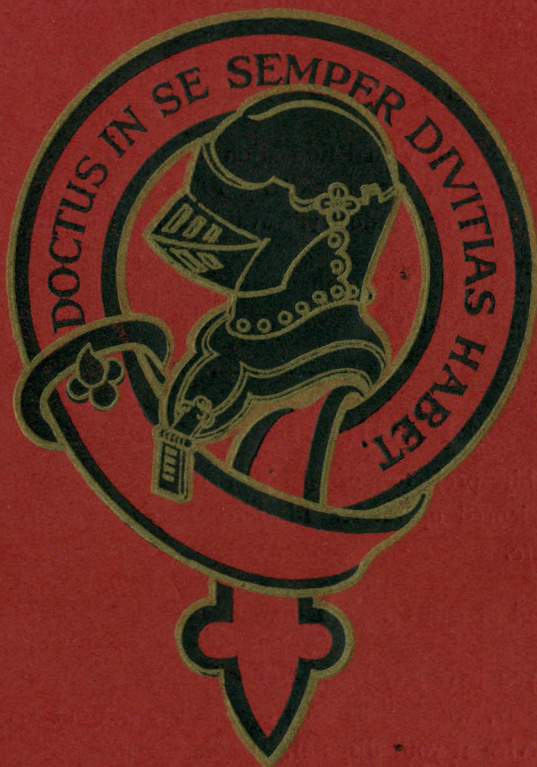


THE VISOR



MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER, 1961.

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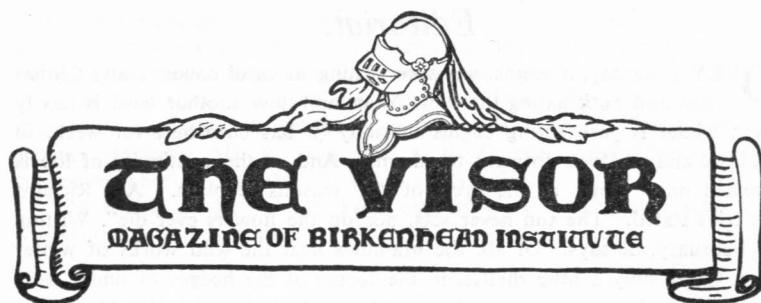
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First XV, 1960-1961.



A. Steedman, A. McIntosh, P. Kevan, W. R. Peters, C. G. C. Shorthill, B. W. Doveston, W. G. Johnson, C. L. Rigg,
C. M. Lee, D. J. Timmons, R. V. Boyd (Capt.), D. Docherty, G. G. Young,
G. W. Clays, A. G. Cotgrave.

(Photo by Cull.)



THE GOVERNORS.

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Mr. H. B. HALL, M.A.

Mr. W. J. THOMAS.

School Calendar.

Spring term began	January 4th
Half-term holiday	February 13th and 14th
Speech Day	March 22nd
Cross Country	March 24th
Spring term ends	March 29th
Summer term begins	April 17th
Half-term holiday	May 22nd
Summer term ends	July 21st
Autumn term begins	September 4th

Editorial.

ONLY yesterday, it seems, we were writing of carol concerts and Christmas, and anticipating the New Year, and now another term is nearly over, winter is past, spring begins officially (it has been here for weeks in reality), and we look forward to summer. And so the continuity of life is stressed once more, as the cycle of the seasons revolves. As Richard Jefferies stated, "The sun never sets, nor do the flowers ever die". Writing of February, he says, "Of all, the brambles bear the wild works of winter best. Given only a little shelter, in the corner of the hedges or under trees and copses, they retain green leaves till the buds burst again. The frosts tint them in autumn with crimson, but not all turn colour or fall. The brambles are the bowers of the birds; in these still leafy bowers they do the courting of the spring, and under the brambles the earliest arum, and cleaver, or avens push up. Round about them the first white nettle flowers; latest too, in the autumn. The white nettle sometimes blooms so soon, and again so late, that there seems but a brief interval between, as if it flowered nearly all the year round. So the berries on the holly if let alone often stay till summer is in, and new berries begin to appear shortly afterwards. The ivy, too, bears its berries far into the summer. Perhaps if the country be taken at large there is never a time when there is not a flower of some kind out, in this or that warm southern nook. The sun never sets, nor do the flowers ever die. There is life always."

And so with our scholastic year: the seasons come and go bringing the annually recurrent events. Some of these we have captured and recorded for you in the pages which follow; and, we trust, there is life always.

Salvete.

Correction: October 1960, Wise, G. J.

Spring, 1961: Walker, B. W.

Valete.

Popham, A. M.; McCracken, A. K.; Capstick, N. E.; Price, B. R.; Quail, C. W.; Canning, B. M.; Ogden, P. E.

Mr. G. W. Harris.

IT is with sincere regret that **Visor** reports the death, on Christmas Day 1960, of Mr. G. W. Harris, B.A. Mr. Harris came to Birkenhead Institute in the far off days of 1906, and, except for a period of service in the Army from 1916 to 1919, gave the School devoted service from that year down to 1953, when he retired—a term of service that must surely remain a record to all time. Beginning as a very young master in the Junior School, Mr. Harris became in turn Head of the History Department, Deputy Head, and, finally Headmaster, 1950—1953. A keen sportsman, Mr. Harris had a great deal to do with School games, particularly Rugby and Cricket. A

witty conversationalist and excellent raconteur, he presided over the Common Room with authority and urbanity. He will not readily be forgotten by all those, boys and Staff, who knew him.

The funeral, at Landican, on December 28th 1960, was attended by the Headmaster, Mr. E. G. Webb, a former Headmaster, Mr. E. Wynne Hughes (1929-59), Mr. R. Hall, Mr. A. R. Thacker, Miss Cojeen, and a former member of Staff, Mr. F. Bloor (1921-1956).

On behalf of the School, **Visor** expresses our sincere sympathy with Mrs. Harris and her family.

Staff Notes.

WHEN School re-opened on January 4th, we had great pleasure in greeting another Old Boy who had come to join the Staff, Mr. J. Phipps, who was educated at Birkenhead Institute, the University of Leeds, where he took honours in French, and the Ecole Normale at Vannes in Brittany. After this Mr. Phipps spent a year in study for the Diploma in Education. This was followed by service on the staff of Wade Deacon Grammar School, Widnes. We now welcome Mr. Phipps to the Modern Languages department.

