

ately, in the Final, the crew was beaten by a stronger and more experienced Norwich club VIII.

The crew continued its run of success in the Bedford School Invitation Regatta, when it won both of its races against Carmel College "A" crew and Oundle "B".

Thanks must go to the coach Mr. Pidoux for his efforts in pulling the crew together.

N. P. WILSON

Junior Colts

The 1972 Junior Colts (under-15 age group) are a physically strong and enthusiastic group of oarsmen. They appear to have the potential to reach a high level of success in later years.

From amongst the many applicants for membership 37 boys were selected and treated as a squad in the early stages of training. This year the emphasis was on technical coaching together with a certain degree of competitiveness. Gradually the stress will move wholly towards racing a boat, but not until the techniques of rowing and racing are fully understood. Later on time will be spent on training for power and speed.

Thus the Spring term training was largely done in small boats, Leviathans and tubs, as well as including some cross-country running. Four VIIIs slowly materialised; an "A" crew that raced more frequently than the others; two parallel "B" crews, one composed largely of G.C.E. candidates; and a "C" VIII.

A comparison with other crews has been possible and the Bedford Junior Colts have fared well at all levels, winning some important races and gaining valuable experience. Especially worthy of mention are the notable performances put up at the National Schools regatta and at Bedford regatta, and the worthwhile training camp at Hereford over the Whitsun break which culminated in two crews entering the Hereford Schools regatta.

At this stage of an ambitious training programme, it can be said that there is a wealth of potential in this squad, not simply in the "A" VIII but throughout all the crews, and I hope that this potential will be given, and more important, gives itself, the chance to materialise.

To finish—a special note of thanks to R. H. F. Carlyle and C. J. Jolly who have helped in the coaching of the crews so far and are now both leaving the school.

J.B.D.O.

Fencing

This term has been a difficult one in the life of School Fencing; many factors such as lack of available gym time and the inexperience of a new captain, have all contributed to put obstacles in the way of any progress. The primary difficulty, however, was lack of enthusiasm on the part of many fencers; this, it is hoped, is now a thing of the past, since the somewhat diminished squad now consists solely of those prepared to work, regardless of their ability.

Certainly, more effort is now being put into work, not only at the level of the seniors, but also with the fourth group, where the weeding out of 30%, has resulted in a much improved outlook.

So far this term only two matches have taken place—against Stowe and B.M.S. The first was noteworthy in that it showed up the inexperience of the team, while the second made us recognise our lack of depth—losing not only the Foil, a fact which was half-expected, but the Epée as well, a weapon we should have dominated.

A Junior match against the Modern School produced more hopeful signs—with Fitzmaurice and Gillies putting up a stiff fight against some more experienced fencers.

Results:

v. Stowe (A) Epée lost 3-6; Foil lost 4-5; Sabre lost 2-7.

v. B.M.S. (A) Epée lost 2-7; 1st Foil lost 2-7; 2nd Foil lost 2-7; Junior Foil lost 4-5.

STEVE COURTNEY

Shooting

Bisley 1972

Once again we went to Bisley unprepared, through no fault of our own, but with the strongest team we have fielded in the four years of competing. In the Ashburton we led the entire field until the last two details when we fell victims (as did two other top schools) to the bizarre ammunition which was in use for the meeting—RL 1952, for connoisseurs—and had a couple of low velocity rounds which paradoxically cause high shots. So we came tenth; but our Cadet Pair improved to eighth and John Cousins, as Ninth Man, emulated Paul Liller last year to take the silver medal. Andrew Sykes was selected to be in the A. G. Bell squad whose VIII was so soundly thrashed by the Canadians.

This is the fourth report I have written on Bisley, and it is time I said something about the place. It is to be found by the expert navigator somewhere behind Brookwood in the angle of the A3102 and the A322, on the edge of the blasted heathland which surrounds Pirbright. The National Rifle Association started in 1860, with the financial, and active, support of Queen Victoria who fired the first shot on the ranges of Wimbledon Common. History does not relate whether she was amused. The rifle was securely clamped in a massive rest, and pre-sighted to ensure that Her Majesty scored a suitably royal bull. In 1890 the N.R.A. moved away to Bisley for a variety of reasons—the introduction of the .303 Lee-Metford with its greater range, the increasing building development round Wimbledon Common, the inconvenience of not having permanent butts. The South African War showed up British ineptitude (called courage in those days) to the extent of creating a movement, inspired by Lord Roberts himself, to bring rifle shooting to every hamlet in the land, a thought to make modern Chief Constables shake in their shoes. The First World War saw Bisley turned into a school of musketry for the grim years of slaughter which were to follow. Rifle Clubs survived, with some difficulty, the post-war pacifist reaction to see a resurgence of interest during the 30's, a reversal to a snipers' school in the Second World War, and the subsequent absorption into the framework of modern sport.

