

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB IN THE LATE FORTIES.

The last war, of course, prevented any active sport in the early forties, so it was only in 1946 that the school competed in its first major event since the thirties. School captains in those 5 seasons were 1945/6 Woods, 1946/7 H. Wise, 1947/8 H. Wise until Xmas then C.R. Ponter, 1948/9/50 D. Hurd.

The school's first major fixture was the Middlesex Grammar Schools in 1946, in which we finished 11th. It was, in that year, a four to score match which Minchenden won with Tottenham 2nd and Bishopshalt third. Gilbert of Bishopshalt won with our first man Woods in 24th.

The school won the Highgate Harriers for two consecutive years, in 1946 and 1947. In 1946 H. Wise led the team home in 3rd with Peace 14th, Coffin 15th and C. Ponter 16th, Bancrofts were 2nd team and Hampton Grammar 3rd. In 1947 our B. Southwell also won the individual title, first of only 4 H.C.S. runners ever to do so (the others being J. Green/1953, Tony Bush/1960 and Phil O'Brien/1974). D. Hurd was 7th, C. Ponter 12th and R. Beishon 15th. The "B" team were 8th, William Ellis School 2nd and Hampton again 3rd.

The school easily won the N.W. Middlesex Grammar Schools in 1946 with H. Wise winning the race. The team then went on to win the Middlesex Grammar Schools, 1947 being the first year in which the shield was presented and the race became 6 to score. We in fact won it for three consecutive years, then never won it again until 1974. In 1947 H. Wise led the team home in 3rd behind Gilbert/Bishopshalt and Ellis/Greenford. Our other scorers were Peace 10th, C. Ponter 12th, Coffin 13th, K. Sindell 22nd and R. Beishon 48th. Southgate were 2nd and Minchenden 3rd. We easily won the qualifying N.W. area race in 1948 led by B. Southwell in 3rd, then taking the county title ahead of Bishopshalt and Edmonton County. The scoring team in 1948 were C. Ponter 9th, A. Heslop 17th, Southwell 23rd, D. Hurd 25th, R. Newman 33rd and D. Lawson 34th. We won the 1947 competition 2 pts. ahead of Southgate and Kingsbury, the team being Southwell 7th, Hurd 9th, T. Stanley 30th, M. Walsh 42nd, Lawson 43rd and D. Hummerstone 45th. In 1950, however, we slipped to 2nd place behind Spring Grove, D. Hurd leading the team home in 7th with J. Bramley 8th.

Our other major victory in that period was the school's only ever win in the Ranelagh Harriers race in 1948 ahead of St. Albans Grammar and Q.E.S. Barnet. Whitlock of Surbiton won, our team was Southwell 10th, Ponter 11th, Hurd 22nd and Lawson 23rd.

Other major races of that period were:

1947/8 Middlesex A.A.A. Champs: The school were 5th behind T.V.H., Q.P.H., Wigmore and Polytechnic. Ellis of T.V.H. won and our H. Wise was 6th.

1948/9 Highgate Harriers Race: The school were 5th behind Ilford County, Highgate, Hampton and Kingsbury. Hurd finished 7th, Southwell 10th.

Finchley Harriers Race: The school were 2nd, 3 points adrift of Bishopshalt. Hurd was 5th and Southwell 7th.

Ranelagh Harriers Race: The school were 5th behind St. Albans G.S., Luton, Surbiton and Wallington. Southwell was 5th out of over 140.

1949/50 Finchley Harriers Race: The school were 2nd to John Lyon with Bishopshalt 3rd, Stanley was 3rd and Hurd 7th.

Highgate Harriers Race: The school took bronze medals behind Ilford and William Ellis, and the "B" team were 24th. Hurd finished 13th, Stanley 16th, B. Gregory 29th and B. Maybrick 38th.

Ranelagh Harriers Race: The school finished 7th, St. Albans G.S. won with Luton 2nd and Alleynes/Dulwich 3rd. Hurd finished 6th out of over 110 runners.

1949/50 was the first season in which any domestic matches appear in the record books. There were two that year, both against Bishopshalt, home and away, the host team winning on each occasion.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB IN THE EARLY FIFTIES.

The excellent performances of the late forties did not carry over into the fifties, although there were some good performances. Captains in this period were T. Stanley 1950/1, W. Pain 1951/2, B. Lord 1952/3, J. Green 1953/4 and B. Pressman 1954/5. The races the school entered were virtually identical from season to season. Our most successful fixture was the Ealing Harriers Race. In 1950 we easily won with our three scorers in the first six and T. Stanley winning overall. In 1951 our "B" team actually won with our "A" team 3rd behind Greenford! K. Houlan led the school in 3rd with M. Humphrey 4th. In 1952 we won yet again with B. Lord winning the race by 2 seconds from Humphrey and T. Youdale 6th, and we scored another win in 1953 with J. Green taking the individual title. In 1954 we slipped to 3rd behind Preston Manor and Bishopshalt, J. Stewart being our leading runner in 4th.

The Finchley Harriers race had a similar sized field to the Ealing race but was of a slightly higher standard. In 1950 we were 4th but improved to 2nd behind John Lyon in 1951, W. Pain leading the team in 6th place. In 1952 we slipped back to 3rd although our leading runner, L. Chapman, was higher up in the race finishing 2nd. In 1953 we went back to being 2nd and J. Green won overall. Bob Hopson gets his only mention in the record books in this race, finishing 47th out of 60. We finally won in 1954 over Preston Manor and Kingsbury County, our leading runner being P. Norton who finished 2nd.

The top two races on the circuit were the Ranelagh Harriers and the Highgate Harriers schools' races. In 1950 we were halfway down the field in the Highgate finishing 10th, but T. Stanley finished 10th individually out of about 150. We finished 16th in the Ranelagh. We improved to 5th in the Highgate in 1951, only 6 points adrift of 3rd, Spinks being our leading runner in 27th. In the Ranelagh, however, we were next to last, 19th, with a below strength team. In the 1952 Highgate race we were 6th, this time 8 points away from 3rd, and B. Lord finished 5th in the race. We then went on to take 3rd place in the Ranelagh race led in by Lord in 10th position. We also took 3rd place in the 1953 Highgate race behind Bancrofts and Preston Manor and J. Green also took the individual title by 1 second from Landry of William Ellis. In the Ranelagh, however, we slipped to 8th, our first man in being Pressman in 34th. The 1954 Highgate saw us slump to 19th out of 20, again without a full team, but we fared better in the Ranelagh finishing 9th out of 19, P. Norton coming in 9th.

In the Middlesex Grammar Schools, our lowest position had been 2nd in the last 4 years of the forties, but we slipped to 7th in 1951, B. Lord finishing 14th. We improved to 5th in 1952, T. Stanley being 21st overall, then finally came back to be 2nd in 1953, although well behind winners Southgate Grammar, B. Lord finishing 4th. We were 2nd again in 1954, much closer to winners Preston Manor, and J. Green, who was the schools' "star" runner of the early fifties, finished 3rd. 1955, however, saw us slip back again to be 6th, P. Bailey coming 26th.

The Queens Park Harriers Relay was first held in 1953, and that year our "B" team beat our "A" team, finishing 6th and 7th respv. Highgate School won from Watford Grammar and St. Clement Danes. We improved to 5th behind Preston Manor, Highgate, Watford and Haberdashers in 1954, and J. Green ran the 6th fastest lap overall in 12.24. In 1955 we finished 11th in a much larger field of 35 teams, Watford Grammar winning from Highgate and Haberdashers. The course was shortened that year for some reason, our fastest runner was P. Norton who finished 4th on the first lap in 11.05.

The only other major races we entered in that period were the junior Harrow Schools' race finishing 4th, A. Reynolds finishing 10th in 1954. In late 1954 we entered the R.G.S. Guildford Relay for the first time finishing 12th, J. Stewart being our fastest man in 8.54. The relay was won by R.G.S. themselves from Watford and Sutton County while Plumpton of Portsmouth Southern Grammar ran the fastest lap in 8.07

Looking finally at friendly matches, we won all 6 that we had in the 1953/4 season and provided the individual winner, J. Green, in all of them.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB IN THE LATE FIFTIES.

The late fifties provided a gradual build up for more "fruitful" times for the school in the sixties. Captain in the 1956/7 season was John Jenkinson alias John Dominic. The two achievements that year were winning the Ealing Harriers race with the "B" team 2nd, individuals: 2nd B. Baldwin, 3rd J. Shortland, 4th S. Jay, and also 2nd place in the Finchley Harriers Race led in by Baldwin 5th and Jay 6th. The school finished 4th out of 7 teams in the John Lyon Relay, and a lowly 20th in the Ranelagh Harriers race. Whilst H.C.S. were having a low spell, Harrow Weald were on a "high" finishing 2nd to Bishopshalt in the Middlesex Grammar Schools with their Huxley winning the race, whilst we were back in 8th. Huxley ran the 2nd fastest lap in the Q.P.H. relay, and H.C.S. were 14th, Watford Grammar winning from Haberdashers.

