# THE LINK

THE MAGAZINE OF
WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

VOL. XXXIV JULY, 1949 NO. 1

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*The Magazine of*

**WANDSWORTH SCHOOL**

**Vol. XXXIV** **JULY, 1949** **No. 1**

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Most parents are by now aware through the ventilation given to the matter in the Press, and through other channels, that as from 1951 the present School Certificate Examinations will be done away with, and replaced by a single examination called the General Certificate of Education.

Subjects will be offered at three levels: the Ordinary (roughly equivalent to a Credit in the present School Certificate), Advanced (approximating to a Pass in the present Higher School Certificate) and Scholarship (for the purpose of awarding State Scholarship and County Awards).

Matriculation will become, as it was always intended to be, a university entrance qualification, and will require a Pass in two subjects at the Advanced level and in two or three other subjects at the Ordinary level.

As the examination cannot be taken by boys below the age of 16 in the December (and after 1951 in the September) of the year of entry, the earliest it will occur for some is at the end of the sixth year of the course. In any case, for boys who wish to try for matriculation, the course will be at least a six year one. Abler boys, it is hoped, will be able to complete it in this time and be free to spend their seventh year on Scholarship work, or alternatively, to take one of the more eligible posts in which a General Certificate of Education with certain subjects passed at the Advanced level is required.

It is the intention of the Ministry of Education that the normal grammar school course should be lengthened by one or two years beyond the present five. The new regulations will encourage some boys to take advantage of one or two years in the Sixth Form, the crown of a grammar school education, which all who possibly can should endeavour to achieve.

* * * * *

Now that the School has a close link with the Technical Branch (Building), there is, in the case of boys of no marked academic ability, and whose chances of a worth-while General Certificate are remote, a great deal to be said for a switch-over to a group of technical subjects, either by full or partial attendance at the Technical Branch, while still remaining members of Wandsworth School. For posts in Drawing Offices, Architects' and Surveyors' Offices, and with Building Construction enterprise, such training would be the best preparation and qualification besides being a quite valuable type of education in itself.

The School and its Modern Language Department are to be congratulated this year upon gaining three L.C.C. Modern Language Scholarships for study abroad. This is the first time we have gained three in one year since 1935 when the Scholarships were first instituted, and C. V. Alonso, Maurice Roberts and S. M. Spinks gave Wandsworth a quite disproportionate share.

This year's winners are John S. Haydon, David R. Horner, and Jefferson C. Grieves.

* * * * *

Congratulations, too, to David Harper upon being selected by the Wandsworth Rotary Club for its travel scholarship to Holland.

On a higher level, that of the Rotary Foundation Fellowship, which provides a post graduate year at any university in the World at the recipient's choice, I still await, as one of the adjudicators, the candidature of some Old Wandsworthian. Perhaps this will come under the eye of a suitably qualified Old Boy, or of some present boy who may eventually reach that stage.

* * * * *

I take it as a favourable reflection upon Wandsworth School that its Headmaster was again asked by the United Nations Office in London to judge the United Kingdom efforts submitted for the United Nations Essay Competition open to people of 20—35 years of age, on the subject of "The Implementation of the Declaration of Human Rights."

The winners were awarded a free trip to Lake Success. Does this not stir some ambitions?

This summer's school camp near Arnheim in Holland formed jointly by some thirty of our boys and thirty from the Technical Branch, is an enterprise in which I am keenly looking forward to taking part. This is in the tradition of Wandsworth School's pre-war activities, when it was the hub of the International Summer Schools' Organisation for London pupils.

* * * * *

Last year's pioneer "Week in Industry" for our seniors is being followed up towards the end of the present term with a second similar venture. This time the seniors will spend a week in the Sheffield district, staying at the University Hostel, and carrying out a thoroughly well-planned survey of the Industrial work and geography of the area. Mr. Makin and the masters concerned in this plan are making an important contribution to educational practice that is rousing much interest.

* * * * *

This term we say good-bye with great regret to Mr. Prior who joined the staff in 1921 as Senior Physics Master, and has therefore held that post for over 28 years. A tribute to Mr. Prior appears elsewhere. As Headmaster I have leaned heavily on him for advice in the planning of scientific studies in the School and have had continual occasion to be grateful for the administrative ability and "business sense" which he has placed liberally and unreservedly at the service of the School. In his retirement, which I trust will be long and happy, he can look back with pride and satisfaction upon these many years of most efficient and loyal service to Wandsworth School, where his name will long be held in affection and honour.

The news that Mr. Radford is shortly leaving us is indeed most unwelcome both to the School and Staff. It is no more welcome to Mr. Radford himself, but dictated by urgent personal and family considerations. Mr. Radford joined us in 1935, taking up the senior Mathematics mastership that had been vacant since Mr. Dobbs retired some eighteen months previously. Mr. Radford's strong and vigorous personality has filled a big place in school life, academic, social and athletic: he is particularly associated with school camps before the war, and school chess since.

A more recent recruit to the staff, Dr. T. B. Kankan, left us somewhat precipitately in March, being suddenly seconded to take up the important Headmastership of Vidijamander Public School, Nainital, in the United Provinces, India. Dr. Kankan was a man of immense energy and resource, a highly qualified expert in several fields —Education Psychology, Economics—whose qualities were known and appreciated by the new Government of India.

He came prominently before the School's public in his organisation of the Summer Fête of 1948.

* * * * *

Such masters are not easy at any time to replace, least of all just now. However, I feel both happy and confident in having secured the services for next term of Mr. D. B. Mercer for Physics, Mr. W. H. George for Social Studies and History, and Mr. G. R. Gibson for Mathematics. Mr. Mercer comes to us from Richmond and East Sheen County School where he has held the post of Senior Physics Master, and Mr. Gibson from the staff of Lowestoft Grammar School. It will interest the School to know that Mr. George, who took a triple degree in his subject, is related to Mr. Elms. We look forward to their joining us next term.

* * * * *

The Wandsworthians Memorial Committee hope to be able to announce shortly that the Plaque, commemorating the Old Boys who fell in the Second World War, will be ceremonially unveiled during the week commencing Monday, November 14th.

The Memorial Fund at the time of writing stands at just under £1,000. It will again benefit by the generous and public-spirited action of the Skeena Hill Allotments Association in donating one-half of the proceeds of their Annual Fête to this object. And once more the whole of the proceeds of the School Summer Fête will be devoted to the Fund.

Individual contributions still trickle in, but too slowly to give us much assurance of reaching our target of £2,000 in the near future without very special efforts.

* * * * *

The terminal meeting of the Parents' Association in the Spring Term repeated the original and successful technique of the previous year: a tripartite discussion of "The boy at Work," with a "Brains Trust" of employers both answering and asking questions.

In the Summer Term, the Annual General Meeting took the form of a Witness-Box Session on the influence of the Cinema. Miss Alice Martin, Vice-Principal of Hampton Training College, proved a lively, interesting and very well informed witness.

Two interesting items about Old Boys:

D. R. Light (1937-44) who gained the premier Open Scholarship in Modern Languages at Christ Church, Oxford, has been awarded a Heath Harrison Travelling Scholarship for 1949. Our warm congratulations.

Clifford Austin (1925-32), whose studies were seriously affected, first by the illness of his father and then by the war, resumed work for his degree on returning to civil life. His efforts were rewarded by obtaining First Class Honours in the B.Sc. degree in Engineering at London University. As the result of this examination, he was awarded a University Research Studentship. He has recently been appointed to a Lectureship at Battersea Polytechnic.

An inspiring example of determination coupled with ability.

# AVETE ATQUE VALETE

The following have been admitted since the last issue of *The Link*:

Baylem, R. J.; Kreuchen, K. D.; Stainton, M. P.; Wallenda, R.; Ward, F. R.; Weber, S. F. F.

The following boys have left since last issue:

Adams, P. J. H.; Baker, J. R.; Barber, J. M.; Bentley, J. L.; Berry, E. J.; Berry, W. H. C.; Bix, M. J.; Bradshaw, P. J.; Brand, G. A.; Burton, E. J. R.; Clarke, P. V.; Clements, D. G.; Cole, E. G.; Crouch, P.; Cowley, D. L.; Eldridge, J. W. F.; Epstein, D. B. A.; Evans, R. G.; Faris, J. E.; Fisher, E. G.; Gage, C. W.; Grimmond, P. A. S. C.; Growns, E. N.; Jenkins, R. H.; Jones, A. C.; Lee, R. H.; Mead, T. W.; Miles, J. F.; O'Reilly, D. W.; Oxley, A. F. J.; Prickett, C. A.; Rowlands, J. J.; Russell, D. H.; Stringer, P.; Taylor, P. J.; Todd, T. O.; Tracey, E. A.; Ward, F. R.; Ward, R. J.; White, B. A.; Wright, B. W.

