their parts was as caricatures which, though ridiculous, were clearly recognisable extensions of reality. The interplay between these two was what made the production. Blair as the overwrought, seedy, television-addicted suburban husband moved like something between Basil Fawlty and a disgruntled baboon, and was at his exasperated best when at cross-purposes with his wife. Turjansky "in drag" was one of the most convincing "women" seen on the School stage for some time, in stance, movement and speech the perfect neurotically agitated female. Both not only delivered their lines clearly, but knew when to expect laughter and how to cope with it. The Sandy brothers both carried off their supporting roles well, M.J. handling Mr. Flinch with hilarious mock-seriousness. When he lifted him several inches off the floor by his lapels, the audience was about as hysterical as such a small number of people can be. I.D. Helsby was, not surprisingly in such distinguished company, a little outclassed, but his was no disgrace. With more experience of this kind, he too will become a good actor. In many years a production of this calibre would easily have won the competition; it was simply the misfortune of its producer and cast that on this occasion a play of unusual scale, imagination and quality was pitted against it.

This, of course, was Whitworth's production of Tom Stoppard's *Albert's Bridge*. It is, in the first place, rare to find a play which is of such intrinsic merit and yet is within the reach of a House Play producer and cast. It had, at various moments, comedy, action and suspense, and took throughout a thought-provokingly original view of life. Before any comment is made on individuals, it should be said that the success of this production was based on the close teamwork of the large number of people taking part, on stage and off. No detail was overlooked: the back-cloth, "mini-sets", costumes and lighting all admirably supported a cast who worked together as a well-organised unit, and concentrated throughout on professional standards of presentation. J. Bennington, who both produced the play and took the title role, must take special credit for the co-ordination of the various elements which contributed to the play's success. He was faced with the task of adapting a play written for the radio — where physical locations can be left to the listener's imagination — to the requirements of the live stage. He solved the major problem of the variety of rapidly-changing scenes by using several small acting areas on the main stage and the apron, and isolating them from each other by lighting. This worked well because of the very efficient work of the stage electricians and because the actors moved into their positions silently and confidently, so that each small scene began exactly on cue. The two groups of characters, the painters and the Board of Trustees, each contributed to the humour, and the painters added a well thought out and thoroughly credible representation of their work. D. Harris, as Albert's Mother, looked the part and delivered his lines very adequately, though his knitting technique could do with some attention! S. Reubens as Albert's Father faltered on occasions, and his uncertainty showed up all too clearly by contrast with the confidence of the others. He was, perhaps, a little under-rehearsed. A major "discovery" of this production was M. Kreissl, who played Albert's wife, Kate, with a conviction which belied his youth and inexperience. It is to be hoped that he will develop his undoubted acting talent in the coming years. Much of the message of the latter part of the play depended on T. Maula, playing Fraser, so it was disappointing that he spoke his lines so quickly and unclearly that the audience had difficulty in following him. He threw away many of the opportunities to be funny and thought-provoking which his part offered him. It was Bennington above all on whom the play depended. The quick sequence of scenes made any tedium unlikely, but Bennington further guaranteed its avoidance by a fine variety of vocal and facial expression. He was able to speak "quietly" at moments and still be clearly audible at the back of the Hall; while at other times he spoke with volume and excitement, and seldom missed the opportunities for humour which the play gave him. It is rare to see a play of such scale and complexity attempted as a House Play, and it is a tribute to all who took part that it succeeded so well, and ended the competition with forty minutes' real entertainment.

J.W.W.

OH! CHORLTON!

The Staff Revue

In the words of the programme, this Revue was a "desire to break out of the old routine, let some hair down, and do something completely different". In pursuit of this theme Messrs. Wilde, Shaw and McNair rounded up some two-thirds of their colleagues (including one who thought he had made good his escape to another institution) and successfully persuaded them to present the script "what they wrote". In two performances well over one thousand people thoroughly enjoyed a mixture of song, sketch and slapstick. There was sufficient variety to offer something for everybody, and sufficient response from the audience to encourage even the most nervous participant. Naturally much of the humour was for internal consumption, being directed at the School and its idiosyncracies. Thus the C.C.F., the rules, the Entrance Exam, sport, and the Headmaster all received irreverent attention. There were also Folk Songs, News Flashes, and a couple of examples of verbal dexterity which severely tested both the tongues of the actors and the ears of the audiences. One of the real features was the music, played by Mr. Callaghan, which maintained a cheerful and lively atmosphere.

In spite of occasional misgivings on all sides many benefits were derived from that venture. The cast clearly had a lot of fun, and their enthusiasm, coupled with more talent than many

believed existed in the Common Room, gave much pleasure to the audiences. Many, too, were pleasantly surprised to find that their teachers are (mostly) human. As a bonus, a sum of money was raised to help refurbish the stage. While no-one would want this to become an annual event, let us hope it is not too long before something similar is attempted again.

M.M. and J.B.

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

During the 1976-77 year, the school's musical activities followed the now familiar pattern set up over the years: a concert, Christmas activities, Founder's Day and the House Music Competition.

The first activity of the Session was the Junior School Festival of Christmas Music and Readings. This was held in the Upper Hall on December 2nd and was organised entirely by Mr. G.J. Turner. It was an informal programme for unbroken voices which gave the Juniors an opportunity to perform something on their own. Popular and lesser-known Christmas music was punctuated with seasonal dramatical readings. The singers performed eleven carols and a violin solo was played very well by N. Langley 2B. The programme was well conceived and executed. All praise to Mr. Turner for his never ending work and enthusiasm.

The School Choir sang a recital of carols at St. Ann's Church, Manchester on Tuesday, December 7th. As usual the church was nearly full and all went smoothly with Mr. Golder playing the organ and Mr. Bamforth conducting. The Choir also took part in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held on Wednesday, December 15th in the New Hall. This was the second time that this service had taken place, enabling parents and friends to attend, and this will probably become an established fixture in the School's calendar.

Founder's Day fell on March 22nd. It was celebrated as usual in Manchester Cathedral and the Choir rose to the great occasion to sing the Ave Verum of Mozart.

The main School Concert was this year held in the New Hall on March 28th. The Military Band started the proceedings presenting three works: Alford's 'Thin Red Line', an excerpt from the Fireworks Music by Handel, and finally a light hearted march by Sarony entitled 'Jollity Farm'. Before the Recorder Group rounded off the first half of the programme, there followed solos on the organ by Mr. P.J. Callaghan and the trumpet by R. Brindley, 4A. The group played three pieces by Handel and two by Brian Bonsor, the latter being accompanied on the piano by Mr. Bamforth.

In the second half of the programme the Choir sang the Mozart's Ave Verum again and added two spirituals, 'Somebody's Knocking at My Door' and 'Zion's Children' before a performance of 'The Stone Wall' by Malcolm Williamson. Mr. D.E.B. Golder conducted and Mr. Bamforth played the piano.

Two more solos followed, Mr. Golder on the piano and three pieces on guitar played by J. Bonsor, 3L. The closing items were played by the Military Band conducted by Mr. Bamforth. These pieces were 'March of the Cadets', 'El Abanico' and a Latin American 'Macarenas'.

This year a new method was successfully used for the House Music Competition. Each House was given one complete period of forty minutes in which to present a programme. This method was very successful and is to be used again next year. The system depends on House Music Organisers and the results are mainly due to their success or failure. The results were as follows: Byrom 305 points, Fraser 225, Whitworth 202, Gaskell 197, Dalton 149 and Heywood 81.

Governors' Music Scholarships were awarded to second formers S. Birchall, N. Grunfeld, H. Parker, and also to R. Cox L6S to continue their instrumental lessons. Associated Board Music Examinations have been taken and passed by H. Parker, S. Birchall, Grade I violin; A. Tippman and P. Hall, Grade II piano and violin respectively. N. Pond, R. Taylor and J. Bonsor all passed Grade III on their instruments, double bass, piano and guitar. In addition eight boys were entered for various instrumental examinations in the Summer Term but results are not yet available. More senior Grades were taken by J. Burden (Grade V theory) and R. Brindley (Grade VI trumpet). Now that a team of fully qualified full time visiting teachers has been built up, the School looks forward to further successes in the Grade examinations and to an improvement in the general standard of playing throughout the School.

R.K.C.

AVIEMORE, FEBRUARY 1977

As a change from previous skiing trips which have usually visited Austria, this year a trip was organised to visit Aviemore in Scotland which was a much cheaper proposition than Austria. The trip was organised by Messrs. H.V. Grange and R.S. Moore from the 15th to 21st February 1977. We were fortunate to have Mr. N. Grindy, a friend of Mr. Grange and experienced skier, as our instructor.

All the equipment, skis, sticks and boots were hired from the Youth Hostels Association in Manchester. Before the holiday skiing tuition was arranged twice at Brigham's indoor ski slope in Manchester and twice at the much larger outdoor slope at Rossendale.