The school fared slightly better in 1957/8, when B. Baldwin and S. Jay were joint captains. We slipped to 6th in the Ealing Harriers but won the Finchley Harriers, although we had the same number of points as 2nd placed John Lyon. B. Baldwin finished 10th, Huxley of Harrow Weald winning. We entered the T.V.H. schools race for the second time finishing 14th out of 28, Huxley again won, as he did the Polytechnic Harriers race where we finished 8th. We were back in 8th in the Ranelagh Harriers but relay success finally came our way in the John Lyon Relay which we won from Harrow Weald, S. Jay running our fastest lap in 9.06. We again finished 8th in the Middlesex Grammar Schools which Huxley again won, our D. Golby finishing 11th, and we improved to 8th in the Q.P.H. relay. Tony Bush and Ken Hines first appear running for the school this season running for the junior team. In the Harrow Schools Tony was 11th behind our first man M. Richards who was 10th, while Ken was 55th. Tony was our leading runner in the Ruislip & Northwood A.C. race coming in 9th, with Ken 46th out of 65. The school were 6th, and in this race St. Nicholas first appeared on the circuit finishing 3rd behind Bishopshalt and Bourne, led home by Victor Kerton who was just behind Tony in 10th.

R. Cumming was captain in 1958/9 and the school team started to improve again. We won the Ealing Harriers with R. Sewell 7th, C. Grubb 8th and J. Waddington 9th, Tony made his first senior appearance finishing 29th out of 103. We also won the Finchley Harriers from Harrow Weald whose man Larmour won the race, whilst Waddington was 3rd and Golby 4th. Against stronger competition, we finished 8th in the T.V.H. race and 5th in the Polytechnic Harriers race, Golby finishing 15th out of 170. Competing in the Middx. A.A.A. youths championships for the first time for a long time, we finished 4th behind Southgate, Shaftsbury & T.V.H., Golby finishing 8th. We slipped to 2nd in the John Lyon Relay, Haberdashers beating us by almost 2 minutes, our fastest runner was Golby in 8.59. Haberdashers similarly walked away with the Q.P.H. relay from Latymer Upper and Watford, we were 24 secs. away from 3rd in 4th place, Golby running the 5th fastest lap overall in 12.11. We similarly missed out on a placing in the Middlesex Grammar Schools scoring 213 to Bishopshalt 179, Hampton 202 and Tollington 208. Golby, however, gained 3rd place. We finished 11th in the Ranelagh Harriers and 2nd in the junior Harrow Schools.

We had a similar type of season in 1959/60 under the captaincy of J. Waddington. The school won the Ealing Harriers race with D. Golby and Tony Bush 2nd equal and R. Jaques 4th. We slipped to 4th in the Finchley Harriers behind John Lyon, Bishopshalt and Harrow Weald. Golby was 2nd and Tony 6th. In the under 16 Ruislip & Northwood race, Ken Hines finished 12th and the school were 4th behind Bishopshalt, St. Nicholas and Harefield, Victor Kerton finishing 2nd. Entering the Highgate Harriers again after a long spell off, we took 2nd place to Haberdashers. Golby finished 3rd behind Sulston/Habs and Gray of Tollington. Sulston was the first course record holder, officially, of the school's senior hill course. We won back the John Lyon Relay by 5 secs. from John Lyon, Golby being our fastest runner in 8.49 on 4th leg. We competed in the Ranelagh Harriers race but no results appear in the records book. Finally we finished 4th yet again in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Golby being missing from the team, Bishopshalt winning from Hampton and St. Nicholas in their first placing in a senior race. Tony was our leading runner in 17th position.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB 25 YEARS AGO

Matches in the fifties were largely for the senior age group, cross country for younger athletes at both school and club level did not "boom" until the late sixties. Inter schools matches were, for the most part, organised by clubs, of which the Highgate Harriers and Ranelagh Harriers Schools Races still survive. The club in those days was under the leadership of Geography teacher Charles Crinson. The captain in the 1955/56 season was P. Edney. Of all the runners who competed for the school that year, only John Jenkinson alias John Dominic, has competed for the Old Gayts in the memories of most of the present members. Leading school athlete that season was one P.J. O'Brien (no relation!), who came from obscurity to being the first scorer in most of the seasons races.

The domestic matches were close affairs, we beat Luton G.S. and Latymer Upper but were beaten by RGS High Wycombe, Watford and Haberdashers. The home course in those days was in Northwick Park.

A brief summary of the schools results in trophy races that year:

- T.V.H. Schools Race: H.C.S. finished 8th out of 23 teams. P. Edney finished 26th out of 120+ runners. Latymer Upper won and Laymer's Briault won the individual title.
- R.G.S. Guildford Relay: H.C.S. finished 13th out of 31 teams. The lap times were missed out on the first two legs, fastest lap taken was by Fruin of Sutton Grammar. Haberdashers won by  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. from Purley G.S.
- Ealing Harriers Schools Race: H.C.S. won and H.C.S. "B" were third out of nine teams. Peggs of St. Clement Danes won by 25 secs. from J. Shortland of H.C.S.
- Finchley Harriers Schools Race: H.C.S. finished 3rd out of 8 teams, behind Kingsbury County and Salvatorian College. Huxley of Harrow Weald (who were an active school in those days) won, our first man in was O'Brien in eighth place.
- Ranelagh Harriers Schools Race: This was the highest quality race around at the time. The school finished 16th out of 22 teams. O'Brien was our first man in 41st. Collins of Wallington School won from Fruin of Sutton and Spalding of Emanuel. Wallington won the team race from Haberdashers and Watford Grammar.
- No results appear in the record books for the Highgate Harriers race, presumably we didn't compete that year.
- Middlesex Grammar Schools: The school finished fourth behind Bishopshalt, Kingsbury and Hampton. 31 teams competed that year, a far cry from recent years when less than ten have competed. In the early 50's, in fact, there were regional qualifying rounds, like there still is in the Athletics competition. Mellor of Enfield won from Trowse of Acton and Rogerson of Bishopshalt. O'Brien finished tenth.
- Polytechnic Harriers Schools Race: H.C.S. finished fourth behind Haberdashers, Sloane and Isleworth, out of 12 teams. O'Brien finished 8th. Shaw of Sloane won from Redpath and Vogler of Haberdashers, who also had fourth and fifth places.
- Queens Park Harriers Schools Relay: H.C.S. "A" finished 5th and H.C.S. "B" were 16th out of 29 teams. O'Brien was the fastest H.C.S. runner finishing in 12.33 for fourth place on first leg. The school held third place for two laps but slipped to fifth on the last leg. Watford won, Habs were second and Bishopshalt third. Hughes of Watford ran the fastest lap of 12.21, O'Brien was 8th fastest.

It's interesting to note how many schools were active on the cross country circuit in the fifties. Then there were about twenty regular schools in Middlesex alone, where as today there are probably less than half a dozen active at senior level, and schools cross country in Surrey has all but disappeared. Another interesting fact is that names in results hardly ever gave initials!

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB IN THE EARLY SIXTIES.

The first two seasons of the sixties were under the captaincy of Tony Bush, and the school was placed in almost all the major races it entered in those two years. In the 1960 Haberdashers Relay, then a 4 man event, the school were 2nd to Habs, Tony running the fastest lap of 8.00. The school were 2nd again in the Ealing Harriers race to Bishopshalt, Tony finishing 2nd to Hartshorne/Ealing Grammar. In the T.V.H. schools race, the school were 3rd behind Bishopshalt and St. Nicholas, Tony finishing 4th. But in the Finchley Harriers we dropped out of the first 3 into 4th, Tony finishing 3rd behind Ellis/Isleworth and Larmour/Harrow Weald. Tony scored a major victory in the Highgate Harriers, although he was actually 1st equal, the leading 3 runners deciding to come in together after being harassed by a dog, the other 2 joint winners being Larmour and Haslehurst/Habs. The school finished 3rd behind Bishopshalt and Habs. After Xmas, we finished 6th in the Ranelagh Harriers, Sutton County winning from Bishopshalt and Bedford Modern, Tony finishing 5th and C. Maslen 11th out of 138. We were 6th in the junior Harrow Schools, M. May finishing 6th and Pete Nichols 11th, but we won the under 16 Ruislip & Northwood A.C. race for the first time, D. Jones winning by over  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute and G. Newbery came 3rd. The school took 3rd place in the Middlesex Grammar Schools behind Bishopshalt and St. Nicholas, Tony finishing 4th and D. Jones 10th. Tony later finished 26th in the English Schools senior championships.