## MR. A. PRIOR

With the retirement of Mr. Prior at the end of this term, there remain on the Staff but few of his colleagues who were already in the School when Mr. Prior came to it in 1920. This, of course, was in the old ramshackle building in Wandsworth High Street on the site of which the Wandsworth Technical College now stands. To Mr. Prior, the appointment was in a sense a return home, for he is a Londoner and received his education at the Central Foundation School in the City before proceeding to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1906.

Before he came to us, Mr. Prior had held posts in such well-known Schools as Aske's, King Edward VII School, Sheffield, Leeds Grammar School and Hymer's College, Hull. He had also served in the Forces during the 1914/1918 War. The success of his work at Wandsworth as Head of the Physics Department is attested by the large number of old pupils who have had distinguished academic or industrial careers. In addition, Mr. Prior has been closely concerned with various aspects of the School organisation and has a well-deserved reputation for efficiency in such things.

We must now make mention of some of the special activities in which Mr. Prior has been engaged. Before the war he was with Mr. Terry and Mr. Phillimore, in charge of the School catering arrangements and organised not only the School dinners, and the teas on all social occasions, but also ran a very popular tuck shop, so popular in fact that its not inconsiderable profits went to the construction of our Swimming Pool, the provision of a boxing ring, and the purchase of a Sports Trophy. For these benefits, several generations of our boys have been grateful in the past and, no doubt,

many more will be in the future. Mr. Prior was the Treasurer of the Fête held at the School to raise the final sum required for the completion of the War Memorial (the Plaque and the Games Pavilion) dedicated to the memory of Old Boys who died in the 1914/1918 War.

Nor are we likely to forget the splendid piece of work in which Mr. Prior actively co-operated during the evacuation of the School at Woking. Again with Mr. Phillimore, he took charge of "Firlands," a hostel for forty boys for whom, for one reason or another, billets could not be found. This task involved the sacrifice of much time and personal privacy and rightly earned the gratitude of boys, parents and authorities.

This brief sketch can convey only a slight impression of Mr. Prior's personality and his many-sided interests, but it would be incomplete if we did not state that, although as a Tutor he had always been associated with Cromwell House, he took over the Senior Mastership of Gibbon House, of which he has been in charge for the last few years. Members of the present very active Chess Club might like to know that Mr. Prior has been deeply interested in this game and was in charge of this activity before the war.

It is with great regret that we say farewell to Mr. Prior, and we feel sure that pupils, both of the past and of the present, will join with the Staff in wishing him many years of pleasant retirement.

J.A.

# HOUSE NOTES

## CROMWELL

During the past few months Cromwell has continued the steady progress which has been so noticeable throughout the post-war years.

The most decisive victory gained by Cromwell since the last issue of *The Link* has been the achievement of the hat-trick in winning the Eisteddfod. In spite of increased efforts on the part of the other houses, who were determined to challenge our supremacy, the indefatigable efforts of the organisers pulled us through. The response of the house as a whole was not at first very encouraging. Most of the Cromwellites seemed to think that their part in the proceedings ended with the election of officials, and the latter had some difficulty in instilling them with any degree of zeal. The efforts of the seniors, however, prevailed in the end, and a final burst of enthusiasm won the day for Cromwell.

Cromwell has excelled itself in the various sporting activities. We have won, for the second year running, the boxing and athletic shields, and were very close seconds in the rugby and cross-country. Once again, Cromwell had the largest number of entries in the boxing competition, to be exact, 48 out of 167, and the final was a very exciting affair, in which, due to a strong senior entry, Cromwell made a "late run," to win by five points.

In the athletics, we gained a very narrow victory in spite of a mishap at the outset when three of our most prominent runners were disqualified, spoiling an easy win. We finished $2\frac{1}{2}$ points above Morley. Our seniors, especially, distinguished themselves on Sports Day, providing two of the first four in all the track events, and coming either first or second in all the field events except the High Jump.

Contrary to our recent custom, Cromwell did not lead in the standards. We scored 1,066 to Pitt's 1,115 and Morley's 1,059. Cromwell D, however, was the leading set, establishing the all-time record total of 324 points. Nevertheless, the response in the standards was not all that could be desired, Cromwell A being, for once, very slack.

In the rugby, our seniors brought off the surprise of the season by beating Pitt seniors 5—0. This put us at the top of the table, but unfortunately our juniors, who only had to draw to enable us to win the shield, lost to Pitt in a game in which fortunes fluctuated violently.

The Cromwell seniors won the senior cross-country for the third year running, but our juniors, although improving greatly on last year, finishing second, scored very "highly," so that, on the aggregate, Pitt just managed to beat us. Cromwell again supplied the winner of the senior event—Grieves.

There is only one matter left to mention: the Diligence struggle. We shall not dwell too long upon Cromwell's activities in that field. Much greater effort is needed all round, but especially from the junior and middle school if we are to carry off the trophy.

In conclusion, we must congratulate J. C. Grieves on being awarded a travel scholarship to France.

J.C.G., P.H.S., I.M.

## GIBBON

Unfortunately it is not a very pleasant job to recount the dismal story of the activities of our house for the past six months. It is not lack of talent, but lack of enthusiasm that has caused our house to occupy the fourth position in athletics, the School Eisteddfod, and the boxing.

In Athletics we came fourth, not because our athletes on Sports Day did not run well, but because of the lack of support given to them by the rest of the house. For example, some seniors and middles only managed to score four points (even less in some cases) out of a minimum of ten on the standard system! So it was not surprising that we were so far behind on Sports Day that we hardly stood a chance of even catching up the third house, Pitt. We hand a special bouquet, however, to Gibson and Hardy (who scored twenty-six points on the standards) and to Phelps and Hooper, two extremely promising juniors.

It is very unfortunate that Gibbon came last in the boxing. The main trouble seems to be that several of our best boxers had refused to box in school matches (quite disgraceful) and so had to be punished by not being allowed to enter the house competition. However, there were a few finalists like B. E. Smith and Brodie who won their bouts.

Gibbon House is extremely proud to have as one of its members J. F. K. Francis, who won this year's Great Britain Schoolboy Boxing Championship at the Royal Albert Hall.

In the Eisteddfod it was the same old story: almost complete lack of enthusiasm and leaving the bulk of the work to the enthusiastic few. In the Drama section for example, we should never have come last, with D. Harper's very able guidance, had he been able to get any real co-operation from his actors for rehearsals. In the Art and Hobbies sections we had a very good performance by Gilbart (G. A.), but here again there was no real backing from the rest of the house. However, congratulations to Reed for a fine performance in easily winning the speech choir section. Here enthusiasm was very high, a shining example of what it could do for us if it were universal.

Our chances of the "Couch" Shield are good, though Pitt is a dangerous competitor. Also amongst our likely successes is the Parents' Cricket Shield, although here again we are strongly challenged by Pitt. Enthusiasm here is not lacking, and under K. Johnson's able captaincy Gibbon should win.

It is with very deep regret that Gibbon this term will be losing its present House Master, who has been with us for many years. We wish Mr. Prior the very best of luck, and a long and happy retirement.

R. E. WILLIAMS.

## MORLEY

Morley has not as yet improved upon last year in the acquisition of trophies. This has been largely due to lack of individual participation throughout the house.

We were second in athletics, boxing, rugby and the Eisteddfod, and third in the cricket and cross-country run.

The athletic team tried very hard on Sports Day, Hilldrup, the captain, breaking the 440 yards record, and Totham the middle discus record. We only succeeded, however, in coming a very close second owing largely to slackness in the standards.

We lost the boxing shield through lack of entries, especially among the seniors. Those who did enter, however, did very well and we had twelve finalists.

We drew with Cromwell for second place in the Rugby, thanks largely to the juniors who did not lose a match, winning two and drawing one.

The seniors, as in many other matters, were not so successful and only managed to win one game.

In the cricket also the juniors did not lose a game, winning, however, only one match this time. The seniors also only won one match, losing one and drawing another. The highest scorer among the seniors was Smith, the captain, who scored a total of 55 runs, his wicket only falling once in the three matches. Skelton was by far the most outstanding bowler, taking 20 wickets for an average of 2.25.

The cross-country run was very disappointing owing to the unexpected failure of the juniors, the result of general lack of interest in the training.

The seniors, however, were much more encouraging, Skelton, the captain, being second and Hilldrup fourth.

In the diligence awards Morley were second and first respectively in the last two terms, Morley A being the leading tutor set on two occasions.

We warmly congratulate the Head Prefect, Haydon, on gaining a travel scholarship in German.

On the whole it has been an unsatisfactory period in Morley's history. We have not, as yet gained any trophies but only second and third places. It is about time the house learnt not to rely on individuals but to give their whole-hearted and energetic support to the cause in hand.

