

THE VICTORIAN



1995

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QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

Patron – H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., K.T., O.M., G.B.E.



The School provides boarding school education for the sons and, from August 1996, daughters of both Scottish Servicemen and women and those who have served in Scotland. Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, QVS is easily accessible by road, rail or air.

Pupils may be registered for entry from the age of 7 and from 1996 will normally be admitted to Primary 7. Applications must reach the School by 31 December, so that they may be considered for Admissions Board which is held in February. However, consideration will also be given, in particular circumstances, to applications made after these dates.

The School offers a wide curriculum following the Scottish educational system and includes Standard Grade, Higher, SYS and SCOTVEC modules. The career links with the services are strong, but increasingly pupils move on to Higher and Further Education. Pastoral care is afforded a high priority along with careers guidance and personal and social education. In addition, there is a very full programme of sporting, cultural and spiritual development.

Queen Victoria School is a unique boarding school and, as such, looks to achieve the best that is possible academically for all its pupils. The School prides itself also on developing the pupil in the widest possible sense and aims to achieve success in extra-curricular activities, sport, music etc.. It is this enrichment as well as pure academic success that the school seeks to attain. As part of this enrichment the School has preserved the best of the traditional ceremonial side of the School which adds a unique dimension to Queen Victoria School.

For further information write to The Headmaster, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0JY

Tel No: (01786) 822288
Fax No: 0131-310-29261

PATRON

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT OM GBE

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Secretary and Treasurer to HM Commissioners

COLONEL (Retd) A R TAPP FIMgt, Bursar

SCHOOL STAFF

Headmaster – B Raine BA (Hons) PGCE
Deputy Headmaster – L D Clark BSc (Hons) BA T Cert
Asst. Headteacher – Mrs A Hainey MA, T Cert

Housemasters

Wavell – G D M Carroll BA, DCE
Cunningham – G Borking BEd
Trenchard – W G Webster BA (Hons), BD, Dip Ed
Haig – J S Laing Dip Tech Edn

Principal Teachers

M J Boast BA (*Asst Housemaster Trenchard*)
A L Bovill BSc, C Biol, MI Biol, T Cert
C Bruce MA (Hons)
D Garden BSc (Hons), M Phil, Dip Ed
D Gilhooly BA (Hons) Dip Ed
G A F Halyburton LTCL, Dip T Mus
Mrs J Howie MA (Hons), Dip Ed
A M Kirk MA (Hons) T Cert
J S Laing Dip Tech Edn (*Housemaster Haig*)
D Stewart BSc (Hons)
C J N William MA (Hons)

Teaching Staff

G J Beattie MA, MEd, PGCE (*Asst Housemaster Haig*)
T A Dale BSc, Cert Ed (*Asst Principal Teacher*)
I Dow BEd (Hons), T Cert, Dip SEN, (*Deputy Housemaster Wavell*)
D Frize, MA, BA (Hons), PGCE (*Asst Housemaster Cunningham/ Senior Teacher*)
R Hannah BSc, Dip Ed
D P Kelling BSc (Hons), Dip Ed Tech (*Asst Principal Teacher*)
T King BEd (Hons), T Cert (*Asst Housemaster Wavell*)
Mrs L A Shannon MA (Hons) PGCE
T Shannon Dip Tech Edn, HND Eng Mech
The Rev J Silcox BD, Cert PS, CF, TD (*School Chaplain*)

Part-Time Teachers

Mrs S Johns Dip Ed
Mrs L Thomson Dip Art & Design Grad CE

Visiting Music Teachers

Mr A Bell DRSAM, ABSM, Cert Ed
Miss A Ferguson BA (RSAMD)
Mrs R M Jones BA (Hons) LTCL ALCM Cert Ed
Mr D McClelland, DRSAMD, LLCM, ALCM
Mrs R Series GRNCM ARNCM Cert Ed

Housematrons

Wavell – Miss M L Chalmers
Cunningham – Mrs J B Kean
Trenchard – Mrs M Willey
Haig – Mrs C R Tomkins

Hospital Staff

Resident Hospital Sister – Mrs C A C Fitzgerald, SRN
Nurse – Miss B McNeil, SEN

Bursar – Col A R Tapp FIMgt
Estate Manager – Lt Col J Sharp MBE

Uniformed Staff

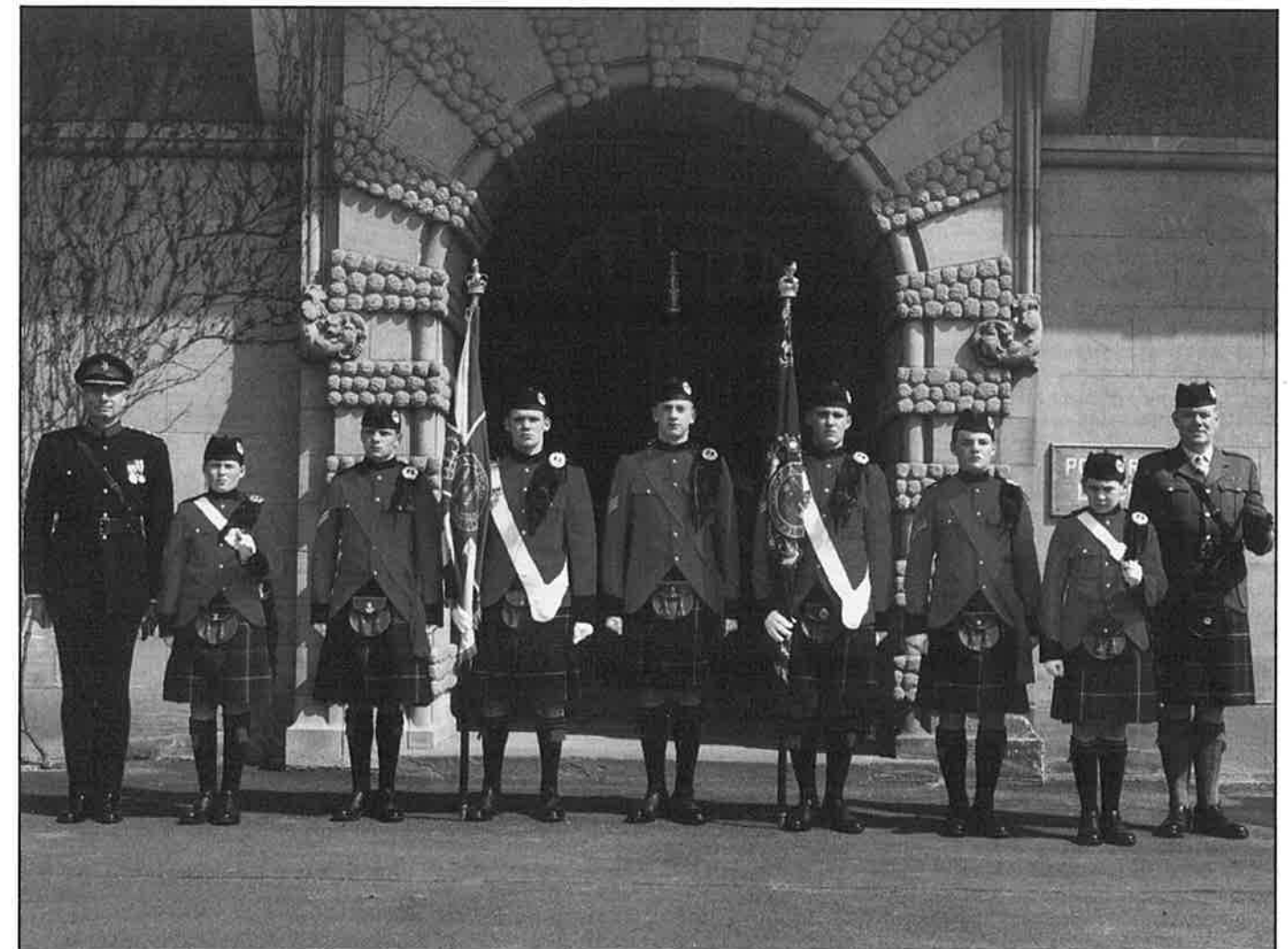
School Sergeant Major – D Duthie (late SG)
Pipe Major – A T Dippie BEM (late BW)
Drum Major – H W G Tomkins (Late Gordons)
Highland Dancing Instructor – Mrs A M MacDonald



THE JOURNAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

No. 109

JUNE 1995



The School Colour Party 1994-1995

Headmaster's Notes

Queen Victoria School started its 1994/95 Session in August with a new Headmaster and a new Deputy Headmaster, Mr Clark - a rare occurrence. A third member of the Management Team, Mrs Hainey, Assistant Head Pastoral has been in situ for only two years.

The new members of the teaching staff this session are: Mr Kirk, Principal Teacher of English, Mr Gilhooly, Principal Teacher of Art, Mrs Shannon, Geography/History Teacher and Mr King, Primary. They have all injected enthusiasm and vigour into the School and developed not only their teaching areas but a whole host of extra-curricular activities. To take one instance, Mr Kirk has already staged his first theatrical production, "A Day in the Life of Titch Oldfield". Starring Mark Findlay, Paul Matuszczyk, Robert Milne, Craig Roberts and James Cornelius, it proved to be an excellent and very amusing performance and certainly augurs well for the future. In another area Mr Gilhooly has masterminded the production of an alternative magazine "Not the Victorian".

The School had three new Commissioners appointed during the Session: Major General J D MacDonald CB CBE, Air Vice Marshal J Morris CBE BSc and Captain R A Smith RN. In addition, Major General M Scott CNE DSO has been replaced as Chairman of HMC by the new GOC Scotland, Major General J Hall OBE.

The policy of the new management team on the academic side has been to examine our practices and procedures, in order to maintain what is good and improve what is less than satisfactory. In conjunction with other staff, we have also started to look at short and long-term development.

Thus we have made a start on School Development Planning and with permission from the Commissioners, the School has decided to move in line with Scottish practice required by the HMI and we have joined Phase 2 Schools in Central Region, with a view to having our own School Development Plan ready for January 1996. A School Development Planning Committee was set up in the first term to assist and co-ordinate these moves, it is my intention, endorsed by the HMI, to merge the School Development Plan with the Management Plan required by Agency.

A Board of Studies was set up in October 1994 chaired by the Deputy Headmaster and including Mr Stewart, Principal Teacher of Maths, Mrs Howie, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages, and Mr Garden, Principal Teacher of Science. This will now be the main school mechanism for promoting curricular guidance to pupils and consultation with their parents on such matters. I am pleased to observe that the positive dialogue between parents and the Board has already been established.

The allocation of time to the new APT with special responsibility for 5-14 has proved to be extremely beneficial. Mr Beattie has been pressing ahead with considerable input from Mr Garden, Mr Stewart, Mr Kirk and Mrs Shannon. We are well up to speed, if not ahead of requirements in some areas, as far as National developments are concerned. Improvements have been made in both communications with parents and marketing. For the former we have introduced an Initial Pupil Report for the new

boys which was sent to parents in October; this was welcomed by parents as were the Parent/Teacher Meetings in October, February and March. Course Choice Booklets have been introduced to assist parents and pupils in making their decisions on what subjects a pupil should take for Standard Grade in S3 and S4 and Highers in S5 and S6. In addition, questionnaires were sent to all parents which helped look at issues which could stimulate discussion and a preliminary meeting on the issue of a Parents' Association was held in March.

A more positive stance has been taken on marketing, with letters being sent to the Commanding Officers of RN Bases, Army Battalions and RAF Stations in Scotland to keep them up to date with what the School offers and to provide an opportunity for myself and the Assistant Head Teacher to visit any of the above, if required, and talk to parents about the School. So far visits have been made to Fort George and The Royal Scots and Hms NEPTUNE. We have also increased our contacts with the Forces by advertising in an increasing number of Service publications and we have had regular articles in the Stirling Observer and some in the Dundee Courier.

There has also been a considerable amount of building development over the year. A lot is hidden from view, e.g. the third phase of the drainage renewal project, drive tarmacked, refurbishment of different areas of the School and particularly the Hospital. We have also updated a lot of classroom equipment, including desks. We have created a Computing/Audio Visual base next to the Art Room, which is shared by English and Art. A magnificent CCF building was finished in April which will be used by ourselves and the local Army Cadet Force and a new boat shed will be completed by the time you receive this magazine. In addition, we have completed the first, and part of the second phase of the refurbishment/development of Wavell in readiness for girls. The ground floor has already been modernised and a dormitory on the first floor has been converted into a common room and kitchen. We are justly proud of these developments and they have been well received by all including the boys and parents.

A definite decision was made by the Commissioner in June 1994 to introduce girls in August 1996. Plans are already well afoot, as can be seen above, and we have already received enough serious interest for our first intake. Further detailed planning will be carried out this summer and we shall complete the upgrading of the Wavell dorms by August and finally an extension will be built by June 1997 to complete the girls' accommodation.

On the sporting and extra-curricular side, the School continues to provide a myriad of opportunities and achieves extremely good results in a number of areas as will be seen in the rest of the magazine. However, the 1st XV success in reaching the final of the Scottish Schools Cup, after only two years in the competition, was a significant achievement. Ian Porter (Captain) and James Welsh (Vice Captain) are to be congratulated on maintaining the effort and enthusiasm through till March. In addition, Stephen MacKinnon, John Nelson and Alex Smith are to be congratulated for representing Midlands Under 18's and Richard Givens Midlands Under 16. In football Craig Roberts and James Spiers were selected for Perthshire Under 16 and Andrew Paisley and James Martin for the Under 15's. Wavell did well in cross-country coming first in the Longridge Towers School

competition in November and second in the Hydro-Sun Meeting in Aberdeen. Wavell boys also lifted the BP Magic Mac Award for Athletics and PE. Iain Murray came first in the Junior Section of the Central Region Scotland Ski-ing Championships at Tillicoultry and Scott H Murray came second in the Seniors.

The School has been fortunate to have visits from expert coaches such as Sean Lineen and Jim Telfer, both ex-Scottish Internationalists and the latter now Director of Coaching for the SRU, and Cyril de Jongheere the Scotland, GB Internationalist and Olympic Bronze Medallist in Small Bore Rifle Shooting. Paul Kane has already been selected to shoot for Scotland in the British Schools Small Bore International and Leigh Bissett got to the semi-final of the Scottish Junior Small Bore Championship.

The Pipe Band and Dancers continue to produce excellent performances throughout the year. Apart from many individual performances and small groups who play and dance within the local community, the Highland Dancers won two cups at the Argyllshire Gathering in August; the Pipe Band and Dancers thrilled big audiences at two concerts in Perth - the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund and the Perth Poppy Appeal. In addition, the Pipe Band started its Murrayfield Season earlier this year, performing before the crowd, prior to the opening of the new stadium, before the South African game and then the Canada and Romania, as well as the 5 Nation games. The Pipe Band continues to be a strong advertisement for the School by performing at Murrayfield and elsewhere and it has been interesting for me to be involved in this context and to hear the very positive remarks from the rugby fraternity and elsewhere, about them. (It should be noted that small groups continue to be attractive, eg. P7 dancers and some pipers were well received on Wednesday, 22 February at a Darby and Joan Club and that same evening 8 senior dancers and some pipers went down even better at the female branch of the Licensed Victuallers' Association in Callander). Those who came to the Nova Scotia Fund Raising Dinner were thrilled to hear and see the band and dancers perform in the Dining Hall for the guests.

On a slightly different musical theme Mr Halyburton and his staff continue to produce good levels of performance for the Christmas Concert where the Swing Band and a wide variety of individual performances indicate that the musical tradition at QVS is strong. In addition, an informal lunchtime concert was held in the Spring Term. It is also worthy of note that Stephen MacKinnon, Calumn Kennedy and Craig Donnelly have been involved in the Central Region Swing Band.

The highlight of the year may well prove to be at the end of the Session as the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers fly to Halifax in Nova Scotia to perform at the International Tattoo. A lot of work has been put in to preparing for this event and like the International stage of the Edinburgh Tattoo, the International Tattoo at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, will provide a magnificent setting for the Pipes, Drums and Dancers of the Queen Victoria School. I am sure that all involved would like to thank those who have contributed financially and in other ways to the success of the tour and I am sure that the boys will have a magnificent tour and will represent the School in the best possible manner.

Mrs Wharton retired after 10 years' devoted service to the boys as School Sister and has

been replaced by Mrs Fitzgerald. Our first GAP Student Shane Williamson from South Africa who joined us last January had to return in the New Year. This was a very successful experiment and, inadvertently, we helped Stirling County towards their first Championship. Mr Williamson had to go back after the New Year even though he would have liked to have extended his stay. He proved to be a great asset in both Games and widening the pupil's horizons. However, he has already been replaced by Malcolm Ferguson from Dunedin in New Zealand. He has settled in well and is contributing on the same basis as Mr Williamson.

Mr Buchanan, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages, left QVS in October after 18 years service. He was subsequently replaced by Mrs Howie, who has been in the Department for 11 years. The replacement Modern Languages teacher will be Miss Blackwood, who has exten-

Retirals

LEN BOVILL

Len Bovill joined Queen Victoria School as an Assistant Teacher of Science in January 1973 and will leave at the end of this Session after just over 22 years of devoted service. Prior to coming here he had served in the Medical Corps during National Service and took great pride in that contribution. A similar pride has always been there in his Lancashire background.

After National Service he lectured at Newton le Willows Further Education College and then went into industry, working for Pilkington Brothers Limited. Thus he brought the School a wealth and a breadth of experience which he was able to share with the boys.

