



the Strathallian

2001-2002





The evening starts to look up for Mr Kitson

But you will be allowed to come back next year, Ryan.



S Club's military wing



Themed night at HM Prison Friarton



I had it modelled on your barnet, Oli.

Oh, God. He still hasn't shaved that beard off.



OK, so you'd prefer the fire-eating.



So, you think we might have to invest in a better lawn mower, Bruce?

PK brings back the Birch



Hunter killer?





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During the final weeks of the summer term, I was frequently asked the question "Are you glad you did it?"

2001-2002 was a good year. The increasing effort made by pupils was reflected in the high standards that were achieved over a wide range of events. It seems that Mr. Thompson's weekly request/suggestion to "aim high" did not only provide a source of entertainment, but was also taken on board by many.

It was a privilege to be at Strathallan and, like everyone I was given many opportunities. I am proud to have been Head Girl and am sure that the skills I practised - such as negotiating and being diplomatic - will be useful to me in the future. I feel that during my last three terms I learned just as much outside the classroom as inside it, and dealing with different situations taught me a lot. The advantages of the position definitely outweighed the disadvantages, one of which was having a weekly meeting at 7:45 on a Monday morning.

I was very fortunate in receiving help and encouragement in any jobs that had to be done or ideas that were put forward. I would like to thank the Prefects for the time they gave up doing their duties, the staff for their wisdom and advice (and pizzas in Mr. Barnes' case), and Woody for remaining sane during the stressful times. Last, but not least, a big thank you to all the pupils for being patient, supportive and cooperative with changes that took place over the year .

I wish all the best to Amelia and Calum and hope they enjoy Upper Sixth as much as I did. I am certain they will settle in well to their new role - Speech Day isn't that bad by the way.

Am I glad I did it? Yes, I am.

Laura Kotseroglou



Jonathan Woodrow

It was a privilege to be at Strathallan and, like everyone, I was given many opportunities.

It is inevitable in a successful school that there will be a number of changes to staff. After comparatively few changes in the last two or so years, we have said goodbye to a number of colleagues to promotion, to new challenges or to retirement.

At Christmas Claudia Pillar, who achieved excellent standards in German and produced some memorable plays, returned to Germany and was replaced by Alice Young, an experienced and able teacher whom we managed to entice back to Strathallan after she had previously filled in for Claudia.

At Easter Lyn Smith not only completed an outstandingly successful season as coach of the 1st XI Hockey Team, but also brought down the curtain on a career at Strathallan during which she brought her exacting standards and full commitment to Girls Games, Thornbank House and latterly the role of Senior Mistress, Registrar and Marketing. She has joined the staff at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, as Assistant Head with responsibility for Pastoral Care. Audrey Sime, who has international experience in Hockey, both as a coach and a player, joined the staff at the beginning of the summer term in the new role of Director of Sport. Audrey has responsibility for overseeing all aspects of the provision of games, fixtures, health-related fitness, facilities, and activities.

In a boarding school the work of a Housemaster and his wife are central to the lives of the pupils. In thanking Charles and Lesley Court for their eleven years in Freeland and Bill and Anne Colley for their five years in Riley, we recognise the huge amount of time, effort, commitment and care which they have shown. Charles has overseen a number of generations of pupils in Freeland and established a unique style and system of support which have been massively appreciated by the pupils. We are fortunate that Charles remains with us on the staff and will have a little more time to devote to his English teaching, Rugby coaching, Clay Pigeon Shooting and other enthusiasms. Bill and Anne have supervised the formative years of recent generations in Riley House and Bill has, in addition, been an outstanding teacher of Geography, at one stage also running the Department very successfully. To Bill and Anne go our very best wishes as they take over the New School at Butterstone.

Andrew Tod has been in charge of the History Department for some ten years and his scholarship and range of expertise in this area have been apparent and have inspired a love of History in many pupils. His contribution, however, goes far beyond this and he was a true schoolmaster, involved in pastoral work, and ready to support the pupils in a wide range of activities; his most recent "newly discovered expertise" was as basketball coordinator. His publisher will now have free rein to pressure him for the completion of *The Highland Lady*. The excellent reputation and fine results achieved in the Modern Languages Department over recent years bear testimony to the leadership of Janet Watson, who has seen standards rise through her hard work and personal example. The popularity and vibrancy of languages, at a time when others elsewhere are struggling to maintain this area of study, are a matter of significant pride in this context. Richard Fitzsimmons and Carol Duncan take over the History and Modern Languages Departments respectively.

The range and quality of music in the school has been outstanding and it is very much to the credit of David Read that it plays such a large part in the life of so many pupils at Strathallan and gives so much pleasure to the whole community. David returns south having achieved his aim to place music at the centre of the life of the school. Also leaving the Geography Department is its Head, Debbie Carr, who has also been involved in overseeing many Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and playing a full role, much appreciated, as a tutor in Thornbank House. Testament to Liz England's input and success is that Strathallan girls have won the Independent Schools Netball Championships in each

of the nine years in which they have taken part. She has been fully committed in all areas of the school teaching Geography, being Tutor in Riley House and overseeing all the Netball in the school. Sinead Ni Rian and Colin Raitt have both taught in the Physics Department for two years and we are grateful to them for their support of the pupils, their involvement in Woodlands and Riley House respectively and a range of other extra-curricular activities. Colin's time overseeing the sailing has been particularly successful in winning a national championship.

To replace these members of staff we are delighted to welcome a significant number of new colleagues who bring fresh experience and ideas further to supplement the Strathallan mix. Peter and Judy Bush, who take over Riley House, return to Scotland after some eighteen years in Kenya, during the last eight of which Peter has been Headmaster of the Banda School. An experienced Junior School teacher and a coach of all the main sports he is in an excellent position to build on the success of Riley House. Coming even further, although having spent some three years or so in Scotland, are Australians Simon Shepherd and his wife, Susan, who have taken over Freeland House. Simon, who teaches Geography, has been Assistant Housemaster at Stewart's Melville and has experience in the CCF, outdoor activities, and after starting with Australian rules and hockey, has picked up a range of sports as he has travelled. He has even threatened to join the Headmaster in a rowing boat.

With current experience as Director of the Scottish Schools Orchestra, the Pitlochry Festival Choir and recently Housemaster and Director of Music at Rannoch School, Neil Metcalfe takes over as Director of Music. He has a wide range of experience and an interest in all types of music, putting him in an excellent position to build further on the importance of the subject in the life of Strathallan pupils. Dr Stuart Downhill, who was a lecturer at the University of Manchester and Warden in the residential halls at UMIST will bring excellent experience of the university world as he takes over the Geography Department and deals with a slightly younger clientèle. He will also be a residential tutor in Ruthven House. His extensive experience of rugby and karate will bring a different challenge to pupils' lives. The Mathematics Department will also be under new stewardship as John Burgess switches to the Physics Department. Angus Weir, who previously taught at Stewart's Melville College, in addition to his expertise in Mathematics will also, with his handicap of one, improve the standard of staff golf. Also reflecting the international dimension of Strathallan are Gavin Batterham who, while originally from Derbyshire, joins us from Warwick Academy in Bermuda where he was Head of the Physics Department and brings a particular interest in football and other sports. Stephanie Balent, who comes from the South of France, has been in Scotland studying at Stirling and Strathclyde and joins the Modern Languages Department. Her interest in outdoor activities and the pastoral life of the school - she will be resident tutor in Woodlands - means that she is very much looking forward to joining a boarding school. From Slovakia comes Jan Klapis who is this year's teaching assistant and will be joining Katherine Vosmekova in providing extra support for those pupils whose first language is not English. **BKT**



Debbie Carr

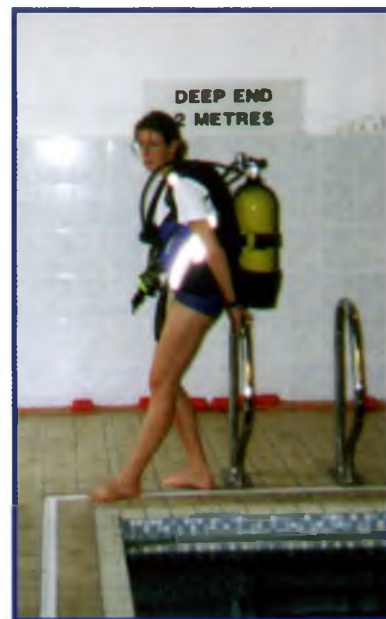
Debbie joined Strathallan in 1998, soon after she qualified as a teacher and some time after the allure of the petro-chemical industry had become tarnished by oil rig and urban life.

Her no-nonsense approach to geography soon won over the sceptics in both classroom and common room and she set standards for herself that others found hard to aspire to, let alone match. Debbie's planning and delivery were immaculate, her enthusiasm for her subject insatiable, and her determination to ensure that her charges succeed, unwavering and forceful; qualities recognised by the Headmaster as those not only of a staff member essential in a school such as Strathallan, but of someone who could offer much at a higher level and it was not long before she 'stepped-up' to become head of what was, at that time one of the largest departments in the school.

Whether in leading the department through the trials and tribulations of Higher Still, her junior divers through the murky depths of Oban Sound, or her tutees through the myriad eccentricities of UCAS and college application, Debbie could always be relied upon to achieve the very highest standards possible.

Her contributions will be sadly missed in the months ahead and we wish her well as she embarks on a new career at Edinburgh Academy.

WAC



Bill and Anne Colley

'Sir William' arrived at Strathallan in the days of the Youth Opportunity Scheme and pupils could spot a 'yopper' when they saw one and the name, as well as a hastily grown moustache, stuck. On being asked if he was doing anything interesting during his first half term break Bill replied, 'Not really. Just going down south for a few days.' I still don't know whether Anne shared our surprise and delight when she returned with him as his new wife. They made their home in Perth, which for Bill was 10 or so miles and a few hills away on his bicycle. There and back, there and back for Riley duties, activities, C.C.F. 'signals' exercises and anything else going only seemed to be a perfectly surmountable challenge to his apparently indefatigable nature. Many years later, when he inexplicably took up running, it surprised nobody that the result was a pair of 'Green Flash' tennis shoes leaving many a veteran in their slip stream on such lunatic ventures as the 'Buchaille Dash' and various road marathons.

In addition to his Riley House duties, Bill taught Geography throughout the school and Economics in the sixth form. After some years of shifting tectonic plates and Pareto's optimalities, his still recent youth called him away from Strathallan to revisit a site he had come across whilst on a cycle ride as a student: several thousand feet up in the Alpujarras in southern Spain. The scheme was to build a house with his own hands - year one - to live as efficiently as possible off the land - years one and two - and to survive year three having got over the novelty. Typically, Bill and Anne made a huge success of what became more than an experiment. The sounds of the local words with which he described the nether regions of pigs were as impressive as the articles themselves. Having realised the plan in its entirety, they returned to Scotland with their young son, Calum.



Happy years at Rannoch School passed before they returned to Strathallan as deputy housemaster and housemistress of Riley with the addition of twins, Lucy and Euan. Then came head of Geography for Bill and shortly after, Bill and Anne took over and cared for Riley, fought through the veil of ignorance of the previous incumbent and digitalised, computerised and generally kept the House abreast of the world. After five years, the opportunity to develop Bill's instincts and interests at Butterstone New School as headmaster proved irresistible, as did the opportunity for Anne to pursue her own teaching and to create yet another garden of endless abundance and fertility. To all of them: good luck and happy weekends!

AT

another garden of endless abundance and fertility.

Liz England

Few more dedicated teachers will have taught at Strathallan over the last few decades, and department, House and school have lost a fine teacher, inspirational coach and dedicated tutor.

Liz will always rise to a challenge and many years ago, when asked to help with netball, applied herself to the task with characteristic diligence and determination. Her record since then speaks for itself and her team was one of the most feared at this level throughout Scotland. Returning with the Senior Schools' Netball Trophy for the ninth successive year, Liz, affected a blasé air that fooled only those who did not know her well enough to detect a pride, not in her own success, but for the girls who had worked so hard over the winter months.

If Houses speak volumes about those who inhabit them, then classrooms do the same for teachers and Liz's room; ordered, well-planned and meticulously tidy, with space set aside for random acts of bizarre spontaneity, it might well tell of the teacher and tutor no longer with the school. Where I would use paper and board markers, Liz would use plasticine, elastic bands and jelly, and somehow I begin to understand now why pupils trooped to her lessons with a spring in their step, where mine brought pillows under their arms.

As a Riley tutor Liz always placed the pupil first and eschewed nonsense for commonsense; expediency for the common good. She was always there when we needed her and put heart and soul into all that she did.

In leaving Strathallan to broaden her horizons elsewhere, Liz leaves a formidable legacy to House, department and school, and we wish her well in whatever challenges lie ahead.

WAC



Where I would use paper and board markers, Liz would use plasticine, elastic bands and jelly.

David Read FRCO

The summer of 2002 sees the departure of Head of Music David Read. Since arriving at the school in 1996, David has overseen numerous developments in the music department. His first task was to see the department installed in renovated rooms in the main building; the corporate base from which music was to pour.

The improved facility allowed David greatly to expand academic study in music, and provide a centre for musical investigations, both practical and theoretical.

David is a first class musician, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Organists. He has, in addition, a love of the great choral traditions of this island, and has worked tirelessly to develop the choir into the fine body that it is now acknowledged to be. Trips to the great cathedrals formed an annual focus in this work; York, Carlisle, Lincoln, Selby and the magnificent Norman pile of Durham featuring on the list of visits.

David was not, however, at all times insufferably highbrow and was a key figure in School musical productions; *Guys & Dolls*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Godspell* and *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, all received the David Read touch. He and his family have been very much part of the fabric of the school; his wife Sarah working as a physiotherapist at Strathallan, and their children attending the school.

Socially, David was a quiet but intense man, with a passion for Fordson tractors, an example of which he often parked outside the main building. We wish him well in his new post, and hope that family and tractor enjoy the move south.

CS



Lyn J. Smith

Having taught for some nine years at Laurel Bank School, Glasgow, Lyn joined the Strathallan Staff in August 1987 as Mistress in Charge of Girls Games. It was immediately apparent that she was determined to set her standards high and that she recognised the potential for developing a first class games programme, building on the foundations laid by the girls' games staff.

Embracing the strands of good quality and breadth, along with her able group of colleagues, Lyn guided and nurtured the then embryonic girls' games programme through its infancy and adolescence to ensure that it has emerged as arguably the strongest programme at any school (single sex or co-educational) in Scotland.

Lyn has the instinct to identify talent in her charges, creates the disciplined, structured framework in which this can blossom and worked tirelessly in the pursuit of elevated standards, both for individual pupils and teams. Her particular passion for Hockey saw the Strathallan Girls team consistently at the top of Midlands District Competitions and, remarkably, given the relatively very small number of girls from which to select, at National Level, both indoors and out. Strathallan girls have gained National Representative Honours with Scotland on a consistent basis. These achievements speak for themselves.

Characteristically, whilst doing all of this, Lyn simultaneously managed to teach Computing for a time, had a notably successful 6 years as the first Housemistress of Thornbank and latterly, was promoted to Senior Mistress (another first for Strathallan) with a remit for Admissions and Marketing.

Latterly, it was evident that Lyn had a desire to work more closely with the pupils in areas additional to games. This led her to her successful application for the post of Assistant Head Teacher, with a particular



Janet Watson

Janet Watson came to Strathallan in 1988 from the Isle of Skye long before a road bridge was built and long before the identical twin brother of a fellow colleague at Portree also joined the staff. She had been appointed Head of Modern Languages, which at that time consisted of French and German, but allegedly she also brought with her a qualification in Russian.

Janet quickly set about reorganising the department, placing a great emphasis on the spoken word. For visitors to the department, be they Headmasters, prospective parents, pupils or colleagues, this meant a brushing up on basic sentence construction before knocking on the door as all conversation thereafter would not be conducted in English.

Good humoured and resilient, Lyn could always be relied upon to be straightforward and uncompromising of her convictions.



remit for pastoral care, at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, where she joins former colleague at Strathallan and present Headmaster, Brian Raine.

Good humoured and resilient, Lyn could always be relied upon to be straightforward and uncompromising of her convictions in her relationships with both staff and pupils; qualities which cannot but be missed by the School. We wish Lyn every success and happiness in this new phase of her career.

DJB

Retirement sounds idyllic but to retire to your own place in the sun is a dream come true.

As a self-confessed non-games player, Janet took on the library and early in the 90s spent Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons re-cataloguing books and adding in a computerised lending system.

Staffing changes in the department through retirement and new remits allowed for the introduction of Spanish and Russian and a redevelopment of the language block to incorporate language laboratory type facilities in all rooms.

September 1989 saw the completion of a second boarding house for girls and Janet stepped in as a House Tutor. She has seen at least a couple of generations through Thornbank, several tutors, 3 Housemistresses and 1 set of Houseparents. To my knowledge, Janet covered Saturday nights every week, every year over at least a 12 year period. I always found Janet very professional and caring in her dealings with the girls and she certainly was a great support to me in my time as Housemistress.

Holidays over the last few years during her career at Strathallan have been spent in France renovating her current home. Retirement sounds idyllic but to retire to your own place in the sun is a dream come true. *Bonne chance* to Janet, Angus and their 3 sons.

Lyn Smith



Dr Andrew Tod

All colleagues and pupils fortunate enough to have fallen under the influence of, or with, the 'Good Doctor' will have their own memories, possibly of a certain eccentricity; a refereeing performance in which stopwatch was substituted by alarm clock; a blackboard covered with intellectual references apart from a sacred corner harbouring a dodo drawn by a small child; long-distance travel equipped only with a toothbrush and the inevitable plastic bag full of books. Yet, although 'Toddy' has given us moments of pure joy, never has he been a figure of fun. With his outstanding teaching and total commitment, that could never be the case. He has run a department, been an essential House Tutor and a serious hockey coach. Outside the School he has been an examiner and a published editor and author. Nevertheless, what one remembers is his generosity; generosity both of spirit and of time. Whether with Oxbridge candidates or with III set 4, with Junior Colts A or 3rd XI girls' hockey, with Riley cricket, early-morning swimmers, confused colleagues or puzzled pupils, his response was the same. No request for help was ever refused.

If all this sounds a bit too much like an obituary, make no mistake. The 'Highland Lady' beckons once again, as does the championing of the semi-colon and the subordinate clause. From Oxford to the Oxford Bar, from Killybegs even, dare one say it, to Bayreuth many will continue to be enriched by the doctor's wit, wisdom and warm company. One can only hope that the odd moment can be spared for Forgandenny visits for this true 'gentleman and scholar'.

RJWP

...what one remembers is his generosity; generosity both of spirit and of time.



It was hard not to recall former glories as the great and the good, parents and pupils, and the odd howling infant, this last expressing a desire that many of us felt, but stifled, were once again shepherded into an oversized scout tent in order to pay homage to the achievements of the past year. We were quickly reminded, indeed, by our guest speaker, of past glories when he prefaced his own remarks with the information that he had been feeling singularly pleased to have been invited to speak to the assembly until the moment he discovered who it was that had filled the post the previous year.

Professor Colin Bell FRSE, FRSA, AcSS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Stirling, if not possessed of the armoury of the professional comic was at least well provided with that of the distinguished academic and experienced after-dinner speaker, and acquitted himself well with a number of amusing anecdotes that leant heavily upon Royalty's not, always, easy association with his institution. Whilst it is true that the Duke of Edinburgh's likes and dislikes (grey squirrels and GM crops - go on, try and work out which is a like or a dislike) already enjoy a high public profile thanks to his own tireless efforts and those of the Fourth Estate, it isn't quite so often that you find yourself actually sharing them. A distaste for chewing-gum once it's found its way onto a pavement, however, is surely something that even Guardian readers couldn't take exception to. We were lucky as well that Prof. Bell was ready to risk regal disapproval and even the might of ancient statute in order to report one of HRH Queen Elizabeth II's remarks on the more recent of her two visits to Stirling. It appears that she enjoyed the second rather more than the first. The professor went on to express regret that so few of our pupils chose to study at Stirling and the sincere hope that this situation might change as a result of his visit.

The Headmaster addressed the assembly, as headmasters must, on the subject of the School's considerable achievements over the preceding year. These were many, and Bruce Thompson leavened this potentially rather heavy mixture with an account of his possible job prospects should he decide to leave us at short notice. If his audience thought that he might be better off building bus-shelters than being at the helm of one of Scotland's leading independent schools, they were keeping their counsel. He professed himself delighted to be able to mention, yet again, what has become his catchphrase, and cheerfully enjoined that the pupils in the audience (at least, I think it was the pupils) "aim higher".

David Pighills, Chairman of the Board of Governors, welcomed some newcomers to that august assembly, and if he was missing his sparring partner from the previous year he had at least not missed the opportunity to note down a few of his jokes. It is only thanks to his very public leak that we now know the exact amount of the school's annual budget for water-divining.

The Captains of School, Laura Kotseroglou and Jonathan Woodrow, acquitted themselves in a style which is becoming a tradition of Strathallan Speech Days by turning out a witty and perceptive demolition of the Boarding Houses. Laura was even up to the task of an occasional impromptu joke, and although there wasn't any actual heckling I'm pretty certain she wouldn't have had any trouble dealing with that either.

Now, who were the really great and good? Let me tell you. No less a person than the charming and terrifyingly intelligent Dux of School, Jindra Zitek turned up to grace the proceedings, accompanied by his equally charming family, with, in the offing, Mark Stringer, similarly attended. It won't come as any surprise to anyone who knew or taught Jindra that he went from here to LSE to be awarded a scholarship as the outstanding student of his year. His family had come all the way from the Czech Republic to see their son receive his laurels and we are sure that they enjoyed both the gentle Scottish weather and the hospitality of, amongst others, Dr. Tod. Whether they also enjoyed Mr. Court's chiding of Jindra for his apparent complete abandonment, since leaving Strathallan, of any pretence at an English accent is not recorded.

Mark Stringer, meanwhile, was keen to continue his education on the subject of edible and inedible fungi at the hands of Mr. Peter Keir; one which began in Riley House and has never really stopped since. Giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) is recognised about the school grounds and Mark was happy to have a couple of examples pointed out to him just outside W. Leitch & Co's splendid canvas edifice.

Now, who were the really
great and good?
Let me tell you...



The Pipe Band put on their by now entirely expected high standard of performance. This was a really excellent display, not in the least detracted from by the relative youth and inexperience of many of the band members, nor by the fact that they weren't being continuously refreshed by rainfall whilst performing. The Marines were, as ever, impeccably turned out. Their precise duties at Speech Day are a mystery to me, as they have been since I first witnessed this timeless ceremony, but whatever it is that they do is carried out with grace, aplomb and a level of discretion which will ensure that it remains a mystery for the foreseeable future.

In all, this was a splendid occasion more than adequately supported by the efforts of the catering team. Parents came, listened appreciatively, admired the art, DT and computing displays and took the opportunity to express themselves unrestrainedly whilst buttonholing their children's teachers and simultaneously enjoying the buffet. The sun had gone down on yet another successful year at Strathallan.

EGK



The Marines were, as ever, impeccably turned out.

Freeland

The power of the miasma of suspicion and mistrust to create disarray where there should be purpose and progress. It has the power to conjure monsters in places that are not home to them.

This October I will drive down to Durham and drop my son off to begin his new, independent life as a student. There will be certain misgivings but, in the end, I must trust that all will go forward. His developing sense of self has gone hand-in-hand with my having to let go of the reins of his life - the first time he went out to play on his own; the first time he took to the fields with only his gun for company; the first visit to Perth's Ice Factory. I have to have faith in his ability to manage his own life (and all its excitements that go together with its dangers) and I trust the University of Durham to foster his development. He has flown the nest and he's flying on his wings.

This is my last report as a Housemaster for my 'term' in Freeland has come to an end. It has been a really good final descent, for many of the other travellers had familiar faces from our having been in the air so long: Dalleys, Chapmans, Scaleses, Applebys, Sproats, Constables, Campbells, Laings. Not only that, but last year's Upper Sixth were a remarkably diverse but unified collection of interesting, intelligent, decent and characterful individuals, who fostered confidence and therefore the best in others. We also, finally, won the Tug O' War and, according to my calculations, produced the Dux of School for the second year running.

The thing about the Tug O'War is that you have to put your trust in the fact that others are pulling with you. I would go further and say that not only is your personal safety in the hands of your fellows, but that such trust lies at the very heart of the unity of any collection of individuals. To imagine a body of soldiers beset with suspicion is to envision terrible failure; to imagine last year's Upper Sixth without the trust they had in one another and others is to see them not as they were or are now - for trust and trustworthiness go to the core of character and identity.

The great privilege of being Housemaster of Freeland was to be put in a position of trust. It is a burden, too, for it requires vigilance in warding-off the enemies of communal security and happiness - deceit, dishonesty, suspicion, unreliability. But I am grateful to the parents who put so much of their children's lives in my hands, who trusted me to promote their growth and development, to enjoy their different characters and qualities, to share their disappointments and happinesses, the anxieties and faiths that are part of my family. It seems to me that the network of trust between a boy and his parents and his housemaster is crucial to the success of any boarding house and that today, more than ever, that it is something that is threatened on all sides and that we lose at our peril. In other contexts it is the rudder that has guided all great movements and memorable social endeavour - and even the not so remarkable ones.

As I write this report the news is full of instances of children being turned away from Schools because the authorities and bureaucrats have lost trust in people. I'm not talking about blind, witless faith, but measured trust. Children need to go to school, parents want their children to resume their education, teachers and headmasters want their schools to function and yet all are frustrated. Schools are safer than the streets and yet lack of trust (and the concomitant faith in administrative systems) is keeping the young outside the gates of our schools. Fear and suspicion means that there are 8,000 teachers who, because they have not been checked by the Criminal Records Bureau, are 'unreliable.' This disease of suspicion, moreover, is going to affect

countless numbers of dinner-ladies, caretakers, bus drivers, lollipop persons, teaching assistants, lab technicians, cleaners and others. Not surprisingly no one is saying how many unsuitables have been unearthed by the C.R.B. to date, but the fact that I heard the Headmaster of one very large East London school say that he had not one such case in the last 19 years is some indication of the power of the miasma of suspicion and mistrust to create disarray where there should be purpose and progress. It has the power to conjure monsters in places that are not home to them.

I have no doubt that evil does exist - just as danger, illness, pain and death do. But it is also clear to me that to abandon faith and trust in the face of these is to ensure their triumph and usher-in a grey, disordered and fretful world.

Lord Owen, in a recent interview, talked of his family's salvation in the face of his son's leukaemia. It was to put trust in the doctors of Great Ormond Street Hospital and faith in the power of nature and God to overcome sickness. In political terms, it was to know the horrors of the Bosnian War and not to despair but to create the framework in which man might once again follow the paths of hope and purpose. In every term of every year in which I was Freeland's Housemaster there were times of failure and disappointment. The knack, for both boy and housemaster, was to put trust to the fore, to believe in those around us and in ourselves, and not to retreat to suspicion or blame. Trust was always a greater ally (and so much more flexible) than locked doors; faith a greater source of strength than a mind shackled by the past, a closed judgement or a prescriptive agenda. When, confronted by the evil of the killing of Holly and Jessica, do we allow ourselves to see the beast in every neighbour's face? What does it do for every teacher and lollipop lady to be seen as a potential danger and for every child to feel that they are simply a victim-in-waiting. There is another way through all these threats, pit-falls and dangers that does not depend upon completed procedures and pro-formas. The way is to banish the institutionalised bureaucratic suspicion that is threatening our Schools and our Health Service, the administrative procedures that are stopping our teachers teaching, our nurses nursing and blighting the ordinary citizens' relationship with our political masters.



Since I stopped being a housemaster, I have returned to old habits and started cultivating my garden. The other day I was looking over my runner beans that were beautifully in flower and, after ten minutes or so, wondered where were the bees that would pollinate them. If there weren't any bees, then the whole process would be pointless. I began to suggest chemicals or the extraordinary dampness of the summer or the proximity of any hives. I began to wonder at the trust of the beans that chose to sprout rather than lie dormant, the flowers that chose to open and bloom rather than remain closed. Why did they bother if there were to be no bees? What reason did they have to trust the arrival of those winged journeymen?

Then, suddenly a solitary bumble bee arrived - all busy and industrious in his brown corduroy jacket. What would have made him take to the air at all, I wondered, if he didn't trust in God's air to carry him up and bring him and all of nature further? We are all travellers and sometimes we can only trust both the safety of the vehicle in which we are travelling and that our destination has not been moved by some catastrophic administrative shift of the globe.

CNC



The thing about the Tug O'War is that you have to put your trust in the fact that others are pulling with you.



Thankfully, Nicol as a House has not changed much.

Entering boarding school as a timid III former is somewhat different to leaving it as a hardened VI Former. While you may enter as the archetypal prep school child, with blazer dry cleaned, hair parted diligently to the side, many leave as slightly more liberal and opinionated individuals, with an assortment of chains dangling randomly from garments. Change of some sort is inevitable because, with the big wide world at your doorstep, not only does your mother no longer insist your trousers be pressed to perfection but, with the daunting prospect of taxes to pay, the memory of complimentary pakoras are now merely a stain on one's clothes.

Thankfully, Nicol as a House has not changed much. It is still the welcoming, open and light-hearted House that the majority of the leaving Upper Sixth entered five distant years ago; and although the School prefects are no longer affably nicknamed "mad dog", there is still an undoubted ethos of tremendous teamwork and effort evident within the walls of Nicol. For, what Nicol may lack in outstanding talent, we certainly make up for in sheer determination and, ultimately, in enjoyment of whatever we undertake.

...many leave as slightly more liberal and opinionated individuals, with an assortment of chains dangling randomly from garments.

Traditionally the winter term is one of blood, sweat and toil; epithets that apply not only to rugby games versus Glenalmond, but more aptly to the House choir practices. With Nicol's depth of musical talent somewhat recondite, many so-called "non-musicians" were called upon - some with great success (the angelic voices of a certain Mr Leslie and Mr Kim to name but two). Indeed our "unplugged" sessions outside the chapel were given rapturous applause, not only for our seraphic singing, but mainly due to some outstanding original choreography. Much credit should be given to the tireless efforts of Michael Arthur (fondly known to all as "Nipples") and James Currie, for producing such a dynamic performance of *Stand By Me*, as well as controlling Hwasu's vocal exuberance. Thus, when House Music arrived, what Nicol lacked in musical *éclat*, we made up for in entertainment value. The band, again guided by Messrs Currie and Stormonth-Darling, with vocals provided by David Stewart, performed (sic) a piece by Nirvana, (an idea borrowed, it must be acknowledged, from Ruthven House's splendid performance of "Come As You Are" two years before). But special recognition should be given to Michael Segaud's violin performance for the Nicol Solo. Initially it had seemed Winny's infamous tambourine repertoire would have to be pulled out the cupboard, but Michael's undoubted musical talent and maturity at such an early age did credit not only to him, but also to Nicol as a House.

Staying with all things cultural, our Senior Drama company carried on Nicol's dramatic success by winning the trophy with a somewhat libidinous re-working of Pinter's *The Homecoming*. Special credit should be given to the brave and ingenious acting of Johnny Stormonth-Darling, a newcomer to the stage, but whose portrayal of a promiscuous middle-aged woman will live in Nicol folklore. Doc Stewart and Fraser

Philip (who interacted particularly well with Johnny) also made their stage debut, while the age-old thespians Robbie Stewart and William Bowry completed the cast, on what was a very humorous and successful night. Thanks, as always, go to the backstage trio of Bickerton, Murf and George (aka Graeme Gardner and Adam Wallace).

Rugby sevens was a slightly less cultural affair, and although we succumbed to a physical Ruthven side, having beaten the other two senior Houses, praise should be given to the tenacity and courage of the Nicol team, particularly to the younger members (Adam Stephens, Danny Hoffman, Fraser Philip) in facing an almost atavistic Ruthven Upper VI. Gregor Leslie's unique tackling style can also not be forgotten. On the representative front D. Stewart, A. Carmichael, R. Stewart, G. Roy, E. O'Donnell, F. Philip and D. Hoffmann all played for the 1st XV, David and Fraser also going on to represent the district side Caledonian Reds. The Junior House sevens team managed to upstage their senior counterparts, winning all their matches in a round-robin competition and retaining the trophy.

