

Having seen a considerable strengthening of senior athletics in the School over the past few years, the influx of athletes in the younger age groups should enable the School to expand its activities on this front and become competitive at all age levels.

Brian Bailey *Captain*

## Shooting

**This was a curious year: for the first time we had a complete squad which shot together in all the pre-Bisley matches (and did us proud), and we were then strengthened, for the Bisley Schools Meeting, by one or two extras.**

And yet we did best when not at full strength. Post mortems are usually pretty futile, but sometimes a clue emerges: it is my view that we were too aware of our potential at Bisley, and accordingly lost sight of the two great basics of shooting and wind coaching which had done us so well earlier in the season: the first rule is to relax and let your routine be your master; the first rule of wind coaching is to keep it as simple as possible.

The season was dominated by the problem that we would be at Bisley during the last week of term. This meant firstly that we would not be taking all the people we would like to have, and secondly that we would be looking over our shoulders all the time at what was happening in Bedford and at other small matters such as GCE exams. And so plans had to be laid down much earlier than usual.

We got off to a flying start with a clear-cut win over Oundle, despite some interference on our side of the range from the local cops (not cops!!). A few days later we bagged a vast hunk of Victorian silver by winning the Surrey Schools' Open, and followed that up with a fine single point win in the East Anglian Schools'. With the wind well up our poop we sailed into the Sussex Schools to run aground at 500 yards due to a rare individual disaster dropping to 3rd place. The real pint-sized performance was by Bill Amberg who scored a possible and then found TJE's contact lens which had been whisked away by the wind. The team looked magnificent grovelling in line abreast behind Century range, noses eighteen inches from the ground.

Once down at Bisley, we set to work; but results were disappointing. There can be no doubt that Tim Gulson's sad withdrawal from the Athelings affected us all, directly or indirectly, in its suddenness, and morale was distinctly dented. Indeed, its chief result was the exceptional helpfulness and good temper of everybody: I'm not sure I wouldn't have preferred a few neanderthal rows to dissipate the pressure! As it was, there was still some very fair shooting, and results compare well with last year's bumper scores — and we were lying 3rd out of 67 at the ½-way stage!

When the dust had settled, the Main Meeting got under way, and this too produced its heartache for some who didn't perhaps live up to their hopes (when they didn't oversleep, that is). But it also had its triumphs: more names in the Prize Lists than last year; Bill Amberg emerged refulgent to achieve stardom, shooting for the UK Cadets (who came 2nd to the Regular Army by a whisker in the

Inter-Services match), and being reserve for the A. G. Bell team which once again thrashed the Canadian cadets. Others, Mounfield, Hopkins, Tribe, Kendall, Kirkillo and Stacewicz (spelt variously) found their place on the scoreboard alongside other Bedfordians, curiously watched by a Guru suffering from a nervous twitch and a sick colonel. In Canada, Philip Dawes was to win, and win glory, with the senior GB team; Jan Mounfield was to captain with distinction a victorious Athelings team; Brian O'Bree was adjutant to the Army team, but hasn't recovered sufficiently to relate his experiences yet. All of which goes to show that Bedford School has Arrived in full-bore shooting now as well as in the small-bore world.

*Results:* Beat Oundle

Surrey Schools' Open — 1st.  
East Anglian Schools' — 1st.  
Sussex Schools' Open — 3rd.  
Ashburton Shield — 12th ex 67.  
Cadet Pairs — 9th ex 67.  
Ninth Man — 7th ex 67.  
Rutland — 6th ex 67.  
Kinder — 4th ex 67.  
Devon — 5th ex 67.  
Country Life — 12th ex 67.

*VIII:* P. I. Mounfield (Captain), W. M. Amberg, T. J. K. Gulson, R. E. Hopkins, W. B. Kendall, M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz, P. P. Y. Tam, M. F. P. Tribe. Cadet Pair: N. T. Greenaway, B. A. Caves; Ninth Man: Crawford.

*Kenya Trophy:* (.303 match aggregate) 1: M. A. Kirkillo-Stacewicz, 385 pts; 2: P. I. Mounfield, 384; 3: M. F. P. Tribe, 373.

*Sowman Shield:* (7.62: Grand Aggregate) 1: W. M. Amberg, 549 pts; 2: W. B. Kendall, 542; 3: P. I. Mounfield, 530.

*NRA Bronze Medal:* 1: P. I. Mounfield, 197 pts; 2: T. J. K. Gulson, 193; 3: W. B. Kendall, 192.

*Donegall Bronze Badge:* T. J. K. Gulson.

*Honours:* P. I. Mounfield, Captained the Athelings team in Canada.

W. M. Amberg, UK Cadets team; Reserve for A. G. Bell VIII.

*Colours:* Minor Sports: P. P. Y. Tam.

Club: B. A. Caves, N. T. Greenaway.

T.J.E.

## Swimming

**1978 must have been one of the coldest summers for a long time, with the pool reaching a peak temperature of 70° F at half term, and then dropping rapidly to below 64° F for the rest of the term. So not surprisingly our training was somewhat curtailed, and our only home fixture was held on a cold wet day.**

The season started with a quadrangular fixture against Felsted, Westminster and Aldenham at Aldenham. The Seniors were rather outclassed by a strong, fit opposition, and only managed one win in the second string Individual Medley by Scarles. The Juniors however totally dominated