The party of fifteen set off from School at 2.30 p.m. With a couple of stops on the way we reached our destination, a caravan site just outside Aviemore, at about midnight.

The following day we were up at about 7.00 a.m. and out of the caravan for 8.00 a.m. Equipped with skiing gear we made our way to the Cairngorms. We had arranged to buy tickets which entitled us to as many ski-tow journeys a day as possible. For the first two or three days tuition from our instructor occupied much of the time of the majority whilst the more proficient skiers went off on their own, some eventually to 'conquer' the famous "White Lady" (some thousand feet high). Some good skiing was enjoyed by everyone with excellent snow conditions every day except one which was marred by high winds and a blizzard making skiing impossible.

At night we often visited the Aviemore Centre where leisure activities included swimming and squash. One evening a very entertaining film on skiing was shown and enjoyed by most of the party.

This was a most enjoyable trip which resulted in a marked improvement in the skiing ability of all who went. The members of the party wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Grange, Mr. Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Grindy for making the trip a success.

R.H.

SCOTLAND, JUNE 1977

Whitsuntide once again found us in Scotland, this time in the far north, over four hundred miles from Manchester in Sutherland. The party comprised Drs. D.G. Barnes, J.A. Clark, Messrs. M.R. Booker and M. Cole, together with R.C. Brindley, M.A. Etchells, T.S. Scott, I. Ackerley, A.T. Bowyer, D.B. Emsley, N.D. Sandham, and J.S. Wade. After three weeks of glorious sunshine the weather changed completely and we were subjected to torrential rain, high winds, and even several snow showers. However, we have come to expect this sort of thing and, undeterred by it all, managed to do a walk of some kind every day.

After an early start, which would have been even earlier if one member of staff had not overslept, we drove up on Friday June the third beneath blue skies as far as the Cairngorms where Dr. Barnes commented on the dark cloud mass that seemed to beckon from the north west. Sure enough, soon after Inverness, the rain was pelting down and we were regretting leaving our 'wellies' behind. We eventually pitched camp at Achmelvich, a lovely little bay just north of Lochinver with a beach of silver sand, later to be the scene of a three-nil victory by the staff over the boys at soccer.

Saturday's weather was appalling, at least in the opinion of the writer, who preferred to read a book in the relative comfort of the school van whilst the rest of the party made an ascent of Stac Polly in the mist and rain. In the evening we met up with Dr. M.I. Barker and a climbing friend of his, Dr. G. McCreesh, and their wives. The weather improved for the next two days and we climbed Suilven and Quinag. Suilven is only 2399 feet high but must be one of the most impressive mountains in the whole of Scotland. It rises sheer out of a flat plateau of gneiss surrounded by a myriad of shimmering lochans. It has been described as 'like a ship riding at anchor', and, seen end on from Lochinver, it resembles a huge rounded dome; indeed the invading Vikings of the eleventh century named it Sul-Fjal, the Pillar Mountain.

On Tuesday and Wednesday heavy morning rain gave way to fine weather in the afternoon and evening and we made trips to the Old Man of Stoer, a two hundred and twenty foot sandstone sea-stack, and to the famous bone caves of the Allt nan Uamh near Inchnadamph. In these limestone caves were found the skeletons of the earliest people to colonize Scotland, dating perhaps from 6000 B.C. This area is also famous for its alpine flora and we spent an hour or so searching the rocky ledges for flowers and wishing we knew the names of more of them. Nearby on the shores of Loch Assynt are the ruins of Ardvreck Castle where in 1650 the Marquis of Montrose was betrayed by Neil Macleod, eleventh chief of the Macleods.

The only Munros, or hills over three thousand feet, climbed during the week were Conival and Ben More Assynt which we ascended on the Thursday. The approach to these mountains along the Tralligill burn is interesting because the stream disappears into the limestone at one point and flows underground to reappear lower down the valley. It was on this walk that it first became necessary to treat J.S. Wade's blisters: it later transpired that he was wearing size five boots and yet takes size six or seven in shoes!

Friday was by far the best day with hardly any rain and we spent several really enjoyable hours on Ben More Coigach, eventually descending by a narrow ridge with fine views of the Summer Isles and the Outer Hebrides to the crofting village of Achiltibuie, which unbelievably is being spoiled by the building of several hideous concrete houses complete with back yards, straight out of Cumbernauld New Town. It is worthy of note here that also on the Friday Dr. Barker and his friend climbed the thousand foot nose of Sgurr an Fhithleir on Ben More Coigach, a major route which was only climbed for the first time in 1962 and which according to Dr. Barker gave seven hours of very serious and exposed climbing.

Despite the almost traditionally inclement weather we seem to suffer on these trips, I think it is safe to say that everybody had a thoroughly good time.

M.R.B.

COMPUTER UNIT

Though the present programming language, Prime Basic, has been in use since October 1975, this year has seen a number of modifications to the language, and the 'discovery' of some new functions. A major innovation was the use of another computer language called Fortran. Although this language is harder to use than Basic, P.S. Jones and M. Standring have produced some simple working programs. These new features increased the versatility of the computer but at the same time did not hamper beginners.

As before, after-school courses were held to teach the elements of programming. Two courses for third form boys, who appear to be coping well, were begun. The fifth form group, though initially the largest and most active, soon thinned out to leave the more dedicated programmers who produced some interesting material such as S.J. Bedford's 'Dominoes', M. Weston's 'League Table' and D.M. Bradshaw's 'Mastermind'. The Lower Sixth form group lacked the dedication of other groups and has all but died out.

Following on from last year's language translation project, a group of pupils attempted to simulate various computer languages, some successful, some which, given more time, would have worked. Some valuable experience was gained with this project.

Towards the latter half of the year N.J. Roberts, P.S. Jones and M. Standring were involved in a major project to investigate the behaviour of projectiles. This was displayed at the Salford University Science Fair where it was considered a most successful exhibit.

The value of the computer terminal and its link to Salford University continues to be evident, not only internally but also as regards the number of pupils who, having had experience in this way, carry on to computer-orientated jobs or courses at University.

M.S.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Senior Committee was elected under the presidency of Mr. H.W. Timm as follows:

Honorary Secretary—P.G. McNaught.

Debate Chairman—I.S. Balcombe.

Committee Members—G.M. Davies (U6), J.R. Brodie (M6), and K.H.S. Swanson (L6).

Co-opted Members—N.P. Heron (L6) and S.J. Wild (U6)

This year a lot of interest was shown in the internal debates and this was reflected in the number of people willing to speak. Throughout the year I.S. Balcombe proved to be a reliable Debate Chairman and he was ably supported by P.G. McNaught and G.M. Davies. The Motion "This House believes that all forms of censorship should be abolished" gave us our largest audience and our liveliest debate. The Motion was finally defeated by eleven votes to three with ten abstentions. Our political debates included motions on defence, Socialism, Mr. Enoch Powell, the House of Lords, and Northern Ireland. We also debated more general matters such as blood-sports and the emphasis that society puts on sport. The following non-committee members spoke in two or more debates: S.J. Sherman, G.J. Blair, N. Ashton, J.I. Sherman, R.N. Morris, A.M. Krawiecki and P.D. Boyle.

As last year's Presidents of the Manchester Schools Sixth Form Debating Society, we were pleased to play host to the other schools at the Society's A.G.M. The De La Salle College Debating Society were elected Presidents for this year. The Society, composed of six boys' and girls' schools, provided many enjoyable evenings and we were glad that we could provide several speakers. The topics debated included the truth of advertisements, cynicism, "Monty Python", and National Service. We hope that the Society will continue to thrive next year as it provides a forum for more experienced speakers.

We also arranged two private debates with other Manchester schools. On February 2nd we played host to the girls of Manchester High School and debated the Motion "This House believes that the 'unfit' should be restrained from parenthood". S.J. Wild, proposing the motion and R.D. Bailey, opposing the motion, represented the School. On March 16th we went to Harrytown Convent School to debate the Motion "This House believes that Comprehensive Schools should not be the only form of secondary education". The School was represented by S.J. Wild and P.G. McNaught. This debate was of particular interest because of the recent Education Act which affected both schools in different ways.

In the Michaelmas Term the Society undertook a new venture in entering the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. The team consisted of I.S. Balcombe as Chairman, S.J. Wild as Proposer of the Vote of Thanks, and P.G. McNaught speaking on "Crisis in Classics". We did not manage to get into the final and were shown the high standard of public speaking at other schools.

A lunch-time "Any Questions" was designed to appeal to a large number of people but the audience was small. Under the Chairmanship of P.G. McNaught the panellists, J.N.B. Bennington, N.P. Heron, Mr. P. McNair and K.H.S. Swanson answered questions on the Silver Jubilee, the role of prefects in a school, corporal punishments, and the role of the troops in Northern Ireland.

