



Camp Photo: RAF Akrotiri 1996.

On Tuesday I worked in the Wessex helicopter hangar in the morning, took part in a raft-building exercise in the afternoon and had a great time at the Akrotiri Arms in the evening.

The raft-building exercise was a great experience. Our flight had to construct a (hopefully floatable) raft, using only three barrels, three crates and a length of rope. It then had to remain in one piece, float, not topple over and travel 30m across Akrotiri Bay in order to complete the exercise. It didn't and we got soaked.

On Wednesday we got a chance to fly in one of RAF Akrotiri's Wessex helicopters. This was a thrilling experience, although we did not get much time in the air. The door of the helicopter was kept open, allowing us to see the beautiful cliff faces on the coast of Cyprus.

The helicopter flight was followed by shooting on the 25m range, an experience I always enjoy, and this was no exception. Congratulations to Chris, who obtained his Marksman badge.

Thursday was a different experience but one that I will never forget. A couple of others and I got the chance to do Work Experience with the army section stationed on the base. We spent most of the time being driven around an assault course in an Armoured Personnel Carrier. We were also allowed to drive one of these amazing vehicles over the assault course, and my advice is, when you ride in the back of the carrier, to wear a seat-belt. When driving over one of the obstacles, I was lifted clear out of my seat, hitting my head on the roof and being slammed down back into the seat, nearly jarring my spine.

The army also showed our small group a new piece of equipment that used heat-seeking technology to allow them to "see" hidden enemies at night by registering body-heat.

Chris Hewison also got the chance to go scuba diving in the Mediterranean around an old sunken wreck - a very enjoyable experience.

On Friday we were able to walk in the Troodos Mountains, the highest range in Cyprus, and fortunately the weather was sunny. Standing near the summit of Troodos, we could see almost the whole of Cyprus laid out beneath us. The scenery was breathtaking both on and off the mountain and I thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Many of us visited Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, on Saturday. There is certainly a wide variety of shops in the city centre, and many historic buildings, including the palace. But by far the most interesting feature of the city is the dividing line running through it that separates the Turkish from the Greek area.

Sunday was a very relaxing day after the previous hectic week. It was spent down at the beach club, sunbathing and riding on the banana boat, which is great fun. The one drawback is that the first time you are thrown off the banana into the sea you nearly freeze to death!

On the Sunday night we were expecting to have a party to celebrate the great time we had all had. However this was not to be Every couple of years RAF Akrotiri hosts an airshow. The fire brigade need to be trained in order to be able to deal with any emergency which may occur at the show. Therefore a fake air disaster was created and we, the cadets, were to be casualties of the crash.

There was no party and we were directed straight to bed in order to get up at 0300 hours the next morning to be transported down to Episkopi, where we were smeared with face-paint and other materials in order to look like real casualties. We were then transported back to Akrotiri and assumed crash positions on the buses (which were acting as fake

aircraft). Within minutes of the alarm being sounded, the fire-crews were on the scene, spraying the buses with foam and water, as if putting out a fire. The casualties were rescued from the buses by the fire services, kitted out with waterproof gear and taken away in jeeps, trucks and even an emergency Wessex helicopter. It was a very enjoyable experience.



Corporal Andrew Matson (right) and friends prepared as casualties.

On Tuesday we said our goodbyes to many of our new-found friends as we each went our separate ways at Gatwick airport. I would like to thank Flt Lt Keable for making this camp possible for us, and also all the staff at Akrotiri for making it so enjoyable.

I would recommend this camp to any cadet wishing to go to an overseas RAF station in the future.

Basic Glider Training

One of the most exciting opportunities for senior cadets is the chance to do a gliding course, which culminates in the cadet doing a solo flight in the glider. Junior Corporal Craig Smith gained a place on this much-coveted training course. He describes his experiences below:

After a total of six hours on various trains, I arrived at RAF Kenley, where I was about to spend my next week learning to fly the Viking glider. The base itself was very different from most of those I have stayed on, as it consisted of one building and a field where the public walked their dogs!



JCpl Craig Smith with his glider.

I spent my first few days learning about the basic flying techniques used in a glider, and then went to London with the other cadets who were attending the camp. My final day was the highlight of my visit. On this day I had three flights with my instructor followed by a "solo" flight. During the initial minutes of my flight all I could think about was the fact that my instructor was no longer sitting behind me but was standing on the ground. I soon relaxed however and once I had reached 800 feet I started to look around. My initial apprehension soon returned when I reached 200 feet and decided that I would have to land shortly. Once safely on the ground, I was congratulated by my newly-found friends and all I wanted to do was to go up again.

I would like to thank Flt Lt Keable, Fg Off Gracey and Plt Off Addison for making the whole experience possible.

First Aid Course

A variety of courses is available to cadets. They include the First Aid Course attended by Junior Corporal Claire Lelonek:

We had an RAF competition coming up (read about it later!) which included an element of First Aid. However, we had one problem: none of us knew much First Aid. So we did not have a normal Field day in February this year but instead a member of the Red Cross came into school to teach thirteen of us basic First Aid.

The day started at nine o'clock and we all went to the Lecture Theatre. When we first saw the man who was to be teaching us, we were all slightly scared of him but as soon as he spoke we were all put at our ease. He immediately insisted that we call him Dave and we all had to write our names on stickers which we wore on our jumpers.

We learnt how to assess a situation involving a casualty, how to do a head-to-toe examination and how to treat any injuries we found. We were taught how to do CPR and how to use the recovery position.

Dave asked for volunteers at different stages throughout the day as he demonstrated how to stop bleeding and how to deal with broken bones. I had to pretend that I had a broken femur and had my leg immobilised, using four bandages and a jumper.

All day he drummed into us the most important things: A, B, C: Airway, Breathing and Circulation and how to check them.

We all had a great day and learned a lot. It turned out to be successful as we only just missed winning the First Aid section of the Area Competition.

WEST MIDLANDS AREA COMPETITION, 1996

This competition has been running for two years now and is open to schools in the West Midlands Area whose Liaison Officer is Flt Lt Martin Wood. The team consists of thirteen cadets of which a maximum of six may be sixth formers. Warrant Officer Richard Strudwick who led our drill squad recalls the day:

On Saturday, March 9th, the RAF Section ventured to try their skills for the first time against nine other schools from the West Midlands Region, in an area competition held at RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton.

The first test was the initiative exercise involving everyone on the team, with Sergeant Andrew Vine in charge. Although the task was not completed in the time limit and I managed to get blown up in a minefield, we were very close to finishing, managing 7th place.

Putting in a good performance next were the First Aiders, Sergeant Caroline Ashley and Junior Corporals Claire Lelonek, William Laird and Richard Longworth, who came second, half a point behind the winners of this part of the competition.

The Aircraft Recognition team, Junior Corporals Andrew Matson, Craig Smith, Ben Stafford and Richard Williams, put in another good performance in a demanding competition to come joint third with Pates and Bromsgrove Schools.

After some sharp shooting by Corporal Chris Hewison, Junior Corporal Tim Edwards, Sergeant Andrew Vine and myself gaining a second place, only the Drill Competition and Operation Pegasus (not a spelling mistake!) remained.

We were placed fifth in the drill which involved all those mentioned above as well as cadet Daniel Durrance. This was a fairly good effort considering our lack of drill practice although we were told that we were the only squad to march at the correct pace of 120 paces per minute! The judge for this section of the competition was the most senior warrant officer in the Air Force - an amazing lady.

Pegasus was the part of the competition involving the flying of an egg (hence the spelling) over a distance of 20m by any method as long as the egg remained intact after landing. Our flying machine, built by Chris Hewison, Will Laird and Tim Edwards, with handy hints from Plt Off Addison, was cunningly disguised as a missile in which the egg was well wrapped with bubble packing. The first javelin style throw by Tim Edwards was a good effort. However, an aerodynamics check aimed at a stack of hay bales by yours truly before the second throw resulted in our missile splintering spectacularly in a cloud of dust. Even though the egg was undamaged, emergency repairs were not possible. Instead a new launching method was adopted involving a more boomerang style approach, landing us in joint 7th position. First and second positions were fought out by the painstakingly well-made gliders of Warwick School and Hereford School.

First place overall was taken by Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall with whom we shared an Easter camp at St Athan in 1995 with William Hulme's coming a valiant fourth.

Well done to everyone for taking part, especially to Daniel Durrance, who came along to make up the numbers for drill. Also thanks to the officers for helping to organise the event.

LEADERSHIP COURSES AT RAF HALTON

Senior cadets are also able to get some idea of what it is like to be a leader by attending a Leadership Course at RAF Halton. Richard Williams recently successfully completed such a course- congratulations, Richard, - and came straight on to camp at RAF Valley despite the rigours of the course. He writes of his experiences:

Only 180 cadets from the CCF and ATC (Air Training Corps) get the opportunity to go on this course of which about 130 pass. It is the hardest course that the RAF can throw at cadets so if you pass (like I did) you can feel very pleased with yourself.

From the time you arrive on the Saturday to the Friday evening before you leave you are being continually assessed. (Just like Initial Officer Training at RAF Cranwell!!!) Your attitude, teamwork and leadership skills all come under scrutiny. Fitness is important on the course - a 1½ mile run in 11½ minutes (12½ for girls) at 0630 Sunday morning is likely to sort out those who are not up to scratch.

The days run along the following lines:

0530:	Wake up
0600:	PT
0700:	Breakfast
0830 - 1300:	Leadership Tasks
1300:	Lunch
1330 - 1700:	Leadership tasks
1800:	Tea
1830:	Leadership theory or more practical leadership tasks
2230:	Inspection
2300:	Lights out

Sleeping and eating are the only easy things on the course!!

As the week goes on things get tougher as you all get more tired and yet you still have to improve on earlier mistakes - your own and those of others.

There is also an interflight competition which runs through the week with the navigation exercise, night exercise, and orienteering exercise, in which you have to carry a 14 ft pine pole, as well as leadership exercises, inspections, team morale and teamwork all counting towards the best flight.

Four people out of the forty four who started on my week dropped out - at the passing out parade we were told that 'this is considered low!'

The week was tough but I certainly enjoyed it and learned a lot.

CONCLUSION

The Section is very grateful to Mrs L Hampson and to former Cadet Warrant Officer, Richard Pimblott, for assistance at camps. Many thanks are also due to Flt Lt Keable for her indefatigable efforts on behalf of the Section and in particular for her organisation of the extra summer camps which all of the new intake had the chance to attend, and of such exceptional opportunities as the trip to Cyprus. It is clear from the above that they were much appreciated.

Fg Off M H Gracey

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DRAMA



SEASONS

Miss De Vince broke with tradition for this year's main stage production. Instead of one uninterrupted School Play, we were treated on November 22nd and 23rd to a delightful sequence of dramatised vignettes, readings and solo musical items all centred around the theme "Seasons". This provided the scope for pupils of all ages and varying talents to perform in a variety of registers.

There were five main dramatic excerpts. The first was from Denise Deegan's "Daisy pulls it off", a lively pastiche of Angela Brazil's "Jolly hockey sticks" girls' school stories from the 1920's. Daisy, the scholarship girl from elementary school, arrives in the snobby confines of Grangewood School for Young Ladies where we witness her initial trials and tribulations with the staff and other girls. Jennie Green as Daisy ran the whole gamut of emotions demanded by the rôle - wide-eyed, child-like naïveté, fear of the unknown, buoyant enthusiasm, tearful home-sickness, warmth of heart and energetic determination to "hold her own". Her new-found best friend, Trixie Martin, was Karen Vites, intensely and gushingly exuberant and (appropriately) full of the joys of spring. Confronting them are the nasty, toady Sybil Burlington, played with sneering, haughty disdain by Victoria Seel, and her side-kick Monica Smithers, in which role Amarjit Sagar brought out well the deliberate imitating of her sneaky guru Sybil. Victoria and Amarjit fed off each other's snobbery and cruelty towards Daisy in an almost frightening folie à deux. Clare Beaumont (Head Girl and, needless to say, Sports Captain) and her friend Alice are of course a much more pleasant and mature pair. Laura-Marie Ramsumair as Clare and Eleanor Heynes as Alice were perfect as the poised end-product of Grangewood, kind and "big-sisterly", if slightly patronising, to Daisy, and clearly loving their school in the *right* way! Anna Bower as the other fourth former in the cast, Form Captain Belinda, brought out well the perennial problem of being *prima inter pares*, how to make decent values and proper conduct prevail from within the peer group, like a foreman in a factory or an NCO in the armed forces. She brought out well the frustration and loneliness of having to fight such a losing battle with the likes of Sybil and Monica! The adults, Louise Wellock as the martinet of an English teacher, and Laura Leveson as the Headmistress, were appropriately "school-ma'am-ish". Louise doubled as Daisy's mother in the opening minutes - she was versatile enough to differentiate sharply between the two rôles. In short, a delightful "send-up" of an age before the ugly grotesque excesses of St. Trinian's, half an hour of enchanting, bubbly nostalgia.

No greater contrast can be imagined than between Jennie's and Anna's performance in "Daisy" and their interpretations of the deeply moving latter end of Act III Scene 1 in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night". Countess Olivia has fallen in love with the page boy Cesario, sent to her with a message. Unfortunately, however, Cesario is a girl, Viola, masquerading as a boy. Jennie as Viola/Cesario showed a subtle mixture of absolute horror at Olivia's doomed affection and a tactful but vain attempt to make her "cool it". Anna as Olivia had the ill-restrained dignity of a lady anxious not to "lay her honour too unchary out" yet unable to stop herself declaring her love. A lovely cameo scene.

Representing the Summer was the very well-known "Pyramus and Thisbe" play put on by the hempen homespuns for Duke Theseus in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The challenge here is for the cast to act well the parts of clumsy amateurs acting badly. This came off because the players went in for a blend of deliberate "over-the-top" exaggeration (Levinia Clemetson as Bottom/Pyramus in particular) and a flat, gabbly "throw away style" (Jennie Porter as Flute/Thisbe and Sharon Becker as Starveling/Moon, for instance). Joanna Shaw was a suitably impassive Wall, but we were not sure whether her uncontrollable smile, at the crucial moment when the lovers whisper through the chink, was Joanna or Wall! Alex Preston as Snout/Lion completed the motley crew of mechanicals, combining mock-ferocity with a deeper mildness. In contrast to the artisans, the elegant court couple - Katie Chesworth as Theseus and Michelle Fearnley as Hippolyta - steered a sensitive middle course between the opposite dangers of stilted over-detachment and patronising mockery. They came across, appropriately, as genuinely touched and moved by the well-meant endeavours of the bumbling quintet. It was amusing to see them shrinking back in almost real terror when Bottom waved his sword too energetically!

Four of our leading Sixth Form Thespians, ably aided by Sajjad Riaz of the Fourth Year as the deliberately over-the-top vicar trying to be broad-minded, gave us "Gosforth's Fête", one of the five playettes in Alan Ayckbourn's sequence "Confusions". Milly, engaged to the nice cub-master Stewart, has, after a foolish "one-night stand", been made pregnant by Gosforth, an oafish goof. She confronts Gosforth with the news of her condition in the tea-tent at the village fête where she is dispensing teas and he mending the loudspeaker. Their conversation is thus inadvertently broadcast and the hurt and angry Stewart joins them. Eleanor Heynes was perfect as the ingénue but sharp-tongued Milly, victim of Gosforth's lust; she managed well the shift from child-like vulnerability to pert, trenchant wit demanded by the part. In fact Milly matures during the brief time-span of the play; as she puts it to Stewart: "I'm thirty-four, pregnant by a man I don't much care for and I've grown up. And not before bloody time....". Paul Bagnall as the boorish clodpoll seducer Gosforth spoke and acted with studied idiocy as if in a bewildered trance, giving us the most brilliantly achieved comic role of the evening. Andrew Farrell

as Stewart radiated the sulky, injured pride of the overgrown schoolboy exploited and made a fool of by the unscrupulous man of the world; Andrew adopted an almost lisping accent which suited the rôle well. He and Paul were a perfect foil to each other in their big confrontation scene. Regrettably, no other young *men* from our Sixth Form took part in any of the five plays, but Andrew's and Paul's witty, intelligent acting certainly compensated for the lack of numbers. Quality is more important than quantity, thank goodness. Finally, Laura Leveson as the redoubtable and distinguished parvenue guest of honour at the Fête, Councillor Mrs. Pearce, was a mixture of Patricia Routledge as Hyacinth Bucket in "Keeping Up Appearances" and Molly Sugden as Mrs. Slocombe in "Are you being served?" Another delicious piece of comedy from the most versatile performer of the evening (Chaucer/Daisy/Ayckbourn!).

Nine actors/actresses from our Junior School completed the cycle of the "Seasons" with excerpts from Shaun Sutton's dramatisation of Dickens' "Christmas Carol". In this version the main action is "a play within a play", what the Germans call a *Rahmenerzählung*. The outer frame has a mother calming her over-exuberant children during Christmas by promising them a story. As the mother, Victoria Bramwell, one of our most talented and promising junior actresses, captured our attention as surely as she did that of her obstreperous charges with her engaging gestures, lively eye-contact and varied voice register. She doubled as the homely Mrs. Cratchet, as did four sparkling 1R girls both as her children in the "outer" and as the Cratchet children in the "inner frame" - Priya Vedhara, Kate Howie, Vanessa Bacchas and Moyo Adunola. Waqar Ahmed, another Cratchet offspring, was also Scrooge's outspoken nephew Fred, challenging his miserly uncle, in a way Bob Cratchet would never dare, to change his attitude for Christmas. Scrooge himself, Stephen Vickers, was suitably aggressive, stubborn and myopically intent on his ledgers before his conversion, timidly defiant after the appearance of Marley's ghost, and genial at the end, a challenging palette of emotions to which Stephen responded well. Ian Breen as Bob bowed his head in submission to Scrooge even when the latter came in at the end, unbeknown to him, full of good cheer, but this hangdog air soon switched to cheerful warmth of heart at the end! Last, but by no means least, Andrea Reah was an implacable and stridently forbidding Ghost of Marley, lit up behind a gauze with a phosphorescent green glow which was a credit to Michael Bartlett and his lighting team.

The five drama offerings were supplemented by four well-delivered readings, two for spring, one for summer and one for autumn. The readers were Joanna Shaw, Laura Leveson with Laura-Marie Ramsumair, Samantha Johnson and Michelle Fearnley.

As a contrast to the spoken word, we were treated to eight musical solos by seven of our most distinguished musicians, as ever with pieces to do with the seasons. All were superbly and professionally performed. They were as follows:

SPRING	1.	"Springtime" (Sallon) Sam Sallon (piano)
	2.	"To a Wild Rose" (MacDowell) Mika Tong (piano)
SUMMER	1.	"Summertime" (Gershwin) Gemma Bookbinder (vocal)
	2.	"The Summer Knows" (Legrand) Karen Vites (vocal)
AUTUMN	1.	"Autumn Mist" (Haines) Shivaji Dé (clarinet)
	2.	"Autumn Mist" (Kosma & Mercer) Kati Greenall (saxophone)
WINTER	1.	"Footsteps in the Snow" (Debussy) Mika Tong (piano)
	2.	"Powder Snow" (Lyons) John Daniels (saxophone)

We were fortunate to have Edward Barnwell as the accompanist throughout the show; details of his Celebrity Recital appear elsewhere in this magazine.