With the Spring Term an indelible grin of anticipation spread across Mr Giles' face as Hockey became the talk of the term. Unfortunately, our senior team could not recapture the form of last year, losing out, as they did, to Simpson. Perhaps we had used up all our luck last year? The two Stewarts, David and Robbie, again represented the Hockey 1st XI, along with Danny Hoffman and, purely based on his physical finesse and Herculean might, Head of House Nick Common. Unfortunately, continuing in this sporting vein, our performance at the cross-country was, to say the least, inconspicuous, but I'm sure future success, bar any further flu epidemics, will continue. On the football field, G. Roy, A. Carmichael and R. McLaren played regularly for the 1st XI, while various Nicolites strutted their skills (or lack of them) for the all-conquering 2nd XI. Winny should be given special mention, not only for his wonder goal (all of 5 yards) but also for "THAT" miss.

And so to the summer term, and the enjoyment not only of the prescribed sports, cricket, athletics, tennis, but crucially the all-important corridor cricket, in which Mr Fitzsimmons was a criminal offender. Unfortunately the corridors of Nicol were soon to become the main area of sporting competition as the traditional Scottish weather curtailed any serious cricket after half term. The Sixes competition was completely washed out (bar a meaningless match with Freeland) as was almost all of the 1st XI's season, much to the irascibility of a certain Irishman.



With almost half of the 1st XI comprising Nicolites, for W. Bowry (captain), R. Stewart, D. Stewart, N. Common and G. Alexander it was a very cruel blow, particularly when the team travelled down to Lancaster desperate for some cricket having played nothing for 7 weeks, only to find the weather had followed us down. Promising youngsters, J. Cachia and C. Leadbetter, had joined the 1st XI touring party and it was a shame neither had the chance to experience true English cricket conditions. However, both Jamie and Charlie played major roles as the Junior House team finally brought home a trophy after more years than we care to remember, beating the ubiquitous Ruthven in the final. Equally fortunately, the House athletes had a better time with Alex Anton and, in particular, Ewan O'Donnell running successfully for the Strathallan team. Indeed Ewan organised practically single-handedly not only Standards, but also the arduous task of Sports Day, where he then won both of his events, becoming senior Victor Ludorum in the process. Although Nicol did not achieve top spot, it was not for want of trying, as exemplified by the efforts of the mercurial Robbie Stewart who, after winning a very tense 1500m, proceeded to present his lunch to the adoring crowd.

The summer term also brought more shades of Nicol's diverse culture, although in this scenario somewhat more lewd. The Junior House Drama Production starred those unlikely thespians of Angus Patterson and Andrew O'Donnell tackling the theme of the World Cup. While being funny, it did tread upon the cusp of censorship, and we can only be grateful that the Headmaster and Mr Barnes did not attend. This theme of outrageously offending staff was thankfully not continued through the Senior House debating, and with many hours of preparation, the two senior teams cruised through to the final. Unfortunately Team B (M. Arthur and G. Gardner) could not match the debating skills of Team A (R. Stewart and W. Bowry) because, while Nicol's premier team finished 1st (guided by the oratorical prowess of Robbie), Team B could not finish high enough to gain the overall trophy.



This unfortunate habit of finishing second plagued us again in the Academic Challenge, where a good performance led Nicol's Team (W. Bowry, J. Currie, J. Stormonth-Darling and A. Wallace) into the final, only to be beaten by Ruthven, despite the magical powers of Johnny's stick.

So, as my final year at Nicol draws to a close, and although in fairness it was not Nicol's most vintage year, (it was always going to be difficult following on from the success of last year), I am a firm believer you learn more in defeat than in triumph. And as I look back at my five years in Nicol, my chief memory will be the support and time given up by pupil, prefect and master to everyone within the House. Such support is a rare commodity and unfortunately this year marks the retirement of two individuals who were true exponents of the word. Bess Murray has been at Strathallan for nearly three decades and over a third of those years were spent within the walls of Nicol House. Not only did she have a ferocious temper that could scare any 3rd Former into tidying his room, but her ubiquitous presence in Nicol could solve almost any problem; not only where to find a spare kilt sock but how to remove various Germans from their over-extended slumbers. Never one to grumble, even when clearing the leftovers of Fitz's carry out feast, she worked tirelessly for the House and was quite literally a Nicol institution.

Much like Bess, Dr Tod is another highly charismatic and likeable figure, who provided a great deal of entertainment when on Nicol Duty. Whether it be castigating previous headmasters, gorging himself on one of Fitzsimmons' courtesy carry outs, or vilifying his fellow historian, Doc T was never short of a few words. An immensely generous man, he was the archetypal schoolmaster, a true character who put himself forward for almost everything. Whether it was bussing people back from a rock concert or teaching 12 year olds the forward defensive, Dr Tod certainly lived life to the full. And thus it is with great sadness that Nicol says goodbye to both Toddy and Bess. We are certain that both of you will enjoy retirement.

As another year draws to a close, the tutorial staff of Mr Ross, Mr Kitson, Mr Streatfeild-James and Mr Gordon could not be forgotten for their tireless pursuit of willing brew room cleaners and, as always, huge thanks must go to Mr Giles and Mr Fitzsimmons whose continued efforts, support and complimentary carry outs within Nicol are an undoubted testament to the success we have enjoyed over the years. Thanks also go to the darling domestic staff Davina, Anne and Caroline, whose irascible shrieks of "Clean your sink" will ring in our eardrums for many years to come. Finally, thanks must also go to our adored Head of House, Nick Common, whose ability to delegate was second to none.

William Bowry



Ruthven

With... plenty of pizzas as encouragement, we managed to dominate the world of inter house competitions.



To the Upper VI heading off into the big wide world, my best wishes and good luck.

Well what a year it turned out to be for the House. Woody Head of School, Oli Scott Captain of Rugby, Neil Anderson Vice Captain and all this was repeated at the end of the year with next year's Head of School also being provided by Ruthven. Add to this all the House competitions we won and 2002 can only be described as a great success.

Just after moving into Ruthven someone remarked to me that we were "losing all our silverware" and what was I "going to do about it?" Well, no-one's going to make a similar remark this year. With Hugh Mackay as Head of House and his group of talented, sporting prefects, and plenty of pizzas as encouragement, we managed to dominate the world of inter House competitions. Senior Rugby, Junior Indoor and Outdoor Hockey, Senior Outdoor Hockey, Cross Country, Swimming Standards and the Gala, Athletics Standards and Sports Day itself, the Academic Challenge, Golf, Tennis, Clay Pigeon Shooting. (I think I've remembered them all.) Stuart McDonald was Junior Victor Ludorum at Sports Day. Iain Hewitt was awarded an individual prize at the House music competition and our junior debaters did well in their competition as well.

A number of House outings took place again this year, with year group tutors frequently taking charge of a dash to some important cultural centre, rapidly followed (unless Mr Kennedy or Mr Shields were in the frame) by the horrors of a Happy Meal. Paint Balling is always popular and the VI Form leapt at the opportunity to let Mr Tod once again show them 'who the daddy is.' The III Form enjoyed white water rafting at the start of the year and a camping trip for the III and IV Form at Laggan in May was a great success, particularly for the fish population of the loch, which maintained a healthy profile to the end despite the best efforts of Messrs McMorrine, Legge et al. Noah's Ark also saw us as guests at their go-karting facilities on a basis which should keep their account books looking, if not handsome, then at least black.

In between all this there is, of course, the academic work as well and we managed a good showing at Speech Day with a fair spread of prizes across the year groups. The summer term is now subsumed by exams for most of the House and I trust that the results are as expected and hoped for. To the Upper VI heading off into the big wide world, my best wishes and good luck. Thanks to the team of tutors for their hard work and dedication to the House and the boys in particular. To Matron and her team, a big thank you for keeping the House in tip top shape; your efforts, too, are much appreciated.

Finally to Ann and the kids; thank you for the patience in coping without Dad on many an evening. To those returning for another year I trust that we are able to hang on to all the silverware.

AW



Simpson

The year was not just a catalogue of sporting events and other competitions - it was one of personalities too.



If last year was one of innovation in Simpson, with a change in Housemaster, Matron and general way of doing things, this was to be one of consolidation; with a largely unaltered team of tutors and an opportunity presented to build on the successes of the previous year.

In terms of personnel, there has only been slight change this year with Mrs Raeside joining the tutorial staff and the role of resident tutor being jointly taken by Mr Higginbottom and Mr McCann. These changes undoubtedly helped the overall running of the House and the pastoral welfare of all the boys. We were sorry to see Anne Henderson leave us as sewing lady to do more work with the medical centre, but pleased to see her position being taken by Kate Inches, who has kept the boys looking neat and well turned out - not a task for the faint hearted.

As is traditionally the case, the first inter-house event was House Music. This has always been a strong suit for Simpson, with our wide range of talented and committed musicians. Under the 'baton' of David Chalmers, the choir performed an *a cappella* version of *Blue Moon*, followed by Richard Blakey's rendition of the Charles Aznavour classic, *She*, most recently re-recorded by Elvis Costello for the soundtrack to *Notting Hill*. Both items were performed with energy, musicality and brio. However, it was to be the ensemble group with their arrangement of the ubiquitous Glenn Miller standard, *In the Mood*, which secured our first piece of silverware by winning their section.

Following closely on the heels of House Music was the Senior House Drama competition. We chose to perform a gritty and hard-hitting piece from David Mamet's social satire *GlenGarry Glen Ross*. This was an

ambitious choice that took no prisoners - demanding a high degree of teamwork and ensemble playing. Although we failed to win the overall competition, Andrew Mack and Tim Higgins won the award for best director. Notable performances were given by David Chalmers, Fraser Niven and Ken Mackenzie, with backstage support provided in abundance by Howard Gray, Alex Murray and Richard Blakey. As ever, members of the House gave sterling performances in a range of whole-school music events from year-group concerts to Headmaster's Music and Chapel Choir - the latter being headed by Richard Blakey.

Amidst the frost and snow that characterises the start of the Spring term, our cross country runners turned in a creditable performance, the team coming third in the boys' competition. Our first runner home was Roddy Walker, who finished in seventh place in a field of over thirty runners. On the sports field our rugby teams performed with courage in the face of strong opposition from other Houses: the senior team being captained by Adam Arakji and managed from the sidelines by Robert Clarke, with the juniors being captained by Roddy Walker.

Over the course of the year, we had the unique distinction of making all three hockey finals: senior outdoor, junior outdoor and senior indoor. In all cases we were pipped at the post, but put in excellent performances which, in the case of the senior competitions, were decided in the pressure-cooker arena of penalty strokes. Although the fates conspired against us, this did nothing to undermine the commitment and skill of all teams - special mention going to Robert Clarke, who captained the senior teams, and to the unflappable, if beleaguered, goalkeeper Adam Arakji.

Another activity that takes place in the Spring term is debating. In the senior competition we had two pairs in the final, where the old alliance of Fraser Niven and Andrew Mack was bolstered by that of Ken Mackenzie and Mathieu Gordon. In a final that saw a high standard of debating from all teams, we were perhaps a little unlucky only to come third. However, the oratorical skills of Andrew Mack were once again in evidence at the sixth form Burns' Supper. In his '*Toast to Strathallan*', he presented a witty and well observed homage to the school - ably supported by possibly the most magnificent sporrán this side of Killiecrankie. Richard Blakey added to the musical side of the evening with an impassioned rendition of *A Man's a Man*. The school musical, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, also saw members of Simpson taking to the stage. Principal parts were played by David Chalmers, Jake Streatfeild-James and J-J Chalmers, with Richard Blakey as ASM - proving once again that Simpson boys are fine exponents of the arts.

The weather was reasonably kind to our skiers this year, with several competitions taking place. Although there was no inter-house competition, this allowed several members of the House to excel in representing the School. Richie Duncan, new to Third Form, had an exceptional season; boosting Strathallan's placing in the Scottish Schools Championship as well as gaining selection at national level. In addition, fourth formers, Harry Workman and Simon Erdal proved to be valuable members of the team in various events. Perhaps we should press for this event's inclusion in the inter-house programme next year?

In the inter-house Swimming Gala, we secured third place, again thanks to a good team performance across all years. The term also saw the Junior House Drama Competition take place, where our piece, devised on the theme of the world cup (yes, that competition also took place over the summer), earned a best actor prize for Roddy Walker.

The year was not just a catalogue of sporting events and other competitions - it was one of personalities too. Many of the House took prizes at Speech Day, both academic and participatory and in the summer examinations, Mathieu Gordon and Howard Gray achieved exceptional A/S results, gaining full academic colours, while Gregor Duncan and Melenik Forde did equally well at GCSE, recognition coming in the form of half colours. At A Level, Andrew Mack achieved a string of As in a year group where the vast majority of the year performed well and gained entry to their chosen courses at university.

Our community was also lucky to be graced with the presence of Fraser Cooper, on exchange from St Andrew's College, Christchurch. As part of a programme, which saw our own Ken Mackenzie spend time in New Zealand over the summer holidays, Fraser spent all too short a stay with us during the Autumn Term. He made an instant impact on all who met him. His infectious enthusiasm to try and cram as much as possible into his stay, resulted in what I hope was a highly memorable experience for him. Fraser certainly took our very best wishes and friendships that I am sure will last back home with him.

I wish all this year's leavers every success in their future endeavours and hope that they will keep in touch.



And so, as the snows melted and gave way to brilliant sunshine, or maybe just marginally warmer rain, Summer Term followed Spring and so too did the traditional events of athletics, tennis and golf. Fraser Niven captained the House athletics team with assurance, just as he did for the School team and, whilst we were unable to repeat the victory of last year at Sports Day, Gregor Duncan triumphed as middle boys' Victor Ludorum - whilst also taking part in the Scottish Schools Championships. In House Tennis our team of Andrew Mack, Ali Bartlett, Steve Smith, George McWilliams, Harry Workman and Geoff Melloy came third, and our golf team of Dougie Bennet, David Chalmers, Ken Mackenzie and Richie Duncan also came third in their competition. This combined with a second place in the inter-house Shooting competition with our team of Ken Mackenzie, Gregor Duncan and James Bennet, where James also took the prize for best shot.

At this point my report may give the impression that the Simpson trophy cabinets are dull and empty places. However, this is certainly not the case, with the famous Corrie Shield and Laundry Shop Trophy for the summer charity run being safely returned for another year. This was largely thanks to the efforts of JJ Chalmers, who recorded an amazing twenty four laps and other members of the House who added to this to give a grand total of one hundred and eighty one laps - truly a magnificent achievement by all concerned.

I hope this report gives a flavour of just how much has been achieved by the boys of Simpson over the course of the year. Whether this has been in the name of the House, the School or as individuals, the contribution is as wide and as diverse as those who make up the Simpson community. As ever, I would like to thank all those involved with the House for their help, support and commitment over the year. Special thanks go to our tireless team of tutors, as well as to Matron and the domestic team for keeping the House in good shape and good heart. Equally, though, my thanks go to Robert and Steve, who, as Head of House and Deputy, have set a keynote of integrity and responsibility in these positions of House authority, as well as to those prefects who were as true to their principles at the end of the year as they were at the start. Your legacy will be one of decency: where good guys can prevail without compromising their popularity. I wish all this year's leavers every success in their future endeavours and hope that they will keep in touch.

A year, then, of consolidation, of development and, at times, of much needed reflection. I never failed to be amazed at the ability of the boys to meet the challenges levelled at them, whether as teams, groups or individuals. They are a constant source of pride to me as I am sure they are to their parents and should be to themselves. I look forward to more of the same next year.

IWK

Thornbank

September 2001 was the beginning of our first full year as housemaster and housemistress of Thornbank. What joys and tears would the year bring?

We were greeted by Vicky Robertson on the first day back with this year's House Music ready and prepared for full scale rehearsal. And what a great job Vicky did. The choir performed *We close our eyes* with its usual professionalism (and some original dance moves), Catriona Sutherland performed the solo with her customary aplomb and finally the ensemble performed *Adiemus* led by Vicky herself. Even though we didn't win any of the individual awards we still managed to retain the overall cup.

Soon we were off on our House trip - Ice skating in Dundee. The double-decker bus ride was a mixture of joy and horror as the singing took hold for the whole of the journey. We had to drag some of the staff onto the ice, and Kara and Vicki off, because the bus was waiting to take us back. As for Paula - a star was born.

The new UVI acquired a brand new common room which they proceeded to paint under the expert guidance of Tisi. Bella, Angela and I were dispatched to B&Q to pick up the red paint that had been chosen and which definitely looked pink to us.

We decided to claim ignorance and take no blame if the colour was wrong. Fortunately it looked a lot better on the walls.

The first event held there was the halloween party and, in true guising tradition, everyone had to perform a song or poem to get the goodies. Tracey and Anna's *Double-Derrière of Thornbank House* was a particular delight.

Saturday night food nights came and went and Harry Potter Fever gripped the House as several trips to the cinema had to be organised.

The IV Form and LVI kitchen both got a makeover that *Changing Rooms* would be proud of.

The Christmas party had its usual round of entertainment from each year group with Karina Maclean's memorable performance of *The Girl Who Can't Dance* leaving a lasting impression.

In the Inter House competitions Thornbank battled on, beating our rivals next door at athletics, cross-country, tennis, rounders, swimming, badminton, junior hockey and junior netball.

Hollywood came to Strathallian when Dolly Parton turned into Holly Harvey in our Inter House production of *Steel Magnolias*, ably directed by Catriona Sutherland and supported on stage by Jenny Hay, Katie Fleming, Flossie Carpenter and Amelia Lane. Holly, along with Catriona and Amelia, later turned her skills to writing and directing the junior production of *Benders Like Beckham*, starring Ann-Louise Breaden and Vicky Drummond Hay. No trophies came our way, but the standard is improving every year, so maybe if next time we write the script a whole week before the competition we could improve even more.

The VI Form ball brought the House to a pinnacle of excitement. The girls looked amazing in their dresses, with their hair, nails, and make-up just perfect. The juniors jealously looked on as the VI Form were swept off by their partners for an evening of partying. And the payment for this night of fun and frivolities? Jude's feet at midnight.





The juniors jealously looked on as the VI Form were swept off by their partners for an evening of partying.

After many, many hours of discussion in House Council, a new House rugby shirt finally arrived at the end of the summer term, just in time for the end of term BBQ. Mr Fleming also found himself sporting new attire - a colourful pair of trousers fresh from Nigeria. Thank you Katrin. The VI Form retrieved the Thornbank skipping rope to prove that they're not too old or too cool to play. The archery went down well, as did Jenny and Helen's cooking .

So much has happened; so much has been achieved.

With Four As at A level, and a clutch of school prizes, Louise Lamb has been an example to everyone. Congratulations on her place at Oxford. GCSE A & A* grades resulted in Jo Greer, Becky Johnstone, Kirsten Mack, Flossie Carpenter and Jenni McBain getting Half Colours. Four As at AS level resulted in Katie Fleming's gaining full colours.

Individually, Carin Munro, with her piping, and Melissa Piper, with her skiing, continue to get the House a regular mention in school assembly. Ann-Louise Breden should also be congratulated for her selection in the Scotland U16 hockey team.

One of the most amazing achievements of the year has been that of the quintet of Samara Johnstone, Katie Fleming, Jenny Hay, Stephanie Hickey and Holly Harvey. Five Thornbank girls set off to represent the school as the girls Senior Cross-Country team in the national championships and came back as Scottish Champions. Incredibly, if any one of the first four runners had fallen, our fifth runner, Holly, was in such a good position that we would still have won the championship.

Team work and support really do matter and effort will be rewarded.

Mimi, as Head of House, and Bella, as deputy, have led an able and mature team of prefects and proved more than capable of taking charge of the House. Prefect meetings were always fun and lively with the discussion of such weighty matters as Vicky Robertson's washroom etiquette, or how to get the 3rd form to be quiet. We would like to thank all our prefects for their work and support in the House as well as their laughter and company. This year has been a great one.

We would also like to say a special thank you and farewell to Debbie Carr for all her work in the House and to Janet Watson for all those Saturday nights. Not forgetting our trusty team of tutors Nigel Smith, Julia Morrison and Julie Summersgill and last, but certainly not least, Morag, Liz and Linda without whom nothing would be quite the same.

JRF & SF



Woodlands

The year started well despite the apprehensions of the important exams coming up (are there unimportant ones?) and the usual grumbles about room allocation by the prefects.

Next order of business for me; compile the endless duty rotas. I had no idea this job was going to be so much like hard work. Everyone slowly settled back into life in Woodlands with only a few minor hiccups, such as Matilda and Sarah trying to festoon the foyer in Slipknot posters, the III Form refusing to go to bed and the UVI arguing over the décor for our common room and then discussing the "No boys allowed" rule with Mr. Evans. Cheers on the final decision, Sir.

The first half of term finished on a high note, with us (almost) cleaning up in the House Music competition. Rebecca did us proud with her winning flute solo, made all the better by the fact that the judge was a flautist and so truly appreciated her talent. Sioned and Sarah led the choir well to victory with Gospel tune *Oh Happy Day*. A particular mention should be made of Gina's solo, as she started to tire her throat in rehearsals, but she swallowed the pain on the day and made the song. Thanks also to Kim and Mandi for backing up with their duet, especially as both suffer from acute stage fright. Thanks also to Harriet and Sulekha for their expertise. However, I have to echo the words of the wise one (Kots) "How did Thornbank get Best Overall House without winning a single prize?" Not that we're bitter or anything.

After half term came senior House drama and our production of *Once a Catholic*. Although we were robbed of the big prize (again) Kots scooped Best Actress, proving once and for all that she is the most rounded person IN THE WORLD and that her blazer looked like that for a reason. Thanks to Sam and Mandi for all their patience and for making us wear those beautiful, beautiful costumes. The juniors once again put us to shame on the drama front. Although I was too busy sunbathing on D of E to watch the junior House drama I heard that I missed a great show. I must have since Woodlands received the award for best play.

On to sport. This year was definitely a year for the seniors as we won both inter House hockey and netball. Netball captain Chis aided the hockey victory with her debut as sweeper, whilst 1st XI goalie, Kots (yes, it's her again) was in our netball lineup. The juniors were pipped at the post but hey, there's always next year. I think the less said about the other sporting events the better, except that there were several notable performances, in particular Jean Jardine's fish like antics in the pool and Anne Kelly's running in the cross country. House spirit could never be questioned with everyone prepared to commit to the cause and enjoying the occasions.

Although we didn't win the Athletics Standards this year, apparently we came the closest we have in years. This is probably because every member of the UVI participated, proving we're not the layabouts we were once thought to be. Well done, guys. Of course I have to mention the tug of war in which we nailed Thornbank's pink shirts and games skirts, putting the trophy back on Woodlands' shelf where it belongs. Too right.

On the more academic side we didn't do as well, but nobody's perfect. We went down in style in the academic challenge pronouncing Big Mack the biggest carnivore native to Britain. Hmm. However, we were successful in the Senior House Debating competition with excellent performances from Sam, Emma, Louise and Ishbel. The juniors didn't quite mirror this result, but put in an equal amount of effort.

So that about sums up the year in Woodlands. A few of the more memorable moments and outings include having to choose between the Scotland vs. Barbarians match or *Harry Potter*, our trip to *Riverdance*, the slagging we received at Janet's panto, and the various tutor meals. However, possibly the most memorable moments were watching the mass panic and hysteria spread every time the rats appeared (and even when they didn't). So all you scabbers who throw their rubbish in the bush, especially all you Thornbank tinkers, STOP. And a word of advice to next year's UVI - don't use the common room window as a bin like we did, because I'm sure it didn't help the vermin problem.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Evans for putting up with us for yet another year, I know it wasn't one of the easiest, and in particular for helping us with all the boring, yet important, UCAS stuff. Thanks to Janet and the ever-changing lineup of domestic staff for all their efforts in keeping the House looking respectable, despite all our attempts at resistance. Thanks to all the UVI, prefects and plebs alike, for making the brawls entertaining, but getting on well the rest of the time, and particular thanks to Vicky for all her help.

Finally (is that a 'Thank goodness', I hear?), good luck to Sioned and Sarah and the rest of the prefects for the coming year.

Susie Hewitt

House spirit could never be questioned
with everyone prepared to commit to the cause
and enjoying the occasions.



A year out in the outback

With a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat, I said goodbye to my family at Heathrow, and set out on what was to become the adventure of a lifetime. Leaving my family was hard enough, but going out to Australia, knowing no one, proved to be even more difficult.

This was meant to be my crowning moment, the time where I got to grow up, and become my own person, shine to my full potential, step out of my sister's shadow, and I was dreading it... I was setting off to the unknown, because I hadn't really paid too much attention to what it was I would be doing and it was a daunting experience I shall never forget. What I worked out later was that I had gained a placement with Gap Activities Projects, and would be working with Conservation Volunteers Australia for 20 weeks in total. Twenty unpaid hard working weeks. And then I got to thinking...

I arrived in Melbourne and set off to make the journey to the office, which was buried somewhere deep in suburbia. But I had my instructions on a bit of paper; first of all I had to get a train - no problem, done that many times before. Then I had to get off at the right stop... ok, I can handle that. Then trying to leave the station by the right exit onto the right street - bam, and it all started to go horribly wrong. 10 minutes later, I thought I was on the right street, and then I had to catch a tram... a what?? So eventually I found the office building, (having walked past it twice), and went in to meet the other 3 gappers that I would be working with. They had just finished their briefing and so while they were packed off to the volunteer house, I stayed and got a briefing all to myself. It was all the formal stuff, about having to wear gloves at all times, and safety glasses...but, that over with, the weekend was ours to explore and get to know each other. This we took full advantage of, before work started on Monday, although for some unlucky people it was Sunday, due to the distance of travel to the project.

I won't bore you with a detailed account, week by week, of work, because, as I said, there were 20 of those weeks, but the work was just fantastic. It was a very varied 5 months, there were many things that we didn't get to do, it being the wrong time of year, but many things that we did get the chance to try our hand at. We put up many a fence, and took down probably just as many old ones, trying not to step on too many snakes. Fencing was definitely the best kind of work because by the end of it, you could stand back and look at 4/5km of perfectly straight fencing (apart from the odd kink) and say "We did that."

The work also involved collecting seed to be used to 'vegetate' an area with local species, planting trees to stabilise river banks or to join up green areas giving some of the local species a corridor through which to get to A from B. There was also the occasional lucky project such as mixing cement to bollard off areas. You see, Australians all have such big cars and tow ropes that they can just pull your average bollard out and drive on through the protected area, so in were called conservation volunteers to the rescue.

One project I would definitely call lucky was working with animals in a wildlife sanctuary up in Albury. We were feeding penguins and other animals, and putting on shows for the children that came to visit, which was the downside, not only because of my slight dislike of small children, but also because I was expected to hold a carpet snake, and the combination of the two was unbearable. Not to mention clearing up the, now how shall I put this politely, 'mess' that the penguins left in their boxes; a task which somehow got assigned to me every morning.



the weekend was ours to explore and get to know each other.

After 10 weeks, which actually went much quicker than I had expected, I had to travel the thousands of kms to Perth in one week. Although there is a bus service, it does take a couple of days in cramped and, I'm assured, smelly conditions, so I opted out and got the train over the Nullabor. Certainly an experience. I caught it (only just) in Adelaide, having got a bus there from Melbourne, so that I could have a day or two to see the city before I left, and spent what felt like an eternity sitting looking out of the window at the vast regions of nothing. When we got to Cook, a ghost town mid-Nullabor, where only one family lives, we were allowed off the train to have a wee look; I guess they were doing things to the toilets and water/fuel supply. I could not believe it, as I walked away from the row of empty and disused houses, as far as I could see, there was nothing. And the train track, as far as it could be seen, was dead dead straight. I did meet a lot of people and it was great because there was a lounge type area, and there were a group of us sitting in there one evening, reading, playing cards, there was a guy playing the clarinet, and a couple of people gazing at a map trying to figure out exactly where we were...and there was a film crew. Yeah, they were trying to make an advert for the train company, and when they saw this group of about 7/8 of us, they went mad with the excitement over the unprompted spectacle that was us.

Arriving in Perth, I saw that the office was run in quite a different way from what I and the other gappers were used to. It was a much more relaxed atmosphere, I guess being the most isolated city in the world must do that to some people. No longer were we given food for the week and told to come up with something creative. There was a supermarket about 10 minutes walk away, and we were given the money, and allowed to go and get what we wanted, and provided there was enough money left at the end of the week, we could welcome the pizza delivery boy on a Friday night. The Perth office was much smaller, and as a result only 2 teams were sent out every week, and while in Melbourne almost every week was spent away from the volley house. In Perth, every fortnight, there was a home project and you didn't have to pack your life away and set out again, so the Perth volley house was much more homely in that respect. I also found that the people in general were much more friendly and less uptight than in Melbourne, probably due to their position in Australia.

While in Perth we had the opportunity to work with many more locals than when in Melbourne, because in Perth it was a real problem trying to get volunteers to reach the west coast, as many backpackers don't seem to know it even exists, so many more locals came out on a day-to-day basis with the team of volunteers. In this respect, I think that GAP is an invaluable source of labour for many of the less known and less accessible cities. Not all of the work that we did was something that I agreed with; one week might be spent working for a multinational company ensuring they get enough "green" credits, leading to a niggling suspicion at the back of my mind, that my time could have been better spent somewhere else, working for someone else. But the majority of the time, we were doing something worthwhile for people who, if we hadn't helped, might have taken months to do what we did in a week, and you could really see the satisfaction and pleasure on their faces at the end of the week, when we'd finished what we came out to do.

I think that I can safely say that I absolutely would recommend this to anyone who wanted to do something worthwhile in their year out, because it is an excellent cause that does need support, and in many of the states it is struggling to find funding. So it is definitely something that is worth doing, and at the end of the placement, I came away not only with many fantastic memories, that I don't think I will ever lose, truly amazing friends, and a few awesome photographs, but mostly, the feeling of having put something back into the world which struggles to care for us. The only people that I can thank for that are the people who organise it, and those of you who helped me fund it.

Shuna Readman



This was meant to be my crowning moment, the time where I got to grow up, and become my own person, shine to my full potential, step out of my sister's shadow, and I was dreading it.

form III gardens

Even as ye sow...

The Biology dept again ran a summer gardening project with the III Form. The poor weather led to the weeds having a field day (excuse the pun) and the III Form had their work cut out to keep on top of their plots.

This year they grew flowers, as well as the lettuces and radishes which featured last year; some groups even found some of last year's un-harvested potatoes and planted them.

The winners were Peter Burgess and Jamie Morrison, who worked very hard to maintain their tidy plot and to reap a good harvest. The winners in each category were presented with some mini cactus plants they can enjoy growing for a long time to come. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all who took part.

PMV



landman

Land and freedom...

This year's landman group was one of the most industrious and inventive groups that the school has had the pleasure of witnessing. The addition of boiler suits and work gloves to our image has further enhanced landman's profile throughout the school. Rowan Marshall and Phillip Scales successfully led the team to many victories against steep slopes needing stepped and valley sides needing paved. The lads' increasing dislike for deodorant caused quite a stir during many

landman sessions. Johnny managed to pull off looking like a dustman extremely well, while new boy Benson, by the end of the year, had the fish factory worker look down to a "T". The burn was cleaned, straightened and dammed; there have been steps, and a network of paths built throughout the valley. The work on the valley was extensive and has really given it an open aspect, which will hopefully warrant its opening to the pupils to enjoy and appreciate in the coming year.

Ruaridh Emslie and Rowan Marshall

In what has turned out to be my last year as Director of Music at Strathallan, it is very pleasing to be able to report another active and varied year of music making in the school.



