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### SCHOOL OFFICERS 1973-4

Captain of the school: P.D. Parker

Vice Captains: C.O. Edwards, R.A. Cook

Observers: P.M. Harrison, D.S. Hedges,  
M.M. Roberts

### Prefects

A.B. Anderson	D.G. Barber
R.T.H. Barnes	R.W. Correia
A. Dalton	M.A. Edwards
A.G. Ford	N.C. Giles
R.I. Greig	M.L. Goble
D. Gregson	A.J. King
A.R.K. Long	G.J.K. Long
A. Lawrence	I.P. Legg
F.P. Lewis	D.E. Lowe
A.A. Mann	D. Pigott
G.C. Sanchez	I.P. Simmons
J.W. Thompson	

### 'THE RICHIAN' COMMITTEE

	R.W. Correia
	A. Dalton
	M.J. Partridge
Editor:	D.E. Lowe
Photographer:	A.G. Ford
Staff Advisor:	D.F. Moss

## EDITORIAL

Another edition of the 'Richian' marks the end of a long process of canvassing, collection and sorting; the final result is here before you. For this edition we tried to make the magazine as visual as possible with a large amount of photographic material and first class illustrations. Original contributions have been varied and of a consistently high standard, although somewhat lacking from the lower school.

I would like to thank all those people who have been involved in any way in the production of this magazine, especially Tony Ford for all the work he has done, making it possible to have such a large photographic section, and Mr. Moss for his continued support in the capacity as Staff Advisor. Thanks also to Miss Jane Gregory who completed the long and arduous task of typing the magazine.

D.E. Lowe

## IN RETROSPECT

Since the last issue of the magazine the School has witnessed the arrival and consequent settling of Mr. Heap, who is now no longer the 'new' headmaster.

When looking back over the year I was struck by the enormous range of activities covered by the school and felt that without a staff possessed of imagination and drive and a ready cooperation between masters and boys, such quantity and variety would not be possible; this relationship is vitally important to the school and long may it continue.

The school continues to support lectures by various celebrities throughout the year and so far the school has been visited by explorer, writer and T.V. personality, Tony Smythe, again by the ever popular Chris Bonington and more recently by Captain Sir Ranulph Fiennes. In the same vein a very successful BBC recorded 'Sports Forum' chaired by Peter West and organised by the Old Richians was held at the school.

We look forward to forthcoming lectures by Anthony Hopkins and



Dr. B.D. Shaw.

In the field of music and drama we have had a busy year with the two departments combining for a tremendously successful production of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Mikado' in association with Denmark Road and Ribston Hall, which represented the very first major operatic venture the school has undertaken.

The other production of the year was George Farquhar's Restoration Comedy 'The Beaux Strategem' again in association with Denmark Road and Ribston Hall.

The major choral production of the year was Haydn's 'Creation'. For the third year running the choir held a lunchtime Carol Concert in St. John's at Christmas and the attendance was very encouraging. The school carol services were very well supported with the choir providing its usual high standard.

In a slightly lower key the prefects' play at the Cock House celebration, this year entitled "Heap big Trouble", was a great success. Although it had a somewhat dubious story-line, several of the individual sketches made it one of the funniest ever and it will long be remembered by both audience and participants alike.

The Founder's Day services returned to St. John's after the previous year's visit to the Cathedral, the sermon was delivered at the senior service, by the Dean of Gloucester, the Very Rev. Gilbert Thurlow, and at the junior by the Rev. Huw Thomas, Chaplain of Solihull School.

Speech Day this year was the same format as the previous year, that of a prize distribution, the chief guest being Mrs. Sally Oppenheim who was received warmly by the school.

Sportswise, the school continues to excel with distinctions in two activities, Rugby, where Correia got through to the All England Trials and Cross Country where Barber and Martynuik were awarded places in the Gloucestershire County Team.

Not only on the Sports field do we do well but in the classroom as well. The Advanced and Ordinary level examinations yielded good results last year and we look forward to even greater successes this year. Boys from the school received a large number of University places last year with P.D. Parker and C.O. Edwards

gaining places at Cambridge, providing a spur to the efforts of the present sixth form.

The number of trips and excursions last year set a new record and covered a wide range including trips to Scotland, Wales, Italy, France (where I am told Mr. Spear met a friend from Plymouth) and a host of destinations in England.

We said goodbye to two members of staff last year, Mr. Cothey who left us for Cheltenham Ladies' College and Miss Doris Townsend who retired after 23 years' service to the school. Both are mentioned later in the magazine. We welcome Mr. R.L. Fowler who comes to us from Wadham College, Oxford to replace Mr. Cothey in the Maths department, we hope he enjoys a long and fruitful stay at Rich's. We also welcome our new school secretary, Mrs. B.M. Irvine, mother of an Old Richian, Peter who held the post of school vice captain.

Already our agenda is filling up for this year with the major event only a few months away, the Bus Fete. We look forward to lectures and entertainments from both the Old Richians and the Parents' Association and record our thanks to both these organisations for their continued support. We look forward to the forthcoming year and hope it will be a good one ....

D.E. Lowe

#### MR. HEAP INTERVIEWED BY DIRK LOWE

D.L.: What were your earliest impressions of the school?

W.G.H.: Order, quiet and purposeful endeavour. I was impressed by the fact that wherever I went, boys and staff were getting on with their work without fuss or bother.

D.L.: Are there any changes which you would like to take place in the school?

W.G.H.: It will be a year before I can really appreciate how the school runs, before I am really in a position to know if there are any changes needed.



MR. W.G. HEAP, HEADMASTER

D.L.: In what ways is the school different from your last?

W.G.H.: The obvious one is that there are no girls here. The last school was a mixed school. Also the other obvious difference is that it is much smaller; when I look at the school in assembly there are exactly as many people in the hall as there were in my last school, but there, there were another 200 sixth formers assembled behind the platform, and obviously the actual numerical size is very marked. The buildings are better laid out, and there has been a great deal of imagination in the planning of the buildings. The similarity that exists in both schools is that leaks occur at frequent intervals, but in fact the leaks are not quite as bad here as at the other school.

D.L.: What did you quite expect to find when you first came to Rich's?

W.G.H.: That is very difficult to answer, the easiest thing to say is that one travels hopefully and the saying that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive, as far as I am concerned this is not true. Everything I had hoped to find at Rich's was in fact here - discipline, order, constant aim of the best possible standard in everything, not least of all work and very sensible tradition.

D.L.: Do you see any future for Comprehensive Education in this school?

W.G.H.: As our intake is selective, and while it remains so, our curriculum must be that suited to Grammar School abilities. Whether or not there is a future for Comprehensive Education depends on plans being now formulated by the new Gloucestershire Authority. If there is to be any change, I am sure the school will tackle it with energy and enthusiasm and humanity.

D.L.: What is your opinion of sport and the role it plays in the life of the school?

W.G.H.: Extremely important, both these things, sport and outside activities, because it is here that many boys can achieve a sense of success which eludes them in the classroom. Sport gives a chance for many boys to represent the school and be identified with it.

D.L.: What are your views on the role of the sixth form and do you foresee any changes?

W.G.H.: The sixth form are the leaders of a school of this nature, they are the means whereby the best values of the school are held in trust and passed on. Their example and influence is one of the most important factors in determining the future of the school for good or for bad. Also important is that a good relationship be established between staff and sixth forms and sixth forms and the rest of the school. I hope whatever changes in organisation might occur there would always be a sixth form and that their role would always be as it is now. Whatever changes may come about, I would hope that the role of the sixth form would not change.

D.L.: What aspect of Rich's do you find most interesting?

W.G.H.: One of the most encouraging things about the school is that when the bell goes for the end of afternoon school very few boys seem to rush out of the gates in a hurry to get away. It is very encouraging to see how many boys remain after school, not just for organised activities, but to play tennis or kick and pass a ball around the field. The history and traditions are most interesting, the fact that the school is larger than any one individual, be it first former or Head, and this is because the school is 600 boys, 30 plus staff and innumerable Old Richians from 1666 onwards.

D.L.: What could you tell us about yourself in respect of hobbies, interests etc.?

W.G.H.: I am interested in all sports and games, the problems of the environment, and tend to be pathologically obsessed with litter and untidiness. Hobbies, Geology perhaps the most important hobby, though I seem to have very little time for rock and fossil collecting. I'm interested in music in a very passive way, providing I can listen to it in comfort. I like reading, travel books, non fiction more than fiction, although it varies, I have bouts of reading, but again time seems to be short at the moment. One active fairly new interest, started in my last school, when I gave up coaching school rugby teams, was in fact squash, and I am beginning to play a little more after a four month lay off.



## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

President	Headmaster
Chairman	Mr.N.P. Partridge
Secretary	Mr. G. Barber
Secretary "Friends of the School"	Mr. P. Pearson
Treasurer	Mr. E.F. Lerry

It is now sixteen years since the Parents' Association was formed and we are glad once again to have the opportunity of reporting on the activities and ambitions of the Association.

It is interesting to note that the average attendance of the parents at the Annual General Meeting over the years has been about 100, 1973 being no exception. Your Committee would like to see an increase in attendance and interest at this event, and before going any further may we offer our thanks to Mr. Thomas for entertaining us at this year's Annual General Meeting with his slides and the lively account of his journey with the boys in Italy.

Mr. Lerry our Treasurer reports that about 70% of new parents joined the "Friends of the School", a 10% increase compared to 1972, and considering that about 10% of the new parents already have boys at the School, then the enrolment this time is very encouraging. Also it is very pleasing that the majority of the new parents signed 'deeds of covenant' forms, which means that with tax concessions every one pound unit is worth nearly half as much again to the school. REMEMBER all the money received (£450 in 1973) is spent each year on your boys for their enjoyment and education. So to those parents who have not yet joined the 'Friends', please join now by filling in the forms which were available at the Sherry Party and send them through the School to Mr. Pearson or Mr. Lerry.

As parent members of the "Friends of the School" scheme one of the benefits is that you are invited to join the Swimming Section which is becoming increasingly popular and which meets every Tuesday during school term time between 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Simply come along and be made welcome by our swimming secretary Mr. Pashley.

Another attraction is the Bowling Club, which in the winter is open on Monday and Friday evenings for indoor bowls and other activities, while in the summer good use is made of the bowling green with the opportunity to play against other clubs. Mr. Pritchard, the captain, would welcome new members, both ladies and gentlemen.

The committee would like to thank you for the wonderful support which you gave to the Tony Smythe lecture in February and especially for the 'sell out' at the excellent Chris Bonington lecture in November. There are very few schools, if any, who could attract an audience of nearly 600 people in these days of competition with television and for this we are justly proud. Please keep giving us your full support at these lectures and all other school functions.

Many thanks to Mr. Rangeley, the Choir and Choral Society for the enjoyment they have given to us during the past months and especially for the wonderful production of the 'Mikado' in association with Denmark Road and Ribston Hall High Schools. The performances attracted capacity audiences on all four evenings, a notable achievement by any standards. Let us hope that this is only the first of many 'combined operations' in the world of opera.

Once again through the year the committee has enjoyed the full support and co-operation of the Headmaster and his staff, without which the work of the Association would be impossible and therefore I offer them on behalf of all parents our grateful thanks.

Our refreshment 'Mums' have over the year done their usual efficient and sometimes unenviable job, many thanks once again Ladies!

The School 'Bus Fete' arranged for May 11th has a target of £2000. Now this is a lot of money to raise, and only with hard work and generosity on the part of everyone can we hope to achieve it. The Parents' Association has a big part to play in the success of the fete and has already promised to organise various stalls, each of which hopes to realise £100. As these are too numerous to mention could we please ask you as parents to note particularly the details in the various letters about the fete sent to you via your boys and offer your help NOW so that the maximum effort can be achieved.

REMEMBER that the school bus is an essential part of OUR boys' enjoyment and education which can only be continued through OUR efforts to help the school.

The Dads' Working Party is still operation on Thursday evenings from 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. at the school and is engaged in 'making things' for the 'Bus Fete'. Any willing dad is very welcome.

The proceeds from the Dance on February 9th and the 'Explosives' lecture on February 28th will all be given to the 'bus fund'.

In conclusion may we extend our thanks to you, the parents, for your past loyalty and ask you for your continued support to all school functions, with a very special effort for the 'bus fete'.

G.B.

#### FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens.

Wednesday 19th December, 1973.

In my six years at Rich's I have attended ten carol services, but until this Christmas always as a member of the choir. Now I have had an opportunity to hear from the congregation the result of those weeks of unobtrusive practice and self-discipline which I know will have been applied.

The traditional festival has something of the feel of a theatrical performance about it. The movements of the choir, their manipulation of their books and music-sheets (always particularly difficult for the trebles), their regrouping for some carols, were all smoothly 'stage-managed'. So was the work of the lesson-readers, who this year were especially good. Their enunciation was clear and the drama of the Christmas story was brought out but not overplayed.

