

## SHOOTING

This year, for the first time for many years, the School will be represented in the Ashburton Shield at Bisley on Thursday, 10th July. Although rather overawed at the prospect, and not a little apprehensive, we are looking forward to this immensely. Thanks to the kindness of the Cambridgeshire County Rifle Association, we have been able to practise every Tuesday evening at 200 or 300 yards at Barton, and the squad has shown a steady improvement at these ranges. It is unfortunate that 500 yard practice has so far eluded us, but we will have two opportunities for this before Bisley. The squad is learning to work well as a unit, as well as to concentrate on their shooting as individuals, and this is essential for any team competition.

On Thursday, 19th June we were the guests of Oundle School on their school range. Although black storm clouds hovered menacingly over us, our luck with the weather held since, apart from a stormy day at Bisley with two of the squad, hardly a drop of rain has fallen on us.

The match was shot at 200 yards, and we were duly

beaten. The margin of 28 points was less than expected and we had the honour of having the top scorer in the match, Sykes ii. In the snap competition which was shot outside the match, our inexperience was devastatingly revealed, but the lesson was nothing if not salutary. A most pleasant afternoon was spent, and we were admirably entertained.

Scores: (*Oundle in italics*): A. P. Sykes 67; *Thomas, Goldsmith, Briggs, and Humberstone* 64; *Kellaway* 63; *Butterworth* and J. M. Smith 61; *Smith, Sargeant* and R. S. C. Hockly 60; D. R. H. Steen 59; I. A. Clarke 57; D. S. Tansley, Rice and Penn 56.

Oundle 500/560; Bedford 472/560.

Cadet pairs: Clarke 63; *Marx, Ward* and Lord 55.

Snap: Oundle 268/400; Bedford 201/400.

Finally, a word of thanks to R.S.M. Coblenz, whose patience we have sorely tried on occasion, but without whose help we would not be able to shoot. T.J.E.

## ROWING

### Change in Emphasis

The School are not sending a crew to Henley this year as "A" Levels are during the regatta week. The emphasis, therefore has been on Pangbourne National Schools Regatta, not only for the 1st VIII but also for the whole Boat Club. This has proved of the greatest value.

Domestic changes have included unrestricted entrance into the Boat Club. This has meant a large intake of Juniors and so a larger number of Junior House Fours. Side by side with this system two Junior Colts VIIIs from the 2nd-year Juniors were chosen at the beginning of the Summer Term thus putting the better talent on a school basis, with the remainder rowing in Fours with the 1st-year Juniors. The Junior House Head-of-the-River Race was changed to a knock-out system in both divisions as it was felt that this was preferred and was more practical with the numbers. The 1st division rowed in the blue fibre-glass boats over the Town Course, the 2nd division in tub fours from Town Bridge to Suspension Bridge.

A Junior House IV Competition, based purely on technique, was held on 15th May. This proved very valuable for both coaches and oarsmen. The importance of coxing, at this level and at any other, cannot be over-emphasised and those of smaller stature should feel encouraged to step forward!

### 1st VIII

#### WALLINGFORD REGATTA

This was the half-term week-end and one which produced excessive deluges of rainfall, with much resultant stream. However, spirits remained high and dry. The crew were entered for the Junior-Senior VIIIs. In the 1st round v Wallingford R.C., the crew had the Berkshire station which meant a slight disadvantage at the finish. The result was a close win by 2 ft. This was a slightly uneconomical row at 35; after comment the crew rowed a more controlled but almost as close race on the Oxon station v Barclays Bank, to win by a canvas in 5 min. 6 sec. In the final the crew met St. Edward's, Oxford, 1st VIII again, these being fortunate to

have had a bye in the 1st round. A slightly tired crew held St. Edward's off at the start, but found the close racing of the day was beginning to tell. They could not hold it for the last minute and lost by 2½ lengths. It was, however, an exciting day's racing.

#### READING REGATTA

Conditions were good with a strong stream for the time of year and a cross to tail wind. The 1st round v Kingston R.C. on the centre station gave the crew a race in which to settle down to an easy rhythm. After one and a half minutes rowing the crew had clear water and maintained the gap to the finish to win by 1½ lengths in 4 min. 31 sec. This row looked almost too comfortable for safety as the "catches" were suspiciously slow. This proved to be so when in the semi-final Eton took a very quick length in the first minute, much to the crew's surprise. They were never able to draw this back. The verdict of three-quarters of a length in 4.29 left Eton to go on to win the event from Radley by a length in 4.20.

#### NEWARK REGATTA

It was decided to enter this regatta to take advantage of the dead-straight course and *repêchage* system over 1,000 metres, also to avoid the Sea Cadet Regatta at home on the Ouse. Unfortunately we had to change boats; this and also the stream appeared to upset the crew. Their first row in the Senior-Junior event was against Manchester University and Nottingham Britannia 1st VIII. The crew, with Gregson as substitute at "2", had the south station. At half way they were level with Nottingham Britannia and down ½ length on Manchester. Rowing rather inefficiently, with uneconomical bladework they were unable to reach the line first, in fact only third, 4 metres behind Nottingham who in the final won from Manchester after a *repêchage*.

After some confusion as to status, the crew also rowed in the Cadet VIIIs v King's, Peterborough. This was also a mediocre row amidst enormous flurries of spray and wash, producing a win by ¾ length, so the day yielded some silver!

R. Elliott also competed in the Junior Sculls but after some circuitous steering came third in this heat.