



Newsletter of the Old Tiffinians' Association No. 226 December 2005

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From the Head's Study



Dear Friends,

The School is currently going through a process of finding out what people really think of the School. We have just completed a staff and student survey and will shortly be sending one out to our parents. Then on the 1st December I am holding a Headteacher's 'Question Time' with 150 parents to present my vision for the School and to take questions on how satisfied people are with Tiffin, to tell us what we are doing well and raise issues where it is felt we could improve. I am passionately committed to this process. Ultimately, it is for the professionals – the leadership team, supported by a fantastic group of teaching and associate staff – to run the School; but, by going to find out how Tiffin is seen, valued and judged, we can work to further improve the excellence and opportunities we offer our student community.

We are also looking at how we can rationalise and develop the links with our network of support groups, including the Old Tiffinians' Association. We are in a very fortunate position of being able to call upon financial and professional support and advice through the governors, various parents' associations, enterprises, funding streams and friends of the School. I am now trying to find the best way of ensuring that the efforts of those groups are most effectively maximised and that duplication is avoided. This also brings into question the roles of these different groups. Chris Hunt, in his last address as Chairman of the OTA in the September issue of 'Tiffnews', commented upon the challenges of recruiting new members to the OTA. I was delighted therefore to invite Stuart Lester to our Leavers' Celebration Evening to address our new sixth-form leavers and suggest ways of keeping in touch. At 18, with the Tiffin years behind you and the prospect of university and a new life ahead, the appeal of the School is mainly based upon friendship groups and good memories. But, because the future is so exciting, that appeal lacks sentimentality in any shape or form.

To capture that appeal is something that the OTA is obviously failing to do, and I am excited at the prospect of working with Howard Mallinson, the new Chairman, to explore different approaches. One insight I can offer is the experience of how other schools, similar to Tiffin, are coping and it is probably not a surprise to anyone to learn

that those who have met with most success are those that have dared to do things differently!

These pages will give you some indication of the School's current activity, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend our Carol Service on Wednesday, 14th December at 7.30pm in Kingston Parish Church. This is a key date in the School's calendar and gives our whole Kingston community the opportunity to participate in this wonderful service of celebration.

I should like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to keeping you informed about school success and development through future articles in the New Year.

Sean Heslop

All Old Tiffinians and Friends

are invited to the **School Carol Service**
in Kingston Parish Church, at 7.30 pm
on Wednesday, 14th December,
and afterwards at a

Reunion Gathering

in the Walden Hall from around 9.00 pm

LICENSED BAR - PARKING AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dates for your Diary

7 – 10 December

- School Musical: 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'

Monday 12th December

- Choral Concert – Kingston Parish Church

Wednesday 14th December

- Carol Service 7.30pm Kingston Parish Church, followed by the usual Reunion at the School (Walden Hall) from 9.00pm. Parking available in the School grounds

Friday 16th December

- School Term ends

Saturday 17th December

- Tiffin Youth Orchestra Concert 7.30pm (Parish Church)

Sunday 18th December

- Cross-Country 'Holly Run'

Tuesday 3rd January

- Spring Term begins

Wednesday 4th January

- OT Golf Society at West Byfleet

Saturday 7th January

- Surrey County AA

Monday 9th January

- OTA Council Meeting

Friday 20th January

- Quiz Night (Friends of Tiffin Music)

Monday 23rd January

- Brass Band Competition

Friday 27th January

- School Boat Club Quiz Night

Thursday 2nd February

- School Swing Band Gig Night

Sunday 5th February

- Tiffin Choir at Kingston Parish Church

Monday 6th February

- School Woodwind Competition

Wednesday 8th February

- Judge Cup Cross-Country

Monday 20th February

- Half Term week

Saturday 4th March

- Oxbridge Students Dinner

Thursday 9th March

- School Instrumental Concert

Thursday 30th March

- OTA Social Lunch

Friday 7th April

- Spring Term ends
- OT Golf Society at Surbiton (plus AGM)

(Further details of School events can be found in the back pages of this newsletter or on the School's website:
www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

Chairman

Dear Old Tiffinian,

Never, in a mildly successful life, have my peers graced me with a higher distinction than to be elected Chairman of the Old Tiffinians' Association: I hope to deserve the trust placed in me. Cheerfully could I have spent the rest of my days enjoying membership without seeking high office and never would I have noticed that I hadn't been asked. I did not find it easy to accept the invitation – a high profile is not something I seek – but when I came to realise the signal honour, it became plain that I should take a turn at supporting those officers who are truly the stalwarts of the OTA.



I can delay no longer, in this salutatory letter, in paying tribute to the retiring Chairman, Chris Hunt. Five years ago Chris volunteered as Vice-Chairman, and he has just finished a four-year term as Chairman: there is no precedent for this continuous length of service in the Chair, except for our Secretary, Stuart Lester, who served a long spell from 1994/95 to 1998/99. Chris took on the job at a time when volunteers for it were few and when the normal period of office of one year had passed into history. Being at the helm for a long period while bringing up a family, as well as having a career to attend to, was a hard task: thank you, Chris, and rest awhile, your duty done.

I am pleased to report that at the recent AGM a volunteer emerged to take on the role of Vice-Chairman: I am grateful to Ravi Kamineni, and I welcome him to the OTA Council and look forward to working with him.

At the AGM thanks were expressed, quite rightly, to Dick Rumble, who, together with Stu Vidler, ensured the success of this year's Annual Dinner. Our OT resident caterer, David Tyrrell, is also to be congratulated on providing, as usual, excellent value for money.

In Chris's valedictory letter he refers to the change that is taking place within the OTA; there are many currents and eddies to this change, but the most obvious is in relation to Grists. The playing sections used to be the root and core of the OTA, but now several of the sections struggle. I am alert to the financial resources of the OTA being jeopardised by the losses of the Ground Company, but equally so are the directors of the Ground Company aware that survival (and renewal of the building fabric of the pavilion) is utterly dependent on new sources of income; without this, the storm clouds will gather over Grists.

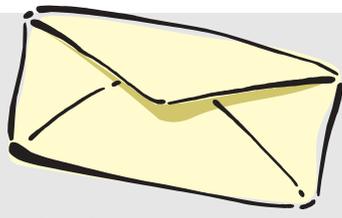
To say that the OTA Council will have to react to change, if it is to prosper, is to push an open door, but I must say here, while on the subject of change, how important I think is Stuart Lester's well-conceived E-xtiffs initiative: there can be few greater certainties than as a means of keeping a group of people with common interests in touch with each other, the Internet must be an essential tool. It is too early to say how this initiative will work out, and how it will integrate with the OTA, but I commend you to give it your interest and support. (*see Page 5*)

In my period of office I intend to assist in a process of change by evolution; to keep a close contact with the Headmaster and the School; to support many of the cultural and musical performances at School and promote membership of Friends of Tiffin Music, and to foster initiatives for making the OTA more relevant to the young men that the School produces. The Membership Secretary of FoTM is Siva Sanmugarajah at sivanayaki@blueyonder.co.uk, or on 020 8395 7146: for any OTA member who is living within striking distance of the School I recommend membership and enjoyment.

Yours in fellowship,

HOWARD MALLINSON

Letters



Dear Brian,

The article from Geoff Hunt in 'Tiffnews' brought back many memories. I too entered the East Surrey Cadet Corps. Who didn't?! The whole school were basically CCF or ADCC, but when the ACF was constituted I must have been about 12 years old and already a corporal instructor in charge of the signals platoon. I do not remember puttees. Tiffin C Company of the East Surrey Cadet Battalion, as I remember in 1941, were not wearing puttees. Kingston Grammar across the road did, and they provided the Bn RSM, but I do remember well the old 38 pattern wide belts and the necessity to polish brasses every Wednesday night, to go to School in uniform on the Thursday. That was a pig, if it rained and you had to cycle to School, because you lost the crease in your trousers, which didn't look too good on parade. I also remember many of us had boaters and wore them in the summer. When I found I was under-age for C Coy, I put my age up and joined the local ACF Company, but later went over to the Navy League Sea Cadet Corps, where trigonometry and cosines were vital for promotion, and Mr Spriggs, I have to say, never gave up on me, and my extra work paid off.

Dear Tubby Dean. A very practical man. Very fair in his punishment for breaking school discipline, but always carried out by George Spriggs, who gave the defaulter the choice of three canes: bendy, rigid and in-between. This was carried out in front of the current maths class, but if anyone in the class smirked in the process, the defaulter was let off and the smirker was called forward to take the punishment on behalf of the defaulter.

I have been moderately successful in life and happy, which I credit to my school background and to the Sea Cadet Corps. Now, in my declining years I hold on to some of my UK interests, but I may have to axe a few. I am not coming back to the UK to shovel snow! My life now is here in Spain

Yours aye,

Viv Sharp (1947)

Now for our final planned contribution concerning GWS and the Tiffin Band:

Dear Brian,

I joined the Band soon after entering Tiffins in 1939. Initially we had some tuition on a few Saturday mornings. I moved through the cornets, via the tenor horn, to the euphonium. I recall that George Spriggs' ATC uniform made him appear to be an officer and one day he was saluted; he had to ignore it. Those who knew him can no doubt visualise the scene. We rehearsed every lunch-time and, when an Old Boy, I attended on Friday evenings.

At one memorable concert at the Granada Cinema Junior Commander Humphries sang 'One Fine Day', and I think it was Kip Canon's brother who sang 'Shine through my dreams but once again' — both were thrilling. At our first meeting with the Luton Girls' Choir a very young lady sang 'Cherry Ripe'. George was captured and in his own style expressed his rapture.