The 1961/2 season saw our first Harrow County relay, and the school won by almost 2 minutes from John Lyon and Latymer Upper. Rickmansworth were 4th, our "B" team 5th, Ealing Grammar 6th and Eliots Green 7th. The team course record set by us that day was never to be bettered, Tony Bush and J. Broadribb jointly running the fastest laps in 6.13. We scored an easy victory in the Haberdashers relay over Emanuel and Habs, Tony once again running the fastest lap, in 6.38. However, we lost the Ealing Harriers title to Bishopshalt, D. Jones and C. Maslen finishing 5th equal. Polytechnic Harriers held a 6 stage relay that year instead of their traditional inter schools race, and we finished 3rd behind St. Nicholas and Habs, Tony again running a fastest lap in 10.19. We were runners up in the Highgate Harriers to Bishopshalt, M. Anderson finishing 3rd, and we had another runners up spot in the Middlesex Youths, M. Anderson finishing 6th. Another 2nd placing came in the T.V.H. race behind Bishopshalt, Tony finishing 3rd and M. Anderson 4th. After Xmas, we had another 2nd place in the John Lyon Relay behind St. Nicholas and yet another 2nd to Bishopshalt in the Ranelagh Harriers, C. Maslen leading in the team in 9th. We won the senior and intermediate Harrow Schools, Maslen and Anderson winning the senior jointly and G. Wilson and D. Jones jointly winning the inters. We were 4th in the juniors. Another 2nd came in the Q.P.H. relay, M. Anderson running the fastest lap, and another 2nd in the Ruislip & Northwood, M. May finishing 2nd. We were 3rd in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Anderson finishing 4th. In the Middlesex Schools, Anderson was 2nd and Maslen 3rd in the senior race, G. Wilson 4th and D. Jones 7th in the inters. In the English Schools at Birkenhead, Anderson was 25th in the senior race, and Wilson 41st and Jones 83rd in the inters.

J. Broadribb was captain in 1962/3 and 1963/4. We again won our own relay in 1962 from Bishopshalt and Ealing, Broadribb again running 6.13 as in 1961 for fastest lap overall. In an extended Haberdashers relay, we finished 2nd to Purley Grammar, Anderson running the 2nd fastest lap in 12.29. We slipped to 4th in the T.V.H. race behind Enfield, Bishopshalt and Sunbury, D. Jones however was runner up to R. Simnett of Enfield. We took 2nd place in the John Lyon relay to St. Nicholas. This year saw the first recorded Old Gayts v. school match which the school won by 37 to 41. Broadribb and G. Wilson were 1st equal and Tony Bush 3rd. We entered the Watford Harriers Relay (juniors) for the first time to come 5th to Dr. Challoners, Francis Combe, Rickmansworth and Challoners "B", out of 36 teams. Roger Kraushaar was our fastest man in 11.06. The school were runners up to Ponders End A.C. in the Middlesex Youths, Jones finishing 10th. We were 3rd behind Wandsworth and Orange Hill in the Highgate Harriers, Wilson finishing 4th and Jones 10th, out of 94 finishers. We won the Ealing Harriers race over Bishopshalt, Wilson winning individually. After Xmas we were runners up to Bishopshalt in the Q.P.H. road relay, Jones being our fastest runner in 12.52 on leg 4. We entered the Baldwin Trophy race in Surrey for the first and only time, finishing 8th out of 15, Wilson coming in 12th. The course contained steeplechase barriers! We were 3rd for the 3rd year running in the Middlesex Grammar Schools behind Bishopshalt and St. Nicholas, Anderson finishing 6th. In the Middlesex Schools, Jones was 3rd, Wilson 7th and Broadribb 9th in the seniors, Pete Nichols 15th in the inters. In the English Schools at Coventry, Jones was 53rd in the seniors and Wilson 105th.

## H.C.S. C.C.C. 1960/65 cont'

The highs of the first 3 years of the sixties dropped in 1963/4. We again won our own relay in 1963 by 50 secs. from St. Nicholas and Bishopshalt who were 2nd equal. Priest of Eliots Green ran the fastest lap of 6.23, Broadribb was 4th fastest in 6.29. We were 4th in the Finchley Harriers although Broadribb won the race overall. The juniors were 8th in the Watford Harriers relay, Pete Griffiths was our fastest runner in 10.54. We were a lowly 15th out of 34 in the Highgate Harriers with a below strength squad, Roger Kraushaar being our first man in 31st. We finished 6th in the T.V.H. race, Pete Nichols finishing 11th and Roger 29th out of 148. We entered the St. Nicholas Kerton Relay in its inauguration in 1963, finishing 4th, 5 secs. away from 3rd, behind Dr. Challoners (who won by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mins), St. Nicholas and Bishopshalt. After Xmas we were 14th in the Ranelagh, Broadribb finishing 19th. We finished 4th in the new Dr. Challoners relay, behind Challoners who won by over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mins, Selhurst and Slough Grammar. We had held 3rd on 4th and 5th legs but dropped on the 6th. The Haberdashers relay became a 6 man event and we finished 6th, Orange Hill winning. Broadribb was 3rd fastest overall in 4.46 behind Gulson/Challoners in 4.44. We slipped to 5th in the Middlesex Grammar Schools behind Orange Hill, Enfield, St. Nicholas and Ashford. Broadribb was 14th and Roger 19th.

Roger Kraushaar was school captain in 1964/5 and until Xmas in 1965/6 seasons. We were 3rd in the 1964 Finchley Harriers race behind John Lyon and Bishopshalt, Roger finishing 3rd behind Maurice Wands/Bishopshalt. We entered the Enfield Schools race for the first time finishing 5th, Pete Griffiths leading in the team in 10th with Roger 14th. We were 8th in the Highgate Harriers, Roger finishing 12th. We were 4th, 2 points away from St. Nicholas in 3rd, in the T.V.H. race, Roger finishing 9th and Pete 10th. Challoners won from Bishopshalt, Ashford were 1 point and Orange Hill 3 points behind us. We again won our own relay event by 50 secs from St. Nicholas who were 2 secs ahead of Eliots Green. Simnett of Enfield ran the fastest lap in 6.05, a course record, Roger was our fastest man, 3rd fastest overall in 6.19. After Xmas we were runners up in the u.16 Ruislip & Northwood behind Abbotsfield, G. Serota was 2nd to Banbury/Vyners. The seniors were 4th behind Bishopshalt, Tiffin and Wimbledon College in the Ranelagh Harriers, Roger was 3rd behind Johns/Tiffin and Wands/Bishopshalt. The junior team won the 4 man Gunnersbury relay by 59 secs. from Chiswick County, A. DeVletter running the fastest lap in 11.44 and W. Mealling the 2nd fastest in 11.46. In the Haberdashers relay, run for the first time over its present course, we were 5th behind Challoners, Bishopshalt, Watford and Highgate. Pete Griffiths was our fastest runner in 12.38, Roger running 12.40. Fastest overall was J. Valentine of K.C.S. Wimbledon in 11.46. The intermediate team were 3rd in the Harrow Schools, Serota finishing 4th. We finished 5th behind Challoners, Slough, Bishopshalt and Enfield in the Challoners relay, but won the Q.P.H. relay for the first time over John Lyon and Orange Hill. Pete Griffiths took the lead on leg 3 in 12.23 and Roger held the lead on 4th leg in 12.24, 4th and 5th= fastest laps overall, fastest lap going to Graynorth/Ashford. Our juniors were 8th in the Langley G.S. relay, Woodfield from Cranford winning from Ashford and Hugh Faringdon School. S. Clubb was our fastest man in 7.51. We were runners up to Ashford in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Pete finishing 9th. In the Middlesex Schools, Pete was 10th, K. Fleming 12th and Roger 14th.

In 1965 we entered both the senior and intermediate Enfield Schools race, finishing 2nd and 5th respv. Pete Griffiths was 3rd in the senior race and Roger 9th. G. Buffett was 8th in the inters. We were 3rd in the T.V.H. behind Challoners and Chiswick, Pete finishing 3rd. We were a low 9th in the Highgate Harriers with a below par team, Pete finishing 5th behind Byrne/Bishop Thomas Grant. Charles Crinson and Reg King presented a trophy for the winning team in our inter schools relay, thereafter named the Randall Relay after a former head of the school. We lost the event for the first time by 2 secs. to Ashford County. 17 teams finished, Tucker/Woodfield was fastest man in 6.03, Pete ran 2nd= fastest with Weiss/Downer in 6.08. Chiswick were 3rd. We had a walkover victory in the Kerton Relay over Challoners and Haberdashers, Roger was our fastest man in 10.54 on the first leg, but Pete Griffiths took the lead on the 2nd lap. Roger's last race as captain was in the Finchley Harriers which we won from Bishopshalt and John Lyon. Pete was 2nd and Roger 3rd overall. This was the last time that this race was run, and the large shield for the winning team still resided in the school hall the last time I saw it, Finchley Harriers merging with Ruislip & Northwood to form Hillingdon A.C.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB IN THE LATE SIXTIES.

