

Our thanks go to Mr. Marsh and Mr. Golder, who kindly judged the competition and made a number of astute and illuminating criticisms. I would like to thank Mr. Bamforth and Mr. Goodwin for their assistance in the preparation of this article. Finally, on behalf of all the musicians in the School, I would like to thank Mr. Bamforth for all his good work over the years and to wish him all the very best for his retirement.

Michael R. Clark (L6C1)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 1990 & CAROLS AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH

This year's Christmas Concert, given in the Upper Hall on Monday, 17th December, was as sparkingly diverse as ever. The Choir's repertoire of Carols was refreshingly new for most of us, including, as it did, John Rutter's "Child in a Manger" (née "Morning has broken") and David Willcocks' arrangement of the angular medieval "Gabriel to Mary came" ("Angelus ad virginem"). Mr. Hofton's flute gave some of these a lovely flowing, light texture. On the instrumental side, the Band spanned jazz, classical and light music in four items ranging from Cresswell's "Ceremonial March" to a piece by "Jelly Roll" Morton, and the String Group similarly followed a Handel Gavotte with an American Square Dance! Two tuba players, Richard Strudwick and Peter Harris, each performed an eloquent solo, and the Junior Brass Group (Adam Samuels, Luke Finch, John Cunningham and Richard Strudwick) harmonised well in arrangements of three carols. The most classical of the group instrumental items was the Small Group's baroque movement by Telemann; with Mr. Bamforth on the recorder we heard Simon and Marc Ogier (cello and piano) with Cemil Egeli (violin). There was some real musical nourishment here. Five other soloists completed the programme:

Andrew Babicki (flute, and later accordeon), Michael Bentley (cornet), Simon Beswick (Keyboard) Geoffrey Barraclough (recorder), Andrew Chance (piano).

Hats off to Mr. Bamforth, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Martin, Miss Divett and all concerned.

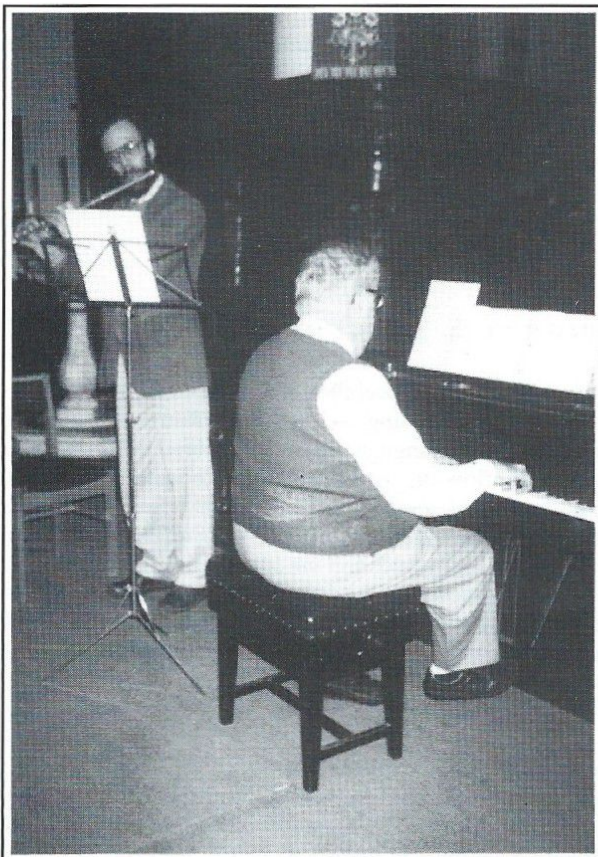
We had four readings. Two "old pros", Alex Rodgers and Matthew Booth, read two mystical Christmas poems - Alex "The Journey of the Magi" by T.S. Eliot, and Matthew "The Burning Babe" by Saint Robert Southwell; they were joined by a relative newcomer, Michelle Swift, who threw herself with gusto into the heartily secular "Yule Log" by Robert Herrick. Three members of 1A - Nicholas Davenport, Samantha Johnson and Rachel Westbrook - brought smiling delicacy to "The Simpleton" by Ian Serraillier (of "Silver Sword" fame).

As usual, the Choir and Readers also went to St. Ann's Church for our annual "slot" in the series of lunchtime school carols there, on Wednesday, December 5th. A selection of the more seasonal items from the Concert was performed, a happy occasional all round.

G.J. Turner.



"Angel voices ever singing . . .". (Photo: G. J. Turner)



Mr. Hofton (flute) accompanies Mr. Bamforth's "swan song" at St. Ann's. (Photo: G. J. Turner)



Samantha Johnson, Rachel Westbrook and Nicholas Davenport with their Christmas reading. (Photo: G. J. Turner)

MARCH CONCERT 1991

This year's Spring Concert was held in the Upper Hall on March 19th. As expected, it proved to be a very enjoyable evening. The concert was opened by the String Group, conducted by Mr. Goodwin, playing two delightful arrangements by Robert Frost, "Bergamanka" and "Midnight Serenade", which got the concert off to a good start. Another group featured in the concert was the wind group, again conducted by Mr. Goodwin. It played two pieces, "Sheep may safely graze" by J.S. Bach and "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. Both were very pleasant to listen to. The concert saw a return of the "happenings"; a first year group played a piece entitled "Journey through the Galaxy", which consisted of sound effects (using percussion instruments) to reflect the title. It was very effective and, being rather "avant-garde" for a W.H.G.S. concert, gave the audience something to think about.

There were also some fine solo performances in the concert: Andrew Babicki (flute) played "Variations on a theme by Rossini" by Chopin, showing real musical ability. Martin Shields (cello) played W.H. Squire's "Tarantella" with merit. Elizabeth Keable played a charming piano duet with Mr. Bamforth, "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" by Handel. Christopher Heys played Mendelssohn's "Christmas piece" for piano very well, and Michael Clark again showed his musical fluency by playing the 1st movement of Mozart's "Sonata in F" (K332) for piano. There were two clarinet solos: Jonathan Greenhowe played John Fairhead's "Mary in the Morning" musically and confidently. Debbie Mosley played the first movement of Mozart's "Divertimento No. 2" (K396), a delightful piece which was delivered well. In contrast to the clarinet, Peter Harris played J. Fletcher's "Variations on a Temperance Theme" for Tuba with an air of confident determination.

Despite a recent fall in numbers, the choir, directed by Mr. Goodwin, managed to put on a fine performance. It sang two items. The first was "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter which was sung with severe if hesitant purity. The second was the pop cantata "Holy Moses" by Chris Hazell, comprising nine different songs depicting the story of Moses. This is a very lively piece of music sung confidently and was enjoyed by all.

A good evening's entertainment was enjoyed by all who attended, and thanks are due to Messrs. Goodwin, Bamforth and the other music teachers who visit the School for making such an enjoyable evening possible.

Cemil Egeli (U6A6)

(Modesty forbids Cemil Egeli from mentioning his own accomplished rendition of the First Movement from Lennox Berkeley's Sonatina for Violin, a grade eight piece renowned for its difficulty - Ed.)

JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 1992 Music Festival had a very promising start with 1A's entry. They started with a piano solo by Sahara Dixon. Rachel Westbrook then played quite a quiet but nevertheless good flute solo. The entry then began to warm up a bit with Geraldine Brook and Sarah Cochrane playing a lively clarinet duet. This duet seemed to create more impact than the solos. Geraldine was then left to perform a solo; she did extremely well, performing with more confidence than most soloists. She had piano accompaniment which added to the impact. Georgina Goodman then came on playing "Gavotte" on the piano. Sarah Cochrane then returned, playing Spanish Dance. This was a longer piece, but was played with such confidence that it did not drag on. Geraldine Brook also played a piano solo and a solo on the saxophone which was highly impressive and brought a lot of life to the performance. So 1A got the competition off to a good start.

The next act to perform was 1B; they started with a piano solo of "Chariots of Fire" by Louise Wellock which was highly recognisable and very good. Rebecca Hossain then played a flute solo, which was lively and high spirited. They then presented a clarinet solo by Catherine Zoefitig, which was rather short and quite quiet. Next Jonathan Whittaker managed to bring the show back to life with a very well practised and highly confident piano solo. Danny O'Sullivan performed a composition of his own on the drums which I thought was a little short. Vicky Goodall played the theme from "The Godfather" on the piano, which was quite good. They also had a couple of members of the choir singing. Lucy Pepall and Caroline Shaw sang "Any Dream Will Do", which worked quite well. 1B had a more varied selection of musicians, though their presenter was a little quiet.

1C turned up with no prepared programme, saying that they had no idea that the festival was on until first thing that morning, so had not organised any one to practise and bring in their instruments. They did try to put some kind of act together, which could have been good with practice, but without was rather poor and badly presented.

1D started off with a very strong act, Louise Ives. She played two pieces on the piano. The first, 'Inter City Stamp' was quite quiet, the second, 'Spiritual', was better practised and highly impressive. They then had Guy Brocklehurst, Chris Longsdon and Paul Amadi singing 'Let's Go Fly A Kite', with Vicky Fleming accompanying them on the piano. This failed rather badly, collapsing into a rather large fit of giggles by the boys. Paul Amadi returned on his violin, which was a lot better than his singing. 1D ventured again into another sung piece, Andrew Hickey managed to survive slightly longer than the first singing piece but again the giggles got the better of him. The act then returned to sanity with a clarinet solo by Vicky Fleming; this sanity was only short-lived, as Vicky and the singing lads made their return, this time singing a song from "Mary Poppins". This again started well, but fell apart without reaching the end.

Next came 2A; they said they had a short act, but this one came and went rather rapidly, and putting it mildly was a little bit of a disaster.

2C were the next form to perform; they started off with Richard Strudwick playing two pieces on the tuba. They then had Josh Robinson who played two pieces on the saxophone. These were good, but there were a few mistakes and you got the impression, as with quite a lot of the other acts, that just a little bit more practice would have gained quite a few more points; it was however a good performance. Emmanuel Martineau was next to perform; he performed 'Hard Day's Night' on the piano. Again just that little bit of practice could have made the difference. The last performer was Ellen Nicholson on the clarinet. Ellen sounded the most practised of 2C's performers and played a very good piece.

2B presented what I considered to be a very enthusiastic programme. They started with Namit Kapur playing the piano; this would have been good if only we could have heard it - it was rather quiet. They then had Viv Priestner playing the piano; this was pleasing, but not one of the best pieces of the performance. Claire Babington then appeared playing the flute. She played 'Gavotte', quite an impressive piece. Ehsan Haqqani was 2B's next performer; he performed 'Amazing Grace' which was a little stumbling. Helen Ralson followed that performance with a nice piece on the flute. Then came what I think most of the pupil audience enjoyed even if the adjudicator, Mr. Martin, did not seem to. Ben Smith on his electric guitar played Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing", which I considered to sound incredibly like the real version, and very good with it. Returning to a more sedate theme, Debby Mosley played a very pleasing flute solo. There was no keeping Ben off the stage; he returned to finish off 2B's performance with 'Wild Thing'.

Last but definitely not least to perform was 2D. They started their rather good performance off with a duet on the violin by Natalie Mason and Sophie Stephenson. David Johnson then played a piano solo, which I thought could have done with a little more practice. Also amongst the 2D's act was a euphonium solo, by John Cunningham, a trumpet solo by Luke Finch and also a piano solo by Michael Scholes, all of which were good. There were then a rather long break as Natalie Mason had her violin tuned but it was well worth the wait. They followed Natalie's act with a piano solo by Sam Burney, and Carrie Litherland playing a flute solo. This well balanced act was brought to a close with Robert Clyne's version of Madonna's "Like A Virgin" on the synthesizer, which came to rather an abrupt end.

After some very good acts and, it has to be said, a few pretty poor ones, the Junior School Music Competition came to a close. The final winners were 2D and congratulations to them. Also winning individual prizes were Ellen Nicholson 2D, Louise Ives 1D, Debby Mosley 2B, Sarah Cochrane 1A and Natalie Mason 2D. Well done to them.

Christina Barnes (2A)

THE STRING GROUP

The String Group is an excellent way of grouping together and playing all types of music. The music we play ranges from folk music, jazz, short minuets and various other forms of music. All of it is very enjoyable.

The String Group is conducted and taught by a lovely, talented young teacher called Miss Hawley. She allows violins, violas, cellos, double basses and guitars in the String Group.

String Group practices are often held at lunchbreaks (after dinner), for about half an hour. There are concerts every so often at Easter, Christmas, end of term, Summer and at any other special times.

If you want to join the String Group, don't be afraid to ask someone. Either Miss Hawley, Mr. Goodwin or any other music staff will always be happy to help.

Bring your instrument into School in the morning. As soon as you enter the Music Department there is a cupboard on your left. Put your instrument in there (with many others) and it will be very safe as members of the Music Staff are always around.

If you play a string instrument, please feel free to join, as we need more players and hopefully we could get an orchestra going.

Asha de Silva (1C)

FIRST YEAR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MORNING



On November 7th we had an unusual musical morning. The idea was to show each form in turn the range of instruments on offer in School. If chosen, an instrument would then be rented for lessons. The form split into six groups and we could try out the different instruments on display. In the string section, as well as the usual violins, violas, cellos and basses, there was a guitar (very popular!) shown in a separate room. There was also a woodwind and a brass section where, as well as looking at the instruments, the group learned techniques of blowing. You smile into a flute, for example, without actually putting it in your mouth, but for the oboe you tighten your lips round the mouthpiece - the vibrations of the reed makes your whole mouth and upper lip feel really funny at first, but apparently you get used to it with practice. In other rooms were also the drums and the piano.

Each group spent five minutes at each section, and then we could fill out forms if we wanted to learn anything. We all felt we understood a lot more about music making than before we came in.

Caroline Shaw (1B)

Mr. Goodwin explains blowing to a receptive pupil.
(Photo: Mr. G. N. Grant)

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CHARITIES WEEK : FEBRUARY 28TH - MARCH 8TH 1991

This year's charity was St. Mary's Hospital, which was celebrating its bicentenary. Mrs. Ashton-Mallins, the Unit Fundraiser, explained to the School the benefits of having a play therapy ward in the hospital for young children. It would be both educational and enjoyable and at the same time it would help to reduce any discomfort that a long stay at hospital has on young children.

Charities Week included many of the popular events that occur every year, such as the Prefects vs. Staff Sports matches, School Discos, Auction, Charity Walk and "Soak a Prefect", as well as one or two new ideas, the most successful being the raffle of two seats in Andy Hollingworth's plane for a trip around Manchester and the surrounding countryside.

The Charities Rag Mag this year was a huge success and the prefects sold all the copies before Charities Week began. I would like to thank Richard Avery and Andrew Doney for all the time and effort they spent in producing the magazine.

The Junior School raised the bulk of the money, with a particularly outstanding effort by 1A, and they therefore won the Junior Charities Shield.

I would like to thank Reuben Segal and Nigel Cheung, who had the difficult job of collecting, counting and banking the money, and all the prefects for their efforts and encouragement of the pupils during the week. My thanks also go to Mr. Loveland, Mr. Veevers, Mr. Grant and Mr. Langford for their support.

Although we did not raise as much as we had originally hoped for, we handed over a cheque of £6,500 to three very pleased representatives of St. Mary's Hospital.

Stephen Veitch (U6S5)

ASSEMBLY READINGS

MICHAELMAS TERM 1990

JUSTICE AND MERCY	
SEPTEMBER 4	Shakespeare - "The Merchant of Venice"
5	Dostoyevsky - "Crime and Punishment"
7	Matthew 20, 1-16 - The Labourers in the Vineyard
AT ONE WITH NATURE	
10	Frances Cornford - "To a Lady seen from the Train"
12	D.H. Lawrence - "The Rhythm of the Seasons"
14	Shakespeare - "As you like it"
IMPRISONMENT	
17	The Diary of Anne Frank
19	Lovelace - "To Althea from Prison"
21	Bonhoeffer - "Letters and Papers from Prison"
MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO	
24	Tolstoy - "Anna Karenina"
26	Voltaire - "Zadig"
28	Thomas Mann - "The Magic Mountain"
AUTUMN	
OCTOBER 1	Hardy - "Picking up Leaves"
3	Psalm 65, 9-14
5	Hopkins - "Margaret, are you grieving?"
WHAT IS GOOD?	
8	"Desiderata"
10	Karl Rahner - "Experiencing the Spirit"
12	Kipling - "If"
TEACHERS	
15	Cardinal Basil Hume - "Waiting for God"
17	Kipling - "Stalky and Co"
19	A.S. Neill - "A Dominic's Log"
BLOOMING WHERE WE ARE PLANTED	
29	Mirea Eliande - "Myths, Dreams and Mysteries"
31	Ibsen - "Peer Gynt" (The "Onion Speech")
T.S. Eliot - "Little Gidding"	
NOVEMBER 2	
RED TAPE	
5	Böll - "My Expensive Leg"
7	Kafka - "Before the Law"
9	Dickens - "Little Dorrit" - The Circumlocution Office
WHAT MIGHT GOD BE LIKE?	
12	Jimmy Saville - "God'll fix it"
14	Alexander Pope - "The Universal Prayer"
16	Matthew 25, 31-46 - "The Sheep and the Goats"

COURAGE

19	Tennyson - "The Charge of the Light Brigade"
21	William Ernest Henley - "Invictus"
23	1 Samuel 17, 22-23 & 32-51 - "David and Goliath"

MAN, GOD AND THE UNIVERSE

26	Voltaire - "Micromegas"
28	Hardy - "What do you think of, Moon?"
30	Addison - "The Spacious Firmament on High"

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 3	Dylan Thomas - "A Child's Christmas in Wales"
5	George Bernard Shaw - "An atrocious Institution"
7	Luke 2, 1-10
10	T.S. Eliot - "Journey of the Magi"
14	Francis Kilvert - "Christmas Day in Clyro"
17	Saint Robert Southwell - "The Burning Babe"

LENT TERM 1991

COLOUR

JANUARY 9	Alice Walker - "The Color Purple"
11	J.R. Salamanca - "Lilith"

SPIRITUAL LOVE

14	Shakespeare Sonnet - "The Marriage of True Minds"
16	Plato - "Symposium"
18	1 Corinthians 13

CHILDHOOD AND ADULTHOOD

21	Robert Fulghum - "Childhood"
23	Wordsworth - "My heart leaps up"

MUSIC

28	Shakespeare - "Merchant of Venice"
30	Dryden - "Ode to Music"

FEBRUARY 1	Psalm 150
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RULES

4	Golding - "Lord of the Flies"
6	Dickens - "Oliver Twist"
8	Romans 13, 1-10

FEAR

11	Golding - "Free Fall"
13	Dürrenmatt - "The Quarry"
15	R.C. Sherriff - "Journey's End"

THE SEA

25	Tennyson - "Break, break, break"
27	Magnus Magnusson - "Lindisfarne"

MARCH 1	Herman Melville - "Moby Dick"
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THE STEREOTYPICAL "BRIT"

6	George Mikes - "The English"
8	Suzanne Lowry - "The Young Fogey"

- LANCASHIRE EVERGREENS
 11 Billington - "Friends are Few"
 13 Ebenezer Elliott - "Preston Mills"
 15 Orwell - "The Road to Wigan Pier"

- GOODNESS MEANS SUFFERING
 18 Plato - "Republic"
 20 Brecht - "Mother Courage"
 22 Isaiah 53
 25 Dickens - "Tale of Two Cities"
 27 Verses from Mark 15

MIDSUMMER TERM 1991

- APRIL 16 SHARED FOOD & DRINK
 2 Short Poems by Omar Khayyam & John Betjeman
 17 Böll "In Odessa"
 19 John 2, 1-10

- VENGEANCE
 22 Emily Brontë (Wuthering Heights)
 24 Lorca "Blood Wedding"
 26 Maupassant "Vendetta"

- MAY 29 BOREDOM
 Thomas Mann "The Dilettante"
 1 Baudelaire "Preface to the Reader"
 3 Harry Williams "The True Wilderness"

- MARTYRDOM
 8 T.S. Eliot - "The Cocktail Party"
 10 T.S. Eliot - "Murder in the Cathedral"

- SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
 13 Tennyson "In Memoriam"
 15 Balzac "Old Goriot"
 17 Dickens "David Copperfield"