The first "cause" next term will be the swimming trophy. Last year we won the gala but not the trophy through lack of standards. If we make sure that this does not happen this year, we have every chance and hope of success. So let this be Morley's first trophy, and lead us on to much better things throughout the ensuing School year.

**T.D.**

## PITT

On the whole, this year has been one of moderate success for Pitt House, but it is now quite clear that we must aim at higher standards, in both work and play, in the future.

We managed to win the Rugby Shield thanks to equally strong Senior and Junior teams, which both came well up to expectations.

The Cross Country Run was another success and although failing to gain any of the first four places, our athletics captain, and the School's, led our team home in true spirit: it took the next four places and in doing so won the shield. This was a very noble achievement and the runners are to be highly commended on their fine teamwork.

The House was rather unlucky in the Athletics, for we gained a useful lead in Standards points over the other Houses, but then on Sports Day failed to hold and take advantage of this lead. We ultimately came 3rd to Cromwell and Morley.

At the time of writing we seem to be runners-up to Gibbon for the Cricket Shield, the seniors not losing a match and the juniors losing only one.

We were not successful in the Inter House Boxing, coming third once more to Cromwell and Morley. There was an exceptionally good turn-out for this event and we gained a very large proportion of the record number of entries. Still, perhaps we'll have better luck next time.

Cromwell again took the honours in the Eisteddfod, but with a little more enthusiasm shown we should do better next year.

It is regrettable that in the diligence awards Pitt are not top house, even though Pitt C tops the ladder and the individual set award again and again. It is clear that the remaining sets in Pitt must make a more determined effort in the future.

Our congratulations to Horner on winning an L.C.C. Travel Scholarship to France.

A. B. CULLUM.

# "ARMS & THE MAN"

After half a century this may no longer be a brilliant comedy, but the Wandsworth School Players demonstrated that it is still very amusing. Shaw, in farcical mood, provides something for everyone. For the elderly there is Edwardian nostalgia as they remember Constance Drever singing "My Hero" in those opulent days before the first World War when there was some danger of Shaw being best known as the author of the play from which the musical "Chocolate Soldier" was derived; for small boys there is the delight of hearing that,

> "All this washing can't be good for the health: it's not natural . . . Look at my father! He never had a bath in his life; and he lived to be ninety-eight, the healthiest man in Bulgaria.";

for the ex-soldier there is the reflection that war doesn't change very much: that death and glory tend to hinge upon supply errors, like Bluntschli's machine-guns, which couldn't destroy a cavalry charge because the ammunition didn't fit; and for the Shaw connoisseur there are to be noted the twin Shavian stigmas, (a) the habitual taunt against the English,

> "Disgusting! It all comes from the English: their climate makes them so dirty that they have to be perpetually washing themselves."

and (b) the no less habitual reflection that it is the woman, not the man, who is the pre-marital hunter,

> "Miss Raina will marry him whether he likes it or not."

This all-round appeal, and the smallness of the cast, made the play a good choice for a schoolboy company: although the fewness of the characters threw a heavy burden on each of the actors—a burden for the most part ably borne. The producers met and overcame the many limitations imposed by the tiny stage and scanty lighting resources, and they achieved a smooth-running and efficient performance. The library scene in the last act was particularly notable for its handsome furnishings and the clever use of the back window. The actors knew their lines and spoke them audibly and distinctly—an admirable quality not always found in far more ambitious productions.

The play got off to a good start with Bluntschli's entrance through the ingeniously contrived balcony window, amid bursts of rifle fire. Raina's candle revealed J. C. Grieves as a most convincing Serbian fugitive, blood-stained, dusty and tired—a masterly piece of make-up. That Grieves is an experienced actor was soon apparent from his well modulated voice and adroitly managed hands. His "sleepy" scene, when he held the stage alone for several minutes, was a triumph for a boy—the comedy being so largely a matter of movement. Later, Grieves, smartly uniformed, made a handsome suitor for Raina's hand—the writer is certain that all the young ladies in the audience envied her opportunity.

Major Sergius Saranoff, that dashing cavalryman, was played in an upstanding and manly fashion by D. R. Horner. This part demands dash and bravura which might well have been beyond the reach of so young an amateur, but Horner got into the skin of the part in a surprisingly able fashion. Horner and Grieves were a most successful team, and the scenes they played together were among the best of the evening.

The elderly Major Petkoff was efficiently played by D. Harper, who settled well into a difficult part.

Nicola, the cold-blooded, calculating man-servant, was hit off to a nicety by B. G. Light, with just the right air of supercilious servility.

The ladies, bless 'em—Raina (B. F. Tyson), Catherine (J. F. Reed), and Louka (J. M. Barber) were gallantly impersonated. Raina, in an Edwardian (new look?) gown with a handsome bustle, was quite a beauty in profile, and maintained a statuesque pose by the library window in the last act, which was sufficient of itself to explain why she could command every male heart within reach.

N. F. Roberts did well as the Russian Officer.

The patient producers, Messrs. E. E. Bacchus and T. G. Benyon are to be congratulated on an excellent evening's entertainment, which gave obvious enjoyment to each of the three audiences before which it was presented. The valiant group of stage-hands, Broughton, Dobrowolski, Dore, Fenton, Johnson, Richardson and Todd, laboured willingly and well behind the scenes. The school is fortunate in possessing so able a make-up man as Mr. S. Cowan.

**R.L.**

# THE SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

The success of this Inter-House Contest is to be measured by the number of participants, and, with this in view, the variety and scope of the competitions has been made as wide and as appealing as possible. The Hobbies Section was particularly encouraging in this respect this year, especially among the juniors, and the quality of the work sent in promises well for the future. General comments on the various sections are best left to the judges' summary reports which follow below, and it is to be hoped that these comments will be helpful to next year's competitors.

The Concert and Exhibition, which took place on Tuesday evening, 12th April, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Fenn, proved an enjoyable climax to the whole festival. In addition to the items given by the winning competitors we were again glad to have the services of R. P. Easey (violin) and R. E. Williams (accordion)—two artists of exceptional merit who have entertained the school on many other occasions.

Particular features of the Exhibitions which preceded the Concert were: the display of art, photographs, collections and models in the art room; a model railway display in the laboratory; a gymnastic display in the gymnasium and a special show of models and exhibits in connection with the School's visit to the Iron and Steel Works at Corby in 1948.

**G. ELMS.**

# MUSIC

## I.—S.A.B. TRIOS

No sensational achievement like that of the 1948 Cromwell Choir emerged from the competitions this year, but a determined attempt by Morley to oust Cromwell from the first place in music all but succeeded, and produced keen excitement. Jenkins, VA, with the experience of two Eisteddfodau behind him, again directed Morley's effort, and attacked hardest where Cromwell prided itself most on its strength—in the team contest. Superior teamwork and preparation swept the field. A trio consisting of Gosden, Bennett and Totham, a most fortunate blend both of voice and temperament, sang "Drive the cold winter away," with rare vitality of tone and rhythm, a delight to listen to. Another Morley trio took second place, Cromwell third, and Pitt fourth. Both Bush and Stacey had laboured hard with commendable results.

Gibbon entered no trio. There was not a single bass among their seniors, they said.

## II.—SOLO SINGING

There were many entrants, but the cheerful aria from Bach's "Peasant Cantata" proved too difficult for some. Those who could read music well were at a great advantage. Griffiths, IIA, gave the only completely accurate performance, but his voice was lacking in resonance, especially on the high notes. Gale IIIA, provided the most pleasant singing of all, but the natural, clear, and expressive quality of his voice was offset by certain inaccuracies in the notes. Challice, IVA, sang with an ecclesiastical tendency to shun bright, open tone. He nevertheless won first place. Bennett, IVA, and Jenkins, VA, both gave commendable interpretations.

## III.—PIANOFORTE

Last year, the judges had to complain of the many mistakes and hesitations in the piano playing. It is pleasing to record a much higher standard of accuracy this year.

Grieves now monopolises instrumental virtuosity in the Senior School and his performance of Debussy's "Jardins sous la pluie" could leave no one in doubt of his technical brilliance and musical sensibility. His place will not quickly be filled when he leaves.

A Beethoven "Romance" of deceptive simplicity was set for the Intermediate competitors, and mostly they played the notes as written. But a beautiful piece of music is much more than a succession of notes, and meticulous attention to phrasing and pedalling is required if the beauties of line, proportion, and balance are to be realised.

Edwards won great honour for Cromwell and Form IA, by coming first, and Stacey, VB, was second. Third position was shared by Beale, VC, and Trebble, IVA. Beale was accurate but expressionless; Trebble, apparently contemptuous of romance, dashed the piece off at three times the correct speed—a feat of mis-applied virtuosity. Taylor, IIC, was a close runner-up.

Among the beginners, Davey, IB, was first, Elliott, IIC, and Winchester, IID, second and third.