After the departure of Roger Kraushaar at Xmas 1965 Pete Griffiths took over as school captain until Xmas 1966. A "B" team entered the Haberdashers Relay in 1966, finishing 11th out of 21. Winners were Dr. Challoners from Merchant Taylors and Habs, fastest lap was by Melvern/Challoners 12.45. The seniors won the Harrow Schools with Pete 2nd and J. May 3rd. The inters were 2nd although sharing the same number of points at Downer, I. Park finishing 3rd and M. Beir 4th. The juniors were 8th, led in by Brian Cunningham in 6th, who was also the first winner of a cup Roger had presented to the school, the "Kraushaar Cup", which was initially awarded to the school's best junior runner, but later was to be awarded to the most improved runner on the school team. The school were 4th out of 8 in the Merchant Taylors race, behind M.T.'s, St. Dunstons/Catford and St. Pauls. In the u.16 Ruislip & Northwood race we were 3rd to Bishopshalt and Merchant Taylors. The junior team was 6th in the Orange Hill Race, won by Julian Goater in his first appearance on the circuit, although Habs were only 4th. Results appear for 4 school runners competing in the "National" in 1966, although whether or not this was actually a school team is not indicated. Pete Griffiths was 83rd in the youths. The John Lyon Relay became a composite age group event for the first time, teams consisting of two seniors, two under 17's, one under 15 and one under 13. We were 3rd behind Habs and John Lyon, Pete running the 3rd fastest lap, and Dick Philips running our u.13 leg. We finished 6th out of 23 in the Challoners relay. We were runners up to Chiswick in the Q.P.H. relay, Pete running the 2nd fastest lap (11.54) behind Tony Pretty/Chiswick (11.55). A young Ian Thompson ran the opening leg for Luton Grammar coming in 3rd in 12.18. We were runners up to Ashford in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Pete finishing 5th, and we entered the junior event for the first time coming 17th, Cunningham finishing 11th. In the Middlesex Schools seniors, Pete finished 12th, C. Wilson 13th and C. Oxley 15th.

Results are scant for the 1966/7 season, C. Wilson taking over as captain after Xmas. We won the John Lyon Relay from Haberdashers and John Lyon, Pete running 8.41. R.A.F. Halton won the Randall Relay, our position is unknown. Jack Lane of Ashford became the first man to break 6 minutes for the course running 5.56, Pete repeating his 6.08 run from the previous year for 2nd fastest. Pete also ran the fastest lap in the Kerton Relay in 9.54, again our position is unknown. Pete also won the Enfield Schools race where we were 4th behind Orange Hill, Challoners and Watford. We were 9th in the intermediate event, up and coming youngster Phil Saktreger finishing 3rd. After Xmas we finished 14th in the Challoners Relay, although Wilson ran twice. We were 6th in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Ian Park coming 24th. Ian won the senior Harrow schools and Buffett was 2nd, the school taking the team title. We were 5th in the inters, S. Yates finishing 4th and Ian Pursell 5th, and 7th in the juniors, Saktreger finishing 5th. In the Middlesex Schools, Ian Park finished 18th in the senior event.

Ian Pursell was captain for the 1967/8 and 68/9 seasons, which were the last two years under Charles Crinson as master in charge. These two years saw a leaner fixture program for the school. We were 5th behind Habs in the 1967 John Lyon Relay. R.G.S. High Wycombe won the Randall Relay, and strangely enough, 5 of their runners ran 6.40 or 6.41 lap times! Orange Hill were 2nd, Habs 3rd and we were 9th. Tony Moore ran 6.07 for fastest lap for Slough, our fastest man being Tony McGahan (6.49). We were 5th and 3rd respv. in the senior and intermediate Merchant Taylors races. Ian Pursell was 6th in the seniors. Rob Heath made his first school appearance in 27th out of 30 in the inter. We were 2nd to Downer in the senior Harrow schools, Ian finishing 2nd, but we won the intermediate event with McGahan 3rd and P. Halls 4th. We didn't finish a junior team but Saktreger finished 2nd. We were 9th out of 22 in the Middlesex Grammar Schools, Orange Hill winning and Ian leading us in coming 21st. The junior team were 13th in the Langley relay, Saktreger running 7.49 and Rob Heath 8.07. John Davies/Woodfield ran the fastest lap in 7.01.

We slipped to 6th in the 1968 John Lyon Relay, although Saktreger was the 2nd fastest under 15 runner. Habs easily won this and our Randall Relay, where we were 8th. Tony Bush brought up a team from Hove County where he was then teaching, and they finished 17th and last. Ian Pursell ran 6.29, fastest laps were by Willmott/Latymer and Sherwin/R.A.F. Halton, each 6.20. The Old Gayts beat the school in the annual school v old boys fixture, Pete Griffiths, Roger Kraushaar and Tony Bush providing the "1-2-3". We were a lowly 26th in the Habs relay, won by Habs from King Henry VIII. Ian Pursell won the senior Harrow Schools in which we were 2nd to Downer, and Saktreger won the inters, in which we didn't finish a team. We were 9th in the senior Middlesex G.S., Ian was 10th, and Derek Wolfe finished 13th in the junior event.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB 1969/70.

In 1969 Phil Clarke, a geography teacher, took over as master in charge of the school club and brought in a younger, fresher look, inspiring many of the younger athletes. Tony McGahan was school captain and Rob Heath club secretary.

The school was "placed" for the first time in a major event since Pete Griffiths days when it took third place in the John Lyon Relay. Haberdashers won by nearly 2 mins. and Latymer Upper were 2nd. On the team was Phil Saktreger, Rob Heath, Phil O'Brien (who was the 3rd fastest under 13), Derek Wolfe (fastest u.15 overall), Richard Reynolds and Tony. Although this was our only "placing" that year, the school's results in other major races were much improved over the previous 2½ seasons. In our own Randall Relay we improved to finish 6th, Habs winning by over a minute from R.G.S. High Wycombe, St. Nicholas, Watford and Bishopshalt. Julian Goater became only the 2nd man to break 6 mins. for the course recording a course record of 5.54 ahead of Ben Brown/Habs 6.10 and Colson/Orange Hill 6.18. Derek Wolfe was our fastest man with 6.46, Tony running 6.47 and Phil Saktreger 6.50. We finished 9th in the Kerton Relay, Derek running 11.15 on lap 4. Habs inevitably won by over 1 minute from Stationers and Alleynes, Goater running a fastest lap of 9.31. In the Highgate Harriers, however, we were a low 19th out of 24, Tony McGahan being 41st. Ben Brown won the race from John Davies/Cranford and Bennett/Stationers, Habs winning the team race from St. Nicholas and Sir Joseph Williamsons. However, in the 4th year event, Derek Wolfe "came to the fore" in finishing 3rd behind Hearn/Haverstock and Jerry Odlin/Stationers, and Phil White finished 25th. The school was 7th team out of 25. The annual Old Gayts v school match proved to be a low point for the school as they could only turn out 3 runners and were "leant" Ian Pursell as the most recent school leaver. Pete Griffiths won by 79 secs. from Roger Kraushaar who was 78 secs. ahead of Tony Bush.

After Xmas we had probably our best ever results in the Harrow Schools Champs., winning the senior and intermediate events and being placed 2nd in the juniors. In addition Derek won the inters and Martin Mills the junior. Also well placed were Tony McGahan 2nd and Dave Russell 4th in the seniors, Richard Reynolds 2nd, Phil White 4th and Rob Heath 6th in the inters and Phil O'Brien 6th in the juniors. Martin Mills was later selected as a reserve of the Middlesex team for the English Schools. We were 15th in the Habs relay, Tony running 13.22 and Derek 13.30. Habs won by exactly 2 mins. from King Henry VIII and Haileybury/Hertford. Julian Goater ran a phenomenal fastest lap time of 11.20, 29 secs ahead of Ben Brown (11.49) and David Glassborow (11.51), who, incidently, ran a world age record of 3.57.5 for the 1500m at the age of 15, that summer. Results have "gone astray" for the Middlesex Grammar Schools, but we finished 5th in the Q.P.H. relay behind Haberdashers, Watford, Bishopshalt and Willesden High. Ben Brown ran an incredible fastest lap time of 11.42 ahead of Nash/Habs 12.15, Derek running 12.37 on our final leg.

