

Shooting

This will have to be known as the year of the dud round. We came 4th in the Ashburton, 3 points behind the winners, and actually saw one bullet at 500 yards flop into the ground in front of us! Ah well. I would like to say that we will win next year, but we may not even shoot the competition because of a mix-up over dates in the NRA which has resulted in the fixing of the Ashburton during the last week of our (and many other schools') term.

The term was typical: no practice allocated to us on Grafham range, and only competition for us to sort out our problems and train our youngsters. Our thanks, though, must go to Wing Commander Cooper who allowed many of us to go to shooting on a Wednesday afternoon under the auspices of the CCF, and whose support has become an integral factor in the successful running of the Rifle Club. Despite our lack of Saturdays and Sundays for practice, we soon showed that the experience we gain at Bisley by staying on for the Main Meeting is quite invaluable. We beat Oundle yet again with no practice, came 3rd in the Surrey Schools open championship and Bill Kendall won the Sowman Cup for individuals under-16, beat Haileybury, came 3rd in the East Anglian Schools meeting. Nothing spectacular, but there was a feeling of competence and confidence which was unusual, and I began to think that we were underrating ourselves.

We went to Beckingham and won the Bell Meeting at the beginning of July – perhaps the most welcome win we have had recently. There was great tension and conditions were difficult at 500 yards. Our nerve held and our experience (apart from one bad misjudgement) carried us through. We trusted each other and our equipment now in a way which could only lead us to better things.

At Bisley we continued where we had left off: the best illustration of this is that five members of the VIII scored possibles, with Tim Gulson scoring a double possible to win the Wellington Challenge Trophy (the premier 200x trophy) and become – to my knowledge – the first Bedfordian to win an individual trophy in the Schools' meeting. We had to teach him how to salute properly for the occasion of the presentation, so he will have learnt something into the bargain. We were soon established as the team to beat as our scores came in over the Tuesday and Wednesday with four of the VIII in the top ten of the Wellington and Iveagh (out of some 700 competitors). And, but for the Dud Round, we would have justified this (once a bullet leaves a barrel there can be no appeal). It's swings and roundabouts, though: it was our second dud of the meeting and others were reported in less crucial circumstances.

Fourteen members of our squad stayed on and nine shot the Grand Aggregate (if not as effectively as Philip Dawes did – see Bedfordians Rifle Club report) with a total of 16 appearances in Prize Lists. Mirek Kirkillo-Stacewicz was reserve for the UK Cadets, and Andrew Hamilton quietly consolidated his averages in preparation for Canada where he was to do us proud with the Althelings. Bill Kendall got through the St George's, Tim Gulson made the 2nd stage of the Queen's. We were fortunate to have several young OB's shooting the meeting with us and it was a particular pleasure to welcome Hamish Keith, over with the Kenyan team, who presented the

trophies on Ashburton Day. The Main Meeting was given a new dimension, too, through the generous gift of a magnificent shield from Air Commodore John Sowman (OB), a most stalwart supporter and sponsor of our full bore shooting. This was awarded on the Grand Aggregate, with a fine replica of the shield to be kept by the winner. It was perhaps particularly fitting that the victor, Kirkillo-Stacewicz should have been using the Bedfordians Rifle Club's first rifle, thereby pointing the very strong links between the Old Bedfordians and those still at School.

Finally, a word of heartfelt thanks to those who do so much behind the scenes (in particular the new captain, Ian Mounfield – who incidentally won the Dale Cup spoon, shooting for Cambridgeshire again CURA and OCRA, for highest score on the day), and behind the mantlet, pulling our targets up and down.

Bisley Results: Ashburton Shield 4th ex 66; Cadet Pairs 16th ex 66; 9th Man 36th ex 66; Country Life 7th ex 66; Rutland 7th ex 66; Kinder 4th ex 66; Devon 4th ex 66.
Wellington: T. J. K. Gulson 1st ex 700; P. I. Mounfield 8th ex 700; Iveagh: M. A. P. Hine 3rd ex 700;
W. B. Kendall 6th ex 700; Schools 100; T. J. K. Gulson 9th, M. A. P. Hine 10th, W. B. Kendall 60th, M. F. P. Tribe 95th.
VIII: A. J. Hamilton – Captain, T. J. K. Gulson, T. J. P. Hine, M. A. P. Hine, W. B. Kendall, M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz, P. I. Mounfield, M. F. P. Tribe.
Cadet Pair: Amberg ii, Greenaway ii;
9th Man: A. J. Crawford.
Sowman Shield: 1. M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz 546,
2. T. J. K. Gulson 545, 3. P. I. Mounfield 536.
Kenya Trophy: 1. T. J. K. Gulson 434,
2. M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz 431, 3. A. J. Hamilton,
M. A. Hine 425.
NRA Bronze Medal: M. A. P. Hine 248, 2. T. J. K. Gulson 242, 3. W. B. Kendall 239,
Donegall Bronze Badge: T. J. K. Gulson.
Honours: A. J. Hamilton: Athelings Team to Canada,
M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz: Reserve for UK Cadets Team;
Shot for Bedfordshire.
T. J. K. Gulson and W. B. Kendall shot for Bedfordshire.
P. I. Mounfield shot as a guest for Cambridgeshire.
Colours: Minor Sports Colours were awarded to M. A. P. Hine.
Club colours were awarded to A. J. Crawford,
T. J. P. Hine, M. F. P. Tribe.

T. J. E.

Athletics

Last Summer the School managed to field its largest athletics team for many years. This was largely due to the co-operation which we received from the Boat Club in releasing many of its juniors to compete in matches, and also due to the fact that a number of senior boys who in previous years had been involved in other sports decided to take up athletics. This influx of athletics made it possible to cover almost all the events on the programme, thus enabling us to at least win the points for a last place, which we would not have won if they had not been there to compete. Thus the team as a whole was able to put up a much more effective challenge to the opposition.