Most of the carols were familiar from previous years, but were sung crisply and freshly, coloured for a wide variety of moods, ranging from the unashamedly rollicking in 'Sir Christemas', through the joyfully boisterous in 'Resonemus Laudibus' to the delicately gentle in 'O Jesulein Süß' - enhanced by being sung in its native language for the first time - (adding a fourth language to the repertoire).



The congregational hymns were all well-known and musically appropriate.

Indeed, the largely unchanging pattern and content of the service - one of the welcome landmarks of Christmas - means one can look forward with all the greater interest to the few new carols that are introduced. This year's were the traditional English 'I saw three ships', and the 14th century German 'In dulci jubilo'. The latter was demanding but vigorously tackled. Solo parts were efficiently taken by Michael Partridge (bass) David Hedges (tenor) Simon Allum and Stephen Davies (alto) and David Law and Timothy Probyn (treble). Probyn also sang the opening treble solo of 'Once in Royal David's City' in a creditably controlled and accurate performance, and took the solo part in 'In the bleak mid-winter'.

The quality of the service reflected the hard work put in by Michael Rangeley and the choir, Linden Huddleston and the readers, and our new resident organist, Bob Fowler.

D.M.

#### THE MIKADO

1st December, 1973.

I must confess at the outset that I am not a fanatical G + S enthusiast and that my threshold of tolerance for patter songs, the 'trickier' bits of Gilbert's dialogue and the more derivative of Sullivan's tunes and orchestrations is low. However, I found the combined Denmark, Ribston, Rich's presentation of Mikado a very pleasant and entertaining effort for all that.

We have become accustomed by this time to expect performances conducted by Michael Rangeley to be lively and inspired both from the point of orchestral playing and choral singing, and once again the high standard was met in this case, so that there was a good foundation of sound from the start and this was maintained throughout.

What was particularly pleasing was that Donald Moss's production ensured that not only the sound but the movement of large numbers of people contributed its part to the opera, as it should and we had some very attractive looking groupings while the drills with the fans were both amusing and a wonder for precision and dexterity.



# *Mikado*





As far as the soloists were concerned I suppose one must confess that there was a deficiency of 'big' voices but I scarcely missed a word and this is what mattered, while the ensemble singing had balance and charm. I particularly enjoyed the 'madrigal'.

There is no doubt at all that there was some very good comic acting, particularly from the girls who all showed a good appreciation of the comic opportunities offered. But the outstanding efforts belonged to Charles Stephens and Michael Partridge. Both showed the invaluable quality of good timing and Charles Stephens' mobility of expression which he used with great control contributed to a very mature performance indeed.

We talk about opera 'companies' with good reason. It emphasises the fact that these vast institutions are also teams - if they are successful, and this first venture emphasised once and for all the essential quality that the hackneyed word 'teamwork' is so often left to convey. We were well entertained by a good team well rehearsed and directed and as a result enjoyed a total performance of very high quality. It must be a source of great satisfaction to all those who took part that over a thousand people enjoyed their performances over four nights, which is pretty good going in these days of canned entertainment.

Finally I would like to add as a kind of postscript to this appreciation a word of praise of TAV for a lovely set, to David Thomas for a remarkably attractive programme which contained so much and finally to John Burrows whose ingenuity once again produced props - one in particular - that were masterpieces of craftsmanship and design.

W.G.F.B.

'The Only Way to Approach ....'

Venice and Florence, Easter 1973.

It took a few moments to realise that the floating sensation of the 'bus stop' was not just the after-effects of twenty-four hours' travelling, and that the strange blue-green clear early morning light of Venice really is as it appears in paintings.

From the vaporetto we had our first views of buildings magnificently decaying, the water lapping into waving green gaps in the stonework, the occasional lush but well-groomed garden, and the produce boats

unloading at the markets. But our main thoughts were of breakfast and we started as we meant to go on, with coffee.

To quote our learned party leader, "The only way to approach the Palazzo Ducale, the Campanile, and the Piazzetta with its two columns, is by water across the lagoon". He's right but I suspect that most of the party saw them first through prismatic glass.

St Mark's, with its overwhelming gold mosaics, grizzly relics and sense of antiquity, uneven floors, smell of damp, and stolen bronze horses from Constantinople, was my first experience of the oriental influence.

We visited the Ducal Palace, sighed dutifully in that famous bridge, were nearly asphyxiated when we visited the prisons in company with several hundred other tourists, and found where to buy the most expensive coffee in Europe. We wallowed in easily the most overloaded (but, after DRFT's haggling, underpriced) gondolas that Venice has seen for some time, and some of the party braved a Vivaldi Concert that proved so popular that Venetians struggled and battered at the doors to get in, finally succeeding in a wave of humanity that flooded into the church bearing Mr. Stocks on its crest. Sideways.

Whenever we could we sat under the Rialto Bridge and just watched the rich life of Venice pass us by. We saw a police chase by launch, a parade of vaporetto on strike, and even a Pantechnicon looming slowly into sight, on a barge.

We returned to the station in the only possible way, by vaporetto along the Grand Canal, to the strains of familiar tunes and the scandalised looks of Venetians at the Inglese in the faded fawn fawn macintosh.

If one can survive a Tuscan train journey (the unique methods of boarding with verbal invective and battering ram techniques, ordeal by garlic sausage, loss of ticket (by One Who Should Know Better) into a space marked vietato fumare, and the gamut of incredibly full trains) followed by a distinctly violent stop-start bus ride to inspect several house interiors before arriving at the correct pensione, then one fully deserves all that Florence has to offer.

We had longer in Florence to take in the best of the City, the



Duomo flower-decorated for Easter, the Baptistery with its neck-twisting mosaics and bronze doors, the Uffizzi, and the chapel in the Medici Palace with its glittering procession of the magi.

Undoubtedly the highlight for many of the party was the celebration of the Scoppio del Caro, with its lurching cart, white oxen, flying dove and unbelievably loud fireworks.

We visited the Giotto frescos at Santa Croce, the Pazzi Chapel, the extraordinary Medici tombs, climbed Giotto's Campanile, and descended frequently like vultures on the 'Perche No!' for ice creams.

We gathered that discos were expensive and that having no spoken Italian cramped one's style, that on Feast days and Public holidays opening times were decidedly erratic, and that if one got separated from the party a dash to Donnini's for coffee would be certain to find them again.

We took an evening bus ride to see the city floodlit (Messrs. Stocks' and Moss' premature and precipitate departure from the bus occasioned their bland assertion that "the only way to approach the Piazzale Michelangelo is on foot").

We haggled in the Strawmarket, inhaled the smells of marble, incense and damp, walked in Altr'arno, and found that Florence at Easter could be very cold and short cuts very long.

We spent the last two nights in luxury, a penthouse suite for some, for others merely a room with private bath and shower! This braced us for the return journey, broken by a visit to Pisa's exquisite group of buildings (and crumbling town) and a contretemps with two E.M. Forster ladies at the left luggage office, then the rest of the Battle of Pisa Station, and the rail journey to Paris ("C'est le petit déjeuner le plus desagréable"), of which I shall only say that aeroplanes may have something to offer after all.

A.M.

MR. E.C. COTHEY

At the end of the Summer Term, we said goodbye to Mr. E. Cothey. He came to the school ten years previously after considerable experience in the secondary field. In his earlier years here one would not have been surprised to find him teaching Geography, Latin or French to Junior Forms in addition to Mathematics. However in recent years he concentrated on his first love Mathematics, particularly statistics and modern topics, teaching throughout the school. A large number of boys will be forever grateful for his firm discipline, thoroughness and his ability to get the very best out of them.



Outside the classroom he was the enthusiastic Housemaster of Eastgate and the founder of the Aircraft Society. Few boys will know of his role as a Flight Lieutenant in charge of an Air Training Corps in Cheltenham.

In the common room he will be particularly missed as an avid member of the Times Crossword Brigade.

The staff and school offer Mr. Cothey their very best wishes for the future in his new post at Cheltenham Ladies' College and assure him of a very warm welcome at Rich's at any time.

J.D.H.

## MISS DORIS TOWNSEND

### School Secretary 1951 - 1973.

The first impression any visitor has of the school is made in the secretary's office. It is there that parents, new teachers, students, visiting tutors and lecturers, a variety of representatives and a host of other people make their first call. A notice, in bold print, that used to hang in Miss Townsend's room, spelled out the message, "Whatever you want, the answer is 'No'." No visitor however, who spent more than a couple of minutes in the secretary's room in Barton Street or the much smaller office in the new premises, would have realised that the message meant anything but the opposite. It had probably been pinned there, anyway, by someone who shared Doris's sense of humour.



A sense of humour is a very essential requirement for a secretary at Sir Thomas Rich's and Doris possessed it in abundance. How else could she have coped with the constant interruptions in her school day? There was always someone in the office - small boys seeking dinner tickets or first aid to their broken shins and torn clothes, not to mention members of staff doing one finger exercises on the typewriter or monopolising the 'phone or merely peeping round the door to see if the tea was ready. A frequent request from new boys at the end of the day was, "Please sir - I mean Miss - can I have the lend of some money for my bus fare home?".

The secretary's room is in many ways the hub of the school and a pleasant and helpful occupant like Miss Townsend helped, during her term of office, to make the wheels run smoothly. Visitors were soon to see that the school in her day was as happy and friendly as it is now.

Miss Townsend was appointed in May 1951 and served, with hardly a day off, until her retirement at the end of the summer term. We wish her a very happy future.

D.I.J.



## MUSIC 1973

As soon as the success of Christmas Oratorio had passed, the Choral Society resumed work on another enterprising venture, namely "The Creation" by Haydn. The term's rehearsals proved a little wearing at the beginning, as is always the case, but as the 18th May neared, definite signs of enjoyment began to appear and on the night of performance the music came together to give a "splendid re-creation" (as the Citizen described it) of the work. Special praise should also be given to the orchestra who played the very difficult music with the skill of professionals. The two bassoonists who had come all the way from Hereford provided moments of amusement, especially when the double bassoon had to grovel in the depths of its range in order to represent the crawling of the worm in its murky environment.

Meanwhile, during these rehearsals the choir had been preparing for a recital which was to be given in the Cathedral. The singing of the various anthems which included three movements from Handel's "Messiah" was of its usual high standard, especially so as the superb acoustics of the Cathedral magnified greatly the quality of the singing. The choir has also been giving regular anthems in assembly on Wednesday mornings by composers such as Haydn and Bach. The Madrigal Group has continued to function all through the year, singing a wide variety of music including Madrigals, anthems and ballads. The work which was done in the Summer term was towards a recital at the Parish Church at Leonard Stanley in July. The church dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries proved an excellent place for a recital and was greatly enjoyed by all who came.

We are now in the middle of preparing for a forthcoming Chamber Concert which is to take place in February. It is very fortunate that we should have at present Mr. Royall at Rich's who is a choral scholar from St. John's College, Cambridge, and who will be singing in both choir and Madrigal Group in addition to Choral Society.

The Michaelmas term turned out to be one of the most hectic as regards choral singing. The Choral Society split in order to undertake two large scale works: the tenors and basses in conjunction with the girls from Denmark and Ribston Hall to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Mikado', and the trebles and altos to sing Britten's "Ceremony of Carols". The latter proved to be

extremely difficult. As a result of this, much to the disappointment of the boys who had put in so much hard work, the performance was cancelled. However the work which the Choral Society is at present engaged with, Britten's "St. Nicholas" is proving to be a slight relief and much more enjoyable to sing.

"The Mikado" on the other hand went down extremely well with all who took part and all four performances provided evenings of very great pleasure and amusement for the 1700 audience who came to listen. It seems incredible when one thinks back to the very first attempts at sight reading the music how a production can grow from half a dozen people sitting around a table to the glorious splendour of over a hundred people performing on the last night. The work could not have been performed to such a high standard without the direction of Mr. Rangeley and Mr. Moss who spent such a great deal of time and hard work bringing the work up to the standard received.

When the haze of this success had disappeared, there were only a few weeks left to the end of term. This however was not being spent in an idle fashion for there still remained one of the highlights of Rich's music in the form of the Carol Services. Not only were there the two main services at St. John's and Longlevens but a third recital during the lunch hour of the Monday preceding the two main services. The first rehearsal of the carols in fact took place on the last Friday before half-term which shows how long in advance such work has to begin. Both services were a great success and despite the spate of colds and flu at that time were very well attended. Indeed the lunch-time recital was much appreciated by the large number of people who came along. For the choir too it provided much enjoyment.

Of the nine carols sung at the main carol services "In Dulci Futilo" and "Gabriels Message" were the highlights. For the first time at a carol service the choir ventured into the complexities of the German language "O Jesulein ~~Suss~~" by J.S. Bach which proved to be very effective.

This brought the year to a close on a very happy note, a year, very fruitful in terms of musical attainment and very encouraging in view of future projects. One must not forget that it has been achieved only through hard work and dedication, not only on the part of Mr. Rangeley but to a great extent of the boys and masters themselves. Loyalty is the essential factor and without this nothing can be done.

J.W.T.



