

## Under-14 Rugby

This year's Under-14 game has shown a reasonably high degree of skill and the techniques of the game have been imbued into the boys in their previous schools and especially in our Lower School. But by half term they had lost three matches and drawn one. There are three reasons for this.

Firstly, lack of size. Haileybury were overwhelmingly large and remorselessly pushed our pack all over the field. Shannon and Bailey are big and fast, but apart from them any sizeable players such as Hart and Hayward are in need of some sprint training. All the backs are competent technically but are insufficiently aggressive.

Another factor hindering the team has been positional experimentation. To avoid stereotyping at an early age, many of the boys have been slotted into new positions. Crucial players such as Lester and Farmer-Wright at hooker and scrum-half are entirely new to their positions. Time for techniques to be learned is needed.

Finally the causes of lost matches have invariably been careless mistakes. Elementary errors have cost too much. What of the future? We have thirty or so good players and surely matches will be won this term and in future years. With players of the skill of Boyd-Moss, Holtom, Shannon and P. M. Brown, perhaps a definite strategy can be developed that allows this side to play to its strengths.

J.B.D.O.

## Senior League Competition

This competition was won by Ashburnham who were unbeaten in the competition. Bromham and Paulo-Pontine fought out a hard battle for second place. In a final match to the series Ashburnham defeated a 'Best of the League XV' 16-10.

## Cricket 1973

*1st XI results outstanding:*

The XI 175-4 dec (C. W. Pattison 54); Stowe 123-5.

The XI 164; St Edward's 124-8 (P. J. Bailey 4-32).

The XI 228-7 dec (I. G. Peck 108 n o); Felsted 147-7 (Mobbs 4-54).

XL Club 156 (P. J. Bailey 4-46); The XI 91-3.

The XI 150-4 dec (L. J. Feaver 85); Bedford Modern 55 (N. L. Mobbs 4-17, L. J. Feaver 3-5).

The XI 157-5 dec. (C. W. Pattison 87 n o); Ousels 138 (N. L. Mobbs 4-59).

Incogniti 129 (D. A. B. Dance 4-19); The XI 74-7.

The XI 165 and 148-7 dec (I. G. Peck 50); OBs 104-4 dec and 210-5.

## Shooting

### Bisley 1973

We were better prepared for the Meeting this year, although very short of practice through lack of range dates, and it was a shame therefore that the event had to fall in the last week of term. The fact that we were able to take as strong a team as we did was a reflection of the encouragement and acceptance extended these days to the Rifle Club, since there was much going on at School. It was a pity that we were not able to convert this into a good all-round performance: we shot consistently poorly at 500 yards and I still don't know why. The results on page 79 speak for themselves but we can draw encouragement from the per-

formance of our cadets. Andrew Sykes was selected for the British cadet team in the 7.62 matches and was second top scorer in both the matches. He also achieved an unenviable record of scoring the lowest score in the Queen's second stage by missing the first range because of traffic hold-ups and then putting in two possibles to score 100.10. If only he had been on time, he would have certainly joined R.A.E. in the Final. Ian Hutchinson's Ashburton shoot was a model of courage when all about him seemed about to crumble, and Robin Hatcher showed great promise as a cadet - once he remembered that it's no bad thing to use a rear sight. Our most consistent man over the three days was Pete Symonds - perhaps the proximity to Ascot concentrated his mind. But to mention individuals is to be unkind to those who are unsung, and once again it was everybody's willingness to see that things ran smoothly that made the shoot so pleasant.

All this, though, was but a prelude to the main business. Six of the VIII stayed on, and we were to be joined by some butt markers showing a rare financial acumen in sizing up the market. If anyone wants to turn a quick penny, come to Bisley for a week and mark targets. Those that came have vowed to return - with, I understand, a fully qualified accountant to act as their broker. In my report last year I gave a brief visual description of Bisley inspired by the pleasant conditions under which we had shot. This year, life on 'the Common' was very different, as those of you who remember your national news bulletins will recollect. They say that memories reject the unpleasant as time passes, but it will take many years to expunge the damp misery of the 104th Imperial Meeting. We experienced one of the most insistently nasty patches of British summer weather that can be imagined, and many attributed it to divine judgement for setting the Meeting a week earlier. Our first priority therefore was to make ourselves weather-proof: Ian Hutchinson's caravan was like the house built upon the rock so that, unlike some of the tents below the Inns of Court, it didn't collapse when the rains descended, and four men survived in it; two others were taken into shelter by Tony Battersby, a shooting friend of long standing, in his palatial caravan; T.J.E. took the coward's way out and fled for refuge to nearby family; but R.A.E., who joined us as soon as term ended, set about things differently: he had (and we believe still has) a private agreement with Heaven whereby he does not get wet. The resulting celestial smugness nearly led to severe reprisals, except that we all hoped to be on the same detail! And yet, despite the foul conditions, we shot well and kept our heads. It is very easy in wet weather to forget something, but the only slight omission was by someone who shall remain nameless and who arrived from Bedford to join us without his rifle. Our daily focus was the Surrey Rifle Association, where County and School mixed happily every lunch-time, and anecdotes flew as we dried out after the morning shoot. Excuses were drastically curtailed by the high quality of this year's ammunition, and it was the weather which became the whipping boy. There was the man who always took a shoe on to the firing point in wet weather which he had previously filled with water so that he could dip his bullets in it, and one day the shoe sprang a leak . . . . By the end of the fortnight we were all very, very tired.

T.J.E.

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*Shooting results given on page 79*