

Meanwhile Nancy and Jimmy were at the station waiting for Jimmy's grandad. When Nancy had found Jimmy on the floor, she had witnessed Mrs. Andrews beating him, so she rang Jimmy's grandad as he was Jimmy's only other relative in the world. When he found out he said he would be over as soon as possible on the next train. Jimmy now felt a lot better. Nancy had cared for him before and this was no exception. She had carried him out to the taxi. In the taxi she had given him some medicine to make him feel stronger; now, after a forty-five minute ride in a taxi, he felt a lot better. He walked over to the arrival board to see what time the train from London would arrive. "Ages yet" he thought to himself. "An hour and a half to wait, seems like years." So he returned to his seat and sat down next to Nancy. "Why don't you go and have a look around?" she suggested. "O.K." said Jimmy. In desperation to see his grandad, Jimmy went back to the arrival board. "Oh" he thought to himself. The train 'RX1' which his grandad was on was due in forty-five minutes. He moved away slowly. Looking at all the food made him feel hungry. He fished about in his pocket and came out with five pence. Jimmy spotted a food store; his urge for food became stronger. Jimmy walked up to the store, grabbed an apple, hid it behind his back, ran up the escalator and mingled in the crowd. He leaned over some railings and looked at his watch. Fifteen minutes to wait. Suddenly he saw the train already in the station and realised the train was early. He spotted his grandad sitting on a bench, ran over to his grandad and they embraced. Then, when they had found Nancy, they all went home and Grandad sorted everything out.

Charmaine Golaub (2C)

* * * *

PRISONER

He landed at the bottom of the wall with a thud and crouched. So far so good. He listened, feeling his ears move on his head as he strained to pick up the sounds of the guards on the wall top. Complete silence. Had they heard him then? Even now, they were probably peering down at him, taking aim. He waited, narrowing his eyes as if that might make him less visible. Then he took a tight grip on his emotions, and told himself not to be such a damned fool.

He was free, but he had not yet escaped: he still had to reach the wood and, after that, the road - without being seen.

It was a cold night, there being little cloud cover, and wet too. Earlier in the day, the prisoners had exercised in the courtyard during a heavy downpour. The ground was soft - too soft. The lightest pressure made a distinct imprint in the mud. There was also the search-light to contend with, but it panned across at a steady speed, so you could count how long you had to make a move. The bright full moon cast long, dark shadows around the wall and the trees - the only form of cover in the hundred yards between prison and woodland.

He had reached the point of no return.

It was Saturday night and the soldiers were in high spirits. The sound of laughing and the chink of beer glasses floated down from the guard-house through the still night air.

He rose slowly and silently, his back sliding up the wall, then edged along cautiously under the protective mantle of darkness. He estimated the shortest route to the wood, and counted as the huge silver disc glided towards him. He ducked. It passed. He ran.

He collapsed, gasping, against a gnarled trunk. His lungs were burning as he swayed from side to side, not knowing which way to turn. Once again he gathered himself together, trying to convince himself that pain existed solely in the mind. He had to get on. The alarm would soon be raised. There was no time to waste.

Somehow he managed to talk himself through the forest. He was like a child climbing the stairs to bed, listening out for the ghosts and the demons. But these demons were all too real. Every crack of a twig, every rustling leaf, every cry of a bird made him nervous, and he had to stop. After ten years' imprisonment, he almost missed the security of those ageless, impassive walls of bland concrete. He felt exposed and vulnerable.

Perhaps he could hitch a lift. Some hope! Who would take a rough-looking individual on board! His grimy prison overalls were stained with sweat and urine. The cut on his hand, where it had caught on the barbed wire, was dripping large scarlet beads of blood. His head had been shaved a week before, and his scalp was now as grey as those walls. He was haggard and drawn, ghastly to behold in the queer moonlight. Besides, the patrol vehicles would be up and down all night.

He parted the foliage, squinted through the undergrowth at the dazzling, wet road and sank back into the mud. What chance had he got?

In the distance, the sirens were wailing. The escape had been discovered. Some escape! He picked a sodden flower from the hedgerow and slowly and deliberately plucked off its petals one by one. Then he let them fall from hand to hand. He had nothing left. All his letters and photographs had been torn, defaced and flung onto a fire before his very eyes. That was probably the worst thing of all - not the physical pain but the fact that you lost everything. There was neither dignity nor privacy back there. He sat in the mud, in the ditch, in the rain, and he cursed, throwing down the petals. Brown water splashed in his face as he beat his fists on the ground.

The drone of an army jeep's engine was drawing nearer. The wheels threw up the rain water from the tarmac with a sound like crunching paper. The ditch became brighter with the glare of the head-lights.

He waited, narrowing his eyes as if that might make him less visible.

Michael Clark (5X)

THE CENTENARY OF THE "HULMEIAN", 1890 - 1990

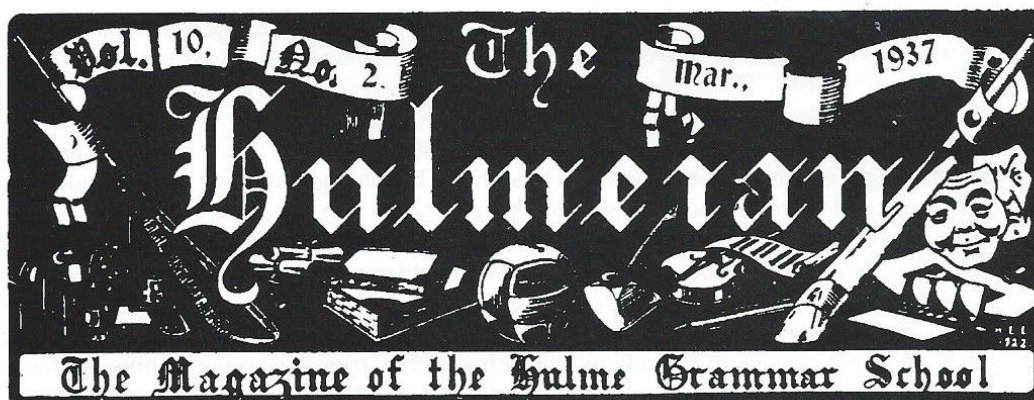
Three years ago, when the School celebrated its Centenary, the "Hulmeian" very properly gave full coverage to this historic landmark. This year marks a much lesser centenary, but one which nevertheless deserves some mention, that of the "Hulmeian" magazine. In 1890, after three years, some Hulmeians were about to leave for the big wide world outside - there was no Sixth Form here in those days - and it was felt appropriate to begin a permanent record of Hulmeian life. Hence the magazine, as the first ever article, published in facsimile in the 1987 Centenary "Hulmeian", explained. Since 1890, the "Hulmeian" has uninterruptedly chronicled the School's doings, and articles such as "Notes and News" go right back to the beginning.

For eighty of its hundred years' history, the "Hulmeian" was published three times a year, each edition containing 20 to 30 pages; only in 1970 (the year that Dr. Clark, Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Grant arrived) did it become an annual publication. The one exception was the Lent Term of 1895, when "the prolonged frost of the early months of the year" meant no sport, hence no magazine. This amounted to an admission that the "Hulmeian" was almost all about sport, as indeed it was for at least the first quarter of its life. Fortunately this imbalance has now been redressed.

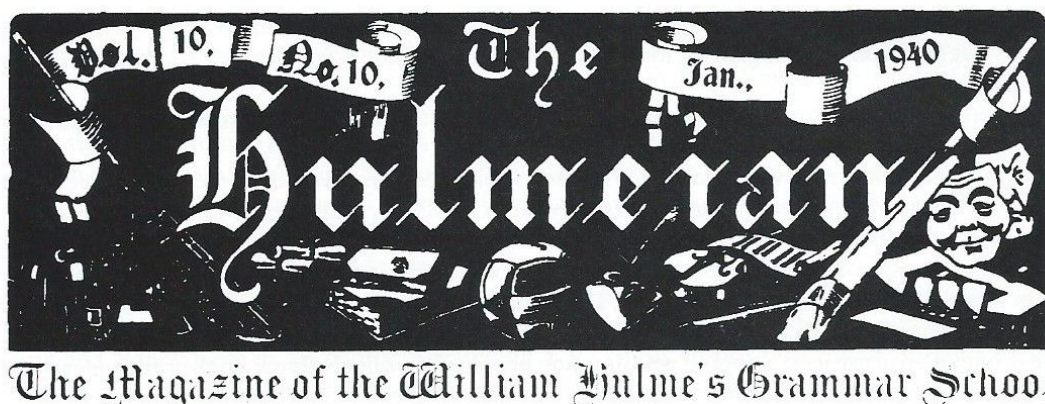
From 1892 until 1922, the first page logo looked like this:



and from 1922 until 1939 it looked like this:



On Monday, July 24, 1939 the Head Master, Mr. Trevor Dennis, announced at Speech Day that the School would in future be known, not any more as "The Hulme Grammar School" (as on our red fire bucket by the stairs from the Junior Cloak Room to the Staff Room), but as "William Hulme's". Hence the slight change to the first page logo in January 1940:



The word "the" before "William Hulme's" was dropped after only two issues:



The Magazine of William Hulme's Grammar School

From 1948 until 1965 the first page logo became much more sober:

The HULMEIAN

The Magazine of William Hulme's Grammar School

VOL. XII.

MARCH, 1948

No. 5

In October 1965 the large bold print, now familiar to us in all but the Sports articles, replaced the smaller print that had always characterised the entire magazine up till then. Until 1982, when Dr. Dean introduced the new opening title page empty of extraneous copy, the opening page now shared the magazine's title logo with the list of contents.

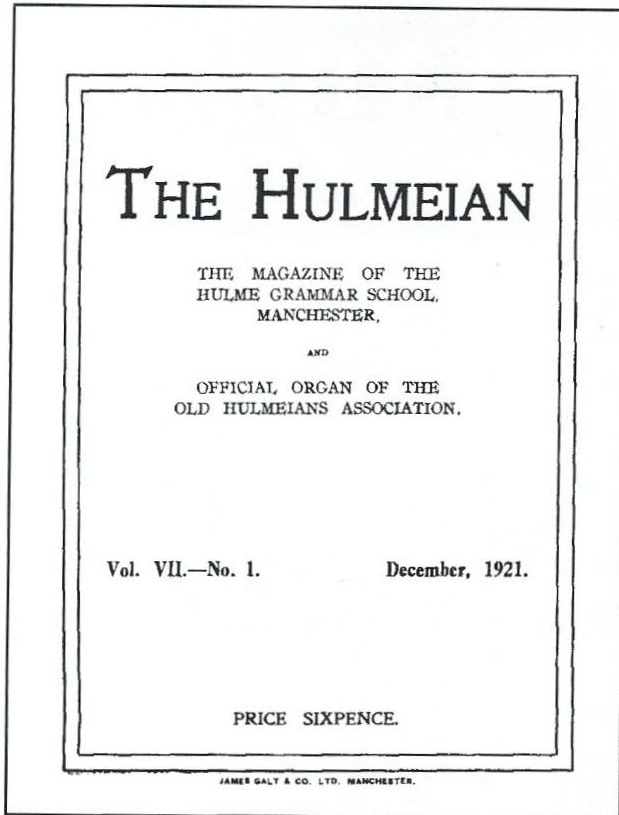
In 1987, for the Centenary Edition, the entire format of the "Hulmeian" was enlarged to the present A4 size - the new volumes have not yet reached the shelves of the Donner Library! The "Hulmeian", like the School, changes its shape, its content and its tone with the passing ages, but the continuity has never been broken.

A browse through all the back numbers of the "Hulmeian" in the Donner makes fascinating reading. For example, from 1893, right up until the 1960's, the annual collection to help the "Hulme Lads' Club" was featured, and gives an interesting record of the inflation rate over the years (assuming our level of generosity to be constant!) - 1893: £11. 8. 6 d.; 1962: £579. 18. 0. d! In 1893 the "Hulmeian" described the aims of the "Hulme Lads' Club" as the provision of "healthy and manly amusements"; by 1961 this had become "a sense of responsibility and of real values"!

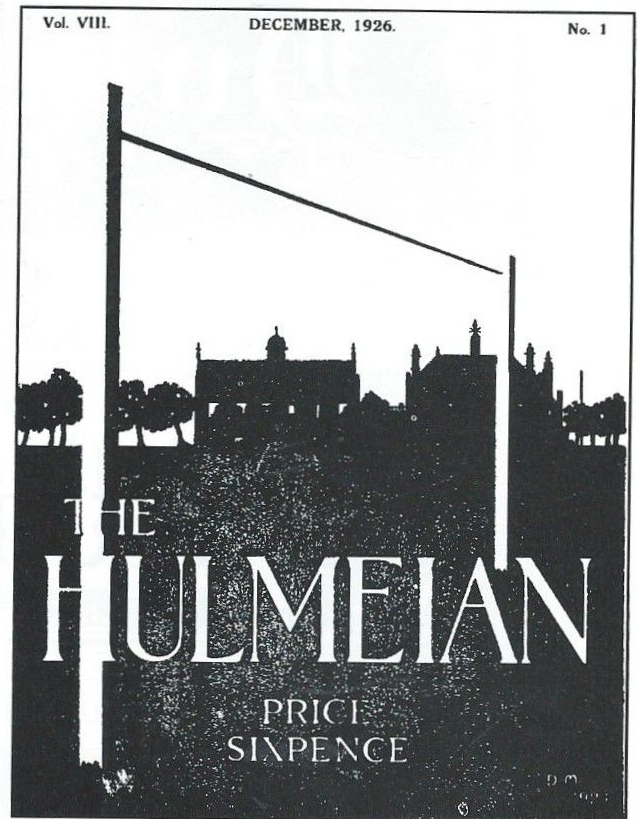
Goethe, the great German poet, wrote a reflective poem called "Dauer im Wechsel" - "Permanence within Change". May this phrase long describe our School and our Magazine, this "simple record of our history and our doings", as the first Editorial called it a hundred years ago.

G. J. Turner

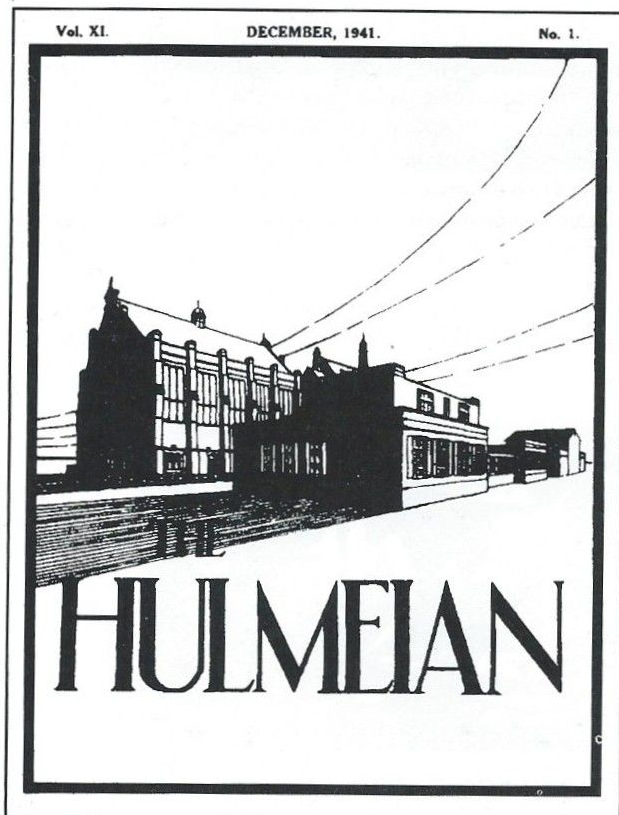
COVERS OF THE "HULMEIAN" THROUGH THE AGES



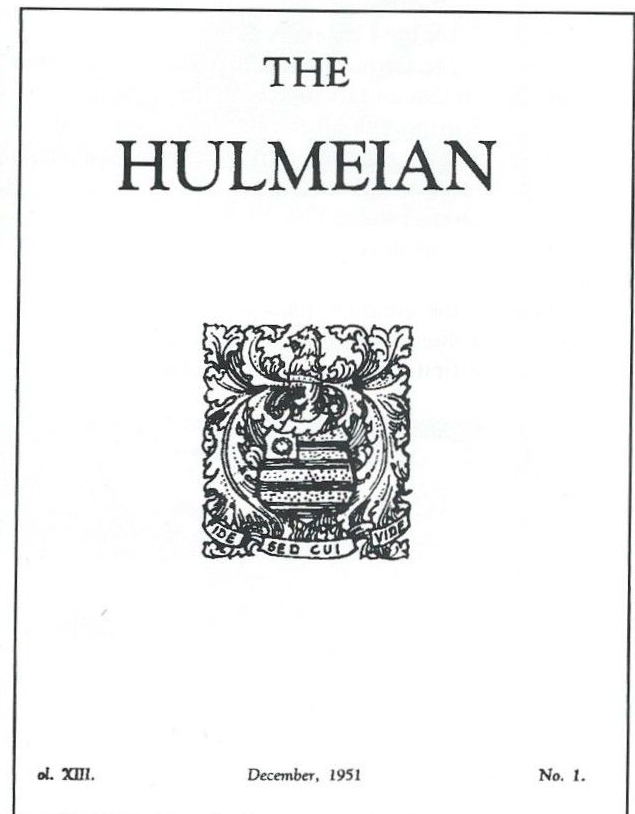
1921



1926



1941



1951

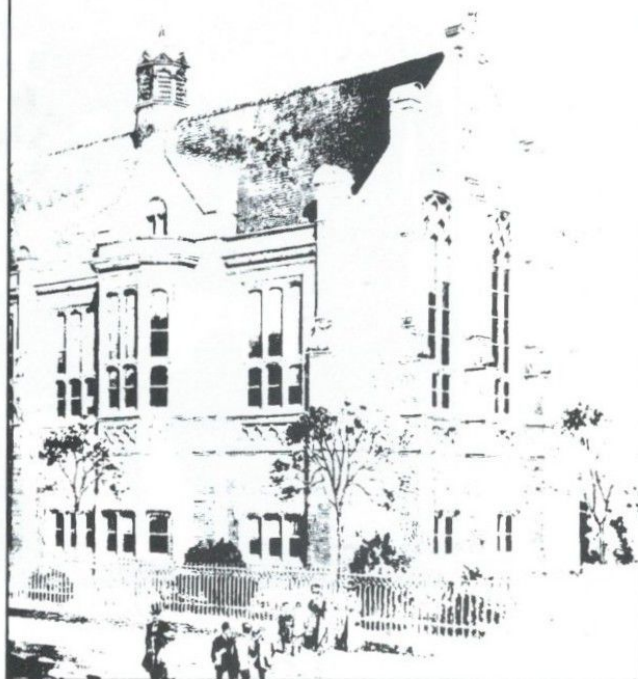


THE HULMEIAN

1976

1976

The Hulmeian 1986



1986



1987

The Hulmeian

1989

“HULMEIAN” FIRSTS

THE LACROSSE FLAG TEAM.

(Winners of the North of England Schools' Challenge Flags, 1894.)

E. L. Hunn. F. Oldrieve. E. Ashworth. S. G. Platt. R. L. Mason. R. E. vander Veen. R. F. Batey.



From a photograph by A. & G. Taylor, Manchester.

J. A. Jones. H. H. Vlies. C. H. Bennett. H. Shorrocks. J. Wihl.
(Captain.)

The First ever “Hulmeian” photograph (April 1894), the only one in the magazine’s first seven years. In this 1990 issue, by contrast, there are over sixty!

PHONE: CENTRAL 1243.

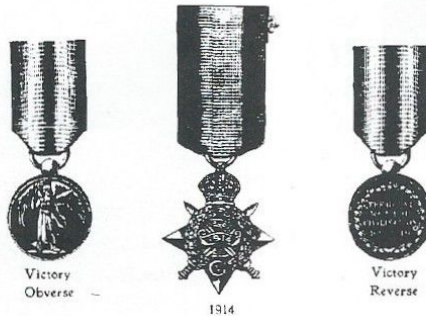
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MINIATURES OF ALL MEDALS FOR EVENING AND MESS WEAR

62, DEANS_GATE, MANCHESTER

July 1921. This was the first ever “Hulmeian” advertisement, a tradition that has continued intermittently ever since.

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments:

Head of House:	J. Symms
Deputy Heads of House:	J. Griffiths & L. J. McCloy
House Prefects:	N. J. Hall, R. T. Jones, M. P. Grey, D. P. Stogsdill, N. F. Taylor, M. T. R. Jones and M. C. Sowerby.

We were very pleased to see the early return of David Cleaver, who, having left School, missed Byrom House so much that he promptly came back. The first girls came into the House, but all refused to play Rugby! The Rugby League side did well on occasions, as it had tremendous pace amongst its backs, although their handling was unpredictable. Only Whitworth were really too strong for us.

In the Knock-out competition we had a bye and then faced Whitworth. The game was "scrappy", being a mainly forward confrontation. M. Jones had an excellent game, scoring three tries, two from pushovers, and the other from a well-worked forward drive. Unfortunately N. Frost was badly injured in a tackle and the game was held up for a long time awaiting the ambulance. We continued to come out comfortable winners after a temporary Whitworth revival. In the Final, we faced a Heywood side containing most of the School XV backs and the very tall Leadbetter in the line-outs. The team put up a very creditable performance, but we lost 12-0 and Heywood were worthy winners. As I said farewell to Dean Stogsdill at the end of the year, I commented that his performance as "Uncle" in "Journey's End" would remain as the highlight of his days in Byrom House. He replied, "No. Actually, it was playing in the Rugby Knock-out." I am sure all of us as teachers need to ponder such a comment and reflect.

Some years ago it was my difficult task to dedicate the 7-a-side trophy in memory of Raymond Cox, an outstanding Fraser boy. It meant a lot to me that this year, Byrom won it. The First VII captained by N. F. Taylor and now strengthened by the return of the injured P. Davies, was very strong indeed, beating Whitworth, then in a hard-fought game we secured a lead against Fraser, which we hung onto by determined tackling. In the final against Gaskell we had a thrilling end to end encounter. A fine kick by P. Davies bounced kindly for K. Blackshaw to go over for a try to clinch it for us at the close. Our second and third teams did equally well, particularly as our third team had the flying Cooney, the fastest boy in the School. At Rugby his problem is that he doesn't always realise the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, and his bizarre course to the opponent's try line turns him into a middle distance runner instead of a sprinter!!

Our Juniors had a bye in the Knock-outs and then met Dalton in the semi-final. Whilst Dalton took a lead we came back strongly in the pack and then H. Newlove made penetrating runs. M. Musgrove went over for an equalising try. Dalton again took the lead, only for S. Dearden to power his way over for another equalising try. The game looked lost towards the end as Dalton scored again, but a quickly taken penalty by D. West enabled him to score, and all rested on his conversion kick which he put over comfortably. Not all, there still remained a try-saving tackle by M. Weeden to secure our victory 14-12.

Our prospects in the final against the strong Gaskell team looked fairly grim. However, in muddy conditions and well led by A. Sharples, Byrom put up a tremendous fight and the pack were outstanding. In the second half we even managed to bring the scores level. But in the last ten minutes the team caved in to a combination of the pressure Gaskell had remorselessly applied and a couple of silly errors which cost us dear and we lost 22-10.