'BAGPIPES'

I.R. Robins 5R

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## THE BATTLE OF PISA

(All the characters in this story exist - we have merely altered the facts to protect identities.)

Being an account of the memorable engagement between the Sir Thomas Rich's Italian party and a large number of our Common Market friends.

It was the end of the school journey to Italy. We were waiting at Pisa Station for our train to arrive. Suddenly, it arrived - if anything 23 coaches long could arrive suddenly. The immense length of the train caught us out of position. Swiftly Mr. S snatched up his suitcases, and flew down the platform, the rest of the party strung out behind like a mini-kohoutek.

Our carriage seemed to be packed with human sardines, all floundering for air. We decided to attack from both ends in a pincer-like movement in two groups led by Mr. T and Mr. S.

Mr. S. first laid both hands on the door with a determined look on his face, prised them open, and two suitcases burst out followed immediately afterwards by a body. Two or three other people were trying to escape but unfortunately two exuberant Italians near us were very eager to get on, and, leaping on board, blocked the exit. At this point Mr. S. erupted; screaming, "There are venty dewey waiting to get on!", he seized hold of one of those ill-mannered louts by the lapels, heaved him backwards into mid-air, and deposited him on the platform. His companion evidently got the message, for he leapt down immediately and ran for his life.

At the other end, Mr. T was having more success. He had pushed himself backwards into the coach, gradually squashing four foreigners into the 'Waschraum Lavabo Washroom' - not at their convenience. The small gap this created was slowly filled by members of our party who set about making some headway down the corridor which was knee-deep in suitcases and various limbs. At this point, one member of the party, seeing people apparently being hauled off the train, declared "He's gone berserk!"

Most of Mr. T's platoon were now in the corridor. Miss Townsend

found herself wedged in the doorway of a compartment which, as fate would have it, was occupied by sailors of the Italian Navy. Moreover, on Miss Townsend's other flank there were five young Italian ladies. Naturally these nautical fellows, knowing that "all the nice girls love a sailor" beckoned to these young persons to join them, but Miss Townsend, in a very loud voice and with accompanying gestures, protested that she couldn't possibly let them pass in her present position. Seeing this display, one of the sailors said something and his friends laughed; Miss Townsend's own words best describe what followed; "I don't know whether it was meant for me but just in case it was, I biffed him."

By now things were getting organised. Mr. S had indiscriminately ejected twenty or so passengers and had inserted in his unit in the corridor. Field-Marshal Monty Huddleston had established a bridge-head in one compartment, grabbing at anybody who looked remotely as if they were in our party, and his industry was such that he had soon collected 10 people and 15 peoples' luggage. Miss Townsend was just knocking out her fifth sailor.

But the battle was not yet over, for the enemy launched their secret weapon. A rather portly woman dressed in black suddenly appeared, and began to manoeuvre her way down the corridor. Her method was a wonder to behold; she was polite to the point of fawning to her own sex, but when she met a man, she thumped him in the small of the back, knocked him over, then in her stiletto heels clambered over the prostrate figure below her.

At this point the couchette conductor appeared on the scene, to be greeted by the memorable words "M'sieu, I will report you to Rome, in 25 years of continental travel I have never ...."

A. Dalton UV1R

#### BIRD LIFE AROUND THE SCHOOL

You may think the bird life around the school is rather restricted, especially as this is not a mixed school! The bird life is restricted though, mainly because of the number of boys running around, and the limited variety of habitat. Consequently, we regularly have only some of the commoner species such as the Starling, House Sparrow, Rook and Carrion Crow. But even these prove very interesting.

It is often very amusing to watch Starlings feeding on the field.



The school buildings serve well as a sort of permanent hide, and you can peer out of the window of Room 16 (as I often do) and get a very good view of the Starlings feeding with the gulls.

Many gulls can be seen flying over the school in the evenings. Some of us will have noticed that they all fly in the same direction - namely south-west. In fact, they are flying to their communal roost on the Severn near Frampton. The gulls which can usually be seen on the rugby posts and the rest of the school field (especially outside the Library, Room 16 and the Music Room) are almost entirely Common Gulls, which, incidentally, are not very common at all. Bearing this in mind, we are quite fortunate, I think, to have these birds on our doorstep, as it were.

Going back to the Starling again, but still on the subject of communal roosts, I noticed one Monday afternoon, that the Starlings around the school congregate in and around a fruit tree in a back garden, opposite the main building, in Oakleaze. From here, prior to sunset they fly off in small groups in a roughly north-westerly direction.

Other birds which can be found feeding on the school field include the Rook and the Carrion Crow. The Rook is another very interesting common bird and it also roosts communally. In January last (1973) I was fortunate to notice a partly albino Carrion Crow on the school field. It had a white 'bar' on each wing which was very noticeable when it flew. For several weeks after this it made regular visits to the school - not only putting in appearances on the school field, but also on the roof of the swimming pool, drinking from the small pools thereon.

The Kestrel is rarely seen around the school but it made a couple of brief appearances last spring. The most exciting species to be seen at the school of late is the Buzzard. A pair was recently spotted by Mr. Bloxham circling at high altitude above the school.

One or two Pied Wagtails are almost always present, These little grey, black and white birds can be seen picking the area in front of the school for food at most times of the day. This bird, and other similar species require an enormous amount of energy to stay warm at this time of the year, and because of the short period of daylight, an individual needs to catch an average sized insect every  $2\frac{1}{2}$  seconds to stay alive.

Finally, I must mention the adaptable House Sparrow. These birds never miss out on anything! They find the sheltered ledges, crooks and crannies when there is a strong, cold wind, and they build their extremely untidy nests under the tiles outside the Biology labs and under the roof of the Dutch Barn. Most incredible of all, though, is their adoption for roosting. At a recent square dance, Mr. Cooper noticed that it was possible for a small bird such as a sparrow to sit on the flat lamp covers under the covered walk in the quadrangle. In fact, this is what a number of sparrows had done - thereby keeping warm and dry! One can't help thinking they will suffer from this power crisis too!



Toast's so unfriendly isn't it?

Toast's so unfriendly, isn't it?  
Its sharp edges bite you for your biting,  
And there is crunching, and gnashing of teeth.

After the smooth poached egg,  
And the sliver of salty sea weed bacon,  
It comes as rather a shock to the soft gums and tongue.

But if the ordeal of munching and grinding,  
Catching and crushing those rectangular concrete blocks  
of half burned bread is too much for you,  
You can always soak it in a mouthful of tea.

N.J.W. Eyles UV1S

## TRANSITION

She was beautifully slim, with a figure so trim 36, 23, 35,  
And she dressed with such care it made the boys stare,  
It was good to be young and alive.  
Than a change came about, that gave cause for some doubt,  
When they passed a new law for the nation.  
Her villain was born on a cold frosty morn,  
And that villain was called metrication,  
Then the boys passed her by, they wouldn't say why,  
So she blamed it all on her outline,  
No, it's not so absurd, could you fancy a bird 92, 83, 89.



45  
N.HARRIS



## DEATH IN DUPLICATE (!!)

### 1. Epitaph for Emmeline

There is no coldness in your lips  
Nor emptiness in your eyes as you hold your pose  
With carefully crafted features  
Etched out like a portrait that tells a small, white lie.  
For where is your quick smile, or your reproving frown,  
With which you so often used to chide me?  
Vanished, smoothed out by the artist's brush.  
You gaze on me with an air of vague beneficence.  
Paintings fade with time, ageing, wrinkling, yellowing,  
Crumbling to dust between careless fingers.  
And so will you, though I will never see the masterpiece decay.  
To me it will always remain, the colours bright,  
Eyes twinkling with a mockery of life.  
The portraight, newly finished, in my mind  
Will shine forever, the paint never dry.

### 2. Epitaph for a Success

Grin on, grin on.  
You have no reason to be laughing now  
For years I have endured your mocking laugh  
That scythed into my brain and left it numb and sad  
Knowing all that I was lacking,  
All that you possessed, that I could never have.  
Submerged in your armchair by the fire  
You smugly gazed through your double glazing  
And saw me shivering in the lashing rain  
And laughed again,  
Laughed so that I could see your pleasure and contempt.  
I stood, starving in my emotional desert,  
And watched you laughing with your friends, chasing the girls,  
And doing everything that I, in my vacuum, could not face.  
Was I a lesser man than you, in body or intelligence?  
Probably not. But I always felt inferior,  
You always made me so.  
Laugh, damn you, laugh!  
You laughed at me, at life, lets see you laugh at death.  
And yet soon I will join you,  
I who have cried my life away, alone.

cont.

cont.

How can they call death the leveller,  
And say it makes no difference how you live,  
For happy and sad are made equal by death?  
For life is what matters.  
You have ~~run~~ and won the race of life  
And I have lost.  
Therefore, grin on.  
You will always laugh at me now  
For your death cannot take away the pain,  
But memories of what I should have done and never did  
Stab me with daggers which are sharper still.  
You live on in my agonies as an everlasting reproach  
To my failure, and to my wasted years.  
Well ~~may~~ you laugh, for I can never do so ~~now~~.

A. Jeeves UV1R

#### HAVE YOU NOTICED?

Have you noticed the new steel lockers in school? There they stand, serried smug and sullen. Conceived in violence, born in ravaging furnace flame and fashioned in cacophony, they have never lived. Their fabric contains no hint of hoarded sun or rain or seasons in procession, no evocation of slow green dreaming under the sky. Their doors, identically neutral and tawdrily furnished with plastic, offer no varied patterns to gratify the eye. No-one ever felt delight in handling them or touching their unresponsive coldness. They will clatter and clang, become scratched and buckled; the doors will cease to fit; they will be a perfect manifestation of modern squalor.

They epitomise efficiency and the rape of life by the grey faceless ones - because they are cheaper than wood. Yet the faceless ones pay us ostensibly to open your eyes to better things!!

N.J.B.

YOU'RE READING THE LESSON NEXT WEEK

Knees knock, fingers fumble, stomach strains.  
612 boys, 23 masters, Mr. Heap and me!  
How should I  
That is  
How did you  
What I mean is

Oil on a lightening-smashed sea

My Father told me; "stand up straight  
And stare at the masses right in the face"  
What, all of them?

My Mother's suggestions are always the same;  
"Straighten tie, comb hair, and clean shoes"  
Will they notice?

Friends proffered useful hints; "Make sure  
They are at the page when you begin"  
Will they ever find Haggai?

HM himself was also concerned "A pause  
of four seconds is usually taken"  
What do I do in a pause?

Mount the steps one at a time  
During the hymn it's best to mime  
Explain it's the New English Bible you're reading  
Do you think it's a megaphone I'll be needing  
Remember to talk to a chap at the back  
Monday's the worst - it's alright after that  
Give them plenty of time to sit down  
Not too near HM or you'll step on his gown.

But  
Rational enlightenment comes from within:  
A clear, loud speaker will excite no attention  
Whereas nervous faltering lifts inquisitive heads  
Yes, it's all so easy now  
Knees knock, fingers fumble, stomach strains.

A. Dalton

IN MEMORIAM

The hymn rang out across the plain  
The mourners sang their last refrain  
The bearers sighed as they took the strain,  
The blood ran cold, right through my brain.

The tears ran down across my cheek,  
They were burying her now, fast asleep,  
In a coffin of polished teak,  
Into the ground, dark and deep.

One year later, I return again  
To put some flowers upon the grave,  
The bells are ringing joyously out,  
I weep again as I go out.

I do not heed their joyful sound,  
For she lies there, locked in the ground.

N. Giles UV1R



RODGERS  
5R

ODE TO FRED, THE JOCKEY



Old Fred he had a rocking-horse  
And Silver was it's name,  
Old Fred he rode the rocking-horse,  
For racing was his game.  
He rode it in the Derby,  
He rode it in the yard,  
He rode it back to front one day,  
By God! It warn't 'arf hard!  
One day he fell off Silver's back,  
And hurt himself quite badly,  
'Oh dear' he cried 'I've lost the knack'  
My verse had ended sadly.

Meyrick 115  
Dalton 115

## FUN, FUN, FUN!

I want fun.  
Beans means fun.  
Drinka pinta funa day.  
More fun.  
Legal fun. We want fun.  
Where's the fun gone?  
And all because the Lady loves fun.  
Fun is for the fellas.  
Women's fun strikes out!  
Cabinet minister in fun scandal.  
All you need is fun in the fun mills of your mind.  
Fun at fourteen!  
Fun for O.A.Ps!  
Teachers demand fun 'O' level.  
Fun in the U.S.A. today.  
A whole lotta fun.  
It's fun that makes the world go round.  
Giant fun concert at Earl's Court, featuring top group The Fun.  
Fun for adults only.  
Good fun has Danish all over it.  
A long moment of fun, part of the British scene.  
President Amin orders: No Fun.  
Fun curfew in Cambodia.  
Ty-phoo puts the fun in Britain.  
Liberals win election on fun policy.  
Beatles reform for fun.  
Enoch Powell refuses fun to Indians.  
Fun washes whiter.  
Frank Zappa admits: "We're only in it for the fun".  
Read today's 'Daily Fun'.  
Have fun, make fun, do fun, be fun.  
More fun ! Take fun, give fun, see fun,  
feel fun, eat fun, drink fun, live fun,  
Sheer enjoyment.