For our BBC experience Sir Adrian Boult visited us. He was bowled over, when George proudly presented him with our repertoire. He selected Beethoven's Fifth and proceeded to take over. De De De Dah. Except that it wasn't Dah but Daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa, until we lost courage and all petered out. Boult told us to keep blowing, taking breaths when necessary. There were so many of us, he said, no-one would notice. Harry Mortimer was marvellous — he made the third cornet line sound like a trumpet voluntary. I heard him say he couldn't understand how our lovely sound arose, when individually we didn't sound too confident. He asked me about triple tonguing, and I said t k t. He advised t t k, which astounded me, but how right he was. What a brass band history he and his family made: we were all brass, so no passing difficult passages to the woodwind, as with military bands. It was as a result of his visit that we gave our BBC performance

Best Wishes,

John Hudson (1943)

.... and now GWS – the other side of the coin:

It is well known that those who were in his Band normally got on very well with George, but for the many whose only experience of him was in the classroom a different side of his character was dominant and would not be tolerated in any school today. In spite of the adage 'de mortuis nil nisi bonum', we publish the letter below, as we know it expresses a view held by many who have not written in.

Dear Brian,

For some time I have felt anxiety about letters in praise of G W Spriggs. I paused again at Jim Swift's letter in the last issue and wondered at the use of the word 'formidable' in reference to his character, and I asked myself, "Is this a praiseworthy quality for teaching?"

I was not in the Brass Band or Orchestra, and my experience of GWS was in the classroom. He taught by fear — frequently bringing out his cane to show where his power lay. I witnessed a theatrical thrashing of a boy in front of the whole class, which can only be described as sadistic. His words were as cruel as his cane. When the boy's mother saw the marks left by the beating, she took the matter straight to the Headmaster. I survived in the class, because I was usually top in Maths, but anyone who could not follow was subjected to biting criticism about himself and his family.

'Formidable' means 'to be feared'. Many boys were afraid of GWS. He had a side to his character which should not be hidden, although we are talking about a time 50 years ago.

Yours,

John Carder (1950)

Data Protection

Details of all OTA Members are held on a computer database (available only for Association and School purposes). If you object to your details being held in this way, please write to an Officer of the OTA.

Editor

If you attended the Annual Dinner, I am sure you will with me echo the Chairman's thanks to Dick Rumble & Stu Vidler. Everything went like clockwork, and they were supported by a near-capacity crowd.

Later in this issue you will find a report on the AGM, just in case you didn't attend this year! This has been written by our Hon Secretary, Stuart Lester, who, though it doesn't appear in his minutes, deserves a hearty vote of thanks from every member. Following five years in the Chair, he took over the duties of Secretary and has also made a significant contribution to the Ground Company. All this despite heavy work commitments. His latest initiative, christened e-Xtiffs, for keeping the younger Old Tiffinians in touch with each other (described by him elsewhere) deserves our support. From the perspective of today's School Leaver, this move may bring us into the 21st century. 'Tiffnews' may be appreciated by older members, but it is probably not what School Leavers most need.

I should like also to thank Adam Tinwell and his family for the behind-the-scenes work they do for us, in getting the newsletter in the post to members promptly each time, after it has been printed. They have dealt with this important task for a full year now and show no signs of flagging!

The usual enclosure of a Remittance Slip with the September 'Tiffnews' evidently confused some members, though the Membership Secretary's article made it very clear that the slip should normally be ignored by those who pay their sub by standing order.

Some have said we should not take for granted in 'Tiffnews' that Old Tiffinians understand the changing terminology in Education, particularly those OTs of a certain age who have no present-day contact with the educational scene through young children or grandchildren. Well, the main thing to grasp is that the old First Form is now Year Seven, and therefore the old Fifth Form is now Year Eleven. Above that, it is possible to refer to Years 12 and 13, but at Tiffins we prefer to continue to use the terms Lower and Upper Sixth. Not logical, you say? Well, that's just how it is! (Just don't ask what the system is in France and Germany, or you will get REALLY confused!) The School Staff are of course used to all this by now, but, to keep old-timers like myself on our toes, they have now renumbered most of the rooms!

Looking for Christmas presents? Bear in mind the Swing Band CD, mentioned in the School pages.

Best wishes for Christmas & the New Year to all our readers.

BRIAN HOLDEN

OTA 200 Club

The following £10 winners have been announced since those published in the last edition of Tiffnews:

91 A.Daunt	51 D.Henson	128 Mrs A.Power
55 N.W.Angus	112 L.Banting	12 J.R.Pitchford
185 J.Moore-Gillon	30 G.Mylchreest	81 Mrs A.Baron
44 Mrs J.Smith	175 R.C.Rumble	

As we go to press, the big six-monthly £500 prize is about to be drawn (for those whose subs are up to date).

In this December issue of Tiffnews I should like to appeal to those who pay their subscriptions by annual cheque to get this in the post to me **as soon as possible** (£13 per ticket, payable to **OTA 200 Club** please). Please do it **TODAY**. Reminders can be very time-consuming!

If you are not yet a member of the 200 Club, why not join our large band of happy prize-winners? If you start subscribing immediately, you will be fully eligible for the next big draw for £500 (in the Summer), as well as for all the £10 draws which will take place during the coming year. When you consider the National Lottery and Premium Bonds, the odds in our OTA draws are fantastic! Only a handful of members can claim never to have won anything in our draws.

Further information on the 200 Club and details of our monthly or quarterly standing order payments can be obtained from me by phoning (020) 8393 3293 or by e-mail at bholden93@hotmail.com

BRIAN HOLDEN

Internet Corner

In our March edition we mentioned the problem with 0870 & 0871 phone numbers and suggested a solution. Readers of 'Which' magazine will have noticed in their November issue that the cost of such calls is set to plummet. Watchdog Ofcom wants these numbers to cost the same as national-rate numbers, stopping businesses taking a cut of up to 3p a minute.

For making sure you are saving money on phone calls (particularly phoning to destinations abroad) you might wish to consult the website www.moneysavingexpert.com This is useful site full of tips for saving money in all sorts of areas.

For photographic supplies it is worth checking out www.7dayshop.com

With all major purchases bear in mind that the main stores (with which you perhaps prefer to deal) are sometimes prepared to match an internet price, if asked (even from a website other than their own!)

BRIAN HOLDEN

Oxbridge Students' Dinner

The next Oxbridge Dinner is being arranged by Gareth John in St John's College, Cambridge, and will take place on **Saturday 4th March**. This is the annual Reunion attended by Tiffin students in residence and a number of Tiffin Staff. (This is NOT the big Reunion Dinner, held every five years for all Oxbridge graduates. For that you have to wait till 2010!) Students involved will be contacted in due course.

Meanwhile, please spread the word amongst those concerned.

e-Xtiffs and Bridging the Gap!



An experiment is being run this year to offer recent School leavers an alternative to the current OTA membership format. "e-Xtiffs" is an attempt to increase the number of younger members who join the OTA, which is currently only between 5 and 10 from each year. The concept is to offer electronic only communication, and services which are more relevant and appropriate to people in the 10-15 years immediately after leaving school.

Contact between Tiffinians will be promoted through e-mail database management, and e-Xtiffs will act as a central point for people to liaise and arrange events such as small-scale informal reunions, as well as a whole host of other interaction opportunities. There are no subscriptions, and Tiffnews will not be sent out but is always available for download from the School web site www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk under the OTA heading. It is hoped that keeping in touch at minimal cost and maximum relevance will bridge the gap which currently exists between leaving School, and having the time and inclination to join as a full member. This currently tends to happen from the late thirties, by which time contact has been lost and many only join after chance meetings or events.

Some of the interactions which will be promoted are pub and club gatherings during university holidays; sharing transport to, from and between universities; sharing experience of courses, colleges and careers; ensuring that we have the latest e-mail information available for friends to contact each other; providing quick and easy contact for those who want to play sport at Grists during vacations or weekend visits; and also pooling ideas on holiday jobs, gap year options, work experience and job applications.

Out of the 100 ex-pupils who attended the Leavers' Celebration at the School in September over half signed up immediately, which was very encouraging, since time was very short and the acoustics for the delivery of the message were challenging. Activities are currently in hand to contact all in the group through "viral messaging" before Christmas to try to get at least 80% of the year signed up and to identify a number of key members to coordinate events and activities. If this is successful, we will look to extending backwards to previous years, particularly working with the team of five recent leavers who have been involved with me in developing this strategy. We are also looking at opportunities to share an administrative resource at the School to manage the database, communication and to act as a point person for OTA matters and event coordination, which would also provide wider benefits for the Association as a whole.

STUART LESTER

Book Column

'**Bed & Breakfast**' (38 droll stories, ideally to be read in bed)
by Laurie Lewis (published by Carrick Books)

This collection of short stories has been well received. He had a nice review from D.M. Thomas: "*Laurie Lewis's short stories expose, with a humour that is sometimes gentle, sometimes savage, the follies and absurdities of contemporary life. They are also at times lyrical evocations of a gentler, more humane England.*" OT George Perry (1952) of the '*Sunday Times*' wrote: "*Laurie Lewis is a compelling storyteller, who often leads the reader to surprising conclusions, and his elegant style is very much within the tradition of the great H. H. Munro ('Saki')*".



