

and Millard. They were especially in evidence at Haileybury where Millard managed to take part five times in one of the scoring movements.

Outside the scrum Scrivens, at fly-half, has been most effective in setting up chances for Holbrook and Lloyd-Williams, two big, strong centres, and on the wing both Shanley (who has only started playing rugby this term) and Dayal know where the try line is. Jessop, a running full-back in the modern vogue, has improved with every game.

The main credit for fusing these talents into a strong and disciplined side must go to Peck, an outstanding scrum-half and captain. After the disappointment of breaking his arm against Haileybury, he must have been pleased to see the way his side rallied and won at Stowe in difficult conditions.

M.J.R.



Shooting

I wrote in my last report of a team starved of practice and full of potential. This may have been proffering an excuse in anticipation of mediocrity, but in the event we have not needed it! Our results have exceeded even our hopes.

BISLEY 1971 The Club this summer pursued a concentrated course with .22, to try to make up for the lack of .303 practice, and the first indication that this would pay off came with our defeat of Haileybury, reported in the last issue. A month later, in the East Anglian Schools' meeting for the Chivers Trophy—the occasion of our downfall last year—we came fifth out of the top 12 Schools in the East. We realised then that we could do ourselves justice and the team returned to its training with much more enthusiastic resignation than before.

Once at Bisley, despite our obvious improvement, the shadow of last year's disappointments loomed very large, and, after sloughing the summer term, we started on the competitions which lead up to the Ashburton Shield. Once again the Secretary of the N.R.A., Air Commodore Riall, very kindly allowed us to practice on the Monday, so that we were well settled in for the

start of the Schools' Meeting on the Tuesday. But no-one did really well—or badly. When it came to the day of the Ashburton Shield, our only prize-winner was David Lord, who, with masterly beginner's skill, won the Clay Pigeon Schoolboys' Championship outright over the two days.

The Shield was shot for on a fine day with a slightly tricky fishtailing wind. Paul Liller, as Ninth Man for the second year, opened the account at 200 yards very favourably, and achieved second place out of the 90-odd schools—a fine performance in what is one of the tensest competitions a schoolboy can face. The Cadet Pair were disappointing, and the VIII, helped by yet another "possible" by Andrew "bullseye" Sykes, were steady but unspectacular. It was only as we moved back to 500 yards that we learned that the other schools had been less steady! The shoot at 500 yards was an extraordinary affair. We started with the Cadet Pair achieving the highest score of the day and ended with the captain and secretary having their target so badly marked that extra ammunition was allowed them—virtually unheard of in a Bisley competition, and detrimental to concentration.

It was symptomatic that the score board did not show us among the leaders—they had added our scores incorrectly: 100 short; but it eventually percolated through that we were in the top ten, and this because nobody had let the team down. It particularly encouraged the Old Bedfordians who had come down to support us—and TO SHOOT. As "Veterans" they were able to feel that their performances were in a good cause.

The wonderful Bisley results were due in part to the shooting and training; but also in large measure to the willingness of everybody to help, and to the unselfishness of those who marked the targets, under John Ridler. Without the backing of the other members of the Club, those shooting would not achieve the results they do.

Results:

Ashburton: 9th, 501 (max. 560) (1970: 48th; 483)

Ninth Man 2nd, 47 (max. 50) (1970: 76th; 35)

Cadet Pair 9th, 125 (max. 140) (1970: 32nd; 116)

Cottesloe Vase: 2nd.

Awards: Club N.R.A. Bronze Medal for the best overall performance at Bisley to A. P. Sykes; Club Donegall Bronze Badge to J. R. G. Martin; Keith Cup for full bore Match aggregate to A. P. Sykes. The VIII: I. A. Clarke (Capt.), D. A. Lord, A. P. Sykes, A. B. Keith, S. L. Smith, M. W. Eatly, J. R. G. Martin, P. Dawes. Ninth Man: P. Liller. Cadet pair: Ebbetts, Gompertz.