N.J.W. Eyles UV1S



## THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM

The perfumed extras pass the day  
In agonies of anticipation  
Diana, golden goddess of a thousand summer nights  
Brushes her hair with short, sharp, whiplash strokes  
She is considered an easy lay  
Among the pent-house-pampered gods  
While ageing Hannah  
Who once took many hungry hearts away  
Trading lips and love for whispered promises  
Now sits before the mirror with a pot of rouge  
And dabs and smears hopefully  
All over town, old hands and raw recruits  
Dab, smear and brush  
Spray, curl and set  
Their minds gripped by the glittering sign in the hills  
That is their dream

And when night comes, they lie on their backs  
And look up at the stars.

A. Jeeves UV1R

## THE GEORDIES

There are many sub-tribes in Geordie-land. Some have deserted the ways of their forefathers, becoming urbanised and live in semi-detached houses. We can find little of tradition among these renegades as they all speak a debased form of English known as "High West Jesmond", or "Darras Hall". The latter live in a fortified enclave to the North of Newcastle. The women folk, so the natives maintain, wearing fur coats and 'no knickers'. This original statement has been found to be untrue due to a natural mistake made in translation. It should really be 'knee knickers' these being necessary due to the fact that many of the older bungalows have 'outside netties' and the winds in these parts blow cold. 'Wor da', (father) who recently visited a rich old coal merchant there stated to me

'Sennuftoblaayerlugsofftheor', thus endorsing the windy nature of this enclave.

Then we have the semi urbanised inhabitants who live in larger

terrace houses. Many of these are students who commute only between each others pads and the bun room at the University. Most of them are regrettably foreigners really, from as far south as the Home Counties. Many of these have never seen a native Geordie and imagine that they all talk like Jimmy Saville or Ena Sharples. The Geordie Native tolerates these poor migrants in spite of the fact that he firmly believes that they spend their entire life growing hair, taking trips and digging up cricket pitches. The students, for their part, imagine that the natives spend their lives growing enormous leeks and beating their wives, which is not completely true.

Then we have the smaller wigwam Geordies who are now mostly emigrating to multi-storey wigwams. These are probably the most civilised of all - due to insufficient sound-proofing they have had to stop beating their wives altogether. A further contributory reason is that due to the inefficiency of the lifts, the male Geordie is too exhausted to even think of beating his wife. Not like the old days when it was lift the sneck on the back door and belt 'Yor lass' as soon as you got in. Then we have the 'council house' Geordies. These too have stopped beating their wives because the 'council estates' are so far from their place of work that they barely have time to assert their conjugal rights before it's time to get up again. The women folk are extremely moral because the cold winds that blow while they traverse the slopes of the pit heap to the shops kill the inclination. We are left with the most powerful and primitive inheritors of the traditions of the Geordie nation, the 'Pitmatic' Geordies or 'Yackers'. These live often in very long rows of low wigwams. In the back street, set in the centre, are smaller subsidiary wigwams called 'nettles'. For some reason no-one ever uses the front entrance to the main wigwam except for the usual tribal ceremonies connected with birth, death or marriage. Consequently there is long grass in the front street and mud in the back, since street-paving is looked upon as soft living even by the National Coal Board.

Another strange custom is that of never numbering the back doors and as the front is either nailed up or you can't see it for grass, it is easy to get lost. The natives have their own method of identification - a local chief told me recently, 'It's easy ter find wor hoose, sivin nettles past the rain barrel'.

In this typical N.C.B. atmosphere there is a standard pattern of life. It begins in the early hours of the morning and goes something like this:



Mother is grilling an enormous leek for breakfast, father is still asleep. The time is 7.15 a.m. The traditional method of waking wor da' is to shout twice. One to shake him initially from his usual broon ale stupor, the second to encourage him to wash, shave and descend to eat the enormous leek. Hence the dialogue goes like this

Wor Muthor	7.15 a.m.	'Y'up?'
Wor da'	7.16 a.m.	'A'mup!'
Wor Muthor	7.20 a.m.	'Y'upyit?'
Wor da'	7.21 a.m.	'A'mupnoo!'

Seeing as the men work long shifts and go out to the club each night while the women folk stay in and make 'proggy mats' there is little further conversation to report. By the time wor da' has come back from the club, checked the barbed wire round the leek bed, fed the leeks with pigs blood and aspirins, taken the whippet for a walk and wound his watch it's time for a short nap and then resume the mornings traditional greeting 'Y'up?' etc.

And so life goes on in foremans row while the buzzer blows at the 'Bella pit', and the cursing colliers count the days to redundancy.

S. Douglass 4S



## SOCIETIES

### LITERARY SOCIETY

The Society has enjoyed a full year and increased interest since Dirk Lowe took the chair in September. The Society has had several theatre visits since then, notably to the Everyman, Cheltenham to see a performance of 'Workhouse Donkey' by J. Arden and to the Arts Centre for a performance by a youthful cast of 'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas. For these and other occasions we thank Mr. Huddleston very sincerely for his patronage and help.

Mr. T.G. Smith gave a talk to the Society entitled 'Underworld Man' about Dostoevsky. The lecture was greatly enjoyed by an audience of over 40 boys.

More recently we visited Studio 3 in Cheltenham to see Passolini's version of the 'Canterbury Tales' as with previous theatre outings this was very well supported.

A greater support is hoped for by the younger boys next term and events will be organised of special interest for them.

D. Lowe UV1R

### ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The Astronomical Society continues to be successful - meetings are supported by boys from all levels of the school. We have had talks on subjects ranging from Copernicus to the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, as well as slightly less exotic things like the discovery of Pluto and the structure of the sun; and the films we have shown - again on a wide variety of astronomical subjects - have been very popular.

Our thanks go to the people who gave talks to the Society, to our projectionists, and of course to Mr. McBurnie, the president of the Society.

Robert Jones LV1R  
David Wilton 4S

### THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATING SOCIETY

This house believes in ghosts but not communism, which is all very well if you happen to be a capitalist poltergeist, but far more important than proving points the Society has introduced the boys (4th form and below) to the art of public speaking ( or as near to the public as we can get).

Two interesting debates were held with the Junior Debating Society of Denmark Road School on drugs, and the age of leisure.

We also held a very successful "Call my Bluff" meeting which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Many thanks to Mr. D.F. Moss, Mr. D.R.F. Thomas and Mr. W.R. Spear for their invaluable help in chairing debates.

We like to think that the Politicians, lawyers and comedians of the future are the Middle School Debating Society speakers of today.

A.D.J. Jewell 3S

### RAILWAY SOCIETY

Since the last Richian report the Railway Society has again seen a change of leadership in the form of Nick Giles, Mike Newcombe and Paul Bryson.

The first trip under the new regime was an all-steam trip to the Severn Valley Railway and industrial premises of Stourport power station. At the former we had a ride up the line and back behind an ex-Army 2-10-0 steam locomotive and at the latter an old Reckett steam locomotive was found to be still working. With the help of Mr. Moss and the school minibus the trip proved very successful, a total of some forty steam engines being seen. Many proposals were made that the Society might run a similar trip to the Dart Valley Railway in Devon, next year.

Our latest trip has been by train to the locomotive depot and workshops of British Rail at Doncaster. Having been thrown out of the depot on numerous occasions we were very pleased when a rather irate Yorkshireman stormed out of his office and I was able to wave a permit for a party of twenty in his face.

As well as these trips the Society's programme has also consisted of many talks, slide and film shows. Topics ranged from a talk by N. Sutton (5T) on the Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway to an illustrated talk by an outside speaker and ex-Richian Nick Hayward on the Railways of South Africa.

P. Bryson UV1S  
N. Giles UV1R  
M. Newcombe UV1S

#### THE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

This year the Society has held meetings, normally on Wednesdays after school, in the Chemistry Laboratory.

The aim of the Society is to foster an interest in the art and science of radio communication. The school transmitting station continues to be active and, in addition to the many varied contacts with amateur radio stations all over the world, regular contact is made with the amateur radio station at the Headlands Grammar School, Swindon.

Lectures and demonstrations of amateur radio principles and other aspects of short wave communication have been given. It is hoped that these lectures will eventually lead members to sit the Radio Amateurs' Examination, which must be passed before any form of transmitter can be legally used.

The Society now boasts three licensed amateurs and several keen short wave listeners among its members.

New members are always welcome and we feel we can offer them an interesting and rewarding hobby.

A.A. Mann UV1T

#### THE CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

The club was formed at the beginning of the 1973 school year. There are thirty nine members, a surprisingly large number so early in our development. The first major event for the club took place in October when an internal competition was held. A. Toohig and D. Booth were the winning pair and both generously donated their prizes to the bridge club. The participants found the evening to

be, on the whole, an enjoyable experience and another is being planned for 1974. In November two teams were entered for a practice session in preparation for the Daily Mail Cup for schools. Two Cheltenham Bridge Club teams played to bring the number of teams fielded to nine. The team, consisting of P. Dix, K. White, A. Hill and P. Gorman, had a slight overall negative score. A Crypt team came second with an overall zero score. The school 'B' team was the only school team to gain an overall (and sizeable) positive score. The team, consisting of C. Davidson, S. Bright, C. Parker and P. Brown, thus reestablished the school as a major contender in bridge competitions, a position from which it had sadly slipped in the recent past. After this success we eagerly await a match with the Crypt school which will soon be held.

Our aim for the future is to continue providing the opportunity for large numbers to enjoy playing bridge of (we hope) an ever improving quality.

C. Davidson UV1

#### THE STAMP CLUB

This year the school Stamp Club has been restarted after an absence of just under 2 years. The last Stamp Club meeting was held in 1971 when Mr. Robinson, who has since left the school, presided over the meeting. Mr. W.R. Spear has reestablished it and this term's events are well under way. There has been a good attendance at most meetings. The membership of the club is open to all boys of the school and a small subscription charge is levied for membership. Held at these meetings, as announced are swapping sessions, quizzes and auctions of stamps. This year we have started to run a collection of any sort of used stamps, to raise funds for charity. A large parcel was sent to the Blue Peter Stampede.

We have already been to the Gloucester Sorting Office where we were shown all round. The Post Office Staff showed us the old fashioned mail carts, the newest type of electric model mail van and the mail motor bikes used for emergency telegrams. We also saw the large machines used for sorting out the letters into first and second post. Then near the end we saw the letters being sorted into racks for delivery.

N. Anderson



### THE JUNIOR SCHOOL AIRCRAFT SOCIETY

The Society is now in its 3rd year with a large membership. Meetings are held regularly when talks, films and trips are held. The Society is indebted to Mr. Burrows, the president, who has taken the Society on trips in the school bus, many times. At the end of last term we lost our president, Mr. Cothey, who had often supplied us with films.

Next year it is hoped to run more trips to the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton, which has been visited by the Society before, and to other places of interest, possibly the B.A.C. factory next spring where Concorde is being made. New members are always welcome.

N. Burnett      4R  
S.L. Poole      4R

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is with the greatest pleasure that I can announce that the Society has in no way failed over the past year to live up to its enormous reputation, in fact it has been a bumper year, a great assortment of trips have been organised, and a number of lectures have been delivered by eminent historians, not forgetting of course the usual paraphernalia of films, quizzes and slide shows.

One of the most popular trips was the 3-day visit to North Wales at the end of the summer term. Mr. Moss kindly let us invade his peaceful retreat at Rhyd, where we used his cottage as a centre for visits to castles such as Beaumaris, Criccieth, and Caernarvon. Unfortunately the weather was typically Welsh, and thoroughly drenched the tent in which three of us slept. My favourite recollection is that of "Jock" Bolton barefoot and in his pyjamas, circumnavigating the tent at 2 a.m. in order to slacken the guy ropes, being pursued by frogs and earwigs and squashing 6 inch slugs underfoot.

Castles not slugs were the main feature of a one-day trip to the opposite end of Wales, where we visited Castell Coch, Raglan Castle, White Castle (which is pink) and Goodrich Castle. Other outings in the mini-bus, which incidentally has never misbehaved with Mr. Huddleston at the wheel, included an evening trip to Stancombe, a visit to the Tower of London and Hampton Court, yet another trip to Stourhead and Montacute, and also Witley and Worcester. The

most enjoyable trip was undoubtedly one to Winchester, Wilton and Wardour when the venerable Mr. Moore surprisingly invented a permissive game called "Spot the Loo", Mr. Moore was remarkably adept at this sport, but he did disallow Miss Townsend's joyful cry of "There's one!" because she hadn't uttered the word "loo".