Perhaps most significant this year has been the great success of the weekly Chapel service held every Wednesday morning. This is something I have been aiming to get in place for some time now, so that the chapel choir can sing in public every week, as well as at its other performances. The result has been a perceptible improvement in their sound. The choir has had to learn a lot of new music relatively quickly, but we now have a good-sized repertoire, which should grow over the years. Added to which, their confidence has grown and they are now nicely placed for someone to add more polish over the coming years. In all this I have been much helped by the hard work of the choir, spurred on by the outgoing Head of Choir Richard Blakey, whose commitment to the organization of the choir and its music has been second to none.

The orchestra has also continued to flourish, most ably led by Laura Kotseroglou. This year we ventured into lighter realms with *The Pink Panther* Theme, as well as performing the *Dambuster March* and the last movement of Mahler's *Third Symphony*.

There has been a gradual expansion of other ensembles with a regular saxophone group, Jazz Band and Riley Big Band courtesy of Mr Jim Morrice. As well as the Brass Quintet, we have also had some Scottish fiddle music, numerous rock bands and other ensembles.

There have also been some excellent Associated Board exam results. Topping the bill here were Harriet Hunt - grade 8 piano passed with distinction and Ni Wang - grade 8 piano with merit. In total there were 34 passes on instruments including 6 distinctions and 13 merits and 17 passes at grades 5 and 6 theory.

House Music and Headmaster's Music are written about elsewhere, but in addition, our year group concerts continue to thrive and there has been an additional Sixth Form Concert for those preparing for A-level recitals during the summer term. Riley concerts have taken place twice per term on Fridays.

There was a Lunchtime Concert on Strathallian Day in May and the chapel choir sang a Festival Choral Evensong at St. John's Kirk in Perth, as part of the Perth Arts Festival, also in May. The *Demon Barbers* made a most welcome return visit during the autumn term and gave a concert to a large and appreciative audience in the Theatre. Much time was put in to prepare for the choir tour and *Return to the Forbidden Planet* during the very short Easter term. Yet again pupils took a leading part in the band for this show. Five rock bands took part in Strathstock during the summer term, surely now an annual fixture, and of these, *Turpitude* deserve particular congratulations for their successes over the year. Riley and senior pupils took part in the Perth Music Festival competitions this year and events continue right up to the end of the year with a Riley Concert and Valedictory Service on the last day.

And so I can now look back on six years of very fulfilling music making at Strathallan. When I arrived there was only one person taking A-level and two taking G.C.S.E. The facilities for music were very limited. Now there are 12 taking A level, sixteen on the G.C.S.E. course and we have a new department. I have been lucky to have had the pleasure of working with many hard-working and skilled musicians during my time, and herein, I feel, lies Strathallan's strength: not in its Common Room or its facilities or exam results, but its pupils. So many of them have displayed commitment, musicianship, and a sense of humour, as well as being good company. This has been very apparent during many memorable choir trips and was evident again during my final weeks, when there was a delightful surprise 50th birthday party, given me by my 4th form during a double music lesson, followed soon afterwards by another surprise meal, complete with champagne and taxi, laid on by some upper sixth form girls. So, many thanks to Mr Walmsley for his two years as Assistant Director of Music, to all the peripatetic staff, but especially the pupils for all their good wishes and hard work over the years: long may the music of Strathallan prosper!

DGR



One of the major themes of David Read's time as Director of Strathallan has been the increase in the number of people taking part in show-piece events such as Speech Day concerts and Headmaster's Autumn and Summer Music.

This cold autumnal evening saw no exception to that principle.

The Senior Choir comprised sixty-five mixed voices; the Riley Choir eighteen; the Orchestra thirty-three players and the Jazz Band some eleven *maestri*. Add to that a number of instrumental and vocal soloists, and a significant proportion of the Strathallan community was involved in an enviable programme of entertainment and music making.

Proceedings began, as they so often do, with the School Orchestra playing two well-known pieces - *the Dambuster March* by Eric Coates, and Henry Mancini's *Theme from the Pink Panther*. School orchestras can sometimes be undermined by their own inexperienced composition, particularly in the string sections, but on this occasion the players got the *Night at the Films* off to a rousing start. After a subdued beginning the orchestra quickly warmed up, the woodwind section being especially noteworthy in its clarity and drive. They were once again to the fore in the *Theme from the Pink Panther*, together with the admirable brass section; one of the highlights of the evening.

Following this rousing start to the programme was always going to be difficult, but the Brass Quintet (comprising two trumpets, a trombone, horn and euphonium) performed two dances from Tchaikovsky's *Five Miniatures for Brass Quintet* with a sensitive appreciation of the music's subtleties and dynamics.

As always on evenings of this kind, and in keeping with Strathallan's recent reputation for producing accomplished singers, vocal contributions made up the majority of the evening's cornucopia of excellence. The Riley Choir made a distinguished contribution in Gordon Jacob's *Brother James' Air*, showing youthful zest and attack in a piece with relatively complicated rhythms. Hannah Pickles, with a very pleasant voice and clear diction, sang Iain MacLachlan's *The Dark Island*, before the Riley Choir returned with Bernstein's *America*. This performance was another highlight of the evening, with complex rhythms and excellent play between the various parts. Clearly Mr. Walmsley's coaching and coaxing produced splendid results among these young singers.

The Chapel Choir contributed three contrasting pieces - Noble's *Magnificat in B Minor*, *Westering Home* and an arrangement of Abba's *Money, Money, Money*. As with all the vocal contributions on this evening, diction and part-singing were accomplished. It was also pleasing to see so many boys taking part.

The final vocal *tour de force* of the evening was Catriona Sutherland's interpretation of *Don't tell Mama* from the hit show *Cabaret*, set in 1930s Germany. Hers is a very versatile voice, clear and very distinctive, expressive and completely at one with this style of music - in fact one could almost imagine it being written for her.



Indeed, brass instruments were largely to the fore on this evening when Sulekha Varma later played a *Pavanne* by Fauré in concert with Mr Walmsley on the organ - a brave choice of a well-known piece, displaying a sound technique and some delightful by-play with the organ accompaniment.

Both halves of the evening's entertainment were concluded with contrasting instrumental groups. First up was the Simpson House Ensemble which had recently won the ensemble prize in the House Competition. Their rendition of *In the Mood* had the audience clapping and tapping their feet in time with the players, the lead saxophone being particularly entertaining. The whole evening was rounded off by Jim Morrice's ever popular saxophone quartet and jazz band performing two pieces - Bratton's arrangement of the *Teddy Bears' Picnic*, and Jim's own *Take your Time*. Both works had the audience swingin' in the aisles and provided a suitable climax to an excellent evening's entertainment.

The evening contained two performances of contrasting piano pieces. The first, Nyman's *The Piano* was played by Ellen McWhirter, the second, *Prelude in E opus 62* by Chopin was performed by one of our Chinese pupils, Ni Wang. Both young soloists showed good nimble techniques and a sensitive approach to both dynamic and colour. In particular Ni's playing was very polished and assured; clearly a star in the making.

Her performance oozed class, belying the considerable technique required to sing this style of music, and it was unquestionably the most professional performance of the evening.

Whilst voices and woodwind instruments were the main flavour of the evening, strings were not to be forgotten in this merry-go-round of musical styles and tastes. We had a string quartet energetically playing a Hornpipe from the *Water Music* by Handel, and the Head Girl, Laura Kotseroglou, made a brave choice of the theme from *Schindler's List*, an emotive and evocative piece.

Once more, and to my great regret, the evening had to come to an end. It is a salutary lesson that music of such standards can be achieved by school children in concert with a very dedicated team of peripatetic music teachers in a school like ours, in which so many other activities happen on a regular basis. The dedication and skill that went into the performances on the night deserve to be nurtured and encouraged, so it was very pleasing to see a large number of parents and pupils there to support what is a very enjoyable evening of high class music-making.

RHF

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House music

This year our adjudicator was Mr Nicholas Smith B.A. D.R.S.M., Assistant Director of Music at Glenaimond College. He spoke very highly of the standard of music, the enthusiasm of the performers and particularly the professional nature of the presentation of each House.

The competition was very close in the end, with the winning House getting home by just one mark even though they did not pick up any of the individual trophies.

FREELAND began with a very tidy *Eleanor Rigby* for the ensemble. This piece had subtlety and was nicely balanced. Li Gan followed with an impressive *Prélude* by Gershwin, from memory, on the piano. The choir ended with a very striking version of *The Joyful Kilmarnock Blues*. Secure singing in every department, enthusiastic and with excellent diction.

NICOL continued with the evergreen *Stand By Me*. Enthusiasm made up for any lack of precision here, but there was plenty of the latter in Michael Segaud's performance of an *Allegro* by Senaille. In his first year at the school, Michael's sparkling violin solo made it clear that we shall be hearing a lot more from him in the future. *The Man Who Sold the World* wound up Nicol's act.

THORNBANK began with a challenging arrangement of *We Close Our Eyes*. Much singing and dancing here, all very highly polished. Catriona Sutherland warmed to the task in her vocal solo *Do It Again*. This was musical and she communicated with the audience throughout. More vocals in *Adiemus*. Very moving and dramatic, but was this a choir or an ensemble?

RUTHVEN sang *Love is All Around*, and don't you forget it. This was a novel, but entertaining, approach to a classic song performed by virtually the whole House. Ian Hewitt then accompanied himself on the piano in one of his own compositions, *Some Things in Life*. This was very well done. The obligatory rock band finished with *Kryptonite*. "A bit of a thrash," wrote the adjudicator, but wasn't that the idea?

SIMPSON House maintained its tradition of singing a *capella*, again with considerable success. *Blue Moon* got things off to an excellent start, to be followed by Richard Blakey who surprised us with a very moving performance of *She*. The ensemble choice was *In The Mood* arranged for the Simpson instrumentalists and performed with great spirit.

WOODLANDS began with the largest ensemble (more of an orchestra?) for *Star Wars*. Here was some very well balanced ensemble work led by an extraordinary conductress. Rebecca Chalmers then bowled us over with a stunning performance of the first movement of Poulenc's *Flute Sonata*. The choir ended with *O Happy Day*, which was enthusiastically sung and well communicated to the audience throughout, along with just the right amount of movement to keep our interest but not detract from the singing.

RESULTS

Best Conductor	Freeland (Giles Seddon)
Best Accompanist	Ruthven (Ian Hewitt)
Best Solo	Woodlands (Rebecca Chalmers)
Best Ensemble	Simpson
Best Girls Choir	Woodlands
Best Boys Choir	Freeland
House Music Cup for the Best House	Thornbank

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Our largest touring choir yet clambered onto the now obligatory luxury double-decker for what would be Mr. Read's final choir tour. York Minster was much missed on our itinerary last year, so it was to be a welcome return visit this year.

Our trip was only to last two days and we began by singing in the very striking College Chapel of St. Hild and St. Bede at Durham University. A small but loyal band of supporters joined the choir to enjoy the chapel's fine acoustics as we sang our way through choral evensong. We were joined by a number of Old Strathallians currently at Durham, but we did not have much time to spend there. Apart from Mr. Walmsley's fastest-ever guided tour of the city for some members, followed by suitable refreshments, courtesy of the University Chaplain, we were soon speeding on our way to York.

Anyone who has not been on a choir tour will have no idea of some of the complications. We cannot just check into our hotel. We first have to drop off our singing costumes (kilts) at the Minster. This entails a call to the city police for coach access and the Minster police. We must also make sure that overnight bags are separate from kilt bags, and there is nearly always someone who has the wrong article of clothing in the wrong place. (Goodness, Richard, isn't life a riot? Ed)

Our annual choir dinner at Pizza Express - which I'm sure Mr Read will miss - was extremely good. We were given sole use of the largest room and treated all the diners to some refined singing as a grace before the meal, which was much appreciated.

The following morning we discovered that the now familiar York Youth Hostel still cooks a mean breakfast and then it was off to York for some shopping and then the 5.30 service. Even those of us who have been for years still find the Minster never fails to impress. Its size takes your breath away and the acoustic is unbelievable to sing in. Despite the unpredictability of Yorkshire weather in February, the sun shone in the heavens and our visit was on a Bank Holiday. York was packed with visitors and a lot of them seemed to be at our rehearsal during the afternoon. Well over 200 attended the service, during which everything went very well.

Once again it was on to the coach and, after a pit stop at Scotch Corner Hotel for a well-deserved supper, back to Strath.

On behalf of the Choir, I would like to thank Mr. Read for preparing and organising this tour, and many more before it, Mr. Walmsley for being our organist and also Mrs. Read, Miss Vosmekova, the Chaplain and Mrs. McFarlane for their help during the tour and for putting up with us.

Best of luck to Mr. Read and Mrs. Read; we hope that they will be happy in the new school.

Richard Blakey Head of Choir

Even those of us who have been going for years still find the Minster never fails to impress. Its size takes your breath away and the acoustic is unbelievable to sing in.



gross, moral...

Rock & Roll

This year's Strathstock was even bigger and better than last year's. It gave the whole school the opportunity to appreciate the musical and performance abilities of Strath's up-and-coming rock legends.

The show kicked off at around half past seven with the electro pop duo **Mirror Image** whose mix of keyboard melodies, and the vocal abilities of the Hewitt brothers, twinned with some pretty nifty lyrics was enough to whip the young crowd into an absolute frenzy.

Next on the bill were **Midgets in Bikinis**, who successfully covered some of today's most celebrated punk rock tunes, showing talent far beyond their years.

Following their performance were **GREEN COVEN**, who managed to incorporate as many guest performers as possible, including their very own dance troupe. Their original take on music screamed ROCK in all directions.

The three-piece outfit, **THE BEAT-WELLS**, fired onto the stage to give us a rendition of two old-skool rock classics: *American Woman* and *20th Century Boy* which both went down like medicine helped along by several spoonfuls of sugar.

THE CRACKHOUSE SETUP created a rich guitar-rock sound with nuances of funk flowing throughout. Their shameless showmanship successfully emulated traditional classic rock sensibilities. Monstrous riffs, blistering solos and rough bluesy vocals were certainly order of the day.

Next were **TURPITUDE**, by far the most experienced band in Strath, with two demo recordings and multitudinous live performances under their belt, including the band's progression into the semi-finals of Perthshire's Battle of the Bands competition. Their original blend of heavy rock, accentuated by meaningful lyrics, a solid drum sound and a guitarist with spectacular dancing abilities, managed to compensate for a bassist with an obscure obsession with badgers.

All in all it has been a good year for rock, with Strathstock being a most excellently dramatic climax to it. As for the future, keep your mullets long and your air guitars close at hand as the mass of showmanship, raw talent and pure brilliance will warrant the progression of many to become fully accomplished butchers, bakers and possibly candlestick makers. Here's to the future. Rock on. (Or words to that effect)

Ruaridh Emslie

Yo.

Giles here doin' it to ya.

Errm, yes. That is me over there...





The pipe band has had another busy and successful year, winning a total of 51 prizes and awards.

The award-winning began during the school holidays with Pipe Major Carin Munro taking seven, culminating in a gold and a bronze medal for piobaireachd and march, strathspey and reel at The Cowal Gathering at Dunoon.

At The Scottish Junior Piping Championships, Calum Emslie surpassed himself to win the Reekie Engineering Ltd. Cup as first prize in the Senior Novice Piping Event. Kit Hayward won the Vale of Atholl Cup as third prize in the Senior Chanter Event and Adam Michie won the Lawson, Coull and Duncan Shield as second prize in the Junior Novice Piping Event, Benno Rawlinson took fifth prize in the Senior Novice Piping.

At The Scottish Schools' Quartet and Trio Piping Championships, Strathallan won The Headmaster's trophy as third prize in the Quartet competition for seniors. The team of Carin Munro, Calum Emslie, Duncan Lawson and Adam Michie (Riley 1J) played extremely well to take an unexpected award. The junior Trio of Kit Hayward, Richard Quibell and Benno Rawlinson finished in seventh place in the Trio section.

Carin Munro made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day, the first girl to have the honour at Strathallan.

Ten prizes were won at The Vale of Atholl Solo Piping and Drumming Competition. Carin was runner up to the senior champion by finishing second in the march, strathspey and reel and in the jig section, then taking third prize in the piobaireachd. Kit won the W. & I. Cramb Trophy as first prize in the open dress and deportment competition. Adam was third in the junior march, Duncan was placed fifth in the junior march and Andrew Fyfe and Andrew Campbell took fifth and sixth prizes respectively in the chanter competition. Howard took fifth prize in the novice drumming event. Another good day's work.

Adam Michie showed his considerable talent when he played at Headmaster's Music this year and took the audience by storm. We look forward to great things from him in the future.

A forage to another competition this year took us to Bathgate for the Torphichen and Bathgate Pipe Band Solo Piping Competition. Carin took fifth prize in the senior piobaireachd event while Richard was sixth in the senior chanter competition. Second prize in the Scottish Schools' Piobaireachd Championships for Carin kept Strathallan's name to the fore.



At The Blairgowrie competition, The Dundee, Perth and Angus Branch of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, six prizes were won. These were Carin with the Pat Melvin Cup, first in the senior march, strathspey and reel, Howard Gray, second in novice drumming, Adam, third in novice piping, Duncan, fifth in novice piping, Kit, third in chanter and Richard, fourth in chanter. A good haul for the day.

The Craigmount High School Solo Piping Championship came next, four prizes followed. These were The Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for Carin as first prize in the senior dress and deportment section as well as fifth prize in the senior piobaireachd. First and second prizes in the senior chanter event were won by Kit who took the Ranald MacDonald Trophy and Richard who won the second prize of The Lothian and Borders Pipe Band Association Shield.

Carin Munro made an excellent job of the Lament on Remembrance Day, the first girl to have the honour at Strathallan.



At a new competition run by George Watson's College, Strathallan won the Junior Mini Band Competition with the Terris Shield as the prize. This was a first outing for some of our new drummers who only started in September; their display was very encouraging.

At the Glasgow Highland Club Schools' Competition this year, we were not in a position to put the band into the competition, as our drummers needed a bit more time and experience to enable them to play a march, strathspey and reel. We did have some soloists though, who kept our name "in the frame". Carin retained her senior piping title, winning the Macpherson Trophy for the second year running. Adam reinforced the success by taking second prize in the junior piping competition.

Seven pipers took part in the Scottish Schools' Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle this year and enjoyed the important role of being the "Centre Band" from whom everyone else took their dressing and position. All enjoyed the experience of the rehearsals and the performance, not to mention the hamburgers on the way home.

At The Scottish Pipe Band Championships, held in a very wet Dumbarton this year, Strathallan won the Pentland Shield as fourth prize in the Novice Juvenile Championship, a tremendous achievement for such a young band. The day had its lighter moments, especially when Oliver Stevenson (Riley 1) was spotted doing an impression of Darth Vader. Out in the pouring rain he had succeeded in putting on a rather large sized cape which was trailing in the mud behind him as he walked. We managed to find him one which fitted a bit better before he went on parade at the Massed Bands Finale to the Championships.

Speech Day this year saw a good display on the lawn from a band which included our new, large (in number) drum corps. A big group of new pipers marched on for a spirited rendition of *Duncan Gray* to show off their new skills. With lots of practice next year we hope most of them will be able to play the whole display.

Our last big competition of the year was The Scottish Schools' Championships, held this year at Glasgow Academy. Carin won the East of Scotland Challenge Cup, being the prize for winning the senior solo piping championship, completing a unique achievement, she won the junior championship, the intermediate championship and the senior championship in consecutive years. Adam was second in the junior championship. The pipers finished second in the Loch Nan Eun Quaich for the top school in solo piping, Dollar taking the first prize this year. Third place in the Bass and Tenor Drumming section, fourth in the band competition, fourth in the band dress and drill section and sixth overall in drumming was a great achievement for a band which could not compete two months earlier at the Glasgow Highland Club. Our young drum corps of mainly Riley pupils is on the way up.

Our last event of the year was our solo piping and drumming competition in front of judges from the Grampian Police Pipe Band.



The major winners were as follows: Most Improved Drummer - Oliver Stevenson; Most Improved Novice Drummer - Ryan Matthews; Novice Drumming and Junior Drumming - Tom Fleming;

Bass and Tenor Drumming - Laura Mackie; Senior Drumming - Howard Gray; Most Improved Piper - Richard Quibell; Most Improved Novice Piper - Sarah Herd; Most Improved Chanter Player - Oliver Corlett; Chanter - Karina McLean; Novice Piping - Katie Scobie; Junior Piping - Adam Michie; Senior Piping, Piobaireachd, Hornpipe & Jig and Best Contribution to the band - Carin Munro.

JSRH

We look forward to the challenges of next year.

There has been a singular improvement in the pupil response to Chapel this year. Pupil involvement has been stronger, not only because the Sixth Form continue to read regularly, but because each House has taken part in Sunday Chapel.



This new understanding of participation in Chapel has been very encouraging. Riley have also taken part in the main Wednesday Chapel with performances of plays done on an ad hoc basis. I am exceedingly grateful for all the pupil contributions.

Baptisms

Simon and Helen Miln brought their children, Jessica and Joshua, to be baptised in the Chapel on the 2nd September 2001. The Chaplain officiated.

Emma Kilpatrick, daughter of Simpson Housemaster Mr. Iain Kilpatrick and Mrs Katrina Kilpatrick, was baptised on the Feast of the Epiphany. The service was conducted by the Rev John Chalmers.

Confirmations

A high spot in the year has been the Confirmation Service, which happened on the last Thursday of the Spring Term 21st of March. The following were confirmed: Sara Angharad Caves, Thomas Robert Fleming, Fraser Charles Gough, Nicholas James Alexander Harvey, Louise Alison Lamb, William Fraser Louden, Stewart James Moulds, David Alexander Pickles, Hannah Elizabeth Pickles, John Gordon Pickles and Oliver Michael Stevenson. The Chaplain's three children were also baptised in the same service. A special part of this baptism was that it was administered by the Chaplain's relatives, the Rev Kathleen Allen, and the Rev Richard Allen.

The Preacher was The Very Reverend W. R. B. Macmillan LLD DD, a Former Moderator of The Church of Scotland 1991, and Extra Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen. Confirmation was administered by Rev Duncan Stenhouse MA BD (Church of Scotland) Minister, Dunbarney and Forgandenny Parishes and by the Right Rev Michael Henley C.B. Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Our thanks are due to the Rev Canon Bob Fyffe BD MBA, Rector St. John the Baptist Perth and Mr Duncan Stenhouse for their preparation of the Candidates.

The Rev Colin Williamson LLB BD of the Stewartry of Strathearn led the worship and the Rev Richard Burkitt BA, Rector Black Isle Parishes, and Mrs Deidre Yellowlees, a Reader Stewartry of Strathearn, assisted in Communion.

Weddings

On the 28th July 2001 Alan Learmonth (OS) was married to Wendy Bravery. The Service was conducted by Rev Canon R. Fyffe of St. John's Episcopal Church, Perth. Christopher Ninham, son of a member of staff and former pupil, was married to Nicola Elliott on the 25th August 2001. The service was conducted by the parish minister, Rev Duncan Stenhouse.

Please note: chapel is always available for such events and we are only too happy to encourage its use.

A high spot in the year
has been the
Confirmation Service

The Carol Service was a great event, with over 700 people in attendance. The remarkable nature of the services was due to the hard work of Mr Richard Walmsley with the Riley Service, and of Mr David Read with the later services. Mrs Irene McFarlane coached the readers and selected the substance of the readings.

Once again thanks must go to the ladies of the School, who made the Chapel look magnificent at Christmas and Confirmation Services, and maintained this duty through out the year.

A sad loss to the life of the chapel is the departure of Mr David Read, who has contributed so much to us. He has been very good to work with and did so much to help me in my first year as chaplain. Many thanks to him and all the best to you and your family in your new position.

The Valedictory Service is always special because it is the last time the leavers will be together in School. This year was made especially unusual in that the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Right Reverend Dr. Finlay Macdonald, was the preacher

The Headmaster, Second Master and Housemasters are thanked for their support in the work of the Chapel. Those in the choir have played a large part this year and need to be appreciated also. The Chapel Prefects, Steven Smith, Fraser Niven and Robert Clarke have been marvellous and a wee word of thanks must go to John Pickles for all his extra work as Chapel Treasurer this year.

Alpha

Alpha is the new name for Scripture Union. It meets at the Chaplain's House on a Friday night at 8.30 pm. The largest number of pupils in attendance has been about 40 (a bit of a squash in the Pickles' front lounge). Although many have passed through, attending for a week or two there is a core of about 20 and average attendance of about 25-30 through out the year. We have had various speakers attend the gatherings. About 12 of Alpha attended an Ian White concert in Perth in May. Hazel Pickles, the Chaplain's wife, has unstintingly provided food each week. Ross Sutherland and John Pickles have assisted in the smooth weekly running of the event. A couple of small regular prayer meetings have been in operation. We look forward to more good times in the coming year.

Charity Committee

This committee is a new feature of school life. It was founded to co-ordinate the giving in the school. The Chaplain and Mrs Thompson lead this, and there are included two representatives from each of the Senior Houses. We have met four times in the year, partly to work with the Charity Run, and also to plan events for the coming year. The pupils have had a say in where the money goes from the chapel offerings given Sunday by Sunday. It has been a favourable beginning and it is hoped that there will be continued support by individuals, the Houses as well as the staff.

RP

Charity Giving from Easter 2001-2002

Income

Balance	957.26
Offerings, Gifts Events	2,582.83
Charity Run	3,400.00
TOTAL	6,940.09

Expenditure

2001 Charity Run Rachel House	1,700.00
2001 Charity Run Get kids Going	1,700.00
Sandpiper Trust	138.35
Rachel House (Christmas)	555.60
Christian Aid	
Afghanistan and September 11th	222.90
Earl Haig Fund (Remembrance)	217.15
Limbless Ex-Servicemen Crieff	70.00
St Andrew's Ambulance (St Andrew's Day)	334.08
Imperial Cancer	100.00
Capability Scotland	100.46
Macmillan Nurses	100.00
African Children's Choir	48.00
Aphasic Children's Charity for Severe learning Difficulties	82.33
Forgandenny Church	100.00
Amnesty International (Lent)	139.74
Scripture Union	50.00
TOTAL	5,658.61

"Ariel came out of a wardrobe"

said Liam of Catriona Martin's robot character. "I liked it when Gloria (Becky Johnstone) stood up and flung her white coat open" (Maryth). "I liked the bit when the newsman (Mr Proctor) came up on the screen and talked about complicated stuff. The play was extremely good. I liked it" (Ross).

"I think Gloria (Becky) was very evil, but a good singer and a good actor" (Robert). "I liked the man that came up on the screen every so often (Mr Proctor) because he was hairy" (Ewan). "My favourite bit is when you blast-off and then dance" (John). "I liked the long-haired silver girl (Holly Harvey), because she was STUNNING" (Ben). "I thought the play was excellent, especially the silver girls. The captain (David Chalmers) was happy" (Isla). "I liked all of the musical. It was brilliant. The set was colourful and bright and the costumes were good too. My favourite bit was when the girl (Catriona Sutherland) sang "Mister Spaceman." "She has a great voice" (Hazel). "Cookie (Peter Hewitt) was the best" (Gareth)...

These, and many other complimentary comments, came from children from local primary schools who attended this year's show *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. As the "official" reviewer, I cannot help but echo all of these sentiments about what was an excellent and enjoyable theatrical experience.

The rock musical, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, follows roughly the plot of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, setting it in a space ship. The music would have been familiar to particularly the older members of the audience, because many of the songs came from the pop repertoire of the 50's and 60's, like *Teenager in Love* and *Good Vibrations*.

Not only are there links with Shakespeare in the title and theme, but the whole is cleverly littered with quotations - and mis-quotations - from many of the Bard's works.



Such talent makes me very confident about the future of Strath drama.

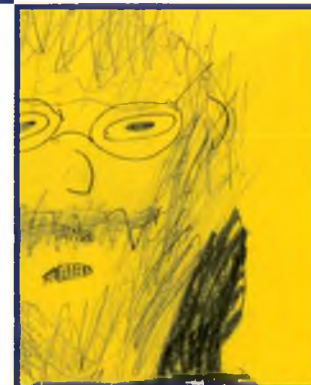
As the primary children pointed out, there were fine performances all round. Particular mention must be made of science officer, Becky Johnstone, "Cookie" Peter Hewitt, the very robot-like Catriona Martin as Ariel, and the versatile acting and lovely singing of Catriona Sutherland as Miranda. There was an especially fine performance from John Pickles, who threw himself with great enthusiasm and energy into the role of Dr Prospero, an eccentric man on the verge of madness.

One very successful aspect of this year's show was the emphasis on choreography and dance. Lisa Bibby brought the best out of the twelve girl dancers in a large and varied selection of energetic and well co-ordinated dances, a number of which involved the entire cast. Particularly catching the eyes of the visiting children were the glamorous "silver girls", the four space cadets, played by Amelia Lane, Sioned Bates, Kirstie Aitken and Holly Harvey.

As always, David Read and his band played seemingly effortlessly and faultlessly, producing a sound which blended well with the singing. Costumes, under Jackie Martin's supervision, were spectacular, especially Catriona's robot outfit. The make-up, set, lighting and special effects were better than ever, and a credit to all who worked backstage.

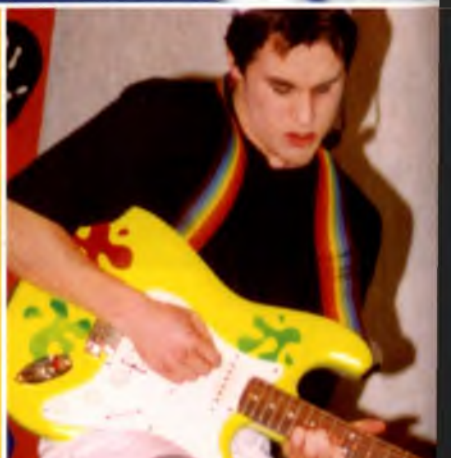
For direction and production the school is once more indebted to the imagination and energy of Iain Kilpatrick and Jim Salisbury. And talking of Mr Kilpatrick, a final note of mention must be made of his five-month-old daughter, Emma, for a flawless performance as baby Miranda. Such talent makes me very confident about the future of Strath drama.

IIMcF





I liked the long haired silver girl because she was STUNNING!



The Strathallan singer leads off the parade of speech and drama successes this year.

At the Perth Burns Club's annual schools' festival Catriona Martin won the secondary (under 15) singing class with a rendering of *The Winter it is Past*. The primary trophy for Scots recitation went to Tom Fleming. The secondary (under 15) recitation class was won by Lauren Giles, but the overall secondary age group Trophy went to Ishbel McFarlane who performed part of *Tam o' Shanter*.

Ishbel's success for the third year in a row led to her being invited once again to perform at the Burns Club's annual dinner in January. Then she and James Wightman were nominated by the Burns Club to represent the region at the Burns Federation's national finals in Cupar in April. James achieved a certificate of merit while Ishbel was the overall winner of the verse speaking section.

The round of Festivals continued, as ever, with the Perthshire Competition Festival. Here James Wightman won the Perth Burns Club Rosebowl with the performance which led to his going to Cupar. Another Freeland boy, Jamie Morrison, won the *Year of the Bible Quaich* for bible reading. In the 15 to 17 age group Ishbel McFarlane achieved three first for Shakespeare, Burns and English poems.

At the Edinburgh Festival in May it became apparent that a strong contingent of Riley pupils is following hard on the heels of the old stagers in the senior school. I set 2 and IJ achieved successes in "group acting of a poem" and "dramatic scene" classes. Amyce Smith-Bannister, Henry Jones and Joe Corlett achieved firsts in solo English verse, Scots verse and story telling respectively. Fraser Gough, Alan Turnbull and Lauren Giles also gained distinctions. There were high marks in acting classes for Katie Fitzgerald, Catriona Martin, Olivia Gerrie, Kimi Gordon, Mhairi Gillanders, Nicola Boyd and Rachel Leslie. Ishbel McFarlane achieved a second in the dramatic scene class along with Catriona Bisset and won the *Jean Belfrage Elocution Prize*. As a result of winning, and achieving double honours in, the *William Dalgleish Memorial Prize for Bible Reading* and the *Edinburgh and District Burns Club Association Prize* she was invited to take part in the Edinburgh Festival prize winners' concert.