The year ended with a great success in the form of the Summer Debate, a new venture designed to incorporate the School, Old Boys and Parents. The Motion debated was "This House believes that nothing can fortify the over-forties". P.G. McNaught and Mr. P.J. Callaghan proposed the Motion and Dr. C.D. Rogers and P.C. Holmes opposed it. The audience enjoyed the evening immensely, even though they needed encouragement from the Chairman, Mr. Timm, to speak from the floor.

P.G.McN.

DRAMA SOCIETY

The Drama Society was formed after the School Play of 1976 in order to promote and foster acting within the School.

Its activities have included regular meetings under the supervision of Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Golder and Mr. Turner to encourage the development of stagecraft and acting technique, especially among Junior boys. These activities culminated in the presentation of two evenings of Drama Society plays on the 28th and 29th of June.

The Society also promotes visits to local theatres, ranging from "*Sherlock Holmes*" at the Oldham Coliseum to "*The Chiltern Hundreds*" at the Rex Theatre, Wilmslow, and the National Theatre Company's "*State of Revolution*" at the Opera House, Manchester. The Society also hopes to promote a visit to a West End theatre during the Summer break.

Membership of the Society is informal, and is open to all boys who feel that they have something to contribute.

G.J.B.

NATURALIST SOCIETY

The Naturalist Society was initiated in the Lent Term in response to a widespread interest throughout the School in wildlife. The meetings have been somewhat erratic but have included film strip lectures, illustrated talks from outside visitors, and showings of programmes recorded from television. A visit was made to Manchester University to see their electron microscope in operation.

Over the Easter vacation the Society spent a three day excursion in the attractive Grizedale Forest, Cumbria. There we had the opportunity to observe a variety of wild life on several nature trails in the forest. We were unsuccessful in spotting the larger mammals such as deer, badgers and foxes despite finding ample evidence of their presence by way of tracks, hair, fur and bark damage. Dusk and dawn observations, the latter involving reveille at 5.15 a.m., did not reward the Naturalists as I would have expected and hoped.

After leaving Grizedale we detoured to Grange-over-Sands and rambled through woods, past limestone pavements, and over the grasslands of the Hampsfell Nature Trail. Rain and mist spoiled an otherwise pleasant walk.

The Society is open to all members of the School; new members and new ideas for meetings, talks and visits are always welcomed.

R.S.M.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

This year has seen several advances for the Philatelic Society. The Philatelic Library, started last year has been largely extended and now provides a more comprehensive service to collectors. There has also been a series of Philatelic Auctions which have been most popular. It is hoped they will continue in the future.

Towards the end of the year, several members gave lectures which attracted large audiences. A result of this was that more people were prepared to exhibit their stamps at our exhibitions held at the Garden' Fête and on Open Day.

Once again the Society has progressed under the guidance of the Chairmen, the founder of the present society, I.S. Balcombe and D.I. Smith and with the encouragement of Mr. E.W. Mitchell. Sadly all three will be leaving us this year and the Society wishes them great success in the future.

The Society in the year to come hopes to build on these achievements and always welcomes new members.

D.B.L.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

In this, the silver jubilee year of the Photographic Society, it is again encouraging to report that we have had another successful year. The membership has steadily increased and all the Society's activities have been well supported. It is particularly pleasing to report that all the

weekly meetings have been well attended and the standard of our competitions has improved. This year saw the visit of Mr. Arron, a freelance photographer, who gave members an insight into his profession which was enjoyed immensely.

Two cameras have been acquired by the Society, one an 1890 "Instantograph" kindly donated by Dr. and Mrs. Daber which we hope to restore to working condition in the near future, and a modern one bought by the Society which can be borrowed by members.

The Darkroom is now used almost every dinner-time during Term and is extensively used after school, on Saturdays and during holidays. This means members have to book well in advance to use this facility.

Bulk buying of film has proved very successful as it has meant a considerable saving financially to members. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Arron for their generous donations of film.

I would like to thank the Treasurer, the Committee and S.J. Bedford for their help during the past year and the members, without whose enthusiasm the success of the Society would not have been possible.

K.W.

K. Wilcock has proved a first class secretary and with the help of some very enthusiastic 5th and 6th formers has kept the Society's meetings on Friday afternoons full and much enjoyed. I am sorry he and G.C. Wood are leaving, but am sure that the Society will be in good hands next year with A. Polding and S.J. Bedford.

R.A.H.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

This year a Science and Technology Fair was again held at the University of Salford, sponsored by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Both the Physics and Mathematics Departments produced projects for display on the School's stand and the general theme chosen was Projectile Motion. The Mathematics Department, under the guidance of Mr. Loveland, made a comprehensive study of the subject using the School's digital computer link. The effects of spin and resistance to motion were also studied and graphs were plotted of the motion on the computer. Responsible for the work were M.S. Standring, P.S. Jones and N.J. Roberts.

The Physics Department used the techniques of analogue computing to study the same sort of effects. The end product of this method was a trace on an oscilloscope or graph-plotter. The oscilloscope traces were photographed and used as part of the display whereas the graph-plotter was used in a projectile game. The work was carried out in the electronics lab by H.M. Beighton, M.W. Richardson, W.J. Shepherd, M.S. Roffey and M.A. Puddephat, with the assistance of A.R. Marlow and P.J. March and under the guidance of Mr. Furniss.

Whilst at the Fair, the School was invited to exhibit at the Science Fair organised at this year's Annual Conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Birmingham. H.M. Beighton and M.W. Richardson will attend this conference in September with Mr. Furniss.

N.M.M.

STAGE STAFF REPORT

This year has seen a marked improvement in members' self-discipline — a factor which on previous occasions has almost led to the group's disbandment; the larger-than-usual band of third year boys must be commended for their mature approach to the tasks undertaken.

This has also been the busiest year yet for the Stage Staff, both in the number and variety of productions staged and in some new and demanding locations around the school.

The School play *Conduct Unbecoming* was universally said to have been well prepared and performed by all concerned — including ourselves! The set was of a complicated nature and grew gradually into a wooden verandah with lowered roof looking out onto a backcloth painted

as an Indian landscape. The whole thing was built and painted under the supervision of Messrs. Grant and Bennett who nurtured it with finishing touches right up to the day of performance.

The House Plays were as usual full of problems caused by the demands of actors and producers who wanted the impossible both in terms of the complexity of individual sets and in the amount of paraphernalia which could be handled in the short interval available between plays. This was not helped by impending 'A' levels which inevitably interfered with our concentration on the job in hand.

I am very pleased to report that we successfully mastered all the problems posed by the new location of the platform in the New Hall for The King's Singers Concert organised by Mr. P.J. Wilde and were able to help with a similar task for his presentation of the Manchester Camerata Orchestra with Johnny Morris. We should like gleefully to report that the Masters' Review, in whose organisation Mr. Wilde participated, needed the assistance of the Stage Staff (mainly in the shape of D. Dandy) after the Masters at first declared that they would do everything themselves.

Justification for the replacement of the Stage curtains is unnecessary in view of their advanced age and obvious decay. New royal blue curtains should be in position by next September.

Our thanks go, of course, to Messrs. Grant, Bennett, Furniss and Bonnick for their help and guidance throughout the year.

J.D., D.D., and C.F.

Footnote

At Easter control of the Stage Staff was handed over to S. Jary, 4A who has since made an excellent job of managing the Drama Club presentation in the Upper Hall, erecting the platform for Speech Day, completely re-organising the storage tunnels and making a new meeting area for the Stage Staff in the old curtain store.

All members worked very hard in the Summer Term and on one occasion I had to order them back on tired limbs to complete yet another urgent job! My thanks go to all the Stage Staff for their unstinting efforts in such an exhausting year. Membership is now at a record 19 and we look forward to a rewarding drama-packed year next year.

G.N.G.

DONNER LIBRARY

Mr. Ll. Griffiths and Mrs. F. Barlow have continued to supply periodicals to the Library, and R. Silver has added to the list by presenting the Readers' Digest each month. The Britannica World Language Dictionary was given by Mr. R.G. Mee, and other books have been donated by Mr. Haynes, Mr. Houghton, Mr. W.W. Land, Mr. J.D. Evans, Dr. C.G. Eastwood, S.J. Wright, S.J. Keeling, and D.M. Goodman. I.S. Balcombe and R.G. Morkot have observed the time-honoured custom of giving books to the Library as a 'leaving present' at the end of their school careers. We are grateful to all.

F.J.S.

JUNIOR LIBRARY 1977

As I write my last Junior Library report, I think back with pleasure over the ten years during which I have watched the library grow and develop; but the greatest pleasure has been not in any change or improvement we have been able to make in the fabric of the place, or even its contents, but in observing the steady and generally very sensible use made by some hundreds of boys of whatever facilities it offered at the time they were in the Junior School. This year the usual additions to and replacement of book stocks have been made, and I have noted with particular satisfaction that while the borrowing of books has gone on unabated, the record and cassette section has also been very fully used by a large number of boys.

My thanks are due as always to all those who have been librarians during the year, and given up their time to help keep the library running from day to day. Particular mention must be made on this occasion of the sterling work done by S.J. Redford, who has been a 'Head Librarian' of exceptional initiative and patience.