The status of Bisley in shooting is that of Wimbledon in tennis, Lord's in cricket or Bogota in bandy: there is nowhere to compare it with. It has tradition, achievement and obsolescence in just the right proportions. Ramrod-straight stiff upper lips, dressed with amazing elegance, pick their way delicately through a throng of scruffy

broad Yorkshire accents reeking of gun oil. Amazing Victorian constructions, looking like summer houses in Poonah, stand next to corrugated iron sheds. Club Houses abound, some with magnificent mess waiters, others with a bod who hasn't turned up yet to open the bar. To spend a day shooting in the Imperial Meeting is unforgettable. You may find yourself shooting alongside anyone, great or small, black or white, tyro or tiger, young or old; indeed it is not unknown for a man to die peacefully of old age on the firing point. Then there come the excuses: "You know, old chap, you've got to have anti-clockwise rifling for this ammo, clockwise is no damn' good." "An' then this b----r next to me kept talking to himself all the b----y time." "My foresight fell off." "Rhubarb, rhubarb." "What'll you have?" (Laughter, chink, chink.)

Results:

Ashburton Shield:	10th	499/560	1971:	9th	501
Ninth Man	2nd	47/50		2nd	47
Cadet Pair	8th	124/140		9th	125
Cottesloe Vase	2nd			2nd	

Awards:

Keith Cup (Full bore match aggregate)—P. Dawes.
 Club NRA bronze medal (Best Bisley aggregate)—P. Dawes.
 Club Donegall Badge (Top score in the Ashburton)—M. R. Ebbetts.

Honours: D. A. Lord, P. Dawes, A. P. Sykes shot for Bedfordshire 1972.

VIII: D. A. Lord, A. P. Sykes, S. L. Smith, P. Dawes, M. W. Eatly, M. R. Ebbets, R. H. Gompertz, P. G. H. Liller. Ninth Man: J. S. Cousins. Cadet Pair: S. M. Gledhill, J. N. Simpson. Club Colours were awarded to R. H. Gompertz.

Winter Term 1972

This term has had two aims: to rebuild an VIII of whom only two have returned, and to sift through 147 applications for membership.

The first aim has been achieved, and a new squad is now hard at work. The under 16's inflicted an incisive defeat on Haileybury. The new VIII's first match was at Oundle, a notorious graveyard of reputations, and they proved their mettle by beating an experienced Oundle team by a healthily clear margin. And two days later we were shooting with our military No. 8's against a Cambridge University B team with ISU Anschutz and BSA weapons—the equivalent of taking them on with bows and arrows against rifles! But even so we only went down by six points, and beat the standing School record for the cards by 11 whole points, a fantastic improvement this. And now the House Matches and individual championships are starting. (Please will someone come up with an authentic pronunciation of Doig??)

Results:

Under 16s v. Haileybury VIII 1501-1473/1600
 Ninth Man 178-176/200
 VIII v. Cambridge University B 731-737/800
 VIII v. Oundle 1545-1532/1600.
 Club Colours were awarded to S. M. Gledhill.

T. J. E.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL NOTES

On Saturday July 8th in the morning the Inky Swimming Sports were held. The *2 lengths Open Free Style* was won by M. Gardner, second was R. Hayward and Third C. Gellatly.

The one length free-style: 1st S. Barker; 2nd N. Cameron, and 3rd C. Muir.

The Novices 1 length: 1st M. Bailey; 2nd G. Harris, and 3rd I. Smith.

The two widths Free-Style for 1 3's and 1 4: 1st G. Hadfield; 2nd M. Bailey and 3rd S. Johnson.

The one-length Breast Stroke: 1st J. Collinson; 2nd G. Watson.

The Open Diving Competition: 1st J. Collinson; 2nd C. Muir.
The Inter-House Relay was won by Phillpotts; 2nd Brereton, 3rd Fanshawe and 4th Greene.

The Inter-Form Relays 1 3s and 1 4: 1st 1 3a; 2nd 1 3b; 3rd 1 4.

The 1 2s: Equal first 1 2a and 1 2b; 3rd 1 2s; 4th 1 2c and in the 1 is: 1 ia; 2nd 1 ib; 3rd 1 ic.

The Inky Swimmers again took part in the Preparatory Schools Swimming Gala held on Friday June 23rd at the Westminster College Swimming Pool Hinksey Hill, just outside Oxford. It is some indication of the skill of our swimmers that Colin Gellatly and Crispin Muir who did so well at Oxford were beaten at home by boys who, on account of the age limit, could not be entered for the events at Oxford. The other results were as follows:
Senior Back Stroke: Julian Brandon (Lower School) 40.8 sec.
Senior Free Style: Michael Bradford (Lower School) 34.8 sec.
Junior Diving: Crispin Muir Bedford Preparatory School.
 The Lower School and the Preparatory School make a joint effort of this and are entered as Bedford Lower School. In another joint venture, the Athletic Sports at Denstone, William Wallis (*Victor Ludorum* 1972) won the Junior 100 metres and was placed third in the 200 metres.

At the election of House Captains held on Saturday November 11th the results were as follows:

Brereton: Jeremy Barker, Charles Inskip and Matthew Peacock.

Fanshawe: Iain McKendrick, Stephen Nutt and David Robinson.

Greene: George Bristow, Simon Leach and Malcolm Wild.

Phillpotts: Stephen Collins, Richard Williams and Duncan Wright.

The 'Inky' Contribution to the Poppy Fund this year was £8.50.

D.S.P.

Cricket

The team had a disappointing season due to a shortage of reliable attacking bowlers. Consequently our batsmen