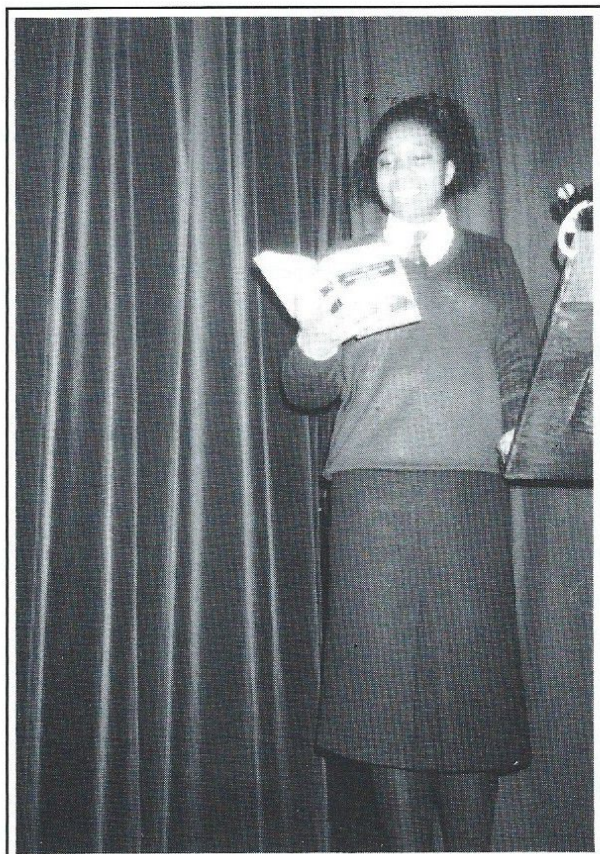
- BLEAK LANDSCAPES
 20 Housman "On Wenlock Edge"
 22 Hardy "The Return of the Native"
 24 Wordsworth "The Top of Scaw Fell"

- JUNE ADVERTISING
 3 Packard "The Hidden Persuaders"
 5 Böll "And never said a mumblin' word"

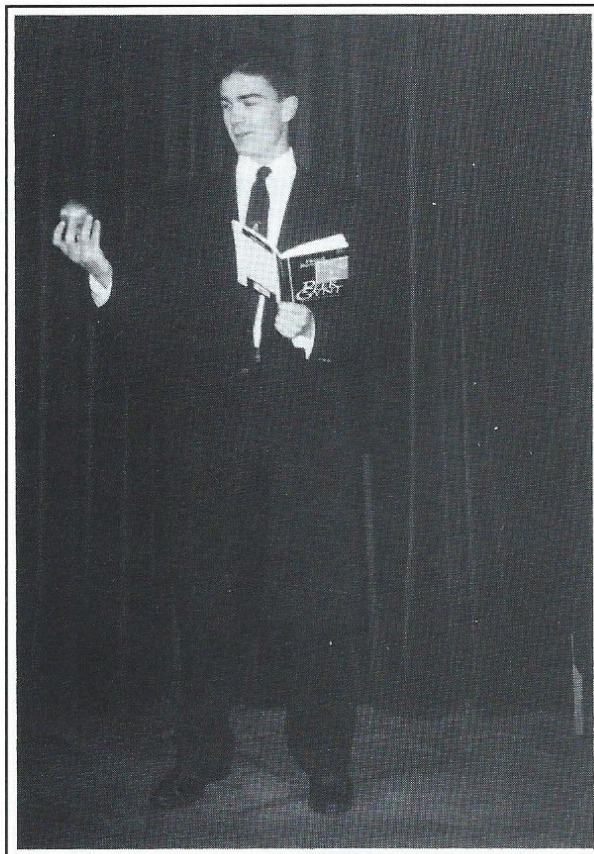
- LAUGHTER & JOY
 14 Milton "L' Allegro"
 17 Harry Williams "Tensions"
 19 E.W. Wilcox "Solitude"
 21 Hugh Lavery "Joy in the Deep Places"

- THE HEAT OF SUMMER
 24 Rossetti "Silent Noon"
 26 D.H. Lawrence "Snake"
 28 Hardy "The Burn of August"

- JULY MANIPULATING WORDS
 1 Eric Berne "Games People Play"
 3 Lewis Carroll "Alice through the Looking Glass"



Erica McInnis has a whale of a time reading from "Moby Dick".
 (Photo: G. J. Turner)



Andrew Hollingworth knows his onions when it comes to reading
 "Peer Gynt". (Photo: G. J. Turner)

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE CITY AFTER DARK

This is the city of night-time,
A place of reflections and the echo of feet,
Ringing through alleys and classical squares.
Who is this figure drifting along?
I am in bed - this must be my ghost
Watching the wind-rippling, sparkling puddles,
Startled by shops with lights blazing through,
And the alien calmness of mannequins and shoes
In settings transfixed by the silence within.

This is the city of night-time
With its carved wooden doors and muffled sounds
Filtering out from within.
Open those doors, to let people pass,
And colours astound like beautiful flowers,
Which briefly display for a fraction of time,
To be doused when the doors once more close.
Who are these people of night-time,
Who throng in and out of the main thoroughfares,
Disgorged by the theatres, the clubs and the cinemas?
They are the people of day,
Awakened and chilled by the freshness of night.
They seem like invaders, and yet they belong
For what is a city to do without drunkards?
They feed on the substance of night.

This is the city of night-time
Where people can act out their own little plays,
As characters far from their roles of the day.
When living and work take their toll
And plainness replaces the sparkle that comes
From a city of night-time and darkness and light.
Rebecca Hossain (IB)

THE BUZZARD

The buzzard soars high, then swoops down low
Silent as a mouse yet fearsome as a lion,
Like magic it rises, then like clouds it floats,
Its grey wings stretch out wide and its penetrating
eyes search the undergrowth below.

Suddenly it stiffens, as if time has frozen.
A wave of concentration fills the air as this
magnificent bird pinpoints its target.
In an instant it dives, like a spear it cuts the air,
With the precision of a bullet the target is hit.

With a sharp snap of talons, the rodent is killed.
A powerful sweep of wings and the hunter is again but
a feather in the breeze.
Wings fanned out and legs stretched in front,
the buzzard glides down to a nearby tree,
Its blood-stained claws digging into the tree
with wings neatly folded back and hunger allayed.
Nicholas Goodwin (4X)

TWO METAPHORICAL POEMS

When I'm in my bath at night,
I think the water is in the sea.
Two islands rise into my sight,
Two pink islands that are my knees.

Five coral islands either side
Wriggle in the foaming strand.
A soapy fish swims in the tide;
It slips from out my hand.

A yellow duck floats on the sea,
The flagship of its fleet.
An earthquake is my moving knee,
I squash it with my feet.

* * * *

A coloured marble rolled across
The carpet on the floor.
I thought it was the earth as seen
From my space capsule's door.

The swirling ocean's coloured blue.
The smoky clouds, were white.
The forests had a dark green hue.
The carpet was the night.

The small black dots that I could see,
Looked like mankind's pollution.
They looked so small but growing to me:
For man has no solution!

Nicholas Davenport (1A)

THE INDIFFERENT FISH

I swim,
Yet I sink,
I slide,
Yet I stutter,
Trapped here in this watery grave.

They delight in peering in at me,
Why? What amuses them so?
My appearance? My manner?
I know not. Mine is merely to stay,
Confined here in this aqueous hell.

Mine is not to scorn
Nor to reason why,
But to contemplate my situation here,
Trapped, restricted, convicted and condemned
To a life of mindless repetition.

I long to be free,
To swim with the shoals,
Yet this dream of mine
Is unfulfillable, beyond aspiration,
Yet I dream on, aware of my predicament,
Imprisoned here in this watery grave.
Tom Donnai (4X)

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ZOO

The golden rays of first light had already broken over the near-deserted labyrinth of concrete enclosures that, together with a few patches of greenery, went to make up the zoo. The keeper worked slowly, not because he was tired but because he was now approaching the most disgustingly messy enclosure in the whole zoo. It was his chore to see to this enclosure, and to clear up after the inhabitants. His work slowed even more as if he were subconsciously putting off the unwanted task. Minutes passed, a whole hour: the ordeal could be put off no longer. Armed with mop and pail, the keeper made his way towards the enclosure, his eyes trained firmly on the floor.

The enclosure drew near. Another warden, moving in the opposite direction, muttered a greeting and sped off, unwilling to risk being roped in for the task ahead. The first warden continued towards the enclosure as slowly as possible. He didn't blame his colleague for leaving - he would have done the same. They both shared a heart-felt dislike of the animals which took up so much of the wardens' time and effort.

The warden entered the enclosure with due trepidation and after a moment's hesitation began to work, quietly, lest he disturb the occupants of the enclosure, slumbering noisily in their shelter. The warden, mopping furiously, felt thoughts of disgust for the decadent, slovenly ways and habits of these animals compared to the others in the zoo. His annoyance was directed at the mess left by the residents. These animals make such a mess of everything, he thought. They shouldn't be kept in the zoo. They had a certain malevolence about them, he thought, and were quite the most selfish animals he had encountered, even though they strutted to and fro with the air of the infinitely wise and just. Their thoughts centred around their own self-interests and not around the good of their community.

The warden also disliked their pretence of superiority - the way they stared down at visitors from behind their bars, eyes full of malice. All the other animals pulled together, to make captivity more tolerable - not these animals. They fought together tooth and claw for the smallest reason. Sadly, the warden wondered what it would be like to know only avarice, jealousy and hate!

The warden was finding the work hard going: it was incredible, he thought, that any creature could make so great a mess of its own living space in so short a time. The warden came back from his reverie with a start: he could hear a stirring inside the shelter, and the beginning of a quarrel. A last stroke of the brush, and the warden left the enclosure, leaving the bickering to crescendo behind him. The warden shut the enclosure door and trotted off towards the next area as quickly as his four legs could carry him. A final snort of derision, a flick of the tail, and he was gone, leaving behind him for another day the cage belonging to mankind. "At least they're in a cage where they can do no harm", he thought.

Matthew McLean (4X)

MY ROUNDABOUT

Well, I say 'my' roundabout but it really belongs, of course, to the council. I like to think of it as mine, although there are a few people around my area who also think it is theirs.

For instance, there are Mr. and Mrs. Moneypenny who actually live next to it; they try to keep the roundabout free of the local "posse" of cats and dogs! Mr. Moneypenny mows the grass on it in the summer and Mrs. Moneypenny hangs nets of nuts on the three blossom trees, and scatters crusts of left-over bread and bacon rind in the winter. What she does not realise is that when her back is turned the feline and canine scavengers sneak up and eat it all!

She also watches furtively from behind her net curtain for the local hooligans who sometimes vandalise the signs on the roundabout. Although she tries her hardest, she never seems to succeed in catching them in the act!

Mrs. Moran (next door but one) sweeps up all the fallen leaves from the trees in the Autumn and Winter.

I suppose I should mention that I live in the suburbs of Manchester in a town called Sale. No-one really knows why the roundabout was built, because it is right in the middle of a residential area surrounded by hundreds of small semi-detached houses on a large estate.

But for us it is lovely in the spring when the trees blossom in a beautiful light pink colour. This is very unusual for an area like ours and that is probably why it is kept so neat and clean by the residents who live around it.

Some of the most nerve-racking moments are when the 'boy-racers', who live on the corner of the roundabout, come screaming around the small roads in the late evening (probably on their way back from the pub) in their cars. Sometimes I can hear them when I am in bed, trying to take the corners sideways in their mini turbo's and Peugeot 205 GTI's. They nearly always make it, because they go rallying at weekends, but once they didn't! They demolished nearly one whole side of the roundabout. The stone slabs from the wall around it were all over the road and one of their cars looked distinctly crumpled at the front end the next day!

The one thing that gives my family the biggest laugh is the constant flow of learner drivers and motorcyclists. In the morning, around eight o'clock, and all evening, streams of cars and motorbikes pass our house, all practising using a roundabout.

The motorbikes are like a line of wasps looking for somewhere to swarm. The amazing thing about it is that these bikes and cars come from miles around. You can tell from the signs on their roofs advertising all the different driving schools.

I suppose that it is rather a quiet area with lots of little roads, groves and cul-de-sacs, so it is ideal for learners, although at times I wonder how quiet it really is with all these drivers. It is starting to become like our main road!

In the future I will be moving away from this house, but any stranger who visits this area won't realise how busy a place it really is.

Claire Reichl (3L)

CHANGES

"More cake, Kerry?"

"No, I'm fine thanks, Gran."

"Very well dear, I'm just going to pop next door and see Mrs. Kellthorpe. Clear the dishes away for me, would you dear? That's a good girl."

I watched as my grandma put an anorak on and took an umbrella from the closet.

"See you later!" she called.

The door banged, I was alone. I sat firmly on the couch, fiddling with the remote control buttons. I realised there was nothing on worth watching. I looked round the room; it was filled with ornaments and antiques of all shapes and sizes. There on the wall was a big picture of my parents' wedding day. I couldn't get away from it; everywhere I went, they were there. It was funny really, considering I'd been sent here in the first places to get away from them.

Tomorrow I was going back. Would they still pretend then?

They were stupid, thinking I didn't know. I was the one who had had to live with the arguments and the hatred and the tension and then the rejection as they had sent me here saying that the country air would be good for me. How did they know what was good for me?

All they cared about was themselves. At this very moment, they're probably discussing who will get custody of me; none of them wanted me. They both had their own separate lives; dad was a successful doctor with his own practice, and mum was a determined business woman. What did they want with me?

Maybe I would end up in one of those homes or in care, or living on the streets in a box.

No, I'd make sure that didn't happen. In two years time I could leave School, then I'd get a job and they would not have to bother about me; nobody would.

They don't care about me so why should I care about them?

A tear trickled down my cheek and I knew then that I did care.

** * * * *

"Kelly, there you are love! Did you have a nice time?"

"Yeah, it was okay?" I answered.

"I bet you were fed well up there, weren't you?"

I shrugged my shoulders.

My dad chatted to me, all the way back in the car, but somehow he was different. I could tell he was putting on an act.

We arrived home and after a one-sided emotional hug with my mum, I went straight up to my room, at least that hadn't changed.

I felt as if I had to talk to someone, but who?

My best friend Lucy wouldn't understand, her mum and dad would never break up. She had two sisters and three brothers and every time I went to her house, her mum and dad acted as if they were really in love. No, I couldn't ring Lucy.

I contemplated ringing another of my friends, Michelle.

Michelle's parents were already divorced and she lived with her mum in a tiny flat after her dad had run off with his secretary. Michelle had never really been the same since. The whole thing had really cut her up. She felt bitter recently, she was getting more involved in social events but I think her parents' actions had put her off relationships altogether.

I didn't want to ring Michelle, I was too frightened. What if the same thing happened to me?

My thoughts came to an unexpected halt as I heard my mum's voice shouting me to go downstairs.

I reached the bottom of the stairs to find both my mum and dad staring at me with funny expressions.

I knew then that this was it, my head started to spin, I felt dizzy, this was it and I couldn't get out of it, no matter how hard I tried.

I sat down in the lounge facing my parents. They looked at each other and I could see my mum's hand shaking. Then there was a long pause.

"Kelly, the thing is . . . you tell her Jim" said my mum.

"Kelly, your mum and I have decided that it's best for everyone if we split up, I mean, get divorced. We've been arguing a lot recently and it's no good for anyone, we're still going to be friends and . . . well, it's not as if we're going to be that far away. I'm going to get a nice house and you can come and see me as you like."

They were both looking directly at me. Although I had tried to prepare myself for this moment and promised myself not to cry, I knew I couldn't and I just broke down.

"Don't cry love", said my mum.

I was now angry. Angry with them for making me cry, and angry with myself, for crying.

"Don't cry!" I exclaimed, "Don't cry, after what you've done. It's not just the fact that you're getting divorced, it's the fact that you didn't consult me, you arranged for me to go to grandma's, you arranged that I'd stay here and dad would move out."

"Kerry, you're not old enough to make decisions like that," retorted my dad.

"Well let me tell you this, I'm more of an adult than both of you put together. I hate you, I hate you."

I grabbed my jacket and slammed the front door. I started to run. I didn't know where I was running to or what I was running from. It seemed like hours had passed when I finally stopped. I stood breathing in and out. The cold air soothed my anger.

I sat down on a bench. I didn't feel anything now, no more anger, no more hate, no more love.

I looked into the river. What if I was to jump in there? To end my life completely? There was nothing worth living for now and who wants me anyway?

I started walking towards it. It was like hypnotism, I couldn't get away. I stood at the edge; thinking, wondering, waiting. Waiting for what?

I thought of all my ambitions, my resolution to change the world. None of this could happen now, not if I

"Kerry, don't do it, Kerry, please don't do it!"

I turned and ran, nothing could stop me running now as I was running into my mother's wide arms.

"I knew you'd come."

I knew that the times ahead would be hard and although my parents' love for each other had died, my love for them hadn't and neither had their love for me. Although I wished their love could be renewed, I knew now that it couldn't. I had to get used to my new life.

It hurt, but then again it always would.

Rebecca Baron (3C)

THE RATS!

The year was 2014. Heywood Floyd and the crew of the Zeynov had just returned from their mission to Jupiter. The whole world was jubilant and celebrating their success. In every town on Earth that night parties were raging round the clock. The people on earth were united, and their goal seemed clear: exploration of space! Science had advanced immensely, the fuel problem was solved, and the once bleak prospects for nuclear power were rekindled by the brilliance of science; nuclear power was the way for the future. But the advances in technology had taken their toll. The World pollution level was at an all time high, and mutations in animals were common occurrences. Then they came . . . in their multitudes; they took the world by surprise.

Water dripped slowly into the sewers under the New York plaza. A lonely beam of light shone through a partially-opened manhole. They were a forgotten species and believed to be extinct. The rats of the city had been forgotten since the end of the twentieth century and were taught as history to the new generations. Since the start of the new century they had multiplied and amassed a number greater than that of the human population. A few rats scurried around underneath the ray of light, their teeth gleamed with the brilliance of a pearl and their eyes glowed red. The streets above were deserted as the human populus celebrated their achievements and toasted the future. Little did their puerile minds suspect that under their very feet was a tremendous population of mammals of the unfriendly sort.

A population explosion was imminent for these animals, and in the search for space they trickled into every nook and cranny of the sewer system. They had access to the skeleton of the city - the electricity cables, the gas pipes, the communication wires. The city was at their mercy. Soon they they poured into the tunnels housing these vital communications and electrical systems, chewing vital wires and destroying a multi-billion dollar network. Soon the only place left for the ever increasing populus to go was the outside!

Cautiously they crept out of the manholes, the first brave steps being taken by a huge and most powerful beast. The masses followed: they made their way along the alley ways of New York. The river of rats was joined by tributaries from all around it. Their fur glistened in the sunlight as they cautiously occupied street after street after street. Their pace was firm and unquestionable, and the burning desire for more space was in their eyes.

The humans lived in ignorance, attending to their own personal pleasures and desires, dreaming, dreaming of power in space and control over the universe. Bathing themselves in glory and succumbing to self-appraisal, they had failed to see the enemy from within the ground! The rats advanced, now filling every path, alley and road in the city. The force that had wiped out their forefathers eons ago was back! The sewers could not contain them; the ignorance of the humans had unleashed them. The earth would never be the same again.....

Manish Das (4X)

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED

He heard a sudden scuttling in the bushes behind him, then silence. He heard small, quiet footsteps on the brown fallen leaves. He swiftly turned around to see a white tail bob up and down amongst the bushes. He pricked up his ears and cautiously walked towards where he had seen the rabbit. Should he pursue his prey onto the farm? He could still remember his mother being shot on a day similar to this. It was cold and misty then, it was early morning and droplets of water clung to the plants. He darted forward and stopped as he reached the wire fence. The rabbit sat near to him but didn't realise the fox was watching. The fox knew he could only catch the rabbit by crossing the field. He stared at the dew lying on the grass. He could see the cold, blinding sun glaring down on him. He slowly raised his head and sprinted across the field. He saw the rabbit flee and followed him back into the woods.

Suddenly he stopped, his heart pounding, while he tried to make no noise. He could not see the rabbit. In the bushes that surrounded the clearing he heard a branch snap. He walked forward slowly, softly, crunching the leaves beneath his feet. He could not see his prey. He looked above him to hear wings beating as four large birds flew into the sky. He knew something had disturbed them. He continued forward carefully and stopped before the bush. On the other side of the clearing he heard a rustling and as he turned his head he saw the rabbit scarp away. What was he hunting? He raised his head and saw the dark, evil figure of a farmer towering above him. He made a frightened squeal and began to dart backwards, but he couldn't. The fox came to his senses as the farmer raised a huge gun and the fox ran, thinking of nothing but survival. He could see the rabbit, just ahead of him. The farmer shot and the bullet flew past the fox. All that the fox was conscious of was the rhythmic pounding of his legs avoiding the gun. He heard a sudden click followed by the loud blast as a bullet embedded itself in his stomach. He felt a sharp pain, then nothing.