Speech Day, 22nd March, 1961.

In the Chair:

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF BIRKENHEAD

(Alderman H. D. Shakeshaft, J.P.)

PROGRAMME.

SCHOOL ... O Beautiful, my country! ... Music by Geoffrey Shaw
Poem by F. L. Hosmer

Report by the Headmaster

(E. G. Webb, B.A.)

CHOIR ... Devon, O Devon, in wind and rain ... Music by C. V. Stanford
Poem by Henry Newbolt

... The Lorelei ... Poem by H. Heine
Arranged by John Bateson

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES, CERTIFICATES and TROPHIES

and

ADDRESS

by

Group Captain C. A. ALLDIS, D.F.C., A.F.C., M.A.

(Director of Administrative Plans, Air Ministry)

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Form Lower VI—Pollock, L. (Geography, Art).

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Brobyn, A.; Buchanan, J. S.; Canning, B. M.; Capstick, N. E.; Chesworth, M.; Chisholm, J. B.; Cooke, B. D.; Cram, G. H.; Croft, D. G.; Davies, A.; Davies, J. I.; Delves, D. H.; Dodd, J.; Edwards, D. G.; Edwards, G. E.; Glynn, S. J.; Goodwin, D. A.; Gregory, G. O.; Gurden, J. R. M.; Harding, K. C.; Heede, J. C.; Houghton, C.; Hughes, D. L.; Humphreys, K. E.; Johnson, J. K.; Jones, A. T.; Jones, M. V.; Kennedy, D. W.; Lanigan, M. J.; Lee, J. M.; Little, J. D.; Lomax, D. O.; McCracken, A. K.; McGregor, I.; McKelvey, D.; McLaren, N. B.; McRae, D.; Manley, P.; Mannion, T. W.; Meacock, R. H.; Moyes, P. J.; Orme, R.; Oxtan, J. E.; Pendleton, J. W.; Price, B. R.; Proctor, R. W.; Quail, C. W.; Quinn, S. G. P.; Rich, J.; Roberts, D.; Rushton, M.; Smith, J. A.; Smith, J. M.; Squires, A. F.; Steedman, A.; Sutton, R. J.; Swindells, H. C.; Thomas, J. A.; Tooley, P. W.; Tucker, M. C.; Williams, J. A. G.; Wills, J. N.; Wood, B.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS—

Henry Tate (School) Scholarships

M. J. Donahue

M. R. Leeming

W. G. Johnson

W. R. Peters

Headmaster's Endurance and Initiative Test—McRae, D. and Sutton, R. J.
'Meggs' Prizes for all round Sportsmanship—McIntosh, A. and Povall, R.
Birkenhead County Borough Music Studentship (Viola)—Thomas, A. J.
Birkenhead County Borough Scholarship (held at the University of Leeds)—
Kellett, G. L.

PRIZE LIST, 1959-60

First Forms—Shaw, W. K.; Elliott, A. J.; Cadwallader, M. C.; Tilston, B. D.
Second Forms—Pye, E. L.; McNulty, M. F.; Joynson, P. R.; Newbold, G.
Third Forms—Duncan, I. M.; Thornton, C. J.; Llewellyn, R. G.;
Pulford, M. C.
Fourth Forms—Douglas, R. J.; Forshaw, D. N.; Woodfine, E. T.;
Branagan, R. E.; Davies, J. R.
Fifth Forms—Gregory, G. O.; Oxtan, J. E.; Tooley, P. W.; Thomas, J. A.
Sixth Form—Subject Prizes: English—Peters, W. R.; French—Peters, W. R.; History—Johnson, W. G.; Mathematics—Leeming, M. R.; Physics—Mattingley, J. M.; Chemistry—Donahue, M. J.; Science—Elliott, J. K.; Biology—Stewart, C. S.

SPECIAL PRIZES—

The Forshaw Memorial Prize for Art	Pollock, L.
Old Boys' Memorial Prize	Lee, C. M.
Chess Prize	(Senior) Barwell, D. (Junior) Goldsmith, B.
Connacher Memorial Prize for English	Roche, P. W.
Solly Memorial Prize for History	Phipps, F.
The George Holt Prizes—	
Languages	Chesworth, D. C.
Science	Kellett, G. L.
Mathematics	Harding, A. G.
Special General Prize	Miller, D. M.
Headmaster's Prize	Kellett, G. L.

SPORTS—

Victor Ludorum—(Senior) Lee, C. M.; (Junior) Hill, B. J.
Silver Cup for Games—(Senior) Docherty, D.; (Junior) Evans, E. F.
Old Boys' Sports Prizes—Harding, A. G., Stitt; Povall, R., Tate; Hadfield, F., Westminster.
House Trophies—Athletics, Westminster; Cricket, Stitt; Chess, Stitt;
Cross Country—Senior, Westminster; Senior Champion, Humphreys, K. E.; Intermediate, Westminster; Intermediate Champion, Graham, T. J.; Junior, Tate; Junior Champion, Roddick, E. F.
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Cup for Rugby Football—Westminster.
His Majesty King George VI Coronation Cup—Westminster.
(Awarded to the Champion House for the Year)
Queen's Scouts—Brooks, R. B.; Dodd, J.; McCarter, A.; Matthews, A. J.; Meacock, R. H.; Ogden, P.E.

SUCCESSSES AT UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Hons. Theology) Taylor, B.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Hons. Eng.) Walsh, T. J.
Degree of B.A. (Hons. His.) First Year Examination McTear, G.

Faculty of Science—

Honours School of Mathematics
Degree of B.Sc. (1st Class Hons.) Peers, H. W.
Degree of B.Sc. (General Studies) Jones, P.

Department of Education—

Diploma in Education Phipps, J., B.A.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Special Studies in Eng.) Class II Div. 1 ... Roberts, R. J.

Faculty of Engineering—

Degree of Ph.D. (Electronics) Mitchell, E. E. L., M.A.

Faculty of Science—

Degree of M.Sc. Preliminary Exam. Cross, D. F. W., B.Sc.

Degree of M.Sc. " " Reed, G. A., B.Sc.

Degree of B.Sc. 1st Year Exam. Harris, D.