Laurie left Tiffins in 1954 to study English at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He spent his career teaching English and Drama, but now lives in retirement in Cornwall with his wife, Cicely, in a delightful house next to Pill Creek, which is off the Carrick Roads between Falmouth and Truro. They have for rent (priority to Old Tiffinians!) an adjacent self-contained flat with its own patio, canopy, barbecue etc. He enjoys sailing, and over the past thirty years he has sailed in Cornwall, Brittany, the Med and the Caribbean. Laurie retired early to pursue his interest in writing and also ran a creative writing course, so he has been putting into practice what he has preached. He enjoys travelling and creating original seafood dishes. He hopes to donate profits from the book to Macmillan Nurses, who do such a wonderful job.

This book is priced at £7.50 and is available from Laurie on laurie.lewis@uwclub.net or by phone (01872 863637). It should also be available through Ottaker's (ISBN 0-9551101-0-6).

Old Tiffinian Social Lunch

Our forty-fourth Lunch was held on Thursday 13th October at our usual venue, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

Those present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Baron, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, Ken Jenkins, Ted Key, John King, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Howard Mallinson, Gordon Mylchreest, Peter Shepherd.

Our Autumn Lunch was supported with a reduced number of 14. It rather brought back memories of when we were a maximum of 10 and could then use the round table concept further back in the restaurant. Never mind, a pleasant time was had by all, as usual. Several apologies for absence were received from members who wished us well.

The Christmas date will be **Thursday 8th December**, when a full house is expected. I have booked for 20, and it may be difficult to exceed this number. The Spring date is **Thursday 30th March**.

All are welcome, and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705. Early notification will be appreciated.

GREER KIRKWOOD

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Old Tiffinians' Association was held on Wednesday 16th November 2005. Dennis Barnard reported that Tiffinian subscription membership had increased by 8 to 740, and the number had steadily increased by over 100 in the last ten years.

Mark Darby reviewed the accounts for the year. A small loss in the general account had resulted from substantial increases in *Tiffnews* and the Magazine production and postage costs, but the increase in subscriptions this year should recover the position in next year's accounts.

Chris Hunt stood down as Chairman, having served for four years, and Howard Mallinson was willing to take over. Ravishankar Kamineni advised that he was interested in contributing and that he was prepared to stand for the position of Vice-Chairman.

The following were then elected as officers of the Association:

President	Mr Sean Heslop
Chairman	Howard Mallinson
Vice-Chairman	Ravi Kamineni
Hon. Secretary	Stuart Lester
Hon. Treasurer	Mark Darby
Hon. Membership Sec.	Dennis Barnard
Non-Playing Members	Brian Holden & John Wright
Hon. Auditors	Dicky Webb & Brian Holden

Tony Millard submitted the report of the Ground Company. A loss of £1,452 had been recorded owing to the lost income from the pavilion rental to Bouncy Tots. The bar had made a substantial loss as a result of a major fall in usage and could not continue on this basis. The groundsman had been replaced by a contract firm, who were now looking after the whole of the OTA part of Grist's at a significantly reduced cost. June Dickie had resigned from the Tiffin Sports Centre and had been replaced as Manager by Darren Pope. It was expected that Martin Williams would have an increased role in managing the playing areas. Peter Osborne had offered to rejoin the Board as finance director, which was greatly appreciated.

David Baron advised that the Old Tiffinian Memorial Fund remained healthy, a slight decline in income only being due to a £500 charitable donation received in the previous year. The fund supports cases of financial hardship and the giving of prizes at the School. Len Speller had served for more than ten years as auditor, for which David expressed sincere thanks. He would be replaced by Peter Osborne.

The proposal to drop the requirement for sports players to pay an Associate or Ordinary membership fee to the OTA was debated at some length. Some of the sports sections agreed that the administration was too burdensome for all involved, but there was also a desire to keep the close links to the OTA and not to lose subscriptions. It was agreed not to make any rule changes at this time and to progress the matter through future Council meetings.

The excellent work of Brian Holden in editing *Tiffnews* was commended, as was the team led by Dicky Rumble, who organised the excellent Annual Dinner this year.

STUART LESTER
Hon. Secretary

Membership Matters

I should like to thank all those who have already sent their subscription payments for the current year (or who have paid by standing order). Those from whom I have received no remittance should find a reminder enclosed. I should be very grateful, if those in arrears could send their payment as soon as possible, so that I do not have to repeat the exercise. (If sending from abroad and unable to send a cheque drawn on a UK bank, please mail the equivalent in local or sterling currency notes, as bank charges here can otherwise be extortionate.)

We always appreciate it, if you can put us in touch with any OTs whom you may meet and who may not yet be Members. Both we and the School are anxious to contact as many Old Boys as possible, whether or not they are members of the Association.

'*The Tiffinian*' magazine will be published in the New Year. I should like to mention that it is only sent to those Old Boys of the School whose subscriptions have been recorded by me as fully paid-up. If you want your copy on publication, please ensure that you are not in arrears.

May I end by wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year?

DENNIS BARNARD

People

(Editor's Note: We have contact details for most OTs mentioned in this newsletter, if their friends or contemporaries wish to get in touch.)



JIM ADDINGTON (1940) had a letter published in the local press on the occasion of the EU Summit, held at Hampton Court Palace, pointing out certain parallels with the foreign policy of a certain Cardinal Wolsey. The Cardinal's foreign policy was conducted with a view to playing off French against German leaders, and at one time he wanted to organise an invasion of the Netherlands.



DAVID BARON (1955), living in retirement in Hever, Kent, has been involved with a local move to reduce the growing nuisance of aircraft noise in that area. He explained in a front-page article in his local paper that the problem was with incoming planes, which did not seem to be observing the prescribed gradual descent path of three degrees with the runway. As a result of the campaign, the British Airports Authority (BAA) has installed a sound monitor in Hever to check the noise levels. Dave reports that in the first two weeks some 4,000 aircraft movements were detected, and noise levels in excess of 67 decibels were a regular occurrence. BAA regards 57 decibels as the onset of community annoyance, and 67 would be the anticipated level just two miles from touchdown. David and his local Council are campaigning for the prescribed height to be observed and also for the approaching aircraft to be spread over a wider area.

TOM BLOXHAM (1983) has again been mentioned in the press — this time in the ‘Estates Gazette’ Rich List for 2005, where he appears at 214th position with assets of some £50m. Their article summarises Tom’s career as follows: *‘Morecombe should be the next place to receive the Bloxham treatment. The tired old resort and its splendid, if dilapidated, art deco hotel will be turned into a trendy new area — the Brighton of the North — if the public sector can get its input together. Winning a clutch of property awards for developments such as the ambitious Budenberg Haus Projekte in Altrincham is a long way from his early days selling fire extinguishers door-to-door. Bloxham, now 41, has proved an adept inner-city developer — converting derelict buildings into trendy apartments through his Urban Splash Group. In 2003–04 Urban Splash made £6.3m profit on £22.4m sales. It has £30.4m assets, and Bloxham has a 70% stake in the £60m operation. There are some other Bloxham ventures, such as TBI 2000, a property letting business, while he also chairs the BaaBar leisure operation. In all, Bloxham is easily worth £50m.’*

ROGER BONFIELD (1966) has now moved to France, although he continues to do a certain amount of work. His new home is right in the centre of the Burgundy area, almost mid-way between Chablis and Beaune, so his drinking requirements are well catered for ! He actually lives in a National Park, the Morvan, a large area of mixed forest. They have owned the house for three years, using it as a second home, but always intended to move there permanently.

MARTIN BROWN (1966), now in Victoria, Australia, graduated in 1969 from Edinburgh University with a BSc (Hons) in Chemical Engineering. He then worked with Wiggins Teape (paper manufacturers) at their mill in Chartham, just outside Canterbury. In 1971 he emigrated to Australia as a ‘Ten Pound Pom’! From then until 1987 he worked for Kodak in various roles: Technical Services in their Film Processing Laboratory (two years); supported their Asian operations (3 years); Sales and Marketing Management (11 years). From 1987 to the present day he has been with Visy Industries as a Market Manager for their Beverage Packaging Division. Visy is the world’s largest privately owned packaging company. He is married to Marilyn and has two daughters – Melanie (33) and Vanessa (31). They also have three grandsons, living 1500km away in Toowoomba, Queensland. Martin’s sister and parents also now live in Australia.

MICHAEL DIXON (1974) has been in the news recently as Director of the Natural History Museum (see also the June edition of ‘*Tiffnews*’). The Museum took the dramatic step of shutting down its entire Diamonds Exhibition three months early after receiving a warning from the police of a planned violent raid. The exhibition — arguably the greatest assemblage of diamonds staged at the same time — was closed permanently and with immediate effect on 23rd November. During the 4½ months the exhibition was open more than 70,000 people visited it, including no doubt the hopeful robbers. Detectives feared that spectacular rare white and coloured diamonds, including the De Beers Millennium Star and the Steinmetz Pink, were about to be stolen. The exhibition brought together many of the most impressive single stones in the world and showed that not all diamonds are ‘white’. For every 10,000 white diamonds, one coloured one is mined. The Millennium Star, at 203.04 carats, is one of the largest flawless diamonds in the world, and it was targeted before, in the bungled Millennium Dome raid in 2000. Michael was seen on TV News making the announcement of the unexpected closure.

TOM DUCKETT (1951) has now finished a long stint of eight years as Secretary of Tiffinian Lodge, during which time he has served the Lodge well. He has maintained close contact with the Association and has during his time in office prepared many Lodge reports for ‘*Tiffnews*’ and for ‘*The Tiffinian*’. This role has now been taken over by **Mike Beckerman** (Head of Tiffin Biology Department for seven years, until he retired in 1997).



CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS (1986) has again been in the press since our last issue. He has accused the notorious Robert Kilroy-Silk of not taking his job as MEP seriously, rarely visiting the European Parliament and never seen in his constituency. Chris has even offered a bottle of champagne to the first person to spot Kilroy in his constituency (the East Midlands) !