Other invitations received this session included a visit to the Perth Burns Club where Lauren Giles, Tom Fleming and Amyce Smith-Bannister recited and Adam Michie displayed his many talents with recitation, piping and highland dancing. Ishbel performed at the "Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme" Burns Supper and, along with Sarah Robb, Katie Fitzgerald, Emma Gordon, Andrew Mack and Fraser Niven, competed and achieved successes in external debating competitions.

The Fair City Speakers' Club continues to make our pupils welcome and enables them to improve their public speaking skills in a friendly, informal atmosphere - as well as giving them a fortnightly excuse to escape from the school for a while.

LAMDA (The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) entries remain high, with Strathallan yet again hosting an examiner for four days, one in December and three in June. Top grades (honours) went to Tom Hine, Peter Hewitt, Natasha Smith, Mary Shaw Stewart, Olivia Halvorsen and Catriona Martin for acting and to Amyce Smith-Bannister for spoken English. IJ continued their run of success. Adam Michie, King Wai Leung and Jonathan Dickson obtained double honours in acting exams. Joe Corlett and Henry Jones each acquired two acting honours and one for mime, and Henry added to that an incredible fourth honours in Grade 4 of the speaking of Verse and Prose.

For his four honours Henry deservedly received the certificate for the best Riley pupil results in LAMDA in session 2001-2002. Highest marks in grade exams were achieved jointly by Mhairi Gillanders, Nicola Boyd, Jenny Fraser, Alison Drane and Abby Riley for group acting. The best overall result in a medal exam was gained by Ishbel McFarlane for bronze medal public speaking.

The examiner in December graciously said that she was very impressed with the quality of work at Strathallan and that examiners seldom found a centre where the overall standard was so high.

IIMcF

...examiners seldom found a centre where the overall standard was so high.



Lindsay and Kate Mure, keen local amateur dramatists, kindly agreed to adjudicate at Strathallan's Junior House Drama Competition this session.

A former Freeland pupil, Lindsay echoed the feelings of the whole audience when his introductory remarks applauded the general high standards and enthusiasm of the competitors.

Although all houses were commended for their performances, the 3 best actor awards went to Laura Kotseroglou from Woodlands House for her commanding performance in *Once a Catholic*; Andy Appleby from Freeland House for his amusing role in *Blackadder* and William Bowry from Nicol for his rather demanding part in Harold Pinter's *Homecoming*.

The award for the best directed play script went to Simpson House for their interpretation of David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* and the overall Best Production Trophy was presented to Nicol House for their staging of Harold Pinter's *Homecoming*.

Although audiences continue to be impressed by the obvious talent and positive team spirit fostered by the opportunities for Expressive Arts at Strathallan School, my abiding memory of the evening is the sense of enjoyment which prevailed both on and off stage for competitors and audience alike.

In a generally more lighthearted vein, the theme for this session's inspired Junior House playwrights was *The World Cup*.

All Houses participated, despite their heavy schedule of commitments at this time of year, and, had there been a more generous allocation of awards, each House would have gone home with some symbol of recognition for its unquestionably ingenious and entertaining effort.

However, the adjudicator, Mrs Salisbury, Head of English at Breadalbane Academy and recently appointed to the Board of Perth Theatre, had the task of selecting only six award winners from the plethora of talent which was on display that evening.

First on stage was Simpson House who delivered a very topical and amusing rendering of *The World Cup* which earned them a Best Actor Award for Roddy Walker's rather entertaining impression of David Beckham.

This was followed by Woodland's presentation of *Bill Dersbottom* and certainly many of the rears on show rivaled Charlotte Church for her newly acquired title of *Rear of the Year*. Their performance was entertaining, clever and polished, well deserving of the Trophy for Best Overall Production.

Nicol House then delivered a clever, impressive script titled *The Interview*. Special congratulations must go to Andrew O'Donnell and Angus Patterson who proved a formidable duo as Headmaster and Deputy.

The Nutcracker from Freeland House, which earned the award for Best Original Script, was a well rehearsed and entertaining piece of theatre which also well deserved a Best Actor Award for Jamie Morrison as Sensei Myagi although equally impressive was Sean Murray's rendering of Cocky.

Thornbank was recklessly bold in its meticulous satirisation of its Manager in *Benders Like Beckham* but it was worth it in terms of delighting the audience and earning Claire McArthur a Best Actor Award.

Ruthven closed the evenings entertainment, with a highly amusing drama which earned Digby Legge a Best Actor Award for his interpretation of Harry Potter.

The audience left the theatre in very good humour. We had laughed a lot and had been quite amazed at the talent and comradeship we had seen both within and between the House teams on stage and in the Theatre.

It had been an evening in the best of traditions assuring us of many many more entertaining hours to come from Strathallan's young, talented performers.

L Salisbury

- 1 Mark Buchan UVI Self Portrait Box
- 2 Kirsten Mack V Natural Form
- 3 Lois Hunter UVI Tatoo Ceramics

1



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3





- | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Sophie Adam | UVI | Irish Journey | Mixed Media |
| 2 | Alison Daniels | UVI | Fashion | Construction |
| 3 | Gayle Allardyce | V | Stirling Heritage | Woodcut & etching |
| 4 | Samara Johnstone | UVI | Islay | Mixed Media |



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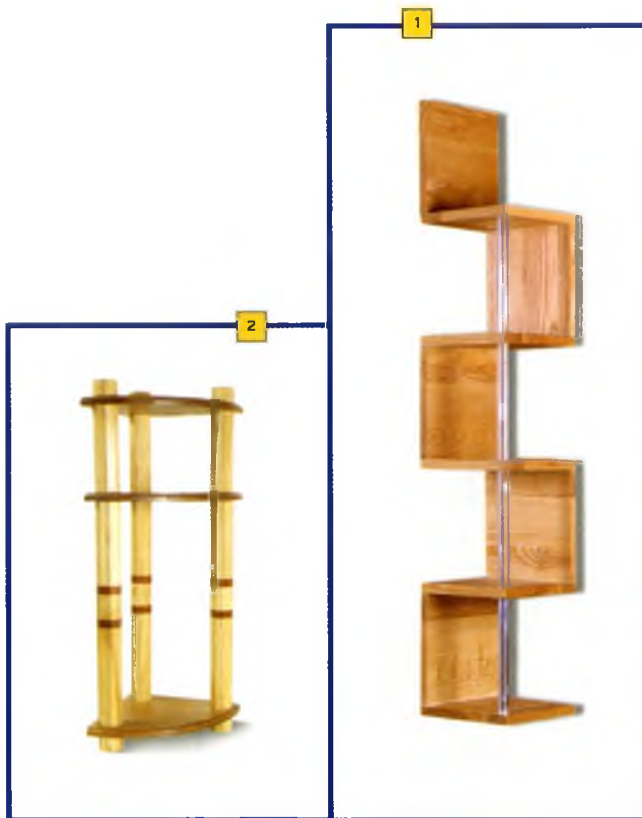
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|---|------------------|-----|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Jade Hendry | UVI | Untitled | Mixed Media |
| 2 | Jenny Hay | UVI | African Heritage | Construction |
| 3 | Isabella Chaussy | UVI | Ocean Painting | |
| 4 | Fraser Philip | V | Dualchas | Mixed Media |

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Vicky Browning | GCSE | Wall Storage Unit |
| 2 | John MacLellan | Higher | Corner Unit |
| 3 | Robert Anderson | GCSE | Garden Bench |
| 4 | Stephen Wong | AS - Limited Resource | Table in style
Rietveld of Gerrit |
| 5 | Simon Stevenson | GCSE | Storage Unit |
| 6 | Daniel Hoffman | GCSE | Storage for Electric
Guitar and Sports
Equipment |



- | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Renny Myles | GCSE | Sack Barrow |
| 2 | Anne Kelly | GCSE | Contemporary Seat |
| 3 | Lois Hunter | A2 | Picnic Table with Integrated Seating |
| 4 | Joe Watson | AS - Limited Resource | Scandinavian Style Table |
| 5 | Abigail Brown | GCSE | Portable Table/Storage Unit |
| 6 | Iain Penrose | GCSE | Contemporary Coffee Table |



The 2002 season

1st XI

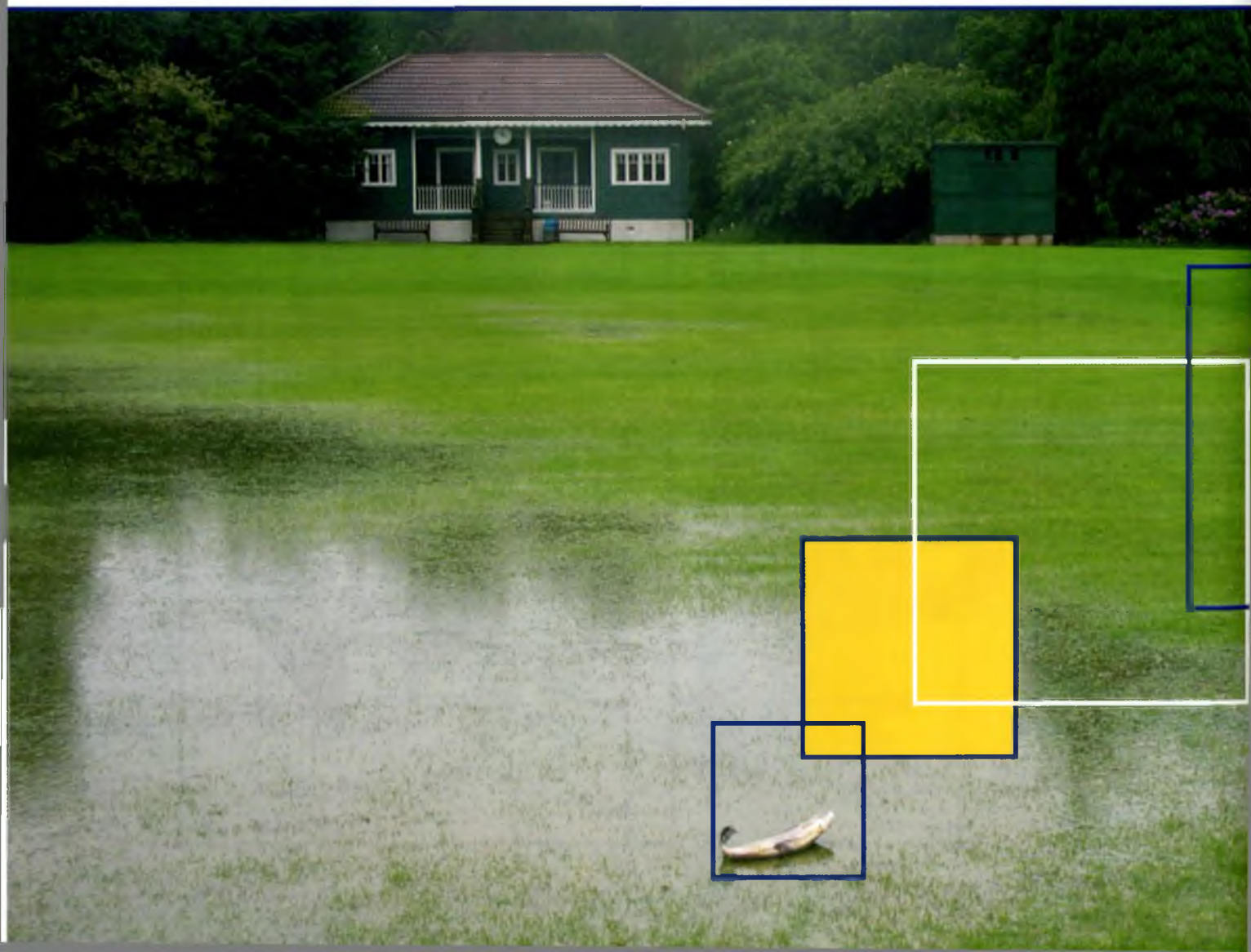
In Shakespeare's Twelfth Night the jester sings a famous Elizabethan song, *The rain, it raineth every day*, and he could well have been commenting on the 2002 season for, after the game against the XL Club on 5th June, none of the cricket sides played another game in the term. The 1st XI also missed out on games in the end of term Festival at Lancaster Royal Grammar School as the foul weather followed us there, so the school careers of the captain and several other players ended in something of a damp squib.

The term had started in a much more optimistic frame of mind with a decent work-out for the 1st XI against local club side Perth Northern. Captain William Bowry batted throughout our innings for an unbeaten 70 runs whilst Ross Anders, not for the last time in the term, kept him company with a dogged unbeaten 27 for us to declare on 174-6. Northern were then dispatched for 114 with our resident Aussie, (Brad Coupar) taking 3-19 with his own brand of left-arm seam.

The first School opposition came the following week with the visit of

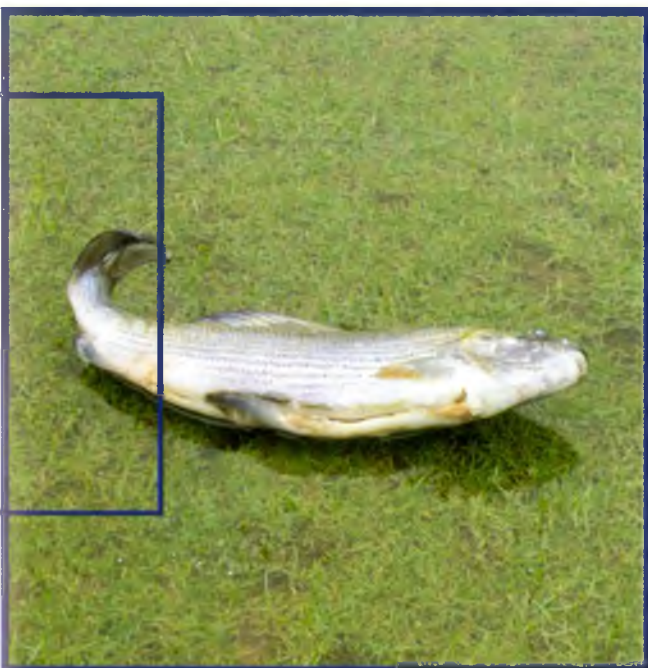
Dollar Academy who proceeded to win the toss and reduce us to 37-6 in the first 45 minutes. Thanks largely to an eccentric and very effective innings of 40 from Stuart Chapman, who held the determined Anders (53 not out) company for over an hour, the Master i/c's suicidal tendencies were kept in check as we lunched on 108-7. There followed the most astonishing post-lunch hour's play seen for a long time as Anders and Nick Common (60) then thwacked the Dollar attack all round the Lawn to take us to a declaration at 193-8. After being 37-6 the team's recovery had been Lazarus-like in the face of the same bowling, though helped by a plethora of dropped chances. After letting us off the hook Dollar then collapsed in the face of some hostile bowling from Coupar (3-16), spin from Anders (2-29) and the joker in the pack Tom Hine (2-6) whose bowling was fast improving. In the end we won by 94 runs.

Whilst the batting against Dollar had been rather like that of rabbits caught in the headlights of a car (Do rabbits play much cricket, Fitz? Ed), it was more consistent against Loretto as we totalled 227-8 and again declared with plenty of time to bowl them out. Brad Coupar and Adam Robertson both scored their maiden half-centuries for the side and then promptly got themselves out.



Tom Hine, debutant David Coaton, Robbie and David Stewart, all got into the twenties in a solid overall performance, scoring at virtually five runs an over. In contrast, Loretto scored at one and half runs per over as we strangled the scoring rate and went for the win under increasingly heavy skies (plus ça change). Again the opposition batsmen found it hard to score off Brad Coupar (3-7), though on this occasion it was the off-spin of David Stewart which was to prove the decisive factor as we tried to beat the closing weather. He took 4-27 courtesy of a couple of outstanding catches at short-leg from Robert Clarke, with the other wickets shared around among the bowlers. Three games played, three wins.

Indeed, this was to be our last win of a season which promised much, but which was to be killed off by the weather. Our next home match was against Fettes College to whom we had lost heavily the previous year. We were determined to restore our winning way against them and, upon winning the toss, we batted solidly all the way down the order to total another competitive 192 all out. As the game was to prove, the runs garnered for the last three wickets by David Stewart and the tailenders were to prove crucial in the final analysis. Fettes began their innings sedately to go in to tea at 37 without loss. Their opener Jackson played very well indeed for 77, though after being 94-4, and then 144-5, the Fettes batsmen rather lost their nerve in a crazy last hour and crashed to 150-9 with the last pair needing to survive a couple of overs. Chief destroyer had been Brad Coupar who again took three wickets cheaply (3-13 off 15 overs), aided and abetted by Tom Hine (3-14) who effected the crucial breakthrough of the opener. Perhaps the defining moment of the innings, however, was a single over bowled by Gordon Alexander who ripped out a couple of the middle order, including the Fettes captain, for second ball duck. In all, this game was a good advert for cricket north of the border and played throughout in an excellent but competitive spirit.



The first half of the term was completed with a pair of club matches. The game against the Old Strathallians was very much the clichéd 'game of two halves'. Mike Allingham made a mockery of the wet conditions and difficult pitch to score a sublime hundred for the second successive year before 'diplomatically' giving his wicket away at lunchtime, aided and abetted by Martin Smith (68) and Eddie Anderson (21) for the Club to post a formidable 228-7 dec. The only bowler to distinguish himself was once again Brad Coupar (3-41). The less said about the rest of the bowling the better. Batting in our innings was a more difficult proposition, as we quickly collapsed to 22-5 at teatime thanks to a silly run-out and some indiscreet shot selection. That we escaped from the game with an undeserved draw was due to some obdurate batting from Brad Coupar (49 not out) and later from Robbie Stewart. In the end we finished with 99-9 when stumps were drawn, clearly on the worse end of the result and lucky to retain our unbeaten status.

What turned out to be the final game of the season saw us lose that record to the XL Club on probably the best day of the summer. Having won the toss, we sent them in to bat on a damp wicket that was to prove difficult for the entire day. Experienced batting, as well as the advantage taken from some dropped chances, let former Scotland star Willie Donald total a fifty which was probably worth a hundred on other days, and for the XL Club to post a difficult 128 all out. Iain Robb bowled reasonably to take three wickets, though the main damage was done by Tom Hine who took 5-21 with disciplined medium pace. Despite a quick-fire 20 from Hine and an agricultural 19 from Douglas Bennet near the end, we never looked like approaching the XL total and we subsided to an all out 63 inspired by Old Strathallian David Bell's wily off-spin.

And that was that. The last game had been played for the remainder of the season. Preparations were made, morale was good, but we were denied games against Merchiston, Edinburgh Academy, the MCC and Glenalmond. In the end we played 6 of 15 games and the story was of what might have been. The team was captained by an intense and experienced William Bowry and contained some half-dozen leavers to whom I apologise for the anti-climactic and premature end of their school careers. Next year's side will be very young and will lean heavily on the experience of Tom Hine, Ross Anders and David Stewart, but the future of the faster bowling at least looks more settled and exciting. A lot of hard work must be done on the batting throughout the winter, but I am already looking forward to a summer that must surely have better weather than this year's.

As ever, I owe a great deal of thanks to the people who really made this year's cricket happen at all. New Head Groundsman John Newall has already made a huge difference to our grounds and, as I write, the pitches are looking in excellent condition for next season. To Carol Duffy and her Sodexo staff thanks are due for the cheerful way they coped with the often-late cancellation of fixtures, and for much-enjoyed 1st XI lunches. Earnside Coaches once more provided an unrivalled service and commiserated when yet another coach was cancelled for an away fixture.

Perhaps the biggest debt of thanks I owe is to Nick du Boulay who, despite dodgy ankles and a propensity to attract balls from other people's nets, continued to dispense sage wisdom, never mind throw hundreds of balls at the batsmen. It is no secret that our batsmen owe their techniques to his boundless patience and knowledge. Oh, and he umpired as well. In short, his contribution is enormous and much valued by the Master i/c.

'The rain, it raineth every day.'

Scores and juniors

Batting

Initials/surname	Inns	Not Outs	Runs	Highest Score	100s	Average
B. Coupar	6	1	160	50	0	32.00
R. Anders	4	1	93	53*	0	31.00
W. Bowry*	6	1	116	70*	0	23.20

Bowling

Initials/surname	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Best Bowling	Average
T. M. Hine	30	7	67	11	5-21	6.09
B. Coupar	66.3	26	119	16	3-13	7.43

Results

Strathallan 174-6 dec (W. Bowry 70 not out; R. Anders 27)

Perth Northern 114 all out (B. Coupar 3-19; S. Chapman 2-7; D. Stewart 2-9)

Won by 60 runs

Strathallan 193-8 dec (N. Common 60; R. Anders 53 not out; S. Chapman 40)

Dollar Academy 99 all out (B. Coupar 3-16; R. Anders 2-29; T. Hine 2-9)

Won by 94 runs

Strathallan 227-8 dec (B. Coupar 50; A. Robertson 50; T. Hine 26, D. Coaton 26)

Loretto 69 all out (D. Stewart 4-27; B. Coupar 3-7)

Won by 158 runs

Strathallan 192 all out (B. Coupar 30; T. Hine 23; W. Bowry 23)

Fettes College 150-9 (Jackson 77; B. Coupar 3-13; T. Hine 3-14; G. Alexander 2-17)

Drawn

Strathallians 228-7 dec (M. Allingham 102; M. Smith 68; E. Anderson 21)

Strathallan 99-9 (B. Coupar 49 not out)

Drawn

XL Club 128 all out (W. Donald 50; T. Hine 5-21; I. Robb 3-40)

Strathallan 63 all out (T. Hine 20)

Lost by 65 runs

2nd XI

The side had a mixture of experienced campaigners and some eager Fifth formers and so results were not all that predictable. Against Dollar Academy on the Paddock we successfully chased an imposing total of 154 (M. Buchan 4-19) and won by 7 wickets in only 19 overs of our innings, Peter Mackie finishing with 34 not out and David Coaton on 38 not out, after captain Robert Clarke and Danny Hoffman had both scored 20s. Defeat to Merchiston by 7 wickets followed despite Adam Stephens' two wickets. Our last game was against Fettes and we proceeded to lose it after bowling them out for a serviceable 135 with spinners Ken Mackenzie (5 wickets) and John Davey (3 wickets doing the damage). Despite 37 from Sandy Pringle and 34 from captain John Davey we were unable to overhaul their total, and so our season ended in soggy disappointment.

3rd XI

This team had an astonishing brace of results against Merchiston and Glenalmond. In the former we needed 144 to win and knocked them off in an unprecedented 15 overs with Adam Arakji being particularly savage in his stroke-play. In the latter game, having bowled Glenalmond out for just over the 100 mark, we were cruising along at 90 for three when seven wickets fell for only five runs, to leave us four runs short of victory in an unbelievable collapse which left Mr Court (and many spectators) speechless.

Senior Colts

In common with other sides the wretched weather left a gutsy, though limited side, short of serious match practice and experience. After our collapsing to 90-9 against Dollar, Jono Becks hit a powerful 81 in a combination with Robert Henneberg that let us score 179 all out. In the Dollar innings their batting succumbed to the joint bowling of captain Charlie Leadbetter (4-38) and Malcolm Jack (4-26), ably assisted by Jono Becks and Andrew O'Donnell. Both games against Fettes were lost thanks to deficiencies in the batting though we forced them to fight hard in the second game, taking five wickets in the process. The less said about the Merchiston game the better. The final game against Loretto saw us amass a reasonable 117-4 declared (Kit Hayward 28, Malcolm Jack 26) before reducing Loretto to 72-9 when the overs ran out, Charlie Leadbetter taking 4 wickets and Benno Rawlinson two.

Jono Becks and Charlie Leadbetter were promoted to the 1st XI for the Festival at Lancaster but bad weather delayed their debuts.

Junior Colts

This side had a reasonably auspicious start to the term with a solid victory over a tenacious Dollar Academy side. We made 120 all out with captain Jamie Cachia scoring 26, and Andrew Fyfe being unbeaten on 15, before dismissing Dollar for 82 thanks to some good bowling from Duncan Brown who took 6 wickets. After losing heavily to Merchiston we defeated Loretto. We declared on 117-4, Jamie Cachia scoring a good, 61, before bowling Loretto out for 44 in the last over of a shortened game. Both games against Fettes saw hard-won victories, particularly in the return match in which we scored 98 all out (Jamie Cachia 32) before bowling Fettes out for 84 (Richie Duncan 4-13, Duncan Brown 3-28) to win by 14 runs.

Jamie Cachia was elevated to the 1st XI for the Festival at Lancaster, but bad weather delayed his debut.

RHF



1ST XV RUGBY

Following pre-season preparations, the first outing of the new season was away at Glasgow Academy. It was clear that they felt they had a good XV this year, and so it proved. Tries from David Stewart (from a driven maul following a line out) and Oli Scott, following excellent defensive pressure from Euan O'Donnell and Jamie Cameron, saw Strathallan lead 15-14 at the break. An inexperienced XV succumbed to intense second-half pressure and the Glasgow boys, having already played twice, demonstrated superior match fitness in winning 35-15.

Four days later, Loretto were the visitors to Forgandenny. A large crowd around Little Acre (including anxious players and coach from the Methven area) saw Strathallan run in five tries in a much more convincing display of open rugby. Key players included the newly recovered (and then re-injured) Stuart Chapman, vice-Captain Neil Anderson at No. 8 and the elusive and incisive Jamie Cameron, playing in his preferred berth at Full Back. A score-line of 32-12 reflects a satisfactory afternoon's work.

The Tuesday afternoon early season trek to Kelvinside represented a difficult challenge coming, as it did, just five days after the Loretto game. An hour and forty minutes on the bus leaving less than twenty minutes warm-up was not appreciated by the players. A 15 points to 10 victory was a reward for a great deal of hard work, but the performance was well below that which the players had come to expect of themselves.

A vociferous Fettes crowd were hushed by a strong start from Strathallan, culminating in what appeared to be a well worked try from Captain Oli Scott. Unfortunately, the referee saw things differently and this proved to be a key psychological moment in the game. Fettes produced two fine scores through their centres and Strathallan were trailing 20-0 at half-time. Despite playing into the wind and losing Nick Common with a broken nose, Doc Stewart with concussion, Stuart Chapman and Euan O'Donnell with leg injuries, the Strathallan players rallied, creating some good scoring opportunities after the interval. Alas, they were unable to take advantage of these and the final score was a well deserved 20-0 victory to Fettes.

A week later and Glenalmond were the visitors to Forgandenny. Injuries dictated several changes to the 1st XV and Glenalmond started much the stronger. Some superbly organised defence by the home team kept the score to 0-6 at half time, Glenalmond having successfully converted two penalties, Strathallan narrowly missing two. The pattern was similar in the second half, with the 1st XV soaking up a great deal of pressure. Eventually, their defence was breached following a good series of phases of play from Glenalmond, and their lead was extended to 0-11. Strathallan rallied and were unfortunate not to get over for a try at the Woodlands end of the ground with around 10 minutes to go, but ultimately the visitors emerged worthy winners at 0-11.

Three days later and the 1st XV took on a useful side from Belmont Academy in the Scottish Schools Cup. A win was secured with a good, balanced team performance against a determined and tenacious Belmont XV.

Playing Merchiston Castle away has, in recent years, proved to be a significant challenge and, with injuries to key squad members, this year was no exception. Merchiston scored an outstanding try in the opening minutes of the game and from that moment onwards the 1st XV were under intense sustained pressure. Merchiston played some magnificent "whole team" rugby and, despite an improved second half showing from Strathallan, the home team emerged as victors by an overwhelming margin.

Edinburgh Academy were the first visitors to Forgandenny in November. Their strong 1st XV were undefeated and remained so, despite a courageous and determined effort from the home side. The final score of 10-32 did not, perhaps, reflect the intensity of the encounter - the Academy players certainly knew they had been in a game.

The last 16 of the Scottish Schools Cup brought The High School of Glasgow to Forgandenny, with a place in the quarter finals at stake. Both teams gave their all in an attempt to secure victory. Alas, it was the visitors who prevailed, Strathallan lacking the consistency required to convert pressure into points. A first half injury to Stuart Chapman which saw him leave the field, was an axial moment. Late November and the undefeated Dollar Academy XV arrived, ready for business. After a tentative start, Strathallan provided worthy opposition for the skilful and very well organized Dollar team. Two well worked tries saw the visitors pushed all the way, but ultimately emerge as victors.

Frost prevented the 1st XV from playing Hutchesons' G.S. at Forgandenny - full credit to the players who instinctively and unanimously voted for the away option. Despite the long coach journey, Strathallan made an impressive start, two tries from Euan O'Donnell coming from concerted team pressure. In an exciting and well contested match, Strathallan created a confidence-boosting victory.

The penultimate game saw the Strathallan teams playing a block fixture against the High School of Dundee for the first time in more than 20 years. Victory for the High School on their Mayfield pitch was, in the end, well deserved, although the indications are that this will be an excellent fixture in the calendar. The final run-out for the 1st XV was against a strong Northholm Grammar School XV, on tour from Sydney. In a good team performance, which saw several new players blooded, the 1st XV ran in three tries, forwards and backs combining to promising effect.

A great deal of effort was invested by the players over the season. Over all, it was a disappointing term for results, but the irrepressible spirit of the players will be an enduring memory and, as ever, we look to the future with optimism.

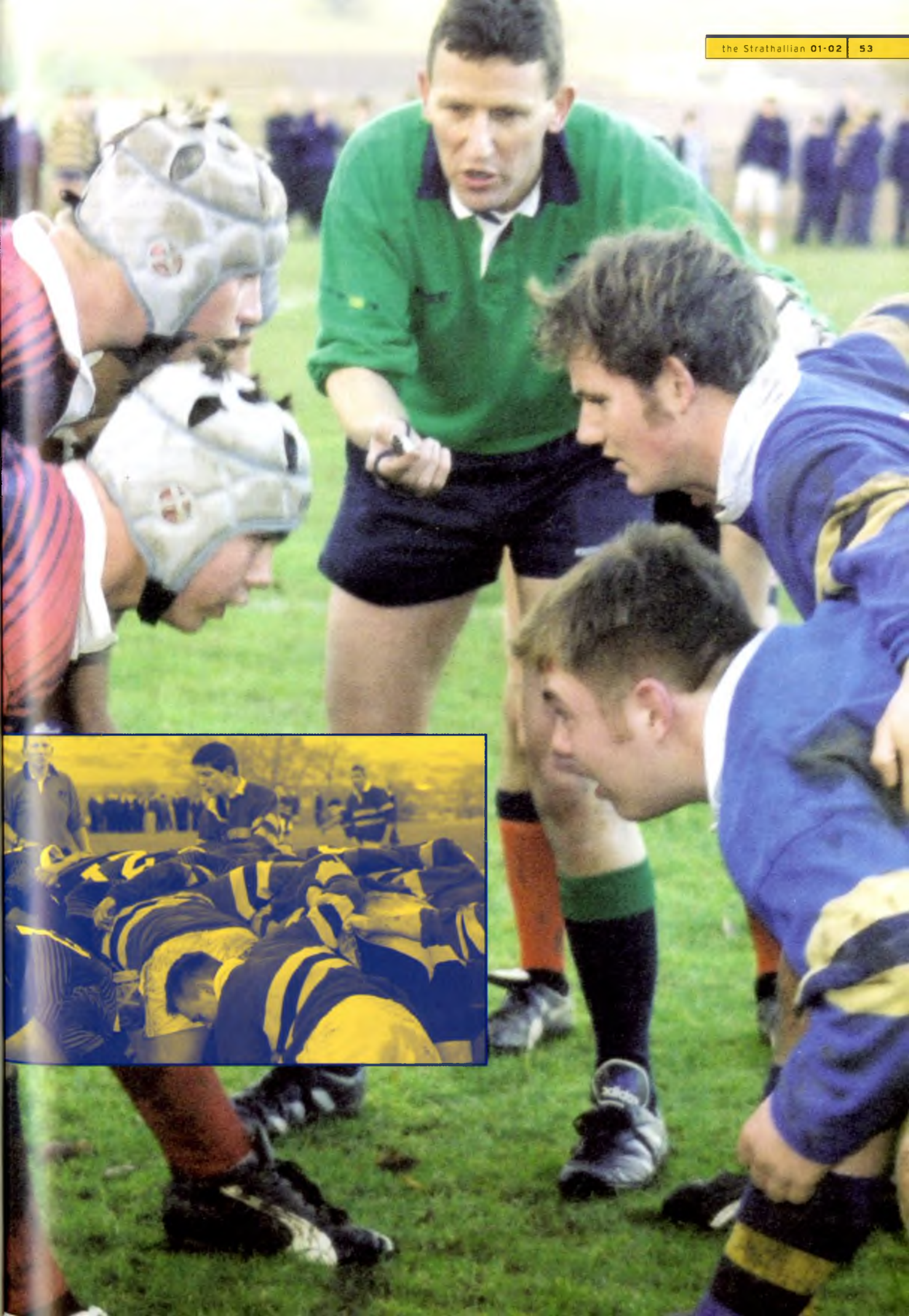
Representative honours at Senior Level were gained by Captain Oli Scott, who played a key role in the Caledonia Schools victory in the Independent Schools U18 Championships at Murrayfield, Tim Snape, Philip Brown, Rik Campbell, P Mackie were also involved in this successful squad. At U16 level both Rory Carmichael and David Coaton played in the Independent Schools Championships and, once again, the Caledonia School U16 squad were victorious.