Faculty of Law—

Degree of LL.B. Final Exam, Part 1 Stanley, I. J.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Imperial College of Science and Technology—

Degree of B.Sc. (Special) 1st Year Exam. Salmon, R. F.

Assoc. of Royal College of Science. 1st Year Exam. ... Salmon, R. F.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Diploma in Town Planning. 1st Year Exam. Stewart, J. H.

B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A.

Faculty of Technology—

Degree of B.Sc. (Tech.) Part 1 Hopner, K. R.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR

Department of Education—

Diploma in Education Jones, N. N., B.A.

Diploma in Education Jones, S. J. R., B.A.

APPOINTMENTS and AWARDS

Appointed Dean, Trinity College, Cambridge—J. Gallagher, Esq., M.A.

Appointed Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, King's College, University of Durham—R. E. Plimley, Esq., B.Sc.

Appointed Assistant Lecturer in French, Queen Mary's College, University of London—K. O. Gore, Esq., M.A.

Awarded the Brodetsky Prize for Mathematics, University of Leeds—H. W. Peers, Esq., B.Sc. (Research Student and Supervisor).

Awarded the Pickup Medal, 1960, by the Incorp. Sales' Managers Association; Awarded the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce Prize; Awarded the Clifford Bloxham Prize, in Advertising—C. W. Weir, Esq., B.A. (Hons. Econ.).

Appointed Chief Overseas Manager, Martins Bank Ltd.—A. R. Wetherell, Esq.

Appointed Librarian, Swindon Technical College—J. E. Spink, Esq.

Awarded the Silver Acorn, for Services to the Scout Movement—W. D. Coughtrie, Esq. (Asst. Town Commissioner).

Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division)—Constable John Dade.

Appointed to the Rank of Superintendent, Birkenhead Borough Police—L. R. Allsop, Esq.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries—K. R. Percy, Esq., B.Sc.

Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute—N. S. Cooper, Esq.

Diploma in Public Administration. Part 1. 2nd Year Exam.—N. J. Wilkin-
son, Esq.

Graduate Student, Royal Institute of Chemistry—R. Dean, Esq.

Higher National Certificate in Chemistry—Robinson, P. L. Esq.

Cheshire County Certificate in Agriculture; National Certificate in Agricul-
ture—J. D. Smith, Esq.

Thank Napoleon For The Sugar In Your Tea.

BRTAIN will be busy with the sugar harvest this year before the corn harvest is out of the way. Farmers hope for about two and a half tons of sugar to the acre—grown, of course, in the form of sugar beet. The beet looks like something between a parsnip and a mangold, white in colour, with the luxuriant green leaves that bring lushness to the autumn and attract the pheasants. Forty years ago it was unknown as a farm crop in Britain; one hundred and fifty years ago it was unknown to the world. We have to thank the British Navy and Napoleon for it.

When the British Fleet was blockading Napoleon, the only sugar was cane sugar and the French could not import it. Napoleon then remembered something he had read about German experiments in the eighteenth century to get sugar from mangolds. He was occupying Holland at the time of the blockade and, knowing what good farmers the Dutch were, he ordered them to continue with these experiments, reminding them rather curtly that they had better find the right answer and soon. They did so, with such success that sugar beet became established for good as an important crop in Continental farming.

Britain, however, did not take it up until 1924, when the Government decided to subsidize it. There were objections, and it cannot be denied that the objectors had a very good case. They likened the idea to subsidizing banana-growing on the top of Snowdon. Our farmers had to learn the job, and they began with yields far below those of the Dutch. This did not pass unnoticed by the critics. There was a commission of inquiry and the new industry was within a hair's breadth of being strangled at birth. It just survived, and saved the sugar situation during the last war, when it provided the whole of our domestic ration. Today the laugh is on the critics. The average production of beet has risen from eight tons per acre in 1934 to over eleven tons. If it is assumed that the prices agreed with Empire producers reflect the costs of production of cane sugar, our home beet sugar is underselling the cane sugar of the Empire.

Crops are drilled in March in rows two feet apart. It comes up like thin, green braids of tiny plants across the brown expanse of soil. In practice, no one has yet devised a satisfactory method for sowing just the one seed for each sugar beet plant that will eventually be left. So the crop has to be thinned. Imagine you have broadcast mustard-and-cress seeds in several miles of trenches. Think then of having to use nothing but a hoe to chop out the myriads of plants so that only one is left every nine inches.

Separated out in the dry soil of April, exposed to the chilly spring winds, it seems incredible that these tender plants on their minute, delicate stalks can survive. But they will, if the work is properly done, and first-class hoers will leave a population of about thirty thousand plants to the acre. The beet grows through the summer, needing rain to make the roots swell and sunshine to make sugar through the leaves, to be stored in the roots. Farmers especially want sun in late summer.

Soon farmers will be getting cards from the beet factory. These will give the dates to send beet to them and the number of loads on each date. Farmers estimate tonnage, and a contract is made in advance to buy the crop.

More and more beet are being lifted mechanically, but most are still lifted by hand. They then have their tops and crowns cut off and the beet thrown in a heap for the tractor to collect. The leaves which have been cut off and left on the ground are valuable. They can be ploughed in as green manure. An electric fence can fold sheep over them where they lie. An acre of tops and crowns is equal in feeding value to an acre of turnips.

The beet which has been sent to the factory has the sugar extracted from it. The yield is usually sixteen per cent., with a premium to the farmer for a higher percentage. The resulting eighty-four per cent. is no longer of any use to the manufacturer; so he sells it back to the farmer, who feeds it to the cows.

Sugar beet not only provides Britain with about one-third of its sugar at low cost, but, through its by-products, helps to produce milk and mutton as well, saving us perhaps ten million pounds a year. Although sugar beet is Britain's newest farming industry, it has been planned from start to finish and is a model of good order.

J. L. WALKER, 5B.

Stranded.

STRANDED! That was the predicament in which John and I found ourselves, when we awoke. We were surrounded—on two sides by the cold, black, wet walls of the cave in which we had fallen asleep, on the third side by the deafening, thunderous movement of the breakers, as they crashed mercilessly against the bare cliff face, and on the fourth side by the darkness and loneliness of the unknown reaches of the cave.

We knew it was useless to try to swim to the cliff path by which we had reached the shore, as the movement of the waves would toss us about like pieces of driftwood. The only alternative was to try to search for another exit, further inside.