The innovation of an open piano duet contest encouraged some delightful playing by Tringham and Taylor, of Form IIC, but the formidable partnership of Beale and Grieves was not to be overcome, even by the musical elect of IIC.

## IV.—VIOLIN

Considering how many could have entered for the competitions, the numbers were disappointing. So, too, the quality. As with the piano playing last year, insufficient practice was responsible. Totham, again, was best.

There was a regrettable absence of competition in the duet section, but Challice and Rodd deserved their easy win.

## V.—CONCLUSION

There is considerable musical talent in the present Junior School, some of it developing in the violin classes, at the keyboard, or in the choir. Whether or not this material produces results in the next Eisteddfod will depend on stimulus, leadership, and competent musical direction from the Senior School. Therefore, let all houses take note of these Eisteddfod results and watch the personnel of school choir and orchestra. A wise choice of leaders to mobilise musical talent could bring about contests of unprecedented keenness . . . And Cromwell would have to look to its laurels.

J.K.

# ART

A very large number of models, both entirely home-made and assembled, made this entry both interesting and difficult to judge. A great deal of care and industry had gone into the production of this wide range, and it was a problem, at times, to decide between the larger more imposing work, and the smaller, intricate piece upon which a great deal of thought and care had been expended. Dobrowolski, P.c. L.VI, showed a very beautifully finished speed boat, Prickett, P.c. L.VI, a much smaller, very delicately-made destroyer. The intermediate class had excellent work by Bourton, M.d. IIIA, Gale, G.d. IIIA, and Ryan, IIIB; but it was from the juniors we had our best results. Models of landscapes and gardens by Yaxley, M.b. IIA, and Gilbart, G.a. IIB, were delightfully done. So also was a model of a junk, by Gugan, C.b. IB, and a steamer, by Morgan, C.c. IIA. Tonks, G.d. IC, submitted, among other models, an intriguing knight in armour; and among the contributions of other juniors, the work of Wright, P.d. IB, Donel, G.d. IA, and Wrench, M.c. IB, were praiseworthy. Assembled models were judged apart from the rest. These included aeroplanes of various types and sizes, and the work of Seniors was well represented by those shown by Kelly, P.b. IVA, and Carter, M.c. VA. A new feature was the large number of models of buildings of every type, including two very good lighthouses. In the intermediate class was a small house by Jones M.a., IIIC, and models by Gale, G.d., IIIA, and Varney M.b. IIIC, also secured places. The juniors were equally busy; much of their work reached a high standard, and it would be impossible to give details. Mullins, P.d. IC, exhibited a model of a village, very well done, and wired for artificial light.

As the greater part of the effort seemed to have expended itself in model-making, it is not surprising that the large art entry of the last two exhibitions had considerably diminished. The poster section was rather disappointing, but the quality of the paintings remained high. Bejnarowicz, C.d. IVA, showed a view of a Near-Eastern sea port. In contrast with this, Whiteman, P.c. VB, showed promise in an interesting and praiseworthy job, "Danish Raid." Helps, P.d. VA, showed "Street Corner." The unusual point of view and lighting both contributed to make a most interesting effect. Munton, M.d. IVC, produced another interesting work in his "Moon Through Trees," while Grazinski, C.c. VB, used pencil and water-colour to advantage in his very expressive landscape. In the intermediate section were sensitive water-colours by Nesbitt, P.c. IIIA, and Bourton, M.d. IIIA. The latter had a good water-colour, a little hot in colour, and too evenly worked all over in detail. Nesbitt's

"Jelly Fish" was possibly the best designed picture in the show. Another good design, "Two Tigers," by Fox, C.b. IIc, was firmly drawn and very attractive in colour. King, P.d. IIa, submitted a picture of a ship, which was a most delightfully worked-out piece of painting. Morgan, C.c. IIa, submitted a delicate town scene. Reeve, C.b. IId, again put the emphasis on design and placing of shapes, in his picture of sea life.

Among the drawings, points were awarded to Wood, C.d. IVb, for a very complete and delicate drawing of a cat. Gosden, M.c. IIIa, had, amongst several drawings, a charming one of a mouse. Another very good drawing of a town was submitted by Gilbart, G.a. IIb.

The selection of lino cuts this year was rather poor, the Seniors being hardly represented at all. Nesbitt, P.c. IIIa, and Sanders, P.d. IIIa, were the best of the intermediate group, the coat of arms cut of the latter, being used for the cover of the Eisteddfod programme. There were interesting colour experiments by Wilman, P.a. IIb, and many entries by juniors. Among these, Reeve, C.b. IId, had an excellent cut of a spray of foliage, and Savage, M.a. Ia, one of a bird, both very well designed. The contributions of Ridgewell, P.a. IIa, Bicknell, C.b. Ia, Holder, M.a. Edwards, C.b. Ia, and Turner, M.a. Ia, were all interesting and successful.

A.H.

## COLLECTIONS

The different collections covered a wide range, from the usual stamps and coins to plaster casts of unusual footprints. The stamp collections were numerous, but very mixed in quality; Dobrowolski's collection being the best of a moderate senior entry. The Junior collections were very ordinary and showed much fond thumbing, many collections being rather grimy and suggestive of hasty rescue from the waste paper packet. The beginners—very much so—we will pass without further comment. The other collections were grouped together, and each judged on its merits. Purkiss got first place with a good collection of rock specimens, Krasnodebski being second with coins. In the Junior section, Ridgwell was first with a neat collection of sea shells, and Bowyer, second, with an unusual, but praiseworthy Nature Diary. Many collections were haphazard, and showed no taste in their arrangement. Others were undoubtedly not all collected by the boy exhibiting them.

J.M., K.C.B., A.L.

## LITERARY SECTION

This section produced about a score of entries, disappointingly small when it is remembered that every boy in the school is constantly getting practice in literary competition as part of his ordinary school work. Perhaps that is the explanation of the paucity—to put pen to paper is too much like classwork or homework! It still remains somewhat of a mystery why so few of the entries were up to the standard of the best work done in the ordinary run of the school work, and so far below the prose and verse contributed to the *Link*.

Nevertheless, it was a real pleasure to read the best of the work entered. The richest section was that of the Original Story. Here the best effort was "Mind and Matter," psychological horror story by Horner, and "Cell Three," by Thorpe, another horror story, placed in a rather similar setting. Bliss, who came third, chose the innocent title of "One Summer's Evening" for his story of mystery and sudden death. Among the Juniors, Gosden did well with a pleasant account of unusual experiences during a holiday in Italy.

In the Essay Section, Haydon's analysis of the "Meaning of Beauty," and Bradnick's discussion on "Science—Blessing or Curse," deserved credit.

I pass over the verse in silence. I awarded a few odd points here and there. But where were the poets whose contributions usually add a touch of distinction to the *Link?* Have the singing birds gone dumb?

J.A.

## DRAMA

Entries in the Drama Competition as placed in order of merit by the judges were:—

1. Cromwell: "St. Joan," Scene I, produced by J. C. Grieves, who acted with D. G. Maclean, D. A. Steel and I. Maclean.
2. Pitt: "X = O," produced by D. V. Stacey who took a part with K. Line, N. Roberts and D. Paine.
3. Morley: "The Grand Cham's Diamond," produced by B. G. Light, supported by G. E. Contreras, J. Nelson, J. Totham and R. K. Smith.
4. Gibbon: "The Monkey's Paw," produced by D. Harper who took part with D. Hatley, B. F. Tyson, W. M. Stanley and J. Reed.

The judges, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher and Miss Hanson, to whom we are very grateful for their time and tact, had no difficulty in finding the winning play, as it was the only one to reach the standard we have become accustomed to. It was well cast, pleasantly dressed and had the advantage of Grieves' experience, both as an actor and producer, to give it pace. It showed the wisdom of choosing first-rate material. The other entries, though scarcely challenging the winner, were not without merit. Light's casting showed real insight—but this was wasted through the failure of the actors in their most elementary duty, learning their lines. "X = O" gave a very pleasing visual effect and the sensitiveness of Stacey's production was worthy of better material.

**T.B.**

## RESULTS

### MUSIC

(Judges: Mr. J. Keyte and Dr. J. D. Solomon)

Vocal Solo: 1, Challice, J. R. (C); 2, Bennett, A. A. (M); Jenkins, D. R. (M); 4, Griffiths, R. W. (C); Gale, D. W. (G).

Vocal Trio: 1, Morley; 2, Morley; 3, Cromwell, Pitt.

Piano Solo: (Elem.) 1, Davey, P. (M); 2, Elliott, W. J. (C); 3, Winchester, I. G. (G);
(Inter.) 1, Edwards (C); 2, Stacey, D. V. (P); 3, Trebble, A. E. (M); Beale, J. E. (C).
(Adv.) Grieves, J. C. (C).