1969 saw the inauguration of the Harrow Schools league, the first round for 1st and 2nd years being held at Whitchurch Playing Fields. Here, Phil O'Brien first emerged as a classy runner, easily winning the 2nd year event. Ian Garrod also made a team appearance here finishing 66th. The team were 7th out of 8. The 1st years were 5th out of 8, led in by P. Taylor in 8th. Two days later, the 3rd years competed producing a more solid team performance to finish 2nd behind Salvatorian, Martin Mills coming in 2nd and Ian Barnfather 9th. In the 2nd round at Newton Park, the 3rd years won although Mills was only 6th, the 2nd years were 3rd although Phil was only 3rd, and the 1st years were 3rd, for whom Colin Greatrex made his first appearance finishing 6th. Results have been lost for the final 2 rounds, although I recollect that the 3rd year team ended up 2nd overall in their age group. The 4th year didn't as yet have an age group in the league. The 3rd years also contested the junior Middlesex Grammar Schools in which Mills was 5th, team position unknown, and they were 5th in the first Habs 3rd year race, Mills finishing 14th, Robin Pepper winning from Kirk Dumbleton. The 4th year team only saw competition in friendly matches, in which only St. Nicholas were able to beat them. Derek Wolfe was the leading runner, but also on the team in their first season of competition were Phil White, Mark July, Jim Moseley, Trevor Hartman, Bruce Davidson and Graham Sillitoe. The best team performance came in a match against Latymer Upper at Hammersmith where we had 7 finishers in 8, Derek beating Latymer's first scorer, Hugh Jones, by 42 seconds.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB 10 YEARS AGO

1970/71 was the second season under Phil Clarke as master in charge and already there were signs that the lean years of the late sixties were giving way to better times for the club. Under the captaincy of Dave Russell, the team only lost to Latymer & Habs in its domestic matches in the first term. In the first trophy race, the composite age group John Lyon Road Relay, the school took second place behind the unbeatable Haberdashers team. Derek Wolfe ran the second fastest lap beating Julian Goater by four seconds while Colin Greatrex ran the fastest under 13 lap. Also on the team that day were Richard Reynolds, Dave Russell, Martin Mills and Robert Heath.

In our own Randall Relay, the school were unlucky to be beaten into fourth place. Haberdashers won easily, St. Nicholas were second and Watford third. Derek Wolfe, however, did run the fastest lap of the day. The Guildford relay produced one of the most amusing incidents, still remembered, when Dave Russell's shorts came loose and he finished his lap wearing his swimming trunks! Haberdashers easily won this and the Kerton Trophy, where we finished seventh, largely due to a weak fifth leg. Derek took the team up to fourth place on the fourth leg.

The Highgate Harriers Race saw Haberdashers runners take first, second and fourth positions. Derek, who had finished third in the fourth year race the previous year, finished tenth. The Challoners relay after Christmas saw a more youthful Harrow County team, with Trevor Hartman, Dennis Orme and Graham Sillitoe all running on the "A" team for the first time. The school finished tenth, Haberdashers winning once again although a much fitter Goater was almost beaten for fastest lap by John Davies. Haberdashers own relay saw their first defeat by King Henry VIII although Goater ran a phenomenal time of 11.16, fastest lap by 53 seconds. We finished seventh. We then easily won the intermediste and senior Harrow schools, Derek winning the inters title. Finally we finished fifth in the Middlesex Grammar Schools behind Minchenden, Stationers, St. Nicholas and Christs College and thirteenth in the Alleynes Relay.

Lower down the school, leading runners were Martin Mills, Adrian Higgs and Dennis Orme in the fourth year, Charles July, Phil O'Brien and Alan Robson in the third, Colin Greatrex in the second and Martin Rees in the first. Other runners around in those days were Gareth Smith, Ian Barnfather, Mike Lepps, Mike Baron and Rick Griffiths. Adrian Higgs finished 20th in the junior Highgate Harriers, the school finishing ninth. The fourth year team took second place behind Lascelles in a closely fought Harrow League, while Colin Greatrex battled out the second year races with Pete Lewis and Lee Benjamin, and Charles July led the school home in the third year races. Charles also won the junior Harrow Schools title. The fourth years also competed in the first Haste Hill Relay finishing tenth. St. Albans won and Kirk Dumbleton ran a fastest lap of 10.34. The third years contested the junior Middlesex schools in which Charles finished fifth, the Northwood schools race in which Phil O'Brien finished sixth and the Haberdashers Race in which Phil finished 20th. Only 2 points covered the first three teams that day, Northwood won but Habs had the same number of points, fifty, and Vyners were third with fifty one. Colin Greatrex, who finished almost last, came back the next year to finish second. Another runner to lift himself from the depths was Mike Lepps who has since risen up from being at the bottom of the first year team that year to be leading the Old Gayts cross country trophy table at present. Interesting to note that twenty of the runners from that year have represented the Old Gayts since, of whom sixteen are still active.

+++ Any other articles like this will be gratefully received.

## MORE RESULTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB 1971/72

1971 was the year that Mike Green first came to Harrow County and took over the school cross country club. Robert Heath was the team captain and the school "A" team consisted of him, Derek Wolfe, Graham Sillitoe, Mark July and Dennis Orme as regulars, with Phil O'Brien, Gareth Smith, Richard Reynolds and Phil White. The school won all its domestic matches and scored a rare victory over the Old Geyts in the annual school v. old boys fixture, and the "B" team also beat all opposing "B" teams.

The trophy races took off to a promising start with a second place in the John Lyon Relay behind Haberdashers. Derek ran the third fastest lap behind Simon Keene and Dennis Wright whilst Phil O'Brien ran the third fastest under 15 lap. However, the school who turned out to be the top team on the "circuit" that year, Dr. Challoners, went wrong on the second leg and consequently had to come back from 12th place, but their "B" team came 4th! Challoners came back to win our own Randall Relay by 71 seconds from Watford with us third. Derek ran the second fastest lap, 3 seconds behind Watford's Simon Keene.

Challoners came unstuck in the Kerton relay, won easily by the home team, St. Nicholas. We finished 6th having been 2nd on the second leg but slipping badly on the third. Derek took a casual last lap and finished well down the list of fastest times, the course record set that day, 9.20 by Neil Saunders of Minchenden, still stands. We came back into a medal winning position in the Highgate Harriers. Derek repeated his 10th position of a year before with Graham Sillitoe five seconds behind in 13th and Mark July 19th. The race was won by Simon Keene from Jerry Odlin (Stationers) and Dennis Wright (Challoners). Challoners easily won the team race with St. Nicholas narrowly edging us into third.

The second term started with Challoners own relay, in which we finished a disappointing 6th. Challoners inevitably won Watford were close behind. It was in this race that Kirk Dumbleton first emerged as a major force, bringing St. Albans home in third on the last lap and taking the second fastest lap award behind Simon Keene. Kirk later won the English Schools intermediate title beating Steve Ovet into second place. Robin Pepper, then still a fourth year, took the third fastest lap prize that day.

Next came the first King Henry VIII relay at Coventry. Thirty two teams toed the line that year and Ullathorne School from Coventry won from King Henry VIII with St. Bedes Bradford third. Challoners, having held third for most of the race, slipped to 5th on the last leg. We finished 12th. Derek was 24th fastest, fastest laps were by Gerry Cosgrave (11.30), Dave Glassborow (11.37), Jenkins/St. Bedes (11.57), Keene (12.01), Chris Kelly/Ullathorne (12.11), Chas Cope/Abbeydale (12.13). Other well known athletes running were Alan Mottershead, Dave Driver and Andy Etchells.

A weakened Challoners team finished behind Watford in the Haberdashers relay with St. Nicholas third, St. Albans fourth and H.C.S. fifth. King Henry VIII arrived late and finished back in 10th although Dave Glassborow took the fastest lap prize. We easily won the senior Harrow Schools and were third in the intermediates. Mark July was 2nd in the senior race and Dennis Orme won the inters. Leading runner in the Middlesex Schools was Graham Sillitoe in 12th with Rob Heath 15th. We then had a disappointing performance in the Middlesex Grammar Schools. We were winning with five men home but had to wait for 82nd for our sixth man, finishing 4th team behind St. Nicholas, Minchenden and Northwood. We came back to finish a surprising third in the four man Q.P.H. relay, Graham Sillitoe valiantly held off St. Nicholas on the last lap after Derek had encouraged us by leading the field in on the first. In the Alleyes Relay we finished a mediocre 7th, the match being a two horse race between Ullathorne and King Henry VIII, Henry's winning on the last leg. The last race of the season was the John Lyon race round Harrow School's playing fields, Challoners winning with us a tired fourth.