Thomas Hukins (4X)

CLASS WARS

It started in America and then began to spread to the rest of the world. At first it just seemed like a good idea but as the practice grew, it got out of hand. Initially the compulsory teaching of war and its conventional applications as part of the school curriculum was intended to bring about awareness and in-depth knowledge of tactics, motives, benefits and methods of everyday warfare on any scale. Inevitably however, there were the teachers (mainly the bitter ones who had fought in Vietnam) who turned their teaching into pure propaganda and began to use the lessons for their own ends, to gain power or credibility. These teachers soon began to dominate the teaching of war, they became ruthless and corrupt, bent on obtaining some sort of power status, no matter what the cost. Hence innocent boys became mere puppets in a big game where no boy could win. A game where leaders were determined and a hierarchy of student life established through interclass fights organised by the war 'teachers'. On such a scale was this, that it would not be stopped by teachers, the police or even the military. An underground network of dealers, gamblers and fighting arenas was formed in addition to the habitual fights that formed part of everyday school life. This was bigger than the mafia used to be. It was bigger than drugs were now. It was America.

It was three o'clock and the last lesson of the day was War, but it wasn't just any war lesson, not for Alex. He knew that it was time, it was time to prove he was worthy of his position in 4F, top class in terms of fighting ability. They were the elite in his School, they were feared, respected and idolised. They were one of the best classes in their state, and their state rank (the state being Florida) put them high up in the rankings of the whole of the U.S.A. It was Alex's turn to fight this week, it shouldn't be too hard a fight. It wasn't anyone that he knew, but it was someone in his School from a lower class, seeking the fame and notoriety of 4F. Alex turned the corner into the sports hall, which was now more commonly used for staging fights. The sacred markings that once determined the field of play in basketball were now replaced with markings for a fighting arena. As he walked through the door he was greeted by some of his contemporaries; they said the usual pre-fight stuff to him.

"No pain, no gain, go to it, Alex."

"No mercy, Alex!"

"Yo Alex, kick his butt in!"

Alex scowled; he hated those overused clichés, he just preferred to get on with fights in a calm way, which proved more effective. He strode into the changing area; he usually fought with either trousers or shorts on, and nothing else. "Less to grab hold of", said his mother. Apart from which it gave him much greater flexibility. He turned around after taking his shirt off and he looked at himself in the mirror. 'Zero defects!' He always said that to himself. It was silly but it helped him to get into the right frame of mind. Alex saw a shadow cross the wall behind the mirror, he spun round on one foot, his body tensed. It was a manoeuvre that had been drilled into him. As he turned around he saw the person he was going to fight. The boy was slightly smaller than he was with jet black hair and a pale skin colour. The boy grinned in a rather cynical way. 'Scared, Alex?' the boy said.

The boy knew his name; was that a bad sign or not? Alex couldn't decide; he guessed that the boy had done research on him. Files were available on every boy in the U.S.A. Anyone could get hold of them; the boy probably knew everything about Alex.

'Not of you', Alex replied.

The boy smiled again; he had sensed a tone of uncertainty about Alex. Alex knew the boy had sensed this and that angered him. He was damned if a boy from a lower ability range was going to get a psychological advantage over him. However, before Alex could say anything else the boy had stripped to the waist and was out of the door walking with an air of confidence. Alex cursed himself; he was beginning to get a bad feeling about this fight.

The bell rang. That signified that there were three minutes before what Alex laughingly called 'kick off'. Alex walked out of the changing area. He was greeted by a magnitude of dealers, prospective contenders, and people just here to watch the fight. Alex did not see them; to him they were one with the walls of the great corridor he had to walk down into the fighting arena, his tunnel vision blocking out everything apart from the door. His footsteps echoed in his ears as he neared the door. On entering the arena he saw his war teacher and most of his 'classmates'. His teacher just looked at Alex the way a statue or a painting might look at him. Alex turned his attention to the 'ring' or death zone as some people referred to it. His adversary was already in the 'ring'; with a blank expression he stared at Alex. Alex stepped into the ring; it was a square of sides of about five metres. In the centre there was a single knife that lay unsheathed, its serrated edge gleaming in the harsh lighting. The two opponents squared up to each other, neither conceding anything to the other. The second bell rang. This indicated the start of the fight; both stood tense. Both boys, at opposite ends of the square yet equidistant from the knife, began to near closer to one another; in doing so they both neared closer to the knife. They were about two metres apart now, each at a distance of one metre from the knife. Neither boy wanted to make the first move. For if he did the other would surely capitalise on it and leave him at a disadvantage. Then, all of a sudden, Alex's opponent swung his foot around and kicked the dagger to the edge of the square. Alex was taken aback. Why did he do that? Alex, now confused, lunged at the boy, who stepped back. The two fell to the ground, each trying to get the other into a submissive posture, or one from which they would not be able to retrieve the knife. Alex lashed out with his feet, the boy took the full force of them in his chest and literally flew back. He landed with a thud at one end of the square. Alex ran towards the knife grabbed and pivoted around. The boy had recovered from his fall and now stood but one and a half metres from Alex. Alex looked into the boy's face, his eyes willed Alex not to fight, the eyes were peaceful, there was no hatred in them, there was not a spiteful thing about the boy. Alex cursed himself. 'Jesus Christ, I must be going soft', he said in his head. The boy saw this in Alex's face, he grabbed the hand with which Alex held the knife. As quick as a flash the boy's other arm came down on Alex's forearm, the dagger dropped from his hand and Alex clutched his arm in pain. The boy retreated and just stood, detached from the whole fight, in a calm manner, as if nothing had happened, as if he didn't want to win. Alex was amazed and angry; he turned around and picked up the knife again with his good arm. He sensed the boy coming closer and he turned around to face him. Again he looked into the boy's face, and again there was something about the eyes that willed Alex not to fight. Alex was confused, he did not understand, and what he didn't understand he didn't like. Alex raised

the knife, the boy made not the slightest movement. Alex slashed the knife through the air and struck the boy in the chest. The knife was embedded up to the hilt and the boy fell to the ground, dead. Alex stood above him; blood all over the floor began to swim around his feet. Alex turned and fled. He ran out of the 'sports hall', through the corridor and back into the changing room. There he sat down, staring at his bloody hands. He was not sure about the emotion he was feeling, he had never felt it before, it was new to him. It felt bad, he felt empty. Footsteps came towards the door and a 'classmate's' head peered around it.

'Hey Alex, at least you won.'

'No', said Alex, realising what had happened, 'I lost!'

Daniel Riste (4X)



Andrew Seymour 5X

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Head of House:	M. Jones
Deputy Heads of House:	R. Hulse, M. Sowerby, R. Slate
House Prefects:	D. Cleaver, P. Davies, M. Ekstein, M. Grey, J. Hassard, N. Frost, M. Ogier, O. Baker, N. Williams, M. Wilson, J. Greenhowe and I Cope

The league rugby team was always going to struggle as we had so many players on the squad. Much of the responsibility therefore fell onto Nick Williams and Max Ekstein and later Rick Hulse, all of whom played well. However, there was a lack of commitment from many seniors which made their task even harder. During Mr. Blight's prolonged absence in this term, Mr. Myers found the difficulties of enthusing and disciplining boys who lack spirit. He did an excellent job under the most trying conditions. We did manage to win a couple of games, but gave up pathetically in others. In the rugby knock-outs Byrom played Dalton in the first round. We were seriously weakened by the absence of M. Jones, M. Sowerby, P. Davies and P. Patel; nevertheless, we still had a strong team, on paper. It proved a game of two halves, perhaps influenced by the wind. Dalton dominated us territorially in the first half and scored with ease. Whilst we enjoyed much territorial advantage in the second half and piled on the pressure, we failed to capitalise on our scoring chances. Despite the disappointing final result, 20-6, good performances were put in by M. Weeden, J. Greenhowe, M. Wilson and I. Cope. M. Jones

Our fourth year and third year sides both came third in their respective leagues.

In the knock-outs, we were given a bye and then played Whitworth in the second round. We had some key players missing, but Lee Brown slotted in admirably at scrum-half. In the first half we were mainly on the defensive and had few chances to run the ball. The pack, led by Alex Rodgers, performed well against Whitworth's strong scrum. We held them at the set scrums, but were outplayed in the line-outs. Nick Byrom made a few individual breaks. However, under extended pressure, we conceded two tries.

In the second half, our backs began to run the ball and Gary Scora was unlucky not to score a couple of times. However, we tired and Whitworth began completely to outplay us and we lost 26-0. M. Shelmerdine played well, as did Gary Scora and Alex Rodgers. Perhaps the outstanding performance was from Lee Brown.

M. Shelmerdine

In the Ray Cox Sevens, our seniors did well, coming second equal with Whitworth. The juniors came fourth equal with Dalton.

The road relay took place on a cold, wet day. After a bad first lap, Chris Dixon gained six places to finish sixth and Chris Bell got us back four places. Nick Hann also ran very well. In the fifth year, Mark Kershaw came in seventh and made up a lot of ground we had lost. Two gained places in the sixth form. Ian Ellis gained three places to finish fourth and Matt Sowerby two places to finish fifteenth. Overall Byrom came last.

The third year girls ran a completely separate race on the same route. At the end of the first lap, Byrom were third after a good run by Jenny Ellis. On the next lap, Rebecca Kingston ran well, although we lost one place. On the final lap, Alison Soper regained this, so we finished third overall.

With the overall points system, Byrom came last, but there were only four points difference between fourth and bottom place.

I. Ellis

In the House Swimming Competition, Byrom came fourth in the relays. In the individual events competition we did very well, not least because we had the best swimmer in the School in James Hickman of the fourth year. Hickman was his year's winner with ten points and later it was found a Gaskell girl had swum in too many events, making Robert Moodie, of Byrom, winner of the third year, again with ten points.

Mike Wilson won the Senior Backstroke and came third in the Senior Butterfly, whilst Rick Hulse came third in the Senior Medley. James Hickman came first in the fourth year Butterfly and Individual Medley respectively and Robert Moodie came first in the third year Butterfly and Individual Medley as well. Nick Hann came second in the fourth year Freestyle. Nicholas Byrom came first in the third year Breaststroke and Mark Kelly came fourth in the third year Backstroke.

Chris Dixon came fourth in the fourth year Backstroke. With the arrival of Daniel Power and Ellen Nicholson into the House, our prospects for winning next year look very good. This year we came second.

James Hickman has won four golds at National level and now holds the record for the 200m British Junior Backstroke. In a few weeks he enters a National Competition in nine events. Success in five should see him selected for the British team for which, as yet, he is too young. We wish him well and hope he is successful in adding to his remarkable string of swimming achievements.

A.M. Blight

After the success of the Grasmere winter expedition last year, a similar venture was undertaken by a party led by Mr. Blight and Mr. Bull to Ambleside Y.H.A. Once again Mr. Davies (O.H.) accompanied us with his younger son for the first day. Whilst subsidised from Byrom Tuckshop funds, this trip included boys from other Houses. The party consisted

of Jonathan Greenhowe, Rick Hulse, Martin Gilmore, Robert Moodie, Terence Sales, Jonathan Davies, Jonathan Lamb, James Vickers, Peter Kidd and Matthew Butterworth. As it was very wet and unsettled, we repeated last year's easy stroll round Tarn Howes, then crossed by ferry to Bowness on Windermere. Cooking was somewhat easier than last year and after a hearty meal, we played "Pass the Pig" and this was followed by a "Sing along with Blight".

After a good night's sleep, the party set out for the main walk. As there was a forecast of strong winds at 3,000 ft., Mr. Blight took us up the Langdale Pikes. Here the ascent is in shelter from the prevailing winds all the way up and we enjoyed very pleasant conditions at first. Despite his "double hernia" Mr. Blight kept up thanks to Martin Gilmore carrying his rucksack. (What illness he will fake to get someone to carry his rucksack next time remains to be seen!). We stopped for lunch by Stickle Tarn. After lunch it was found that the two senior boys, both highly trained, high-ranking C.C.F. cadets, Jonathan Greenhowe and Rick Hulse, WERE MISSING. One boy suggested they'd gone ahead and we set off in pursuit of two figures in the distance. Soon we realised it was not them! Mr. Blight was puzzled beyond measure at this failure of elementary discipline on the fells in winter. Matthew Butterworth volunteered to return to our lunch spot. On reaching this, we saw no sign of them. However, Matthew heard a strange noise, akin to water draining down a plug hole. Yet he remembered no waterfall on the way up. Moving towards the sound, he observed, in a small hollow, two figures huddled together for comfort and warmth, fast asleep AND "TOSH" SNORING LOUDLY!! The mystery was solved.

Mr. Blight decided on a direct ascent of Pavey Ark by "Easy Gully", however, it belied its name. Mr. Blight climbed up a slightly difficult rock climb half way up. Only James Vickers scrambled up it with ease. At this point a strong blizzard developed and Mr. Blight "wedged" Matthew Butterworth and after he got frozen, Jonathan Lamb, in a secure position and helped the third year boys climb over them, pulling themselves up, first by Butterworth's left foot, or lamb's "hoof". This young party performed splendidly in conditions as bad as one would want to meet on the fells.

By the time we reached the summit ridge, the snow was quite heavy and we warmed ourselves up with a "snowball fight". Some enthusiasts wanted to complete the climb, but Mr. Blight explained that we would be in the face of an intensely cold win at the top, visibility would be very poor and it would be an unwarranted risk to continue the last 100 feet or so. We then returned down a sheltered route, out of the wind.

The final day we drove over to Kirkstone Pass, down by Ullswater and visited the waterfall, Aera Force. Some of the fourth year led by the "experienced" Jonathan Lamb did a walk on the lower heights. We then returned feeling we had a really worthwhile trip. Mr. Blight was particularly pleased with the fourth year boys who are excellent hostellers, they do the cleaning jobs, cooking and are first-class on the mountains. It was good to take some of the third year "rogues" and to find they performed well and are anxious to go again.

J. Greenhowe

In the Inter-House Debating Competition, Jamie Flannigan and Phil Cain spoke in opposition to the motion, "This House has no faith in British Justice". They produced effective arguments in support of their case but tended to be too theoretical and, lacking concrete illustrations of points, failed to make an impact on their audience. But theirs was a pleasing contribution to an activity which achieved a good standard of debate.

The first girls came into Byrom at sixth form level last year and this year we got our first "home-bred" members from the Junior School. Whilst it is difficult to incorporate six third year girls into the games' set-up, as yet, our six, Michelle Cowan, Jenny Ellis, Rebecca Kingston, Georgia Laddin, Sarah Cope and Alison Soper have certainly got involved in a large range of activities. All six were in the House Play and five came on the June London Trip. They performed somewhat indifferently at sport, but show a strange inclination to blame their Housemaster for their own shortcomings.

With Mr. Blight's extra coaching of Byrom's netball team and lots of lectures and ancient stories of his past history and records of playing for England, we actually made it to the Inter-House Netball, with only ear-ache from all the talking (or listening).

Mr. Blight (male netball champion 1901-1942) gave us hardly any hope of getting anywhere! With a renewed perspective and angle on the game we managed to come third. All six of our girls played well. Personally I think Mr. Blight was getting netball mixed up with cricket - but that's only usual!

Jenny Ellis

(Mr. Blight has read the above and is happy to see it included in the magazine! - Ed.)

LENT TERM

Ian Ellis was appointed House Prefect.

The House Lacrosse league this term was of very limited scope. Byrom had a very strong team and must have been favourites, but so few games were played that the league became meaningless.

In the first round of the knock-outs, we played Heywood. Byrom dominated the first half. In the first quarter, we scored three goals (Nick Williams 2, Dominic West 1), without reply. West scored another in the second quarter, but Heywood pulled one back. It was 4-1 at half-time. Whilst still dominating in the third quarter, we failed to convert the pressure into goals. Nick Williams hit the woodwork three times and Sean McCloy and Dominic West both forced the Heywood Goalkeeper into fine saves. In the last quarter, Heywood came back with a vengeance. They began to score, took control of the game and emerged winners 5-4. Although we lacked key players, we still had the stronger side and should have won easily. But on the day and over the whole match, Heywood proved the better team and won deservedly.

M. Wilson

In the Junior knock-outs, we had a bye and then faced Dalton in the second round. We had a good side, but in the first quarter, Gandy several times ran through the whole Byrom team to score. In the second half, Chris Bell went through well to score and we got more into the game, but the excellent Dalton goalkeeper kept us at bay. Our defence was now coping with Dalton's midfield, our attack began to create scoring opportunities, but wasted them by weak, or inaccurate finishing. By the third quarter, we were only one goal behind, but Gandy again created havoc and scored goals. We were always

chasing from behind. Goals by Lee Brown, Iain Cooke and another from Chris Bell left the final score at 6-4. We had good performances from Lee Brown, Mark Shelmerdine, Chris Bell and Morgan Parry. Outstanding was the performance of Andy Fry, in the absence of our regular goalkeeper, Alex Kniveton. A key position in Lacrosse, Andy did not let us down.

M. Shelmerdine

In the Hewlett Cup Competition, we came fourth overall. Our Second VI won its group.

In the Inter-House Hockey competition all the team played well. Sarah Cope, Alison Soper and Jenny Ellis all played good games. We came fourth. We suffered one "hiccup" when Dalton managed two corners, which meant we lost after a 1-1 score.

Jenny Ellis.

The aim of this year's House Play, "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder, was to provide an hour's worthwhile entertainment for the audience, to ensure that those who took part enjoyed doing so, and also to use it to help integrate our junior girls more into the House and hopefully give them the confidence to take part in and/or produce future productions. The choice of play was difficult and involved a large cast of boys and girls. In terms of a competition, it was like putting Byrom's Junior Knock-out side out against another House's Senior side, but winning a play competition is of secondary importance.

As the co-producer, I saw how in rehearsals the cast changed from a group of fifteen individuals into a team which worked together with humour and dedication. Co-education meant that now one had to wait patiently when certain groups in the cast went into fits of giggles/hysteria.

The play brought some people onto the stage for the first time. Yet these youngsters managed to sustain quite convincing American accents. One got the expected excellent performances from the more talented and experienced actors and actresses such as Alex Rodgers, Michelle Cowan, Alison Soper and Jamie Flannigan, but it was tremendous to see people with little experience, or ability, initially, grow in confidence and become very competent performers. Here one thinks particularly of Sarah Cope, Jenny Ellis, Rebecca Kingston and Georgia Laddin. However, the undoubted success of the play would never have been possible without the tremendous patience and dedicated enthusiasm of our third and fourth year boys, many of whom had small parts, yet turned up loyally for rehearsals. Byrom is very lucky to have boys of the calibre of Andy Fry, Matthew Musgrove, Andrew Willett, Chris Hodge, James Vickers and Jonathan Lamb. Tony Sharples and Dominic West of the fifth year also made invaluable contributions. There was a useful "democratic" atmosphere as all volunteered opinions on the staging of scenes and this is an important part of the educational process in drama.

J. Flannigan

The choice of play of a small, sleepy town in North America at the turn of the century was perhaps not the most comic or action-packed production, but it had a large cast and gave the performers ample chance to show off their talents. On a personal level as co-producer, I am grateful for the help given to Jamie Flannigan and me by Mr. Turner and Mr. Blight. Hopefully, the House now has a large and slightly experienced number of performers to choose from in further productions.

I. Cope

Housemaster's note: Jamie Flannigan and Ian Cope proved an excellent pair in working with this large, young, and obstreperous cast. As usual the best youngsters are involved in numerous other activities and I was very impressed with their responsible attitude of seeing me and other members of Staff where clashes occurred. Our thanks also go to Marc Ogier, for his help with the "unmusical" choir.

A.M. Blight

Byrom's musicians were well rehearsed and organised and we had a wide scope of talent. Mark Kelly began with a very accurate and stylistic piece on the piano. This was followed by Sarah Cope, who had been reluctant to play, but went on to give an equally well performed piece on the piano. Her Housemaster had cajoled her into playing, pointing out that it was a team effort and that if we won by one point, it would be her contribution which would give us the trophy. Typically, Sarah played but her performance had to be squeezed in second to enable her to keep a hospital appointment. The Ogier brothers, Simon and Marc, then scored full marks due to excellent control from Simon on the cello and an accurate accompaniment from his brother Marc on the piano. An interesting piece followed from Jeremy Smith on the guitar.

Ironically what Mr. Blight had said to Sarah Cope turned out to be only too true in another context, as our next performer, Neil Haggerty, decided not to turn up. This cost us first place and the trophy. This was a unique non-contribution to Byrom House.

