

competition from newer sports would inevitably draw off a proportion of the best ball playing talent. Fives remains numerically sound but for the next few seasons has a much reduced potential of quality.

The 1st IV was in fact a group of six. Colin Hurt joined the old colours of Andre Harbert, Hugh Lloyd-Williams and Gareth Quarry to form the nucleus of the squad but Ian Prescott quickly proved to be of a comparable standard while Nigel Kirkby was able to play a sound supporting role when needed. The strength of our opponents varies considerably and hence it is still possible to rotate the team accordingly.

The first school match was lost away against a vigorous and confident St Dunstan's 1st IV although the match remained almost level until the last series of stamina sapping doubles. After that the six remaining school matches were all won: Oundle, Bedford Modern, Rugby, Merchant Taylor's, St Paul's and Haileybury. Wins were also recorded over the Jesters and an OBM IV but defeats at the hands of the Rugby Fives Association and the Old Bedfordians were not unexpected.

The 2nd IV, variously from Prescott, Quarry, Kirkby, G. Brown, Bebbington and Webster, won all their school matches – Haileybury, Oundle and BMS (home and away) but lost narrowly to the OBs.

There are many qualities needed by a successful fives player among them being tenacious retrieving and the ability to pressurise opponents into making errors. The lack of victories from the younger teams involved these two circumstances. Although not lacking in determination and the will to win, the level of ability and experience was such that we were unable to put pressure on our opponents. Consequently we were on the receiving end of searching shots and were consistently forced into error. Unfortunately, we also made our fair share of unforced errors so that matches became rearguard actions to minimise the margin of defeat. The Colts struggled manfully against some sturdy opposition and at least had the satisfaction of winning the last of their six matches with a very small margin of victory over BMS. The junior teams lost all of their few matches, most of them to BMS and have much to learn about the techniques of success.

Teams: Colts: Over, Baker, George, Clifton i, Brennan.

Under 15: Clifton ii, Glackin, Staddon 1, Corps.

Under 14: Tucker, Chalabi, Lawrence, Johnson.

Individual Fives Singles Cups.

Senior: H. Lloyd-Williams who beat Harbert.

Senior Plate (Party Four!): Hurt.

Junior: Staddon i who had a walk over against

Clifton ii (ill)

Under 14: Tucker who was taken to three games by Chalabi.

Schools' Championships at Whitgift, April '77

None of the school's players and neither of the doubles pairs were among the top seeds for their respective competitions so that being represented in the quarter-finals in both competitions was a very respectable achievement. In the singles Ian Prescott (4th round) and Hugh Lloyd-Williams (quarter-finals) fell to Ashton the favourite and eventual runner-up. Colin Hurt went out to Prigmore (BMS) an eventual semi-finalist and subsequent loser also to Ashton. Andre Harbert got to the 3rd round where he lost to Daryanic of Denstone.

In the doubles Bedford I reached the quarter-finals where they succumbed to an unexpectedly strong pair from Denstone who went on to reach the final. Bedford II had a

convincing win over Bradfield II but could not quite match St Dunstan's I, losing 6-11, 9-11 in the 3rd round.

House Fives Matches

In the Senior House Fives Crescent and Paulo set up an early lead and were obvious contenders for the cup. Paulo went ahead when they achieved a 7 point lead against Crescent which they held to the end.

Results: Paulo 209, Crescent 198, Cuthbert's 172, Ashburnham, Bromham, Peter's.

In the Junior House Fives it was Crescent who went into an early lead with Paulo making a late bid. Crescent stayed ahead to win the cup followed by Paulo, Cuthbert's, Peter's, Bromham and Ashburnham.

J.I.C.

Squash Club

The first V enjoyed a successful term, winning all four of their fixtures. The Colts, however, had mixed fortunes, winning one of their three matches. The School, which won the Bedfordshire Junior League last season, retained the trophy following convincing wins against several local schools. Jonathan Cook won the School Open Championship Trophy, with Stephen Welti as runner-up. Welti and Simon Barker reached the final of the Public Schools doubles tournament held during the Easter holidays, and were unlucky to lose narrowly in the fifth game. Cook, Welti and Barker have all done well in other external competitions, Cook winning the Warwickshire Under 16 Open and the East Anglia Under 16 Open; we are fortunate to have them in the School for some time to come. The long-term future of School Squash, however, depends on a steady supply of Juniors being available, and we shall be glad to see a large number of Fourth-Formers and Removes when we start the new season in September.

Results: 1st V: v The Leys (A) won 4-1, v Stamford (A) won 5-0, v Uppingham (H) won 3-1, v OB's (H) won 4-1.
Colts: v The Leys (A) won 2-1, v Stamford (A) lost 1-2, v Oundle (H) lost 1-3.

Match v OB's

J. Cook beat J. Cane 9-4, 9-5, 9-4

Welti beat D. Cook 9-4, 9-6, 9-7

Barker beat C. Warren-Smith 9-4, 9-3, 9-6

Bery lost to C. I. M. Jones 7-9, 3-9, 6-9

Yerbury beat J. Slee 9-4, 9-5, 9-4

D.M.M.

Shooting

Another unbeaten season, but one in which we had to dig even deeper than in the past into our resources in order to put out a competitive team. In all 17 boys represented the school in matches over the term, and all credit is due to them for maintaining our standard. On only two occasions were we able to field a genuine front-line team. One of these was a new departure: we entered the national Country Life competition for the first time since the school club was reconstituted in 1968. Now that this competition is supervised externally, a certain fairness has been brought into the matter (and one or more schools have sunk without trace . . .) and so we thought we would have a go.

