

House Water-Polo Paulo-Pontine.

Individual results: Best Individual Swimmer Bradford (St P); Two lengths in clothes Brandon (PP); Senior Diving Morgan (St P); Junior Diving Thair (A).

Tennis

Despite the scorching summer and the parched and dusty courts, the tennis team had a most successful and rewarding season. A trial first VI started the season by travelling to Kimbolton where the school won comfortably (7-2). At Oundle a difficult match was expected and this proved to be the case; the 2nd and Colts VI were beaten, however the 1st VI, gaining a good result, won 7-2. A new fixture was played against the Oratory School (no doubt arranged through Mr Connolly's family connections), however victories were attained, easily by the 1st VI but tighter in the Colts.

Further success was achieved in the Glanville Cup (National Schools Trophy). The school walked through the first round beating Netherhall, Wisbech Grammar, and Forest schools. The second round held at home proved to be much more difficult. Bullock and Welti turned in what was probably their season's best performance by taking a set off an U18 nationally ranked pair. However this was not enough and the school ended up second, by only one set, to Ilford College High School, beating both Gresham and Westcliff.

Against Berkhamsted, Wellingborough, and Magdalen College School Oxford (2nd and Colts VI) the school won comfortably. However against The Leys, whether due to the continuing heat of the summer or to lack of incentive, the School seemed to lose some of the spirit which had successfully carried it through the earlier matches. As a result the School lost to a team that they certainly should have beaten. The 2nd VI however defeated their opponents.

In short, the 1st VI played thirteen matches and won eleven. It is easy however to forget the other VI's, who did just as well. The Colts for example won four matches out of five; this was greatly due to the performances of the first pair Simon Barker and Jeremy Over, who achieved an unusually high standard for a Colts pair.

The House Tennis competition was won by St Cuthberts with Crescent second. The School Singles Trophy was won by Stephen Welti and the doubles by Murray Ferguson and Varun Bery who also won the Bedfordshire Schools Under-18 Shield. Next year the school is hoping to enter more national schools competitions and, having retained five from last years 1st VI, is hoping for even greater success.

1st VI: M. Ferguson (Capt) and V. Bery, S. Welti and A. Bullock, C. Jones and I. Dardis.

Ian Dardis

Shooting

With our record-breaking Easter term behind us. We looked forward to a fulfilling full-bore season. But once again the dice was loaded against us, on two counts: we were almost totally deprived of local range dates, and had to travel to Barton where our friends Cambridge University made us welcome; we were not able to call on three of our most experienced shots because they were oarsmen — indeed, we had to

shoot the Ashburton without two of our colours, which most certainly accounts for our relatively lowly placing of 11th.

And yet the season was not without its moments. We came second in the Sussex Schools' meeting with Paul Neate coming 2nd in the individual after a tie-shoot, and won the snap shooting (beginner's luck, this) at the Bell meeting in torrid heat. With new rifles coming into service through the term, standards generally rose and mechanical breakdowns were much fewer. This improved everyone's confidence, and helped in particular with the younger shots: it is vital for beginners to have the best possible equipment — more experienced marksmen can tell when a bad shot is due to a poor round on a worn barrel. But, as I have said already, we were short of seniors and were obliged to put less tried men under competition conditions before they were ready.

Bisley

The School's Meeting will be memorable for the pleasantness and efficiency which became its hallmark. We took a very large party down, consisting of many camp followers, who were most generous in the help they gave in butt marking, in addition to our nucleus of marksmen. We had our own tents scattered about the Common, and Arthur and Eileen Slater (the new secretary and caterer) of the Surrey Rifle Association, made us most welcome for meals. We shot rather moderately over the first two days of competition, with Robin Hatcher and Bill Kendall our high men in the Wellington and Iveagh respectively. (Robin Hatcher also rubbed in a point by being our highest scorer in the pistol event!) On Ashburton day it was our Atheling Paul Neale's turn to shine: he came 4th in the School's 100. But two desperately bad shoots at 500 yards dropped us out of contention after we had been lying 6th at 200 yards. But perhaps the outstanding feature of the day was the presence of over a dozen Old Bedfordians to support us; in fact 15 shot in the Veteran's match and results were the best so far. In the evening there was a meeting to discuss the new club, about which more next report, and it was most heartening to find so much support.

The Main meeting, for which thirteen boys stayed on either to shoot or to butt mark, brought Bedford School full into the limelight of national and international interest. Robin Hatcher won the tie-shoot on the Middle Sunday for the Century Challenge Cup after tying with two others on the first Friday. Now a tie-shoot is a most fearsome ordeal. It takes place in the evening, after all other shooting is completed, under the direct control of the Secretary of the N.R.A. and the Chief Range Officer. Many people come to watch this ultimate test of nerve and skill, the high point of all competition. Targets are drawn for and the competitors get ready to fire one sighting shot and five to count. If, after the five shots, there is still a tie, then the competitors fire shot for shot on a sudden death basis. As far as I was able to check back through the dust-embalmed records of the N.R.A., no schoolboy had ever won a tie-shoot — and no wonder. But Robin Hatcher did win (against a Scot and a member of the redoubtable New Zealand team) and then went on to achieve the highest-ever placing for a schoolboy in the final of the Queen's: 12th, and only 3 points behind the winner. In addition to appearing in many prize lists, he was selected for the UK cadets team (which, to the chagrin of the other armed forces, won the short range match) and was, as coach-come-shooter, the chief architect of the victory scored by the

A. G. Bell VIII over the Canadians. A fine climax to a distinguished career with the School.

It would be wrong, though, not to mention that, although less in the limelight, our other marksmen were performing finely as well as experiencing the heartbreak of failure. Bisley is a great test of character in the Main meeting, throwing the individual back on to his own reserves of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. The characteristic of full-bore rifle shooting which perhaps most appeals is the kindness of everyone which is so freely and honestly extended to those who go through a difficult patch. It is a mistake not to seek help and sympathy when it is needed — a lesson in humility we all can profit from.

