

scoring in the first half (twice) and allowing a second half to begin with confidence. The defence remained in control, if frustrated at times.

The final game, with Stephen Waters playing as a surprisingly fitting inside left, was played on the Parks (the University pitches) against Spalding. The *apparent* lack of experience and loss of established players to the heights of another sport produced the greatest spirit. Again a first half goal was enough to win, and the defence, especially Harry Richardson, who thwarted three last-minute short corners at last supplied constant order rather than fluster.

Thanks must be made to the organisers, Mr Machin and Mr Jarrett for providing the possibility for the enjoyment and who hopefully were cheered by the unexpected success.

John Holtom

Yet again we have swept all before us (except for a star-studded County VIII fielding four men with international honours) to complete a 9th successive season of success. And this without 5 colours who were busy injecting some of our competitive bite into their rowing. It's good to see the oarsmen doing so well . . .

Team selection was primarily a simple question of who was available; but we had an eye firmly on the 1979-80 season when we will be very short of seniors. Club training was extended in the Remove and IVth form levels, and even now as I write 14 club members will be shooting shortly against Oundle with .303s, of whom 8 will be here in 2 years' time. There is heaps of talent among our youngsters for our future success.

The matches followed their usual routine, with Kimbolton as our first guests. We tend to shoot more home .22 matches because we go away for shoots in the full-bore season, and indeed this term all our matches were home fixtures. Most schools only have four-point ranges and actually prefer to come to us. The Leys are no exception; and indeed they gave us quite a fright. They arrived with match rifles and ammunition (despite our agreeing on a Country Life match) and so we shot on 10-bulls using our No 8's and some rather ratty bullets – and only just scraped home.

Oundle cost me a second 50p to Tim Gulson for a possible, and established firmly the end of the landscape target and the substitution of a 10-bull card in our fixtures. The Country Life competition had not been modified as we had wanted, and so we did not enter. We will next year introduce the erratic snap (2-second exposure and variable interval) and re-assess the landscape target on the basis of a start-to-finish time limit of 16 minutes for all four pairs, including changeover.

The climax, competitively, was always going to be the County fixture this season. It had been clear that, with the advent of ex-Bedford School shots at county level, sooner or later the School would meet its match; an exceptionally strong team duly turned out this time and won a tense contest fairly conclusively. But one can't help wishing that the School had been able to call on all its resources for this one.

The Old Boys followed hopefully on the heels of the

professionals, but were yet again frustrated by their juniors. The struggle for the Croker Cup reached its climax with Tim Gulson knowing he had to score 93/95 to beat Bruce Emsley, and just clawing home to avoid the tie. The Chapman Cup was fought to the last round with Tim (yet again) Gulson going into the last card two points down to Ian Mounfield and finally just nudging ahead of Donald Fraser to do the double.

Results: v Kimbolton 727-656 (Country Life); v The Leys 1148-1141 (10-bull); v Wellingborough 728-673 (C.L.); v Oundle 1458-1376 (C.L. plus 10-bull); v Haileybury 1478-1392 (C.L. plus 10-bull); v Bedfordshire 1461-1483 (C.L. plus 10-bull); v OBs 746-732 (C.L.).

Croker Cup: 1. T. J. K. Gulson 983, 2. B. J. Emsley 982, 3. M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz 971.

Chapman Cup: 1. T. J. K. Gulson 218, 2. D. F. Fraser 216, 3. A. J. Amberg 214, W. B. Kendall 214.

Club Colours were awarded to: W. M. Amberg, M. C. Salisbury, P. P. Y. Tam.

T.J.E.

Fives

A season of very mixed fortunes was crowned by the ultimate success of winning the Schools' Doubles Championships at Whitgift. This victory was well deserved, and finally justified all the hard work that had been put in during school matches that had ended mostly in defeat.

This victory also exemplified the dichotomy of standards at the school at present. Colin Hurt and Nigel Kirkby were more than able to hold their own in singles and doubles in school matches, but could not produce a sufficient points margin to make up for the almost inevitable deficit created by the supporting players. Andrew Bebbington and Simon Baker played consistently and improved steadily but in general found points very difficult to score, and that hard work can never quite make up for lack of experience and flair. When a team is struggling to find an 'edge' luck tends to desert it so that the two narrow defeats could, in slightly different circumstances, have gone the other way.

The 2nd 1V virtually selected themselves as only eight Seniors other than Colts played full-time Fives. In spite of this they won two of their four school matches and by no means disgraced themselves in defeat at St Paul's. Munday, Clifton i, George and Brennan were very different types of players but all showed a good fighting spirit.

The Colts improved slightly on the record of their predecessors, although two of them had not played for a School team before this season. Constable quickly proved to be the best player and was given games with the 1st IV and 2nd IV when they were short. Of the others, Staddon played the most steadily and thoughtfully without having a strong physical presence, while Clifton ii hit the ball very hard but had a rather shaky defence; Monks was a rather lightweight left-hander who teamed up quite well with Constable, but suffered several disasters at singles; Corps played several times.

The Juniors only had a few matches which in fact were all lost but they were not outclassed in any way. The under 15 team were somewhat stereotyped and could do with more variety and imagination in their play while the Under 14 team showed great enthusiasm. Bartle and Rose show immediate promise, and if they can draw the rest of their