JON JEFFERIES (1953) was interested to see **Graham Ison (1950)** mentioned in ‘*Tiffnews*’. When Jon went out to Germany as part of his National Service, he was confronted one day by a very smart Sergeant Major on the parade ground in a place he thinks was called Sennelager. A familiar face, he thought. Sergeant Major Graham Ison. It’s amazing where Old Tiffinians get to. Some months later he returned to Sennelager as a Sergeant, and they did their best to drink the Mess dry.

Jon spent most of his working life in the computer industry (a founder member of ICL) and became one of their senior Human Resource specialists, and after that until retirement a Director of a head hunting company. Rugby coaching at Tiffins stood him in good stead, and he played for the Army in Germany and then senior club rugby for many years.



NEIL KENNY (1978) studied Modern Languages at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, later gaining his doctorate. He is currently Senior Lecturer in French at that university, based at Churchill College. His speciality is literature and thought in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He is the author of ‘*Curiosity in Early Modern Europe*’: ‘*Word Histories*’ (Harrassowitz, 1998); and ‘*The Palace of Secrets: Béroalde de Verville and Renaissance*

Conceptions of Knowledge’ (OUP, 1991). He is also the editor of ‘*Philosophical Fictions and the French Renaissance*’ (Warburg Institute, 1991). The ‘*London Review of Books*’ recently published a lengthy (and mainly complimentary) review of his book ‘*The Uses of Curiosity in Early Modern France & Germany*’ (published by OUP in July 2004 at a price of £68).

MALCOLM LAWRENCE (1974) is now an employment lawyer in Banstead and does various sponsored bike rides round the world. Details of his latest adventurous exploit can be found on the website www.justgiving.com/malcolm-on-the-road. This will be his fourth overseas sponsored cycling trip since 1998. Rides in Egypt, Vietnam and Cuba have raised over £6,000 for charities. He has supported ActionAid for a number of years by sponsoring a couple of children, but has now decided to get on his bike to raise funds on their behalf. Happily, he cannot calculate what 483 kilometres is in miles, but that is how far he is supposed to cover in six days cycling next February from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam across the Mekong Delta and then to Seam Rap in Cambodia. Malcolm would welcome sponsorship per kilometre or for a fixed sum. He is paying for the trip himself, so every penny given (and more) goes to ActionAid. Donating through this website is simple, fast and totally secure. It is also the most efficient way to sponsor him: ActionAid will receive your money faster and, if you are a UK taxpayer, an extra 28% in tax will be added to your gift at no cost to you. So please sponsor Malcolm now! He can be contacted on maljlawrence@aol.com

PHIL MAWER (1994) has sent us an update on his flying endeavours. When he was mentioned in the last magazine he was still looking for his first commercial flying job, having completed his flying training back in April 2004. Well, in December 2004 he received a firm job offer from GB Airways, a franchisee of British Airways, based at London Gatwick. He subsequently spent three intensive months in the classroom and

simulator gaining his type rating on the Airbus A320/321 twin-engined jets. Later, after two months flying under the supervision of training captains he was fully signed off as a First Officer. Since then he has been flying passengers to and from destinations across Europe and North Africa, passed his first six monthly simulator check and logged just over 500 hours on the Airbus. He is currently in the process of buying a house in Manchester with his girlfriend Judith (also a pilot, but for Thomsonfly, based at Manchester) and hopes to move up there permanently soon. GB Airways opened a new base at Manchester in the summer and he's on the waiting list for a base change. Although the security enhancements post Sept 11th have significantly reduced the contact between pilots and the passengers they are flying, if any past or present Tiffinians are travelling with GB Airways and recognise his name over the PA (and haven't got straight off again before the doors are closed!), after arriving on stand and while the other passengers are getting off, Phil says they are welcome to make themselves known to one of the cabin crew and ask to visit the flight deck.

GARETH MORRELL (1973) has been in the USA since 1989, first as Director of Choruses for the Cleveland Orchestra, and now as a staff conductor for the Metropolitan Opera. Before that he was Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus and a member of the Music Staff of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. In the last few years he has conducted performances of *'Lucia di Lammermoor'*, *'Fidelio'*, *'Don Giovanni'* and *'Aida'* for the Metropolitan Opera, and more recently conducted " in Puerto Rico(!). Originally, after leaving Cambridge, his plan was for a career as a singer, which he pursued for a few years before going into conducting full-time, and he still dabbles a little in it, mostly as a tenor in Baroque music.

BERNARD PEARSON (1932) has written in to thank the OTA Membership Secretary and others for the work they do for the Association. He enjoys reading the newsletter and magazine. Bernard was very involved with the OTA before the war, playing both rugby and cricket. Twice during the war he played scrum half in the Boxing Day match. After the war he moved to Leeds and then to Manchester. He is now retired and living in Stockport.

ANTONY PITTS (1986) continues to get great reviews for his Léonin Pérotin CD, mentioned in our September edition. October saw another production by Antony and Tonus Peregrinus *'Sweet Harmony – masses & motets by John Dunstable'* (on Naxos 8.557341).

KEN STILES (1974) has been in touch with the School again and has joined the Association. After a variety of jobs, Ken became a Civil Servant in 1986 in the Department of Transport. From there, in 1989, he progressed to HM Customs & Excise in Dover Docks, transferring to UK Immigration Service in 1992. He is still employed by them, having served at Dover, Ramsgate, Manchester and Leeds. Since May 2005 he has been Specialist Document Examiner for the UKIS National Document Fraud Unit in a two-man regional section based in Sheffield. Whilst in Kent he sang as a Lay Clerk in the choir at Canterbury Cathedral for 17 years, taking part in many recordings, concerts and tours with the choir. Since moving back to Yorkshire in 1998, he has sung on a part-time basis in the choir at Ripon Cathedral.



IAN SYGRAVE, Head of the History Department at Tiffins until he retired in 2000, continues to involve himself in voluntary work in his local Borough of Haringey. Recently he has been making a name for himself in the battle against dog fouling, which is apparently quite a problem in that area. He was awarded top prize at a Haringey Council ceremony for coming up with a solution, gained from his visits to Paris, known for having a similar problem. There they use 'caninettes', scooter-like machines with a powerful vacuum cleaner attached to the

back, sucking up poop as it moves. Apparently up to 70 of these vehicles are used in Paris every day, picking up an estimated 125,000 dog poops, or about 13 tons of canine waste. Haringey Council has decided to try out the idea in the coming year. The headline in Ian's local paper (the *'Muswell Hill & Crouch End Times'*) read "Parisian poop scoop cleans up at awards". Fame at last!



CHRIS TOWNSEND (1960) has been a District Councillor for the Ashted Park Ward since 1992. He is currently a Governor, previously Chairman, of Sutton Grammar School and was also a Parent Governor of Barnett Wood First School and West Ashted First and Middle School. He is currently the Independent Member on the Education & Lifelong Learning Executive Finance Group (LGA), substitute on the Education & Lifelong Learning Executive and Chairman of the LGA's Scrutiny Panel. Chris is also Chairman of the Mole Valley District Council's scrutiny committee, and recently he has been fighting to overturn the decision to select a new hospital site next to the Royal Marsden in Sutton, all this at a time when residents are complaining that Epsom District Hospital is being downgraded before a decision is actually taken about the siting of new facilities.

GRAEME WATSON (1954) and his wife, Liz, took part in a performance of Elgar's *'Dream of Gerontius'* at the Royal Albert Hall in November, helping to raise funds for the National Society for Epilepsy.



DEREK WOOD (1956) is a member of Falcon Chambers in London. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1964 and has practised in all areas of property law. Many of the cases in which he has appeared are leading authorities in their field. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1978 and has sat as a Recorder and Deputy High Court Judge in London. He is a Bencher of the Middle Temple (Deputy Treasurer 2005).

He has served as a member of various Government advisory committees at the Department of the Environment, including its Property Advisory Group, and he chaired the Expert Committees on the Rating of Plant and Machinery 1991-1992 and 1996-1998. Between 1986 and 1994 he was Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment in the Department of Transport. He also chaired the property industry's working party on the Code of Practice for Commercial Property Leases in England and Wales 1995-1996. In 1995 he was awarded the CBE for services to property law.

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (1988); an Honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (1991) and a Member of its International Governing Council (2003); and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb) by examination. He is a contributing author to the *'Handbook of Arbitration Practice'* (4th Edn 2003), and edited the title on Leasehold Enfranchisement in *'Halsbury's Laws of England'* vol 27 (4th Edn. 1981). He is a former Chairman of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute and has served as Chairman and Vice-President of the Agricultural Law Association.

He was founding Chairman of the Oxfordshire Community Foundation until 2001. He was appointed a Trustee of the Attlee Foundation in 2003 and its Chairman in 2004.

He was Principal of St Hugh's College Oxford from 1991 to 2002 and is an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's College and University College Oxford.

Obituaries

CLAUDE RONALD McDONALD 1916 – 2005

Ronald entered Tiffin School — where he was inevitably known as ‘Mac’ — late in his secondary education, his family having moved from Cardiff to Raynes Park in 1931. Nevertheless, he lost no time in making his mark in school activities — Rugby 1st XV, Cricket 2nd XI, Rowing and Chess — apart from becoming a School Prefect and fitting in all-important education to gain General School Certificate in 1932. Ron had a brother, Alex, younger by six years, who also entered the School in due course. Unfortunately Alex died in the prime of life.