In spite of further problems with the Tuckshop, the excellent work done by the majority of the boys enabled us to purchase the 22 copies for the House Play and finance a trip to Grasmere in the New Year. J. Greenhowe, M. Wilson, N. F. Taylor, J. Lamb, M. MacMahon (Heywood) and J. Davies (Gaskell) accompanied Messrs. Blight, Bull and Mr. Davies and younger son on the first day to Tarn Howes and Ambleside in dubious weather. The second day we climbed Helvellyn (the second highest mountain in England). It was a unique sight to see a lamb and a bull descending towards a green Howe in the Lake District. As the Youth Hostel had only one oven whose flame would not have ignited a cigarette, M. Wilson cooked the ready-cooked chickens in the chip pan! Mr. Veevers had joined us for this day and he caused considerable disturbance to our neighbours as we played "pass the pig" far into the night. It is not really necessary for players to roll on their backs and honk noisily every time they shake a "razor-back". This was an excellent trip and it was delightful to see how younger and older groups of boys combined effectively to do cooking and washing up.

LENT TERM

No House Play in my experience has given me such headaches as the ambitious choice of "Our Day Out" by Willy Russell. It involved a very large cast of middle school boys, some of whose name appear far more often in the detention book than they could ever hope to do on the programme of a play. For Olivia Baker and particularly Jennifer Hassard, this was a "baptism of fire". Boys don't turn up for rehearsals, there are clashes with other activities and the time available for use of the stage was very limited. To convert a T.V. play like this to a stage production was extremely difficult. If the object was to win the competition, this was a poor choice. If the object was to involve as many pupils as reasonably possible to produce an entertaining and well worthwhile performance, helping, incidentally, to bring a larger audience for the outstanding Heywood play, and possibly see off the House Master with a premature heart attack, it was a good choice. Some young boys with very small parts turned up faithfully every time. The whole busload of middle school pupils put up an excellent background of disciplined "ill-discipline". Matthew Grey, Rebecca Slate and Matthew Sowerby put in good performances. For Sowerby this was the first time he really had to show a bit of "versatility" in his acting and he was very effective. An account of the play appears elsewhere in the magazine, so other performers will forgive me if there is no mention of their contributions here. Once again our thanks go to Mr. Turner without whose patience and efforts the play might never have got off the ground.

Liam McCloy organised the Byrom swimming and we won the competition and came second in the relays. M. Wilson won the Senior Backstroke and came second in the Butterfly. L. McCloy won the Senior Individual Medley and the Breastroke. M. Jones came third in the Senior Freestyle, the talented J. P. Hickman, an outstanding School swimmer, won the Third Year Breastroke and Butterfly, N. A. Hann won the third year Freestyle. In the Fourth Year events, T. B. Eckersley came second in the Individual Medley, N. T. Haggerty came third in the Butterfly and A. G. Smith fourth in the Backstroke.

The league Lacrosse team was a strong side, but lost games unnecessarily. In the Senior Knock-out, we went out in the first round 10-3 to Dalton. Always outclassed by the opposition, we nevertheless defended well, but never really looked like scoring many as our finishing was poor. J. Griffiths captained the side well. The Juniors went out easily to Fraser. Despite the efforts of Mr. Veevers in coaching them, the team were unlucky in the absence of A. Sharples, but harder hit by the poor attitude of some players, who failed to turn up for practices and on the day failed to bring their kit because it was raining! The match was played in bad conditions, but Fraser triumphed over these and the weaker side. All praise to those who played well and hard despite the odds. The Hewlett Cup provided some good Lacrosse. Our fourth and fifth teams did well and Byrom came fourth overall.

In the House Cross Country we replaced the runners in the Fourth Year from last year's selection, but well as they and the Third Year tried, there was too much for the Senior runners to make up. N. Hann, A. Sharples, I. Ellis, M. Wilson, M. Jones, C. Dixon and K. Blackshaw all put in excellent performances and we ended up second overall. We came third in the House Music Competition and our effort was well organised by M. Ogier. Very good pieces were performed by M. Ogier on the organ, S. Ogier on the piano and also the cello, N. Taylor on the piano and J. Greenhowe on the clarinet. Further contributions came from N. Haggerty, piano, and an ear-blasting ensemble featuring the Ogier brothers and A. Pardoe. N. Taylor sang well and his piano playing moved the earth! (Well there was an "earthquake" during his performance).

MIDSUMMER TERM

Incredibly Byrom got to the final of the House Cricket Knockouts with the weakest team in the competition. This term was ruined by the weather, but when the first round was played, M. Ekstein and N. Taylor started with a good stand before Taylor was run out. Ekstein went on to score 77. Taylor got the vital wicket of Khan and in the absence of Hollingworth, Fraser had little resistance to offer. In the second round, Byrom literally scraped the bottom of the barrel to get out a team. Once again Ekstein was the bedrock of our innings. This time our Fifth Year bowlers such as Ranawickrema were available. Despite having only nine players in the field when we bowled, we managed to contain the opposition so effectively as to emerge winners by two runs.

So we entered the final as the most unlikely contenders and without Nick Taylor. Once again M. Ekstein got runs, this time 49, but he also grew in stature by his quiet, unassuming, but very competent captaincy. Chasing an enormous total of over 200, including 100 by Goodall, we did well to get to 130.

The Juniors played Whitworth in the first round and despite some good bowling, but alas poor fielding, Whitworth reached 160. Perry Warren plundered the Byrom stock bowlers at will and stole singles with consummate ease to score 104. Whilst the Whitworth attack was erratic, we failed to exploit this and were all out for 89. D. Connor scoring 40.

Once more a Byrom trip to the Beacon Youth Centre at Becontree, near Dagenham, was undertaken. A party consisting of J. Greenhowe, M. Wilson, J. Vickers, C. Hodge, A. Fry, C. Allsop, L. Brown, R. Mudie, C. Bell and M. Butterworth (Whitworth) went for the weekend under the supervision of Mr. Blight and the new Byrom Deputy Housemaster, Mr. Myers. The journey down was a nightmare with the traffic holdups. However, we looked to be arriving in good time when John Greenhowe, glorying in his success of the previous year, countered all Mr. Blight's suggestions that his navigation had gone wrong, with, "Don't let it worry you, Sir, we're on the right road". Eventually he inanely corrected himself with, "Sir, we're definitely on the right road, we're just going in the wrong direction". This was to be very much the substance of his navigation through the London Underground system.

We met the redoubtable "Syd Pigeon", the Warden of the Centre, now happily recovered from serious illness and surgery. We had to tell Syd that his favourite "black puddens" had now been banned by a Leftwing Salford Authority, so instead we'd brought him some racially integrated sausages (this was pure fiction). Mike Wilson and John Greenhowe took over the cooking and we were fed on chicken and chips. The only rule in the weekend was that the boys had to get up when Mr. Blight decided. Football, snooker, pool, table-tennis etc. were played till 2.30 a.m. It was a delightful, restful, exhausting weekend in which teachers could trust boys to behave as their host expected. Saturday, we travelled into London on a runabout ticket. Rain altered our plans. All refused to have anything to do with Greenhowe's wish to witness a certain parade and we made for Madame Tussaud's. After a visit to MacDonald's, a choice of a visit to the Egyptology section of the Museum, as opposed to Virgin Records Mega-store, resulted in an overwhelming vote for the latter. Syd laid on a barbecue in the evening and the party enjoyed Mr. Blight's French cuisine, pork pieces marinated in red wine, well done. The sausages, however, were literally "bangers". Those which failed to explode were actually jet black and alight when they came off the grill. Thankfully Syd got us some more. We watched Ireland's performance in the World Cup and then continued activities until the early hours. By Sunday morning only Messrs. Blight and Myers could take it. Force had to be used to get the Seniors out of bed, cold water on the Third Years produced startling effects. Lee Brown's reflex reaction was astonishing. Water on his head caused him to shoot bolt upright immediately, crack his head on a table and return to unconsciousness, Andrew Fry could only utter, "You, you, you, (I didn't get the rest)". James Vickers made some utterance of very doubtful legitimacy whilst still unconscious. After breakfast, the Club was cleaned up and it was nice to know another Byrom party had matched the visits of others. Our thanks go to Syd once more for the use of this excellent facility for a "fun weekend". Finally we made our way into London. Unable to find parking space, Mr. Blight turned up the road to Covent Garden only to be informed by John Greenhowe that he had gone wrong again.

This time we were on the right road, going in the right direction, BUT it was a One Way Street! The party enjoyed watching the street performers at the market. There was no problem finding the boys when it was time to go. This year there was a Turkish belly-dancer performing.

After we won the Athletics last year, this year was a real "let down" and Byrom came last. Unfortunately our strength was in the Fifth Year and many boys had arranged for a day off work for the Thursday. Rain cancelled this and it was impossible for any to rearrange the day. Jonathan Cooney turned up to run his sprints, but he was ill and had a temperature. After unwisely running the 200m he came fourth, but felt too ill to continue. His time in the 100m last year made him the fastest boy in the school. I much appreciate his spirit in trying to run when unfit. All Byrom hope he may go far in his future career as a runner. Duncan Hayles also bade farewell to us and it was much appreciated that he came in to win the Senior High Jump. Nick Frost won the Shot and Pete Davies came second in the Triple Jump. We came third in the 100m relay and that was all our senior contribution.

In the Fourth Year A. Sunderland won the High Jump creating a new school record 1.61m. He was our only finalist as Sharples was absent on the day of the heats. In the Third Year, G. Scorah came second in both the 100m and the 200m, J. Hickman came second in the 1500m and the Long Jump. Byrom came second in the 100m relay. Overall it was a very disappointing day for which no-one was to blame. The Houses who put fourth years in the heats did better.

Finally my thanks go to John Symms who has been a very good Head of House. But particularly on behalf of the whole House, I would like to thank Mr. Veevers for all he has done for the boys and for the support he has given me, which has been invaluable, particularly in times of disappointment. We wish him the very best of luck as he takes over Gaskell House, except when they play Byrom! We welcome to the House Mr. D. Myers, who is Deputy House Master, and Dr. J. Keable who will have a special role as we go co-educational in the Third Year now.

A. M. Blight

POSTSCRIPT TO THE BYROM HOUSE LETTER

The leavers of Byrom witnessed an event paralleled only by Harold Abrahams' run in "Chariots of Fire". Kyle Blackshaw insisted that he could outpace his Housemaster up to Room 16. With a disparity in age of 43 years, he refused to concede the inside lane, which was won on the toss of a coin by Ian Cope. Kyle lost by three flights to a man classed officially as 20% disabled (physically). He has since spread a myth that he was "cheated".

DALTON HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments:

Head of House:	P. D. Higginbottom
School Prefects:	P. D. Higginbottom & A. Pilling
House Prefects:	G. Mullins, D. M. Berman, P. M. Sheriff, R. Y. Segal, S. W. Veitch, R. W. Goodall
Rugby Captains:	Senior K. O. - P. D. Higginbottom Junior K. O. - O. J. Garside Senior League - D. M. Berman 4th Year League - S. M. Jones

At the beginning of the Term, we welcomed twenty boys in the House from the Junior School, and, for the first time for Dalton, girls in the Sixth Form. Kate Mayne joined us from Mount Carmel School, Michelle Bennett from Ashton-on-Mersey, Gail Hepburn from Altrincham Grammar School, and Stephanie Tabner from Oriel Bank. We looked forward to each of them making her presence felt in her time associated with Dalton House, and to their participating in House and School affairs.

Upper Sixth House Prefects were joined by three from the Lower Sixth—R. Y. Segal (School Rugby and Swimming), S. W. Veitch (School Rugby, Lacrosse and Swimming), and R. W. Goodall (School Rugby, Cricket and House Lacrosse). All had contributed much to the House and readily accepted the post of responsibility. We re-introduced a Tuck Shop, and this was effectively run between four and six members of the House each lunchtime. Several boys took this opportunity to work for the House and to take some responsibility, and were very well led by A. D. Rose and S. N. Hira. The proceeds were to be used to provide House equipment and to pay for social trips.

The major competition of the Term was the Senior Rugby, and D. M. Berman was to captain the League team. His enthusiasm, together with his drive and determination, and his past School experience were to help him become an excellent leader, knitting together an inexperienced and often young team. The inevitable problem of illness and injury prevented our fielding the same team consistently, and almost every Senior boy in the House played for the 1st XV at some time. Although we usually had a lightweight scrum, captain Berman hooked well and D. Greer showed good control at No. 8. Our most consistent player, however, was J. M. Wilkin who played either at wing forward or in the backs. He could always be relied upon to help the team in attack or defence, and was an excellent tackler. Our half back partnership of G. Mullins and R. D. Bone worked well together. Our quickest and strongest back, M. Hargreaves, did not receive the ball as often as he should, but when he received the service, he became a regular try scorer. The two full backs we used, P. Williamson and J. D. Lee, both won many one-on-one encounters with excellent tackles, and each made few mistakes. The team won half their games, and even in matches lost, never gave up. The second team tried hard when they played, but were not always able to get a game.

The Fourth Year team was superbly led by S. M. Jones, and played as a team every week. All players became involved in the play in every match, just about all scored - from team or individual play - and a 100% record was achieved. Some matches were so one-sided that they were abandoned early and teams were changed. The most pleasing aspects of the group was the teamwork, as there were few outstanding individuals. The Third Year suffered from having many squad players, unavailable for a League team, and had many small lightweight players. Frequent absences made the team short of numbers, and, although some games were won, others were lost to taller and stronger teams with more players.

In the Senior Knockout, Dalton were drawn against Heywood. In the first half, play fluctuated from end to end, until our mistakes let in the opposition for two tries. Just before half-time, a kick forward and a fortunate bounce brought an individual try from R. W. Goodall. Strength showed in the second half, however, and we lost 6-23 to the team who eventually won the trophy. The Juniors were also drawn against Heywood, and played well. They used the speed of N. T. Wood and B. L. Wood, and the drive and strength of captain O. J. Garside to score six tries and win 24-8. Our second match, against Byrom, was much more close, and the teamwork we had previously shown was no longer in evidence - partly because the team was re-arranged because of absences. We were leading for most of the match, until, in the last few minutes, we gave the ball away, and lost 10-14.

In the Raymond Cox 7-a-side Tournament, our first team played very well in a strong group, and was disappointed not to make the Final. The second team played very well together, and reached the final, where it unfortunately lost. The third team lacked leadership and did not play as well as it could.

A new competition for the Term was an Inter-House Debate. Our topic was concerned with the setting up of a European Theme Park, and M. Hargreaves and D. Greer represented us well. The pupils who participated, and those in the audience, all enjoyed this new and different competition.

As a social event, some Dalton members went after School to Blackpool for the illuminations and pleasure

beach. Despite the very wet evening, all enjoyed their time on the funfair, and, even better, their chip supper. On the return journey, the inconvenience of the coach breaking down and the very late return to School did not spoil the enjoyment of the trip.

Finally, there were individual successes for members of the School's C.C.F., when Dalton's D. I. Wilks, D. Stansfield and R. D. Bone were in the team that finished second in the King's Cup Competition and J. D. Lee gained a glider's pilot's certificate, and then received an RAF Flying Scholarship. Congratulations to the above members of Dalton House.

LENT TERM

The following appointments were made:

House Prefects:	J. M. Wilkin, M. Hargreaves, M. W. Dean, P. Williamson, I. A. Brassell, D. Greer, M. Kapoor.
Lacrosse Captains:	Senior K. O. - G. Mullins Junior K. O. - T. B. Veitch Senior League - A. Pilling
Swimming Captain:	R. Y. Segal
Play Producers:	A. Goodwin, D. Greer
Music Organiser:	M. R. Clark

In a short term, bad weather restricted the amount of Lacrosse that was played and prevented the regular practices we had wanted. In the Senior League, our 1st X was very well led by A. Pilling, and proved to have a strong and skilful midfield of Captain Pilling, M. W. Dean and R. W. Goodall. The first match, against Gaskell, saw us score 18 goals, and in each subsequent game, goals came regularly from our midfield and from C. J. Whiterod and D. Greer in attack. In goals, J. M. Wilkin was excellent, and D. Stansfield's experience was invaluable in defence and midfield, making him our player of the season. The 2nd X, when they played, also scored goals regularly and both Senior League teams won all of their matches.

In the Senior Knockout we had six School players and faced Byrom in the first round. Good leadership from G. Mullins - the W.H.G.S. and England U19 goalkeeper playing in midfield(!) - helped us to a convincing 10-3 victory. The second round match against Gaskell was low-scoring, and, without either side being dominant, we narrowly lost. The Junior Knockout draw brought together two strong sides in Dalton and Fraser. After we took an early lead, our defence looked hesitant, the attack failed to make good use of its chances, and players could not keep their feet in the mud. The lead kept changing, and the full-time score of 6-6 reflected the equality of two strong teams. Unfortunately, our midfield tired in extra-time, the defence became slack, and Fraser scored four times on quick breaks, to win 10-6.

The Hewlett Cup six-a-side tournament involves eight teams from each House, and necessitates much organisation. Our teams worked well together, were led by the Senior players, who encouraged all to try hard. Especially encouraging was the standard of the goalkeeping, both of the "regulars" and of the "one day recruits". Four teams gained places in the finals, with one of our teams winning, and two gaining a draw. Seven of the eight teams gained points for the House, and we were pleased to finish in equal 1st position with Gaskell.

We had not expected to do well in the Road Relay, and teams were reorganised when one School runner was away on the day. There were two good runs, one from N. T. Wood and one from R. A. Mody, the latter making up ten places. We finished 4th, but were only three points behind second place.

Last year, we had convincing wins in both the Individual and the Relay Swimming Competitions. This year, few swam to their true potential, and insufficient finalists ensured that we had no chance of retaining either trophy. In the Relay heats, two teams were disqualified after finishing 1st, and one team was short of swimmers on the day, having to drop out of the final. The one remaining team, the Senior Squadron, won its race. Of the individuals in the finals, O. J. Garside, S. M. Jones and R. A. Gandy each won their race, and we had three other 2nd places. Our final position of 4th was very disappointing.

A. Goodwin and D. Greer spent a long time rehearsing and organising the House Play, under the supervision of Mr. R. M. Harrison. The play chosen, "The Day They Shot John Lennon", by James McLure, contained a cast of nine, ranging from 3rd years to 6th years, and contained two of Dalton's senior girls for the first time. The play took place in America immediately after the death of John Lennon, and concerned the backgrounds, reminiscences and inter-relationships of the nine very different characters. A well thought out set, very good lighting and excellent inter-play from the actors produced an outstanding performance. All were naturally very disappointed when, after weekend deliberation, the judges decided that we had to be content with runners-up position again. A little consolation

was gained from the good reception received when it was shown to the School and from the meal and social evening the cast had together during the Easter holidays.

Hard work was put into the House Music production, with M. R. Clark and Mr. Harrison arranging and supervising many practices. For the first time in several years, Dalton had sufficient musicians to be able to put together a worthwhile programme. A very good trio finished off our programme, and the hard work paid off with a very creditable second place.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Appointments:

Senior K. O. Cricket Captain: I. A. Brassell

Junior K. O. Cricket Captain: N. T. Wood

Athletics Organisers: R. Y. Segal, O. J. Garside & J. N. Goodall

Temporary School Prefects: S. W. Veitch, R. Y. Segal & Gail Hepburn

Senior K. O. Cricket: Gaskell - 68 all out. Gaskell conceded the match.

The Dalton team to play Gaskell contained a mixture of Fifth Years, Lower and Upper Sixth Years, some of whom were experienced but many of whom do not play Cricket regularly. Very good bowling from Captain Brassell and A. Pilling, who gained a hat trick, enabled us to restrict Gaskell to 68 all out. Rain prevented Dalton's innings commencing, and, when the re-start was scheduled in the following week, Gaskell conceded the match, as they were unable to raise a team.

Dalton - 90 all out (M. W. Dean 27) : Heywood - 69 all out (M. Kapoor 6-14, I. A. Brassell 3-9). Dalton won by 21 runs.

Our second opposition, Heywood were considered to be the stronger side, with many School team players. Dalton batted first and lost R. D. Bone in the first over. Further wickets fell regularly, leaving us at 38 for 5. Then, good solid batting from M. W. Dean and R. J. Merrell increased our score steadily, and our total of 90 all out gave our bowlers a target to bowl at. Our bowling was tight, our fielding was excellent, and together with some rash strokes from the Heywood batsmen, early wickets fell. A revival from the middle order prompted our captain to return to bowl himself and M. Kapoor, and, between them, they dismissed the rest of the batsmen, to give us a place in the Final.

Final: Dalton 203 for 7 (R. W. Goodall 117) : Byrom 126 all out. Dalton won by 77 runs.

Runs came a little more readily in this match, although there were still many weak shots off poor bowling. Good Byrom fielding slowed down the run-rate, until R. W. Goodall let loose, to hit boundaries to all parts of the field; this score of 117 showed how well he is able to punish weak bowling even when he is not in form. Byrom's batting proved to be a little more stubborn than we had anticipated, but we were still able to dismiss them for a comfortable win. The team was very well led by Brassell, who organised players and brought the best out of the weaker members of the team. He thinks about the game well, and has produced very good results.

Junior K. O. Cricket: Dalton 158 for 6 (O. J. Garside 56) : Gaskell 159 for 5. Dalton lost by 5 wickets.

We had a team that lacked experience, except for captain N. T. Wood, but that did not lack keenness. Dalton batted first, and a very solid opening partnership between Wood and O. J. Garside accumulated runs steadily, if a little slowly. Our captain was dismissed to a skied shot with the score on 63. After another quick wicket, Garside was joined by B. Wood, until the former was out at 122. Our final total of 158 for 6 was reasonable. Tight bowling kept down the Gaskell run rate, but failed to take wickets. When we did eventually take wickets, Gaskell were within striking distance of the required target. The match went into the final over, but we lost by 5 wickets, with one ball remaining.

Sports Day: Dalton 4th (170 points). On Sports Day, Dalton had a similar number of finalists to other Houses. We were not strong, however, at Senior Level, where we only gained five finalists, although our Third Year had done very well. In the finals, 1st places were gained by Third Years A. Sheldon, B. Wood and R. Gandy and by Senior S. W. Veitch. Much re-organisation was needed on the afternoon to get our relay teams together, and our 4 x 100m teams gained a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd place. Our 4 x 400m teams could only gain two 5th and one 6th place, but all tried hard. Our final position of 4th was only 19 points behind the winners.

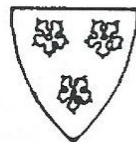
At the end of Term, we were very pleased to hear that Stephen Veitch was to be appointed Head of School for 1990/91, with Reuben Segal his deputy. Robert Goodall was also appointed a School Prefect.

We said farewell and best wishes to our many leavers, hoping that they would have a successful future. Thanks for all their efforts in House affairs. Special thanks to Phil Higginbottom and Andy Pilling, School Prefects who took part in all House teams over the years. Lesser-known pupils who also need a mention because of their outstanding contributions as Seniors, are Julian Wilkin, who, in his two years in the School, helped the House greatly at Swimming, Rugby and Lacrosse. Dave Berman who led by example at Rugby, and Marcus Dean who worked hard at all three sports.

