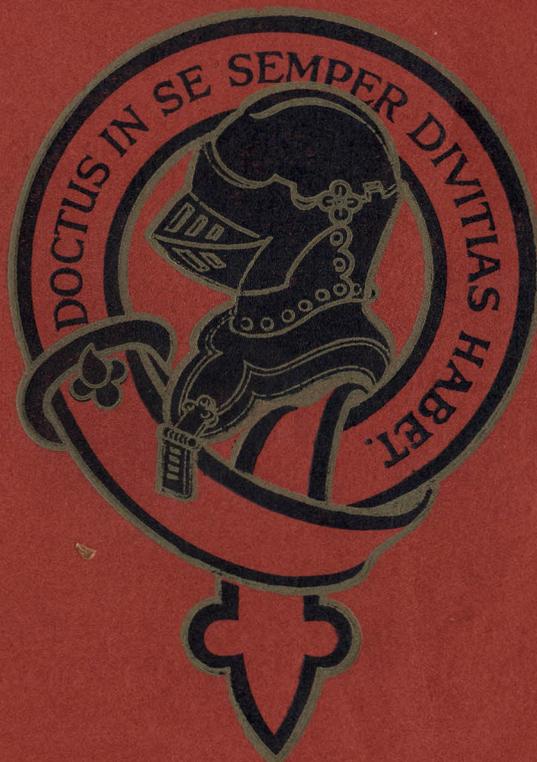


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MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER, 1962.

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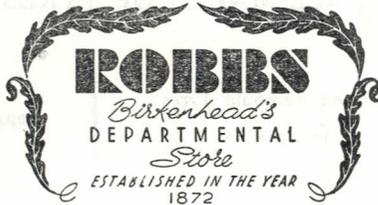
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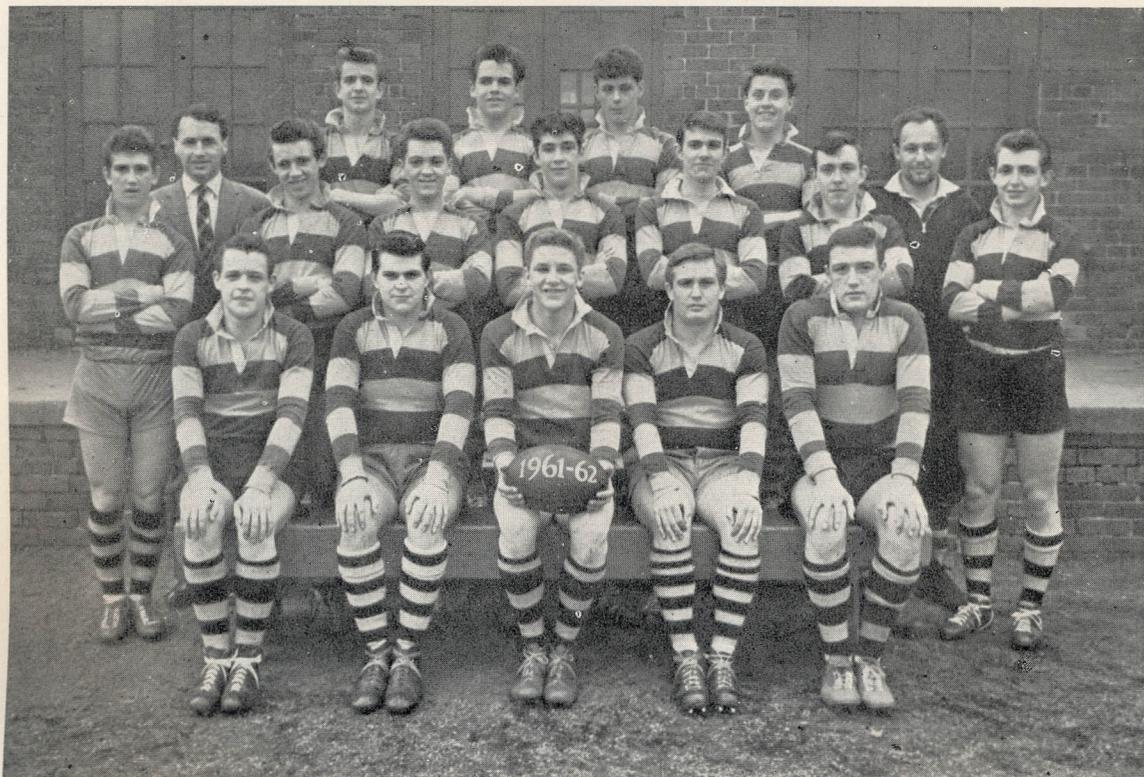
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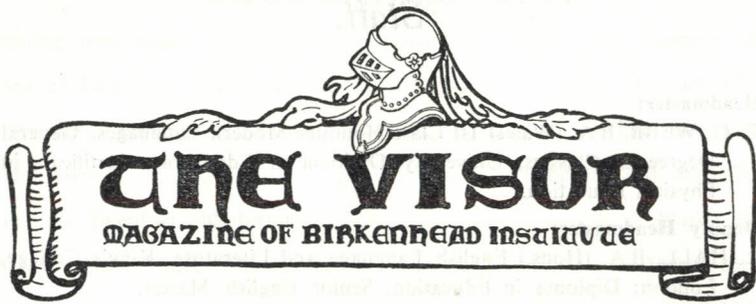
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FIRST XV 1961-1962.



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J. A. G. Williams, A. K. Jones, G. W. Clays (Capt.), A. Steedman, P. W. Kevan.

Photo by Cull.



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Mr. W. J. THOMAS.

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Deputy Headmaster:

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R. E. EVANS, M.A. (Oxon) Hons. History; Diploma in Education; Senior History Master.

J. D. HALL. Certificate in Education, Bede College, Durham University; Diploma in Physical Education, St. Luke's College, Exeter; Senior P. E. Master.

J. D. O. HUGHES. Certificate in Education, University of London; Senior Woodwork Master.

D. S. W. JONES. Liverpool College of Art; Art Teacher's Diploma; Senior Art Master.

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Monsieur J. LEMOSSE. University of Paris; French Assistant.

Secretary: Miss I. I. COJEEN.

SCHOOL CALENDAR.

Spring term began	January 8th
Speech Day	January 17th
Occasional holiday	February 23rd
Half-term	February 26th and 27th
Parents' Evenings (4th forms)	March 8th
Cross Country Race	March 23rd
Athletic Sports	April 12th
Parents' Evening (3rd forms)	April 17th
Spring term ends	April 18th
Summer term begins	May 7th
Half-term	June 11th and 12th
Summer term begins	July 20th
Autumn term begins	September 3rd

EDITORIAL.

"The time is come," the Walrus said,

"To talk of many things;

Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—

Of cabbages—and kings."

WE must frankly confess that we have (so far) no articles on any of the fascinating subjects for conversation enumerated by the Walrus, but we fancy, all the same, that the reader who can find nothing to interest him in the pages of **Visor** is rather hard to please; for we talk of holidays abroad, of gold-mining, of Gilbert and Sullivan, of soccer and rugby, in addition to providing a record of the main events of life as lived in B.I. since the last number of **Visor** went to press at the end of last term. And, if there is any lack of interesting matter, it is your job to supply what is needed, because it is upon you, the ordinary boy in any form of the School, that **Visor** must rely for its matter. The more interest you take in the magazine, the more material you will submit to the **Editor** to be included in **Visor**, and, obviously, the more interest the magazine will have for you and for everybody else. So, don't be backward: fill up your pen, find an idea, and write for all you are worth. The more articles you send in, the more likely you are to wake up one day and find yourself an author.

VALETE.

Autumn Term:

Aspey, K.; Burns, P.; Goldsmith, B.; Rigg, C. L.; Sutton, R.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. SORBY.

AT the end of this term we are to lose, owing to retirement, the services of Mr. E. Sorby, who has been on the Staff for a very long time, having joined B.I., in fact, as long ago as September 1925, in the halcyon inter-war period. Mr. Sorby came to us when he left the University of Oxford, where he had been a Scholar of Trinity College, taking his Honours Degree in Mathematics in 1924 and his Diploma in Education in 1925. A man of many parts and of encyclopaedic knowledge, he has been much more than a teacher of mathematics: in School he has successfully taught woodwork and book-keeping, and his hobbies include music, theatre, model locomotive building, gardening, photography, and cine-photography. With the assistance of Mrs. Sorby, who was responsible for curtains, decorations, etcetera, he has constructed a scale model of Shakespeare's "Globe" theatre, perfect and accurate down to the smallest detail inside and out, which has been on exhibition in B.I. and many other places, and which has delighted and astonished all who have examined it. A popular figure in the Common Room, where he has presided over the "Timees" crossword "School" in undisputed authority, Mr. Sorby will be greatly missed especially by his older colleagues, but all, young and old, combine to wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

SPEECH DAY.

SPEECH Day was on January 17th this year, in the hall of the Technical College, when there was a very large gathering of parents, friends, Old Boys, members of the Governors and of the Birkenhead Education Committee, charmingly presided over by the Worshipful the Mayor of Birkenhead, Alderman Mrs. Dorothy Melville, J.P. Our thanks are gratefully given to the Mayor and to our principal guest, Mr. C. D. Gracey, J.P., who entertained his audience with probably the wittiest speech ever listened to at any speech day. The Choir sang excellently, as always, the School gave excellent support, and V. Y. Hodgson gained thunderous applause for his splendid performance of two solos. Altogether this was a Speech Day well worth remembering.