Although he was nearly four years my senior, I came to know Ron very well in the enthusiastic activities of the Tiffinian Musical & Dramatic Society (TMDS), which in the late 1930s was growing out of School. This was the outcome of the development of the School choir and orchestra, driven by the memorable George Spriggs, teacher of mathematics but who in effect initiated the School’s reputation for music.

Ron left School early in 1934, and it seems that in the summer of that year, when first playing cricket as wicket-keeper for the Old Boys, a fast ball took off the bails in front of him, one of which hit and damaged his right eye. Gradually there was fair recovery, but he was left with a degree of disability. However, that did not stop him from becoming a star turn in stage productions of the TMDS — notably in home-grown ‘knockabout stuff’, expertly crafted in Crazy Gang style — along with like-minded contemporaries. They featured to great acclaim in summer shows in the School Hall, usually associated with OTA fêtes.

Nor did bad luck with eye damage stop him from commencing a career in the specialist Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (MMI) — more of that later. Nor was he stopped from joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1939 — a mere two months after the outbreak of war — for six years of wartime service. Aircrew service would have been out of the question with an eye problem, so he trained and operated as an Armourer, in which trade he became highly regarded for his practical skills with destructive hardware and for organising men under his command. He found time to marry his delightful lady friend, Peggy, before being attached to a Spitfire squadron and posted to Singapore, after the Japanese had struck Pearl Harbour in December 1941. His outfit reached Singapore in February 1942 on the day before the Japanese overran that city, which they took virtually unopposed after their swift approach to the back door, so to speak, via the Malay Peninsula rather than by sea as the defence experts had always presumed. A smart pull-back by the squadron enabled it to escape to Ceylon. No chance, however, for the thousands of soldiers who were freshly delivered right into enemy hands at that time. These were desperate days for our country. For the rest of the war Ron was serving in the Far East & India sector.

Eventually it was back to ‘Civvy Street’ of course, to get on with careers and family life. In about 1950 Ron secured a building site on the sunny side of Reigate and kindly asked me to plan a house for him and Peggy and to get it built. They were my first very own clients. However, in those difficult years of shortages and official restrictions, new dwellings had to be limited in size and not cost more than £1500 — difficult to imagine today and difficult even then, given wartime and post-war inflation. Somehow it was managed, ready for the arrival in due course of daughter Jill and son Ian.

During his forty or so years with MMI Ron rose from being a pre-war junior clerk to branch management and thence to the very senior post of Development Manager in 1976/77. I am abstracting here from information kindly supplied by a friend and business colleague. Ron was highly respected and regarded by senior local government officers throughout London & the Home Counties — a huge MMI branch area which he managed and which actually covered what we call the South-East, down to the coasts. Having been involved with the Company’s early records, Ron was entrusted with the production of a book recording sixty years of MMI history. He also served as an honorary member of the Surrey Finance Officers’ Association, involving monthly meetings well into retirement.

Ron joined Tiffinian Lodge, in which he progressed masonically to installation as Worshipful Master in 1962 — a successful year much relished by the brethren and followed by the award of Surrey Provincial Honours.

Unfortunately Ron’s right eye problem worsened over time, until about twenty years ago he lost its sight entirely. Undaunted in retirement, he pursued his hobbies of woodcarving and of artistry — particularly in portraiture and in pastel drawing, which well suited his superb pictures of exotic orchids, for which he had a passion. In due course Ron and his wife moved to a very agreeable modern sheltered homes development outside Redhill, Sadly Peggy died shortly afterwards. Ron faced that loss and subsequent health problems with great fortitude. However, he was well supported by his nearby family members, enjoyed his three grandchildren and kept himself occupied and well-informed. There was never a dull moment in his company — conversation being always stimulating. His was a life well-lived.

G A W B

In Memoriam

On Friday 11th November the School held its customary Remembrance Service in the School Hall and a wreath was laid, as every year, on behalf of the Association. Reference was made to Reginald Saunders (only son of the late Bert Saunders, known to a number of our members), who left Tiffins in 1937 at the age of 16 but was killed at Arnhem in 1944.



In this column let us remember for a moment **THOMAS SYDNEY HARRISON (1884–1917)**, who died in battle but does not, however, appear on the Memorial Tablets in the School Hall. He lived in Sidney Road, Walton-on-Thames, and was a keen cyclist, belonging to the Walton Cycling Club. He left School at 15 and, when he was 21, he went to southern Africa, travelling between Rhodesia and South Africa, and eventually returned to England. At the age of about 28 he went out to Australia and later joined the Australian Army. He served in Egypt and Gallipoli, then in France, where he was wounded at the Battle of the Somme and was later killed on 6th May 1917 at the early age of 33 during a severe battle at Bullecourt, while the Australian Army was trying to break the well-defended Hindenburg Line. There is a memorial tablet to Tom on one of the walls of Walton Parish Church. Thanks to the researches of his great nephew, we have a copy of his biographical details in the School Archives.



On Saturday 3rd December the new school eight was christened by Assistant Head John King and named "Tony Gibbs" in memory of the late Tony Gibbs who left a generous donation to the School and to the OTA.

(see the obituary in the 2002/03 magazine)

OT Football Club

With the new season now fully underway, the Club is as usual enjoying mixed success on the playing front, but, despite reducing the number of teams, we are still struggling for numbers each week. The Firsts are being particularly hard hit by the number of injuries to key players and absentees each week, and they need to find an influx of quality young players from somewhere. The Seconds are also struggling to put out a settled team. In contrast, the Thirds are unbeaten in the league so far, and the 4s have made a steady start. The 5s are struggling for success but are not being embarrassed by results. The Vets are growing in confidence and getting in the habit of winning. More detailed team reports follow below.

Looking wider, the Club has at last got to grips with its finances, and systems are now being set up and managed by John Dickens, our new Treasurer.

A Football Club Dinner is planned for Thursday 1st December and all current and past players are welcome to attend.

The Firsts

The 1st XI began this season with a familiar look to the side, plenty of old faces and too few new ones. Player availability has again been a problem, with the squad travelling to virtually every game with a bare 11 players. We are not giving ourselves a chance at this level, when our opposition almost without fail bring three substitutes and a coach. Performances have been patchy and results on the whole not good. Highlights so far include a 3-1 win away to a farcical Wood Green side and a dramatic 4-3 victory away at Old Westminster Citizens in the AFA Senior Cup, despite Tiffs playing the first half with only 10 owing to an early injury to Will Scott. Like a phoenix he rose from his own particular brand of ashes at half-time, scoring one and having a hand in two other goals in a fantastic team performance against a strong side. We have now elegantly removed ourselves from all of the Cup competitions we participate in, so will have some time in the weeks ahead to get our ship in order and concentrate on the League.

ANDY NUTT

The Seconds

The 2s are also struggling and are currently bottom of the league, with just two draws to show from five league outings. Victories this season have so far been limited to the Cup competitions. Unfortunately a 3-2 win over Old Uxonians in the AFA Intermediate Cup led to our being drawn against Wake Green 2s away. The day trip to Birmingham was planned enthusiastically, but unfortunately the opposition proved too strong and Tiffs lost 2-6. The team also enjoyed success in the 1st round of the LOB Cup, coming from behind to win 7-3.

The Thirds

The 3s prepared well as a team in pre-season, winning all four of their games against good opposition. Confidence was therefore high going into the League programme. A 2-1 win in the first League game increased the optimism for a good season. Unusually, the side then achieved three score draws (3-3, 3-3, 2-2) on the trot. Whilst the games were great to play in, with tense last-minute equalisers, it has opened a gap between us and the top of the League which we will need to pull back. In our annual AFA Cup game we travelled to North London, with several key players out injured, and went down 2-3 to Mill Hill County. Fortunately, when we returned to League action, it was with a superb performance against John Fisher, winning 3-0. This was followed by a 3-0 victory over Witan in the LOB Cup. The players are enjoying their football and determined to do well again this season.

STEVE JOHNSON

The Fourths

The 4s are pretty much a new outfit this season, consisting mainly of last season's 6s and a handful of leftover 4s and 5s from previous years. As the season has progressed, we have managed to incorporate a few new faces, who have added depth, ability and personality to the team. Our year began well with successive wins without conceding, and morale was high, as after two games we saw ourselves sitting atop Division 6 South. However, we were then brought sharply down to earth with a crushing 6-0 loss against a very good Sheen team, followed by another loss at John Fisher, then got dumped from the Cup, despite a battling display against a team three divisions higher than us. More recently we got back on track with another impressive 5-0 win, as we have seemingly, at last, sorted who is best playing where and what our best formations are. Hence we are expecting good things for the rest of the season.

JULIUS MILLER

The Fifths

With the Club reducing its complement of sides by two for this season, there has been much change for the 5th team to contend with. The expected resultant surplus of players has not materialised, and the 5s, as lowest side, have shouldered the brunt of the impact.

The season has already seen us use some 30 players, and, whilst going close in all but one of our six League games so far, we have managed only one win and five defeats. Our problem is in scoring, not creating chances, and on three occasions we have lost to the odd goal.

We need to pin down a more stable side, and source some new blood to improve the standard a little, but, given that this side is predominantly last season's 7s, it isn't being embarrassed playing two divisions higher.

JOHN DICKENS

Vets

After years of humiliation and being the whipping boys of the Vets League, the not so 'old timers' have been stringing together a few results. The season before last Tiffs managed just one win all season, but it is a different story now. Recently the Tiffs won 3-0 against Legal & General, with an outstanding hat-trick from Chris Phippen. The week before they thrashed Wandsworth Strollers 8-2 with five from Andy Jacques, two from Dave Parker and an exquisite 6 yard pile-driver from the team's very own Platini, Bugsy Burrows. There were nosebleeds all round, as the team tried to come to terms with the concept of handing out a thrashing, rather than being on the receiving end.