THE ROBERTS SHIELD We lost the Shield in 1970 by one point. This was gall and wormwood to us, so we decided to train effectively for it at the military style shooting involved. The opposition are serving members of the Armed Forces, A.C.F. Instructors, Senior clubs and cadets. The task was particularly formidable this year, as the favourites and holders, the A.C.F. Instructors, had been strengthened by a new member. Dismayed, but not deterred, we toiled away on Saturday afternoons on our usual diet of School sandwiches and goats' milk yoghurt. On the day, all went well and we regained the Shield by a clear but narrow margin. Andrew Sykes

won the Home Guard Cup for the individual championship, wresting it from J. P. Mills (O.B.) who had won it for the previous nine years in succession. For the C.C.F., Jeremy Martin retained the Stebbings Cup and the Cadet Aggregate Cup, and tied with J. P. Mills, behind Andrew Sykes, in the individual championship. This was sweet victory indeed.

The full bore season has brought the School success—despite rifles which the Armourer described as grossly inaccurate because the barrels are so much bigger than the bullets after all the shooting we have done! Individuals, too, have done well with the County, Philip Dawes and David Lord both breaking 140 for Queens 2nd Stage, and Andrew Sykes is an automatic choice for the County First Team. I hope that in this way the Club contributes not only to the School, but to the larger community to which we belong.

SMALL-BORE SHOOTING Once more, Club selection has taken up the first half of term. Even with all our other commitments, we have squeezed in the usual two shoulder-to-shoulder matches, the first an easy victory in the triangular match with Haileybury and The Leys, when we were able to field a strong team. The second was an encouraging three point win in the Christmas friendly match with Bedford Modern School for which we only fielded four team members, thereby giving four juniors a taste of tough competition. House Matches are due, the Chapman Cup follows, training is in full swing and a new year lies ahead.

Minor Sports Colours were awarded to S. L. Smith.
T.J.E.

Hockey

Bedford School Amateur v Bedford High School Hockey Club. The much-publicised and well-supported match took place on 26th October. In the past the High School XI had traditionally played the monitors; this year the School side was to have been monopolised by the First XV, but fear of injuries necessitated a more eclectic approach.

The pressure of County team players in the High School side failed to daunt the School team, who were confident in their ability to play hockey. The forceful "cut and thrust" technique of the School team meant that the opposing defence was reeling several times, and frequently the ball exploded goalwards from a clash of sticks. Steve Eayrs finally scoring with a fierce shot.

Superior skill began to tell in the second half. Anguished cries were heard from Tim Bridges in goal as the High School forwards launched some vicious counter-attacks, but his deft footwork and flaying stick could not prevent two goals being scored. Nick Musgrave's momentous shot was allowed to pass through the suddenly deferential opposition, and hit the boarding at the back of the net—but was disallowed.

R.D.D.

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Rugby Fives

An oversight in the pipeline prevented a report of the 1971 Fives season from appearing in the last issue of the magazine. For the record it is important to note that the School produced the winner of the Public School's Singles for the seventh time in the last twelve championships, a record which is the envy of all the leading Rugby Fives schools. This perhaps is an appropriate occasion to remind the new generation of players of the standard that may be achieved by dedication, concentration and physical courage. Qualities which the school has been fortunate in finding in the previous generation.

A. D. R. Dawes was the first Bedfordian to win the singles, doing so in 1948 and 1949, but it was not until 1960 that our present run of successes began. This is the record to date:

1960, 61 and 62: P. Mellor
1963: M. Chesworth
1966 runner-up: P. Fitch
1967: J. Dalzell, runner-up J. Mytton
1968: J. Mytton
1969: runner-up S. Endersby
1970: runner-up I. McLaren
1971: I. McLaren

During this time Mellor and Chesworth won the doubles event in 1962 and we have twice been runners-up, including McLaren and Tennant in 1971.

J.I.C.