The younger age groups had a weak season. Phil O'Brien was the outstanding runner in the fourth year with Alan Robson to back him up. Phil finished 14th in the Highgate Harriers junior race. Colin Greatrex also had an outstanding second term, winning the junior Harrow Schools and finishing 2nd in the Haberdashers 3rd year race. The second and first years had no outstanding runners but had good team depth, leading runners being Mike Baron, Mark Irwin, Martin Rees and Colin Bridle in the second year and Balderstone, Buck, Stone, Lewis and John Mortimer in the first.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB 1972/73

Under Derek Wolfe's captaincy, cross country became much more of a major sport throughout the school. 87 boys competed for the school that year, almost 10% of the school's population. The senior team had mixed success, the "A" team consisting of Derek, Phil O'Brien, Dennis Orme, Jim Moseley and Gareth Smith as regulars with Alan Robson, Mark July, Martin Mills and Ian Barnfather also making appearances.

The trophy races got off to a poor start, in the John Lyon Relay our 4th year runner, Colin Greatrex, was injured and dropped us back to 12th and we eventually finished 7th behind winners Dr. Challoners. Derek, however, ran the second fastest lap (8.54), behind St. Albans Kirk Dumbleton (8.28). We entered the R.G.S. High Wycombe Relay for the first time and finished 6th, Challoners won with St. Nicholas 2nd and Haberdashers 3rd. Derek again ran the 2nd fastest lap (9.10) behind Dumbleton (9.08). In our own Randall Relay, we managed to take the bronze medals with Mark July making a rare appearance as well as Martin Mills. Challoners again won and St. Nicholas were 2nd. Derek broke Julian Goater's course record in 5.49, Rod Lees/Challoners was 2nd fastest in 6.12 and Ian Arnold/Northwood 3rd in 6.13.

St. Nicholas again won their own Kerton Relay with Challoners 2nd and Habs 3rd, we finished 8th. Derek ran the 6th fastest lap (10.02) behind Dumbleton (9.26). Derek had a disappointing run in the Highgate Harriers, hoping to be in the first three but came 5th, behind Rod Lees, Geoff Heap/Vyners, Mick Partridge/Challoners and Hugh Jones/Latyer. Challoners won with St. Nicholas 2nd and Sir Joseph Williamsons/Rochester 3rd and we were 9th out of 22. For the first time for about ten years, we entered the Middlesex A.A.A. champs finishing 6th, T.V.H. winning. Derek finished 9th. In the boys race, Phil O'Brien came in 11th and the team were 12th.

After Xmas, the school made it's first ever excursion into Kent for the Knole Run at Sevenoaks. In the first running of this race, Dennis Orme went out to show that this was to be 'his course' finishing 7th ahead of Derek Wolfe in 10th. Paul Williams of Chislehurst won, and incidently Nick Brawn was back in 14th. Judd/Tonbridge won the team race and we were 9th with a weakened team. We finished 20th again with a below strength team in the 2nd King Henry VIII relay at Coventry. Bishop Veseys won with Ullathorne 2nd and Lenzie/Glasgow 3rd. Derek ran a magnificent 4th lap in 11.44 to be 6th fastest lap, other top lap runners that day were Derek Wright/Veseys (11.27), Martyn/Kingswood Bath (11.28), Gerry Cosgrave/Ulla. (11.37), Hugh McFaul/Coleraine (11.40), Roger Melton/Veseys (11.40), Chris Kelly/Ulla. (11.45), Robin Pepper/Habs (11.47), Alan Mottershead/Stockport (11.49), Chas Cope/Abbeydale Sheffield (11.50). We easily won the senior Harrow Champs and were 4th in the intermediate race. Derek went on to finish 6th in the Middlesex and represented the county in the English Schools at Swindon. We finished a low 9th in the Habs relay, Challoners won with St. Nicholas 2nd and King Henry VIII 3rd. We were runners up in the Middlesex Grammar Schools behind St. Nicholas, Derek finishing 5th behind winner Jerry Odlin of Stationers. We then finished 2nd in the Q.P.H. relay after an exciting finish, 5 teams being close together. Challoners won with Derek 2nd fastest (11.29) behind Geoff Heap (11.23) with whom he had run most of the last lap. We then finished a weak 15th in the Alleynes Relay. Ullathorne won and Dumbleton again ran the fastest lap.

We had many enthusiastic younger runners that year, in the Harrow League the 4th years were 4th, the 3rd years 2nd, the 2nd years 9th and the 1st years 5th. The 1st years result was largely affected by most of the team being required for rugby matches the day of the 3rd round. This year were dominated by the Deighton twins, Andy and Jeff. The 3rd years had a solid squad, led by Mike Baron, Mike Lepps and Andy Shirley with Mark Irwin, Kevin Baulch, Neil McGuigan, Nick Shirley and Geoff Eldridge backing up. The 2nd years were erratic in performances, Steve Hextall was the leading runner ahead of Jes Newell and John Mortimer. The 4th year team was dominated by Colin Greatrex with Nick Austin close behind. The 4th years were 14th out of 22 in the Highgate Harriers with Colin finishing 18th. The 3rd years finished 3rd in the Harrow Champs, led by Mike Baron in 11th who then represented the borough in the Middlesex Champs. We failed to finish a team in the Haste Hill Relay, but with Phil O'Brien we were 13th, St. Albans winning and their Parsons running the fastest lap in 10.31. The 3rd years finished 20th in the junior Middlesex Grammar Schools.

At least 25 runners from that year have represented the Old Gayts, of whom 17 are still active members.

## HARROW COUNTY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CLUB - THE FINAL TWO YEARS.

With the threat of comprehensivisation looming large, the school team in 1973 entered probably its most successful period which were to be the last two years of the school's existence as such. Captain for those two seasons, 73/4 and 74/5, was Dennis Orme. Although the team had lost Derek Wolfe from the previous year, the rest of the "A" team squad remained the same in 73/4 as in 72/3.

The first half term of the 73/4 season consisted entirely of friendly matches, all of which the school easily won with never less than 6 in 10. The leading school runners in each race alternated between being Dennis, Jim Moseley or Phil O'Brien, the other "A" team runners being Trevor Hartman, Gareth Smith, Colin Greatrex, Alan Robson, Ian Barnfather and Ian Garrod. The first trophy race was after half term, being the John Lyon Relay. This was the last time this event was ever run, after having been in existence for almost 20 years. Jim brought the team in 4th on the first leg and Colin held position on leg 2. The 3rd leg was run by our leading 2nd year, Andy Deighton, who ran the fastest under 13 leg of the day to bring us in 2nd behind Latymer Upper who were leading at this point. Andy was 16 secs. faster than our 4th year runner, Mike Lepps, who held place on the next leg. Phil O'Brien overtook Latymer on leg 5 but was overtaken by Haberdasher's Robin Pepper who ran the fastest lap of the day, Phil being 2nd fastest and Jim 4th. Dennis caught Habs halfway round the final lap to take the lead and win back the cup which the school had last won in 1966.

The next two relays did not go quite so well for us, in both cases below par runs let us down. At Guildford, we were 4th behind Habs, Collyers/Horsham and Dr. Challoners and at High Wycombe we were 5th behind Habs, Challoners, Abingdon, and R.E.M.E. Arborfield, Phil running the 5th fastest lap overall. However, we came back with vengeance in our own Randall Relay to totally dominate the race. Colin Greatrex brought us home 4th on leg 1 then Jim ran the 3rd fastest lap of the day (6.17) to take the lead which we held throughout the race despite a strong challenge from Challoners. Phil O'Brien ran the 2nd fastest lap (6.15) on the final leg, Pepper running 6.05 for fastest. We scored another victory in the Kerton Relay, although we didn't take the lead until close to the end. Jim raised us into 4th position on leg 2 and Dennis came in 2nd on leg 4, but man of the day was Gareth Smith who overtook Challoners on Kerton hill to give us the lead on leg 5. Phil O'Brien went off on leg 6 followed at such a rapid pace by Robin Pepper that the Challoner's member of staff commented "He's not human". Pepper's challenge faded when he got to the woods and Phil cantered home 16 secs. clear of Habs, Vyners and Challoners, running the 4th fastest lap of the day in 10.05 behind Pepper (9.22), Geoff Heap/Vyners (9.51) and Tony Waterman/Vyners (9.52).