The running of the library has now passed into the capable hands of Mr. P.J. Callaghan. I can only wish him the same satisfaction in working with it that I have enjoyed.

J.W.W.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Skull

It was left in the muddy field,
left to rot.
The cow rotted until the wind blew through its
white bones.
Nobody cared, nobody would.
The skull became brittle and began
to crack.
The surface textured like plaster,
began to flake.
Now all it is, is specks of bone being
scattered by the wind.

D. Waldon, 1C

The Death of Boggs

"Cler the track, thar!"
His voice rang out above the laughter.
Drunk as usual, he had picked his target.
"Sherburn, Come out!
Come out, you're the houn' I'm after!"
Out strode the victim, calm under the growing oppression.
"Till one o'clock", he said, "I will endure this".
But Boggs shouted even louder.
He was held back, but his voice was unrestrained.
A revengeful, suicidal smile crept on his face.
In a last attempt to save him, his daughter was summoned,
But fate had brought his time to an end.
Sherburn, with a quivering hand, pointed the gun,
The men threw themselves aside,
The children began to cry.
"Don't shoot", Boggs pleaded, but he had overrun his time,
The trigger was pulled, and he fell onto the dusty road.
The crowd stood, half believing what had happened.
His daughter's screams echoed through the town.
On Bogg's face the revengeful smile was now an empty one.
Sherburn, the victim, became the victor.
But the scene remained an unforgettable nightmare.

S. Taylor, 3L

I heard a trumpet crash against the rocks,
 I heard the waves cut into the blocks,
 I heard a saw hooting in the night,
 I heard an owl cry with all his might,
 I heard a baby dig into the ground,
 I heard a spade making a loud sound,
 I heard a drum speaking to a class,
 I heard a teacher smashing glass,
 I heard a brick miauling at the door,
 I heard a cat splashing on the floor,
 I heard the rain bubbling through a valley,
 I heard the river sounding the reveille.

M. Taylor, 1C

Blood

A red stain, a sudden pain,
 Impulses to and fro,
 It leaks, it spurts just like a drain.

Two and a half times round the Earth,
 Your arteries and veins lead,
 To a cut which leaks and spurts just like a drain.

People cringe, people cry,
 At the thought of bleeding dry,
 Because it leaks and spurts just like a drain.

M. Collins, 2B

An extract from a long Fantasy

He awoke some time later. He lay there for a few minutes wondering what had woken him. Then a faint drumming sounded in the distance. It was not like thunder, but a soft booming. He arose quietly and crossed over to the window. There was the usual surrounding countryside. Then he saw something unusual. For along the near bank of the river fairly well covered by a thick band of shrubs something was moving. If he had been tired he might have passed it off as an animal, but now he was alert and clear-headed. The thing passing behind the undergrowth was red, or at least part of it was. And no matter how he searched his memory he could not think of a red animal that thundered. The 'thing' moved towards a clearing. He saw that the 'thing' was human. Or to be more precise a soldier of past years. From the top to the bottom everything about him was immaculate but for one odd thing. His face was hidden from view. He passed out of sight round the walls of the buildings. The boy moved away from the window and left the room. He travelled quickly and soon reached the main entrance. There was little difficulty with the door, but it opened and he was out. He saw a flash of red just disappear round the nearest corner. He went after it. It went on for about three minutes – his chasing the soldier but never reaching him. He could see quite clearly that the soldier was carrying a drum that he had now ceased to play. "Hey", the boy shouted. The soldier halted and the boy walked up to him. Then he froze in his tracks. The soldier was turning, swiveling on the balls of his feet, and then the face he wanted so much to see turned and faced him. He screamed "No, no! it can't be true". And then his body relaxed and he slumped to the ground.

A. Ahmad, 1C

HOUSE LETTERS

BYROM HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

At the beginning of Term the following appointments were made:

Head of House—P.G. McNaught.

Deputy Head of House—S.E. Postles.

House Prefects—G. Jones, I.S. Balcombe, S.T. Saw, G.H.M. Petch, H. Zadora-Skwarcynski, T.J. Peet, D. Coy, and R.W. Parry.

Captain of House Rugby—G. Jones.

Captain of League Rugby—S.E. Postles.

On the rugby field our Senior teams proved to be very weak, although it must be said that many good players were lost to the School teams and that, on the whole, the sides were young. In the Senior knockouts we were well beaten by Fraser in the first round. However, the results obtained by the Junior teams suggest that Byrom will have very strong rugby sides in the next few years. The Juniors, under the captaincy of D. Watmough, reached the Knockout Final and were winning until the last few minutes. Then, a try scored by the opposition, Fraser, robbed us of the trophy. For their fine effort the whole team were awarded House Colours.

The House was represented on School teams by the following:

Senior Squad—G. Jones, C.H.M. Petch, M.R. Hawkins, D. Richards, A.J.C. Sidebotham, and N.L. Jones.

U.15 XV—A. Johnson, S.R. Cooper, A. Dowdall, D. Watmough, and C.S. Rogerson.

U.14 XV—P. Keddie, M.I. Emmott, R.A. Sargeant, R.S. Munro, A.W. Smith, and S. Brown.

N.P. Heron made his mark on the School Cross Country teams on which the House was also represented by J.P. Burden and A.D. Burden.

In the School Play, A.J.C. Sidebotham, A. Johnson, and C.S. Rogerson acted well and helped to make the play the success it was.

At the end of Term we were very pleased to hear that D. Coy had been awarded an exhibition at New College, Oxford.

Lent Term.

At the beginning of Term the following appointments were made:

House Prefects—J. Raby, S.W. Cumming, and D.I. Smith.

Captain of House Lacrosse—S.E. Postles.

Captain of League Lacrosse—C.H.M. Petch.

Captain of Cross Country—N.P. Heron.

House Play Producer—I.S. Balcombe.

Lacrosse was made very difficult this year by the atrocious weather in the first half of Term. In the Senior Knockouts we were beaten in the first round by Fraser, and the general weakness of the sides was shown by our bad position in the Hewlett Cup. The Juniors showed more promise, and, after beating Whitworth in the semi-final, they met Fraser in the final. However, this success could not be followed up because of the strength of the Fraser side and we were soundly beaten.

The House was represented on School teams by the following:

Senior Squad—M.R. Hawkins and S.E. Postles.

U.15 XII—A. Johnson, A. Dowdall, D. Watmough, S.J. Jary, and S.R. Cooper.

U.14 XII—S. Brown, P. Keddie, R.A. Sargeant, A.W. Smith, and N.B. Wiltshire.

After our disappointing Lacrosse results, we hoped for more success in the House Cross Country. The team, well trained by N.P. Heron, could have won the trophy but it was not our day and we were placed fourth, J.P. Burden, A.D. Burden, J.D.P. Kissack, and N.P. Heron all ran well with N.P. Heron winning the Individual Trophy.

Byrom's entry, which came third, for the House Play Competition this year was *Sherlock Holmes and the Mazarin Stone*. The play 'produced by I.S. Balcombe' was purposely less adventurous than the previous year's play, and on the night the performance went very smoothly and was extremely sound. P.G. McNaught was particularly good in his portrayal of the central character of Sherlock Holmes, as was C.S. Rogerson as his enemy, Count Negretto Sylvius. Also taking part in the play were A.C. Tippman, M.R. Walker, A. Dowdall, G. Jones, A.B. Polding, and R.A. Sargeant, all of whom must be given credit.

Midsummer Term

At the beginning of Term the following appointments were made:

Captain of Cricket—N.J. Lord.

Captain of Swimming—P.R. Fairclough.

Captain of Tennis—M.K. Kohn.

Captain of Athletics—N.P. Heron.

House Music Organiser—P.G. McNaught.

Very little House Cricket was played this year because of the early start to public examinations. In the Senior knockouts we were beaten in the first round by Dalton who went on to win the trophy. The Juniors were beaten in the semi-final by Gaskell who also went on to win the trophy.

The House was represented on School teams by the following:

Senior Squad—D.G. Richards, N. Lord, and J.F. Morton.

U.15 XI—D. Watmough, S.P. Dickinson, and H.A. Shawdon.

U.14 XI—S. Brown, P. Keddie, A.W. Smith, and A.J. Walker.

In the swimming competition Byrom had one of the strongest teams for years because of an influx of School swimmers at the Junior level. With notable swims by S.R. Cooper and S. Brown in the Junior section and good support in the Senior section from T.J. Peet, P.R. Fairclough and M.K. Kohn, Byrom were ahead with one race left. To win, T.J. Peet had to come in the first three; he came third, and we won by one point. In the House Relays we came up against stiff opposition from Heywood, and despite close competition we were placed second by a mere two points.

This success was not to be continued in the Tennis competition and we were put out of the competition in the first round.