In a more serious vein, we have been very fortunate in having three well-known historians give lectures to the Society. In December, Dr. Anthony Fletcher of Sheffield University spoke on "Petitioning and the Outbreak of Civil War", throwing new light on the attitudes of the two opposing forces and revealing the great interest of the provinces as shown in letters and petitions, several of which were quoted. At the beginning of the Lent term, Mr. Donald Pennington of Balliol College, Oxford delivered a talk on Science in the Seventeenth Century. Again, this was a particularly entertaining lecture, containing an opinion that "Christ was a super travelling-salesman moving from planet to planet selling redemptions to different nations".

On January 28th we received Mr. Roger Lockyer of Royal Holloway College, London, who gave a lecture entitled "Was there a Revolution in England in the 17th Century?"

Mr. Thomas also spoke to the Society on a history of the Cunard Line, entitled "When does this place get to England". It was particularly well-illustrated by his own hand-painted models of liners brought in a large Kellogg's cardboard box.

As regards the paraphernalia, we were hosts to The High School, Denmark Road in a quiz entitled "Battle of the Sexes". The large audience was rewarded by a thrilling encounter in which the stronger sex emerged triumphant by an overwhelming majority of one point.

Another quiz, based on the wireless programme "Fair Deal" and given an historical accent by calling it "Ye Olde Fair Deale", was held between a team of boys and members of staff, unfortunately one of the boys played his Joker at an inopportune moment and the masters won by a considerable margin.

A film entitled "Caring for History" was hired from the British Film Council. It was highly entertaining, explaining the different methods of preservation of historical monuments, several of which we have visited.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Moss and Mr. Huddleston for driving the mini-bus, and above all the Society's thanks are due to our kaleidoscopic President, Mr. Thomas, without whom little of our success would have been possible.

A.D

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

This Society was formed last year in order to provoke interest in photography and to teach people how to process their own films, right from the first step of loading the film into the camera to the last step of sticking pictures into their albums. We have the use of the dark room, so anyone is able to join in and gain satisfaction out of developing his own prints. We have had several meetings this term when we held slide shows and brought in outside speakers to lecture on photography. The meetings don't have a fixed date. Outings are also part of our timetable and we intend to visit places such as safari parks and places of natural and unnatural beauty.

C. Roberts 4S

S. Douglass 4S

#### P.S.V. CLUB

An uneventful year, with a dislike of formal meetings by all concerned, although notes and news is exchanged in informal gatherings at break. The club also keeps in contact with D. Pemberton and B.A. Rowney, past organisers of the club.

R. Smith 5T

#### DEBATING SOCIETY

President: H.J. Potter Esq.  
Chairman: R.I. Greig  
Secretary: M.A. Newcombe

This term, due to many leadership changes, the holding of debates has been somewhat erratic. A new leadership was eventually obtained, however, by the 'gentle persuasion' of certain second year sixth formers.

Among the subjects debated this year have been the questions of arming the British Police and whether or not Venice should be allowed

to sink. A balloon debate, which was very amusing, has also been held.

The involvement of many of our best supporters and speakers plus our chairman in the school production of the "Mikado" limited the debating at the end of 1973. Our chairman, Roderick Greig, has now passed on to higher education and therefore the election of a new chairman and committee is the first priority for the new year. It is hoped, however, to commence regular debating in the lecture theatre again as soon as possible.

M.A. Newcombe UV1S

#### THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

This is certainly not one of the large societies of the school, but its regular meetings are supported by a small number of devotees, often visited by other members of the school who come to find out just who really is up there.

It seems that many peoples' view of a Christian is still a hell-fire preacher offering a choice of salvation and life, or a wailing and gnashing of teeth. Those regular to our meeting will know that this is not true, and those who do not come ... they really don't know what they are missing!

N.J.W. Eyles

#### CHESS

Over the last twelve months the school chess team has come close to winning the Gloucester Schools Competition, their Zonal stage of the Sunday Times National Schools Tournament, and retaining the Dorrington Cup. How closely we contested these honours can be reflected by the fact that we were losing finalists in all three. The Sunday Times defeat was particularly disappointing for the players, like myself, who remembered losing to the Zonal winners in the 1971-2 season. The team was able to take solace in the thought that we would be striving for these titles this year with the same team. Not many teams are able to call upon the same players two years running and this will be our strength as well as the downfall of our opponents. The one success of the 1972-3 season came when we finished third from eight teams in the second division

of the North Gloucestershire League, ahead of the three other schools teams competing. This was our first year in the North Gloucestershire League and many who thought we would be more suited to third division chess, before the season, soon had deeper deliberation when we defeated the League champions in our opening fixture.

In the present season there would be little to report as yet but it is a tribute to the school team in that it has already reached the semi-final of its Zone in the Sunday Times Competition. In matches up to this point it has conceded no individual loss, winning by the wide margins of 6 v 0,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  v  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  v  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr. Thomas who was responsible for organisation and catering at the matches. We are also indebted to Mr. Burrow and Mr. Moss who, although not normally associated with chess, have offered their services on several occasions.

During the winter months there has been a poor attendance at the chess club meetings particularly from the first forms. It is hoped that this situation will be rectified when the school tournament begins in the spring term.

J.P. Legg UV1R

#### 44th VENTURE SCOUTS

The Venture Scout Unit has once again enjoyed an exciting and successful year. There were anxious moments near to the beginning of the term with view to new members, but this situation solved itself quite quickly and the Unit can now be said to be operating at full strength.

There have been two main activities this year, the summer expedition to North-West Scotland and the rebuilding of the hut. The summer expedition was attended by twelve members of the Unit, who took part in activities such as caving, mountaineering, swimming and fishing. Altogether two weeks were spent in the area of the Highlands around Lochinver and Inchnadamph, exploring the mountain, lochs, valleys and wild life of the area. The expedition passed without major incident and was enjoyed in part or whole, by all.



At the beginning of the summer it was decided that the scout hut was in desperate need of repair, as the roof was sagging badly and the walls were beginning to fall in. Since that time a lot of hard work and money has been put into rectifying these faults, and after many frantic and dangerous hours work, I can report that the hut is once more a safe place. All the major jobs have been completed and there are only a few minor things to be done. The hut is now used, as it was before, for playing table tennis and darts, for meetings, paper-stacking, and generally meeting together at breaks, dinner times, and after school.

Another item on this year's agenda was the half-term camp, which was held, in a deserted cottage near to the Biblins in the Wye Valley. During our time here we were occupied in many activities including; caving, climbing, canoeing and horse riding. This camp was very well supported and I hope that this will be the shape of things to come in the new year.

As well as the camps and the rebuilding of the hut, there have been many other varied activities. Some of our members attended, and thoroughly enjoyed a combined Ranger Guide - Scout week-end held at Cowley, taking part in activities such as rifle shooting, canoeing, orienteering and judo!! During the summer months the canoes were used for week-ends on the canal and at Twynning, and three of our members entered the Boston Marathon. There have been week-end caving trips near the Biblins, ice skating evenings at Bristol, night activities in the Forest of Dean and climbing at Cleeve Hill. More recently we have undertaken archery.

As well as these activities the Unit has been involved in community service. Mornings and afternoons have been spent shovelling coal, chopping wood, and digging gardens for O.A.Ps. Evenings have been spent delivering and collecting furniture for Glosaid, and the beginning of the summer term was spent digging out and gravelling the path in the G.R. Sheard Memorial Garden.

The Unit is doing well and has the potential to make the coming year one of the best ever. I am sure that those concerned will take it upon themselves to make it so.

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

There has been one large scale orchestral Choral concert this season and that was in April. The object of this concert was to give the

less experienced players a chance to perform a work, and also to give the audience a cross section of music in the school. We heard music from the full orchestra, the chamber orchestra and the quartet, and general soloists, including a piano solo from the more experienced concert pianist, Paul Fugler. I would like to thank Paul for the great contribution that he has made to the instrumental music of this school. We have all enjoyed his performances on the piano, especially his playing of Debussy, and we wish him all success at Reading University, where he is now studying.

A few instrumentalists have also been involved in the production of the 'Creation' and the recent 'Mikado'. It has been our aim to have as many boys in these orchestras as possible. In the 'Mikado' orchestra there were twelve boys as compared with four in the 'Creation'.

But success does not come without a great deal of hard work and practise. Too many boys are now too willing to give up their instruments because they are not willing to practise. Regular practise is the key to success. It is much better to do half an hour a day, rather than three hours over the week-end. But many boys are unwilling to spend half an hour a day and the result, they make no progress, and soon tire of their instruments. Playing a musical instrument is not easy, and it should not be taken up lightly. But once the instrument is taken up, it is a sign of personal failure if the boy decides to stop after the first year.

But the time spent practising is worthwhile. Not only does one gain great enjoyment from playing, but one also gives much enjoyment to many people, and this I feel, is the most important aspect of playing, to give enjoyment.



D. Hedges 63

# SCHOOL SPORT

## TENNIS

Because of a number of unfortunate events this last season was rather disappointing. It began and finished in fine fashion with resounding home wins over Kings, Marling and Crypt but otherwise the season almost did not exist. A narrow defeat at Cheltenham College, where an under 16 team drew, and a comfortable victory over the Gloucestershire College of Education were the only other matches played. An away match with Dean Close was rained off.

The highlight of the season was the success of both a senior and junior doubles pair in the Gloucestershire Schoolboys doubles competition. The senior pair were runners up while the junior pair were beaten semi-finalists.

The regular players were Bergman, Mellon, Dix, Lloyd, Thompson and Pigott(captain); Merrett and Dwight also played.

The senior tennis tournament was won by Thompson who beat Paul Dix. The junior tournament was won by Mellon who beat Mark Dix, younger brother of Paul. Both matches were played under difficult conditions with a strong wind blowing.

Thompson was awarded his tennis colours.

D.Pigott UV1T

## Croquet Club

By the time you read this another season of croquet will just be beginning. The game continues to have a large following- although the interest is less fanatical than it was in the days of the Historical Society tournaments.

I should like to thank the groundsman for mowing the lawn for us, Basil Comely for taking over as secretary when I was in my O - Levels last summer, and of course Mr. Rangeley and Mr. Thomas.

R. Jones LV1R

## VOLLEYBALL

Last season saw the two volleyball teams gain excellent results, whilst remaining unbeaten (although both teams actually lost a set) ! The first V1 again won the Festival of Minor Sports. This kind of success must surely be due to the fine leadership shown by Chris Ramstead and (Pongo) Longstaff.

Although no interest has been lost in the club this season, morale has been low, because of the complete absense of fixtures, (not, I may add due to the lack of effort by our fixture secretary). Although this does not destroy our unbeaten record, it does not add any enthusiasm into the teams, and we hope that we will have a full fixture list very soon.

M. Jones LV1

## ANGLING

The club still manages to exist but with a small though nevertheless keen membership. Several competitions have been held throughout the year, the most recent of which took place on the Gloucester canal at Rear Bridge in October. Despite poor conditions Jeremy Smith of the third form surprised the older members with a 11lb 2oz mixed bag, including a 12oz roach. We hope to keep the Society running and arrange more competitions when the better weather comes.

I. Simmons UV1

## BADMINTON

Once again both a senior and a junior team have entered the Gloucestershire Schools League, in an effort to retain the Junior Cup and regain the Senior Cup.

Last year the junior team met negligible opposition in their League and won the cup for the third successive year; however it is to be regretted that there are few boys in the lower school who are willing to practise as much as their predecessors - certainly there are exceptions but the feeling of the majority towards badminton practise after school is one of apathy. The school's excellent record in this competition will be put greatly to the test next year.



The senior team had a disappointing season after promising so much with early successes. Unfortunately, virtually the whole team was struck down by flu when we played the vital match at home to the eventual winners, Ribston Hall, but a notable victory was scored at Chosen Hill School when the team played particularly well to win 6 - 3. In ex-league matches, the senior team registered a success at Dean Close, Cheltenham, and also had an enthralling mixed friendly match with Denmark Road.

Both teams seemed set to win the two cups this season - both are as yet undefeated, and nearly all the matches have been won by a considerable margin. But the younger boys must attend for practise sessions more regularly and concentrate more during the games if the school's hard-won reputation is to continue.

A.D.

#### SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY

The season so far has been successful. The 'A' team lost only two matches and put up some creditable performances. Basil Martynuik has emerged as the school's leading runner, despite being only in the fifth form. The team recorded wins against Cheltenham Grammar School (twice); St. Paul's College, Cheltenham; King Edward's School, Birmingham; and Marling School, Stroud (twice).

The defeats were inflicted by the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow who have a very fit team, and on a long, flat and winding course the school suffered a big defeat. Old rivals King Henry VIII, Coventry, also defeated the school in the toughest match of the season, in which Martynuik broke the course record, with Alan Long third and David Barber sixth.

In the County trials Martynuik, having an off day managed to come third and with D. Barber, P. Govan and R. Barsellotti, were picked for the County team. The 'A' team are now training regularly and with some determination. This was shown in the first senior race in the North Gloucestershire League in which the team convincingly beat teams from Whitefriars, Cheltenham; Marling; Cheltenham G.S.; and Kings School.

