

Rugby 141 for 6 dec (Harris 5 for 32); Bedford 60 for 3.
Oundle 103 for 6 wks dec; Bedford 42.
Stowe 155 for 4 dec; Bedford 137 for 6 (Harris 42).
St Edward's 95; Bedford 99 for 4 wks (Phillips 25, Savage
28 n.o.).
Felsted 160; Bedford 34.
Bedford Modern 124 for 7 wks dec; Bedford 73 (Savage
27 n.o.).
Bedford 82; Uppingham 83 for 6 wks. A.C.F.

Under 15 XI

This was the most enjoyable season for some time, and I really looked forward to the games. The side displayed every facet from incompetence to brilliance and the bare record of won 3, lost 2 and drawn 4 does not show the amount of potential. They were a team of natural ball-players and almost all had played for either the School rugby or hockey teams or both. When mistakes were made they were normally the result of aggression and strokeless days were few, even if runs sometimes were.

Robin Boyd-Moss only played 3 games before deserved promotion to the 1st XI. In those he scored 200 runs including a match-winning 71 against Haileybury on a fierce track. His loss undoubtedly weakened the side but allowed others to assert themselves. Most notable of the batsmen were Bradshaw, Holtom and Bullock, though 9 players scored 25 or over in one innings. Bradshaw was a ferocious hitter, when 'in', and got better and better – he is rather absent-minded though. Holtom has excellent potential as an all-rounder, being a sharp and hostile bowler, though he bowls too short, and a good bat, when in the right frame of mind.

Lester was the chief wicket taker, and his line and length

worried every school; he would have had much more success with a more experienced wicket-keeper, hard though Oliver tried. Palmer was, perhaps, the most unlucky bowler, but his time will come. Lloyd-Williams was full of enthusiasm and took useful wickets, many times, I suspect, because of his dervish-like action. T.J.M.

Shooting

This has been a season of great achievement and incident, and in the interest of brevity I must leave out many things. The highlight of the year must be the School's feat of coming second in the Ashburton Shield – the greatest of the School Championships in the U.K. The best result the School had managed before, in all the years since the inception of the competition, had been a third place. It was, then, a particular triumph to see the promise shown in .22 shooting converted so dramatically into solid achievement at .303 shooting – and against such odds.

The term opened quietly enough, with a distant prospect of Bisley ahead. We knew that we would have no chance to practice full-bore shooting until our one range date in late June, and had zeroed the rifles in March. We set out therefore for the Surrey Schools meeting early in May with few ambitions – which was just as well because we performed diabolically at 500 yards. A few days later we were trounced by Oundle, and the facts of life were staring us in the face. Our assets were 8 rifles (of which one had to be withdrawn after the Oundle shoot, and another was to fail us at Bisley), and a few hundred jealously hoarded rounds of RG 56 ammunition. Our potential was a team of fair experience and proven temperament. We at last managed to get a first choice

BEDFORD SCHOOL SHOP

(Next to Burnaby Road gates)