Byrom has always fared well in the House Music Competition and this year was no exception. After a day of music, we won the competition by a margin of fifty points. The House's entry was organised by P.G. McNaught, but much credit must go to all who performed, and especially to J.G. Evans, J.P. Burden, and G.W. Clement.

During the Term the following appointments were made:

School Prefects—N.P. Heron, M.R. Walker and J.F. Marton.

House Prefects—M.K. Kohn, G.W. Clement, N.L. Jones, and N.J. Lord.

P.G. McN.

On behalf of the House I would like to thank P.G. McNaught for all he has done this year. He has been an outstanding Head of House. In addition I would like to commend S. Postles, N.P. Heron, and I. Balcombe for their contributions to the activities of Byrom.

A.M.B.

DALTON HOUSE

Head of House—M.S. Butterworth.

Deputy Head of House—R.A. Heaton

House Prefects—M.K. Bradbury, S.D. Cordingley, C. Farrell, A.N. Frost, M.S. Hamilton, G. Jefferies, P.N. Kennerley, D.H. Perry, S.J. Prior.

R.D. Bailey was Deputy Head of School for the Michaelmas Term and was subsequently appointed Head of School.

Michaelmas Term

Rugby—The Senior Knockout Team reached the Final of the House Knockout Competition yet again, but found Fraser too strong for them on the day and were narrowly defeated. M.S. Butterworth and P. Maddocks again achieved representative honours outside the School, and there was the usual strong Dalton representation on the Senior School Rugby squad, which included M.K. Bradbury, R.A. Cooper, M.S. Hamilton, R.A. Heaton, P.M. Kennerley, D.C. Loynes, S.J. Prior, S.C. Reid, and N.J.F. Warner. The Junior XV were beaten in the first round of their Knockout Competition by a very strong Fraser side.

Drama—As usual R.D. Bailey took a leading role in the School's Christmas production of "*Conduct Unbecoming*" and did so with his usual success. He was again supported by G.L. Lowe who took his biggest part so far in School productions and concealed his guilt most effectively from all but the most perceptive members of the audience.

Lent Term

Lacrosse—D.A. Hanley, A. Keddy, P.M. Kennerley, P. Maddocks, S.J. Prior and P.R.H. Wilson all played on the School's Senior Lacrosse Teams, but though they formed the basis of a very good Senior Knockout Team, they were unable to reach the Final, being beaten in an excellent match, by Gaskell the eventual winners. The Junior Knockout XII included three of the School's outstanding Under Fifteen team, D.J. Barnes, M.A. Etchells and P.J. Latham, but was unable to hold two of Byrom's star players and lost in the first round.

Cross-country—The volunteers who formed the road-relay team at the end of term ran with commendable cheerfulness but little speed and finished a disappointing fourth. G.P. McDonough made a fine improvement in this direction during the year and his performance and interest set a good example to his own age-group and to some more senior members as well.

Volleyball—The Junior team, organised by P.J. Latham and D.J. Barnes again won the Volleyball trophy.

Drama—G.L. Lowe took charge of the Dalton entry in the House Drama Competition and for his first effort as a producer chose *The Railwayman's New Clothes* by Willis Hall. R.D. Bailey took over a leading part at very short notice and adapted it to his liking to produce a number of effects (and quite entertaining ones) which the author may never have intended! He was well supported by Lowe and D.B. Lister, and also by P.M. Bowers, making his first House Play appearance. N. Ashton and J.W. Reed gave valuable assistance with props and prompts.

Midsummer Term

Cricket—A highlight at last amid the general mediocrity! The Senior Knockout XI again won the Cricket Shield, and in a manner as exciting and as entertaining as last year. J.H. Allen, R.D. Bailey, S. Chantler, P. Collins, D.A. Hanley, P. Maddocks, N.J.F. Warner, A. Wilde, and C.J. Wrigley all played regularly on School teams, and the last two of these players converted a likely defeat in the Final into an excellent win with an undefeated stand of 60 for the 7th wicket. There was also an outstanding innings by Collins in the semi-final and Bailey and Wrigley bowled well in all the matches. The Junior XI also reached the final, putting in some good performances to do so. A.P. Laker, I.M. Wood, and G.L. Robinson always batted well — Laker's innings on one leg against Fraser

was a real highlight — and they were well supported by cheerful slogging from G.L. Morrison. The bowling of J.L. Patton, who captained the side well, and G.L. Robinson was also good, but lacked support, and in the final Gaskell proved the better side on the day.

Tennis—S.D. Cordingley and A. Keddy played for the School Tennis team, but they were unable to retain the Tennis Cup won last year for the House.

Swimming—Though a number of outstanding swimmers were available — G. Jefferies, J. Whalley, I.K. Corlett, J.W. Reed — we failed to organise ourselves sufficiently well to win the Swimming Competition which had been won by Dalton in the previous year.

Athletics—Too few standards points from the Senior members of the House and again a failure to present a complete senior team on the day resulted in a disappointing overall performance.

The Junior and Middle Sections did quite well, which makes the failure of some others to make an effort all the more disappointing. Warner, Haythorne and Wrigley gained good results in the Senior section; Loynes and Etchells in the Middle and McDonough, Carroll and Patton in the Junior sections all made good contributions, but there were too many who failed to get any points at all. The Athletics competition is unique in School sports in that every member of the House can gain a point somehow, and it is hoped that all will do so next year.

Music—An enforced late change of plans put D.B. Lister in charge of the entry in the House Music Festival and with a small group of supporting performers some unique and enjoyable entertainment was provided for audience and judges.

C.P.L.

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FRASER HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were made at the beginning of the term:

J.P.B. Sandy, J. Beesley, and S.G. Tarpey—School Prefects.

J.P.B. Sandy—Head of House.

S.G. Tarpey—Captain of House Rugby.

J.P.B. Sandy—Captain of League Rugby.

J.D. Tricker—Captain of Cross Country.

M.D. Turjansky—Head of Drama.

Owing to consistent performances throughout the term, the Seniors and the Juniors had success in the House League. Both teams won the league by a considerable number of points. On the Senior Team players such as I.D. Endlar, J.P.B. Sandy, D.N. Paton and R.C. Higham played particularly well. On the Junior Team, those people not on a school team and worthy of note were M.F. Packman, A.N. Fletcher, J.P. Kettlewell, and J.W. Beswick. In the House Knockouts both Junior and Senior teams won their respective events. The Juniors won through to the final against Byrom by sixteen points to fourteen. At Senior level the House again reached the final and were outsiders to beat Dalton in the final. However, owing to an outstanding performance by S.G. Tarpey, the House was victorious. After this year's success it is to be hoped that the House can reproduce the same form next season.

In the House Volleyball Competition the house again achieved a deserved amount of success. The Seniors managed to win their final in the third set but the Juniors unfortunately lost to Dalton in their final in a very close game.

Our congratulations go to G.M. Davies for gaining a place at Oxford University to read Philosophy.

Lent Term

Captain of House Lacrosse—J.P.B. Sandy.

Captain of League Lacrosse—R.D. Leak.

Captain of House Swimming—J. Bradley.

Captain of Cross Country—J.D. Tricker.

At Senior level the House was plagued by injury to certain key players, namely J. Beesley and J.P.B. Sandy. In the Knockouts we managed to scrape through to the final where we were beaten soundly. In the House League, owing to varying performances, we finished second.

The Junior team, however, won the House Knockouts in convincing style, gaining a bye in the first round, beating Gaskell by twenty nine to five in the second, and in the final we lost count of the score against Byrom. Once again well done Juniors!

In the Hewlett Cup the House again showed its strength by winning convincingly but the success was again mainly due to our outstanding Junior teams. No less than seven of our Juniors represented the school at Lacrosse.

The House's success continued in the Cross Country. J.D. Tricker organised the teams excellently and with the aid of R.M. and K.J. Wadsworth, and M.J. Sandy in particular, the team deservedly won the trophy by a large margin.

In the House Play Competition M.D. Turjansky produced a play of excellent quality. He achieved the very difficult task of making a comedy, *The Deterrent* funny. He was undoubtedly helped by the high standard of acting in his cast. G.J. Blair's performance was truly memorable. M.J. Sandy and J.P.B. Sandy supported G.J. Blair and M.D. Turjansky admirably and so when the

result was announced that Whitworth had won the competition we were all slightly shocked. We were runners up.

Midsummer Term

Captain of House Cricket—J. Beesley.

Captain of League Cricket—M. Hallas.

Captain of House Swimming—J. Bradley.

Captain of House Tennis—R.C. Higham.

Captain of House Athletics—J.D. Tricker.

Head of House Music—D.M. Heaton

House League fixtures were disrupted this year by poor weather and examinations. In the knockouts A.M. Mills and J. Beesley managed to piece together a team of some sorts. However, owing to lack of practice in the League fixtures we only managed to reach the second round of the Knockouts and were then soundly beaten by Whitworth. The Juniors were also beaten in the second round by Dalton, having gained a bye in the first.