Since 1973 until now he has continued to teach all the school Biology. He is famous for his extensive breeding of stick insects and latterly large snails (the edible variety). He has also shown great skill and patience in nurturing the profusion of plants which give not only the Lab but other offices etc, a picturesque and sometimes tropical appearance. In 1978 Len was promoted to Principal Teacher of Careers and contributed much to boys' development and futures in this respect.

Another of Len's great passions is hill walking which he still enjoys and he has over the years helped out with expeditions and Duke of Edinburgh and has run a model-making hobby.

Len and Heather have supported the School Chapel and welcomed the staff socially to the School and Dunblane. Apparently he will use his retirement for a complete restoration of his moped and to develop his passion for genealogy (he has already traced his own family tree back to 1608).

We wish Len and Heather good health and happiness in the years ahead.

ANDREW BUCHANAN

Andrew Buchanan came to Queen Victoria School from Armadale Academy in 1976 to take up his appointment as Head of French. Educated at Bathgate Academy, Andrew then elected to study at the University of St Andrews, a town in which he greatly delighted and to which he often returns.

Having graduated with Honours in French in June 1969 and having decided on teaching as his chosen career, he then completed a year's

sive teaching and experience in Service Schools abroad and, latterly, as Director of Modern Languages in Soham Village College. Mr Bovill is also retiring at the end of this Session after nearly 23 years' service as a Biology Teacher and Principal Teacher of Careers. His replacement is Miss Milligan, who was educated at St George's School, Edinburgh Academy and St Andrew's University and comes to us via management in Marks and Spencer.

As I near the end of my first year as Headmaster, I am conscious of the amount of change that has been asked of the staff and I would like to thank all, most sincerely, for their willingness to adapt and to take on board all that is required in the ever-changing modern educational world. A boarding school in particular depends entirely on its staff, not just for the academic side, but for everything else that con-

teacher training at Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh.

For 18 years till October 1994, Andrew, the skilled linguist, passed on his thorough knowledge of his subject in meticulously-prepared lessons to generations of Victorians. The SEB examination results have consistently shown that for those eager to share his knowledge the results have been excellent, and that also for those less linguistically inclined the results have undoubtedly been enhanced by coming up against his purposeful and conscientious teaching.

His language laboratory was his favourite hide-away - a haven of peace for both himself and colleagues. In summer the window sills were delightfully lined with various sweet-smelling plants.

Andrew enjoys classical music, gardening and of course travel - all pursuits which he will doubtless continue as he begins a new chapter in his life.

We wish him good health and happiness in the years ahead.

MRS JEAN WHARTON

Jean Wharton retired in October 1994 after almost 10 years' faithful service to Queen Victoria School as Sister. Care and concern for the health and welfare of the boys has been of paramount importance to her and there is no doubt that a tremendous number of QVS boys have appreciated her TLC over the years.

It is a tribute to her that the Hospital has run so smoothly during her 10 years and that it has always been such a happy and professional enterprise. However, she has been more than just a Nursing Sister in that she has immersed herself fully in the life of the School outside the working day. She started the Scripture Union classes one year after joining the School and organised all sorts of events with these groups. She also directed and produced the School Nativity Plays, ran Sales of Work, bingo teas in aid of charities like Crossroads and the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund.

Many of the staff will remember her famous dinner parties, (her Grand Day lunches) - she is an excellent cook and has a fine taste in wine. It all seemed such good fun to her - and she created the perfect ambience for people to relax and enjoy themselves.

There are one or two little cameos of Jean that I will treasure:

one is of her turning up faithfully to rugby matches in all weather and being prepared, at times, to risk life and limb as she marched on to

tributes towards the enrichment of life for the pupils. In this context Housemaster, Matrons and House Staff are crucial and their unstinting efforts should not go without special mention. Without QV's dedicated staff, at all levels, we could not provide the care or the many opportunities that are on offer here.

I would also like to thank the Commissioners for their support and advice throughout this year. The School is indeed fortunate in the wealth of experience that is available to any Headmaster of QVS.

Finally, I would like to thank the boys and parents for your support throughout the year. The former I have found since I arrived, to be very open and communicative and I have been impressed by the way they respond to targets. The latter I have found to be very supportive of what the School is trying to do for their sons.

B.R.

the pitch, oblivious of packs of forwards around her, because she had her sights fixed on an injured body;

one is of her sitting in a canvas chair as some sort of latter-day amalgam of a Florence Nightingale and a watchful Wellington, patiently scrutinising the Parade Practices;

another is of her taking off, like a flash of lightning, in her white Fiat.

Jean Wharton had a very full and fulfilled life while at QVS. We wish her all the very best in her retirement, although I suspect there will be no such thing. Jean will just find other things to do and be just as involved wherever she goes.

Bursar's Notes

The year has been one of consolidation after the changes forced upon us as a result of becoming an Agency. The Estates Manager and his staff have borne the brunt of the work in continuing the improvements and maintenance of the estate. The Accounts Department have settled into their revised responsibilities and some re-organisation of the work has reduced some of the bureaucracy to manageable proportions. The imminent arrival of the National Audit Office does not hold the same feeling of doom after our successful audit last year.

The Stores Staff, in addition to their normal busy daily schedule, are heavily committed to the search for clothing for boys going to Nova Scotia. A standard walking-out dress is being purchased for this high-profile trip. The first intake of girls too is a short twelve months away. Well in advance of this, decisions on what is to be worn, approval to wear it and authority to obtain it have had to be taken. Contractors and military units have been asked to provide articles of clothing for viewing purposes - getting exactly the correct colours and haggling over prices have all been part of the build-up towards this important and historic change in school life.

Meanwhile, blissfully unaware of all of this, the general hands are getting more involved with "in-house" repairs which mean quicker and cheaper completion of repairs and maintenance. Ever willing, they will have a go at anything, usually with complete success.

We have had only one farewell this year. John Gordon has moved on and Willie Finnie has arrived to take his place.

A busy year lies ahead but "Victorian 1996" will tell the story of the successful preparation for girls arriving at the School.

In Memoriam

Mrs Chrissie Dippie

The whole school was saddened by the death this year of Mrs Chrissie Dippie, wife of Pipe Major Dippie. We extend to Alan our heartfelt condolences. The following words were spoken at her funeral service by Brigadier Tweedy.

"We are all here this afternoon for our own special reasons to say our goodbyes to a very special person: an adored wife, a loving and deeply loved Mother and Grandmother, a valued colleague or a very real friend.

Christine McEwan Dunbar Dippie was a Fifer born in Authertool on 9 February 42; the youngest of a family of 11. At school I gather she was far too busy playing netball to pay too much attention to the finer points of education. So it was that in the late 50's she started on the buses as a Clippie; perhaps not quite your original Kelty Clippie but not that far away. It was here that she met her handsome young Piper from the Lochore Pipe Band.

The first, and I suspect almost unique thing about Christine, was that she was party to that vital decision that set Allan's career on course; they were married in 1962 and wee Allan was already on the scene when his Dad enlisted in the Black Watch in 1965. And of course she has stood firmly - I was going to say behind him ever since but in truth I think that that might be misleading - I think alongside would be more appropriate.

Christine readily accepted, and indeed relished the many moves and challenges of the Army's turbulent life. In fact one of the few occasions that she failed in her duty to follow the flag was on 6 November 1965 when instead of being on parade for Allan's Passing Out Parade in Aberdeen she was busy producing young Brian in Fife.

If I were to suggest to you that she was an Angel or the epitome of the perfect Army wife most of you would probably look at me pretty askance and some might even question my sanity. There were plenty of scrapes in her past, which, almost without exception, stemmed from three most notable characteristics.

An intensely strong feeling of right and wrong, coupled with a willingness to stand up and be counted.

An innate truthfulness or ability to speak her mind without any thoughts for the consequences.

And a wicked sense of fun.

The combination of these sometimes led to tears and, occasionally, conflict with authority but again the day was invariably saved by another of her very special qualities - a very strong streak of kindness and the ability to forgive - she had no malice, could never remain bitter and was ever ready to laugh at her own misfortunes.

1987 saw the end of Allan's active Army career and for the first time in 22 years she might reasonably have expected to have her own home in her beloved Fife. But Fate intervened and tempted him with the offer of the

job as Pipe Major here at Queen Victoria School. I mention this quite deliberately because her reaction to this suggestion could so easily have been 'Come off it' or words to that effect. But no not at all, Chrissie was totally supportive - as always she was intensely loyal.

So it was that she and Allan started their third careers here at the School. At first she was a roving trouble shooter; and then latterly and until ill health forced her premature retirement, as the Number 2 to the Housematron of Haig which caters for the 16 - 18s.

Inevitably being Christine she had many strong views on the way things were run, the competence or otherwise, of many members of the staff and the quality of the intake: I have vivid memories of being on the mat on a number of occasions. At this stage I was perhaps fortunate because I was privileged to have some knowledge of this person we had recruited; others has to learn and it was fascinating to see how quickly they all from senior master to junior boy, realised that behind this, sometimes gruff and forthright exterior was a heart of gold.

Above all Chrissie always had time for others; even over these last few weeks she was always thinking of others who, in her view, were worse off than herself; yes she truly had a heart of gold.

Alan Dippie would like to thank the community of Queen Victoria School for the support and sympathy he received in his bereavement.

Jamie Kenneth Campbell
Andrew Neil Gannon
Brian Gault
Douglas Clifford Greenhowe
Barry Reid Irvine
Andrew Ross Kintrea
James Stuart MacFarlane
Cameron John McLeod
James Alexander McQuade
Iain John Murray
Allstair Paisley
James Ross Sutherland
Iain Michael Watt
Colin McKenzie Wood

J.R.S.

OLD VICTORIANS' ASSOCIATION

President: Lieutenant Colonel Ron Smith
Secretary: Peter Gilchrist
Treasurer: Bill Carruthers

Another year gone and another contribution to The Victorian is due, a year in which changes within the School have been noted by members of the OVA who consequently look at events within their own organisation to see whether change is required thereto. Most of that later but firstly a short review of the year.

Membership now stands at 856, an increase of 61. I should mention that this increase includes four new honorary life members, ie Messrs Hugh Brown, Andrew Buchanan, Malcolm Kelly and Michael Squires, whose many years of devoted service to the School earned unanimous election to membership at our AGM in March. Obviously there are too many new members to name all but I should mention Angus Cameron (3585), the 800th member, plus several from outwith the UK:

Brian Fitzpatrick (2453) South Africa, William Young (1856) Zambia, Steve Anderson (3579) Kuwait, Michael Slorance (2556) Oman, Simon Walker (3231) Canada and Kevin Stacey (4132) Hong Kong. Grand Day 1994 resulted in Jack Kidney (1740) and Alex Hume (1827) joining their respective brothers Jim (1782) and Douglas (1696) as members. Other new members from that generation included John Kay (1644), Colin Hay (1727) and Peter Thomson (1896). Grand Day saw a reunion not just of the brothers quoted above but also of the Pipe Major and Drum Major of the mid-40s, ie the aforementioned Peter Thomson and Jim Kidney. The OVA tent on Grand Day provides a focal point for such reunions. We do hope that many more Old Victorians will make use of it.

Our 1995 Reunion was successful once again. This year we were privileged to have Colonel Rodney Maxwell (2634) to take the salute at the Parade Service. He certainly enjoyed his first visit back to the School for ten years as indeed do so many of our members, whether the visits are regular or infrequent. Please keep coming back.

Having said that the Reunion Weekend was successful, there was considerable discussion at the AGM of its format and timing. Has time come for a change? There was no decision taken at the meeting nor could there be, considering the magnitude of possible change. However, the Committee will be sending out a discussion paper and questionnaire to all members later in the year to ascertain views and ideas with the aim of reaching a decision at the 1996 AGM. Please respond, as we do require the comments of as many members as possible.

Many members have supported the efforts to finance the Nova Scotia Tattoo visit and it has been pleasing to see several of you featuring in the list of draw prize winners. The OVA was represented by 8 members at the Charity Dinner in February in aid of the Appeal. Those attending were Vic Carroll (1272), Bill Carruthers (2073), John Bissett (2072), Graham Tenwick (3833), Stewart Wilkie (3876), Alex Wilkie (3961), Robert MacKinnon (4035), and your President. Three very separate generations of QV's are represented above and I am delighted to report that the rapport achieved at the OVA table was excellent (although the younger ones did find it difficult to believe all our stories!).

I write these notes as the celebrations for VE Day's 50th Anniversary approach. My own memories of two days of celebrations on 7 and 8 May 1945 (reinforced by a look at The Victorian of that time) are of a parade service down to Dunblane, both bands marching through Stirling, a big feast (which would be minute by today's standard) and a large bonfire with a 'Guy' at the top. Was it Hitler or Goering? Perhaps future editions of The Victorian can contain other memories from our members.

As ever the basis for our continuing association both as members and with the School is the School itself. The welcome and hospitality received by so many members is outstanding and our thanks go to all involved in creating the atmosphere which makes us proud to be Old Victorians.

OBITUARIES

Sadly, I have to report that the following Old Victorians have died since the last issue of The Victorian.

367 F W Pyott

Frank, whose Diamond Wedding was reported last year, died on 14 August 1994. He had served in the RAOC and subsequently had a distinguished career in local government service, eventually retiring as Chief Architect and Surveyor for Loughborough.

528 F A Knight

Francis served in the Cameron Highlanders as a Piper and continued his piping vocation subsequently in the Police and as a teacher of piping, Drumming and Highland Dancing. He died on 14 October 1994.

545 G W Malloy

George (Jock) was a Gunner, serving in Coast Artillery and participating in the Liberation of the Channel Islands. He had worked at the stage door of the Empire Theatre in Edinburgh (now the revised Festival Theatre) for many years and appeared on TV in 1994 in a programme celebrating the re-opening of the theatre. An ever-present at Reunions and Grand Days, he passed away on 5 April 1995.

1160 J K Robinson

1163 J Robinson

Two of the Robinson brothers John (1160) and Jock (1163) died within two months of each other - John, who had served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and RASC and who had been injured in North Africa, died on 20 November 1994. Jock was in REME and served during World War II in France and the Middle East and passed away on 24 January 1995.

1517 D Wicks

Donald died on 10 May 1994, shortly after returning from a holiday in Scotland during which he visited the School. He had joined the Argylls as a bandsman and subsequently was commissioned into the RAF.

"OLD VICTORIANS IN THE SNOW"

(Description)

"Contrasting situations for two Old Victorians as illustrated by Captain Ewen McLay REME (3610) entertaining (?) the Bosnians during his tour in Bosnia with 1 Coldstream Guards (Ewan was Pipe Major at School) and by Major Jonathan Calder-Smith RA (3571) competing in the 3rd (UK) Division Ski Championships. Jonathan organised the Royal Artillery Alpine Ski Training and Championships this year".



GRAND DAY 1995

Inspecting Officer

AIR COMMODORE R B DUCKETT, CVO AFC ADC RAF
Air Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland

PRIZE - GIVING

His Honour Judge J McKee

Prize-Giving takes place in the School Memorial Chapel at 1130 in the presence of Her Majesty's Commissioners, distinguished guests, parents, staff and boys. Due to limited accommodation it is regretted that attendance at Prize-Giving is restricted to those holding personal tickets.

PARADE

On Parade

Parade Commander, Senior Monitor	William Milne
Guard Commanders:	
No 1 Guard	Ian Porter
No 2 Guard	Steven Rodgers
No 3 Guard	Ryan McLachlan
No 4 Guard	Neil Ward
No 5 Guard	Stuart Ford
No 6 Guard	Mark Finlay
No 7 Guard	Brian Espie
No 8 Guard	James Welsh
i/c Colour Party	David Graham
Ensigns	Alexander Smith
	James Cornelius
Escorts	Matthew Donald
	Barry Ramsay
Orderlies	Ross Biggart
	Nicholas Brown
School Sergeant Major	Mr D Duthie (late SG)

The Parade

The School will march on and the Colours will be marched on with the parade at the Salute.
The Inspecting Officer will be received with a General Salute at 1500; he will then inspect the Parade.
The Parade will then March Past in Slow Time, break into Quick Time, Reform Line and Advance in Review Order.
After the General Salute the Parade will form a Hollow Square for the Inspecting Officer's Address and the Presentation of Prizes, culminating with the Prince Philip Medal. The School will then give 3 cheers and reform line.
Having sought permission to march-off, the Senior Monitor will lead the Parade off the field in Column of Route.
All spectators are asked to stand when the Colours are marched on to Parade, during General Salutes and when the Colours pass during the March Past.

Tea

After the Parade, Tea will be served for HM Commissioners' Guests in the Marquee behind Enclosure A.
Refreshments will be available on payment in the Playhall for all other spectators.

RETREAT

At approximately 1610 the Buglers will sound the 5 minute call. 5 minutes later the Pipes and Drums will march on to Beat Retreat which will include a display of Dancing. Spectators are asked to remain to watch this display which will last approximately 20 minutes. Spectators are asked to stand during the sounding of the Retreat Call and lowering of the Union Flag.

