

Cricket



1st XI

Played 14, Won 2, Lost 4, Drawn 8, Abandoned 1

As usual with any cricket report, the weather has to feature prominently. This year was no exception with one of the wettest Mays on record. However, as many predicted, the latter part of the term saw very little rain, though due to examinations most of our matches have to be played in May. Nevertheless only the Stowe match was lost to the weather, which was a pity because we might have had a fair chance of success.

As can be seen from the record of the season it was not one of the most successful, with only two matches being won (Cheltenham and Edinburgh Academy). The middle order batting let us down on several occasions and the last pair all too often had to bat out the remaining overs. It was the lack of runs that meant we were never in a strong position to dictate the game. The fact that the highest total of the season was 194 (v. Academy) is indicative of the problem. In retrospect we were lucky to draw against Bedford, Radley and Harrow, but on the other hand we might have beaten Rugby and Oundle if the odd catch had been held. The successful schools against us were Bradfield, Marlborough and Pocklington, with only Marlborough completely outplaying us.

There were some memorable moments during the season. In particular David Soper's century against Oundle was long overdue. For most of the season he had been providing most of the runs and it was fitting that in his last game on the square he achieved the coveted three figures. Not only was his batting vital but he also bowled a vast number of overs, taking 22 wickets. Overall a tremendous effort, and without him the side would have been somewhat depleted. Other moments included Robert Franklin's 7-63 against Cheltenham; Robert Sadler's hat-trick against Rugby; Alastair Cane's 96 against Pocklington; Paul Bishop's catching against Denstone; Alec Lewis's conversion into a sound opening bat; and the backlift of Michael Jones!

A special mention must be in order for Robert Franklin who this season amassed 47 wickets. His unorthodox type of bowling (left-arm "chinaman" and "googly") had many good batsmen wondering where the next ball would go. When he was bowling well there was always a chance of the unusual. As everyone knows "cricket is a funny game." As with D. Soper, without him the side would have struggled to win any games at all.

In the first match of the season against MCC the game should have been won but some rather inept batting meant that the last pair, M. Jones and R. Franklin, had to bat out the last few overs. The following week we travelled to Eton. The pitch was extremely wet and in any other summer the game would not have been played. However, the rain ceased for a few hours and a rather tame draw resulted. Having lost early wickets the target was never within reach.

Against Bradfield yet again poor batting, in particular the failure to play the "yorker," let us down and a meagre total of 90 was never enough. However, R. Franklin's teasing bowling (6-40) nearly pulled off a remarkable victory.

Year in and year out Harrow have been the strongest batting side on our circuit and when they declared at 180-7 we thought there was a chance. It was certainly not to be as we limped to 63-9. This was a game we ought to have lost but thanks to some poor captaincy by the opposition we salvaged a draw.

At Radley their powerful batting totalled a score of 205-8. Unusually it was the early batsmen who failed and only a stalwart innings by N. Telfer (21) and A. Lewis (24) saved the game. Even then the last pair yet again had to negotiate the remaining tense overs.

At Cheltenham, the only success of the term was largely due to some fine bowling by R. Franklin. Cheltenham were 5 wickets down with only 13 runs on the board at one stage but they recovered well through some sound middle order batting but were unable to sustain it. They finally capitulated 19 runs short.

At Bedford yet again we salvaged a draw. The bowlers did not bowl well and there was no support for D. Soper (49) in our innings.

The Cryptics (alias the Common Room) beat the XI all too easily. D. D-B. and E.C.D. totally disregarded the good length ball and scored the 177 runs required with time to spare. On a good wicket a total of 200 runs plus was necessary. Unfortunately D. Soper could not accelerate the innings and again the middle order provided very little. It was only a minor flourish from R. Sadler (27) and M. Jones (18) that made a declaration possible.

Against Marlborough a fine innings of 142 by Burrell enabled Marlborough to declare at a massive 245-3. This was well beyond our reach with only token resistance from A. Cane (52). Unusually all batsmen were caught! There must be a moral there.