In the House Swimming Galas the House performed with moderate success in the individual events and relays. The Senior and Middle swimmers scored most of our points. The House finished third in the relays and fourth in the individual events. J. Bradley, R.M. Wadsworth, and K.J. Wadsworth finished with well-deserved firsts in their respective events.

In the House Music Competition the House should perform with moderate success thanks to the hard work put in by D.M. Heaton J.P. Kettlewell, M.P. Evans, A.N. Fletcher, J.R. Heaton and others. The musical talent of the House is increasing annually and this year's performance should show this.

In House Tennis our first pair, consisting of R.C. Higham and M.J. Sandy, played outstandingly well to reverse the ten-games-to-one defeat of the second pair, I.D. Endlar and J.P.B. Sandy. At the time of writing the final has not been played but if the first pair can repeat their performance of the second round the House stands an evens chance of success.

In the Athletics there was a good all round performance by the House, R.D. Leak's performances being of particular note. He won the individual trophy. Having attained a vast number of standards the House was well set for victory on Sports Day; indeed we won comfortably.

The House also won the Tug Of War Competition in a fine team effort.

Our congratulations go to R.K. Cox, R.D. Leak and J.D. Tricker for their appointments as temporary School Prefects. R.K. Cox was appointed temporary Head of House.

Finally we welcome all new members to the house and extend our best wishes to those leaving.
R.C.H.

GASKELL HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were made at the beginning of term:

Head of House—A.P. Waring.

Deputy Head of House—D.W. Spragg.

M. Dennis, J.C. Grammer, J.N. Gregson, J.A. Gubba, M.J. Howarth, D.J. Leinhardt, N.M. Mitson, T.A. Simpson were appointed House Prefects.

Captains of Rugby—M.J. Howarth and T.G. Jones.

This was not a very successful season for Gaskell's Rugby Teams. The House managed only to maintain a position in the middle of the League, but the enthusiasm of the 1st and 2nd XV was

very creditable. The success that we did have in the League was mainly due to the efforts of the League Captain M.J. Howarth, whom I would also like to thank for providing Match Reports for the House. Special mention should be made of the efforts of D.M. Baxter, D.J. Leinhardt and D.R. Lloyd all of whom played regularly and effectively.

In the Knockouts both teams did reasonably well. The Senior XV reached the second round in which they were beaten by Dalton.

The following represented the School at Rugby:

1st XV—T.G. Jones.

2nd XV—S. Mann.

U.16—S. Manger, A.J. Perkins, R.N.V. Tarr.

U.15—K.N. Hussain, T.H. Jones.

U.14—B. Cooper, P. Cotterill, B.J. Rosenberg.

The following were members of the stage staff:

S.R. Brown, B. Cooper, J.N. Gregson, M. Latham, S.G. O'Brien.

At the end of term the following awards were made:

House Rugby Colours—J.N. Gregson, J.A. Gubba, M.J. Howarth, T.G. Jones, M.C. Hope, D.J. Leinhardt, S. Mann, S. Manger.

Lent Term

At the beginning of term the following appointments were made:

House Prefects—D.M. Baxter, T.G. Jones, D.C. Storey.

Captain of Lacrosse—T.G. Jones.

Vice Captain—A.P. Waring.

Captain of House Lacrosse (League)—M.J. Howarth.

Captain of 4th Form Lacrosse—G. Duncan.

Captain of 3rd Form Lacrosse—S.R. Brown.

Lacrosse—The House Lacrosse League was not completed this year because of bad weather. The House made up for this by winning the Senior Knockouts. The successful team was an excellent mixture of talented and hard-working players. We beat Dalton 7-4 in the first round and never looked like losing. The second round against Whitworth was more difficult. The match was evenly balanced until the last quarter when Gaskell's determination prevailed. We finally won 10-7.

We won the final against Heywood also by 10-7 in very difficult weather conditions. A.P. Waring proved himself a goal-scoring defender and M.C. Plant a competent centre. The success was mainly due to overall team effort and the inspiration of the Captain T.G. Jones.

In the Hewlett Cup the 1st VI continued our Lacrosse success by winning the Senior Final and beating the Master's VI.

House Play—This year Gaskell finished equal 4th with *The Oyster and the Pearl*. The case was both talented and enthusiastic. The play depended upon the two characters portrayed by A.J. Moody and D.C. Storey and both did very well to remember all their lines. This was the main factor that had caused so many problems last year.

M.J. Howarth showed a talent for relaxed stage presence, and D.W. Spragg an amazing flair for costume effect. A special mention should be made of G. Fish who made a bold and moderately successful attempt at portraying an American School Mistress.

The standard of acting was high and I think that it was unfortunate for the cast that this was the year when the other Houses produced much better plays. But Gaskell certainly have good prospects for Drama with G. Fish and A.J. Moody.

Road Relay—This year Gaskell produced a much improved performance. The House finished 3rd. The success was mainly due to the impressive efforts of the Junior teams and particularly the efforts of N.M. Mitson and P. Cotterill. We are hoping for more improvement next year.

Swimming—In the swimming it was the Juniors again who were impressive in putting the hopeless Senior team to shame. The efforts of G. Fish, N. Harris and B.J. Rosenberg were especially noteworthy.

At the end of term the following awards were made:

School Lacrosse Colours—T.G. Jones and A.P. Waring (half-colours).

House Lacrosse Colours—O.C.D. Cooper, N. Duncan, M.J. Howarth, T.G. Jones, D.R. Lloyd, C.D. Parkyn, M.C. Plant, D.W. Spragg, A.P. Waring.

Drama Colours—G. Fish, A.J. Moody, D.C. Storey.

The following represented the School at Lacrosse:

1st X—T.G. Jones, A.P. Waring.

2nd X—O.C.D. Cooper, N. Duncan, C.D. Parkyn.

U.15—G. Duncan, T.H. Jones.

U.14—S.R. Brown, B. Cooper, I.P. Grange, R.J. Mitson.

Summer Term

The following appointments were made at the beginning of term:

School Prefect—N.M. Mitson.

Temporary School Prefect—T.G. Jones.

Temporary House Prefects—I.R. Fishwick, M.C. Hope, M.K. Hunt, R.B. Johnson, N.K. Pond.

Captain of Cricket—M.C. Hope.

In the Senior Knockouts the House 1st XI were beaten by Dalton by 7 wickets. The highlight of the game for Gaskell was the remarkable hitting and scoring power of D.M. Baxter who hit six fours on his way to scoring a thunderous 35. But, considering that the opposition had nine school players and Gaskell only two, we were not too disheartened.

It was the Junior XI that gave us our main success of the term by their victory in the House Knockouts. In the first round the Juniors played Byrom and beat them by 10 runs. In the second round they beat Heywood, this time by 6 wickets. Finally the team excelled by beating Dalton soundly by 6 wickets: Dalton 85 for 7, Gaskell 88 for 4.

Dalton 85 for 7

Gaskell 88 for 4

The accurate bowling of B. Cooper (2-24), P. Cotterill (3-23) and R.J. Mitson (2-17) gave the team a good start. The determined batting that followed (D.B. Wright scored 22 and S.J. Malcolm scored 25) confirmed a Gaskell victory.

The team did so well mainly because of the excellent lead of the Captain D.B. Wright and the determined coaching of Mr. E.W. Mitchell. This is an extremely strong Cricket team and we look forward to their future successes.

The following represented the School at Cricket:

U.15—D.A. Bishop, K.N. Hussain, D.B. Wright.

U.14—P.A. Barker, B. Cooper, P. Cotterill, G. Fish, R.J. Mitson, J.S. Wade.

Athletics—The House suffered from a lack of numbers in the Fifth and Sixth Forms. However, T.G. Jones tried his best to muster a team and encouraging performances from the Juniors augur well for the future.

House Music—Here the talents of T.G. Jones and his younger brother were once more on show.

N. Pond organised Gaskell's entry and some of the pieces played were pretty good. Rather slipshod preparation caused some farcical moments in the Group entry, and the musicians themselves seemed to be unsympathetic towards the aims and methods of the competition.

This has been a year of transition. The seniors have now made way for more talented juniors and I am sure that Gaskell can look forward with confidence. Unfortunately Mr. E.W. Mitchell is leaving. I would like to thank him for his help and wish him luck for the future. I would also like to welcome Mr. Cole as the new Gaskell House Master and wish him success with Gaskell next year.

A.P.W.

HEYWOOD HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

At the beginning of the Term, the following appointments were made:

Head of House—L.J. Wharton.

Deputy Head of House—R. Byrne.

School Prefect—I.M. Jefferson.

House Prefects—I.P. Caldwell, J. Doyle, J.D. Hannabuss, M.S. Hobbs, C.S. Manning, N.J.J. Manning, R.G. Morkot, J.C. Parkinson, S.V. Tindall, C.H.A.J. Wallace.

Captain of Knock-Out Rugby—R. Byrne.

Captain of League Rugby—N.J.J. Manning.