The school entered the Cantonian Relays, Cardiff and came a commendable second, beating school teams from South Wales. Martynuik returned the third fastest time of the day. A team was also entered in the Bilborough Relays, and came tenth.



I am sorry to say that the 'B' team are not training. The variety of excuses for missing the regular training sessions are, as usual, many and varied. I can only hope they follow the 'A' team's example and start training. Mention must be made of M. Newcombe, for his incredible running style, and his perseverance, if not for his results.

Lastly our thanks to Mr. Bates for being a driving force behind us, and we look forward to the great day when he actually joins us going up the hill.

A. Long UVIC

### JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY

The new first year have started cross country with tremendous determination and enthusiasm. Many of them regularly turn up for training, and Bryans, Price, Etheridge, Salter, and Yeatman have emerged as the leading runners. There are two training sessions a week, and the attendance by all the junior runners is very encouraging.

Last season the U.15 and the U.13 won their respective leads in the North Gloucestershire League - the school has won all the Leagues since they were started eight years ago. This season we hope to keep up the tradition, and with regular training this should be possible.

Mark Salter, M. Evans, and M. Dix train regularly and have run in some senior races (senior 'B' team, please note that they beat all of you!) Cross country is established in the school as a major sport, although some still regard it as a side-show, despite the large number of runners who give up their time to train regularly.

Teams were entered in the Cantonian Relays at Cardiff. Four runners each ran one lap a mile long. The U.15 team of Salter, Evans, Dix and Gaunt came second, and the team of Baler, Nichols, Wickenden and MacManus came fifth. The U.13 team of Howels, Fletcher, Etheridge and Boynham came first. Fletcher had the fastest time for the race, although the record set by MacManus last year still stands.

It is impossible to mention every runner, but cross-country is one

of the few sports where everyone is important. The sixth runner in the team is just as important as the first runner. Our present junior teams train hard, and should develop into good senior teams, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Bates.

A. Long UVIC

### ROWING

In February the school acted as host club for the West of England Regional Trials. National Coach Roger Vincett spent two days on the canal videotaping cruise. Hereford were selected as potential international material and Mr. Middleton was appointed West of England Team organiser.

Summer rowing suffered with the decision of six squad members to apply themselves to A level work, a wise decision resulting in University places for each.

Rather than participate at a standard far below that normally expected from the club, it was decided to try a unique experiment in conjunction with the Crypt School, also similarly weakened.

A joint squad of sixteen middle school boys was formed, each school training separately daily at school and rowing on games days, but combining for evening and weekend rowing.

A Crypt/Rich's first eight was selected, which together with the remaining 'B' crew was entered in their age group event at Worcester Schools Regatta. Both crews reached the final, the 'A' crew gaining success by one and a half lengths.

The experiment went into 'Cold Storage' with the oncome of summer exams, but will be revived this spring when the best four oarsmen from the original sixteen will compete in National Junior U. 15 events. Following exams, Nick Burden and Philip Stroud defended the Frith Sculling Cup. Stroud won the final, defeating Saintbridge School.

No serious rowing entry was made in the 31 mile Boston Marathon, but it was decided to enter the four fastest scullers in the club.

Mr. Spear and Mr. Middleton joined the squad, and nightly seven

mile training stints were held. In these the slowest three scullers were eliminated daily from the five contestants to allow further challenges to be made. The final order was Mr. Spear, Mr. Middleton G. Weston and G. Barber, further confirmed in the race itself.

The Inter City Schools Challenge Event, the Norris Cup, was held in November, consisting of three races. Each had four schools competing, in each of the Junior Middle and Senior Categories.

The Senior event was won with some ease, but lethargic performances in 5th, and 4th year events led to second place relegation by some fighting performances by smaller but more spirited Crypt crews.

Mr. Spear qualified as an A.R.A. Coach in December, and is now sole leader of Junior Rowing.

The club bids farewell to Steve Lamb, Nick Burden, Philip Stroud, David Mackintosh, John Williams and John Kearsey.

Most will continue rowing at University, but it is hoped that all will join with other Old Richians as members of Gloucester R.C. in the summer vacation.

The Club thanks them for their loyalty over the past five years and wishes them every success.

J.R. Popple

#### LIFESAVING AND SWIMMING

During the Lent Term of last year there was a lull in the activities of the Lifesaving Club, and even when things finally got going towards the latter part of the Summer Term, the number of examinations taken was relatively small compared to the totals in 1972. In 1973 boys gained forty-two awards, sixteen of which were Bronze Medallion standard or higher, giving a total of four hundred and twenty seven points. During the year, however, we did much more competition work than before. We entered a team for the Delapena Open Water Competition and resolutely waded into the chilly, stagnant lake at Ullenwood Manor, obstinately ignoring the unfortunate casualty 20' down on the bottom, and came last for our pains. We were more successful in the National Schools and Individual Lifesaving Championships, coming runners-up in the first round, and representing

Gloucestershire at the National Quarter Qualifier at Neath, where P.D. Parker came fourth in the mens individual, and in the face of superior opposition the school team, B. Jeffery and P. Taylor, came eighth.

1974 is 'learn to Lifesave Year', and we hope to step up our activities accordingly. We shall also be entering a junior team for the J. Richings Competition in March.

Swimming itself is still very much a minor school sport and suffers greatly from the relative strength of Cross-Country. In spite of the lack of interest shown by the guest schools, a mini-gala was held as part of the Festival of Minor Sports in July, and swimmers from the school demonstrated their overall superiority. In May the first swimming match for some time was held, and the school team won a narrow victory over King's by 65 to 61 points. As usual, we took part in the Secondary Schools' Gala, and some results, particularly the Individuals, were creditable enough but the team as a whole could have made a better showing if it had not been for the lack of interest of the upper and middle parts of the school.

We welcome, however, the formation of the Junior Swimming Club by Mr. T.G. Smith in December, which perhaps heralds a revival of the sport in the school. Two dozen first and second formers, reasonable and (much more important) very keen swimmers, now turn up three mornings a week to do half an hour's practise before school starts.

P.D. Parker VI3

#### RUGBY 1st XV

Played 14      Won 9      Drawn 1      Lost 4

Points for 266      Points against 86

This season the 1st XV started off very well with a long string of victories. Unfortunately this potentially good side was beset with injuries and occasionally lethargy.

In the first match, the Mike Longney Memorial match against the Old Boys, the school started well, conceding only three points in the first-half. The second-half belonged to the Old Boys who scored freely and would have scored many more but for the superb defensive tackling of the back row and backs.

At the beginning of this season a complete new pack had to be built. The most senior member being Chris Edwards formerly a winger now converted into a second row forward. This inexperience in the pack was not really exposed until the West Monmouth match. In the set piece Tony Jones and Chris Edwards jumped well. In the scrum Patch Montanaro supported by props, Jeff Poole and Wally Champion hooked very well. The back row trio of John Barnes, Ross Everson and Gary Beamish often displayed a great deal of scoring ability and attacking flare. The school pack did not do very well in the loose and when they were well matched in the set piece the backs saw little good ball.

The backs were much older and more experienced, most having played for the previous year's first XV. The combinations of Alex Anderson and Chris Reece at half-back and Rod Correia and Chris Carter in the centre were not equalled by any other school side. On the wings Jim Thompson and Ade Harris ran fearlessly finishing off threequarter movements well. The full-back position was, due to injuries, continually changing with Nigel Carter, Rob Short, Mike Jones, George Sanchez and Simon Finch all acting as this last vital line of defence. This at least shows considerable strength in depth which augurs well for the future.

A tour to St. Bonifacés School, Plymouth has been arranged and it is hoped that the school will support this venture.

#### RUGBY 2nd XV

This season the team has suffered greatly from the unusually large number of injuries in the 1st XV, mostly in the back division, which meant that from time to time we were either losing or lending our best players. We started off the season badly, only drawing with Culverhay after being 12 points in the lead at one stage, and were unlucky to lose to Marling in a game decided by one try but in which we must have spent more time within five yards of their line than away from it. We were outplayed by Q.E.H. (4-10), and rather overawed by West Mon. (7-22), both scores being a fairly accurate record of the game. This season so far the record is:

Played 7      Won 3      Lost 3      Drawn 1

Points for 119      Points against 75



Of the players who remained with us all season, three are worthy of particular mention, 'Flopper' Williams and Darrall Jones, the two Flankers, and Ian Simmons, the Scrum Half, who often had to deal with tricky balls tapped down by forwards who shall remain nameless.

P.D. Parker V13

#### CRICKET 1st XI

With seven of last year's unbeaten 1st XI team staying on, the school expected the team to have another successful season and I am glad to say the 1st XI did not let the school down. Under the efficient Captaincy of N.I. Merrett, the team was able to record 8 victories, 3 draws and 1 lost game. One of the reasons why the season was so successful was the fact that almost every week the same eleven could be fielded and there was ample opportunity for the players to compete as a unit and yet still possess that factor so vital to every successful side - individualism.

The season got under way with a splendid victory over Prince Henry's, Evesham. This victory was quickly followed by three more conclusive victories over Westwoods, Marling and King's. However the highlight of the season was the victories over S.T.R.S. Old Boys, Dean Close and Crypt.

Obviously the most dramatic game of the season was the victory over Deans Close. Dean Close setting the school 126 runs to win seemed a rather formidable task. The school started badly losing 2 wickets for 10 runs. However Correia pulled the side together with a fine innings of 54. After Correia was out the school survived the Dean Close onslaught to win by one wicket.

The game against Crypt was rather an anti-climax to a fine season. The school easily won by 6 wickets. However, half-way through the season the school lost its only game, this was against Newent, and was the only game during the season the school thought it would win but complacency brought our downfall, batsmen of as high a quality as Correia, Merrett and Burns all failed. Normally one of these batsmen reach double figures, but not on this occasion.

The school 1st XI would like to thank Mr. Johnston for his enthusiasm during the season.

## CRICKET 2nd XI

For the 2nd XI, 1973 was one of those very 'mixed' seasons, two handsome victories and two draws in which the side was clearly on top were accompanied by two disappointing defeats. The batting often looked frail and most innings were built around one or two good scores. Hamblin and Edwards showed determination and skill, while Harrison often kept the fielders on their toes. The fielding was quite adequate while the bowling was dominated by Sergeant who took 19 wickets at a personal cost of 3.9 runs each. When deprived of his pace, as at Cheltenham, the attack looked very ordinary.

In the first match at Evesham against Prince Henry's an unprepared and makeshift team just went under by 8 runs, despite a fine knock by Simmons. A fine all-round team performance then accounted for Marling by 83 runs and Westwoods, thanks to Sergeant's 8 wickets and Edwards' 40 runs, were the next victims. However, against Cheltenham, the team laboured for a long time in the field before enjoying a piece of vintage batting from M.C. Jones, on one of his rare appearances in top-class cricket, who, nevertheless, could not save the game from a dull draw. A poor performance against Dean Close was lightened only by Dwight's fine spell of 5 - 19. The season then ended in splendid fashion with the eclipse of rivals Crypt who, in reply to a declaration at 107, limped to 39 for 8 wickets before being rescued by the clock. The Captain, Edwards, earned his colours in this game with fifty runs and five wickets. Finally our thanks go to many masters who umpired in the games this season, especially to Mr. Tavener.

## CRICKET COLTS XI

1973 was not a good season for the under 15 XI. Victories against Prince Henry's, Evesham and Marling were mainly due to individual performances, half-centuries by P. Brown and J. Penry-Williams and 12 wickets by S. Egan. In the next two games the team was dismissed for less than 30 runs, and only 7 wickets by Brown and 45 runs by I. Pattenden helped to win against Chosen Hill.

P. Brown was awarded colours and reached the final under 15 County trial.

### CRICKET JUNIOR XI

The under 14 team started the season badly but finished well, and several players are already first XI probables in 1975, if not 1974. After two defeats and two draws, several players struck form together with both bat and ball, and four games were won. A. Barnes' 49 and M. Salter's 6 for 22 were the best individual performances in wins against Crypt and Lydney, though M. Stephens improved through the season as opening bat. In a memorable victory at Chosen Hill, Captain D. Pegler finally used the spin attack of S. Preston and P. Jones, who then proceeded to take 9 wickets between them, ably assisted by P. Craddock, an unorthodox but effective 'keeper.

Colours were awarded to Pegler, Barnes, N. Adkins and Salter.

### CRICKET UNDER 13 XI

Two games were won and two lost. R. Williams and D. Everest, with bat and ball respectively, did well at Evesham, and at Marling remarkable hat tricks by both T. Curtis and P. Wickenden helped the side to a four wicket victory, Everest again doing well.



# OLD RICHIAN'S ASSOCIATION

## THE ASSOCIATION DINNER 1973

The Annual dinner of the Old Richians Association was held on Saturday, December 15th, at the school. Members, their wives and their guests welcomed Mr. J. Hutton, a principal scientist and personal assistant to the Director of Research at Shell Research Limited, and an Old Richian himself. Reminiscing on his days at school, Mr. Hutton proposed the toast of "Sir Thomas Rich's and all that it implies".