After this "shambles", Simon Ogier picked up well with a brief performance on the piano and this was followed by an expressive performance with excellent control and tone on the clarinet by Jonathan Greenhowe. Marc Ogier then played an ambitious piece, displaying considerable technical skill and sensitivity. Andrew Pardoe was next with his own composition gaining high marks. Our entries finished with Mark Kelly giving a fabulous performance on the piano.

J. Mason

Great credit goes to Jamie Mason who volunteered to take on the House Music this year. Of course our success was due largely to the talented Ogier brothers. But it was a bitter pill to swallow to see the excellent efforts of all these seniors and perhaps even more so our two third year contestants denied the success they valued by the ignorant indifference of a fifth form boy.

A.M. Blight

The Byrom trip to London, postponed from the Christmas term because of my illness, took place in the Lent term. Many of the original party dropped out because of School team commitments, so the party included boys from other Houses. Myself, Mr. Myers, Dr. Keable and an Old Hulmeian from last year, Mark Brandreth, of Fraser House, took a party comprising of

Richard Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Robert Moodie, Martin Gilmore, Terence Sales, Richard Serrant, Paul Turner, Jenny Ellis, Andy Fry, Chris Dixon and Rebecca Kingston to the Beacon Youth Centre in Becontree.

We were welcomed by the Warden, Syd Pigeon, and the party soon settled down to play pool, badminton, table tennis etc. into the early hours. On the Saturday, we went into London by tube runabout ticket, walked up the Thames embankment to the Houses of Parliament and visited Westminster Abbey. Here Jenny Ellis and Rebecca Kingston did a couple of excellent brass rubbings in the cloisters. We then made our way to Trafalgar Square where Thomas Taylor tried to catch a pigeon for his tea. Others settled on Rebecca Kingston's head, less fortunately one had an attack of diarrhoea on Richard Serrant's arm, so we disowned him until he had washed his clothes in McDonald's. After this we made the usual visit to Madame Tussaud's. Martin Gilmore and Robert Moodie shot through the waxworks and then spent most of the time in the Chamber of Horrors! Back to the club for a tea of chicken and chips; this was followed by communal games such as dodge ball, minefield and rhythm. Sunday we visited Covent Garden Market and then completed the long trip back to Manchester, after a very worthwhile weekend. I owe much to Mr. Myers, who did three trips to London with me this year, one a first form History trip and two Byrom trips.

A.M. Blight

MIDSUMMER TERM

Byrom ended the year on a really high note as we completed an astonishing double in the Cricket Knock-outs. Cricket is a unique game and whilst the success of our junior side could have been anticipated that of the seniors was phenomenal.

In the first round against Heywood, our bowling was tight and the fielding sharp. Only Doney was able to score runs. Heywood were weak, but the early loss of Max Ekstein left us in trouble. Victory was secured by a non-cricketer, our Head of House, Mike Jones, who hit hard and well for a quick 42 not out.

In the second round, Gaskell were minus their best player, Tilston. The highlight of this match was a superb 60 not out from Matthew Rhodes, which, with an innings of 45 from Max Ekstein, saw us to a comfortable victory. We had won this match despite our own rather poor fielding performance.



Sarah and Ian Cope with Nichola Ravenscroft by the Houses of Parliament. (Photo: A. M. Blight)

So we went to another final with Dalton. If the match were to be played 100 times, Byrom would lose 99. On paper, it was no contest. However, Chanak Ranawickrema had his day, he bowled really well and dismissed three of Dalton's best batsmen for a mere ten runs between them. Brassell, under pressure, got himself out to one of the worst balls bowled - but that is cricket. We bowled well and fielded superbly, dismissing Dalton's strong batting line-up for a meagre 76.

However, the disparity between the sides meant that even 76 could be a winning total for Dalton. Max Ekstein wisely took the game to the opposition from the start, running quick short singles at every opportunity and putting their fielding into disarray. The Byrom batsmen responded well and obeyed his calling. With an over to spare Ahmed hit the winning four and Max Ekstein finished on 46 not out. His captaincy had been excellent throughout, but he would be the first to acknowledge that this was a triumph of a few cricketers supported by ordinary non-players from the House against a side dominated by School 1st XI players. On the day, we were the better side and won deservedly.

M. Jones

The juniors played Dalton in the first round. Alex Kniveton and Chris Bell put on 55 in their opening partnership. Kniveton continued with Andy Fry to provide the substance of our score of 142. Dalton began disastrously with Wood and Hall going for ducks. Thanks to excellent bowling by Dipak Bhakta, who took 5 wickets, Dalton were dismissed for 110. Chris Bell's captaincy, his field-placing and use of his bowlers was outstanding.

The second round was against Heywood and Iain Cooke, bowling leg spinners, took the early important wicket of Brown. Only Sayyid then offered much resistance and we dismissed them for 123. A good opening partnership again from Chris Bell and Alex Kniveton saw us with 60 on the board. Then we remained in control with Mark Sheldermine and Iain Cooke finally hitting off the runs.

Bell put Gaskell in to bat in the final. We got off to an excellent start with Dipak Bhakta bowling Misra in the first over. Iain Cooke flighted and spun his leg breaks well and Chris Bell bowling medium pace soon found himself on a hat-trick, which he missed by a whisker. Gaskell were 27 for 6 wickets and should have been crushed by continued use of our better bowlers. We let them off the hook a bit and Mantel got settled and hit a good 30. We ended up needing 96 and after a good start we got into a bit of trouble with wickets falling. However, we regained control and won comfortably with 7 overs remaining. An excellent win for us juniors and our congratulations to the seniors with their spectacular triumph. Mr. Blight insists that this double triumph has got something to do with his being Head of Religious Education, but none of us understands this!

Chris Bell



Syd Pigeon—Warden of the Beacon Youth Centre with Mrs. Stathom and Mr. Harrison.
(Photo: A. M. Blight)

In the Inter-House Rounders Byrom managed to beat Fraser, but then lost to the strong Gaskell side. Only Jenny Ellis and Rebecca Kingston showed much capacity to hit the ball. Others needed a metal bat and a magnetic ball! Alison Soper bowled accurately, but our fielding was "statuesque". Finally we lost to Dalton by two rounders to two and a half and finished fourth overall.

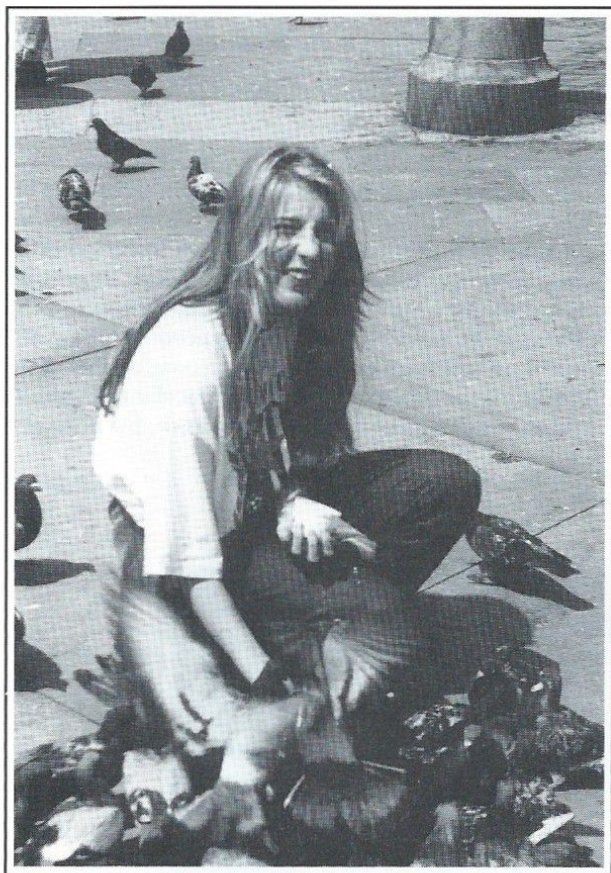
Athletics: Results for Sports Day are not yet available. Byrom came 4th. Nicholas Byrom, Gary Scolah and Ian Graham (who broke the record for the Discus) performed outstandingly well amongst others.

Following our successful and enjoyable House Play, Ian Cope and Mr. Blight arranged a trip for the cast to London to stay at the Beacon Youth Centre. The party consisted of Ian Cope, Mike Wilson, Dominic West, Tony Sharples, James Vickers, Hadley Alexander, Jenny Ellis, Sarah Cope, Alison Soper, Georgia Laddin, Jonathan Lamb, Alex Rodgers, Rebecca Kingston and Nicola Ravenscroft accompanied by Mr. Blight, Mr. Myers and Miss Tandon.

Delayed by the Cricket Knock-outs, we left later than usual, but thanks to the absence of Jonathan Greenhowe (the world's worst navigator), Mr. Blight successfully took us on a detour via Watling Street round Birmingham and we had a much quicker journey down than expected. That night we fed on chicken and chips, or the vegetarians on chips and vegetable grills. We then stayed up making use of the club's excellent facilities, whether it was pool and snooker tables or showers. One girl had more showers than any boy played pool!!

After breakfast the next morning, it was back in the mini-bus again. We drove around Barking five times in all looking for somewhere to park! We then got a party runabout ticket to journey around London. Our first visit was to Westminster Abbey. Mr. Blight prevented Georgia Laddin from committing suicide by throwing herself into the Thames. Then he explained that had Wordsworth witnessed what we had seen from Westminster Bridge, his sonnet would have been 13 lines shorter and would simply have read, "Earth hath not anything more to show".

But none of us understood this! After visiting Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, we went up to Whitehall. Thence to McDonald's, to feed ourselves after feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square. One of these recognised Mr. Blight from last January and immediately swooped and "bombed" his trousers!



Alison Soper a "pigeon fancier" fancied by pigeons.
(Photo: A. M. Blight)

Soon we were walking among the stars at Madame Tussaud's. Then exhausted at the tube station, we "democratically" decided to return to the Youth Centre rather than go shopping. That evening the others had to savour "kebabs" cooked by Mr. Blight, who seemed to confuse the culinary term "charcoal grilled" with "burnt". All I can say is I'm glad I'm a vegetarian. After this we were "bribed" into playing communal games, "British bulldog" led to Georgia Laddin being deposited in a dustbin, "Dodgeball" and "Minefield" which were entertaining, but playing elimination catchers with water-filled balloons meant that one girl got a cold shower this time. "Scavenger Hunt" witnessed the sight of Alex Rodgers wriggling half the length of the room with a lamb wrapped round his ankles. Miss Tandon disgraced herself in the game "Rhythm" as she got a fit of hysterics. I actually won this game, never having played it before. We then dispersed to play the various games available in the club.

Very early on Sunday morning - let's just say - Mr. Blight was not very popular with his old trick of pouring water down my left ear. (Sarah has omitted to comment on the extraordinary phenomenon, that the water immediately re-emerged from her right ear, there being nothing in between to divert the flow thereof. - A.M.B.)

After breakfast, the club was cleaned up by the group with some "persuasion" from the older members. The boys were excellent here, some of the girls less so. The mini-bus was then reloaded for our departure "up North" which came after a lengthy stop at Covent Garden.

Sadly this may be the last Byrom trip to the Beacon Centre, but thankfully Syd Pigeon has recovered from his recent heart attack. We thank him and wish him well.

Our thanks go to Ian Cope and Mike Wilson for taking responsibility for us and the hard work they did. Thanks also to Mr. Blight and Mr. Myers without whom none of us would have been able to go and Miss Tandon, without whom the vegetarians would have starved and the girls would have had to be left at home.

Sarah Cope

From my days with Bury Youth Authority, a spin-off has been the opportunity for First Year History trips and Byrom House trips to London thanks to my friendship with and the hospitality of the Warden of the Beacon Centre at Becontree, Syd Pigeon. We had an engraved tankard to present to Syd on his retirement, but this visit was more than tinged by sadness and concern at Syd's serious illness and his absence. Happily the by-pass surgery has been successful and I hope to take the tankard with some pupils to his "farewell" barbecue in Norwich in September. We owe him a great debt for five wonderful visits and are hopeful they may be able to continue. Meanwhile we all wish him better health and a happy retirement.

Finally a big word of thanks to Mike Jones, who, somewhat unsupported, apart from Rick Hulse, has done a magnificent job as Head of House. To all the Byrom seniors who are leaving, I would like to say "Thank you" to those who contributed so much to Byrom in their different ways and "Good luck" to all in the future.

A very big "Thank you" goes to all those reliable members of the Tuck Shop rota who have worked very hard over the year. Many have not benefited directly themselves, yet their efforts have supported our three House trips, the purchase of games' equipment, and the hire of costumes for the House Play. Our fourth year boys and especially Andrew Willett have shown a tremendous commitment.

As Byrom Housemaster, I have been especially lucky in having the support of Mr. Myers and Dr. Keable who took over in my lengthy absence this year and have come on numerous trips and activities. In addition I have had the tremendous help and support of Mr. Turner in drama and of Miss Tandon who stepped in to look after the girls on the London trip.

A.M. Blight

DALTON HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Head & Deputy Head of School:	S.W. Veitch, R.Y. Segal
Head of House:	R.Y. Segal
Deputy Heads of House:	R.W. Goodall, I.A. Brassell
School Prefects:	R.W. Goodall, G. Hepburn
House Prefects:	A. Goodwin, D. Greer, K.E. Mayne, M. Kapoor, R.D. Bone, A.D. Rose, D. Stansfield, R.A. Mody, C.J. Hyland, D.I. Wilks, S.N. Hira

Appointments:

We were delighted that the Head Master appointed both the Head and Deputy Head of School from Dalton House. We were all confident that Stephen Veitch and Reuben Segal would do a good job. We welcomed into the House one new Sixth Form pupil, and twenty Third Years, of which six were girls. We were determined that they would play a full part in the affairs of the House and in the inter-House activities.

House Rugby: 1st XV Captain - I.A. Brassell

Our senior rugby players lacked strength and experience, but not enthusiasm. In our early games, our lightweight scrums meant that we were unable to win enough of the ball, but when we did, we found that our backs, especially the Fifth Years, had sufficient speed to trouble the opposition. We suffered defeat in each of our first three matches, although only narrowly, before the leadership and determination of Iain Brassell and the kicking ability of Chris Hyland brought us our first victory, over Gaskell, followed by two further victories. Although we lost our final match, mainly because of tiredness, we had had an enjoyable season.

2nd XIII Captain - D.I. Wilks

Under the captaincy of Danny Wilks, our few experienced and skilful players, supported by all of our moderate players, played well each week, usually had a full side, and won all their games. Special mention must be made of Anthony Baron, who led the forwards well and regularly scored tries, and Andrew Seymour, who proved to be a dynamic tackler at full back.

Senior Knock-out Captain - R.Y. Segal

In our first round match against Byrom, our captain's drive and determination in the forwards, together with some very good kicking from Robert Goodall, brought us a comfortable 20-6 victory. Our second match, however, against a strong Gaskell side, was totally different. The loss of our captain through injury greatly reduced the strength of our forwards and we were no match for the opposition.

Junior Knock-out Captain - B.L. Wood

We had enough experience in our fourth year squad players to have felt that we had a chance in our first match against Heywood. Lack of practice together, small third years, and poor attempts at tackling let the opposition through for early tries. Although we gradually came back, another Heywood try just after half-time sealed their victory by 22-14.

Junior Leagues

The fourth year team was severely weakened by constant injuries in the School squad. Consequently we suffered several heavy defeats, and failed to win a match. All must work much harder next year, when they will be in the Senior teams. Our third years worked well together, and, after weekly coaching sessions, confidently beat each other House they met, and won their League trophy. An exhibition match against the best from all other Houses was also won. Enthusiasm, confidence and team work helped bring together an excellent group of boys. Keep it up.

Ray Cox Senior VII's

In this competition, all three teams were confident of success despite the non-availability of Reuben Segal through injury. The further injury to Stephen Veitch during a match did not daunt our spirits, and each team won at least one match, with the third team gaining a place in, and winning the final. The good all-round results helped Dalton win the trophy for the first time.

Middle School VII's

In their competitions, our fourth year team did not work hard enough, and lost their first two matches. The third year team again played well together and won two of their three matches. We here finished in fourth position.

Road Relay: Captain - R.A. Mody

Each House had three boys teams, each containing one from each year group, and, for the first time, a team of three third year girls. Our early term practices proved worthwhile, especially for the girls, when Amanda Jones, Nadia Hanley and Kathyne Arran finished in first place in their race, with Kathyne gaining the fastest time of all the girls. Tarik Djeddour was the first back in the first leg, but, although the third years ran well, the rest of the runners could not help us reach better than fourth place.

Swimming: Captain - R.Y. Segal

In the Senior heats, eight of our ten individual swimmers gained first places, and one more reached the final as fastest second. Both our relay teams also qualified. Four individual swimmers and one relay team from each of the other year groups helped us gain more finalists than any other House. The Seniors were confident of success, and the swimming of Iain Brassell (first places in two individual races and one relay) helped him gain the Senior Award. We won the individual competition but conceded the relay trophy to Gaskell because, although both our Senior teams finished first, there was insufficient support from other years.

A successful term saw us gain many trophies. In Rugby we won the 2nd XIII and Third Year Leagues, and the Ray Cox Senior VII's. In Swimming we won one competition and one individual award. Each of the third year girls' and boys' teams were first in their section of the Road Relay. A special House award was presented to Iain Brassell at the end of the term in recognition of the major contributions he has made in House activities.

LENT TERM

The following appointments were made:

Lacrosse Captains:

Senior Knock-out: S.W. Veitch (School 1st X Captain)

Junior Knock-out: J.M. Hall

Senior League (1st XV): R.W. Goodall

2nd X) : R.Y. Segal

House Play Producers: S.N. Hira, J. Greenfield

Music Co-ordinator: M.R. Clark

Dalton's Senior Knock-out Captain, Stephen Veitch, had been appointed School Captain, although we only had three other School players. In our first round match, we had a comfortable 6-3 victory over Fraser, and met Gaskell in the semi-final. The game opened slowly, with few goal-scoring chances, and, at half time, we were one goal behind. The whole team then appeared to become too lethargic and we conceded two more. We lacked aggression in attack and, although we pulled back one goal, we lost 4-6.

The School Under 15 goalkeeper, John Hall, captained our Junior Knock-out team that contained no other School Under 15 players, but several from the Under 14 squad. Our captain played with confidence in each game, and the enthusiastic fourth years combined with the talented third years to produce much good team work. The first match, against Heywood, produced a 6-2 victory, with Richard Gandy and Chris Gleave playing well in midfield. The semi-final against Byrom was much more close, with Ben Wood helping us to gain midfield superiority, and a 6-4 victory. The Final, against Fraser, saw Dominic Stansfield return after a hand injury, and he and Chris Gleave worked together splendidly, each alternating between midfield and attack. In a splendid match, we dominated all areas, although Fraser had good individuals. It was only in the final quarter that our defence lost concentration and Fraser got back into the game. It was again Dominic and Chris who combined together to score the deciding goals in a 9-7 victory.

Senior K.O. - semi-final Junior K.O. - Won

The Senior Leagues were decimated because of bad weather, and other interruptions. The first team only played twice, losing both games, but the second team won four of their five games, drawing the other. Hard work was put in by captain Reuben Segal, who ensured that we had a full team of boys (plus one girl!) who were willing to maintain the necessary effort to succeed.

Senior League (1st X) - 4th (2nd X) - Won

The fourth years relied upon the strength of ex-squad player Richard Gandy in a season cut short by bad weather and knockouts. After we had lost the first game, the next two were won, but we had no opportunity to play the leaders, Gaskell. The third years played a competition over two weeks, and the experience of Adam Aslam and Tarik Djeddour, together with the endeavour of Faisal Kureishy, helped us win our first two matches. For the final, Benny Woolrych in attack and Afshin Matin-Razm in goals helped us to a comfortable win over Heywood.

4th Year League - 2nd 3rd Year League - Won

The Hewlett Cup six-a-side tournament is always hard to organise but enjoyable to watch. Our first team was disappointing, although it reached the final, and our third and fourth teams also reached their finals. Our fourth year and third year teams were very talented, but did not play well, and only our lower third year team gained a 100% record. Consequently, after hoping for a tournament win, we only achieved second place.

Hewlett Cup - 2nd

The girls had their tournaments in netball and hockey, and were full of enthusiasm. The encouragement of Nadia Hanley helped us win our first week's netball matches and we lined up against Gaskell in the final. This was a splendid match, with our girls passing at speed, and Justine Goldman matching Gaskell's shooter goal for goal, although her recent non-involvement in School netball meant that she also missed several chances to give us a lead. Full-time, with scores level, led to extra time, when we conceded two goals without reply. Despite the disappointment, this was most enjoyable to watch. Without the same talent at hockey, and with one absentee, we still managed a commendable third place in the tournament.