Piano Duet: (Inter.) Grieves, J. C. and Beale J. E. (C).

Violin Solo: (Beginners) 1, Bales, W. P. K. (C); 2, Johnston, E. I. (G); Edgar, J. B. (C).
(Inter) 1, Totham, J. A. (M); 2, Challice, J. R. (C); 3, Hatley, D. J. (G); 4, Rodd, D. L. (C);

### LITERARY

(Judges: The Headmaster, Messrs. S. Cowan, J. Ascher and R. Levy)

Speech Choir: 1, Gibbon; 2, Cromwell; 3, Morley; 4, Pitt.

Solo Reading: (s) 1, Horner, D. R. (P); 2, Grieves, J. C. (C); 3, Maclean, I., (C); 4 Reed, J. F. (G).
(Inter) 1, Stanley, W. M. (G); Butler, I. R. (C); 3, Wright, T. R. (G); 4, Totham, J. A. (M).
(Junior) 1, Livingstone, D. J. A. (C); 2, Page, R. (C); 3, Glayzer, D. T. (P); 4, Bryant, D. W. (C).

Essay: (S) 1, Haydon, J. S. (M); 2, Bradnick, L. J. (P).

Story: (S) 1, Horner, D. R. (P); 2, Thorpe, D. S. (C); 3, Bliss, G. W. (G); 4, Hodgson, J. C. (G); Attoe, R. C. A. (P).
(J) Gosden, C. B. (M).

Poem: (S) 1, Totham, J. A. (M); Hatley, G. E. (P); 3, Livingstone, D. I. (C); Clark, D. M. (G).
(J) Brookes, J. (P).

## ART

(Judges: Messrs A. Hodgkinson and S. Cowan)

Painting: (S) 1, Bejnarowicz, Z. (C); Jones, A. C. (P); 3, Helps, H. W. (P), Liggitt, R. A. (C); Munton, M. J. (M); 6, Whiteman, J. (P).
(I) 1, Nesbitt, J. A. (P); 2, Bourton, J. G. (M).
(J) 1, Fox, D. C. (C); King, D. (P); 3, Morgan, M. F. (C); 4, Reeve, G. R. (C).

Drawing: (S) Wood, D. S. (C); Cook, J. H. E. (G).
(I) 1, Gosden, C. B. (M); Nesbitt, J. A. (P); Tyne, J. C.; 4, Sanders, M. J. (P).
(J) 1, Gilbart, J. F. (G); 2, Morgan, M. F. (C); Furlonger, G. R. (M); 4, Richards, D. A. (M).

Lino Cut: (S) Light, B. G. (M).
(I) 1, Nesbitt, J. A. (P); 2, Sanders, M. J. (P).
(J) 1, Ridgwell, T. (P); Reeve, G. R. (C); Bicknell, I. E. J. (C); Holder, B. A. (M); 5, Savage, A. C. (M); 6, Edwards, R. W. (C); Turner, D. R. E. (M).

Posters: (S) 1, Light, G. B. (M); 2, Thorpe, D. S. (C); Jenkins, D. R. (M); Broughton, I. L. (M).
(I) 1, Burton, J. C. (G); Nesbitt, J. A. (P); Mattey, M. R. (M); 4, Amer, R. H. J. (C).

Design: (I) Bridge, R. F. (P).
(J) Hulley, E. A. (G); Morgan, M. F. (C); Wilman, R. J. (P).

## HOBBIES

(Judges: Messrs Coate-Bond, Catto, Hodgkinson, Lincé, Makin, Tribe)

Original Models: (S) 1, Dobrowolski, J. (P); 2, Prickett, C. A. (P).
(I) 1, Bourton, J. G. (M); 2, Ryan, P. E. (P); 3, Gale, D. W. (G).
2nd Form: 1, Gilbart, J. F. (G); 2, Yaxley E. J. (M); 3, Bolton, M. F. (M).
1st Form: 1, Tonks, G. E. (G); 2, Douel, M. J. A. (G); 3, Wrench, D. G. (M); Gugan, K. (C).

Assembled Models: (S) 1, Kelly, M. J. (P); 2, Carter, G. W. (M).
(I) 1, Gale, D. W. (G); 2, Jones, J. (M); 3, Varney, D. J. (M).
2nd Form: 1, Brand, J. D. (M); 2, Finch N. J. (C); 3, King, D. T. (P); 4, Reeve, G. R. (C).
1st Form: 1, Mullins, M. H. (P); 2, Cooke, M. B. H. (G); Wright, E. R. (P); 4, Wilson, J. A. (M).

Stamps: (S) 1, Dobrowolski, J. (P); 2, Hodgson, J. C. (G).
(J) 1, Hayden, B. G. (M); 2, Bicknell, L. E. J. (C); 3, Sawyer, A. J. (M); 4, Savage, A. C. (M).

Collections: (S) 1, Purkiss, T. C. (P), Rock Specimens; 2, Krasnodebski, J. (C), Foreign Coins.
(J) 1, Ridgwell, T. (P), Sea shells; 2, Bowyer, M. J. (G), Nature Diary; 3, Reeve, G. R. (C), Birds Eggs.

Photography: Processed by Competitor: (S) 1, Adams, P. J. H. (P); 2, Dore, T. (M).
(J) Wright, E. R. (P).
Processed Commercially: (S) 1, Maclean, I. (C); 2, Dore, T. (M).
(J) 1, Dorrell, P. F. G. (M); 2, Bicknell, L. E. J. (C).

## DRAMA

(Judges: Miss Hanson and Mr. and Mrs. Fisher)

1, Cromwell; 2, Pitt; 3, Morley; 4, Gibbon.

## SUMMARY OF HOUSE POINTS

| | Music | Literary | Drama | Art | Hobbies | | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Cromwell ... | 38½ | 41½ | 32 | 22 | 25 | — | 159 |
| 2nd Morley ... | 26½ | 23 | 16 | 26 | 42 | — | 133½ |
| 3rd Pitt ... | 6 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 37 | — | 119 |
| 4th Gibbon ... | 5 | 36½ | 8 | 10 | 24 | — | 83½ |

G.E.

# CHESS CLUB

*Captain :* J. Dobrowolski

*Vice-Captain :* R. E. Williams *Secretary :* D. S. Thorpe

The season just concluded has been the most successful one since pre-war days. In all, the Chess Team played fifteen school matches, compared with only nine last season. During the Autumn term, this season, six matches were played, the first three being won quite decisively.

Since the last issue of *The Link,* however, the School Team has played nine matches, winning five, drawing one and losing three. These are the results:

v. Archbishop Tenisons, December 2nd, 1948, Home: Won by 6½—5½ boards.
v. Sir Walter St. Johns, January 27th, 1949, Away: Lost by 4½—5½, the School being weakened by the absence of Barton and Dove owing to ill-health.
v. Old Wandsworthians, February 2nd, Away: Won by 6½—2½.
v. Sloane School, February 3rd, Home: The School Team had an easy victory by 8 boards to nil.
v. Raynes Park County, February 24th, Away: The School Team avenged their prevoius defeat, winning by 6½—3½.
v. Bec School, March 3rd, Home: This match was very close indeed, resulting in a draw, 6—6.
v. Surbiton County, March 11th, Away: Lost by 3½—8½.
v. Tiffin Boys School, March 18th, Home: Lost by 3½—8½—an encouraging improvement on the 12—0 defeat before Xmas.
v. Old Wandsworthians, March 23rd, Home: Won 5—3.

Not included in these results is a friendly match against Battersea Chess Club, when six of our boys had the experience of playing a game in a first-class setting, using clocks for the first time. The following boys must be commended on the very good form they have shown this season: Epstein, Lewis, Lawrence and Krasnodebski.

The Season at School commenced with Dr. Solomon playing twelve games simultaneously, winning nine and, through lack of time, drawing three.

In the Spring Term, a Junior and a Beginners Knock-Out Competition were started; these attracted 32 and 15 entries respectively. The enthusiasm in these contests was very high, Granfield beating Barrett in the final of the Novices' Competition, and Stott beating Thompson in the Junior K.O. final.

Also started was a Senior League, for which 17 boys entered; but owing to the various sports activities and the Eisteddfod, all fixtures were not completed. However at the end of the season the leading positions were occupied by Williams, Lawrence, Dore and Dobrowolski. The season ended with an amusing Lightning Tournament in which Dore beat Thorpe and Jenkins in the Final.

Throughout the Autumn Term, Mr. Radford gave lectures to a Beginners Class, for which we are very grateful. Thanks are also due to him, to Dr. Solomon and to Mr. Travers, without whose valuable assistance the Chess Club would have been unable to function. May we also thank Mrs. Radford for being so kind as to provide us with supper in our second game with the Old Boys, and also thank all the parents who helped to supply tea for the teams after school hours.