LIST OF PRIZES AND AWARDS.
JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD.
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, 1961.

AT ADVANCED LEVEL—

Form Upper VI:

Anderson, M. General Studies, French.
Bonney, M. W. Physics.
Boyd, R. V. General Studies, French.
Docherty, D. General Studies, English Literature, Geography.
Donahue, M. J. General Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
Doveston, B. W. Biology.
Elliott, J. K. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry (Distinction).
Johnson, W. G. General Studies, English Literature, History, French.
Lee, C. M. Art, Chemistry, Biology.
Leeming, M. R. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
Mantingley, J. M. General Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
Peters, W. R. General Studies, English Literature, History, French.
Saunders, V. R. General Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.
Shorthill, C. G. C. Chemistry.
Stewart, C. S. Art, Chemistry, Biology.
Timmons, D. J. General Studies, English Literature, Geography, French.

AT ORDINARY LEVEL—

Anson, D. K.; Aspey, K.; Blaylock, S. C.; Branagan, R. E.;
Chisholm, J. B.; Clays, G. W.; Collins, J. F.; Cotgrave, A. G.;
Davies, J. H.; Davies, J. R.; Douglas, R. J.; Evans, A. F.; Farrell, D. J.;
Fleming, R. J.; Forshaw, D. N.; Fox, A.; Fox, J. R.; Griffin, D. E.;
Hall, A.; Halligan, D. L.; Heede, J. C.; Hillhouse, D.; Johnson, J. T.;
Jones, A. K.; Kevan, P. W.; Lindop, L. C.; Lowthian, A. F.;
Lythgoe, G.; McCoy, K.; McCulloch, M. A.; McIntosh, A.;
McIntyre, A. D.; Manson, I.; Mason, M. R.; Miller, P. J.; Moorby, I. J.;
Morris, J. W.; Muddiman, J.; Oldham, T. J.; Parkinson, D. S.
Pritchard, D. R.; Pye, A. A.; Redfern, S.; Rigg, C. L.; Sanderson, R. T.;
Sutton, R. J.; Swift, V.; Swindles, J. G. A.; Thomas, D. J.; Wade, R.;
Wainwright, W.; Walker, J. L.; Waring, M. W.; Webster, R. C.;
Williams, G. H.; Williams, T.; Williams, W. J.; Wise, G. J.
Woodfine, E. T.; Woodworth, J. C.; Young, G. G.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS—

Hensy Tate (School) Scholarships

A. Davies; G. O. Gregory; P. W. Tooley; B. Wood.

Headmaster's Endurance and Initiative Test

Senior: D. A. Goodwin; P. W. Tooley.

Junior: R. C. Dodd; D. W. Parry.

'Meggs' Prizes for all round sportsmanship

R. V. Boyd and D. Docherty.

Birkenhead County Borough Scholarship

Donahue, M. J.

PRIZE LIST, 1960-61.

First Forms--

Watson, P.; Coey, B. G.; Reid, J. C.; Johnson, A. P.

Second Forms—

Hayes, A. E.; Elliott, A. J.; Shaw, W. K.; Parry, P. G.

Third Forms—

Pye, E. L.; Newbold, G.; Foulkes, P. R.; White, M. G.

Fourth Forms—

Duncan, I. M.; Llewellyn, R. G.; Hodgson, G. W.; Pulford, M. C.

Fifth Forms—

Davies, J. R.; Fox, J. R.; McIntyre, A. D.; Miller, P. J.; Morris, J. W.;

Woodfine, E. T.; Evans, A. F.; Williams, T.; Wililams, W. J.

Sixth Form—Subject Prizes—

English and French — Gregory, G. O.

History — Harding, K. C.

Geography — Tooley, P. W.

Mathematics — Davies, A.

Chemistry — Rushton, M.

SPECIAL PRIZES—

The Forshaw Memorial Prize for Art — Lee, C. M.

The Old Boys' Memorial Prize — McIntosh, A.

Connacher Memorial Prize for English — Johnson, W. G.

Solly Memorial Prize for History — Johnson, W. G.

The George Holt Prizes — Languages — Peters, W. R.

Science — Donahue, M. J.

Mathematics — Leeming, M. R.

"J. E. Allison" Prizes for Geography — Docherty, D.

Special Prize for Biology — Lee, C. M.

Special Prize for Chemistry — Elliott, J. K.

Special Prize for Good "A" Level Certificates in four subjects at one sitting — Mattingley, J.M.; Saunders, V. R.; Timmons, D. J.

Headmaster's Prize for special service to the school — Mattingley, J. M.

SPORTS—

Victor Ludorum — (Senior) McIntosh, A.; (Junior) Oldham, R.

Silver Cup for Games — (Senior) Boyd, R.; (Junior) Brown, G. F.

Old Boys' Sports Prizes — Docherty, D.; Doveston, B. W.; McIntosh, A.

House Trophies — Athletics — Westminster

Cricket — Westminster.

Chess — Westminster.

Cross Country — Senior — Westminster

Senior Champion — Fraser, J. S.

Intermediate — Tate

Inter. Champion — Graham, T. J.

Junior — Tate

Junior Champion — Hayman, M. L.

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)

SUCSESSES AT UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc. (Hons.) First Year Examination — Kellett, G. L.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Faculty of Medicine—

Degree of M.B., Ch.B. — Hodgson, A. S.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Hon. His.) Part I Examination — McTear, G.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Special Studies in English) Class II, Div. 1 —
White, L. E.

Degree of B.A. (General Studies in History) — Shales, R. A.

School of Dental Surgery—

Degree of B.D.S. — Galt, I. A., L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.

Faculty of Engineering—

Degree of B.Eng. Sessional Examination — Harding, A. G.

Degree of B.Eng. Intermediate Examination — Barwell, D.

Faculty of Laws—

Degree of LL.B. — Stanley, I. J.

Faculty of Science—

Degree of M.Sc. — Cross, D. F. W.

Degree of B.Sc. Part I Examination — Harris, D.

Department of Education—

Certificate in Education — Jones, P., B.Sc.

Certificate in Education — Roberts, R. J., B.A.

LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Diploma in General Engineering. Second Class Honours —

Jones, T. R.

Diploma in Industrial Chemistry. Second Class Honours —

Carruthers, P. W.

Diploma in Industrial Chemistry — Hodson, R. S.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Faculty of Technology—

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

MANCHESTER COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Graduate of Royal School of Music. First Year Examination —

Thomas, J. A.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH STAFFS. (KEELE)

Degree of B.A. First Year Examination — Miller, D. M.

OLD INSTONIANS' APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS.

President of the General Medical Council — Rt. Hon. The Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., F.S.A., J.P., Crown Representative to the General Medical Council, President of the Royal Society of Health.

Chairman of the Royal Society of Health — Dr. James Galloway, Medical Officer for Wolverhampton, M.B., Ch.B., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Ph., D.P.H., Fell. of Socy. Medical Officers of Health.

Hon. Degree of D.Sc. (University of Birmingham) — Sir Herbert J. Manzoni, M.I.C.E., formerly Chief Engineer and Surveyor, City of Birmingham.

Research Scientist to Airborne Instruments, New York — Ewart E. L. Mitchell, Esq., M.A., Ph.D.

Lecturer and Tutor in History, College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea — W. N. Bryant, Esq., B.A.

Assistant Lecturer in Mathematical Statistics, University of Leeds — H. W. Peers, Esq., B.Sc.

One of a three member delegation from the British Civil Servict to visit Rhodesia at Government invitation — E. A. Connell, Esq., B.Sc.(Econ.), D.P.A.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

Examination for Call to the Bar. Part 1 — I. J. Stanley, Esq., LL.B.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (22 years' service Birkenhead Borough Police) — Inspector T. Seville.

Ministry of Transport Master's Certificate — P. W. Colville, Esq.

Diploma in Public Administration — D. Naybour, Esq.

Bass Baritone Soloist, D'Oyley Carte Opera Co. — A. Parry, Esq.

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award — I. D. Macmaster, Esq.

THE GOLDEN TRANSVAAL.

THE story of the greatest gold-mining industry in history began in the year seventeen hundred and ninety, when two brothers called Barber discovered rich patches of gold in the eastern Transvaal on the border of Portuguese East Africa. This discovery started a gold rush, and a gold-boom town, Barbertown, grew up almost over night. However, the people who rushed to Barbertown were disappointed, for, although there was a considerable quantity of gold in the district, the gold-bearing rocks beneath the ground were scattered like plums in a pudding. So the fortune-seekers moved elsewhere.

In the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, Fred Struben, an English geologist, met a Dutch farmer named Geldenhuis at his farm high up in the Witwatersrand, which means the Ridge of White Waters. This district is now better known as the Rand. Geldenhuis had asked Struben to look at an outcrop of rocks on his land which he believed to

contain gold. When Struben saw these rocks, he knew at once that they were gold-bearing quartz rocks; for along the quartz outcrop he traced a thin golden coloured line for hundreds of yards. Struben did not know it then, but he had discovered the Witwatersrand gold reef that stretched for about two hundred miles into the Orange Free State, at about ten thousand feet below the earth's surface. After tracing the outcrops for two miles, and studying the rock formation for two years, he set up the first crushing machine, "stamp mill", ever to operate on the Rand — and thus he set in motion the world's greatest gold-mining industry. Struben's stamp mill is now preserved as a monument, and stands just off the Main Reef Road out of Johannesburg.