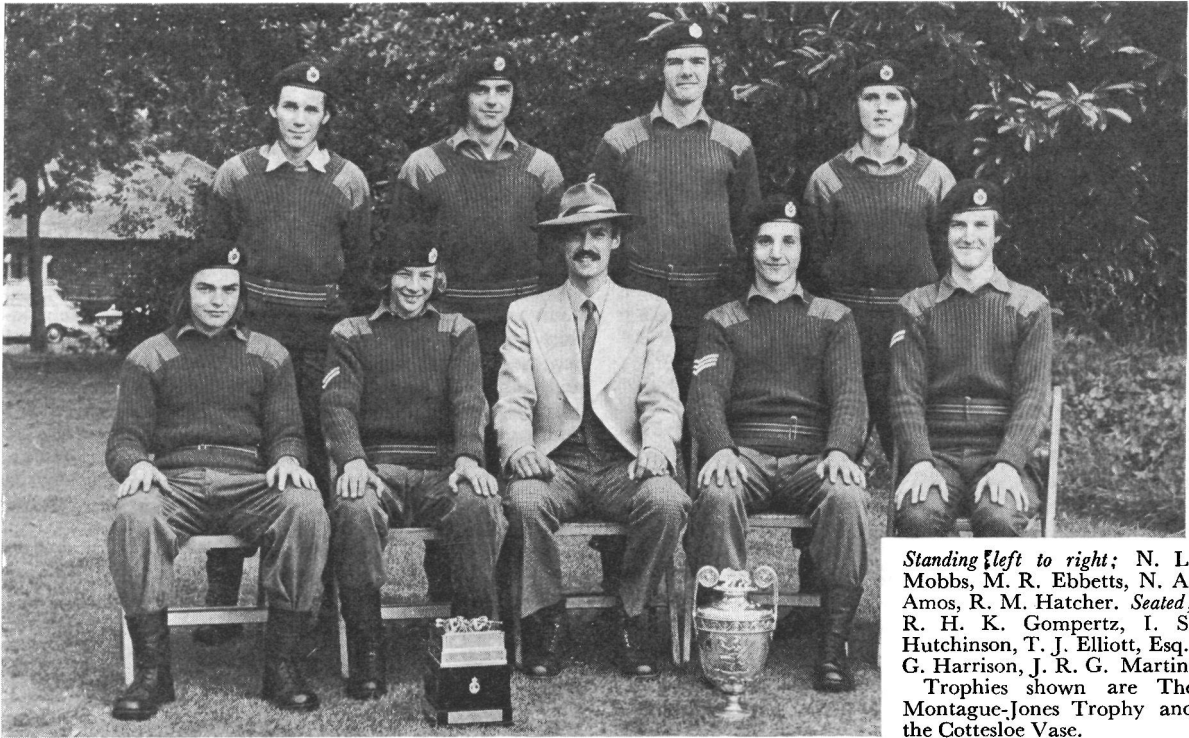
sports clothing, equipment and footwear

school pullovers, shirts, etc

also

files, math sets, pens

ALL GOODS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES



Standing (left to right); N. L. Mobbs, M. R. Ebbetts, N. A. Amos, R. M. Hatcher. Seated; R. H. K. Gompertz, I. S. Hutchinson, T. J. Elliott, Esq., G. Harrison, J. R. G. Martin. Trophies shown are The Montague-Jones Trophy and the Cottesloe Vase.

line-up together at the beginning of June, and managed a rather scrappy 2nd place in the Cox Cup in the Sussex Schools meeting. More time was being found to work on weapon maintenance and improvement, and steady .22 application practice was by now under way. But even so we were forced to go into the East Anglian Schools meeting – perhaps the premier of the regional meetings – without three colours, and with our number two butt marker pulling his weight as Ninth Man. As always, we shot well at 200 yards, but at last Ian Hutchinson's coaching was beginning to have the effect we had been hoping for at 500 yards, and we won by a crushing margin, with Nick Hart adding lustre to a sunny day by carrying off the Ninth Man trophy. (Incidentally, when coaching the cadets, I saw a ballistical freak, later verified on the target: of Tony Amberg's first 5 shots at 500 yards, four were literally dead centre and one was so close that the spotting disc obscured the 'egg')

It was becoming clear how, with no open range practices at all, we were beginning to achieve a reasonable standard. We practise regularly and thoughtfully with the no. 8s. We lavish time and meticulous care on the no. 4s. We work throughout as a unified group. We have unstinting support from the butt markers. When we go into action, we are totally organised, each man with his specialist job, and everyone prepared to help everyone else. One humorist once calculated that we averaged one round of ammunition per hour's work. I think that is an under-estimate.

And so, via one late range date on Grafham, to Bisley with a strong senior squad, but without the juniors who had been our cadets throughout the season. There we won some glory – the School had never done as well – and, I think, some friends, and came away with many memories. Ten men stayed on for the Imperial Meeting, to be joined by OBs (who surprised

even themselves in the Veterans!) and acquaintances of previous years. Many prize lists saw the rubric 'Bedford School' standing proudly among the many clubs from all over the world. The Surrey Rifle Association, our hosts again, provided welcome and refuge with their customary warm kindness (how can people be so nice to pestiferous little schoolboys?) and the Hut was the scene of such events as the Great Zambian Barbecue, the Haggis Party (of which those who didn't go remember more – much more – than those who went) and, sweetly from Mrs Evans, a birthday tea party for Henry Gompertz on the afternoon of his shooting in the U.K. cadets team. Even the weather was kind.

I would like to close this report with a few remarks about those who leave us this year:

Geoff Harrison, oarsman extraordinary, was captain for two seasons. He never won individual fame, but he turned himself into a rock-steady team man and a captain who never put himself before his job. His leadership and his sense of humour were a very real help to me.

Nick Amos crept almost apologetically into the School side in his Lower VI year and developed into a consistent and reliable anchor man. His reward was the Kenya Trophy and the Club NRA bronze medal, clear evidence of his attainment. To him my special thanks for the many hours spent slaving over hot cleaning rods with me.

Martin Ebbetts, perhaps more than the others, shot for fun rather than for competition, but matured into a constructive team member and, in his last Ashburton, showed a fierce determination to overcome a run of mediocre scores.

Ian Hutchinson had the grit to persevere with shooting even though he could scarcely see over the rearsight when he started. He has become not only a very fine shot with any rifle, but an outstanding firing point coach and an utterly

unselfish man. The team owes more to him than to anyone else.

Jeremy Martin had a long and distinguished shooting career, developing from a quiet and self-effacing person into that vital ingredient, the team humorist – but a humorist of wit, not of salacious comment. His outstanding achievement was that he never once had a bad match shoot. I will miss, as well, his iron reliability off the firing point.