D.S.T., J.D.

# DEBATING SOCIETY

The Society continued to hold regular meetings during the Spring Term, and has so far held one meeting this term. A keen committee, representative of all the senior forms of the school, assisted by Mr. Fenn and by Mr. Payne, has done the work of arranging topics and finding opening speakers, but has not found it easy to get very active support, especially among the VIth and Vth forms. Some members of the IVth form have attended regularly, with great enthusiasm, but proper leadership in intelligent debates should come from the top of the school. Is the modern boy no longer interested in "talking things out"? Has he no serious opinions? Is he not interested in the general ideas which must underlie our activities in the business of living in society?

The subjects of debate selected have been interesting in themselves, and, following some good, sometimes very good, opening speeches, should have promoted exciting discussion at well-attended meetings; but rarely have more than about fifteen been present. Instead, the discussion has commonly tended to meander, until Mr. Fenn brought us back to the fundamental issues. Even the keen nucleus of regulars have not shown much evidence of careful preparation in advance of their speeches. This preliminary thinking is essential if we are to have lively and serious debates. The problem of the U.S.S.R., the possible conflict between religion and science, the effects of the cinema on the young, the virtues and failures of the Victorian era,—to name some of the themes we have considered—all should have been received with enthusiasm and should have aroused much comment, but it has usually been left to a few leading spirits to do most of the talking. At our last meeting we included short, "snap" debates in our programme, and the response was more encouraging. We hope to do better next year with the promising material of the present IVth and IIIrd forms, but we must surely look to the new VIth form to provide the leading lights.

Come! Let's make a success of our next session, or we shall think the poorer of Wandsworth School.

(*Sec.*) D. R. HORNER.

# SCHOOL RUGGER, 1948-49

*Captain :* D. R. Horner

*Vice-Captain :* I. Maclean *Secretary :* K. H. W. Johnson

The School's Rugger results this year were again rather disappointing. Once more we were compelled to field comparatively small XV's owing to the very small VIth form population. At the end of the season the School 1st XV had vastly improved and played lively football with a certain understanding. If only the Vth formers who formed a very large part of the team could be persuaded to stay on in the VIth form we could look forward to a long series of victories next year.

Our only consolation lies in the fact that we "did a double" over Bec by 17 points to 3, and 3 points to nil. Both were very good matches and the first, at Bec, was the most exciting of the season; forwards and backs played hard attacking football and victory resulted.

Generally speaking the forwards played quite excellently and could always be relied on to hold their opponents although there was still a tendency to individualism, and unwillingness really to pack down in loose scrums. The School back row of Jenkinson, Horner and Maclean, all "old stagers" who have had several seasons with the 1st XV, played with a fast developing Rugby sense and were a constant source of worry to fly and scrum halves.

The backs were generally uninspired. Berry at scrum was quite the best player in that position the School have had since the war; his throwing out was excellent and his blind side rushes and astute kicking often resulted in opportunist tries.

Johnson at fly half played quite well; he seldom fumbled Berry's passes and took the ball at a fair speed, giving good passes out to the centres, which were seldom used to advantage. Three-quarter sense is lacking in the School. There is a great opportunity for hard, straight-running heavily-built three-quarters. Something to aim at Ist formers ! !

The School this season gained some Rugger distinction by gaining one place in the Surrey Public Schools' XV, and two places in the Surrey Secondary Schools' XV.

What are next season's prospects? The "old-timers" will probably still be here for some time: Horner, Maclean, Jenkinson, Johnson, and Dore. If some of this year's Vth form stayed on next year, and if we imported a few more foreign enthusiasts, we should be able to field a pretty good Anglo-Polish team at any rate!! We can but hope.

D. R. HORNER.

## RUGGER 2nd XV

Dec. 11.—Selhurst, 6—3.
Jan. 15.—Tiffin, 3—24.
Jan. 26.—St. Olaves, 9—9.
Jan. 29.—Bec, 0—30.
Feb. 5.—Whitgift M., Posted out.
Feb. 12.—Brockley, Ground unfit.
Feb. 26.—Purley, 3—6.
Mar. 5.—Selhurst, 6—22.

Selhurst, H., 6—3.

Playing one man short, the School fully deserved their narrow victory.

Tiffin, A., 3—24.

Tiffin's line was able to get going repeatedly without any serious hindrance from Wandsworth, who were completely outclassed in speed.

St. Olaves, H., 9—9.

An all-out effort in the second half, when the ball ran more favourably for us, enabled the game to be pulled out of the fire.

Bec, A., 0—30.

Our team could not be compared with that of Bec, who were superior in every aspect of the game.

Purley, H., 3—6.

A much keener and more close-fought game than last term's. Purley firmly held the initiative and thoroughly deserved their hard-won victory.

Selhurst, A., 6—22.

The School, severely handicapped by injuries, playing opponents who had acquired vast reinforcements since the previous game.

This year's team, although always having the courage and determination to fight back, were unable to gain more victories on account of their inability to observe the finer and more important points of the game. Their apparent desire to play as individuals and not as a team, was their main defect. In coming seasons, however, as the *size* of our men increases, the lack of which lost us many games, we should with more settled training, begin to regain former superiority.

J. S. HAYDON.

## JUNIOR RUGGER XV

The team was quite a good one for its age limit, but unfortunately our opponents were generally older and heavier sides. Evans kicked well and was a reliable player at full-back. The three-quarters were fast enough but came against heavier opponents and could not get going. The handling of the three-quarters was not good. Stear played exceptionally well and was not afraid to fling himself over the line. Toomer played a safe game at wing three all through the season. The forwards worked well and generally kept together. Munton played very well especially in tackling.

J. A. TOTHAM (Capt.)

Wandsworth 0 v. Surbiton 31
Wandsworth 15 v. Purley 6.
Wandsworth 3 v. Tiffin 6.
Wandsworth 6 v. Whitgift Middle 0.
Wandsworth 0 v. Bec 11.
Wandsworth 0 v. Surbiton 9.
Wandsworth 12 v. Paddington 0.
Wandsworth 6 v. Brockley 0.
Wandsworth 0 v. Selhurst 6.
Wandsworth 3 v. Raynes Park 8.
Wandsworth 13 v. Tiffin 0.
Wandsworth 3 v. Bec 3.
Wandsworth 11 v. St. Olaves 6.
Wandsworth 0 v. Purley 8.
Wandsworth 0 v. Selhurst 6.

## UNDER 14 RUGGER XV

This team was formed early in the season and with regular practice soon developed into a useful side. Stear showed good leadership on and off the field and had good support from the whole team. Nesbitt was a hard-working scrum-half and formed a good link between the forwards and the threes.

The following played for the XV: Stear, Berry, Nesbitt, Tilley, Livingstone, Harvey, York, Bellerby, Miller, Kennedy, Coppack, Burton, Vary, Cracknell Hobson, Elsam, Slade, Amer, Harding, Benham, Nye, Quinsey, Vincent, and Quested.

B.C.

# BOXING

*Captain :* J. Francis
*Vice-Captain :* J. Rowlands *Hon. Sec.* P. J. Whitfield

There was a record entry this year for the Inter-House Championships, 170 boys taking part. On account of having to work these off in time, and take part in the Schools' Championship, it was possible to hold only two Inter-School matches, against Tiffin and St. Olaves respectively. In the former, the School lost by seven bouts to four. J. Miles, Carr, D. T. Miller and Griffiths winning their bouts; in the latter, School won by seven bouts to six, Wilson, Hayden, Griffiths, Twort, Appleyard and McKeown winning their bouts. Oulds, Yaxley, Helm and Gale deserve mention, their bouts being very closely contested.

## SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The somewhat curious age-weight divisions cut out some of our best boxers but fourteen boys were eligible to compete and did so. Francis, the School Boxing Captain, improved on his performance of last year by winning both the London Championship and Great Britain Championship at his weight, 10½ stone Senior B. Hearty congratulations, Francis! And many thanks for the half-holiday which resulted!

The deciding of the Wandsworth Championships covered four successive Fridays in February and four of our boys, viz., Bray, Carr, P. J. Whitfield and Francis became Wandsworth Champions at their respective weights. These boys boxed in the London Divisional Finals, Carr, P. J. Whitfield and Francis being successful. But only Francis managed to win a London Championship, which he followed up with a Great Britain. However, they did quite well, Carr especially, being very narrowly beaten in the London Championships, having boxed many times, Friday after Friday, in the rounds leading up to it.