One day a builder called Walker was strolling across the farm of Mrs. Oosthuizen, on which he was building a house, when quite by accident he kicked off a piece of quartz, in which he saw the unmistakable glint of gold. Walker managed to persuade Mrs. Oosthuizen to sign a paper promising him the claim of any gold found on her farm. Mrs. Oosthuizen signed thinking that there was no gold on her land. After telling Honeyball, his partner, about the find, Walker hurried off to Potchefstroom, a town about forty miles away, where he hoped somebody would lend him money to start gold-mining on Mrs. Oosthuizen's farm at Langloagte.

As soon as Walker had left for Potchefstroom Honeyball broke off a piece of the quartz outcrop, and took it to Struben at Wilgespruit. Struben disappointed Honeyball by telling him that the rock he had brought him contained nothing more than pyrites, a mixture of iron and copper called "fools" gold. However in this instance Struben was wrong; for the rock really did contain gold.

Meanwhile Walker, who was very talkative, told everybody he met of his find and told each of them, separately, that it was a secret. But when a number of people are told a secret, it remains a secret no longer. Men from all over the Transvaal took an interest in the farm at Langlaagte, and they rushed there with their eyes on an easy fortune.

Among these newcomers was a man called Joseph Benjamin Robinson, who told his friend Mr. Alfred Beit about the gold, and asked him for a loan of about a hundred thousand pounds. Mr. Beit agreed to the loan, and made Robinson promise to share all the gold he found equally between them. Within five years Robinson made over a million pounds, which he shared with Beit.

Later on Beit and Robinson dissolved their partnership and set about their affairs independently. Robinson developed the Randfontein estates, which were great stretches of mining land that had once been farms and covered about forty thousand acres. On these estates there was an outcrop of quartz about ten miles long. Beit developed other areas.

Cecil John Rhodes came to South Africa from England in the year eighteen hundred and seventy because of bronchial trouble, and his parents thought that the warm, dry climate would make him stronger. He

joined his brother who was already in South Africa, and they both trekked to Kimberley. There Rhodes made a fortune in diamond-mining.

Later because Rhodes had made so much money, and because his ideal was that the British Empire should be extended as far as possible throughout the world, he founded an entirely new British country, named after him, Rhodesia.

In the year eighteen hundred and eighty-six Rhodes set out from Kimberley. Believing that another fortune would be made in gold-mining, he sent an agent ahead of him, who made inquiries, and found that the owners of two farms were willing to sell. Rhodes followed his agent, and while he was deciding whether to buy the farms or not; for he could only see the faintest gold traces in the outcrops, he received a message from Kimberley saying that a friend had been thrown by a horse, and was so badly injured that he was dying. Rhodes was so distressed that he left the farms, hurried straight to his friend's bedside, and stayed there nursing him, until in a few weeks time his friend died.

Meanwhile somebody else bought the farms, and Rhodes, the richest man of them all, lost the chance of buying the most valuable land of the Rand; for from these farms gold has since been mined worth a hundred million pounds, and today this land is part of Johannesburg, and worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

When Rhodes returned to the Rand, he bought some mines, but never played as big a part in the gold-mining industry as he had done in diamonds.

The first town that came into being on the Rand was called Ferreira's Camp, named after Colonel Ferreira who was sent by Paul Kruger, the President of the Transvaal Republic, to bring the many newcomers together in some sort of town under control of some form of law. This was the beginning of Johannesburg, which today is a sprawling metropolis, and Ferreirastown is now a suburb of Johannesburg.

After a time people began to realise that the different outcrops which appeared here and there on the surface followed one general line. Actually there are three "lines" of gold-bearing quartz, called "reefs", but because they follow the same direction, keeping parallel to each other, they are regarded as one

When gold was first mined, miners chipped off the outcrop, and then they dug shallow trenches, so that they could break off as much of the reef underground as they could reach using only picks and shovels. But it soon became necessary to start sinking proper mine shafts, and head-gears began sprouting up all over the Rand, where those shafts were being sunk. At first miners sank vertical shafts straight down. Then from the bottoms of the shafts they dug horizontal tunnels to reach the reef which dipped down into the bowels of the earth at an angle. After this they cut out the reef itself to right and left forming small tunnels called "stopes". When they took away the reef they had to prop up the ground above it, either by packed stones or with wooden supports called "pit props".

Meanwhile, on the surface, heavy and expensive machinery was being installed. The ore containing the gold was brought up to the surface in large buckets called "skips", and fed into the stamp batteries, which crushed the ore. The crushed ore was washed down over the "concentrating tables", and when the ore came into contact with the mercury on the tables, the small particles of gold loosened themselves from the ore and fastened themselves to the mercury.

More and more people were flocking to the Rand, and Johannesburg and other towns were growing day by day.

Then for some unaccountable reason, the concentrating tables began to catch less and less gold; yet, when the reef was brought up to the surface, it appeared to contain as much gold as ever. But all the elaborate extracting processes was having no effect. If there was any gold there, it was being deposited on the mine dumps still in the ore.

The scientists soon realised why no gold was now being extracted from the ore. The quartz reef lying near the surface had been "oxidized". This process had continued for a considerable area underground, but more than five to six hundred feet below the surface the gold was not oxidized at all, but was in fact a "sulphide", and the process for extracting oxide ore would not work on sulphide ore.

A panic spread through Johannesburg, mines began to close, many people were unemployed, and many people left convinced that there was no more future in gold-mining on the Rand.

Other people did not give up hope; for they knew that scientists were working on the problem, and that there was still a tremendous amount of gold left.

In the year eighteen hundred and ninety, three Scotsmen, two brothers named Forrest, and another man named MacArthur came to Johannesburg, telling the mine-owners that they had discovered a new process for extracting gold out of sulphide ore, and that they wanted to sell the secrets of the process to them. They called the new process the "Cyanide" process.

A big test was arranged in the laboratory of one of the mines. The test was very simple; it merely required the crushed-ore to be dissolved in a chemical called cyanide of potassium, then the solution containing the gold would be passed through tanks full of zinc shavings, and these shavings would catch the gold, and recover it from the solution.

The test went on for two days and two nights, because the process was tedious, the gold taking a long time to dissolve. Some of the watchers fell asleep, others played cards, and refreshments were provided. But one watcher, Hennen Jennings, watched the process very carefully and noted all the details. On the third day the gold had been caught in the zinc shavings. The zinc shavings were melted down, the gold was poured out in a small ingot, and then weighed. It was found that ninety-eight per cent. had been extracted.

That test was the most important event that ever happened on the Rand. If it had failed, it is possible that no way might have been found of extracting the gold from the sulphide ore.

The results of this test encouraged people to come back to the Rand. But there were no longer hundreds of small companies, they were bought up and consolidated into a dozen groups owned by millionaires like Robinson, Beit, and Rhodes, because the small miners could not afford the new machinery needed to mine gold hundreds of feet underground, and the new extracting processes were very expensive.

Today the descendants of many of the pioneers still control the gold-mining industry.

W. J. GREGORY, 4A.

SOCCKER OR RUGGER?

IN a school such as ours the only thorn in the flesh of most boys when they come is the fact that they will have to play rugger. In the primary schools 99 per cent. of male pupils play association football, but, if they pass the 11-plus, or in some cases even if they don't, then they have to play rugger. At first the idea seems horrifying, but the fact remains; as we leave 2 x 2 behind in the primary schools, so we should leave soccer.

We have all watched these skilled athletes playing soccer and have noticed their antics; they are those of a child of ten or eleven. When a goal is scored, the players go berserk, and the scorer generally stands for many minutes with his hands in the air waiting to be engulfed by the kisses and hugs of his team mates. The scenes in most big games after a goal is scored resemble a main line railway station at the end of the war when families were being united. In rugger this rarely happens, and if it does then the try must be extremely fantastic.

To emphasize their childishness top-class soccer players will insist upon throwing their arms in the air and questioning every decision the referee makes. If he does not change his decision, then they argue with him; and if finally he still will not change it then they kick the ball into the roadway. Anybody would think they were doing the poor man a favour by playing for him. The final insult comes when a player after a hard tackle goes down on the ground and starts rolling in agony, and the highly excitable commentator says to the millions of people watching the game on television, "My goodness that looks a nasty injury! I shouldn't be surprised if so and so doesn't play again this season." The trainer runs on the field with four ambulance men bearing a stretcher, but after a rub with the 'magic sponge' the player is running about as normal, (probably trying to find the man who tackled him in order to kick him back).

At the end of the game it is the custom for the spectators to throw either bricks or bottles at the referee, if they haven't used them all on the opposing goalkeeper during the game. After a few handshakes the players run off the field back to writing newspaper articles about the six offside goals the other team scored.

In rugby everything is different. You never argue with the referee, you may ask him why you were penalised, but you never question his decision. You can hold up the game if you've broken your leg, but anything less and you are in danger of being called a coward. Lying on the ground in temporary agony is looking for sympathy, but if you're looking for sympathy then you'd be better off playing soccer. As the whistle goes for full time there are three cheers from both sides, and the home team make a tunnel and clap the opposition off. The teams disappear for a hot bath and a happy social evening.

To anyone still wishing to play soccer I would offer the following advice: "Never score too many goals, the enthusiasm of your team-mates may cripple you for life."

A. STEEDMAN, U.6 A.

"HERE'S A HOW-DE-DO."

..... and now the Kaye Sisters will give us the new rock-hit song 'Three Little Maids from School!' Will this be a common thing in the future life of the Gilbert and Sullivan Works? These had been monopolised by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company until January the first of this year, when the copyright expired, so that now anyone can perform G. and S. without infringement of the copyright law. Is it a good thing that the ritual of the Savoy should be broken? There are points for and against. Let us examine the position at present.

