

The start of the Easter term's fencing saw the usual short lived burst of enthusiasm culminating in the Junior House Fencing with the following results:

1st Ashburnham	4th St. Peters
2nd Paulo Pontine	5th Crescent
3rd St. Cuthberts	6th Bromham

*Individual placing:*

1st Foil: 1st Holden; 2nd Mitchell; 3rd Sturges.  
2nd Foil: 1st Kettle; 2nd Gillies; 3rd Mellor.

As was to be expected the standard was quite low. Experience soon told and long reaches proved infallible.

A match against Harrow became a non-event when the visiting team's fixture came unstuck and the match was cancelled.

The Senior House Fencing concluded with some surprising results; for one or two members of the school team failed to reach expected standards.

1st St. Cuthberts—N. A. T. Robinson winning both the 1st foil and Epee events.  
2nd Paulo Pontine—J. Watson winning the Sabre.  
3rd Crescent.  
4th Ashburnham—Selden winning the 2nd Foil.  
5th Bromham.  
6th St. Peters.

Standards are low through lack of practice and many fencers are not prepared to give up the time in order to become proficient. As a result selections for the team are, more and more based upon those who are prepared to make the effort and not always necessarily on talent.

Encouraging signs of a change were seen at the match against Aldenham School where the school had a decisive victory. Team members seemed to regain confidence and showed that their ability and style have not completely disappeared.

CHARLES ROGERS

## steeplechase

The School Steeplechases were held this year on Tuesday 1st February in cold, sleety weather over hard-frozen ground. The Junior Race was won by Cobban (St. C.) in a time of 21 min. 8.5 sec., with Parsonson (St.P.) second and Knight (Ash.) third. In the Senior Race, Banks-Smith won easily, with Musgrave ii second and Musgrave i third. For the first time the Senior Race was run with teams of ten from each house, and it is hoped that on this basis boys will feel encouraged to help their house have the best team.

For the scoring of the races the Maths Department enthusiastically experimented with the use of their computer, and we hope to improve on this use in future years; this time certain errors crept into the recording, which were due, it must be emphasized, to the fallibility

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## shooting

### christmas term

The Inter-House competition for the Doig Cup—how do you pronounce it?—produced its usual crop of surprises, Bromham emerging as winners after a shoot-off against Ashburnham. We are still groping for the best way to run this competition, and this year's solution was not very satisfactory. The six Houses shot and the two highest scoring Houses were to fight out the Final. It was a curious irony for Bromham to win since they had scored less than Ashburnham in the Eliminator. We will try to prevent such a situation recurring.

*Result:* 1. Bromham, 2. Ashburnham, 3. equal, St. Peter's & St. Cuthbert's, 5. Paulo Pontine, 6. Crescent.

For the fourth consecutive year the Chapman Cup was won by ONE point; the Captain yet again failed to win! The whole build-up was much more satisfactory this year, with a semi-final and two weeks' practice before the final. We were treated once more to a nail-biting session as fortunes see-sawed through the competition. If any other than local aficionados read these reports, may I recommend the following series for competition: Group, scoring down to 1/4 inch, rapid, snap, 5-bull inward gauging application, 10 rounds application without slings on Bisley 25/200 targets?

*Result:* 1. J. R. G. Martin, 205/215; 2. A. P. Sykes, 204;  
3. A. B. Keith, 202.

### easter term

It is still early days in our programme for the term, but we have clearly not only a very experienced team—too experienced, perhaps?—but a very useful nucleus of juniors for next year when we lose five colours. There is only one place in dispute in the VIII with at least four people in contention for it, the man in possession at the moment being Peter Symonds. We have had three shoots so far, the first being an abortive postal fixture proposed by Framlingham, from whom we have not yet received any scores. The second was the now traditional punch-up with our friends the County Rifle and Pistol Association, a match which gave us a clear win and saw the fall from grace of T. J. E. who shot a one inch group for the County! During the Mock Exams, we had intended to put out a "returners" VIII against Kimbolton, but, due to the crisis in the junior rugger programme, we released our juniors and brought in Philip Dawes and the Club Captain, David Lord, to overwhelm them by more than 100 points. As I write this, we are faced with Oundle tomorrow, who have been scoring higher this term than we have, and our record is in severe jeopardy. We have now gone over 20 .22 fixtures on level terms without a defeat.

*Results:*

The School: 1319/1440 Bedfordshire County RPA: 1242  
The School: 585/640 Kimbolton School: 463.  
Minor Sports Colours were awarded to P. Dawes.

T. J. E.