



OLD MITCHAMIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

President:

A. J. Doig.

Captain and Hon. Match Secretary:

J. B. Pritchard, 12, Mitcham Park, Mitcham.

Hon. Secretary:

R. Egan, 36, Cromer Road, S.W.17.

Hon. Treasurer:

A. G. Atterbury, 14, Lansdell Road, Mitcham.

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The first annual dinner was successfully held at the Alexander Hotel, Clapham, in April, 1948, and was attended by 40 members and guests.

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The playing members take their football seriously and a Club training night is held every Wednesday in the season at the School. The enthusiasm of the members is most encouraging and under the leadership of J. B. Pritchard one cannot but feel that the Club will go from success to success.

O.M.'s are welcome as playing and honorary members and enquiries should be addressed to R. Egan, the Hon. Secretary, who will be pleased to submit applications to his committee.

GROUND

A Ground Sub-committee under the chairmanship of R. A. Brown was set up by the Executive Committee of the Rugby Club in June. The question of a ground for the 1950-51 season became critical owing to the sudden notification by London University that the ground at Motspur Park would no longer be available. At that time the Rugby Club had arranged for over twenty "Home Matches" and two months before the commencement of the season no pitch was available. The need for drastic and rapid action was well appreciated.

The sub-committee met frequently and as a first measure approached the Mitcham Borough Council with particular reference to a piece of ground at Colliers Wood which would have been admirable not only for the Rugby Club but for the Association as a whole. Hopes ran high that the Club would obtain this ground especially as the Mayor, as a nominated vice-president of the Association, had been approached and had promised his support in the search for a ground. This ground, however, was allocated to the club which had used it before the war.

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Local councils, sports clubs, the National Playing Fields Association and Rugby Clubs with whom the O.M.R.F.C. are acquainted were approached, the total being upwards of sixty. Apart from isolated but nevertheless much appreciated help from Wallington, Upper Warlingham and Old Whitgiftians R.F. Clubs in permitting the Club the use of their grounds, nothing of a permanent nature was forthcoming.

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Finally the Club was fortunate to be granted the use of a pitch on Mitcham Common, near the Red House, by the Mitcham Conservators, so that all home fixtures have been settled.

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1950

Old Boys' R.F.C.

The Club is now nearing the end of a very successful season from every point of view.

To begin with, there was an increase in membership made up from boys leaving school, Ex-Forces members, and others returning to the fold from various parts of the country. This enabled us to field three XV's during the holidays, and two regularly each week. It is interesting to note that the Third XV consisted mainly of Senior School members. This support from the school is most encouraging. If we are successful in obtaining a ground or even a pitch each week, we will be able to run three regular XV's next season.

Secondly, we obtained the services of Mr. James as a referee, and have had Bill Cliff coaching regularly each week.

Lastly, both the 1st and "A" XV's records are impressive, the outstanding success being the double win of the 1st XV against the Old Walcountians — the latter being watched by a record crowd including many members of the School. We have also conquered, for the first time, such opponents as Staines and Sevenoaks.

By the time this goes to press the School match will have been played. We all look forward to this match as much as you do. Believe me, the eagerness to get into the XV makes the Selectors' task a very difficult one. Very soon we shall have the Sevens' competitions upon us. Whether we shall be as successful as last season remains to be seen, but we shall do our best to bring another shield to Mitcham.

Capt. 1st XV.

RESULTS	WON	LOST	DRAWN
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"A" XV	14	7	2



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1952

OLD MITCHAMIANS R.F.C. SEASON 1951-2.

The Club has enjoyed a very successful Season although there are still one or two features of general play that could be improved, tackling being the most striking weakness.

The 1st XV took a while to get into its stride but is now a well knit team. The main strength has been in the two wingers, J. Brett & L.G. Glover. Both have had a good season and their strong running has brought many a point. The full-back position, vacated by J. May at the end of last season, has been ably filled by B. Goldney and the forwards have been strengthened by the return of R. Brett.

The A XV began the season with thirteen consecutive wins, due in no small measure to the leadership of F. Worman and the support of N. Andrews, D. Elliot, E. A. Golbourne and E. King. W. Everett joined the team after serving in Korea and has been a considerable asset to the side.