M. D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE



Head of House: Mark J. Brandreth

School Prefects: M. J. Brandreth, N. M. Butson, A. N. Haffner, M. A. Hope and B. G Lee.

House Prefects: S. Arora, R. M. R. Ince, A. R. Lodge, D. J. Murray, R. D. Slowen,
M. J. Streuli (Upper Sixth), A. A. Khan, J. J. Meadows and S-U. Rahman (Lower Sixth).

MICHAELMAS TERM

We welcomed the following boys into the House from the Junior School at the beginning of term:

S. D. Bates, M. D. Brook, A. Callander, M. Das, T. W. Donnai, J. A. Ewen, D. A. Gilbert, N. D. Goodwin, C. P. Harris, R. M. Jones, N. Lloyd, C. F. McElhinney, J. R. H. Metcalfe, A. G. Nash, S. Reid, S. J. Seddon, C. Simkin, M. A. Swindells, J. R. Tate and M. R. Tweed. In addition, M. P. Ralph came to us from the Fifth Form at Hulme Hall School.

Although the passing year had been an exciting and challenging one for the House, it had been a lean one in terms of trophies secured, and there was determination in all quarters that victory should not elude us quite so completely again. Indeed, success came early, and to the smallest of all House teams, consisting of R. C. Mattison and P. A. Tweed, with their Head of House as non-participating Captain. The inter-House Debating Competition was an innovation and proved a stimulating spectacle for the large audience. Our two young teetotalers managed to persuade us all that the world would be a better place without alcohol, and in the process they outshone much more senior and experienced debaters to take the lovely new shield. Our thanks are due to Mr. Watson for instituting this imaginative new House event.

Former Head of House Simon Tucker, newly graduated from Oxford, came back to School in September and was invited to talk to us in House Assembly. He and three friends had been moved by the massacre of Chinese students in Tiananmen Square to cycle the 1500 miles from Karachi to the Chinese border, both as a gesture of support for the students and as a means of raising some money to aid bereaved families and expatriate students. The House decided to sponsor their initiative, and the astonishing journey was duly undertaken and accomplished before Christmas.



Fraser House 1st XV after their final match

Rugby got off to a good start with a full-scale Senior trial followed by a double victory over Gaskell. R. M. Ince captained the 1st XV and N. M. Butson accepted the daunting task of shaping a largely fifth year group into a cohesive 2nd team. The powerhouse of Ince, M. J. Brandreth, M. A. Hope, B. G. Lee, S. Arora, S-U. Rahman, R. Walker and M. P. Ralph was well supported by half-backs R. W. Buckley and J. J. Meadows, and on their best days were unstoppable. R. C. Mattison and J. R. Beckett proved to be the most effective of a spirited and promising 2nd XIII, a team that surprised itself by winning some very good matches against expectations.

The spirit of endeavour and determination which characterised the performance of the league teams was much in evidence in the first round of the Senior Knockout against Whitworth. Captain R. D. Slown virtually played himself into the ground, giving a tremendous example to his side, and scoring three superb tries, two of which were converted by J. J. Meadows. A. R. Lodge played remarkably well in only his second ever Rugby match, and A. K. Hollingworth gave his customary one hundred per cent. The younger players, A. R. Ladd and J. C. Frost, played strongly and remained unflustered by the occasion. Most importantly, the match provided an object lesson in team play and physical endurance, and it remains a mystery that we should have lost 16-19 after extra time. I cannot remember a more dejected team coming off at the end of a House match.

A. V. Bulwich's Junior Knockout XV progressed a stage further, fortunately, beating Whitworth 18-14 through a first-class team performance and going on to meet Gaskell in the second round. Bulwich's unavailability through injury was probably as big a factor in our overwhelming defeat here as was Gaskell's strength and ability. Notable contributions in the two matches came from S. Arora, J. A. Walmsley, E. F. Buckley, O. Asghar, P. R. Ireland and K. W. E. R. Jones, as well as from Third formers A. Callander, R. M. Jones and S. D. Bates. All players merited House Colours, however.

Both Junior league teams had a good season, winning more than they lost. The Fourth formers perhaps relied a little too heavily on running and both teams were guilty of too much negative criticism of fellow players on the field. Mr. Jones's training sessions with the Third formers certainly bore fruit and players like M. Das, C. F. McElhinney, C. Simkin and M. D. Brook showed promise during the term.

In the Ray Cox Sevens (a competition established in memory of a former Fraser stalwart, and the cup for which bears the Fraser shield), each of our three teams won one match out of two, and the First VII drew their other match with Heywood, taking themselves into the Group Final, which they then lost 6-16 to Byrom. The Sevens invariably provided an excellent afternoon's Rugby, and this year Fraser finished in third place.

Fraser House Catering was once again in operation, called on by Mr. M. P. Jones to provide refreshment during the Mock E.E.C. Parliamentary on Saturday in October. Those who gave part of their weekend to the venture were A. N. Haffner, M. Z. Ahmad, R. A. Malik, R. P. E. Brook, K. J. Blakey and the Head of House. At the end of term refreshments were again provided, this time during the interval of the Christmas Concert. This was a rather more complicated operation, since space in the Donner Library is very limited and the Concert was very well attended. O. F. Islam, A. K. Hollingworth and R. W. Buckley coped well with the rush, however, assisted by their House Master and Deputy House Master, by G. E. M. Fisher of Heywood, by their indefatigable Head of House who had himself been performing in the Concert, and even at one stage by Mrs. Briggs.

Meanwhile, the threatened Tuck Shop had materialised earlier in the term, and although restricted in scope and opening time by virtue of its location, was proving quite a success, and was not posing too many problems. After getting it off the ground Brandreth, Hollingworth and Khan gradually handed over the reins to Rahman, Tozer, Walker and Buckley, who were helped regularly by Malik and D. Guthrie. The adult, businesslike approach of the Tuck Shop team has greatly impressed me this year.

After a couple of weeks of indoor Hockey our regular Sports Hall sessions fell into the customary pattern, with a small band of faithfuls assembling for five-a-side football under the watchful eye of honorary referee A. N. Haffner and his new red whistle, while the House Master attempted to save his reputation at the table-tennis tables above.

Members of the House have been occupied this term in a variety of other activities, of course: N. M. Butson was kept busy again by the various dramatic events in the New Hall for which he managed the complex lighting (and for which he was awarded full School Colours); D. Guthrie worked with considerable initiative as a member of the Stage Staff, and in particular in procuring and managing properties for the *'Silver Sword'* and *'Oliver'*; and a group of House choristers represented the School in the annual service at St. Anne's in Manchester. The group included M. D. Brook, C. P. Harris, A. G. Nash and S. J. Seddon from the Third Form.

LENT TERM

In January R. W. Buckley, O. F. Islam, A. K. Hollingworth, G. R. Noble (who had been running School Lost Property) and R. Walker were appointed House Prefects.

The House learned with great pleasure that N. M. Butson had been awarded an unconditional place at Wadham College to read Engineering Science.

Senior Lacrosse players were a little thin on the ground this year, and so it proved more than usually difficult to turn out a complete and competent 2nd X. The season began with practice matches against Heywood, which enabled both Houses to assess their strengths and select the following week's teams. Our modest First X relied heavily on the strength of their captain, S. (Bobby) Arora, and on the skills of N. M. Butson and M. B. R. Dignan. Reliable support came from goalkeeper Hollingworth, R. W. Blairs and S-U. Rahman in defence, and in the Second X from

M. J. Streuli, J. R. Tozer, D. Guthrie, R. C. Mattison, J. D. Butson, R. P. E. Brook and J. R. Beckett.

A bye in the Senior Knockout led us into a semi-final against Heywood on a windy February afternoon. Absences (notably that of R. W. Buckley, on the Germany Exchange) meant that Rahman and Guthrie were drafted in to the squad, and both played with composure and intelligence. Hollingworth pulled off some excellent saves, but he will insist on leaving his goal time after time. I have puzzled over this for a year or two now, and have come to the conclusion that the answer lies in his dedication to Rugby: he quite simply enjoys the challenge of rushing back full-pelt to tackle the ball just as it flies into the net! There is no denying his courage and keen eye for the ball, however. Knockout Captain, R. W. Slowen played a solid midfield game, winning face after face, and A. R. Ladd's game was powerful and incisive, his excellent shooting thwarted only by Sherratt's outstanding keeping. M. B. R. Dignan made his strongest contribution ever in this match, working hard and showing great skill and vision. N. M. Butson was his usual calm, efficient self, combining effectively with Dignan, Ladd, Slowen and at times G. R. Noble to construct several superb attacking moves. Noble and R. Walker were towers of strength in defence, supporting and encouraging our less experienced players, and instigating many offensive moves. (They weren't sent off too often, though!) Fraser led until the third quarter, but then Heywood began to pull ahead slowly, breaking up our previously well-organised defence and scoring four successive goals to win 8-5.

A large Junior squad was assembled and coached frequently by several Senior House players, notably R. W. Buckley, and also by O. Asgher, the Junior Knockout Captain. The first two rounds passed without too much difficulty, due to a great extent to the very good organisation and cohesion of the team. We were confronted in the Final by Gaskell's powerful side, however, and in spite of another sound performance the inevitable happened and the team went down 5-7. Their pride remained intact, though, and most gained House Colours for their contribution.

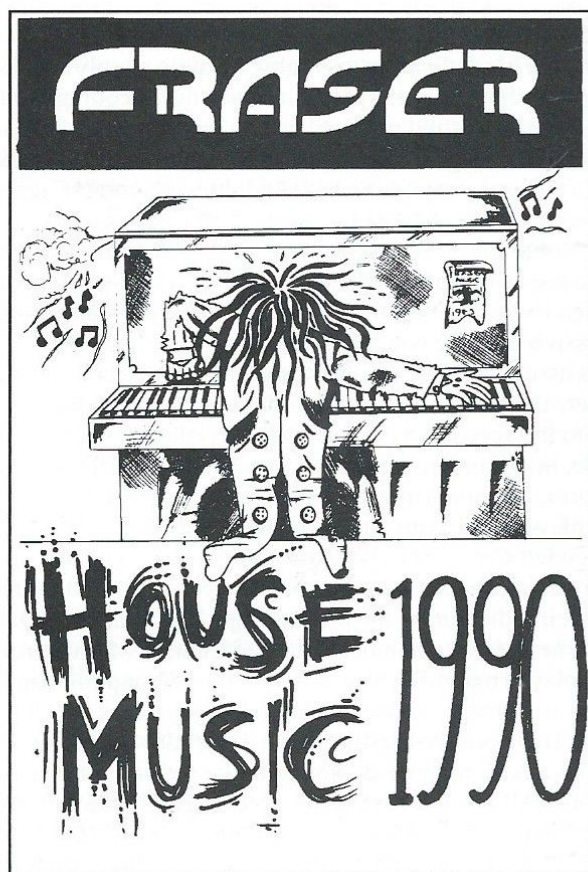
A week later these same players and many more, (a total of 48), again took to the field for that other highlight in the Lacrosse calendar, the Hewlett Cup Six-a-side Tournament. For a change we were blessed with a beautiful, cool, clear afternoon, which particularly suited our two roving scorers, Brandreth and Haffner, who were also keeping in touch with the Test score on their radio during the proceedings. The injured R. D. Slowen bravely kept goal so as not to leave a gap in our ranks, and he and the remainder of his 2nd team, N. M. Butson, M. B. R. Dignan, S-U. Rahman, R. W. Blairs and R. C. Mattison played magnificently, winning their Group Final in great style. A. R. Ladd for once found difficulty finding the goal with many of his shots and a tired 1st VI could not find the energy to win their prestigious Group 1 Final against Heywood. In the 4th team J. J. Meadows and B. G. Lee discovered (and not for the first time) that Rugby and martial arts techniques do not go down well on the Lacrosse field, and they were rarely on the pitch for any length of time. All our juniors played encouragingly, though the better of the two fourth form teams would have reached their Final with ease had it not been for a selfish display from one player which caused the team's performance to disintegrate. Fortunately for the House as a whole, such scenes are rare: they run directly counter to the corporate ethos which is at the very root of the House system. Ultimately Dalton and Gaskell deservedly shared first place with 28 points each. We followed them, only five points behind, but enjoyed the distinction of being the only House in which all eight teams won at least one match, and thereby contributed points to their House total. Over three hundred players (including substitutes) are involved in this longstanding competition and it is this as much as the exciting nature of the tournament itself that gives the afternoon its unique, highly-charged atmosphere. I should like to recognise the efforts of all those involved, and especially M. B. R. Dignan, who effectively selected the four Senior teams and who showed such dedication from start to finish.

The Hewlett Cup falls towards the end of the most hectic fortnight in the House Calendar. It begins with the Senior Knockout Final, followed the next day by the Swimming Sports, it embraces the new House Play Dress Rehearsals, the Junior Knockout Final and the Road Relay Race, and it draws to a close with the two highlights of the Houses cultural life, the Music and Drama Competitions. Well, a veil is best drawn over our performance in the Swimming Sports. Far too few Fraser swimmers managed to proceed from the Heats to the Finals and we only narrowly avoided the wooden spoon both in the main event and in the relays. Credit must go to B. G. Lee and J. R. Tozer for accepting the unenviable task of selecting and organising our three teams, and to them as well as to N. Docherty, P. R. Ireland, N. D. Goodwin and A. G. Nash for their performances.

M. R. Tweed was the pick of our third-form runners in the Road Relay, and with our next group of J. A. Walmsley, P. R. Ireland and A. V. Bulwich each making up places, we were lying second overall. The Fifth Formers could not sustain this pace, and although M. J. Sanderson in his first inter-House run only dropped two places over a lengthy course, P. A. Tweed, an able athlete, let us all down badly, walking for much of the time and dropping nine places to come in last. This left A. K. Hollingworth with an insuperable task, and try as he might he could not catch a single runner: they all had far too much of a start on him, and probably for the first time in an impressive sporting career, he came in last! Of the other senior runners, J. J. Meadows found the distance rather too much, but G. R. Noble managed to claw back two places to end up seventh. The team as a whole did not deserve to be last, and the disappointing result served to underline the responsibility of every individual to pull his weight in a team event.

O. F. Islam's imaginative choice of Act I of Keith Waterhouse's *Billy Liar* as Fraser's House Play was amply justified by the performance. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe's thorough and perceptive adjudication appears elsewhere, and this is essential reading! It succeeds in bringing the play back to life - not that we had killed it off - and needs nothing added. Happily P.A. Tweed went a long way towards redeeming himself (as he did again on Sports Day), supported extremely well by D. Guthrie and R. C. Mattison, both self-assured and convincing. Anna Heaton of Whitworth and Louise-Marie Borg from the Junior School, who so generously stepped in to take two of the female parts, did so with great skill, and worked hard for their temporarily adopted House. Finally, Omar Islam, who had been chosen as producer not for his proven record in theatre, but for his excellent good sense and utter reliability, displayed a sensitivity of inter-pretation and an organisational flair that ensured the play's success from the outset. Although Mr.

Jones oversaw certain rehearsals and helped with obvious problems, this was very much a pupils' production and this is just as it should be.



Designed by Christopher J. Beswick

Second place in the House Music had not satisfied Mark Brandreth, so this year he set about building a winning programme earlier than ever. There were regular announcements in House Assembly, detailed notices and frequent auditions and rehearsals. Without such a level of organisation this competition is something of a hit and miss affair and consequently discredited in the eyes and ears of the audience, and perhaps more significantly, of the external adjudicators. The usual proficient performances from our mainstays Brandreth, M. A. Hope, O. F. Islam, R. P. E. Brook and J. R. Beckett were reinforced this year by contributions from four of our new Juniors. This was especially gratifying since there is little musical talent evident in the fourth form group. M. D. Brook played in the small band whose *Summertime* made an impressive introduction to the programme, S. J. Seddon and N. D. Goodwin each played a lively piano piece, and C. P. Harris steered his way through the long and tricky *Tuba Rag* with much skill. The clear enunciation of R. C. Mattison's unmistakable voice was pressed into service for a third time this year, as he introduced the programme and announced each individual item. A. N. Haffner assisted with the production of a splendid programme sheet, and of course Mr. Bamforth and Mr. Goodwin gave their customary co-operation, advice and assistance. This then was an extremely satisfying success, and House Colours went to every one of our victorious musicians.

It is hoped that next year one or other of these Lent Term events will be brought forward to before Christmas in order to take a little of the pressure off what has become a very crowded term indeed.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Mrs. Parsons was introduced to the House at our first Assembly of the term, having been appointed Deputy House Mistress, to take up her duties in earnest in September. Unfortunately for Fraser, Mrs. Parsons is leaving William Hulme's in July and we will not be able to benefit from her involvement, therefore. We wish her well in her new School. Mrs. Ballantyne is now to become Fraser's Deputy House Mistress and we look forward to welcoming her next term.

After some weeks of trying to find a mutually acceptable lunch hour for our termly meeting, the House Prefects finally met in the Committee Room without their House Master. Various proposals emerged from this meeting concerning future House Prefects, House Colours, duties and subsidies for House activities from Tuck Shop funds. As ever, I was able to rely upon Mark Brandreth to organise things effectively in my absence.

Cricket proved as unpredictable as ever. P. D. Warren, the chief threat to our progress through to the Junior Knockout Final, was run out through an excellent piece of fielding before he could prove too much of a danger. So whom did we go on to meet in the Final? Gaskell, of course. We felt it was high time we beat their Junior Squad at something, and confidence and morale were high for this match. O. Asgher and S. Arora bowled well, taking two wickets each, and S. D. Bates and T. W. Donnai had useful spells too, A. V. Bulwich kept wickets with panache, and M. Das took a very good catch. In the main, however, our fielding was not sharp enough and our bowlers could not contain Gaskell's batsmen sufficiently well to keep the run-rate to a manageable level, so that they ended up with a few short of two hundred. Arora and his team were thus faced with a prodigious and daunting task.



Fraser House Junior Knockout XI just before the Final (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

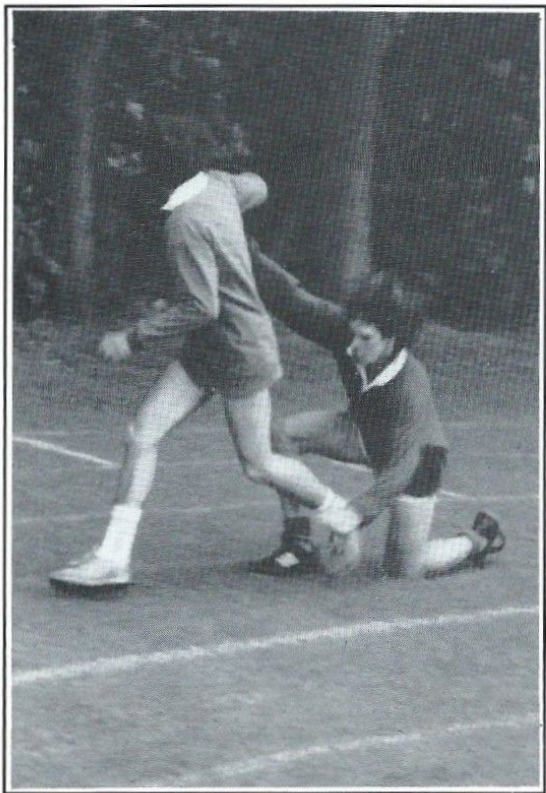
A good opening stand between Asgher and Arora put on fifty, but Arora was out soon afterwards for twenty-nine. Asgher made fifty-nine eventually, after a mature and composed innings. K. W. E. Jones looked promising but was out l.b.w. on only seven. Donnai and Bates again performed well, and increased their experience in the process. Ultimately, although we scored a perfectly respectable 120 for the loss of only three batsmen, we never really looked like matching our opponents' total, and in view of that, the side did themselves great credit by sticking to their task undeterred. In addition to those players mentioned, House Colours were awarded to J. R. H. Metcalfe.

The appointment of A. K. Hollingworth as Vice-captain of School Cricket and O. F. Islam as Captain of the 2nd XI gave us much pleasure, and were the only highlights in our Seniors' season. The Knockout had been postponed, only to take place on a day when two of our too few key players (notably our Captain, Andy Hollingworth) were unavailable, busy laying the foundations of a glorious career! We did not bowl particularly well, and when torrential rain brought the match to a halt, Byrom had scored a hundred runs and lost only one wicket. When play resumed days later our bowlers were rather luckier and wickets fell at the rate of one an over, but not before Byrom had scored a substantial 146. As A. A. Khan opened our innings with two beautiful consecutive strokes, one of them for four, we felt a surge of pride and hope. Our unfortunate acting Captain did not last beyond that first over, however, and subsequently we were able to do little to avert the inevitable, despite some self-respecting batting from certain players. Aziz Khan made a good job of organising and captaining our disparate XI under difficult and trying circumstances, and I suppose that, in view of the appalling weather we had to endure, together with the unusually short term, one should be relieved to have managed to play the game at all. Cricket Colours went this year to Khan, and to A. N. Haffner, B. G. Lee, S. (Bobby) Arora, O. F. Islam, J. J. Meadows and G. R. Noble.

At half term all the girls and most of the boys coming up into Fraser next year accompanied their House Master, Deputy House Master, Mrs. M. P. Jones and a select sprinkling of Middle School boys on a circuitous tour of Staffordshire which culminated in a most stimulating and informative tour of a magnificent high-Victorian country house, alas now sadly neglected. This evocative pile (Alton Towers, by the way - did I not say?) has in its perfect grounds a number of side shows and similar attractions which the boys and girls were able to enjoy for a short while towards the end of the day. . . .

It was announced that A. K. Hollingworth, G. R. Noble and S-U. Rahman would become temporary School Prefects for the second half of term. I am pleased to say that all three have been confirmed in their appointments for next year, and furthermore that R. W. Buckley and O. F. Islam will be joining their ranks in September.

The lengthy, complex task of compiling our entry into the Sports Heats was accomplished more promptly and efficiently than I can remember this year. Gary Noble's contribution to this crucial process, his planning and running of lunch-time practices, and his quite exemplary performance on Sports Day itself are exactly what one hopes for, but does not always receive, from those boys and girls at the head of a House. Several Houses achieved similar results in the heats and the contest on Sports Day was accordingly a close and exciting one. Fraser came a lowly fifth when the last race was run, but with a substantial 160 points compared with the winner's 189, so that the feeling was one of disappointment rather than disgrace. Our weakest section was, regrettably, the third form, where only two Fraser athletes achieved higher than fourth place in any event. M. Das was third in the 100m and 200m sprints, and second in the javelin; D. A. Gilbert was third in the discus. The fourth form fared better, with third places for their 4 x 400m relay team, for M. C. N. Maunder (Javelin) and D. S. Rich (100m), two third places each for S. Arora (Discus and Shot) and P. R. Ireland (400m and 800m) but beautifully judged wins for J. A. Walmsley in both distance races.



(above) A. R. Ladd fends off a challenge from Byrom (c) and Gaskell (r) in the 400m heats.