Reviews of performances end with the statutory mention of the work "behind the scenes". But particularly in the case of this production with its wide variety, such recognition is more than richly deserved, above all for Mr. Austen's Stage Team led by Richard Strudwick and Vinnie Pohoomull, and Michael Bartlett's Lighting/Sound Crew. A complete list of the Production Team appears below. But above all congratulations are due to Miss De Vince for her, as ever, inspirational direction. This was, sadly for us, her last production here at WHGS, and we wish her all much-deserved success and happiness at Denstone.

G J Turner

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	J A De Vince	
Assistant Directors	T P Heavisides	G J Turner
	J C Knowles	S R Tandon
	P M Kelly	M C Gorman
Stage Director	A R Austen	
Stage Managers	Richard Strudwick	Vinnie Pohoomull

Stage Staff	Michael Dodd Daniel Power Jeffrey Pearson Sarah Holder Louise Ives	Caroline Ip Daniel Gent Louise Illingworth Rachel Westbrook
Art & Design	A Boothroyd	
Programme	J A De Vince	
Make Up	S R Tandon and team	J Keable
Costume	J A De Vince	
<i>Lighting</i>		
Lighting Design	Michael Bartlett	
Rigged By	Michael Bartlett Richard Lamb	Matthew Whyatt
Operated By	Sarah Cochrane	Richard Lamb
Sound:-		
Design & Recording	Michael Bartlett Matthew Whyatt	Richard Porter
Operated By	Matthew Whyatt	Richard Porter
<i>with thanks to the Club Theatre, Altrincham for the loan of extra sound equipment</i>		
Ticket Sales	Caroline Ip and team	Sophie Stephenson
Front of House	G J Turner Michael Bartlett	Debra Mosley

HOUSE PLAY FESTIVAL 1996

Enjoying the generously provided pre-performance glass of sherry, I found myself thinking that the House Plays, like wines, vary from year to year in the standard of the output. By this analogy, 1996 was an excellent vintage; much the best of recent years in overall quality. Happily this meant two nights of delightful entertainment, followed, less happily, by an agonising weekend of decision-making. In the end I had to write the individual play reports to clarify my impressions before reaching a verdict about the awards.

Before declaring the winners I would like to pay tribute to the considerable efforts and talents of those who work behind the scenes to make the Festival so successful. The make-up artists, back-stage teams, sound and lighting crews all contribute significantly to the performances. Particular congratulations are due to Sarah Cochrane who did an excellent job as technical co-ordinator for all six plays. The event could not take place without the commitment and support of the House Masters and their assistants, and of course, all are indebted to Mr Turner for his meticulous and enthusiastic organisation.

The results of the 1996 House Play Festival are:-

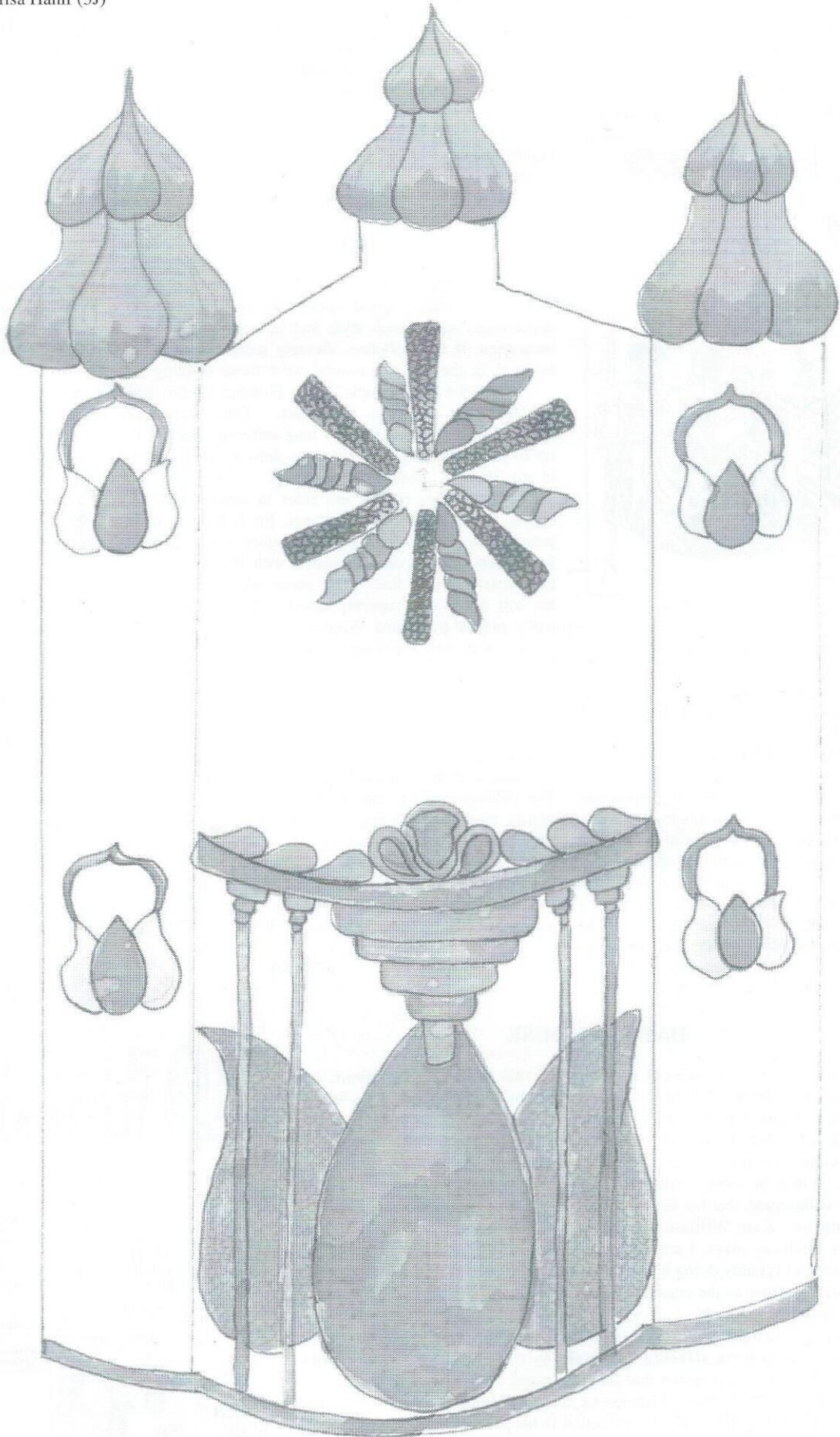
1st	Dalton
2nd	Byrom
	Heywood
3rd	Gaskell

As always there were some memorable performances in cameo roles. Notable amongst these were Sally Burton, Cemile Egeli, Justin Finch, Kati Greenall, Tom Gent and John Gordon.

Contenders for Best Actor and Actress Awards included: Geraldine Brook, Richard Beenstock, Jennie Green, Joanna Gregory, Laura Leveson, Francesca Matthews, Laura-Marie Ramsumair, Tariq Rashid, Robert Seddon, James Taylor, Andrew Yates and, for the second consecutive year Sam Johnson, Guy Brocklehurst, Michael Bartlett and Karen Vites.

The winners were:

Best Actress	Michelle Fearnley
Best Actor	David Hufton



BYROM HOUSE

The last time I saw Alan Ayckbourn's "A Bedroom Farce" was some twenty years ago at the National Theatre. It lasted some two hours, fifteen minutes and taxed the talents of some of the finest comic actors currently gracing the professional stage. With this background, I feared for Byrom in this ambitious undertaking. I need not have worried. That the Byrom team successfully edited the script and that the eight strong cast held the action together as well as they did, is a remarkable achievement.



Farce, when not directed and performed with consummate skill, rapidly degenerates into chaos. That this was avoided was a pleasing aspect of the many farcical scripts used in this year's Festival, but was especially true of Byrom's production where the pitfalls were plentiful, and all triumphantly overcome.

Three beds dominated the set. The switches in the action from one to another were slickly achieved with faultless lighting and well timed entries. The interactions between the four couples were ever more confused and chaotic, as befits a good farce. Strong characterisation, clear contrasts in appearance, age, speech style and manner helped the audience to follow the intricacies of the elaborate, cleverly reduced plot with ease. We were able to revel in the fun, so assured were those creating it.

As the older couple Vicky Fleming (Delia) and Ben Stafford (Ernest) got the play off to a fine start. They were very convincing as the domineering woman and her long-suffering mate. Ernest, especially, lived up to his name and his ingenuous delivery of lines "She was very interested in my stamps" was most engaging.

Few roles require the actor to remain supine for the entirety of the action, but this was the challenge for Robert Seddon as Nick. His being prone on the bed, suffering a back injury, made audibility a particular problem for Robert, but he communicated with the audience very effectively despite the occasional lost line. The scene where he fell out of bed in pursuit of his lost book was superbly acted. A considerable flair for clowning was

apparent here. His partner, Jan, was confidently played by Emma Weeden. Emma needed just a little more clarity in the delivery of lines to do herself full justice, but this was a performance with promise.

Kate (Joanna Gregory) and Malcolm (Tariq Rashid) were played with assurance and skill. Lines were clear, well paced and convincing, accompanied by excellent physical comedy. The chase round the bed, the antics of Kate in the bed and the comic potential of the DIY present were all well realised.

In his rendition of Trevor, David Hufton was clearly his father's son. His solemn earnestness was deliciously incongruous in its surrounding frivolity and absurdity. David's command of lines was faultless; his ability to create and sustain Trevor's persona, remarkable. Such a strong performance could not have been achieved without Julia Atherton's effective portrayal of his wife, Susannah. The petulance of the two in the quarrel scene was admirably sustained and very funny. Trevor's catchphrase, the gorgeously inadequate "Sorry", was brilliantly exploited by David.

Despite the thoughtful editing, this play was 75 minutes long and there was always a danger that the actors' concentration and control would lapse, especially when the demands on them increase as the play nears its climax. In fact, they got better and better and the audience's evident enjoyment was sustained to the last.

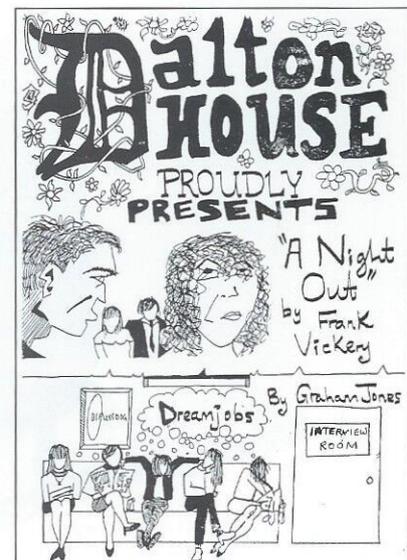
Very occasional insecurity with lines in no way overshadowed the many virtues of this ambitious and successful performance. The House Master, in his final year, cannot have seen many Byrom productions better than this one. The cast did him, and themselves, proud.

DALTON HOUSE

Dalton chose to present a double-bill this year with two short, but contrasting, comedies. The first "A Night Out" by Frank Vicker, a traditional farce, required strong performances from all four members of its cast.

It is a tribute to their excellent preparation that the Dalton players were able to cope with the last minute and most unfortunate loss of one of their number. It may be some small consolation, in the sad circumstances of Vicky Raynes' withdrawal, that her fellow actors gave a winning performance. One of the producers, Kate Williams, stood in with the book. As someone who regularly produces plays, I am well aware of the gulf between telling others what to do and actually doing it yourself! Kate is to be commended on the skill with which she rose to the occasion, remembering movements and cues, whilst needing to follow the script.

It would have been understandable had the performances of the remaining actors been affected adversely by the change of cast. It was, therefore, the more impressive that they appeared completely at ease in their various roles. As Dad, Richard Beenstock combined hopelessness, helplessness and hen-pecked long-sufferance to perfection in his performance.



From her first rain-sodden entry, Michelle Fearnley as Mam took the audience by storm. One thought of Sue Pollard, Raquel in 'The Street', Lily Savage and many other classic female comics' turns. Michelle mined a rich vein of talent to produce this superbly sustained performance. Throughout she was complemented admirably by Richard. Simple lines like "How many bloody handbags have you got?" were rendered hilarious by their timing and accompanying action and expression. Michelle was a master of deflation. Her response to the plea not to let down her husband on his big night, "Well, he disappointed me on mine", was caustically and impeccably delivered.

Properties and costumes were excellent. The skilfully engineered chaos of the set made the search for the missing tickets plausible and hilarious, without impeding the actors' movements. The hideous wig and the green leather dress were, like their wearer, deliciously grotesque, tasteless and funny.

The impressive comic timing was sustained with the entry of Ben Green as Eric. His adolescent ardour was full of pathos and humour. Ben's use of facial expression, gesture and throwaway lines, such as:

Mam: "I'm all worked up"

Ben: "I know how you feel"

were highly accomplished.

This was enjoyable from the first to the last delightful anti-climactic moments. The pace was well-judged, the performances consistently of a high standard.

The second play "Dreamjobs" by Graham Jones, was an inspired choice of text which was exquisitely cast. Everything about the production was first rate and highly professional. The five characters were strongly delineated. Here, if we needed it, was evidence of how well a school uniform can be exploited to express an individual's identity. The six wooden chairs, comprising the complete set, were used with ingenuity and imagination.

Each of the girls was an excellent contrast to the others. All were audible, polished, intelligent performances. Even the choreography was used to establish the differing personalities. Geraldine Brook (Angela) was convincingly coarse and sultry; one could easily picture her being the bane of her much loathed English teacher's life. As the vulnerable, homely and pregnant Joan, Francesca Matthews was marvellous. Equally memorable were Jennie Green as the would-be air hostess, very prim Mandy, and the likeable nurse-to-be, Fiona, played by Sam Johnson. The most down-to-earth of the dreamers was Bev, Karen Vites, whose accent, movement and voice control were outstanding. When the various dreams were enacted, the cast's team-work was excellent, the parodies were wonderfully over-the-top and the pace beautifully controlled.

This was a performance to savour. It inspired confidence and was a delight to watch. The producers deserve the warmest congratulations.

FRASER HOUSE

If there were a separate award for the set, then Fraser House would have won it outright this year. The attention to detail of the set was most impressive, the pillars, period furniture, plants and well chosen properties helped to create the appropriate atmosphere for "Out for the Count" by Martin Downing. This was a spoof vampire comedy with a predictable but entertaining story-line.



All of the players had excellent costumes ranging from beautiful evening dresses, through the lurid orange and yellow worn by Rennet, to the wonderfully ghostly Count. The visual impact of the production was most impressive.

The script was a melodrama and demanded hyperbolic performances: these were unevenly achieved. The two young ladies, Mina (Kelly Bagley) and Lucy (Riana Bedi) were rather self-consciously played. Many of the funniest lines in the play belonged to these two and were thrown away by being too quickly, or inaudibly delivered. Mina's fiancé, Jonathan (Bidhan Ganguly) grew into his role as the plot developed - his ineffectual shadow-boxing with the Count was superb. Jonathan even managed some clever ad libs when they were most needed.

The play-script abounded in italicised words which needed due emphasis to bring out the humour. The italics were almost invariably ignored by the cast. However, there was no mistake at all in the casting and execution of the role of Bridget. As the Irish Cook, Laura Marie Ramsumair was tremendous, she was insouciant, charming, winning and wholly normal in this crazy world. Laura-Marie revealed great comic talent in her performance.

The part of the sinister, deranged Rennet was a gift of a role which Riaz Ahmed performed competently but did not exploit to the full. Rennet's words, mad laughter, actions all called out for melodrama. Stage directions like "gibbering" invited an uninhibited approach. As Constance and Arthur, the older generation in the play, Louise Wellock and David Gilbert each had some splendid moments. They would have

gained from adopting posher accents, to do justice to the expectations raised by their costumes, but they did have some lovely lines.

The ludicrously named Professor Hertz Van Hyer was enjoyably portrayed by Ross Jenkins who, again, could well have gone further in exploiting the part's potential for melodrama. No problems in this respect for Andrew Yates who made a strikingly eccentric Count Nolyard. The stage direction which accompanied his opening words "Good evening" is IN A TRANSYLVANIAN ACCENT! Quite a challenge, surely. Andrew's interpretation was hugely entertaining. He showed remarkable aplomb and a ready wit in his numerous ad libs, delivered wholly in role, not least when one of the expensive-looking glasses was accidentally broken by one of the cast.

There was some insecurity with lines, more marked towards the end, and a general under-playing of a most promising script. There were also some richly entertaining moments and a great deal of hard work apparent in this production. In a less successful year this would surely have been placed.

GASKELL HOUSE

In Alan Ayckbourn's "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations", Gaskell House again found a script which, like their choice of "Adrian Mole" last year, was admirably suited to a large, young and exuberant cast. The audience was certainly won over by the evident enjoyment of the players here. A great sense of fun was communicated throughout.

Guy Brocklehurst looked just right as Ernie and sustained his demanding role effectively in every scene. The audibility of Ernie's lines would have benefited from a slightly slower delivery and from his allowing the well-deserved laughter to subside before he continued. As Ernie's parents, Jane Lawson and Aaron Greenall put their acting experience to good use and delivered their lines with well judged comic timing. Michael Scholes grew in confidence in his portrayal of the bewildered Doctor but was a little hesitant on lines and cues.

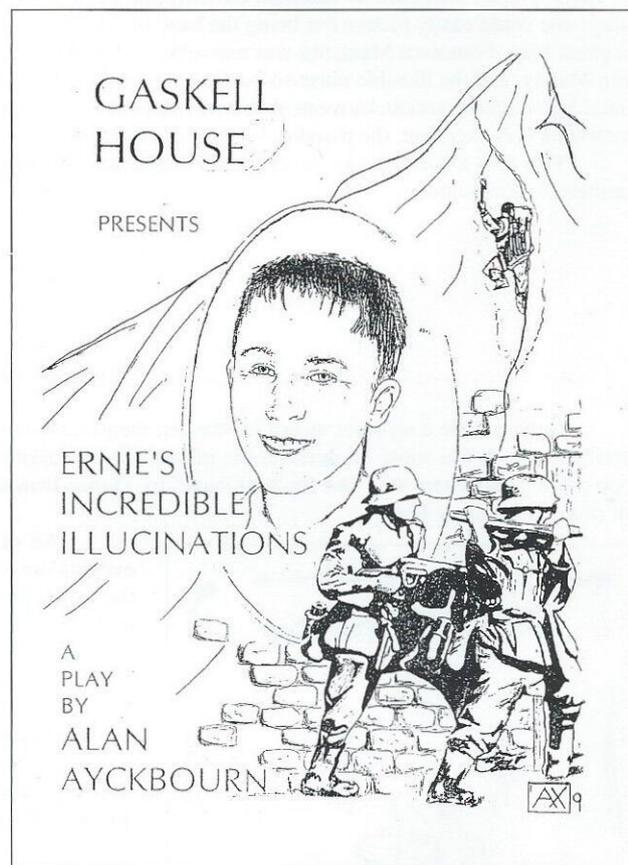
The transitions between reality and daydreams were invariably smooth and made imaginative use of the stage. Ernie's visions include a war-time Nazi raid, a fair-ground boxing match, spies at work in the local library, the conquest of the world's third highest mountain and a marching brass band concert. All are naive, hackneyed and stereotypical, requiring seriously "ham" acting to do them justice. Gaskell's producers and cast managed many aspects of this successfully. The crowd scenes and the physical comedy were especially well managed. There was a lovely creation of knockabout fun in the scene where Dad tries to hide the television and where Ernie fires at the German soldiers.