The Ex. A XV has been fielded whenever possible — often with great difficulty. Under the able leadership of R. Box they have had some good games although the regular players have had their games spoilt by the unreliability of the few. More playing members are needed and this is where we rely on boys leaving school to join the Club. New members wishing to join should contact the Team Secretary, A.G.Dawson, 13, Abbots Road. Pollards 3305.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. For	Pts. Against
1st XV	21	16	4	1	290	105
A XV	20	15	5	—	352	94
Ex. A XV	11	3	8	—	92	205

J. B. Pritchard.
Captain.

Old Mitchamians Association

Since I last had the opportunity of contributing an article to your Magazine, important changes have taken place in the Old Boys Association.

At the A.G.M. held in October last year a new Constitution and rules were adopted to replace the old rules which have sufficed since the Association was re-constituted in 1946. This new Constitution and Rules should serve the Association admirably for many years to come; indeed I feel that if and when they have to be renewed, then the Association will have grown out of all proportion to the set-up we have today.

Another important event at the A.G.M. was the election of Mr. A.J. Doig as the Association's President and for the first time an Old Boy has become Chairman, Mr. R.S. Culmer (1925) being elected to that office. Mr. L.F. Laidler (1932) was elected Hon. Treasurer and myself re-elected Hon. Secretary.

Several well-known local gentlemen have consented to become Hon. Vice Presidents and they will be elected at the A.G.M. in October this year.

The other important change to which I would like to refer is the formation of the Members of the Association into Circles. You will appreciate that my task of keeping in touch with something like a thousand Old Boys is an impossible one unless one has plenty of time to devote to it, and of course you will appreciate that if the Association is to grow and develop, contact must be made and kept with all Boys leaving the School.

Some sixteen Circles have already been formed and a further ten are in course of preparation. Each of these Circles consists of from six to thirty-five Old Boys and each has its own Secretary with whom I deal. You will see that it is going to be much easier for me to keep in touch with fifty or a hundred Circle Secretaries, than each individual Old Boy.

Won't you become a Circle Secretary? When you leave, form one consisting of your own particular pals. Thanks!

R. W. Gore (1925)



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Old Mitchamian Rugby Football Club

THE Club was re-formed in 1946 after being completely disbanded at the outbreak of war, when every member joined the forces. During the war, however, a few games were played against the school when there were sufficient boys on leave to form a team.

On the re-forming of the Club various difficulties, such as the lack of a ground, insufficient fixtures and lack of members, made themselves felt; but they have been overcome and the past season 1947/8 has been most successful :—

1st XV—Played 22, Won 12, Lost 9, Drawn 1. Pts. for 318 against 135.

A XV—Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3, Pts. for 37 against 43.

In 1947-8 the previous year's membership was trebled and we were able to hire King's College ground for seven home games in a full fixture list. The fixtures have taken us far afield with trips to Sevenoaks, Staines and Berkhamstead amongst other places. The last named of these trips was arranged by Roy Green, who, we hope, will play for us regularly next season and who played against us on this occasion for Gaddesden College. We have made many new friends and have given a good account of ourselves both on and off the field.

We have been encouraged by the number of school-boys who have given their support in holidays both by turning out for us or by giving us their support on the touch line. J. B. Ives turned out for the 1st XV on two occasions and acquitted himself very well. Flint played regularly after leaving school and West had a game when allowed. We look forward to even more members from the school in the coming season and we envisage the not far distant day when every boy leaving school will become a member of the Club.

Old Boys on leave from the Services who want the odd game and any others who would like to help the club should get in touch with our Hon. Sec., J. B. Prichard, 12, The Park, Mitcham (Tel: Mitcham 1784).

Old Boys' Rugby Club.

THE Old Boys' Rugby Club successfully completed an otherwise undistinguished season by providing both finalists in the Staines Seven-a-Side competition, and in reaching the quarter-finals of the Surrey competition.

With a team of the average age of 20, the forwards were invariably outweighed. This was probably the deciding factor in losing several close games. Outstanding amongst the forwards were A. Atterbury, whose hooking was consistently good, F. Ashton and J. B. Pritchard, who also captained the side very capably. B. Ives, fly-half, gave good service to his three-quarters and A. Dew, at full-back, handled cleanly and kicked well on all occasions.