(left) Two unidentified Fraser runners practise their handover during the 4 x 100m relay.



The winning 4 x 400m Senior Relay Team (l to r: A. R. Ladd, J. J. Meadows, G. R. Noble and P. A. Tweed). (All photos: D. M. Fisher)

At Senior level there were wins for G. R. Noble (400m) and the 4 x 400m relay team, second place for Noble again (800m) and for J. J. Meadows in the 200m and Shot, and third places in the Discus for A. R. Ladd and the Javelin for M. B. R. Dignan (not at his best on Sports Day!). The House should derive pleasure from all these performances, but should be especially grateful to those boys, not all of them dedicated athletes by any stretch of the imagination, who were prepared to step in at the last minute to make up for deficiencies in the team. Such a response does not go unnoticed.

At the end of term M. Z. Ahmad, M. B. R. Dignan and J. R. Tozer were rather belatedly appointed House Prefects, and will do battle with the lunch queue in September!

Room 15, with its new lockers, desks and chairs, notice-boards and paintwork has been a much more pleasant and conducive environment this year (as indeed, has the House Master's Study/Tuck Shop!). The House records its gratitude to the Bursar, Mr. Telford and their staff for the marvellous job they have done for us.

It can only be with regret that one has to say goodbye to a number of boys at the end of every year. J. R. H. Metcalfe has barely had time to become accustomed to our curious institution (by which I mean the House system, not William Hulme's). Yet during his year in Fraser he has quietly made himself known through his proficiency in Lacrosse and Cricket. Though he moves with his family to Glasgow, we have not entirely lost him, as I gather he will be returning regularly to Manchester to play club Lacrosse. There's dedication!

To those Fifth Formers who will be leaving we all wish a happy and successful future. To the Upper Sixth who have been presented with the opportunities to do a great deal more in and for their House, let me express the hope that you feel you have stamped your personality on House and School to some extent, and that you have grown in confidence and stature in so doing. The great majority of you most certainly have. Good luck to you all.

With the departure of Ben Lee comes the end of a long association between Fraser House and an illustrious dynasty! I sincerely hope that this will not be the last we see of Ben, Darryl and Jeremy, however.



Mark Brandreth (l) and Andrew Haffner. (Photo: D. M. Fisher)

I must also single out Mark Brandreth, who has been an extraordinary Head of House. His efficiency in putting the Tuck Shop on its feet and his total integrity when running its finances, his initiative in arranging meetings, organising practices and galvanising recalcitrants into action, his conviction that Fraser is going to be the best he can possibly make it: all these distinguish his final year with the House. He has grasped every chance that has presented itself to apply, practise and develop his many personal qualities and accomplishments and has managed in the process to make his House Master feel that perhaps he is not after all indispensable! I shall miss his management skills and his persuasive charm, attributes which will ensure his success after leaving School. He takes with him the gratitude of House and House Master, and our hope that he achieves the recognition and happiness he deserves in his career.

Finally my thanks are due to Mr. M. P. Jones for his assistance and enthusiasm throughout the year, during which he has made the time to become involved in House affairs and individuals alike. I look forward to his help and that of Mrs. Ballantye in overseeing the integration of our first group of Third form girls next September. The year will present us with many new and interesting challenges, I am sure.

D. M. Fisher

GASKELL HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM:

Appointments:

Head of House:	James Lee
Deputy Heads of House:	Benjamin Savage & Simon Larkin
House Prefects:	L. Tilston, H. Smart, V. Hirst, J. Bull, M. Rogers, M. Cheung, A. Bell, M. Malik, C. Egeli, S. Richardson, M. Plant, M. Constantinou, J. Wall, R. Lavorini and P. Jackson.

It was apparent from the onset that it was always going to be difficult to emulate Gaskell's successes of the previous year; nevertheless there was much realistic expectation of further success if both the skill and 'natural' aggression of the previous year could once more be achieved.

Senior

The 1989 House League was as usual fought fiercely with a surprisingly high degree of commitment from both Lower and Upper Sixth players. However, a succession of defeats, of which the most convincing was at the hands of Whitworth, put by any Gaskell hopes of retaining the Senior League Trophy.

However, it must be said that the presence of the 'newly improved' and 'larger than life' T. K. Jones was an asset which Whitworth fully utilised in the winning of the League.

The Senior Knockout team received a bye in the first round but were drawn to meet the favourites, Heywood, in the second round.

Our pack was a fine blend of brawn, skill and speed, in fact a vast improvement on the pack which had defeated Heywood in the final the previous year.

The pack was heavy, containing the likes of Brown, Egeli and Tilston, mobile with the presence of Sochovsky and Burton, and aggressive in the form of Savage, a menacing and hungry flanker living up to his name and Malik, a powerful, bearded prop.

The three-quarters, although this year missing the skill organisation and 'boot' of I. R. Jordan, were very determined and the likes of M. Rogers and S. Larkin were particularly quick.

The match, as expected, saw a high level of commitment from both sides with the Heywood centres, Partington and Hayes (who managed to stay on the pitch this year) thwarting our 'well planned' attacks.

The match was very close with tries from Sochovsky and Abrahams forcing the game into extra-time, even though during normal time we had almost continuously 'camped out' in their half.

Ultimately the fitter Heywood (most of whom were in the School squad) stole the match in extra-time with two tries which finally defeated our exhausted side.

Heywood had fittingly avenged the previous year's defeat but more importantly the Gaskell v. Heywood, confrontation had once more provided a highly entertaining and close fought contest.

S. P. H. Larkin

Junior

The Junior League team began brightly by winning all their games before half-term, but unfortunately due to the loss of Reichl and Rudge, the former to the squad, the latter due to injury, the side was considerably weakened. Defeats to Dalton and Heywood ensued and only with the return of Rudge towards the end of the season did form return.

In the Junior Knockout the team received a bye in the first round, and then met Fraser in the second round. We started excellently against the poor opposition and ran in try after try. We maintained this good standard of play throughout the match, easily beating a weak Fraser side.

The game against Fraser had not sufficiently tested our ability, and so the game against Byrom was tougher than expected. Despite a lead of 16-0, Byrom showed great character and fought back well.

However, this period of resistance ultimately collapsed as Gaskell ran in a couple of tries, showing what they were truly capable of.

I feel, as captain, that the superb performance of the third year should be commended for they were a credit both to themselves and their House.

C. Bury

LENT TERM:

Senior

League Lacrosse at this level was rather disappointing this year. A mixture of youth and inexperience in the team at this level contributed to our downfall. Playing only three games did not help either as we were unable to play

as a team as a whole - yet things did look more promising when we played our final match against Heywood and won with C. Brown, J. Lee, J. Bull and Dean scoring.

The Knockout competition was more successful - in the first round we were given a bye and our second round opponents were Dalton. With the league team only playing three games in total and the knockout team unable to get together during the bye, the second round match initially proved quite difficult. However, as the match progressed, the midfield gradually took control and we came out winners, booking ourselves a place in a third successive final and a second successive final against Heywood.

Due to some enforced changes on the day of the final, we found ourselves without an experienced attacker, and this proved to be a vital factor as we were unable to retain the shield against Heywood despite a first-quarter lead, containing some excellent saves from Lee Tilston and five goals from Ben Savage.

The Knockout team was Tilston, Clive, Sochovsky, Bell, Lambett, Savage, Rogers, Bull, Dean and Lee.

Hewlett Cup

The combined effect from the third and fourth years and the senior teams brought us very close to winning the Hewlett Cup outright, but luck deserted us in one or two good games and we ended up sharing the Cup with Dalton.

Junior

The third and fourth year league proved to be much more successful than the Seniors with the fourth years coming second and the thirds sharing first place.

In the Knockout Gaskell were fortunate to get in a first round match against Whitworth. This proved to be an easy win but it helped the third and fourth year players get together as a team and played some good Lacrosse. The second round game against Heywood also proved to be a formality as Gaskell overpowered the inexperienced Heywood side.

The final, though, was a much tougher game than expected. The Fraser team had many more squad players than the previous two teams and they played much more as a unit. In the game, Gaskell took an early lead in the first quarter, but Fraser managed to pull back two goals early in the second quarter. In a game where possession of the ball is essential, Gaskell did not take advantage of the possession they had and consequently turned the ball over too many times. The lead was swapped many times throughout the game but Gaskell hung on to a one goal lead late in the final quarter to win the game 9-8.

Music

This year Gaskell was prepared in advance for the House Music Competition. This at least made us come out of it with a respectable mark. Considering the fact that we only had six musicians with which to put a nine item programme together, we did well to come fourth, obtaining 133 points (only 17 points behind the winners). Each item we presented acquired good marks, although with more practice and confidence, the marks would have been higher.

The six involved were P. Kidd (viola), N. Cheung (trumpet), G. Bamford (piano), V. Theofilopoulos (piano), S. Beswick (keyboards) and C. Egeli (violin) with J. Bull presenting each item.

The House Music Competition truly is a team event and needs just as much dedication and co-operation as any sporting game. This year Gaskell had a chance, but I know we have the potential to win in future years.

C. Egeli

SUMMER TERM

The intention as always was to sweep the board with the Cricket K.O.'s and the Athletics, these being the main events in the Summer Term. We were confident that we could take the senior title having won the first game. I am sure that, had we had a full side out, we would have progressed further than the semi-final. However, this was not to be, and Gaskell Senior team made a gallant effort but unfortunately were narrowly beaten and made their exit from the competition.

Our Juniors, however, were a different story. They were much fancied, and as a team were certainly the strongest. There were one or two individual players in other Houses who could have caused us some concern, but as a team we had to be favourites. We went on to win the competition quite comfortably and I am sure that this Junior section of the House will turn out to be quite a force to be reckoned with when they are in the Senior School, as, by the previous reports, we have some very talented sportsmen within our ranks.

To emphasise the point made in the previous paragraph, it was thanks mainly to the Junior section of the House that we came out winners of the Athletics competition, narrowly beating Heywood, who really did fancy their chances. Well done, Gaskell, it was a brilliant effort. Had I not been away at C.C.F. I would have thoroughly enjoyed the final competition as Gaskell House Master, and to go out winning on such a high note.

My past ten years as Gaskell House Master have been most enjoyable, and this has been made so by the supreme efforts put in by all Gaskell House Prefects over the years, because really, they have run the House, and the efforts of all House members who have competed so well. It has been a most enjoyable time, and I only hope that Mr. Veevers gets as much pleasure from Gaskell as I have. Gaskell have always been a force to contend with. Carry on in the same manner.

Thank you all,

J. F. Chudleigh

HEYWOOD HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments:

Head of House:	S. D. Hayes.
Deputy Heads of House:	I. N. Drayton, R. P. Kay.
School Prefects:	A. J. Edwards (Head Boy), A. S. Partington (Deputy Head Boy), I. N. Drayton, S. D. Hayes, R. P. Kay.
House Prefects U6:	J. P. Abrahams, A. R. Ahmed, R. H. P. Amandakone, L. M. A. Leadbetter, R. Popuri, A. K. Scott, J. Y. Sheikh, Y. S. Singh.
Senior Knockout Captain:	A. S. Partington.
Junior Knockout Captain:	W. Mason.
Senior 1st XV Captain:	A. J. Edwards.
Senior 2nd XIII Captains:	J. Y. Sheikh, A. Redstone.
Fourth Form League Captain:	S. H. Copsey.
Third Form League Captain:	R. K. G. Pimblott.

The appointments of Andrew Edwards and Andrew Partington as Head of School and Deputy Head of School respectively were a great honour for the House particularly as it was most unusual to have two from the same House. Also, Heywood were to provide three other prefects in Simon Hayes, Iain Drayton and Richard Kay, Library prefects Yad Singh and Amar Ahmed and Bookshop prefect Ramu Popuri. In what was obviously going to be a busy year I appointed six Lower Sixth Formers, Richard Avery, Giles Davidson, Danny Donachie, Andrew Doney, John Sherratt and Dominic Smith to act as House Prefects along with the Upper Sixth Formers and this list was extended further by the additions of Peter Gallagher, Johnny Johnson and Dylan Nathan later in the term.

The first major event of the term was the House Debating Competition, a new event organised by Mr. Watson. Heywood were represented by two stalwarts of the School Debating Society, Andrew Edwards and Richard Kay, and their task was to oppose the motion, "Britain has no social conscience".

All six Houses preformed very well indeed, and from the reaction of the audience on the day, not only did Fraser deserve to win but Mr. Watson had organised a very worthwhile new addition to inter-house competitions.

In the Senior Knockout, after last year's epic encounter against Gaskell in the final, the nucleus of a good side remained. The first round saw Heywood beat Dalton 23-6 only to produce the draw we least wanted in the second round vs. Gaskell! The two sides complemented each other; Gaskell's strength was their pack whilst Heywood had six squad players in their backs. As expected, Gaskell used their pack to very good effect, in the scrums, rucks and line-outs, to keep us pinned in our own half for much of the game. However, resolute tackling and excellent kicks for touch kept the score blank deep into the second half. Gaskell broke the deadlock when our fullback slipped near his own try line and failed to gather the ball, leaving an easy scoring opportunity which was converted into a 6-0 lead. Just when it appeared that we were going to succumb to last year's winners, with time running out, Justin Abrahams, our scrum half, broke down the blind side from his own 22, ran the length of the pitch, outpaced Simon Larkin, their fullback, and scored in the corner. Andrew Partington hoisted a mammoth conversion to tie the scores and take the game into extra-time. As is often the case, the first mistake would likely decide the match, and after Gaskell were penalised, in their own 22, for handling in the loose, an easy penalty gave us the lead for the first time in the match and seemed to break their resistance. The match finished 13-6, but again it had been an excellent game played to a high standard and either team could have won. The final against Byrom was something of an anti-climax. Byrom had several key players injured whilst Heywood were at full strength. We decided to pin Byrom in their own half as much as possible by playing Danny Donachie at fly-half, moving Andrew Partington to centre, which gave us with Justin Abrahams at scrumhalf three brilliant kickers. Unfortunately this meant there was no place for Andrew Edwards but the tactics planned worked very well. A kick from Byrom's 22 failed to reach touch and Andy Scott caught the ball on the run and scored in the corner to give us a 4-0 lead. After another long kick down field, from Andrew Partington, Byrom's fullback was caught in possession in his own 22 and again Andy Scott scored. The final score 12-0 was achieved when Lin Leadbetter caught a line-out ball and dived over from 2m out. Although we were delighted to have won, we knew we had not played particularly well, and the score did not reflect the number of scoring chances we had created. House Colours were awarded to the entire squad and I was particularly pleased for lads like Iain Drayton,

Ramu Popuri and Javed Sheikh who had filled in for other injured players in earlier rounds.

The Junior Knockout was less rewarding and despite an early score we lost 24-8 to Dalton in the first round. The commitment shown on the day was very pleasing but Dalton's pack was too strong for us and time and again they set up their centres who proved to be too fast for us.

The Raymond Cox 7-a-side tournament again proved very successful, although we were not able to retain the trophy we won last year and finished second to Byrom. The groups themselves proved to be quite remarkable. The first team drew their group with three points and went out on goal difference. The second team drew their group, went through and won the final to total five points. The third team won their group with four points, only to lose in the final to Byrom - a match which ultimately cost us the trophy. House Colours were awarded to all players in recognition of the dedication shown.

The Senior League for First XV and Second XIII proved to be rather disastrous for Heywood. With having a large number of squad players the House was bound to suffer - and suffer we did! The firsts managed one draw and many defeats, the seconds did win several matches and on all but one occasion always fielded a side. The most pleasing aspect about both these teams was the spirit shown by the majority of players. After several weeks of the term Whitworth had not conceded a point, let alone lost, and I was delighted when we achieved the almost impossible in our match with them when we scored first - although we took what could best be described as a hammering in the second half. Later on in the term we played Dalton and, due to interviews for university, absences and illnesses, the entire first team was made up from Lower Sixth and Fifth Formers.

The Fourth Form League teams lacked the strength in depth needed to be a good side and suffered several heavy defeats.

The Third Form side had slightly more success and apart from one real massacre managed to win many of their games.

Overall the attitude shown during the term was very pleasing, everyone gave their best and as a result a great deal of enjoyment was obtained from the various activities.

LENT TERM

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain:	S. D. Hayes
Junior Knockout Captain:	W. Mason
1st X Captain:	D. J. Smith
2nd X Captain:	A. Redstone
Fourth Form League Captain:	B. Bulger
Third Form League Captain:	D. A. Taylor
Swimming Captain:	A. K. Scott
Road Relay Captain:	G. T. Davidson
House Play Producer:	R. J. V. Avery
House Music Organiser:	J. B. Samuels

The term commenced with the excellent news that Andrew Edwards had obtained a place at Oxford and Iain Drayton had a place at Cambridge.

In what was to be a very hectic term the weather did its best to cause havoc. The main activity of the term, Lacrosse, was to be seriously affected by waterlogged pitches. As in Rugby, Heywood provided many squad members, at Senior Level, and so we were bound to struggle at First X and Second X. The Fourth Form League was played with a lot of commitment but without any real success, although Ben Bulger and Simon Copsey did their utmost to maintain enthusiasm in the side. The one notable success in the Lacross leagues was the Third Years who lost only one match all term and shared the trophy with two other Houses. Hopefully we can build on this next year.

The Junior Knockout against Gaskell resulted in a very heavy defeat (believed to be 15-2). However, the most pleasing aspect of this match was the attitude of Heywood's team. It was obvious in the first quarter that we stood little chance of success, but our heads never went down and we kept playing to the very end - even Mr. Shaw refereeing took time to speak to Heywood's team after the match to praise their spirit and although winning is always

pleasing, being able to take defeat graciously and sportingly is often more difficult. I cannot praise highly enough this commendable attitude and I hope it is something that all Heywood teams will show in victory or defeat.

The Senior Knockout drew us against Whitworth in the first round. On a freezing afternoon, with a biting wind, we won quite easily 9-2. The team played particularly well and it was pleasing to see Fifth formers Martin Bratt, Giles Fisher and Chris Mills contributing greatly to our attack. However, in the second round against Fraser with practically our same team out, we seemed as if we had never played together as a team. By half-time we were trailing 4-2 and every aspect of our game seemed in disarray. Justin Abrahams, who was out injured, in a very vociferous team talk at half-time, pointed out that our squad players were doing far too much on their own, were not encouraging or utilising the rest of the team and as a result we were losing possession too often in attack. As soon as the game restarted we looked more like a unit and without conceding further goals went on to win 8-4. This win saw a repeat of last year's final and whereas we felt we were as strong a team as last year we felt we could match Gaskell. To counter the threat of Ben Savage we let Andrew Partington mark him man-to-man but this was not sufficient and as the game progressed often two men were tracking him all over the field. In a very close game Heywood eventually triumphed 9-7 and, although it was very much a team performance, John Sherratt in goal deserves special mention, particularly as he had a nightmare game against Fraser, for doing so much to stop Gaskell's attack. House Colours were awarded to the entire squad of players for the three matches.

The Hewlett Cup provided some success with two groups won but due to absences and lack of organisation we finished fifth. The afternoon got off to a terrible start when one of the third team played for the fourth team at Senior Level because a player was absent. This immediately gave the opposition the game and it was particularly annoying as we were winning 2-0 when the mistake was spotted. An even sillier mistake happened later in the competition when two of our players missed the start of their match and were not allowed to join the game until half-time, by which time we were 3-0 down! In future all players must ensure they familiarise themselves with the rules and start times if we are to do justice to our overall position.

The real disaster of the term was the swimming. We had no qualifiers from either the Third or Fourth Years for the finals and obviously came last, although we did fair a little better in the relays by finishing fourth. I feel we might be in possession of the wooden spoon for several years to come.

One real improvement from last year had to be the road relay race. The Third Years gave us a good start which was maintained by the Fourth Years. By keeping our best Fifth Year runner, Martin Bratt, to run third for Heywood, he completed the course with the fastest time and improved our third runners position from 18th to 11th. Our three Senior runners managed to consolidate their positions and we finished overall third, one point behind Byrom, but quite a long way behind a very strong Gaskell team. Provided we have three good runners for Year Three next year, with Richard Pimblott, Damian Taylor, Matthew McLean and Matthew McMahon in the Fourth Year squad, Tom Howard, Simon Copsey, Phil Reynolds, Ben Rimron, Julian Daniel & Tim Elliott in the Fifth Year squad and Chris Mills and Martin Bratt joining Giles Davidson in the Seniors, we should have a good team. Colours were awarded to Chris Mills, Martin Bratt and Giles Davidson.

Away from the sporting scene, the remaining two events were the House Play and the House Music. For many years these trophies had often been almost permanent features on Heywood's pillar and it was most pleasing to see the commitment and dedication shown to both these activities. Jason Samuels managed to assemble a musical programme which utilised the talents of every year in the House. Despite slightly nervous performances from a couple of Heywood entrants, the judges were pleased by the pieces played and singled out Andrew Babicki's accordion playing, and Ben Stephenson's and James Phillip's piano playing, for special mention. This was particularly pleasing as these lads are in years five, four and three respectively and, hopefully, will participate again in future years.

The House Play producer Richard Avery decided early in the term to attempt the Charles Mander play "The Deterrent" about a rather hungry dog and its affect on family life. As Mr. Gracey and myself both claim to know very little about acting, it was agreed that we should see whether Dr. Barker would keep his eye on proceedings. An excellent cast was soon assembled and it was obvious from the start that Richard Avery had every intention of putting on a play to remember. By dress rehearsal time, instead of the last minute panics about props and costumes, the cast were polishing up their comic timing and how to bring out the sound and visual effects to create maximum impression. On the evening of the performance the play ran perfectly and the most pleasing comment came from a gentleman in the audience who, having enquired of Dr. Barker whether he was anything to do with the play, went on to say he often visited many theatres and this performance was much better than many he had paid to see - a most pleasing yet accurate description. The adjudicators, Mr. & Mrs. Lowe, had seen the same play several times before on the School Stage and their full report is contained elsewhere in this magazine. However, after much deliberation they awarded the best actor trophy to Andrew Babicki but felt Matthew Booth had pushed him very close with his role, and also decided that Heywood deserved overall winner. House Colours were awarded to the cast, stage staff, lighting crew, poster team and programme designer, and my thanks go to Dr. Barker for giving up so much of his time, particularly on Sundays, to let the cast rehearse properly. Such a tremendous production capped a very pleasing term.

SUMMER TERM

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain: A. K. Doney

Junior Knockout Captain: J. A. Daniel

Athletics Captains,

Senior: D. J. Smith/G. T. Davidson

Fourths: W. Mason/S. H. Copsey

Thirds: D. A. Taylor/M. A. McLean

Andrew Partington was appointed to captain School Cricket but, due to his 'A' Levels, it was decided to make Andrew Doney from the Lower Sixth Captain for the knockouts. Also, it was decided to appoint three new Lower Sixth House Prefects, James Hook, Alastair Warwick and Nick Stoker, making a total of twelve, so that the Upper Sixth could be relieved of their responsibilities. Richard Avery, Andrew Doney and Peter Gallagher were selected to serve as temporary School Prefects. It was also confirmed that Mrs. Margaret Statham would be joining Heywood House as a second deputy and she will be a great asset in the future.

