

Hext v Stamp (Westfield) 7st 2lbs.

Hext, although a stylish boxer, never showed enough determination in his punching and so after a close bout lost a points decision to a more experienced boxer.

D. A. Gray v Charles (Westfield) 9st 6lbs.

Early on in the first round Gray caught his opponent in the corner with some good combination punches and so the referee was forced to stop the bout.

A. P. F. Charlton v Forrester (Westfield) 8st 2lbs.

Charlton used his greater skill and experience to show that he could comfortably out-box a plucky and hard hitting opponent.

F. Samet v Lendore (Westfield) 10st 8lbs.

This was a repeat of one of Samet's bouts in the Schoolboy Championships in which he again stopped Lendore in the first round through sheer strength.

R. M. Davies v Morris (St. Columba's) 9st 2lbs.

Perhaps the most impressive fight of the afternoon, in which Davies showed his true potential as a strong and skilful boxer. After a series of block punches in the second round the referee stopped the bout.

Brown iii v Williams (St. Columba's) 7st 3lbs.

Brown did not quite have the experience to deal with the older Williams. A lot of punches were wasted through not making contact with the target area and so he lost on a points decision.

The results: The School 7 wins; St. Columba's 2 wins; Westfield 1 win.

National Schoolboy Championships

F. Samet, I. G. McIntosh and R. M. Hext entered for the National Schoolboy Championships. This is the first year anyone from School has entered and the results have been very encouraging. In the Area Championships Hext was unlucky to be beaten in his first fight. McIntosh did very well to get into the Area Finals but here he sustained a broken nose and lost a very close fight.

Samet stopped both his fights in the first round and so became Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Area Champion in his weight. This got him to the quarter finals of the National Championships where he obtained a walkover. He is now through to the Semi-final and should do well.

D. A. GRAY

FIVES

Senior House Fives

The Senior House Fives was again won convincingly by Ashburnham, who had both the captain and secretary of the Fives Club. Several of the other houses, notably St. Cuthbert's, St. Peter's and Bromham, had strong first pairs but weakish seconds and as a result were no match for an Ashburnham second pair containing a 1st IV player. The competition between these three houses was very close with the final order depending on the outcome of the last round matches. The final result was really a reflection on the relative strength of the first pairs rather than of the teams as a whole.

Results:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ashburnham | 4. Bromham |
| 2. St. Cuthbert's | 5. Paulo-Pontine |
| 3. St. Peter's | 6. Crescent |

Junior Fives

Ashburnham completed the double by winning the Junior Fives as well as the senior competition. As the first string, Dance continued to dominate matters and Dalton proved to be a very competent second string. Paterson for Paulo-Pontine proved to be second only to Dance and with the exception of their encounter with the winners Paulo were too strong for any of the other houses.

There was certainly no lack of effort on the part of the other contestants and many commendable performances were displayed.

Results:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 Ashburnham | 4 St. Cuthbert's |
| 2 Paulo-Pontine | 5 Crescent |
| 3 St. Peter's | 6 Bromham |

Fives Club

So far this term the 1st IV is having one of its best starts to the season for some time. Unbeaten to date we have dispensed with Cambridge University who are always pretty useful, and have convincingly beaten Haileybury, St. Pauls and Felsted.

Results:

- v Cambridge Univ. won by 2 pts.
 - v Haileybury won by 129 pts.
 - v St. Pauls won by 112 pts.
- A IV v Felsted won by 29 pts.

M. I. McLAREN

SHOOTING

Christmas Term

FULL BORE: THE ROBERTS SHIELD

As defending champions in the County Service-style team championship, we had more hope than expectation of retaining the trophy. Stimulated by the County's policy of encouraging younger people to shoot, we entered three teams, and spent two very uncomfortable Saturday afternoons at Grafham Range practising with the unfamiliar targets we would have to compete on. Unlike the Open championship, which is simply a matter of hitting a small black circle on a big white square, service-style shooting entails snap and rapid shooting, without slings, at various distances, at ferocious-looking murky-coloured figures which keep ducking out of sight. An eminent Harley Street psychiatrist has assured me that, when we aim at one of these figures, we personalise them into specific individuals with whom we are at daggers drawn. We must have had our knives into quite a few people because we nearly pulled off a remarkable double: our 2nd IV came within one point of retaining the Shield behind a very strong Army team led by J. P. Mills (OB) who won the President's Cup for the eighth (or ninth?) consecutive year.