The Old Boys would welcome, as members, all those leaving school this year. There is a full fixture list for two fifteens.

Please write to R. Egan, Hon. Sec., Old Mitchamians R.F.C., 36, Cromer Road, London, S.W. 17 or give name, address and playing position to the School Rugby Captain.

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For the second year running we have enjoyed a very successful season, notable victories being successes over Old Walcountians, Staines, and St. Thomas's Hospital.

Our playing strength has decreased since last Season owing mainly to National Service and one or two of the older members retiring temporarily from the active list for domestic reasons! National Service has also deprived us of several members of the School fifteens who would probably have joined us, but we were pleased to welcome G. Embleton and W. Leigh into the Club. We hope to increase our strength by next Season as we are attempting to run three regular fifteens. Len Glover and Brian Goldney are expected back from the Army and Bob Brett is expected home from Zanzibar.

We ran an Extra XV during the Christmas holidays and several members of the School turned out in this team. A. North and D. H. Morris played for the 1st XV on two occasions.

Next Season it is hoped to run a Colts XV during the holidays and matches will be played during mid-week. Also the Club will be on tour in Wales over Easter 1952, an entirely new venture for the Club.

Subscription to the Old Boys' R. F. C. is as follows:

Ten shillings and sixpence per annum to all members except to those in their first year of leaving School, and University and Forces members, who shall pay five shillings per annum.

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Thomas's "A" and Staines.

The consistent form of A. G. Atterbury, the first team hooker was most pronounced. Atterbury has held this position since 1945-46 when the Club was reformed. Brian Tolley, Tony West, returned from the Forces, John Brett and Ken Sanders played many fine games for the senior team, ably led by Barry Pritchard.

Rod Dew led a strong "A" fifteen and was given staunch support by Jack White, who has succeeded him as captain for the 1950-51 season, Fred Dorman, John Stokoe, I. McDaniel, J. Frankland and K. Moriarty.

J. B. Ives and K. J. Flint are back from the Services and will, no doubt, regain their places in the first fifteen.

The season finished on a high note with a successful Club dinner at the King's Head Hotel, Mitcham on April 15, when the President, A. J. Doig, took the chair. More than fifty members attended. Guests were invited from the Staines and Kodak Clubs. It is intended to hold the annual dinner in April next year.

Playing members still use the School gym on Wednesday evenings for training. This aspect of the game is looked upon as an important part of the Club's curriculum.

OLD MITCHAMIANS R.F.C. SEASON 1951-2.

The Club has enjoyed a very successful Season although there are still one or two features of general play that could be improved, tackling being the most striking weakness.

The 1st XV took a while to get into its stride but is now a well knit team. The main strength has been in the two wingers, J. Brett & L.G. Glover. Both have had a good season and their strong running has brought many a point. The full-back position, vacated by J. May at the end of last season, has been ably filled by B. Goldney and the forwards have been strengthened by the return of R. Brett.

The A XV began the season with thirteen consecutive wins, due in no small measure to the leadership of F. Worman and the support of N. Andrews, D. Elliot, E. A. Golbourne and E. King. W. Everett joined the team after serving in Korea and has been a considerable asset to the side.

The Ex. A XV has been fielded whenever possible — often with great difficulty. Under the able leadership of R. Box they have had some good games although the regular players have had their games spoilt by the unreliability of the few. More playing members are needed and this is where we rely on boys leaving school to join the Club. New members wishing to join should contact the Team Secretary, A.G.Dawson, 13, Abbots Road. Pollards 3305.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. For	Pts. Against
1st XV	21	16	4	1	290	105
A XV	20	15	5	—	352	94
Ex. A XV	11	3	8	—	92	205

J. B. Pritchard.
Captain.

Old Boys' Rugger Notes

THIS has not been quite such a good season as last year's—P 28, W 18, D 4, L 6. We started quite well but the side was never really together and most defeats were at the hands of teams which showed rather more determination to win. Too many games ended in wins by narrow margins. Kinsley again was the outstanding player among the three-quarters; in the pack some familiar faces have vanished, including that of J. B. Pritchard who has now retired for good. We tried out a number of new players during the year, of whom Ellingham was the most successful, and it is now a question of letting the new side settle down.