It was this alternative that we took, and proceeded to creep precariously along a narrow ledge along the cave's length. The inside of the cave was in impenetrable darkness, and so we used our electric torches to feel our way along the ledge.

We chose to use this ledge, for, owing to the tide, the water had filled the slightly curved floor of the cave to an unknown depth. As we travelled further inside we noticed with the aid of our torches that the water was getting clearer, and shallower, and not far ahead we saw that the ground rose slightly, thus being uncovered by water. This we reached without difficulty, and as we did so we noticed that the floor was damp, and covered with wet moss and seaweed, proving that the tide was not at its highest.

Using our torches, we observed that the cave narrowed considerably in front of us, and that it turned off, almost at right-angles, about two hundred yards ahead. So, being careful where we trod, we continued our journey until we reached what seemed a dead end, but, on closer inspection we found a small, almost circular hole, about three feet from the ground. By testing, we found that it was just large enough for us to squeeze through, which we proceeded to carry out with haste; for I saw that the time was nearly six o'clock, and our parents would soon begin to worry over our absence.

After we had come through the hole, an astonishing sight met our eyes. Beyond the hole the cave widened into a roughly oval-shaped "room". We looked around, and found some barrels and chests, rotten with damp, in one part, and some heaps of rotten sacking in another.

We proceeded to examine our discovery, but found that we could open neither the barrels nor chests, as we had no implements with which to smash the locks, or prise off the lids. So, without any hesitation we began to search for a second exit from the room; for the smugglers, by whom this room was probably used, would need one, in order to escape from the coastguards. After a short time, we noticed at the far end a narrow cleft in the rock face and so we entered this and saw before us a narrow, very broken, flight of steps, which we began to ascend carefully.

About fifteen minutes later, after a very difficult and exhausting climb, we reached what seemed the top; for a strip of dull light could be seen ahead, and a cold draught of air could be felt in our faces. We ran up the few remaining steps, turned a sudden corner, and emerged into the cold evening air, of which we took great gulps; for we were tired after our long climb.

We then looked around for someone who could tell us exactly where we were. Shortly after we noticed an old sailor strolling towards us, and so we ran up to him and recognised him as Old Ben, the old salt who tends the fishing boats of this region.

He was extremely surprised to see us, and he was even more surprised when we told him of our discovery in the cave. He said that, in all the years he had lived in the district, he had never heard of it. He then accompanied us home, and told us that next day he would pay a visit to the coastguards' office in the neighbouring town, and make a report of what we had just told him.

We persuaded him to take us with him, which he did, and a few days later we learnt that the chests and barrels had contained tobacco, rum, and some fine laces. So, being grateful for the service we had done for them, the coastguards presented us with a small reward.

So I think that our being stranded in that cave had turned out well in the end, after all.

A. FOX, 5B.

The Story of Corn.

WHEN the Red Indians moved into the American continent, they found a tall grass higher than a man, with yellow seed pods on the top. This grass gave them food in summer, and in winter formed their staple diet, except for the wild animals which they hunted. It was so important to them that many legends and stories grew up around it. In recent years archaeologists have excavated images of corn cobs as large as the corn itself, made of gold and silver, in the ancient temples of South America. Not only images but real kernels of corn have been excavated, and in other ancient temples they have also excavated white kernels of pop-corn and specially designed implements made of clay for popping corn.

It was not until Columbus made his first voyage of discovery to America that the people of Europe learned about corn. The earliest settlers in Virginia were the first white people to cultivate corn. This little settlement was having a hard struggle for survival. Eventually, owing to hunger, they decided to give up and go home. However, Captain John Smith, their leader, was not willing to see his people defeated by hunger. So he went to see if he could trade with the Red Indians. By trading with the Red Indians he was able to obtain a supply of corn, and the settlement was saved. Captain John Smith gave every colonist an acre of land on which to plant corn and grow other food for himself. The pilgrims also learned how to cultivate corn properly, because a friendly Red Indian, named Squanto, taught them how to cultivate it. From that time on, corn was the best friend of the settlers, and the task of settling North America would have been much harder without its help. As the number of white people grew, so the cultivation of corn spread across the North American continent, and in those days of almost non-existent roads men depended upon corn to provide food for themselves and their animals. Corn became almost as symbolical to the white settlers of North America as it had been to the Indians.

Corn, being a hardy plant, has been introduced to most countries of the world, where it is known by different names and today forms the major part of animal and poultry foodstuffs. It is used widely in prepared foods for human consumption. So Indian corn, maize, or, as it is known in South Africa, mealies, the gift of the Indians to the white settler, has become of great importance to the World.

J. GREGORY, 3A.

Early 'Fowler.

IN January grey and drear
Another day is born.
As misty as the one before,
And just as much forlorn.

At four o'clock the village sleeps,
While I am getting dressed.
My dog and I go out for sport,
While others take their rest.

I take my gun and call my dog,
As out we go together
To face the bleak and dismal world,
And brave the wintry weather.

The morning air is cold and damp
And frost forms on the ground,
Yet far away the calls are heard
To me the only sound.

The ducks and geese are restless now,
As breaks the dawning light;
Upon the marsh my sole desire
To trace the morning flight.

So carefully I choose some reeds
To hide us both from sight,
And dog and man crouch down to wait
To catch the morning flight.

At last I see them take to wing
And circle, flying high.
Twenty now are coming o'er
Still slowly drawing nigh.

I lift my gun and fire it once;
I fire it once again.
Two geese drop slowly from the sky
Amidst the drizzling rain.

I send my dog to fetch them here:
At first he brings me one.
He lays it down beside my feet,
And like a flash is gone.

A second time he brings a goose
And lays it at my feet,
But now the air is getting cold
The rain turns into sleet.

At six o'clock I hear a bell,
Tolling out the hour.
I turn my head towards the land
To see the distant tower.

The wind is blowing very cold
It whistles over low;
Quickly now the tide comes in,
The time has come to go.

I take my geese and call my dog,
And turn towards the land.
A last look back and then I walk
Across the reeds and sand.

The sea-wall now looms up before,
A never-ending way
Of ageing stone, put there by man
To keep the sea at bay.

I pass the wall and cross a field
Go slowly up the road,
Walking past the church, and so
Approach my small abode.

Morschach.

AFTER much correspondence with the Swiss authorities and with British Railways, the pattern of this year's School holiday abroad is becoming clear at last.