## INTER-HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The record entry of 170 necessitated a heavy programme of preliminaries; however, it was got through in time for the Finals on the 1st April. The Finals Programme was as follows, the first named being the winner in each bout:

### RESULTS

JUNIORS:

Under 5 st.—Brodie (G) beat McKeown (C).
Under 5½ st.—Smith, B. E. (G) beat Smith, R. (P).
Under 6 st.—Bray (P) beat Wilson (G).
Under 6½ st.—Forbes (M) beat Darchambaud (P).
Under 7 st.—Gingall (M) beat Essex (M).
Under 7½ st.—Waters (C) beat Nye (P).
Under 8 st.—Nesbitt (P) beat Howell (P).
Under 9 st.—Grimmond (C) beat Harvey (C).
Under 9½ st.—Miller (M) beat Mortimer (P).

INTERMEDIATES:

Under 6½ st.—Mattey (M) beat Clarke, P. V. (P).
Under 7 st.—Carr (M); beat Nelson, J. A. (M).
Under 7½ st.—Hobson (M) beat Miller, D. T. (M).
Under 8 st.—Morrison (P) beat Gibbons (M).
Under 8½ st.—Harris (P) beat Jones (P).
Under 9 st.—Dodimead (C) beat Norman (G).
Under 9½ st.—Munton (M) beat Evans (P).
Under 11 st.—Payne (P) beat Chafen (C).
Under 11 st.—Totham (M) beat West (C).

SENIORS:

Under 9 st.—Maclean, D. (C) beat Harrison (G).
Under 9½ st.—Whitfield (C) beat Mallows (G).
Under 10½ st.—Francis (G) beat Grazynski (C).
Under 11½ st.—Krasnodebski (C) beat Maclean, I. (C).

Final Points: 1, Cromwell, 112 points; 2, Morley, 108 points; 3, Pitt, 107 points; 4, Gibbon, 76 points. Congratulations, Cromwell!

## BOXING COLOURS

The following colours have been awarded by the Games Committee:

Full: J. Francis (re-award), A. J. Carr, J. Miles.

Half: J. Rowlands, P. J. Whitfield, G. A. Brand, J. A. Nelson, M. Mattey.

Junior: B. G. Hayden, J. B. Helm, D. M. Bray, J. T. Friday, V. S. Griffiths, D. F. Wilson.

In conclusion, the Boxing Club would like to thank the members of the Staff, especially Mr. Robilliard, Mr. Allen and John, Miss Osborne and the parents for their help on many occasions in making the season so successful.

J.M.

# THE RAILWAY CLUB

This Club was inaugurated at the beginning of the Spring Term, in response to many requests. Mr. Bacchus kindly undertook to supervise the Club's activities and meetings. The first meeting of the Club was attended by a large number of boys; during the term, however, the number of boys deteriorated, but now we hope we have got down to the core of ardent enthusiasts.

The first meeting was occupied by a discussion on the four Regions. This proved quite successful, but the lack of any serious ideas or suggestions among the members spoilt what might have been a good debate.

The second meeting took the form of a talk by Mr. Bacchus on " Some Railway Curiosities." This was very interesting and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking him very much for the trouble he took in preparing his lecture. He gave many interesting facts and details about methods of travelling, many of which were unknown to the Club members.

A Railway Quiz occupied our third meeting and this could have been an even greater success had the members taken more trouble in preparing questions.

Our last two meetings comprised a film entitled " London's Underground Railways," which gave us a comprehensive history of their development, and an exhibition of members' own photographs. The climax of our activities was a " Model Railways Exhibition " held during the Eisteddfod. In conclusion we look forward to increased activities and outings in the near future.

D.K.P.

# SCHOOL VISIT TO THE GAS WORKS

On the afternoon of Friday, June 10th, a School party from forms V and VI, accompanied by Mr. Makin, made a tour of the Wandsworth Gas Works. On arrival our party was divided into two groups, each in charge of a guide-technician. We made a systematic visit to each plant, from the unloading of the coal to the final purification of the gases.

The guide who directed our party explained to us all the practical and chemical factors which go to the actual manufacture of coal gas and the separation of its many by-products.

On behalf of the School I should like to express our gratitude to the South Eastern Gas Board for allowing us to make this visit.

D.G.F.

# RAIN

Boring rain, pouring rain,
Enough to drive a chap insane.
Doesn't it make you feel a silly 'un?
You went out to score a million,
Now you're back in the pavilion,
Idle once again.
Look! It's raining cats and dogs;
Might as well unstrap these togs.
Leave it to the croaking frogs.
No—more—scoring rain!

Striving rain, driving rain,
From the windows of a train.
Food and drink, there is no lack,
Perched securely on the sack
In the well-filled picnic pack
Returning home again.
Mother quickly threw the towel in,
When the children started howling.
Father looks on fierce and scowling.
Fun-depriving rain!

Streaming rain, steaming rain,
Rattling on the bamboo cane.
Old black panther lifts his head up,
Screams to show how he is fed up,
Home he pads to make his bed up.
The Monsoon blows again.
The jungle paths get soft and boggy,
His couch of grass grows wet and soggy.
Six months of woe for jungle moggy,
Feel—like—screaming rain!

Living rain, giving rain,
Giving life to all, again.
The kudus sniff the air and hope
The bushbucks now no longer mope,
It brings new life to antelope,
Thirsting on the plain.
When showers spoil your fun, don't curse:
The bushbucks don't. Quite the reverse!
And poor old panther fares far worse,
Go—on—giving RAIN!

B. Clapton, Vc.

## THE ELEMENTS

Air:

A cooling breeze of air beneath the scorching sun,
Is as drink to the thirsty.
But a freezing blast on waters cold
Will chill the warmest hearts.

Sea:

The raging temperamental sea,
Which, slowly wearing pebble to sand,
Crawls for ever restless and unsatisfied,
From glass, now changes to a watery hell.

Fire:

The advancing fire,
Ever eating, ever hungered,
Leaves nothing but a blackened trace
Where once grew Nature's loftiest masts.

J.T., IVA.

## POEM

The present world of matter
One says, denies my Master.
My answer is: Check better,
See if you prove it faster.

For, as you split the atom,
Breaking it further still,
You'll obtain nothing,
Yet see the Creator's will.

Z. BEJNAROWICZ, IVA.

## SWEETS

When I was a tiny tot,
My sweets I used to love,
But they were always kept
On a shelf, high up above.

Two after dinner, and one at night,
And I had to be contented,
And when I was a naughty lad,
" No sweets!" 'till I repented.

Jelly babes and fondant mice
Had my especial favour,
But never did I say " No thanks! "
To any kind of flavour.

Right up through my childhood days
For sweets I had a passion,
And then the Jerries fought our land,
And stuck them on the ration.

All through the War, I never missed
My monthly allocation,
And out in the country, far from home,
They brought me consolation.

I missed the penny slot-machines,
For now these words they bore:
" This machine will not be used
Throughout the years of War."

Early Spring, in '49,
From the Minister of Food,
" Sweets off the ration in a couple of
With a bit of luck—for good." [months,

Leaping Lizards! Strike a Light!
Wizard Prang! O Lor!
Golly Moses! Omigosh!
Piles of sweets galore!

The day was April twenty-fourth,
(During the Easter vac.)
I was down at Ramsgate,
Getting the sun to my back.

I went down to a sweet-shop,
That had good things in stock,
And the first de-rationed sweet I bought,
Was a stick o' Ramsgate Rock!

I've eaten many a sweet since then,
My lust for them is ruthless.
I'll always go on eating them,
Until my mouth is toothless!

C. B. GOSDEN, IIIA.

# THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Association year just ended has been notable for the many and varied types of meetings and social events designed to attract and retain members. Meetings have embraced subjects both educational and topical. The Library and Film interests have been represented on our platform. The Headmaster and members of the Staff have discussed educational problems relating to the examination system. And again, following up our successful innovation of last Spring, another meeting, arranged by our President, Mr. King, of employers and business executives was held on March 11th. This meeting again proved very popular, bringing as it does the Parent and the School into contact with the outside world of business. We hope to repeat this type of meeting if the response appears to warrant it. The Annual General Meeting on May 27th did not attract quite so large an audience as last year. The reports were read and a lively and interesting " Open Forum " was initiated on the affairs of the Parents Association, followed later by a " Witness Box " session on The Cinema, our speaker being Miss Alice Martin of the Hampton Training College. This item proved interesting and informative and was thoroughly appreciated by the audience. On the Social side, social evenings, whist drives and dances have appeared regularly in our programmes. Some of these, however, were severely handicapped by bad weather, which reduced support. I regret that our whist drives do not appear to attract quite the following we had at one time. In general, response during the year has not been quite what was anticipated; but I trust that this is only a passing phase and that we may look forward to renewed interest in the Association during the coming year. Will members please note that the *Parents Council* elected on May 7th, 1948, will continue to serve for another year of office (no other nominations having been received) and the record of their names and addresses as published in *The Link* for July 1948, remains the same with exception of Mrs. Dunstall and Mr. G. P. Kitt who have resigned, and the addition of Mr. Metcalfe, 48 Eswyn Street, Tooting, S.W.17. As to the future, we have already plans in hand for a full social programme. We intend to open the Autumn term with a Social Evening and Entertainments on October 1st, planned on friendly and informal lines to get all the members, especially our newer parents, together; and Whist Drives and Dances have been arranged for Saturday, November 26th, Saturday, January 28th, 1950, and Saturday, March 25th, 1950.