The 'A' and the 'B' both had good seasons, particularly the latter, scoring 417 points against 124; it must be admitted however that some of the biggest scores were made with the aid of players who subsequently proved to be more at home with 1st and 'A' XVs.

Officers for the coming season—President: G. J. P. Courtney, Esq. Chairman: E. L. Shepard. Captain: D. James. Secretary: M. Rowland. Treasurer: D. Kinsley.

OLD BOYS' RUGBY

In some ways this was a disappointing season. The attempt to run four sides was not over-successful, the C XV only functioning spasmodically.

The 1st XV started the season very impressively, winning their first five games, but then lost a series of three and never seemed to recover completely or live up to their undoubted potential. Yet they could have won all the games which they lost had they sustained their efforts through to the final whistle.

The A XV started even more impressively, being undefeated in the first eleven games. Then they seemed to lose their rhythm and were never the same team again.

The B XV, under the able direction of M. Robbins and B. Stanley, was the most successful team in the club and, despite a continually changing side, built up an enthusiasm and team spirit unequalled by the other sides in the club.

The most satisfactory feature of the season, however, was the fact that so many schoolboys turned out for the Old Boys during the vacation and their enthusiasm and standard of play augur well for the future of the Club.

M. ROWLAND, *Secretary*

Old Boys' Rugby

THIS has been another satisfactory season from the playing point of view. The first three sides all won the majority of their matches, and the "B" XV, in addition, scored almost 500 points. The "C" did not get many games and was not quite as successful as the other sides. Surbitonians, prompted by a certain gentleman no doubt, continue to be our bogey side. Walcountians beat us again, this time by a single point and two dropped goals. On the credit side was a good win against the Gaytonians, and a drawn game, with a weakened XV, against the strong Maidstone team. Smalley, replacing James, had a good season as hooker, and Glover goes on for ever. In the sevens, we at last got back to form. We won the Bec tournament, reached the semi-finals in the Surrey and Mid-Whitgiftians, and the final round in the Middlesex preliminaries. Woodley, with his running, and James with his persistence and attire, both made good first appearances. The main credit, however, goes to the captain, Mitchell, whose persistence brought some compensation for the series of injuries which has kept him out of many of the fifteen-a-side games.

Our thanks go to Dr. Bingham for the interest he has already taken in our affairs, and we welcome him as our new president. Also to Mr. Judge, already a vice-president, who has agreed to become the "link" between ourselves and the School.

New members are always welcome—we shall be visiting the School this term to try to give more information about the Club. There is no subscription for your first year after joining.

Results—

Played 27; Won 20; Drawn 3; Lost 4; Points for 297; Agst. 117.

M. ROWLAND (*Hon. Secretary*)

Old Boys' Rugby

THE 1961 season for the Old Mitchamians brought much disappointment but also some bright signs for the future. Owing to the bad weather in the first half of the season the 1st XV had seven matches cancelled, and this undoubtedly had a harmful effect on the smooth running of the side. Another factor contributing to a total of nine games lost was the number of injuries that the side suffered. For some time, four first team backs were absent through injury. Their replacements gave good service to the side but still required more experience and confidence.

The pack was one of the best that the Club has had, from the solid front row of M. Butler, M. Moore and J. Henn with M. Rowland and A. Goldney in the second row giving good service in the line-outs, to the destructive back row of W. Everett, B. Mitchell and F. Webb. D. Bull, A. Couldridge, B. Venner and R. Knight were very able deputies on numerous occasions and in no way weakened the overall strength of the scrum.

The continuous changes behind the scrum led to a deterioration in the standard of the threequarter play. Only captain G. Pearson was an ever-present figure and much good service he gave to the side. Towards the end of the season newcomers E. Stanley and K. Leach worked well together as did the Ellingham brothers when they were paired at half back.

The lower sides maintained their usual standard of results, the "A" XV losing four and the "B" XV only two games. The "C" XV played regularly and won seven of its matches. On several occasions during the season boys from the School played for the Club. We were much indebted to them and look forward to their soon becoming members.

At the annual general meeting, held in April, A. Goldney was elected captain of the Club for the 1961-62 season.

1st XV results for the 1960-61 season:

Played 22; Won 9; Drawn 4; Lost 9; Points for 165; Points against 150.

