

they were level up the enclosures and they passed the finishing post dead level. Then followed a re-row from the Town Bridge to the finish. The crew rowed well and finished half a length ahead. In the final, the race against Anriol B.C. was a little disappointing as the crew had a poor start and never consolidated, the verdict 3 lengths to a rather more powerful crew.

The Coxed IV drew Nottingham and Union B.C. in the first round. They gained one length off the start but steered wide round Brewery bend to lose their advantage and by the Town Bridge were down by half a length. Final verdict two and a half lengths.

Makgill-Crichton sculled in Junior Sculls, Div. B. and did well by winning both his first round and semi-final heats easily but was beaten easily by Appleby in the Final.

M.S.K.

Colts A

Colts A were entered for the Colts VIII's event, but two changes had to be made to the crew for the Regatta. The cox, C. Garbett, had to leave early to fly to Africa and his place was taken by R. M. Davies. On the day before the Regatta the stroke, T. Q. Beckett, sprained his ankle. His place was taken by 6, A. C. Gaskell, and M. R. Duddy came in from Colts B. The new arrangement settled down very quickly and well and certainly did not affect the results.

The first two races, against Bedford Modern B and our Colts C were comfortably won, but in the Final we found ourselves on the Outside Station against St. Paul's, undoubtedly the fastest Colts VIII in the country. They had been beaten by the 1st in the Final of the Juniors at Reading and were eager for revenge. They went off with great speed and were well over a length ahead at the Town Bridge, reached in the very fast time of 1 min. 23 secs. They went away steadily and won by 3 lengths in the new record time of 3 mins. 39 secs., 3 seconds faster than the Final of the Juniors. The School had a good row but were not in St. Paul's class.

H.D.G.

Colts B

Colts B had a successful Regatta. A period in a shell eight in the week preceding the event put some bite and pace into the crew. Entering Novice Eights with some trepidation, we were drawn against Churchill College, Cambridge. At the Brewery, we were three quarters of a length down, but drew back to level at the Century. Superior fitness told and we won by three quarters of a length in 4 mins. 2 secs.

The second round was against Cambridge 99 Club, another unknown quantity. This proved to be a desperately close race, with feet between the crews at most times. In the end Bedford won by 2 feet in a time of 3 mins. 57 secs. The final drew us against B.M.S. Colts A, who had earlier beaten the 3rd Eight. The result was never seriously in doubt, although a spurt near the Century reduced the margin between the crews to a quarter of a length. The spurt faded however, and B.M.S. were comfortable winners by two and a half lengths in 3 mins. 54 secs. Why then a successful Regatta? Because the crew fought, and would not stop racing hard. I wish them well in the Senior crews, and I hope this approach will be carried on.

P.A.Y.

Colts C

Colts C improved considerably in the week before the Regatta, and in the first round beat B.M.S. Colts C, a crew that had beaten them earlier in the season. The verdict was

one and three quarter lengths. In the second round the crew lost easily to our own Colts A. An enjoyable, but not scintillating, season.

Bedford Regatta Results

2nd VIII lost to Gladstone Warwick R.C. by one and a quarter lengths.

3rd VIII lost to B.M.S. Colts VIII by three quarters of a length.

Junior Colts 'A' lost to St. Edward's by two lengths.

Junior Colts 'B' (Colts IV's) lost to Bryanston School by three quarters of a length.

National Youth Regatta—Pangbourne

After term the Coxed IV took up residence at Henley where they had a very useful weeks training. The crew put on substantially more speed, however not quite enough for the high standard demanded at Pangbourne this year. The four drew Chester City B.C. and St. Mungos'. They had a good start at 43 but did not quite settle to a steady rate. At 750 metres all crews were having steering problems and they had changed several times. At the final post the School IV were 3rd by six secs., time 5.45. Chester City claimed a foul against St. Mungos. The umpire gave the two crews a re-row which Chester City won. In the final Durham won in the fast time of 5.24 and were selected for Greece.

It was an enjoyable week and many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Almond once again for accommodating us so comfortably.

M.S.K.

SHOOTING

Bisley, 1970

We set out with high hopes this year of improving on our very fair performance of last year, but sadly this was not to be. Although we need look no further than at ourselves to find the cause, I cannot but remember the closure of Barton Range at a time when our training was reaching its peak, and the subsequent last place in the East Anglian Schools meeting. Shooting, like any other sport, requires carefully planned training, and if that training is interrupted, only by rising above himself when the time comes can a man do himself justice. We did not even do ourselves justice. It was not until the County Championships in September that we regained our self respect and winning form.

Thanks to the kindness of the N.R.A. Secretary, Air Commodore Riall, we were able to go down to Bisley a day early and hire a couple of targets for the Monday. But that we were not to have a straightforward stay was soon amply demonstrated. The sun was blazing down on us as we practised on Short Siberia Range shortly after the break for lunch. Suddenly a uniformed figure appeared dancing weirdly in the mirage and shouting incomprehensible oaths at us which were swallowed up in the parched distance separating us. Away in the distance behind him a heavy black cloud clung to the tree tops before spiralling obesely skywards. It soon became apparent that he wished us to cease firing. . . . The heath was burning, and we had not heard the

warning siren. Luckily the swimming pools of the neighbouring towns were not too far away, so we were able to drown our sorrows.