PARADE MUSIC

March On to Parade	Within A Mile O' Edinburgh Toon
	Caber Feidh
March on the Colours	The Victorians
General Salute	Loch Leven Castle
Inspection	The Highland Cradle Song
	The Skye Boat Song
	Westering Home
	My Home
March Past in Slow Time	The Mingulay Boat Song
	Morag Of Dunvegan
Break into Quick Time	Campbeltown Loch
Advance In Review Order	Scotland The Brave
General Salute	Loch Leven Castle
March off in Column of Route	Highland Laddie

RETREAT MUSIC

March on	Bugle Horn
	Hot Punch
	Bonnie Dundee
Retreat Call	
Drummers Call	
Retreat Marches	I am a Young Man That Lived Wi' My Mother
	Kenmure's Up and Awa' Willy
	The Steamboat
Dancers March On	Corriechoillie's Welcome
	Teribus
Strathspey	Loudon's Bonny Woods and Braes
	Orange and Blue
	Braes Of Mar
Reels	The High Road to Linton
	The Kilt is my Delight
Dancers March Off	The Victorians
March Off Parade	Highland Laddie/ Black Bear

Pipe Major	Mr A T Dippie BEM (Late BW)
Drum Major	Mr H W G Tomkins (Late Gordons)
Dancing Instructor	Mrs E MacDonald AUKA
Boy Pipe Major	Scott MacFarlane
Boy Drum Major	John Leitch
Senior Dancer	Mark Finlay

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE CCF (ARMY)

The hills and glens of Scotland are no strangers to the crack of musketry and the clash of arms. Fortunately, for over two hundred years no shot has been fired in anger. But as Edmund Burke said, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," and each generation must learn that if liberty is not defended, it will die.

Thus it was that your correspondent found himself on a craggy Perthshire hillside in the company of cadets and their Commanders (Major John Silcox, TD and SSM Duthie) on a crisp, dry January afternoon, to see mostly Second Year boys inducted into the arts of war. In their brooding silence, the hills seemed to say they had won all their battles, but for ant-like man the frenetic struggle for survival is never-ending.

The cadets had travelled by bus to a village somewhere in Scotland. From there they faced a three-mile hike with packs on their backs and rifles at the ready to Cultybraggan, the Army's training round in Central Scotland.

Two cadets, however, had gone before them, in order to "keep a welcome in the hill-side". Christopher Stryker and Peter Clark showed their advanced skills by preparing a well-sited dug-out commanding the entrance to the training ground. The barrel of their machine gun poked out over an undulating brae, something which was to prove important later on.

The cadets then split into two groups. One group was to race up the hill in a frontal assault and grab the machine gun post, the glory and, it seemed, the posthumous medals. The second group had a more cautious role. They had to sneak round a bump in the contours, then uphill to opposite the machine gun post to catch it in enfilade and thus support the gallant lads coming up Route One.

Here experience took a hand in the form of SSM Duthie. He showed the frontal party how to advance uphill without getting themselves killed, by taking advantage of the ground contours. This required teamwork and self-discipline, which, no matter the individual exercise, are the skills constantly taught to the CCF. The thought that even an imaginary bullet may be spinning its way towards you is a great concentrator of the mind. The boys very quickly learned what was demanded of them. The dug-out was stormed - and the "prize" of the machine gun taken. The boys were so good at it, their kindly old Sergeant-Major let them do it all again!



Silent advance from a defensive circle



The men are here about the gas bills, Colonel Tapp!! — Christopher Stryker and Peter Clarke

After this, Major Silcox took the boys on an exercise which had to be performed in complete silence. The boys had to form a ring on the ground (as per picture). Then one of them had to go forward to a nearby enemy position as a scout and bring the others forward as and when possible. But the slightest sound might disturb the enemy sentry. Again, teamwork and vigilance were the qualities drawn out of the boys. Stealthily they inched forward. Hand signals could be used as it was broad daylight. No outline could be shown against the brow of the hill. Eventually all were in a position overlooking the imaginary enemy. And all done without a word of command. Your correspondent is thinking of adopting similar tactics for his classroom!

The boys went on to spend the night at Cultybraggan, with bivouacking and feeding skills to the fore. And such is the full life at QVS, they and Major Silcox were back in time for Sunday service the next morning.

The CCF forms an important part of life at QVS and teaches boys skills of interdependence and self-reliance which will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

24th (A) UKLF CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE

The 24th (A) United Kingdom Land Forces (UKLF) Cadet Leadership Course at the Nesscliff Training Camp in Shrewsbury was hosted by B Coy 1st Battalion the Royal Scots and ran from 7th April to 1st April.

The school was represented by L/Cpls Ian Stewart and Matthew McLeish of the RAF and Army sections respectively.

To our surprise, close friendships were formed, even as soon as on the fairly uneventful rail journey to Shrewsbury.

On arriving in Nesscliff, our training began almost as soon as we had been assigned our platoons and billets, with several lectures on the theory of leadership.

The training included PT, Command Tasks, Firing of the Cadet GP Rifles and LSW, an over-night exercise (code-named Tartan Charge) as well as giving our own lectures.

The Command tasks involving simple leadership problems as well as more arduous problems, seemed designed only to tire us or to "screw us up" (or words to that effect). These were: the stretcher race, the "ammo run", which is each section of 12 men carrying 4 ammunition boxes over a difficult course and the "trailer race" was even more demanding, - pulling/pushing (dragging) 2 trailers from a Land Rover filled with one oil drum and 3 ammo boxes to each trailer over a mile-long trail while wearing full combats, webbing and rifles.

All in all a worthwhile cause. If you are prepared for rigorous training, early starts, late finishes and you are prepared to work hard, then I recommend the UKLF course to you.

L/Cpl I R Stewart (RAF)

SHOOTING

Tri-Service Cadet Shooting Camp, Tain.
Saturday 25th June - Saturday 2nd July, 1994
Concurrent with the National Small Bore Rifle Association, Scottish Championships.

Staff: Major J.R. Silcox
Cadets: Small Bore Shooting Capt.
Craig Donnelly,
Leigh Bissett
James Matthews
Richard McConnell
Mark McLeod

Five of our best small bore marksmen representing the School at the Scottish Championship meeting last year gaining invaluable experience at shooting at 50 metres and 100 yards in Competition.

All five were awarded national proficiency awards by the National Small Bore Rifle Association.

Craig Donnelly, 'Expert Shot'
Leigh Bissett, 'Junior Award'
James Matthews 'Junior Award'
Richard McConnell 'Marksmen'
Mark McLeod 'Junior Award'

This was our most successful small bore camp to date and the team are already looking forward to the '95 Championships which are scheduled to take place at Lauder, in the Borders Area, during the summer holidays.

SMALL BORE SHOOTING - WINTER COMPETITIONS

A very full programme of winter shooting took place within our Small Bore Rifle Range, including participation in the County Junior Championship, the Scottish Small Bore Junior Championships and the RAF Winter Postal League.

Leigh Bissett distinguished himself by becoming the first Victorian to qualify for the Semi-Final of the Junior Medal Championships.

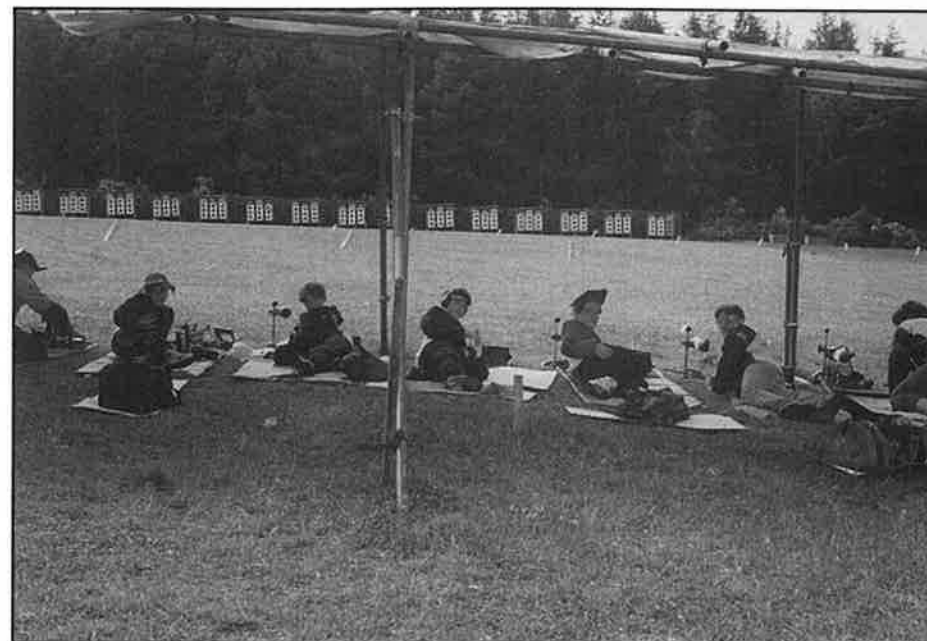
Paul Kane was selected to shoot for Scotland in the British Schools International Postal Championships.



Paul Kane



Leigh Bissett



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It may be the ageing process, or just the seemingly increasing pace of life, but this session has passed so quickly, it seems like next to no time since I was writing my last session report, but yet so much has been achieved in that time.

Following on from the success of last year's swing band concert, we were able to make a recording of all the pieces in our repertoire at the end of last summer term. It was also a great privilege to be invited to participate in the street party as part of the "Doune and Dunblane Fling". How nice it was to play in the memorial garden in the High Street, with the cherry blossom falling all around.

Always a problem in a small school, particularly with a small band, is to maintain a continuity to standard, as experienced players depart at the end of a session, but I have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and adaptability of new members to our swing band who form our first complete rhythm section, namely John Nelson - keyboard, Mark Harris - drums, Adam Morton - electric guitar and Craig Donnelly on bass guitar. We were invited this year to take part in the 50th anniversary celebrations of VE day, held in the Victoria Hall in Dunblane. It is good to see and hear the band involved in the community.

Our continuing involvement with Central Region takes place with three of our principal swing band players participating in the Youth Symphonic Wind Band which meets on Friday evenings throughout the session. Stephen MacKinnon - trumpet, Callum Kennedy - saxophone and Craig Donnelly - percussion have enjoyed this event under the baton of Mr Alan Bell, our woodwind specialist. Their programme this year includes "Moment for Morricone" which features that haunting melody from the film "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". (Our three fellas can fight it out for who is who). Also included in the programme is the music from "Beauty and the Beast". The Easter concert - held in the Albert Hall, Stirling was a great success and I expect the same will be true when they give their performance in Edinburgh, later this year, as part of the Fringe Festival.

Many of our boys have been successful individually in Associated Board and Guildhall* examinations.

Stephen MacKinnon
Gd 5 Theory Pass
***Callum Kennedy**
Gd 4 Saxophone Distinction
Malcolm Cook
Gd 4 Trombone Merit
Richard Kerr
Gd 4 Trumpet Merit
Gordon Laughlin
Gd 4 Trombone Merit
Christopher Murray
Gd 4 Pianoforte Merit
Leigh Bissett
Gd 3 Singing Pass
James Martin
Gd 2 Pianoforte Merit

These successes would not be possible however, without the team of dedicated instrumental instructors who attend in the evenings, rarely seen by anyone except the boys and myself, yet who contribute so much to the enrichment of school life for so many. There

were a couple of changes this year in our staffing. Mrs Anne McInnes, who has been with us since 1987, teaching orchestral percussion, departed to a full-time post with Central Region. We are very sad to lose her, but delighted to welcome Mr Ruari Donaldson to take her place.

Mr Donaldson is a freelance musician who plays with all the leading Scottish orchestras. As a student of the RSAMD, he won the Governors' prize for percussion. We are also sorry to say farewell to Mr David McClelland, our singing teacher, who relinquished his post due to ill health, but are fortunate to have as his replacement, Mrs Clare King, who has considerable experience as an operatic soloist including performances with Covent Garden. I do thank both former staff members for their work over the years, and for the successes in music festivals, external examinations and with SCE level pre-

sentations, but also welcome the new staff and wish them a happy and rewarding time with us.

Our Christmas Carol Service took place earlier than usual this year on Sunday 11 December 1994 - a day remembered for heavy rain and severe flooding. This meant that our church, normally bulging to over capacity, could only be attended by those parents and friends living in close proximity to the school. Those who were present, heard the Wavell Choir sing "Gabriel's Message" and "Christmas Alphabet", ably accompanied by John Nelson on piano. They later joined forces with First Year boys, playing tuned percussion instruments, performing internal arrangements of "Mary's Boy Child" and "Merry Christmas, Everyone". Ensemble playing was also provided by the brass quartet who announced that "Santa Claus Was Comin' to Town" and by a saxophone duo whose "Silent Night" had the congregation hushed. The swing

band wished everyone a "Holly Jolly Christmas". A star performance was given by tenor, Mark Finlay who performed "The Christmas Story" to rapturous applause.

Other concerts have included the Wavell Choir performing a selection of traditional Scots songs at the Darby and Joan Club in Grangemouth, where Alistair Porter also played fiddle and Gareth Martin a keyboard solo. Everyone appreciated their efforts. A lunch-time concert was given by all SCE candidates prior to their practical examinations in March, and this was enjoyed by the capacity audience who attended the Music Department that day.

I would finally like to thank Stephen MacKinnon for his efforts in carrying out various tasks and duties as Music Prefect this session with a mature and responsible manner.

G Halyburton

The following article is reprinted from the 'Sarasota Herald Tribune' of Florida, U.S.A. as an encouragement to present Victorians as to what can be achieved in life.

PIPING TO A LIFE OF MUSIC

The pipe major is hailed as one of the most renowned pipers but MacKenzie says his work as a teacher is more meaningful to him.

Pipe Major John T. MacKenzie was only 9 years old when he started to play the bagpipe as a student in the Queen Victoria Military School at Dunblane, Scotland.

At age 15, he became a member of the Scots Guard which took him to three continents during World War II where he not only rallied the troops but also served as a gunner and a stretcher bearer with the famous Rat Patrol of the Second Scots Battalion.

At 23, he obtained the rank of Pipe Major, the youngest guard ever so honoured.

Following the war, he became piper for the royal household, playing for the funerals of King George VI and Winston Churchill and the wedding and coronation of Queen Elizabeth, among other historic occasions. In 1952, he was appointed pipe major of the No 1 Fighter Wing Pipe Band in the Royal Canadian Air Force and shortly thereafter moved to Maxville, Ontario.

A medal from President John F Kennedy with a personally signed card, hangs on a wall in MacKenzie's modest Port Charlotte home, where he lives during the winter months. It commemorates his performance during the only presidential visit Kennedy made to Canada.

"Oh yes, I played for the Queen many times," he says as a matter of fact. "The royal family treated the pipers very well, but some members of the staff, like the footmen, treated you as if you were the bottom of the barrel".

Being a pipe major is far from the bottom of the barrel. "It's more akin to having a John Philip Sousa in the Marines", says fellow piper Warren MacConnell of Sarasota. MacConnell organises the annual Scottish Games and Heritage Festival and recently had MacKenzie judge the 16 pipe bands entered in this year's competition.

"He is one of the most renowned pipers in the world," says MacConnell. "And he is not only a great piper but a distinguished soldier who fought the desert war with Rommel and



participated in the invasion of Norway. He also went active in Malaya in 1948."

The prestige of being a pipe major pales to the pride MacKenzie has in his greatest accomplishment teacher. For 18 years, he taught the pipes to thousands of high school students in the Glengarry County area of Ontario, which is heavily populated with transplanted Highlanders.

"When students learned to play the pipes from me, they learned to do it the right way," says MacKenzie.

MacKenzie began his teaching career in Canada as an experiment. "The pipes were never taught in the public schools as a credited class, so in 1970 they let me teach on an experimental basis to see if it would catch on," he says, "And it really did. I ended up having classes in three schools."

MacKenzie actually wrote the book on teaching the pipes, MacConnell says. "John wrote the syllabus that the entire Canadian school system uses to teach the pipes," his friend of 25 years says.

The classes faded after MacKenzie retired in 1988, but a piper college in Maxville continues the tradition with 150 students. MacKenzie still teaches a handful on a private basis.

One of his local students, the Rev. James Latta of the Punta Gorda Presbyterian Church, testifies to his teacher's skills.

"He's an excellent teacher and a very strict one, to be sure," says Latta, whose Scottish heritage and love of the instrument made him want to learn how to play it.

Latta practices about an hour a day, "usually when my wife is out of the house." He has also played for funerals and some church services.

MacKenzie's love of playing keeps him fully occupied while he winters here. He recently participated in the second annual Scots Sunday service at Port Charlotte's First Presbyterian Church. Veterans groups also are recipients of his skills for both American and Canadian veterans' holidays and parades.

His camaraderie with fellow veterans includes some choice military stories. One of MacKenzie's favourites deals with some tough times he faced in the desert during the war. The rations of canned meat began to get a little old, so he was commissioned to approach the native nomads about acquiring one of the lambs that seemed to be plentiful. He used tea bags as barter and was told to come back for the lamb. MacKenzie was later handed a wrapped leg, from which he made a stew. He boiled the meat for about five hours, but even then, he said, "it was the toughest thing we ever had."

"In the morning I heard the sergeant major yell. 'MacKenzie, over here on the double. Pointing to an animal, he said, 'What's that?' I said, 'That's a wild dog.' He said, 'Count the legs. I said, 'There's four' He said, 'No there's not. There's only three. That's the damn stuff you fed us last night.'"

Whilst not an expert at cooking MacKenzie knows his bagpipes. His instrument of choice is a vintage pipe made in 1890, which he purchased in 1952. It was made with sterling silver, ivory, African black wood and leather, and had a history almost as interesting as MacKenzie's.

"The Kaiser of Germany had it made for a Pipe Major MacLean who played for him as a member of the Scottish regiment. He was so impressed that he sent to Glasgow to have it made," said MacKenzie. "I bought it from his (MacLean's) son-in-law, who was associated with the police department in London."

MacKenzie says he loves playing the instrument too much to give it up, even at age 74. "It keeps me young" he said.

Linda Fudala.

FROM AULD SCOTLAND TO NOVA SCOTIA

The Pipes, Drums and Dancers of Queen Victoria School - Canada 1995

Our band and dancers have had many outstanding successes in their history. One only needs to look at the current diary of events to see what they have accomplished in one year. Murrayfield; the video recording with Scotdisc; many and varied other performances from single pipers at War Memorials to the full band and dancers at Perth and Dundee.