So what is different this season from previous years? The Brian Clough/Peter Taylor axis of Graham Page and Howard Austin have differing views. Page: "I think it is largely down to my tactical acumen and being able to make switches and change formations that less gifted coaches just don't see." Austin is more realistic: "I think it is more down to the fact that we now have some footballs to kick in with and the goalkeeper is no longer wearing a shirt that makes him look like a child molester. Oh, and also the fact that the average age of the team has come down from 65 to 28."

New additions to the team include centre back Dave Hall who has slotted in to a now formidable back four alongside Dave P, Roger and Richard H, and more recently Rob Avis has joined the squad. The likes of Markus and Daniel B have strengthened the midfield at a time when injuries to Wilf and Gary meant players had to adapt and play out of position. In previous years two injuries would have meant a cancelled fixture.

At the time of writing Tiffs have won 6 games, lost 2 and drawn one, which is pretty good going.

DAVE BURROWS

Good luck to all players and teams for a successful and enjoyable season. As mentioned earlier, we are sometimes struggling for players. New players of all standards are always welcome. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074. You can follow all our fixtures and results on the League website www.amateurfootballcombination.com

STEVE JOHNSON

The OT Sports Ground Ltd



Annual Report for the financial year April 2004 to March 2005, presented to the AGM in November.

This last year ending March 2005 has been a tough one for the Company. As the accounts show, we incurred a sizeable loss. This can, however, mainly be put down to the installation of a new gas boiler with its associated pipe work and controls, which will reduce our energy costs in the future, and to a loss on the bar, which is very much down to significant under-use.

This deficit was made worse by the loss of one of our key outside pavilion lets. The nursery that hired the hall during week didn't renew its contract. This is something that we need to try and replace, as outside income is essential nowadays, in order to try and maintain the pavilion and playing surfaces in the condition that we all want.

For a number of reasons the ongoing maintenance of the pavilion has not progressed as much as we should have liked this year. However, this will have to be addressed soon, as there are a number of projects in urgent need of repair or maintenance. These include, but are not limited to, repairs to the pavilion roof, the cricket viewing enclosure and the complete exterior woodwork.

However, as I commented last year, balancing the costs needed to maintain a high standard of playing surface and to try and keep the pavilion in a sound state of repair with our current levels of income is now extremely difficult. The only real option open to us is to increase our outside rental income and one-off lets, or to reduce the number of pitches we can provide. Of course, the latter is not an option we really want to pursue.

Within the next 12 – 18 months the Ground Company will have to take some very careful decisions as to the future functioning and operation of the Ground and the Ground Company. During this time we have to completely review all the requirements that we have for the Ground and the Pavilion, its upkeep, and how this can be made viable.

Finally, at the AGM in November 2004 one of our few remaining long-standing Directors, Tony Owen, stood down from the Board after a considerable number of years service to both the OTA and to the Company. On behalf of the OTA I should like to thank him for his many years of service. Tony Dempsey, having retired as Headmaster, also stood down as a Director, and I am pleased to confirm his place on the Board has been taken by the new Headmaster, Sean Heslop, who I look forward to working with.

TONY MILLARD
Chairman

OT Rugby Club

The 1st team currently lies seventh out of ten teams in Surrey League, having won three out of the seven matches played. Probably not where we expected to be at this stage of the season, but, with eleven matches still to play, we still have the opportunity to improve our position in the table. Our performances have tended to be rather inconsistent, when you compare for instance the excellent performance in defeating Old Emanuel 44–7, followed the next Saturday by a very disappointing performance at Warlingham, where we deservedly got thrashed 49–3. Other victories to date were against Kingston (18–10) and versus Battersea Ironsides (29–22). We definitely should have beaten Old Caterhamians, but handed the current league leaders an interception try from deep inside their half of the pitch, to lose the game in the last minute (6–10). Other defeats were against London Exiles (24–38) and versus Law Society (15–16).

Our run in the Junior Vase Competition ended in Round 3 at Hastings & Bexhill. No bad thing really, as our participation in this competition had become a bit of an inconvenience to us, with availabilities not being as good as they are for our league matches, which unfortunately took its toll on the 2nd team.

It has been a struggle to put out a 2nd team regularly this season, to such an extent that in the Surrey Rugby Reserve Leagues we have had to scratch from four of our five matches, and we have now taken the decision to withdraw, for the benefit of the Club and to be fair to those opposition Clubs we were intended to play. We will now concentrate on playing 'friendly' matches against suitably matched opposition, and, with the 1st team having just the league to concentrate on now, it will give us more of an opportunity to help the 2nd team more, certainly on non-league weekends. The good thing is that the '1st team players' are well aware of the current situation and have already helped to supplement the 2nd team when required, to ensure they at least start with 15 players on the pitch and improve the quality of rugby they get to play! New 2nd team captain Tim Parsons has had to endure a difficult time but continues to show huge commitment to the team and deserves the Club's support. We've got some new players keen to play every week, and it's important we give them regular matches.

Hopefully we'll start to see some improvements over the next couple of months.

ANDY GREEN

OTA 100 Club

Since the last report draws have taken place as follows:-

				Previous win
Aug '05	£50	John Pitchford	Betchworth	'00
Sept '05	£50	Mary Redington	Thames Ditton	'99
Oct '05	£50	Tim Whittaker	Claygate	'96
Nov '05	£50	Chris Harwood	Camberley	'04

The above draws were held at the Association AGM on 16th November.

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income, so do please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum (or £5 per month) by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month plus half-yearly major prizes of £1,000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (telephone : 01483 850705).

GREER KIRKWOOD

OT Golf Society

The weather forecast for 1st September was for 'possible showers' – as they often say when they don't know what is going to happen on the following day. In the event, it turned fine for our Autumn meeting, held this year at Rusper Golf Club. Most of the 14 golfers playing for the Steeper Trophy in the morning were visiting the course for the first time, and this made things a bit difficult for them. The best scores were by Stuart Lester, Duncan Knowles and Allan Piggott, who all managed 28 points and finished in that order on countback. Nine more players then joined us for the afternoon round, but those who had played in the morning obviously had an advantage, and they took that advantage to win all the prizes. Duncan Knowles had another good round (33 points) to win with Ian Langrish second (32) and John Pitchford third. The nine-hole prizes were taken by Dillwyn Rosser (19 out) and Stuart Lester (17 back). Duncan also won the longest drive prize

with a straight drive of 270 yards, and Allan Piggott was 'nearest the pin'. So, congratulations to Stuart for winning the Steeper Trophy and to Duncan for winning the Ford Plate.

Our final meeting was at Chipstead, where the strong wind and heavy rain combined to make getting back to the clubhouse the best part of the afternoon. In the circumstances, Ian Redington did well to score 34 points to win and also our Captain Chris Towlson who was second with 33.



*Captain Chris Towlson in action at Rusper
(photo by Howard Mallinson)*

Other prizes were won by Norman Mayes (third place), Alan Daunt (front nine) and Mike Goodbun (for the back nine holes).

Our fixtures next year are:

Wednesday 4th January at West Byfleet, with two clubs and a putter

Friday 7th April at Surbiton, followed by the AGM

Thursday 4th May at Tyrrells Wood against Old Kingstonians

Tuesday 20th June at Guildford against Old Surbitonians

We are always pleased to welcome new members. We hope that nobody will be put off because they think that we are all super golfers – some are, but most of us are not! I can be contacted on 01372-274441.

ALAN (GUS) DAUNT
Secretary

OT Memorial Fund

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2004 were presented to the recent Association AGM. Income for the year was £2,787. There were no major expenses.

Investments by the Fund are approved by the Charity Commissioners and at the end of 2004 the total value of the Fund was £79,073.

Current Trustees are John Glasscock, Brian Holden, Tony Millard, Ian Redington, Bryon Smith and Michael Taylor. The Headmaster and the OTA Chairman are ex officio Trustees.

Established in 1921, the Memorial Fund is a registered charity and is authorised to support any legitimate Tiffinian cause approved by the Trustees. The fund is an important contributor each year to School Speech Day prizes.

Len Speller has audited the Fund's annual accounts for about 20 years, but he has now felt the necessity to relinquish this responsibility for many reasons. The Trustees are indebted to him for such long and efficient service.

DAVID BARON

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives :

a) From Ray Hewitt-Taylor a copy of the School Rules that applied in about 1934. Most of the rules are of course as one would expect. The most interesting, though, to a modern eye is Rule 20, which states that "Boys are not permitted to talk to girls in the street"!

b) From John Hudson (1943) some copies of photos of the Tiffin Band.

THE RIFLE RANGE

The history of the Range begins in 1920, when the Ministry of Works decided to construct a labour exchange ('job centre' in modern parlance) on the London Road site, which formed part of the grounds of Elmfield House. Thanks to Brian Bunker's researches, we have the detailed plan for the hut (dated 12/2/20) and a letter from HM Office of Works to Kingston Town Clerk (dated 22/3/20) notifying him that Messrs Speechley & Smith of Richmond had been authorised to proceed with the work. The hut was to be constructed 30 feet from the London Road boundary, and a fresh opening and entrance gate (75 feet from the edge of the Lovekyn Chapel) would give direct access to the building, without entering the main Elmfield site. Short fences were planned from the Lovekyn Chapel wall at one end and from the boundary wall at the other to each end of the building to stop visitors straying onto the main site.