Bisley Results:

Ashburton	11th	(1975) 10th
Ninth Man	17th	4th
Cadet Pair	11th	17th

Awards:

Kenya Trophy (full-bore match aggregate) — R. M. Hatcher.

N.R.A. Medal (Top Bisley aggregate) — P. I. Mounfield.

Donegal Badge (Top Ashburton score) — P. J. H. Neate.

Honours:

P. J. H. Neate (Athelings 1976) shot in UK Cadets team.

R. M. Hatcher (Athelings 1975) shot in UK Cadets team,

A. G. Bell VIII and for Suffolk. Came 12th in Queen's 100. Won Century Challenge Cup.

VIII: R. M. Hatcher (Captain), T. J. K. Gulson,

A. J. Hamilton, M. A. P. Hine, W. B. Kendall,

P. I. Mounfield, P. J. H. Neate, N. C. Smith.

Cadet Pair: Hopkins, Kinkillo-Stacewicz.

Ninth Man: Collins i.

Minor Sports Colours were awarded to T. J. K. Gulson and W. B. Kendall.

Club Colours were awarded to M. A. P. Hine and

A. R. Wallace.

T.J.E.

Athletics

This summer the School took part in three Athletics matches. Firstly a scratch team of juniors was entered, for the first time ever, in a Middle Schools match at Pilgrim School. It was unfortunate that this team of youngsters was beaten into last place, with a long list of 5th and 6th placings. The outstanding performances of this team were Ognjanovic's 3rd place in the 200m, and Wallis's 4th place in the 100m.

The seniors competed in two matches. The first was a triangular match against Hastingsbury School and BMS. This match also resulted in a defeat for us as a team. However, an athletics match of this sort is basically a team event, requiring athletes to compete in every event to do well. Thus, having a lack of senior athletes to choose a team from meant that we only had half a dozen competitors competing in individual events and doing well in them, while the remaining events were not covered at all. So we lost a lot of points through no fault of the athletes themselves.

The last match was the Bedford District Schools Championships. Four of the original seven athletes entered in this match qualified too in the County Schools Championships. These were N. Underwood, who gained the National Schools Qualifying Time for the intermediate 100 metres hurdles in qualifying for the County Championships. However, an injury forced him to withdraw

from the County finals; S. Young; H. Miller and B. Bailey, who went on to gain the National Schools Qualifying Time for the 100 metres and was subsequently selected to represent the county at a six counties match.

B. E. Bailey (*Captain*)

Pistol Shooting

The Club entered a squad of 13 boys for the Bedfordshire Smallbore Association Air Weapons Leagues and achieved really first-class results with 8 of the 13 coming in the first three places in their Divisions. There were notable performances from Robert Hale and Brian Bailey, who won Divisions 7 & 8 and from Bill Kendall and Nick Roseveare, who were 2nd in Divisions 6 & 8. They all won medals. The most distinguished performance was by Tim Gulson who was second overall in the whole competition and dropped only 28 points from a possible total of 1,800. He was our first to score a "possible", recording three by the end of the term, and finished the season with a final average of 98.4. This was an outstanding performance for a schoolboy.

In a most entertaining match, Robin Hatcher (Captain of Rifle Shooting) challenged the pistoliers to a six-a-side competition. The riflemen, devoid of their slings and other artificial aids, were overwhelmed by 1,111 points to 1,064 but Paul Neate put up a most creditable 191/200. Tim Gulson had the highest match aggregate with 198/200.

The movement now is towards shooting at a range of 10 metres and training at this distance has commenced. As well as participating in the Bedfordshire Winter Leagues (at 10 metres and 6 yards) we are sending a team of six to the Midlands Championships at Aston University in September.

B. E. Bailey (*Secretary*)

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The second match was at Oundle with the home side batting first scoring 100 (Wood 4 for 17, Tribe 3 for 12). In our reply Holt scored another 34 but received very little support from the middle order. It began to look desperate until the tail started swinging their bats with great gusto. It was with this flourish (40 runs in 20 minutes, Andy Lake 14) that the Senior Leagues won by two wickets.

A rematch was arranged against BMS and following a score of 183 for 5 declared, the Senior Leagues went in to try and force a draw. Steve Gardner was promoted to open the innings and justified his position with 41 not out. Dave Tribe and Nicky Parker gave able support with 20 and 16 and so the draw was attained.

The final match at home to Westfield had the Senior Leagues batting first. Pete Brown batted as he should and scored 51 following Mike Boodle and Dave Tribe who got 18 and 14. These scores helped the Leagues to score 120 for 6. Westfield then proceeded to bat and the match was delicately poised throughout this innings. Nick Hilditch who regularly opened the bowling finally had a bit of luck and collected 4 for 32, supported by Victor Laville (3 for 14). Westfield were finally bowled out for 119.

Thanks must be given to Mr Baddeley for his coaching and patience in making the Senior Leagues what they are.

A. R. Wood