But there has been little to beat their latest honour. To be invited to play at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo 1995 places our band and dancers firmly in the world league of performers.

A lot of the credit for reaching this standard must lie with their instructors. Pipe Major Alan Dippie BEM and Drum Major Bert Tomkins both had long and distinguished careers in the world of Scottish military music. Mrs MacDonald's dancers have a proven record of performing at a standard one would expect of adults rather than that of teenagers.

But where did this all begin? The honour for that must lie with Drum Major Tomkins. "Drummie" conceived the original idea of putting the boys on a world stage and set to work making that dream come true. Contacts were made with the Nova Scotia authorities and visitors came from that sea-tossed part of the world to view our band and dancers.

They came, they saw and were conquered by the excellence of performance. The decision was made to go. But there were thirty thousand obstacles in the way. Each one was a pound note. And so they set to conquer this obstacle. They performed at every opportunity which did not interfere with their studies. They formed part of the video "Jim MacLeod's Ceilidh" at Dunblane Hydro Hotel, a production mounted by Scotdisc. (This video you can buy at shopping malls and other outlets throughout Scotland and the UK.) They held coffee mornings. They did everything legal and honest they could do.

And as you read this article it will all be coming true. Immediately after Grand Day the logistic exercise of transporting sixty boys and

ten adults, plus pipes, drums, uniforms etc etc will swing into place. The plane will land at Halifax. The contingent will billet themselves in the spacious environs of the University of St Mary's.

The great day will dawn on 1st July when our boys take the floor of The Halifax Metro Centre in company with such prestigious performers as the US Marine Corps Band in an event which is on a par with similar ones in Edinburgh and New Zealand. It is Canada's largest annual indoor show, with a cast of over 2,000 performers.

We are sure all parents and friends of the school, though separated by thousands of grey Atlantic miles, will in their minds' eyes live it with the boys and see the colour of the famous red tunics and dark kilts, the flash of John Leitch's mace and hear the proud command:

"Queen Victoria School! Pipes and Drums, quick march!"

"From scenes like these Auld Scotia's grandeur springs

That makes her loved at home, revered abroad." - Robert Burns



As part of the fund-raising effort a dinner was held at the School in February. Pictured with James Scott and Graeme Antrobus are Scottish rugby internationalists Doddie Weir and Craig Joiner

Pipes, Drums and Dancers, Queen Victoria School



*Boy Drum Major
John Leitch*



CANADA 1995



*Boy Pipe Major
Scott MacFarlane*

CANADA 1995 - BUT WHAT ABOUT 1927?

A very short article in *The Victorian* for July 1928 reads:-

"In August 1927 Pipe Major W M Taylor left us to form a Pipe band to go to Canada in the employment of Mr D L Cameron. A number of the boys in our pipe band, considering the possibilities of life in Canada as more to their advantage than remaining at school, left with the Pipe Major. Unfortunately Mr Cameron did not go on with his scheme and the band was dispersed in Glasgow last February".

A sad but interesting episode in the life of the school but, as you can guess, it must have caused tremendous shock to both staff and boys at the time. What really happened? Further research, particularly through contact with some of those involved tells the story in greater detail.

During the 20s, Donald Lochiel Cameron, the timber King of Canada, felt that a well-trained boys Pipe band which could tour Canada and the United States would prove a first class attraction and be a successful commercial venture. As a result he recruited members of the School Pipe Band under the leadership of Pipe Major Taylor and it assembled at the YMCA, Bothwell Street, Glasgow in August 1927. Research in the School records lists 24 boys leaving 'For Canada' on 3/9/27. M (Bean) Lovatt (998) recalls that 17 pipers and 7 drummers were selected to go, confirming the school's records. A press photograph showing a line of 24 smiling young faces shows that the members were happy initially, as well they might be having been kitted out in Cameron of Lochiel tartan and been placed under contract for 5 years at a rate of 25/- per week (£1 banked, 5/- pocket money) with a promise of £500 and a tract of land in Canada at the end of the contract.

The band practised daily in the HLI Drill Hall in Renfield Street.

There is some dispute as to the title they took. The OVA records say 'Lochaber' but Old Victorians of that era, especially those directly involved refer to the 'Lochiel' Pipe



Band. This seems more appropriate given the involvement of Mr Cameron.

Advance publicity from North America suggested considerable interest from the public and the boys were given a tour of the liner SS Leviathan on which they were scheduled to take passage to Canada. They even said farewell to their families before all fell apart.

Donald Cameron is reputed to have fled to South America to avoid his creditors and the band was disbanded! The boys returned home. The School did not want them back - indeed Charlie McKenna (847) comments that Robert Skelton (817), the Boy Pipe Major, visited the School but was told by the Headmaster that he was not welcome.

Some of the members joined the armed forces and, in 1928, the school relented somewhat and allowed 9 boys to rejoin. They were given new school numbers (1261-1269) and hence are shown in the records under both numbers.

One interesting aspect of this debacle is that, despite the times and the obvious lack of legal support, the mother of George Hardie (1035/1269) took Donald Cameron to

the Court of Session and was awarded £500 plus £14.1s 3d expenses. There is no record of any other Court action. A copy of the original contract exists and formed the basis of the Court action. It is interesting that one condition on the contract states that each member shall be provided with:-

Complete set Full Dress Parade Equipment, 2 Sets Summer Underwear, 2 Sets Winter Underwear, 1 Pair Boots, 1 Pair Shoes, 1 Heavy Overcoat and Sundries!

Many of those involved were successful latterly, despite the effects of this episode. Five were commissioned, Owen Degnan (1099) attaining the rank of Colonel and William McKinley (912) being awarded the MC. T Crawford (886) was made a POW during the Commando raid on St Nazaire. Tom Cullen (1018/1264) was Pipe Major of 1 Royal Scots. Ian Forbes (1080/1266), who provided much of the material for this article, was Pipe Major Seaforth's. Robert Skelton (817) and Joe Watson (869) both became successful businessmen and Joe was Mayor of Dover in 1981.

Charlie McKenna did not go with the band but nevertheless provided a thoughtful input into this summary of events. He comments on the suffering of those involved and the bitterness the episode evoked. Nevertheless, he comments that life had to go on and, despite the decimation of the band, the following extracts from the July 1928 Victorian paints a positive picture:

"Pipe Major Ross, late A & SH, was installed in September 1927 and since then has had much hard work in bringing the young boys up to the reputed standard of the School".

The article goes on to show a list of engagements - last by the former band was 19/7/27, first by the new band 21/9/27 followed by a full list including 3 rugby internationals - and in July 1928 the band went to France!

I am sure that those Old Victorians of the late 20s will join with everyone else in wishing the Band and Dancers the best of luck in their Canadian Venture - but remember you might not have been the first to go had fortune smiled on the band of 1927.



PIPING, DRUMMING AND DANCING

COMPETITION PIPING PRIZES 1995

Wavell House: Chanter competition (Presented by Piob Mhor)

Slow March:

1st: G Houston, 2nd: S Tierney, 3rd: D Kelly

March:

1st: G Houston, 2nd: S Tierney, 3rd: J Halley

Prize Chanter:

Highest Agg score: Winner: G Houston

Junior Piping Competition: C Class Pipes

Slow March:

1st: G D McCulloch, 2nd: F G MacKinnon,

3rd: C J Bissett

March:

1st: G D McCulloch 2nd: F G MacKinnon

3rd: R McKenzie

Group Capt T Kean CBE AFC Prize: Highest

Agg score: G D McCulloch

Intermediate Competition B Class Pipes

(II and III Yrs)

Slow March: 1st: J I Bruce, 2nd: R A Fleming,

3rd: R J Kerr

March: 1st: J I Bruce, 2nd: R J Kerr,

3rd: J-R J McCulloch

The Gordon Stobbo Cup: Highest Agg score:

J I Bruce

Senior Competition A Class (IV and VI Yrs)

SM and March: 1st: C Murray, 2nd: C

Kennedy, 3rd: J A Scott

Str and Reel: 1st: G Antrobus, 2nd: C Murray,

3rd: J A Scott

The Piping Shield: "School Champion"

Highest Agg: C Murray

DRUMMING AND BUGLING PRIZES 1995

WAVELL HOUSE

Side Drum	Tenor Drum	Bugle
1st G Ferguson	M A Lovell	C M Murphy
2nd C M Murphy	A G L S Porter	P D Fleming
3rd K A Finnegan	W Ratcliffe	L R Dowdeswell

INTERMEDIATE

Side Drum	Tenor Drum	Bugle
1st T A Whittle	J A McQuade	J A McQuade
2nd P R Barlow	A R Kintrea	G R Henderson
3rd S J Noy	J R Sutherland	P R Barlow

SENIOR

Side Drum	Tenor Drum	Bugle
1st S F MacKinnon	C A F Roberts	S F MacKinnon
2nd G A Laughlin	P H O'Donnell	R J Kerr
3rd M J Crease	R S Tervit	C J Murphy

Champion Drummer 1995: S F MacKinnon



Highland Dancers 1994 - 95



HIGHLAND DANCING

During 1994-95 the school dancing teams carried out a number of engagements in various locations. The senior dancers started the year in marvellous form. On August 25th a team made up of Mark Finlay, Paul Kane, Richard Givens and Andrew Denholm went to the Argyllshire Gathering held at Oban and won The Alisdair MacLean Challenge Cup for the HM and Allied Armed Services competition, with Mark Finlay being awarded the Poltalloch Cup for the best individual performance. Performing for Scottish Dance Band leader Jim McLeod's new video at Dunblane Hydro Hotel was another notable and enjoyable engagement for the senior teams.

The younger senior dancers (SI -S3) took part in a number of charity fund-raising engagements. These commitments were carried out very professionally. In May teams from this group took part in Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. Dancers from Wavell House preformed at several events through out the year with the skills that have become expected of them.

On 16th March thirty seven boys sat a total of 53 United Kingdom Alliance Medal tests with first class results. In May fifteen boys have entered the U K A Highland Medallist of the Year competition we await the results. All of the eighteen members of the dancing team going to the Tattoo in Halifax, Nova Scotia, have been working extremely hard to perfect a highly-polished performance and we all look forward eagerly to departure.

QV Highland Dancing Competition

Beginners:

1. R Waldron 2. J Stevenson 3. A Tose

Junior:

1 A Gault 2. J Smith 3. C Niven

Winner- Most Promising Dancer Prize

Intermediate:

1. D Robertson 2. C Cunningham 3. S Connelly

Senior:

1. M Finlay 2. R Givens 3. P Kane

Winner- London Scottish Prize

Seann Truibhas Competitions

Junior:

1. C Wood 2. D Robertson 3. A Gault

Senior:

1. R Givens 2. M Finlay 3. M Harris

Winner- Seann Truibhas Shield

Victorians Broadwords Competition

1. M Finlay, R Blackwood, A Paisley, P Crawford

Winners - John S Steel Trophy Interhouse Reel

Competition

1. Trenchard House

United Kingdom Alliance Medal Tests

(Highly Commended = H/C, Honours = Hons)

Pre-Bronze Medal Test:

D McDade H/C, C MacDonald H/C, C Niven H/C, J

Smith H/C, J Stevenson H/C, R Waldron H/C, F

Yorkston H/C, D Bulloch H/C.

Bronze Medal Tests:

J Campbell H/C, A Gault H/C, C Harris H/C, F

Yorkston H/C, D Aitken H/C, C Dewar H/C, R

Stevenson H/C, D McDade H/C, C MacDonald H/C,

C Niven H/C, J Smith H/C.

Silver Medal Tests:

A Colquhoun H/C, A Gault H/C, C Harris H/C, D

Aitken H/C, C Dewar H/C, R Stevenson H/C, S

Ruthven H/C, J Campbell H/C.

Gold Medal Tests:

A Colquhoun H/C, A Moffat H/C, R Blackwood H/C,

J Donald H/C, N Seaton H/C. S Connelly H/C, M

Logue H/C.

First Gold Bar Medal Tests:

G Cornelius H/C, C Wood H/C, A Paisley H/C, D

Robertson H/C, P Crawford H/C, C Cunningham H/C.

Second Gold Bar Tests:

A MacKinnon Hons, R Givens Hons, A Denholm H/C,

M Harris H/C, D Greenhowe H/C, B Haldane H/C, P

Crawford H/C, P Kane Hons, A Blackhurst H/C.

Laurel Award Medal Tests:

A MacKinnon H/C, A Blackhurst H/C, M Finlay

Hons, P Kane Hons.

Eileen MacDonald,
Highland Dancing Instructor.

UKA HIGHLAND
MEDALLIST OF THE YEAR
SELECTION

held in Aberdeen, Sunday, 14th May 1995
Queen Victoria School Prize List

Robert Waldron		
Pre Bronze	10/11 yrs	3rd
Christopher Niven		
Bronze	10/11 yrs	2rd
Jamie Campbell		
Silver	13 + Yrs	1st

Christopher Harris		
Silver	11/12 yrs	1st
Stuart Ruthven		
Silver	11/12 yrs	2nd
Alan Gault		
Silver	11/12 yrs	3rd
Ross Stevenson		
Silver	11/12 yrs	4th
Darren Robertson		
Gold & 1st Gold Bar	14 + Yrs	1st
Colin Wood		
Gold & 1st Gold Bar	12/13 Yrs	1st

James Donald		
Gold & 1st Gold Bar	Shared	2nd
Robert Blackwood		
Gold & 1st Gold Bar	Shared	2nd
Alister Colquhoun		
Gold & 1st Gold Bar	Shared	2nd
Paul Crawford		
2nd Gold Bar & Laurels	14 + yrs	2nd
Barry Haldane		
2nd Gold Bar & Laurels	14 + yrs	1st
Douglas Greenhowe		
2nd Gold Bar & Laurels	12/13 yrs	1st

Hobbies

Q. V. KARATE CLUB

First of all, many thanks to Mark Finlay for all his assistance in running the club and for setting such a perfect example of character and self-discipline to the younger students. Mark has set the standard for the rest to follow! I don't know what I will do next year without him.

Secondly, on behalf of Q.V.S. Karate Club, may I offer sincere thanks to Sensei Ronnie Watt 6th Dan. S.S.K.C.A. for all that he has done for Q.V. Karate Club and karate internationally.

This year the Karate Club has grown in strength and we now have more members than in previous years.

We have had one grading exam this year and the standard has been higher than in previous years. A second grading will take place in early June. (At the time of writing this article plans were well under way for this exam).

If time allows there will be another school competition and of course there is lots of work to be done for our annual Grand Day display. Plans are now under way for a major fund-raising karate display - where Queen Victoria School Karate Club hopes to raise over £1000 for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Research fund.

Stuart Ruthven, a twelve-year-old pupil at the school has already benefited from the Malcolm Sargent fund.

Stuart is in remission from leukaemia and is also well on his way to gaining his black belt in karate.

Q.V. Karate Club want to give something back to this very worthwhile charity and regard the display as a good way of doing just that.

We hope to gain full support of Q.V. parents and friends and supporters of the School.

Stuart will be the "front man" in our display - so look out for him. I look forward to seeing you at one of our displays, gradings or competitions.

In the meantime have a lovely summer holiday.

Karate students should keep up their training over the summer - it costs nothing - and requires no equipment to practise Karate, remember.

Sayonnara!

Sensei Iain Dow
3rd Dan S.S.K.C.A.

POTTERY

The pottery hobby was not quite as popular in terms of numbers this year as in the past. However some good work was produced especially on the wheel.

S. Watt is to be congratulated on successfully using pottery as one of his D. of E. activities

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics hobby provided a forum both for tutorial work for senior boys and a problem solving activity for younger pupils. Both aspects produced useful work but it is to be hoped that numbers, especially of certificate pupils, will improve over the years.

WOODWORK HOBBY

Enough of the Craft, Design and Technology and let's get back to the good old-fashioned Woodwork. After all, without woodwork, Abraham Lincoln would have been toothless and Joseph unemployed.

This hobby is all about learning new skills while preserving the old ones and a hard core of enthusiasts persevered admirably with their projects and some very good work was produced.

Sledges were popular, although not completed at the time the snow was around. Still, with the unpredictable Scottish weather, a hurl down Wavell hill might yet be possible.

The kitchen tidy, bathroom cabinet and traditional chess board were also fashioned and special mention must go to John Blackhurst (III), Mark McLeod (III), Ryan Tervitt (III), Mark Harris (IV), and Scott H. Murray (V) for their attendance and hard work.

S.L.

CAMERA CLUB

This year a fair number of boys along with an Old Victorian who now lives in Dunblane, attended the Camera Club held on a Tuesday and Friday night. Since the club started in October, the daylight became shorter and so the boys had little chance to take photographs during the week. However, some of the more enthusiastic boys borrowed club cameras and took photographs on trips out at weekends. They then developed them in the darkroom and with some cropping and minor surgery managed to produce some very acceptable prints, which can be used in the summer term for experiments in colouring, dyeing and tinting.

Money was made available for the club to purchase cameras, paper and chemicals as well as another colour enlarger.

Although the space in the darkroom is limited and can only accommodate a small number of boys at any one time the facilities are very good indeed and Mr Dale hopes that in the future he may encourage more boys, especially those with a flair for photography to produce exhibition quality prints both in

monochrome and colour.

At the moment R. MacKinnon is following a photography course at college after having been a member of the Q.V.S. Camera Club for a number of years where he was smitten by the need to produce B/W images.

LIBRARY

It is well known that the library needs to go electronic. Frankly, unless a rich benefactor/benefactress is found, it is unlikely to happen in the near future; the priority lists determine otherwise. Meanwhile, we continue with pen and ink and card - and boy hours!