The entry of Sally Burton as Ernie's redoubtable Auntie May was one of the highlights of the play. Voice, costume, body language and sheer stage presence made this a delightful caricature. The barkers at the fair, Jane Balderstone, Suzanne Nathan, Carys Edwards and Elli Metcalfe, were all lively and clearly audible but there was more scope for mime movement in these scenes. The boxing-ring was ingeniously created and the entire episode's comic potential was well exploited. Justin

Finch was funny as Kid Saracen, and the wonderfully unrealistic chest hair on Tom Gent was an inspired touch. The bouts of fighting were well rehearsed and orchestrated effectively by Kati Greenall in her role as referee. The cast made the timing look effortless here; it was a slick, well-practised sequence. The large numbers in the crowd led the real audience in a warm, lively response. The only thing lacking was the round-marking bell to add to the authenticity of the parody. At the end of the contest, Ernie needed to be closer to the audience, perhaps on the apron stage, to allow his comments to be heard over the crowd.

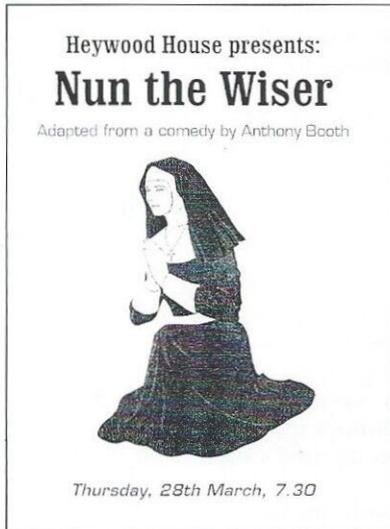
When the scene moved to the Public Library we saw Cemile Egeli in the second of her two well-realised cameo roles. Vicky Lane, Rebekah Lawson and Laurie Edwards also made the most of their appearances while David Melmoth's timing, as the spy masquerading as a tramp, was first rate.

The lines became less secure towards the end, but the cast was sufficiently sure of its roles to ad lib convincingly and to keep the action moving. Gaskell's cast all acted at all times and the producers deserve credit for skilful direction. The climax to the play's action with the mock brass band marching through the audience was most entertaining, yet had more potential than was realised. All in all, in this production a great deal of pleasure was shared with the audience in an engaging performance.



HEYWOOD HOUSE

"Nun the Wiser", Heywood's adaptation of a comedy by Anthony Booth, proved to be a hugely enjoyable irreverent romp with strong performances from all involved. From the curtain's rise on the smoking, drinking, swearing sisters, the audience sat back expecting to enjoy itself. It was not disappointed.



Like "Dreamjobs" but with a different uniform, this play required strong differentiation between the characters which the cast successfully provided. The rather quietly spoken Edith (Sophie Hope) was balanced by the powerful student Jean (Chris Barnes). The efficient, sharp-tongued Susan (Levinia Clemetson) was a perfect foil to the incompetent, intoxicated Bess, well played by Victoria Seel. All of these were over-seen and, in the very best sense, over-shadowed by the "Mother Superior", Vera, quite brilliantly captured by Laura Leveson, whose acting talent would have been outstanding in most years, and was noteworthy even in this year's fine vintage!

The movement on stage was well orchestrated, entries and exits were timed to perfection, properties were intelligently used and timing was impressive throughout. The imminent arrival of the two "real" nuns led to a frenzied clearing-up operation, which was, quite simply, brilliant. Whenever any of the sisters answered the telephone, the changes in accent were cleverly achieved and their full comic potential exploited.

A touch of genius was apparent in transforming the second 'real' nun into a man. Michael Bartlett as Sister Les was wonderful. His posture, falsetto voice and all-too-obviously false cleavage beneath the habit, amounted to a richly amusing performance. As Sister Angela, Emma Cruickshank completed a very strong cast most worthily. When the two new arrivals were unmasked to

the audience, Angela's resemblance to Vera was unmistakable and skilfully conveyed.

The text had been cleverly adapted; the updating of slang was particularly well done. Excellent team-work, conscientious line-learning and creative characterisation made this a very successful production. The audience thoroughly enjoyed itself and the cast should feel gratified at the warmth of the laughter and applause.

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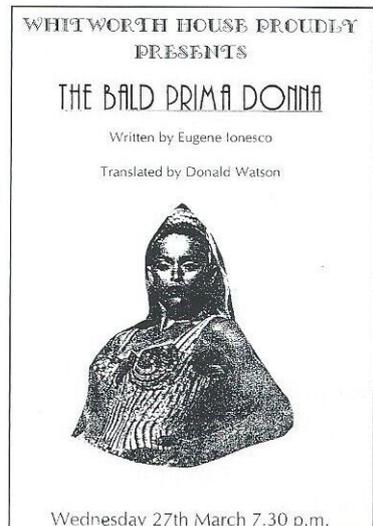
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WHITWORTH HOUSE

Mike Birtwistle's witty, confidently delivered introduction to "The Bald Prima Donna" set up a high expectation for what was to follow. The appropriately chosen music created a splendid atmosphere and then the curtain opened on a stylish set, complete with table cloth, flowers and other tasteful details.

However, the enormous challenges imposed by their choice of play threatened to overwhelm the Whitworth cast. Theatre of the Absurd is notoriously difficult to stage. Indeed many professional productions of plays by Beckett, Ionesco or N F Simpson have left their audiences far more bemused than amused. It is not surprising, then, that this particular House Play performance was like the curate's egg, good in parts.



It began well. Eleanor Heynes, as Mrs Smith, delivered the opening lines with assurance, and with the required dead-pan clarity. The qualities of stillness and tedium Ionesco's script demands were well conveyed here. James Taylor (Mr Smith) was the strongest member of the cast and complemented his wife well. His resonant voice and clever timing ensured that lines were fully exploited. "The only respectable thing left in England is the Conservative Party," was one example of the cast's adapting of lines which provoked a strong audience response. The nature of the piece is such that the lines are almost impossible to learn and yet both Eleanor and James coped admirably in the first half of the play.

To have Mary, the Maid, played by Jon Gordon, as well as being entirely in keeping with the absurd world of the play, was also an inspired piece of casting. Each appearance of Jon/Mary lifted the audience's spirits and the part was played with courage and skill. I will long remember the maid's leap into the Fire-Chief's arms.

The entrance of the play's second couple, the Martins, marks the fiendishly difficult recognition scene, where Mr and Mrs Martin take some one hundred and fifty lines of dialogue to discover that they are known to each other as husband and wife. This is absurd indeed, and requires enormous expertise in the performance. I felt that Caroline Shaw and Mike Birtwistle opted for a deliberate flatness which could have been very striking but did not quite come off. This awkwardness with

the lines perhaps affected the audience which was slow to respond to the comic potential of the exchange.

Like Harold Pinter, Ionesco relies greatly on pauses and silences to convey the full dramatic meaning. When both couples engage in their deliberately stilted dialogue, the script calls for silences between every utterance. The men were better at achieving these, but even then, the confidence to make the silences long enough to be clearly deliberate was somewhat lacking.

Some momentum was regained with the arrival of Jacob Haboubi in the role of Fire-Chief. The part, like the Martins, was decidedly low-key, but as the strangest role in this truly strange play, Jacob did well to cope with its demands as well as he did.

The absurd repetition, which is an intrinsic part of Ionesco's method, required absolute security in the cast's delivery so that the 'loons' become part of the absurd message. Unfortunately the cast became entangled in some loops of their own creation.

There was much to commend in this production. Costumes were excellent, the contrast between the mannered, over-the-top Smiths and the understated Martins; the well-used props and sound effects, the delightful impressions of Clouseau and Cantona: all were pleasing. The final suggestion of absurd repetition when the curtain closes on Mr & Mrs Martin echoing Mr & Mrs Smith at the start, was well achieved. I admire the daring and originality of this choice, but felt that it stretched the producers and cast a little too far.

Miss M Green (Adjudicator)

(Miss Green, Head of English at Withington Girls' School, adjudicated our House Drama Festival this year "for the third time of asking". As usual, she put in countless hours of work and gave us all another brilliant verbal adjudication on the Monday morning following the performances. Many thanks to Miss Green from all connected with this year's competition).

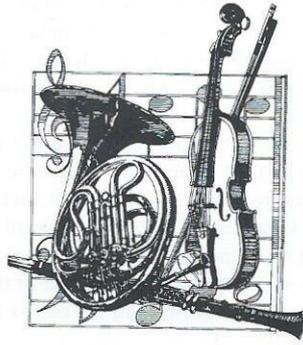
THE EUROPEAN THEATRE COMPANY

GOETHE'S "FAUST, PART 1"

After last year's successful production here of Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac", hosted by Mrs. Ballantyne, the European Theatre Company returned on Thursday, 2nd November with Part 1 of Goethe's "Faust", attended by almost 200 pupils and teachers from schools far and wide. The language was simplified and, like modern translations of the Bible, usually gained in clarity what it lost in richness of language. There were exceptions; Gretchen's initial attempt to shake off Faust's attentions, which Goethe renders as "Kann ungeleitet nach Hause gehn", became "Ich brauche nicht, nach Hause geführt zu werden". Yes, well.

As always, Michael Bartlett and his lighting and sound crew were on hand to back up our visiting troupe; they have loyally supported all such groups here, from classical Greek theatre to the Indian/Sri Lankan song and dance group Kala Sangam, and we thank them for all their hard work.

G J Turner



MUSIC

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Another year seems to have flown past and each September brings the opportunity to put new and hopefully better ideas into practice. Having just finished my fifth year at WHGS, I am very conscious of not wanting to become stale and 'get in a rut'. For any job to be challenging and satisfying, a sense of progression and achievement is required and we continually need to question why and how we do things. To be really effective as a teacher one needs to have a strong belief, not only in what one is teaching, but in how it is being taught. The new academic year brings the ideal opportunity to take stock and plan for the future as well as to thank both visiting and full-time staff for their continued help and support.

Whilst all the instrumental groups have had success this year and have made valuable contributions to each of the major termly concerts, the Concert Band and Jazz Band deserve special mention.

Under the direction of Philip Goodwin, the Concert Band has thrived, reaching all-time heights both in numbers playing and in the quality of music produced. Schools by their nature have a transitory population - it is nonetheless frustrating to see an unprecedented fourteen members of the band leave this year to go onto higher education. This represents nearly a quarter of the present membership and they will be very much missed both for their musicianship and as friends. Hopefully, their absence will give opportunity for younger players to flourish and, as ever, I eagerly await September to find out what new intake of students will bring! I hope that next year the Concert Band will produce a CD to mark its success.

The Jazz Band has also flourished, with an impressive line up of saxophones and trumpets - five years ago we had but a couple of saxophonists. The success of the Jazz Band and number of single reed players in School is entirely attributable to Andrew Wilson's inspired teaching and leadership. It is always a pleasure to watch the Jazz Band rehearse and see the enthusiasm of its members.

The Choir has had less success over the past five years for a variety of reasons. Whilst we have always had a successful treble section, we have failed to retain pupils after Junior School and this had led to a high turnover of members and a lack of mature and experienced voices. I hope to try and redress this problem over the coming year. We were delighted to appoint David Clarke to the visiting staff at WHGS this year as our first singing teacher. Hopefully, David's influence will also have a bearing on the stature of singing in the School.

Whilst the opportunities for those who play an instrument flourish, I am always concerned that there should be opportunity for those who have not had formal instrumental lessons. The Keyboard Club has had limited success in this respect; however, playing a keyboard tends to be an individual experience and the greatest enjoyment comes from making music with others. To this end I hope in the near future to set up a Steel Band and for the School to produce another major dramatic musical production along the lines of "Grease" which we produced three years ago.

As part of an on-going process, we had a review of the format of concerts this year which saw the introduction of a highly successful 'Last Night of the Proms'. Lunchtime Concerts are being introduced next year and hopefully the Spring Concert will bring a different venue and format - still top secret!

Of course concerts and extra-curricular music making are only part of what the Music Department does. There is also the classroom teaching and instrumental individual lessons. Overall the number of pupils having instrumental lessons has fallen over the past few years, as we are getting fewer and fewer students entering the School who already play an instrument or indeed have had the opportunity to do so at their primary schools. The introduction of the Subsidised Lesson Scheme which offers five lessons at half price and the free loan of an instrument last September has proved very successful and numbers are beginning of climb again as a result.

Looking back over the past five years, I have been very pleased with the way things have developed. The move to our new, purpose-built suite of rooms has probably had the single most dramatic impact on day to day life of the department and has given us a stronger identity in the School. Times move on however and we can never be complacent. Pupils readily see through tired and mundane teaching and each year brings new students and new challenges which need to be met.

Since taking up the post as Director of Music at WHGS I have always been keen to promote William Hulme's as a more intimate alternative concert venue to those in the city centre. Our fine wooden panelled listed Hall, dating from 1910, rivals any other in the area and is an ideal size for solo recitals and chamber groups and even smaller orchestras and bands. Not only does WHGS provide an impressive concert hall and secure car parking, it also brings music into the local

community and promotes the name of the School to the wider public - indeed, the majority of audiences have little or no connection with the School. The aim of the concerts has never been to make a profit, merely to break even which, through sponsorship and advertising, we have always just about managed to do. I hope in future we can run concerts on a subscription basis so that we can offer substantial reductions on ticket prices and book artists well in advance so that we can maximise on advertising etc.

It has always been my aim in choosing performers that they be of the highest quality, and we have been lucky to have hosted world class musicians. This year saw three concerts from 'home grown' musicians who have all trained and still live locally but who nonetheless have international reputations. In fact, the Adelphi Saxophone Quartet is led by Andrew Wilson, WHGS's own Saxophone and Clarinet teacher, and Edward Barnwell is our Keyboard teacher. It was exciting and inspiring for students to see that their mentors really can play! Each of the concerts brought us fine musicianship and breath-taking virtuosity which was enjoyed by all those in the audience. Whilst all concerts were well attended, the New Hall was not full - it is still sometimes difficult to get across to people just what they are missing on their own doorstep!

P. Dewhurst

HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL

As ever, the House Music Competition, held on Friday, 13th (!) October, gave all our musicians the ideal opportunity to get organised and show their talent in a field which, like Drama and Debating, reminds us all that contributing to one's House includes cultural as well as sporting activities. All but three of the items offered were entirely instrumental as opposed to vocal, but 47 students played individual items or duets, as well as a trio from Fraser, a quartet or "small ensemble" from Byrom, and complete bands or groups from Dalton, Fraser and Gaskell. "Fun" highlights were the temporarily anonymous Jennie Porter of Fraser in a real Pink Panther outfit crossing the set during Sarah Cochrane's rendition of same, and Gaskell's answer to Bananarama - Carys Edwards, Sally Burton et al. singing and almost dancing the "Chapel of Love" as a sequel to their 1994 "Shoop Shoop Song"!

The winning House was Fraser, and the first four places were within 2% of each other. The rank order of Houses was as follows:

1. Fraser	92.6%
2. Dalton	91.6%
3. Whitworth	91.3%
4. Gaskell	90.6%
5. Byrom	85.9%
6. Heywood	79.0%

The Adjudicator, Mr Andrew Dean from Manchester Grammar School, was impressed with the standard. The average mark per individual item was 72.3%, and nine performances received 80% or more: from Fraser, Sarah Cochrane (Clarinet) and the Band; from Dalton, Paul Murphy (Saxophone) and Sam Sallon (Piano/Vocal); from Gaskell, David Freeman and Kati Greenall (Saxophone duet); from Byrom, Vicky Fleming (Clarinet); and from Heywood, Daniel Coghill (Horn). The overall highest mark was Sarah Cochrane of Fraser (Clarinet) with 87%. It was also noteworthy that Sam Sallon of Whitworth, as in his "Seasons" performance, was giving us one of his own compositions. Play it again Sam!

G J Turner

CHRISTMAS 1995

As usual, our three musical events this Christmas were the secular "Christmas Celebration" in School, held on Monday, 18th December, and flanking this the two devotional offerings, the Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Werburgh's, Chorlton (December 13th) and our "slot" in the series of daily Carol Services at St. Ann's Church in the centre of town (December 20th).

In the Christmas Celebration there were seasonal offerings from Mr. Goodwin's Concert Band and, pleasingly, the Training Band, which augurs well for the future; from Helen Quayle's Brass Group, Andrew Wilson's Saxophone Group and Jazz Orchestra; from the Trumpet Consort; and from the Choir with part of its 1995 repertoire of carols. The audience joined in, not only with the usual congregational carols, but with the catchy "Stop the Cavalry" which once "made the charts", proving that "good pop music" is not always an oxymoron. We had four secular seasonal readings; our readers also punctuated the two church Carol Services with Bible readings.

The Choir this year gave us, among other items, Rutter's arrangement of "Child in a Manger" (née "Morning has broken"), David Willcocks' brisk and energetic "Birthday Carol" with its tricky changes of time signature, and "Stille Nacht" in the vernacular. In his "General Overview" in this current issue of the "Hulmeian", Mr. Dewhurst rightly laments the scarcity of broken voices among our pupil choristers; teachers and imported adults indeed swell the ranks every Christmas, and enjoy doing so, but we exist as a School for the sake of our pupils, and we should love to see (and hear!) many more Fifth and Sixth Form boys in our ranks. Come on, gentlemen! You don't know what you're missing.

It was very pleasing to see the splendid initiative taken by Jennie Porter and Faye Todd in selling Fairly Traded Gifts to help the Third World during and after the Christmas Celebration, under the auspices of Mr Welch. They took £130 through sales of coffee, tea, jewellery, ornaments, etc.

G J Turner

BAND CONCERT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Whilst it can be very enjoyable and educational to listen to recorded music, nothing can better the experience of a live performance. The visual element in a concert is of course no less important than the aural and no amount of expensive hi-fi equipment can rival the sound of the real thing. If we are to enthuse youngsters with a passion for music, it is essential that they be exposed to as much live music as possible from an early age and hopefully in so doing, they may be inspired enough to take up an instrument themselves. It was with this thought in mind that we invited some of our local feeder schools to a concert given on the afternoon of 6th October 1995 by the School Concert Band in the New Hall. The Concert also gave the opportunity to show off our students and the School as well as allowing us to be good neighbours by doing something for the local community.

Thanks to Geoff Grant's organisation in sending out invitations, the New Hall was full and there was excited chatter as each of the school groups arrived. Over the past few years, we have run several concerts for local schools and there has been an increasing readiness to accept invitations as our musical reputation has grown. The Concert Band played two items, 'Peter and the Wolf' and 'Tubby the Tuba'. Both pieces were written to show off instruments and have jolly good stories to maintain interest. After a brief welcome by myself, Philip Goodwin took over to introduce the Concert Band and to give a short talk on some of the instruments - each being demonstrated by band members. There was an eager response to answer questions which was witness to the interest and involvement that the audience showed.

The concert was very well received with enthusiastic applause and a considerable number of thank you letters some days later from members of the audience. I know that our students enjoyed doing the concert, not least because of the very tangible look of wonder and enjoyment on the audience faces. Retrospectively, I'm not sure who enjoyed the concert more, the Concert Band or the audience!

P. Dewhurst

SCHOOL BAND CONCERT FOR FIRST TO FOURTH FORMS

The School Band has been increasingly busy in the last couple of years, playing to more and more people and increasing its already wide repertoire. However, one of its most important concerts took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 21st March 1996, when the New Hall was packed with pupils from the First to Fourth Forms.

The original idea for the concert came from the Head Master, who felt that many pupils in the School really had no idea of either the standard or the range of music that the band was capable of playing, and seeing that most had never attended a concert let us take the concert to them!

Initially, I have to say, I was a little wary about this concert. It takes a long time for any group to gain the confidence to perform well in public and it is especially difficult to play in front of your peers. The confidence of players can also be shattered if the audience behaviour and attitude is poor. I need not have worried - the band played extremely well and the audience, perhaps realising that they were listening to a quality product, behaved excellently.