The party, about 50 strong, will leave Liverpool on the 10 a.m. Merseyside Express on Tuesday, August 15, arriving in London at 2-15 p.m. After lunch, they will leave Victoria at 4-30 p.m., or earlier if required to travel on a relief train, and then the timetable reads Folkestone 6-40 p.m., Bologne 20-10 (arrive) 21-12 (depart), Basle 6-57 (arrive)—breakfast—7-42 (depart), Brunnen 9-50. Shortly afterwards they will reach Morschach, where they are to stay at the hotels Betschart and Rutliblick.

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Morschach is a small Alpine village about 650 feet above Brunnen and Lake Lucerne on a mountain spot of the Frohnalpstock at an altitude of 2,200 feet. It can be reached from Brunnen on foot in about half an hour, or in about 10 minutes by the cog-wheel railway (6 return journeys cost 8 Francs or 13/4d.). In addition to a swimming pool in the village and a fine bathing beach in Brunnen, facilities exist for golf, tennis, boating, and climbing. Three whole-day excursions have been arranged. One is by tram to Schwyz and then by coach and funicular to Stoos (4,245 feet). After lunch at the Sports Hotel, the journey is continued by chair-lift, followed by a 20 minutes' walk to the summit of the Frohnalpstock (6,295 feet). Alternatively, the climb can be avoided by taking a second chair-lift at an extra cost of 1.50 Francs (2/6d.). From the summit magnificent views of the Titlis group and of the Bernese Oberland can be obtained. Another excursion is by lake steamer to Lucerne, returning by train. The steamer is due to reach Lucern at 12-45, and, after lunch at the Hotel Waldstadterhof, about four hours will be left for sightseeing and personal shopping. The third excursion is by train to Arth-Goldau and then by cog-wheel railway to Rigi Kulm, one of the most famous view points of the world, the return journey from Vitznau being by steamer.

The party will leave Brunnen for home at 17-57 on August 24, reaching London at 2 p.m. on Friday, August 25. The Shamrock should then have them in Liverpool before 9 p.m.

A meeting of parents of boys going on the holiday will be called early in the summer term, when further details will be given and any queries answered.



MEMBERS of the Sixth and Upper Sixth forms attended a conference arranged by the Student Christian Movement at Park High School for Girls on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 7th. The subject, on which the Rev. M. Hare-Duke was the principal speaker, was "The Challenge of the Sixties". Afterwards the audience was divided into study groups for discussion. The general feeling was that this was a very successful conference.

* * *

We wish to congratulate D. Docherty of the Upper Sixth and H. Steedman of the Sixth on their selection for the Cheshire Grammar Schools' XV. We feel that this is a noteworthy achievement for this School when we remember how many grammar schools there are in such a large county as Cheshire. Steedman has further distinguished himself by his appearances in Senior Club Rugby, and on Saturday, March 4th, when playing for Birkenhead Park 1st XV against the celebrated Wasps, he was specially singled out for praise by the sports correspondents of both the **Sunday Times** and the **Guardian**.

* * *

The School dining-hall has acquired a new look during the first week in March with thirty handsome new tables and the necessary new seats. This is a very welcome improvement to our comfort.

* * *





This term, too, has seen the Music department transformed from the basement to Beechcroft Hall, and in consequence the old Music Room is to be cleared of desks and furnished with tables and chairs.

* * *

Those who have missed the ball games that used to take place in the School yard will be pleased to learn that the Education Committee have sanctioned the application for wire netting to be placed round the yard, and the resumption of their games draws appreciably nearer.

* * *

We have just heard that J. S. Fraser of 6a has been chosen as a member of the Cheshire County Team and is to run in the National Cross Country Championships at Peterborough on March 18th. Heartiest congratulations to Fraser on this distinction.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN.

TO date, Atkin has not had a successful year. The Juniors managed to retain some self respect by winning two of their three chess matches, defeating both Stitt and Tate by 5 games to 2, and losing narrowly to Westminster by 3 games to 4.

Unfortunately, the Seniors lost all their chess matches, but are to be congratulated on playing well against Tate in the rugby matches, losing only by a small margin.

It is to be hoped that all members of the House will do their utmost in the cricket and athletic season to make amends for past failures.

M.A.

STITT.

THIS term has not been a successful one for Stitt. In their two rugby matches the Seniors won in a convincing style against Tate by 28—3, but unfortunately lost to Westminster by 3—32. The Junior Chess Championship has been the only other competition this term so far. It needed only an average performance from our team to secure first place in the Chess competition of the Coronation Cup, but our hopes were dashed when the side lost to both Atkin and Westminster and narrowly won against Tate.

If the House is to win the Coronation Cup this year, there must be a concentrated effort from the House as a whole, particularly in the forthcoming School Cross-country, Sports, and in the new Gym Competition. Training facilities are available and must be used regularly in order to reach a satisfactory standard.

TATE.

THIS term has proved a disappointing one, similar to the Christmas term of last year. After the Christmas publication of the Visor, 1960, there were still a few games of Rugby left to play, and also most of the Senior and Junior chess matches. The House had only a few successes, winning one Senior Rugby match and one Senior Chess match. In the Senior Rugby matches, Tate lost to Stitt by 27 pts. to nil, and won against Atkin by 17 pts. to nil.

In the Senior Chess matches, Tate lost to Westminster and Stitt by 5 games to 2, and 4 games to 3 respectively, and won against Atkin by 4 games to 3. In the Junior Chess matches, Tate lost all three matches.

It is hoped that in the coming Gym competition and other Summer sports, Tate will be able to gain a little more success and improve its chances in the Coronation Cup House Competition.

B.W.D

WESTMINSTER.

SO far, this term has seen the completion of two competitions which count towards the Coronation Cup—Rugby and Chess—and in both of these the House was extremely successful. When the last notes were written, the Westminster Junior rugby team had won all three matches, whilst the Senior XV had played (and won) only one. Since then, the Seniors gained decisive victories over their two remaining rivals—Atkin and Stitt—and thus Westminster gained the Rugby Cup and also valuable points towards the Coronation Cup.