Policing the library has been demanding and time-consuming. There have been repeated problems with keys going missing. Mr Tomkins has done a sterling job as usual. Our thanks to him and to Mr Webster, the Librarian.

Paul Matuszczyk, Jamie MacDonald,
Senior Librarians

ESU PUBLIC SPEAKING
AND DEBATING

A relatively inexperienced public speaking team consisting of Craig Roberts, James Cornelius and Paul Matuszczyk entered the ESU competition in September but went down to formidable opposition from Stirling High, St Modans, Morrison's and Kilgraston. The experience proved invaluable, but automatic entry to a later round brought no success, despite a change in tactics in which James Cornelius became the main speaker. This round was much closer, however, experience beginning to make a difference.

This is the first time in a while the School has entered this competition, and will naturally take time to build up sufficient expertise and confidence to take on "the big boys" - or, rather, "big girls", since girls proved the more fearsome opponents in the competition.

A debating team was launched in October and Paul Sowton and Alastair Thomson took on the assembled might of Auchterarder, Morrison's and Glenalmond. In what proved to be an evening crowded with incident (the supporters had to push the minibus as Mr Kirk and reverse gear just could not come to an agreement), our lads took the debate by storm. Things looked good for the next round.

Unfortunately, it was not to be. Inexperience perhaps took its toll - or perhaps it was those girls again, for the team lost out to extremely good teams from Kinross and Kilgraston.

Another competition was promised in January, run by Queen Margaret Union of Glasgow University. What become of that is uncertain, but we heard no more after replying

to the initial invitation.

After that, the Debating Society became the Literary and Debating Society and "A Day in the Mind of Titch Oldfield" was born. But that, as they say, is another story ...

JUNIOR FIRST AID

The Junior First Aid class takes place during the winter months October - March every Thursday evening. This year 16 boys took part and all gained their Junior First Aid Certificates. A good age mix took part this year; 2 S6's, 4 S4's, and 10 from S3. This is a popular hobby contributing as it does to the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. One of the highlights of the course was the visit to Dunblane Fire Station to watch a demonstration by the local Fire Officers. This was much appreciated by the boys and we would like to thank the Fire Officer publicly. Our thanks also to Mr John Fraser and Mr Alan Turner of the Dunblane Red Cross for their patience and the undoubted rapport they build up with the boys.

Sport

FIRST XV RUGBY REPORT

An opening victory of 35-0 against Perth Academy started the 1994/95 season on a very positive note and the first try, starting with an open side break from the scrum by captain Ian Porter, and an incisive break by fly-half Alex Smith, indicated one area of strength for the season. This half-back combination was to give great stability to the team. Another four tries followed, as a result of good handling by both forwards and backs and good support play - another strong feature of the side. All five tries were converted, by Vice-Captain and full back, James Welsh.

It is worthy of note that the teams which played in the first 2 matches against Perth and Strathallan had only 2 and 1 changes respectively, from the side which finished the season in March. The narrow 7-5 victory against Strathallan, after a very good first quarter, and a try by Alex Smith, gave very little satisfaction as it was an ill-disciplined game by both sides and we allowed our game to deteriorate. However, there was some magnificent defence in the last quarter of the game, including a match saving tackle by Colin Murphy, from the opposite wing.

A feature of the season was the determination in the team to step up a gear when new targets were set and there was a realisation that improvements could always be made. As a result, we played some of our best rugby of the season and for a while, hit a purple patch, in beating Glenalmond 20-7 with two tries by Ian Porter and one by Alex Smith.

Conversely, we could easily make life difficult for ourselves and not grasp opportunities that were available. Occasionally, this may also have been due to over-estimation of the opposition or over-confidence on our part. Thus, it was that we scraped home 3-0 against Fettes, lost 7-12 to Merchiston and 7-8 to Watson's. The latter finished dramatically with an excellent counter-attack from just outside

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The Model Railway Club became firmly established in this, its second year, since it came into being like a Phoenix from the Ashes last year. A number of boys are regular attenders and some Wavell boys have come along recently which augurs well for the future. Recent acquisition has been one power pack, which enables the working of two lines. A marshalling yard is making progress where trains can be stored and repaired while scenery in the form of hills and banking is making an appearance. Our thanks to Mr Ian McIntyre for the enthusiasm and dedication he brings to the Club.

SWIMMING WITH THE
DISABLED

Four S4 boys deserve special mention for their steady, week-by-week support of this Club. They are Graham Hughes, Andrew Denholm, Chris Kerr and Paul Kane who, accompanied by Mr McIntyre have kept the QVS traditional link with the Club going. The boys have kept going for the whole year from Summer Term

our own 22, combining superb support play by forwards and backs only to find that this "try of the season" was disallowed due to an infringement.

With a depleted side, just after the October break, we faced Robert Gordon's. Although we won 22-5 it was an unconvincing performance. Tries were scored by John Leitch, playing well at full-back, Ryan McLachlan (Centre), Richard Givens (playing at fly-half) and Alex McCartney. The latter showed what the forwards could do collectively as Scott McFarlane covering, gathered a ball just outside the opposition 22, drove and linked with Stephen MacKinnon and John Nelson.

The match against Lomond proved to be an extremely hard fought game and increasingly we found it difficult to cope with their strong mauling and driving pack. The score moved from 0-5 to 7-5 after a skillful, individual try by Ian Porter and then to 7-15 before we responded with an excellent try. This started with a break by Richard Givens, good ruck ball, a break by Ian Porter, through the hands to Alex Smith and John Leitch back inside to James Welsh, followed by further driving by the forwards and Ian Porter sneaking over in the corner. Final score 12-15.

Our next game against St Columba's resulted in a 27-8 victory. Two tries in the game, in particular, stood out: the first was a set move in mid-field in which James Welsh came in at pace and went through the opposition untouched; the second, started from a break by Alex Smith who was tackled, and played the ball back,

We rucked and the ball moved along the backs to James Scott. Scott MacFarlane took it on and again we rucked successfully and the ball went blind through four pairs of hands finally for Alex Smith to score.

The long trip to Rannoch is not always easy for any side and they are a hard side to beat at home. Having lost heavily the year before it did not make it any easier. Although we started well, we could not capitalise on pressure and against the run of play we turned round 3-5

'94 until now not simply during the official hobby period. They undertake to help members of the Club dress and undress and "buddy" them in the pool. The members of the Club look forward to the "QV boys" and are disappointed if no one appears. Well done, boys!

VISITING THE ELDERLY

This hobby continued this Session with more and younger boys taking part ranging from S2 - S5. The boys go in small groups on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to four local Nursing Homes: Aultwharrie and Ardnablane Masonic Home; Dunblane Nursing Home and Randolph Hill. The boys help in various ways but mainly by chatting and playing games with the residents. This is a meaningful experience for the boys and we would like to thank the staff of the homes for welcoming and supporting them. Twenty-two boys in total visited at some point during the hobbies programme and ten became regular visitors each week. Some regular attenders deserve special mention for their dedication even in the bleakest evenings - James Martin, Daniel O'Connell, Colin Murphy, Paul Kane and Geoff Greenhowe.

down. The same pattern emerged in the second half: eventually, a try by Ross Seaton broke the deadlock only to be followed by a terrific surge by Rannoch to take the score to 10-12. This produced an excruciatingly tense finish with QVS sneaking home 17-12 with an Ian Porter try converted by James Welsh.

The 63-0 victory against Portobello was not quite the tense affair of the previous game. However, the 1st XV produced some very good rugby and worked well to produce 10 tries. The Stephen MacKinnon try was probably the best of these: it started with a blind-side break by Ian Porter, linking up with Alex Smith and Danny McDade; James Welsh came in at pace taking play well on before feeding back inside to Danny and Alex who fed our irrepressible hooker Stephen MacKinnon to score.

In football parlance the game against Morrison's was "a game of two halves". We won the first half but should have been much further ahead and they won the second half and the game 11-20. What was satisfying was some of the forward play in the first half; less satisfying was the inability to make it count.

After Christmas we played two non-cup games. The first was against Coleraine Inst. from Northern Ireland, in appalling conditions was a very hard fought and competitive game. Excellent tries by John Nelson and Stephen Rodgers, two penalties and a conversion by James Welsh took the score to 18-9, at which stage we appeared to contrive to lose the game as Coleraine came back to 18-19. There was indeed a breathless hush (as James Welsh beautifully struck a 40 metre penalty in injury time) which was very quickly turned to ecstatic joy as it sailed between the posts, the final whistle blew and we had won 21-19. The second game against Dollar was probably our worst performance of the season and we deservedly lost 7-24.

The Scottish Schools Cup for Queen Victoria School for season 1994/95 will always be a memorable one. After only two years in the competition, we reached the final and although we lost to St Aloysius, it was a most

creditable performance and a significant achievement for the 1st XV, who worked and trained so hard to get to the final where they played very competitively.

Our first round against Kinross High School resulted in a 72-0 victory. However, the next round against Dunfermline High School could easily have been lost and we were in fact 0-12 down after only quarter of an hour. Fortunately, we were able to fight back with tries by Alex Smith and John Nelson to even the score. The latter, incidentally, had an outstanding game. This remained the score until near the end when Alex Smith added another try to take us through 17-12.

In the first of the national rounds we played Aberdeen Grammar School and won 32-5 with Danny McDade having a very good afternoon and scoring 2 tries. Eastwood District Schools proved to be much tougher opposition. This was another very hard game and a lot of determination was required in defence to survive 10-3.

The semi-final against Madras was nip and tuck for the first half, although tries by James Cornelius, having one of his best games of the season, and Stephen MacKinnon, with a conversion by John Leitch putting us ahead 12-7 at half-time. However, the game was sealed in the second-half after good forward work from the line-out and a break by John Nelson and James Cornelius, who fed Ross Seaton to score. James Welsh rounded things off with a penalty to make the score 20-7.

It was a great disappointment not to play the final at Murrayfield. Nevertheless, we could have been well ahead at half-time against St Aloysius had we seized our chances. Unfortunately, we turned round 10-12 down

and with the Scottish Schoolboy International James Craig creating major problems for us, it was always going to be an uphill struggle. The final score 10-44 does not give due credit to the first XV's competitive performance but does illustrate the strength of the opposition.

Success at the District level continued this season with Stephen MacKinnon and John Nelson establishing regular places in the front row for the Midlands U.18. Alex Smith also played at this level in one match. Richard Givens was selected to play for the Midlands U.16's.

As with last year I have been impressed by the way the squad have trained and stuck to the task, especially after Christmas in difficult conditions. There have been the usual troughs, but this season they have not been so many or so deep. The strength of character and resilience has been a notable feature of this side. Defensive as well as offensive tackling has been much improved and the competitive element has been honed to a much sharper degree by the extended run in the competition.

Ian Porter (Captain) and James Welsh (Vice-Captain) deserve a lot of credit for maintaining the morale of the side. The front row with our two District players and the loose head berth oscillating between Willy Milne, Mark Sutherland and finally Alex McCartney, provided a very solid platform and rarely seemed in trouble. Scott McFarlane in the second row improved immensely as the season wore on and he was ably partnered by Alex and Steven Marshall who, latterly, proved to be indefatigable. The inexperienced and young back row - Ross Seaton and Paul Kane (SIV)

and James Cornelius (SV) ably supported by Steven Rodgers, increasingly proved their worth in the loose and in solid defence, with Paul doing a lot of good work at the back of the line.

Good half backs in any team are a great asset and we were lucky to have an established and experienced partnership in Ian Porter and Alex Smith. The remainder of the backs (Danny McDade, James Welsh, John Leitch, Colin Murphy, Ryan McLachlan, Richard Givens and James Scott) as in the previous year possessed good skills, pace and an ability to adapt as a number interchanged positions.

Once again I would like to thank all the coaches in the School who contribute to the game and helped to coach the boys. In particular, at the 1st XV level I would like to thank Shane Williamson, our GAP Student, who was a tremendous help to me, and latterly Mr King who has also been helping with the First XV. In addition I would like to thank Mr Clark for his input to the First and Second XV and our new GAP Student Malcolm Ferguson.

My thanks are also due to the Groundsman who continues to battle with difficult grounds at Dunblane, to Mr Warner in the store, Mr Henderson and the kitchen staff for their support on the catering side and to Sister and Nurse whose care and attention to injuries is so important.

B.R.

1st XV Record
Played 20 Won 14
Lost 6
Points for 438
Points against 208

THE ONE AND ONLY SECOND XV

The second XV Rugby team was very successful this season. This may have been due to the captain's great leadership skills but I suspect it could be put down to the squad's great efforts in trying to improve their team and personal rugby skills. We won fifty percent of the matches played and pulled off wins against some big-name rugby schools.

The team would like to thank Mr Clark for his training and efforts. The fitness training was to both the first and second fifteens a revelation. It was to us over the top at first, but since his transfer from Dollar to Queen Victoria School the boys have improved greatly in stamina, fitness and general all-over rugby skills.

The skill of individuals in the team had a great impact in the way we played and won games. Take Matty Donald for example. His remarkable self-control and attitude towards the game was "Outstanding". He was sent off once this season, but he learned a lesson. The decision to change Baz Ramsay from inside centre to flanker was one of the best decisions Mr Clark made for the side. According to Mr Clark he had many attributes but in reality he only had one... his tackling abilities. Steve Rogers was an asset to the team his peace-keeping skills were out of this world. When he bounced down the blind side he couldn't be stopped. Craig Roberts "the wee lad" led the backs at stand off with some adept "ball-to-floor passes". I would also like to thank the two centres Big Hughes and Chris. The team work between this pair was so fast the opposition failed to see it... come to think of it so did we. And by the end of the season SH was running strongly.

The team worked as one, and we shared our good and bad times together. A good number progressed from the seconds to the firsts through the season and are now regulars there, but it is of note that some ten have played in the firsts. The first XV had a big influence on the team. A few of their players were permitted to play for us on occasions.

Our school was the first school to play St Columba's at rugby. This helped them a lot and they now have a taste for schoolboy rugby. We will hopefully play them again next season and we are looking forward to a more formal match.

Many thanks to all the staff (Mr Clark, Mr Raine, Mr King, Mr Dow, Mr Williamson) involved in training us to a new high standard and to the people behind the scenes (Mr Warner, Mr Henderson and his catering staff). And to the boys of the team a big thank you, it was great fun.

G Simpson
(2nd XV Captain)

SIII RUGBY 1994-95

P	W	L	D	F	A
8	0	8	0	86	1 or 2

This was always going to be a very difficult season for this small inexperienced side - although at the start of the season Mr. Gilhooly and I did have high hopes for the boys. However, the first defeat knocked all the confidence out of the team and it was an uphill struggle from there on in. Unfortunately, the team did not have a lot of belief in themselves

and showed no real desire to win - despite Mr. Gilhooly and, me losing our voices (and patience) shouting encouragement at them. The highlight of the season was the coaching, friendly match with Auchterarder High school - Auchterarder's first ever match! Our boys really entered into the spirit of the game and acted as advisors to the Auchterarder boys. Our boys were highly praised for their conduct and attitude by the Rector of Auchterarder High. This was a very positive note on which to end an otherwise disappointing season.

There were one or two highlights; notably, Craig Cunningham's thundering runs straight through the opposition to score a try from 70 metres out - and, he had four tacklers hanging round his legs at the time. Then there was Gordon Laughlin - he cannae pass the ba' for toffee - but he can slot a conversion from almost anywhere on the field - Gavin Hastings eat your heart out! Anyway, we'll call this season a learning experience and look forward to a better season next year. Many thanks to captain Mark McLeod for doing his best to control a motley crew - although he was a bit of a rogue himself!

Finally, my personal thanks to my rookie - Dave Gilhooly. Welcome to the fold (like a lamb to the slaughter) ... "The boy done good."

I Dow

SII RUGBY 'A'

This year the team won 8 out of ten matches played with 2 games cancelled. This was due to the hard work and commitment in all of their training sessions. Both the A and B teams were very knowledgeable in their understanding of the game and its strategies and so because of this, both team coaches found it relatively easy to teach new skills and moves. After some serious training and constructive criticism the A team backs became very supportive to the forwards in set piece moves and the forwards themselves were able to set up some excellent scoring chances from their own set pieces.

I. Murray and D. Robertson proved to be very good in defence with some very hard tackles but on the whole all performances throughout the season were a team effort ably led by captain J. Cornelius.

T Dale

SII RUGBY 'B'

This season was marked by an enthusiasm to play. The entire second year squad were prepared to listen, ready to learn and productive in performance. Specific areas improvement involved tackling, passing skills and ruck and maul. In the game situation we had a home win of 12-0 over Strathallan and an away loss of 11-18 to Glasgow High School. Unfortunately a third fixture was cancelled, which was frustrating for the 'B' team players. It is hoped that some more fixtures may be allocated next season.

The performances were very much a team effort, ably led by captain, Kenny Davidson who inspired his colleagues both in practice sessions and on the field of play. Other members were selected for 'A' team reserve positions notably Kenny Davidson, Daniel O'Connel, Andrew Gannon, Brian Gault and Jamie Campbell, who all made progress in their skills throughout the season.

SI RUGBY 1994-95

'A' Team

P	W	L	For	Against
8	4	4	109	166

The team started the season with two fine wins against Perth Academy and Strathallan. Hutcheson's proved a much sterner test and their large forwards and fast three-quarters exposed our defensive weaknesses. George Watsons was the best match of the season with the lead changing hands many times. We lost by one point. Stuart Noy captained the team well and showed good attacking skills. Fraser MacKinnon at loose head prop lead the scrum well.

Players: S. Noy (captain), F. MacKinnon (scrum leader), N. Brown, R. Innes, S. Thomson, G. McCulloch, J. Biggart, S. Watson, S. Watson, N. Seaton, A. Crease, M. McConnell, I. Dunsmuir, R. Mackenzie.