The Junior Cricket Knockout saw us drawn against Gaskell. After a slow start we reached 147-1. Julian Daniel was 78 not out and Andy Watkins reached 46 before being caught trying to push the score along. Our opening bowler, Damian Taylor, caused Gaskell all sorts of problems without managing to capture a wicket and it seemed they would reach our total easily, scoring at a very quick rate. However, they lost several quick wickets and at 128-6 the game was wide open. A straightforward catch, off a skied shot, was dropped and Gaskell managed to bat out rather uncomfortably to reach 150-6. All in all it was an excellent day's cricket with 300 runs scored and played in a marvellous spirit by two very even sides. After the match Mr. Langford as umpire commented on what a splendid match it had been and how easy it was to umpire with two such sporting sides. Well done both teams.

The Senior Knockout proved very frustrating. After several changes of dates, due to appalling weather, we eventually met Dalton. At 38-6 we had them very much at our mercy, but in bowling spin to Marcus Dean, knowing it to be his weakness, we let Dalton reach 90 all out. Heywood's reply was a disaster. We lost three wickets at 13 and never recovered. With intermittent showers, from some very heavy cloud, despite a good knock from Justin Abrahams, we were all out for 69. With hindsight we probably should have persevered with our front-line attack and bowled them out for 50 runs but credit to Dalton, they made life very difficult for our batsmen and took wickets at the right time.

The Whit half-term saw the annual Heywood House Upper Sixth Leavers Barbecue which gave me a chance to thank them for their efforts before they became totally immersed in their exams. It also gave Mr. Simkin a chance to socialise with lads who served him so well and Mrs. Statham an opportunity to see what she was letting herself in for with Heywood. The evening passed very quickly, probably due to the excessive amounts of food consumed by the lads, and I was not surprised at the good-humoured banter from the usual Heywood characters.

The athletics heats produced a very even number of finalists for all the Houses and Sports Day was always going to be very close. I was delighted by the turn-out from both the Upper Sixth and Fifth Formers. At one point in the afternoon Heywood were 35 points behind Whitworth and it seemed an impossible task to make up such a deficit. Nevertheless, due to the absences of Jonathan Cooney and Simon Larkin, Heywood were able to take one, two, three in the Senior 100m with Justin Abrahams, Dominic Smith and Andrew Partington; Phillip Sutcliffe won the triple jump and came second in the high jump; Giles Davidson came second in the 400m and long jump; Dominic Smith won the 200m. At Fourth Year level we had less success but Wayne Mason won the discus and Julian Daniel won the 100m and 200m, the latter with a new school record, only to have three no jumps in the long jump - an event he usually wins. The Third Year again contributed very few points except for Matthew McLean who won the triple jump and came third in the shot. Our only chance of winning would come from the relays and we almost achieved it. With excellent runs we came second in all three 4 x 400m relays and closed the gap to 14 points on Whitworth. The 4 x 100m race at Third Year level proved to be very close and there was less than 1m between second and fifth place - unfortunately we were fifth and Gaskell won with a new record time to now catch up with Whitworth. In the remaining two races we finished fourth in Year Four and first at Senior Level to come second again overall, this time to Gaskell by a margin of 7 points. Again, Heywood had competed tremendously well and almost snatched victory at the end.

Les Sharp

WHITWORTH HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The year began on a confident but yet cautious note. We had had some enjoyable success the previous year, but it had ended on a low when we experienced such disappointing results in the athletics. The following were confirmed in their positions of responsibility at the beginning of term:

Head of House:	Simon Harrington
Deputy Head of House:	Tim Jones and Kathryn McKinnon
Prefects:	Dave Bryan, Stephen Hodes and Rob Levene

A meeting early on produced the appointment of Paul Bookbinder as Prefect, with the responsibility of making arrangements for the House Music. A request for volunteers to run the House Play met with two able contenders in Gil White and Peter Cohen. They agreed that the best thing would be to produce it together. Mr P J Callaghan quickly agreed at their request to assist them. Within days a cast was found and rehearsals began seriously. A plea not long after for members of the House to help in designing and making a set met with a very healthy and positive response.

The senior Rugby squad began one hundred per cent confident. An easy win over Dalton boosted their spirits; two weeks later (the intervening week taken up by Speech Day) they joined with our school squad members to form a knockout team which, despite the label of underdog, managed to defeat the best of Fraser 19-16 after extra time. Noticeable in this match was not only excellent team spirit but also trust and unselfishness on the part of the aforesaid school team players. Back to the league: the first team easily beat Byrom by 38 points to nil and then Gaskell by 52-0. The following week was a minor disappointment when we allowed Heywood four points as we accumulated 28. (Simultaneously, the second team of seven members—several regulars were missing due to a trip to Stratford—defeated a full strength team by 16 points to 4.) Confidence was as high as can be as we approached the next challenge: the sevens. This resulted in disaster as none of our three teams managed a win even though we played well and always, at least in the early stages of each match, made it a competitive one. The second round of the knockout against Byrom was a sad affair, with a long delay just after half-time when a serious injury occurred to one of our opponents. After holding Byrom to a close scoreline for a very long time, we allowed our scrum to be pushed back over the line too often in the closing stages and, in the end, suffered a convincing defeat. After this match Dave Bryan discovered that he had been nursing a broken wrist for the previous five weeks and therefore took no further part in the House Rugby. Marc Bailey took over the captaincy. His first match was the most difficult one of the term so far: Fraser were our main rivals for the House League Trophy. The match proved to be highly exciting and ended in a fourteen point draw. A clear win (for the second time) occurred in the next match against Dalton, but unfortunately the game was marred by being played in an excessively physical manner. The return match against Byrom was a much more pleasant affair and was indeed a very good match, with skilful moves played at times by both sides; Whitworth's strength in the scrum helped us considerably, though, in obtaining for us a 26-4 win. In many ways this match was one of the best in quality of the whole season; a pleasing feature was that only four players were of the Upper Sixth and of the younger players, many were showing surprising maturity in their play.

The fourth years had mixed success in their first three matches, winning two and losing one. The knockout fixture raised expectations of a win because our newly arrived third years included eight school squad players of whom one was School Captain and one School Vice-Captain. However, after a hard fought battle, they were unlucky to lose by a small margin to Fraser. It is possible that too many of the third-formers played and, merely by their relatively small size, gave away an advantage.

Just before half-term the first inter-house debate took place. Three debates were held: the motion which Whitworth's team had to oppose was that "This house thinks that the world would be a better place without alcohol." Our team consisted of Ashley Reece and Gil White, in whom much confidence was expressed—and rightly so, because we finished a highly respectable second in the competition.

After half-term at a meeting of House Prefects the following members of the house were made Prefects: Sally Dickin, Nicola Cross, Mahbubur Rashid, Patrick Cassidy, Marc Bailey and Gil White. It was also decided to award House Colours to Tom Lawson (for designing logos for house notepaper) and to Anthony Haber (for his hard work in redesigning the House Prefects' room).

The House ran a successful tuck shop for most of the term. The treasurer, Stephen Hodes, and his assistant, Rob Levene, worked very hard to keep the stock turning over while at the same time keeping immaculate books. Not only did the existence of this shop make money for the House but it also contributed greatly to making the House Room a more amenable meeting place during lunch hours. A Christmas tree was provided, along with some decorations (courtesy of Stewart Shimberg). Among the benefits produced by the profits was a splendid night out for all House Prefects (plus our genial and generous Deputy Housemaster, Mr G. Jones) just before the end of term. It was an opportunity to celebrate the senior Rugby team's winning of the House League and, I think, those present celebrated it in fine style.

LENT TERM

"A" levels and looming "trial" exams led the more senior of our prefects to consider seriously the need to start delegating jobs to innocent Lower Sixth-Formers. There was a surprise, therefore, when the name of Christian Dean emerged as probable Captain of our senior House Lacrosse team. It soon became apparent that there was probably no one better in that he lacked nothing in enthusiasm for the game, something of which in general we were in desperately short supply. It was perhaps unfortunate later in the term when he had to be replaced. David Bradley took over from him for the last two matches. Gareth Jameson volunteered to organize the Swimming; meanwhile, Crispin Jones was losing some of his keenness to take charge of the junior runners. This was in not necessarily his fault, of course—it is never an easy job to persuade third and fourth formers to lose free time during lunch hours.

Our first Lacrosse match was played against Heywood. The likes of Tim Jones and Simon Harrington were obviously still thinking in terms of line-outs and scrums and after five minutes we were two-nil down. Memories of last term's triumphs were too fresh and this was too great an affront to their dignity and that of others: we won easily by nine points to four. The following match was again versus Heywood, but was quite different due to it being the first round of the Knock-out. Our team was bolstered by the presence of Simon Howell and Gareth Jameson and four others of the Fifth Form from the school squad, but we were no match for more mature skills of Heywood. The expected defeat was duly reached, but we played well and competitively right to the end. A week later, back in the League, we played Fraser: again there was tight, competitive play and the result (a four goal draw) was the correct result. We did most of the attacking, but Fraser's defence was strong and our attackers lacked the coolness of touch to get the ball into the net. Danny Moss and Simon Cherry stood out among the fifth form members of the team, which was clearly benefiting from the leadership of Christian Dean. A long gap then ensued before the next league fixture, which was David Bradley's first as captain. We played against Byrom and, despite being 7-4 down, managed to win by 9 points to 7. The last match versus Dalton was to be the decider for the league: we had to win it in order to win the League, but unfortunately it was never played.

The Hewlett Cup proved more competitive than last year and we failed by some way in our attempt to retain the trophy. Nevertheless, there was a promising performance from the third year "A" team, all of whom were awarded colours.

Gareth Jameson made a good job of organizing the swimmers and giving encouragement and coaching to the younger swimmers. After all the heats we obtained sixteen places in the finals. My thanks go to our swimmers—a special one to Peter Cohen who was interrupted in his sandwiches and persuaded to make up numbers in the relay team. The results of the finals were most pleasing, with second place equal in the individual events and third place in the relays. Gareth Jameson and Tony Foster provided us with two first places each in individual events while other notable performances came from Claire Venables, Stuart Walters, Paul Edwards, Steven Bookbinder, Tim Allen and Ian Sherwin. As a consequence of these efforts colours were awarded to all the above and also to Matthew Forshaw, Matthew Butterworth, Nicholas Williams and Jonathan Caplan. I was especially pleased by our success in the swimming as I felt it reflected a keenness to do well and not just for the sake of personal success. This same spirit reappeared in the summer when we had success in athletics over and above what the House probably deserved in terms of available talent.

Just after half-term three more prefects were made up: David Bradley, Gareth Jameson and Steven Williams. Bradley was asked to arrange for a House Badge to be provided for those who have earned house colours. Williams had already begun to operate as Treasurer of the House Shop, with Marc Bailey as the Manager.

The road race turned out to be disappointing this year, with our team managing only fifth position, albeit in a race in which only eight team points divided us from second place. We lacked two important runners through injury, but failed to maintain the standard achieved in the previous two years, mainly because not enough members of the House prepared adequately. Eighteen runners are needed for this race, but only seven or eight turned up regularly to train. The fourth years, consisting of Crispin Jones, Steven Bookbinder and Tony Foster were by far our best team, but the individual winner of the whole race was our own Patrick Cassidy. He, by his splendid run, thereby approximates to the same status as Stephen Green, who won this award last year.

Our contribution to the Music Competition this year benefited greatly from the talented Bookbinder brothers, appearing together for the last time, and from Daniel Moss. I do feel that much depends on chance in the House Music Competition: so little seems possible, even with the best intentions, if one is relying on inspiring lapsed musicians to recreate energies and enthusiasms that have perhaps totally disappeared. Parental influence seems stronger than that which school can provide. Fortunately we had a willing third-former in Jonathan Lawton who did his best to entertain us on the guitar; he played well, and kept on manfully despite one or two small errors, and earned seven out of ten from one judge for his rendering of "Leaving on a jet plane". A barber shop quartet consisting of five singers made a stout effort to perform "Minnie the Moocher", but they let themselves down by not taking it sufficiently seriously either beforehand or in performance. Paul Bookbinder, our organizer, felt very disappointed afterwards both at our poor position in the results and at the last-minute absence of three performers, who thereby caused our contribution to be short by three pieces.

Gil White, assisted by Peter Cohen, worked hard on the House Play this year. Several months of rehearsals and meetings, panic and worry culminated in a successful and highly entertaining performance of "The Alternative Fawltly Towers". The difficulty of producing a made-for-TV play was highlighted by the judges and was clear for all to see, with endless exits, entrances and scene changes. However, Daniel Marsh (on stage for the first time) and Kathryn McKinnon managed with confidence and good stage presence to convey the humour and charm of Basil

and Sybil. Several on-stage "gaffs" went unspotted by an audience who thoroughly appreciated the performance. The principal characters were well supported by the rest of the cast, especially David Kemp who was complimented by the judges for his enthusiasm and performance. Congratulations must go to the whole cast and stage crew for an enjoyable performance which, in a different year, could have finished much higher in the rankings. House colours were awarded to all those who contributed to the putting on of this play. My special thanks go to Gil White: he put considerable energy and skill, for over six months, into this project.

MIDSUMMER TERM

All Upper-Sixth-Form House Prefects retired from house duties in order to concentrate on their examination work at the beginning of term. Gil White was appointed Head of House, with Steven Williams as his deputy, while Scott Haber and Edward Slack were added to the list of House Prefects. Patrick Cassidy took on the heavy responsibility of organizing our Athletics and David Cooper was made Captain of Cricket.

At the outset we felt that we had more chance of success in the junior knock-out than at senior level. Perry Warren is one of the best cricketers of his year and had at his disposal this year several members of the school U14 and U15 squads. Tim Allen and Crispin Jones gave full support to Perry, who dominated the match against Byrom with his innings of 104 not out, but all our players contributed well to our success in both matches played, including Daniel Marsh, who kept wicket with enthusiasm and effort. Fraser won the semi-final because our bowlers lacked sufficient accuracy, but nevertheless we could feel pleased at achieving more success than usual in this competition. Our senior squad had much less talent at its disposal, however, and the odds were against David Cooper winning our second-round match against Byrom (we had a bye in the first round). We had a few well-attended net practices and unearthed some neglected talent in boys who had not played much cricket in several years; despite this, it became clear that it would still be difficult to beat a Byrom side led by a determined Max Ekstein. The highlight of our good and pleasing effort was the innings of Andrew Reid which came close to achieving for us an historic win.

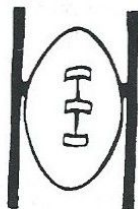
Captain of Athletics, Patrick Cassidy, deserved most of the credit for our very sound placing of third on Sports Day. From the start of term he took charge of practices and conscientiously worked out what proved to be our best possible entry. Several rival housemasters remarked to me how surprised they were at our high final placing, given what they perceived as our very few athletes who could be described as outstanding. Matthew Butterworth, Tim Allen and Faizul Choudhury dominated our third form efforts, Steven Bookbinder was notably our best fourth former, while Patrick Cassidy won the individual winner award at senior level. Many others, of course, made important contributions, including in the relay events. Here, however, our general weakness showed in our disappointing results (except in the third-form); since relay results counted double, we can put our failure to achieve an unlikely first place down to this.

This was a year of consolidation on last year's successes. There were some disappointments, but we have reached a good standard now in rugby, swimming and athletics; our plays have now for two successive years been of first-class standard and have demonstrated to everyone how individual members can show whole-hearted commitment over two long terms and prove that senior and middle school pupils can succeed when given full opportunity to run their own affairs.

My thanks to all those who assisted me and Mr G Jones in running the House this year, especially those who were appointed as year-group leaders: Tim Allen, Matthew Butterworth, Neil Armitage, Steven Bookbinder, Anish Mehta and Marc Morrison. Thanks are also due to Gil White and Perry Warren for their assistance in writing these notes.

P . M . Bull

GAMES



RUGBY

FIRST XV RUGBY

RESULTS:

Played 14, Won 1, Lost 13.
Points for 69, Against 401.

v Birkenhead School	Lost 0-63
v Poynton High School	Lost 12-32
v Lymm High School	Lost 7-28
v Cheadle Hulme School	Lost 0-10
v St. Bede's College	Lost 6-16
v Merchant Taylor's School	Lost 0-57
v Woodhouse Grove	Lost 3-39
v King Edward VII, Lytham	Lost 3-50
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost 3-20
v Bolton School	Won 14-4
v Bury Grammar School	Lost 7-14
v Stockport Grammar School	Lost 0-14
v Sale Grammar School	Lost 4-34
v Bramhall High School	Lost 12-20

As the statistics show, this has been one of the most disappointing terms for the 1st XV in William Hulme's Rugby history, winning only one of a possible fourteen matches. The outlook appeared bleak as far back as pre-season training in the summer holidays where it became obvious that the players lacked the necessary skills and knowledge of the game required for 1st XV Rugby. Valuable time had to be spent on reinforcing old skills, at the same time as learning new ones.

As Marple Hall cancelled the first game of the season, this left us with the daunting prospect of having to travel to the mighty Birkenhead School on the second Saturday with a team that had not played the game for over nine months and containing only four players with any real first team experience. As expected, the team were outclassed by the superior opposition in all aspects of play. Although our pack contained two tall line-out jumpers in Leadbetter and Jones, the Birkenhead forwards were far too strong in the tight and quick in the loose, whilst their backs ran with pace and handled with precision. The 63-0 scoreline was a severe blow for the morale of our inexperienced team, the bitter memory of that defeat unfortunately remaining with them for the rest of the season.

The next game against Poynton saw numerous changes in the side. Abrahams, who had not played the game for two years, came into the scrumhalf position to link up with Partington in an attempt to solve the problem at half back, whilst Tilston, Slown and Taylor all returned to add experience in the pack. Although the team played considerably better, a good Poynton side came out deserved winners.

With two defeats in the first two games of the season, it became imperative to win a match before having to face much harder opposition in the middle and latter part of the season. The next three games against Lymm H.S., Cheadle Hulme and St. Bede's were all games which could have been won but were instead thrown away, mainly as a result of defensive errors.

Although the players trained hard, morale was fairly low with the prospects of the next three games against Merchant Taylor's, Woodhouse Grove, and King Edward, Lytham to come. Even with the coaching help of former England forward Mike Leadbetter, the forwards found difficulties in winning their own set piece ball let alone the oppositions, which unfortunately left the backs with the unenviable job of tackling throughout the whole game. These three games saw 146 points scored against us, with only 6 points in reply. If it was any consolation, the team produced its most spirited and best rugby of the season against Woodhouse Grove, and from being 39 points down at half-time, came back to actually winning the second half by three points to nil.

The next game took us away to local rivals Manchester Grammar School. Despite the atrocious weather conditions, the team managed to pick themselves up from the disappointment of the previous three games to play with much character and determination. Rob Goodall had an excellent game at fullback catching every high ball and tackling magnificently. Once again, however, the opposition were too strong in the forwards and contained backs whose spiral kicking made the most of the windy conditions.

After a very close encounter the previous year, the game against Bolton School was never going to be easy. Fortunately the team, inspired by the return of Tilston in the pack, at last managed to win some good quality possession which gave the backs the opportunity to take on the opposition. Three well taken tries by Larkin, Hayes and Tilston were the result giving the team a deserved 14-4 scoreline.

Three out of the last four games of the season were games which could, and should have been won. Unfortunately the team could not create enough chances to turn the hard earned possession into points whilst at the other end were far too happy to give away soft tries to the opposition.

Overall, in terms of results it has been a very poor season for the 1st XV. The team has struggled through not possessing a player who could really stamp his authority on, and be able to dictate the course of a game. A game like rugby requires players who have real decision making capabilities. It is a quality, as is tactical awareness, that will only develop through spending more time on the game and this is unfortunately something that our players just do not have.

It is sad to see a player with the pace and flair of Simon Larkin only scoring three tries in his final season at the School. What a pity he was only a good player in a poor side. In a better side, he could have been outstanding!

Although the results have been very disappointing, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the players of the 1st XV for the time and effort that they have put into their rugby this term. The thought of having to travel to certain schools where realistically, one knows that however committed and well the team might play, the result is never really in doubt, is not a prospect that many would relish. I commend the 1st XV, and Phil Higginbottom, the Captain, in particular, for the way they have faced this challenge this year. Final thanks to those members of staff who have covered for my absence on a Saturday morning.

The following boys represented the school 1st XV:-

J. P. Abrahams, D. Bradley, A. C. Cunningham, N. H. G. Frost, R. W. Goodall, S. D. Hayes, P. D. Higginbottom, A. K. Hollingworth, G. C. Jameson, J. J. Johnson, R. T. Jones, M. T. R. Jones, A. A. Khan, A. R. Ladd, S. P. H. Larkin, L. M. A. Leadbetter, M. A. Malik, D. J. Moss, G. R. Noble, A. S. Partington, M. B. Rogers, R. Y. Segal, R. D. Slown, M. C. Sowerby, P. A. Sutcliffe, N. E. Taylor, L. E. Tilston, S. W. Veitch.

D. J. Mallinder.

2ND XV RUGBY

Played 14, Won 9, Lost 4, Drawn 1, Points for 278, Against 165

v Birkenhead School	Lost 0-55
v Poynton High School	Won 27-6
v Lymm High School	Won 33-18
v Cheadle Hulme School	Won 10-3
v St. Bede's College	Won 9-4
v Merchant Taylor's, Crosby	Lost 6-18
v Woodhouse Grove School	Drawn 16-16
v King Edward VII School, Lytham	Won 16-0
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost 3-26
v Bolton School	Won 32-6
v Bury School	Won 52-0
v Stockport Grammar School	Lost 7-13
v Sale Grammar School	Won 34-0
v Bramhall High School	Won 33-0

The season commenced with good attendance at the training sessions in the week before School started. The first game was due to be against Marple Hall School, however, they had to cancel as they were unable to put a side together in the first week. This is a pity as they will no longer be featured on the fixture list due to school reorganisation their Sixth Form has moved to The Ridge Sixth Form College, a non rugby playing establishment. This meant our first game was against the traditionally strong Birkenhead School. Once again the Merseyside outfit proved to be too much for us to handle. They ran in 55 points with no reply, using a combination of quick handling and lightening pace. Our next game was against Poynton High School. We performed very well in all departments and raised our game sufficiently to run out worthy winners. We maintained this level of performance and put in another solid display against Lymm High School. Our next two encounters were more difficult in that we contrived to make them so by some players arriving late for the kick-off and some players failing to show at all. Faced by a good Cheadle Hulme side and a strong St. Bede's team meant that we had to work extremely hard for our wins.

The middle section of the season is traditionally where the toughest tests lie. We played well despite fielding a weakened team in the mid-week game against Merchant Taylor's but none-the-less went down narrowly. On the Saturday we travelled to Yorkshire to take on the mighty Woodhouse Grove School. We set off at great speed and attacked with real determination. Our defence was equally aggressive and the pressure our centres exerted forced mistakes which we capitalised on. Winger Kyle Blackshaw picked up dropped passes and ran in three tries. We were 16-0 up and seemingly in control of the game. However, Woodhouse Grove worked hard and our inexperience of being in such a strong position and being able to hold on to the lead allowed them to draw level. This was a game that we should and could have won. It was only our lack of tactical acumen which made us miss out on the chance of taking a very good scalp.