At around this time it is clear that the whole Elmfield site belonged to Kingston Council, as plans were made to transfer the Kingston Schools Inspection Clinic in January 1922 from Devoncroft, Fairfield South to Elmfield House. In the years following, ophthalmic work was undertaken, a minor ailments clinic established and a dental clinic added. Elmfield also housed a special school for physically defective children, with about 35 on roll. This school, together with boys from Richmond Road and All Saints' Schools, used Elmfield as a Gardening Centre (perhaps using the Elmfield garden shown in our photo in last December's 'Tiffnews').

To revert to the 1920s hut mentioned above, the shape of the building (approx. 30' x 100') is much as we knew it in later years. A counter was provided for the whole length of the hut on the side further from the two public entrances which faced the road. Behind this counter the clerks would deal with job applicants. At each end of the counter (in the NW and NE corners of the hut) there were small interview rooms. At the SE corner the Manager had his office. At the eastern end, heading out past the interview room and Manager's office, there was provision on the left for two toilets & wash basins and on the right a staff entrance. Heating was of course by stoves (one in each small room and four in the main area).

At the end of 1928 the Elmfield site had to be vacated by its users, to make way for the building of the new Tiffin School. The magazine of the Spring Term 1931 takes up the story of the Range and how the Ministry of Works hut came to be the School Rifle Range :

'After many delays the range in the school grounds is nearly completed. It was the convenience of the old Ministry of Labour hut which first suggested the possibility of the School having an indoor range of its own. The hut was of the correct size and well lighted. Little expense would have been incurred in making the necessary alterations, and the result should have been extremely satisfactory. The plans were drawn up and forwarded to the War Office, and an officer was detailed to inspect the site. As all the regulations were complied with, sanction was given to proceed with the work, when unfortunately a fire broke out which quite destroyed half the hut. Other plans were discussed and approved by the Headmaster and Governors. The War Office arranged for a second inspection and permission was again obtained to go ahead. This time the end of the hut which is to form the firing point was repaired and folding doors were fitted to the end. A 25 feet by 12 feet stop-butt wall was built, the cost being defrayed by the Governors. Certain difficulties necessitated a third inspection, and we received another visit from the War Office representative. This resulted in instructions being received to erect a 12 feet fence on each side. We realised that the Governors had been very generous in providing such funds as they had already given us, and the Corps decided to subscribe the rest itself. This has provided a good opportunity of finding out which are the keen and loyal members. We are now on the last stage. Soon we shall ask for the final inspection by the War Office, and then we hope to get some really good shooting under conditions much more favourable than exist at most other schools. When those who come after are enjoying these facilities, we hope they will remember the patience with which the Headmaster and the Governors have listened to our many suggestions, and the way in which the present members of the Corps have responded to the calls made on them.'

We should like to gain information as to whether the Range or Scout Hut (or indeed parts of Elmfield) were taken over during the war years by the Home Guard or Army, the ARP or war damage officials. If you have any memories of this, please write in.

Post-war, as the Shooting competition was dropped and teaching needs changed, a number of repairs and changes became necessary, particularly at the western end, where the folding doors and the stop-butt wall had become redundant. Can anyone tell us when the Range was first used as a normal teaching room? In the final years of its life the western end of the Range was closed off and a temporary classroom built just a few feet away (known as Room 59). By then this classroom was one of many temporary rooms on the site. We should like to hear from you, if you are able to date accurately any of the several adaptations of the

Tiffinian Lodge

We have now embarked on our 94th year as a Masonic Lodge, and at our first meeting of the year, in October, Geoff Brook was installed as Master in an impressive ceremony. In our second meeting, in November we were honoured to receive W Bro Peter Bullock as our Official Visitor, and he witnessed a great ceremony. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

We are looking forward to a successful year of interest and pleasure, and we would urge any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff or any governor or past governor of the school who may have an interest in what masonry entails to call me, the new Lodge Secretary, on 020 8979 0107, when I shall be happy to answer any questions and give any further information.

MICHAEL BECKERMAN

Range and the adjoining classroom. For the Archives we are anxious to obtain photos of this or any other school building since demolished or radically altered (like the eastern side of Elmfield).

With the building of the Creative Studies Centre, completed in 1991, the whole area in front of the Elmfield building was cleared and landscaped, as had been agreed as a condition of the planning permission. The demolition of the Range was marked with due ceremony by the Tiffin Band, conducted by David Nield, who had used the Range as his base for many years as Director of Music (see photo below).

BRIAN HOLDEN

FUTURE PLANS

We expect our next issue to contain a short article to mark 50 years since the arrival of John Walker at the School to join Eric Griffiths, who was then Head of Music. John was the precursor of a succession of brilliant Choir Masters, who have brought Tiffin choral music to the present-day standard that we are all proud of. Any who have particular memories of John are invited to write in.

SURPLUS COPIES OF 'THE TIFFINIAN'

The School still has numerous spare past copies of 'The Tiffinian'. If you are missing one or more from your collection, do contact me. A small donation will be requested to cover postage etc.



Queen Elizabeth Road News

School Rugby

Tiffin 1st XV started the season full of high hopes and optimism following good pre-season including lots of weights sessions and fitness work. However, the squad, featuring many of last year's successful team and several members from the Lower Sixth, had not prepared well enough to face a strong Dartford side. A poor first performance led to a disappointing 17-5 loss, and it was clear that the boys had a lot of work to do if they were to fulfil their potential.

Tiffin had to improve quickly, as a Daily Mail First Round match approached. A very good defensive effort and a dominant forward display, particularly by Joe Hughes at second row, helped Tiffin to a solid 25-0 victory over Wallington. Full of confidence, Tiffin set off on tour to Treviso, Italy. It was the first tour the 1st XV had been on for five years, and the boys were aided throughout by coaches Dave Morris, Steve Madigan, Owen Gregory and Kapilan Balasubramaniam. In their first match, the 1st XV faced Benetton Treviso junior side under the floodlights. Against a big and physical side Tiffin played some brilliant rugby, with flying wing Harry Weale and captain Jonny Rowling both going over for two tries. In what was thought to be one of the best performances by a Tiffin 1st XV, the side claimed a 48-0 win. The boys enjoyed a great day in Venice, but the highlight was Jack Cullen's rendition of 'Cockles & Mussels'! The team played the second match of the tour against Calsano, a side in the same league as Benetton Treviso. In excessively hot conditions, Tiffin overcame a quick and mobile forward pack to win 37-0, with full-back Simon Keirle grabbing a hat-trick.

After the successful Italy trip, the team faced rivals R.G.S. Guildford. However, the side failed to deal with Guildford's alert back-row and succumbed to a 24-12 defeat. The side were forced to pick themselves up for the Cup game the following Wednesday against Epsom College. In a spirited performance, the Tiffin pack were able to assert themselves, as they had done previously, but the Epsom College backs proved to be a handful. Tiffin were knocked out of the cup 36-19, although the score does not reflect the true nature of the game.

Despite these two defeats, Tiffin went on a run of five consecutive wins, which firstly saw the side dispose of a well-drilled Windsor side, 22-12. The side still had areas to work on, if they were to challenge a strong St. Benedict's side, which featured members of last year's Daily Mail Cup winning side. The forwards once again dominated, and their pressure led to two well-worked tries. However, Tiffin lacked composure at key times and this was capitalised by a team full of explosive individuals. A tense finale saw 3 points made earlier by Cristobal Chin even more important in a 13-12 victory.

The team knew they couldn't lose focus during half term, as some difficult fixtures awaited them. With some key players missing, Tiffin put in an industrious performance in beating London Oratory 12-5. After being put through to the Daily Mail Vase the side faced a tricky tie against a well organised St. George's team. Coach Dave Morris made an inspired decision to shuffle the backline at such a crucial stage of the season. This appeared to pay off as brilliant individual tries from Simon Keirle, in a great counter-attack from inside his own half, going round at least five players, and Cristobal Chin, exploiting the smallest of gaps with a delicate kick and gather, leaving a simple one on one with the fullback. Good tackling in the forwards, marshalled by pack leader Mayur Patel, and out wide by Jonny Rowling kept out an elusive St. George's side. The win was capped off by a lovely backs' move scored by the silky running of outside centre Jon Beeley to leave the final score 26-15.

A long journey saw Tiffin face an extremely physical and temperamental Christ's Hospital side. A bright start saw Tiffin forwards gain the upper hand. This led to two simple penalties for Chin to convert. The free-flowing backs split the Christ's defence open as Simon Keirle raced in. This gave Tiffin a 16-0 lead at half time. Ill-discipline from the Christ's players saw two sin bins, and Chin was on hand to stroke over three more penalties, one lying on the halfway line. Keirle raced in for another try created by an audacious side-step by Beeley. Beeley then revealed the powerful side to his game, completing his excellent performance with a try. Chin's majestic boot converted from the touchline to maintain his 100% record throughout the game leaving the score 36-0.

This win left the Tiffin 1st XV playing record as: played 11, won 8, lost 3.

JON ROWLING

School Cricket

The Tits are celebrating their 30th anniversary of touring Devon with a golf weekend and black tie dinner at Woodbury Castle (Nigel Mansell's course) over the weekend of April 8th and 9th 2006. Contact me, if you have not received details and would like to attend.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Friends of Tiffin Music

As a parent of two musical sons, it was fascinating for me to read about Tiffin Brass Band and other musical activities in the last edition of 'Tiffnews'. The music at the School seems to grow from strength to strength, and this term will be no different! The Swing Band will be playing in Eden Walk, Kingston, when the Mayor switches on the Christmas lights, and then of course there are all the other concerts and performances that the boys will be involved with prior to the holidays. Details were in the last 'Tiffnews', but highlights include 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', and choral and orchestral concerts at Kingston Parish Church.