Firstly, we must realise that the copyright law applied only to the United Kingdom and not to the rest of the world. The Americans have taken advantage of this, and in nineteen thirty-eight they presented a "Swing Mikado", a "Hot Mikado", and a "Red Mikado". The press received these performances with great disgust. "The Swing Mikado' is rowdy; you can't take Aunt Prudence" one paper said. Another correspondent of an English paper wrote: "...everything is chucked overboard but the basic melodies, and these sometimes disappear into a welter of 'Hot Licks!'" But the number of full houses for these shows could not be compared with the film version of the original "Mikado". The cast in this version included American and English stars: a few were D'Oyly Carte favourites who had been given special permission. Even this did not receive the acclamation given to the D'Oyly Carte on their American tour.

Parodies may now become quite as common in England as they are in America. Danny Kaye recorded, in his characteristic style, "To make the punishment fit the crime" and other such songs. More recently, in England, Arthur Askey concluded his radio act each week with a Gilbert and Sullivan parody.

The biggest injustice, to my mind, is the advertising stunt of a well-known stout brewery who extol the virtues of their beverage to the tune of "For he's gone and married Yum-Yum".

Besides "jazzed-up" Gilbert and Sullivan there will, no doubt, be different interpretations as in the case of the Sadler's Wells Opera Company, which has now established "Iolanthe" in its repertoire. Their productions include a few changes in the libretto and many changes in dress and scenery. Perhaps the most controversial at the moment is Tyrone Guthrie's productions, "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Pirates of Penzance". The highlights of the latter are the cigar-smoking Ruth and the presentation of "The policeman's lot is not a happy one". Guthrie is using a cast of Canadians except for the leading singers, who are English.

Apart from parodies and innovations, there has been a ballet, "Pineapple Poll". This was produced in nineteen fifty-one, when Sullivan's copyright expired, and is a selection of tunes cleverly arranged. A few weeks ago a provincial opera company decided to put music from the Savoy Operas to one of Gilbert's plays, "Engaged".

Perhaps the biggest surprise since the copyright expired is the statement by a Hollywood producer that four films are to be made; these will be four of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in modern dress and in present-day situations with current "pop-singers" in leading roles.

Can you imagine Cliff Richard as Nanki-Poo ("A wandering minstrel I—Yea! Yea!") or Connie Francis as Yum-Yum?

Personally I would rather stick to John Reed and Mary Sanson.

D. R. YOUNG, 3B.

TEN YEARS ABROAD AND ALL THAT.

FOR ten consecutive years parties from the School have travelled to the continent during the summer months and have covered a large area of Europe in that time. They have walked in the heat down the Champs-Élysées, and relaxed in the cool of the Bois de Boulogne; they have visited the Sacré-Coeur and Notre Dame and the vastly different setting of Montmartre; they have viewed themselves in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, and have been viewed on French television, climbing the Eiffel Tower. Cologne cathedral by moonlight, the war museum at Zeebrugge, the battlefield of Waterloo, the mermaid on the rock in Copenhagen, the Mona Lisa, Kronborg Castle at Elsinore (the setting of "Hamlet"), the cuckoo clock in Heidelberg, the model village of Madurodam, the lion monument in Lucerne, have all been seen.

Elephants have been fed at Vincennes in Paris, and in Copenhagen, as also have pigeons in the square before Milan cathedral. Instonians have listened in vain for the songs of the Rhine maidens at the Lorelei but been entertained by a Dutch girls' choir on a ferry-boat bound for Flushing.

They have travelled by motor launch on the Rhine, the Meuse, and the canals of Amsterdam and Bruges, and two boys have got wet in the waters of the Seine and the Scheldt.

From the heights of San Salvatore, the Fröhnalpstock and the Rigi, gained by chair lifts and cable cars, they have gone to the depths of the grottoes at Rochefort and Han-sur-Lesse and the darkness of the catacombs in Paris where, sitting by candle light among the piles of bones, they have sung "John Brown's Body".

They have toured cheese farms, clog factories, flower markets, staggering home through the customs, laden with their purchases, and inspected wine cellars, sampling their products. They have left behind spectacles, cameras, and articles of clothing in Basle and Brunnen, and in Halsingborg in Sweden, but dealt with reasonable competence in francs, the French, Swiss, and Belgian varieties, lire, krone and ore, marks and pfennigs, guilders, and cents.

They have swum in waters ranging from the cold depths of the Baltic to the warmer stretches of the Lake of Lugano, played golf in Blankenberge, Paris, Dinant, and Noordwijk, and defended English honour at table tennis and billiards against the skills of many nationalities.

They have spent gay evenings in the famed Tivoli Gardens and quieter days learning of the ways of life of other nations; different customs, different foods, different languages, in countries in which they have been the foreigners.

THE PERNICIOUS WEED.

THE purpose of this article is not that I should give an eleventh commandment saying "Thou shalt not smoke". The purpose is rather that it should give you a pain in the mind, and it is hoped that this pain will not leave you until you have decided, once and for all, never to start smoking. It is my belief that smoking in strict moderation is unwise and unhelpful and as indulged in by many it is positively harmful.

The connection between smoking and disease has now been proved beyond all reasonable doubt, and many thousands of people who suffer from chest diseases have their condition aggravated by smoking. I shall not pursue this line of argument any further, because I am not qualified to do so, and there are other sources from which you can obtain information about smoking and disease. I will, however, present four other arguments against smoking.

People speak of having a smoke 'to calm their nerves'. It is true that nicotine will steady the nerves after a shock, but here a very unpleasant fact must be faced: NICOTINE IS A HABIT-FORMING DRUG. What happens is this.

Normally your heart beats between sixty and eighty times a minute, but after some excitement it speeds up. Nicotine slows it down to a normal speed. But nature is a very wonderful regulator, and so the heart adjusts itself so that it will only beat normally with nicotine. This explains why

people, to use their own expression, "go through hell" when they try to stop smoking. Their heart does a marathon without cigarettes to soothe it, but nature always comes to their aid, and the heart learns to beat normally again without any drug. But first they have to show great will-power.

Smoking in England today is a habit that involves enormous personal and national expense. Teenagers alone spend nearly a hundred million pounds a year on smoking. Because of this fantastic sum spent each year I condemn smoking on the ground that it is wasteful. Just think what good things could be done with that kind of money.

Thirdly, smoking is an offensive habit. Few smokers realise how distasteful their habit is to other people. Claiming that it is sociable to smoke, they go about poisoning the air and damaging health—strange idea of sociability.

Do you want to increase your chances of premature death by disease? Do you want to become a slave to nicotine? Do you want to waste your money?—You do not? Then give up, or better still never start, smoking, because it will profit your health, wealth, and character, if you do.

R. DODD, 5A.

AN INHIBITING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

AT some age between thirteen and eighteen a great conflict arises in the modern youth. He has to answer the demands of school while trying to fit in the almost adult world of his contemporaries outside. A strong impulse to fight through all barriers to independence occurs, and produces in many cases boredom with the academic grind.

Educational systems of the past and the present have concerned themselves with learning for learning's sake, and have not probed and experimented with learning for life's sake. It is this gap which limits **people's enthusiasm about school and education generally; they feel that their education has failed to prepare them for personal life.**

This dissatisfaction can be traced back to the early teens when puberty starts. School, once tolerated, now becomes intolerable. Parents and teachers appear unsympathetic, unbearable; the latter change to tyrants. Criticism can be levelled at those teachers who do not move with the boy's physical development. One can imagine the feelings of the eighteen-year-old who has to wear a school cap. It is such feelings as these that drive the boy to leave school at the earliest opportunity, so that he can take his place in an adult environment.

However, what preparation, one may ask, has he had for such a transition? The answer in many schools is "None". This is because of the narrow, academic, over-specialized curriculum to which many boys are subjected. The present situation is that a boy of sixteen can leave school and enter a factory in a matter of days without any training for adult life.

The little information he does receive is obtained from those people least qualified to give it i.e. boys of his own age. We need courses directed to adult life in the wider world. The world of work, friendship, love, marriage.

School should be an institution for mental training which leads gradually from childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood; it does in fact deny maturity. A new approach is needed in the handling of subjects. English grammar is taught analytically, and therefore pupils will respond in the same way. It should be an outlet for creative self-expression, an insight into the moral problems of living. This approach would mould the boy's personality instead of inhibiting it.

If there is not an educational renaissance replacing acceptance of education with enthusiasm for it, the position will deteriorate and so will contemporary society.

A. MILLARDSHIP, 5A.

THE SMUGGLERS.

THE cliffs lay bathed in moonlight,
The moon in her glory did wane,
It was a keen November's night
On which the smugglers came.

The cliffs lay bathed in moonlight,
From their midst a lantern proclaimed,
And far-off yonder, into the night,
An answering signal came.

The cliffs lay bathed in moonlight,
To the howl of a dog in distress
The sound of muffled oars gave note
Of the smugglers' progress.

The cliffs lay bathed in moonlight,
As a keel cut through the sand,
And from the cliff the shadows emerged,
The silent smuggler band.

The cliffs lay bathed in moonlight,
The moon her light did loan,
As the smuggler band made lighter
The boat for her journey home.

The cliffs lay bathed in darkness,
The moon her light had spent,
It was a keen November's night
On which the smugglers went.

J. A. McLAUGHLIN, 2A

NIXONS FOR QUALITY.