Netball - 2nd Hockey - 3rd

The drama producers, Sanjay Hira and Jeff Greenfield, found it difficult to choose a suitable play, and then to cast the eventual choice "Yesterday the World", by Anthony Booth, about a French family who encounter an English airman who seeks shelter after crashing. Rehearsals started late, scripts were relied upon until near to the final rehearsal, and props were late being organised. Despite this, the hard work of the Producers did bring together a good performance on the night, although inexperience in acting prevented the cast having the stage manner to succeed in the tournament.

Michael Clark's musical talent together with the backing of Mr. Hofton, helped organise a group of players to participate in the House Music competitions. Unfortunately lateness in organising the participants left them with little time to practise, and we were unable to fill our programme. Our organiser gained excellent reports for the two pieces he played, and with more work from the others, our fourth place, only ten points behind first, could have been better.

Drama - 4th Music - 4th

Overall a very good term, with three wins and three second places.

MIDSUMMER TERM

The following appointments were made:

Cricket Captains:	Senior Knock-out -	I.A. Brassell
	Junior Knock-out -	J.M. Hall
Athletics Captain:		R.A. Mody

In our first match in the Senior Knock-out, Dalton played Gaskell, and batted first. Our early batsmen were experienced cricketers, and punished the opposition bowlers. Our 40 over total of more than 200 included 50 from Nathan Wood. Early bowling successes ensured a comfortable victory for Dalton, with the opposition all out for less than 100.

The Senior Final was a repeat of last year's - Dalton v Byrom - and Captain Iain Brassell's decision to bat first seemed wrong when each of our early batsmen failed. Only our captain, with 43, reached double figures, and we were all out for 76. Our bowling was tight, but lacked penetration, and wickets did not come easily. The Byrom captain helped them avenge last year's defeat, and we lost by four wickets, with one and a half overs left. A disappointing end to an excellent School and House cricketing career for Iain Brassell. As a consolation, he scored his first century, in a School match the week before the Final.

Senior K.O. Final : Dalton 76 Byrom 77-6 Byrom won by 4 wickets

Our first round opposition in the Junior Knock-out was Byrom. We bowled first, and initially, our bowling was very erratic, with wides appearing much in evidence. Our fielding was also poor, and it was not until captain John Hall bowled himself that things improved. Too many extras 27 - contributed to a Byrom total of 143 for 7. After the loss of an early wicket, our batting steadied itself, but the opposition fielding was very sharp, and runs were difficult to come by. As soon as a batsman appeared comfortable, an irresponsible shot saw him lose his wicket. It was left to Michael Dunford to put us in with a chance, but the later batsmen failed to support him, and we were all out for 108.

Junior K.O. : Byrom 143 for 7, Dalton 108- Byrom won by 35 runs

The Inter-House rounders competition took place for the girls, and we were looking to avenge earlier defeats by Gaskell. Our girls hit the ball hard, but failed to score enough rounders against weaker opposition, and some of our fielding was a little lethargic. We finished second in our group and then beat Byrom the following week, to finish third in the competition. With a little more determination, I am confident that our girls can win competitions instead of coming close.

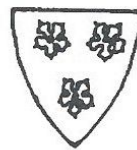
The end of term saw the traditional Sports heats, when we were pleased to have many Fifth and Upper Sixth return to represent their House. We gained more finalists than any other House, and were well represented in each age group. For Sports Day, hard work from Roger Mody ensured that all finalists knew when and where they were to compete, and changes were made to fill in for absentees. Especially noteworthy were: Chris Gleave's run in the 4 x 400m third year relay, Chris Hyland's and Andy Rose's runs in the 4 x 100m senior relay, Andy Rose's 100m individual run, and a record in the fourth year High Jump. After the first few events Dalton were second but soon gained and kept first position, to win the Athletics Trophy. Well done to all participants - it shows an all-round strength in the House.

The end of term saw us say farewell to many leavers who had put effort into House activities over many years. School Prefects Stephen Veitch, Reuben Segal and Robert Goodall had served us well in many knock-outs, and Iain Brassell had led many House teams in all sports. Best wishes go to those and all others who have left the School.

M.D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE



Head of House:	Shelim-Ur Rahman
Deputy Head of House:	Gary R. Noble
School Prefects:	R.W. Buckley, A.K. Hollingworth, O.F. Islam, G.R. Noble and S-U Rahman.
House Prefects:	M.Z. Ahmad, M.B.R. Dignan, A.A. Khan, J.J. Meadows, J.R. Tozer and R. Walker (Upper Sixth). A.R. Ladd, R.A. Malik and R.C. Mattison (Lower Sixth).



The Fraser Prefects 1990-91. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

MICHAELMAS TERM

Senior Knockout XV Captain:	G.R. Noble
Senior Knockout Vice-Captain:	A.K. Hollingworth
Senior League 1st XV Captain:	J.J. Meadows
Senior League Vice-Captain:	R. Walker
Senior League 2nd XIII Captain:	M.R. Clyne
Junior Knockout XV Captain:	S.D. Bates

The following third form boys and girls entered the House in September: Rizwan Ahmed, Rebecca K. Baron, Geoffrey G. Barraclough, William F. Casson, Stephen J. Cohen, Martin B. England, John P. Foggon, Saadi Hasan, Leila Jalali, Elisabeth H. Keable, Mark A. Knowles, Andrew J. Lole, Jasel Mehta, Aarti Nayar, Avinash S. Rao, Ian P. Ratcliffe, David N. Slack, Robin A.M. Stephenson, Sally L. Ward and James K. White.

In addition Jayne C. Bond, Melanie P. Clare, Nabila Q. Dar, Iftikar A. Khan, Rachel A. Leitch-Devlin and Heather M. Stephenson came into our Lower Sixth group from other schools.

One of the earliest House activities this year was the Road Relay Race, brought forward from the Lent Term to ease congestion. After three successful and well-attended training runs round Alexandra Park, supervised by the House Master and Mrs. Ballantyne, our team was duly selected, and included a group of three girls competing in a House Competition for the first time. Despite "pre-match" nerves the girls did better than expected, Aarti Nayar coming in fourth, Leila Jalali dropping one place to a strong Whitworth runner, and Sally Ward running particularly well to make up a place on the final leg. Two of our first-choice boys were unavailable on the day of the Relay, so that Mark Knowles and Andrew Lole had to step in at the last minute. Neither disgraced himself, even though Mark was wearing shoes borrowed from an Upper Sixth former. Of the Fourth Formers, Adam Nash found it difficult to hold onto the second place he took over from Martin England, but Simon Bates and Matthew Tweed both ran quite strongly. It needed a considerable effort from our Fifth Form

team to provide the firm platform required by the senior runners if we were to have any chance of a respectable placing at the end. Fortunately, in James Walmsley, Peter Ireland and Allan Bulwich, we had not only three good runners but three very reliable and determined characters as well. They all ran strongly, although they clearly found the longer distance run by the Fifth Form quite tough. By coming up two places overall they had given the Sixth Form team just the impetus they needed. Rob Buckley, not really a runner, ran steadily round the course in a very sound time; Andy Hollingworth was determined not to allow the previous year's unfortunate outcome to be repeated, and raced round in twenty-one minutes, making up six places as he went; and Gary Noble ran even faster, less than a minute slower than the winning time, overtaking four runners round the course. This was a great example for the House. The Sixth Formers displayed a real will to do as well as they could, and they succeeded in doing much better than we had expected. Having been lying last at the end of the Fourth Form stage, we confounded the opposition by finishing second, a mere three points behind Gaskell. For the first time in many years, all our runners were deservedly awarded House Colours.

Although Andrew Hollingworth and Richard Mattison did not manage to persuade their audience in the Debating Competition that money was more important than love, they did succeed in convincing the judges that they were the second best partnership, and that Andrew gave the best individual speech of the afternoon. A rare trophy fell from our pillar, but first and then second places in the two years of this excellent new competition are nothing to be ashamed of. A fuller critique appears elsewhere.

The transfer of the Road Relay and the Swimming Sports to this term may have reduced rugby's dominance theoretically: in practice there was more rugby than ever, with two new competitions being introduced into the already full programme of matches. Jason Meadows and Shelim Rahman made a good job of running the first week's senior House practice and team selection - but not before Kelvin Blakey had succumbed to the House Master's initial warm-up session, reappearing at School two days later on crutches. The new 1st XV beat Dalton in their first match, and the 2nd XIII looked full of promise and energy in their friendly against a mixed team. We were unfortunate to lose Jason Meadows and James Walmsley almost immediately to the School Squad, but Shelim Rahman's organisation ensured a full 1st XV each week. The likes of Shelim Rahman, Richard Walker, Omar Islam, Robert and Edward Buckley, Keith Jones, John Beckett, Richard Mattison and James Walmsley when available provided the nucleus of a strong team who always played fierce and entertaining rugby. They ended the season with a resounding win over Gaskell, running in some very good tries - most notably one which came from a scrum ten metres from Gaskell's line. Robert Buckley at scrum half took the ball, ran, feinted, slipped the ball to Walmsley who stormed across the line, unstoppable. The 2nd XIII were more erratic, both in their attendance and their results, but they did seem to enjoy their singular style of kick and run rugby. Bhavesh Patel and Richard Haber in particular were fast and effective.

Whitworth were twice our downfall in the Knockouts, sweeping aside our nervous Juniors 38-0 then dismissing our respectable Senior XV 17-6 in the second round.

The Ray Cox Sevens were marred for us not only by poor results from the second and third teams, but by injury: Sonny Arora injured his ankle and retired, and Jason Meadows' thumb popped out, was relocated, then promptly shot out again, at which time Jason was persuaded to retire also. However, all was not gloom: the 1st VII qualified for their group final by beating Gaskell and Byrom, but were then too tired to contain a free-running Whitworth team and had to settle for second best. Like the Seniors, the Third and Fourth Formers made mistakes and will have learned from them. The new Junior Sevens proved an excellent competition, although played in bitterly cold conditions, and it will provide players with essential experience for the Senior competitions to come. Both Fraser teams needed to release the ball earlier. There was too much holding, with forwards instinctively trying to tie the ball in, with the inevitable result that we were caught in possession, lost momentum, and gave away precious points. Tackling was occasionally a problem too. It must come early, and it must be decisive. There were several encouraging aspects too, however. Simon Bates, Fourth Form Captain, was deceptively fast and extremely difficult to shake off the ball. He scored two excellent tries. Matthew Tweed entertained with his unique war-dance style of rugby, kicked promisingly, and with greater self-discipline will make an effective and powerful player. John Foggon was swift and sharp, and one excellent run led to a good try by James White. David Slack made a superb forward's try from a line-out, leaping over the opposition to score at full stretch in the corner. Craig Simkin, James Ewen, Richard Jones, Manish Das, Avi Rao and Mark Knowles are all hardworking and enthusiastic players, and their developing skills will be put to better use next year!

Third Form Inter-House Rugby this year took the form of a two-day competition instead of the usual protracted league, Houses playing in one of two pools. Here again our results were disappointing: we came fifth equal with Heywood.

So what did we manage to win? Well thank goodness for our Fourth Form League team, who were beaten only once (by Gaskell), and who consequently won their trophy comfortably. Congratulations to them all!

Throughout the term, Sixth Formers had been informally patrolling the infamous "Cages", much loved by secretive Fourth and Fifth Formers, in order to prevent their misuse. The Fraser group consisted of Jayne Bond, Andrew Ladd, Rachel Leitch-Devlin and Richard Mattison. It would be fair to say that some were more assiduous in the performance of this not particularly onerous duty than others - a pity when one considers how few opportunities there are for our Sixth Formers to develop and exercise responsibility at the School.

In casting around desperately for excuses to explain away our awful performance in the Swimming Sports, I was forced to conclude that moving the event forward to before Christmas gave us insufficient time for preparation, trials, team selection and the like. Other House Masters will immediately recognise (and sympathise with?) my plight but will immediately see the fallacy for what it is (pathetic?). And in any case we had one excellent third form trial. But how else can one account for only two placings in the Finals? I suppose I can take comfort from the Relays, where we managed third overall - but why couldn't these successful swimmers reach individual finals? As well as the two successful finalists Adam Nash and James White, Colours were awarded to several boys who had swum well and to Jeff Tozer, Captain of Swimming this year.

The House was sorry to learn that Mark Clyne was to leave at Christmas. Our best wishes go with him in his new career in Accountancy.

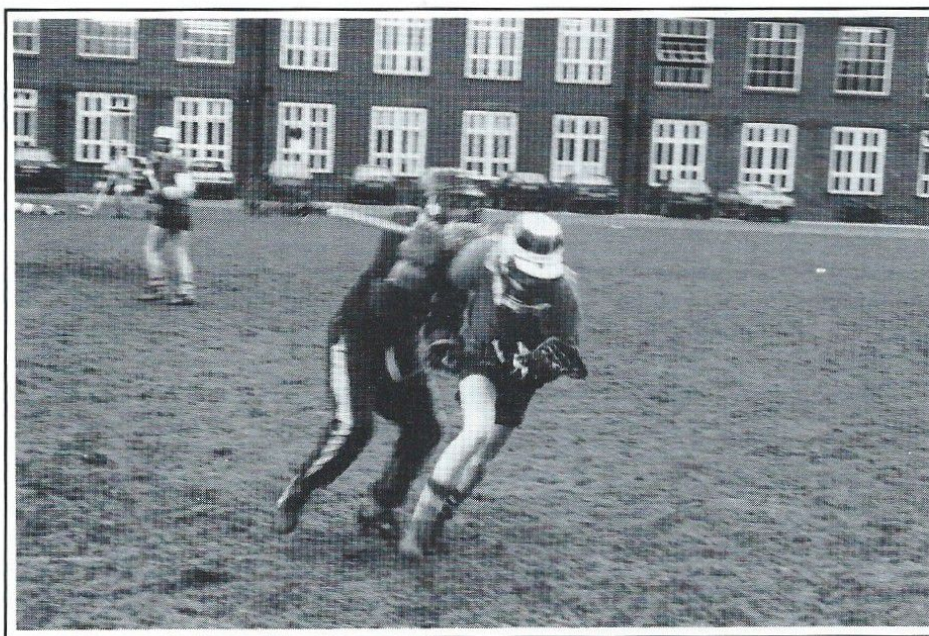
The year ended on a convivial note, the House Master, his wife and Mr. M.P. Jones accepting the House Prefects' invitation to a Christmas meal at an Italian restaurant in town. We all enjoyed good food and a relaxed but amusing evening.

Our thanks principally to Shelim Rahman for organising things and for helping to provide the funds from the Tuck Shop to enable the evening to take place. Jason Meadows was unable to join us, having just been involved in a car accident, but happily he recovered quickly and fully.

LENT TERM

The Cages Patrol was taken over by John Beckett, Melanie Clare, Daniel Guthrie and Nicholas Jackson this term. This gave Richard Mattison even more time to come up with a play for the Drama Competition in March!

There was so little league lacrosse played at senior level that there seemed little point in awarding the League Trophy, shared as it was by three Houses. However, all victories are worth recording, no doubt, so we should be pleased at being one of these three, as we won both our matches against Heywood and Dalton. The Second Team competition was more significant, each House managing to play all the others at least - all one can expect in a short season disrupted so frequently by appalling weather. We again won two matches and were fourth.



A characteristic two-glove shove from Mark Dignan. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

In recent years we have often found that key players have been unavailable for knockout matches, albeit invariably for perfectly good reasons. This year we felt we had a potentially winning senior lacrosse squad, yet four first choice players seemed likely to be absent from the pitch: Robert Buckley, Andrew Ladd, Keith Jones and Gary Noble were all incapacitated in various ways. Happily Robert Buckley decided to test his ankle and it held up throughout the match, though his stomach proved less resilient! Two excellent goals from Omar Asgher from the narrowest of angles, and a superbly wound-up shot from fifteen yards in front of goal by Mark Dignan put us 3-2 up. Dalton responded with four more goals, however, despite some astonishing and courageous saves (and the usual incursions into enemy territory) by Andrew Hollingworth. In addition to the four players already mentioned, Richard Walker and Edward Buckley played tremendous lacrosse, with good support coming from Shelim Rahman, Robert Blairs, Richard Mattison, Daniel Guthrie, James Walmsley and Matthew Maunder. A month later, while the second round of the knockout was being played, our team had the opportunity to play a friendly with Byrom for the wooden spoon. Fraser won comfortably, Andy Hollingworth coming out of the crease to score his first goal in a seven-year lacrosse career. He's never looked happier! At the same time the 2nd X recorded their first win of the season, Allan Bulwich in goal, Jonathan Butson and Nicholas Jackson playing especially well.

Our Junior Knockout squad, still looking ragged in spite of many attempts by Michael Brook to organise practices and meetings, rather surprisingly beat Gaskell after trailing them for most of the match. The subsequent Final was a close, hard-fought, and at times frantic contest between two ambitious sides. After giving away some early ball, Adam Nash sorted out his game and played well, though not with quite the vigour of the dynamic Manish Das! Avi Rao was self-assured and skilful. He has a developing flair for the game and was involved in most of our successful moves. James White played effectively until hurt in an ugly incident which, fortunately for sport, was as rare as it was disgraceful. Goal-keeper Mark Knowles was nervous and discouraged at first, but found both his eye and his confidence and made several brave instinctive saves in the latter stages of the game. Simon Bates was himself and made his usual contribution, and Craig Simkin's game was notable for his tremendous skill with the long stick, and his frequent fast breaks. He sets a great example of mobility to other defence players in the House. Ultimately the Final was lost to Dalton by two goals, but we had progressed further and displayed better teamwork than any of us had expected.



The Hewlett Cup: Fraser's exhausted 1st VI after winning the Final.
 (Back row L-R: R. Walker, G. R. Noble, R. W. Buckley, A. R. Ladd.
 Front row L-R: A. K. Hollingworth (GK) and M. B. R. Dignan).
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

The Hewlett Cup Sixes demands a high standard of lacrosse (and fitness) from the top to the bottom of the House. This year only one of our eight teams failed to record a win, and of the three who reached their group final, two drew and the senior 1st VI won.

Fraser finished second after a thrilling afternoon's lacrosse and the long list of House Colours awarded subsequently was well deserved.

Until now the only competition exclusively for our third form girls had been their section of the Road Relay in October. Netball, hockey and rounders were still to come, with athletics at the end of the year, of course. Despite help and support from some of our senior girls, the Fraser team were unable to match their opponents in the netball, and even in the final play-off for fifth and sixth place, could score only one goal to Whitworth's eleven. However, they kept smiling, if rather ruefully, and the following week entered the Inter-House Hockey, hoping for better fortune. They lost their two initial matches, and the pattern of the play-offs was repeated, Fraser again taking the wooden spoon. Carefully avoiding remarks about starting a collection of kitchen utensils, their House Master instead sought to accentuate the positive, awarding House Colours to Sally Ward and Elisabeth Keable for their dogged efforts, and encouraging them all to look to the future - for things could only get better! (As well as Sally, Leila Jalali and Aarti Nayar had already won House Colours for the Road Relay Race). Sally Ward's ability in hockey had already been recognised by her selection to play for South Manchester Schools, much to everyone's pleasure.

As the end of term looms large, one normally has to witness the frenzied antics of House Play Producers and Music Organisers (surely there must be a better word for this important post!) as they alternately cajole and coerce their actors and musicians into learning lines or pieces and attending crucial last-minute rehearsals. This year, not a bit of it. Richard Mattison, Daniel Guthrie and Heather Stephenson continued throughout the second half of the term to assure me that everything was running like clockwork, that everybody was pulling their weight and that I had nothing to worry about. This is music to a House Master's ears, of course. We do not want to feel indispensable, contrary to popular belief! We are happiest when we can stand back and watch the pupils in the House plan, organise and perform activities for themselves. All too often this ideal state is not achieved but it is what one is aiming for nevertheless. However, where this year's play was concerned, the Producers diplomatically (not ironically, I hope) paid tribute to their House Master in the programme notes for his "non-intervention"! The outcome was extremely impressive. "Rattling the Railings" seemed an unpromising play, static, mundane and relying heavily on authenticity of character and timing of delivery. Our cast carried it off quite remarkably well, and the audience was treated to a sustained, funny and moving event. Melanie Clare as the favourite yet unconventional Pauline and Richard Mattison as her ageing and mildly eccentric father were both excellent. The review of this and the other House Plays by Mr. and Mrs. Lowe is essential reading! As the play was placed second in the competition, the cast had the unenviable task of presenting it again before a less than appreciative School audience.