What the *Bedfordshire Times* did not say was that Ian Clarke tied with John Mills for the Cup and was ruled ineligible as being only an affiliated member of the County Association—a fine performance. Lindsay

Smith retained the Stebbings Cup for the School (in succession to R. S. C. Hockley and D. R. H. Steen) and won the Cadet Grand Aggregate Cup. Numerous other prizes were won in what was the best supported meeting that the County have had in recent years.

SMALL BORE: INTER-SCHOOL SHOOTING

Although this was kept to a minimum because of our domestic commitments, we did achieve two quite outstanding results: the 1st V broke the Public Schools team score record with a score of 492/500 in the last round of the Public Schools League, in which we came third over the five rounds. Secondly, we beat Highgate School, the Public Schools champions, in a triangular shoulder-to-shoulder match with "tin hat" targets at Haileybury. To round the term off, an "A" team overwhelmed BMS in a (genuinely) friendly match, again with "tin hats": BMS: 543/600; Bedford School "A" 594.

Results:

Haileybury and ISC: 744/800

Highgate School: 750

Bedford School: 767

DOMESTIC SHOOTING

Each year the House Matches produce something special, and this year was no exception. We had rationalised a previous incongruity so that Houses now shot in pairs and shoulder to shoulder with another House—bad for the nerves but good for the competition. This meant that each detail could end with a straight race between the two pairs to shoot out five lighted candles, for a bonus of five points. This is satisfying for the firers and fun for the spectators. What I did not bargain on was that this would decide the Doig Cup. Bromham, the holders, and Crescent were at 555-559 with the last set of candles to shoot after a long vicious match. Bromham won, and the record will read "Bromham 560—Crescent 559". No cardiograph would have survived the shock. But then that is what competition is all about.

The Chapman Cup ran true to the doom-laden words of Ian Clarke: "The Captain never wins the Cup"—Witchcraft or Nerve Warfare? Considered as the toughest event in the shooting calendar, it never fails to produce a close result, and this year, as in 1968 and 1969, the Cup was won by one point, with Bob Larman just keeping ahead of Lindsay Smith.

Results:

The Doig Cup:

1 Bromham 560/610

2 Crescent 559

3 Ashburnham 553

4 Paulo Pontine 535

5 St. Peter's 532

6 St. Cuthbert's 483

The Chapman Cup

1 R. J. Larman 206/215

2 S. L. Smith 205

3 A. P. Sykes 202

Easter Term

After all the hectic activity of last term—no-one can say that we are ever idle! This term has been relatively quick, with the first of our fixtures successfully behind us and the testing ones are still to come. Bedfordshire County, shooting without the handicaps of the past two

years, came to within 22 points of the VIII, and went off muttering crossly about having to win next year.

Haileybury gave us another hat-trick of wins despite some anxious moments caused by the speed with which the match had to be shot.

Results:

Bedford School 1,148/1,215; Bedfordshire County RPA 1,126; Haileybury and ISC 657/760; Bedford School 682.

The Club's membership is now finally established, the teams train for their matches and shoot weekly in the Public Schools League, the newcomers are learning their trade and some members shoot simply because they are good enough and enjoy a weekly practice. But possibly few outside the club can realise the intensity of work that is required to make a competent shot. Shooting shares one factor with all other sports: the ability to concentrate absolutely and yet remain physically relaxed. This can only be achieved after an arduous apprenticeship to improve performance and to build up self knowledge and confidence. The sense of achievement to which this leads is a very concrete one and may explain why the club loses so few members after the first year.

T.J.E.

GYMNASTICS

This term we have had one competition so far, the Eastern Region Schools Vaulting and Agility Championships. In this competition, held at Redbourne School, Ampthill, the School had two main successes. In the Under 13 age group S. Peacock (Lower School) came first. In the Under 15 age group P. Gauczakowski came third. These two boys together with B. Dickey and E. Sullivan were selected for the Eastern Region team to go to the National Finals at Billingham. Our first inter-schools match against Oundle was cancelled.

E. SULLIVAN

ROWING

Trial VIII's

For the first part of the term the Trial VIII's were arranged in equal crews and were raced against one another over timed pieces. This was extremely good experience for cox, stroke and crew. Small boats have provided an excellent means of improving watermanship and a high level of fitness has been reached by the use of weights.

Two visits to the River Nene have been made, to make use of the long reach there. The "A" crew are now using the Sims "shortie" boat, and a new set of "barrel" blades from F. Collar.

Sculling Head

The Sculling Head was held on Tuesday, 16th February, this year the full course of 2,000 metres downstream was used. The stream was minimal, and there was a slight headwind. The general standard of the sculling was higher than last year and some fast times were recorded.