And what of our cricketer, Nigel Mobbs? A member of the victorious East Anglian VIII, and of the successful Ashburton team. He exemplifies the unseen and unsung part of the club, those who shoot purely for pleasure, but who, over the years, learn the rigid disciplines well enough to step in at the highest level in an emergency, and know that they can hold their own.

Bisley Results:

Ashburton Shield:	2nd and Montague Jones Trophy
Ninth Man:	8th
Cadet Pair:	33rd
Cottesloe Vase:	1st

Awards:

Kenya Trophy (Full-bore match aggregate): N. A. Amos
NRA Medal (Top Bisley aggregate): N. A. Amos
Donegall Badge (Top score in the Ashburton): I. S. Hutchinson – who also won this in 1973.

Honours

R. H. K. Gompertz shot in the U.K. Cadets team in the inter-services match.

VIII G. Harrison (Captain), N. A. Amos, M. R. Ebbetts, R. H. K. Gompertz, R. M. Hatcher, I. S. Hutchinson, J. R. G. Martin, N. L. Mobbs.

Cadet Pair A. J. Hamilton, S. T. Manley.

Ninth Man N. C. Smith.

Chief Marker P. J. Appleby.

Minor Sports Colours were awarded to R. H. K. Gompertz, A. J. Hamilton and R. M. Hatcher.

Club Colours were awarded to N. L. Mobbs and N. C. Smith. T.J.E.

Tennis

Considering that five out of last year's 1st VI were in the team again this year, we anticipated some good results. However, after a good start with wins against St Edwards (7-2) and Oratory School (8-1) we lost narrowly to Oundle (4-5), The Leys (3-5) and Wellingborough (4-5).

The first pair, C. Strain and J. Slee, played very well throughout the season winning 31 sets out of 42. It was only in the last match against Haileybury that they were unable to at least break even. If our second and third pairs could have gained the extra point in some matches then some close results would have been in our favour.

The 2nd VI enjoyed mixed fortunes. Two good wins against The Leys and Magdalen College School were among their better results, while they lost heavily against Radley and Oundle.

The Colts Team won both their matches against Berkhamsted and Magdalen College School. It looks as if we have some good players coming through at this level.

Finally, thanks to Simon Over (Captain) and Tim Thurston (Secretary) for their help throughout the season.

Results

1st VI Won 3 Lost 6; 2nd VI Won 3 Lost 4; Colts Won 2.

N.O.C.

Athletics

Once again athletics continued to grow slightly in size and become slightly more ambitious in competition. With a group of about twenty-five full time athletes and a large number of junior league cricketers doing athletics once a week the numbers involved in athletic activities on the Gordon Field in the summer has grown. Approximately eighty of these juniors gained standard certificates by the end of the summer term.

The season started off with a triangular match with the Modern School and Pilgrim School in which our small team acquitted themselves reasonably well. Musgrave (steeplechase) and Samet (shot put) won their events. For the first time in many years we entered the Beds & Hunts County Championships and did quite well. Bailey won the U15 100, 200 and 400 m events and Holbrook the U17 hurdles. Samet, Davies, and Holbrook also gained seconds or thirds in other events.

In the Bedford & District meeting Holbrook, Samet, and Bailey again won their events while Johnson, Hedley, Davies, and Halse gained places. As a result Holbrook, Samet, Johnson, Bailey and Musgrave were selected to take part in the County Schools meeting at Luton where Holbrook (hurdles) and Bailey (200) won their events. Both of these athletes ran for Bedfordshire in the Seven Counties Meeting and both qualified for the All England Schools Championships at Shrewsbury, Holbrook in the U17 hurdles and Bailey in the U15 200 m events.

A.M.T.

Continued from page 41

arrived at Helensburgh. Transport to *HMS Neptune* followed, the Navy's largest and most closely guarded Submarine Base. Having talked our way in, we had some breakfast and embarked on our 80 ft Fleet Tender and began a week's cruise on the Clyde estuary.

A routine was soon established – half a day on duty, half a day off duty, a whole day cooking, long enough to plan a day's menu. The ship began to run smoothly, with help and encouragement from the permanent crew. The coke stove on the messdeck began to show its character, and a feature of each morning became a holdfull of smoke and no fire. We never really mastered it, and soot covered officers became a regular sight before breakfast.

The weather could have been kinder. We had one genuinely rough day (coffee was produced in a Force 6 wind on time, much to the crew's astonishment), and we had only one really fine day to show off the Clyde coast to its most beautiful advantage.

What did we learn? In the mist and rain we learned to navigate with some accuracy and to steer the ship properly. We did not get lost, at least. Newcomers discovered the characters of the small towns on the Clyde coast – this is Para Handy country. Most of all we had the experience of actually running a ship as opposed to learning about it on Wednesday afternoons.

Lots of memories remain. The friendliness of the crew, and their capacity; the nuclear subs; the Malcolm Miller under full sail; the Ganczakowski cod; the Seymour toilet; the Story whale; Copeland.

We hope Mr Sylvester enjoyed his trip. We hope we can go again.

P.A.Y.