I had chosen a fairly popular programme, most pieces being familiar to the audience. We opened with the theme from the Rocky films, 'Gonna Fly Now', a very lively, punchy number. Our clarinet and saxophone teacher, Andrew Wilson, was featured as soloist in an arrangement of 'Somewhere Out There', from the animated film 'An American Tale'. We are very fortunate to have a talented peripatetic staff in School, all of whom play with the band, giving advice to players and setting very high standards of performance. The band has its own soloists, of course, and three of our saxophonists Debbi Mosley, John Daniels and Paul Murphy demonstrated their skills in the Bryan Adams hit, 'Everything I Do, I Do It For You'.

The rest of the programme was a mixture of music from the band's repertoire, including a selection from Phantom of the Opera, The Final Countdown, theme tunes from Raiders of the Lost Ark, Schindler's List and Jurassic Park, and ending with an arrangement of the famous organ Toccata by J.S. Bach. Quite what Mr Bach would have made of this arrangement, with its heavy rock drums and synthesiser (complete with jet scream) I don't know, but the band enjoyed playing it and the audience certainly enjoyed hearing it.

All in all then, a good concert which I hope enlightened many people and made them realise that the Concert Band is an ensemble of which they and the School should be justifiably proud.

P Goodwin

SPRING TERM CONCERT

Our annual Spring Term Concert on Monday, 25th March followed its now time-honoured pattern of Band and Ensemble groups plus a short Choir item before the interval, with the entire First Years (well over a hundred strong) joining in a real rabble-rouser in the second half. Mr Goodwin's Concert Band is expanding its repertoire, and gave us four items in wide-ranging registers; the Flute Group (Director: Sophie Johnson) performed two lovely traditional baroque pieces, the Brass Group (Director: Helen Quayle) with Blakeson's "Smooth Talk" reminded us that brass music is far from being all soulless "Oom-pah-pah", and Andy Wilson's Jazz Band completed the varied programme of instrumental offerings. The Choir sang two moving folk songs, a three-part canon "Hashivenu" from Israel, based on a verse from Lamentations: "Turn thou us unto Thee, O Lord and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old", and a three-part a cappella Zulu song, "Siyahamba" ("We are marching in the light of God").

After light refreshments in the Dining Hall, our full complement of First Years invaded the stage to sing the most famous blockbusting musical of them all, Andrew Lloyd Webber's and Tim Rice's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat", under Mr Dewhurst's baton. Needless to say, they did themselves full justice; the only moot point is whether the choir or the audience enjoyed itself the more. Laura Jane Bulwich's solo, "Song of the King," was a particular delight. The choice of so well-known a work can be easily justified; each new generation of young people meets it for the first time, and it comes as fresh to them as it did to us old fuddy-duddies when it was first written! (How else did "Snow White" pull cinema crowds for well over fifty years?!) In short, a varied evening's entertainment full of energy and sparkle, proving yet again Mr Dewhurst's firm belief that music of all kinds is for *everyone* to enjoy, whether as performers or as listeners.

G J Turner

QUIZ NIGHT CONCERT

In recent years, we have had quiz nights centering around general knowledge and current affairs and we have had many enjoyable and successful musical concerts. However, we have never before had a quiz night concert, and this new venture proved to be even more fun than expected!

The atmosphere in the New Hall was even more relaxed than in previous concerts as a new addition made people focus to the corner of the hall. A bar was set up, selling cans of beer and glasses of wine, which caused many people to leave their seats in order to make numerous trips! However, once settled down, enough drinks, paper on the table and pen poised in the air, all heads turned to the maestro of the evening, Mr. Goodwin.

The usual variety of pieces made up the evening's programme, with Mr. Goodwin introducing them and then asking a few questions about each piece. While the concert band played a piece, each team would write down its answers. By the looks on people's faces, I would say that rather than listening to the concert band's excellent playing, teams were concentrating very hard and racking their brains trying to think of answers.

More often than not, questions were based upon films which the music came from and not actually the piece of music. Names of actors and actresses featured in films and even the year in which they came out were all wanted! There were also short excerpts of music which are used in television adverts and the varied answers from group to group showed that people don't pay all that much attention to adverts on television! (This is not necessarily a criticism! - Ed.)

The questions were very tricky and Mr. Goodwin didn't give away any clues! The concert band played very well as expected and the night was a very enjoyable one. Everyone had a lot of fun and I hope there will be more quiz night concerts in the near future!

Asha de Silva (LJGH)

JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Junior School Music Festival is not so much a competition as a challenge. It is a chance for the members of the Junior School to put their talents to the test and give them a chance to hear an opinion from a professional and independent musician. This year's adjudicator was Bruce Hicks (the Director of Music, St Mary's College, Crosby). This year there were quite a few ensembles as well as individual entries. The six "sections" were the woodwind, keyboard, strings, brass, vocal group, ensembles and the class orchestras. The class orchestras for the Second Years were played by the whole class on the keyboards which were backed up by individual instrumentalists. Towards the end there was not much time left so each class, instead of playing "Electrowave" and another piece of music, just played "Electrowave". The whole thing was a great success as it gave each class a chance to work together and individuals a chance to perform at their highest standards. Overall the standard was excellent and everybody received a Certificate of Achievement but the following few just had a little something extra to make them a little more special:

Emily Cochrane 2K, Flute 'Allegretto Grazioso' (Taffenell), Sara Sadeghi 1S, Clarinet 'Dancing Bears' (Harris), Samantha John 2J, Flute, 'Siciliana from Concerto in D' Baston', Mark Brighthouse 1R, Piano 'Foxtot' (Seibek), Rebecca Goodwin 1S, Cornet 'Conversation for Cornet' (Grundman). Overall 2K came 4th, 2S 3rd, 2J 2nd and of course 2R came first.

Iram Choudary (2R)

SUMMER CONCERT

The annual entertaining Summer Concert took place on 2nd July this year and was once again a delight to watch and listen to. The decorations of many different national flags and the streamers and union jack hats among the audience all added to the authenticity of the event, fittingly called "Last Night of the Proms". But before the celebrations and streamer throwing began, the Choral Society delivered a more serious and thoughtful performance of John Rutter's "Requiem", in a performance which alternated between Latin and English movements portraying the contrasting emotions of Life and Death,

through subtle changes in volume, pitch and speed. Accompanying the Choral Society was a small, accomplished group of guest musicians which brought a rather sad and haunting cello, a somewhat brighter and happier oboe and an enchanting harp to add a greater depth of feeling to the performance. This rather unconventional accompaniment complemented the more unusual soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts sung by the now familiar mixture of pupils, teachers, parents and friends of the School.

Most of the work is slow and dramatic, and it was sung sensitively by the choir, who succeeded in building the piece from its quiet beginning. Some of the difficult counter-rhythms stretched the choir to (perhaps beyond!) its limits, but the soprano solo piece "Pie Jesu" was sung quite beautifully by Rosalind Atherton. In a complete contrast to the other movements, the "Sanctus" was fast and lively, quite a welcome and refreshing change. The whole "Requiem" was performed movingly by the Choral Society which more than deserved the applause it received from the appreciative audience.

After a short interval the Concert Band took to the stage, beginning the second half with a rousing performance of "The Dam Busters' March", really getting everyone into the promenade spirit. The band then went on to accompany soloist Debra Mosley playing "Romance", a tricky saxophone concerto, a fitting farewell to her and the many other leavers who have contributed so much to School music over the last few years.

The Jazz Group entertained us with a triple bill of swing based around a strong bass line which provided a refreshing variety to its interpretations of "Manhattan Skyline" and "Hangin' In". It was here that the audience participation began in earnest as the authentic 1940's sound of "Pennsylvania 6-5000" was brought into the 1990's with Mr. Wilson's sympathetic performance on mobile telephone.

The audience was then invited to join in with the Choral Society and band to sing British favourites including "Jerusalem", "Rule Britannia", "Land of Hope and Glory" and an arrangement of Wood's "Fantasia on British Sea Songs". They all received a tremendously enthusiastic response from the audience as everyone joined in, led by the Bodecia-like, Union Flag-draped figure of Mrs. Fleming. This was the real highlight of the evening featuring a powerful contralto solo by Caroline Grant in "Rule Britannia".

The end of the evening saw the whole audience leaving in high spirits after it had shown so much appreciation for the evening's rich entertainment. It was a joy to witness such a wonderful performance from both the Concert Band and Choral Society, which once again lived up to the excellent reputation that Mr. Dewhurst, Mr. Goodwin and their staff have worked so hard to build up.

Joanna Shaw (4J)



CELEBRITY RECITALS

ANDREW WILDE

Andrew Wilde is rapidly emerging as one of the most outstanding artists of his generation. He was a pupil of Ryszard Bakst, both at Chetham's School of Music and at the Royal Northern College of Music and also with Sulamita Aronovsky, and continued his studies privately with Jan Ekier and Noretta Conci. He is a prizewinner at a number of major international piano competitions.

Mr. Wilde made his London début at the Royal Festival Hall with The London Philharmonic in 1986 since when he has appeared as soloist with the most important London and regional orchestras. Highlights of recent orchestral engagements abroad have been a highly successful American debut with the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, DC, and appearances with the Dallas Symphony.

His latest CD release, an all-Haydn recital for Collins Classics, has been enthusiastically received whilst his latest American recital took him to the heights of critical acclaim.

Following Mr. Wilde's Wigmore Hall recital earlier this year of works by Haydn and Chopin, The Times wrote, "...the performance took wing in a state of something approaching ecstasy, with a secure technique always in the service of musical values." and after his recent German début recital in Düsseldorf the Rheinische Post stated, "...The Young Briton, Andrew Wilde, is an absolutely convincing pianist who can draw the public with his playing into his spell of magic."

His sold-out London recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall last month was received with the highest acclaim from the audience and critics alike and plans are now under way for return recitals to both the Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall next year.

ANDREW WILDE

PIANO RECITAL

17th OCTOBER 1995

PROGRAMME

Joseph Haydn: Sonata in G, H.XVI:40

Allegretto e innocente

Presto

Joseph Haydn: Sonata in E flat, H.XVI:52

Allegro

Adagio

Finale. Presto

Robert Schumann: Kinderszenen

(Scenes from Childhood) Op.15

Fryderyk Chopin

Fantasy in F Minor, Op.49

Marcia, Grave - agitato - Lento,

Sostenuto - tempo primo - adagio sostenuto - Allegro assai

Berceuse in D Flat, Op.57

Andante

Barcarolle in F sharp, Op.60

Allegretto

Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op.23

Largo - Moderato - Presto con fuoco

EDWARD BARNWELL

Born in Harrogate, Edward Barnwell started his musical education at the age of four with a local teacher, Gertrude Davey. In 1974, at the age of nine, he won a scholarship to the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music where he studied for four years. Thereafter Edward Barnwell developed a keen interest in science and subsequently gained an honours degree in Pure Physics from Durham University where he was also awarded a music bursary and a performers' diploma from the Royal Academy of Music. In 1989 he gained a place on the postgraduate performers' course at the Royal Northern College of Music and has made his home in Manchester since graduating from the College. In 1994 he was successful in his application to the Prince's Youth Business Trust and he has now established himself as a successful freelance musician, performing and teaching regularly throughout the north of England.

Edward has given numerous public performances over the years both as a recital soloist and as solo artist in public performances of major concerti. He is an active composer and has wide musical interests encompassing the fields of jazz and contemporary music. He writes for and participates in several bands and has been employed as a session musician.

He has an extensive repertoire, ranging from the composers of the baroque period to those of the late twentieth century. His particular love is for music of the late Classical and early Romantic periods, the piano music of Debussy and twentieth-century British Music.

EDWARD BARNWELL
PIANO RECITAL
28th NOVEMBER 1995

PROGRAMME

Bach: Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D-Minor

BMV 903

Mozart: Sonata in B Flat, K570

1 Allegro

2 Adagio

3 Allegretto

Beethoven: Sonata in F minor Op.57

1 Allegro assai

2 Andante con moto

3 Allegro ma non troppo

Chopin: Barcarolle in F sharp

Brahms: Rhapsodies Op.79 Nos. 1&2

1 Agitato

2 Molto passionato, ma non troppo

Allegro

Debussy: Pour le Piano

1 Prélude

2 Sarabande

3 Toccata

Berg: Sonata Op.1

Mäßig bewegt

THE ADELPHI SAXOPHONE QUARTET

At the end of the Summer Term, the Adelphi Saxophone Quartet came to give a recital in School. The four members, who are all graduates of the Royal Northern College of Music, entertained us with a mixture of serious and light-hearted music. This music demonstrated the wide range of skills required and brought into use the four main types of saxophones, the soprano, alto, tenor and baritone.

About two hundred people attended this concert, ranging from the very young to the more mature, which took place in the New Hall. For the members of the group, playing in the quartet is not their full-time occupation, although it takes up a considerable amount of time which they combine with their teaching, lecturing and composing commitments. They have already won several prestigious competitions and are about to embark on their first British Tour, and we wish them every success for the future.

Debbi Mosley (UJS2)

ADELPHI SAXOPHONE QUARTET

Since their formation in 1990, when all the members were studying at the Royal Northern College of Music, the Adelphi Saxophone Quartet has rapidly established itself as one of Britain's finest young chamber ensembles.

Concert appearances include the Classical Music show at the Barbican Centre in London, the 80th Birthday celebrations for Jean Francaix, Manchester's Northern Lights Festival, the Purcell Room in London as part of the Park Lane Group concert series and at the British Saxophone Congress. The Quartet was awarded a concert tour of Scotland by the John Tunnell Trust and now regularly gives concerts throughout the British Isles.

Whilst at the RNCM, the Quartet gained first prize in the Chamber Music Competition and were awarded the RNCM's Professional Performers Diploma with Distinction.

The Quartet will be giving a concert at St James's Church in London this month for the Royal Over Seas League and later this year they begin a tour of the British Isles.

Sarah Markham - *Soprano/Alto Saxophones* studied Saxophone at the RNCM and at the University of Massachusetts, USA. Last year she won the wind section of the Royal Over Seas League competition and now regularly gives concerts in England. She has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and has broadcast twice on Classic FM radio. Sarah has recently returned from living and working in Germany and now looks forward to a busy solo recital season including festivals at Arundel, Buxton and Bournemouth, many recitals awarded through the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme and will give a Concerto performance for English Heritage.

Andrew Wilson - *Alto Saxophone studied Piano, Clarinet and Saxophone* at the Royal Academy of Music and the RNCM. He has performed many concertos and has given numerous recitals in England. Next year, he will give the first performance of a Concerto written for him for Alto Saxophone and Recorder Orchestra. He teaches Clarinet and Saxophone in many schools including Chethams School of Music and here at William Hulme's Grammar School. As a freelance saxophonist he has recorded many television adverts including 'Morrisons', 'Specsavers', 'Privilege Insurance' and ITV's 'Wish You Were Here!' programme. Andrew enjoys composing and arranging and has recently published his first book 'Bebop and More!'.

Martin Kerrigan - *Tenor/Soprano/Alto Saxophones* studied at the RNCM and now works as a freelance saxophonist. He regularly plays with the Hallç Orchestra and has appeared in Royal Exchange Theatre Company productions. He has recorded adverts for television and has appeared many times on television shows with the 'Andy Prior Orchestra' including "Talking Telephone Numbers", "Jim Davidson's Generation Game", "This Morning" and "Pebble Mill" and backed artists such as Bruce Forsythe, Billy Pierce, Joe Pasquale and Frankie Vaughan. He teaches Saxophone and Clarinet at Withington Girls School and at the King's Music Centre in Macclesfield.

Alex Mitchell - *Baritone Saxophone* studied at the RNCM and since leaving, has had a varied playing career from working in Theatre Orchestras, playing in the massed Saxophone band "Sax Assault" who performed at Band on the Wall as part of a Saxophone Extravaganza through to solo performances during Manchester's Street Theatre project to promote clean air in Manchester. He teaches Saxophone privately and also in many local schools.

ADELPHI SAXOPHONE QUARTET

19th JUNE 1996

PROGRAMME

<i>Part One</i>		<i>Part Two</i>	
Deus in Adjutorium	<i>Monteverdi</i> <i>arr. Kerrigan</i>	The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	<i>Handel</i>
An American in Paris	<i>Gershwin</i> <i>arr. Wilson</i>	Fugue in A Flat Major	<i>Bach</i>
Grave et Presto	<i>Jean Rivier</i>	Tales of the Sun God	<i>Mike Hall</i>
Maria & America (from West Side Story)	<i>Bernstein</i> <i>arr. Wilson & Kerrigan</i>	Canon	<i>Pachelbel</i>
Six Roumanian Folk Dances	<i>Bartok</i> <i>arr. Wilson</i>	A Medley of Jazz Standards <i>There'll Never Be Another You</i> <i>But Not For Me</i> <i>My Funny Valentine</i>	<i>arr. Don Ashton</i>
Autumn Leaves	<i>Johnny Mercer</i> <i>arr. Wilson</i>	The Summer Knows	<i>Michael Lergrand</i> <i>arr. Wilson</i>
Fascinatin' Rhythm	<i>Gershwin</i> <i>arr. Wilson</i>	Ho Down	<i>Will Gregory</i>

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Heads of House: D. Hufton and S. Stephenson

Deputy Head of House: C. Hope

House Prefects: R. Clyne, D. Johnson, C. Litherland, E. Nicholson,
A. Nunney, H. Ralston, G. Rampal, D. Taylor, P. Beales
and V. Fleming.

Our senior rugby team was initially very strong - on paper - and we had high hopes of winning the rugby trophy. However, a massive injury list greatly reduced the team as we faced Gaskell in the first round of the Knock-outs. This did not excuse the poor senior organisation which resulted in Byrom fielding only 14 players for the first time in the history of the House. Gaskell simply pumped the ball into the vacant space where there was supposed to be a full-back. Well as individuals played, we were soon overwhelmed. Carl Hope forced his way through for a good try, but Gent twice ran through the whole team. We lost 29-5. A House which fails to field a full side doesn't deserve to win anything.



Byrom Junior Lacrosse K.O. winners.

Happily the Juniors, well led by Richard Nixon, who was strongly supported by Omar Ajaz and Robert Watson, organised several practices after School. Their enthusiasm, commitment and organisation reflected the best traditions of Byrom. In the first round they completely swamped a depleted Dalton side. In the crucial second round, Whitworth gave us a very hard game. Nixon, Ajaz, Watson and Chung were outstanding in the forwards and Richard Hopkinson played a superb match at fly-half. His "up and under" forced an error near their line and from the subsequent scrum Richard Nixon forced his way over for a fine try which was converted. Whilst our forwards kept the pressure up, it was the mature judgement of Hopkinson which protected our slender lead. He constantly kicked deep into Whitworth territory and it was he who produced a match-saving tackle when Whitworth broke through and looked likely to equalize. Ross Mackay also had a good match at scrum-half. We won 5-0.

So to the final where Heywood gave us a scare with an early score. However, Richard Nixon had wisely moved to scrum-half both to negate Richardson and to provide a more versatile threat. This paid off. After a series of forward rushes we scored. Then further pressure released Richard Hopkinson to run wide and then cut in to score. However, Heywood came back at us and it was only a brilliant individual break by Martin Chung from a loose maul that brought the score to put us in a secure position. Richard Nixon completed our victory with a fine individual break. We won 31-10. It was gratifying to see the juniors combine commitment and skill to win the trophy like this in my final year. They responded well to Nixon's

outstanding leadership. All this was achieved without our star three-quarter, Marvin Daniel, who was out of the whole competition with a serious leg injury.

