

the end of the season their defence was also sound. Rayner at full-back was a capable defender and he used to speed both to initiate and join many threequarter movements with devastating effect. On the wing the position was less certain. Johnson in particular, however, earned his place. Invariably one of the smallest players on the field he tackled like a demon and was always dangerous in attack.

The second team provided a valuable back-up to the first team, and their style of play followed much the same lines. They too had a strong pack and played good attacking rugby, but their defence was poor. Sheer determination produced some good wins for this team in some cases against physically much bigger opposition.

"A" Team: Rayner, Johnson, Ayliffe, Howe, Charlton, N. Jones, Osborne, Creed, Dawson, Heginbotham, Hobson, P. Jones, Purbrick, Millard (Captain), Kenningham, Bezley.

A.J.C.

## Squash

The Christmas term saw a further improvement in playing standards under the watchful eyes of Mmes Barker and Marshall, and of John Taylor (OB) who has generously given up his time to coach the squad.

Only two matches were played; the first, a narrow victory over the OBs, and the second, a two-day epic using American scoring, against members of the Common Room who, casting off the heavy mantle of their years, finally won by 730 points to 617. The Handicap Trophy, which featured some extremely close matches, was won by Andrew Marshall, the runner-up being David Stark. Congratulations are due also to Jonathan Cook, who won the Bedfordshire Under 16 Championship and reached the Under 19 final, which went to five games.

School v OBs:

Wolti	lost to	B. Papé	4-9, 6-9, 4-9.
Yerbury	beat	S. Endersby	9-7, 9-6, 9-6.
Bery	lost to	J. Slee	1-9, 9-10, 9-4, 9-5, 2-9.
Barker ii	beat	J. Pringle	9-4, 2-9, 3-9, 10-8, 9-7.
Cook i	beat	C. Strain	9-5, 9-4, 9-1.

D.M.M.

## Shooting

The exciting events of the summer faded gently into the past as the shaping of the club for 1977 gripped our attention, although echoes of Robin Hatcher's success at Bisley were to reach us from time to time from the most unexpected quarters. This year we had 167 applicants for membership who were eventually whittled down to 36. And then even further to 30 owing to the unusual balance of the club this year. We needed to extend our team squad in order to compensate for the number of oarsmen amongst the senior shots, and this in turn unhappily necessitated reducing the total number of members.

The House Matches, too, saw a change introduced. As it was impossible to seed two houses this year with any fairness, the old knock-out format was scrapped, and a first round brought in for everyone with the top three houses going into the final, and the bottom three having a loser's final. In this way, all houses shot twice, and everyone had a fair crack at winning house colours. Another innovation was that, in the first round only, houses fielded teams of five, but

with only the four highest scores to count. This was particularly welcomed by house captains in view of the limited practice time which is available. The greater interest and excitement all this generated was to culminate in a dramatic final with St Cuthbert's and St Peter's tying 14 points ahead of Ashburnham. In the ensuing tie-shoot, experience won the day (5 minutes for 2ss and 10 on NSRA 10-bull), and St Cuthbert's won by 4 points.

In outside matches, we repeated our win of 1975 in the Cheshunt inter-schools long range .22 meeting, but with a more respectable score than last year — which was just as well in view of the higher standard of the opposition. It may be of interest to those who snipe at our not using match rifles (who's going to pay £250 for a .22???) to learn that we beat the nearest match rifle team by 76 points with our No8s. The Under-16 match against Haileybury gave us a crushing win by over 100 points; what was more significant than the margin of victory was that the VIII had a top score of 118 and a bottom score of 112, which augurs well for 1978/9.

The Easter term will bring problems of availability, so that, with a greater need than ever before for depth at team squad level, much will depend upon the dedication and nerve of the younger generation. At full strength we have enormous potential for the next two years: let us hope that our senior professionals can help us through our major fixtures next term, and that, in the summer, we will be able to call on them for Bisley to expunge the rank failure of 1976 to do the School the justice that its shooting ability deserved.

Results:

*Doig Cup: Final* 1. St Cuthbert's 577 (187 tie-shoot); 2. St Peter's 577 (183 tie-shoot); 3. Ashburnham 563. *Losers' Final* 4. Paulo-Pontine 571; 5. Bromham 567; 6. Crescent 563.

*Highest Individual Scores:* A. J. Hamilton (StP) 151, T. J. K. Gulson (B) 150, Kirkillo-Stacewicz (StP) 149.

*Under-16 VIII* 919 — Haileybury 812  
Ninth Man 106 — 75

*Cheshunt Long Range .22 Meeting:* A IV — 1st 1470; B IV — 3rd 1421; C IV — 7th 1391.

*Individual Championship:* P. I. Mounfield, 1st — 375; A. J. Hamilton, 2nd — 370.

T.J.E.

Solution to Bridge Quiz on page 9

Yes. West should ruff the heart in hand, discarding a club from Dummy. Then he must play the Ace and Queen of Spades. (The finesse is simply a waste of time). This not only means that Dummy's 9 of Spades replaces Declarer's 7 when it comes to drawing trumps, but also gives Declarer a vital tempo, as North must now cash the Ace of Clubs before giving another ruff-discard. Declarer thus plays a REVERSE DUMMY, which is often a good counter to the Forcing Defence.

## Basketball

The final Thursday afternoon of the term saw the annual Basketball Tournament. The eight teams of Juniors and Seniors competed energetically, and with great enthusiasm. Touches of the "Harlem Globetrotters" showed in some dazzling dribbling, despite the lack of "Baskets" being scored. The vocal audience were entertained throughout, the climax being the Senior Final between Phillpotts and Greene, Greene eventually winning after extra time.

A.R.A.