

St. Cuthbert's full-back Skinner played well, Bromham had a good front-row with Connolly looking the part. St. Peter's hooker Thomas also showed ability, and their no. 8, Brittain, got around. Wiles led Crescent well from the second-row and Hurt played pluckily at full-back. Ashburnham, the worst hit by illness, played their best in the last round against Paulo when they defended resolutely, none better than Davis.

- 1st Paulo-Pontine 10 pts.
- 2nd Bromham and St. Cuthbert's 6 pts.
- 4th Crescent and St. Peter's 4 pts.
- 6th Ashburnham 0 pts.

The "B" series was won by St. Peter's.

F.M.F.

FIVES CLUB

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Seniors	Pts	Juniors	Pts
1st Ashburnham	280	1st Crescent	206
2nd Crescent	260	2nd Ashburnham	203
3rd Bromham	241	3rd St. Peter's	175
4th St. Cuthbert's	219	4th Paulo-Pontine	146
5th Paulo Pontine	169	5th St. Cuthbert's	134
6th St. Peter's	163	6th Bromham	119

The eventual winners and the runners up of the Senior Competition were predictably the strongest sides. Both had good second pairs and both had a first pair containing one 1st IV player who virtually played singles. Amongst the other houses a few surprises were sprung, often in decisive games. St. Peter's with a strong first pair sadly lacked support and St. Cuthbert's were guilty of chopping and changing their partnerships too often. Bromham never played up to their potential and Paulo-Pontine suffered badly from the absence of S. J. Endersby, who broke his arm, as he would have had a profound effect on the competition.

The general standard was good amongst the first pairs but there was considerable inconsistency amongst the second pairs. All in all it was a close, exciting competition.

In the Junior Competition the singles were dominated by one first string player, Dance, and one second string player, Britten. Both were undefeated and showed, along with a number of others, considerable potential. The winners, Crescent, were a contrast of skill and strength and in the end deserved to win. Amongst the other houses inconsistency was the main fault but amongst young players this is understandable.

SCHOOL MATCHES

Results in matches so far:

- 1st IV v Oxford University, lost by 2 points.
- v Cambridge University, lost by 14 points.
- v Haileybury, won easily.

In the matches so far the 1st IV has played both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and Haileybury. The University matches were lost by two and fourteen points; commendable performances in the circumstances. Haileybury were dispensed without much trouble and the IV is looking forward to a successful season.

M. I. MACLAREN.

SHOOTING

Christmas Term

After the excitement of winning the Roberts Shield on 9th November, the club settled down to .22 shooting again, and any sense of anti-climax was avoided by the prospect of the House Shooting Competition, the Chapman Cup and a "friendly" match against Oundle in "tin hat" targets, with a team snap thrown in.

The House Shooting Competition was enlivened by the added incentive of House Colours, which may be awarded to competitors achieving a minimum standard, and by the unusual situation of their being no favourites for the cup. The House captains worked to such good effect that, in the event, only 37 points separated the six Houses (compared with 69 in 1968) and a very considerable depth of talent was revealed.

Results:

1st Bromham	661/720	4th St. Cuthbert's	633
2nd St. Peter's	651	5th Ashburnham	625
3rd Paulo-Pontine	645	6th Crescent	624

Leading scorers:

A. B. Keith (Bromham) 147, A. H. Pryce (St. Peter's) 144, D. A. Lord (St. Cuthbert's) 143.

The Chapman Cup gave us a very tensely fought final, in which much credit must be given to all six finalists for putting up a very good performance in what is a hard and searching examination of small-bore skills. The winner, deservedly, was I. A. Clarke with a score of 242.2 out of 256, but he was closely chased home by A. B. Keith (241.3) and A. H. Pryce (293.3).

The Oundle match provided one of the highlights of the year when, on our own ground, after trailing by 4 points at the halfway stage we failed by 1 point to catch what is clearly an able and experienced team. However, we derived some small comfort from winning the team snap by 8 points. Scores: tin hat: Bedford: 1539/1600; Oundle: 1540. Snap: Bedford: 241/270; Oundle: 233.

Easter Term

The club has now completed the change-over to the new 1969 Bisley 25/200 targets, and to the new scoring of the *Country Life* competition. In practical terms, this means that we have a smaller aiming mark to shoot at, we score fewer points for what we do, and, in the rapid, those points are harder to score. But it does bring our .22 shooting into line with our .303 shooting as far as the targets are concerned, and with the increasing emphasis on .303 shooting this is bound to help us. Indeed, the squad has even been observed setting off to shoot .303 this term in the snow accompanied by ribald comments from less enthusiastic club members, and exclamations of extreme puzzlement from other quarters.