We took runners up spot in the Highgate Harriers behind Skinners, Mark English/Stationers winning the race from Mike O'Reilly/Sir Richards Camden and Pepper. Phil was 6th, Dennis 12th, Jim 13th and Gareth 21st. The final race of the term was the Middlesex A.A.A. Champs. In the youths race we were 5th behind North London, Feltham, Haringay and Shaftsbury, Dennis finishing 12th, and we were 13th in the boys, Colin finishing 20th.

After Xmas we again travelled to Sevenoaks for the Knole Run. St. Alban's Kirk Dumbleton re-emerged here after having being injured for several months and this put St. Albans back in the reckoning as a leading school on the circuit. Kirk won by almost 1½ mins from Dennis Orme who outran several good class runners including Dave Warren over the final mile. The rest of the team were below par and we finished 4th behind Judd, Skinners and Sevenoaks. We came back into the medals in the Challoners relay. Kirk Dumbleton put St. Albans into an unassailable lead on leg 4 and Phil just failed to catch Challoners in the last ½ mile to give us bronze medals.

We finished 12th in the King Henry VIII relay, with most of the team not quite running at their best. Jim was our fastest runner in 12.29, 26th= fastest overall. Lenzie Academy from Glasgow dominated the race leading almost all the way except when Market Harborough's Dick Callan took the lead in leg 3 running 11.18 for fastest lap and a course record. Cheadle Hulme were 2nd and Bishop Vesey's 3rd, fastest laps coming from Callan, Pepper (11.27), Dumbleton (11.32), Sebastian Coe/Abbeyle (11.52), Davies/Cheadle Hulme (11.52), Neil Jepson/Cheadle Moseley (11.54).

The senior team dominated the Harrow Championships finishing with 7 in the first 8, Jim, Phil and Dennis coming in 1st equal. The intermediates were 4th behind Lascelles, Pinner County and Roxeth Manor, Colin Greatrex finishing 7th in an exceptionally strong field consisting of Lee Benjamin, Pat Collins, Pete Lewis and Jim Espir.

The next day after the Harrow Champs. we had the Haberdashers Relay. A tired team finished 3rd behind St. Albans and Challoners, whose last two leg runners had a close and exciting battle over the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Dumbleton was fastest in 12.05 and Jim was 5th fastest in 12.51. We entered the Ranelagh Harriers race for the first time in almost 10 years and finished 2nd, 4 points behind Raynes Park who we had beaten at Sevenoaks. Adrian Orr/Raynes Park won by  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute from Tim Woods/Westminster with Jim, Phil and Dennis 3rd, 4th and 5th respv. We had 6 runners competing in the senior Middlesex Schools held at Northwood. Phil O'Brien finished 3rd behind Mark English and Geoff Heap to gain county selection and Dennis Orme was 9th. Colin Greatrex was 15th in the intermediate race.

We took 3rd place in the Merchant Taylors race, another event the school had not competed in for some years, behind Kings Canterbury and Challoners. Dumbleton won and Phil was 6th. Our most important victory of the season was winning the Middlesex Grammar Schools title after not having won it since 1949, well before most of the team had been born! Phil finished 3rd behind English and Benjamin/Lascelles, Jim was 6th, Dennis 7th, Gareth 18th, Alan Robson 21st and Colin 22nd to give us a 44 point win over St. Nicholas and Isleworth. The final victory of the season came in the Q.P.H. relay, held for the final time that year after having been run for 20 years. Jim took the lead on leg 2 after Gareth had brought us home 4th on the opening leg, Dennis and Phil holding off a challenge from Challoners on the final 2 legs. St. Pauls School were 3rd for whom Dave Clarke had run their 1st leg. Phil was 2nd fastest overall to Geoff Heap and Jim 4th fastest. The final race of the season was the Alleyes Relay in which we finished a disappointing 5th behind King Henry VIII, Habs, St. Albans and Ullathorne. We rounded the season off with a "massacre" against Bishopshalt at Uxbridge, winning with a minimum possible score of 21, Dennis, Gareth and Ian Barnfather finishing 1st equal. Phil later ran in the English Schools Champs. at Sussex University's campus, Dumbleton winning the senior race from Bradford Grammar's Mike Longthorn, Phil finishing 93rd.

The junior team finally found success in the Harrow League winning the 2nd and 4th year age groups and finishing 3rd in the 3rd years. Leading 2nd years were the Deighton twins, Andy winning 2 rounds and finishing 2nd in another, Jeff gaining 3 3rd placings. Leading 3rd years were Steve Hextall, Jes Newell and Jon Mortimer, Jes winning the final round. The 4th year retained their strong solid squad, Mike Lepps usually just beating Mike Baron, also running were Chris Finill, Geoff Eldridge, Mark Irwin, Kevan Baulch, Neil McGuigan and John Rose. Success outside the borough, however, was low, none of the teams beat any of the opposing schools. The 4th years were 14th out of 17 in the Highgate Harriers, Mike Lepps finishing 30th in 12.53, John Sewell/Chislehurst winning in 11.14. Just before Xmas the largest ever house matches the school had seen were held. Dennis Orme won the senior race in a "needle" match with Jim Moseley, Colin Greatrex finishing 3rd out of 57, more runners than had run the Ranelagh Harriers! 71 competed in the 4th year race won by Mike Lepps from Martin Rees and John Rose. This race threw up Chris Finill as a potentially talented runner, who finished 5th equal with Andy Shirley. 88 finished in the 3rd year race won by Jes Newell from Jon Mortimer and Mark Hobson. 93 finished in the 2nd year race won jointly by the Deightons with Tony Horrell 3rd. The 3rd years were 2nd in the junior Harrow champs. behind Roxeth Manor. Jes Newell was 12th and Andy Deighton 18th. Jes later competed in the Middlesex Schools finishing 58th. We had only 4 runners for the Haste Hill Relay and they held last throughout. Alleyes scored a win over a very muddy course, Hab's Tony Wilkinson running 11.21 for fastest lap. The 3rd years were 24th out of 28 in the junior Middlesex Grammar Schools at Enfield, Northwood winning from favourites Orange Hill and St. Nicholas finishing a surprise 3rd. Such were the conditions of the course, that Jeff Deighton, our leading runner in 68th, actually went completely under the water in crossing the "stream".

Jim Moseley, Trevor Hartman, Gareth Smith and Alan Robson all left at the end of the 73/4 season leaving us with a more youthful "A" team squad. "A" team runners in 74/5 were Phil O'Brien, Dennis Orme, Ian Barnfather, Colin Greatrex, Mike Baron, Mike Lepps and Chris Finill, who had only been competing for 6 months. The early friendly matches were not quite the comprehensive victories we had the previous year and in one race we were actually beaten by 2 points by St. Albans, although they didn't beat us again for the rest of the season. However, Phil O'Brien emerged as a leading runner on the circuit for that year. For the first time, the Old Gaytonians entered the Chiltern League in Division 2 and the school team provided the youths squad, with the addition of Alan Robson. In the first round at Maidenhead, the school finished 3rd behind Feltham and Maidenhead, Phil finishing 2nd to J. Wren of Aylesbury. Graham Sillitoe won the senior race and the Gayts were 2nd to Feltham, and 2nd to Feltham overall in the match.

The team results went the same way in the 2nd round at Bushy Park, Hampton. Phil won the youths race by 29 secs. from Chris Sly, and Graham and Derek Wolfe finished 1st= in the senior race. However, in the 3rd round at Wendover Woods, the school finished with 6 in the first 10 to win easily, Phil finishing 1st and Dennis Orme 2nd. Mike Green came to the fore in the senior race finishing 2nd to Copps/Feltham, and Roger Kraushaar finished 3rd. The seniors were 2nd, and the Gayts were 2nd overall. The final round was at Wolverton, again the school won the youths event, Phil and Dennis finishing 1st=, and Mike Green finished 2nd to Nigel Gates in the senior race, the seniors finishing 2nd. After all 4 rounds, we were 2nd in both age groups and 2nd overall gaining promotion to division 1, Phil O'Brien winning overall in the youths, Dennis 2nd and Alan Robson 3rd. It turned out that, in the youths, our runners had been the only ones to compete in all 4 rounds and were therefore the only ones eligible for medals!

After the demise of the John Lyon Relay, the first trophy race for the school was the Guildford relay. Here, for the first time ever, the school came away with medals, for 3rd place behind Collyers/Horsham and Woking. Phil O'Brien, who brought us up from 10th to 2nd on leg 2, ran the fastest lap 10.17 to set a course record. At High Wycombe, we came back from having been 10th after 3 legs with our young, inexperienced runners, to finish 3rd, Phil O'Brien again taking the fastest lap award in 9.19 bringing us up to 5th on leg 4. Man of the race was Mike Baron who brought us through to 4th and within striking distance of 3rd on 5th leg, and Dennis ran the 3rd fastest lap (9.50) to gain that one place. Challoners dominated the race and Habs were 2nd.