O.G. Scott (cpt), N. Anderson (vice cpt), A. Broadfoot, S.J. Chapman, J.D. Cameron, P.M. Brown, A. Arakji, D.R. Stewart, R.J. Stewart, I.A. Robb, K.A. Mackenzie, A.J. Carmichel, E.T. O'Donnell, R.L.C. Campbell, T.R. Snape, F.B. Philip, D. Hoffmann, M.L. Woodrow, C.F. Emslie, G. Roy, L.S. Ferry.

Coaches' player A. Carmichael

Players' player O.G. Scott

Best tackle M.L. Woodrow



2ND XV

Overall the 2nd XV had a good season, winning all but three of their 11 matches. The backs were experienced and talented and showed pace and skill in the opponents' 22. William Bowry captained the side, always leading by example. David Coaton formed a young half back partnership with Rory Carmichael, which bodes well for next season. Several of these players made the step up to the 1st XV during the season, including Michael Woodrow, who gave us the stability and confidence at the back so essential for a strong defence.

The forwards may not have been the biggest eight ever to represent the 2nd XV, but they made good this deficiency with commitment and pace. It was pleasing that the squad were able to overcome some of the usual difficulties that occur during the course of a busy term and the away win at Fettes was a good example of the strong team spirit.

Over all an enjoyable and rewarding season with a good group of players who were prepared to learn and to work hard.

Team from: *W. Bowry(cpt.), R. Marshall(v.cpt), G. Everett, G. Leslie, M. Riley, C. Emslie, R. Emslie, A. Stevens, A. Nicolson, D. Coaton, R. Carmichael, J. MacLellan, L. Ferry, M. Woodrow, B. Dalley, G. Roy, H. Mackay, F. Niven*



3RD XV

A season of two halves without a doubt. We managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in three of the first four matches. Glasgow Academy, Fettes and Glenalmond were all games we should have won but in which we gave away "soft points" in the dying minutes each time. The turning point came against a very strong Merchiston side where we gave a gutsy performance and although we went down it proved to be the kick-start for a successful end to the season. Solid victories against Hutchesons and Dollar preceded a rampant performance against Dundee High School in December. All in all, an encouraging turn around.

Team from: *G. Seddon, R. Anderson, B. Constable, J.S-Darling, A. Murray, D. Shepherd, R. Snape, M. Riley, S. Scroggie, R. Anders, G. Ward, A. Melloy, T. Hine, P. Hewitt, A. Crerar, G. Duncan, S. Smith, A. Mather, A. Holman, C. Jack.*

GCK

Under 15 Rugby Season 2001

At this level the most important thing at the end of the season is to consider how far the group has come both as a group and in individual terms rather than to dwell exclusively on the overall playing record. In fact this was quite respectable, whilst the former was actually very pleasing. The side did not have individuals on whom it could rely to conjure a score from nowhere and thus had to learn to work together very hard in order to create scores. The lack of an obvious cutting

edge was evident in the first few games which resulted in a draw with Glasgow Academy, a victory against Loretto by two scores, and a similar margin in defeat by Fettes. The pattern was broken by a heavy defeat against Glenalmond with one individual having the sort of significant effect on the result which tends only to be possible at this younger age. The turning point in terms of the confidence of the side was the home fixture against Merchiston Castle School. The balance of play was remarkably even and the lead was held until just before half time, albeit only by one penalty. The lack of cutting edge was again apparent but the defence was impressive as was much of the general play. In the last five minutes Merchiston stretched away with two scores to give a slightly unrealistic bent to the final score. Importantly, however, a huge amount of confidence had been gained through capable play against a side which was arguably the best on the circuit. Victories followed against Edinburgh Academy and Dollar, with tries being created by good play by the whole team. The High School of Dundee provided appropriate end of season opposition in a match which took place on Big Acre. The opposition were apparently unbeaten throughout their time in the school. In the event the Strathallian side played its best rugby by far and dominated the game, crossing the line on more than one occasion without succeeding in putting the ball down, and eventually succumbing by two tries to one in an excellent game. Again the difficulty in actually scoring was evident but so was the dramatic improvement effected by the end of the season. The boys deserve real credit for the way in which they coped with the constant cajoling and high standards which were set for them and their positive response certainly gained its reward. A number of individuals have come through who will make their mark in future years and the big squad enjoyed their handling practices with cheerful enthusiasm and will, we trust, go on to enjoy their rugby at whatever level.

Team from: *K. Brown, M. O'Reilly, C. Lam, A. Garratt, D. Lawson, J. Becks, R. Walker, T. Sproat, T. Reid, M. Jack, R. Dewar, C. Leadbetter, A. O'Donnell, S. Murray, S. MacDonald, K. Legge, B. Rawlison*

BKT GRMR

U14 RUGBY

After two high-scoring wins against Glasgow Academy and Loretto the feeling within the squad was that we were playing too often as individuals and not as a unified group. This became apparent in the following four games where although we managed to get points on the board we came second to stronger teams from Fettes, Glenalmond, Merchiston and Edinburgh Academy. It was pleasing to be part of a squad that were able to produce three good wins to finish the season with team spirit coming to the fore against Dollar Academy. I hope that we are able to work on the positive aspects of the term next year but as a team.

Team from: *C. Wallace, K. Brown, I. Aitken, C. Terrell, D. Brown, M. Bacarreza, R. Duncan, J. Pugh, R. Philip, L. Carragher, S. McDonald, A. Fyfe, G. MacFarlane, A. Carmichael, J. Whiteman, J. Cachia, G. Melloy*

J.CACHIA (cpt)

RILEY RUGBY

Once again the Riley squad came up against some powerful teams and while this was a losing season there were several encouraging aspects to the boys' play. The main aim of the season was to improve on basic skills and give those with little rugby experience a solid background to the game. The boys worked hard in all of their sessions and always played with determination and pride regardless of the size of the opposition.

Team from: *N. Millar, J. Dickson, A. Paledi, A. Marshall, R. Mathews, J. Fairlie, B. Ward, A. Robb, N. Harvey, S. Smith, A. Bissett, L. Halvorsen, L. Quibell, O. Stevenson, T. Fleming, O. Corlett, S. Peaston, H. Jones, I. Lyburn*

The cross country season was notable for the performance of the Senior Girls' team, who took a well deserved gold medal place at the Scottish championships.

Holly Harvey was 28th, Jenny Hay 16th, Stephanie Hickey 12th and Katie Fleming 9th. The team was led home by Samara Johnstone, who finished an excellent season with a well deserved bronze medal.

Boys' teams lacked the same strength in depth throughout the season; ultimately the strength of a cross country team comes from volume of running, and the plethora of options in the Easter term makes specialisation difficult. The find of the season was, however, Christoph Schulz who "had a go" at the House cross country, won the senior race outright, and proceeded to win at Glenalmond and Q.V.S. as well. He was not at his peak for the Scottish championships, but his 19th position was very commendable for a first attempt. I hope that he and the girls, most of whom are Lower 6th, will be able to build on their success next year.

In the Athletics season it was the girls who again showed the best form. Clean sweeps at Glenalmond and Kilgraston were impressive; at under-16 Kirsty Hay had a good year at the sprint distances, and Mel Kotseroglou was a difficult javelin thrower to beat. Among the senior girls Fleming and Johnstone dominated the middle distances, while Karen McArthur led the sprinters. As ever in athletics it was the team performance that counts, however, and although they are too many to name, every girl who turned out for the team, often for events to which they were unaccustomed, deserves credit.

The boys' matches were very much more individual affairs. Gregor Duncan continued to improve over the long sprints, and Peter Hewitt was impressive over 1500m. It was very encouraging to see others surprising themselves with their abilities. Robert Anderson began to be a strong 800m runner, and Rory Dewar discovered a talent for the javelin. At senior level Oliver Scott ran very competitively at 800m, Schulz was strong over 1500m and Euan O'Donnell had a good season sprinting. We were not, however, able to fill in the minor placings, and too often found ourselves edged out in the final results.

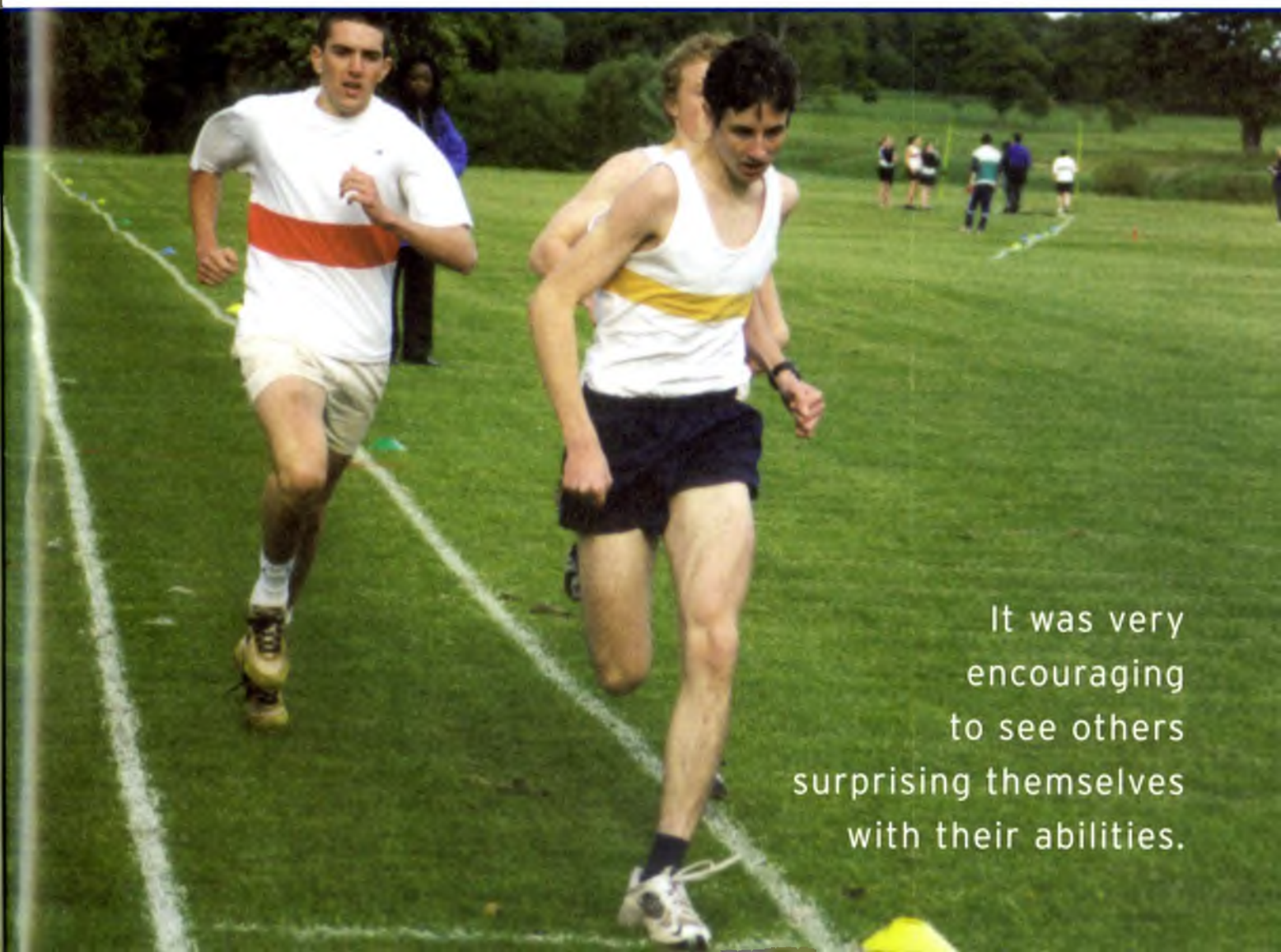
An examination-curtailed Sports day took place between the deluges that characterised the second half of the season; Thornbank performed well for the girls' cup, and Ruthven won a slightly closer boys' competition.

There were several successes at the Scottish Schools: Stuart McDonald won the 400m hurdles, in which race Ewen Wardman took the bronze medal; Katie Fleming and Samara Johnstone won silver medals in the 800m and 3000m respectively; and Christoph Schulz was third in the 2000m steeplechase.

Half colours were awarded to: Heather Chambers, Fraser Niven, Euan O'Donnell and Christoph Schulz.

Full colours were awarded to: Karen McArthur, Katie Fleming and Samara Johnstone.

DMH



It was very encouraging to see others surprising themselves with their abilities.



GIRLS' RESULTS

EVENT	AGE	WINNER	TIME/DIST.	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100M	J	K HAY	13.50	13.00	STREULE, K	1982
100M	S	K McARTHUR	13.73	12.12	EDMUNDS, A	1990
200M	J	K HAY	29.26	27.79	REID, S	1988
200M	S	K McARTHUR	29.30	25.20	EDMUNDS, A	1990
400M	J	S BARTON	68.76	65.70	FLEMING, K	2000
400M	S	K FLEMING	68.45	60.00	REID, S	1990
800M	J	J JARDINE	2.57	2.26.2	FLEMING, K	1999
800M	S	K FLEMING	2.49	2.22.3	FLEMING, K	2002
1500M	J	S FLEMING	6.50	5.14.09	BARLOW, A	1992
1500M	S	S JOHNSTONE	5.41	5.05.10	MEIKLEJOHN, C	1990
HIGH JUMP	J	A-L BREADEN	1.35	1.45	ORR, K	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	L KOTSEROGLOU	1.35	1.55	RUTHERFORD, R	1987
LONG JUMP	J	S BARTON	4.01	4.46	GORDONS, S	1985
LONG JUMP	S	K FLEMING	4.40	4.58	CARRUTHERS, C	1989
SHOT	J	M KOTSEROGLOU	6.80	10.23	SANG, T	1992
SHOT	S	H CHAMBERS	7.20	9.49	EDMUNDS, A	1990
DISCUS	J	C MARTIN	19.35	25.10	CHAPMAN, R	1995
DISCUS	S	K McARTHUR	25.88	26.60	CHAPMAN, R	1998
JAVELIN	J	M KOTSEROGLOU	23.44	23.44	KOTSEROGLOU, M	2002
JAVELIN	S	J HAY	18.17	22.42	BRUCE, M	1995
4X100M	J	WOODLANDS	65.83	55.60	v Glenalmond	2000
4X100M	S	THORNBANK	55.89	54.54	THORNBANK	1990
4X400M	J	THORNBANK	4.52	4.39.37	THORNBANK	1992
4X400M	S	THORNBANK	5.07	4.43.83	THORNBANK	1993

BOYS' RESULTS

EVENT		WINNER	TIME/DIST.	RECORD	HOLDER	YEAR
100M	J	E WARDMAN	12.23	12.00	LING, T	1971
100M	M	T HINE	12.10	10.90	OGILVIE	1978
100M	S	E O'DONNELL	11.42	11.00	LOCHART/LING SMELLIE/KIRKLAND	1971- 1978
200M	J	E WARDMAN	26.21	24.00	WALLACE, R	1993
200M	M	G DUNCAN	25.12	23.20	LING T	1973
200M	S	E O'DONNELL	24.23	22.80	LING, T	1973
400M	J	L CARRAGHER	63.36	56.50	COOK, C	1987
400M	M	G DUNCAN	58.68	52.50	MILLAR	1977
400M	S	R STEWART	57.30	50.30	ROGER, G	1982
800M	J	S McDONALD	2.28.03	2.12.90	LAWRENCE, C	1984
800M	M	A STEPHENS	2.22.70	2.03.06	LAWRENCE, C	1985
800M	S	R STEWART	2.08.26	1.55.02	ROGER, G	1982
1500M	J	S McDONALD	6.18	4.32.07	LAWRENCE, C	1985
1500M	M	P HEWITT	4.44	4.14.05	BOND, R	1988
1500M	S	C SCHULZ	4.54	4.09.02	BOND, R	1989
HIGH JUMP	J	L CARRAGHER	1.45	1.63	HOLMES	1965
HIGH JUMP	M	T HINE	1.65	1.77	CUTHBERTSON	1984
HIGH JUMP	S	A DUTHIE	1.60	1.95	COLQUHOUN, O	1999
LONG JUMP	J	S McDONALD	"4,98"	5.55	LEAR, C	1967
LONG JUMP	M	G DUNCAN	5.37	6.17	LAWSON	1967
LONG JUMP	S	A DUTHIE	5.51	6.52	SMELLIE, D	1978
SHOT	J	R PHILIP	8.80	12.83	WALKER, L	1992
SHOT	M	M WOODROW	10.38	14.73	McKENZIE, G	1973
SHOT	S	ANDERSON	10.70	12.90	CALLANDER	1979
DISCUS	J	R PHILIP	22.88	36.27	KNOX, S	1974
DISCUS	M	B COUPER	29.68	42.00	KNOX, S	1976
DISCUS	S	P BROWN	28.58	40.26	McKENZIE, G	1974
JAVELIN	J	A PEATTIE	25.48	49.81	McBRIDE, J	1969
JAVELIN	M	R DEWAR	32.93	49.81	McBRIDE, J	1969
JAVELIN	S	D BENNET	36.91	57.07	McBRIDE, J	1971
4X100M	J	RUTHVEN	55.13	50.50	RUTHVEN	1987
4X100M	M	NICOL	50.79	46.60	SIMPSON	1972
4X100M	S	RUTHVEN	49.71	45.50	FREELAND	1981
4X400M	J	RUTHVEN	4.33	4.09.07	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	M	FREELAND	3.58	3.53.49	SIMPSON	1995
4X400M	S	RUTHVEN	4.03	3.41.03	FREELAND	1992
		STANDARDS				
RUTHVEN	1ST	2033		4TH	SIMPSON	1497
FREELAND	2ND	1908		5TH	THORNBANK	1401
NICOL	3RD	1855		6TH	WOODLANDS	813

Once again, this year's Strathallan 1st VII netball team has proved to be more than capable of living up to the reputation established by the success of previous years.

Their skill and dedication towards the sport resulted in an unbeaten home season. Victories against Fettes, Madras and Glenalmond, were enjoyed by the team, even if they did complain that I tended to yell at them a bit too much. Our only defeat was at the hands of a touring side from Australia who, after a closely contested match, stretched to a 29 - 24 final quarter victory.

The next big event in the calendar was the Scottish Independent Schools' Netball tournament which Strathallan have retained for 8 years, thereby ensuring we all feel more and more pressure every year to not go down in Strath Netball history as the team who lost the trophy; believe me the captain has had a few sleepless nights. However we had nothing to worry about. After a nervous start, we managed, with great sighs of relief, to reach the finals and meet Glenalmond. By half time the score was 6 all. However, we were able to pull ahead in the second half and win the match and the tournament for the 9th year running.

A new addition to the trophy cabinet this year was the trophy for Best Sporting Team, presented to us by Perth Ladies' league. Although we were not as fortunate as to win all our matches during the league, I feel that we played some of our best netball against formidable opposition and enjoyed giving more experienced players a run for their money.

To add to the success of the first team, the second VII had a very successful season beating their opponents from Morrisons, Kilgraston and Glenalmond and managing even to overcome some first team opposition. The future of Strathallan Netball seems bright with both the U15 and U14 teams enjoying success; the U14 in fact only lost their unbeaten run in the last match of the season. Riley too enjoyed previously unheard of Netball success, largely due to the dedicated coaching of Miss England.

The rivalry of the inter-house netball matches ensures this is a hotly contested occasion. For the juniors, Thornbank managed to keep firm hold of that trophy. Whereas, thankfully, Woodlands retained the senior trophy (not that I'm biased or anything).



At the end of all that, the first VII still managed to play the masters who thought that it would be an easy match (being a girls' game and all) but were resoundingly defeated 25 - 6.

Thanks must go to Miss England, Mrs Tod and Mrs I-F, without whose support and coaching we would not be able to produce the standard of play that we do.

We would like to wish Miss England good luck and all the best for the future as she leaves to go travelling around New Zealand. She will be greatly missed even if the fartleks are not. Or will those continue?

Lindsey Chisholm (captain)

Full Colours

Lindsey Chisholm
Tisi Bush
Mimi Bush
Kirsty Fitzgerald

Half colours

Sarah Lyburn
Sioned Bates
Sara Arakji

Under 15 district team

Melanie Kotseroglou
Lizi Bush
Jean Jardine
Karina McLean

As usual the 1st XI started the 'season' during the Rugby term, this time with the Scottish Reserve Cup.

A 'winning' draw saw our progression to the semi-final and a win against Dundee Wanderers. We lost 3-1 in the final against Robert Gordons; a bit disappointing but overall not a bad series of performances against sides playing full-time hockey.

The Easter Term season was rather mixed. At times, excellent hockey was played but there was an infuriating degree of inconsistency, leading to a results-sheet unworthy of a team of considerable talent, but perhaps accounted for by youth and inexperience (four V Formers and one IV Former were regular team members).

Two wins were recorded against Loretto and an initial loss to a strong Gordonstoun side was compensated for by an excellent return draw. Disappointing losses against Fettes and Aberdeen Grammar should not have been incurred, the latter being entirely against the run of play due to moments of sloppiness. On the credit side were two good wins against a powerful Old Strathallian side and Belfast Royal Academy. Typically of our season we now played in the Schools Cup, beating Aberdeen Grammar (and demonstrating, in the process that we should never have lost to them on the earlier occasion) and then losing to George Watson's having beaten them a week before. To finish on such a bewildering note underlined the peculiarity of the whole season.

The team was excellently captained by Stuart Chapman. The Senior players Robbie Stewart, Adam Arakji, John Davey, Robert Clark, Ross Sutherland, Nick Common and Steve Smith made important contributions but were not always available. Great pressure, therefore, was put on the younger players; Dick Hartgerink, David Stewart, Renny Myles, David Coaton, Danny Hoffman and Malcom Jack, who responded well to the challenge but against some very mature sides lacked the physical strength to dominate. There is, however, because of this a young but now quite experienced side for next season.

The Second Eleven had a very solid season, being particularly strong in defence. The goal-snatching abilities of Dougie Bennet, alas not recognized by the first eleven until the Dutch Tour, provided a killer instinct up front. The combination of strengths produced an excellent season, mirrored by the efforts of a physically determined and potentially homicidal Third Eleven. Of the Fourth Eleven little can be said; accurate description being possible grounds for police prosecution.

The determination of HMC Schools to put administrative convenience before sporting development has led to a move from age-groups to year groups. I can only hope that this does not have the same long-term effect on skills witnessed in both cricket and rugby. The junior sides played some excellent hockey and, overall, had very good results. At times, however, they suffered from playing older and much bigger sides. It is to be hoped that the better players at Club level will step straight into First or Second XI Hockey. Those not quite good enough for the top teams but propelled by administration into senior hockey may be lost for ever.

Thanks must go to all the coaches involved; not just those looking after the 'prestige' sides but those labouring under adversity. We are very fortunate to be so well-staffed in hockey. The caterers have done us proud and Earnside have, as usual, never let us down with transport. What has been particularly pleasing, though, has been the staggering improvement in the state of both the all-weather and the grass pitches. To John Newall and his 'boys' must go a very big "thank you".

RJWP

RESULTS

Club Reserve Cup

v	Hillhead	1-1 draw (win on away goal)
v	Dundee Wanderers	1-0 win
v	Robert Gordon's	1-3 loss

Main Season

v	Loretto	3-1 win
v	Gordonstoun	1-3 loss
v	Fettes	0-1 loss
v	Loretto	1-0 win
v	Gordonstoun	3-3 draw
v	Aberdeen Grammar	1-2 loss
v	Old Strathallians	3-1 win
v	Belfast R.A.	4-0 win
v	George Watson's	2-1 win

Schools Cup

v	Aberdeen Grammar	2-0 win
v	George Watson's	1-3 loss



It's been wonderful to see the young members making an impact in the squads.

After surviving the initial shock of pre-season training, the girls' 1st XI put their new skills into practice and turned in an exceptionally successful season. We collected trophies from the Independent Schools tournament, the Glenalmond indoor tournament, and the Midlands indoor tournament which led us through to the Scottish indoor tournament, in which we made it through to the semi-finals. Then in the Midlands, outdoor tournament we beat Dundee Wanderers through penalty strokes. This took us through to the Scottish outdoor tournament, definitely one of the highlights of the season. We fulfilled one of Miss Smith's aims to beat Hutchesons in the semi-finals taking us through to play Mary Erskine in the final. Even although we eventually lost, we proved that it was possible to score against them and give them a good game. We participated in the Scottish Youth Cup for the first time this year and this showed the team's dedication as there were no grumbles to be heard when we asked them to give up free time on Sundays and to come back early from half term to play our matches. After a nailbiting match against MIM we were knocked out in the semi-finals. Not only have the 1st XI been very successful, but the junior girls did well winning both their indoor and outdoor Midland's tournaments.

Strathallan girls have contributed greatly to our district, Midlands, this year. It's been wonderful to see the young members making an impact in the squads; Ann-Louise Breaden, Caty Connell, Annabelle Gordon, Kirsty Hay, Claire McArthur and Melanie Kotseroglou were all selected for the U15 squad. Ann-Louise also made it into the U16 squad along with Anna Macdonald, while Jenny Hay and Katie Fleming played for the U18 team.

Special congratulations must be given to Ann-Louise Breaden, who gained a place in the Scottish U16 team. With them she will travel to Ireland, Belgium and Wales. Also special congratulations to Laura and Melanie Kotseroglou who will be representing Greece in Ireland and Poland this summer.

Not only were the girls victorious against other schools, but we put together a winning inter-house indoor team, beating Simpson House in the final through penalty strokes; a victory never achieved by the girls before and no doubt the boys will be hoping that they never will again! Success also flourished in the Easter holidays in an unbeaten tour of Holland.

On behalf of everyone in the squad, I'd like to thank all those who have helped with the girls' 1st XI this year. Those who came on tour; Mr Giles, Mr Proctor, Mr and Mrs Watt and Miss Smith. All the coaches and umpires with the other squads. In particular, Miss Smith and Mr Giles, not forgetting Mrs Dorward for all the wine gums before every tournament.

We had to wish Miss Smith goodbye and good luck after Holland, as she left for a new position at Queen Victoria School and we welcomed Miss Sime who has stepped forward to the challenge of coaching the 1st XI.

Good luck to the future team and to next year's captain, Jenny Hay.

Hazel Whyte



This season has been dominated by temperamental weather, resulting in races being cancelled or re-scheduled and few training sessions. However, what racing we did manage to take part in has been of promising quality.

In September Strathallan School took part in the Scottish Schools Dry Ski Slope Championships at the Midlothian Centre, Hillend. Our girls' team (Melissa Piper, Vicky-Drummond-Hay, Katie Lyburn and Sarah Herd) finished 5th and our boys' team (Ritchie Duncan, Simon Erdal, Benno Rawlinson and Godon Bujaud) finished 12th. The girls were subsequently selected for the British Schools Championships in Swadlincote, Derbyshire where, although Melissa Piper achieved a fine 8th position, the team was not classified.

The Minors' Race was re-scheduled because of poor weather. On the due date, as we were driving through the glens under giant snowflakes, we heard that the race had to be cancelled because of strong wind at the Lecht. Since we were approaching Glenshee we decided to enjoy a morning of training in glorious sunshine and fresh snow instead.

The Scottish Schools Ski Championships took place on the reserve date. Our journey to the Lecht was epic and after a drive in treacherous conditions we arrived safely with our adrenaline at its highest. Our girls' team (Melissa Piper, Vicky Drummond-Hay, Sarah Herd and Sophie Barton) finished 8th (with Melissa in 3rd position overall). Our boys' team (Ritchie Duncan, Magnus O'Reilly, Harry Workman and Simon Erdal) finished 6th; a tremendous achievement considering we were bringing such a young team.

The British Schools Championships did not take place as we were informed that the Nevis Range could offer lush green meadows at that time but no snow (which they subsequently got in generous quantity).

In a broader view, the following achievements deserve a mention:

In Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Giant Slalom, on the national and international circuit, with races as far away as America, Melissa Piper collected 5 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. She was a finalist in the Young Sports Personality of Perthshire. She finished the season by being No. 1 seeded slalom skier in her age group in Great Britain and has been selected for the Scottish Team Youth Squad. Her performance over four months is exceptional.

Ritchie Duncan competed in 9 national and international races and collected 4 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze medal. His achievement in Slalom is particularly impressive and he finished 7th in the British National Championships (Super G) in Pitztal, Austria. Ritchie's overall results, in Scotland particularly, have not gone unnoticed, in a world where competition is fierce.

Magnus O'Reilly has raced in Scotland and abroad. He won the Alpine Cup in Tignes, France, and the Cairngorm Championships. He was well placed in four other races and made the most of the rare snowfalls to shape up and train hard.

We do not mind the Scottish weather having tantrums throughout the winter, as long as it leaves us enough snow to train and race. Let's hope the white mantle returns for 2003.

Fablenne Thompson



a valiant fight against the elements

Boys' Tennis 2002

In a season during which the weather did not favour the game, the 1st VI also had to deal with extra away games due to the renovation of the courts. We started with the annual captain of boys versus the captain of girls match. Tisi Bush's team put up a valiant fight but Andrew Mack's won 6 - 3.

Once again we entered the Glanvil Cup match and were drawn against Glenalmond. We travelled there but soon realised that this was to be an uphill battle. Although we played a season with a young team we bounced back to secure 3 good wins against Rannoch, Edinburgh Academy and Loretto.

Mention should be made, incidentally, of V Formers David Coaton and Rory Carmichael who played as number 1 couple for the season and look to be in this position for a few years to come.

We went on to lose 3 closely fought matches, one noticeably against Merchiston where after 8 matches it was 4 matches each, but playing against a seeded Scottish player proved too much and we lost 4 - 5; the closest score against them for a few years.

In the Inter House competition Ruthven and Freeland played it out in the finals but after 2 rounds of the 3 round competition Ruthven had already secured a win in 5 of the 6 matches with only 3 to play. As a result Ruthven House retain the trophy for a third year in a row.

Like all good things the season came to an end with the Boys 1st VI (featuring Amelia Lane) defeating the SMCR by a GIGANTIC 5 - 4. Looking back over the term, we won some, we lost some, but did enjoy the game and with youth on our side there is only one way the team will head next year...

Andrew Mack, Captain

MATCH RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

Capt Boys vs Capt Girls	6	3
Edinburgh Academy	6	3
Rannoch School	6	3
Loretto	5	4
Glenalmond <i>Juniors</i>	4	5
<i>Seniors</i>	2	7
Merchiston	4	5
Stewart's Melville	4	5
SMCR	5	4

Girls' Tennis

The Girls' Tennis teams have enjoyed mixed success this season. Although most scheduled fixtures remained unchanged, the same cannot be said of the teams and their members.