The pressure of training for matches has been such that ordinary club members have not shot as much as I would like, but perhaps a certain justification can be found in the fact that we have won our first two matches, against St. Albans (away) and against the Country Rifle Association (home). The first match, on 4th February, gave us an excellent opportunity to test our new team members in the friendliest of atmospheres, and the extent of our victory was in part due to the little practice that St. Albans had put in on rapid. The second match, on 21st February, brought a County team thirsting for revenge after their defeat last year, but a very consistent

performance by the School (in which they put up the highest team score since we started side-by-side matches last year,) put the issue beyond doubt at a fairly early stage. It was particularly pleasing that in both matches our 9th man and our pair won as well.

Results:

- v St. Albans (away) VIII: 571-548
9th man: 64-61
pair: 134-85
- v Bedfordshire County VIII: 748-692
Rifle and Pistol 9th man: 92-56
Assn. (home) pair: 162-105

Leading scores to date:

- A. B. Keith 365, I. A. Clarke 362, A. P. Sykes 361, D. S. Tansley 360.

T.J.E.

ROWING

SENIOR SCULLS

This event should have taken place on Thursday, 12th February, but it was necessary, owing to the snow-bound conditions, to postpone it to Tuesday 17th. Unfortunately, conditions on this day were not altogether satisfactory, for the section of the river below the boathouse had iced over, meaning that the course had to finish at the Suspension Bridge, shortening the distance from 2,000 metres to 1,500 metres. It was a bitterly cold day, but the strong following wind meant fast course times.

There were two divisions, made up from the A and B trial VIII crews, plus three of the Colt's scullers.

- 1st Charnley 6m. 55s.
- 2nd Forrester 7m. 00s.
- 3rd Jeckett (Colt) 7m. 17s.
- 4th Telfer
- 5th Mantell
- 6th M. M. Crichton i

R. J. CHARNLEY.

FENCING

This term's fencing team has had to be built up from two school colours remaining from last term. Although there are a number of young and keen fencers in the School, they are relatively inexperienced, especially in match practice. We were therefore fortunate to have junior foil pools against Harrow and Bedford Modern School.

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|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Results | <i>1st foil</i> | <i>2nd</i> | <i>Junior</i> | <i>Épée</i> | <i>Sabre</i> |
| v Harrow Lost 17-19 | 4-5 | | 4-5 | 7-2 | 2-7 |
| v B.M.S. Lost 19-22 | 6-3 | 6-10 | 7-9 | | |

Junior House Fencing Competition

The competition was much less scrappy than in previous years, a reflection on our junior matches. However, fencers with initial advantages of long reaches and usual speed of attack were too non-committal.

- 1st St. Cuthbert's
 - 2nd Paulo-Pontine
 - 3rd Crescent
 - 4th Ashburnham and St. Peter's
 - 6th Bromham
- Individual placings:* First foil: 1st Robinson (St.C);
Second foil: 1st Kettle (St.C).

W. J. WRAY.

ATHLETICS

STEEPLECHASES

The steeplechases this year were held on Tuesday, 27th January. Two full weeks had been available for training, and the course was comparatively dry, so some very fast times were achieved.

In the junior race, the leaders were quite widely spaced for most of the time, but the field was quite compact in the senior race, with constant changing of leaders. As expected, Banks-Smith was able to repeat his victory of last year, although the first three seniors arrived within the space of twenty seconds.

Senior Results

- 1st Ashburnham
- 2nd St. Peter's
- 3rd Crescent
- 4th St. Cuthbert's
- 5th Bromham
- 6th Paulo-Pontine

Junior Results

- Paulo-Pontine
- St. Peter's
- Ashburnham
- St. Cuthbert's
- Crescent
- Bromham

Senior: 1. Banks-Smith, 2. Hartop, 3. Charnley, 4. K. Holden i, 5. W. White, 6. Makgill-Crichton i.

Junior: 1. Meares, 2. T. Thomas, 3. M. Hare, 4. Few, 5. Davis, 6. Turner.

BOXING

Junior House Boxing

Mosquito Wt. 6st. 0lb.

Clegg, the eventual winner, proved too skillful for the other members of the weight. Clegg beat two spirited opponents in Darlow and Trunchion.

Fly Wt. 6st. 7lb.

Parsonson beat Davies in the semi-final but was unable to match the strength of Emsley in the final.

Bantam Wt. 7st. 0lb.

This weight was very closely contested and produced a very good semi-final with McIntosh just beating Motteshead. In the final McIntosh beat Schwarz on a split decision.

Feather Wt. 7st. 7lb.

Davies won through to the final by stopping Dawes and Wilson. In the other semi-final Rice beat Charlton narrowly on a split decision. In a well-fought final Davies beat Rice due to his more accurate punching.

Light Wt. 8st. 0lb.

Wells just beat Clark in a very close final.

Lt. Welter Wt. 8st. 7lb.

Gray proved too strong for Simmons and stopped him in the first round.

Welter Wt. 9st. 0lb.

Drake and Brittain, beating McAlister and Pattison respectively in the semi-finals, went on to have a hard fought final with Drake just gaining the decision.

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