The response was given by Mr. W.G. Heap who said "Last year I was invited to be a guest at your dinner. This year I feel I have a right to be here - I am one hundred per cent a part of Sir Thomas Rich's".

During the period he had been Headmaster he said he had been truly impressed by the mutual co-operation of staff, boys, parents and Old Richians.

It was pleasing that boys could approach members of staff and ask direct questions. In illustration he quoted the Sixth former who asked if he might have permission to grow a beard and the First former whose question was more an order - "Have a sweet, Sir?" And yet the bounds of respect of boys for masters, and vice versa, were always present.

Mr. Heap reminded us all that the school had a great tradition of boys from different generations of the same family, but he warned that there were many people who would like to change all this.

It had once been said that "Workers don't think and thinkers don't work" and this was never more true than in schools. Those thinkers who dwelt in their distant ivory towers never got to the grass roots, nor had they to deal with the problems encountered in class-rooms.

Mr. Heap went on to remind those present that at the last Annual dinner his predecessor, Mr. J. Anthony Stocks, had remarked that "To travel hopefully is better than to arrive". He was sure that, in his own case, "the arrival has been far better than the travelling".

Mr. Reg Hobbs (President) presented Mr. Heap with an Association tie, thanking him for all that the school had done for the Old Richians during the year.

### DORIS

In the course of his school life a boy makes many friends - some friendships last all his life, others end as he walks out of the gate for the last time on the last day of his last term. But one friendship at the School that all boys will remember must be that of Doris who, for more than 23 years, besides being School Secretary also played innumerable other roles in the life of the School - a sort of 'Jill of all trades' - a female in a wholly male world who could turn her hand to almost anything.

At the Annual dinner, as a small token of the esteem with which she is held by us, a travelling clock was presented to her on behalf of the Association.

Miss Townsend has now retired from her full-time role - the official one - but she will never be able to retire from her other full-time and we hope more rewarding task of being a friend to all the boys and Old Richians with whom she came in contact.

Happy retirement, Doris, and God bless you!

### BIRTHS

BILLINGHAM, to David and Margaret a son, Timothy David, on August 16th, 1972.

HARDY, to Maurice and Annette a daughter, Louise Amanda, on January 2nd, 1974.

### OBITUARIES

We regret that the deaths of the following Old Richians have been brought to our attention, and extend our sympathy to the bereaved.

HIRONS, E.T., A member of the School Staff, taught Mathematics and Physics, from 1931 to 1935. Mr. Hirons rejoined the Common Room in the early 1940's for a further six years before moving to Henley Grammar School.



LANE, Alistair Roderick, accidentally, in Northern Ireland.

LANGSTON, Stanley E., retired in 1962 as Headmaster of Finlay Road Junior School, after 42 years in the teaching profession in the City. Mr. Langston was a former President of the English Schools' R.U., ex Chairman of the National Council for School Sports and ex President of the Gloucester and District Schools' R.U. In 1954 he was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to schools' rugby. He was a former member of the Three Choirs chorus and of the Gloucester Operatic and Dramatic Society. During the last war he raised a battalion of the Army Cadet Force in the City and commanded it for almost five years.

OLLJNYK, Joseph, died as the result of a road accident at Pendock.

SHADGETT, Charles J., well known in local bowling circles died at the age of 80.

STEMP, Jack H., Principal Lecturer at Reading College of Technology. Mr. Stemp taught at the school from 1947 until 1953 when he moved to Reading as an English Lecturer.

#### NOTES ON OLD RICHIANs

News has been received from far and near about the following Old Richians .....

ANDERSON, Kevin, (1960 - 1968) still unmarried, is at Eastbourne Grammar School teaching German and, as he puts it, "football of course". We like the name of the road he lives in - simply Seaside.

ANGELL, Ian Andrew Charles, living at Mitcham in Surrey is a Civil Servant employed in the Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office at Croydon. Before taking up his appointment he was for a period a student at Plymouth Polytechnic, which he attended after eight years at Rich's. (We were quite intrigued by the envelope containing his communication. On the flap it said "Angell" followed by what we assumed to be his personal number. Underneath this was the impression of a rubber stamp saying "if undelivered please return to:- Home Office, etc." For one brief moment we thought we were being contacted by an Old Richian taking a vacation at Her Majesty's expense!)

ASHBY, Colin, became Rich's first rugby Blue when he appeared as hooker for Oxford University in the 1973 'Varsity Match'. He is a student at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

BADHAM, E.J., is at Imperial College, London, reading Zoology.

BARTLEMAN, C.P., is now at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

BILLINGHAM, David G., (1958-1965), besides being a Solicitor in practice with the firm of Madge, Lloyd and Gibson, is a very busy man. In addition to his duties as Honorary Secretary of the Association he somehow finds time to be Clerk and Legal Adviser to Huntley Parish Council, as well as a member of the Gloucester Deanery Synod and the Gloucester Lay chapter. On the home front his wife, Margaret, last August presented him with a son.

BISHOP, Andrew K., (1965-1972) is in his second year at Liverpool University, reading Law.

BLAIR, Robert, (1935-1937) a past President of the Association, Bob is a surveyor with Gloucestershire County Council.

BURDEN, N.J., studying Veterinary Science, is at Bristol University.

BURNS, A.J., is reading Metallurgy at Leeds University.

CHALKLEY, S.J., although very few details are available, was a member of a team which made the first ever ascent of a twenty thousand foot peak in the Himalayas.

CHANDLER, Richard, is now a Detective Constable on the highly successful drug and vice squad.

CLARIDGE, Geoffrey, (1956-1963) after only seven years teaching and at the age of twenty seven became Headmaster in 1973 of Winfrith Newburgh Primary School in Dorset. After leaving Rich's, he spent three years at St. Luke's College Exeter, studying Biology and Primary Education. He then taught for five years in Cullompton, Prior to his present appointment he spent two years as Head of Department at Colehill Middle School, near Bournemouth being responsible for environmental studies throughout the school.

CLARK, Robin George, (1960-1965), is co-partner/owner of Gloucester Garden Services, having previously managed a florist's branch shop in Gloucester. He is married with a one-year old daughter. "My co-partner went to Crypt. (Food for thought!)" wonder what he meant?

CLICK, F.H.E., (1926-1931). A Committee member, Eric is a director with Mitchells Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Ltd.

CLUCAS, P.J., is at Bath University, reading Architecture.

COLLINS, D.F., (1940-1945), one of our Committee members, is Treasurer of Stroud District Council, having previously been Assistant Treasurer to Gloucestershire County Council. Married, Dennis lives in Hempstead, and has two sons- one of them a Richian. Naturally!.

COOK, Dr. John. B., is Headmaster at Christ College Brecon.

CORBETT, S.J., is taking a B.A. Degree Course in Business Studies at Plymouth Polytechnic.

CRESWELL, Kenneth B., (1930-1935) after a long period with the Fire Service in Gloucester has for the past ten years or so, been at County Fire H.Q. at Cheltenham. He is now Station Officer (Fire Prevention) and lives in Charlton Kings.

DAVIES, A.H., is reading English at Southampton University.

DAVIES, K.R., is studying Electrical Engineering at Aston University

DAVIS, P.C., is studying Accountancy at Oxford Polytechnic.

DAWKINS, N.G. is attending Lanchester Polytechnic and taking a Course in Civil Engineering.

DEAN, J.W., (1927-1932) a long serving Committee member, is a Departmental Manager at L.C. Mitchell and Company (Gloucester) Ltd.

DEAN, N., left the editorial department of the Citizen for the Staff of the Nottingham Guardian but after a short spell there, later went on to the Sport's staff of the Sheffield Star.

EVANS, K.W., has been with the firm of Madge, Lloyd and Gibson Solicitors, since leaving school. An associate member of the Institute of Legal Executives, he is Treasurer of Gloucester and District Spastics Association and has recently been working extremely hard to raise sufficient funds to purchase an ambulance.

FAULKNER, David W., (1965-1971), in his second year at Bristol University under a Post Office studentship, is reading Electrical Engineering. David recently became engaged to Miss Julia Whetton of Doncaster who is also at Bristol but reading Law. Both of them play the violin and are members of the University Orchestra.

FITZSIMMONS, M.R., is at Oxford Polytechnic reading for a B.A. degree in Architecture.

FUGLER, S.F., studying Music at Reading University.

GARDNER, Michael W. (1947-1952) is a partner in the local firm of architects, Peter Wolstenhulme and Partners.

GAUNT, J.M., is taking a degree course in Chemical Engineering at Birmingham University.

GRANT, Paul J., (1967-1972) is at University College, Durham, in his second year of a Geo-Physics course. This course is apparently a new one at Durham University and is officially titled "Geology with Geophysics". Paul is one of five students taking it; he tells us that Durham's special contributions to the science are in the field of Seismology. As some weeks of practical work are required on the course he expects to spend next Summer in the field "getting to grips with some real, practical Geology".

GUEST, M., is at Manchester University, reading History.

HANKINS, Cyril A.A., (1902-1904) is one of our "Senior" Old Richians. A retired Local Government Officer who served for a while with the Health Service he lives in Eastbourne. His son is an Army Officer and his daughter teaches in Yorkshire. We all hope most sincerely, Sir, that you are fit and in the best of health.

HARPER, Ronald A., is area representative with Lombard North Central, Ltd., at Cheltenham. He is Treasurer of Gloucester Richians Cricket Club. Anyone interested in playing for the Club should contact him at 10, Simon Road, Longlevens, Gloucester.

HARRIS, Basil (1941-1951) is House Head of Stuart House at Saint-bridge School, Gloucester. Basil was at one time our Honorary Secretary and will be remembered by those who received them for his witty Secretary's letters. If Basil had written this I am sure he would have found something humorous in being head of a Cavalier-sounding house; After all Gloucester is a stronghold that did as much as any to bring about the downfall of the Stuart cause in the Civil War.

HARRIS, K.F., is taking a course in Estate Management and General Surveying at Oxford Polytechnic.

HARRIS, Reverend Terence R., (1946-52) presently Minister of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Reading, writes to say that if the Methodist Conference does its stuff in 1974 he hopes to be appointed to the Gloucester Circuit. With a twinkling eye we are sure, he warns any members of the Association who know him - just in case they might wish to move before his return! Previously Terry was a Medical Laboratory Technician at Gloucester Royal Hospital (Department of Pathology), and served variously at R.A.F. Halton in the Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine, and at Wroughton R.A.F. Hospital. He was four years at Didsbury College, Bristol, followed by two years on the Marlborough Methodist Circuit and five years on the Biggleswade Circuit. He is married, with a son and daughter.

HEDGES, Norman V., (1935-1940), our Senior Vice President, is a Chartered Surveyor and Valuer with Gloucestershire County Council. Married, he has one daughter, Christine Margaret.

HESKETH, W.J.W., is reading for his B.A. Honours in Accountancy and Finance.

HALFORD, T.G., is reading Veterinary Science at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

HORTON, W., (Bill), (1934-1940) is plant director of British Leyland's Power Unit and Transmission Operations in the Austin-Morris Group. After leaving Tommy's he was apprenticed at G.A.C., graduating to departmental head. When Hawker-Siddeley took over he was made production engineer. On the disbandment of G.A.C. he was appointed Works Manager of Chubb's, the safe and lock manufacturers, and from there he went to Imperial Typewriters, Hull. In four years as General Manager he saw the firm increase



its employees from 500 to 2,300 and the number of machines turned out from 500 a week to 600 a day.

He moved from Imperial to Leyland's where, based at Longbridge, he heads a group of four factories employing 11,000 people.

HUNT, B., (1964-1971) is at St. Luke's College, Exeter, and captains their badminton team. Successfully, we hope.

HUNT, R.S., has been accepted for training at the R.A.F. College at Cranwell.

IRVINE, P.J., is at St. Peter's College, Oxford, reading Geography.

JACKSON, A., is reading Civil Engineering at Aston University.

JENNINGS, Reverend Robert H., (1958-66) is the Curate attached to Dursley Parish Church. Ordained Deacon at Gloucester Cathedral in 1972 and Priest in 1973, Robert obtained his B.A. at Durham before attending Theological College in Birmingham. His wife, Christine, is a doctor.

JEFFERY, S.J., is reading for his B.A. in Modern Languages at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

JONES, Richard William, who left in 1970, and then graduated from Imperial College, London, with a First Class Honours degree in Chemical Engineering, is employed by a Chemical Plant in London.

KEEBLE, S., (left 1970) gained First Class Honours in Mining Engineering at Leeds University.

LAWRENCE, D., winner of the K2 National Canoe Championships, was selected for Great Britain in the World Championships in Finland.

LIPSCOMBE, I.F., is taking a Business Studies at Lanchester Polytechnic.

MARTIN, A.V., a past President of the Association, is Financial Director with the Priestley Group in Gloucester. (We are sure Alf was joking when, in response to the query "Years at school?" he wrote "1666").