In the Ray Cox Rugby VII's Byrom came third in the seniors and sixth in the juniors. Our senior 2nd VII was outstanding and won all its games.

The senior House League XV did quite well under the enthusiastic captaincy of Matthew Robinson. Andrew Power played well in the forwards and Robert Clyne, Andrew Eckersall, Tanuj Sobti and Nick Bell all shone at times in the backs. Nick Gilmore developed well at scrum-half.

In the Inter-House Road Relay race Byrom came second. Carl Hope, Andrew Nunney, Daniel Taylor and David Johnson ran superbly, but the girls were not so good. Carl Hope produced the best individual time 17m. 42. Our Fifth-Forms did well and Anna Bower got the best time for a girl: sadly we had a let-down here as there was no other girl able to run in the year. For the boys Andrew Eckersall, Adam Goldsmith and the "ever-willing" Ben Stafford all ran well and helped keep the House in sight of winning the competition. Ross Mackay, Zahooral Haq and Chris Smith all produced good times. Stephanie Jackson produced the second best time for the girls. Chaminda Ranawickrema and Anya Dearden also made their invaluable contributions. Two third year runners were outstanding. Saeed Khan and Richard Hopkinson produced splendid



Byrom Junior Hockey Team. Winners of competition.

times, coming second and third respectively in their year. Sakib Hamid, Julia Atherton and Rachel Smith also made valuable contributions to our overall success.

The House Music Festival entry was organised by Vicky Fleming. Eitan Amir produced a good programme and Emma Weeden announced our entries clearly and effectively.

Helen Ralston, Anya Dearden and Julia Atherton all performed well on the flute, as did Eitan Amir on the cello. In the absence of Chloë Duckworth, Irene Tang had to play solo twice on the saxophone. An ensemble of flutes and violins (Helen Ralston, Carrie Litherland, Geeta Rampal and Sophie Stephenson) "Au Printemps" suffered from under-rehearsal.

Vicky Fleming played well on the clarinet. Lex Seymour made an unusual and interesting contribution on the harmonica and Vicky Fleming and Irene Tang played a clarinet and saxophone duet. We didn't really present a challenge to the better Houses this year. Hopefully the entry from Junior School will give us some more musical talent to replace the leavers.

As I wait up tonight hoping James Hickman, formerly of Byrom, does well in Atlanta, it is sad to reflect that our swimming entry this year was undermined by seniors who did not turn up. The practices and entries were well organised by Paul Beales. Byrom won the Third Year Medley Relay and the Senior Medley Relay. This put us second overall.

In the individual races Byrom came third overall. In the Backstroke Caroline Bell came third in the Third Years and Daniel Taylor second in the Seniors. In the Breaststroke Taylor came fourth in the Seniors. Richard Hopkinson won the Third Year Butterfly and the Individual Medley. Paul Beales won the Senior Freestyle and came third in the Individual Medley. Richard Hopkinson was the Individual Winner of Year Three. Well done to all those who took part. I remember the House swimming going on till 9.00pm in Moss Side or Chorlton Baths and everyone turned up. Sad that we now have our own pool and some seniors cannot be bothered to come.

In the House Debating Competition, T.J. Rashid and Matthew Robinson spoke in opposition to a motion seeking the abolition of the monarchy. They had the better arguments, but did not present them as effectively as their opponents from Whitworth.

In the New Year, Messrs Blight, Addison and Myers led a large party to Ambleside Y.H.A. The weather was poor. We climbed the ridge towards Dow Crag, but could see little in the cloud. The second day began wet and we drove to Keswick and up Borrowdale. We walked through the woods to Rosthwaite, enjoying better weather on the return. It was a trip engendering a good spirit between the pupils of different ages.

LENT TERM

The Senior League Lacrosse team enjoyed reasonable success in a term where play was much reduced by weather. The defence was strong, but the attack lacked penetration and accuracy in shooting. A characteristic was low scoring games.

In the first round of the Senior Knock-out we lost to a strong Fraser team. A freak first goal got us off to a bad start. But Matthew Robinson played well in goal and the defence only conceded four goals. Nick Gilmore and Daniel Taylor had outstanding games. Our attack, however, created few chances and only Carl Hope posed much of a threat, but even he failed to beat the goalkeeper when clean through the defence. Hence we lost in a low scoring game. However, the team came out with much credit from its determination and commitment.

Once more our junior side was powerful. The defence was strong and well led by Richard Nixon. The mid-field was dominated by the power play and skill of Richard Hopkinson and Joe Holland. We had a bye in the first round. In the second round we played Gaskell, a small but skilful side. They were unable to contain Hopkinson and Holland to whom the skilful Tom Hickman gave valuable support. Robert Watson played well in goal. Our defence was never seriously troubled and we ran out comfortable winners. In the final against Dalton, we were without Richard Hopkinson who was injured. However, despite his absence we won, thanks to the solid defence dominated by Richard Nixon and Omar Ajaz and above all to the inability of Dalton to cope with Joe Holland. He scored seven of our eight goals, the other being skilfully taken by Tom Hickman. Holland's speed and handling skills combined with powerful and accurate shooting secured us our second major trophy as we won 8-5.

In the Hewlett Cup six a side competition, Byrom came second. Our senior sides performed well, only Dalton being too strong for them. Once again it was our juniors who dominated, the group 4 and group 5 teams both taking maximum points.

Then it was the turn of the girls who won both the hockey and netball competitions. The hockey side was well captained by Anya Dearden. Joanna Gregory, Stephanie Jackson and Anya were fast and powerful strikers of the ball. Caroline Bell, up in attack, was fast, elusive and skilful. She was well supported by Julia Atherton. Useful support came from Nazanin Sadeghi, Amita Sagar and Lina Mannan. Chloë Duckworth and Rachel Smith played well in goal. We defeated Whitworth 1-0 in the semi-final and beat Fraser 2-0 in the final.

The senior girls came second in the Hockey competition, beating Heywood 2-0 in the semi-final but losing 1-0 to Fraser in the final. Sophie Stephenson played excellently and captained the team well. Of the younger players, Lauren Crane was outstanding.



Byrom Junior Rugby K.O. winners.

In the netball, again our juniors won and the team was again well captained by Anya Dearden. We had tremendous strength and speed in Anya, Joanna Gregory and Stephanie Jackson who all handled skilfully. Caroline Bell was fast and accurate in her passing. The latter three all shot accurately as did Julia Atherton. We beat Fraser 6-3 in the semi-final and defeated Whitworth 6-2 to win the trophy. The senior team came third in their competition. Ellen Nicholson and Sophie Stephenson combined well and shot with accuracy. Lauren Crane, Emma Weeden and Vicky Fleming gave invaluable support. A pleasing feature of the team was the way the better and more experienced players encouraged the others. Pritpal Badesha played with tremendous enthusiasm and Claire Lelonek, Geeta Rampal and Helen Ralston all had good games. Byrom narrowly won in Pool B defeating Gaskell 5-4 and then drawing with Heywood in a superb game 8-8. We lost 11-5 to Fraser in the semi-final, but beat Dalton 8-0 in the play-off for third place.

After last year's tremendous efforts at an over-ambitious attempt to perform Oscar Wilde, I feared I was to be responsible for a disaster this year, as I rejected Vicky Fleming's choice of an Agatha Christie murder mystery. Gaskell performed it well a few years ago and it was "corny". When I suggested Alan Ayckbourn's "Bedroom Farce" we were faced again with tremendous problems of cutting and also staging three bedroom scenes for rapid inter-action. To attempt this with all the obstacles which now face Houses in putting on productions in the Lent term left the producer, Vicky Fleming, with a nearly impossible task. This was a talented cast, but at times it lacked commitment from some members and only in the very last stages did the kind of team spirit emerge which was vital to success. The critique of the production is printed elsewhere in the magazine. For me as Housemaster, I could not have asked for a finer production with which to finish. The young girls Joanna Gregory and Julia Atherton put in brilliant performances. The "veteran" David Hufton mastered a very difficult part and won the best actor prize. T.J. Rashid and Rob Seddon put in performances I would never have dreamt them capable of doing. Emma Weeden, having first announced the House Music Competition, was persuaded on the basis of that to take on a part. Emma could never have imagined last September that she could ever appear on stage in such a role. Vicky Fleming, like her Housemaster, came near to "explosion" with the strain and tensions and misunderstandings and careless utterances which arose. Despite her own huge commitments to school activities she organised the whole production very efficiently and put in a splendid acting performance as well. Lastly Ben Stafford, when asked, told me he did want to be in the play. He said he couldn't act, he had got his GCSE exams to contend with and he lived too far away "But if you need me I'll take part". It is only because of pupils with this kind of attitude that I have been able to continue as a Housemaster for 25 years! Ben acted superbly, he was one of the most reliable members of the cast and he infused cheerfulness and goodwill into the rest. After writing all this one may expect the question "Why didn't Byrom win?" The answer is simple. In most years we would have done. This was one of the best plays Byrom ever produced but the standard of the House productions this year was incredibly high. When I look back to a time where standards were so poor that the House Play competition was unfit to go on stage, it has been tremendous in my last year to see what has been achieved. Let me reiterate again the thanks of all the Houses to Mr Turner without whose extraordinary efforts we just could not cope. I will never forget the reaction of the cast to their performance. I asked many how they felt at the end. I always got the same answers: "Relief - we had actually pulled it off!" and "exhilaration". There can be few better experiences for our pupils than that sense of achievement of bringing off a fine performance which makes all the stress and strain worthwhile in the end. Tremendous support too came from Michael Dodd and Rick Lamb in stage setting and lighting. Last of all a big word of thanks to Mr Addison for his tremendous support as stage-hand and "chauffeur".

At half-term a party led by Messrs Blight, Addison and Miss Kelly went to Hardraw. On the Saturday we climbed Pen-y-gent and enjoyed a magnificent "stir-fry" thanks to the culinary expertise of Christina Barnes. On the Sunday we did the Ingleton Falls walk in good weather. Sunday night produced a blizzard and fortunately we were able to get out of Wensleydale all right.

In the Easter holiday yet another large party led by Messrs Blight, Addison and Myers stayed at Derwentwater Y.H.A. The first afternoon we nearly lost Mr. Blight who got blown off Cat Bells summit.

We returned by boat over Derwentwater. The following day we drove up Honister Pass and over to Buttermere, whence we ascended Red Pike and High Stile ridge. The views were impressive but intermittent because of cloud. All the party, ranging from third years to sixth form, coped well with the climb and the strenuous walk. The Sunday was very wet and we simply walked through the woods to Rosthwaite once more.

MIDSUMMER TERM

In my final term I was looking to our Juniors to sweep the board with the rugby, lacrosse and cricket trophies. We reached the cricket final, but foul weather at the end of term prevented both the senior and junior cricket finals (Byrom was in both) from being played. Happily the Athletics were completed on the last day of term and Byrom won.

Byrom won the first round of the cricket Knock-outs. We dismissed Heywood for 138, Thomas Craven and Imtayaz Ahmed sharing the wickets. Carl Hope (83) and Nick Bell (35) easily knocked off the runs. In the second round, once Michael Dodd had caught Shivi Dé, Whitworth had little threat to offer, although it took us some time to "mop up" the tail. Despite the loss of Carl Hope, Nick Bell knocked off the runs and we won comfortably. Sadly the final was never played because of rain.

The juniors had a bye in the first round. In the second round we beat Fraser who were 77 all out. Once Naylor got himself out, there was little real opposition. Saeed Khan bowled well and took four wickets for 11 runs. Marvin Daniel and then Richard Hopkinson hit off the 78 runs with ease for 2 wickets. However, like the seniors, bad weather thwarted our hope of winning the cricket trophy to add to the rugby and lacrosse.

Stephanie Jackson captained the rounders side well. The Houses were very even and it was more bad luck than anything else that we came sixth. We lost in the play off to Whitworth, four and a half rounders to three.

In the Athletics the seniors did well, coming second with 119 points. David Johnson organised our entries well and he won the individual trophy for best athlete, winning the 100 and 200 metres and the Long Jump. Anna Bower came second in the 800m girls' race. Andrew Nunney and Carl Hope came second and third respectively in the 1500 metres boys' event. Daniel Taylor won the High Jump and Rob Seddon came third. Sophie Stephenson came second in the Long Jump. Lauren Crane came third in the shot. David Hufton came second in the Shot and Ellen Nicholson came second in the Discus. Byrom won the 4 x 400 and 4 x 100 relays.

It was left to the Juniors to complete the victory on the last day of term. Results are not available for me, but it was great to see Marvin Daniel, recovered from serious injury, win the individual award. He and Richard Nixon did outstandingly well in the 100 and 200 metres. Stephanie Jackson did outstandingly well in the 100 and 200 metres. Stephanie Jackson secured release from Mr Blight's last imposed detention (for whingeing for two years) by winning the 1500 metres. We did well enough in the relays to secure a comfortable victory.

The Inter-House Tennis Competition was revived, thanks to the efforts of David Gilbert of Fraser. Our seniors, Robert Seddon and Tanuj Sobti, lost to Fraser. However, our talented Juniors, first Anya Dearden and Julia Atherton and then Julia partnered by Caroline Bell, won the Junior Trophy.

At Whitsun a smallish party travelled to the Lakes and we stayed at Ambleside Y.H.A. We climbed Dow Crag in better weather than last January, though visibility was still poor on the tops. After rain on the Saturday we walked late and enjoyed a stroll in hot weather to Grasmere. Julia Atherton managed to stop Joanna Gregory digging up Wordsworth and as Mr Blight "was tired" some of us returned by bus to cook the meal for the rest. It was another enjoyable trip.

Finally a word of thanks to all the pupils of Byrom whose commitment and loyalty have made it worthwhile continuing so long as Housemaster. At times it has been hard, but it has been infinitely worthwhile and there has been a lot of fun. My thanks for the gift of the inscribed tankard and the Wainwright illustrated book on the Lakes from you all. A "Thank you" beyond words to Graeme Addison and Helen Kelly for their terrific support. I leave Mr Dunn with a tremendous Junior record in sport and athletics and drama. I hope you will all give him the support that I have enjoyed. Good Luck!

A M Blight

DALTON HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

At the beginning of the year, we were pleased to welcome Mr A.C. Crane as a deputy in Dalton, joining Ms S.R. Tandon, and replacing Mr J.G. Hofton. Thanks go to Mr Hofton for his past work with the House, especially in the music and swimming.

Head of House:	Jonathan Flatman	
Deputy Head of House:	Ankish Patel	
School Prefects:	Jonathan Flatman, Ankish Patel, Richard Strudwick	
House Prefects:	Lee Ahern, Ian Goodwin, Namit Kapur, Imran Khan, Mehrdad Sehat, Amna Choudry, Sadia Rahman, Emma-Lou Onyemem	
Michaelmas Term:		
Rugby Captains :	Senior Knockout:	Jonathan Flatman
	Junior Knockout:	Chris Lindley
	Senior League:	Namit Kapur
Music Organisers:	Chris Hewison, Sara Khoshneviszadeh	

In the Senior League, our House rugby team seemed not to have any particular strengths, but we hoped for all to work together as a team, and this was exactly how it turned out. Our first match against Heywood finished as a disappointing draw, when we missed many chances against the team that eventually finished bottom of the League. After this, we were to play a very strong Fraser side, who had tall Senior boys, compared with our slight fifth years. Our enthusiasm and teamwork paid dividends, when all tackled well and we won a high scoring match. Our one loss of the season was against Byrom, when we were short of players and did not play well. After that, however, the return of Richard Beenstock from injury brought strength and experience and we had three comprehensive wins. Our second match against Fraser was to be the title decider, and we took an early lead of 7 - 0, but were unable to press forward our advantage, and had a second try disallowed. In the last minute, we conceded a scrum near to the line, and lack of concentration let Fraser in for the draw. A final match win still left us one point behind the winners, Fraser. At times, we relied upon Darren Massel for the tries, but always had back-up for him. We had reserves keen to play in every match, and all played their part. Jim Calderbank's handling at full back was very competent, and the half backs, chosen from Miles Newton, Oliver Briggs and Simon Connor, were equally reliable. All our fifth years looked good for the future, and Namit led the team well.

Our first Senior Knockout game was against Heywood, and the late withdrawal of two crucial players failed to disrupt the team spirit that was much in evidence. Five tries, all from different players, and the strong running of Ian Goodwin, helped us to a comfortable 31 - 7 win. Our semi-final match against Whitworth was as good a House performance as had been seen for a very long time. Our forwards dominated, the half backs passed the ball out well, and the backs ran strongly. Jon Flatman and Dave Hancock each scored two tries in a victory by 50 - 0, setting up a Final of Dalton v Fraser. Although we were not at full strength for the Final, we should have been good enough to beat anyone. We took an early lead from a David Hancock penalty, but were 3 - 7 down by half time. In the second half, there were too many poor passes, the backs were seldom used and consequently we had few runs. Our tackling was not as good as it should have been, and we lost 3 - 26. This was a disappointing end to an otherwise enjoyable Senior rugby season.

Our first Junior knockout match was against a Byrom side that contained many tall, strong squad players. Our enthusiastic, but small and slight, third years, with few squad fourth years, were no match for our opposition, and we were easily beaten in the first round.

In the seven a side tournaments, the Juniors tried hard, but with little success. Our third years drew the first match, but lost the other two. Our fourth years comprehensively beat Gaskell 22 - 0, but narrowly lost their other two matches. We finished 4th in the Junior Tournament. Our Seniors continued with the teamwork they had shown all Term, and all teams were well led by Senior players. The first team, without squad player Ankish, reached their Final, thanks to a large victory over Byrom. The second team did not concede a point in its preliminary matches, but narrowly lost the Final. Our third team won all three matches, and Dalton had a splendid victory in the tournament.

This year, our swimmers were not as strong as they had been in the past, and it was difficult to put together teams of quality. In the heats, we had first places for David Hancock and Lee Ahern (Seniors), with Mika Tong and Ian Allison

winning in their age groups. Four of our six relay teams and seven individuals reached the Finals. Eventually, only two of the relay teams finished, with the Third Year squadron team winning their race. Of our individuals, winners were : Michelle Fearnley (4th Year Backstroke), David Hancock (Senior Breaststroke), Ian Allison (3rd Year Freestyle), and Dalton finished 4th.

The Road Relay competition again took the format of a Road Run this year, with each age group competing separately. It has not been one of Dalton's strong points in the past, and continued so again this year. Our best placed runners in their age groups were: Jonathan Murphy (12th), Mika Tong (9th), Paul Murphy (12th), and Richard Beenstock (5th). Dalton finished 6th in the competition.

In the Debating Competition, Dalton had to oppose Gaskell's motion that "This House would ban the National Lottery", and, after much research and eloquent debating from Chris Hewison and Geraldine Brook, Geraldine received a commendation.

Early in the Term, Chris Hewison and Sara Khoshneviszadeh ensured that our musicians rehearsed regularly for the House Music Competition, and an excellent programme was put together. We had solo pieces from Paul Murphy on the saxophone, Mika Tong on the cello, Sara Khoshneviszadeh on the clarinet, and Vicky Raynes on the piano. All were very accomplished. Karen Vites' vocal rendition of 'Promise Me' was excellent - she has much talent, and soon overcame her nervousness. We also had Vicky Raynes and Michelle Fearnley play a duet on the flutes, and ended with a ten-piece jazz band playing "Tequila". The last piece, although good, was possibly a little under-rehearsed. The excellent work was rewarded with a second place in the competition - by less than 1%!