'B' Team

P	W	L	For	Against
4	3	1	73	107

The team beat Strathallan, Hutchesons and St. Aloysius but lost heavily to a large, very mobile George Watsons team. Too often the team relied on one or two players to win matches and many times were shown to be lacking in defensive play.

Players: A. Whiteford (captain), J. Donald (scrum leader), R. Adams, J. Pennycuik, D. Mackie, F. Dewar, R. Blackwood, A. Bott, A. Moffat, S. Gregory, N. Dunnachie, J. Trousdale, I. Macmillan, E. Porter, E. Kuczerepa, G. Henderson.

Geoffrey A F Halyburton

What a Beautiful World

*Birds singing, people
chatting, sun rising, flowers
budding, trees swaying,
another morning,
another day,
oh what a beautiful world,
who could ask for more,
then it happens,
the bang could deafen,
the light could blind,
for miles around it is known,
the winds go outward,
the buildings go inwards,
everything succumbs to
the heat,
then comes the cold,
the wind sweeps inwards,
blowing the ashes of it's partner before,
now what was, is no more,
and the world has died,
with the push of a button.*

by Stuart Anderson



Rugby 1st XV - Finalists in the Scottish Schools Cup 1995

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

THE BOYS DONE GOOD
Q.V.'S WIN PERTSHIRE CUP

Queen Victoria School 7
Perth Grammar School 2
(Under 15 Section)

It was a game of two halves. In the first half we scored two. In the second half we scored five. Scott Connelly hit the old onion bag four times and was over the moon. James Martin, Craig Kintrea and Craig Simpson got one apiece and were as high as kites. The flat back four (Weir, MacKinnon, Ridley, O'Donnell - sub. Wood) kept the school flag flying high, the mid-fielders (Logue and Simpson) were a powerhouse, and the forwards (Martin, Kintrea, Connolly and Black - sub. Milne) were as sharp as needles. The goalie (Andrew Paisley) defended his charge well.

Perth Grammar done good too and proved worthy and sporting opponents. They'll be dancing in the streets of Queen Victoria tonight!

Seriously, though, (writes the coach) I am very proud of you. It was a night when self-discipline, tactics and the native skill fused into one performance of orchestral majesty. Three years ago I promised your older brethren that this dream would come true. Now look at the Celtic cross on your medal. Now look at the words "1995 Winners". It is a dream no longer.

A few more dreams came true this year for John Black, the under-15 left winger. John is now signed on amateur forms with Dunblane City, where he is a mainstay of the team. But it must have been like the answer to a school-boy's prayer when John received a letter to report to the main entrance at Hampden Stadium with his kit and boots! The occasion was the all-Scotland finals of the B & Q Soccer Skills Competition and John had won through

from the East of Scotland heat in second place, beating off competition from many boys already signed for household-name British clubs. John played in the finals against nineteen of the best young players in Scotland with 'Queen Victoria School' proudly emblazoned on the front of his strip. Although he did not come among the top medallists, John was happy enough just to be in the company and enjoy training and playing under the direction of Murdo McLeod and the slap-up meal afterwards.

Some other boys have graced the field in Dunblane City's colours (the black/red/yellow of the best Premier Division team in Maryhill) this year. They were Andrew Nelthorpe, Donal McDiarmid, Gary Cornelius and John Ross McCulloch. 'J-R' became Q.V.'s first football 'international' (at least that we know of - any info from our readers? - Ed) when he went to Whitley Bay on the third weekend in May to play in a competition for youth clubs.

The Under-14 and Under-13 teams also took part in the 'Perthshire' and reached the semi-final stage. Unfortunately, they lost 4 - 3 and 15 - 1. Thanks are due to Mr Gilhooly for his help with these teams.

HAIG FOOTBALL

The Perthshire Cup Final U-18's

This year's Cup Final was a hotly contested affair between St. Columba's High School and ourselves.

For a long while in the first half it seemed as if there would be no scoring but eventually the first goal was put away. St. Columba's took the lead but soon Q.V. were level with an own goal after a dangerous cross from Steve Rodgers.

After the interval Q.V. took the lead with a magnificent solo effort from team captain Ian Porter and the lead was stretched when Ryan McLachlan headed in a cross again from

Steve Rodgers.

It looked as if Q.V. would now go on to win, however St. Columba's came storming back and took the game to extra time.

Two more goals were scored during the added 30 minutes, one being a brilliant goal hammered home by James Welsh but the opposition also scored to take the game to the nail-biting penalty shoot out.

St. Columba's shot first and it was even until Ross Seaton pulled off an amazing save to give Q.V. the edge. Graham Hughes stepped up to take what could be the winning goal but soon the situation turned into a fiasco. His penalty was saved but the ref adjudged that the keeper had moved before the ball was struck and ordered the penalty to be taken again. This happened twice more, the Columba's players became very angry and subsequently four were sent off including the keeper.

Graham was then faced with the reserve keeper but the pressure was too great and the keeper pulled off a solid save.

Sudden death was upon us and thing remained all square until, unfortunately, John Nelson hit his against the post and the match was lost.

Although we lost the game it must be said that Q.V. played wonderfully on the day and the goals scored could have graced any professional playing field. The behaviour of the opponents towards the officials by the St Columba's players was disgraceful and the boys must be congratulated for keeping their heads.

Thanks must go to Mr Gilhooly, Mr Beattie and Mr Laing for their support, encouragement and well received advice.

Team: Seaton, Speirs (Hughes), Nelson, Cornelius, Leitch, Rodgers, Porter, Welsh, Roberts, Smith (Simpson), McLachlan. Sub GK; Tate.

CROSS COUNTRY 1994/95

The highlight of a fairly low-key winter came in competition against other schools rather than in open races as in previous seasons.

Merchiston Castle school relays incorporating 'Heartbreak Hill' at the end provided us with our only trophy. The under-15 team of Gary Cornelius, Leslie Blake, James Martin, Barry Wood and Craig Kintrea won, and Craig ran the fastest lap time.

The eagerly-awaited (not) trip to Rannoch School turned out to be far more successful and enjoyable than anticipated, despite the cross-country trek to get to the cross-country. There was fabulous weather, Craig Kintrea won the under-17 race, and amazingly, Q.V. turned out an under-17 team. Gary Simpson in his academic twilight years, running for the school for the first and only time, led his team home. Steven Marshall, James Speirs and Ian Stewart (good name for a distance runner - see 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh) produced valiant efforts against the picturesque background of snow-covered mountains.

The St. Aloysius College Road Relay again produced a high-quality field with schools from England and Ireland as well as the top Scottish schools. Our team of Chris Kerr, Craig Kintrea, James Martin, Gary Cornelius, Alan Whiteford and Michael Brown(Wavell),

did well to finish 18th in this race, which is run on the paths around Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow.

It was encouraging that many boys turned up for trials for these events and training was well-attended, although it is still disappointing that some boys with genuine talent are reluctant to commit themselves to regular training and competition.

Other results of note were a win for Gary Cornelius at the Croftinloan Prep schools race with our Wavell under 11 team doing well. And the following boys represented the School at the Scottish Schools Championships at Irvine:

U-17

Craig Kintrea, James Martin, Scott Connelly, Barry Wood and Jason Bruce.

U-15

Gary Cornelius, Les Blake, Andrew Kintrea and Alan Whiteford.

U-13

James McQuade and Nicholas Dunnachie.

Many thanks to Fiona Laing for taking the boys out on training runs and to Mr Boast for his continued assistance and organisation.

And in the immortal words of Lee Jones (1st year):

"Miss, you don't have to keep running back for me, I'll get back to school eventually"

He did. They all did. Well done.



Gary Simpson VI Year QVS at Rannoch

ATHLETICS 1994

1994 was not a very good season. Fewer boys opted for athletics and more demands in other fields resulted in a lowering of standards. As Athletics training is now being used in nearly all major sports, there will be a knock-on affect. Many schools use athletics for out of season training.

My thanks to Mr and Mrs Laing for all their excellent coaching, help and patience.

The Scottish Schools' Athletic Association
89th Track and Field Championships
Saturday, 18th June 1994,
Grangemouth Stadium

Group A Over-17

Murray Wilson Triple Jump 11.10m

Group B 15-17

Stephen MacKinnon	Hammer	41.52m	2nd
Richard Givens	Hammer	31.94m	4th
Richard Givens	Pole Vault	2.80m	3rd
Peter Clark	Pole Vault	2.10m	

Group C Under-15

Barry Ridley	200m	26.7	
Craig Kintrea	1500m	4.52	
Craig Cunningham	Hammer	27.44m	4th
Andrew Boyle	Hammer	26.46m	5th
Ryan Kerr	Pole Vault	2.80m	2nd
Graeme Hancock	Pole Vault	2.30m	4th

Group D Under-14

Timothy Whittle	Hammer	23.86m	1st
John R McCulloch	Hammer	19.74m	2nd
Daniel O'Connell	Hammer	13.98	3rd
Iain Murray	Pole Vault	1.80m	2nd
Gary Cornelius	Pole Vault	1.70m	3rd

Stephen MacKinnon (Hammer) and Richard Givens (Pole Vault) represented Scotland at the British Schools' International at Aberdeen on Saturday, 16th July 1994.

1994 Central Region

Schools Athletic Championships

1st Year

Ian Smith	200m	29.2	2nd
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Gary Cornelius	800m	2:32.3	3rd
Darren Robertson	Long Jump	4.10m	2nd
	Relay	57.08	2nd

2nd Year

Barry Ridley	100m	12.36	1st
Craig Kintrea	800m	2:23.1	2nd
	Relay	52.16	1st

3rd Year

Richard Givens	200m	25.06	3rd
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SKI-ING 1995

Senior School Trip - Les Menuires, France
On 17th March, 20 boys and two staff boarded a coach from Classic Coaches of County Durham at 0830 hrs.

At 1700 hrs on 18th March we arrived at resort via St. Francis Longchamp, where we dropped off Hollins School, Accrington and also had a very welcome lunch.

At 1860m, Les Menuires has a very good snow record and the 1995 season has been a vintage one with over two metres of snow on the lower slopes. The party was split into two ability groups and after ski-fitting we were ready to ski first thing next day.

All boys benefited from the well pisted runs, and an almost unlimited number of slopes. The lessons were very good with excellent instructors.

The highlight of evening activities was the tobogganning and bum-boarding, which took part on the floodlit lower slope of the Olympic Slalom Course.

The following is a list of awards gained.

Gold: Douglas Greenhowe, Iain Murray.

3 Star: Andrew Moffat, Alistair Paisley, Edward Potter, Timothy Whittle.

2 Star: Robert Adams, Nicholas Brown, Craig Cunningham, Kenneth Davidson, Gavin Espie, Ross Innes, James Macfarlane, Daniel O'Connell, Colin Wood.

1 Star: Robert Blackwood, Steven Cairns, Andrew Crease, Cameron McLeod, Peter Sutherland.

Central Region Ski-Racing League

This year we did very well in both leagues. The last race of the first league coincided with the October break and with a weakened team lost the lead to finish in second place.

The harder second league was once again keenly fought and we did exceptionally well to finish in third place. Special mention must be given to the mainstays of the team, Scott H. Murray, Iain Murray, Geoffrey Greenhowe, Douglas Greenhowe, Callum Kennedy and Kyle Macfarlane. Altogether 37 boys represented the School over the 12 league races.

Central Region Schools Ski-ing Championships

Five boys represented the School. Iain Murray improved on his 1993 by winning the Junior Secondary title. Elder brother Scott had an even harder task against many experienced regional and national squad members and came through in second place.

Results

Junior Secondary	1st Run	2nd Run	Total	Place
Iain Murray	13.13	13.24	26.37	1st
Senior Secondary				
Scott H. Murray	12.14	11.91	24.05	2nd
Kyle MacFarlane	14.79	13.20	27.99	12th
Geoffrey Greenhowe	14.07	13.99	28.06	14th
Callum Kennedy	14.47	14.10	28.06	16th

Team Position: 4th

Q.V. SWIMMING CLUB

Q.V. boys are set to make a big splash!

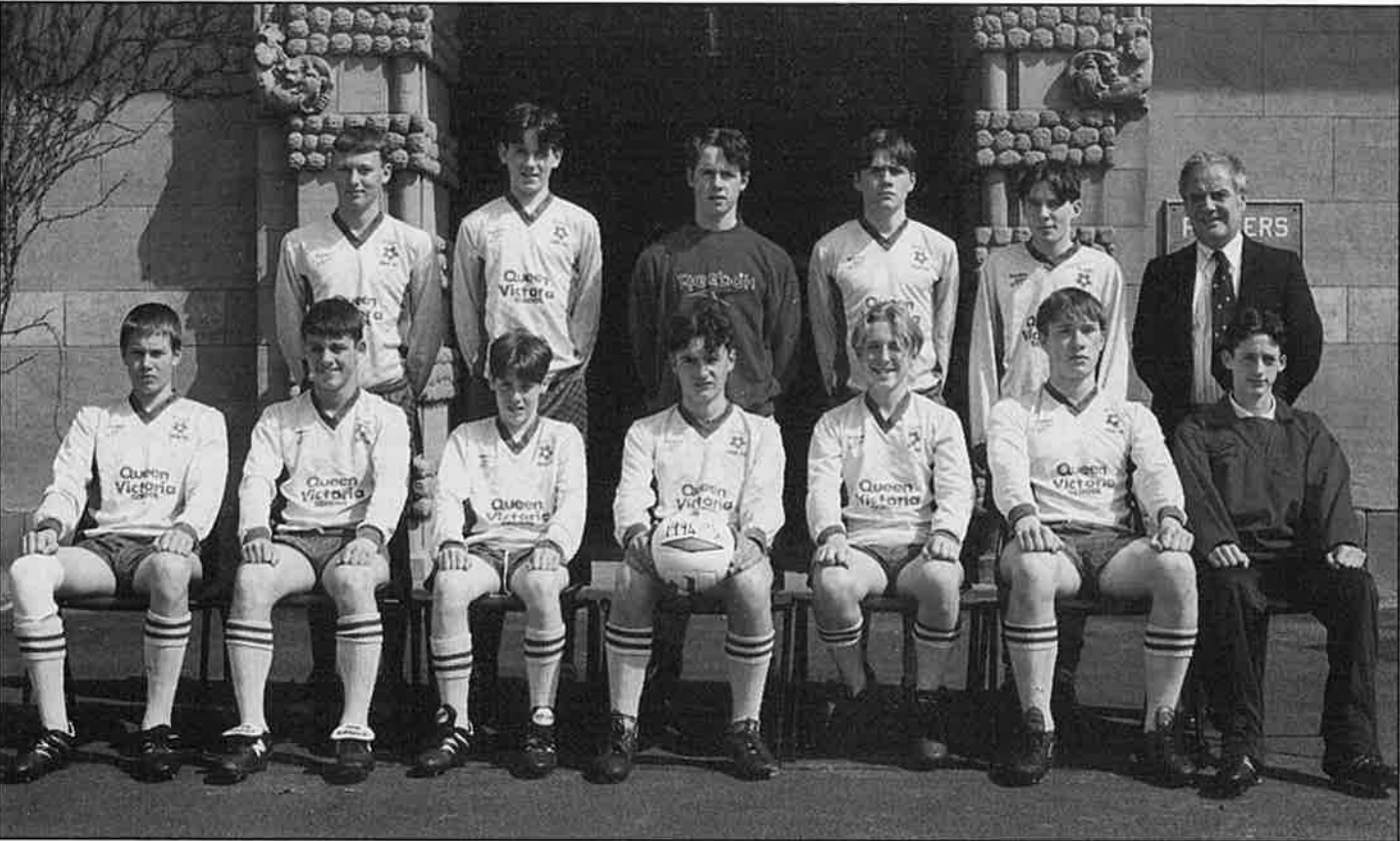
That is if the dedicated duo - "The Dow or Die Gilhooligans" have got anything to do with it.

A new swimming club for S1-S2 boys started in early May of this year. It is early days yet, but the club is set to expand and we are aiming to produce champions.

Only the toughest survive.

Training is on a Monday and Friday at 6.20 - 7.20.

Watch this space!



Queen Victoria School - Champions of Perthshire 1995

HAIG HOUSE NOTES

Captain's Log, Stardate 0847.04.04.95

Since blast-off (Stardate 2000.25.08.94), we have been advancing slowly and steadily, going over old territory and discovering new.

Plenty of sightings of E.T. (Extra Tuck) have kept the crew and officers fortified on our long journey towards G.D. (Grand Day).

We carry with us on this voyage the largest crew we have ever had, with 71 hands on deck who mostly pull their weight, so not many "cling-ons" to report.

The officers have been outstanding and very "enterprising". Despite being challenged in the "pointy-ear" department, and only having one heart, Mr Beattie has been second-in-command on this his maiden voyage which I hope will be the first of many.

Also on his maiden voyage is Mr Kirk who I suspect believes his name makes him an ideal candidate for my position on the bridge. I'll have to watch him - knowing his fondness for the tuck shop there is no doubt he would mutiny for a Bounty.

The crew of Starship Haig has been kept fit under the Spartan regime of Mr "Motivator" Clark who was beamed aboard from a neighbouring craft.

Mr Buchanan left the ship at mid-term, but we still have our much appreciated version of Lieutenant Uhuru, or should that be O'Huru - Mrs Howie. When we dock at the end of our journey, we will say farewell, and "May the force be with you", to our ship's scientist, Mr Len Bovill with many thanks for his long service with the ship.

We also welcomed a new ship's Matron, Mrs Tomkins who has, as always, a more than able second-in-command in Mrs Duthie.