After the half-term break we took on King Edward VII School, Lytham. We fielded a strong side, everyone performed and we recorded a very good win. We then took on close neighbours and rivals, M.G.S. As always it was a very hard and keenly fought contest. On this occasion M.G.S. proved to be the better team and they won convincingly. Despite this defeat the spirit within the team remained high and the players set themselves a target, namely to win all the remaining games. They started in fine form in the next game and disposed of Bolton School with some excellent running rugby. Bury were dispatched with similar aplomb, as we recorded our biggest score of the season. The next game was against another close and rapidly improving rival. Again we did not help our own cause through players arriving late. We took the field a man down and played with 14 men for the first 5 minutes. Stockport had the size and weight in the forwards and managed to exert control of the ball. The W.H.G.S. pack gave every ounce of effort but could really only supply the backs with scraps. Nevertheless it was W.H.G.S. pressing at the end and when the final whistle came Stockport were very relieved, nay overjoyed to have won what was an exciting and intense match.

The next two games were somewhat easier. The forwards were able to win much more ball and the backs used it to good effect, notching up over 30 points in each game. So we finished on a high note and looking back it had been a very good season. As always with the 2nd XV there were many changes in personnel and a number of players were blooded at 1st team level which will stand them in good stead for next year. It may be unfair to mention individuals by name in what was splendid team effort over the fourteen games. However, the side did

benefit greatly when Dave Cooper and Patrick Cassidy came into the side from Whitworth House. Towards the end of the season Andy Pilling came in at fullback and took over the kicking duties. He showed both range and accuracy to put over some excellent shots at goal. Nic Sochovsky showed himself to be a highly adaptable player. He performed well at wing forward, took good ball at the lineout and in one game ran the show from scrum half. Both these players will be missed as they move on to higher education and a sixth form career at Rugby respectively. The team had two captains over the season, both of whom led by example and pushed their way into the 1st XV at times. Reuben Segal and Gary Noble worked extremely hard on and off the field and were shining examples of commitment and fair play to all around them. I would like to thank them for the work they did and the help they gave me in running the team. Finally my thanks also go to all the players who attended training sessions and games, also to the parents who supported the team and made the season so enjoyable.

The following played regularly for the 2nd XV:

M. Barnes, K. Blackshaw, D. Bourmad, D. Bradley, N. Burton, P. Cassidy, D. Cooper, I. Cope, A. Cunningham, N. Frost, R. Goodall, J. Greenhowe, A. Hollingworth, M. Jones, A. Khan, A. Ladd, D. Lambert, S. McConnell, T. Malik, D. Moss, G. Noble, A. Pilling, M. Rogers, R. Segal, D. Smith, N. Sochovsky, M. Sowerby, N. Stoker, P. Sutcliffe, M. Wilson.

N. P. Dunn

UNDER 15 XV RUGBY

Played 12, Won 2, Lost 10, Points for 81, Against 293

v. Birkenhead School	H	Lost 10-30
v. Poynton H.S.	H	Won 22-0
v. Lymm H.S.	A	Lost 4-30
v. Cheadle Hulme School	A	Lost 6-16
v. St. Bede's College	A	Lost 4-22
v. Merchant Taylors' School	H	Lost 6-25
v. Woodhouse Grove School	A	Lost 3-19
v. King Edward VII School	A	Lost 6-46
v. Manchester Grammar School	H	Lost 0-18
v. Bolton School	A	Lost 0-27
v. Bury Grammar School	A	Won 20-10
v. Stockport Grammar School	A	Lost 0-50

This was a disappointing season because, although individually there were several talented players, there was a general lack of cohesion in the team as a whole. The forwards were very competitive and aggressive, but too often played as individuals. The backs lacked penetration in attack and were very weak defensively, missing far too many tackles. In several matches the team proceeded to give the opposition a healthy start before beginning to play themselves. A more disciplined approach would also have helped: it was too easy to blame somebody else when things were going wrong.

The team was led by C. Bury and the following boys represented the school: S. Arora, F. J. Baama, I. Bradley, E. F. Buckley, A. V. Bulwich, J. A. Daniel, M. Dynes, P. D. Foster, O. J. Garside, A. J. Howarth, D. P. Narsh, W. Mason, P. R. Patel, C. Reichl, N. J. Scruton, A. J. Sharples, R. S. Smith, P. Sum, J. A. Walmsley, P. D. Warren, M. L. Weeden, D. M. West and N. T. Wood.

M. R. Booker, J. F. Chudleigh

UNDER 14 XV RUGBY

Played 13 Won 6 Lost 7 'B' XV Played 1 Won 1
Points for 239, Against 284

v Birkenhead School	Lost 6-32
v Poynton High School	Won 34-30
v Lymm High School	Lost 10-32
v Cheadle Hulme School	Won 52-0
v St. Bede's College	Lost 6-24
v Merchant Taylor's, Crosby	Lost 0-52
v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 0-46
v King Edward VII School, Lytham	Won 9-4
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost 0-46
v Bolton School	Won 36-4
v Bury School	Won 54-4
v Stockport Grammar School	Lost 6-10
v Bramhall High School	Won 36-0

After a somewhat patchy start to the season, the team developed well and played some good rugby in the second half of the term. It took quite a while to find the best combination of players, particularly in the three-quarters, but several boys worked hard at their game and firmly established themselves in the team. A major problem was a lack of size throughout the squad, and the three heaviest defeats were to teams who were physically bigger and stronger. However, the players always had plenty of spirit and never once stopped trying.

The season began against Birkenhead and after a closely contested first half the score was only 6 points to 12. Then the opposition pack gradually exerted control and they were worthy winners at the end. This was followed by a mid-week fixture against Poynton. The pack was in fine form, with Chris Armstrong and Matthew Butterworth to the fore. Tim Allen also had a good game and scored an excellent solo try. A strong running winger kept Poynton in the hunt but the dominance of the pack ensured a first victory.

Lymm High School exposed the fragility of our tackling by hard straight running, and once in control never let it slip. We actually got off to an excellent start when the full back missed a high kick from Tim Allen and the ball bounced straight into the arms of Matthew Butterworth who ran in behind the posts. Overall, it was our worst performance and resulted in a few changes.

An easy victory against Cheadle Hulme was followed by a match against St. Bede's. This was a hard fought contest in poor conditions, but weak tackling against a strong running centre allowed him to score two tries which proved to be the decisive factor. Merchant Taylors and Woodhouse Grove were both very strong sides with some excellent players and we struggled gamely in an unequal contest. The tackling was beginning to improve but still needed to be more determined.

The first match after half-term was at home to King Edwards, Lytham. The game was a very close one and in doubt right up to the end, but an excellent team performance resulted in a very commendable win. The opposition were ahead by 4 points to 3 and attacked strongly in the second half. Some determined tackling held them out, and on one occasion Shahid Hussain stole the ball from an opponent who was held up over the try line. Then Chris Armstrong tackled his opposite number and picked up the ball to run seventy yards for the clinching score.

We started well against a strong M.G.S. team, but once again were up against physically bigger opponents. We stuck at it but even Armstrong could make little inroad into the opposition. There was an excellent 'B' team match beforehand which gave opportunities to several of the squad to display their talents. They played attacking rugby and scored six very good tries.

A comfortable win against Bolton saw an excellent try from Matthew Belwood. The forwards surged upfield and forced a line-out on the opposition twenty-five yard line. Matthew Butterworth caught the ball clearly and burst clear of the line-out towards the full back. When tackled, he turned and Belwood immediately took the ball and ran ten yards to score. We played some very good rugby against Bury, and several times the ball passed along the entire three-quarter line which resulted in several tries for the wingers. Mark Sellers and Matthew Musgrove provided the link in the centres and were unlucky not to score themselves. Damien Taylor was settling in well at full back and his elusive running added an extra dimension to the attack.

At Stockport Grammar School we had to play on a very narrow pitch which did not suit us at all. It was a very hard fought contest which we almost snatched in the last few minutes. Ketan Misra scored an excellent try after an initial break by Ben Wood, which was carried on by Sellers.

The final game against Bramhall High School provided a fitting end to the season. It was an excellent team performance and the absent Armstrong was not missed. Mark Shelmerdine stole the honours with his best match of the season, and Ben Wood shrugged off three defenders and then ran sixty yards for a superb try.

The main strength of the squad was in the forwards with Armstrong, Butterworth and Alex Rodgers always to the fore. They were ably supported by Belwood, Riste, Hussain, Murray and McLean. John Hall was unlucky not to play in more games and it will be interesting to see which way his tussle with Rodgers for the hooking position will go next season.

Ben Howells established himself at scrum-half and worked very hard to improve his passing and kicking. Sellers and Musgrove formed an effective centre partnership while Misra and Wood both developed into strong running wings. Damien Taylor was most effective at full back because it gave him room to run at the opposition and he is also a sound kicker. He prefers to play at scrumhalf but must improve his passing if he is to be successful in the future.

Tim Allen was a calm, unflustered Captain who led by example. He was very consistent and his kicking was invaluable to the team. He

is a talented player and his efforts as Captain were greatly appreciated.

Many other boys were members of the squad and played for the team and their contributions were invaluable. Many of them will undoubtedly force their way into the senior teams in the future. They included: Nick Goddard, Ian Sherwin, Simon Bates, Matthew Forshaw, Tom Kelly, Richard Jones, James Vickers, Raffi Haroutunian and Nick Owen.

D.A. Myers

UNDER 13 XV RUGBY

Played 12, Won 6, Lost 6, Points For 168, Against 147

v Poynton High School	Won 26-4
v Birkenhead School	Lost 4-16
v Lymm High School	Won 32-0
v Cheadle Hulme School	Won 10-4
v St. Bede's College	Lost 8-10
v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 16-18
v King Edward VII School, Lytham	Lost 4-8
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost 4-38
v Bolton School	Won 16-14
v Bury Grammar School	Won 32-0
v Stockport Grammar School	Lost 10-32
v Bramhall High School	Won 6-3

Once again a most satisfactory season from the Under 13 XV, based more on overall team performance than individual flair or talent.

As boys mature, it is inevitable that some of them become more suited to playing a position, which they, perhaps, never experienced as first years. Even so, this fact did not prevent Mr. G. H. Jones from looking in shock and disbelief as his Under 12 flanker, N. Clementson, became a winger and his No. 8 forward, D. Grove, a centre.

Possibly because of such positional changes, possibly because of a lack of experience, the pack never really dominated the better school teams. Our supply of good ball from scrums and line outs always meant that we were able to clear our lines defensively or to attack the opposing try line. However, we never looked particularly impressive when taking the ball into a tackle situation. This would have been just the situation from which, with good, quick ball, we could have launched our strong running back line against a disorganised defence. This area of ball retention and ball presentation is one aspect that will need close attention next year.

Forwards win the ball, backs run in the tries - many permutations on this theme have been made: donkeys do the pushing, ballerinas get the glory. In Junior Rugby this basic pattern works well - if your forwards can win the ball and if your backs have the speed, strength and skill to turn possession into points. This year our scrummage stood up reasonably well against most schools without ever really being a settled unit. The front row of David Slack, Mark Knowles and eventually Tyrone Berkeley showed improvement throughout the year. Our second row and line out jumpers were usually Nick Byrom, Ben Myddleton (who will probably make a better flanker or centre), and later Ian Graham. Both Nick and Ian have the height, but not yet the technique to do very well. James White and James Crawshaw were our regular back row players. Both contributed well to the forward effort. James White in particular showing good technique. In order for the backs to score tries, there must be an effective link between forwards and backs. Damian Brown filled this role very effectively. He was able to link with James Brocklehurst, the fly half, or take the ball on as an extra forward. As he develops he will need to pay more attention to his service, especially on his weak side, and work on his kicking. At fly half, James was sound but occasionally lacked confidence in his own ability. With time and practice he should overcome these problems. Our real strength in the three quarter line was at centre. Both Chris Gleave and David Grove are big, straight-running (well, sometimes!) players. My only criticism would be that David must look for, and appreciate, his support players. More than once he created space, only to be eventually tackled when a pass to the support runner would have resulted in a try.

The wingers really saw too little of the ball. At this level it is understandable. The ability to move the ball rapidly from scrum half to wing is difficult. For this reason Neville Clementson and José Witter were encouraged to look for the ball and to enter the three quarter line in different positions. This sort of attack option is also available to the

full back and Nick Reading was probably more effective at joining the line than the wingers. Again confidence and experience will overcome the reluctance to leave the designated position in attack.

What of the future? Well, I am sure that some players will change position again, maybe even reverting to their original U12 position. I am confident that if the forwards work hard at the techniques of the game, they will develop into quite a formidable unit. This will enable the backs who undoubtedly possess strength and pace - to utilise more attack options.

Throughout the season I was very pleased with the attitude of the players. They worked hard in training and gave their best in each fixture. Two games in particular are worthy of note. Against Woodhouse Grove School and King Edward VII School, Lytham, both traditionally difficult matches, all players gave of their best with the result in doubt until the final whistle.

The following boys regularly represented the School

T. Berkeley, J. Brocklehurst, D. Brown, N. Byrom, N. Clementson, J. Crawshaw, C. Gleave, I. Graham, D. Grove, M. Knowles, B. Myddleton, N. Reading, J. Sills, D. Slack, M. Wan, J. White, J. Witter.

The following boys also represented the School on 'A' or 'B' team level:

P. Young, T. Gomme, N. Carnie, I. Cooke, A. Aslam, M. Whiteley, R. Stephenson, J. Byrne and J. Aslam.

My thanks to all players for the work they put in and for their enthusiastic approach to the game. Thanks are also due to the many parents who gave their support to the boys and the School. Such support is much appreciated and adds to the post-match discussion later in the Dining Hall.

C. H. Seddon

U12 XV RUGBY

Played 12, Won 11, Drawn 1, Lost 0, P.F. 222, P.A. 34

v Cheadle Hulme School	Won 22-12
v St. Bede's College	Won 34-0
v Woodhouse Grove School	Won 12-0
v King Edward VII School, Lytham	Won 10-0
v Audenshaw High School	Won 18-0
v Manchester Grammar School	Drawn 0-0
v Bolton School	Won 10-0
v Stockport Grammar School	Won 20-8
v Bramhall High School	Won 18-0
v Cheadle Hulme School	Won 12-10
v Audenshaw High School	Won 48-0
v Altrincham Grammar School	Won 18-4

One must look back a long way in the Hulmeian archives to find an Under 12 XV as successful as this one, back to the team containing a certain Andy Hinchcliffe, a team which remained unbeaten in seven fixtures. This year's U12 results have been an outstanding achievement and should act as a base for further development next year.

From the early first few days of training it was clear that here was a squad of players who were going to do very well. They showed dedication (three dinner times and two or three after-school practices), application and many of them rapidly developed their basic rugby skills. There was also a core of players who had a good deal of rugby experience already and who could play in key positions, something a first year coach always hopes for. The game plan was simple as always - win clean ruck ball in the forwards and get our fast moving backs into action quickly. A simple plan, but would it work?

At half-time in our first game against Cheadle Hulme I was surrounded by a set of shell-shocked individuals, many with goldfish-like expressions on their faces. We were losing and were not really looking like or playing like a team. Yet their response to the 'gentle words' uttered to them during the interval was such that they turned a 12-3 deficit round to a handsome victory. They now knew what to expect - that teams would tackle hard and fight for the ball - but they had also learned that rugby is a team game and that when everyone pulls together problems can be overcome. This team spirit was a fundamental feature of the season and one which served them in good stead throughout.

Our next opponents St. Bede's College were efficiently dispatched putting up a very game performance but eventually being overpowered by our juggernaut pack ("Not a pretty sight" I hear the alis cry once more), then came what we anticipated would be one of the hardest games of the season - versus Woodhouse Grove School. The preparation

for this game was very intense. Traditionally the opposition are very well drilled and tight upfront and run the ball at every opportunity so our forwards knew we would have to fight fire with fire and to be totally uncompromising. The game itself was probably the most 'physical' I have ever witnessed at this level and the controlled ferocity we generated in the forward exchanges enabled us to dictate the pattern of play. Perhaps the opposition knew what to expect at the start twelve of them were wearing what appeared to be boxing headgear!

Our game at King Edward VII School, Lytham was one notable amongst other things for the appalling playing conditions experienced - hail, sleet, gale force winds - and a very lively opposition expertly coached by a former Plymouth Albion first team hooker. They held the upper hand in the forward play in the tight and loose but we scored two very well created tries and were worthy winners overall. If the previous game had been 'all about our forwards' this game was 'one for the backs'. They handled the ball superbly in the terrible conditions, looked very dangerous and never really gave the opposition a look in.

Half-term arrived and a late bonus fixture was arranged against our old friends from Audenshaw High. Justifiable holiday absences meant that we fielded a considerably disrupted side (and the situation was not helped by one team member not turning up!) but the collective spirit was much in evidence and we maintained our unbeaten record knowing that the first game back, away at Manchester Grammar School would be a very stiff test indeed.

The M.G.S. game was something of a classic with the range of attacking and defensive skills on display more associated with a far higher level of rugby. The result could have read something like a thirty points all scoreline yet finished 0-0. This was our most balanced performance of the season. We were on the attack for forty minutes of the game with the pack monopolising possession and our backs ran with considerable menace, pace and purpose. The opposition's defence however was particularly admirable, knocking us down time after time, repeating this even after we won the second and third phase ball. In the end we were fortunate not to concede defeat. Having lost our 'own ball' at an attacking five metre scrum our collective disappointment coupled with a resurgence in the opposition's confidence saw us defend our line with all hands to the pump in the last quarter. In the end nothing could separate two fine teams and the draw did both teams huge credit.

Our visit to Bolton School saw a few furrowed brows appear in the changing rooms before the game. Here was a pack bigger than ours and the first quarter also showed that they were very well drilled, driving down the pitch as a unit, making the ball available and setting up their strong running midfield. We did not see any ball for fifteen minutes and were under constant pressure but once we came to terms with a team playing us at our own game and started putting them on their backsides, the tide of the game turned and we spent the remainder of the game on the offensive. I feel it would be fair to say that the pitch, whilst the same for both teams, had a certain inhibiting effect on our wingers! I am sure Bolton will win a lot more games than they lose with this team—their best I have encountered at this age group. It was a very hard won pleasing victory.

The Stockport Grammar School game, as always, was a highly competitive affair with little to choose between the teams. If anything we were over confident at this stage of the season and failed to dominate against a very hard working pack and strong running backs. The game against Bramhall was almost a copy cat match of the Stockport game. We did not quite put things together but still managed to win.

The Lent Term saw three U12 Nomad fixtures taking place again, providing the opportunity for boys who were not first team regulars to represent the School if not doing so in other activities. The Cheadle Hulme game involved two very closely balanced teams. The opposition did not field a first choice team to avoid a pointless mismatch and we just got through by the skin of our teeth. The second match against Audenshaw High saw us field virtually a first choice pack, one which was far stronger than the Michaelmas term game, and the opposition were somewhat overwhelmed but contributed to an exciting game. The final fixture against Altrincham Grammar School was an excellent match. Altrincham, who won the Trafford U12 rugby league competition, took the lead and maintained it till just before half-time. They held us upfront and tackled like men possessed and it was not really till late in the second half, when we scored another individual long range try and one which the backrow created superbly that we looked like winners.

So the second term saw us remain undefeated which has given all concerned a lot of pleasure. I'm sure. It is a little difficult to assess the team's strengths and weaknesses overall. The front row has looked a very strong unit regardless of its personnel. Goodwin, on the loose head revelled in disrupting the oppositions put in and it must be quite daunting for them to hear his immortal line at scrums of "Come on lads.

this is second nature to us" at this level and stage of their rugby careers! He handles the ball well but could get round the pitch a little quicker (one hundred packs of Walker's crisps in a day?!) Pearson and Rogerson shared the hooking berth all season. Each has his own strengths with Jeffrey the better all round player possessing startling acceleration for a chunky fellow but Jamie's the quicker strike, possibly reflecting his experience in junior rugby. England at tight head was the pack's cornerstone, as all number threes should be. His efforts through the season have been colossal and he has invariably been the spearhead of our forward surges and all things good upfront - however, the backs would benefit from a shade quicker release of the ball on his part at the ruck situation from time to time! Anwar and Strudwick locked the scrum (amongst other people). Both are willing workhorses, always grafting hard. The final back row combination of Russell, Wilsher and Malik was something of a pride and joy. Russell at open-side, I am sure is John Jeffrey - the White Shark, well, he played like him all season. Wilsher at blind side is always there - a very high accolade for a back row player. He also has a super pair of hands and whilst not the most speedy player on the pitch he knows where he should be and what to do when he's there. Malik is a player of huge potential. He loves the game and his vigorous approach and attitude have lifted the team many times this season.

Smith at scrum half is a reliable link with the backs. His strength at the moment is around the base of the scrum which has served us well this season. If he can improve his service both sides, a very competent player will develop. Johnson at outside half is one of the most naturally gifted athletes to have played rugby at U12 level I have seen. He is capable of making devastating individual breaks which put the opposition 'on edge' but his importance to the team has been that he has used the ball to such good effect. Too often fly halves can do too much on their own - here is one who sets an extremely exciting backline in motion and I hope he continues in this fashion. His link with Robinson and Flatman in the centre has been a key element in our attacking strategy. Josh possesses lightening pace and has sliced through the opposition in nearly every game. 'Jonno' is a similar type of player but whose strength lies in his reading of the game. He always seems to position himself in the right place. It is amazing to note that Peter Day did not actually score this season from his right wing. He has made tremendous inroads into opposition territory through his Kirwan-like strong running. Nick Ghazi on the left wing is quick and despite being small in stature is a very strong tackler who saved us on many occasions and Adeyinka Molajo showed great pace when he took over from Nick. Gavin Elly was a dependable full back and when later in the season Daniel Gent took over from him he displayed considerable promise. These two should quickly develop into attacking players of huge potential, given that they're coached by a leading exponent of the art in the country!

Last but by no means least I come to the captain, Stephen Hadfield. Stephen played in five different positions for the team this year but such is his knowledge of the game, I felt confident in his ability to do well wherever he played. He will I am sure develop into a 'ball playing' lock forward (but his best game this season was at centre against Altrincham!~. He commands the respect of his players reflected by our 'silent' approach during games. He's in charge and they listen.

Many thanks to Messrs. Briggs, Dunn, Mallinder and Seddon for assistance with coaching, parents for loyal support and to the players for making this such a memorable season.

Boys who represented the U12s/Nomads:

I. S. Anwar, P. H. Day, G. D. Elly, R. England, J. P. Flatman, D. J. Gent, C. Gerezdi, B. N. Ghazi, I. R. Goowin, S. A. Hadfield, A. J. Holden, T. R. James, S. R. Johnson, A. F. J. Kelly, G. J. Macleod, M. A. Malik, A. G. Molajo, J. H. Pearson, J. M. Robinson, J. S. Rogerson, B. C. Russell, K. M. T. Saunders, B. J. Smith, R. J. A. Strudwick, D. I. Taylor, P. A. Tilston and G. W. Wilsher.