Despite having lost both their matches this season, Riley has contributed well to school teams and players competed enthusiastically.

This year teams have enjoyed mixed fortunes, with good wins over Kilgraston, Albyn and Fettes. Unfortunately, due to the traditional Scottish Summer, both the Glenalmond and Kilgraston tournaments were cancelled.

At the beginning of term, the match between Captain of Boys' Tennis and Captain of Girls' Tennis took place on the hard courts, giving the girls an opportunity to raise their games against faster and stronger opponents.

Senior and Junior Inter-House tennis competitions were won by Thornbank, but only after some close matches.

With the usual summer term exams looming and a full ranges of fixtures, the teams were able to experiment with different combinations of couples, giving players the chance to develop various styles.

A particular feature of the 1st VI this year has been the emergence of younger players; obviously encouraging for the future.

On behalf of Girls' Tennis we would like to thank Mrs Dorward and Miss Sime for coaching and encouraging the teams, and also the players themselves for making this such an enjoyable season.

Tisi Bush

Louise Lamb

They say that all things come and go in cycles, and if we are playing the numbers game badminton is certainly becoming more popular at Strathallan.

There was a healthy turnout of III, IV and V Formers this year.

Rebecca, Kirsty, Finlay, Craig, Michael, Euan, Hanna, Louise, Rhianna, Mhairi, Nicola, Renny, Alison and Rory all showed promise and braved many of the colder winter nights in their quest for improvement.

Invariably the VI Form sessions were over subscribed due in the main to an extremely keen Chinese contingent. My thanks go to Adrian, Ding, Bufan, Benson, George, Lina, Nan and Sulekha for making Friday nights so much fun as well as providing some challenging opposition.

The annual House championships were, again, keenly contested but Freeland were just too good for the others this time.

Thornbank took the girls' trophy and, interestingly, beat Ruthven into fourth place overall.

While I am writing this the 2002-2003 season is already well under way with activity sessions more popular than ever. We have also entered a team in the Perth & Kinross league. Matches take place on Wednesday evenings and the competition should be of a high standard so let us hope we can at least hold our own. Good luck to the team and my thanks once again to all who contributed to making the 2001-2002 season so enjoyable.

Badminton is now offered as a games option at Senior level and there is no doubt that the general standard of play is improving as a result. In this regard I must thank Mr Sneddon, Mme Crane and Mrs Duncan for their considerable contributions.

GCK

swimming

This year has been spent building on the progress made last year.

The swim team has grown in size with III Formers joining and the three weekly sessions still in place. As a result we won two matches, one against Rannoch and notably, the other against Glenalmond - a first in a long time and without the full team. We lost against Dollar; an oversight we hope to rectify next year.

Standards and inter-house swimming were competed in with gusto and were both won by Ruthven with the other Houses coming not far behind. Thank you to Mr. Watt and Mr. Giles for organising the inter-house competition - it was much appreciated.

We are finally - there have been rumours of this since I came in 1996 - having the changing rooms redone, with the outcome, it is to be hoped, that in the winter we won't need nerves of steel against the cold to get changed.

We have, as always, had our dedicated coach Dr. McDougall training us and injecting enthusiasm into the team when needed. He is always there on a Saturday morning and the team would not have progressed as much without him.

At the start of the year I was sorry to see Mrs. Duncan leaving swimming to go to badminton as the qualification regulations were tightened. She still gives the much-needed service of recording results in the inter-house and standards competitions and her supervising games sessions will be missed on the days we are feeling particularly lazy.

Also at the end of the year I was much obliged to Mr. Ross for stepping in to supervise our training sessions while I coached the team.

I have enjoyed captaining the team this year and even though Kamal does not believe it, he would have made an enormous contribution to the team had he carried on his post as boys' captain.

The team, somehow, is always motivated (though in a slightly diluted form on Saturday at 6.30am) which has made both my and Dr. McDougall's job easier and more fun. I look forward to next year to build on what we have done this year.

Vicky Watson

clay pigeon

This proved to be a quiet year for the club, what with there being no visit to the National Championship in 2002

and the decision to move the Scottish Championship to the Christmas term so as not to cut across exams. A move which seems to have been universally welcomed.

Joe Watson was appointed as Club Captain and set about his task with a refreshing commitment; his caring and responsible leadership style shows him to be a very good choice. He sets a good example and is able to motivate others by his actions.

We have had two competitions to date. The first saw us beat a good Loretto side, despite our not shooting particularly well. At the National Championship we acquitted ourselves well enough for such a young side, our A-team finishing 12 out of 28 schools, and our B-team (who shot the same course as the seniors) outstripping many of the A-team scores. The teams were as follows:

A-Team

Watson. J
Leslie. G
MacKenzie. K
Mackie. P
Phillip. R

B-Team

Common. M
Bennett. J
Garret. A
Laing. J
Brown. K

C-Team

Carmichael. A
McCulloch. R
Bacarreza. M
Rawlinson. B
Smith. M

We look forward to the Scottish Championship next term and the House competition this term, but more importantly I am looking forward to our young team maturing and shooting to their potential.

I would like to thank the ever-reliable Charles Court for his continued help and support with the club and John Newall who has kept the range in excellent condition.

PMV



Inclement weather during the latter part of the season played havoc with the programme and a number of fixtures were lost or interrupted.

The season ended on an unsatisfactory note, despite the team's having qualified for the final of the Perth and Kinross Schools' league for the second successive year, when our opponents were unable to fulfill the fixture even though the final was delayed until September. It is hoped that the final can now be played at the start of the 2003 season.

The league team won three out of their four fixtures by such emphatic margins that their one narrow defeat to Morrison's Academy did not matter in the final analysis as they also dropped points to other schools. A highlight of the match against Morrison's was the mighty Joe Watson's victory against the County matchplay champion to accomplish which he went round in level par 71 on the tough Crieff course. Victories were gained against Glenalmond 4-0, Breadalbane 4-0 and Crieff 3-1. Captain of golf, Marcus Read, struggled to play at his best and came up against some tough opponents during the season. The other two ever-present members of the team, Gordon Bujaud and Daniel Hoffmann, both had good seasons and both won three out of four league matches often very decisively. Only four players were used in the league matches which might help to account for the team's success.

Other matches were played against Independent schools later in the term, in which it proved possible to blood some other players who will thereby have gained a little experience of match play golf. One of the highlights of the season was the 4-2 defeat at Craighielaw Golf Club against Loretto School. The six man team was severely weakened due to exam commitments and at the 11th hour we had to call on Sean Murray to come into the side despite his lack of experience at this level. The course proved very challenging and this was not helped by a fifteen minute interruption due to hailstones (n.b. this is early June), yet despite these difficulties young Sean managed to keep his ball on the course more than his opponent and recorded a famous victory. Duncan Bickerton also won his match and he and Sean were the only players with 100% playing records. A 3-3 draw at Bruntfield links against Fettes College completed the matches against other schools.

The weather curtailed the Inter-House golf to 9 holes when water started to form on the greens at Auchterarder. Ruthven, led well by Gordon Bujaud managed to win the team competition and the individual, halting Freeland's previous dominance. The St. Columba's trophy was retained by Marcus Read with two rounds of 73 at Auchterarder, by three strokes from Gordon Bujaud. The end result would have been a lot closer if Gordon had not double bogied the par three last.

The Stocks Cup and the Scottish Schools' Team Championship, scheduled to be played on Glenalmond's course, both fell victim to the wet weather, although the Perth and Kinross individual championship was played on one of the hottest days of the summer on the Lansdowne course at Blairgowrie. Sadly none of the school's golfers managed to hit top form that day with Gordon being the best placed Strathallian at equal 11th.

Thanks must be extended to groundsman John Newall and his staff for the work they have put into the new 9 hole course on site. This is a major improvement on our facilities and will enable golfers of all abilities to test out their skills. Once again I am indebted to Mr Kitson for his unfailing help and support in looking after the team on match days and for his coaching of players on practice days.

NS

LONDON & SE ENGLAND GOLF

On 25th June 2002, two teams of Strathallians competed for the Anniesland Trophy at Denham. This is a competition between London-based former pupils of all the major Scottish schools organised by the London Scottish Schools' Golf Society. Our team of Mitchell Steel, Alastair Doodson, Ben Marr and Innes Anderson with 111 stableford points (best 3 scores to count) came a very close second to Loretto while our other team of Alfie Stuart, Scott Callander, Brian Parker and Gordon Caldwell came approximately 8th out of 18 teams entered.

In the afternoon nine-hole foursomes competition Brian Parker and Gordon Caldwell came first with 19 stableford points and won the Watsonian Salver.

Our next outing will be at Bletchingley in Surrey on Wednesday 2nd October 2002. Anyone who would like to play and is not currently on the "mailing list" should contact Gordon Caldwell on: **020844674866 or Gordon@caidifam.freeserve.co.uk**

from now on we can be sure that things can only get better.

Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships

For the past two years we have been riding at Gleneagles Equestrian Centre and decided that we ought to make something of this training and enter the Scottish Schools Championships hosted by Kilgraston School at Gleneagles. Although many of us did not have our own horses we treated this as only a minor setback. It felt like we travelled all over Scotland in an attempt to find horses we could borrow and eventually, about four days before the competition, we succeeded. Having finally got horses from far and wide we spent the Saturday cleaning tack. Tack which, in some cases, hadn't been cleaned for a good few years. Unfortunately, members of the VI Form had an event that night and so the chances of getting a full night's sleep seemed slender.

Amazingly, on the day of the competition, we had liaised perfectly and our mounts arrived within minutes of each other. It was then a frantic rush to get all the horses plaited and polished up before our dressage tests. Certain members seemed to have neglected the minor matter of learning the test before the day and so what should have been warm-up time was spent brushing up on the test. It appeared that the junior team were the strongest at dressage and Olivia Streatfield-James, Rachel Leslie and Laura MacDonald all gained very good scores standing them in good stead for the show jumping.

As usual the fine Scottish weather made its appearance and managed to get all of us very wet. However, this did not dampen our spirits and we carried on regardless. Both Pamela Garrett riding Barney and Helen Summersgill riding Whisper jumped lovely clear rounds. Sadly the rest of us were not quite so fortunate. The atmosphere seemed to be too much for some of the ponies and, added to the sun shining brightly on the first fence of the course, some eliminations were inevitable. All the riders put on a brave and gutsy performance with horses who were being very difficult. In addition, the seniors faced a course of 3'6" jumps, bigger than some were used to; it all became a bit daunting.

Considering this was the first time Strathallan have entered this competition and many of us were riding horses we had only just met and furthermore competing against riders, many of whom are successful on the national circuit and who have ridden the same horses for years, we did not mind not coming home with a haul of trophies and rosettes. We were just pleased to have put in an appearance and from now on we can be sure that things can only get better.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Summersgill for her amazing work in organizing everything from transport to entries and for making superhuman and successful efforts to find riders and horses to fill in at the last minute.

Thank you, too, to the teachers and parents who have supported behind the scenes, holding horses while courses were walked and keeping the coffee flowing in order to keep us alert. This would never have happened without Mr. Barnes taking us to Gleneagles religiously every week always armed with his cup of coffee... we hope we haven't encouraged an addiction.

So, we look forward to next year when, it is to be hoped, our performance will improve and we can add another sport to the list of successes at Strathallan School.

Sulekha Varma and Samara Johnstone

Strathallan Riding Group

A small group of enthusiastic Riley pupils went riding every Friday at the Dunvegan Equestrian Centre in Newburgh. Riding went on in all weather conditions; not even the sort of torrential downpours that we call summer here in Perthshire dampened their spirits. Throughout the year, the pupils worked hard to improve their skills; Amyce made excellent progress on Duchess, one of the smallest ponies; Kelly and Naomi braved some jumping lessons and loved it; Malcolm discovered the best jumping position on Clyde; Kirsty and Ginny both wanted to ride Amos; and Rachel demonstrated just how easy it looks when you can jump properly.



The senior group travelled to Newburgh every Thursday afternoon to improve their riding skills at the Dunvegan Equestrian Centre. They were provided with a large number of horses and ponies of all standards on which to work. Lessons included dressage, jumping and stable management including tacking up horses with all different kinds of bridles, bits and attachments to saddles. While doing this they found out what each piece of equipment was designed for and what problems with the horses they were then able to correct. Very interesting.

As well as lessons, the group went on numerous hacks in the countryside around Newburgh. The experienced riders enjoyed some exciting canters and gallops while the less experienced discovered how to cope with horses out in the open. Vicky Reid won the award for the most original "dismount" (by a short head from the writer). Thanks to Laura, Amanda, Hannah and Nonie (who may only be three and a half but knows all there is to know about the Dunvegan horses). A great time was had by all. We look forward to the challenges of next year.

JSRH

the ability to learn from and give to others

During the past year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has again proved to be very popular with pupils. No doubt this is partly due to the fact that the Award is great fun. This is actually one of the aims of the Award, but of course there are other more serious aims too. The Award handbook for leaders contains a long list of these. For example, in delivering the Award, leaders are asked to foster in pupils the following qualities; a sense of responsibility; independence of thought and action; an awareness of one's potential; an understanding of one's strengths and weaknesses; the ability to lead and work as part of a team; the ability to learn from and give to others in the community; self confidence; discovering new talents and abilities; and the ability to plan and use time effectively. The rationale behind the structure of the Award is that these abstractions can be given concrete form by training pupils appropriately and then giving them the opportunity to take part in challenging activities which will allow their talents to blossom. Stating such high flown aims is all very well, but parents will probably be more interested to know whether the reality matches the rhetoric. One form of answer to this important question can be found by simply reading the reports of Award assessors. Here are two recent examples of such reports taken from participants' logbooks.

Gold Award	Service Section
Title of Service Given	People With Special Needs
Date Started	20/04/00
Completed	25/04/01
Briefing Session Given By	Rosalind Scott On 20/04/00
Counselling Sessions Held On	(a) 10/05/00 (b) 01/11/00 (c) 07/01/01
Form of Practical Help	Help With Activities for People with Special Needs
Assessor's Report of practical service	Laura was extremely conscientious and hard working. She coped very well with working in a challenging environment. She integrated well and was a valued member of the volunteer team.
Of participant's diary and account	An excellent report - full of insight.
Signed	Rosalind Scott
Position	Volunteer Co-ordinator

Gold Award	Residential Project
Activity	Outdoor Centre Helper
Purpose	Working With Primary Children
Place	Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, Oban, Argyll
Assessor's Report	Jenny played a full and active role with a group of primary 7 children from Plains, North Lanarkshire. She got on really well with the children and she was a great help in all the activities (walking, skiing, orienteering, rock climbing and gorge walking), taking responsibility confidently when asked. She was a good timekeeper and quick to learn. Jenny was actively involved in all the evening activities and good at anticipating the children's needs e.g. on the gorge walk. She has been a great asset during this week.
Signed	Reg Popham
Qualifications	MIC, BCU, BASI, SOA

It is clear that, for these two pupils, the Award does seem to have provided an opportunity to develop skills and qualities which they may not have otherwise been able to express in quite the same way. In their case, the rhetoric of the Award handbook has been successfully translated into action in the real world. This is true for the vast majority of pupils who take on the challenge of the Award and this is probably why the award has had such an enduring appeal to parents over the years.

The success of the Award in the school depends entirely on the help given to the Award by school staff and also by the many individuals in the community who, like the assessors named above, support the scheme. Mr. Kitson's Community Service team make a particularly vital contribution to the Award in the school and this is very much appreciated by the pupils. Mr. Bolton, Mr Burgess, Dr. Carr, Miss England, Mr. Higginbottom and Miss Ni Rian have again devoted a great deal of their spare time to supervising expeditions and I am very grateful for their help and advice. Sadly for us, Debbie Carr, Liz England and Sinead Ni Rian have all moved to other posts, leaving the Expedition Section completely bereft of the feminine touch. Any volunteers, girls? Many thanks are also due to the numerous other staff who make contributions to all the various sections of the Award.

Parents interested in what the Award has to offer can consult the Award website at www.theaward.org where they can also find an archive of the Award journal.

DRS



sailing

The sailing started early with Adam, Squibble and Watson somehow managing to win the Seamanship Cup at the National CCF Regatta in September.



After an absence of a year Port Edgar's Dart 16s were in for a shock, probably having not been pitch-poled for the whole time we weren't sailing. The record now stands at 12 pitch-poles in one afternoon set by Blakey, Bennet and Hayward. The first 8 were apparently for fun...

There were no near misses with oil tankers this year, although Adam and Jake did manage to capsize right in the middle of a yacht race. Our heavy weather sailing skills have definitely improved; Hayward and Graeme lasted almost a whole afternoon of Force 6 before their Wayfarer capsized and inexplicably made a beeline for the Forth Road Bridge. Squibble and Watson have found a soft spot for Herman our German sailing supremo, even going as far as to allow him in the same boat. Adam and Jake claimed the Buzz because no one else was stupid enough to sail it. It takes a minor death wish to put the spinnaker up when the waves are bigger than small buses. The insurance premium will no doubt rise after the pier refused to move out of Graeme's way and Bennet discovered that trapeze wires have their limits. Hayward, Herman and Mat Gordon got their level 2 certificates and the rest worked on the Seamanship and Performance Sailing modules.

This year was easily the best so far and the bus would not be the same without Commodore of Sailing Blakey making sure the packed lunches were distributed fairly; and of course Mr Raitt's driving never had us worried. The Macdonalds at South Queensferry will definitely miss our weekly custom and the Forth Road Bridge tollbooth workers Hayward's inspiring chat.

Adam Wallace, Nicol LV1

football

The football season at Strath started as usual during the predictably wet and dreary month of January, and the early season training was therefore confined to the hardly ideal school astro.

The 1st XI squad for the season consisted mainly of Upper 6th who were in their second year in the team with a few new faces from Lower 6th. The Team was captained by Neil Anderson, who set a great example for the rest of the squad by eating healthily and keeping fit through his own form of recreational exercise. Other leaving players worthy of mention are Liam Ferry, who has weighed in with more than his fair share of goals over the years, and Alistair 'Dog' Carmichael who as usual left his trademark (12 stud indents) on any player mad enough to go near him with or without the ball.

This was the first season that the school took part in the newly formed Independent Schools Cup. We made it through the opening group stage with a pretty good set of results, only to find things slightly harder in the quarter finals where we came across a well organized Hutcheson's side.

There were a few other memorable matches over the season with good home victories over Dollar and QVS and a 7-1 result against Glenamond on their own turf.

Looking back now we are now able to appreciate the funny side of not only Mr. Bolton's bowel-moving driving, but also the night he managed to get the keys to the mini-bus stuck in its side door while we were away at QVS, and left us to freeze as the temperature dropped and the sleet hardened.

Overall, the season was enjoyed by all who took part. The 2nd XI benefited from their rather unorthodox attitude to training with success in most of their matches, and are all happy to attribute some of that success to their inspirational coach Mr. Smith who manages to create a great team spirit each year.

Thanks are also due to Mr Goddard and also to Mr Shields, who especially enjoyed the season because of Celtic's convincing triple victory.

Blair Chalmers

The story continues: last year's report stated that we had to improve on our second to last position in the Pringle Trophy, and as the new year got under way there was a determined effort from the team to get things right in training.



Giles and Hugh did a lot of work outwith Wednesday afternoons, ensuring as they did so that the Team matched their exertions. The Drill component of the competition was therefore well rehearsed and the level of fitness - which was eventually decisive - rose to new heights.

The competition this year was almost exactly the same as the last one (I hope there is some variety in 2002), except of course that we improved by 16 places and came home with the Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy. The Strathallian Team made their mark in many ways during the weekend - by their determination, their skill in the military elements of the competition, their total incompetence in Map Reading (of which more later), their haircuts and their dramatic Section Attack in which Calum Emslie played the pipes and Mark Riley raised the Saltire over the captured objective. All the same, as we waited for the results to be announced I was convinced that we must have been in about 6th place at best, and it was a great feeling to hear that the Trophy was ours. Many thanks to: Cadet RSM Giles Seddon, Colour Sergeant Hugh Mackay, Sergeant Fraser Niven, Corporal Calum Emslie, Lance Corporals Mark Riley and Gareth Everett and Marines Robert Anderson, Fraser Philip and Alex Murray. I am sure this is one part of their schooldays which will remain a vivid memory.

We started the year with a mass of eager recruits, and it is pleasing to record that even after the rigours of training and the competing attraction of hanging out around Simpson on skateboards, we end the year with fourteen now mostly qualified Marines in the Fourth Form. This makes up for fairly serious dropout rate in the Fifth Form and some unexplained departures in the Lower Sixth, and although next year's Pringle team will be short on experience at the lower end of the age range there will be much to build on in the future.

The Troop has undertaken a variety of training over the year: on Field Day the Recruits were treated to a day of Adventurous Activities, thanks to Mr Higginbottom's agreeing to accompany them, while the Marines went out to Cultybraggan for the usual gung-ho military exercise. A carefully prepared scenario in which we engaged the forces of the Perthshire Livestock Offensive Patrol (ably played by the two Marines who were Off Games, plus assorted members of the Army Section) got off to a bad start when the dreaded Map Reading skills of the RSM led the Troop to entirely the wrong part of the exercise area - but from then on it was, as usual, fun all the way. Oddly enough, a few months later there was a report in the national press stating that a landing craft full of Royal Marines had landed in Spain rather than Gibraltar because "they had misread the map". So perhaps it is to be expected.

A second exercise, this time principally for the benefit of the Recruits, was run at Barry Buddon in early March. This time there were no hitches, the weather was pretty favourable and the Recruits all had a chance to try out their fieldcraft skills in fairly easy conditions.

Between the exercises the normal run of Wednesday training has continued. We have reintroduced the Methods of Instruction Cadre - although the complications of timetabling mean that as I write in mid May there is one more lesson to complete before the five candidates pass out from this - and all but two of the Marines Recruits have passed out to become full Marines. The summer term has brought home the sheer volume of exams which now affect everyone from Fifth Form upwards, and the exercise scheduled for the 18th May had to be cancelled because we did not have sufficient numbers available. However there is a good programme of Adventurous Training under way, and thanks to the Army CTT everyone has had a chance to do an afternoon of LSW training.

The Annual Royal Marines Troop Mess Dinner - now in its second year, of course - was a great success. Last year Lt Walmsley had expressed the hope that the Pringle Trophy would be the centrepiece, and he was not disappointed. Guests were Lt. Col. Stuart Conway RM, o/c RMR Scotland, Captain Walker RNR and the Bursar. Toasts were proposed to the Queen, the Captain-General, the Corps and the Pringle Trophy Team. The Bursar later related that he was somewhat apprehensive when he saw that he was to be seated opposite Angus Patterson, but that Angus' social graces and conversational skills had done him credit. Captain Walker echoed all of the Bursar's feelings on his placement next to Marine Digby Legge.

The last event on the calendar this year is Annual Camp: two Marines, Gareth and Calum, are going to Garelochhead and the combined strength of Army and Royal Marines cadets going to the Central Camp at Cultybraggan amounts to eighteen, well up on last year.

I would like to thank all those who have helped the Royal Marines cadets over this successful and eventful year: WO1 Lindsay, Lieutenant Walmsley, Captain Ian Waddell RMR, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Conway RM, Captain Walker RNR and also two Royal Marines who have offered their help but have not yet been taken up on the offer: Captain Michael Clayton RM, whose operational commitments have been heavy, and Captain Martin Roskilly RM who has been to visit us and has offered us the use of the facilities at RM Condor.

AS-J

The Army Section has not gone away, contrary to what might be thought.

It has admittedly been dealt a couple of serious blows over the last two years, most recently the departure of Mrs. (Captain) Rick, who left to move to the USA in the Autumn term: Mrs Rick had a long record of service to the Cadet Movement, both with the ACF (having been O/c the Auchterarder Detachment when she first joined Strathallan as Secretary to the Bursar in the early 1990s) and latterly with this Section which she supported ably and enthusiastically. She came to take over command of the Army Section at the start of the 2000 session, realising at last her ambition to be promoted to Captain. The Section, past and present, wishes her well in her new job, and we hope to have some news of her.

At the start of the year we were short on numbers - almost all of the new intake of IV Formers had opted for the Royal Marines Troop and those remaining in the V Form upwards were not numerous. All the same, a team was mustered for the Highland Cadet Tactical Competition (borrowing the odd Marine here and there) and the unbroken record of participation was thereby preserved - the Team improved considerably on last year's performance as well, which might have something to do with the lower number of Royal Marine Cadets included (but thanks anyway to those who went).

A Field Day was successfully completed in October, consisting of an overnight stay at Cultybraggan (of which more in the Royal Marines' report) and a qualification shoot on the 30 metre range.

Training over the year has, of necessity, been combined to a large degree with the RM Troop, and Army Cadets formed the larger part of the Methods of Instruction Cadre. The numbers of IV Formers gradually built up to a more respectable level as some chose to re-opt out of the RM, and personnel levels are, if not high, at least reasonable. Given that next year the whole IV Form Army and RM intake will train as Recruits as opposed to belonging to a particular Section, one hopes that the Section will grow and prosper.

Thanks are due to all those who have worked hard to maintain the traditions and enthusiasm of the Section this year; Captain Rick has already been mentioned but I must also thank WO1 Lindsay, Lt Raitt (who is, sadly, leaving us to move to Lincolnshire) and 21 Cadet Training Team in the guise of Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Gaffney. Not forgetting the Cadets themselves, and in particular Sarah Eddie who has continued to the end of her time at Strathallan and was even keen enough to volunteer to come to the annual Camp at Cultybraggan.

AS-J



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the Isle of Cumbrae

We left Strath with thirteen pairs of wellies, measuring tapes, wallpaper scrapers (don't ask), one disappointed driver (it was just after the England v Brazil game), and accompanied by the melodious tunes of John's music compilation.

On arrival at the buzzing metropolis of Millport, we settled in and, soon after, headed off for one of the bits of rocky coast where we would be spending a large majority of the next four joyful days. Immediately there was an emergency; Lindsey had a hole in her wellies.

What followed was a blur of quadrats, transects, chi squared and t-tests, barnacles and butterfish. We even became adept at recognising channel wrack from toothed wrack and sea mice from sea hares.

On Sunday afternoon, the sun finally shone and we decided to go on a bike ride around the island. Some of us were more adventurous and tackled it by tandem (no, Lauren you can't steer from the back). The most adventurous, however, was Catriona who, part of the way round, accidentally entered the annual Cumbrae cycle race which was coincidentally also taking place that day. Reports filtered back that she had come 126th.

What were our lasting memories of the trip?

- crabs do bite (and yes, they do hurt, Mark)
- wearing wellies for four days gives you blisters
- sea water is cold in June (especially at 10pm at night)
- kicking limpets off rocks is fun!

L6 Biology Pupils

Immediately
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an emergency;
Lindsey had
a hole in
her wellies.



not a single... cup of coffee

At the end of the GCSE and Standard Grade exams members of V Form had only a few days respite before they were launched into their first taste of The Real World, a place rumoured to exist down main drive and out the school gates. Pupils opted to spend a week in the company of people as diverse as psychologists, museum curators, hotel managers and even lawyers.

By means of preparation my parents, kindly, gave me several weeks intensive training in the art of coffee making. As the "experience" approached I felt fully equipped for my week at the Perthshire Advertiser.

I was welcomed to the building by the new editor, Miss Lawson, with "Hi, I'm the editor, and before we start I insist you call me Alison". Knock number one for the reserved Presbyterian granny in me.

After a short tour, which reassured me that I'd be lost within an hour, I was introduced to all the editorial staff. While I was still trying to use some ingenious technique to remember the dozen or so names which flashed through my brain, Alison started a cheery conversation.

After a short autobiography, she nipped out of the office reappearing with two cups of coffee, one of which she placed in front of me. Warning bells rang inside my head. This went against my entire training. Alison, however, made no sign that anything was wrong and promptly produced an enormous pile of paper.

"I'm going to start you quite small," Good, I thought, I have to do the shredder work.

"I want you to turn these into articles."

With a rather unattractive shocked expression on my face I listened as she explained the editors' more traditional short hand for cutting the pieces as well as the ultra high-tech new network system. I admit I was comforted by Alison's rather jovial uncertainty on the computer.

I spent most of that day rewording press releases, cutting out unnecessary information and improving spelling, punctuation and grammar. I know that this will be a shock for many people, not least my English teachers, but most of the spelling mistakes were glaringly obvious, a symptom of very bad PR and spellcheckers.

The second day I went into the office I had the code for the door and consequently felt highly professional. As I met Alison, feeling better equipped to deal with a pile of half-baked articles today; she announced she had a little task for me. The little task was an interview with the Chinese State Circus who were set up on the South Inch. I was just to "write a short article and meet the photographer". Oh, and none of them spoke English.

It was only after leaving to meet the performers that I realised I had no notebook. What kind of reporter was I?

I was incredibly nervous about my first interview but, surprisingly, as I approached the PR lady, I was no-longer merely "Ishbel McFarlane", I was "Ishbel McFarlane, the reporter from the PA". The title took over, giving me confidence to ask two men dressed up as a lion where they lived, and other such feats.

Every day I went into the office the Editor would give me another challenge so that I never felt too relaxed or bored. I reviewed Perth Museum, updated the web site, worked on the 'phones and even got an 18-year-old schoolboy out of a maths class to interview him. The fact I could carry out all of these tasks made me realise that journalism was not a just job for dreams, but a realistic possibility, something I could not have learned without trying it out.

The high point came on my last day. In the morning I got a copy of that day's newspaper to see exactly which obscure page my article would be printed on, only to read, at the top of the front page, "The Chinese State Circus Roars Into Town, By ishbel McFarlane". I should point out that my writing skills were not the sole reason for my tiny article gracing the front page. The honour was really due to the great photograph, but at that moment, I could see my whole illustrious career as a journalist stretched out in front of me.

By the end of the week I was exhausted, working an awful lot harder than I seemed to work for my exams (what a terrible thing to say). I was so busy with real work that I hadn't had a chance to have a cup of coffee, never mind make one. The challenges and opportunities that Alison Lawson entrusted to me meant that my work experience was an enriching, educational and enjoyable experience. Of course I'll be a journalist, I am already using alliteration.

Ishbel McFarlane



"I'm going to start you quite small," Good, I thought, I have to do the shredder work.

"I want you to turn these into articles."

Soupe aux asperges et madeleines...

souvenirs d'un tour cycliste en France

"I remember it well..."

These words from the song sung by Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold as they recalled their early romantic memories in the film *Gigi* reminds me of the very happy and remarkably enduring memories of a visit by a party of Strathallan pupils to France in the same decade as that picture was made.

My octogenarian memory, though better at recall of the past than of the present, may still be suspect in the details of the visit.

It was organised by the French master of that period, a Mr John Shaw who lived with his family in the house at the entrance to the school. He became, I think, Vice Principal of the School at a later date. I liked him very much as I thought he had a very fair and sympathetic personality. Such attributes ensured that the holiday was well organised, interesting and enjoyable.

I think that we took the train to Southampton and crossed to Le Havre or St Malo. We cycled from there to a little fishing village called St Briac. We freewheeled down a little hill into the town at the bottom of which was the hotel we stayed in. On more than one occasion at our evening meal we had the most delicious asparagus soup, something which has remained a firm favourite with me ever since.

As we walked through the narrow village street on the way up to the ancient monastery of Mont Saint Michel, we stopped at the restaurant of Madame Poulard the originator of the French omelette or so we were told by the guide who recommended we go there. Nice and fluffy the omelettes were too! Another memory of this area was the one kilometre long stretch of sand between shore and sea around the castle rock where you had to be careful not to be caught as the sea raced in between high and low tide.

At Concale, further along the coast, we tasted oysters at a lovely little quayside restaurant. I have not developed a taste for them even yet.