In the Chess competition, one Senior game was played last term, which resulted in the defeat of Tate. This term, however, the House began by losing (narrowly) to Stitt Seniors, although they followed this by winning (decisively) against Atkin Seniors. Thus it looked as if Stitt was on the road to winning the Chess competition for the second successive year, but the Westminster Juniors rose admirably to the occasion and won all three matches. Since Stitt Juniors turned out to be rather expert at losing chess matches, Westminster was left in the position of Champion House at Chess.

These results promise great success for the House in this present year, and it can only be hoped that the high standard set will be maintained in the forthcoming events—Athletics, Cross-country, Cricket, Examinations, and also the newly-founded Gymnastics Competition—which can be achieved if every boy takes advantage of the training facilities arranged.

Chess.

THE Wright Shield Competition has been concluded this term, and although the School team secured only 2 draws out of the 7 matches played, many of the games in several other matches were closer than the scores suggest. In many an equal or even superior position was lost apparently through failure to sustain concentration. This may in a large measure be attributed to the lack of practice and support of the Club which has been most noticeable in the Senior School this session. On the other hand many of the Juniors, especially the younger members, have shown great keenness, and if this is maintained it should improve our prospects of building up future teams.

Junior House Matches have taken place this term, and the final result of the combined Senior and Junior House Competition is as follows:

1st Westminster—5 matches won.

2nd Stitt—4 matches won.

3rd Atkin—2 matches won.

4th Tate—1 match won.

Cross Country Running.

THE season has proved to be a successful one, all matches having been won. The results are as follows:—

Park High School	Home Won by 53 pts. to 92 pts.
Rock Ferry High School	Away Won by 64 pts. to 72 pts.
Oldershaw Grammar School	Home Won by 33 pts. to 92 pts.
Wirral Grammar School	Away Won by 34 pts. to 49 pts.
Park High School Team A	Away Won by 35 pts. to 49 pts.
Park High School Team B	Away Won by 25 pts. to 61 pts.
Wirral Grammar School	Home Won by 27 pts. to 54 pts.

J. S. Fraser and J. C. Woodworth were awarded Colours at the end of the Autumn Term.

Teams were entered for the Cheshire Cross Country Championships at Ellesmere Port on March 4th. In the under 19 event, C. M. Lee finished 18th and V. Saunders 27th. In the under 17 event, J. S. Fraser finished 7th and J. C. Woodworth 17th. The placings in this latter race were:

1. St. Anselm's College.
2. Wallasey Grammar School.
3. Moseley Hill Grammar School.
4. Birkenhead Institute.
5. Wirral Grammar School.
6. Birkenhead School.
7. Altrincham Grammar School.
8. Hulme Hall Grammar School.
9. Sale Grammar School.
10. Helsby Grammar School.
11. Nantwich Grammar School.
12. Wallasey Technical School.
13. Rock Ferry High School.

Teams have been entered for the Birkenhead Cross Country Championships to be held on March 27th.

The Literary and Decating Society.

Chairman: W. R. PETERS.

Secretary: M. W. BONNEY.

THE Literary and Debating Society, which had been dormant for one year, was revived in October 1960 by Mr. Evans, to whom we are exceedingly grateful.

In November the motion "This house believes that modern youth is decadent," was proposed by G. Shorthill and D. Forshaw, and was opposed by P. E. Ogden and M. J. Donahue. After a lively, humorous debate, the motion was finally defeated by 37 votes to 24.

In December W. G. Johnson and P. E. Ogden proposed that "Britain pays too much attention to sport." D. Docherty and D. Timmons opposed the motion. An excellent first speech by Johnson was sufficient to persuade the House to carry the motion by 30 votes to 18.

In February of this year W. G. Johnson and M. J. Donahue proposed that "American influence is beneficial to Britain." They were opposed by P. A. Fisher and G. Shorthill. After a heated debate the motion was finally carried by 19 votes to 13 with 5 abstentions.

The Society is grateful to several members of staff for their consistent attendance. M.W.B.

The Society has also been very fortunate in the lectures given to it by a number of outside speakers, who have given freely of their valuable time.

In November Councillor G. F. Davies, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, spoke on "Local Education". He made very clear the complexity, the vastness, and the cost of Birkenhead's education system.

In January Professor Kenneth Muir, M.A., talked on "The Problems of Editing" with special reference to Shakespeare. Professor Muir described the routine side of the work, and also the editor's excitement of discovery.

In February, Alderman J. Furness, J.P., spoke on "Local Government", and gave an admirably clear account of the organisation and work of the Council and its Committee. He answered many awkward questions.

In March, Mr. R. G. Rowlands, Editor of the **Birkenhead News and Advertiser**, talked about "The Press", and after an interesting talk extended an invitation to the Society to visit the offices of his newspaper.

Later in March, Mr. P. P. Simpson spoke on "The Legal System", and in an entertaining and interesting talk guided the members through the maze of the many courts and their procedures.

The Society is most grateful to all of the above speakers.

The Geographical Society.

THIS term there have been two meetings of the Geographical Society in the physics laboratory, in both of which the audience was shown coloured films accompanied by a corresponding commentary.

The first meeting took place on January 12th when Mr. Evans gave a talk on his interesting experiences in Nigeria. A great number of boys attended the meeting, the majority probably arriving to see the colourful collection of slides rather than to increase their geographical knowledge. Mr. Evans informed the boys present that he had been living in the north of Nigeria, in the region inhabited by the Mohammedan tribes, the Hausar. Mr. Evans proved to be an excellent speaker, and by his description and the aid of the colour slides everyone was able to obtain a comprehensive picture of what that district must be like. The interest of the members was increased by the amusing stories told by the speaker, especially one about a man whose job it was to catch snakes. When Mr. Evans had concluded, Mr. Jones was kind enough to show us his collection of Nigerian brass carvings, which made this first meeting of the term an even greater success.

March 9th was the day on which Goodwin, of the Lower Sixth, had promised to show the Society a selection of films, taken by his father while staying at Penaug, which is an island situated a few miles from the west coast of Malaya. The films consisted of scenes of the island, George Town harbour, Iha Ethum Temple, and the fishing villages on the island. Although they lasted only fifty-five minutes, the films clearly depicted the character of the island and were full of useful information. The most interesting parts of the film were probably the Tia Pussan Festival, where there was a religious procession of dedicated men with sharp swords stuck into their flesh, and a rugby match played on a field covered by water about six inches deep. The numerous questions put to Goodwin bore witness of the members' interest.