28 out of the 88 boys in the first year.

G. H. Jones



U13 NETBALL

Results of 'A' Team

Played 11 Won 5 Lost 6

v Kingsway School	(A) Lost 3-11
v Withington Girls School	(H) Lost 8-13
v Stockport Grammar School	(H) Lost 1-12
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Lost 1-15
v St. Bede's College	(A) Lost 4-8
v Knutsford School	(A) Won 9-7
v Marple Hall School	(H) Won 13-3
v Reddish Vale School	(A) Won 7-4
v Withington Girls School	(A) Won 7-5
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Lost 8-12
v Harrytown School	(A) Won 13-1

This season of Netball has been an excellent one for the team, a great improvement on last year when we won just one match.

At the beginning of the season we were all lacking in determination and co-ordination. After losing the first five matches we had a team reshuffle and there was an immediate difference. Suddenly we all worked well together and of the remaining six matches, we won five.

There were two matches which showed our best efforts. The first match was the one against Knutsford Comprehensive just after the shuffle where there was a lot of team spirit not only from our team but also from the opposition. We had our doubts about the match before we played because having been beaten by them before (16-1!!) we were all nervous. However, once we had a few tactics of our own in operation we were winning and held the lead to win the game by 9-7.

The other memorable game was played away at Withington Girls School. It was the second time we had played them but again we had lost to them previously. The game was a very fast one. The ball was moved very well from defence to attack thanks to the defence players. Once it was up in the circle, the shooters finished the work off by producing goals. The final score was 7-5 to us.

All players made a great effort for this season but a special mention should be given to Nadia Hanley and Alison Soper for their excellent defence and shooting respectively.

Also our thanks to Mrs. Pollard for arranging fixtures and for her presence and support. Thanks to the parents, cheered in the cold and the wet.

The team players: Caron Abramson, Nadia Hanley, Nicola Miller, Claire Reichl, Alison Soper, Mandy Wheeler, Philippa Whittle.

Claire Reichl (2A)



U13 'A' Netball (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

U13B NETBALL TEAM

Results:

v Kingsway School	(A) Won 5-2
v Withington Girls School	(H) Lost 0-10
v Stockport Grammar School	(H) Lost 7-9
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Draw 7-7
v St Bede's College	(A) Won 7-5
v Knutsford School	(A) Won 7-2
v Marple School	(H) Won 16-1
v Reddish Vale School	(A) Lost 1-6
v Withington Girls School	(A) Lost 3-9
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Won 11-3
v Harrytown School	(A) Won 10-6

The 1989-90 season has been one of great successes for the U13B Netball Team. The team members: Karen Law (C), Justine Goldman (G.S.), Yvonne Schofield (G.K.), Amanda Jones (G.A.), Rebecca Kingston (W.D.), Louise Borg (W.A.), Jenny Ellis (G.D.) and with the occasional but valuable help from Dalia Daud and Michelle Cowan, we have had an encouraging set of results.

Of the eleven matches played during the season we have won 6, lost 4, drawn 1. Our reputation has grown with our enthusiasm this season. We will all remember the match against Cheadle Hulme High (Away) where the score was 11-3 in our favour, but by far the greatest success of the season was the unforgettable 16-1 win against Marple.

Congratulations to the team and many thanks to Mrs. Pollard.

Jenny Ellis (2B)



U13 'B' Netball (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

U12A NETBALL

Results: Won 7, Lost 5, Drawn 1

v Withington Girls School	(H) Lost 6-7
v Hulme Grammar School	(A) Lost 3-11
v Stockport Grammar School	(H) Won 7-4
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Lost 4-5
v Hulme Grammar School	(H) Lost 4-18
v St. Bede's College	(A) Won 8-4
v Knutsford School	(H) Won 12-6
v Kingsway School	(A) Won 13-2
v Knutsford School	(A) Won 13-7
v Marple Hall School	(H) Lost 9-11
v Reddish Vale School	(A) Won 8-1
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Drew 6-6
v Harrytown School	(A) Won 10-0

The first year 'A' team worked hard this year and although they didn't start too well losing their first two matches, victory came soon afterwards when they beat Stockport Grammar School.

After a few changes to the team were made, more matches were won, the most memorable being against Kingsway (13-2) and Knutsford (13-7).

Many thanks to all of the players who worked extremely hard this season and to parents who supported us everywhere we played.

The team was:-

GK-Christina Barnes, GD-Philippa Walters, WD-Caroline Ip
C-Karen Hawcroft, WA-Sophie Stephenson, GA-Ellen Nicholson
GS-Claire Babington.

Karen Hawcroft (IC)



U12 'A' Netball (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

U12B NETBALL

Results: Played 12 Won 2 Lost 9 Drawn 1

v Withington Girls School	(H) Lost 5-17
v Hulme Grammar School	(A) Lost 1-19
v Stockport Grammar School	(H) Lost 3-10
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Lost 3-9
v Hulme Grammar School	(H) Lost 1-10
v St. Bede's College	(A) Lost 4-5
v Knutsford School	(H) Draw 6-6
v Kingsway School	(A) Won 3-2
v Knutsford School	(A) Won 12-6
v Marple School	(H) Lost 2-3
v Reddish Vale School	(A) Lost 0-2
v Cheadle Hulme High School	(A) Lost 1-18

Team: C-Vivienne Priestner, WA-Olivia Dunbar/Helen Ralston,
WD-Bernadette McCurrie/Debbie Mosley, GA-Beth Hayton,
GD-Louise Illingworth, GS-Alice Caine, GK-Philippa Matthews.

We have played 12 matches and although we have only won 2 games and drawn once we have always played to our best ability.

One of the most memorable games we played was against Knutsford, at home we drew 6-6, however when we played them away in the second match we beat them 12-6 which shows that we had improved our game during the season.

Some of us hadn't played Netball before when we started in September so we had to start from scratch, which we did with enthusiasm and team spirit. We made quite a lot of changes to the team as the season went on to improve our game and this helped a great deal.

We have enjoyed the Netball season and hope to win a few more matches next year.

Thanks to Mrs. Pollard and all of the parents for supporting us throughout the season.

Beth Hayton. (IC)



U12 'B' Netball (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

U12 STOCKPORT SCHOOLS NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Took place on Saturday, 31st March 1990 at Cheadle Hulme High School.

'A' Team

'v' Stockport Grammar A	Lost 2-10
'v' Cheadle Hulme B	Won 5-0
'v' Kingsway B	Won 6-0
'v' Stockport School A	Won 9-0

They then went through as runner up of their section and went to play Marple Hall A in the quarter final.

'v' Marple Hall A	Won 6-3
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They then went through to the semi-final to play Cheadle Hulme A

'v' Cheadle Hulme A	Lost 0-5
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Therefore, they were knocked out of the competition. However, to reach the final four teams out of twelve competing schools was an excellent result.

Unfortunately the B team did not have as good a draw and lost all four of their games.

'v' Offerton	Lost 3-4
'v' Kingsway A	Lost 0-5
'v' Marple Hall A	Lost 2-5
'v' St. Anne's	Lost 2-5

T. Pollard

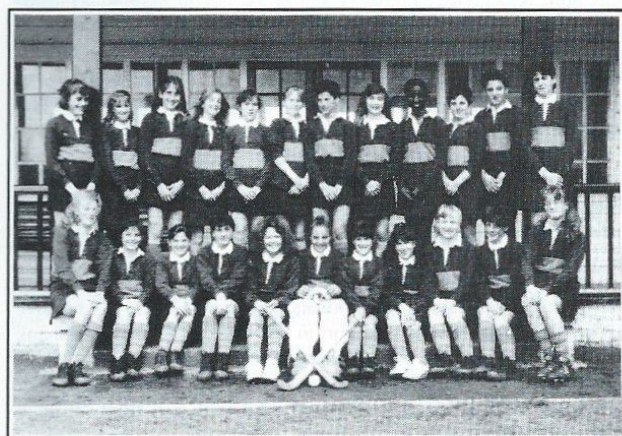


U13 HOCKEY

Results: Played 9, Lost 4, Won 3, Drawn 2

v St. Bede's College	(H) Draw 0-0
v Marple Hall School	(A) Lost 1-4
v Knutsford School	(H) Won 3-0
v Hulme Grammar School	(H) Lost 0-1
v Poynton School	(A) Won 2-0
v Stockport Grammar School	(A) Draw 0-0
v Marple Hall School	(A) Won 1-0
v Kingsway School	(A) Lost 0-1
v Kingsway	(A) Lost 0-2 'B' Team

In our second year of hockey, we have played nine matches altogether and managed to win three of them and draw in two of them.



U13 Hockey (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

which is much better than last year's results.

We had a very strong defence this year consisting of Claire Reichl, Yvonne Schofield and occasionally Caron Abramson which helped us to combat most of our attacking teams. However, this formula was just not good enough against the mighty Marple Hall where we lost 1-4, a crushing blow but a good game even so.

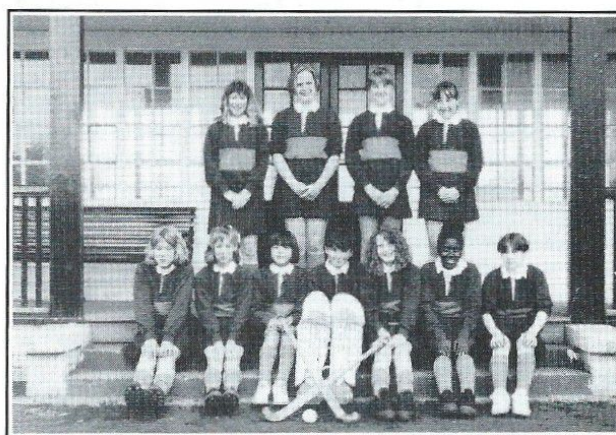
Having always had no score against Kingsway School it was a little disappointing to lose 0-1 to them in the last game of the season, but next year we will try again.

Many thanks to all who helped with the team and to the many parent supporters who followed us on our travels.

The Team:

Sally Ward, Amanda Jones, Philippa Whittle, Mandy Wheeler, Claire Reichl, Yvonne Schofield, Nicola Miller, Nadia Hanley, Karen Law, Justine Goldman, Caron Abramson, Alison Soper, Michelle Cowan, Gabrielle Miller, Elisabeth Keable, Jenny Colclough, Louise Borg, Jenny Ellis, Dalia Daud, Maria Jobling, Leanne Basso, Charmaine Golaub, Rebecca Kingston.

Sally Ward (2A)



U12 Hockey (Photo: Mrs. T. Pollard)

U12 HOCKEY

Results: Lost 3, Won 3, Draw 4.

v Marple Hall School	(A) Lost 0-2
v Knutsford School	(H) Lost 0-4
v Knutsford School	(H) Won 1-0
v Hulme Grammar School	(H) Lost 0-6
v Poynton High School	(A) Won 1-0
v Marple Hall School	(A) Draw 0-0
v Stockport Grammar School	(A) Won 1-0
v Kingsway School	(A) Draw 0-0

Stockport Tournament at Kingsway School (A)

v Priestnall School	(A) Draw 0-0
v Stockport Grammar School	(A) Draw 1-1

(Not enough points to go through to the semi-final.)

It was the first match of the season and we were all set for the defeat which we were quite sure was ahead. Our faithful goalie was Karen Hawcroft of IC. She was set for action but slowly freezing in the cold. We positioned ourselves on the pitch and the game began. Bernie McCurrie didn't have the foggiest idea of where to hit the ball from for a hit out and Mrs. Pollard was having a nervous breakdown by the time Bernie caught on. The score at half-time was 0-0. After that the team started to slack and Marple scored. Where was everybody? A few minutes later they scored again leaving the score at 2-0.

Our second match was played at home against Hulme Hall from Oldham. Our new goalie was Christina Barnes from IA. This match was the worst we ever played and it highly embarrassed us. The final score turned out to be 6-0 to Hulme. (No comment.)

When we played Knutsford we had two teams of 7. Our two goalies were Karen Hawcroft and Christina Barnes. We had a win and a defeat. We beat them 1-0. Bernie McCurrie scored the goal. We lost the other game 4-0.

Once again we changed our goalie. It was now Bernie McCurrie from IC. This time we played two teams at Stockport Grammar School. The teams we played were Stockport Grammar and Marple Hall. We beat Stockport 1-0, Karen Hawcroft scored the goal. We drew with our

one time defeat 0-0.

We played against Kingsway at Kingsway. About ten minutes in to the first half Kingsway scored but the goal was not allowed. The final score was 0-0.

The Stockport Tournament was played at Kingsway. Our team was signed up to play Stockport Grammar School and Priestnall. We played Priestnall first and we played very well. The score was 0-0. We played Stockport Grammar next. We scored first and after the second half Stockport scored. At the end the score was 1-1 but we didn't have enough to go through to the semi-finals.

Through the hockey season these girls have represented W.H.G.S.:

Caroline Ip, Alice Caine, Christina Barnes, Claire Babington, Helen Ralston, Debbie Mosley, Olivia Dunbar, Karen Hawcroft, Bernadette McCurrie, Louise Illingworth, Beth Hayton, Ellen Nicholson, Sophie Stephenson and Vivienne Priestner.

B. McCurrie (IC)



1st X LACROSSE

Played 20. Won 7. Drawn 2. Lost 11. Goals For 176. Against 167

v Hulmeians 'A'	(A)	Drew 7-7
v Cheadle 'B'	(H)	Won 16-3
v Hulmeians 'A' (Lancs Cup)	(A)	Lost 6-10
v Leeds University	(A)	Lost 7-8
v Cheadle Hulme L.C.	(A)	Won 11-1
v Urmston 'A'	(H)	Won 14-4
v Boardman & Eccles 'A'	(H)	Won 9-7
v Old Stopfordians 'A'	(H)	Drew 10-10
v Sheffield University	(A)	Lost 6-19
v Oxford University	(A)	Won 16-6
v Cambridge University	(A)	Won 11-4
v Mellor 'A'	(H)	Lost 3-13
v Old Waconians 'A'	(H)	Lost 3-4
v Poynton L.C.	(H)	Lost 8-11
v Heaton Mersey 'A'	(H)	Lost 4-7
v Stockport Grammar School	(A)	Lost 9-10
v Stockport U19 (Floodlit Trophy)		Lost 10-12
v Trafford U19 (Floodlit Trophy)		Lost 8-12
v Trafford U19 (3rd Place Play-Off)		Won 8-7
v Hulmeians 'A'	(H)	Lost 10-12

The First Lacrosse Team was selected from: B. C. Savage (Captain), G. Mullins (Vice-captain), R. W. Buckley, A. P. Daley, G. T. Davidson, A. K. Doney, A. J. Edwards, J. Griffiths, S. D. Hayes, G. C. Jameson, A. R. Ladd, A. S. Partington, M. B. Rogers, S. W. Veitch and R. Walker. J. K. Johnston, J. F. M. Sherratt and R. D. Slown also played.

The teams of the last few years have had a common feature which has become the hallmark of the School's success and this year the pattern of excellent goalkeeping behind man-on-man defence of the highest quality could be seen again. Griffiths had an outstanding season and with Partington and Davidson, two fine athletes with stick-handling skills of a very high order, he completed a defensive formation that was quick-footed, quick-witted and full of aggression and determination. Later in the season Walker emerged as a solid contributor in defence and this released Davidson to the midfield where he added a touch of assurance and positive thought that had been missing earlier. In goal, Mullins was exceptional. The School has been spoiled of late in having so many good goalkeepers. Mullins is the latest (but certainly not the last with Sherratt and Bone following him closely) to leave the School with a real chance of full international honours in the future. His technique is first class, his willingness to learn and improve matches it,

and his contribution to the Team effort on and off the field was as good as it could have been. He was an outstanding Vice-captain who contributed far more than just spectacular saves, clear communication, organisation and accurate clearing to turn attack into defence.

The midfield was as talented as any that has graced the School colours, I am sure. There were exceptional performances from Hayes, Rogers, Jameson, Veitch and Ladd over the course of the season, but they never quite blended together consistently enough to get the sort of stranglehold on opposing midfields, and dominate the possession in a way that could determine the result of the game. All these players made great contributions to the development of the Team; Hayes' experience especially in defence, complemented the enthusiastic inexperience of Rogers and Ladd, although both these players scored spectacular goals, Rogers dodging and shooting (often left-handed) and Ladd cutting incisively off the ball. Veitch was totally committed and bore the brunt of the centre facing which he does well, but must learn to be a little more varied. He has a good dodge but needs to look for the lay-off more often, and less towards the goal. I am sure that he will learn this lesson if only because his effort and determination for the team's success have always been far greater than those for any personal glory. He has been an exemplary team man all season.

Jameson is something of an enigma. He has untold skill and a unique element to his stick-handling that sets him apart from other players. If only he could direct and control his skill and temperament to get the best results for himself and his team, his truly exceptional talents would surely see him following in his skipper's footsteps. What it needs is a wider view and understanding of the game and of how successful teams work, and win, to get his tremendous commitment and effort channelled in the right direction.

With such a powerful defence and midfield combination, the season might well have been a vintage one in terms of results. Hulmeians 'A' team, however, knocked us out of the Lancashire Cup and there is no doubt that the early-season departure from a competition that has meant so much to School Lacrosse did take the edge off our progress and performances later in the term. However it was really the lack of goals that inhibited our development on the field. The attacking players combined well and threatened to be as good as any team of recent years. Their talents on and off the ball certainly were good enough. The only thing that did not go well was the finishing, and this was to cost us dear.

Buckley held the ball well and drove into good positions in front of goal. Doney and Daley, perhaps lacking a little in confidence especially early in the season, still gave the attack good shape and pattern by their thoughtful play, and with Edwards, they all worked hard for each other and for the rest of the team up front. But the goals did not come. And it became a problem. And in the end it began to dominate our thinking as a team when things did not go right and became the single biggest reason for not fulfilling the potential we possessed.

There were some amazingly close and exciting games. Against Hulmeians (twice), Leeds, Boardman, Old Stops, Old Wacs, Stockport U19, and Stockport Grammar there were two goals or less in it, but we only won one of these games, usually conceding ten goals or less. We scored double figures in less than half of our games. And the midfield and attack have to look to their shooting for the answer to the problem.

Only Savage consistently threatened the opposition net. His season was a remarkable one in many ways. His own individual play earned him full international honours, only the second time that a First team player has been selected for England while still at School. He scored fifty goals in the season, and made many more with his unselfish team play. And he was a model Captain. He led the team by example on and off the field and his commitment and dedication to the game and the School team could not be faulted. With his Vice-captain he took the full weight of planning and organisation of the team in every area of responsibility, and I cannot speak too highly of the way that he and Mullins ran their side.

Both of them, and Hayes and Davidson gained England Under 19 caps, and Lancashire Under 19 representative honours. Savage spent a month in the summer in Australia, playing for his country in the World Series and is an example for all School Lacrosse players to emulate in the future.

Finally, after fifteen years of School Lacrosse, I would like to thank all those colleagues at School and within the Old Boys who have given me such tremendous support in that time. A very special thank you is due to that group of Lacrosse parents who over the years have given me not only their help, time, support and advice, but also their friendship. That is something I will take with me from William Hulme's and that Linda and I will always treasure.

I. J. Shaw

2nd X LACROSSE

Played 11, Won 0, Drawn 1, Lost 10, Goals For 57, Against 142

v Timperley U19	(H)	Lost 2-17
v Stockport U19	(A)	Lost 6-10
v Mellor U19 (Norman Barber Trophy)	(H)	Lost 2-24
v Timperley U19	(A)	Lost 8-11
v Cheadle Hulme School	(H)	Lost 4-15
v Stockport Grammar School 2nds	(A)	Drew 6-6
v Stockport U19	(H)	Lost 7-13
v Heaton Mersey U19	(H)	Lost 4-16
v Cheadle Hulme School	(A)	Lost 4-9
v Stockport Grammar 1sts	(A)	Lost 6-12
v Hulmeians Extra 'A'	(H)	Lost 8-9

The Second Team was selected from the following players; J. M. Sherratt, R. Walker, M. P. Wilson, A. A. Bell, R. N. Hulse, P. D. Higginbottom, S. P. Howell, R. D. Slown, D. J. Lambert, P. M. Sheriff, M. A. Bratt, N. J. Williams, N. J. Holder, A. K. Doney and J. K. Johnston. Also played: A. Mehta, D. Stansfield, G. R. Noble and D. Nathan.

If all there was to sporting achievement and success were results, then the Second Team's season could be described as one of almost complete failure. The fact that they failed to record a win, however, only tells part of the story of their season, and the reasons for their unenviable record lie beyond their own performances on the field.

This year for the first time, the Under 19 League reconstituted itself at Christmas and divided into two Conferences for the matches in the New Year. The School Second Team was entered for the Higher Conference against School First teams from Stockport G.S. and Cheadle Hulme and against U19 sides from Mellor and Timperley among others.

With hindsight it is easy to see that this was over-ambitious, and next year the School First Team will play in the Higher Conference and the Seconds in the Lower.

The good things to come out of the season were manifold. Against all the teams which we played twice in the term, the results the second time were an improvement on the initial fixtures. The 4-9 defeat at Cheadle Hulme School represented a major improvement from the first meeting, and after playing together as a team for three weeks, the Seconds gave Timperley a real fright in the return fixture.

The attack never quite learned to harness its skills and to play a controlled and measured game, but Sheriff and Johnston were always threatening, while Williams and Holder still look a little static against experienced defenders. All these players possess tremendous stick handling skills and with application will make excellent players in the future. The midfield had a mixture of experience and strength in Higginbottom, Slown and Howell, and raw but somewhat inexperienced talent in Lambert and Bratt. Higginbottom was exemplary in his attitude and commitment and Howell's only major fault was the tendency to be over committed on occasions. The defence learned constantly throughout the season, and only suffered from having an attack who gave the ball away too readily to put them under almost constant pressure. Walker began to look like a First Team player by the middle of the season, although he needs to be quicker on the turn, while Hulse and Wilson began to understand just how effective teamwork is in defence, and they worked hard at all aspects of their game making tremendous improvements as the season progressed. Bell's effort was never in doubt, and his wholehearted endeavour and unwillingness ever to give up are qualities which he needs to harness with a little more-refined positional play to make the best of his game. Behind the defence, Sherratt in goal, had some outstanding games. He is a goalkeeper in the tradition of stick-handling goalies and was only kept out of the First Team by the outstanding Mullins.

The Team's thanks go to Mr. Loveland who shared in their many disappointments and one triumph, and was there week-in-week-out to give the odd encouraging word and deal with the organisation, off-side umpiring and van-driving, (or waiting for late-comers...) all of which are necessary jobs in the running of a School Team. We look forward to building on this year's experience and a season with more successful results next year.