LENT TERM

Lacrosse Captains :	Senior Knockout:	Jonathan Flatman
	Junior Knockout:	Ben Green
	Senior League:	Ankish Patel
Hockey Captains :	Senior :	Geraldine Brook
	Junior :	Alison Featherstone
Netball Captains :	Senior :	Sadia Rahman, Geraldine Brook
	Junior :	Michelle Fearnley
Play Producers :	Sam Johnson & Sara Khoshneviszadeh	
	Caroline Ashley & Kate Williams	

The House Lacrosse League suffered from the bad weather, but we still managed to play one match against each of the other Houses. We again had no real strengths, and were to rely on all-round endeavour. Our first match produced a comprehensive win over Whitworth, with Ankish leading by example, and Affan Burki working hard in midfield. Absentees in the next match restricted the teamwork, and Richard Strudwick and Ian Goodwin had much work to do. We missed many chances, and only managed to draw against Byrom. Further shortage of players and missed chances brought about our one loss of the season, going down by one goal to Fraser. At full strength for our final two matches, big wins were insufficient to allow us to finish better than 3rd in the League.

We had a strong Senior Knockout squad, but were always going to be disrupted by university interviews. Our first match saw us leading Whitworth 8 - 1, before we became slack, until, eventually, we won 9 - 4. We were to meet Gaskell in the Final, but on a day when our captain, and the School lacrosse captain, was away on interview. The drive and natural leadership of Ankish Patel made him the most suitable captain for the day. He worked hard, encouraged the others around him and led by example, but we were let down by the School squad players, who failed to play to their true potential, and we suffered another disappointing Final loss. Our first Junior Knockout match was against Whitworth, and we felt confident as we had seven School squad players. James Veitch and Anthony Edwards combined well together all match, and the latter fed James for each of our first two goals. After a goal for Kopul Rahman, James repaid Anthony with feeds for two more goals. We gained a seven goal lead, before Whitworth came back, and half time was 7 - 2. We slackened off in the second half, but James still scored twice more in a 9 - 5 final score. Our opponents in the Final were Byrom, who had beaten us at rugby. We were again up against tall strong players who were difficult to deal with. Chris Lindley played well in goals, but our defence was ineffective, and the midfield had little of the ball. In attack, we again relied upon James and Anthony, but the opposition goalkeeper was not tested often enough. When we shot, we scored, but were always behind. At half time, we hoped we could overturn a two goal deficit, but eventually lost 5 - 9.

During the Term, the girls competed in both netball and hockey competitions. In the Junior Hockey, we had to rely upon the enthusiasm of the Third Years, but were narrowly beaten in both our first round matches. We had plenty of pressure, but were unable to convert it into goals. We managed to beat Gaskell in the final match, to finish 5th in the competition. A very similar pattern arose in the Senior competition, when we had much pressure against Byrom, but only drew, before beating Whitworth. Our semi-final finished 1 - 0 to Fraser, despite our having many chances to score. We eventually finished 4th in the competition. I feel that we have much talent, with Geraldine a very good individual, supported by Kate, Sam and others in the Seniors. I hope we win one of the competitions soon.

In the Junior Netball competition, we faced a big, strong Fraser team in the first round, and lost 2 - 4. A draw against Whitworth was insufficient to get us into the semi-final. Again, I feel we have talent in the Juniors, but maybe insufficient height yet to go far in netball competitions. The Seniors did not live up to expectations, beating Whitworth but losing heavily to Fraser. In the last two matches, we did not work together as a team, and faced two heavy defeats. Strong leadership is necessary to bring the best out of the team.

Early in September, a group of Lower Sixth girls decided that they would work together to produce this year's House Play. After some changes, two short plays were selected. Caroline Ashley and Kate Williams chose "A Night Out" by Frank Vickery, and Sam Johnson and Sara Khoshneviszadeh chose "Dreamjobs" by Graham Jones. Each play used five actors and/or actresses, many taking part for the first time, and rehearsals, although fraught with difficulties, took place most lunchtimes over several months, together with evening and weekend sessions. The first play concerned a girl inviting her boyfriend home for an evening when her parents were going out to a Dinner. The chaos on the stage was very well set by Caroline, to depict the difficulties found by the family in looking for their Dinner tickets, handbags and shoes, and car keys. The play ended with the realisation that it was the wrong night! The second play involved five girls waiting for interview at a Youth Employment Service, and acting out their job fantasies. A simple set of chairs were cleverly transformed into a hospital theatre, an aeroplane, a catwalk etc. Super choreography by Sam was matched by the excellent way the parts were co-ordinated, and the way the girls 'lived' their parts. All the hard work was worthwhile when we were judged the winners, and many said that they wanted to take part another year.

MIDSUMMER TERM

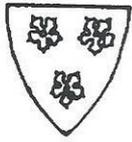
Cricket Captains :	Senior Knockout:	Jonathan Flatman
	Junior Knockout:	Aneet Kapoor
Rounders Captains :	Senior :	Sam Johnson
	Junior :	Georgina Laird

The short Term was drastically shortened further by bad weather. The Junior Knockout cricket team was well organised by Aneet Kapoor, who got players out at lunchtime to practise. We only had three School players, and knew that we were to rely upon our captain, with others aiming to support as well as they could. A very good opening partnership of 70 between Aneet and Jonathan Murphy gave us a good start, but we were unable to maintain the momentum, and were all out for 120. Although we contained the opposition at first, we had insufficient bowlers to make any real impact, and suffered a first round defeat. The first match played by the Seniors was against Gaskell, when our Captain and School Captain, Jon Flatman, was on top form. Some excellent shots to all parts of the field, and especially strong through the covers, enabled him to dominate our innings with a magnificent score of 144 out of a total of 169. We were confident for the Final, despite having reached it and lost for each of the past three years. The match had to be postponed twice because of bad weather, and eventually was abandoned altogether after heavy overnight rain.

On Senior Sports Day, many of our stronger Upper Sixth were missing, although the replacements tried hard, but with little success. The best results were : Jon Flatman (100m - 3rd), Emma-Lou Onyemem (100m - 1st) Geraldine Brook (100m - 3rd, H. Jump - 1st), David Hancock (1500m - 1st), Nicola Whiterod (L. Jump - 3rd), Namit Kapur (L. Jump - 3rd), Sam Johnson (Shot - 3rd), and 1st and 2nd places in the two 100m relays. We were 4th after the Seniors. Bad weather brought about postponements for the Middle School Sports Day, and lack of time available prevented some events taking place. Further absences and injuries made it difficult to fill all events. However, all those who were present tried very hard, with many taking part in events for which they were not suited, just to ensure that Dalton had a competitor. We did not gain many successes, but all played their part.

At the end of the year, Dalton had five Sixth Formers appointed School Prefects, namely Richard Beenstock, Chris Hewison, Sam Johnson, Sara Khoshneviszadeh and Kate Williams. I hope all prove to be good leaders within the House and the School. Best wishes for future success are sent to all the leavers, especially the many Upper Sixth pupils who brought much spirit and endeavour to Dalton in their time in the School.

M. D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE

Heads of House: Joshua Robinson*
Karen Hawcroft

House Prefects: Paul Bagnall, Sam Burney, Ian Butterworth,
Alice Caine*, Richard England*, David Gilbert, Howard Goldman,
Louise Illingworth, Caroline Ip*, Kamron Khan,
Vinnie Pohoomull, Louise Shroot.

**denotes School Prefect*

MICHAELMAS TERM

We welcome eighteen third-formers into Fraser this year.. They are:

Kessr Ali	Jack Leigh
Jonathan Byrom	Daniel Naylor
Louise Goodwin	Sophie Nelson
Richard Illingworth	Jennifer Porter
Bilal Iqbal	Balal Rana
Yoursr Issa	Katy Smith
Saima Khan	Ben Starr
Louise Lee	Anthony Wardle
Richard Lee	Christopher White

Laura-Marie Ramsumair (L6) and Alex Yap (4th) also join the House from other schools. As well as to all these new pupils the House extends a warm welcome to Miss Matthews and Mr Austen who join us to help in the day-to-day running of our multifarious activities.



Fraser's victorious musicians.
(photo: D.M. Fisher)

Having lost three very experienced and accomplished senior musicians, Elisabeth Keable, Geoff Barraclough and Sarah Porter, their successors, Sam Burney and Sarah Cochrane, were determined to emulate their triumphs in the **House Music** over the previous three years. This they did, much to the delight of everyone involved. The tried and tested formula of talented and hard-working musicians attempting fairly challenging pieces, underpinned by advance planning, good organisation, teamwork and cooperation, paid off once again. The Pink Panther, having stood us in such good stead for some years now, appeared in person to help us out! Jennie Porter had sustained a nasty injury which prevented her playing a full

part in the proceedings so instead she accompanied Sarah Cochrane's top-scoring clarinet solo of Fraser's favourite piece dressed as the eponymous film star! This ground-breaking initiative was followed by a more conventional flute duet from Kim Hayden and Louise Goodwin, who kept together very well despite looking particularly sheepish and resigned at the end. Nicky Arthur and his euphonium made a long-overdue debut in the competition with *An English Tune* by Arthur Young. Although he found it difficult at times to keep track of the rhythm of the accompaniment, he played competently and scored well. Then came one of the highlights of this extremely well balanced programme: for several years we had failed to find a singer with a combination of enough talent and courage to perform in the Competition. This year, however, we had Richard Williams. Singing rather quietly but otherwise unaffected by a potentially intimidating audience of his peers, he worked through Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Skimbleshanks* with commendable poise and accuracy. Even more singing next year, perhaps? Although the large hall posed problems of audibility (we were in the New Hall this year) Sam, Sarah and Josh produced a polished rendering of the sixties hit *Black is Black* which earned them a very high mark. Then Louise Wellock played a beautiful but difficult Chopin piece, maintaining her record of annual contributions to the House's efforts. And then it was the turn of the Fraser Band, introduced in 1994, to illustrate what House events are all about, with boys and girls from the third, fourth, fifth, lower and upper sixth forms coming together to create a very special finale with *Eye of the Tiger*. Tim Barraclough, Laura Smith, Richard Ip and James Byrom joined those already mentioned, and the result was memorable. Sam Burney produced an excellent printed programme, visually interesting and full of information, which added not a little to our enjoyment of the performances. Paul Bagnall introduced the pieces, ad-libbing capably! Great credit is due to all the musicians for our success but especially to Sam and Sarah, whose energy and example inspired the other twelve to perform at their best.

The House **Hockey** season did not begin until the New Year so our girls now had a long wait for their next opportunity to represent Fraser - in the Road Race and Swimming competitions at the end of term.

This year the **Senior Rugby XV** went from wooden spoon to silver trophy in the space of half a dozen games. Not only that, but the House took the rare double, winning the Senior Knockout as well as the league, showing what strength there was from top to bottom of our fifth and sixth form division. Kamron Khan made a very good job of captaining the weekly league team, which made up for a lack of top end experience by great commitment and resolve amongst the younger players. In fact several fifth formers complained bitterly about the facetiousness and lack of commitment of one of the few upper sixth formers who they felt discredited the rest of the team and its efforts. The team averaged just under thirty points per game and was beaten only once, 29-36 by Dalton. Outstanding contributions came from fifth formers Mike Gale, Luke Hassett, Craig Baker, Tim Barraclough (until he was removed to train with the School squad) and Matt Naylor, with good support from Amir Tabatabaei, Richards Longworth, Ip and Williams, and Chris Johnstone. David Gilbert, Steve Kellett, Ed Choularton, Sam Burney, Ian Butterworth and Kamron formed the mainstay of the team, and Paul Bagnall and Luc Zentar also scored tries. House league players tend to fall into the same traps and fail to grasp the same opportunities year after year. If this excellent group of players had had the experience to apply their technical skills more effectively they could have registered some huge scores. As it was they won week after week largely because of their tremendously positive and competitive attitude to each game, epitomised by their quite outstanding tackling.



Fraser Senior Knockout XV, Winners 1995 .
(photo: D.M. Fisher)

Rick England captained the **Senior Knockout XV** with similar success, supported by Josh Robinson (vice-captain), Si Johnson, Nicky Arthur and Tim Barraclough from the Squad, together with ten or twelve league players who remained on the pitch with Josh and Rick after their match one Wednesday afternoon in order to train and prepare for the knockout campaign. After a first round bye we drew 19-19 with Gaskell and had to complete the round with a twenty minute period of extra time one lunch-hour. A solitary try decided the game and we moved into the Final with Dalton where we produced an

excellent performance, not at all diminished by our opponents' depleted team which defended fiercely throughout. As expected, the School players took responsibility for most of the moves and set pieces but they were superbly supported by the rest. The forwards played very well, dominating the game and providing endless quality possession for the half-backs and backs who constantly put the opposition at a disadvantage by their creativity and change of pace and direction. Simon Johnson kicked extremely well too, obviously having saved his best for the Final! This was visibly a whole-team effort leading to a well-deserved 25-3 victory in this competition.

The **Junior Knockout XV** also drew their first match rather unexpectedly against a skilful Heywood team. Despite the technical weaknesses and lack of know-how inevitable in a team containing few School rugby players they played as a team, kept their spirits up, and exploited all their opportunities against a bigger side with one win to their credit already. A 10-10 draw meant a lunchtime extra period and again sheer effort and determination kept Heywood at bay until the second half when we handed them the match on a plate with a gift of a try. Fayaz Ahmed proved his ability to motivate by encouragement and example. His support came from Amjad, Adam, Marc, Matt, Ross, Arfan, Awais, Suleiman and Gurpartab, and Daniel Naylor (especially), Chris White, Jon Byrom and Balal Rana in the third form. Unfortunately Jeremy Cooper and Jack Leigh, who both made their contribution, were to leave School later in the year.

Rick England, Kamron Khan and Amir Tabatabaei captained the three sides for the **Ray Cox Seven-a-Side Tournament** this year. The First VII beat Heywood and Whitworth comfortably, then Dalton 14-7 to win their Group Final; the Second VII lost one and drew one; and the Third VII also dropped a match, leaving us runners-up to Dalton. The younger teams did even better in the Junior Sevens, where the Third and Fourth Year VIIs under their Captains Daniel Naylor and Fayaz Ahmed both played their way into their Group Finals but were both unnecessarily beaten so that we shared first place with Whitworth. These were encouraging results for the future of Fraser rugby at the end of one of our most successful seasons in recent years.

Our excellent record in the **Debating Competition** took a bit of a knock this year when Ian Butterworth and Paul Bagnall, both legendary talkers, failed to be placed as they tried to defend the difficult motion that *This House Does Not Believe In Foreign Aid*. But we will be back!

Our good fortune was maintained, however, in the **Road Race**. The innovative format introduced last year by Mr Mallinder meant that each age-group ran independently (principally to save time) and so every individual performance counted equally. Fraser's runners and their placings (out of 36) were:

Third Form:	Daniel Naylor	8th	Louise Goodwin	24th
	Balal Rana	13th	Richard Illingworth	26th
	Anthony Wardle	18th	Saima Khan	31st
Fourth Form:	Adam Dignan	1st	Shazad Arshad	11th
	Arfan Malik	4th	Chloe Pepall	32nd
	Gurpartab Sathi	7th	No competitor	34th
Fifth Form:	Luke Hassett	2nd	Chris Johnstone	19th
	Tim Barraclough	5th	Laura Smith	28th
	Nicky Arthur	7th	Maame Ankrah	29th
Sixth Form:	Simon Johnson	8th	David Gilbert	19th
	Edward Choularton	11th	Sarah Cochrane	23rd
	Josh Robinson	13th	Rachel Goodwin	24th

These were commendable runs, and Colours were awarded all round. This year's innovation (well, it wouldn't be education if there weren't constant change...) was that an extra boy from each year group took part, which gave rather more range and depth to the competition. All our boys ran up to expectations, especially those in the fourth and fifth year teams, and the youngest and oldest girls also approached the event as if it were competitive, and were thus able to beat almost all the other girls in their year. This consistency of effort won us the competition, quite simply, and the runners involved earned considerable credit for their achievements. If we understand this lesson we will win again and again.

The **Swimming Sports** were completed before Christmas this year, but our hopes of a better showing were dashed by more than our usual share of vicissitudes. Things went badly wrong among the third-formers, so that we ended up with two swimmers only in the Finals - and neither relay team. The fourth form fared little better, although our Medley team qualified. On Finals Day, however, one fourth former did not take part and our relay team was depleted at the last minute so had to drop out. And in the senior division Karen Hawcroft, who captained and organised our team, was unable to compete in the Finals, having qualified with fastest times. However the remaining seniors rallied round and swam their hearts out in their two relays, coming in second in both. The House ended the day fifth in both the Individual and the Relay competitions, a discouraging anticlimax to an otherwise excellent term. Colours went to our successful swimmers, Jonathan Byrom, Chris White, Alison Hawcroft, Louise Wellock, Richard Porter and Karen for her captaincy, as well as to third-formers who had swum well in the heats.

In the absence of a **School Play** several members of the House were involved in the main dramatic production of the year, *Seasons*: Vinnie Pohoomull was Stage Manager and Caroline Ip was a member of the Stage Staff and ran Ticket Sales, and Sarah Cochrane and Richard Porter were in the lighting and sound crews respectively. On stage in various rôles were Louise Wellock, Laura-Marie Ramsumair, Paul Bagnall, Katie Chesworth and Jennie Porter.

LENT TERM

Captains of Lacrosse:

Captains of Hockey:

Captains of Netball:

Play Producers:

Joshua Robinson (Sen)

Karen Hawcroft (Sen)

Sarah Cochrane (Sen)

Soraya Khan

Adam Dignan (Jun)

Katie Chesworth (Jun)

Alison Hawcroft (Jun)

Rachel Goodwin

In January we were delighted to learn that Sam Burney had been offered an unconditional place to read PPE at Balliol and Kamron Khan, opting for Cambridge, had been offered a place at Fitzwilliam to read Medical Sciences.

Several people had offered to produce the **House Play** this year but Soraya Khan and Rachel Goodwin were finally chosen to head a production team that included Riana Bedi, David Gilbert, Lucy Mattison, Kelly Bagley and Nilesh Patel, programme design by Andrew Yates and announcement and general help from Jennie Porter. Kelly, David and Riana were co-opted from production onto the cast to join Louise Wellock, Bidhan Ganguly, Riaz Ahmed, Laura Ramsumair, Ross Jenkins and "Count" Andrew Yates in Martin Downing's old standby *Out For The Count*. The outcome proved to be extremely good entertainment, very funny and on the whole, quite accomplished. Rehearsals were frequent and well-supported and I was very impressed with the way in which all participants cooperated under trying circumstances. The Adjudicator's full report appears elsewhere in the *Hulmeian* and as ever is essential reading.

In February the **Hockey Competitions** got under way, and the Junior girls had a shaky start with a defeat at the hands of Byrom but a better performance against Gaskell, our second goal screaming into the back of the net from Kim Hayden's shot. We came through the semi-final with Heywood but met Byrom in the Final who once again put two goals past our defence, which we considered to be our strongest area. A confident goalkeeper is crucial in House matches where the shooting may not always be of the highest standard, and we must ensure that we find one in future years. It is perhaps worth considering putting a good strong full-back in goal as a last line of defence. We were very pleased to be runners-up again, however and to see the contributions of all our third form girls, Louise Goodwin, Sophie Nelson, Youssr Issa, Louise Lee, Jennie Porter, Katy Smith and Saima Khan.

