

SHOOTING

The second half of term has brought mixed fortunes. We won fairly comfortably against Haileybury on their own range, but came bottom in the East Anglian Schools Meeting.

The Haileybury range is a pleasant and sheltered 200 yard range, and the team settled down very quickly to the job in hand. The previous practices we had, had proved crucial once again, as they did last year at 200 yards in the Ashburton Shield, and a reasonably steady all-round performance ensured our victory.

Then disaster struck: Barton Range had to be closed for some mysterious reason, and it was to be four weeks before we could go there again for practice. By then it was too little too late, and we went in for the East Anglian Schools Meeting at Kibworth Range almost totally unprepared. The conditions were very reasonable, although my thermometer recorded 111 degrees in the sun, and the winning scores show just how poorly we shot. The day was full of incident of one kind or another: I had to defend our rifles from a small group of very interested bullocks who seemed intent on trying to eat them; there was the foolhardy crow who *would insist on flapping down onto a hawthorn bush almost dead in line with one of the targets*, I'm not sure that someone didn't have a go at it, because it suddenly hurtled into the air with wings whirring and disappeared like lightning to one side, while a red and white flag from the butts signalled a "miss"; one of the team nearly went down with heat stroke (we're not complaining: we prefer it hot to wet or cold!); our ninth man made the top score at 500 yards. Indeed, an encouraging feature of the day's shoot was the performance of the cadet pair and the ninth man who shot very creditably to restore our morale.

In other quarters, however, we have been more successful. A. P. Sykes and D. R. H. Steen were invited to shoot for Bedfordshire in the annual Inter-Counties match of the East Anglian Counties, and Sykes won his County VIII badge—as far as we know, the first schoolboy to achieve this in the County. In the Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Isle of Ely open meeting, in which we entered the Roberts Shield team, we came third out of five teams, and Steen with 92/100 qualified for an N.R.A. "expert shot" badge. Earlier Sykes qualified for an N.R.A. "marksman" badge with 95/100.

We now look forward to Bisley and to regaining our form. With three full days to prepare for the Ashburton Shield, it will be our aim to improve upon our results of last year, and to prove that we can hold our own among the 125 schools that are expected to compete this year.

Finally, I would like once again to thank R.S.M. Coblenz for putting up with our constant petty demands upon his time and patience, since, without his watchful eye, we would have made many more mistakes than we do anyway.

Results

ν Haileybury and I.S.C. (away)	VIII	281-273
	Cadet pair	60- 72
	9th man	36- 33
ν East Anglian Schools	VIII	475 6th (top score 521)
	Cadet pair	123 3rd (top score 125)
	9th man	63 2nd (top score 64)

Team: VIII—D. S. Tansley (Captain), I. A. Clarke, D. R. H. Steen, A. P. Sykes, A. B. Keith, D. A. Lord, Smith, Eatly.

A. P. Sykes was awarded Minor Sports Colours.

Cadet pair: Martin ii, Courtney. 9th man; Liller.

T.J.E.

The Lower School

Lower School Notes

Most fortunately the cautious prediction about the weather for Sports Day proved quite unnecessary. We have enjoyed to the full some glorious sunshine this term and it was indeed a pleasure to have our Sports Day in full sunshine and to enable us and our visitors to enjoy the occasion without being either frozen by cold wins or soaked by heavy rain. We were delighted to welcome Mr. and Mrs. David Corps as our guests and thank Mrs. Corps for giving away the Certificates. Perhaps some mention should be made of our new type of presentation for both athletics and swimming. The cost of spoons has been rising astronomically over the years and threatened to consume over 10 per cent of the Lower School budget. We approached the school Printing Society and must thank them for producing for us magnificent blue and gold Certificates which we hope will be a pleasure for their winners to retain. It was also possible to *include the third place in each event*, and so ensure a wider distribution of our new awards. Mr. Whatley is once again to be warmly congratulated on the success of the occasion and the widespread interest in athletics which everyone enjoyed in the first four weeks of the term.

Our good weather right from the start of the term has enabled swimming, cricket and tennis to get into full swing. The first XI got off to a good start and despite one abandoned match due to rain at the very last moment, they have not suffered any reverse so far.

The Junior Scholarship Examination had a heavy entry from the Lower School and it is a pleasure to record that of the 10 Scholarships won this year, 5 were by boys at the Lower School at the moment and 2 more by boys who left the Lower School last term. We warmly congratulate Anthony Corps, Stephen Winter, Jonathan Pringle, Geoffrey Saville, Peter Byass and also Jonathan Pinnock and Anthony Lewis on their success. Jonathan Pinnock won a minor Award last year and increased this to a full Major Scholarship.

Our musical activities have been at full strength; the Lower School orchestra which did so well at the Bedfordshire Festival, performed the whole of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* at a combined Upper and Lower School concert, and our own Lower School concert took place in shirt sleeves in the gymnasium on a really glorious summer evening. Of particular interest was the production of Benjamin Britten's "Golden Vanity"; a miniature opera specially written for boys' voices and produced with great skill and verve by Mr. Stuart Rees. Originally they intended to sing from music but by dint of great efforts they not only wore costumes, but also sang entirely from memory. A more detailed report of the concert will be found elsewhere in this issue.

We have been pleased to welcome to the School Mr. Leslie Driver who will be an additional member of staff in September, and will help us on the Arts side and also on the games field. We hope that he and Mrs. Driver will enjoy their time at Bedford and we shall certainly be glad to have an extra member of staff to help us with our many activities.

Once again our Third forms are due to depart from us, and we wish them all a most happy future at the Upper School and we trust that they have enjoyed their two years with us.

Our band of Monitors has been large this year, but there has been no dilution of their contribution. Very ably led by