J. T. KNIGHT (*Hon. Press Secretary*)

Old Boys' Rugby

THE O.M.s will not look back on the 1961-62 season for any spectacular results in actual play but it will be remembered as the year in which we built the pavilion. During the fifteen years since the Club was refounded one of our chief objects has been to obtain a ground and pavilion of our own, preferably in the district. This proved no small task and now that we have our new ground adjacent to the Wandle Valley Hospital and have erected the pavilion we are discovering how much more work is necessary to keep the Club running. Fortunately we do have an energetic committee and the Club members have also given much assistance.

The season began in fine style with the 1st XV winning its first five matches in a convincing manner; then followed a string of defeats and the team never recaptured its confidence. The latter was illustrated by the fact that of the sixteen matches lost, nine of them were by three points or less. An unfortunate sequence of injuries prevented the Club from turning out its strongest side on numerous occasions. The side that represented the Club at the end of the season showed many changes from the first game. There are a number of players who have worked their way from the "B" XV and now command regular places with the 1st XV; they are D. Bull, P. Fettes, C. Mogg, M. Moore, E. Stanley and J. Woodley. These players, with the experience of L. Glover, J. Henn, B. Mitchell and G. Sumner, should blend into a fine side next season. Before leaving the 1st XV, congratulations must be extended to the side's Captain, A. Goldney, for his outstanding play during the season; it was no fault of his that the results were so disappointing.

The Junior sides, though faring better than the 1st XV—the "A" won thirteen and the "B" twelve of their games—did not maintain their usual high standard of play.

Next season the first game is at Eastbourne on September 17th. This will prepare the Club for the official opening of the pavilion, which is to take place on Wednesday, September 19th, and will be made by C. H. Gadney, the President of the Rugby Football Union. The opening will be followed by a game against an invitation side brought to play the Club by R. H. Bartlett, the England and Harlequin stand-off half.

At the Annual General Meeting held in April, A. Goldney was re-elected Captain of the Club with C. Mogg as his Vice-Captain. H. Slater became the new Secretary and N. Jamieson continues as Treasurer of the Club.

J. T. KNIGHT (*Press Secretary*)

Old Boys' Rugby

THE 1962/63 season made an auspicious start when, on September 19th last year, the Club Pavilion at the ground at Wandle Valley Hospital, Carshalton, was opened by the President of the Rugby Football Union in the presence of a number of distinguished guests and many members of the Club and friends. An exhibition game against a side raised by International R. H. Bartlett was played which proved open and exciting, being lost by the Club by the odd point.

Unfortunately the season did not live up to the early promising start. The severe weather from Christmas onwards greatly restricted games but, despite this, the season was a poor one for all four teams of the Club.

For only the second season since the Club re-formed after the war the number of games lost by the 1st XV exceeded those won. Results were: Played 19, Won 7, Drawn 0, Lost 12. Points for: 107; against: 189. The performance by the other three sides proved little better. In all it was a disappointing season, particularly when it represented the first played on the Club's ground with full facilities available.

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 29th, 1963, when thoughts went forward to the coming season. The playing (and non-playing) strength of the Club is still growing, and, although members are still urgently needed, the O.M.'s have the potential ability to regain their earlier prominent position in the world of Old Boys' Rugby.

G. Sumner has been elected Captain of the Club with P. Fettes as Vice-Captain. The Captains of the other sides are "A" XV—R. Smalley, "B" XV—B. Stanley and "C" XV—J. Knight. E. King has been elected Secretary, and N. Jamieson continues as Treasurer.

E. KING (*Hon. Secretary*)

Old Boys' Rugby

THE last season was a most disappointing one for the Club with all four XV's recording few wins. The two junior sides presented the better results so perhaps the tide has turned and the Club will return shortly to the previous dominant position it held so long ago in local Old Boys' Rugby.

The Club's excellent pavilion in the grounds of Wandle Valley Hospital, Carshalton, nears completion but some work remains to be done. The facilities which are available are as good as any in the district and the Club is proud of what has been achieved, mainly by the sweat and toil of a small number of devoted members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd July, 1964, Barry Pritchard was elected the new Club Chairman. He succeeds Laurie Shepard, who retired after many years of loyal service to the Club. Bob Brett, replaces Barry Pritchard as Vice-Chairman. Dave Preston is the new Treasurer and Ted King remains the Secretary.