It was Cassius who said—

“ Now, in the names of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,
That he is grown so great? ”

We regret to say that we are unable to state what was the food on which Caesar grew to fame, but we can say with confidence that, if you require food of distinction, you should go immediately to

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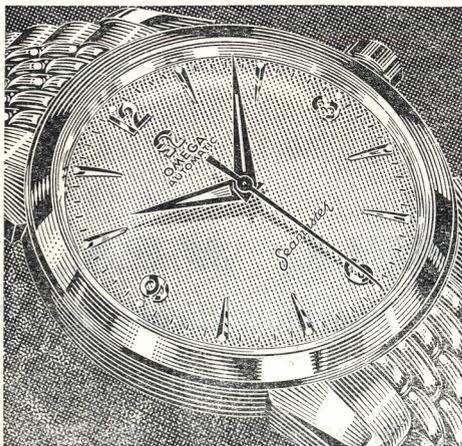
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THE DEAF STRANGER.

"Could you tell me the way to the Tower, please?"

"Egg and Chips."

"The Tower, New Brighton."

"She is all right: how's yours?"

"Don't try and be funny!"

"Just gone five past."

"I don't want to know the time. I just want to know the way to the Tower."

"Go to Woolworths; they might sell them there."

"Look, if you don't know the way, just say so, and I will ask someone else!"

"The twenty-second of March."

"I am sorry, I shall have to ask someone else."

"Just a minute, it's Friday."

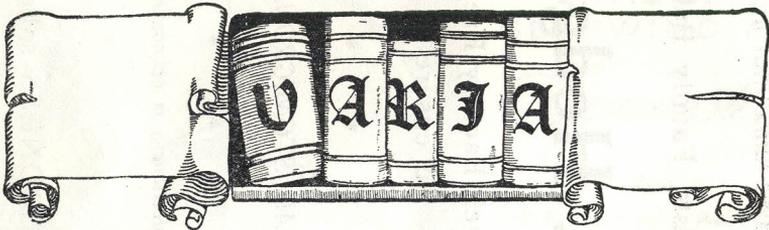
"I know it's Friday."

"Aren't you going to the Tower to play Bingo?"

"Yes, but I don't know the way, perhaps you could help me."

"About 4/6d. a half pound."

P. SWAINE, 5B.



Colours for Cross-Country running have been awarded to T. Graham and P. A. Edbrooke.

* * * *

The science members of the Sixth and Upper Sixth forms spent the day of March 27th visiting the Faculty of Science of Liverpool University, touring the Physics Department in the morning and the Chemistry Department in the afternoon. Among other apparatus, they inspected the synchrocyclotron, completed in 1954, which accelerates protons to an energy of 380 million electron volts, and the tandem Van de Graaff machine. They spent some time in the main laboratories, in the anechoic room, and in the acoustics section, where they watched demonstrations of the sound waves emitted by high pressure jets.

Visor offers congratulations to G. O. Gregory of the Upper Sixth on his achievement of an Open Scholarship to the University of Wales. He is to read English at Bangor.

Visor congratulates J. S. Fraser and J. R. M. Gurden who were chosen to represent Cheshire in the All England Cross-Country Championships on March 17th.

* * * *

The party visiting Blankenberg and Dinant in Belgium during the summer holidays will leave from Lime Street Station, Liverpool, at midnight on Sunday, August 19th, and return at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28th.

* * * *

A. Steedman has been appointed this season's Captain of Cricket.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN

THIS term, unfortunately, Atkin has not lived up to the high standard hoped for in last term's magazine. To date, the two remaining senior rugby matches and all the chess matches have been played.

The senior rugby matches were against Tate and Westminster, the respective scores being 6-17 and 3-48. Though the team played well against Tate, the less said about the latter result, the better.

Nor has Atkin been any more successful in the chess matches. The seniors lost to both Stitt and Westminster, by $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ respectively, and drew with Tate, while the junior team lost all three matches, to Stitt by 4-3, and to Tate and Westminster by 5-2.

Between now and the end of term, both the Annual Cross-Country Runs and Athletic Sports occur, and it is to be hoped that Atkin will regain some of its self respect in these events.

J.R.M.G.

STITT

THE most momentous occasion of the rugby season was in the match against Westminster, when Stitt was actually leading for the greater part of the first half and were only 6-3 down at the end of the first side. What happened after half time was another story, but even so it was a worthy effort by Stitt's fighting fifteen.

In very even games with Atkin and Tate we managed to scrape home against the former and lost to the latter. I would like to thank all the lads of my house who regularly participate in inter-house games, be they

rugby, cricket, or chess match, for giving of their best. I only wish that many more would emulate their fine example of loyalty to, and pride in, our house.

D.S.W.J.

This term has been a disappointing one for Stitt as far as the Junior Chess matches are concerned. After the promising start to the year provided by the Seniors, who won their half of the event for the third time in succession, the performance of the Junior team came as a pronounced anticlimax. They won their first match against Atkin, but lost the other two — thereby allowing Westminster to seize the Championship. I cannot help feeling that this failure is due to a general lack of interest in Chess among the Junior boys, and I should like to take this opportunity of exhorting them to acquire as much skill as possible in this fascinating game and thus produce a greater selection of competent players for representative matches.

Despite our having been beaten into second place in the Chess competition, the House has every reason to look forward with confidence to the coming athletics and cricket seasons. A promising indication of triumphs to come is the House's excellent performance in the Cross-Country race, an event in which Stitt has not shone for some time, and it is to be expected that this success will be fully maintained in the forthcoming events.

G.O.G

TATE

SINCE the last house notes were written for the Autumn term, Tate has done extremely well in all house competitions; for in the interval only one match has been lost. This defeat was suffered in the Junior Chess matches when the House was playing Westminster, the eventual winners of the tournament. Nevertheless the juniors won the remainder of their matches, 5-2 against both Stitt and Atkin, and so finished second. However, although the senior section of the House drew their one remaining match against Atkin ($3\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$), the combined efforts of both sections of the House were sufficient to place us only third in the final result.

The other sphere in which the House was also successful was in Senior Rugby, the two remaining matches against Stitt and Atkin being won 12-10 and 17-6 respectively. In the match against Stitt, Tate were far the better team, but, giving fair credit to Stitt, who played hard and to the best of their ability, the winning margin was only two points. This was the undesired result of over-confidence. The match against Atkin was won by a more comfortable margin, although this too could have been increased if the backs, who played magnificently, had been supplied with the ball more frequently by the forwards, who found themselves having to play hard against a much heavier pack.

Next term the cricket season begins, and it is hoped that all members of Tate will play enthusiastically, rigorously, and proficiently, as they did in the winter season.

J. A. G. WILLIAMS.

WESTMINSTER

THE last House Notes were written before the completion of the Senior Chess Competition. In the final game the House lost to Stitt, thus taking second place in the Senior Competition. At the moment it seems as if our juniors will pull us up into the premier place. They have so far beaten Tate and Stitt by 5 games to 2, and if they beat Atkin then the competition result will rest upon the game between Tate and Stitt.

The Rugby Cup has once again been retained. In the final two senior games the House beat Atkin 48-3, and after a first half of shocks defeated Stitt 38-3. The game against Atkin was won with ease, and the whole team played extremely well, throwing the ball around on all possible occasions. In the final game against Stitt the House took a long time to settle down, and as a result of this were only leading 6 pts. to 3 at half-time. After half-time the team began to find their true form and began to run the Stitt team into the ground. Evans was unstoppable, and Kevan and his fellow forwards threw the ball about and ran with it in typical French fashion.

Brown, McNulty, George, and Ritchie played competently throughout the games, and their performances must give the House high hopes of keeping the trophy for a few years yet. As a final note in the rugby it is my honour to point out that in the six rugger games played the House scored 172 pts. compared with 161 pts. scored by the rest of the houses put together.

Finally, by the time these notes are printed it is hoped that we shall have also won the Athletics Sports and the Cross-Counrty, and thus be on our way to another Coronation Cup success.

A. STEEDMAN

FIRST XV.

THE season ended with a confident, fit, ball-hunting pack, who outplayed most other packs but who never received adequate support outside. The young three-quarters, most of them fifth year boys, played reasonably well, but discovered their own inexperience to be a considerable handicap on many occasions. They always tried hard and trained hard and enthusiastically, but found all but the weakest schools difficult to contain. Outstanding games included the Old Boys Match, which was drawn, 22 pts. each; Rock Ferry High School at Highfield, which was won 11 pts. to 6 pts.; and the game against the Staff and Friends, which the School lost 14 pts. to 19 pts. Congratulations are extended to A. Steedman, who gained his second Cheshire School's XV Cap, to P. Kevan and J. Davies, who played for West Cheshire, and to G. Clays (Captain) and A. Jones (Vice Captain) for their excellent effort, both on and off the field.

J.D.H.

SECOND XV.

THE second fifteen in every school is usually treated as the poor relation of the rugby family. The stars, who add lustre to a somewhat mixed cluster, are often called to higher realms leaving black gaps which are always difficult to fill. And so, week by week, the 2nd XV, in all but the strongest schools, gallantly fight to keep the score at a respectable level.

This year's seconds fared no differently from the others in losing most of their games, but what wonderful battles have been fought by this gallant little army in order to win a number of noble victories and to be glorious in defeat! Never did they think of surrender or anyone fail to give of his best. The tougher the opposition, the more courageous was their defence, and I was proud to go along and watch them each week.

D.S.W.J.

COLTS XV.