We were a disappointing 3rd in our own Randall Relay. Phil O'Brien gave us the lead on leg 4 in 6.01, but Mike Baron and Dennis dropped a place each on the final two legs. Hab's Richard Jenkins ran a storming last leg to win the trophy and beat Phil for fastest lap with 5.58, Challoners were 2nd for whom Lawrence Perry ran the 3rd fastest lap in 6.22. The school went one place better in the Kerton Relay to pick up silver medals behind Challoners. Over a slow course, Phil again ran a fastest lap in 9.48 to give us the lead on 4th leg, but Mike Baron dropped us back to 2nd on leg 5 and Dennis narrowly failed to catch Challoners on Kerton Hill, but we beat Haberdashers easily. We were again runners up in the Highgate Harriers, this time to Sevenoaks. Phil O'Brien sprinted away from the rest of the field over the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to win the individual cup, the first time since Tony Bush's win in 1960, 2nd was Stuart Patterson/Skinners and 3rd Mike O'Reilly for whom, according to the local press, it was "a heart rending deprivation of a major triumph"! Dennis was 12th, Mike Baron had an excellent run to be 24th and Ian Barnfather was 43rd.

After Xmas, Phil scored another major win in the Knole Run, beating Stuart Patterson again, this time by 39 secs. Dennis repeated his fast final mile from the top of the hill to finish 3rd, but again the team performance was below par and we were 4th behind Skinners, Kings Canterbury and Sevenoaks. We gained our first win of the season in Challoners Relay to beat the hosts in the final  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. Phil again ran a fastest lap 9.48 to give us a lead after a good start by Colin Greatrex, Ian Barnfather and Chris Finill on the early legs, Mike Baron dropped to 2nd on leg 5 but Dennis Orme ran a good tactical leg to sprint past Challoners in sight of home, gaining the 2nd fastest lap award in 10.02. Despite this win, we finished only 13th in the King Henry VIII relay 4 days later whilst Challoners took the title, our Phil O'Brien having gone down with flu beforehand. Lenzie took 2nd, for whom a young Graham Williamson ran 3rd leg, and Bishop Vesey's snatched 3rd after Coleraine's last leg runner dropped out with cramp. Dennis Orme was 12th fastest overall in 12.12 gaining 12 places on leg 4 to bring us in 10th. A runner sped past Ian Barnfather on last leg, who turned out to be Sebastian Coe who ran the fastest lap in 11.36 over a slow course, other fastest laps were by Tony Milovsarov/Coppice 11.44, Keith Thompson of Market Harborough 11.45, N. Wilson/Millfield 11.53, N. Rose/Bablake 11.58 and Eamon Kelly of Ullathorne 12.02.

We were 2nd again in the Ranelagh Harriers, as the previous year 4 points behind Raynes Park. Adrian Orr again won by  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute from Dave Clarke/St. Pauls and Dennis Orme, Phil was 5th still suffering from the flu. The senior Harrow Champs saw probably its best ever quality field, and we won by only 9 points from Stanmore College with Lowlands College close behind. Lee Benjamin/Lowlands won from Jim Espir/Harrow School and Pat Collins/Pinner Coll., Phil was 4th and Dennis 6th. The intermediate, however, won by a massive margin of 111 points from Whitmore and Buckingham College. Mike Baron won and Chris Finill and Mike Lepps were 5th=. The next day was Haberdashers Relay. Challoners took the lead on the 2nd leg and held it throughout, Phil brought us up to 2nd on leg 4 in 12.14, Mike Baron and Dennis holding place on the last two legs ahead of King Henry VIII. Phil was beaten for fastest lap by Steve Kendall/Wednesfield (12.06) who nobody had noticed until the results were worked out.

Phil O'Brien scored another major victory in the Middlesex Schools ahead of Dave Clarke and Mark Phillipson/Edmonton Latymer. Dennis was 6th ahead of Chris Sly and Lee Benjamin and Ian Barnfather was 19th. The Harrow borough team easily won the senior team race. In the intermediate race, Mike Baron was 22nd and Chris Finill 30th. The next day a tired team ran the Merchant Taylors race, and were pipped by 1 point out of the medals, finishing 4th behind Kings Canterbury, Sevenoaks and Dr. Challoners. Phil Smith of Kings Canterbury won and Dave Clarke turned the tables on Phil as they finished 2nd and 3rd respv., Dennis finishing 6th. We won the Middlesex Grammar Schools by a wider margin, 59 points, than in the previous year, beating Isleworth and Orange Hill. Phil O'Brien won by 30 secs. from Geoff Heap and Dennis Orme was 4th, Ian Barnfather 12th, Chris 14th, Mike Baron 16th and Colin Greatrex 24th.

The final trophy race of the season was also the final race Harrow County were to compete in, the Alleyes Relay at Stevenage, and we went out in style. Reserve Mike Lepps brought us in 10th on the first leg, Ian Barnfather pulled us up to 5th then Chris Finill gained another position on leg 3. Phil O'Brien ran the fastest lap of the day, 37 secs. faster than Dave Thomson/Challoners 11.59 to 12.36, to bring us in 2nd behind King Henry VIII who had taken the lead on the previous leg. Mike Baron held place on leg 5 and Dennis Orme ran a good tactical race to sprint away from the Coventry runner at the subway to give us victory in an event where we had run poorly in previous years. The actual final race for Harrow County was a "B" match at home against St. Albans Grammar which we won by 3 points, Ian Barnfather winning with Chris 3rd.

The junior teams had their best ever season winning the 2nd and 3rd year Harrow Leagues and finishing 1st= in the 4th years. Leading 2nd years were Stuart Penny and Mark Cursons, both of whom finished as high as 2nd in various rounds. Leading 3rd years were the Deighton twins, Andy gaining one 1st and three 2nd placing, Jeff a 2nd, two 3rd's and a 4th placing, other runners being Ian Honnor, Steve Smith and Graham Alford. Jes Newell was the outstanding runner in the league, winning the 3 rounds that he ran in. Other 4th years, who were a more solid team than in previous years, were Steve Hextall, Jon Mortimer, Beb Thomas and Mark Hobson, Jon finishing 2nd in the final round behind Jes. The 3rd years beat St. Albans in a friendly match at St. Nicholas which the host team won, lead in by Martin Johnson 1st and Chris Cornwell 2nd, Jeff Deighton finishing 4th and Andy 6th. The 4th years, however, easily beat their St. Nicholas contemporaries in a match at home towards Xmas, Jes Newell winning by 25 secs. The 4th/3rd year team finished 13th out of 35 in the Highgate Harriers, Steve Hextall finishing 40th. Dave Thomson/Challoners won. For the first time ever, the school competed against Harrow School at 4th year level twice, home and away (although both courses were round their playing fields!), we won on both occasions, T. Espir, Jim's brother, won the first time but Jes Newell won on the second occasion. The 3rd/2nd years fared badly in a race at Amersham, being beaten by St. Nicholas, Slough and Challoners, although Andy Deighton ran well to finish 3rd behind Martin Johnson who won but 1 place ahead of Chris Cornwell who was 1 ahead of Jeff Deighton. After Xmas, the 3rd years were 3rd in the Harrow Champs behind Rooks Heath and Park, Carter/Rooks Heath won from Hughes/Hatch End, Andy was 3rd and Jeff 4th, and Stuart Penny was 12th. Andy later finished 36th in the Middlesex Schools, which broke away from its traditional Northwood venue to be held at Copthall. The 4th years achieved a best ever position, 8th, in the Haste Hill Relay, Andy Deighton being our fastest runner (12.15). King Henry VIII won easily from Challoners and St. Albans. The 3rd years fared far better than the previous year in the Middlesex Grammar Schools at Enfield, finishing 10th. Wood Green won from St. Nicholas, for whom Johnson and Cornwell finished 4th and 6th respv. Andy Deighton was 10th and Jeff 12th. The 4th years entered the Skeeles Relay at Hertford for the first time and finished 6th out of 15. Challoners won from St. Albans and Simon Ball/Hertford. Jon Mortimer was our fastest runner with 11.45 on leg 1. In the Haberdashers under 14 race, the school was 7th out of 13, Langleybury winning from St. Nicholas. Jeff Deighton was 9th and Andy 10th. St. Nicholas held their under 14 race for the first time. In snowy conditions, St. Nichs beat Langleybury and we were 7th and last. Martin Johnson was 2nd and Chris Cornwell 4th for St. Nicholas, Andy Deighton was 8th and Jeff 15th.

In the English Schools Championships, held at Markeaton Park in Derby, Phil O'Brien was 3rd Middlesex scorer finishing 49th and Dennis Orme was 167th in the senior race.