At Rugby a sound innings by D. Soper (75) enabled a declaration at 176. However, this lowish total was due to some very slow batting after lunch. Rugby's innings started off at

roughly a run-a-minute and it looked very ominous at 133-4 but R. Sadler suddenly produced a hat-trick and we nearly won the match.

The final game of the term against Oundle saw a magnificent century by D. Soper. However, again lack of support meant we could only reach 175-6. Oundle threw the chance of victory away by some casual batting and were lucky not to lose in the end.

Scottish Tour

Played 3, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 1

In the middle of the hot spell we set forth for the Highlands under the dubious guidance of P.G.B. and A.R.D. (who was selected as driver and coach but rapidly became master i/c singing). Although the weather was very hot, on arrival at the Academy we encountered the local "haar." This is the sea fog that rolls inland off the Firth of Forth. This persisted for the first two days and did affect the cricket, i.e. a wet ball, wet outfield and poor light.

In the opening match, against Denstone on the Fettes square, after much deliberation we decided to put the opposition in — in retrospect not a great decision as they reached 203-8. After a sound start an exciting 50 from A. Cane gave us hope but he could not sustain the acceleration required and a dull draw ensued.

Pocklington were a sound batting side but we decided from the previous game to bat first if possible. According to plan we won the toss and made a respectable total of 182-6. Pocklington replied slowly but surely, and after tea some vigorous hitting by nos. 3 and 5, helped by some poor fielding, allowed them to reach the total with reasonable ease.

It was nice to win the last game against the hosts. On a scorching day we batted first making 194-7. As was often the case during the season slow batting after lunch put pressure on later batsmen. However, a hard-hitting 31 from Alec Lewis raised the tone. The Academy played the game in the right spirit and consequently kept going for the win even with 8 wickets down. For once some good fielding — Rupert Batho even held a catch — and a little luck gave us a 41 run victory.

P.G.B.

BOWLING AVERAGES:

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
R. N. Franklin	232.3	54	680	47	14.46
A. E. Lewis	22	2	56	3	18.6
D. A. Soper	156.5	33	437	22	19.8
T. J. Rayne	91	16	294	10	29.4
D. A. Cane	26	9	64	2	32.0
R. W. Sadler	127.3	27	418	11	38.0
N. R. Telfer	20	5	59	1	59
R. J. Mitchell	23	5	63	1	63

FIRST MATCHES AGAINST DENSTONE COLLEGE, EDINBURGH ACADEMY AND POCKLINGTON SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL'S FIRST EVER BRITISH TOUR

ROBERT FRANKLIN TAKES 47 WICKETS FOR THE SEASON WITH THE ABILITY TO BOWL LEFT ARM CHINAMANS AND GOGGLIES

AGAIN DRAWS DOMINATE WITH ANOTHER 8 THIS SEASON IN A FIXTURE LIST OF 14

PAUL BISHOP CAPTAINS THE SIDE IN HIS THIRD SEASON - 'A GIFTED FIELDER BUT WHO STRUGGLED WITH THE BAT' - SO OFTEN A SCHOOL XI CHARACTERISTIC THROUGH THE YEARS

DAVID CANE SCORES 96 AGAINST POCKLINGTON SCHOOL IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS!

BATTING AVERAGES:

	Innings	Not out	Total	Highest	Average
D. A. Soper	14	2	554	*100	46.1
D. A. Cane	14	0	358	96	25.57
A. E. Lewis	13	1	192	34	16.0
M. Jones	10	4	90	21	15.0
R. W. Sadler	11	5	83	*27	13.8
R. J. Hall	4	0	54	30	13.5
T. J. Rayne	11	2	80	15	8.8
R. J. Mitchell	10	1	66	21	7.3
N. R. Telfer	14	0	95	38	6.78
C. J. Jee	4	0	27	22	6.75
P. J. Bishop	13	0	83	22	6.38
N. M. Tory	7	0	39	12	5.57
R. Batho	4	0	17	10	4.25
R. N. Franklin	7	5	1	1	0.5

*Not out