The Senior competition found our girls in aggressive mood: they scored seven goals in the preliminary rounds against Heywood and Gaskell and in the semi-final dominated Dalton but could only score once, a typically hard shot from Caroline Ip whose contribution to Fraser's hockey in her five years has been second to none. Lots of chances were created in the spirited Final with Byrom and in the end a skilful reverse sticks goal by Karen Hawcroft decided the matter. After a few years in the wilderness our Senior Hockey has improved dramatically thanks to the skills and dedication of players such as Karen and Caroline, Sarah and Rachel in the Lower Sixth, and Rachael Lee, Maame Ankrah, Sarah Moore and Laura Smith in the Fifth Form.

Having been appointed Captain of the league **Senior Lacrosse X**, Paul Bagnall played only rarely, and it was left to others to lead and organise the team. This they did to such good effect that against the odds we won all our matches bar one (a draw) and so won the league competition (although not the trophy itself, curiously). Richard Longworth and David Gilbert warmed to their shared rôle as goalkeeper and Richard improved noticeably during the season, Mike Gale and Luke Hassett were tough defence players, midfield was usually shared between Si Johnson, Tim Barraclough, Chris Johnstone and Ed Choularton, and Ian Butterworth, Richard Ip, Sam Burney played where they were needed. Too few players meant that we had few options for experimenting and substituting so each match tended to be a rather frantic affair with everyone obliged to work very hard indeed, but they all managed it. For at least one match we could only field eight players which made life very difficult for these few, but they still recorded a win! We did miss lots of opportunities during the term through poor technical and tactical skills: good passes were dropped; when help was near at hand we often chose a more risky option; and poor shooting was too common; but these deficiencies were amply made up for by excellent teamwork and tireless effort. Simon Johnson deserves special credit here. He was central to every move the team made, ran himself ragged every week, and in all respects proved indispensable. Richard Porter was pronounced fit just before our last match and Kamron Khan was released from Squad duty in time for the last two, and both players fitted into an established and successful side very quickly.

The opening round of the **Senior Knockout** was a fairly straightforward, if slightly lacklustre, one with a 4-2 win over Byrom. Poor preparation, the almost inevitable absence of three experienced players and our first choice goalkeeper, and a pedestrian performance during the match led to our downfall at the hands of a Gaskell X who seemed to want to play and win more than we did. The **Junior Knockout** side fared a little worse, also going down to Gaskell by two goals, but in the first round, which is always disheartening. A lack of true defenders was probably a factor here, and about that there is not a great deal one can do in such a specialised game.

Fraser's adequate showing in the **Hewlett Cup** was overshadowed by the frustrating lack of support the senior captains received for their teams this year. Too many individuals were not prepared to accept their responsibility to their peers and simply failed to turn up, leaving their team short and their House in the lurch. Of course it was a tiny minority, but one cannot help being disappointed by their cowardice; they did not even have the courage to come and explain in advance, hoping no doubt that after the event they could placate me with their particular choice of lame excuse, typically "Nobody told me I was needed, sir." They should be assured that I (and their team-mates who did make the effort and then had to spend the afternoon rushing around trying to compensate for their "friends'"absence) do not forget their utterly selfish behaviour. Perhaps we have reached the stage where the House Master has to select the teams himself, then talk to every individual separately before each extra-curricular event to ensure his or her presence on the day. The tiny but so disruptive group seems to value the respect of its peers very little. The team worst hit proved to be the second senior six who scored one goal but lost both matches. The third form team won one and lost one, the fourths went one better, drawing their second game, and the senior first and third sixes won both initial matches but were beaten in the finals. We were third.

No such problem among the girls, fortunately, merely a little reticence from one or two who can think of other places they would rather be than in the swimming pool or on the running track! The Netball finals ran concurrently with the Hewlett Cup again, posing a logistical problem for the House Master, since both Miss Matthews and Mr Austen were refereeing. It is

only a brisk walk between the netball courts and the lacrosse pitches, so one is able to watch and keep track of both activities up to a point, though when two final matches are on at the same time a choice has to be made, unfortunately. The **Netball** is always a pleasure to watch. Teams take it all very seriously, but there is a strong sense of camaraderie - and fun - pervading the competition. Our junior girls won their first pool matches and entered the semi-final where they were beaten 3-6 by Byrom, the eventual winners. They then met Heywood to play for third or fourth place and were beaten 6-2. Although they all worked hard and played some lively netball they were not really strong enough this year, but did well to end up in fourth place.

The Senior Netball team was much stronger and extremely confident! Averaging just over ten goals in each of their four matches, they swanned home to victory in the competition by a considerable margin, their superb team spirit as much as their skill and ability carrying them through. Louise Wellock and Maame Ankrah's shooting was superb, as was Sarah Moore's defence play. Rachel Goodwin, Sarah Cochrane and Laura Smith were really sharp and dominated the game in open play, and Laura Ramsumair showed what a good all-rounder she is too.

- Josh Robinson was awarded the Andy Brown Trophy for his outstanding contribution and commitment to School Lacrosse;
- The House made a donation to the Cheshire Colts Easter Rugby Tour; their Captain, James White, was Head of School last year;
- Lucy Mattison took part in the Spanish Exchange visit with Colegio Montessori in Salamanca;
- Chloë Pepall, Richard Ip, Tom Ross and Andrew Yates accompanied the German Exchange Party to the Marien-Gymnasium in Werl in February;
- Fraser continued its support of the Catering Committee, sending three representatives to the meeting in April. They were Bidhan Ganguly, Laura-Marie Ramsumair and Richard Williams;
- School Colours were awarded at the end of term to the following members of the House:

<i>Full:</i>	Joshua Robinson (<i>lacrosse</i>) Caroline Ip (<i>netball, hockey</i>) Sarah Cochrane, Richard Porter (<i>drama</i>)
<i>Club:</i>	Sarah Cochrane (<i>hockey, netball</i>), Rachel Goodwin (<i>hockey</i>)
<i>Junior:</i>	Laura Smith (<i>netball</i>) Rachael Lee (<i>hockey</i>) Nicky Arthur, Craig Baker, Matthew Naylor (<i>lacrosse</i>)

MIDSUMMER TERM

<i>Captains of Rounders:</i>	Collective (<i>Snr</i>)	Kim Hayden (<i>Jnr</i>)
<i>Captains of Cricket:</i>	Simon Johnson (<i>Snr</i>)	Awais Arshad/Daniel Naylor (<i>Jnr</i>)

David Gilbert became Captain of School Tennis at the beginning of term.

Edward Choularton, Sarah Cochrane, Rachel Goodwin and Richard Porter were appointed temporary School Prefects and Kelly Bagley temporary Library Prefect, with most of our other Lower Sixth pupils also doing duties of various sorts during the term.

Kessr Ali, Sarah Cochrane and David Gilbert helped their House Master explain the intricacies of the House system to the incoming Second Formers.

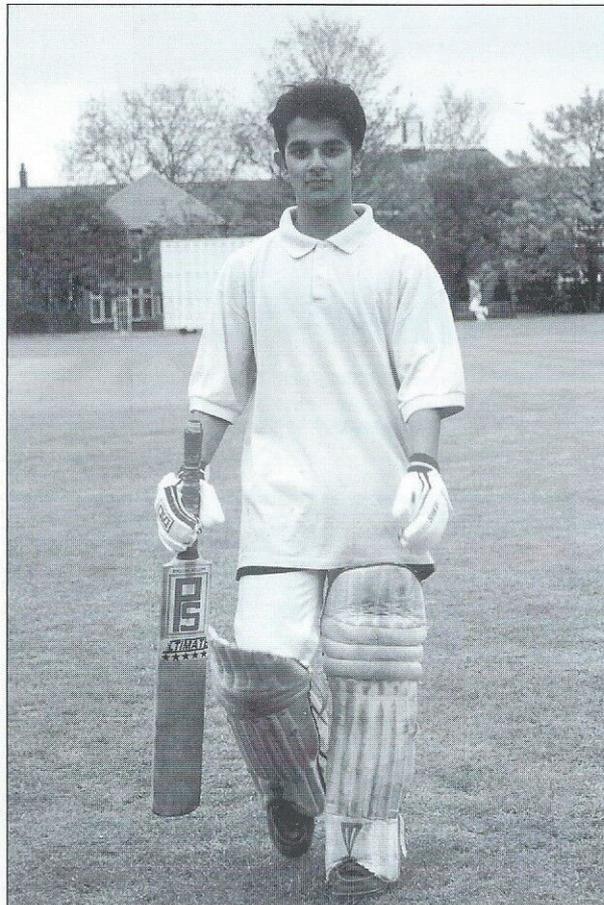
With organisational help and advice from Miss Matthews, the Junior Rounders Competition got off to a goodish start, with a win over Heywood and a defeat by only half a rounder at the hands of Byrom. Louise Goodwin improved rapidly at backstop and combined effectively with Gemma Rosenthal at first base. Alison's bowling was accurate and the brisk fielding of Kim and Katie was supported by Chloe Pepall, Sophie Nelson, Louise Lee and Jennie Porter. Other results meant that we won our group, so we went into the final stages in a strong position. With our captain Kim Hayden away, however, we were a little lacking in batting strength and seemed to take a while to get going. Nevertheless, after a narrow defeat by Dalton we recorded seven and a half rounders against Gaskell to take a well-deserved third place.



Senior Rounders Team, First Round, May 1996.
(photo: D.M. Fisher)

The **Senior Rounders** team contained a nucleus of excellent games players with a great deal of experience between them, so we were full of hope for a good result. In the first two games we managed fifteen rounders against Heywood and Whitworth, then had a six-week gap before having a crack at the finals. Meanwhile all our fifth-formers had finished their exams and presumably had other things on their mind, so at the beginning of the lunch hour we found ourselves with only four players from the previous round. The girls worked extremely hard to raise a complete team, and within an hour they managed it, using all their resourcefulness to obtain complete, if not strictly official, kit. Karen Hawcroft and Caroline Ip came into School just in time for the start of the competition, and that really clinched it for us. Two serene and confident displays against first Dalton and then Heywood in the Final brought this excellent set of sixth form girls a richly-deserved victory. Their loyalty and commitment are exceptional. The Lower Sixth members of the team were Riana Bedi, Sarah Cochrane, Rachel Goodwin, Soraya Khan, Lucy Mattison, Laura-Marie Ramsumair and Louise Wellock.

Cricket has seldom meant anything more to this House Master than a short-lived and rather uncomfortable hour or so watching our boys showing momentary promise and then disintegrating before one's very eyes to enable another House XI to proceed untroubled to the next round. In accordance with tradition, therefore, Simon Johnson's reasonable looking Senior XI took to the field against Gaskell on the first day of May. Once they had been joined by Ed Choularton from the tennis courts they fielded and bowled pretty well, with the genuine cricketers in the team, Simon, Steve Kellett and Matt Naylor, doing just what was expected of them. When Gaskell had been bowled out for a mere seventy-eight things looked promising. But the Fraser factor soon came into play, and the afore-mentioned disintegration set in, to the extent that within a few minutes wickets began to fall, then in a sudden rush (in as much as anything in cricket happens in a sudden rush) we were down to our tail end with only forty or so runs on the board. As I remember it, this happened round about the time that the school buses were due to leave. Does the House that bats first and can therefore take its time thus have a psychological advantage at the end of the afternoon? Probably. Even on the large front square fifty-one runs is unusually few, but that was all we could make this year.



Fayaz Ahmed, 32 not out, Junior K.O. 1996.
(photo: D.M. Fisher)

Two weeks later the **Junior XI** took to the field, again against Gaskell, who were considered to have a good side with every chance of beating us. In the absence initially of captain Awais Arshad, Adam Dignan had helped with the early team organisation and Daniel Naylor (unusually for a third former) had been elected to captain the side. Back to the match! Batting first, Gaskell scored ninety-one, held back by good bowling from Daniel and especially our dark horse, Shazad Arshad, who took three wickets in his first maiden over, much to everyone's delight. I hope he'll be able to repeat the feat in years to come. Daniel, Richard Illingworth and Awais Arshad got our innings off to a goodish start, but it was left to Balal Rana (19), Bilal Iqbal and Fayaz Ahmed (32) to see us through to victory with an over or two to spare. Despite some crises they batted on unruffled, playing and running sensibly but taking every chance. The second round (although semi-final

sounds rather more important) saw us pitted against an altogether different class of team, and, despite a sound innings by Daniel Naylor we were all out for a mere seventy-seven runs. Byrom's batsmen, and notably Hopkinson, found no difficulty handling our bowlers and comfortably rattled off the necessary runs for the loss of only one wicket. Everyone was able to go home at five past four and Fraser's House cricket was over for another year.

Sports Day was once again split into two isolated sessions and again the sense of occasion and the whole-House atmosphere were diminished. Fraser's senior boys and girls turned out in their numbers again and won the first stage quite convincingly, leading throughout the day. Most successful among them was Karen Hawcroft who not only won the Girls' Discus and Shot but broke the School Record for the latter by over two metres with a throw of 9.05 metres. Two other athletes won two events, Rick England in the Shot and Discus, and Si Johnson in the Javelin and 800m. Luke Hassett was runner-up in the Javelin and third in the 400m, Josh Robinson was runner-up in the Boys High Jump and third in the 200m and Triple Jump, Rachael Lee was third in both the 200m and Long Jump, and Maame Ankrah and Rachel Goodwin were also third, in the Discus and 800m respectively. The Boys' relay teams did well, as expected: the 4x400m team of Ed Choularton, Tim Barraclough, Luke Hassett and Andrew Yates were second to Byrom and the 4x100m foursome were third. Our lead, to be carried over to the second day later in the term, probably needed to be greater to compensate for possible weaker performances from the third and fourth form athletes, but we were nonetheless buoyed up by such a good start.



Fraser 4x100m Relay Team (Boys)
from L-R: Josh Robinson, Steve Kellett, Craig Baker, Chris Johnstone.
(photo: D.M. Fisher)



Ed Choularton (centre) leading Tim Barraclough in the 1500m Final.
(photo: D.M. Fisher)



Rick England and Michael Gale. (shot).
(photo: D.M. Fisher)

In the younger age-groups we knew we were a little less strong, and the postponement of this second "Sports Day" until the penultimate day of term, especially with rain threatening and various visits to Alton Towers taking place the previous day, resulted in some confusion. Fraser's placings were as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1st Place: | Saima Khan (1500m)
Adam Dignan (1500m and TJ)
4x100m Relay, yr 4 Girls |
| 2nd Place: | Kim Hayden (100m)
Chris White (Discus)
4x100m Relay, yr 4 Boys
4x400m Relay, yr 4 Boys |
| 3rd Place: | Sophie Nelson (100m and 200m)
Louise Goodwin (800m)
Arfan Malik (800m, yr 4)
Adam Dignan (Long Jump)
Chris White (800m, yr 3)
4x100m Relay, Yr 3 Boys |

Other places (and therefore points) were gained by Gurpartab Sathi, Marc Zentar, Katie Chesworth and the 3rd Form Girls 4x100m Relay Team, (all 4th), and by Alison Hawcroft, Arfan Ahmed, Louise Lee and Jennie Porter (5th or 6th). When both days' totals were combined we had been overtaken by Byrom and Heywood, but the junior athletes in the House can take satisfaction from the good performances recorded above and from the fact that their third and fourth year relay teams scored higher points than any other House. Unfortunately there is no separate competition for relays as there is in the swimming sports!

David Gilbert has been trying for more than a year to revive the **inter-House Tennis Tournament**, trophies for which have been languishing on two House "pillars" since they were last played for several years ago. This year he succeeded, by presenting the Houses with a streamlined competition, with girls' and boys' sections, which would involve them in a minimum of time and effort. On two evenings after School at the end of term the various matches took place, and deservedly David and Sam Burney won the Boys' event. Our girls, Rachel Goodwin and Lucy Mattison, came up against stiff, consistent opposition and were less successful. David deserves great credit for succeeding where many, including House Masters, had failed. In the end a combination of dogged determination and winning charm did the trick! There is no reason why the tournament should not once again become an annual event in the House Calendar.

This year's Upper Sixth-Formers have always been a challenge but a delight to be associated with. First of all they have been extremely able in all areas, but more importantly they have managed to engender and sustain in each other a tremendous spirit of wholehearted participation and sense of loyalty to their House. I have found their company always stimulating, and they have always kept me on my toes. They have accepted stoically the trying difficulties inevitably associated with trying to persuade disparate groups of boys and girls to do things they would probably rather avoid doing, and they have shouldered ungrudgingly the considerable burden I and the School have placed on their shoulders, especially in their senior years. Like last year's excellent group, they have set the tone and the standard for their successors to emulate.

As joint Heads of House Karen and Josh have been superb, setting an example throughout the House to third formers and their peers alike, not just by their own considerable achievements in and out of School, but by their contrasting styles of

commitment and management: Josh fervent and determined, and sometimes appalled by others' apathy, Karen apparently more detached yet no less persuasive and dedicated. We wish them and all our leavers a full and happy life after WHGS.

- Thanks to Mr Austen and Miss Matthews for the considerable support they have been able to give the House in spite of their many commitments elsewhere;
- Full School Colours were awarded to Simon Johnson (Cricket) and Sam Burney and David Gilbert (Tennis); Club Colours to Sarah Cochrane (Music) and Stephen Kellett (Cricket); and Junior Colours to Katie Chesworth, Alison Hawcroft, Kim Hayden and Gemma Rosenthal (Rounders), and to Katie, Alison, Kim, Richard Ip and Richard Longworth (Tennis);
- David Gilbert was appointed Temporary School Prefect at the end of term;
- Sarah Cochrane has received the J.N. Hopwood Reading Prize (Sen), Sam Burney the Prize for Original Verse and the Knoop Prize for English Literature. Vinnie Pohoomull received the Pankhurst Spanish Prize;
- Heads of House from September 1996 will be Rachel Goodwin and Edward Choularton;
- Simon Johnson will be Captain of School Rugby in September;
- At the end of term the Head Master announced that Sarah Cochrane was to be joint Head of School in 1996/7.

The House congratulates all of these on their achievements.

D.M.Fisher

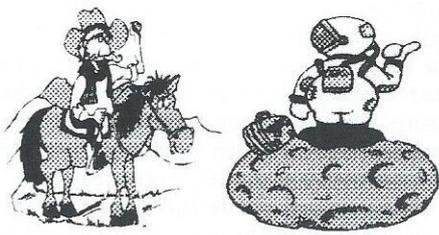


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GASKELL HOUSE

Heads of House: Daniel Gent and Bernadette McCurrie

After many years of sticking to the principle that the form master or mistress must also teach their tutor group, we have finally clearly separated the pastoral and academic groups. In Year 9, all the fortunate members of Gaskell House will be in one Tutor group and will stay in that group for at least three years. The Tutor group will be together for registration, form periods, P.S.E and games throughout the academic year. This will provide stability and enable the pupils to develop friendships and gain a stronger understanding of one another. Each form will contain a diverse group of characters. Hopefully, the pupils will learn to respect each other and benefit from the qualities each individual brings to the group.

Gaskell is fortunate to welcome Miss Derby and Mrs Worthington as Form Tutors. They will join Mrs Hesp and Mr Gorman within the House structure. Mr Dunn is now a fully trained House Master! House assemblies will continue to be on a Tuesday morning; however, the pupils will then trundle off to their different teaching groups and will follow a six day cycle of lessons. Days one to six will fall on different days of the week and games will fall on a different day each week - THIS WILL NOT BE AN EXCUSE FOR FORGETTING GAMES KIT.