This is your Club, and all boys leaving school are welcome as members whether they wish to play Rugby or not.

E. J. KING (*Hon. Secretary*).

Old Boys' Rugby

It has again been a rather unsuccessful year for the Old Mitchamians Rugby Football Club, the 1st XV having won only three games and drawn three. Two of the drawn games, however, were against sides with far better records than ours and this shows that at times the side managed to rise to the occasion and play better rugby than one would have thought possible from the playing record. These moments, unfortunately, were far too rare and the need for a pair of strong-running centres and a couple of large forwards became increasingly obvious.

Roy England, who left school last summer, was brought into the team towards the end of the season and showed a great deal of promise for the future. The Club still needs both playing and non-playing members from the School, however, and there are plenty of opportunities for school-leavers to make their mark and reach the 1st XV in the coming season.

Any boy who wishes to take part in the Old Boys' games should contact Mr. Lidiard at the school.

P. H. FETTES (*Club Captain*).

OLD BOYS' RUGBY

The Club managed to turn out three sides regularly this season, each obtaining better results than the previous year, due undoubtedly to the enthusiasm of captain C. Charlton, who faced an unenviable task, and to the many members of the school teams who played during holidays.

However, meeting far stronger opposition and not having sufficiently talented players to meet the demand meant that the team lacked the confidence to take the initiative against weaker sides and could not do so on other occasions because they were not fit enough.

The first team had five wins, remaining undefeated in midweek games (against slightly inferior opposition), and the second team had a number of enjoyable matches particularly the game against the school, the latter encounter being narrowly won due to our recruiting some of the first team. The third team unfortunately faded away after a promising start and only played well when assisted by school reinforcements at the end of term.

It is quite apparent that any Old Boys' side can be a winning one if members of the particular school team join *en bloc* after completing their education. The club is beginning to climb again and it is hoped that the school will continue to show the interest it has done during the past season.

G. Holliday and A. Heath were awarded tankards for the 1st and 2nd teams respectively and C. Charlton was again elected skipper. No doubt the recent upsurge in spirit will continue under his leadership.

JOHN WOODLEY (Club Secretary).

OLD BOYS' RUGBY

ALL in all this past season has been an eventful one for the Old Boys, but the perseverance of the last few years seems to be paying off for the club and, most of all, the First XV, who at last remembered how to win matches and in the latter part of the season brought off several handsome victories.

Far more heartening than any improvement in the club's playing record was the number of boys from the school who were prepared to give up their Saturday afternoons to play for us. They were always cheerful, despite the sometimes grim results, and turned up, week after week, only looking out of place in that they usually left their elder colleagues standing for speed, fitness and enthusiasm. We can only hope that they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed their presence, and that we shall see them again next season.

Much, of course, must be said for the co-operation of Dr. Bingham and the School Representative, Mr. Judge. During the last twelve months both of them have done much to further the ties between the club and the school.

It is perhaps ironic that the Club should have taken the decision this year to alter its name, but we have to face the fact that whilst solely an Old Boys' club and association we cannot maintain strength purely on the intake from the school-leavers. Thus, we have had to rename ourselves as an open club, but in doing so we have tried to maintain our links with the school, the name now being:- Mitcham R.U.F.C. Incorporating Old Mitchamians R.U.F.C.

In conclusion, perhaps a word or two should be said about the three matches against the school. The first, before Christmas, resulted in a 3-0 win for the club's 'A' XV against the school 1st XV, during which visions of the great flood came to mind as the rain poured from the heavens and mild expletives from the throats of the players, who found this no easy victory.

Later on in the season the Club 1st XV played the School 1st XV in a challenge match, winning, not surprisingly perhaps, 29-0, whilst just a few hundred yards along the road the "B" XV defeated a weakened school 2nd XV, 28-6. Both games proved to be most enjoyable (to both sides we hope) and the former result was, of course, cunningly added to the club's 1st XV record.

As the season ended on such a high note, we can only hope that the next will begin as this one finished; the 1st XV won six of their last nine games, scoring 151 points and conceding only 46.

P. CLARKE (Press Secretary).