Captain 4th Form Rugby—D.C. Haworth.

Captain 3rd Form Rugby—J.M. Parry.

In the House Rugby League, this year was our most successful for a long time. The first XV lost only one game throughout the whole season. The Juniors also gave a good account of themselves. Despite great efforts the second XV could not gain enough points towards the latter end of the Term to keep the House top of the League. Eventually, by the narrowest of margins, we were placed second.

In the Knock-out Competitions the Seniors lost to Dalton in the first round, despite taking an early lead.

The Juniors fared a little better, beating Gaskell in the first round, but losing to Byrom in the semi-final.

The following played for School teams:

1st XV—R. Byrne, J.C. Dale, B.M. Wilkinson.

2nd XV—L.J. Wharton (Capt.), P.D. Barker, G.H. Mills, R.I. Cross, N.J.J. Manning, A. Wiberley.

U.16 XV—J. Holden.

U.15 XV—D.C. Haworth, S.P. Holloway, R. Zemurs.

U.14 XV—J.M. Parry, H.P. Luft, N.S. Tucker, R.P. Flamank.

Lent Term

At the beginning of the Term, the following appointments were made:

House Prefects—R.I. Cross, G. Holland.

Captain of Knock-out Lacrosse—L.J. Wharton.

Captain of League Lacrosse—R.I. Cross.

Captain of 4th Form Lacrosse—D.C. Haworth.

Captain of 3rd Form Lacrosse—J.M. Parry.

Captain of Cross-country—I.M. Jefferson.

The Term was plagued by bad weather and little League Lacrosse was played. On the occasions the teams did turn out, the players gave a good account of themselves.

In the Knock-outs, the Seniors played exceptionally well, beating Fraser by five goals in the semi-final. In the final we met an extremely strong Gaskell side which included the County players and a number of 1st X players. We led at half time but in the second half Gaskell's greater experience began to tell and ten minutes before the final whistle we trailed by three goals. However, we fought back to within one goal but could not keep going and eventually lost a very exciting match.

The Juniors were not so successful and lost to Gaskell in the first round.

In the Hewlett Cup we gave our best performance for many years, finishing second by only one point.

In the Cross-country Competition we managed to raise a full team and came a creditable third.

The House Swimming Competitions brought disappointment in that we came second, but we made up for this by winning the Relay Trophy. Our congratulations go to R. Byrne who won the individual Trophy.

The Seniors played well in the Volley-Ball Competition but unfortunately lost to Fraser in the final, having at one stage been within one point of winning. The Juniors played well in their game against Gaskell before losing to Dalton.

The first House Play for two years produced two fine performances by D.R. Nicholson and J.P. Marland. The play *Death on the Line* was excellently produced by S.P. Dutton and our thanks must go to him for his effort.

The following played for School teams:

1st X—L.J. Wharton, J.C. Dale, C.S. Manning.

2nd X—B.M. Wilkinson, G.H. Mills.

U.15 XII—D.C. Haworth (Capt.).

U.14 XII—J.M. Parry, R.P. Flamank.

Swimming—R. Byrne, S.V. Tindall, W.J. Shepherd, R.I. Davidson, H.P. Luft.

Midsummer Term

At the beginning of the Term L.J. Wharton was appointed Deputy Head of School.

The following House appointments were made:

Captain of Knock-out Cricket—C.S. Manning.

Captain of 4th Form Cricket—A.B. Cretney.

Captain of 3rd Form Cricket—K.D. Murray.

Captain of Tennis—I.M. Jefferson.

Captain of Athletics—I.M. Jefferson.

Captain of Junior Athletics—S.P. Holloway.

Probably the worst House performance of the year occurred in the first round of the Senior Knock-outs. We batted(?) first and were bowled out for a best-forgotten, humiliating score, with four players out for a duck and only one batsman reaching double figures. Fraser ran out easy winners. The Juniors, however, played a lot better but they too were beaten in the first round by Gaskell.

Heywood's revival continued on the Athletic Field: we gained the second largest number of standard points. This was due to the efforts of Mr. Booker who spent most lunch-times supervising our performances.

Our success was carried on to Sports Day when we retained our overall second place owing to many fine individual efforts, the most notable of which was by S.P. Holloway who set a new

School record for the Junior 400m. A. Stainsby is also to be congratulated for breaking the Junior Shot record.

The following played for School teams:

1st XI—C.S. Manning, L.J. Wharton, P.A. Rainford, P.A. Barron.

2nd XI—B.M. Wilkinson.

3rd XI—J. Holden, R.I. Cross, M.S. Hobbs (Capt.)

U.15 XI—P.A. Tittle, S.T.G. Smith.

U.14 XI—K.D. Murray, M.S. Ashfield, H.P. Luft.

Tennis 1st VI—I.M. Jefferson, A.H.G. Dannatt.

2nd VI—N.J. Adderley.

Athletics—S.P. Holloway, D.C. Haworth, R. Zemurs.

Many thanks to A. Wibberley who has supervised Heywood's activities during the period May to July. My thanks also go to R. Byrne and I.M. Jefferson for their help and assistance during the past year.

L.J.W.

WHITWORTH HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

At the beginning of the term J.N.B. Bennington was appointed Head of School. C.D. Lightfoot, A.C. Vaughan, J.A. Owrid, P.A. Kelly and D.W. Hoey were appointed School Prefects. A.C. Vaughan was appointed Head of House and C.D. Lightfoot Deputy Head of House.

After a relatively poor start to the season, both Senior House teams began to perform well, enabling the House to finish third in the League.

In the Senior Knock-Out the House received a bye in the first round, but were defeated 22-12 by an experienced Fraser side. In the Junior Knock-Out Whitworth met Fraser, and were defeated 22-0. However, the House did reach the final of the seven-a-side rugby competition, where they were defeated by Dalton.

Lent Term

The House was fortunate enough to have almost all the School First Team defence, and was thus expected to perform well in the Knock-Outs. However, the Senior team was defeated 10-4 by Gaskell. The Juniors showed great spirit when faced with a much larger Byrom side, but lost 4-3 after a very exciting match. The House League was rained off this term, with only two matches being possible. However, the sun did shine on the Hewlett Cup 6-a-side, when the House improved upon its customary position to finish third overall. Four House teams reached their finals.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the House Play competition. J.N.B. Bennington and a very able cast gave a polished performance of Tom Stoppard's *Albert's Bridge*. This proved as popular with the judges as it had with the audience, and gave the House its first major trophy of the year.

At the end of term J.N.B. Bennington left School; the House wishes him every success at University.

Midsummer Term

Although the House had a notable shortage of Senior team players, the Senior Knock-Out team almost won the competition. After a fine victory against a far more experienced Fraser side (Hewitt 52 and 6-23) the House met Dalton in the final. Whitworth only managed 109 all out, but after a fine display of enthusiastic fielding and bowling Dalton, again a more fancied side, were

reeling at 46-7. However, they rallied and made the required runs without further loss.

The Juniors were comprehensively beaten by Dalton.

The House finished in a low position in the House Swimming. This was due to a lack of interest at all levels, although N.A. Jackson performed and organised the team well.

The House Tennis team, captained by K. Woodcock, did well against a strong Fraser team, which beat the younger House team only after extra games had been played.

The Athletics competition again proved the House's enthusiasm. Whitworth finished third, with two performances standing out in a good team effort. D.A. Campbell equalled the Middle School High Jump record, and T.S. Ryman broke the Middle School Triple Jump record, also winning the Individual Trophy for his age group.

The House Music competition was a relative success for Whitworth, with its very popular and well-arranged entry taking third place.

During the examination period D.A. Campbell and N.W. Hewitt were appointed temporary School prefects, their appointments being confirmed at the end of the year.

Throughout the year Whitworth House has achieved some very good results, though outstanding talent has often been lacking. However, this deficiency has been more than outweighed by the enthusiasm which many members of the House have shown.

We are pleased to welcome new members of the House, and wish them, and those who have recently left, our best wishes for the coming years.

D.A.C.
N.W.H.

I wish to thank A.C. Vaughan for the efficient way he has carried out his duties as Head of House, and C.D. Lightfoot, his Deputy. Special thanks to D.A. Campbell for his very conscientious supervision during the Summer Term.

P.J.C.

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GAMES

1st XV RUGBY

Played 14, Won 5, Lost 9.
Points For 181, Against 293.

v. Major Watkins' XV.	H L	0-16
v. Sale G.S.	A L	7-22
v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield	A L	10-49
v. Birkenhead School.	H W	13-12
v. Cheadle Moseley School.	H W	24- 0
v. King's School Macclesfield	A L	0-32
v. De La Salle College.	H L	13-22
v. Manchester Police Cadets	H W	34- 6
v. Arnold School, Balckpool.	H L	0-40
v. King Edward's, Lytham	H W	20-14
v. Manchester G.S.	A W	11- 3
v. Cheadle Hulme School.	H L	24-28
v. Old Boys XV	H L	10-28
v. Kendal Colts	A L	15-21

All thoughts of a successful Term were quickly dispelled when pressure of work and injury robbed the XV of five of last year's returning colours. Under such a handicap, no team can be expected to compete against our stronger opposition and great credit must go to those who played for their persistence and "never say die" attitude, especially amongst the forwards.