THE Colts XV cannot feel satisfied with their form during the season. Absence through illness or injury has been responsible for so many team changes that, at times, it has been difficult to raise fifteen players. However, the poor results have not been only the outcome of misfortune. A few players have striven hard to instill enthusiasm and effort into the side but have been without support.

The team has lacked any real link between the forwards and the backs; hence the lack of scoring power. The few successful moves achieved have been the result of individual skill rather than team effort. Games have been lost unnecessarily through defensive carelessness, and particularly by players shirking the task of tackling or dropping on the ball. The team has failed to realise that, in rugby, defensive play can be an opportunity to attack.

CHESS.

ALTHOUGH our results in Wright Shield Matches played this term were an improvement on those of last term, we failed to achieve an outright win. However, two of the three matches played were drawn, and, as we should be able to retain most members of our present team for another year and probably longer, our prospects for the future are not without hope.

The School Captain, Gregory, who has served the club well for the past three years, has been the most successful player in School matches, and was awarded School Chess Colours for his playing record and services.

Wright Shield results this term were:

B.I. 3½ — Blue Coat School, Liverpool, 3½.

Liverpool College 5½ — B.I. 1½.

B.I. 3½ — De La Salle G.S. 3½.

The House Competition was completed this term with the playing of the Junior Matches, and in the final result Westminster emerged as the outright winner and retained the Chess Cup. Stitt was runner-up, and third and fourth places were occupied by Tate and Atkin respectively.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

THE season has proved a successful one, the results being as follows:

Park High School — Loss — 1. Fraser, 2. P.H., 3. P.H., 4. Graham, 5. Gurden, 6. P.H., 7. P.H., 8. Aspey, 9. P.H., 10. Edbrooke, 11. P.H., 12. Gray, 13. Tooley, 14. Brown, 15. P.H., 16. P.H.; P.H. 38, B.I. 40.

Oldershaw — Win — 1. Fraser, 2. O., 3. Graham, 4. Gurden, 5. Tooley, 6. O., 7. O., 8. Gray, 9. O., 10. Edbrooke, 11. Parry, 12. O., 13. O., 14. O., 15. O., 16. Morris; B.I. 31, O. 49.

Wirral Grammar — Win — 1. Fraser, 2. Graham, 3. Gurden, 4. W., 5. Edbrooke, 6. Aspey, 7. W., 8. Tooley, 9. W., 10. Gray, 11. W., 12. W., 13. Parry, 14. W., 15. W., 16. W.; B.I. 25, W. 57.

Park High School — Draw — 1. Fraser, 2. P.H., 3. Graham, 4. P.H., 5. P.H., 6. Gurden, 7. P.H., 8. Edbrooke, 9. P.H., 10. Tooley, 11. Gray, 12. P.H., 13. Hughes, 14. P.H., 15. P.H., 16. Brown; P.H. 39, B.I. 39.

Wirral Grammar — Win — 1. Fraser, 2. W., 3. W., 4. W., 5. Graham, 6. Gurden, 7. Hughes, 8. W., 9. Edbrooke, 10. W., 11. Hill, 12. Brown, 13. Tooley, 14. W., 15. W., 16. Gray; B.I. 39, W. 41.

There have also been two triangular contests, both of which were won:—

Oldershaw, Wallasey Technical and Grammar School — 1. Fraser, 2. O., 3. Graham, 4. W., 5. Gurden, 6. W., 7. Edbrooke, 8. W., 9. W., 10. Brown, 11. W., 12. O., 13. W., 14. Hughes, 15. Tooley, 16. O., 17. W., 18. O., 19. O., 20. O., 21. O., 22. Parry, 23. W., 24. O.; B.I. 40, W. 51, O. 87.

Park High School, Wallasey Technical and Grammar School — 1. P.H., 2. Graham, 3. Fraser, 4. P.H., 5. W., 6. P.H., 7. Hughes, 8. Gurden, 9. Edbrooke, 10. W., 11. P.H., 12. P.H., 13. W., 14. P.H., 15. Brown, 16. W., 17. W., 18. Gray, 19. Tooley, 20. W., 21. W., 22. W., 23. P.H., 24. P.H.; B.I. 44, P.H. 48, W. 81.

Matches v. Park High School:

Team A — 1. Fraser, 2. P.H., 3. Graham, 4. Gurden, 5. Hill, 6. P.H., 7. P.H., 8. Edbrooke, 9. P.H., 10. Hamlett, 11. Hughes, 12. Davies, 13. P.H., 14. P.H., 15. P.H., 16. P.H.; B.I. 31 pts., P.H. 51 pts.

Team B — 1. Keating, 2. Tooley, 3. P.H., 4. Brown, 5. P.H., 6. Gray, 7. Bawn, 8. Parry, 9. Lindop, 10. Davies, 11. P.H., 12. P.H., 13. P.H., 14. P.H., 15. P.H., 16. P.H.; B.I. 28 pts., P.H. 58 pts.

Teams were entered in the Cheshire County Cross Country Championships held at Pensby on February 24th. In the Senior Group, Fraser was 6th and Gurden 12th, while in the Intermediate Group (107 entries) Graham was 16th and Edbrooke 23rd, the team being placed 4th out of the 18 schools entered.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

ONLY one meeting of the Geographical Society has taken place this term, and that was on Tuesday, March 13th. At the meeting Mr. Taylor gave an account, illustrated by slides, of a trip he had made to Northern Sardinia when he had flown from Kent to Paris, travelled to Civitavecchia by train, and then boarded a modern, streamlined steamer to take him to Olbia, on the north-east coast of Sardinia. The first slide of the island was of this rather small port, Olbia, with low, rugged mountains rising in the background. These granite hills are the origin of the white sand in the small bays, ideal for the holiday-makers who like to bask in the sun all day. For the tourist with a wider outlook, however, the islands of the Straits of Bonifacio are more suitable. Italy's hero, Garibaldi, landed on one of these, Caprera, and, judging from the amount of macchia and dry ground seen on the slides, it was probable that he had a harder time there than he did when he waged war with his red-coated thousand. Another island, Maddelena, has a small finishing community, which Nelson visited before the Battle of Trafalgar.

These, and other slides, of such things as diving for sunken Roman pottery, gave the members a desire to visit this paradisaical island and no doubt added to their geographical knowledge.

ART SOCIETY.

THE Art Society continues to flourish during the dinner hour and at the regular Friday evening sessions. It is proposed to hold an Easter Holiday competition for all students in the school: the subject being either a drawing of buildings or an interior of a room. The drawing should be in pen and ink (preferably Indian ink) and should be submitted on quarter imperial paper, which must be supplied by the entrants.

The drawings will be judged on the 18th May, providing there are more than twenty entries. The relative age of competitors will be carefully considered.

D.S.W.J.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

MICROBES IN THE SERVICE OF MAN.

SO accustomed are we to using 'microbes' as a dirty word that it was something of a revelation to learn that they are not all of the 'coughs and sneezes spread diseases' type. In fact, Mr. G. A. Thomas, an Old

Instonian now in the service of I.C.I., provided us with evidence to substantiate that many of them are indeed our friends. Not least of these microbes is the one that provides mankind with frothing fermentation in numerous forms; a bacterium used by man ever since his evolution but only comparatively recently understood by him.

We learned how there is a different bacterium for each type of reaction; and how each of these micro-organisms causes a chemical reaction to occur. These reactions precipitated by the organisms are often coloured, as a demonstration of which the School motto was exhibited in red and blue fungi, grown on a special culture plato. The biochemist, we learned, uses these cultures to research into the possible uses of bacterial reactions, some of which, Mr. Thomas informed us, are in the production of vinegar, citric acid, solvents, vitamins, and the antibiotics, the latter as developed by Sir Andrew Fleming, providing man with some of his most effective medicines, for example, penicillin.

To the fifth and sixth-formers who filled the Physics lab., it was, I feel sure, a stimulating and informative lecture, providing a link between text-book equation and live Biochemistry.

Addendum.

An equation arose, which is not to be found as such in the text-book. It is to the effect that:— Chocolates + Yeast pills = Wind.

SMALL SCALE CHEMISTRY.

THE Science Sixth had the privilege of attending an extraordinary meeting of the Society on Thursday, 29th March. Extraordinary, not in the sense that it was limited to themselves, but because they were able to see and hear a truly inspiring Chemist; Mr. Holness, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

The Second World War revolutionised many aspects of Science and technology, and created the need for a system of analysing minute quantities of chemicals. Thus, alongside the existing large-scale or 'macro' work (the scale used in most schools), there grew up a 'micro' technique which dealt with anything from one-thousandth of a gram downwards. Mr. Holness has developed a 'semi-micro' or small-scale system of practical Chemistry, suitable for use in schools. This technique uses very small test tubes and reagent bottles, and no doubt those who take Chemistry will have seen some of these in the lab. Semi-micro analysis deals with anything from fifty milligrams down to one milligram, and is suitable for six-form work. It involves more care and precision than large scale work, and, although Mr. Holness has been using and teaching it since the war, only now are schools and authorities realising its potentialities. We have used this system in our lab. for the past two years, and Mr. Holness's talk and film gave us all stimulating ideas on this scale of working. He has also given us the incentive to adopt this small scale of working to our practical organic chemistry.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

THREE meetings of the Debating Society have taken place since the last Visor, all being held in Beechcroft Hall, which we are fortunate to have obtained as our meeting-place. The first motion, "This house believes that History is bunk", was proposed at the end of last term, by the School Captain, K. C. Harding, himself a History student, and seconded by the Secretary of the Society. Nevertheless the Opposition, Messrs. Goodwin and Glynn, were successful by a margin of 5 votes. J. A. G. Williams deputised for the Chairman, Mr. Goodwin, on this occasion.