McINTOSH, D.S., is engaged at Bath University, reading Mechanical Engineering.

McWILLIAM, A., obtained First Class Honours in Applied Physics at Durham University.

MERRETT, N.I., is taking a course in Physical Education at St. Paul's College, Cheltenham.

MILLS, David J., one of our Committee members, became Electoral Registration Officer with the new Tewkesbury District Council as from 1st April. Dave is to be congratulated on all the work he put in towards the success of the 1973 Annual Dinner.

MOINET, Andrew, is reputedly forming a one man Old Richians Association in the Antarctic! At the time of writing he was due to arrive in the British Territory where he will spend two years studying the weather. It is the latest in a long series of varied jobs he has held since leaving Rich's.

NICHOLSON, P., is at Imperial College, London reading Electrical Engineering.

PAGE, Malcolm Bruce, (1937-1944) was, from December 1973, appointed deputy Director of Ordnance Services, London with the Rank of Brigadier. (We are not sure but we think it was Brigadier Page who, some years ago, in these columns we quite inadvertently appointed to overall command of an evacuation operation in which he had taken part. From 1970 to 1972 he was Colonel, Management Services, and from 1972 until his present appointment Colonel, Operations Plans and Resources - both times at H.Q. Base Organisation, R.A.O.C., Didcot, Berks. He tells us that a couple of years ago he bought a cottage near Stroud as a "firm base" but regrets that he does not see it as much as he would like.

PALFREYMAN, Ian, (1965-67) present position- "Sedentary Art Student" Previous positions - "Doubtful. Usually asleep (i.e. horizontal)". Married? Engaged? "No". Children - "Not that I know of"!

PARSONS, Ron, is General Manager of Canterbury Precision Engineers Limited, which recently signed a three contract worth £400,000 and others which give them half a million pounds worth of business. And apparently all these orders meant a considerable amount of globe trotting for Ron.

PEARCE, A., (left 1971) has been awarded the Domus Scholarship at Pembroke College, Oxford.

PEARCE, N.R., is reading French and Economics at Keele University. (Could be a useful combination in E.E.C. one day.)

PERKS, Anthony Manning, (1943-1950) is Professor of Zoology at University of British Columbia. Previous appointments include Post-Doctoral Fellow at University of Florida Medical School, Instructor in Pharmacy and Therapeutics at Columbia Medical School, New York, and Lecturer, Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford University. In 1972 he was invited as Speaker at the Sir Joseph Barcroft Centenary Celebrations at Cambridge University and, in 1973, as Speaker at the Royal Society Symposium on Neurosecretion in London.

FRIDAY, H.D., (1921-1931), Despatched Clerk at J.Reynolds & Co. lists as his spare time occupations "Youth Service and President Down Hatherley Cricket Club" for which he is still playing.

RAMSTEDT, C.J., is reading Accountancy at Bristol Polytechnic.

RAWCLIFFE, D.A., (left approx. 1939) has been appointed Bishop of New Hebrides. Previously he was Archdeacon of the Hebrides. In area his diocese must be one of the largest in the world covering many thousands of square miles.

RAY, Keith D., (1953-1959) is sub-Manager at Lloyds Bank, Bristol Road, Gloucester. Married, he has keen links with the school through the Old Richians R.F.C.

ROBINS, Stephen, has left the Citizen reporters' department to join the Western Daily Press. He runs their Chepstow Office.

ROE, D.P., (1962-1970) in July 1973 gained his B.Sc. (Physics and Economics) at Exeter University. Presently an articled clerk with the local Chartered Accountants, Duart-Smith, Eggleton and Co.

ROOD, A., is taking a course in Business Studies at West Bromwich College of Commerce and Technology.

ROWNEY, B.A., is reading Engineering at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

SCOTT, S.E., wrote in September to tell us that he had moved from Middlesex to Derby to take up a new post with British Railways designated Assistant Development Engineer (Bogie and Running Gear)

which is quite a title in its own right.

SEYERS, Alan W., has been appointed Senior Citizen Solicitor with the new Gloucestershire County Council, operative from 1st April 1974.

SMITH, J.M., (1919-1922) farms at Newent. He served for 23 years as Chairman of Newent Rural District Council.

SMITH, S.A., has a place at Bristol University reading Geography.

STROUD, P.G., is reading Civil Engineering at Sheffield University.

TIMBRELL, Alan C., is another Old Richian who has obtained an appointment with the new Gloucestershire Council. He commences his duties as an Assistant Solicitor from 1st April 1974.

TRIGG, Geoffrey A., is Headmaster of St. Mary's School, Evesham. Leaving Rich's he qualified as a teacher at Chester College in 1961. He held a number of primary school appointments in Cheshire and Gloucester before going to Corpus Christi Junior School, Coventry, as head of the Mathematics Department. From 1971 to 1973 he was deputy headmaster of Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School, Worcester. Geoffrey's wife, Bernadette, is also a teacher. They have four children.

TURNER, Cecil S., one-time Departmental Manager at John Bellows, the printers, is living in retirement in Longford.

VALE, D.J., is taking a course in Estate Management at Thames Polytechnic.

VINER, A., (left 1970) has, for the third year in succession, gained Reading University's Organ prize. (A future P.M.?)

WATKINS, Malcolm J., having graduated from University of Wales (Cardiff) with a B.A. (Hons) in Archaeology has taken up a one-year post-graduate course at Leicester studying for the Museums Diploma. A keen .22 rifle shot, he represented the Welsh Universities whilst at Cardiff. Since going to Leicester he has joined the very strong University Rifle Club there and has fired for their first team.

WHEELER, Robert, at present a Conveyancing Assistant with Gloucester

City Council, has been successful in both parts of the Associateship examination of the Institute of Legal Executives. Congratulations, Bob.

WHITCOMBE, Reverend Michael G.S., (1942-1953) is vicar of Lightcliffe, Halifax. He has previously been Curate of Nuneaton, Chaplain of All Saints School, Jesselton in North Borneo, Vicar of Saint Paul's, Warwick, and Chaplain of the Diocesan Boys' School, Hong Kong. Married, he has one daughter. Also living in Lightcliffe is his father....

WHITCOMBE, Reverend Stanley E.C., (1918-1925?) who has now retired.

WILLIAMS, John D., after many years as Entertainments Officer for Gloucester City Council and City Marshal has been appointed the first Entertainments and Leisure Centre Manager. He is responsible for the new Barton Leisure Centre Complex and for all the numerous sporting and social activities that are expected to take place at the Centre. Consequent upon this appointment, John has relinquished the position of Mayor's Secretary. A member of the Entertainments Officers Association, he has been responsible annually for the Carnival and the Christmas illuminations which, unfortunately, did not brighten our festivities in 1973.

WILLIAMS, J.O., is reading Mechanical Engineering at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

WINDSOR, M., is another Old Richian at Cambridge, he is at St. John's College reading Modern Languages.

WRIGHT, C.L., is attending Sheffield University, reading Mechanical Engineering.

WIXEY, R.F., (Bob), who was School Captain in 1955, has written a most interesting letter from Newark, Nottinghamshire. He graduated from Reading in 1959 with an Honours Degree in Agriculture, and joined Unilever as a Management Trainee. Since then he has worked in a multitude of different jobs and locations throughout the U.K. but has not at any time worked within 100 miles of Gloucester. He is currently Managing Director of a substantial Group of Agricultural Merchants in Yorks, Lincs, Notts, Leics and Derbyshire, all the Companies of which are



subsidiaries of Unilever. He gains enormous job satisfaction and could not be happier in his work. Bob's wife is an Exmoor girl and they have two children, a girl of 5 and a boy of 4. He is still playing Rugby and Cricket "reasonably energetically" and has also taken up squash. Bob's family can trace association with the school for several generations. His great-uncles, Harold and Leonard Starr (or Shaw-Sorry), were "blue-coat boys". His father Lesley Wixey, was at Rich's around 1935 at the same time as Bob's uncle, John Francillon. The school captain's chain of office, made up of some of the old Bluecoat School badges that had been in his family for years, was presented by Bob and his mother when he left in 1955.

WYNN, P.A., is reading Law at Exeter University.

# OLD RICHIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB By Keith Ray

1972/3 Playing Records:	1st XV	P 35, W 26, L 8, D 1	Pts for 656
			Pts agst 250
	2nd XV	P 34, W 26, L 6, D 2	Pts for 785
			Pts agst 273

For several years our season's playing record has been improved by the next and 1972/3 was no exception. Under the Club Captaincy of Nick Freckleton we enjoyed an excellent Season and the 1st XV recorded notable victories against strong sides from Matson, Tredworth and REME Arborfield. Key figures in his team included Paul Wood, Alan Eustace, David Oakes, Richard Hardwick and Vice-Captain Keith Bennett.

The Season again ended on a very high note with the 2nd XV remarkably retaining the North Gloucestershire Combination Junior Cup, scoring a very decisive victory in the final at Kingsholm against much fancied favourites, Gordon League. It was a proud moment and particularly enjoyable as the Club had never before beaten a Gordon League side.

It was only a few days later while touring the Isle of Wight during Easter that we caused a further stir by winning the Island's 7-a-side tournament amongst some illustrious company. The scalp of a Loughborough College side in the first round deserves particular mention.

1973/4 Playing Record: 1st XV P 19, W 15, L 3 D 1 Pts for 380  
Pts agst 135.  
2nd XV P 18, W 16, L 1 D 1 Pts for 467  
Pts agst 98

During the Season we also managed a close victory over the School 1st XV to retain the Rose Bowl, donated by our President, Rowe Gabb in the Annual Match in memory of Mike Longney a former Club Captain who was tragically killed in an industrial accident in 1971. In the early part of the current Season we managed to retain the trophy and the playing records so far indicate our continued improvement.

Sid Thomas has taken over the Club Captaincy and has succeeded in keeping the Club spirit at a high level. Alan Eustace, for the second year in succession, has become the first player in Combination rugby to reach 100 points.

Administration is looked after by a small committee in which Rowe Gabb, as President and Fixture Secretary, Robert Wheeler as Treasurer and Gerry Stone put in a lot of hard work.

However, to enable us to continue reporting on successful Seasons we shall need more support and players, and if you would like to join us we can be found at the School at weekends and on Wednesday evenings for our training sessions.

In this respect our thanks to the Headmaster for the use of these excellent facilities.

#### GLOUCESTER RICHMANS CRICKET CLUB

The 1973 season was not a particularly memorable one, and a definite anticlimax to the previous year's success. Having been promoted in 1972, last year saw us relegated back to Division 4 of the Gloucester League.

Why the sudden change from the all-conquering team of one year to one which never really looked like escaping relegation last? There are two main reasons: firstly, circumstances forced the club to employ four captains during the season. Richard Walton went on a college course in London, David Oakes flew away into the R.A.F. which left Trevor Hurcum and Nigel Merrett to pick up what pieces remained thereafter. Secondly, a certain apathy arose almost as a

result of the team's success in 1972.

However, that this has been the club's first setback in its 6 year history is in itself a credit to all those involved with the club, and no doubt some good will come out of it.

Statistically, the records show that of 26 matches played, 7 were won, 14 lost, 2 drawn and 3 abandoned. A total of 16 matches were cancelled - most of them Colts matches for which we did not receive the support of the schoolboys for whom these fixtures are principally arranged. Highest total for the season was 153-8 dec. against Hospitals, the highlight of which was a fine 53 not out by Malcolm Gabb. Trevor Hurcum's 5-22 helped us to a rare win. The latter's 60 was the highest individual score of the season, made on the last week-end in an exciting draw with Primrose Hill. The other match of that week-end saw a good win against Coates thanks mainly to a fine spell of spin bowling by Alistair Poulton. These match winners are the sort of players the club needs regularly in its side to do well in the League. Other notable performances with the bat were made by Paul Halford and Keith Wynn, while Mike Sergeant showed great promise with his bowling and often proved the partnership breaker. Only one club record for the highest wicket partnership was broken, for the 10th wicket between David Hobbs and Paul Jenkins in a notable last wicket stand which foiled Nine Elms in their League victory bid.

Out of season, the Club made a presentation to Mr. Stocks and made him the club's first Honorary Life Member. At the AGM, the club extended a warm welcome to Mr. Heap by making him a Vice-President. Nigel Merrett received the club's annual award for his service to school and club cricket, while the inveterate Mr. Williams continued to do some good work for the club as President. Our loyal and hardworking Chairman, Mr. Winstanley, also deserves a mention, for it is largely through his efforts that we maintain a strong link with the school. Finally, our thanks go to Mr. Yates and Mr. Griffiths for their help and co-operation over the season, and to the countless others without whom we could not exist.

We look forward to renewed interest in the club in 1974, so that by the time you read this we may once again be a strong and successful club.

## **OLD RICHIANs**

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You won't find it with us . . .

**BUT**

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for absolutely no financial reward

**AND**

Know you have something to offer the Association. You could  
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If you are the successful applicant you will get satisfaction  
enjoyment and a prestige place on the committee. And most of  
all help us out of a difficult spot.