Finally, we must thank Mr. Taylor, Mr. Evans, Mr. Jones, and Goodwin, for the interest which they have shown towards the society and hope that next term's meetings will be equally enjoyable.

P.W.T.

The Geological Society.

DURING this school year the Geological Group of the Geographical Society has met twice in the geography room under the chairmanship of Mr. Taylor.

The first meeting was held on November 17th, and the subject of Mr. Taylor's talk was the geology of Wirral. The room was full of boys interested in geology; the more enthusiastic among them even taking notes.

This term the society met again on February 28th to listen to a lecture, given by Mr. Taylor, on the physical properties of minerals. The chief aim of the meeting was to help the members to identify minerals by such means as observing their colour, lustre, transparency, forms of crystals, hardness, or even odour. After the conclusion of the lecture all the members gathered round the display cabinet like a pack of hungry wolves. They examined closely such things as fluor-spar, gypsum, talc, zinc blende, and mica, and although the prey was quickly devoured it was probably fully digested.

On behalf of the society I should like to thank Mr. Taylor for these interesting talks, and I hope that future meetings will be just as enjoyable.

P.W.T.

Rugby Club.

First XV.

THE second half of the season proved to be most memorable, as only one game was lost. The team played consistently well, and, while never over-running the opposition, they always seemed well in command of the situation, and were usually good, even if close, winners. Unfortunately games against Calday, Wade Deacon, Rock Ferry, and Holywell Grammar Schools, had to be cancelled because of wet grounds. Even so, the season will be remembered as one of our most successful, and the team and reserves are to be congratulated on their efforts and enthusiasm. Opportunity must be taken to congratulate D. Docherty and A. Steedman on being selected and playing for Cheshire Schoolboys in Inter-

County games. It was a sad end to the season when the captain, R. Boyd, whose contribution in play, enthusiasm, and administration, had been particularly outstanding, had to leave the field with a broken ankle and thumb. Unfortunately R. Peters broke his thumb during the same match.

Results.

1960

Nov. 16—Oldershaw G.S.	H. Won 11-0
Nov. 19—West Park G.S.	A. Lost 3-9
Nov. 26—Holywell G.S.	A. Won 10-0
Dec. 3—Wallasey Tech. Grammar School	H. Won 11-0

1961

Jan. 18—St. Anselm's College	H. Won 8-0
Jan. 21—Wallasey Tech. Grammar School	A. Won 11-0
Jan. 25—Wirral G.S.	H. Won 9-6
Feb. 1—Park H.S.	H. Won 3-0
Feb. 15—Rock Ferry H.S.	H. Won 8-6

Final Record.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts. F.	Pts. A.
School Games	17	12	1	4	204	94
Other Games (Old Boys and Staff)	2	0	0	2	14	31

Note.

Experience can still triumph over youth, as was proved when a team consisting of eight Staff, one Old Boy, and six boys, defeated a weakened 1st XV by 15 points to 6. With only fifteen per cent. of the ball the Staff always looked dangerous in attack, and gave the boys an object lesson in accurate, fast passing. The game, played in festival spirit, was enjoyed by all. J.D.H.

1st Year XV.

THOUGH not winning any games, and this mainly owing to size, the first year boys played attractive, open rugby, and one hopes that as they develop in size and stature they will be more successful.

Colts XV.

THE second half of the season was less satisfactory than the first, principally as a result of fixtures being postponed through ground conditions. However the responsibility for some unnecessary defeats lay in the general lack of fitness of the team, in the absence of a fiery and enthusiastic spirit, and in a failure to think about and anticipate moves. The latter showed itself in persistent kicking when handling might have produced a score. The need for fitness was demonstrated in the failure of forwards to cover when the tackling was weak among the backs.

The only exhibition of good play was to be seen in the game against the inexperienced Hillfoot Comprehensive School side. This was achieved with the aid of some capable Bantam players. Few can look back on the the season with real satisfaction, though Ratcliffe, as captain, gave of his best.

Results: Played 12, Won 5, Lost 7.

The Old Instonians Association.

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House Sub-Committee Chairman:

A. H. JACKSON, Esq., 101 Bebington Road, Birkenhead.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Club Room, 126 Elmswood Road, Birkenhead, on Friday, February 24, when the officers and committee members for the coming year were elected.

The chairman, reporting on the state of affairs within the Association and on the events and activities of the past year, began by saying how pleased he was at the flourishing nature of both of the affiliated sections. The Association Football Club appeared to be going from strength to strength. Three elevens could be fielded on a Saturday at Woodslee, Bromborough, or at Arrowe Park, and the teams were occupying good positions in the league tables. One of the most pleasing features was that, while a number of playing members were approaching retirement, there were a good number of young players keen and anxious to fill their places. The Rugby Football Club had great plans for the future. They were in the process of acquiring and developing a new ground off Woodchurch Road between the railway bridge and the roundabout on the way to Arrowe Park, and their plans included the building of a pavilion and the laying out of two pitches. The Club had been fielding three fifteens regularly each Saturday and four on some occasions.

The relations between the Association and the School had continued to be most friendly. Wreaths had been laid on the two war memorials in the School on Remembrance Day. At the end of the summer term, Mr. J. T. Bartlett, an Old Instonian who had played rugby for Waterloo, Cheshire, and England, had visited the School to represent the Association and to present the Old Boys' Sports Prizes. These were awarded annually, one to a boy from each House who, in the opinion of his Housemaster, had done most to foster sport within that House during the year. Mr. Bartlett had presented the Prizes to A. Harding of Stitt, R. Povall of Tate, and F. Hadfield of Westminster. The Housemaster of Atkin had not awarded a Prize, because there was no one of sufficient merit.

During the year it was made known to the committee that a number of Old Instonians viewed with regret the retirement from the staff of Mr. W. E. Williams after 31 years and felt that his services should be marked in some way. The committee decided against making a public appeal but noised it abroad that contributions towards a testimonial would be most welcome. Mr. Williams was now deciding on how the money should be spent. The chairman said that he considered it only fit and proper for him to refer to another very good servant of the School, Mr. G. W. Harris, who had died on Christmas Day. It would be presumptuous of him to try to describe Mr. Harris's very great efforts on the behalf of B.I. in a sentence or two. Let it simply be said that many, many Old Instonians remembered him with affection and a deep sense of gratitude.