This term the Society held its first meeting on February 8th, the motion brought before the House being that, "An Arts Education makes the complete man". When the Debate was thrown open to the floor of the House, this topic was fiercely contested, and the result was a success for Mr. Blair and Mr. Llewellyn, who proposed the motion, over Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Edwards, by 8 votes. Mr. A. Steedman proposed that, "We are happier than our ancestors", at the last meeting of the Society, and he did much to earn his 9 vote victory by punctuating his speech with spasms of hysterical laughter. Seconding him was S. Glynn, and in opposition were M. J. Lanigan and G. O. Gregory.

The Debating Society still remains the best supported society in the School, though attendances have dropped since last term. It can only be hoped that these will improve at future meetings. We welcome the suggestion of any interesting topics for debates, and, although the reluctance to speak from the floor has been overcome, there is still room for improvement. In the words of our Chairman, "You have an opinion; convince us; we are ready to be convinced."

J.S.F.

THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY.

THIS term has seen a rapid expansion in members of the Junior Debating Society. Attracted perhaps by Lamb's defence of a well known Sixteenth Century Bowler, many have joined the Society on a Wednesday evening. The representatives of the first forms have not been many, and we would welcome more of them at our meetings.

The quality of debating is improving and we have had several lively debates on topics which include:

- This House Believes Columbus should not have discovered America;
- This House Believes Francis Drake was a Pirate;
- This House Believes in the Abolition of Capital Punishment;
- This House Believes there is life on other planets.

The debates have frequently been enlivened by sharp clashes between members, and Mr. Walsh's various relatives. The latter have, or so we are told, not only met several ghosts, but also seen flying saucers on the

summit of Cader Idris. Several of our number have developed the art of speaking on anything under the sun, notably Laing, Everard and Scarisbrick. Mr. Shaw has made several humorous and witty comments.

Two of our eloquent debaters, Young and Maclaughlin, have had difficulty in convincing other members that culture, including Gilbert and Sullivan and Shakespeare, is to be preferred to Adam Faith and Maverick. Under the guidance of Mr. Langley, ebullient and enthusiastic in all he does, the society has become an oasis of enlightened thought. Angry Young Men-type second formers are now, it is rumoured, reading Plato, and psycho-analysing the mentality of Elizabethan discoverers.

If you feel you have a grievance to air or a life to live (as Reid said, "Life is for the young"), then join our 2B room Hyde Park.

THE S.C.M. CONFERENCE.

THIS term the School welcomed the Wirral Sixth Form Conference organised by the Student Christian Movement. This conference is held annually in various Grammar Schools in Wirral, and this year we were the hosts.

The theme of the Conference was

"Why believe in God?"

and the main speaker was the Rev. H. Springbatt. The first meeting was held in Beechcroft, and the Sixth Formers listened with interest to what was said.

After tea the Conference split into groups to discuss the theme and to produce a number of questions to ask the Rev. H. Springbatt and the Rev. A. Millroy. The questions led to a discussion on such topics as Christianity and Evolution, whether it was possible to believe in a God of love with so much suffering in the world, and the nature of sin.

The practical value of the Conference lies in the way in which Sixth Formers were enabled to talk about religious issues and the purpose of life.

The term has also seen the foundation of a Christian Association in the School. Discussion of the nature of the Christian Faith has led to questions on the use of Sunday and the practical implications of the Christian Life.

J.I.L.

SCOUT NOTES.

OUR first big event this term was the Group Party on January 31st, and we were pleased that the Headmaster and Mr. Thacker were able to be with us. We all enjoyed the "eats" (particularly the "Hot Dogs!"), and the rest of the evening was spent doing competitions and playing games.

On February 14th we held our Parents' Evening, and quite a large number of parents and friends were present. We started with a film show

of colour slides of our last two Summer Camps, and this was followed by a presentation of "What a boy does when he joins the Scouts", after which we had a Camp Fire. Mr. F. E. Wakelin, the District Commissioner for Birkenhead North, was with us, and during the evening he presented a Long Service Award for twenty-five years' service with our Troop to Mr. Tomlinson. Mr. Wakelin also presented an Assistant Scoutmaster's Warrant to "Kim" (Mr. Robert Brooks).

It is good news that Peter Farrell, who had such a long stay in hospital after his road accident last Autumn, is back with us again, and we are glad he has made such a good recovery.

This year we will be spending our Summer Camp somewhere in Montgomeryshire, and we hope that we will have a happy time with good weather.

We end our notes by announcing that as from the end of March the Troop Meeting Night has been changed from Wednesday to Friday as we feel this will be more suitable for us all.

THE OLD INSTONIANS ASSOCIATION.

President :

E. G. WEBB, Esq.

Vice-Presidents :

J. E. ALLISON, Esq.; W. L. COTTIER, Esq., C.B.E.; R. HALL, Esq.;
A. O. JONES, Esq.; K. I. SMITH, Esq.

Chairman :

L. T. MALCOLM, Esq., 5 St. Seiriol Grove, Birkenhead.

Vice-Chairman :

R. D. DORRITY, Esq., 22 Riviera Drive, Birkenhead.

Secretary :

D. RIGBY, Esq., 135 Prenton Road West, Birkenhead.

Treasurer :

J. F. BELL, Esq., 22 Edinburgh Drive, Birkenhead.

Membership Secretary :

R. BINYON, Esq., 264 Spital Road, Bromborough.

Social Secretary :

P. ROBINSON, Esq., 99 Victoria Road, Birkenhead.

Golf Secretary :

H. H. OWEN, Esq., 19 Bramwell Avenue, Birkenhead.

Committee Members :

A. BUSHELL, Esq.; J. EDELSTEN, Esq.; K. I. SMITH, Esq.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Association Headquarters, 40 Argyle Street, Birkenhead, on Friday, March 9th, 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 with the flourishing nature of the affiliated sections. The Association Football Club continued to field three elevens each Saturday, playing home fixtures at their ground at Woodslee, Bromborough, or at Arrowe Park. The first and second teams were doing extremely well in the Liverpool Old Boys' League, and if only the third eleven could improve their playing record the Club would be in a very good position. The Rugby Football Club had not had a particularly good playing season, but their plans for the new ground were now maturing. The pitches, on Woodchurch Road between the bridge and the roundabout on the way to Arrowe Park, were to be sown shortly, the foundations for the pavilion were being built and it was hoped that the pavilion would be completed in the near future. The annual soccer match between the sections was to be played at Woodslee on March 18th, and each team hoped for strong support on the line.

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. S. B. Huntries, an Old Instonian who had played rugby for Birkenhead Park and Cheshire, went along to 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. Huntriss presented the Prizes to A. McIntosh of Stitt, B. W. Doveston of Tate, and D. Docherty of Westminster. The Housemaster of Atkin had not awarded a Prize, because there was no one of sufficient merit. The School had had its Speech Day recently, and yet another distinguished Old Instonian had been invited to present the awards. This year it had been the turn of Mr. C. D. Gracey, J.P., who had performed the task admirably.

Turning once more to the sporting side of Old Instonian activity, 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 the Heswall Golf Club, the Cup being shared by Mr. A. G. Douglas and Mr. G. C. Venables. After the match about 35 Old Instonians had sat down to dinner in the club house and had spent a most enjoyable evening together. The thanks of the Association were due to Mr. R. M. Delf who had organised the event. The Chairman said he was looking forward to the match this year which was to be arranged by Mr. H. H. Owen and advised anyone who had any claims whatsoever to be a golfer to get in touch with Mr. Owen, who would circularise those interested at a later date.

The Association had organised a Commemoration Dinner in the Town Hall in January 1959, and a Reunion Dinner in the Masonic Temple, Clifton Road, in October 1960. Both had been most successful, Old Boys

being 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 gatherings had been most friendly and stimulating affairs, and the Chairman hoped that the next Reunion Dinner, to be held at the Masonic Temple on Saturday, October 6th, would be well supported.

During the year the Association had joined the Federation of Merseyside Grammar School Old Boys' Associations, whose next function was to be a river cruise and dance to be held on Wednesday, May 30th.

The chairman then turned to the Association Headquarters which had been opened by Mr. W. L. Cottier on November 24th. The premises at Elmswood Road had been closed for some months, but, during the period when the Association had no home, a very small band of enthusiasts had been working hard at Argyle Street. Before the new premises were opened, the committee considered the position most carefully and drew on the experience gained at Elmswood Road. There the initial support had been extremely good but had fallen off as the drawbacks of the building became more and more apparent. Among the deficiencies of the premises had been the poor approach, inadequate toilet facilities, and the lack of a ladies' room. Also, the fact that the decorations were incomplete when, because of financial reasons, the headquarters had to be opened prior to a particular Christmas season, had, it was felt, deterred many people from going again. The committee had resolved therefore to find better accommodation and to announce the opening only when all work had been completed. After much searching, the decision to move to Argyle Street had been taken and careful deliberation given to the position before it was decided to go into debt in order to have a home worthy of the School and its Old Boys. The Chairman had no desire to steal the Treasurer's thunder, but must say that he was not too happy about the present position; for, while the debt had been reduced, the Association were still in the red. He felt that a raising of the subscription was not the answer; what was required was a much greater support for the Club, and he urged all members to give this support, both by making full use of its facilities themselves and by introducing other Old Instonians to the Association and its activities. The committee had made an additional bye-law under which friends of members could become associate members of the Club but not of the Association. An associate member would have to be approved by the committee and the annual subscription would be five shillings for the wife of a member of the Association and ten shillings in any other case.