The results have not yet been published, but my spies tell me — reliably — that we came 9th overall, and that we were well ahead of any other school on the group/rapid/snap. Since we view the actual landscape target as more suited for Battersea funfair than for marksmanship training, while recognising its validity for *military* training, we are feeling pleased with ourselves. It will be nice, though, to see it in print and know it as fact and not just information received. It just goes to prove what we have been saying for some time. One thing does concern us, and it is that all the Country Life scoring is done by just one man, and I know that our scores are not what I would myself have given. It is likely that one or two aspects of the competition will be revised for the future, notably the snap, which is ridiculously easy, and it is our hope that a more carefully controlled central scoring system will be instituted. If it is not, then it is unlikely that Bedford School will compete next year.

Apart from the routine matches against our usual adversaries, the highlight of the season was the OB match which brought twenty Old Bedfordians down for a most enjoyable shoot. The entire rifle club had shot cards over the preceding two days — except for half a dozen colours — and a fine match ensued. It was no surprise that the final result hinged on the last detail before the School ran out as winners.

The Chapman Cup had a special piquancy this year. The captain, Andrew Hamilton, had already won the Cup once, in 1975, and was in superb form winning the Croker Cup 2 points ahead of Tim Gulson. They both qualified comfortably for the final and had a grand scrap until the last card, when Gulson held steady to turn a 2 point deficit into a 2 point win. Ah well, they say the captain never wins this one . . .

Results:

- v Kimbolton 620-580 (country life)
- v Wellingborough 1475-1324 (c.l. plus 10-bull)
- v Haileybury 705-672 (c.l.)
- v Oundle 688-639 (c.l.)
- v The Leys 742-696 (10-bull)
- v Bedfordshire 1473-1443 (c.l. plus 10-bull)
- Country Life 735 (subject to confirmation)
- OB's 1st VIII 749-738 (c.l.); 2nd VIII 721-704
- Croker Cup:* 1. A. J. Hamilton 923, 2. T. J. K. Gulson 921, 3. B. J. Emsley 883, 4. P. I. Mounfield 881.
- Chapman Cup:* 1. T. J. K. Gulson 220, 2. A. J. Hamilton 218, 3. P. F. Collins 206, 4. R. E. Hopkins 205.
- Club Colours were awarded to: P. F. Collins, B. J. Emsley, M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz, R. P. Stearns.
- Honours:* A. J. Hamilton has been selected to tour Canada with the 1977 Athelings Team representing the United Kingdom Cadets.

T.J.E.

Pistol Club

Last term saw a noticeable upsurge in the activities of the Pistol Club. The beginning of the term saw 16 members of the club shooting the final rounds of the Bedfordshire Smallbore Rifle Association Winter Leagues. In the 10 metre competition Tim Gulson gained 5th place in Division 1; Bill Kendall, Brian Bailey and Bob Hale gained 4th, 5th and 7th places respectively in Division 2 while Peter Handy, Paul Myers and Nick Roseveare were 5th, 7th and 8th in Division 3. Meanwhile Simon Hall and Paul Myers

were the winner and runner-up in their 6 yard league division.

As soon as these leagues were completed plans for the first ever House Pistol matches were set in motion culminating in a win for Paulo Pontine; Ashburnham were 2nd and St Peter's 3rd.

The next event on the calendar was the Bedfordshire County 6 yards Pistol Championships and six members of the club entered the Junior class. Here, as with the leagues, we made our presence felt with Simon Hall only narrowly being beaten into second place by 2 points. Tim Gulson and Tim Greenish came 3rd and 4th. Only a little further down the list came Peter Handy who was 7th, and Neil Crawford and Brian Bailey tied for 8th place.

These championships set the scene for the School's first team match. We were contacted by the newly formed Pistol Club of the Wolverhampton Girls' High School and a postal match was organised. We won this match by 1,084 points to 837 which may seem a large margin but it is early days yet for their club and future matches with them will be more closely fought.

In addition to these activities the Captain of our Club, Tim Gulson, was selected to shoot for Bedfordshire in the NSRA Inter-County 10 metre competition.

All in all we had a successful term, and the House Matches have shown us a lot of promising talent amongst the younger members of the club. All of which points towards a promising summer term of competition.

Brian Bailey (*Secretary*)

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compensated by the fact that eight of next year's 1st XI gained first team experience this year.

Easter term results (1st XI):

- v Kimbolton (H) lost 2-0
- v Wellingborough (A) won 3-2
- v Wellingborough (H) won 3-0 (Hendry 2, Wray)
- v BMS (H) lost 1-0
- v Kimbolton (A) drawn 2-2 (Hakim, Hendry)

Colours were awarded to Peter Sowerby. The following played regularly in the 1st XI: Hopkisson (Captain), T. Bailey ii, Dimmock, Hakim, Hendry ii, Hilson, Muir ii, Robinson ii, Sowerby, D. Taylor ii, Wray.

Under 10 results:

- v Kimbolton (A) won 7-0 (Dimmock 2, Hind 2, Monks 2, Ormerod)
- v BMS (H) won 2-0 (Dimmock 2)
- Played 5, Won 3, Lost 1, Drawn 1, Goals for 14, Goals against 10.

The most spectacular achievement this term was the defeat of BMS 2-0 after losing 8-2 in the Christmas Term to them. The team shows great promise for next year. The following played regularly: D. Taylor ii (Captain), Appleby ii, Dimmock ii, Falcongren ii, Hind ii, Monks, Nethersole, Ormerod, Sowerby, J. Taylor, Woodrowi.

M.B.

Cross Country

On Sunday, 6 March, we took a team to compete in the IAPS Eastern Area Cross Country Event at Orwell Park School, Ipswich. The team of four, Bailey, Buchanan, Carrington and Thurston did exceptionally well in winning the event in opposition to seven other Schools. Individual Placings: Bailey 2nd, Carrington 3rd, Thurston 11th, Buchanan 26th.

G.M.K.F.