With the removal of four experienced forwards, the XV looked to the backs as its greatest strength, and so they proved. But the problem, as in all rugby teams, was to provide sufficient good ball from the forwards for the backs to use. Whenever we managed to win 40% possession, we knew we were in with a chance, but against powerful forwards, we could offer little except lots of effort. It was a pity, therefore, sometimes to see the threequarters wasting good ball through lapses in concentration.

The full back was R.A. Cooper, who entered his new position with some reservations, but gradually developed sound positional sense and a safe pair of hands, and played a sound and consistent term.

S.C. Reid and T.G. Jones were the usual wings. Reid improved considerably throughout the term and finished the season as the quickest and most penetrative back. His most obvious fault was his passing: numerous breaks floundered when he attempted to pass. Jones had a similar problem together with a general dislike for tackling. His game would improve if he realised that his greatest asset is his speed, and he used it.

In the centre, R.A. Heaton and G. Jones worked well. Heaton was unfortunate to be handed the unenviable job of inside centre, which limited his attacking potential, but he stuck to his task, and did a very good job for the XV. Jones had moved from full back to fill a problem position. His ability as a rugby player is unquestioned, what he lacks is confidence. He rarely attempted to use his undoubted skill to the best, often simply taking the easy way out, with a pass

or kick, when he could have made a break on his own. The replacement back was J.C. Dale, who was rather inconsistent. Having been brought in for his tremendous tackling, he would proceed to miss several tackles during a game. This again all boils down to a lack of concentration and confidence.

At fly-half S.G. Tarpey had a very good season as a player, and was very unfortunate to have his worst game at the Lancashire Schools Trials. He is very quick and has a natural eye for the game. He also captained the XV. The role of the captain at rugby is almost as important as it is in cricket. He does not merely toss the coin at the start of the game, but he must decide tactics, help pick teams, prepare his team mentally for the game, and assist the coach whenever possible during training: a most difficult job, and one that Tarpey found even more so when he came up against the strong personalities of the rest of the XV.

N.J.F. Warner played at scrum-half, and despite his diminutive size, often stood head and shoulders above others in ability. He always had problems in dealing with the many bad balls given by the forwards, but could always be relied on to find Tarpey with a pass if given good ball.

The props were M.S. Butterworth and R. Byrne. Both were very strong in the tight and provided an ideal platform for the rest of the forwards. The hooking position was shared between R.A. Cox and P. Maddocks. Cox is a very aggressive player who responds to the very personal battle between opposing hookers, often with alarming results. Maddocks, a very capable footballer, played for the first XV in the back row and as hooker. His size suggests that ultimately his future lies as a hooker. A.M. Krawiecki, S.J. Prior and A.M. Mills were the usual locks. Krawiecki lacked somewhat in physical presence, but always gave his all. Prior had the build, but lacked somewhat in strength and technique. Mills started apprehensively in his new position, but gradually developed into a fine player, learning quickly and using his weight and physique very well.

The back row proved to be the position where greatest competition for places arose. It was unfortunate that J. Beesley was so badly injured whilst training that he only played one game; he is an outstanding player and his experience was sadly missed all season. In his absence, P.M. Kennerley played number 8, and again gradually overcame his lack of experience to become a fine player. D.C. Loynes, C.H.M. Petch and N.W. Hewitt usually filled the wing forward position, and although they were very good players, they suffered at the hands of many larger players. Their speed and aggression were not enough to combat sheer size and strength, and often loose ball that was available to our back row was taken by stronger mauling forwards.

The season consisted of many best forgotten games against teams far too strong for us - Watkins' XV; Sale G.S.; Q.E.G.S. Wakefield; Kings' Macclesfield;

Arnold School; and the Old Boys XV. The fact that these teams defeated the School cannot detract from the unstinting way the XV tried to defend. They deserve the utmost credit for their performance and attitude in these defeats. Amongst the more enjoyable moments of the season were the robbing Birkenhead of victory in the last minutes; the easy thrashing of a young Cheadle Moseley team; Butterworth's solo try against Lytham, where he single handed won a maul and then careered through their defence for his only try in three years of senior rugby; the usual defeat of M.G.S.; the exciting match with Cheadle Hulme in which the lead changed many times before the end; and the highly enjoyable weekend match against Kendal Colts at Hulme House, Hardraw.

The XV learnt many things during the term, the most important being how to accept defeat graciously. In all it was a most enjoyable season, despite the disappointing results, and we can look forward to next year with the encouragement of the return of 14 players with 1st XV experience.

Representative Honours: M.S. Butterworth and P. Maddocks played for South East Lancashire against South West Lancashire, and for Manchester Schools against a French School's touring side.

Colours 1976: Full Colours—M.S. Butterworth, R.A. Heaton, G. Jones, P. Maddocks and S.G. Tarpey.

Half Colours—R. Byrne, R.A. Cooper, R.K. Cox, J.C. Dale, N.W. Hewitt, T.G. Jones, P.M. Kennerley, D.C. Loynes, A.M. Mills, C.H.M. Petch, S.J. Prior, S.C. Reid, A.C. Vaughan, N.J.F. Warner, L.J. Wharton and A.M. Krawiecki.

The following also played:

B.M. Wilkinson, J.S. Bradley, J. Beesley, G.M. Davies and J.M. Gowans.

M.M.

SECOND XV RUGBY

Played 10, Won 3, Lost 7.
Points For 102, Against 194.

v. Sale G.S.	A L	0-22
v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield	A L	10-28
v. Birkenhead School	A L	4-44
v. Cheadle Moseley	A W	22-10
v. King's School, Macclesfield	A L	7-25
v. De La Salle College	H L	6-18
v. Arnold School	H L	6-20
v. King Edward's, Lytham	A W	29-0
v. Manchester G.S.	A L	12-23
v. Cheadle Hulme School	H W	6-4

L.J. Wharton captained the side and the following played for the team: J. Aldred, R.D. Bailey, P.D. Barker, J.S. Bradley, R.K. Cox, D. Coy, R.I. Cross, J.C. Dale, C.J. Davies, J.M. Gowans, M.A. Allworth, D.A. Hanley, M.R. Hawkins, N.W. Hewitt, R.C. Higham, T. Hunt, N.A. Jackson, N.L. Jones, T.G. Jones, M.K. Kohn, A.M. Krawiecki, D.C. Loynes,

S. Mann, N.J.J. Manning, D.M. Paton, C.M.M. Petch, S.J. Prior, D.G. Richards, A.C. Vaughan, A. Wibberley, and B.M. Wilkinson.

M.C.

UNDER -16 XV RUGBY

Played 5, Lost 5. Points For 38, Against 164

v. Denstone College	H L	12-15
v. Birkenhead School	H L	6-17
v. King's School, Macclesfield	A L	3-48
v. Merchant Taylors', Crosby	A L	7-56
v. Arnold School, Blackpool	H L	10-28

Situated between Senior and Colts rugby, and having to play house matches twice a week, the Under-16 XV always have problems in finding the necessary time and enthusiasm to attend practice sessions. This year the team also suffered in that they had a few good players who were regular members of the Senior Squad, and the rest of the team were rather weak in many basic aspects of the game. As a team they lacked cohesion and aggression, often playing with little thought of winning, merely waiting for the final whistle so they could end their agony.

One of the few advantages of an Under-16 team is that the Senior coach can observe the development of younger players, and it was pleasing to see several showing promise, notably M.R. Hawkins, S. Mann, J. Holden, N.A. Jackson, G.H. Mills, D.G. Richards, P.R.H. Wilson, B.M. Wilkinson and M.A. Hallworth.

M.M.

UNDER-15 XV RUGBY

Played 10, Won 5, Lost 5.
Points For 159, Against 206

v. Sale G.S.	H L	10-30
v. Q.E.G.S., Wakefield	H L	7-70
v. Denstone College	H W	16-9
v. Birkenhead School	A L	12-30
v. Cheadle Moseley	A L	0-34
v. King's School, Macclesfield	H L	4-30
v. De La Salle College	A W	16-0
v. King Edward's, Lytham	H W	34-3
v. Manchester G.S.	A W	32-0
v. Cheadle Hulme School	H W	28-0

Initially there seemed to be one or two problem positions and it took several games and much experimentation before we arrived at our strongest team. However, once the right blend was found the team settled down and played some really good rugby and it was a pity that there were not more games because the side was improving with every match.

Most of the early selection problems were in the backs and it wasn't until D. Watmough was converted from a second row to centre in order to add some power and weight that the three-quarters began to have some confidence in their own abilities. H.S. Davies played consistently well at stand-off although