The crew have been kept occupied in a variety of ways.

Close encounters of the reel kind came at inter-galactic Balls held at St George's, Denis and Cranley, Kilgraston and St Margaret's. And even closer encounters than that occurred at the five discos held on board ship and one held at St Margaret's.

Trips to the theatre included 'Teechers', 'Only an Excuse' and 'Trainspotting' - the latter delighting the crew while surprising Officer Kirk (to put it mildly, which Irvine Welsh certainly did not). The musical 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat' proved to be very popular indeed. We also had four trips to the cinema, the main feature being 'Speed'.

Other activities to keep the crew occupied apart from tidying their cabins and recreational rooms included canoeing with Mr Ron Turner, lifesaving with Mr Jim Hay (15 of the crew passed), the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, under the instruction of Lieutenant Shannon, the Thursday night indoor footie league, and Officers versus Crew football (the Officers were unlucky to lose by the narrow margin of 14-1) and basketball. Special thanks to Paul Warner, John Alexander, Mr Gilhooly and Mr Raine for helping with the football, Mrs McDonald for her help with the reel practices, Mr McIntyre for his chauffeuring and everyone who is associated with the smooth running of this craft.

In conclusion I would like to thank Senior crew members for their indispensable assistance, for eating me out of house and home and for keeping me up late at night with their haverings.

As we hurtle towards the end of another journey aboard the Starship Haig, and things become ever-increasingly hectic as we gather momentum, it is only left for me to say:

"Beam me up, Scottie".

Why?

Why?

Why did we do this?

Pollute the atmosphere,
Dump waste in the oceans,
So that when we came out we were bright green.

The wildlife -

What wildlife?

There *was* wildlife,

But not any more.

But why?

Why did we do this?

For money,

For energy,

or just for the sake of it,

or just for the sake of killing us all.

To make one man rich,

Just for his lifetime.

But what about ours?

Our lifetime.

And now -

Look around

Would *you* call this a decent life?

Would *you* live here?

Choking and spluttering on the world's air?

Green mists cover the land and seas.

No land to farm or feed cattle.

Just sand.

But what about the land I stand on?

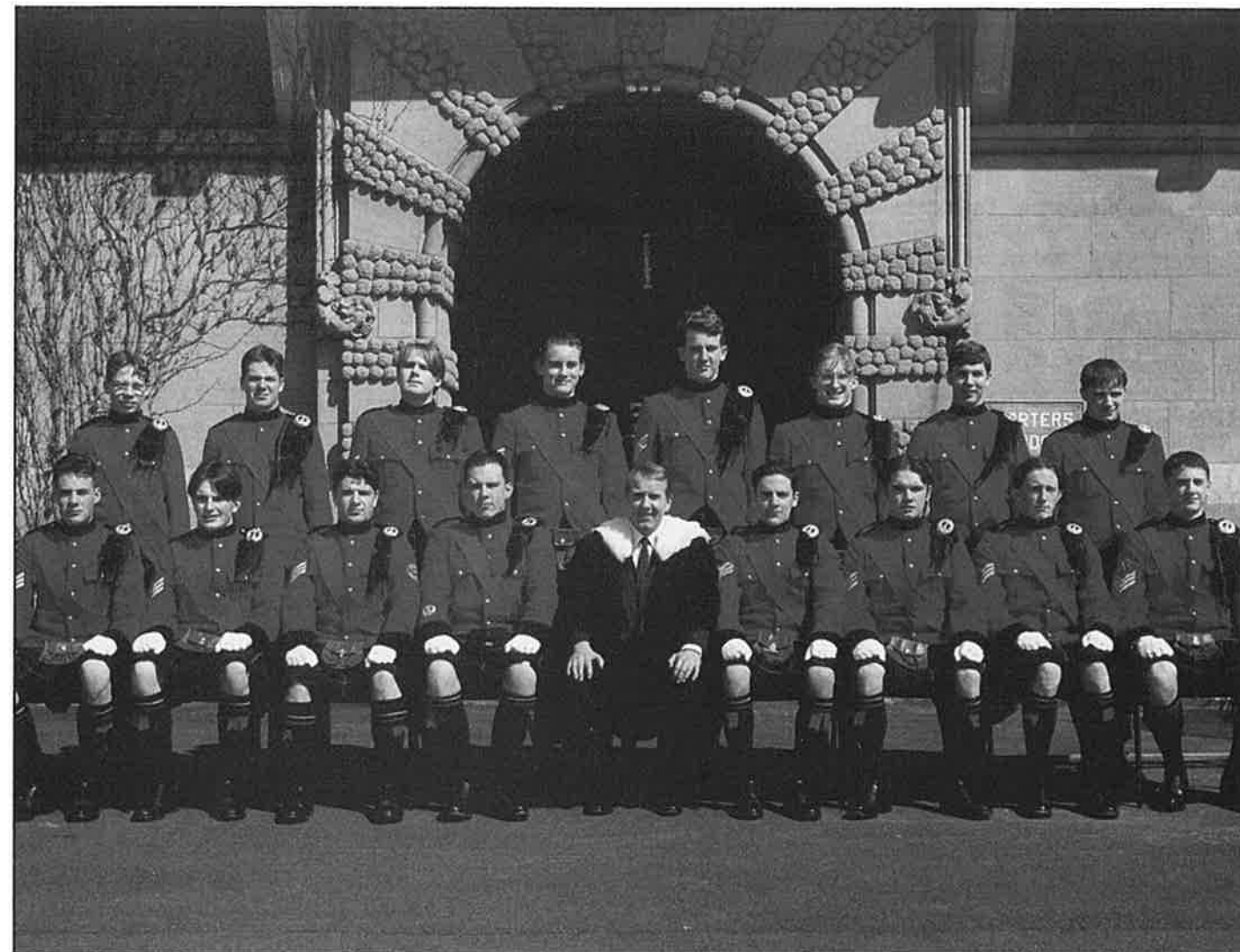
Won't always be here.

Soon.

Very soon.

There will be no earth here either.

Neil Wilson 3A



Monitors and Prefects 1994 - 95

OUTWARD BOUND

In August I attended a three-week Expedition Course in Wales. This Course was run by Outward Bound and is aimed at youth development.

I travelled by train to Aberdovey where we were picked up and taken to their Aberdovey Centre. A slight confusion arose as some of the instructors were unaware of the Expedition Course.

We were shown around the lovely accommodation and catering facilities provided by the Centre and were not impressed when we were taken away from the group to find our luxury accommodation had turned into nine 3-man tents and our wonderful catering facilities consisted of two gas stoves and a marquee.

During the Course we walked a total of 200 miles navigating ourselves across barren hills and through rugged valleys. The expedition work allowed me to complete my Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold Expedition.

However, the most memorable activity was the rock climbing. We started off, many of us never having climbed before, scaling nine vertical faces and ending up taking on overhangs (only small ones). The greatest feeling arose when someone at the bottom coached you up

and yelled "Grab that ledge". Now to me a ledge is something you can stand on, not something that is lucky to take the whole length of your fingernails.

The whole course provided a great opportunity for me to display my skills in leadership. With a great tutor I also learned many things about myself and other people. All in all a course well worth attending.

I wish to thank Mr Shannon for helping to arrange the course as well as the McNeil Trust for providing the much needed assistance in this venture.

Philip Coupar

WEST HIGHLAND WAY

In February this year, Thomas Wilson, John Nelson and myself took on the "ludicrous" challenge of walking the length of the West Highland Way in four days. A total distance of 96 miles.

After a long battle of "Is it on"?, "Is it off"?, we were eventually given permission to take Mr and Mrs Shannon as our Support Team in this feat.

The journey was long but generally easy-going. The weather was kind to us as it went from mild to rain to snow to heavy rain to burning sunshine. The greatest challenge was to keep up to the speed we needed to walk to accomplish this task.

One of the most memorable moments on this expedition was while we were walking along a path and it forked out in front of us; one part went up hill, the other went down. We prayed that the arrow marked down, but could not be sure until we actually got there - I still have a photo of that post. It pointed down.

This expedition was arranged with the intention of raising funds to attend a Raleigh International expedition. After a lot of letters and a big help from the McNeill Trust I have raised the money to send me off to Zimbabwe for 10 weeks working on 3 beneficial projects to the local community.

Credit for this walk must go to Mr and Mrs Shannon, and Jamie, without whom we would have never started this expedition, never mind completing it in the time given we challenged ourselves to do it in. It was certainly one of those situations that is called "character building".

Philip Coupar



Haig House

TRENCHARD HOUSE NOTES

Another session has passed with much changing and much staying the same. We welcome the use of the new telephone, installed last term, and the new video in the television room. A further addition has been purchased for the House computer suite: we now have a CD Rom facility. Currently the computer is being used by the Deputy Headmaster to construct next year's timetable.

The house welcomes six new boys, three in the first year - Kenneth Kidd, Cameron McCutcheon and Michael Davidson, who all arrived this term - and three in the third year - Stuart Anderson, Shaun McGinty and David Weir, who joined at the start of the session. We all hope they enjoy their time in the House and the School. The House would also like to welcome the new Principal Teacher of Art and the newest member of the House team, Mr D Gilhooly. After a long absence Mr Bruce is back - thank God!

The House continues to support the local churches and its elected charities, the Nevada Semipalatinsk Group, the Order of St John Trust and the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. Of course the house has its own needs. We are still pushed for room. We need a snooker table and the library could do with a few more parental donations. The next item on House agenda is the House barbecue. We are looking forward to that. (It helps us to stomach

Death

*Clad in black,
Bones to crack,
Ever thirsty, always drinking,
Many forms never thinking,
Like a syringe sucks life and soul,
Blood to pour, skulls to roll,
Sad, sad powers black as coal,
Sting like crystal shards,
Death's reached its goal.*

Gavin Heselton of 1A entered this poem for a display of poetry that was held in the Smith Museum in October. It won a prize of a £5 book token.

Sunday prep).

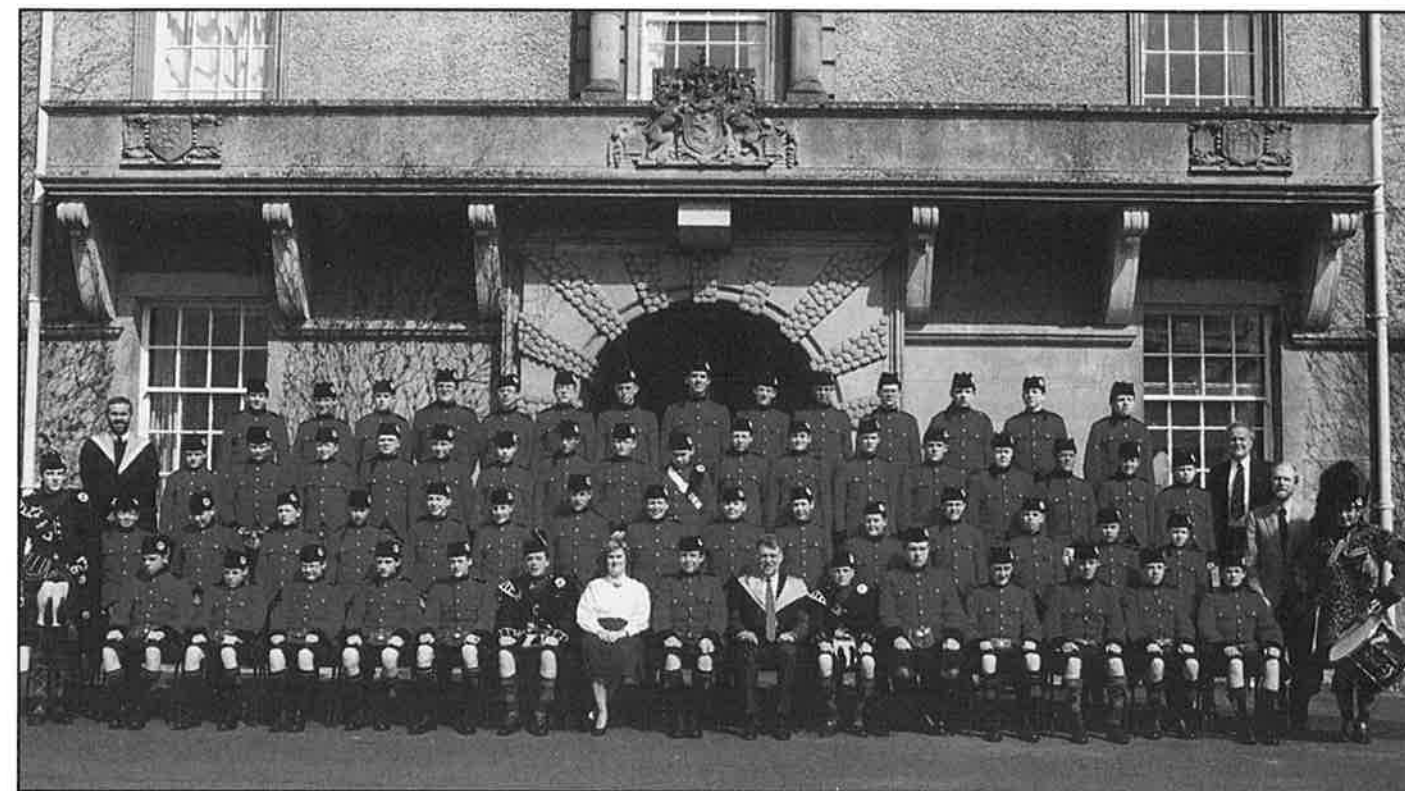
I would like to thank Mrs Willey, Miss McInroy and Mr Webster for making my job a lot easier and also Deputy Head Boy, James Matthews and all the House Prefects, in particular Andrew Boyle who has worked hard over the year and deserves some credit. It has been a good year for the House and to my successor, next session, I can only wish the best of luck and hope that you enjoy the time as Head Boy of Trenchard House as much as I have.

Gordon Laughlin,
Head Boy, Trenchard House

Happiness Never Lasts

*A world before man
Is teeming with life.
The fresh virgin planet
Knows not of strife.
But away in the distance,
Loud rumbling is heard.
The loud voice of man
Has finally stirred.
And upon the horizon,
Treading grass green,
Is a fearsome black structure.
Mans war machine.
It annihilates all life,
And burns trees to ashes,
Cuts earth deep wounds,
As it writhes and it lashes.
But it's very worst enemy
Is its own self,
As it cuts down all men,
And makes death its wealth.
It continues to feed
On the beauty of earth,
Creating new death,
For every new birth.
And it creates a new game -
The nuclear war.
And as buttons are pressed,
We wonder what for:
What will we do now?
This question is asked,
We all know the answer.
Happiness never lasts.*

by Niall Mackay.



Cunningham House 1994 - 95

CUNNINGHAM HOUSE NOTES

I have just finished reading last year's article from Cunningham House and thought with a few name changes I could possibly resubmit it. We have another Assistant Housemaster in Mr Frize, the Pool table again needs recovering/refurbishing and we still have not acquired the comfortable furnishing for the TV/Games room.

However, we did manage to get to a major Pantomime. Approximately 30 boys went to see 'Sleeping Beauty' in Glasgow. Unfortunately it was the wettest day of the year and took us over 2 hours to get there. We consequently missed half the show. This year we will try Edinburgh. We also had several Theatre visits through the year and an occasional Cinema visit.

With the Headmaster getting tickets for some of the Rugby internationals we have also seen various Scottish sides play. A trip to Ibrox to see Glasgow Rangers' stadium and trophy room was also much appreciated.

The first CCF camp for Cunningham II year was something of a disaster. It rained non-stop and I have never seen conditions as bad and still managed to stay overnight under canvas. The second camp was much more pleasant and Iain Watt managed to cook some food and eat it. Iain Murray's master plan of having just the school soup failed when he dropped his mess tin. Matthew needed some help from the SSM in the section attack and Ian Smith fired his rifle early in the ambush.

The Christmas party went well and Mrs Kean's fried onions were again enjoyed at the Bar-B-Q. The ice cream and popcorn nights were appreciated but I suppose the biggest event was the Disco, even though the smoke machine set the fire alarm off.

My final thanks goes to all the House Staff that give their support through the year. Leigh Bissett (Captain), Barry Prowse (Vice Captain) and all the Prefects for their continued support, and all the boys in the house that strive to make Cunningham the success that it is.

G Borking
(Housemaster)

As House Captain in my final year in Cunningham I have been asked to write a small passage to represent our impression of Cunningham as residents.

In the house there is always a peaceful and pleasant atmosphere except at tuck time. The house staff work extremely hard to make our days in Cunningham happy. Most gratitude must go to the Housemaster (Mr Borking), Mrs Borking and Housematron. (I'll collect my pay later). They organise trips, parties and the list goes on.

Many boys have the opportunity to show abilities which would not normally be available and which I certainly have tried to utilise. The opportunities are there to be used and enjoyed.

In closing I would like to say my years in Cunningham have been memorable.

Leigh Bissett
(House Captain)

Destruction

Destruction

Time is running out.

We're all drowning, drowning in our own junk.

Trees fall easy, but take time to grow

Destroying things everywhere we go.

We bury the past so why build more?

War - look at your young men dying.

Look at your women crying,

the way they've always done before.

