

Under 14 IV. (Welti, Clifton, George, Over, Barker, Brennan)

Competition for player's time between Fives, Hockey and Squash made it less easy to get a squad together. The team was physically lightweight but showed some potential in skills. They should not be too disappointed with their defeats as the margins were very narrow in two of them.

Results:- lost to BMS (H) by 3 points, Lost to Denstone (H) by 9 points and lost to BMS (A) by 34 points.

Singles Competitions.

Under 14. Welti beat Over. Junior. Hurt beat Crawford. Senior. Not concluded.

House Fives.

Senior. 1st Paulo, 2nd St Peter's, 3rd Ashburnham, 4th Crescent, 5th St Cuthbert's, 6th Bromham.

Junior. 1st Paulo, 2nd Crescent, 3rd Bromham, 4th St Cuthbert's, 5th Ashburnham, 6th St Peter's.

J.I.C.

Shooting

A term which was looked forward to with a certain apprehension, on account of the youth of the team, turned out to be one of continuous success and a real credit to the squad who worked so hard to achieve a high standard. The hallmark of the season was not so much to remain unbeaten (although TJE's county team nearly pulled off the impossible) as to keep our scores consistently high: 603, 598, 602, 594, 611, 618 and 609 ex 640 for group, rapid and snap tell their own story.

The matches opened very early with the visit of Cambridge University, and the first dip into TJE's piggy bank for Henry Gompertz' 'possible'. (At the rate of one 'possible' a season, this is a practical proposition - but Robin Hatcher was to go on to score 4!!). They were followed over by a rather unready Leys VIII who lost to an 'A' VIII by over 100 points. However, we had the privilege of entertaining among their team the son of the king of Tonga - if I've understood correctly - whose name was Ng. Follow that; we can't.

Haileybury and Wellingborough came and went and then the first really competitive test occurred to try the complacent confidence of the VIII: the County match started a clean week before the first round was fired with a period of sustained gamesmanship, and ended with the School's last detail (called for some reason 'the heavy mob') of Hatcher, Hamilton and Gompertz dropping only 4 points to achieve a tie!! Robin Hatcher's second assault on the piggy bank was a timely celebration of his selection as an Altreling - the first Bedfordian to be picked to shoot at under-19 level for the UK abroad.

The match against BMS was very disappointing: they did not want to shoot County Life, and so one 10-bull card settled the issue. But just over the horizon was a 15-a-side match against the Old Bedfordians who had mobilized virtually all their considerable potential and who, when the last echo had died away and the beer was being gratefully gulped, turned out to have lost by only 4 points. The piggy bank suffered its usual bashing, and Robin Hatcher also clinched the Croker Cup by a second 10 points margin to add that much-coveted trophy to his winnings. This time 'the heavy mob' only dropped 3 points!!

The Chapman Cup filled the last week of term, and for once the transition from team to individual shooting went smoothly without a single group being dropped. The final was fought out between 2 Remove formers, 2 Vth formers, 1 Lower VIth former and 1 Upper VIth former, of whom only 3 were in the VIII. Andrew Hamilton won a fine match

(ahead of the other two members of 'the heavy mob'), ending a season, which had started a bit uncertainly for him, on the crest of the wave. A consequence of the final was a challenge match between the VIIIs with the 1st VIII brushing aside the impudence by 18 points - the nearest any schoolboy side got to us . . .

I would like to close with three remarks in response to points raised by rifle men past and present. 1) We have changed from inward gauging to outward gauging application targets with the No 8 rifle, and we find that standards have improved and morale has risen. 2) It is now more than a possibility that the Country Life Competition itself will be supervised by external adjudicators: when this comes about we will enter the National Competition. 3) I have been asked to investigate the implications of establishing a full-bore rifle club for all Bedfordians, past and present. If there are marksmen interested who are not on my mailing list, I would like to hear from them.

Results

v Cambridge University, won 791-701, 9th Man 93-90.

v The Leys, won 784-655, 9th Man 90-61

v Haileybury, won 792-704, 9th Man 101-94

v Wellingborough, won 774-677, 9th Man 102-83

v Bedfordshire CRA, tied 1343-1343, 9th Man 161-161

v BMS, won 730-685, 9th Man 89-87

v Old Bedfordians, won 618-614, 9th Man 74-73

v 2nd VIII, won 609-591.

Croker Cup: 1 RM Hatcher 674/700, 2 RHK Gompertz 664, 3 AJ Hamilton 659.

Chapman Cup: 1 AJ Hamilton 205/225, 2 RHK Gompertz 201, 3 PF Collins 190.

VIII R. M. Hatcher (*Captain*); J. D. Farmer-Wright; R. H. K. Gompertz; A. J. Hamilton; S. P. Manley; N. C. Smith; S. J. D. Smith.

2nd VIII Hart (*Captain*); Amberg; Collins; Fraser; Marson ii; Mounfield; Stearns; Williams.

Club colours were awarded to S. P. Manley and S. J. D. Smith.

Minor sports colours were awarded to N. C. Smith and J. D. Farmer-Wright.

T.J.E.

Hockey

The kind of weather that blessed the inauguration of hockey at Bedford School in 1974, and allowed every session to take place, did not, alas, last into the new year. The record rainfall between January and March of 10 inches, on top of the November floods, left the School fields sodden, black and miserable. In consequence it was something of an achievement that about two-thirds of the hockey programme was fulfilled. Much improvisation led to games being played on the tennis courts, the tarmac, and the red-gra pitch at the College of Education. All who participated in the term's programme concluded that an all-weather pitch should be the next priority for the School, an investment for all sports. Indeed Bedford is one of the few schools of similar size and stature that does not possess this facility.

U15 XI

The gap between those who had played at prep school and those who started last year began to even out, and the side became an effective team not relying so heavily on one or two individuals.

In the absence of the injured Greenaway, Crawford took