The House games season got under way with a late replacement referee, Mr Veevers. Obviously Byrom had little chance, though my eyesight was occasionally brought into question. Gaskell ran out comfortable winners, thanks to the fine example set by the enthusiastic Upper Sixth Formers Martin Cheung, Richard Garner, Geoffrey Hargreave, Adeyinka Molajo, Michael Scholes and Alexander Warhurst. Further wins, even involving tries from the free running Aaron Greenall and Marc Olden, helped establish Gaskell as one of the better sides in the league. Thankfully, Mr Mallinder continued to ignore the skills of scrum half Robert Hanley and a league win was a distinct possibility. Brett Smith developed into a dynamic hooker, good enough to be invited to play for School, and Alex Mal'ouf, David Melmoth, Eliot Mason and Zishan Anjum all made great contributions. Sadly, injuries and unavailability broke up the end of the season and the league title was surrendered.

In the Knockout competition, a strong squad of twenty turned up to take on Byrom. Despite Rudi being carted off to hospital before the game, a committed team, well led by Jeff Pearson and Dan Gent, produced a stirring display to win 25-5 thanks to tries by Jeff, Dan, Hamza and the outstanding John Daniels. My memory of the game is some excellent tackling by Zishan and Eliot Mason - they will be missed. Unfortunately, though Dan and Jeff were determined to win the competition, a lacklustre performance led to defeat in a sudden death lunchtime play-off. The Ray Cox Sevens competition was, again, a major disappointment. Players have to be interested and prepared to organise themselves. I was very disappointed in the lack of enthusiasm and initiative displayed. Unless individually directed to a particular place, dressed and cajoled, some people seem unable to function. Sadly, if you get out of life what you put into it, some individuals will have a rather sad, empty future.

The seven-a-side teams failed to get themselves organised and both Seniors and Juniors came fifth; very disappointing, because they did not use the talent, they had some good individual efforts but no team work.

Thursday, 16 November. Gaskell swimming team excelled! They demonstrated exceptional team spirit, with each backing up the other team members. One of our best swimmers, Philip Robinson, picked up a shoulder injury playing rugby for his House, but he was still there leading from the front and fighting the pain. He swam in two relays with Kinsella, Race and Rogers, achieving second place in each and later went on to come a creditable second in the medley relay. Geoff Kinsella showed determination in all his races. Well done Third Years.

The Fourth Years were organised by Lecia Endlar. She got the full team behind her and the Fourth Years got both their relay teams to the finals. Endlar, Edwards, Finch, Khafagy and MacLeod gave it everything and came third in each race. Edwards showed his individual skill coming second in the backstroke, with Johnson achieving a third place in breaststroke and Finch a fourth place in butterfly. Certainly this was a team effort, Fourth Years. Thanks to Suzanne Nathan and Jane Balderstone for being reserve. The Seniors failed to qualify for the relays, but undeterred John Daniels and Richard Garner achieved first place in the backstroke, individual medley and senior butterfly. Brocklehurst and Warhurst took second and third place in the Senior freestyle to pick up important points. Gaskell achieved second in the individual races and joint second in the relays. All who took part should be pleased with themselves.

The swimming is a keenly contested, enjoyable event involving a lot of people. The fact that it is after School seems to deter some people - thanks for the effort and congratulations to Richard Garner who was the Senior individual winner. Richard has organised the House swimming for 3 years and will be sadly missed, especially in the Senior butterfly. John Daniels will be a worthy successor next year. Many thanks to Mrs Hesp who chased people around for weeks and even managed to get some people to practise. The surprising fact is that some people are very weak swimmers.

Qaisra Khan, Aaron Greenall and Alex Mal'ouf were involved in the House debating competition. Whilst putting a strong case, they needed more panache in the delivery and more certainty in their responses to questions.

The musical contribution was organised by Mr Dunn, who got very frustrated trying to organise rehearsals for pupils who seem to think that tomorrow never comes and 'it will be alright on the night'. There were several excellent individual performances, particularly from the Third Formers. We had the Gaskell answer to Diana Ross and the Supremes but, once again, a little more effort and time would have produced dividends. Kati Greenall has assured me she will organise proceedings next year - as long as she still has time to play the saxophone. Jane Lawson and Aaron Greenall presented the varied programme, with saxophones to the fore. Kati Greenall, David Freeman, Geoff Kinsella and John Daniels formed a quartet, Carl Farrington played guitar, Elli Metcalfé, John Daniels, Sally Burton and Suzanne Nathan all conquered nerves to play individual pieces. The saxophone duet of Kati and David produced an excellent rendition of Blue Monk with the proceedings wrapped up by our traditional girls singing and dancing performance starring Sally, Elli, Carys, Jackie and Kati - the recording deal is still pending.

The annual Road Run took place on 13th December. This is always after a lunch in which the runners carefully pack away as much as possible without a thought of how they may feel half way round Alexandra Park. David Rogers, Thomas Gent and Fady Youssef all produced good times for the Third and Fourth Form teams. However, the other runners did not produce the necessary effort and both teams ended up fifth overall - very disappointing. However, the Seniors were excellent, with Richard Bell winning the Fifth Form race followed home by Eliot Mason, Zishan, Gareth Shaw and Carys Edwards. The Fifth Form were a creditable third overall. However, the Seniors were even better. Mark Olden ran the second fastest time of the day to come second, followed by John Cunningham (4th), Alex Xidacis (7th), Paul Edmundson (14th), Natalie Mason and Frances Edwards (25th & 26th). The Sixth Formers, therefore, set an excellent example and finished first overall. However, the final House position when all year groups were added up was a disappointing fourth. Everybody should be able to run for twenty minutes. Many of our pupils cannot and will not practise in order to improve that situation. Running is one of the easiest exercises and can be improved rapidly with daily exercise. It saddens me that many pupils find climbing the stairs an unnecessary effort.

The Lent Term is always packed with action and yet there is little time to complete all the activities. The lacrosse league only contained five games - the defeat of Whitworth being the only highlight. Few people seem to have the full kit and as a result the lacrosse stick is treated like a foreign object that should only be used as a weapon. Alan 'Chunky' Kan joined the Sixth Form last year and despite a lack of lacrosse in Salford he brought a refreshing enthusiasm to the league team. He used his stick to keep his hands out of the way, still does not realise that there is a ball involved in the game, but nevertheless capped a short, sparkling lacrosse career by helping us win the lacrosse flags. Alex Mal'ouf was a determined goalkeeper. Eliot Mason, David Melmoth, Paul Edmundson, Aaron Greenall, Mark Olden, Martin Cheung, Geoffrey Hargreave, Adeyinka Molajo, Richard Garner, Michael Scholes and Alex Warhurst all played - but never at the same time. Lack of teamwork, leadership and organisation led to some frustrating afternoons. However, as is often the case, a weak league team was because we had 7 squad players for the knockout with Jeff Pearson, the School goalkeeper, proving to be an excellent co-captain with Daniel Gent. The defence was an interesting combination with John Daniels the rock and Alan Kan being sent on various missions by Jeff in goal. It is remarkable what can be done by commitment and being prepared to get in the way physically. With Robert Hanley, Adeyinka and Rudi in attack and Richard Bell and Dan Gent in midfield we dominated games against Fraser and Dalton to win the flags. At last we had a trophy to place on the pillar in the New Hall.

The Hewlett Cup was a sad return to disorganised individuals efforts - only the second team won a game. We need individuals to be prepared to take responsibility and organise their peers, too many people simply turn up and expect to be organised - even supplied with kit. The Junior lacrosse squad won through to the semi-finals by beating Fraser thanks to a superb performance by Phil Robinson in goal. However, despite the efforts of Mark Brown, Tom Gent and once again Phil Robinson, the Fourth Form attack players were far too greedy and we were knocked out in the semi-finals.

The Senior girls' hockey and netball results are best forgotten, though a great deal of effort went into gaining 6th and 5th places respectively. Obviously our female talent is concentrated in the artistic field. The hockey was lacking direction - the team turned up without a goalkeeper. However, Deborah Johnston did not disappear fast enough and was bravely volunteered to don the iron mask. Despite being several players short we only lost in the last minute. The next game was saved by a cracking goal from Frances Edwards, the whole team worked very hard and though the goalkeeper still looked like the man in the iron mask, I believe it was Jacqueline De Freitas.

The Juniors fared little better, though the Third Formers have lots of enthusiasm and talent and the Fourth Form are a well organised group despite the lack of enthusiasm of two of their members. The Jane Balderstone view of the sporting year follows:-

This year the Gaskell Junior girls made the best contribution so far, with almost all girls competing in two or three House events.

The year started off well with an overall result of 2nd in the swimming competition. The team was captained by Lecia Endlar, and Suzanne Nathan, Suzanne Kershaw and Stacey Khafagy all competed in the event. Suzanne Nathan also competed in the House music competition, in which she played the violin.

In the Lent term there were both the hockey and netball competitions. Unfortunately we were never going to win the hockey, with the other Houses being just too good, but we tried, and Lecia Endlar, the captain, managed to create a team spirit between us all. The netball result was almost the same, and was captained by Stacey Khafagy. Despite brave efforts by all the team, an excellent goalkeeper, Suzanne Kershaw, and a-goal scored in the second game by Suzanne Nathan, it was all too late.

The House play took place in March. Suzanne Nathan and Jane Balderstone took part in it. It was an excellent play, with all years together achieving a brilliant team spirit, and was only upset by a disappointing 4th result.

By the Summer term things were looking up; in the rounders, we were the only team to win both games in the first week, when our mixed team of Third and Fourth Years played amazingly. The second week though, we managed to lose both games; it may have had something to do with our not being on our lucky pitch.

In the last weeks of term came a new event, tennis. It was doubles, and Jane Balderstone and Suzanne Kershaw made up the Gaskell team. Unfortunately we did not win either of the games played and lost 1-6 to Whitworth 3rd years, and 2-6 to Heywood Sixth Formers. We played well though, and it could have gone either way, with both teams playing well and most games going to deuce.

The final event of the year was on the last day of the year, athletics. The javelin and high jump were cancelled, due to rain and slippery ground. The other events did take place, and Suzanne Kershaw and Suzanne Nathan did well in their events, and the relay team tried their best; however the Third Years broke the School record in the relay event. Overall we had a really good enjoyable year.

Jane Balderstone (4J)

The House play report appears elsewhere. However Vicki Williams and Frances Edwards took on the task of producing an Alan Ayckbourn production. Many of the Upper Sixth Formers got themselves involved with Jeff Pearson and Daniel Gent doing a tremendous job back stage. Miss Green made a special note of the cameo performances by Sally Burton, Cemile Egeli, Justin Finch, Kati Greenall and Tom Gent, i.e. most of the cast! Our large, young and enthusiastic cast gave a vibrant performance that certainly had the audience laughing. Jane Lawson, Aaron Greenall and Michael Scholes all put their experience to good use and timed their lines very well. Sally Burton used voice, costume, body language and stage presence to produce a delightful caricature. The barkers at the fair were enthusiastic and the boxers hilarious particularly Tom's hairy chest! Vicky Lane, Rebekah Lawson, Laurie Edwards and David Melmoth all made the most of their appearances. There was good acting at all times, a hilarious brass band sequence and the producers deserve great credit for their skilful direction.

The great bonus is that a lot of people became involved, the whole production was enjoyable and characters responded very well to the pressure. Mr Turner once again organised the whole festival - without his efforts the competition could not take place.

The cricket season got off to a cold miserable start in May with a match against Fraser. Despite a few lusty blows from Chunkit Kan and 18 from Richard Bell we were all out for 70. However, enthusiastic team spirit encouraged by Dan Gent and Jeffrey Pearson led to an excellent victory. Rudi dismissed the Fraser star batsman, Rob Hanley ran out a dismayed Sam Burney and Dan Gent organised the eventual defeat of Fraser. Many thanks to Tom and David who sacrificed their English and History lessons in order to score. In the semi-final we failed to dismiss Jon Flatman who went on to score an excellent 100. However a total of 187 was achievable if we got off to a good start. Rob Hanley looked like Richie Richardson but was unable to bat like him. Dan Gent started his innings against M.G.S with a straight struck six but failed to get going in this match. However Chunkit came to the rescue. He has not heard of the M.C.C., let alone its coaching manual, but a good eye produced a flurry of boundaries though he missed out on a well deserved 50 by 4 runs. Jeff sustained a cut cheek in his last House outing but returned to strike some good shots and allow Aaron Greenall and Paul Edmundson to display their skills. Unfortunately they did not have any and we were dismissed for 140 runs. Perhaps we knew the final would never be played due to the monsoons.

Senior sports day takes place early in May to allow a full competition before the examination leave starts. Though we fielded competitors in all events, our athletic powers were found wanting. Sadly, few people seem to take athletics seriously, despite some of the excellent facilities locally. Bernadette McCurrie was 2nd in the 100 metres, Richard Bell 3rd in the 800 metres, Chunkit Kan was 2nd in the javelin and 3rd in the shot and the girls 4 x 100m squad was 3rd in the relay. It was only courtesy of an even worse Whitworth performance that we were 5th overall. The Junior sports took place on the last Friday of term as rain had stopped play earlier in the week. All the Third formers took part but four Fourth Years avoided all action. Azim Ramzan and Chris Harwood both qualified for the 200 metres final and both produced some sustained speed to gain 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Azim then produced another superb run to lose out in the 400 metres by a whisker. With a good relay run he ran five races in all and can be very proud of his performances. I hope he stays around to continue this improvement. Chris Harwood followed up success in the 200 metres with a 3rd place in the 100 metres final with Kim Karam a creditable 5th. Suzanne Nathan produced a great effort all round and determination brought her 4th in the long jump, 3rd in the 100 metres and 4th in the 100 metres. Suzanne Kershaw was an excellent 2nd in the shot putt as was Kati Greenall. Becky Lawson was 2nd in the long jump, David Freeman 2nd in the shot putt and Tommy Gent 5th in the long jump. Probably the greatest effort came from Carl Farrington who ran an excellent, determined 600m in the 800 metres race. However the real stars of the show were the Third Form girls. Victoria Lane produced a great effort in the 1500 metres, but the real star was Laurie-May Edwards who won both the 200m and 100m with a devastating turn of speed - I hope she can keep it up. The Third Year relay team of Kati Greenall, Elli Metcalf, Rebekah Lawson and Laurie-May Edwards got themselves organised, produced good baton changes and promptly set a new School record. An exciting performance.

I am certain to have forgotten somebody but the real pleasure is in seeing virtually everybody take part in what are basically individual battles. Carl Farrington, Daniel Choudhury, Mark Brown, David Freeman, Adam Race, Faye Todd, Kasim Ullah, Jane Balderstone, Stephen Johnstone, Kim Karam, Neil Macleod, Craig Smith and Fady Youssef can all be proud of their contribution.

Dan Gilbert showed a great deal of patience in organising a tennis competition. Jane Balderstone, Suzanne Kershaw, Richard Loudon and Marc Olden took part. Despite a brave effort they are unlikely to bother the Wimbledon seeding committee though Richard assures me he played plenty of aces. Perhaps he should stick to Poker.

Another group of Upper Sixth Formers has left after contributing a great deal to the House system and my enjoyment of the role as House Master. Qaisra Khan and Junji Inaba have received offers from Cambridge University; others will disappear all over Britain. I wish them well in the future and hope they look back on their time at School as a happy period of their life. If the 'House meal' is anything to go by, they certainly seem to know how to enjoy themselves, though Richard Garner's belly dancing skills had previously passed by unnoticed. Mrs Hesp and Mr Dunn have kept the whole show on the road and devoted a great deal of time to helping the pupils in many areas of School life. The individual attention pupils may receive is never mentioned but this is the most crucial role in the development of every student. Mr Dunn has now been fully trained and takes on the unenviable task of following Mr Blight as Byrom's House Master. My thanks go to Mr Dunn, Mrs Hesp, the games staff and all who have enabled such a varied programme of events to take place.

H. N. Veevers

Only one win in the six pool matches was hardly surprising and that was by the second team. Colours were awarded to the second team and José Camarasa received them for the first time.

The Junior Sevens was shared by two Houses scoring 10 points and Heywood came third with 9 points. The Fourth Years were tremendous, despite David Wynter not playing, and having won both their pool matches 5-0 against Whitworth and 15-0 against Byrom, won the final against Fraser 14-0. Unfortunately, the Third Years, who also lost Luke Coffey, could only win one pool match and lost the third/fourth play off. However, colours were awarded to both teams for coming so close and Andrew Machin, Adam Harris, Sefton Miller, Neel Shah and Neil Whitehead won them for the first time. Hopefully, in the future, Heywood will lose none of their star players for either the Senior or Junior Sevens competitions. It makes winning matches very difficult when five School players, four of whom are fast backs, are not available through injury.



Heywood's winning Junior Rounders team.

L to R, Back row: Suzanne Ash, Carla Namar, Sophie Hope, Gemma Cruickshank, Miss Smith.; front row: Levinnia Clemetson, Elisa Choi, Vanessa Cohen, Lauren Standring, Danny Baker.

The House swimming saw the usual lunchtime practices to find teams and the realisation that once again Heywood would be trying to avoid last place. It is very frustrating as a House Master to see so much effort put in by members of the House for so little return. Nick Davenport, James Higgins and Glynn Roberts - Seniors, and Anthony Hart - Fourth Year, were the only qualifiers in the individual events and not surprisingly we came last overall, with only seven points. Nevertheless, we qualified in five of the six relays and, with two seconds, two thirds and a disqualification, shared second place in the relay competition with Byrom and Gaskell. All the finalists in the relays or the individuals were awarded colours for their efforts and these included Danielle Baker and Sonali Mehta. As I wrote last year, hopefully, things will improve shortly in the swimming but, until they do, we will continue to do our best.

Another competition which has so far eluded Heywood since its introduction several years ago is the debating. Chris Barnes, having competed in the previous four events, handed over to Michael Bartlett and Nick Ghazi who had to oppose the motion 'This House Does Not Agree With Foreign Aid'. Heywood suffered poor opposition and having won their debate easily were placed second in the competition, although it was some consolation that Michael was adjudged to be the best debate on the day.

On the last Wednesday afternoon of the term, the Road Race was run. Like last year, the relay part of the event had been scrapped but now four boys were to run for each year group whereas previously it had been three. Several runners turned in excellent performances for Heywood. Neel Shah and Sefton Miller were sixth and seventh in the Third Year; Robbie Richardson second, David Wynter third, Michael Dennett seventh and André Jackson thirteenth with Lauren Standring fifth fastest girl twenty-fifth in the Fourth Year; James Higgins ninth and Matthew Whyatt tenth in the Fifth Year; José Camarasa third, James Leinhardt twelfth, Sujoy Jaiswal fifteenth and Rachel Westbrook sixteenth in the Sixth Form race. Once again, for the third time in four years, Rachel was the fastest girl competitor and Sujoy only managed to beat her by sprinting the last 100 metres! Our overall position of fifth was not helped by one Fifth Year failing to start because he apparently had no kit and by one of the Lower Sixth being disqualified for cutting through a hole in the park fence with three other competitors. Colours were awarded to the whole team and included Nick Reece, Asmar Chaudhry and Michael Dennett.

Towards the end of the term, the Upper Sixth mocks were held and Rachel Westbrook was asked to be temporary Head of House with Nick Davenport as Deputy. These two, along with Asha de Silva, Louise Ives, James Leinhardt, José Camarasa, Asif Majid, Matt Pimbley, Vicky Seel and Laura Leveson were made temporary House Prefects and Asha and Louise were appointed to the Lower Sixth Duty Rota.

The other event which took place during the half term holiday, and was most certainly an eye opener to Mr Gracey, was the Heywood House Prefects' trip to Blackpool. After a cheap and cheerful pub meal, we spent almost an hour in