All the Houses finished neck and neck in the Music Competition this year, only thirteen points separating the winners. Heywood, with 134 points, from the lowest placed House. We were third, with 128, and credit for this strong performance is due not only to the nine musicians who took part but especially to Heather Stephenson, who, in her first year in the House, succeeded in tracking everyone down and bringing our very varied programme together. Omar Islam is our only musician leaving this year, so we have every chance of improving on our performance in 1992. All actors and musicians won House Colours in recognition of all they have to put into these important non-sporting competitions. Allan Bulwich, the silent prompter, and Jayne Bond who designed the play programme also received their Colours for their contribution to the play's success.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Andrew Hollingworth and Robert Buckley were congratulated on their appointments as Captains of Cricket and Tennis respectively.

Several Lower Sixth Formers were made up to House Prefect to enable the existing Prefects to concentrate more fully on their impending 'A' levels. They were John Beckett, Jayne Bond, Jonathan Butson, Melanie Clare, Daniel Guthrie, Nicholas Jackson, Iftikar Khan and Heather Stephenson.

The Tuck Shop, open intermittently during the year, closed for the term after Rizwan Malik, who had recently taken over the reins from Shel Rahman and Jeff Tozer, managed to sell off our remaining stock.

In unbelievably cold conditions our Senior XI took to the front square for the first round of the Knockout against Whitworth. Two or three boys who had not expected to play were in nothing more than P.E. kit, and they suffered for it. Warren, our main worry, was out early, and with good bowling from Andrew Hollingworth, Andrew Ladd, Omar Islam and Sonny Arora, Whitworth found themselves at 51 for 9. Inexplicably our attack seemed to peter out after this, and their tail end was allowed to more than double the score, helped by some vital catches going down in the bitterly low temperatures.

The match still seemed winnable, though, as we came into bat. The early setback of Ladd's wicket going cheaply before he had settled in was followed by the loss of Hollingworth for 35, and then a fairly alarming collapse. Islam and Jackson held things up for a time, but we could manage no more than 90 in the end. Among the young players the bowling of Andrew Howarth and Sonny Arora stood out, as did the reliable wicket-keeping of Allan Bulwich. Again a Fraser knockout team that was capable of taking a title quite comfortably had collapsed and failed to proceed beyond the first round. We were given the chance of a second crack at Whitworth a week or two later in the Junior Competition, and this time we beat them on the front square, passing into the second round against Gaskell, and with a good chance of reaching the Final, we felt. Our bowling simply was not good enough in the event, however, and Gaskell made a substantial 160, despite goodish fielding. Simon Bates replied with a sound innings of 40, and captain Tom Donnai did his best to keep his and the team's spirit up, but to no avail, and we lost heavily.

For the first time House Masters were able to spend a period meeting and talking to those boys and girls in the second form destined for their respective Houses in the following September. This also provided the opportunity for House Prefects to tell the newcomers a little bit about their rôle, and what they would be expecting of the new year group. Jayne Bond described the games activities offered to girls in the House, while Heather Stephenson discussed drama and music. We clearly have a responsive and talented group entering the House next year, and we must see to it that they use their talents to the full.



"Fraser's 1991 intake of Second-Formers meeting their new House Master". (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

In the middle of the exam period the third form girls had an hour of welcome relief in the form of the Inter-House Rounders Competition. For once their House Master was on hand to witness their sporting skills and give them encouragement. It was a very enjoyable, if chilly, contest, for although Gaskell (inevitably) and Byrom (narrowly) beat them they played with vigour and enthusiasm. Leila Jalali's bowling was consistent, and running between bases was usually quite good, especially from Sally Ward. Aarti Nayar's "wicket-keeping" was better than she thought, too! Too many balls were not struck, perhaps, and our catching could certainly improve, but misunderstandings between players became fewer during the course of the matches, and a developing sense of teamwork was evident. The next round involved our girls in a play-off for fifth and sixth places yet again, and true to form we chose sixth! By this time it had reached the stage where the girls were convinced that they were the weakest group, and would inevitably come last. I hope they will remember that winning in itself does not bring pleasure or satisfaction: it is the knowledge that you have contributed to the team effort, by co-operating, encouraging and supporting the others, and performing up to the limit of your abilities, whatever they may be. That is everybody's experience, whether in sport, drama or any other field of common endeavour.

Sports Day went extremely well for us until an upset in one of the last races put us right out of contention. For much of the morning we led the field, dropping to second as the afternoon wore on. Most of our athletes, girls and boys alike, were up to par, and we were strong enough in the Relays to stand a chance of victory. Since all the results are recorded in detail elsewhere there is little point in repeating them, though some photographs will enable participants to recapture the atmosphere of the day to some extent.



The Senior 100m Final: Andrew Hollingworth second from right. *(Photo: D. M. Fisher)*



Matthew Tweed tries to fend off a challenge from Butterworth of Whitworth in the Fourth Year 400m Final. *(Photo: D. M. Fisher)*



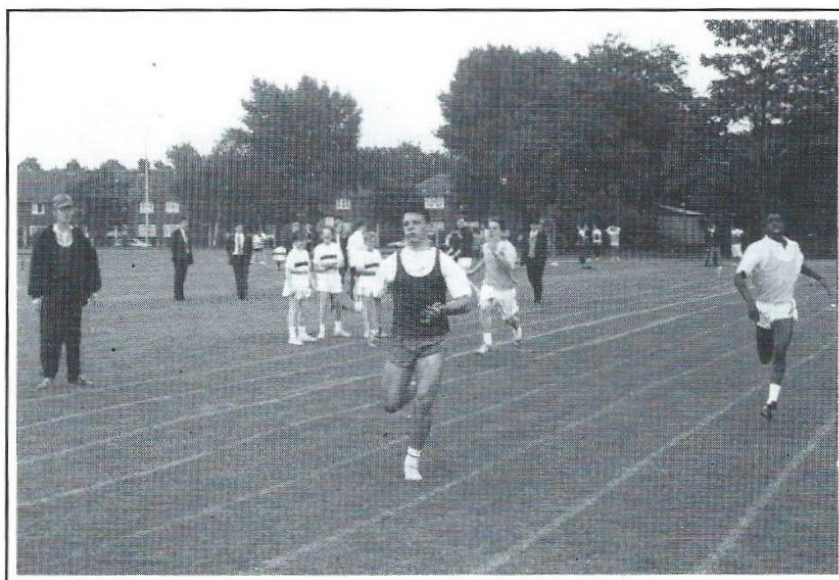
Martin England leads Avi Rao in the 800 metre Final. *(Photo: D. M. Fisher)*



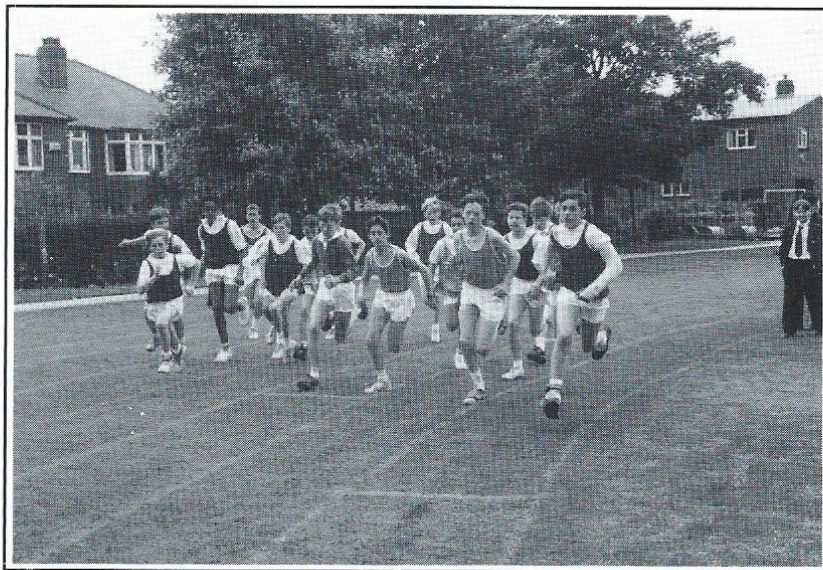
Leila Jalali and Nadia Hanley perfectly in step in the girls 200 metre race.
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)



The Third Form 4 x 100 m relay team. (L-R: James White, Avi Rao, Mark Knowles and John Foggon).
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)



Gary Noble coming in ahead of Daniel and Hyland in the Senior 200m Final. *(Photo: D. M. Fisher)*



Geoffrey Barraclough, Martin England and Will Casson among the mêlée of starters in the Third Year 1500m race. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

The Relays duly took place and we again won the Senior 4 x 400m quite comfortably, but in the Fourth Year equivalent our last runner succeeded in dropping the baton outside his lane as he ran in in second place, and the entire team was disqualified. Since the Houses were so close by this stage, the loss of these valuable ten points took us from second place to fifth overall, and there we remained. The runner concerned was clearly tired at the end of the relay, but his lapse in concentration cast a pall over the proceedings for the forty other athletes in the House, all of whom felt a sense of injustice after putting in a great deal of hard work.

At the end of term it was announced that Gary Noble had won not only the Colin Midwood Prize for the C.C.F. (Army), but also the J.A. Barber Prize (Proxime Accessit). Then at the end of Summer Camp he was promoted to R.S.M., the highest Army Cadet rank in the Corps. Andrew Hollingworth shared two prizes, the Eric Barnes Memorial Trophy and the Powell Prize for Reading in Assembly. These two young men have made a memorable contribution to Fraser House over the last five years and they and the ten other Fraser Upper Sixth Formers will be hard to emulate. In fact the last time Fraser won a knockout competition was in 1987 when this group, together with Andrew Ladd of the Lower Sixth, won the Junior Rugby (the fourth year in succession we had done so!). The fact that seven players from that squad (including Elton Davies, Alistair Scott-Gall and John Frost) left School before the Sixth Form has influenced many of our games results since. From this present Fifth Form we are losing James Walmsley, Peter Ireland and Keith Jones, all willing all-rounders who have given a lot to Fraser in various ways. All our leavers take with them the very best wishes of the House, and the hope that what they have gained from their association with us will contribute towards a happy and successful future.

Shelim Rahman, Head of House, also leaves, of course, to spend his next three years at Bristol University. Initially chosen to lead the House on the strength of his skills in organising and motivating people, which he has done extremely well all year, he nevertheless continued to play like a Trojan on the games field and to set an example to the entire House in all he undertook elsewhere. Despite his relatively low profile about the School he has been a prominent and stalwart member of Fraser for five years and an excellent Head of House, and my warm thanks go with him for this.

D.M. Fisher

GASKELL HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments:

Head of House:	H. Smart
Deputy Head of House:	C. Tilston, M. Rogers
House Prefects:	C. Egeli, A. Berriman, P. Jackson, R. Lavorini, J. Wall, N. Cheung, J. Bull, A. Bell, S. Richardson.

Christmas holidays at last! A well deserved rest! What does Mr. Turner want? A report for the Hulmeian before January! I hate writing. Oh well, all the family are ill with flu so here goes.... First impressions as a new Housemaster - I have enjoyed meeting a lot of pupils whom I have not come across before. Most of them have impressed me with their willingness, enthusiasm and reliability. The biggest problem is fifth/sixth form games. The same old excuses - amazing ailments, remarkable reasons for having no kit, illegal studs. That is all at 2.15 p.m. Then it's off to referee at Hough End, return and make sure no kit is missing and the changing rooms are clean. No chance of boredom.

The Road Race was, as usual, a gruelling arduous experience for all involved (although, perhaps, frustrating would be a better word to use in the case of the time-keeper, D. Horner). Because of the almost universal dislike for Cross-country shared by virtually everyone who has ever had the misfortune to partake in the sport (if it can be described as such), I could foresee mass absenteeism on the day of the race. It certainly seemed that this could be the case when I was organising the teams; the intended victims, when cornered, would normally react in a similar manner to my request that he participate in the Cross-country to my giving him the 'Black Spot'. When the day came, however, NO-ONE skived and everyone seemed perfectly willing to do their best. This enthusiasm can best be epitomised by the actions of the normally 'work shy' Jimmy Johnston who agreed to run without qualms, although, as it turned out, he was not needed. His motive, however, may just have stemmed from the fact that by running he was missing a double History lesson!

Of the people who actually did run, Bury, Reichl, Whiteley and Bamford deserve special mention although it must also be pointed out that the Gaskell victory was essentially a team achievement. We did, after all, only win by 3 points. Until the Fifth Form runners romped home in 2nd & 3rd place (Reichl & Bury respectively), there seemed little chance that we could win - we seemed well placed to come last! The amazing performance of the Fifth Form runners put Gaskell in a superb position with a good chance of victory. All the Sixth Form had to do was to maintain this position which it achieved admirably. P. Jackson providing an outstanding run to come back first. It must also be noted that the girls team also did extremely well, coming second overall.

Despite exceptional performances made by certain members of the House, the Gaskell victory was a team effort; all the chosen runners turned up when it counted and performed to the best of their ability. Hopefully Gaskell can retain the trophy next year as well.

At the start of the 1990 Rugby League season, the Gaskell Senior 1st team's spirits were high. We had great size and strength in the forwards, and speed and power in our backs - potentially the best team in the House League. Our first game, against Heywood, was to be a routine affair; we would as usual beat them comfortably and we approached the game with much confidence. This was our undoing. We had under-estimated Heywood's sharp team work and the incredible speed of Andrew Redstone, and were promptly beaten 26-4. Having given Heywood their first victory in two years at this level we should have known that this was not going to be our year. Defeat followed upon defeat but the team spirit remained undaunted. However, finally Gaskell finished bottom of the Senior League with only one victory to its credit. It must be said that although this may seem to have been a disastrous result the attitude and effort of the team was first class but unfortunately on the day luck just wasn't on our side. Two players in particular must be mentioned for their performances on the field - namely Andrew Bell and Michael Rudge - both showing character.

All in all, although this was my least successful rugby season, it was for me definitely the most enjoyable which, in the end, is what really counts. Despite having some reluctant rugby players the House Second team managed to enjoy most of their fixtures and achieved a fair number of victories.

With ten School squad players in the Gaskell Senior Knockout XV we were again installed as odds on favourites for this year's competition. All were raring to go though a bye in the 1st round did not help our cause. However, in the second round we finally made it onto the pitch to face a fair side in Dalton. Gaskell played with fire and flair and the power in the forwards coupled with the speedy backs proved far too much for the disheartened Dalton team who managed only one try and a penalty, while Gaskell rattled in fifty points thanks to five tries from Matt Rogers. In the final we were to face Whitworth who in Gareth Jameson and Patrick Cassidy has two players capable of winning the game on their own. Before the game everybody had expected a landslide victory for Gaskell. However in reality it was quite different. The cohesion in the Gaskell forwards that had existed in the Dalton game has deserted us, and the big powerful Whitworth forwards began to take control. However, a scrum 15 yards out from the Whitworth line was to provide the first try. A surge by the Gaskell forwards helped Noel Burton go over for the first try which Fred Baama failed to convert, and so Gaskell led 4-0 at half-time. The second half began badly for Gaskell and Whitworth began to dominate the game with Gareth Jameson taking control and Patrick Cassidy crossing over for a try to level the scores. Darren Lambert restored Gaskell's lead with a well taken try but then had to leave the field with a damaged shoulder. As the game reached the last ten minutes Whitworth turned on the pressure which resulted in another try for Patrick Cassidy. Then to Gaskell's disbelief Gareth Jameson converted the try to give Whitworth a 10-8 lead.

However, as the game reached the last minute Gaskell got a scrum on Whitworth's 22 yd line. Tilston picked up the ball from the base of the scrum and went over in the blind-side corner to give Gaskell the try and the trophy - well done lads!

Final score - Gaskell 12, Whitworth 10.

The Junior Knockout team had a bye in the first round but met Heywood in a wet semi-final. Heywood opened the scoring within 30 seconds of the start of the game and no-one in the Gaskell side got near the ball. Gaskell battled back into the game but it was not until the second half that Chris Armstrong shrugged off three tackles to score. With that conversion and another try Gaskell won 10-4. The final against Whitworth was a hard fought game with Nick Goddard (hooker) winning plenty of ball, however the better team won on the day. Result: Gaskell 8, Whitworth 15.

Two finals, both against Whitworth, one win and one loss - a tremendous effort all round though the success was inspired by the hardworking enthusiasts rather than the few squad players. The Raymond Cox 'Sevens' tournament was marred by an injury to Chris Reichl that put him out of sport for the year. However, despite Lee Tilston accompanying Nick Frost to hospital, we won enough games by sheer determination to come second in the overall competition.

Mrs. Derham organised practices for the reluctant third years swimmers who turned out to be the strength of the team, Karen Law winning the overall third form prize. Martin Plant organised the team, everyone appeared and made maximum effort. After winning the first two races this team continued with success in the relays rounding off an excellent team performance. The spirit was perhaps epitomised by Matt Woolley's efforts in holding off the opposition in a very close fourth form relay race. It is always pleasant to win but the swimming involves a lot of people, effort and organisation - it is a pity competitive swimming does not take place more often.

The enthusiastic netball team qualified for the final of this competition without too much difficulty, defeating Fraser and Heywood. Against all the odds they defeated Dalton House in a very hard match. It was neck and neck all the way into extra time until in the last minute our shooter scored the winning goal.

The Inter-House Debating Competition was held on the afternoon of Thursday, 18th October. Cemil Egeli and Marc Levy opposed the motion, 'This House thinks money is more important than love'. Cemil delivered his views in a humorous, throw-away manner, suggesting that the audience would rather cuddle a human being than a cheque book! More seriously he widened the scope of 'love' to include the affection of parents, brothers, sisters and friends pointing out how necessary this is to our well being. He was well supported by Marc Levy.

LENT TERM

The Lacrosse season again suffered particularly bad weather. The House League first team had a mixed season despite outstanding efforts from seniors such as Bull, Tilston, Cheung and Bell. The second team lacked a few basic skills but still managed to win all their games until the last decisive games of the season when absenteeism rather let us down. The knockout team were on paper a team with a great deal of potential. A strong Upper Sixth contingent with Fifth Years from the School squad won the knockout without ever playing as a team, even allowing the final score to be close despite controlling most of the game. An all round team effort will be needed to retain this trophy.

The Junior Knockout team had a bye in the first round and met Fraser in the semi-final. Despite an early lead and relatively inexperienced opposition, over confidence allowed Fraser back into the game. The main problem was midfield players who were too greedy and insisted on joining the attack to seek goals themselves. When Fraser attacked midfield players failed to defend and despite a fine performance from Mantel in goals we lost the game 10-8. It is to be hoped the team gained from this experience - arrogance is unnecessary.

The Hewlett Cup is always a test of resources as more kit and players have to be found than at any other time in the year. Gaskell first and second team looked powerful but were far too confident. A lack of team work led to defeats for these teams. However, the third and fourth teams and Juniors were an unknown quantity - could any of the fourth team actually pass and catch? The fourth team ended up as the team of the tournament - winning every game with effort rather than skill. The third year team were successful and the third year second team were deprived of success by the toss of a coin. Thanks to further success from the fourth years we won the trophy outright after sharing with Dalton last year.

By drawing with Dalton and beating Heywood the Hockey team again qualified for the final against Whitworth. Despite going a goal down a tremendous fight back resulted in a 2-1 victory - two events, two successes - well done girls.

Gaskell had a well prepared ten item music programme; however as last on we ran out of time and were thus penalised. Even so, the performances were of a high standard and 121 points were gained overall. The competition was directed by Cemil Egeli (Violin) and Simon Beswick (keyboards) with presentation by Marc Levy. Thanks are due to all competitors: - Nigel Cheung (trumpet), Victor Theofilopoulos (piano), Stephen Neary (violin), Peter Kidd (viola and piano) and Karen Law (clarinet).

Despite attempts to get rehearsals off the ground as early as September, pressure of work and difficulty in organising practices meant that the play was poorly prepared and had to be abandoned. Though there are problems organising practices that involve all age groups this situation will not arise again.

Nigel Cheung organised a highly successful Tuck Shop during the term. Many people helped run this venture though David Smart deserves a special mention. The profits have been used to purchase equipment and will be used to subsidise House activities in the future. Many thanks to Nigel for his persistence in getting the shop off the ground and putting in so much time to ensure it was a success.