Then by train to Paris where we stayed in student accommodation at the Sorbonne. In that lovely city we visited all the usual tourist attractions, Montmartre, Napoleon's Tomb, The South Bank, the Louvre, Versailles and many others. However the highlight of the Paris experiences was the visit to the Opera House where we saw Samson and Delilah from the front row of the "gods" A really great, memorable and enjoyable experience.

But the evening did not end there. After the opera we went to the Les Halles, the huge fruit and vegetable market where we had a complete meal in a plate of onion soup at a restaurant called Le Chien qui Fume. Never had an onion soup like it since.

The only Paris attraction we were not scheduled to enjoy was the Folies Bergères...pity!

However, we did visit the winery at Vouvray and were allowed to sample (only) the wine from the vines in the area. As I write there is a bottle of Vouvray 2000 not far from my elbow.

On reflection my taste buds seem to be the sensory stimulus for my brain to recall these memories.

Yes, I remember it well. So well in fact since some fifteen years later I camped with my own family on the camping site at Saint Briac and visited all the same places.

Horace Thomson (Strathallan Victor Ludorum 1939)



In the early evening of August 22nd 1981, David Bogie and his wife, Eirene, left their house for an evening engagement in Edinburgh. They never arrived as their car was in a head-on collision, which left David dead and Eirene badly injured. Eirene was supported throughout her recovery by her children, Caroline and Miller, and by her grandchildren. Such family support, which extended to a wide circle of friends and colleagues, was an integral part of all their lives. David had been retired for some eight years at the time of the accident, and had viewed impending old age with some trepidation. This unexpected tragedy cut deeply into the lives of all who knew him. Time heals and memories fade, so some twenty-one years on it is important that we pay our respects to a man who was one of the founders of the post-war Strathallan.

David's hometown was Kirkcaldy, where his parents, David and Jessie, had themselves been born. His father was company secretary for the furniture manufacturer, McIntosh, and sent his son to Kirkcaldy High School with the intention that he should follow in his footsteps. However, David's abilities with arithmetic and his meticulous approach to his work soon marked him out for a career in accountancy, something David knew he was determined to pursue even at the age of fourteen in 1920. His father had heard great things about the new school that had moved from Bridge of Allan that summer, and about the young headmaster, Harry Riley. As David later remembered - *the Bridge of Allan School was having outstanding successes in the Junior and Senior Cambridge local examinations and distinctions and first class honours were being gained by many boys, despite the staffing difficulties during the war years.* They would have met HR at the hotel in Perth where he conducted his interviews and, no doubt, would later have received one of his famous

postcards accepting David into the school. Such was the effect of this encounter that many years later David would insist that school policy on admission ensure that every parent and pupil meet the headmaster.

So, in September 1920 David Bogie arrived in Forgardenny to join some 120 boys, and was shown his accommodation as part of Ruthven House on the top floor of the main building, accommodation which he would share with 40 others under the guidance of the housemaster, Mr. Robertson. In an article written later, David remembered that *life for the boys was frugal indeed - the daily cold bath included - but knowledge and principles were pumped into them in no uncertain manner and all were expected to and did work hard.* He joined class III at the start of what was intended to be a three-year course. His personal relationship with HR grew during conversations conducted at table at mealtimes, or whilst walking to and from the classrooms or the games field, habits which earned HR the respect of every boy and remained with them forever. Especially memorable were the evenings when HR would assemble the whole school in the chapel to give an informal 'news of the day' and personally hand out the in-coming mail to each recipient; the news was invariably interesting, dramatised as much as possible and with personal comments thrown in for good measure.

David also remembered HR in the classroom teaching his subjects of Geography and Maths. David appreciated that he was allowed to work at his own rate under Riley's guidance, but observed that he never failed to offer encouragement and attention to those who were struggling. HR's Geography lessons were memorable for *the vivid descriptions of railway journeys backed by the appropriate pamphlet, for example the 'Railways of France'.* He described the country, the counties, the towns, the industries and geographic features so vividly that *the information remains with me to this day.* HR also taught commerce and accounting to groups of boys, using extra time in the evenings to prepare his charges for their examinations. What David especially appreciated was that *Riley believed it was his calling to make boys good as well as knowledgeable and he endeavoured to educate, in the widest sense, each boy in his own particular field so that he would be able to accept with confidence the responsibilities of manhood.* He remembered, too, the wisdom in the words of HR when he said *everyone likes a good and hard worker whether (he be) a baker or a barrister - you can easily make your mark in life by just going the second mile.*



Games, organised by Mr. White, were an important part of Strathallan, but David was not as able as some of his friends at rugby or cricket, much preferring golf, curling and tennis. HR would join in with the occasional game of football, and refereed rugby games, always seeing fair play with the rejoinder - *Oh! But you can't do that. You can't* - a comment that often presaged quite stern discipline. On occasions, David and other pupils were allowed to go to play a round of golf at Gleneagles at one shilling a round (current cost is £100), which involved a half-hour train journey and a two-mile walk to the King's Course near the half-built Gleneagles Hotel - work having stopped because of the

Great War and the following depression. David's love of golf, curling and tennis continued throughout his life. He became Secretary of the North of the Forth Tennis Championship Tournaments in 1927 and, later, chairman of Edinburgh Ice Rink and Captain of Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society - but his greatest interest was reserved for salmon fishing, which although surely started on the banks of the Earn, culminated with two rods on the Tweed.

During David's first year at the school, he became increasingly aware of the importance of the days at Bridge of Allan for many of the boys. He was regaled with tales of the travelling between the Houses, the sports events in the town, and the end-of term horse-drawn tram ride to Stirling station. The school at Forgardenny depended very much on the traditions instituted at Bridge of Allan and continued by many of the boys who had accompanied him to Forgardenny. HR was especially proud of his original boarders, although still saddened by the loss of Jimmy Gowans, Allan Harley and George Mollison in the Great War. From such feelings, David learned to understand the need for respect for service, duty and loyalty, and the sacrifice that this entailed. David spent two years in this environment. His father had intended that he take the Senior Cambridge class for a third year, but HR was adamant



that David had learnt all that he could at school, and needed to move on to an apprenticeship if he was to follow a career in accountancy. David remembered his words - *a degree will get you a job but it won't keep you in one - my job is to teach you to achieve both* - and trusted to the career guidance as he understood that H.R. knew his individual qualities and abilities. Neither man was to forget the other.

David left Strathallan in the summer of 1922, and was apprenticed to a firm of accountants in Edinburgh, further education for which his father had to pay ten pounds a year. At the age of eighteen he joined the Territorial Army Signals Corps as part of the 51st Highland division, at the start of what was to become fifteen years service, culminating in his elevation to the rank of captain. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1927, and continued with a degree course in commerce and accountancy at Edinburgh University, which he completed with great success and no few honours in 1929. While at the University, he came to the notice of Professor Annan, a partner in the accountancy firm of Graham, Smart & Annan, and David's future career was settled. It was here that he also met his lifelong friend and colleague, Ronnie Henderson.

Each year, David joined a group of former pupils who met at a dinner in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, with HR as the guest. In the spring of 1927, HR had produced a publication, with the help of his prefects, T.M.Hart and G.C.Baker, which he called *The Strathallian*, planning that it be sent to all former pupils. This was an experiment to report on the school's activities and was so well received that many more copies than expected had to be produced. However, HR was disappointed with the contributions of former pupils and felt that the time was ripe for the formation of an Old Strathallians' Club. As he said in the second publication - *we cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity for absolute unity within our ranks. At School this must primarily be among those set in authority and their unity will do much to preserve an unbroken front by the School as a whole. This unity extends no less to the Old Boys than to the school itself.....it should therefore be the duty of all boys to make a point of joining the Old Boys' Club immediately upon leaving, and so never cease to be a member of that 'goodly company' which the word 'Strathallian' embraces.*

In 1932, the Strathallian Club was put on an official footing under the guidance of HR and J.B. Morrison as co-trustees. After a number of changes, HR proposed the post of co-trustee to David Bogie, who also had just become a partner in the Edinburgh accountancy firm of Graham, Smart & Annan. Thus was formed the lasting partnership that would guide the school for the next forty years.

HR became seriously ill in the summer of 1934, and took some time to recover. At the school he was ably assisted by his senior master, Willie Ward, who took over the burden of the academic organisation. But this situation had made HR aware of his own mortality, so he suggested to David Bogie that action be taken to ensure the survival of the school in the event of his death, and he thought that the school should be bequeathed to the old boys. Instead, a decision was made to hand over all the buildings, contents and grounds to trustees, and HR selected David Bogie and John Maitland Cowan to fill that role. This was announced by HR to the School and the Strathallians at the 1936 Sports Day. He eventually handed over control to Strathallian School Limited in 1938, co-incidentally the year that David became President of the Old Strathallians.

It was not as if David Bogie didn't have enough to do already. He was now a lieutenant in the 51st Highland Divisional Signals, a member of the Scottish Chartered Accountant Society examining board, President of the Edinburgh Chartered Accountant Student Society and editor of their annual publication, and was lecturing at Edinburgh University on accountancy and business method. This last involvement brought him into contact with many former pupils, and he was placed in a trusted position to guide apprentices through their further education. One of these was Robin Graham, a nephew of his firm's senior partner. David, Ronnie Henderson and Robin stayed in Edinburgh on the top floor of a hotel. Robin's close friend was Nelson Miller, an officer in the 51st Highland Division, whose father, George Miller, a banker in Ayr, was retiring to a new house in Edinburgh with the rest of the family. As the house was not ready, Robin recommended to Nelson that they all stay at the hotel. Through this happy coincidence, David Bogie first met his future wife, Eirene Miller, and her family. Eirene was much younger than David and naturally mistook his reticence as a lack of interest but her brothers assured her otherwise, and they began to see more of each other as David got to know the whole family.

It was quite natural, therefore, that David should get in touch with Eirene towards the end of the summer of 1939 to suggest that they meet in Edinburgh for a drink, as he had something to tell her. The news was that he had been mobilised with the 51st Highland Division and had to move south immediately, as had Eirene's brother Nelson. David and Eirene made a promise that this would be their last drink until they met again, hopefully before Christmas. This was not to be as the news reached home, first that Nelson had been killed in action in France, and then that David had been captured following the surrender of the 51st Highland Division at St. Valery, ending up in Offlag VIIC.

Such a situation for an active man like David must have been terrible, so with his usual enthusiasm he set about occupying his time usefully. He was allowed to send four letters and three postcards a month, and he religiously sent these to his parents, to Eirene, and to Professor Annan, saving one for his friends.

David noticed that many prisoners were worried about the future so, with another former pupil, David Thomson, he provided accountancy lessons for a large group of apprentices. Ian Wood, the third Old Strathallian at the camp, reported back on their activities. But the lessons did not stop there, as David was able to contact the Chartered Accountants Society who sent out notes, and later allowed David to present and mark the accountancy examinations at the camp. David also began formulating his own thoughts about accountancy and began writing papers to Professor Annan as part of the thesis for a doctorate. On his return to Scotland in 1945, Professor Annan gave him back all the papers that he had sent from the camp, many being merely the insides of cigarette packets, and suggested that he complete the work for a doctorate. This, the first ever doctorate in accountancy, was completed by July 1948, whereupon its author published his ideas in a seminal volume named 'Group Accounts'. David continued to lecture for three years at Edinburgh University in the early Fifties.

As was the case for many during the war, the strain of work and unhappiness at events made a deep impact on HR, and he again fell ill in July 1940. Despite this, he continued to work, even taking the place of the senior English master, Mr. Langstaff, who had been called up. Eventually the pace took its toll. HR was confined to bed for the last three weeks of summer term 1942, but delighted everyone when he managed to be present with his pupils for breakfast on the last day. Over that summer, he gradually became weaker, and died in the early hours of the first Sunday morning of term, September 20th 1942. Now all the company work fell on his nominated successor, Willie Ward, and on the trustee, John Maitland Cowan, despite his own involvement in the war effort since being promoted to major in the 4/5th Bt. Royal Scots Fusiliers. Extra directors were elected to the company; Alfred Wighton assisted by William Sievwright of Perth took David Bogie's place on behalf of his firm, and Walter Nelson took John's place. Their work increased



when the latter, now a major with the 1st Airborne Division left for the Sicily landings where he was badly injured.

On Saturday 17th March 1945, the company directors under the chairman, John Maitland Cowan, were able to meet properly for the first time to prepare to carry out HR's wishes to pass the school to a Board of Governors. David Bogie returned in time for the second meeting a month later. It was noticeable that he was reduced in size to a mere seven stone after being a prisoner of war for five years; a situation that had been compounded by the death of both his own father and Eirene's. First, however, he had an engagement to attend in Edinburgh, and on 9th August he and Eirene were at last married, finally had that drink and then started their married life at her father's house of Newfield in Barnton, which he had built for his own retirement in 1936.

So it was not until the meeting of October 20th 1945 that John Maitland Cowan proposed, and Willie Ward seconded, the appointment of David Bogie as the chairman of the board of directors. Their business was to settle the school in readiness for the changes. They appointed Cowans & Grove as the school clerks, and raised the school fees to £47 a term from the 1st of January. There were 205 boys at the school and no vacancies for the next term, so the board felt that it would be necessary to introduce entrance examinations in future. In August 1946, a year later, Graham, Smart & Annan were appointed school treasurers, and the school bank account was transferred to the Clydesdale, for the specific reason that it was a Scottish bank. The last item of business was the resignation of the board of Strathallan School Limited, leaving charge of the school to the trustees, John Maitland Cowan and David Bogie, who then met on the 27th of November in Edinburgh to discuss the formation of a board of governors. Although the constitution allowed for sixteen members, the Board was to consist of the trustees, four members elected by the trustees, three members nominated by the main universities, and the appointed representative of the Strathallian Club, and it would meet four times a year.

David had been able to realise HR's wishes, and now decided that he and John Maitland Cowan needed a third person as a trustee of the school. They turned to Gilmour Leburn who accepted the position, and appropriate changes were in place by the next meeting. And it was at that meeting held on November 29th 1947 that David also suggested to the board that Gilmour Leburn should be his successor as chairman. David remained on the Board of Governors until 1970 when, at the age of sixty-five, he retired and was made the first honorary governor of the school. David retired from his firm as a senior partner the following year having been there with his friend and colleague, Ronnie Henderson, for over forty years, and returned to his hometown of Kirkcaldy. David is remembered by his professional association through the David Bogie Prize, given to an apprentice demonstrating exceptional abilities in the examination; by the Old Strathallians in the David Bogie Trophy Competition for golf, and by the school with the David Bogie Prize for Economics.

While a prisoner-of-war, David had been deeply affected by the ministrations and bible studies of David Reed, who went on to become a Presbyterian minister in New York. David's faith remained with him his whole life, and led him to become a devoted elder at Cramond Kirk, and join the board of the Church of Scotland. It is fitting, therefore, to end this article with his eulogy given by the Reverend George Lugston - *There was never an occasion when David Bogie's deep, yet unassuming faith and his sympathetic spirit did not motivate and direct his life and work.*

GRMR



There was never an occasion when David Bogie's deep, yet unassuming faith and his sympathetic spirit did not motivate and direct his life and work.

VI Form Common Room

Taking over any post always carries some fears and taking over the VI Form Common Room from Mr. Proctor was no exception.



Hello
from Katrin.
It's nice to
finally be
on the
committee.

Having run the common room for over a decade, he was going to be a difficult act to follow. However, he had done two things to make my transition easier. Firstly he had left me some money to get the place started and secondly, and more importantly, he appointed Rowan Marshall and Louise Johnson as my main organisers and helpers. All our thanks go to Mr. Proctor for his unstinting effort on behalf of the VI form during his extended time in charge.

Starting the year with a new group and a clean slate allows aims to be re-stated and new ideas to be discussed. The questionnaire that was sent round to find out what people wanted showed that people knew what they didn't want, but, equally, most didn't know what they did want. Finding themes for Common Room parties is never a problem, but coming up with new ideas of what to do at weekends is less easy, as there is often an erroneous belief that the same latitude found outside of school should also be found in school. Firstly, I believe that having less latitude in school means that the greater freedoms found out of school are valued more and secondly if such latitude is achieved too early and too often, then what more is there to look forward to when school is over?

The idea of having a film on non-bar nights was tried, my thanks to Mr. McCann for his lending the IT dept projector and other equipment, (permanent equipment would be a valuable addition to the common room). However, many of the VI form wanted the freedom to go out

and voted with their feet. This was not a problem, as those who did come enjoyed the free popcorn, crisps etc. The committee: Louise, J, Vicky, Mc, Katrin H, Rowan, M, Iain Robb, Mungo L, Alex B, and Big Mack came up with some novel ideas for entertainment, which will be discussed later on these pages. At least one major social evening was planned each term. During the Christmas term, a "Bouncy Castle Event", was organised, this involved a huge inflatable indoor Assault Course, Gladiator Duelling Ring and Laser Zap Zone being installed in the sports hall. Later in the term we had our annual Christmas Party at which everyone received a few "wee gifts". Easter saw the common room rock to the sound of the VI form Karaoke, I'll remember my ear defenders next time. The summer saw the VI form invite staff to a B-B-Q with a difference. A whole pig was roasted in the C.R. and the staff and pupils enjoyed a convivial evening in each other's company. All three events will be worth repeating.

The new committee are going to visit some other school to see how to develop the common room further; an early attempt at this was scuppered by exams during the Easter term.

I have really enjoyed my first year i/c the common room, but I would like to thank a few people for their help through out the year. Firstly the committee who met regularly, helped organise the events and tidied up after them, along with some regular volunteers. The small group of stalwart staff who help run the weekend social evenings, especially, RJWP, DJB, RCAF & DMCD.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the VI form who have proved to be such a relaxed and friendly group. They have generally behaved very well and taken changes to their common room in their stride. I also would like to thank Alec who uncomplainingly kept the C.R. clean, despite only having one morning a week to keep on top of this large area.

PMV

Ah the ball...

the high point of our existence at Strathallan. Years of sitting in the foyer watching the girls meeting their dates has finally meant it was our turn.

As usual, the girls were looking lovely, smelling of exotic perfume, and the boys, looking smart, handsome and smelling of mouthwash, met their *belles* in the foyers to have fruit punch with the Housemasters. At the ball itself the band provided a wide variety of music and Mr Vallot and Mr Proctor ensured that there was never a dull moment when they were on the dance floor. Unfortunately, this year sees the end of a string of balls for Mr Rick Campbell. The girls will be sad to see him go.

A big thanks must be said to Madame Crane and Mr Kitson for all their hard work; and to the caterers, and all the other members of staff who made it such a special occasion.



This year's ball report will also be written from the boys' point of view. It is a night that we all look forward to. After trapping our ball dates in the weeks leading up to the event itself, we turned our attention to the outfit. Kilt or suit is the option we were faced with. Choosing a kilt myself I got kitted up and headed over to Thornbank to pick up my date - looking stunning, (No, not me. I mean my date).

The venue was the lavishly decorated dining hall. We entered the building walking as best we could past the two bouncers - Mr. Barnes and the Headmaster. The majority of us made it into a few of the official ball photos. These are much appreciated as it gives us all an opportunity to look back on a good night.

A lovely meal was served to us, washed down with a few beers and after dessert we turned our attention to the dance floor. Kilgraston girls seemed very enthusiastic. For some of us watching was fun enough but I personally wanted a dance with Madame Crane. Other memorable moments include Messrs. Vallot, Kilpatrick and co. twisting some moves on the dance floor alongside us. For the Ruthven boys at least it was a night that ended well with a nightcap donated by Mr. Watt in the foyer.

It was a night that will be fondly remembered by most of us. Madame Crane and Mr Kitson can be proud of what is the last ball under their supervision. Thank you for all the work you have done for us... and thanks for the dance, Madame.

Peter Lyburn



Madame Crane and Mr Kitson can be proud of what is the last ball under their supervision.

VI Form Common Room

Bouncy Castle night

On the 10th of November (Saturday night) the VI Form had an event where we got an inflatable assault course, inflatable gladiator ring and an inflatable laser quest zone.

The inflatable assault course was where you and a friend had to race round the circuit and battle it out till the person who came out of the course first won. Basically, you had to wrestle with your friend to get the lead and hold on to it till you got to the end of the course.

The gladiator ring was again an inflatable ring so that no one could hurt themselves. You and a friend got given a soft helmet and then a bat with fluffy cushioned ends and then had to stand on a stilt and fight

each other till one person fell off. It was first to 3 and Rick Campbell was the dominant one; well-done, Rick, but you didn't fit me.

Finally the inflatable laser quest zone, which was basically an inflatable room. About ten of you were given laser guns and you went into a dark room, which was full of smoke and tried to shoot as many people as possible in ten minutes

This was a great evening and we hope that it will be repeated in future.

Pigs might fry

It was a particularly agreeable night (as far as the Perthshire climate goes) when we all followed our sense of smell down to the VI Form common room to be welcomed by the overwhelming aroma of spitted and roast pig. At last. After spending the greater part of the day anticipating the flavour of what the aroma implied we were able to indulge our palates.

It took a while for the novelty of eating a spit-roasted pig to wear off, but once it had, there was still our two beers each and the pupil-teacher banter to look forward to. And with the abundance of teachers and pupils present there was plenty of chit-chat to go around.

With the primitive elemental forces in action (CNC, you know what we mean) we had no choice but to have a stupendous time.

Let us simply vouchsafe that the night was the utter embodiment of jollification.

I'm sure everyone who went to the event will agree with us when we say it was a truly amazing time and is definitely one to be repeated. Special thanks go to Mr Vallot and his group of helpers.

Samantha Locke and Stephanie Murray

VI Form Karaoke Event

After the announcement of a karaoke event many people made a hasty exit and went home for the weekend. However, those who were left decided to make the most of a chance to grab the microphone and be a star for the night.

The night started slowly while people arrived and looked through the immense collection of songs available. Soon people were placing requests as emotions ran high and earlier inhibitions were lost.

There was an eclectic mix of songs from Nu Metal to R'n'B and even some of the old favourites such as Goodness Gracious Great Balls of Fire (possibly inspired by the musical that so many of us had stayed in to rehearse for). There was a rendition of Country Roads by the boys, which was answered by a performance of the Moulin Rouge track, Lady Marmalade by members of the Lower VI girls.

All in all a good night was had and the chance to sing very badly and not be laughed at appealed to everyone.

Sulekha V.

It was so long ago that it just seems a distant memory but we're sure everyone had a good night at the St. Andrew's ceilidh.

Well, maybe not everyone as Rick managed to catapult Sarah through the air leaving her sprawled in a heap on the floor missing at least one shoe. Big bully! Of course everyone scrubbed up well, as usual and there were plenty of more intelligent girls who had the common sense to wear kilts and trainers. Why couldn't that have been us?

Just when we thought we were finally getting the hang of all the Scottish dances (it only took us 5 years) Mrs. Hamilton decided to attempt to teach us another one. Very foolish! Needless to say we were all suitably confused so just ran about for five minutes. However, the rest of the dances went down well and were danced rather energetically. Everyone's favourite is always Strip the Willow especially the last dance which is the long chain Strip the Willow. Most of the girls spent the next few days looking like junkies because of the bruises on our arms due to overexcited partners, but it was good fun at the time.

One of the best aspects of the evening was the puddings. They were so good that we managed to persuade all the right people that we wanted them at the ball.

Thanks to Mrs. Hamilton and all the other members of staff for making the night as good as it was and for attempting to instill some culture into us. It was greatly appreciated.

Susie Hewitt and Kim Percival

Needless to say we were all suitably confused so just ran about for five minutes.

IV and V Form Reels Night

An approaching reels night is a terrific relief on many levels.

Apart from anything else, it is a common occurrence for conversation topics to run out at around mid-way through the term and the reels can happily be a point of discussion for many weeks after and before the actual event. As well as that, even the most seasoned disco dancer likes to know exactly where to put their feet once in a while (even if, like so many, they only thought they knew where to put them.).

You might expect that with added age and responsibility, the excitement before a reels night would be dampened the following year. In fact, with a VI form ball so close that we can smell the hairspray, another reels night is a welcome vent for those preparatory instincts now coursing through the veins of the girls. This year, we attacked the preliminary proceedings with a verve and zest unknown to men. It has to be said, however, that many a carefully choreographed hairstyle went haywire after two rounds of the Dashing White Sergeant

The evening got off to a flying start (almost literally) with the Gay Gordons. Once again most of the participants went through the routine impossibility of trying to watch someone else dance while being spun at

high speed, the most used and least graceful way to remind yourself exactly how many forward-two-three-fours there should be. Unfortunately, the increase in dancing skill was not proportional to the loss of inhibitions and we began to rely heavily on the pre-dance instruction from the highly skilled Mrs Hamilton.

Respite came, for the pupils and the floor, when we were again treated to an assortment of hot and cold snacks and fizzy drinks. As usual, the boys came into their own during this part in the proceedings, feeling more at home sitting with a plate full of crisps than dancing with an assortment of over-excited girls. As expected, it was not necessary for us ladies to take the lead during Strip the Willow, apart from the occasional whisper of instructions on the identity of the next victim to be spun into orbit.

Even from the male camp, the general consensus is that the reels beat all the other events combined, my only worry is that the long awaited VI Form ball will never better the footloose and fancy-free (ahem) nature of the fantastic reels.

Ishbel McFarlane

12 Hour Charity Run

May 2002

This year again we were blessed with gloriously warm and sunny weather, with hardly a cloud in sight for what was the third of our Charity Runs. The aim was to raise money for three charities with which we are now very familiar: C.H.A.S., Get Kids Going and Cancer Research. Over the week-end, 250 energetic pupils, members of staff, and parents enjoyed walking, running, riding, cycling and "rope-skipping" around a 1.75 mile circuit featuring some of the most idyllic spots of our school grounds. A total of just over 1,500 person-miles was covered over the 12 hours, which is evidence of the enthusiasm and fitness level of all who took part. For the boys, J.J. Chalmers ran a record number of laps (24), whilst Kimi Gordon was the girls' winner (with 21 laps). Amongst the highlights, the following are well worth a mention: Mungo Laing's unique aerobic session ensured that every muscle was duly warmed up in style; Sulekha Varma acted as Horse Manager and led Jenny Summersgill (7) and Olivia Streatfield-James around the course in a calm and controlled manner; twenty-five club athletes took part in the 5 Mile Road Race which was won by Scottish Champion Chris Robeson. Straight after the race, the Barbecue Café was a real success, partly because the band set the tone by playing what was just right to chill out with on a Saturday night. Essam Alkhalifi, David Chalmers, Ben Dalley, Ruairidh Emslie, Howard Gray, Thomas Gray, Brian McWilliams, George McWilliams, Giles Seddon and Stuart Scroggie's music proved to be most popular. The catering team temporarily migrated to the Sixth Form Centre patio to treat us to a truly luxurious barbecue lunch. We all sat on the grass, making the most of such a perfect summer's day. The event was crowned by the raffle in which a considerable number of valuable prizes was won, including overnight stays in Scottish tourist spots and the famous rabbit hutch, which divided the audience into those who were desperate to give it a home (and a pet) and those who were dreading having to be a slave to it and its contents (not provided, I hasten to add).

We are very grateful to those who contributed to the success of another bonding experience for the community. Over £3,000 was raised and will be distributed equally between our 3 chosen charities.

Fabienne Thompson

Over £3,000 was raised and will be distributed equally between our 3 chosen charities.



Visit to Lewis Grassie Gibbon Land



***Sunset Song* by Lewis Grassie Gibbon** is a novel which has clear universal implications; but appreciation can also be greatly enhanced by understanding the setting in time (before and during the Great War) and place (the crafting communities of the Grampian foothills and the Home of the Mearns in Kincardine-shire).

With the intention of giving *Sunset Song* a context in time and place, 13 boys taking Higher English this year went on a one day tour of Lewis Grassie Gibbon country in September. First stop was the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre in Arbuthnott where the author (real name, James Leslie Mitchell) went to school and church. The centre has audio-visual and other exhibitions on his life and work. This was followed by a visit to Arbuthnott Church, which was the exact model for the church in the fictional Kinraddie in the novel, and where the grave of the author can be seen.

We had felt that the road down to the church must have tested the suspension of the minibus to its limits, but that was surely matched when we trundled along a high windswept single track road to have a look at Bloomfield, the croft where James Leslie Mitchell grew up. We did not stop there, as the house is inhabited, and we can only hope that the inhabitants were not too much disturbed by having fifteen pairs of eyes peering at them as we rolled slowly past.

It was downhill again to Benhold Mill, now partly kept open as a working museum which was used in the BBC's large scale production of *Sunset Song*. For most of the boys who have little or no experience of farming nowadays, far less of past practices, the descriptions and demonstrations by the curator were fascinating.

From there we headed to the coast to the imposing cliff top structure of Dunnottar Castle, setting of one of the key incidents in *Sunset Song*. This proved to be, from the boys' point of view, the most successful place we visited, not because of its literary associations, but because here they made greatest use of the rugby ball which had already seen action at the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre and at the mill. In the centre of the castle courtyard is a huge well/pond, about twenty five metres in diameter. A challenge was laid down to kick the ball in as many different ways as possible across the pond without letting it fall in the water. The tension, excitement and noise built up steadily until the inevitable watery results, after which the ball was rescued with a huge plank of wood which the resourceful Richard Blakey "found" in a store shed. The whole incident created a fascinating interlude for the other tourists who must have thought it a strange Scottish sport which they had not read about in the guide books.

The whole day certainly fixed *Sunset Song* much more securely in the minds of the lads - oh, that and the vision of Giles Seddon in his ankle length black leather coat.

Irene & Gordon McFarlane

here they made greatest use of the rugby ball which had already seen action at the Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre and at the mill.



Lucca here...we got quattrocento culture.

You would be amazed at the number of ways you can sleep sitting upright. I'm sure that on the bus journey to Tuscany we used every possible variation; and all in the name of art. On the way down we had had one night to sleep horizontally, in Amiens with its soaring Gothic cathedral.

As gruelling as the 36 hours driving were, when we arrived in Montecatini the trials of the journey evaporated in the heat of 8 am. Exchanging the depressingly stereotypical Scottish weather for its Italian counterpart was enough to lift our spirits considerably. After a day of rest and a visit to Montecatini Alto, up the picturesque, yet not-a-little-bit-scary funicular railway, we felt suitably warmed up for the real whistle-stop tour of the origins of Western Architecture.

We started with a trip to the small walled town of Lucca, our first taste of the red tiled expanses that littered the views from the bus. Surprisingly, I somehow got Anne and myself lost in this very small town, hemmed in on all sides by a large wall. My sin was lessened by the sheer fun of painting and wandering around the tiny alleyways and towers, bumping into Strathallians and Sgianachs from Portree alike.

After the quiet vehicle-free Lucca, our trip to Florence the next day showed us what appeared to be the real working, driving, shouting Italy, despite the fact tourists hurried everywhere. Because they lacked sketchbooks tourists were clearly below us artists in the visitor hierarchy. The slow climb of the steps up Brunelleschi's cathedral dome had us deciding to throw ourselves over the top. Needless to say, the wonder of the view was enough to dispel all suicidal inclinations. With a visit to a design studio and a short time to relax in the oasis of the Boboli Gardens we left exhausted but saturated by beauty.

Although my own personal fondness is for Firenze there are several pupils for whom the third day's destination itself justified the bus journey. As we drove to the real 3D version of the picture stamped on pizza boxes the world over I tried to think of another image that is so redolent of Italy. Of course, it was impossible, Pisa always wins. Personally, I did not scale the vertical, yet slightly horizontal, heights of the leaning tower, but there was a wealth of loveliness in the three white icebergs of building that sprang up from the "field of miracles". The thousands of carvings and sculptures are often forgotten in the wake of the gravity-defying tower, but trying to draw Pisano's font or the façade of the baptistry, brought home to us the delicacy and craftsmanship of the whole.

By day four we had noticed two recurring aspects of our trip. The endless humour we found in watching people fall asleep on the bus was the main feature. This pastime was only interrupted by climbs up staircases in search of a bird's eye view of the perfect surroundings.