*As wars go on with brain-washed pride,
for the love of God and human rights.*

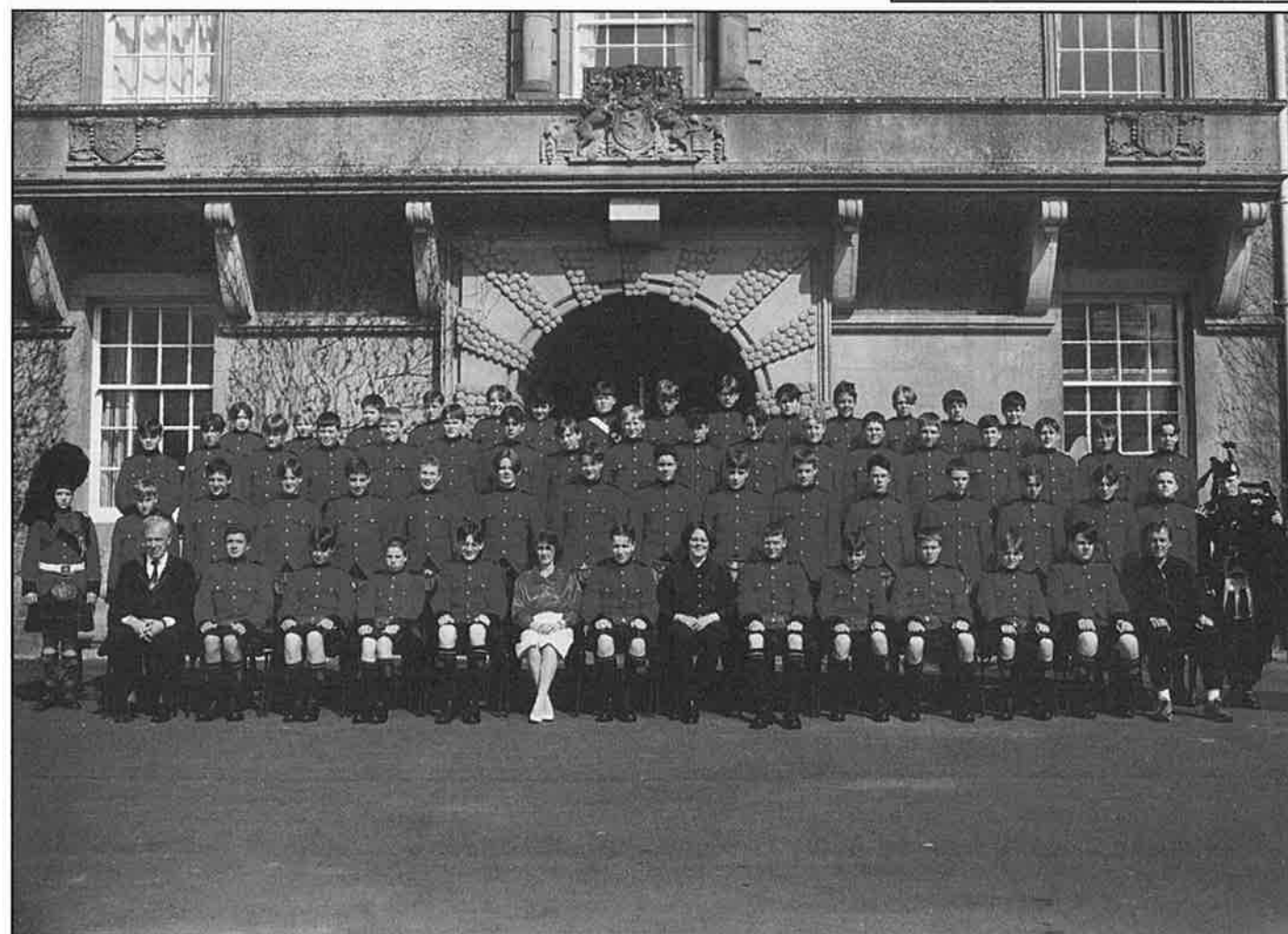
Earth - earth is getting hotter, hotter by the day.

The heat comes in but never goes away.

The ice is melting, the land is shrinking.

We're all thinking what shall we do now?

by Graeme Hancock



Trenchard House 1994 - 95

WAVELL HOUSE

The past year has been one of great change in Wavell. We welcome Mr Tom King to Wavell as a teacher in the Primary Department and as Assistant Housemaster in the boarding house. Mr King has brought his enthusiasm and experience to the House and his expertise to the rugby and games field. We also welcome Mrs Lorna Shannon as a member of the House team. Her input has been much appreciated and her work with the boys in her swimming hobby has been very valuable.

We bade 'au revoir' to Mr Shane Williamson, our GAP student from Durban, South Africa, last December. Shane's contribution was invaluable, and the boys benefited greatly from his being with them. In his place we welcome Mr Malcolm Ferguson from New Zealand. Malcolm has settled in remarkably well and has established an excellent rapport with the children. We all hope that he finds his stay with us both valuable and enjoyable.

This year has seen the ground floor being converted into bedroom units. These have proved to have been of great benefit to the boys, helping with their social development and also giving them more space and privacy. During the summer holidays the remaining dormitories will be converted in a similar way. It's a pity that it's not for the long term benefit of the boys however we will benefit from the change for a couple of years.

The house also has a kitchen which allows the staff to provide a better quality of living for the children as we can keep and store their milk shakes and chocolate drink mix.

It's probably fair to say that the children have enjoyed a greater variety of activities this year which, I hope, have enriched their lives. We attended all the major internationals at Murrayfield - against South Africa, Canada, Wales, Ireland and Romania. We visited

leisure pools, went for hikes, went ten-pin bowling, laughed at the panto, been to the cinema, visited the Wallace Monument and enjoyed great ski-ing among many other things.

Miss Chalmers introduced horse-riding and this has proved to be very popular and worthwhile. The boys involved made tremendous progress and they thoroughly enjoyed their lessons.

I feel that the atmosphere in the House has been quite positive and contented this year. I believe this has been due to the attitude of the children and the dedication of all the staff involved. This was reflected by the atmosphere in a really super Christmas Party during which a good time was had by all. My thanks to all the staff for all their work, co-operation and dedication throughout the year. I greatly appreciated all their efforts.

G. Carroll

WAVELL RUGBY

Performances by both the Primary Six and Primary Seven teams have shown that the prospects for rugby in the future at Q.V.S. are bright. The Primary Seven A and B teams played well throughout the season. The backs, when they were given enough ball, proved that they had the ability to take on their opponents and score. For the Primary Seven A's, Ben Hawkesford, Alan Gault, Chris Harris, Craig Murphy, Wayne Ratcliffe and Alistair Porter proved to be a formidable back division.

Amongst the forwards there were outstanding performances from Joe Sproat, Graham Ferguson and Graham King. Kenneth Finnegan was a constant thorn in the flesh of the opposition at scrum-half but the 'Player of the Year' for the Primary Seven A's was Simon Patience, who was badly injured making a try saving tackle in the final match of the season.

The Primary Seven B's also showed that they were capable of performing well and they

put in some very creditable performances. It was a bonus for the coaches to know that should a member of the A's get injured, there was an able deputy to be found in the B's. Peter Blackley, David Kelly and Dean Colvin deserve a special mention for the efforts throughout the season.

The Primary Six team also had a very successful season. They won the Mini Rugby Tournament at Crieff convincingly. Both Mr Carroll and Mr Beattie were pleased with the way the boys, many of whom had never played rugby before, developed into very promising young players. Players who deserve a special mention are Kristofer Edwards, Garerth Hall, John Stevenson, Alisdair Spence, Adam Bott, Damian McDade and Colin MacDonald.

I know that the boys were delighted to receive a visit from Sean Lineen of Boroughmuir and Scotland. He came to coach the Primary Seven teams for an afternoon and I know that the boys thoroughly enjoyed his visit. It is hoped that we can arrange for Sean to visit us again next season.

Given that our lack of size can be a considerable disadvantage, the coaching staff decided to adopt a rucking style of play, in the hope that we could get the ball to the backs as quickly as possible. All coaching sessions were geared to that end and on the whole this goal was achieved. It also meant that the boys were being taught techniques which hopefully will stay with them for further development as they progress into the School's senior teams, all of whom also play in a rucking style.

In conclusion I would like to thank Mr Carroll and Mr Beattie for the coaching of the Primary Six teams and I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr Williamson and Mr Ferguson for giving their technical expertise and their enthusiasm so readily throughout the season.

WAVELL FOOTBALL

Last season saw Wavell in top form once again. The team was based on a solid defence built around Nicholas Brown in goal. J. Donald, B. Marshall, R. Biggart and M. McConnell were sure footed and never looked as if they would let anyone past them.

The midfield of any team is vital to distribution of the ball to the forwards. S. Patience, A. Crease and G. McCulloch worked well together both in attack and in defence.

Up front Wavell had A. Gault, N. Seaton and S. Noy. Gault showed that for a primary six boy he had maturity beyond his years. He played on the wing creating pass after pass to Noy and Seaton who were prolific in front of the goal.

Wavell's most memorable match was against Ralston at home where the team worked together to play a passing game. When the whistle blew Wavell had won 7-1, but more than that they played with flair and precision. Gault had an especially good game on the wing going past the defender time after time.

E.J. Phelps said, "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything". Wavell's match against Ralston was full of mistakes that resulted in our losing 6-5. But we learned not to take winning for granted and to keep fighting to the very last minute. In the end it was a very spirited game. Thanks must go to Ralston for giving us an important lesson and such a good game.

Looking to this season

Unfortunately we've had to say goodbye to a number of last season's team who have moved on to dizzy heights of first year. However, during our recent training sessions new 'stars' have shown themselves from both P6 and P7. Let's hope that they can produce the same form as last season's first eleven.

WAVELL SKI TRIP

Mont Genevre, France
17th-24th March, 1995
Staff i/c Mr Iain Dow,
Ski Leader B.A.S.I. trained
Mr Graeme Beattie A.S.S.I.

More than a year's planning goes into each ski trip and all the 'behind the scene' organisation certainly paid off this year. In the words of Mr Beattie: "This is the best trip I've been on" - and he's been skiing in France, twice a year for the last eleven years.

This year we took seventeen boys (it was to have been eighteen, but Simon Patience broke his collarbone playing rugby, the Saturday before the trip and had to miss out).

Prior to the trip, the boys were taught to ski by Mr Beatties and myself at Firpark ski slope. They had three x 2 hour sessions at Firpark. This was followed by a day trip to Glenshee, where the weather and snow conditions were perfect for skiing. This allowed the boys to get the best out of their ski trip and certainly helped them make greater progress with their ski lessons in France.

To accommodate one or two late bookings we re-scheduled our travel arrangements and flew from Manchester instead of Glasgow as originally planned. This caused no problems and simply added to the travel adventure. We travelled to Manchester in a hired 24 seater coach and watched ski videos

to set us up for the trip.

In France things couldn't have been better!

The snow conditions were perfect.

The sun shone every day.

We all got sun-tanned.

The hotel was excellent, the staff friendly and helpful.

The food was superb.

Everything went very well indeed and the boys had great time. What made the holiday for Mr Beattie and me, was the boys' behaviour - they never let us down. They were polite and well-mannered and very helpful. The other adults in the hotel were delighted. Mr Beattie and I received lots of praise and compliments about the boys. They certainly did the school proud and made it a pleasure to be responsible for them.

Roll on next year's trip!

Vive le Ski! Vive La France!

Iain Dow

WAVELL CROSS COUNTRY

At the annual Inter-School Cross-Contry competition at Longridge Towers School, Berwick-Upon-Tweed on Friday 11th November 1994, Wavell again won the Team Shield, competing against 11 teams.

Results

3rd	Michael Brown
8th	Alan Gault
9th	Graham Ferguson
12th	Jason Kuczerepa
13th	Alastair Porter
27th	Adam Tose

Team Position 1st 72 points

Also ran; Andrew Benn 43rd, Jamie Smith 67th
Non-Counters: Peter Blackley, Dean Colvin.

POTTERY HOBBY (PRIMARY)

This hobby was attended on Monday evenings by twelve willing potters. They managed to produce such items as piggy-banks, pencil holders, snowmen, a version of "Gromits" the dog, and a family of turtles using the "pinch-pot" method as well as some slab-ware including gift boxes, medallions and even a tunnel for a model railway!

Fortunately, the boys' efforts survived firing in the kiln and most have been decorated either with craft paints and varnish or with brush-on glazes.

I hope the boys enjoyed the hobby as much as I did.

L.T.

SCULPTURE HOBBY

Sculpture was introduced as a new hobby this year to a group of boys who managed to produce some excellent work. After preparing and applying clay to a central core and gradually building up a good structure, portrait - heads of various identities, age - groups and ethnic characteristics were completed.

The heads were hollowed out and photographed before firing. We hope to repeat these successes next session as well as working with wood, wax and plaster.

L.T.

WAVELL HORSE-RIDING

As you may or not know, the Wavell House Matron, Miss Chalmers has been taking a group of boys to the Gleneagles Equestrian

Centre for riding lessons. Every Tuesday evening at 4.30 p.m. they leave the School to arrive for their lessons at 5.00 p.m.

They have been taught how to ride and do stable management. Stable management consists of grooming, combing, washing and putting the saddle and bridle on the horse. Riding was the best part as we were taught how to start, stop, turn, dismount and mount. The four basic speeds of a horse are walk, trot, canter and gallop. The worst part was when we were not riding and were having a lecture. On the last day we had a gymkhana which is lots of small races. I really enjoyed it.

Gareth Martin

Their instructor writes:

Queen Victoria School came to us at the beginning of October for the first time for riding lessons. As none of the boys had ridden before, we spent the first six or so weeks lunging them so that they could receive more one to one tuition. All of them picked up the first riding trot in the first session, although one or two attempted a few flying dismounts.

After this, more time was spent trying to find their balance and learn to control the horse. As, with one or two exceptions, they were all riding big horses (some standing approximately 16.2hh), this was no mean feat.

In the second term, the boys were taken off the lunge and given a free rein - excuse the pun! We also started the stable management lectures in which they learned to handle and care for a horse or pony.

The boys were split into two groups of six. One group was taught by Lachlan McInnes and the other by myself. I was very pleased when two new bots joined my group, three or four weeks later and caught up with the rest of the class in one week.

Overall, the attitude of the boys was very pleasing. All were keen to learn, and many more overcame an initial fear of horses to develop a rapport with the animals.

On behalf of the Gleneagles Mark Phillips Equestrian Centre, we will look forward to seeing you all again soon.

BP MAGIC MAC AWARDS

The Magic Mac Awards are a combination of 25 separate events. They are designed to encourage running, jumping, throwing, hitting, kicking, agility and body conditioning.

Wavell House have won the BP Primary School Award for the best score of any Primary School in Scotland.

Alan Gault and Gerard Robertson received the award on behalf of Wavell House from Melanie Neef at a ceremony at Meadowbank Stadium.

Awards gained:	Gold	89
	Silver	30
	Bronze	20
	Blue	7

The Editor wishes to thank
Mrs Bryant, Mrs Reid and
Mrs Macfarlane, without whose
help this magazine would never
have appeared.



Wavell House 1994 - 95

G. S. Meldrum

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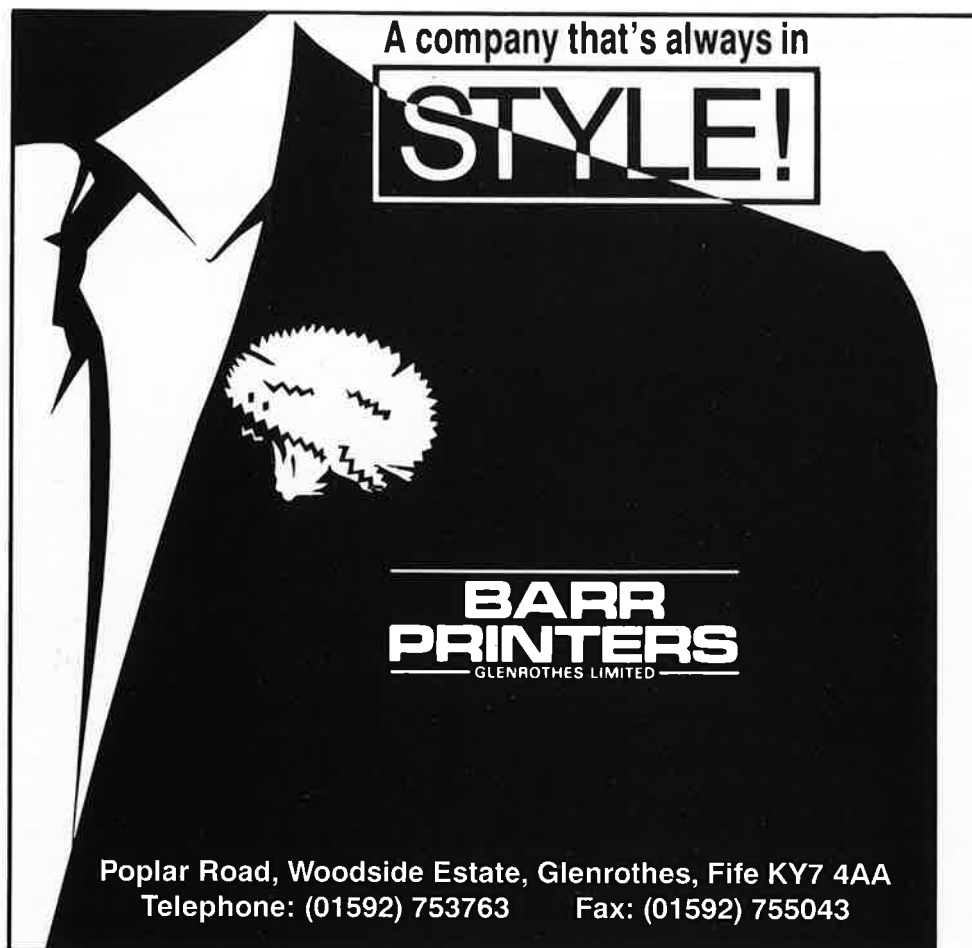
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