

against Crescent while Ashburnham, playing fairly consistently, were always likely to cause an upset. Crescent lacked forward power and as a result their useful backline did not see a great deal of the ball. Bromham, very young and rather small, found the going difficult throughout; however, they do have the consolation of knowing that their senior side was unbeaten last term.

### "A" Game

- v Blackheath, lost 20-12
- v Shuttleworth, lost 21-14
- v Bedford Athletic, won 3-0
- v Harlequins, won 24-11

This term the aim was to make more use of "A" game practice as a build-up for next year's XV and from this point of view it has worked very well. Unlike the last few years, when they have tended to be rather outclassed by club opposition, in all the games they were always in with a chance. Particularly pleasing were the performances of the threequarters where it does look as though there will be more pace and potential in mid-field than has been the case in recent years.

The following appointments have been made for next season:

*Captain*: P. M. Connolly; *Secretary*: N. A. Coleridge.

*Awards made in the Christmas Term*:

*Cap*: P. M. Connolly.

*Colours*: M. D. P. Chapman, F. Samet, R. Davies, N. A. Coleridge, S. McL. Cobban, C. P. F. Kemp, D. C. Thomas, J. G. Schoenenberger, J. C. Carter, M. McI. McAlister, A. M. Wiles, S. S. Knight.

A.M.T.

## rowing

We have welcomed two new members of staff, Michael Carter and Tim Savage, to the towpath as coaches this term. Mr. Carter has taken over Junior Rowing from Mr. Osborne, who has taken over the coaching of the 1st VIII. We look forward to welcoming in addition the Revd Michael Lapage next term; Mr. Lapage rowed in the Cambridge boat of 1948 which represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games of that year.

The towpath itself has seen some changes: the awkward bend immediately above the Town Bridge has been straightened, and the possibility of a continuous towpath on the embankment side of Brewery bend, enabling coaches to avoid the hazards of crossing four streams of rush hour traffic on the Town Bridge, seems a little less remote. Through the kindness of the original donors of the Boat Club minibus (which was sold last year) it has proved possible to bring back into service our coaching launch "Betty" after three years' absence from the river.

Trial VIIIs began in January, and four eights were boated. At the time of writing we have three VIIIs and a IV in training, with all three VIIIs planning to enter the Bedford Head on 10th March and the Putney Schools' Head on 15th March. Two of last year's 1st VIII colours are available again this year, and the emphasis in the early

stages of training has been slightly more on land training than in previous years.

Three of the four Colts VIIIs will be entering the Bedford Head, although none of them will have had more than six full outings as a complete VIII in preparation for it, owing to various other sporting commitments.

The Senior Sculls Head of the River race was held at the beginning of February over 2,000 metres from the Twin Bridges to the Three Trees. Twenty-two scullers took part, and the winners were:

1 J. H. Crump	9.18
2 A. Le Gallais	9.20
3 R. S. Henderson	9.21
4 M. W. Culverwell	9.26
5 J. C. Carter	9.30
6 J. A. S. Ridler	9.34
7 H. Gompertz	9.43

M.D.A.H.

## shooting

### Winter Term 1972

The House matches were fought with unusual keenness this year, the Houses being rather more even than in the past. But they filled me with foreboding for the competition to come in the New Year. Not once did a House score full points on grouping. "If you can't group, you can't shoot" as the saying goes. The knock-out system we used, seeding two Houses, produced a better form of competition, but there was still a spanner lurking ready to chuck itself into the works—the first of a series of spanners. Pneumonia struck one of the St Peter's team, and the final with St Cuthbert's had to be postponed until February. St Peter's then duly demonstrated their superior all-round strength to win by a clear margin.

The individual competitions were also rather lower in standard, not that this detracted from the excitement they generated. The IVth form trophy—for boys who were in the IVths 1971-2, just to confuse you—was tied between Roger Holbrook and John Farmer-Wright. The Remove form trophy saw a massive win for the Club Secretary, Martin Ebbetts. And the Chapman Cup itself fell to John Cousins, in his first—and, sadly, last year of senior competition. 1972 did see the first appearance of a IVth former, or do I mean Remove former? in the Chapman Cup: Roger Holbrook came 5th, a fine performance.

Doig Cup: 1, St Peter's; 2, St Cuthbert's; 3, Crescent; 4, Bromham; 5, Paulo Pontine; 6, Ashburnham.

Chapman Cup: 1, J. S. Cousins; 2, A. P. Sykes and R. H. Gompertz; 4, M. R. Ebbetts.

Remove Trophy: 1, M. R. Ebbetts; 2, R. H. Gompertz; 3, S. M. Gledhill.

IVth Trophy: 1, R. J. Holbrook and J. D. Farmer-Wright; 3, S. P. Manley; 4, P. T. Williams.