The annual Speech Day was to be on Wednesday, March 22, when the Prizes and Certificates would be distributed at the Technical College, Borough Road, by yet another distinguished Old Instonian. This year it was the turn of Group Captain C. A. Alldis, D.F.C., A.F.C., M.A., formerly the Air Attache at the British Embassy in Moscow and now the Director of Administrative Plans at the Air Ministry.

Turning once more to the sporting side of Old Instonian life, the chairman referred to the cricket matches which had been played last season and to the annual golf match for the W. J. Pyke Cup. This had been held at Bromborough on June 9, when Mr. F. H. Heslop had been dethroned at last, being succeeded by Mr. J. P. Almond.

After the match about 35 Old Instonians had sat down to dinner in the club house and had spent a most enjoyable evening reminiscing about the days in Whetstone Lane. The thanks of the Association were due to Mr. R. M. Delf who had organised this event and who was organising a similar one at Heswall this year on Wednesday, June 7.

The Association Dinner had been held in October at the Masonic Temple, Clifton Road, Birkenhead, and had proved to be most successful. Once again, Old Instonians had been prepared to travel from many parts of the country to spend the evening together, renewing friendships made at school and strengthening their ties with the school of today. The Association had been most fortunate in their speakers at such functions. The Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, Sir Herbert Manzoni, the President, Mr. E. G. Webb, Mr. J. E. Allison, Mr. W. L. Cottier, C.B.E., Dr. R. C. Gubbins, and Mr. C. D. Gracey, J.P., had all excelled themselves, and the gatherings had been most friendly and stimulating affairs.

Turning to the Club Room, the chairman said that two major problems had beset the committee during the year, these being the questions of finance and the variable support which the Club Room had received. He was happy to say that, because of the series of tombolas held recently at the Kingsland Dance Hall and organised by Mr. B. Riley, the financial state of the Association was now improved considerably. As to the support for the Club Room, this had been very good on occasions, notably on Monday evenings, but at other times it had been poor. The committee were only too well aware of the drawbacks of Elmswood Road and had been searching actively for some time past for premises which would be more suitable. At last they had been able to decide upon a move. The new premises would be at 40 Argyle Street, near to Hamilton Square, and would consist of two floors. Planning permission had been sought from Birkenhead Corporation and received, negotiations were underway with Birkenhead Brewery with regard to the building of a bar, and the lease would be signed and in force in the near future. There was much redecoration to be undertaken, and the committee hoped that plenty of volunteers would be forthcoming. Until the new premises were in a fit and proper state to be opened officially, the headquarters of the Association would remain at Elmswood Road.

The chairman ended by saying that if all Old Instonians were to rally round the committee the success of this new venture would be assured. Donations to the Building Fund would be acknowledged most gratefully by the treasurer, as would offers of help in any form. The committee knew that they could claim justifiably to have worked hard throughout the year and felt that they were deserving of the maximum support.

The chairman's report and that of the treasurer were adopted without dissent.

Old Instonians A.F.C.

THE Soccer Club is assuredly enjoying one of its most successful post-war seasons. The first and third elevens are top of their respective divisions in the league, and their leads are such that it is unlikely that they will be overtaken by the end of the season. The second eleven, after a poor start to the season have been steadily making ground and are now fifth in their division. Our cup records are equally satisfactory; for, whilst the first team are in the final of the Marlborough Trophy, the second have reached the semi-final of the Junior Trophy, and the third team were denied reaching their semi-final only after losing 1-2 to Old Cathinians after a replay.

Individual efforts have been noteworthy this season with Stalker, Boardman, Greaves, Lee, Sharrocks, Thornton and Povall, all having scored double figures, whilst Alan Jones has regained all his old scoring touch to the tune of 22 goals in thirteen games. In defence Brian Riley, Paul Lomax, Brian Ellison, George Edwards, and Alan Harding have all contributed in no small measure to the Club's current success.

"Stu" Cannell, Frank Stalker, Paul Lomax, and Dave Lee were chosen to take part in trials for the League representative side, and it is quite likely that Stalker and Lee will be in the League side which plays a Manchester eleven later this season.

The untiring efforts of Brian Riley and his small band of helpers have gone a long way towards alleviating the Club's financial position, notably through the weekly Tombola sessions being held in conjunction with the Old Boys' Association and the Rugby Club. This means that we can look forward to making considerable improvements in our playing facilities and dressing accommodation for next season.

The Annual fixture between the Soccer Club and the Rugby Club was played in November last—in much better conditions than the previous year, and our all round improvement was reflected in the more decisive score of 5-1 in our favour. This, in spite of some excellent performances by the Rugby Club players. Unfortunately they were handicapped by the absence of one or two of their footballing stars. Still, this was once more a most enjoyable game.

Old Instonians R.U.F.C.

THE club has had only a moderately successful season up to now. This might be only by comparison with last season, however, and is not strictly fair. To date, the 1st XV has won 10, lost 11, and drawn 4 matches. It should be noted that in 9 games lost there was only a margin of 5 points. The 2nd XV has won 11, lost 9, and drawn 3. Here the points for were 235, against 96. The 3rd XV has won only 6, lost 14, and drawn 2 games. It is hoped that, now Associate members are available for selection, the new 3rd 'A' will help to produce better results.

We are off to the Lakes, on tour, at Easter to play Windermere, Kirby Lonsdale, and Keswick. This annual tour is always very enjoyable, and, at £6 16s. 6d. for full board, is a good Easter holiday. Associate members are welcome, but please let one of the team captains know soon.

The Annual Dinner, at the Coach and Horses, is to be held on April 28th. The Jeff Thomas Memorial Shield will be presented to the best clubman of the year.

The Dance held at the Technical College was well attended, and our thanks go out to all who helped to achieve that. Though not strictly a club dance, it proved to be most enjoyable.

You will know, by now, that we have acquired a ground off Woodchurch Road, by the Prenton Bridge. It is hoped that we shall be able to play on this next season, but much money and labour have yet to be expended. We hope to build the club house with social activities in mind. The boys at School now will reap a good harvest in the future.

My usual plea to finish. Any Old Boy who has lost contact with the club will be welcomed, player or non-player, young or old. Naturally, anyone leaving School is not only welcome but is the life blood of the club. Let me or Mr. Malcolm know if you wish to join us.

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