To cheer everyone up through the dark January days and nights, the Friends are organising a Musical Quiz Night at the School on Friday January 20th, to which everybody is welcome — tickets will be £10 a head, which will include pizza, and the Friends will be running a bar. It's an 8pm start, and you can obtain tickets from Penny D'Souza by sending a cheque (made payable to FOTM) and an SAE to her at 14 Chestnut Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 5AP. Further details can be obtained from her on pennysouza@blueyonder.co.uk. We would be delighted to see some Old Tiffinians coming along to our events, so put the date in your diary and join us.

Don't forget that membership of Friends of Tiffin Music is open to all, so if you would like to know more, please feel free to contact me on 020 8395 7146 or by email at miranda.fagandini@which.net. I still have plenty of Swing Band CDs left, so if you would like to order one/some, just get in touch. They make excellent Christmas presents, and are light enough to send anywhere in the world !!

Future dates for your diaries include the Brass competition on 23rd January, another Gig Night on February 2nd and another Instrumental Concert on March 9th. I do hope that some of you will be able to come along and see how the music just gets better and better at Tiffin.

MIRANDA FAGANDINI

School Boat Club

After a well-deserved summer break it was not long before Tiffin oarsmen were back into the training at the start of this term, still with relatively fresh memories of the successes at the National Championships and Home Countries International, which ended last year's rowing season. Each age group now advances a year group which brings with it greater physiological, psychological and technical demands. It is therefore always a testing time to see how the boys adapt to these new challenges. At the same time the new rowing year welcomes new recruits from Year 9. This is also the first Year 9 group which has had the benefit of having gone through the Year 8 rowing machine programme run by **Ms. Jenkins** during the preceding summer term. The results have already proved themselves. The enthusiasm of these new Boat Club members is evident and they have already made significant progress so far this term. Total numbers have trebled over the last three years to a new high of ninety.

The first event for Tiffin's crew this term was on home water at the **Tiffin Small Boats Head** with its new date of October 15th. Following a new format of three divisions, over 265 entries were made, including newer additions to the entry list, such as Windsor Boys' School. Each year the racing committee is committed to improving the event, to maintain that Tiffin is the only state school to run a national rowing event of this magnitude. This year was without exception. Over 60 parents helped run this mammoth operation to ensure it ran very smoothly. With the on-line entry system now having been used for the last two years, the greatest form of praise was given by Rachel Quarell, author of the rowing website bible, the 'Rowing Service', in which she praised Tiffin's on-line entry system for its layout and efficiency. This is well deserved indeed by **Simon Andrewes**, who has single-handedly set up, designed and maintained the Tiffin website. The Boat Club is indebted to Simon for all the support and time he has given. Unfortunately he can no longer continue to oversee the Boat Club's website, so we are looking for someone who can help me keep this website updated in his place. Please let me know, if you can assist in anyway, so that we can continue to publicise Tiffin's success in the Boat Club and the activities that take place throughout the year. Amongst the many scullers who raced, success came in the form of the Junior 15 coxed quad and the Junior 16 double sculls, who won their respective categories.

For the first time in Tiffin's recent history the School's Boat Club ventured into uncharted waters and took part in this year's **Great River Race**, marking in particular Nelson's victory in the battle of Trafalgar. This is a massive processional rowing event, starting from Richmond and ending in Greenwich, involving every imaginable man-powered rowing craft from Viking long boats to traditional medieval coracles. Rowing a Thames Cutter boat over the 22 mile course was the Tiffin crew, which consisted of **Olly Offord, Andrew Parrish, Michael Harris, Kristian Brauten-Smith, Sam Grayer, Day Moran, and Sam Hawkins**, with **Mr Watson** driving the rowers to new levels of endurance. Despite the blisters, their tenacity put



Freddie Seimers



Richard Painter & Josh Quirke – winners of the Novice Double Sculls at Kingston Small Boats Head

them in second place in a time of 2 hours 30 minutes and 59 seconds, just one second behind the winners of the 23 strong Thames Cutter class and fourth place in the 24 strong Junior category out of a total of 300 craft in the entire event.

At **Kingston Small Boats Head** Freddie Seimers carried the Tiffin mantle, winning the Junior 16 single sculls, despite some other notable Tiffin sculling (photo below).

Following the success of the Sponsored Row at Easter and after much saving, we have now purchased two new launches, one replacing an existing launch which no longer works.

As the winter evenings and temperatures draw in further, the Boat Club is now poised to race at **Hampton Small Boats Head, Burway Head** and of course our annual **Festive Extravaganza**, in which this year's teams, Mince Pies and Crackers, will be fighting it out in octuple sculling boats for the coveted painted blade prize, presently held by the Reindeer team.

We shall be staging some new social events next term run by the Rowing Club, to which you are all very warmly invited: a quiz night on 27th January and a wine tasting evening on 5th May. More details will follow. For further information do please email me: cgrimble@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

CHRIS GRIMBLE

School Badminton

We have entered nine teams in the various Surrey Badminton Leagues this year, and so far a very promising start has been made, with three wins from the first three fixtures. We can always do with coaching help so do contact me, if you would like to become involved in any way.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

School Cross-Country

The School's Senior team has remained unbeaten on Saturdays this season. Last year was a great year, but we seem to be matching it this year. Kings trophy result was 9/28, about what was expected. The intermediate team are leading the Surrey relay series. The Junior team got through to the semi-final of the English Schools Cup. These are the best collective results for 20 years.

Those who want to run in the Holly Run (Sunday 18th Dec) are asked to contact me at School at the end of November — the same for those who want to run in the County AA Championships (Sat 7th Jan).

The latest news is that the Junior team are in the top 10 in the country after competing in the semi-final of the English Schools Cup. The Seniors went one better than last year in the Haskell Cup, coming seventh in a tight finish between teams 4–7. The team of Sean Renfer, Alex Gandy, Tim Sagar and James Ayres all ran well. The last leg runner had to gamble to catch up with 4th place, so hung on well at the end of a first class South of England race.

ROBIN SHAW

School Chess

In the Hampton league (playing at home) the Tiffin chess team, on a high from the previous week's pasting of RGS Guilford, now came up against Hampton, on paper their strongest opposition. However, things don't always follow the script, and within the hour Tiffin were in the driving seat, with a well-played draw by Anton Chernikov and a convincing win from Similan Anandajayarajah. This lead was further compounded with swashbuckling victories from Anuk Sirisena and Alexei Chernikov. With Tiffin now in total ascendancy, it was left to Michael Harris and Visigan to round off the near whitewash, both winning convincingly.

The Tiffin B team were also up against stern opposition, but, thanks to some sturdy play from Kasim Khorasanee and Simba Nudonzvo, early nerves were quickly tamed. Wins from Taek-Bo Kim and Alastair Fraser meant that Tiffin's strength in depth was proved yet again.

A sound win for both Tiffin teams $5\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$ and $4 - 2$ respectively. Many thanks have to go out to Mrs O'Sullivan for letting out her room and to Dr Dancy for another fine managerial performance.

On 14th October we played Trinity away. Travelling all the way to Croydon on a Friday night is nobody's favourite activity, and many team members found excuses not to be there. With heavy traffic, the teams did not arrive until 5:30pm and were forced to play shortened 45 minute games. Kasim and Anuk won convincingly and quickly, but all the other boards looked as if they could go either way. The breakthroughs came, however. Michael, in desperate time trouble, outplayed his opponent to

win a nail-biting finish, Similan won, and Anton & Reza also finished with wins, resulting in a flattering $6 - 0$ score line.

The B team did not fare so well; owing to both Reza and Kasim being required by the A team, they were two boards short. Needing 3 points from 4 games just to draw, the team did well, with Neeilan and Alastair both winning, and Taek needing a win from a dead drawn position. He pushed hard, but, with both players in time difficulties, his opponent managed to force a draw with only 6 seconds remaining, and the Bs lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$.

MALCOLM DANCY

School Swing Band

The Swing Band's new CD, Sing Sing Sing, is available at the School Shop now at the bargain price of £10 per CD. Alternatively, for multiple copies for your extended family, the Music Department can supply an order form and your CDs will be round in a jiffy. They can also be obtained from Friends of Tiffin Music (see their article).

This is an amazing CD – totally pro in quality (musical and production), with some terrific and idiomatic music-making, all masterminded by Tiffin's very own Jamie Cullum, Simon Ferris. Once costs are covered, the proceeds go towards the Friends of Tiffin Music, whose major project this year is providing user-friendly recording equipment for our studio, which will be accessible to all boys in the School.

SIMON TOYNE

Published Photos

Regarding the photo entitled 'The Old Front Door' in our September edition, no correct explanation has so far been received. All will be revealed in the March issue!

The photo of the School Band, published on the back page of the June issue, has caused many OTs from the 1940s to puzzle over the names (particularly John Glasscock, Derek Higham, Ken Jenkins, Ron Truin & Dicky Webb). We repeat the photo below, together with the names of those we think have been identified. Please write in, if you disagree – or can help further.



Back row: ? , Higham, Scragg, Herald, ? , Day

Second Row: Batten, ? , Mackenna, ? , Mertling, Verra, Aylott, Perkins, ? , Crosby

Third Row: Hardy, ? , Padey, Ballantyne, Mayhead, ? , Swift, Bussey, Barton, ? , ?

Front Row: Arnold, ? , Vickers, Webb, Attawell, Walker, Coffin, GWS, Spratt, Fuller, Hudson, Roberts, ? , ? , Angwin