The chairman ended by saying that the committee had worked extremely hard during the year and, in his opinion, were worthy of the backing of all Old Instonians.

After much discussion, the Chairman's report and that of the Treasurer were adopted without dissent.

Various changes in the rules were then made so that they would comply with the Licensing Act of 1961 and enable the Club to be registered under it. An addition was also made to rule nine to allow life membership of the Association to be secured on payment of the sum of five pounds.

The meeting then passed a motion which proposed that an approach be made to the local education authority to ask them to consider the appointment as a Governor of Birkenhead Institute of an Old Instonian who had no connection with local politics.

After discussion of a number of domestic matters concerning the running of the Club, the meeting closed at 10-40 p.m.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Golf

Please contact Mr. H. H. Owen, 19 Bramwell Avenue, Birkenhead, who will circularise interested members when arrangements are complete.

River Cruise

Wednesday, May 30th. Tickets, price 5/- each, may be ordered from Mr. J. E. Jordan, 37 Raffles Road, Birkenhead (Claughton 2016).

Reunion Dinner

Saturday, October 6th, at the Masonic Temple, Clifton Road, Birkenhead. Tickets, price one pound each, may be obtained from Mr. L. T. Malcolm, 5 St. Seiriol Grove, Birkenhead.

Club

The premises at 40 Argyle Street, Birkenhead, are open to members on Sundays (12—2 p.m. and 8—10-45 p.m.), Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays (7-30—10-45 p.m.), and Saturdays (4—10-45 p.m.).

OLD INSTONIANS A.F.C.

(Members of Liverpool Old Boys' League)

I, II and IV Divisions.

Grounds: Woodslee, Spital Road, Bromborough.
Arrowe Park, Birkenhead.

Chairman: A. SAGAR, Esq., The Chalet, Irby, Thingwall.

Hon. Secretary: A. CLAYS, Esq., 25 Carey Avenue, Bebington.

Hon. Treasurer: P. J. LYTHGOE, Esq., 33 St. Georges Ave., Birkenhead.

WITH the 1961/62 Season drawing to a close, our league records are very impressive indeed, and although a little premature, we could win both the 1st and 2nd divisions and also the Senior Trophy.

The 3rd team, although not having had the success of the 1st and 2nd teams, have done very well up to now, and should finish in about 4th position. Both the 2nd and 3rd teams lost the quarter finals of their respective cups, the 2nd team going down very narrowly to Old Xavarians 5-4 after being 4-1 up, while the 3rd team lost at home to Prescott G.S.O.B. 3-0, the game being much closer than the score suggests.

The leading positions in Division I are:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Old Instonians	18	13	3	2	68	35	29
Prescot G.S.O.B.	16	12	2	2	78	36	26
Old Xaverians	17	10	3	4	60	37	23
Liobians	16	8	1	7	54	51	17

On their recent performances, the 1st team should win their remaining 4 games and then Prescot would have to win 6 games to top the league, but on their recent performances they appear to be having a bad patch, having lost their last game to the next-to-bottom club, University, 3-1, and just scraping home by the odd goal in 2 other games. So it looks as if the league won't be decided till the very end of the season.

The 1st team progressed to the final of the Senior Trophy, beating Old Holts 3-1, Quarry Bank 2-1, and Liobians in the semi-final 7-0. This semi-final win was all the more pleasing as they beat us in the final last year thus robbing us of a league and cup double. All the forward line scored in this game with Roy Povall getting a brilliant hat-trick, and with any luck this most promising centre-forward would have had a few more. He has already scored 12 goals in 9 games for the 1st team, and is the club's leading scorer with 25 goals, closely followed by Dave Lee with 24.

The club were honoured in being chosen to play a league trial XI and without both Lee and Povall they won 5-3 after a very interesting game. Roy's deputy, Alan Jones, got 4 of the 5 goals.

The success of the 1st team has to a very large extent been due to the half-back line of Paul Lomax, Mike Parry, and Billy McGuire, who control most games from the start, leaving natural ball players like Lee and Stalker to produce football that has broken many defences' hearts.

The leading positions of Division II are:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Old Instonians	16	9	5	2	49	31	23
Liobians	19	9	5	5	75	57	23
Old Xaverians	14	11	0	3	55	30	22
Alsop H.S.O.B.	16	8	3	5	52	42	19
Waterloo G.S.O.B.	14	8	2	4	69	40	18

It can be seen from this that Old Xaverians can overtake us, but we have still to play them. We have played them twice already this season, having lost both games. Both these games have proved the most exciting of the season. In the league game Old Xaverians took an early lead and turned round at half-time 2-0 in the lead, but within 10 minutes of the resumption we were winning 3-2 through goals by Alan Jones, Brian Ball, and Jack Kernaghan—the latter being a final solo effort, starting from his own penalty area, and finishing by dribbling round the goalkeeper with what appeared at the time, the winning goal. Unfortunately Old Xaverians came back in the last 2 minutes to score 2 goals, both through defensive slips, to win 4-3—our first defeat this season. Much the same happened in the quarter final of the Junior Trophy, when we were leading 4-1 with

half an hour remaining for play, but 2 very bad decisions by the referee put Old Xaverians only 3-4 down, and once again 2 goals in the last 5 minutes saw them through to the semi-final. So it's a case of 3rd time lucky for us when we meet to decide the league.

The leading positions of Division IV are:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
N.P.R.L.	12	8	3	2	50	27	19
Walton T.C.	14	8	3	3	47	32	19
Prescot	10	9	0	1	55	10	18
Old Cathinians	12	6	1	5	51	50	13
Old Instonians	14	5	2	7	47	48	12

Whilst the 3rd team last season finished 2nd in the league to Old Xaverians, equal on points but with a worse goal average, this season, owing to calls on their players from the 2nd team, they have not done as well but have played attractive football on most occasions and have been very unfortunate to lose as many games as they have. The team and the club as a whole owe a lot to the captain Trevor Hughes who has done a great deal to further the high standard the Old Boys have, both on and off the field of play.

While the league team to play the Lancashire and Cheshire league has not been selected to date, it is anticipated that at least 3 players will get their places which speaks very high for the club indeed.

The annual fixture against the Rugby Club is due to be played this coming weekend (March 18th) and if previous encounters are anything to go by then it should be a very exciting game. The game will be continued, we hope, in the club rooms at Argyle Street afterwards

On the social side, the club no longer hold their dances at St. Savior's but many enjoyable social evenings have been held in the club rooms, along with members of the different sections of the Old Boys' Association.

To celebrate, we hope, at least one cup, the club are holding a hot-pot supper at the Arrowe Park Hotel on May 7th, and with the memory of last season's "do" still in our memory we are all looking forward to a most enjoyable evening.

As we go to press, news has just arrived that D. Lee, M. Parry, and F. Stalker are all included in the League side, and that the 1st team is in the Final of the Senior Trophy and their opponents will be Prescot.

A. CLAYS, Hon. Sec.

OLD INSTONIANS R.U.F.C.

Chairman: G. A. THOMAS, 181 Huddersfield Road, Newhey, Rochdale.

Secretary: H. G. SMITH, 15 Main Road, Broughton, Flintshire.

Treasurer: P. A. RYAN, 86 Highfield oSuth, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead.

Ground: Pump Lane, Greasby, Wirral.

THE Club's playing record has improved since Xmas, and only two games have been lost since December 2nd by the 1st XV.

Our thanks are due to schoolboys, G. Clays, L. Lindop, A. Cotgrave, and A. Jones, who have played in the 3rd XV so well. We hope they will play as well on the new Pitches at Woodchurch Road.

The Xmas Dance was held this year at the Technical College and looks like being an annual event.

The Annual Dinner is to be held at the Coach and Horses, Moreton, on Friday, 13th April. As usual the Jeff Thomas Trophy will be presented to the best club member of the year. In addition this year we are inviting a celebrity speaker. Old Boys wishing for tickets should get in touch with H. Beckett, telephone Claughton 3747, as soon as possible.

Already arrangements are in hand for the Barbecue which is usually so successful in the Summer. This year it might be held near our new ground, on Woodchurch Road.

The Club is now in the process of building the new pavilion, and the new pitches should be sown this Spring.

Many obstacles have been overcome by the General Committee and Sub-committee in charge of the project. Everything now seems to be "Go" in the words of John Glenn, and time is our biggest enemy.

Most of the work is sub-contracted out, but some digging and all the interior decorations need Club labour. We regard the School as part of the Club and so we will be grateful to see help from the School. After all, this pavilion will be used by you in the future.

It is good to see the high morale in the club now when it would be expected to be at a low ebb. Our members have been bombarded with money-making schemes, badgered for subscriptions, had to put up with the Greasby ground, and had nothing but hard work in return. It has been encouraging to have the support of the School to field a 4th XV occasionally. If we can prosper under these adverse conditions, the mind boggles at the possibilities when our new pavilion is finished. Our membership has actually increased, standing at about 250.

Now that the Club is being reborn again, it is imperative that you boys about to leave School join the club.

We cannot foresee how many teams we shall be able to field, but it is certain that, even though competition for places in our teams will be greater, young players will be needed most.

This new pavilion will have been built for boys at present still at School, and some of the money used was worked for by Old Boys long past using a Rugby Ball.

The new building will need new ideas and new organisation. This is therefore your pleasant duty to accept membership on leaving School.

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