The next day, the first of the Schools Meeting, when the Iveagh and Wellington competitions start, the first at 500 yards, the second at 200 yards, we got soaked, right through, from top to toe. Wetter even than you can imagine. For two long hours. This had none of the pleasant cathartic effect of a nice cloud-burst: it was total water. The only consolation was that we were a lot better organized than many others, and so did not sink into abject misery. Not quite, anyway. Water has the most peculiar effect on shooting, since it not only can alter the pressure of your trigger, but it also varies the trajectory of your bullet. It was therefore no surprise that our scores that morning were more a reflection of experience than ability. The morning was marred for me personally by being obliged by popular opinion to prostrate myself in the mud and shoot in my own turn, to demonstrate how experienced I was. . . .

The Wednesday was another poor day, but brightened up by Mike Eatby's powers with a shot gun which, but for the presence of the Canadian Schools' team, would have won him more than he did in fact achieve on the clay pigeon range. We even clubbed together and raised the entrance fee for a special challenge by our champion—which he lost, but only just. The practices were going satisfactorily, with Ian Clarke in particular showing form with a good score in the Iveagh, but there was no real sparkle to the scores, and this was the tale of the Thursday and the Ashburton Shield. Our ninth man found the occasion altogether too overwhelming, and the rest could do little more than hold a steady average.

There were, of course, some courageous performances: Angus Keith's recovery after a disastrous morning, Ian Clarke's fine shoot at 500 yards, Duncan Steen's steadiness, but what we considered the best shoot of the day was Andrew Sykes' 45/50 in the individual 500 yards "Spencer Mellish" competition in which he represented the School in difficult conditions after a mediocre score in the Ashburton Shield.

Results:

Ashburton Shield : 48th 483/560. (44th 487/560)

Ninth Man : 76th 35/50. (5th 47/50)

Cadet Pair : 32nd 116/140. (65th 105/140)

The VIII was: D. S. Tansley (Captain), I. A. Clarke, D. R. H. Steen, A. P. Sykes, A. B. Keith, D. A. Lord, S. L. Smith, M. W. Eatly.

Ninth Man: Liller.

Cadet Pair: Martin ii, Courtney.

The Club N.R.A. Bronze Medal was awarded to D. R. H. Steen for the best overall performance at Bisley.

The Club Donegall Bronze Badge was awarded to I. A. Clarke for the highest aggregate in the Ashburton Shield.

Minor Sports Colours were awarded to A. P. Sykes, D. A. Lord and I. A. Clarke.

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP September 27th 1970

Last year, after a good Bisley, we performed lamentably in the County Championship. This year with special emphasis on encouraging younger members, the County had a number of prizes for tyros and under 25's, and, with the shadow of Bisley behind us, it was a pleasure to see how well we did. We had six club members among the prize winners,

with Ian Clarke at last consistently realising with his .303 the potential he has shown for so long with his .22, and Jeremy Martin following up a steady Bisley with a fine shoot, showing once again that it is experience, and not age, which counts with shooting. We are hoping to defend the Roberts Shield later on in the term, and we could not have been given a better start to our defence of this coveted trophy, or to the year.

The School v The Old Bedfordians

Small bore shooting takes second place during the summer term to full bore shooting, not through any wish of my own, but simply through lack of manpower. It is also traditionally in the summer term that the Old Boy's match takes place. This combination of circumstances led last year to the cancellation by the Old Boys of what should be one of the major Club fixtures. It was, therefore, extremely pleasing to welcome back this year an Old Boy's side which not only fielded several reserves, but which also shot to a very high standard. Out of this most successful match, in which incidentally C. H. Hamp scored a possible of 101/101 on his "tin hat"—a feat almost incredible to those who regularly fail to achieve it,—a new momentum has been born, and it will, we all hope, become the practice to hold the .22 Old Boys match in the Easter Term, and to have a .303 match in the Summer Term, with a view to the Old Boys going on to enter a team in the Public Schools "Veterans" at Bisley.

The match itself was shot on the basis of the eight best scores to count, and, although the issue was never in doubt, the Old Boys showed that, with a bit more practice, they could give the School a close run, and it was particularly appropriate that the top score should come from an O.B., even if their second score was equal to the School's ninth man.

The scores were:

Old Bedfordians : 1155/1328

The School : 1216

T.J.E.

TENNIS

The season ended better than it began. We only found our true form against Wellingborough, where we convincingly won 5 matches to 1 (Crockett and Winstrom, Carroll and Forster, Coperly and Hawkins). The 2nd VI, under Mr. Churcher's direction, played better towards the end of the season, but were unlucky to lose to Kimbolton and Oundle. For the first time we were able to produce a Colts IV, thanks to Mr. Ratcliffe, and we hope to be able to arrange some matches for them next season.

In the Youll Cup at Wimbledon, we were drawn against Repton, who narrowly defeated us. In the Beds. County Championship, we reached the semi-finals in the doubles and the singles. We had a very good afternoon's tennis against the Old Bedfordians, in which the 1st VI were just defeated and the 2nd VI won. In the House Matches Ashburnham beat St. Peters in a very exciting final.

Next year we hope to run a Colts IV as well as a 1st and 2nd VI, and we also hope to arrange more competitive events within the school.

K. B. FORSTER.

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