

"THE HEATH OLD BOYS' BULLETIN"AN APPEAL.

On 30th January a lorry driver delivering a load of timber to the School found that his vehicle was just too large to pass comfortably under the arch of the Memorial Gates. Undeterred by trifles of this sort he accelerated resolutely, with results which must have exceeded his most sanguine hopes. One pillar collapsed almost entirely, the other lettered; one gate was generously dented and the "overthrow", torn and twisted, wrapped itself round the superstructure of the lorry. Clearly an "insurance job".

Mr. Wilfred Dawson, who designed and built the Memorial, examined the damage, which involves virtually remaking a considerable part of the ironwork. His estimate for putting the Gates back into their former condition is £95. In the meantime the Insurance Company on whom the claim falls had not been idle and had obtained an estimate for repair from a firm who describe themselves as "makers of fire-proof doors, lift enclosures" and - rather ominously - "collapsible gates". This estimate is for £56.

It seems to us unthinkable that the repair of the Gates should be entrusted to anyone but Mr. Dawson, who was so closely associated with the idea of the Memorial from its inception and who was present at the Dedication Service in 1949. The matter was therefore referred to the Town Clerk for his legal advice, which is that he cannot advise the Corporation - the legal "owners" of the Gates - to fight the Insurance Company at law. In his opinion, it is most doubtful that a County Court Judge would uphold the view that the Gates are a "work of art", which no-one but its creator, Mr. Dawson, could restore to its original form. In any event, the costs of such an action, whatever its result, would be likely to exceed the sum involved. In the circumstances, it seems that we must accept this lamentable state of affairs.

Faced with the alternative of accepting the Insurance Company's offer of an inferior job or producing the extra £39, I have guaranteed that the money will be found, and Mr. Dawson is now at work on the Gates with the promise that they will be restored by Founder's Day, if he can possibly manage it. I feel certain that the great proportion of Old Boys will support this decision and I confidently appeal to members of the Association to help me raise the necessary sum.

Will you send your contributions to me at the School? Every gift will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged.

IRKLEY REVISITED.

The Head Master and the Sports Master of Eynesby College, Hull are old colleagues of mine. During one of the few fine moments of a streaming wet afternoon in March they emerged from the refreshment hut at Irkley and enquired of a senior Heathen for news of me. "I'm sorry, Sir," came the reply, "but the Head Master won't be here until the Final." This homeric remark epitomises our attitude to this year's Seven-a-Side tournament. It just didn't seem possible that anyone could beat us!

I was sorry to miss the early rounds, some of which were played when it wasn't actually raining. Apart from Round 1, in which we beat Middlesborough High School 13 - nil, our selection of the 32 competing Schools was curiously local. In Round 2 we beat Bradford Grammar School 8 - nil and in the Third Round Leeds Grammar School 11 - 5. In the semi-final we knocked out West Leeds Grammar School, who had beaten Crossleys in the previous round, by 15 points to 5.

And so to the Final against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, who had arrived there by beating successively West Hartlepool Grammar School, Roundhay School, Woodhouse Grove School and Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School, York.

The Final, played in pouring rain on a pitch like a skating-rink and with a ball like fresh liver, had its anxious moments. Wakefield looked good and were dangerous when they got the ball, but, like most other Schools, they played a modified form of the full game - three in beautiful formation and the rest of it. Heath never looked so pretty, but when the ball went loose there was never much doubt about who picked it up. The game was over by half-time and Wakefield gave up before no-side when Hartley kicked and dribbled from his own 25 to score without a hand being laid on him. The final score was 9 - 3. The less said about the place-kicking the better!

So there it is for the third successive year. In congratulating Heath the Tikley President doubted if any School would ever repeat this performance. He's probably right, although sporting prophecy is a tricky business. At any rate, next year's team went into training on Monday, 30th March.

FOUNDER'S DAY, Saturday, 6th June.

Founder's Day this year falls in Coronation Week and we have, in consequence, decided to make a little more "splash" than usual. The annual Service will be held in the Parish Church in the morning. The preacher will be the Rev. A. R. Blackledge M.A., Vicar of St. Jude's, Halifax, a good friend of the School and an ardent supporter of the 1st XV. In the afternoon the School will be open to visitors who will enjoy a stupendous - and entirely free - programme of improving entertainment. Details of this outstanding attraction are not yet completed, but there will be breath-taking scientific demonstrations, displays of Art and Handicraft, mathematical amusements (sic), tea, a continuous film show, Scouts at work and - more particularly - at play. Nives and goodness knows whatnot else. (On re-reading this somewhat involved sentence I must delete Tea from the Free list!)

I do hope a great many Old Boys and their families and friends will attend this function. Accommodation in the Parish Church is virtually unlimited and we can deal with all concerns at the School. Given reasonable weather it should really be rather a good show.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to record the death in a motor-cycling accident on Good Friday, of John Cedric Davies, aged 28, who came to us from Miland Grammar School in 1944 and left in 1949.

CONGRATULATIONS.

On their marriages, to: Robert Brooks (1945-47); Douglas Jackson (1939-47) and Arthur Milnes (1941-46)

On passing his Law Finals, to D. A. Thomas (1939-47)

STOP PRESS.

In the School Athletic Sports the Senior 100 yards Record has at last been broken by G. Carr in 10.7 seconds.

Congratulations to Calder High School in establishing a new Putting the Shot record of 108 feet. (vide "Halifax Courier and Guardian" of 13th May)

W. R. SWALE.