MIDSUMMER TERM

All Upper Sixth formers retired from House duties to concentrate on 'A' Levels. Noel Burton took over as Head of House ably assisted by Darren Lambert. Simon Beswick, Marc Levy, Greg Bamford, Mark Goldman, Irvin Nurrenabi, Sam Spencer and Craig Etchells also became House Prefects. Shortage of numbers in the Lower Sixth meant the House Knockout team was going to struggle. Further problems were caused when School first teamer Lee Tilston broke his thumb. However, there is encouraging strength in Gaskell House and many people who had never played cricket before accepted

the offer to play at only a day's notice. Particular thanks therefore go to Craig Etchells, Marc Goldman and Richard Hellings who enabled us to field a full side.

Gaskell lost the toss, and Byrom elected to bat. Byrom got off to a very strong start putting in 53 for the first wicket until Darren Lambert struck with a slower ball, trapping Connor L.B.W. With a weakened bowling attack, a lot was riding on Lambert and Baama. However, the Byrom batting was very strong and they reached a total of 200 for 5 off their 40 overs. There were some strong fielding performances by many players in the Gaskell side, that probably prevented the score from reaching about 250. Also, Chris Bury, bowling for the first time, bowled exceptionally well.

Despite having a very weak batting order, at one point Gaskell looked as if they were on target with School batsmen Noel Burton (37) and Fred Baama (44) putting on 74 for the opening stand. However, despite a valiant attempt by the Gaskell 'batsmen', several of whom had never worn pads before, Gaskell were bowled out for 144 off 29.4 overs. A disappointing end to the Knockouts after winning both the Rugby and Lacrosse.

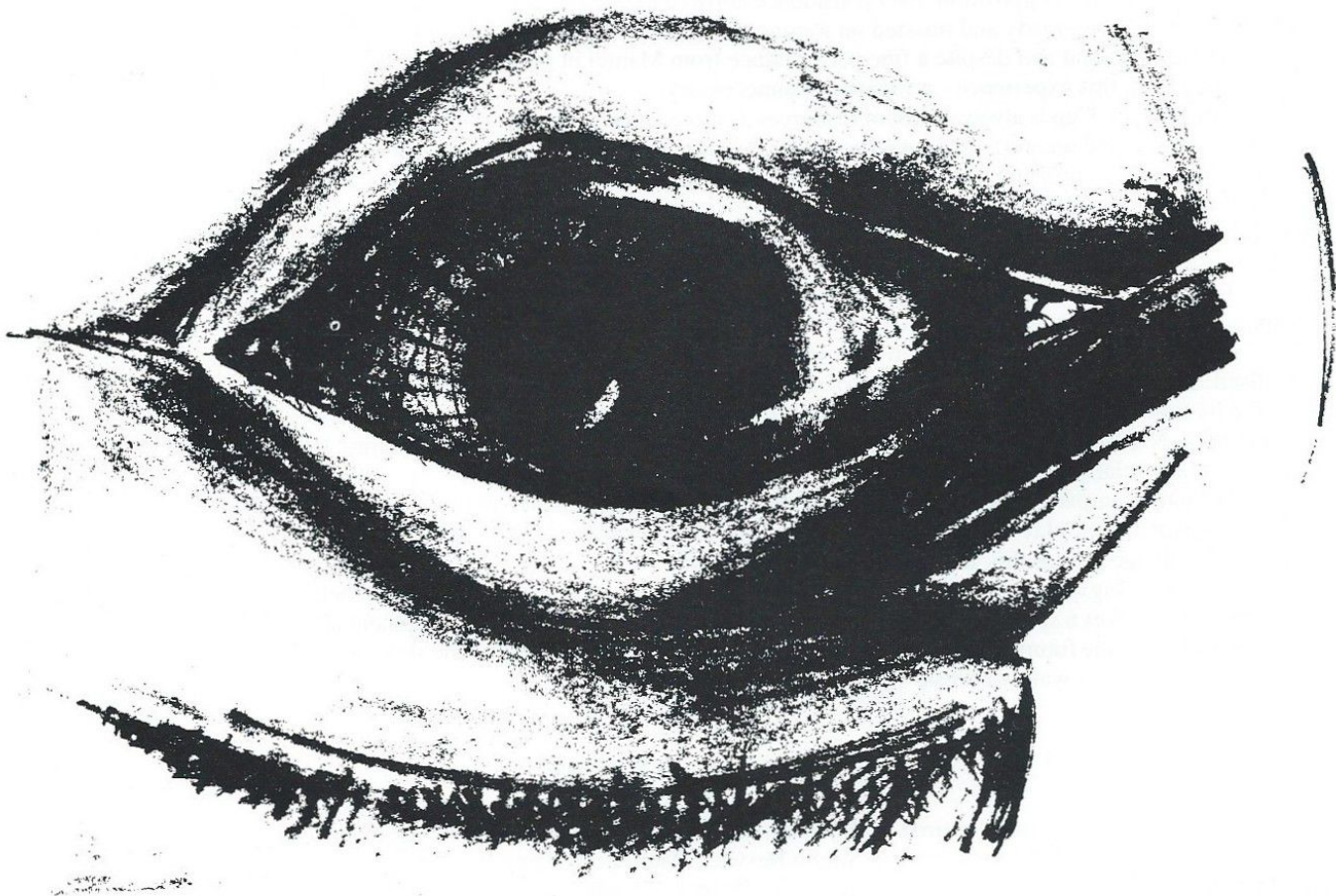
The Junior Knockout team had no problem reaching the final but again suffered from over-confidence. Defeat was inevitable after an early batting collapse - nothing should ever be taken for granted.

Sports Day got off to a bright start with James Brocklehurst winning the third year javelin competition. The third year girls contributed points before Chris Armstrong made his mammoth contribution - of 1st in the long jump (Simon Jones third), 1st in the 100 metres and 1st in the 200 metres, not to mention the winning last leg of the relay. Similarly the third year dominated the 100 metres with first (Martin Wan), second and fifth places. Sara Atkins then won the third year long jump. Tim Collins showed the seniors what could be done by winning the high jump though Mark Dynes missed the final of the triple jump and the shot putt as his bus had a puncture! Gaskell were trailing in fifth place before the relays. However, a magnificent team effort in all the relays and wins in the 4 x 100m third years (boys and girls) and fourth year resulted in a creditable second place, so handing the trophy over to Dalton. A good performance that could have resulted in victory with more support from the seniors. On the other hand, Fred Baama dragged himself in after a night shift, and Cemil Egeli and Jarrod Bull took part in the javelin at a moment's notice. Overall a team contribution - every point counted - and thanks to Darren Lambert and Noel Burton for their efforts to get everybody to the right place at the right time.

A special mention for the third year girls who have entered the House system. They have brought enthusiasm, commitment and success to the third year but that is what the third year boys have always done. The Gaskell girls have worked well together - I hope they continue to do so.

This report naturally comments on various competitions, but the strength of the House system is the inter-relationships, identity, spirit and responsibility that are developed within the system. It is a privilege be associated with such a wide range of individuals, their academic achievements, interests, successes, failures and progress. It is the development of all these different personalities that is the vital component of the House system. Many thanks to Mrs. Derham and Mr. Greenall for their valued contribution throughout the year. Acknowledgements also to P. Jackson, R. Lavorini, L. Tilston, P. Kidd, Y. Schofield, C. Egeli and Noel Burton for contributions to these notes.

H.N. Veevers.



HEYWOOD HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments:

Head of House:	D.J. Smith
Deputy Heads of House:	R.J.V. Avery, A.K. Doney
School Prefects:	R.J.V. Avery, A.K. Doney, P.J. Gallagher, D.J. Smith
House Prefects:	M.A.A. Agha, R.J.V. Avery, D.Y.H. Chow, D.J. Donachie, A.K. Doney, P.J. Gallagher, J.F. Hook, J.J. Johnson, A.N. Kaye, D. Nathan, A. Redstone, J.F.M. Sherratt, D.J. Smith, N.P. Stoker, A.J.M. Warwick.
Senior Knockout Captain:	D.J. Smith
Junior Knockout Captain:	D.A. Taylor
Senior 1st XV Captain:	D.J. Donachie
Senior 2nd XIII Captain:	J.J. Lees
Fourth Form League Captains:	Y. Sayyid, R.K.G. Pimblott
Road Relay Captain:	M.A. Bratt
House Swimming Captains:	Senior : D.J. Donachie Middle : R.K.G. Pimblott Junior : Nicola Miller
House Debating Organiser:	J.M. Kay

The year began with the introduction of girls to the junior end of all the Houses. Heywood had previously seen five girls pass through the Sixth Form but this year we saw six girls in the third year and five Lower Sixth girls new to the School. It was rather disappointing to lose Giles Davidson from the House at Lower Sixth. Giles had represented Heywood in practically every sporting activity and we wish him every success at his new school in Scotland. It was ironic that the fifth years who decided to leave all tended to be excellent sportsmen so the remaining Lower Sixth were likely to be playing more sport at a higher level than anticipated.

Surprisingly, the first major event of the term was the Road Relay Race. The House Masters had always felt that there were too many events in the Lent Term so on a crisp, clear October morning twelve lads and three third year girls gathered ready to run. The positions of the girls' race were to be added to the boys' results to give a final placing - again a change from previous years. Unfortunately, although the girls, Leanne Basso, Nicola Miller and Louise Borg, tried very hard, they came sixth in their race. However, in the boys' race, excellent running from Jose Witter, Neville Clemetson and Ben Myddelton saw us in 4, 5 and 10 positions. When Damian Taylor, Richard Pimblott and James Phillips took over for year 4 Damian managed to improve to second place and James and Richard came in 8th and 10th respectively. Wayne Mason, Tom Howard and Tim Elliott finished 4, 5 and 10 and our final runners Martyn Bratt, Rick Avery and Dylan Nathan came in 6, 9 and 10 giving us 3rd in the lads' race and overall third. This was a very respectable result because we lost three good runners from our original team through injury and illness and drafted in one replacement as late as break of the morning. Colours were awarded to Damian Taylor, James Phillips, Wayne Mason, Tom Howard and Martyn Bratt.

The following afternoon saw a less strenuous, but just as frenzied, House competition - the Debating. Heywood represented by Jonathan Kay and Erica McInnis were to oppose the motion that "This House believes we would rather be European than British". Both spoke very well against a vociferous Dalton pair, coped well with the planted questions from Daltonites in the audience and Jonathan particularly caught the imagination of the judges and audience alike with several witty remarks one of which was how the French prefer their lamb cooked - alive, in diesel oil, on the back of a lorry! Heywood were awarded third place and received special mention from the judges.

The second major event to change terms was the House Swimming. Over several games periods, lunchtimes and evenings, the heats were held and it was pleasing to see Kevin Nolan and Nicola Miller year 3, Damian Taylor, Howard Ash and Richard Pimblott year 4, and Andrew Babicki L6 qualify for the individual finals along with the junior and senior medley relay teams. However, two relay teams and several butterfly/breastroke swimmers were disqualified for fly starts or failing to use two handed touches. Although these mistakes were costly, we were only fighting to avoid the wooden spoon and remarkably we came fifth in both the individual and relay competitions. Colours were awarded to all finalists and I am particularly grateful to Danny Donachie, Richard Pimblott and Nicola Miller for recruiting and organising their respective teams.

The remainder of the term was taken up mainly by rugby and again it was to be mixed fortunes for us. The Senior Knockout proved to be very disappointing. Nick Stoker was out injured from the centres and despite a good first half and a lead of 9-0 we were unable to contain the Whitworth pack and Cassidy broke through twice to score. A 12-9 defeat came as a bit of a shock, particularly as we had contested the last two finals, but we hadn't played well as a team and had no grumbles.

The Junior Knockout saw some good play against a weak Dalton side and a 22-14 win in the first round. The second round against Gaskell proved to be very frustrating. On a very cold and damp day, on a quagmire of a pitch, Heywood started well and scored early in the game. After good work by Damian Taylor and Neville Clemetson, Richard Pimblott went over in the corner to score a try, which was not converted. A missed penalty attempt, right in front of the posts, was to prove costly

and as both teams were looking exhausted Armstrong twice ran half the length of the field to score and give Gaskell a 10-4 victory late in the game. The lads were very dejected afterwards, not because they felt they could have beaten Whitworth in the final but, because they felt they had not taken their chances on the day. Colours were awarded to Damian Taylor, Shahid Hussain and Matthew McLean, three school squad members and the backbone of the team. It was also very pleasing to see Joe Sayyid taken onto the squad after his performance against Dalton.

The House leagues, so often a non-event for Heywood proved to be very rewarding. The seniors, in the last two years, had been blessed with squad players, had been very successful in the Knockout and what could least be described as unfortunate in the leagues certainly, last year, the first team never won a match! However, we started the term well against a depleted and disorganised Gaskell side and the confidence gained from a victory started to produce, not only results, but excellent play as well. After three good wins we saw off our biggest threat, Whitworth, with an 18-6 victory and followed up by winning our fifth match against Fraser - although in this match we played particularly badly in the second half and could quite easily have been beaten. With two matches to play we came across a very determined Dalton side who managed to injure our fly-half, Danny Donachie, in the first minute and with Darren Elliott missing at full back and Martyn Bratt missing on the wing we lost all our rhythm and eventually lost 24-22. Winning our final match meant we shared the trophy with Whitworth and, despite the disappointment of the Dalton game, it had proved to be a very exciting competition with many matches played to a high standard. When Heywood played together as a team it was very good to watch. The pack's scrummaging was very consistent, they supported each other well and several players, including James Hook and Shaun McConnell, scored tries in House league for the first time. The backs struggled on occasions mainly due to Andrew Doney's inability to pass from right to left in early matches and the others' ineptitude at catching. However, when the backs 'clicked' they looked very formidable and scored many tremendous tries. The two centres, Andy Redstone and Andrew Doney scored nine and eight tries respectively. Danny Donachie at fly-half set up many chances with his superb kicking ability and was reliable from any angle with conversions, as well as scoring several tries. Darren Elliott proved immensely reliable at full back, Martyn Bratt is an excellent prospect on the wing and two fifth years, Simon Copsey and Ben Bulger did sterling work as flanker and hooker respectively. It is a credit to the team that only 17 players were used during the term, and so much was the will to win that House colours were awarded to these 17 people.

The Second XIII was always going to struggle but due to Jonathan Lees as Captain and the willingness of others to fill in, often at short notice, Heywood eventually finished fifth in their league. This was mainly due to a couple of walk-overs and often it would have been easy to give up. However, Mr. Wood praised the whole team, late in the term, for their commitment and never-say-die attitude whilst refereeing another Heywood thrashing.

The fourth form league team was rather inconsistent and we finished third. We drew with the worst team in the league, giving them their only point of the term, yet beat the team in second place. Over the coming years many of this team will prove to be very useful in the senior league and more importantly they seem to enjoy rugby, win or lose.

The third form league was abolished this year with an emphasis being placed on coaching the players not in the squad. Heywood had 13 lads in the third year, seven on the squad, two with injured hands and four others. An inter- House competition of sorts was held, in two pools, and miraculously Heywood came joint second, with Gaskell, although there must have been some evening up of sides to achieve this outcome with four players!

The remaining rugby competitions were the sevens. In the Ray Cox Tournament, for the seniors, Heywood definitely fancied their chances. However, Dom Smith and Martin Barnes received concussion, Nick Stoker turned an ankle and Pete Gallagher injured an achilles tendon playing for School on the preceding Saturday and despite the latter two insisting on playing we were always going to struggle. The first team, in Dom and Nick, lost two of its best backs and suffered two heavy defeats. Fortunately, the second team played very well, and won both their pool matches. 6-0 v. Gaskell and 12-0 v. Fraser, and reached the finals.

The third team beat a strong Whitworth team 10-4 and after leading Dalton 10-0 let it slip to an 18-10 defeat. Fortunately they qualified for the finals, on goal difference, although they lost to Byrom. The second team in their final, lost 14-12 v. Dalton in a very close game and, remarkably, if Heywood had managed to win this match they could have shared the trophy with three other Houses. However, our defeats by Dalton left them with the trophy and we had to settle for fourth place - a creditable performance in the circumstances. House Colours were awarded to all players.

The highlight of the term had to be the newly devised junior sevens competition. Heywood were not strong in the 4th year but had a brilliant team, all squad members, in the 3rd year. A fortunate draw saw the best two Houses, Gaskell and Whitworth, in the opposite pool to Heywood's fourth years and, after an easy victory against Fraser 14-4, we struggled to overcome Byrom in the second pool match. With time running out and the score 4-4 Vineesh Khurana received the ball in his own 22, and ran the length of the field to score, giving us a 10-4 win and a place in the final against Whitworth. The third years had few problems and comfortably beat Byrom 20-0, and Whitworth 16-4, to play Gaskell in the final. As the third year final was played first, a win against Gaskell was sufficient to win the trophy. In a very one-sided match Heywood trounced Gaskell 30-4 and played some excellent rugby. The fourth years put Whitworth under a lot of pressure in their final but on three occasions moves broke down in the Whitworth 22 only for their centres to run the length of the field to score.

The result of 22-4 did not do justice to the excellent efforts of the entire team, but sevens can be a very infuriating game. House Colours were awarded to the fifteen players used on the afternoon; it was especially pleasing to be the first winners of a new trophy and a very satisfying way to finish the term.

LENT TERM

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain:	J.F.M. Sherratt
Junior Knockout Captain:	Y. Sayyid
1st X Captain:	N.P. Stoker

2nd X Captains:	M.D. Barnes & S. McConnell
Fourth Form Lacrosse League Captain:	S. Hussain
Third Form Lacrosse League Captain:	B.A. Myddelton
Third Form Netball:	Nicola M. Miller
Third Form Hockey:	Leanne M. Basso
House Play Producer:	M.J. Booth
House Music Organiser:	J.F. Hook

The term was to be an unusually short one and, although the Road Relay Race and Swimming were now in the Michaelmas Term, we had the inter-House Netball and Hockey competitions to consider as new events for the third year girls. With the mock 'A' Level exams falling the week prior to half-term it was decided to appoint 10 Lower Sixth as House Prefects to permanently assume the duties of the Upper Sixth so the Upper Sixth could concentrate on their studies. These were: Sophie Larkin, Shaun McConnell, Jonathan Kay, Matt Booth, Martin Barnes, Louise Martin, Erica McInnis, Martyn Bratt, Andy Babicki and Richard Moore. I was also requested to nominate two Lower Sixth to join the rota to supervise duties normally covered by the School Prefects, and in recognition of the dedication shown to the School and Heywood House by two girls new to the Lower Sixth, Sophie Larkin and Erica McInnis were selected. Matt Booth and Richard Moore were asked to compile a duty list and were to act as temporary Heads of House whilst Dom Smith, Richard Avery and Andrew Doney were unavailable.

At Senior Level the 1st X only played two games due to inclement weather and unfit pitches and no trophy was awarded - although we were candidates for the wooden spoon after defeats by Fraser & Gaskell.

The 2nd X fared much better playing five and winning three. At one stage we had a chance of winning the trophy but defeat by Dalton in our final match gave them the trophy and we finished third. My thanks go to Martin Barnes and Shaun McConnell for their motivation on the pitch as captains and to Julian Daniel, in particular, for standing in as goalkeeper, often at short notice. Amongst this team were several very good Fifth years who will be very useful in the House League in future.

In previous years Heywood had been particularly strong in the Senior Lacrosse Knockout but this year we knew we were likely to struggle. Our plight was made worse by the loss of Wayne Mason, the School Second X goalkeeper, which meant instant promotion for Jonathan Kay, who in the first round against Byrom, pulled off many fines saves. We trailed throughout the match and at 3-1 down in the final quarter we looked finished. However, the superb fitness and speed of Danny Donachie, Dom Smith, Nick Stoker, Jonny Johnson, Si Copsey and Martyn Bratt led us to score four goals, all from counter-attacks, to win 5-3. In the second round, against Whitworth, we were completely outplayed by one man, Gareth Jameson, who dominated the play and it seemed he could have scored whenever he felt like it. 6-4 did not show the difference between the two sides on the day.

The Junior Knockout drew us with Dalton and we played to the best of our abilities but lacked sufficient pace in midfield. The result was a comfortable victory for Dalton, 6-2.

In the Fourth Form League we had some very useful players and won all our matches, up until the last one against Gaskell. In a fiercely contested game we lost 6-5 and also the trophy, having to settle for second. House Colours were awarded to the entire team who over two years had represented Heywood particularly well.

There was no Third Year League, as such, with a greater emphasis on skills. At the end of term, over two weeks, an inter-House League Knockout was held, without squad players. Heywood beat both Whitworth and Gaskell, 5-1, in their league to play Dalton in the final place knockout. In a game very similar to our Junior Knockout match we were always second best and lost 5-2.