Now all we need to make these a success is your support. May I confidently anticipate a real enthusiastic response and a " Full House " at all these events? Note the date and make a reservation in favour of your Association. In conclusion I shall appreciate any suggestions for meetings or social events from members, as our aim is to widen the scope of the Association in every sense. Tell us the type of meeting or event you want, and your Council will stage it if at all possible. Meanwhile may I address this appeal to all members, and especially our new parents. Give your Association your continued support and help it to maintain its position as a " live " and active body in the forefront of Parents Associations of this area. Can I count on every member to do this?

H. J. SCOTT.

# OLD WANDSWORTHIANS

Since the last notes appeared a year ago (the absence of them in the Xmas number is deeply regretted) a full programme has been carried through, a slight but marked increase in membership is gratefully recorded, and preparations are well in hand for the summer fêtes and winter programme.

The Annual Dinner last December, while a little less well attended than was hoped, was a distinctive success, and those that were unable to be present are asked to make this year's attendance a record. We are very pleased that we have been able to secure the Ardington Rooms at Clapham Junction this time, and travelling excuses are no longer valid. Dances last winter were held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, as an experiment, but the distance is a handicap for many people, and a venue nearer home will be substituted in the coming programme.

Club nights on a Wednesday have been better attended, and a number of chess and table tennis matches have been played against the School. There is still, however, a great need for more members to use the facilities provided, if Wednesday evenings are to play the part meant for them in the Association's activities.

The Memorial Fund is growing, albeit slowly, and work has been put in hand on the plaque in the Hall. An unveiling ceremony will be held some time in November, but fuller details will be circulated well in advance. The amount in the fund at the time of going to press is around the £1,000 mark, but it will be remembered that £2,000 was the initial aim. Support of every function and activity within the School orbit, is the one certain way of stepping up the total.

The winter calendar so far is as follows: —

1949 October 15th.—Dance at Stanley's Restaurant, Lavender Hill S.W.11.
November 26th.—Rugger v. School, and Dance at the School to follow.
December 10th.—O.W.'s Dinner at Ardington Rooms.
December 17th.—Dance at Stanley's Restaurant.
1950 January 28th.—Dance at the School.
February 18th.—Dance at Stanley's Restaurant.
March 25th.—Dance at the School.

New members are asked to get in touch with the Secretary, Stan Fairey, at 5 Hillcrest Avenue, Edgware, or to contact any Committee member at the School on Wednesday evenings. This applies to all boys leaving school, and to old boys who for one reason or another have not joined the Association or taken an active part in its affairs.

# OLD WANDSWORTHIANS RUGBY F.C.

1948—1949

*Captain :* R. Finch *Vice-Captain :* P. Hinchcliffe
*Hon. Secretary* : S. R. S. Shapcott
*Capt. 'A' XV :* L. J. Turtle *Hon. Match Sec.:* R. St. Clair Duncan

As the dawn of another season of Rugby approaches, old Wandsworthians R.F.C. looks forward with hope and vigour to a repetition and even an increase of the success and conviviality of last year's session. A return in October last year to our pre-war Headquarters at the White Hart Hotel at Kingston gave an added impetus to the Club, and after a somewhat irregular start, the 1st XV settled down to an unbroken sequence of unbeaten games which lasted to the Seven-a-side Tournament in April this year.

With a broad cross-section of seasoned warriors in their thirties and young striplings in their 'teens, we were able to field two strong and versatile teams throughout the season. An influx of demobbed ex-servicemen and others returning to the family circle enabled us on occasion to field a third team, whose results perhaps were hardly indicative of their tremendous enthusiasm.

Space does not permit individual mention of all those sturdy yeomen who week after week pitted their strength so successfully against some of the best Old Boys' teams in London. Nor does it permit appraisal of the merits and shortcomings of each respective game. Let us recall just a few of our personages, however, before we turn over this worthy page in our club history, and before we settle down no doubt to the brilliant chapters that lie ahead.

How sorry we were to lose Les Finbow, our energetic and rotund leader of the scrum. Les has laid up his boots and will now be using his stentorian voice in controlling the criminals of the African underworld in one of H.M. Prisons out there. We look forward to an early fixture—preferably at home—with the Delinquent Zulus 1st XV.

Let us salute Ron Duncan who added yet another creditable season to his Rugby repertoire.

Then there is Reg Finch, our Captain last year. Reg kicked, by penalties and converts, well over a third of the 1st team's total score of points, and also found time to get married.

Other stalwarts that come to mind are Phil Hinchcliffe, whose dexterity as a scrum-half is still a pleasure to behold; Jack Rapoport who hooked with increasing success and finesse, and whose pugilistic training and genial aggressiveness gave added punch to our formidable scrum; Leslie Turtle who captained the 'A' XV last year and led it to commendable glory; and Spencer Shapcott whose live rushes and spirited efforts were lost to the team for the major part of the season owing to an injured knee. From his place on the touch-line, however, he was able to administer frequent first-aid to his younger brother at intervals throughout the season. We must record our thanks also to Den English whose masterly interpretation of the offside rule caused more than one referee to scratch his head in indecision. The return of Ron Hudson, Harlequins and County player, on many occasions gave us a great fillip. His love of the game and wide appreciation of its finer tactics were of course obvious to all who watched, and many a younger member will feel grateful for his calm advice at moments when the team were hard pressed.

Then there are the younger lions of the club. Our backbone and guarantee for the future, W. Forrester, at times played a brilliant game as full-back and has the added distinction of tipping, in March, Swallow Tail for this year's Derby. George Foxwell promised well with his resolute defensive play and ability and R. Hammond and D. Wood came as welcome pillars of strength from the armed forces. We must congratulate J. Coulthard, a new member of our team at the beginning of the season, both for his rugger and also for the not inconspicuous fact that he has now been capped for England at the highly strenuous game of Korfball—at a time when most of us are content to loll in deckchairs and follow other more civilised pursuits.

There are so many others that we could mention, but let it be emphasised that their efforts are by no means less appreciated for having escaped the notoriety of these scant animadversions.

Thanks must go to Norman Lowe who with a wealth of experience behind him has taken to the whistle and the rule-book and makes as vigilant a ref as anyone could not wish for. Nor can we not fail to write a few words in praise of our indefatigable touch judge, D. Grant, who slithered and sped with waving flag for many weary miles along our lines and blazoned our successes in the local Press.

Finally let us thank the members of the School who helped us out whenever we asked them. We do not feel that they quite appreciate how pleased we are to have them at our side. It is to them we look to for the unwritten future. Our Club is their Club, and we shall be lost without their zealous and youthful support when they come to leave School. Wandsworth School and Old Boys have a great tradition of sportsmanship and Rugby to uphold and this we intend to do—come wind, come weather. We therefore exhort all rugger devotees to get in touch with us at once when they set out into the wide, wide world.

We assure them of many happy moments and a warm comradeship, and above all, an easement to that inexorable fever which courses in every Rugby player's blood.

**RESULTS**

| | | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Pts. For | Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st XV. | ... | 24 | 17 | 4 | 3 | 212 | 107 |
| 'A' XV. | ... | 23 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 236 | 202 |

# THE WANDSWORTHIANS LODGE

This is the record of our progress under the benign Mastership of Mr. Raymond E. Kilsby. At each meeting four O.W.'s have been advanced in their Masonic career, two O.W.'s initiated since our last report, two accepted for admission and others applying for membership. The Ladies' Night was the most successful social meeting we have held.

The Installation Meeting will be held at Ardington Rooms (where we always meet) on Friday, 7th October, 1949; subsequent meetings will take place on the first Fridays in December 1949, February, May and July, 1950. O.W.'s who are Freemasons are cordially invited to our meetings. Further particulars may be obtained from any of our members or from the Secretary, The Wandsworthians Lodge, 209 Raeburn Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

STOP PRESS!

The Master for 1949-1950 will be Mr. Francis Robert Chaplain (O.W. 1908-1910). His installation will take place on Friday, 7th October, 1949.

# WANDSWORTHIANS CHAPTER

It is now just over a year since the Consecration of the Chapter.

During the first year the following old boys have been admitted to membership: Messrs. S. H. Fairey, F. E. Leak, W. A. Skinner, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., M.Ed., N. H. Coombe, R. L. M. Tye, and H. A. P. Bullivant.

Any old boys who are Freemasons and interested in Royal Arch Masonry, please communicate with Mr. P. H. Phillimore, 45 Melrose Avenue, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19.