Siena, with the tallest medieval tower in Italy, was no exception. Having spent rather too much time drawing in the beautiful half-moon Piazza, we had to sprint up the tower and back down again in time to meet the teachers at the cathedral. This was further complicated by a falconry display, which left the twitchers among us in a dream like state, not great for ascending unto the heavens.

Anyone who has visited Italy will realise that our last day would provide no respite for our weary legs. In my opinion San Gimignano "delle Belle Torre" could do with installing stair lifts in all the torre. On the same day we saw Vinci, the birthplace of true Renaissance man, Leonardo. The museum in the small town had extraordinary working models of his designs. Despite reading the sign above we found it incredibly hard to convince ourselves that Leonardo lived in the 15th and not the 20th century.

As a whole, the trip gave me not only a better understanding of the origins of the art and architecture we see across the world, but also a bank of memories which I will relate to semi-interested grandchildren in years to come. It will be hard to forget the mistake of buying smelly cheese to keep in a hot bus, though I might wish to. Similarly the chameleon qualities of Hal's hair can be puzzled on to this day.

One of my lasting memories of the trip was art in another form. Some of the group from Portree High brought instruments and beautiful voices with which to entertain our hosts. After Peter got out his bagpipes everybody within a radius of about three miles also came to enjoy the Ceilidh in the open air. There was dancing, singing and a lot of clapping from the old ladies who lived opposite the hotel. Listening to Italian voices with one ear and the lilt of a fiddle with the other is just one memory we will all, staff and pupils alike, take away from that idyllic summer.

Ishbel McFarlane

we left exhausted but saturated by beauty.



Strathallian day

On Sunday, 26th May over 200 Strathallians and their guests came to Forgardenny to re-visit old haunts, see old friends and have a look round.

It was also good to see Peter Spurgin, Cosmo and Annabel Fairbairn, Martin Gray and David Williams.

Despite some monsoon weather during the week, the annual Strathallian Cricket fixture against the school started on time. The majority of guests began to arrive about midday and some were a little reticent to leave their drinks and attend an excellent short concert in the Chapel.

Some 200 gathered for lunch and many old acquaintances were rekindled.

A variety of activities were available. Pre-Speech Day exhibitions were on show in the Art Room and the D.T. Block. Some old archive material aroused interest. There was a tour of Riley for those who had not seen it since it was renovated. The crèche provided relief for parents, but our youngest visitor Cameron McLaren, just a week old, failed to take advantage of it.

For the more active, there was croquet, football against the school, clay pigeon shooting, longdriving and chipping. Sadly no ladies volunteered themselves for the tag rugby, but some mature Strathallians proved that they still had pace over 5 yards.

After tea, Fabienne Thompson, the Headmaster's wife, awarded the following prizes:-

The Lascelles Shield for Clay Pigeon Shooting	The School
High Gun	Joe Watson
Best Old Strathallian	Craig Phillip
Long Driving - Gentlemen	Graham Roy (264yds into the wind)
Ladies	Elizabeth McKenzie
Target Golf	Duncan Robertson
Chipping	John Elphinstone
Ball in the bucket	Ewen Wardman

The football was won by the Old Strathallians and the Cricket was drawn.

There was a strong consensus that it had been a thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable day and the weather was comparatively kind.

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Ernst and Young Lecture

A great bonus of the Strathallan community is the contribution which we receive from so many parents, Strathallians, and friends. In considering who was to give the Ernst and Young Lecture this year, it was evident that we had a world-renowned scientist whose connection with the school through his children's being pupils and his wife's being a Governor made the chances of his being persuaded to accept an invitation very good. In addition he came with the warm recommendation of one of the pupils as being "absolutely brilliant". We are indeed indebted to Professor Sir David Lane BSc, PhD, FRS, FRSE, FRCPath, Professor of Molecular Oncology, Department of Biochemistry, University of Dundee; Director of Cancer Research Campaign Cell Transformation Group; Gibb Fellow, whose record in cancer research is as impressive as his title which took up three lines in the calendar.

It is not always the case that eminent scientists are able to address a varied audience with success and to put over such a vitally important message in a clear, illuminating and also entertaining manner. Professor Sir David, however, fully lived up to the pupil's billing and provided an entertaining, stimulating, and erudite talk. He went through many aspects of his work, describing the group at Dundee University and its work and explaining the nature of cancer, which, of course, affects so many of us, whether directly or indirectly. He dealt not only with the scientific aspects but also the more straightforward message about what can be done to avoid increasing one's exposure to the risk. Certainly this powerful message was conveyed with the consigning of various cancer inducing products to the waste paper bin. At the end of the talk there was little doubt that all those fortunate enough to be present were clearer in scientific terms about the disease, had an insight into the work of a research scientist, and had some questions to ask about the contribution which individuals make to their own problems. It is often said that the success of a talk can be gauged by the questions which follow. In this instance the questions came from all parts of the audience, from the most qualified of the science teachers to members of the Lower Sixth with slightly less scientific expertise whose interest had nevertheless been fully engaged. After some twenty minutes other engagements made it necessary for the Chairman to step in. Conversation however continued on a more informal basis for some time afterwards. We are all indebted to Professor Sir David for taking the time to be with us and having stimulated so much thought and discussion.

BKT

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I am really excited now to get out of the pool and conquer the sea.

The beginning of yet another new adventure....

If you visit the school's web page (www.strathallian.co.uk), and check out the Sub-Aqua page you will find the above phrase, which we believe is central to the popularity of the activity (that and the fact that chocolate is a very big part of the club ethos). Whether it is learning a new skill/ technique in the pool, or striding off the School hardboat to dive Dunstaffnage Channel, it is most likely to be a new experience for the pupils involved.

The Sub-Aqua club was lucky this year to attract a talented new intake of 4th Form trainees, to complement the 17 pupils already pool-qualified. The new trainees comprised:

Sarah Herd	Nick Dalgetty
Robert Henneberg	Sam Stark
Jenny Fraser	Rosie Hunt
Alex Ferguson	Shauna Scroggie
Kimi Gordon	Sophie Barton
Max Stewart	Dot Bowry
Tasha Smith	Jono Becks
James Lawson	Olivia Halverson

I learned to dive at the school having never dived before. My buddies and I learned the skills involved; which meant we had to go to lectures every second week with Mr. Goddard and learn the theory needed to pass the test and become a club diver. In the weeks that we weren't doing lectures, we were with Mr. McCann and Dr. Carr in the pool. In the beginning, we were unfamiliar with the equipment and needed assistance to assemble the kit but after a while we could manage by ourselves.

We were all very excited on the first day and many of us had fun playing with our buoyancy. Also breathing underwater was a whole new experience for some people. We learned how to do somersaults underwater without having water squirt up your nose. What I found most difficult was the forward roll entry into the pool but once we got the hang of it, we had loads of fun. The most amusing thing about diving is wearing your dry suit. It inflates so much you look like a pumpkin floating above the water.

After all our diving lessons our class managed to pass the test with flying colours. I am really excited now to get out of the pool and conquer the sea.

Samantha Stark (V Form)

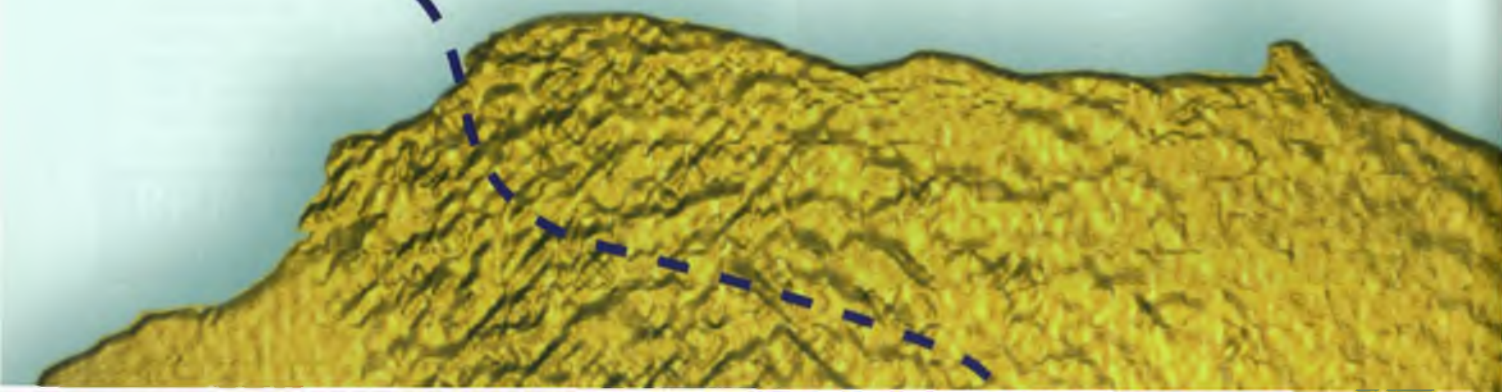
We visited St. Abb's marine reserve near Eyemouth for field day and were fortunate enough to find the infamous 'Cathedral Rock', an underwater archway 15ft high that the trainees can swim through. The pupils also had first hand experience of an Octopus, which changed to a very dark grey before squirting off out of our sight.

Best wishes and a fond farewell go to Dr. Carr who has been instrumental in the success of the club over the past two years. Luckily her new school have a well established diving club and she has already been coerced into participating in a school trip to the Red Sea.

Unfortunately we also lose our Captain of Diving, Stevie Smith whose account of a dive on the SS Breda featured in last year's report. The picture of the 'Breda' opposite taken shortly before it was bombed after leaving the Oban port, gives an idea of its size.

Happy diving.

JJM





"SS BREDA" DIVED DAILY FROM PUFFIN DIVE CENTRE, OBAN, SCOTLAND



We learned how to do somersaults underwater without having water squirt up your nose.

Former pupil remembered

In memory of

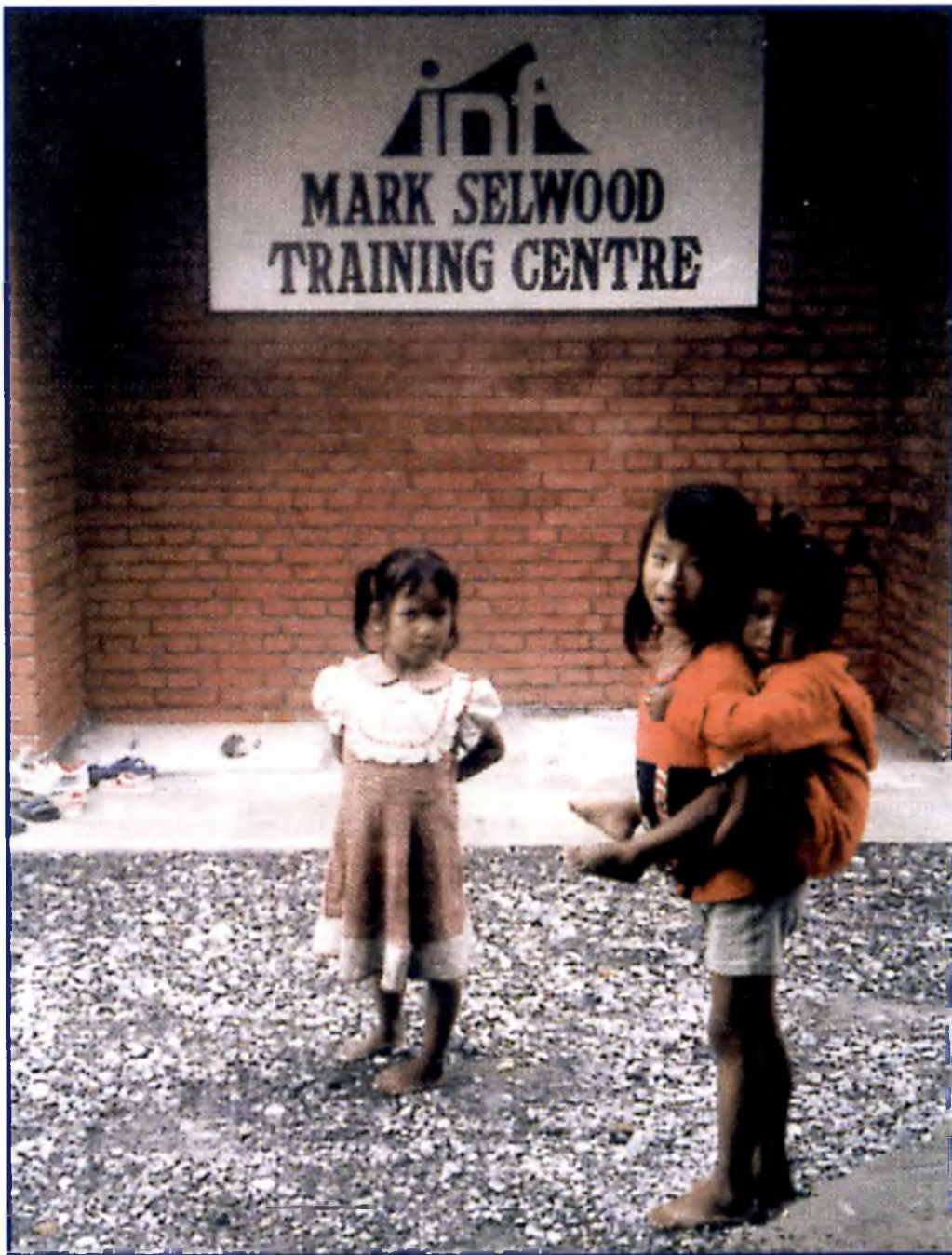
Doctor Mark Selwood

12.6.63 - 27.1.91

Let not the love die

In 2002, the Mark Selwood memorial trust will close after ten years of funding this vital work in Nepal.





Recently deceased and fondly remembered

Eric Cuthbert Gillanders MBE

6th April 1912 - 30th March 2002

Eric Cuthbert Gillanders was born in Dundee and although he spent 70 years of his life in the Glasgow area he always considered himself to be a Dundonian. Educated at Dundee High School and the then newly established Strathallan School, he was one of the first pupils to attend the school after it moved to its present location at Forgandenny. He was the first of 10 Gillanders to attend the school and retained a lifelong loyalty to, and interest in, the school. He was President of the Strathallian Club in 1976 and was probably one of its oldest 'old boys'.

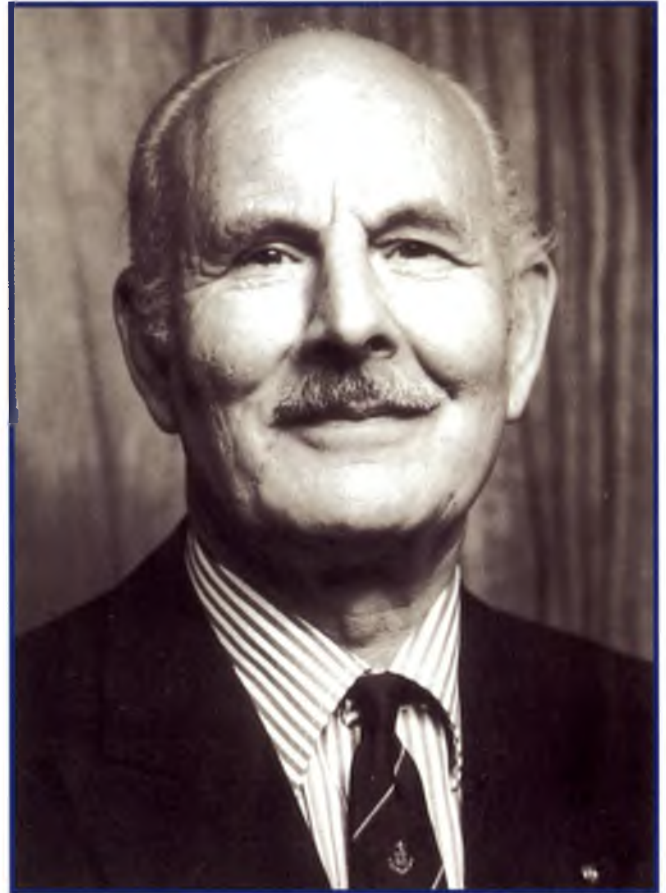
From an early age Eric was interested in all things mechanical. He and his late brother Roy had a workshop at the family home in Broughty Ferry and they spent their youth (and indeed all of their lives) stripping and re-building motorcycles, turning wood, mending and making things and accumulating what to most of us would be rubbish but to them 'might come in handy' and so often it did.

Encouraged by Harry Riley, Eric went to what is now Heriot Watt University where he graduated with distinction in Paper Making and Chemistry. He served his apprenticeship with James Bertram in Denny and in 1937 went to Universal Pulp Containers in Milton of Campsie as Works Manager. His was a reserved occupation and frustrated 'though he was, he did his bit as Captain of the local Home Guard to much amusement from the family concerning 'Dad's Army' and comparisons with Captain Mainwaring. He was eventually called up and served in the Royal Navy. By this time he had met and married local girl, Jean Yuill, who was in the ATS and on being demobbed they started family life at the Yuill home at Glenmill.

After the war he travelled extensively in Germany and Scandinavia on business and his fluency in German opened many doors. He was instrumental in the design and production (with his late colleague John Harris Burland) of the moulded pulp hospital sanitary-ware that is in use in most hospitals today.

Jean and Eric enjoyed 55 years of married and family life in Lennoxton and Eric took enthusiastic part in village life. He was Chairman of the local School Board, President of the Campsie Flower Show, President of the local Camera Club, as well as President of the Glasgow and West Photographic Club, Co-ordinator of the Earl Haig Fund for the district and Chairman of the Scottish War Pensions Committee for which he was awarded the MBE in 1969. In later years, however, his greatest interest was in Rotary. He was President of Kirkintilloch Rotary Club in 1972/73 and was eventually made a Paul Harris Fellow (the highest honour that Rotary International can bestow). He and Jean enjoyed much fun and fellowship through Rotary and made many lasting friends. Until failing health became a burden, he never missed a meeting, even attending meetings at a Rotary Club in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A., which did not impress him, as the President was a woman.

As well as all things mechanical and photographic, his abiding passion was motorcycles and he was the proud owner of a Brough Superior with sidecar in which he toured pre-war Germany with his sister, Sybil. He owned numerous bikes all in pieces in the garage and there was therefore no dissent when Fergus and Donald got motorbikes. They had a hard job getting him off their bikes which he rode well into his seventies.



Rugby football featured heavily in the Gillanders family from their connections with Panmure R.F.C., (but for the onset of WW2 his brother Neil would have been capped for Scotland) and Eric was an avid supporter. He never missed an International at Murrayfield, usually with sons, nephews and boys from Strathallan in tow. He was an enthusiastic member of West of Scotland RFC.

Despite all his many and varied interests, Eric was essentially a family man who delighted and took great pride in all that his family did and was never happier than when all the family were together. He encouraged and supported Jean in all her work with the Women's League of Health & Beauty. He made skis, dinghies, bagpipe cases, record players and toys for his children and took great pleasure in doing it all again for his grandchildren.

With his health already failing, Jean's tragic death in 1999 was a bitter blow and his latter years were spent in Whitefield Lodge. He was a great Scot, a true gentleman of the old school with a pawky and wicked sense of humour. He was a much loved, adored and supportive husband, father and grandfather, a much respected employer, a valued and good friend to so many, a great and hospitable host to all who enjoyed his company at the many parties that he and Jean hosted, a loyal and devoted member of all the many clubs that he was connected with and a loved brother to Neil, Roy and Sybil.

He leaves 4 children, Fiona, Colin, Fergus and Donald; Allan, Caroline and Ruthe; 6 grandchildren and his sister Sybil.

Fiona Hosle

Timothy Graham Hunter

19th August 1976 - 23rd November 2001



Tim's personality, natural exuberance and extreme competence will be well remembered by all manner of people in all manner of ways.

He was born in Forfar in August 1976 to Bruce and Jeudi, a youngest brother to Alistair and Scott, and spent his early years in his ancestral home at Restenneth Priory, Angus.

After Forfar Primary he began Strathallan in 1986, entering Riley House at the age of 10 (Ri2 included), making him one of an elite group of Strathallians who can claim to have served the maximum 8 years.

From an early age his keen interests in sports was balanced by the more peaceful side of his nature as he was also a keen fisherman.

His sporting prowess was revealed on the hockey field as goalkeeper for the 1st XI three years running, gaining both full and half colours. Tim also excelled by achieving representation for Perth Hockey Club in the Scottish League and Scotland Under 18s.

Off the field he enjoyed using his intuition and skills in Design and Technology, qualities which were to prove very beneficial as he moved into his career. He gained his A level and Highers with ease and went on to study Business Management at Heriot Watt University. He later graduated with an upper second degree.

Tim showed amazing competence in balancing work and play. His practical jokes, fine brewing techniques and play-hard attitude endeared him to everyone in the School. Always involved in social activities, Tim's charisma carried on throughout his life.

He was also lucky in love. At Strathallan Tim found his soul mate Lisa Haslam and after school he and Lisa set off on a world tour for a year. They travelled through the Philippines and Australia, staying with family and many new friends. When he moved on to the United States Tim worked with Affinity Group in California, before his return meeting up with his brother Scott whom he had not seen in fifteen years. Those of us lucky enough to have known him were able to follow his journey on his first website, which he developed himself.

He pursued both enjoyment and scope for his talents by gaining experience from a number of companies before joining the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh. His diligence and skills shone in his job as a graphic designer, while his enthusiasm led him on to designing and developing a number of different websites for friends and businesses.

This is a great loss. All those who were fortunate enough to have known Tim will remember the generous, intelligent and charismatic character of this true gentleman, in every sense of the word. He has left a large void, yet a larger lesson for us all. His enthusiasm and determination are an inspiration. Tim lived as if he knew how life should be lived and his example will always be with us, in our hearts.

Ian Martin-Scott VRD, MD

December 1913 - 9th October 2002

Dr Ian Martin-Scott died, peacefully, on October 9th 2002, aged 88. Born near Glasgow in December 1913, he graduated in 1936 from Glasgow University, winning the Cullen medal for best student of the year.

Abandoning, with the outbreak of war, the idea of specialising in obstetrics, he joined HMS Furious at Campbeltown. The converted carrier was having problems finding a convenient land base on the Clyde for its aircraft and, as a 'native', he was asked to go with his C.O. to help. The previous year he and some friends had been summonsed to court locally for deciding, after an enjoyable lunchtime, that the local policeman's helmet could be useful as a rugby ball. Fined 5/- each, they were admonished by the local Procurator Fiscal - who was now leading the landing-strip negotiations on behalf of the locals. He remembered Ian, the ice was broken, and what is now Machrihanish Airport was the result.

Having developed an interest in dermatology throughout the war years, when peace returned Ian was interviewed by Sir Archibald Grey at UCH. Admitting that before the war he had been in obstetrics, not dermatology, Ian was delighted to discover that Sir Archibald had himself been studying obstetrics at the time and was invited to start the following Monday. Within a couple of years he succeeded Dr William Goldsmith as a consultant at several Hertfordshire hospitals (UCH having moved there in the war years) and became the youngest consultant in the new NHS when it was formed in 1948.

Over the following 30 years, Ian maintained his contact with UCH, and with the London School of Tropical Medicine, running postgraduate courses in histology. He developed a new medium to grow lypophilic organisms; treated the alopaecia of Guy the gorilla, one of London Zoo's more famous inmates of the 1950s; published a layman's book on 'Baldness & Care of Hair' and featured in his real life role as 'a Harley Street consultant' in a TV commercial for 'New Lux with Dermasil'. He also undertook the research and clinical trials into infantile eczema that led to the production of Neutrogena soap and E45 cream, and his contributions to the development of 3M's Micropore were well employed in his work as Honorary Consultant to the Ileostomy Association. He published, in all, over a dozen papers.

After retirement from the NHS, he maintained an interest in dermatology, writing and reading papers, his last, at UCLA in California in the mid-1970s, being on crusted (Norwegian) scabies, a then unidentified variant. Finally, retiring now also from private practice, Ian spent much time successfully propagating plants for his garden, first in Hertfordshire, then in Somerset. He also sat on the board of the Medical Council of Alcoholism for nearly 10 years, into his early 80s, and was delighted to be able to witness, as last, an increase in the number of teaching hours devoted by medical undergraduates to this issue.

He was married to Nancy, who predeceased him in 1999, the year of their 60th wedding anniversary, and leaves a son and three grandsons.

RILEY

Beetschen A, Brebner M, Cameron E, Campbell-Gibson W, Cargill T, Carmichael J, Caves C, Chance G, Connell E, Farquharson A, Giesse N, Mair J, Niven M, O'Reilly D, Parker-Green R, Parkinson M, Potts N, Reid V, Robertson T, Sangster K, Shaw Stewart P, Smith R, Terrell R

FREELAND

Brow C, Brown E, Budge B, Burnett G, Duthie A, Gavin S, Kerr G, King A, Lerman B, Li Y, Maguire C, Miller C, Pollock M, Schulz S, Sinclair R, Stephenson A, Tan J, Thornton A, Tsang B, Wu Y

NICOL

Cachia M, Esparon P, Gillen D, Huang X, Ip C, Lorenz J, Lowe J, Moll J, Pellicci M, Price N, Watters JJ

RUTHVEN

Chiu S, Corbett A, Corbett J, Croal M, Gillanders D, Keiserie M, Liu Z, McBride JJ, McCutcheon M, McLaren R, McLeod E, Miller S, Preiss P, Richards M, Stewart L,

SIMPSON

Beharrell J, Braithwaite B, Brook L, Clark D, Gibson W, Hannah R, Harrison C, Li Q, Lu E, McMorrine R, Mather D, Miocic-Stosic J, Paciej C, Pellicci A, Reilly P, Workman J, Wright N, Wright J, Zhong Z

THORNBANK

McKay R, Scobie I, Sinclair C, Tu Y, Wu X, Zhou L

WOODLANDS

Bevis L, Bull L, Carthy S, Chen R, Davies R, Dempster L, Esipova E, Garriock L, Gerrie R, Grieve F, Kelly C, Ou M, Rawlinson A, Reid T, Whitelaw J

FREELAND**UVI**

Broadfoot A, Buchan M, Campbell R, Chapman S, Dalley B, Holman A, Koulakov A, Laing M, Nicolson A, Pickles J, Scales P, Seddon G

LVI

Read M

V

Davies G, Myles R, Robertson E, Stevenson S, Ward G

IV

Bell A, MacDonald S

III

Wightman J

NICOL**UVI**

Anton A, Bowry W, Carmichael A, Common N, Currie J, MacFarlane S, Marshall R, Rae K, Roy G, Stewart R, Stormonth-Darling J, Winsey R

LVI

Kaut C

RILEY

Bissett J, Chung C

RUTHVEN**UVI**

Alkulifi E, Anderson N, Brown P, Cameron J, Davey J, Emslie R, Ferry L, Lyburn P, Mackay H, MacLellan J, Robb I, Robertson A, Scott O, Sutherland R, Woodrow J

III

Brown K

SIMPSON**UVI**

Bartlett A, Bennet D, Blakey R, Clarke R, Higgins T, Jardine W, Kerr J, Mack A, Niven F, Pattinson A, Penrose G, Smith S

LVI

Cooper F

THORNBANK**UVI**

Adam S, Bush T, Bush M, Cameron S, Chambers H, Chaussy I, Dickie C, Hickey S, Hoffman K, Johnson L, Kennedy V, Lamb L, McArthur K, McLaren A, Moulds K, Robertson V

LVI

Douglas C

V

Chambers L, Erdal S

WOODLANDS**UVI**

Chisholm L, Cliff A, Daniels A, Eddie S, Gillespie S, Hewitt S, Hunt H, Hunter L, Kotseroglou L, Mackenzie V, McWhirter E, Percival K, Philip G, Podymakhina K, Reid V, Ross I, Wang A, Whyte H

LVI

McKie K

V

Fleming Z, Holt L, Rae H

IV

Murday M

Prizes 2001

The Smith Cup for Head Boy	Jonathan Woodrow
The Morley Quaich for Head Girl, The Scanlan Cup for Merit and the Upper Sixth A Level Prize for Biology	Laura Kotseroglou
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportsman and the D&T Higher Prize	Oliver Scott
The Campbell Award for Best All Round Sportswoman, French and Geography Higher	Hazel Whyte
The William Pasfield Salver for Music	Harriet Hunt
The Houston Prize for All Round Merit	Stuart Chapman
The Robert Rankin Prize for Mathematics and Physics A Level Prize	Alexandru Anton
The Thomson Salver for Achievement and History Higher Prize	Hugh Mackay
The John Fulton Memorial Prize for Overall Contribution, The David Bogie Prize for Economics, The Lord Kincaig Prize for English, The Richard Moffat Prize for History, The Wilfred Hoare Senior Reading Prize and French A Level Prize	Louise Lamb
Strathallan Travelling Scholarships	Christoph Schulz Michael Segaud
Dux	Jindrich Zitek
The William Tattersall Art Prize	Isabella Chaussy
The Robert Barr Memorial Prize for Music	Ni Wang
The Patrick Grandison Prize for Strings, The Rick Trophy Army Prize	Tim Law
The Gary Rogers Prize for Creative Writing and 3rd Form Prize	Kirsty Brown
The Choir Prize	Richard Blakey Catriona Sutherland
The Haviston Broadsword & Quaich CCF Prize	Giles Seddon
The McMaster Quaich for Piping	Carin Munro

UPPER SIXTH A-LEVEL PRIZES

Business Studies	Ksenia Podymakhina
Chemistry	Essam Alkhalifi
Classical Civilisation	Ellen McWhirter
Computing	Vicky Robertson
Geography	Karen Moulds
German	Sarah Eddie
Spanish	Samantha Gillespie

Upper Sixth - Highers Prizes

Biology & Maths	Graham Roy
Business Management	Philip Brown
Chemistry & Physics	Robert Clarke
Computing	Adrian Duthie
German	Nick Common
Spanish	Catriona Dickie

Lower Sixth Prizes

Art & Geography	Samara Johnstone
Biology	Amelia Lane
Business Studies & Computer Studies	Michael Arthur
Business Management	David Stewart

Chemistry	Kirstie Aitken
Classics	Catriona Bissett
Economics	Bryce Constable
English, French & History	Sloned Bates
German	Stuart Scroggie
Maths & Physics	Stephen Wong
Music	Clare Kelly
Philosophy	Brian McWilliams
Spanish	Sarah Lyburn
Young Enterprise	Helen Smith

Fifth Form Prizes

Art	Gayle Allardyce
Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Music & Physics	Emma Rhodes
Business Studies	Jo Greer
Computer Studies	Jenny McBain
D&T	David Coaton
English	Ishbel McFarlane
French	Gregor Duncan
German	Daniel Hoffman
History	Hian Stark
Latin	Tom Hine
Law	Louise Wallace
Maths	Kirsten Mack

Fourth Form Prizes

Art	Harry Workman
Biology & Chemistry	Malcolm Jack
Computer Studies & History	Sarah Herd
D&T	Claire McArthur
English	Emma Gordon
French	Annabel Gordon
Geography & Physics	Duncan Lawson
German	Robert Henneberg
Maths	Edward Lawther
Music	Mary Shaw-Stewart

Third Form

Katie Fitzgerald, Pamela Garratt, Jamie Morrison, Findlay Wallace

Examination results

This year saw a significant improvement in the main categories of examination results. At A level the overall pass rate was 99.3%, of which 74.8% were passes at grade A or B. This represents by some margin the best performance at A level achieved at Strathallan to date.

Higher Still exams also underwent a significant improvement on last year's pass rate. 81.2% of entrants achieved grades A to C.

In addition GCSE candidates achieved the best ever percentage of passes at A* and A grades and the overall pass rate at grades A* to C was 91.3%



Fame Academy - the true story



lean and hungry



St Valentine's Day massacre - Detail



half-hour signing replaced by new régime



And have you heard the one about...?



and if you ever forget our anniversary again, Woody



Mr H on the boil



Mr W a slight simmer



a meeting of the Scottish line-painting society



I'm a celebrity, get me out of here.



and you say Freeland has one of these as well



Mirror, mirror, on the wall



Quick, get up, Doc. Tod. Here comes the Head.





THE STRATHALLIAN 2001-2002

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