Whilst dealing with the Lacrosse I would like to thank Dan Berkerey, the American Lacrosse coach, for all his help. I received many favourable comments about his commitment and dedication from people in the House and know many Heywood Lacrosse players benefited greatly from his coaching.

After many weeks of coaching netball and hockey to the Third Year girls Mrs. Pollard organised two new competitions. As Heywood only had five Third Year girls the games would be run with 5-a-side teams. Unfortunately, Heywood were drawn against the strongest House, Gaskell, in both competitions.

In the Netball we lost to Gaskell 5-10 and beat Fraser 12-0. This put us into a play-off with Byrom for third/fourth place and unfortunately we lost 7-5, mainly because Byrom had one of the School's goal attack players who invariably scored when given the ball.

The Hockey proved even more frustrating. After Gaskell and Dalton drew 0-0, Heywood played Dalton, missed two open goals, had all the play and eventually scored two seconds after the final whistle! We then came up against a strong Gaskell side who thrashed us 5-0 and because of the result against Dalton we had to be content with playing off for fifth/sixth spot. However, we comfortably finished fifth with a 2-0 win over Fraser.

By the penultimate week of term we had not really looked like winning anything and the Hewlett Cup was still to be decided. In what had to be one of Heywood's worst ever performances we finished sixth, winning only four matches out of 16 and reaching only 1 final.

At this point it seemed that the whole term was going to be a disaster for Heywood and after such a polished performance in the play last year the rehearsals for this year's play, "The Crickets Sing" by Beverley Cross, were not going particularly well. Matt Booth, as producer, had chosen the play early, had an excellent, if slightly large, cast and had used the half-term holiday and weekends well to rehearse. Whether it was the shortness of the half-term or clashes with other activities we never seemed to have a full complement of actors when needed. During a frantic last week we put the dress rehearsal back to the very last moment, Mrs. Statham and myself were charging back and forth to hire costumes and various members of the cast were still learning scripts whilst others were collecting or making props - because 1642 is not the easiest period in History to dress. The dress rehearsal, on the day before the actual performance went particularly well! and, with the play being a farce with a lot of visual jokes in it, timing was going to be crucial.

The performance itself was superb and went down very well with the audience. Even when the stage staff couldn't make the starting pistol fire, when Bob Luke (Sophie Larkin) is supposed to kill Orlando (Andy Babicki), Andrew Doney had already suggested she take a dagger with her on stage, in case the gun didn't fire, so she could stab him instead - which she did. This was absolutely typical of the attention to detail shown by all the people concerned with the play and it was very pleasing to be awarded first place and to see Andy Babicki receive the best actor award for the second year running. I must thank Mrs. Statham for helping so much with the costumes and props for this performance and particularly for all the time she gave to attend rehearsals. House Colours were awarded to all those concerned with the play and Mr. & Mrs. Lowe's full report can be read elsewhere - it would be wrong for me to single out any one actor/actress as the whole performance reflected the dedication and commitment of the House.

The last event of the term was the House Music Competition and a very varied selection of acts was assembled from Andy Babicki on the accordion playing Tchaikovsky's "Neopolitan Song", James Hook, Andrew Doney & Dylan Nathan performing New Order's "Blue Monday" to Sophie Larkin, with Rick Avery in drag, doing Joyce Grenfell's "Stately as Two Galleons"; to name three. Despite there being no audience the judges greatly appreciated the Music Hall act of Sophie and Rick and, along with other excellent performances, we were placed first. I must express my sympathy to other Houses who had people fail to turn up or lost musicians through illness, but we were absolutely delighted because it gave us the chance to perform both the play and a selection from the music on the last Tuesday afternoon of term. House Colours were awarded to all musicians.

In front of the School the highlight of the music had to be the response of the audience to Sophie and Rick with their novelty piece. In the song's lyrics Sophie was meant to be 14 stones so with the help of much padding and a pillow up the front of her dress she and Rick started to dance across the stage whilst singing. However, it soon became apparent that Sophie's padding wasn't very secure and the number finished with Sophie's pillow dropping out with the audience in fits of hysterics. It was widely accepted that after such a performance Sophie should collect the House Music trophy from the Head Master in assembly to finish off what had been a very hectic few days for Heywood and an excellent end of term.

SUMMER TERM

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain:	A.K. Doney
Junior Knockout Captain:	A.M. Watkins
Athletics Captains: Senior -	M.A. Bratt
Fourth -	M.A. McLean
Third (Boys) -	D. Grove
Third (Girls) -	Louise Borg
Rounders Captain (Third Yr Girls) -	Dalia Daud

The Senior Cricket saw us drawn against Byrom in the first round. We decided to bat first and scored 158 out of which Andrew Doney scored 88 before playing a very rash shot in trying to push the score along. In reply, Byrom lost their first team batsman, Ekstein, cheaply but continued to score freely and their strength in depth told when they reached 159-7 with plenty of overs left. As Byrom went on to win the trophy it was pleasing to see Heywood give them such a good match particularly as several of our team were not really cricketers at all. Colours were awarded to Andy Redstone, Pete Gallagher, Ben Rimron, Julian Daniel and Andrew Doney who skippered the side very well indeed.

The Junior Knockout side suffered a similar fate to the Seniors. Again we played Byrom, only this time in the second round, after a bye in the first, and the team consisted of three or four recognised cricketers and several willing others. Heywood batted first and despite losing Damian Taylor very early Joe Sayyid (44) and Andy Watkins (26) scored well, taking the total to 89-1 at lunch. However, as overs ran out our later batsmen collapsed and we reached 120-6. Excellent bowling from Damian Taylor, with little reward, and good support bowling from Joe Sayyid and Ben Myddelton kept Byrom under pressure but we were desperately short of bowlers. Dave Grove, Neville Clemetson and Jose Witter all bowled with varying degrees of accuracy and success but Byrom comfortably reached 121-6 with just over half their overs used. Colours were awarded to Andy Watkins, Joe Sayyid, Damian Taylor and Ben Myddelton - the backbone of the side.

Other sporting activities during the term were very varied. There was squad cricket, squad tennis, 8-a-side cricket for the lads, rounders for the girls and athletics. A fair amount of enjoyment seemed to be gained when the weather allowed.

As half-term approached House Masters were informed of their new intake and, as a new idea, were given a very useful period to talk to them. I spoke to them for a while but felt they would learn more from sixth formers already in Heywood and so had arranged for Heywood's four temporary School Prefects to do this - Sophie Larkin and Erica McInnis, themselves new to the House eight months earlier and Matt Booth and Shaun McConnell longer 'inmates'. Sophie and Erica spoke very well about the difficulty of establishing oneself in a new and larger environment but impressed upon them to give it a go and to make the best of it as the rewards were very satisfying. Shaun talked about House sport and about attitude, dedication and commitment to Heywood on the sportsfield. Matt, well known for his preference to do anything rather than sport, spoke tremendously well about how, as a third year, he felt everything seemed to revolve around sport and went on to explain how he had become greatly involved in drama and that everyone within the House should be able to contribute something somewhere. The messages delivered by these four Lower Sixth were truly excellent and left me in no doubt they would make very reliable School Prefects. In the last week of term I was delighted when Jonathan Kay and Louise Martin were also appointed. As there was going to be many demands on these students' time Giles Fisher, Mark Yadid and Chris Conroy were appointed House Prefects making thirteen in all.

Another old venture to rear its head again was the tuckshop. During the year the rugby tourists to America and then Gaskell House had loaned the tuckshop to raise funds. Chris Conroy and Richard Moore kindly offered to take on the running of it and a small team of sales people was assembled. I would like to thank these people for all their hard work as the profits help greatly in providing equipment for the House and to subsidise trips.

As a thank-you to all the people involved with the play and music successes, from the Lent Term, we finally managed to arrange a very enjoyable bowling trip during the half-term holiday, although looking at the way some of the Lower Sixth bowled I think, without naming names, they might be better sticking to acting!

Immediately after the exams the Third Year girls took part in an Inter-House Rounders tournament and, once again, luck was not on Heywood's side. Whitworth, Dalton and Heywood were in the same pool and each House won one match and lost one match. As the number of rounders scored was exactly the same for each House the positions were decided by rounders against and Heywood were placed third by half a rounder! In the fifth/sixth play-off Heywood comfortably won against Fraser.

The final event of the term was the athletics. Heywood used every Third Year and all but two Fourth Years in the heats and by the end of the day we had many qualifiers for Sports Day. However, one of our best senior athletes, Martyn Bratt, who had qualified for three finals, was unable to compete due to an army course and several fifth and upper sixth formers were on holiday. Dalton won the trophy easily with 217 points and Heywood finished third with 186 points - a mere 4 points behind Gaskell with 190 points in second. Notable successes on the day were Dave Grove winning the 200m with a new record, Neville Clemetson winning the 800m, both in year 3, and Julian Daniel winning the senior 100m. Many other competitors earned points with lower placings and it was particularly pleasing to see Heywood's relay teams record three second and three third places. All competitors who scored points were awarded House Colours and included were Leanne Basso, Daniel Hassan, Marc Kaye and José Witter who all received colours for the first time.

Overall it had been a pleasing term and a good year. Apart from the Hewlett Cup we performed well in all the activities and had several outstanding successes. I would like to thank Mrs. Statham and Mr. Gracey for their support and interest during the year and Dom Smith as Head of House and Andrew Doney and Richard Avery as Deputies deserve special mention. These three lads showed limitless energy, tremendous commitment and excellent leadership through the year and were a superb example to the rest of the House.

L. Sharp.

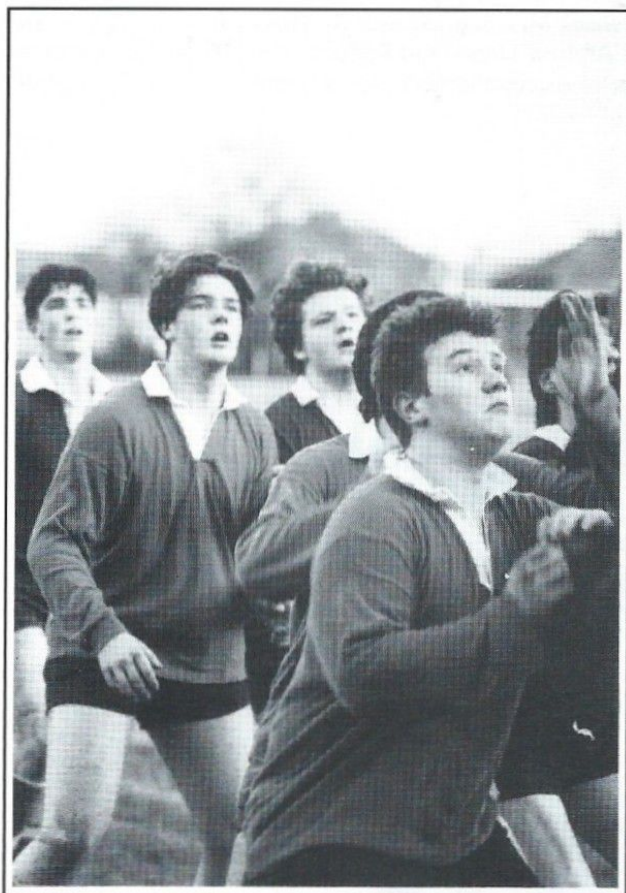


WHITWORTH HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Gil White, as Head of House, and Stephen Williams, his deputy, led an enthusiastic group of House Prefects at the beginning of the year. The Prefects were Patrick Cassidy, Mahbubur Rashid, David Bradley, Gareth Jameson and Scott Haber; Darren Grant and Peter Cohen were soon added to the list. All were confident of success in house competitions after a pleasingly successful sports day prior to the summer holidays. Our sixth form numbers were boosted by the entry of six girls into the House from other schools. We also welcome Fernando Rojas (via Cheadle Hulme) and a very promising set of new Third Formers. Among them were six girls, who, we hoped, were going to take advantage of some additional House activities designed to serve their special interests. Catherine Lewis was the first to take advantage and, by November, had done enough for the House to earn herself the title of House Prefect, along with Nick Cherry, Anish Mehta and Nick Williams. Daniel Moss was appointed to organise House Music.

The shop was managed by Scott Haber, with Rashid and Peter Cohen as joint treasurers. In the course of the term profits helped to pay for a junior trip to Laser Quest one lunchtime and a Prefects' social outing to Sheff's restaurant in Manchester as well as other smaller items of expenditure.



Danny Moss and Henry Slack showing concentration in the line-out during the Final. (Photo: P. M. Bull)

Stephen Williams was made captain of rugby, assisted by Patrick Cassidy in the Senior Knock-out and Anish Mehta in the Junior Knock-out preparations. In the first round of the Senior Knock-out, we met Heywood. We dominated the first half but failed to score, Heywood managed to kick clear all too often. Nevertheless, we went down nine points in this half due to a penalty kick and a try, later converted, wide on the right wing. The second half brought us our due reward for better play: Cassidy and Jameson were outstanding, but fine efforts were made by all our players. The final result, a 12-9 win, reflected a keenly played and competitive match. In the second round we met Fraser. On this occasion we were struggling after five minutes: although we did not concede a try, we spent an agonising fifteen minutes near our touchline as Fraser made every effort to get past our defenders. Fortunately, they did not succeed and we eventually gained the lead. After half-time we played with renewed spirit and, in the end, won comfortably by seventeen points to six. The final, played against Gaskell, was lost by just 14-10. We began without David Cooper and Steven Williams who were injured and, during the match, also lost Ben Forshaw and Crispin Jones to injuries. The match was played very keenly, however, and all credit is due to our players who so very nearly won us the cup.

The first House League rugby match was played against Byrom. Despite the inevitable rawness of play, it was a match which held out much promise for the season: Sharma, Cherry and Elliott were only a few of the players who already showed a high degree of skill at House match level; a good team effort led to a comfortable 24-9 win. The second match, against Fraser, led to a comfortable 26-10 win, but only after a tightly-fought first half. Good

team spirit, with commendable leadership from Steve Williams, made our team look unbeatable once we first took the lead. The match against Dalton was played very hard by both sides, but good sportsmanship and quality play were the main reasons why the Whitworth side finished deserved winners by 14 points to 9. Our captain Steve Williams was afterwards congratulated by Mr. Briggs, the referee, on having produced a side which displayed an admirable ability to withstand exceptionable pressures. The fourth match was crucial for us and for our opponents, Heywood, because we both were clear leaders in the House League. Unfortunately, this match brought our first defeat, 18-6. It was a fine match, played in the best spirit and, although disappointed, we could have few regrets about losing to a team which showed better running, passing and tackling while we seemed to lack some of the inspiration of previous matches. Bad weather caused the cancellation of the next outing, but when we eventually played Gaskell (one week after we had lost to them in the KO final) we found we were facing a team diminished both in morale and numbers and won 54-6. Steve Williams managed three tries - for one of which he had to run half the length of the field - and remained (in admittedly foggy weather) steaming for half an hour after the end of the match. With two possible matches left we were in second place, needing Heywood to lose and us to keep on winning. We played Fraser and beat them 34-4, leaving the final match of the term (after Christmas lunch!) to decided who was to win the League. A tentative approach was made at Housemaster level to challenge Heywood, but this met with a refusal so we had to be content with a match against Dalton (who the previous week had beaten Heywood) while Heywood had a match against relatively easy opposition. As expected, it was a hard match, but this time it was played in excellent spirit by both sides: Whitworth won 30-22 and thereby shared the league with Heywood.



Whitworth: winners of the Junior Knock-Out rugby. (Photo: P. M. Bull)



The Whitworth Senior Knock-Out finalists. (Photo: P. M. Bull)

Matthew Butterworth's Junior KO team began confidently with an overwhelming 38-0 victory against Fraser. Strong and heavy in the scrum and possessing good passing skills, Fraser seemed unlikely at any stage to have a chance once we began to score. The second round match against Byrom, last year's winners, was won comfortably, but only after a few training sessions designed to improve the only vulnerable aspect of our play: tackling. This proved crucial when a number of dangerous situations were only controlled due to some excellent tackling from all players. So, for the first time in years, Whitworth was not only in one final but two. The final was played two days after our senior team lost after a great battle against Gaskell, whom they had to beat this time. The whole team played well, with splendid examples of genuine skill from Matthew Butterworth, Tim Allen, Stuart Murray, Ian Sherwin and Damian Brown. Whitworth took the lead by an excellent individual try by Allen which was later added to by Butterworth - a powerful twenty-yard run and a somewhat extravagant dive over the line. Despite this Gaskell has equalised and the victory was only gained when Bradley Jones caught a poor clearance kick, ran twenty yards and allowed Stuart Murray to score. The final score was 15-8.

An innovation this year was a Junior Sevens tournament, run on similar lines to the senior version. Our third year team tried very hard, beating Fraser and giving favourites Heywood some nasty moments. However, it was the fourth years who were unbeatable. In the final they produced splendid form to break the spirit of a good Heywood team; once Allen made a difficult conversion, Whitworth never looked back. Our final position was third.

After a successful master-minding of athletics the previous term and his own outstanding personal performances it was obviously going to be Patrick Cassidy who was made captain of cross-country running. Several practices were arranged, but, as last year, there was a disappointing turn-out from older boys. Cathy Lewis and Vicky Clarke assisted in an early girls' practice and enabled us to discover that we had several reasonable runners among the girls; the following day, at the third year boys practice, a similar standard was discovered. On the day of the road relay, a disappointment was

that we needed to use no less than four of our reserve runners. The poor final result of fifth was alleviated only by the news that Patrick Cassidy once again turned out the fastest individual time of the whole School.

Nick Cherry began early the search for a suitable play for the year's House Production but when he became too involved with the School Play he passed the burden over to Catherine Lewis, who was to become the House Play Producer, with Mr. G.H. Jones as the member of Staff to advise.

Just before half-term there was a second House Debating Competition. Our team consisted of Gil White and Andrew Reid and, after particularly good speeches by both, we were delighted (but not surprised) to learn that we had won the competition.



Anish Mehta coaching an enthusiastic group of Junior Knock-Out players. (Photo: P.M. Bull)

Danny Keller was nominally in charge of House Swimming and was assisted by Tony Foster, Stuart Walters, Ian Sherwin and Fernando Rojas. Two important absentees from the fifth form on the afternoon of the senior heats led to a disappointing number of finalists from this age group. Fortunately, the fourth years provided a good number of finalists; in addition, we had relay teams through in most events. When the finals took place our entry turned out to be the most disastrous one for years when, due to muddled messages and key people being absent from School or otherwise unobtainable, two of our relay teams were short of swimmers. The direct consequence of this was that we finished in last place for relay events. Our individual swimmers did their best and enabled us to reach fourth place, a position which was all the more respectable because we were well above the final two Houses.

During the term we had our disappointments, certainly, but it was a successful term since we had won the Junior Knock-out Cup, we were finalists in the Senior version, equal first in the Senior House League for rugby and winners of the Debating Competition.

LENT TERM

At a meeting early on in the term, the following new Prefects were appointed: Vicky Clarke, Ben Forshaw, Danny Moss and Chris Williamson.

The first senior lacrosse match of the season was played against Gaskell. Absence of captain Dave Bradley brought Patrick Cassidy to lead the side, which was packed with keen fifth-formers. Early season rustiness led to a disappointing 5-1 defeat, made worse by the sending-off of one of our players. Edward Slack, valiant in goal as so often in the past, had his work cut out to keep the result as close as it was. The second team, led by John Collis, also lost but showed a good attitude and some perseverance. The following week's matches were played against Byrom: the first team lost 4-8 and the second 3-9. In neither match, however, was there any evidence of the poor attitude shown the previous Thursday when our Junior Knock-out team lost disastrously following a miserable lack of preparation. These two league days proved to be the only ones, due to other events and poor weather causing cancellations.

In the Senior Knock-out Competition we had considerable success, much to the delight of everyone in the House. We had a first round bye and for the second round we were without Nick Holder or Anish Mehta, two of our four School squad players. Despite this disadvantage, we beat Heywood 6-4 with some confidence. The final was played against favourites Gaskell and we still lacked Mehta who was injured. A silly own goal very early led to some panicky defence and we were quickly 3-1 down; however, we made a good recovery and indeed never looked like losing overwhelmingly. The match had an exciting last five minutes, when the possibility of winning became a reality; the final result was a 9-8 defeat.

After the poor attitude shown by our fourth year lacrosse players towards preparation, one felt sorry for Junior Knock-out captain Bradley Jones who had had high hopes for a typical doughty Whitworth performance, but was seriously let down by some of our best players. Three members of the fourth year later represented Lancashire at lacrosse and won the tournament against South England and Cheshire in March. The boys concerned were Bradley Jones, Nick Owen and Ian Sherwin.