### Easter Term 1973

The red warning lights were flashing and the Brian Clough of Bedford School got out his big stick. Training started at a hectic pace to the accompaniment of scathing comment and by the time the first match came round, some sort of self-respect had been instilled into the squad. The

County were determined to provide more than token opposition and fielded a very strong team. Once again it was an imbalanced match, military No. 8s against a variety of fantastic and beautiful weapons, with the County also being allowed an extra 30 seconds on their rapid! Even so, the handicappers did a good job, and the School would have won if they hadn't run up against that devastatingly professional partnership of County Champion John McCoy and County Captain T.J.E., who turned a deficit of 1 point into a winning margin of 14 on the last detail. But the School had proved themselves, and were more than ready for the rest of the term's competition. But alas, more spanners were to arrive; Cambridge University got their months mixed up, Stowe declined our invitation, Bedford Modern School decided not to challenge us for the de Putron Cup—something which not even in our worst days we would have dreamt of not at least trying for—, Loughborough College cancelled at the last minute for reasons of morale. So we have only shot against our friends, Oundle and Haileybury which continue to be thoroughly enjoyable fixtures. The Oundle shoot was a poor performance and we were lucky to have an exceptional landscape leader in our new captain, Geoff Harrison, to lead us to a 27 point win. Haileybury, on the other hand, was a fine exhibition of powerful shooting to overwhelm what must be their most experienced team for some years. Our statistician calculated that they had seven men from last year to our three. We are welding a new team which must be the equal of any team we have had in the past. We have a full under-16 VIII if only we could find some opposition for them.

Results:

VIII v Bedfordshire CRPA 1358-1372/1440  
9th Man 162-166/180

VIII v Oundle 787-760/880 9thMan 70-67/80

VIII v Haileybury 803-734 9thMan 76-70

Minor Sports Colours were awarded to M. R. Ebbetts.

Club Colours were awarded to N. A. Amos, J. S. Cousins, G. Harrison, I. S. Hutchinson, J. N. Simpson, P. J. G. Symonds.

Team: G. Harrison—captain, N. A. Amos, J. S. Cousins, M. R. Ebbetts, R. H. Gompertz, I. S. Hutchinson, J. N. Simpson, A. P. Sykes, P. J. G. Symonds.

T.J.E.

## fives

Throughout the age-groups about 40 boys are playing regular fives this term which is about as many as the courts will take. It is particularly pleasing that many of these boys are juniors. The Junior House competition has been the main event so far, with some very hard-fought matches between the four stronger houses. It took until the third round for a clear order to begin to emerge when St Peter's took a 15 point lead over Paulo although they had only managed a 2 point win over Paulo in the previous round. St Peter's held this lead to the end of the competition, the result being:

1st	St Peter's	285 pts
2nd	Paulo Pontine	270 pts
3rd	Crescent	241 pts
4th	Ashburnham	188 pts
5th	St Cuthbert's	141 pts
6th	Bromham	68 pts

School matches are relatively few in the first part of the term and a full report will appear in the next issue of the Ousel. So far the Colts, Under 15s and Under 14s have each won their opening match comfortably, the 2nd IV have won both their games, but the 1st IV, against much tougher opponents have lost three and won one. There is a long way to go yet, however.

### West of England Schools' Championship

In the Colts' events of these championships held in January, I. G. Peck and A. M. Lloyd-Williams won the doubles title and Peck was also runner-up in the singles competition. This was a particularly good performance as both players are a year below Colt's age.

J.I.C.

## steeplechase

This was run in very muddy conditions, which obviously seemed to favour Paulo-Pontine's strong team as they carried away both the senior and junior competitions. Turner (Br.) as a colt, came first in the senior steeplechase with J. B. Musgrave coming second for the second successive year, P. Taylor (Cr.) came first in the Junior competition with Lloyd-Williams (P-P) coming second.

### Final Tables

*Seniors* :— Paulo-Pontine.  
Ashburnham.  
Bromham.  
Crescent.

St. Peters.  
St. Cuthberts.  
*Juniors* :— Paulo-Pontine.  
Crescent.  
Ashburnham.  
Bromham  
St. Peters.  
St. Cuthberts.

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of the bidding and led the Queen of Hearts. But his partner failed to encourage with the 9 or 10, so, after taking the Diamond Queen with his Ace, Keene led a Club. Declarer could now have made his contract, but, with some tortuous idea of forcing the Club Queen, he played the 10 from Dummy, allowing the defence to take 3 Heart tricks, the Diamond Ace and the Club 9 for one down and a good, if rather lucky, swing to Bedford. Of course, if the Defence does not lead Clubs, Declarer needs 2 Diamond tricks, and must guess correctly in the suit.

Results:

v Bloxham, lost by 1 IMP

v Staff, lost by 35 IMP

v Stowe, lost by 70 IMP

Daily Mail Schools' Cup:

12th out of 16 with 58 V.P.s. (max poss. 144).

The following have played in School teams: J. C. Carter, O. N. Keene, N. G. Burnett, D. M. Hurt, I. N. Bebbington, J. de Panisse Passis, P. J. Brooks, D. J. Harris.

M.R.V.