I. J. Shaw

3rd X LACROSSE

Played 7 Won 2 Drawn 0 Lost 5 Goals for 55 Against 83

v Loughborough University	(H)	W 17 - 4
v Manchester University	(H)	L 5 - 10
v Cheadle U19	(A)	L 6 - 9
v Timperley	(H)	W 12 - 8
v Wilmslow U19	(H)	L 3 - 21
v Stockport Grammar 2nds	(H)	L 2 - 16
v Hulmeians B Team Select	(H)	L 10 - 15

The following players represented the School Third Team:-
R. D. Bone, R. W. Blairs, D. Bradley, R. P. E. Brook, N. M. Butson, D. Cleaver, G. R. Dalzell, G. E. M. Fisher, A. K. Hollingworth, R. C. Mattison, A. Mehta, D. Nathan, S-U Rahman, T. E. Smith and D. Stansfield. Also played: K. A. Blackshaw, M. D. Brook, A. C. Cunningham, M. B. R. Dignan, D. J. Donachie, J. C. Frost and W. Mason.

The experiment of running a Third Team was a qualified success this year, thanks to the efforts of Mr Seddon and to non-playing Captain Donachie's persistence and organisation, but mainly to the fact that there were always several lads who wanted to play each week and whose enthusiasm was the most important feature of the team.

The results were varied and it was certainly disappointing to go out of the Cup because of the lack of commitment of one or two players. However the real stalwarts of the side showed their character in a cracking display against Timperley which gave them their only victory of the season, but also in creditable performances against Stockport G. S. 2nd Team, and against the Old Boys.

The skill and expertise of Cleaver and Smith gave the team the basis of a sound attack, although both these players tend to let their heads drop too easily when things go badly. Bone, Mehta and Stansfield are accomplished players who need to commit themselves more fully to School lacrosse, and ought to aim to get to the very top in the game. The heart of the team, though, was the tirelessly enthusiastic midfield engine room, with Nathan and Mattinson outstanding in their contributions, while Rahman, Fisher, Brook, and Bradley all developed their skills and should look to playing at a higher level next year.

I. J. Shaw.

UNDER 15 LACROSSE

Played 13 Won 10 Drawn 0 Lost 3 Goals for 97 Against 67

v Rochdale	(A)	Won 6-4
v Urmston	(A)	Won 9-3
v Poynton	(A)	Won 15-3
v Stockport	(A)	Won 7-6
v Stockport (J. Schools Cup)		Won 9-3
v Old Waconians		Lost 11-3
v Old Waconians Under 15 Cup		Won 13-5
v Cheadle	(H)	Lost 8-5
v Heaton Mersey	(A)	Won 7-0
v Lions	(A)	Won 5-4
v Stockport Grammar School	(H)	Won 7-6
("sudden death" after extra time)		
v Stockport Juniors	(A)	Won 7-5
v Timperley (J. S. Final)		Lost 9-4

The Under 15 Lacrosse season started in November with a series of away games at Urmston, Poynton and Rochdale. Though some of the squad were playing Rugby, these games resulted in victories and enabled a large number of players to represent the School. A series of excellent games in the 6-a-side tournament enabled West to show his goal-scoring potential. Unfortunately an 'equalizer' in the final was adjudged to have been scored after the final whistle, the trophy going to Timperley.

Following practices over the Christmas holidays, the season re-commenced at Stockport Lacrosse Club. Though defensively sound, there was a lack of movement and team work - despite a victory 7-6. The following week saw a repeat fixture against Stockport in the Juniors and Schools Cup. After being 4-5 down, the team showed its spirit to gain a victory 8-5. Omar Asgher managed to stay on the pitch for a full game, Chris Reichl scored three tremendous goals and looked set for a successful season. The next game, against Old Waconians Under 16's, resulted in our worst defeat for several years. The major fault in attack resulted from a lack of patience, movement and teamwork - a fault that continued throughout the season. The second round of the Juniors and Schools Cup against Old Waconians Under 15's saw a much improved performance. The ball was moved around quickly and accurately and as Goalkeeper Mason gained in confidence, the defence started to operate as a unit. Paul Foster quickly adapted to using a long stick and looks an outstanding prospect. Keith Jones, Peter Sum and Omar Asgher were all strong defensively and able to make quick breaks from defence.

The attack of Andy Sunderland, Eddie Buckley and Dominic West worked well together and a 13-5 victory was the result (Reichl 3, West 3, Baama 2, Bury 2, Sunderland 2, Buckley 1). Inconsistency was evident in the next match - an 8-5 defeat by Cheadle Under 16's. Perhaps the lack of discipline was reflected in three squad members attending Saturday detention. A 7-0 victory over a poor Heaton Mersey side was achieved, thanks to an excellent goalkeeping display by Wayne Mason and strong, skilful planning by middies Simon Copsey Tom Veitch, Chris Bury and Fred Baama. Tom Veitch capped his usual strong performance with a superb fast break goal. The following week saw the best two performances of the season. The Wednesday saw a floodlit Under 16's game at Manchester University against the Lions team who were preparing for a tour to Florida. A skilful, organised game played under International Rules ended in a 5-4 victory. This was a creditable performance against a combined Old Waconians and Cheadle side who had been training for six months. The Juniors and Schools Cup Semi-final was against old rivals, Stockport Grammar School. School made a slow start, recovered to lead 5-4 and then gave Stockport a goal to set up extra time. Extra time was exciting and ended 6-6. The sudden death play off started with School a man down, and gentle suggestions from the coach that possession should be retained. However, Sunderland decided to be a hero, drove round the back of the goal and fed Veitch who scored his third goal of the game.

The climax to the season was the weekend of March 17th and 18th. On the Saturday Stockport Juniors were beaten 7-5, the highlight being a fastbreak goal involving Jones, Sunderland and Holder. The Juniors and Schools Cup Final was on the Sunday morning against Timperley. School went into a promising 2-0 lead, thanks to some long range shots from the hard-working Bury. However, Timperley got their game together and put away some fast break goals to leave the score 4-4 at half-time. Despite plenty of possession, Timperley's rugged defence kept out the School attack and as frustration set in Timperley's superior handling in attack led them to a 9-4 victory. We will win the Cup back one day!

The large squad regularly attended training twice a week and continually improved their skills. The biggest success came through the Lancashire Under 15 team. They ran a vigorous training scheme with sessions every Sunday from 8.30 - 11.30 a.m. Asgher, Veitch, Foster, Baama, Reichl, Buckley and Holder attended all the sessions and saw their hard work pay off with a superb 15-4 victory over Cheshire to win the Regional Trophy. Veitch and Foster crowned an excellent season by being co-captains of Lancashire.

My thanks to the squad for their effort and parents for their support. As usual there is a lot of talent that with dedication can lead to International honours at Lacrosse. Three years ago I made a similar comment. As I write this report Ben Savage is in Australia as part of the England World Cup team.

The squad consisted of Messrs. Mason, Connor, Eckersley, ~Sunderland, Whiteley, Holder, K. Jones, Buckley, Veitch, Copsey, Smart, T. Foster, C. Jones, Arora, Wood, Bury, Reichl, West, Baama, Asgher, P. Foster, Howarth and Sum.

H. N. Veevers

UNDER 14 LACROSSE

Played 10, Won 5, Lost 5. Goals for 72 Against 56

v Ashton U15	(H)	Lost 5-8
v Urmston U15 (Juniors & Schools Cup)	(A)	Won 6-4
v Urmston U15	(A)	Lost 3-6
v Cheadle Hulme School (Juniors & Schools Cup)	(H)	Lost 4-9
v Timperley	(H)	Won 10-1
v Stockport Grammar School	(H)	Won 8-6
v Hulmeians U15	(H)	Won 18-1
v Sale U15	(H)	Lost 4-7
v Urmston U15	(H)	Won 8-6
v Urmston U15	(H)	Lost 6-8

As usual, the Under 14's faced the problem, at this level, of most Club sides being organised as Under 15's teams, and hence with older and stronger players. However, the team stood up to the test well, and the age difference was apparent on relatively few occasions.

The team had a good win in the first round of the Juniors and Schools Cup. It was therefore disappointing to have been knocked out in the next round, although the final result does not reflect how close and well fought the match was. Without a doubt, our best match was against Stockport Grammar School, when the team really showed its skills and experience, and produced a thrilling game of Lacrosse. Unfortunately, not all our matches were played with such spirit, particularly v. Urmston U15's, when team work and Lacrosse became of secondary importance.

On occasions, Jones, Musgrove and Owen provided a solid defence, but Hall in goal, who had a very good season, prevented many of the scorelines against us being much wider. In midfield we were fortunate to have a number of strong players. Sellers, Bates, Shelmerdine, Armstrong, Ormerod and Howells all worked hard, and Bates soon became master of the skill of facing-off successfully. In attack, Metcalfe, Phillips and particularly Sayyid all performed creditably.

At this level, the boys have developed the basic Lacrosse skills, but now they must improve as a team. They must learn to pass the ball around fast and accurately, particularly when in attack, as a few were guilty of trying to do too much individually. I was very pleased with the improvements shown by many of the players as the season progressed.

Being new myself to the game of Lacrosse, I would like to thank all the other Lacrosse Staff for their help throughout the season. I would like to thank all the players, particularly Sellers who helped me considerably in organising and choosing teams. I would also like to thank the large number of parents who turned out regularly for their support, and for making this, my first season of Lacrosse, very enjoyable. Finally my thanks go to Mr. Marsden for his help with coaching and refereeing.

The following boys represented the School:

C. Armstrong, S. Bates, M. Brook, L. Brown, R. Gandy, J. Hall, B. Howells, B. Jones, J. Metcalfe (Captain), M. Musgrove, D. Ormerod, N. Owen, J. Phillips, J. Sayyid, M. Sellers, M. Shelmerdine, C. Simkin, A. Watkins, B. Wood.

T. J. Pattison

UNDER 13 LACROSSE

Played 11, Won 7, Lost 4, For 134, Against 53.

v Cheadle	(H)	Lost 3-9
v Timperley	(A)	Lost 5-8
v Cheadle Hulme School (Centurion Trophy)	(A)	Won 20-3
v Timperley	(H)	Lost 6-10
v Stockport	(A)	Won 18-1
v Sale	(H)	Won 26-0
v W.H.G.S. U13 'B' (Centurion Trophy)	(H)	Won 16-4
v Mellor	(H)	Won 14-1
v Cheadle Hulme (Centurion Trophy)	(H)	Lost 9-11
v Stockport G.S.	(A)	Won 8-1
v W.H.G.S. U14 'B'	(H)	Won 9-5

The results reflect a successful season in which the only major disappointment came in the Centurion Trophy Semi-Final against Cheadle Hulme.

The School lost 11-9 and, as the score suggests, the match could have gone either way. It is always easy, when the margin of defeat is

small, to think of things that might have altered the result. If we had reached the final then I suspect we would have lost to Timperley, the outstanding team in this year group.

The defence improved steadily throughout the season with Warnes the most consistent player. White was good when his mind was on the game and Crawshaw grew in confidence as the season progressed. Behind them Reading was a reliable, if not fully committed goalkeeper.

The midfield depended largely upon two players, Berkeley and Gleave. The latter was a tower of strength both at faces and in general play. When his handling skills match his determination he will be a tremendous player. Berkeley adapted well to the midfield role after playing in defence last season. He is another strong runner and is a great ball winner but he needs to work hard at his handling skills. They were well supported by Brocklehurst, Parry, Rowlands and Sills.

Whereas the midfield had strength but lacked a little finesse, the reverse was true in attack. Cooke, Sidebottom and Stansfield are excellent handlers and many fine goals were scored. Stansfield showed more determination than the others but all three need to show more aggression and to increase the power of their shooting.

The season was a most enjoyable one, largely thanks to the enthusiasm of the players. I would like to thank all the players for making the season such an enjoyable one and particular thanks go to Gleave who led the side by example. My thanks also go to the parents who supported their sons and special thanks are due to Mr. Stansfield and Dr. Warnes for their assistance with coaching, particularly when I was refereeing.

The following players represented the School:
C. Gleave (Capt.), T. M. Berkeley, J. A. Brocklehurst, I. J. Cooke, J. E. Crawshaw, W. M. Parry, A. S. Rao, N. J. Reading, D. J. Rowlands, P. Sidebottom, J. R. Sills, D. P. Stansfield, M. T. Warnes, J. K. White, and M. Whiteley.

A. Simkin.

UNDER 13 ‘B’ LACROSSE

Played 10, Won 7, Lost 3, For 98, Against 63.

v Ashton	(H)	Lost 5-10
v Cheadle Hulme ‘B’	(A)	Won 10-0
v Cheadle Hulme ‘B’ (Centurion Trophy)	(A)	Won 10-0
v Ashton	(H)	Won 10-7
v Timperley ‘B’	(H)	Won 8-6
v Heaton Mersey	(H)	Won 10-5
v W.H.G.S. U13 ‘A’ (Centurion Trophy)	(A)	Lost 4-16
v Timperley ‘B’	(H)	Won 20-2
v Stockport G.S. ‘B’	(A)	Won 10-3
v Cheadle Hulme School	(A)	Lost 11-4

The School turned out a ‘B’ team on most Saturdays and, as the results show, enjoyed a most successful season. They developed an excellent team spirit and this was due largely to their coach, Simon Marsden. Simon plays Lacrosse for Hulmeians and gave up his Saturday mornings to run the ‘B’ team. Our thanks go to him.

The following players represented the School:
S. Xydeas (Capt.), M. A. Alvi, K. Anjum, A. Aslam, J. A. Brocklehurst, D. O. Brown, T. A. Djeddour, D. R. Goldstein, A. Martin-Razm, J. Mehta, R. S. Moodie, S. P. Moscrop, J. D. Myers, W. M. Parry, A. S. Rao, D. N. Slack, R. A. M. Stephenson, M. Whiteley and B. T. Woolrych.

A. Simkin.

UNDER 12 LACROSSE

Played 7, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 1. Goals for 62 Against 27.

v Timperley U12	(A)	Drawn 5-5
v Ashton U13	(A)	Lost 6-11
v Timperley U12	(H)	Won 13-1
v Cheadle Hulme U13B	(H)	Won 5-4
v Heaton Mersey U13	(A)	Won 8-5
v Timperley U12	(H)	Won 8-0
v Stockport G.S. U12	(A)	Won 17-1

The following played regularly: J. Pearson, M. Birtwistle, K. Keller, C. Podmore, K. Khan, P. Day, J. Flatman, N. Ghazi, R. Lamb, C. Hope. Also played: C. Gerezdi, J. Sochovsky, D. Ramsey, D. Lowry, A. Moodie, G. Elly, A. Holden, S. Johnson, J. Rogerson.

Coaching commenced during the Christmas holidays, although practice sessions were less well attended than usual and few boys had any experience of the game. Two had been coached - one at a Club and one at the Summer School and two others had played a little in the Michaelmas term. The Saturday practices were also poorly attended, although the final one gave more boys the opportunity to come into a game situation. The three basic skills of picking up, catching and throwing developed well, and then the technicalities of the game were introduced.

A team was selected for the first match. Would they understand, or even remember the new terms “face, cut, feed, offside, zone, slow flag, gate, restraining lines....”? Would they realise that, if they foul, they would be “sent off for a minute”? Friday night phone calls confirmed that the first match had to be called off because of the bad weather. The first game was played in the mud of Timperley, against an experienced group of players. R. Lamb “fed the crease man (!)” well, and a draw ensued - although we could have won. The reason for three substitutes soon became apparent - they were to play football with the coach’s two three year olds! Our second match entailed a long drive to the moors of Ashton, to encounter an Under 13 teams with sticks longer than we (or they?) could cope with. Our midfield did much running but tired in the mud and did not have enough support around them. J. Pearson, despite letting in 11 goals, had a splendid game. We gave the game away in the final quarter - lack of acclimatisation and insufficient oxygen masks? “We should have won. Let’s play them again next week,” suggested one of our players, “as we can beat them.”

After a break for half-term, we sampled the delights of the fields of Whalley Range, the refereeing of Mr. Wood (“who will coach us?”) and abuse from the Timperley coach. A convincing win ensued. Many changes of plan, re-arrangements and late night phone calls brought Cheadle Hulme to us the next weekend and a very enjoyable match finished with us gaining the narrowest of victories. A visit to Heaton Mersey followed, sunshine and heat (yes, really!) and three early goals for C. Hope. Half time brought a 5-0 score in our favour ... and ten collapsed players. The opposition kept their refreshment to themselves and drew back to 5-5 at three quarter time. A pity our coach could not count (“We’re 5-7 down, work hard, better teamwork and new positions. We must win...”) and we scored three to win 8-5.

Timperley again came and went home 0-8 losers. J. Pearson produced his second “assist” of the season - not bad for a goalkeeper. Finally to Stockport Grammar School and two new players, together with the loss of N. Ghazi from midfield. A poor first quarter (2-0) and then the discovery of S. Johnson in his first game - “What do I have to do?” - “Score goals” and he did. Strength to win the ball, speed to go straight for goals and a very hard shot helped him score three, and the team 17. Our goalkeeper played in attack for one quarter, and all finished the season happy. One mum arrived late to miss her son’s first goal, turned round and missed his second, but saw his third. Nice to see our supporters at Stockport - they had none!

Besides the players already mentioned, we had strength in midfield from co-captains P. Day and J. Flatman. Both won many faces and attacked well. The former scored goals from hard shots and the latter commanded the defence when he dropped back. N. Ghazi’s experience was useful, especially in producing space in attack. J. Robinson showed enthusiasm and much potential in attack or midfield. C. Podmore developed into a useful organiser in defence, and better positional sense is needed so that the player of the season, J. Pearson, is not left exposed in goals.

The team developed very well, thanks especially to practices at least three times a week. The players practised together, played together as a team, and encouraged each other well. Well done, Under 12’s. A very enjoyable season. All should practise hard and regularly and play, if possible, before next year’s School season. In order to win back the Centurion Trophy for the School, as an Under 13 team, the squad should all develop their skills, positional play and especially their teamwork.

M. D. Wood



JUNIOR SCHOOL BADMINTON 1990

After much prompting and coaching of the basic rules, the Junior School Badminton Competition finally got into full swing early in the month of February. The Junior School forms produced a team of eight players and two substitutes and commenced battle. Most of the matches were keenly fought and some names which stand out for the vigour they put into the matches were J. Sills, S. Johnson, J. Flatman and P. Day from my form; then there were those who tried their hardest and at the end were competent Badminton players. The competition also drew a healthy crowd of supporters always willing to chant, offer advice or whatever for their favourite team; they become an invaluable addition to the competition.

The results, after much battling on the court, were as follows:

SECOND FORM 1st-2C, 2nd-2B, 3rd-2A, 4th-2D.

FIRST FORM 1st-ID, 2nd-IA, 3rd-IB, 4th IC.

Can I just take this opportunity to say thanks to all those who took part and I look forward with interest to next year's competition.

J. M. Haslam



CROSS COUNTRY 1989-90

The season got off to an eventful start at Bruntford Park: one of our runners fell at the start and two of our best hopes managed to turn up two minutes after the start of their race. However, we did not allow such minor matters to dishearten us.

The first fixture in the Altrincham League on 7th October was marred by abysmal weather but this was made up for by some satisfying results. Anthony Sheldon (3Y) achieved a personal best by coming in 9th. If he continues to improve he could become a top class runner. Crispin Jones (4B) and Chris Reichl (4Y) both ran impressive races and were very satisfied with their positions of 8th and 4th in a race which included Fifth Formers. It is a pity that both these runners were unable to take part in any of the other fixtures because of other sporting commitments. The main success was for Patrick Cassidy (L6S5) who came in 1st in the Senior race. This was Patrick's first run after a break of several years and it augured well for the future but he too had to give up running for other sports. On 2nd December Roger Mody (5X), who had been steadily improving all season, surprised everyone - including himself - by taking the lead at the beginning of the race and keeping it for much of the first lap. Although he lost it, he did achieve a personal best by coming in 6th. Despite some injuries Ian Ellis (5L) came in 8th and Greg Bamford (5L) 9th. Andrew Kelly (IA) also continued his run of luck by coming in 7th in his race. Although we did not gain any of the top positions this was one of the most exciting fixtures of the season as most of our runners had to really push themselves at the end to overtake or avoid being overtaken. On 13th January Ellis continued to suffer for the cause and threw up on the last lap. Mody continued to improve by coming in 3rd after leading the field until the third lap. In

the last fixture of the League Mody was hoping to win a certificate. Unfortunately his hopes were dashed by an ankle injury which prevented him from attending the meeting. This was a double pity since he not only missed the certificate, he also missed the sight of Chris Dixon (3L), one of our stalwarts, taking the lead at the start of the first lap in his race. However, he could not keep up the pace and finished 19th. Mody's absence gave Ellis the opportunity of catching up on some points.

On 14th October we had a one-to-one match against Manchester Grammar School. We were generally outclassed by the MGS runners but there were signs that the gap is beginning to narrow and that when our numbers are up we will provide more of a challenge. Mody and Ellis came in 4th and 5th respectively in a field of 11. Sheldon continued to improve by coming in 5th out of a field of 16. Kelly made an impressive start coming in 7th out of 19.

In the first Stockport League fixture at King's Macclesfield on 4th November Ellis and Bamford were both plagued by injury leaving Mody to further improve his rating in the league table. Later in the month, at Bruntwood Park, Ellis and Mody ran almost hand in hand after Mody's knee went half way through the race, but in the final 10 metres Ellis decided that he had had enough of coming in on Mody's coat-tails and sprinted to come in ahead of him. Sheldon came in 2nd, a personal best in this league. At Cheadle Hulme on 27th January the team was devastated by absentees. Mody's luck broke and he came in well behind Ellis and almost suffered frostbite in the process. Dixon gave Sheldon a bit of a fright when he came in quite soon after him.

We finished the season with the Northern Schools Championships at Lyme Park on 17th March. It was a glorious day, as far as the weather went, but not many honours were won by our squad. All our runners did their best and enjoyed a hard-run race.

C. MacLachlan,
Master i/c Cross Country.



SCHOOL CRICKET

The 1990 season, like every cricket season I suppose, had its own bizarre mixture of British Summer Weather. The opening matches in late April were wintry and grey, only to be followed by a hot dry period that hardened the wickets, and seemed to presage a glorious summer. Our hopes of a blazing June, however, were soon to be dashed, but the thankful 'A' Level examinees at least were spared the torment by heat in the Upper Hall, as the Novemberish conditions returned. July was different again, and the heatwave really did arrive with a vengeance, but only after most of the season was over. Only the 1st XI suffered the sunstroke problems that the flag-cracking spell of weather produced, on their end-of-term Tour.

As this has proved to be my final year in charge of School Cricket I feel that I would like to record my thanks to the very many people who have made my involvement so enjoyable and fulfilling.

My colleagues on the teaching Staff at School have given up hundreds of hours of their own time: sitting on coaches in traffic jams on the M62 to Wakefield and on journeys to other foreign parts, standing at square leg or behind the stumps in blazing sun at Birkenhead or sleet at Arnold, sitting in pavilions watching rain tumbling down usually against MGS when we are winning (or watching it not come down when we are losing), all for the love of the game and for the value that team sports and especially Cricket have for the School and the individuals. I am greatly indebted to so many Masters that they are far too numerous to mention by name.

Brian and Elizabeth Gregson and all the ladies who work in the Dining Hall have always provided the sort of backing that has made my